



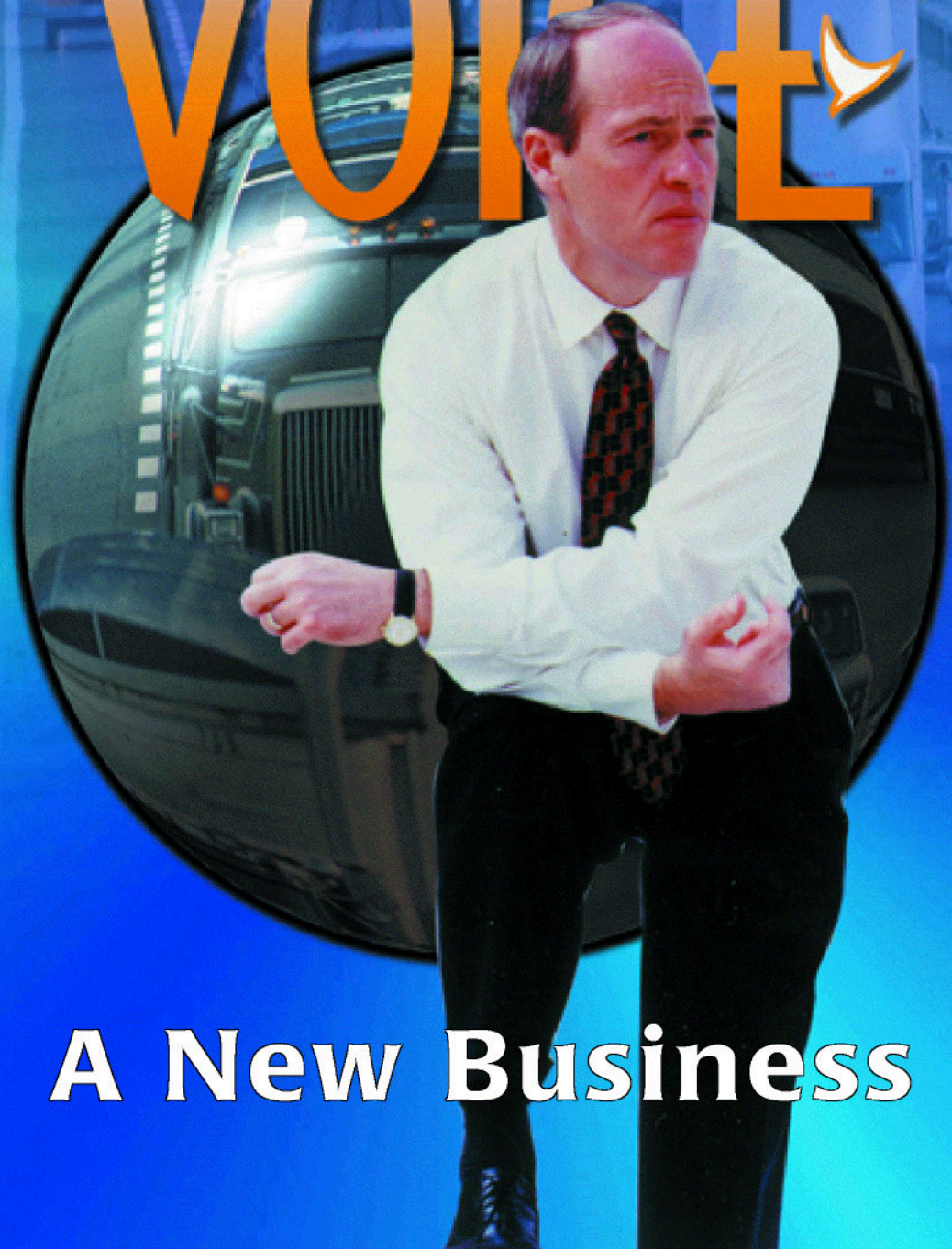
## **Bonded**

*Bonded in a covenant agreement, our business grew till I lost sight of our goal. When I returned to it we became more prosperous than I could have dreamt possible...*

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# VOICE



## A New Business

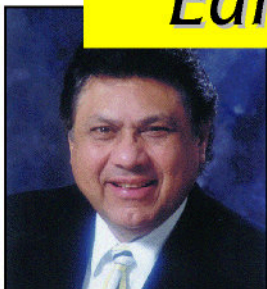


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# Editorial



*R*ichard Shakarian

## The Winning Choice

In business there is a way to make a winning decision every time. Making tough choices is an everyday part of working in the market place. Facing this challenge is for many a way of life. We have made finding an answer the theme for this edition of Voice. We believe there is a way to success. There are principles that work – they really work!

Our members come from many nations around the world and from different backgrounds, yet each of them have one thing in common and that is the "how to", or should I say "where to", get direction and power. Does this mean that they never face problems? No! It does mean, however, that there is clear guidance as to how to overcome. The vision we have is to bring this answer to every nation. In January of this year at a conference in Strasbourg, France, a group of business men from Bulgaria officially joined our numbers. There are now more than fifteen groups of business men around that nation. Around the world, in the north and south, the east and west, we find men with a new hope for tomorrow.

On every continent there are similar groups of people reaching out, networking together with vision to show the way forward. It has been said that without vision a people perish. This is true, but there is also a need for power to set the vision into action and wisdom to know when to act and when to wait. We bring business men the source.

*Richard Shakarian*  
International President

# Good Ideas

*Seppo Tuominen, Espoo, Finland*



After working in Bogota, Columbia, and then in Venezuela, life back in Finland was quite a change, especially when I was caught up in a recession with many people being laid off work, including me. I found myself with no job and no money. My wife had to go out to work and I had to sell my car and other "luxuries". Life looked pretty grim!

In my desperation I started reading the Bible. Not long after this I was invited to an FGBMFI meeting where I committed my life to Jesus Christ. With that came God's peace and joy into my life and my outlook changed completely. I discovered that when God is in control I have nothing to fear in spite of my circumstances.

Reading the Bible and praying about my situation, I felt God's direction to start my own company. When I discovered that Helsinki did not have enough

treatment facilities for used solvents, I found an American system for recycling it. I import the equipment from the USA and can now handle in excess of 100 tons per year.

During the time I was off work, I was able to study the Bible and was even able to write a small book. While doing research at the Technical University of Helsinki, I had an idea and went to the patent office to see if it could be registered. After sorting through endless patents I began questioning the brilliance of my idea. Then on the fourth day I came across a very interesting recycling method, which I am now trying to market in Finland. It is amazing how God has a way of working everything to our good if we will only put Him first in our lives (Romans 8:28).







## More Than Sight

*Jan Milan Krkoska, Klagenfurt, Austria*

Blinded in my right eye, I began looking for a miracle. Both eyes are important when working as a sculptor, otherwise you can only see two dimensions. Today I have faith God has this problem in hand, but in the meantime I have learned a valuable lesson.

In the early '90s God opened a new way for me to display and complete my art work that would be a testimony to Him and bring more than just finance. The art would touch people's lives, pointing them to Jesus. Still, I always hesitated and slipped back into my old methods. I had excuses for everything, until finally, due to my disobedience I had an accident at work, which damaged my right eye. Nevertheless, since I repented, whole new areas of art have opened up to me and, despite everything, I am very thankful for the lessons God has taught me through this situation.

# The Covenant

*David R. Parker, Lenoir City, Tennessee*



operations. My parents were also very much involved in operating the business. We were a very good team. Before long, the company was taking in about \$60 million of revenue from throughout the United States.

However, in 1984, eight months after my parents had sold the company to an investment group in New Jersey, I felt God leading me in another direction and so resigned my position as Vice President. A day later my two assistants also resigned, and before long we decided to organize our own transport business though, due to an agreement in the business sales contract, we had to wait six

months.

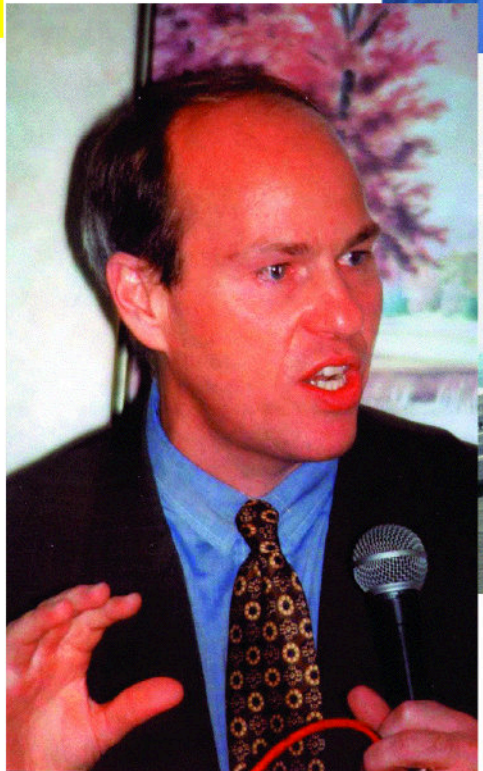
At 28 years of age I began planning for another trucking business with my two assistants, even though a small, still voice inside me kept saying "No!" Soon God started dealing with me about the project and I developed difficulty sleeping. At one stage I could only sleep in naps of 10 or 15 minutes each.

I knew God could solve this problem for me, so I began quoting Scriptures, but nothing happened. You see, I was refusing to deal with the real problem in my life. I was going against God's will. During a couple of days when I'd gone out to a farm to pray for deliverance, I finally totally surrendered my life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I told the devil that I was putting on my combat boots and preparing for battle, that I was going to stand firm on the Word of God. I told him that I did not care if I never slept another wink in my life, I was not going to take another sleeping pill. That night was terrible. I never slept a wink. However, the following nights I slept without problems. Everything changed because I was no longer refusing to accept God's will about the business.

I told my two associates that we were not going into business together as planned; that the Lord was leading me in another direction. Now I literally cried out to God, telling Him that I would not put my trust in men, but that I would make my covenant with Him and that I would do my best with His help.

I told my associates to take any four of our eight main customers and that I would take the other four and go on my own. In January 1986, I began operating Covenant Transport with 25 trucks. During its first year of operation the company received \$7.4 million in revenue. Two years later, boasting a fleet of about 150 trucks, the company had \$19.4 million in revenue.



Before becoming Vice President of Operations and Marketing, I had worked in every department in our family trucking business. As a young man, I had graduated from high school when I was only 16 years old, following which I moved to Lenoir City, Tennessee to work as a terminal manager for my parents' trucking business. About a year later, I transferred back to Chattanooga to work at the company's corporate office.

With the help of two other employees of the company, I ran the day-to-day



In 1989, I made a bad business decision. Instead of trading vehicles when I usually did, I reasoned if I just kept them 11 months longer I would gain a profit high enough for a new building for our corporate headquarters. The problems began when they went out of warranty. In just two months, I had spent \$30,000 on repairs, so I tried to sell the old lorries.

Normally, it would only take 90 days for the trading process, now nothing was moving. Before the year was out we had spent \$600,000 in maintenance expenses. At the same time, we were hurting from a lack of revenue. Over the next two years, drowning in a sea of debt, I read over and over a verse of scripture my sister had shown me in the Fall of 1983. It basically said, "When you go through the river, you will not drown, and when you go through the fire, you will not be burned."

In 1990, my company experienced a \$900,000 loss. By this time, the vendors and the banks began losing patience. On some days our bank overdraft was as

high as \$600,000. I was at rock bottom in my business life. It was at that point that God opened my eyes and that Covenant Transport had strayed from the plan upon which it had been started.

Getting back to the plan God had shown me, however, would require rapid growth through the use of more trucks. So I had to go and ask the lending institutions who, quite frankly, did not want to see me, to give me \$15 million to purchase the vehicles. They laughed at me. At the same time, my two friends who were competing against me were doing wonderfully.

Just when everything seemed hopeless, one of our women drivers came to me and told me that while she was parked at a shopping mall in Los Angeles, California, a man had knocked on her door and told her God had sent him there. He went on to say that he had had no idea why God had sent him there until he saw the truck with the name Covenant Transport written on its side. He then handed her a cloth and told her to give it to the president of the company and said that that Covenant refers to the relationship that the company president has with God the Father, that God was going to bless him beyond his imagination and that God would bring him out of whatever problem he was having.

The woman said she then reached down, put the cloth in her pocketbook and turned back toward the man to speak to him, but he and his car were gone. Before long, the Lord's hand began to move. My father loaned me \$1 million and co-signed a note for a loan that allowed me to get the trucks rolling again.

At first this bothered me because I thought God was going to save the business supernaturally. But He showed me that He could use whatever method He chose to help me and that He wanted to bless both me and my father. I didn't understand this because I was the one being blessed, not my father. He was giving up \$1 million.

Shortly afterwards, I offered my parents 50 percent ownership in Covenant Transport, but they

turned me down. With the cash my father had given me, we began paying our vendors, and my friends in the banking world came back to see me. Covenant Transport began to grow aggressively. We added many new trucks, and in March 1991, I gave \$5,000 to a Christian ministry. It was the best April in the history of the company.

Also that month, the Lord told me that the chains on my life had been broken and that deliverance was on its way because I had been faithful to Him. He said that 1992 was going to be a jubilee year for Covenant Transport. By the end of that year, we did \$55 million in revenue and were operating over 350 trucks. Our profits were better than the three previous most profitable years combined.

By the Spring of 1993, we were able to pay back \$3 million with interest, clearing our debt, and still had \$1 million in our checking account! In 1994, my father and an attorney convinced me, after much prayer, to go public with Covenant Transport. We needed \$60 million to pay for 1,000 trucks. Before long, I was travelling all over the world describing my company to potential investors. On the day Covenant Transport went public, it was valued at \$220 million! It was the largest, most successful initial public offering in the truckload history! However, just before the company went public, I gave my father 25 percent ownership in the business. His \$1 million loan to me is now worth \$40 million! God is faithful. All we have to do is to allow Him control in our lives and businesses, honouring our covenant with Him. ●

## Finance

*Alain Jorel, France*

As an engineer working with computers, I found myself in a new job in finance. Not knowing much about my new speciality, I began looking to God for help. Day after day, I saw new examples of God showing me exactly how to proceed, such as how to instruct those under me and how to make presentations in financial meetings. It has been an especially wonderful encouragement to me to see how God gave me the right words to say time and time again.







## Voice in Business

The question is always there. What will people think about me if they know I am a Christian? Christoph Hägele, from Germany, felt God leading him to send a Voice Magazine to each of his clients. Despite uncertainty about what the response would be, he had the magazines sent. To his surprise a number of people said that they felt they could trust him because he was a Christian. God used it to help his business, not hinder it.



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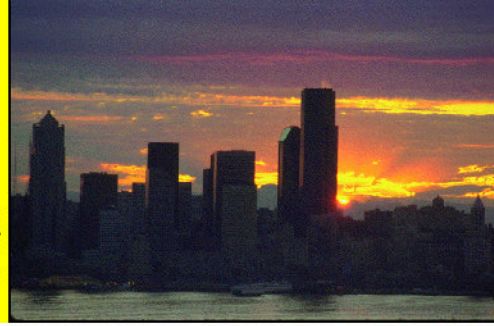
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## A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

While reading *VOICE* Magazine you may have wondered if you, too, could have the kind of relationship with God shared about here. For this to occur, take the following steps.

- 1 Acknowledge** to God you have lived selfishly and that, in not honouring Him as Lord of your life, you have sinned and are separated from Him. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" Rom. 3:23.
- 2 Repent** by turning to God and asking for His forgiveness of your past sins and for His help to live as He desires. "Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish" Luke 13:3.
- 3 Believe** that Jesus is the Son of God and that, as He died on the cross, He took your sins upon Himself that you may obtain God's forgiveness. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" John 3:16.
- 4 Confess** that you wish to invite Jesus to be Saviour and Lord of your life. "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved" Rom. 10:9.

If, after careful thought you wish to make this important step, then pray the following out loud: "Dear God, I am convinced that I am a sinner and as such I am destined to perish. I believe in my heart that Jesus, your Son, died for all sinners, including me, and shed His blood to wash away my sins. I confess Jesus to be Saviour and Lord of my life and thank you for your gift of eternal life. I now trust You to help me to live as You desire."

**Do not depend on feelings as proof of your acceptance by God. Feelings are changeable, but your new relationship with God is based on His promises (Rom. 10:13). Do not be ashamed to tell others about Jesus (Mat. 10:32). Take time daily for prayer and Bible reading (1 Pet. 2:2, Psalms 37:4, Rom. 8:14). When you have made this greatest of all decisions, please let us know.**

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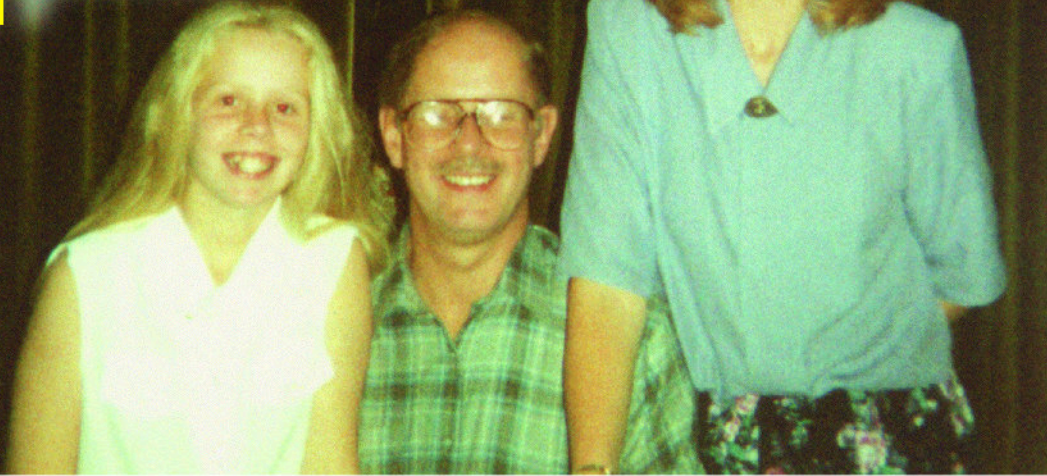
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# Restored to Health

Colin Powell, Hitchin, England



It was 5 a.m. and the telephone rang by my bed. It was my mother. She said that my father was unwell and she needed me to come. Since they lived only a few streets away, I arrived within minutes, knowing that she would not have rung at that time unless it was extremely urgent. On my arrival mother explained that she thought he had had a stroke. The doctor later confirmed it. His speech and sight on the right side had been affected.

The first thing I did after arriving was to suggest we call our "Heavenly Doctor." In that small kitchen we held hands and prayed that God would do a miracle and restore my father's body. We then went upstairs and he lay perfectly still. We prayed throughout the day for his healing. The doctor came in twice that day. By the second visit my father felt a lot better. He was so much better that he was able to get out of bed and walk hold-

ing the doctor's hand. As he did, he exclaimed, "Well, I think I will do a spot of gardening now!" The doctor had to convince him to return to bed for rest.

Father later said that while he was lying there in bed one sentence kept coming to mind, "The bruised reed I shall not break, but will restore again." We found the text in the Bible and explained to him how God was using it to promise him healing.

God answered our prayers and my father went on to enjoy another 22 years of good health after the stroke. We are thankful that God gave him back to us to become my best friend for the remainder of his years. I look forward to seeing him again one day when we both stand before our Father in heaven. ●



# It Took Time

Raoul Gerber &  
Céline Jolivet, Lutry, Switzerland



Running a Montessori School in London was challenging. We were well equipped and encouraged each child to develop at his or her own pace. This meant we needed to be sensitive to their needs. It is a system of one-on-one teaching.

As we were endeavouring to reach out to the total child, I was also open to their spiritual needs. I wanted the children to be taught about God and Jesus. We always had religious stories in our book corner. At a time when I wanted to extend this area of our teaching, a beautiful young girl came to work at the school. She looked like an angel with her blond curly hair. As it turned out, she was taking LSD and was into New Age thinking.

Naively, I thought it was wonderful. Before long I was fully involved with the New Age teaching – the university of light and whatever, thinking all the

time that these things would lead me back to God in heaven. In fact, they took me in the opposite direction and things went from bad to worse. I became involved with astral travel and the occult. My spirit guide (a demon), who was supposed to lead me into the light, brought me into depression and exhaustion. I'd be taken places all night and return to my body only in time for daybreak. I never got any rest. When you are involved in these things, your life is slowly sucked from you while all the time you are promised love and beauty. Slowly I fell into a dark pit of tears.

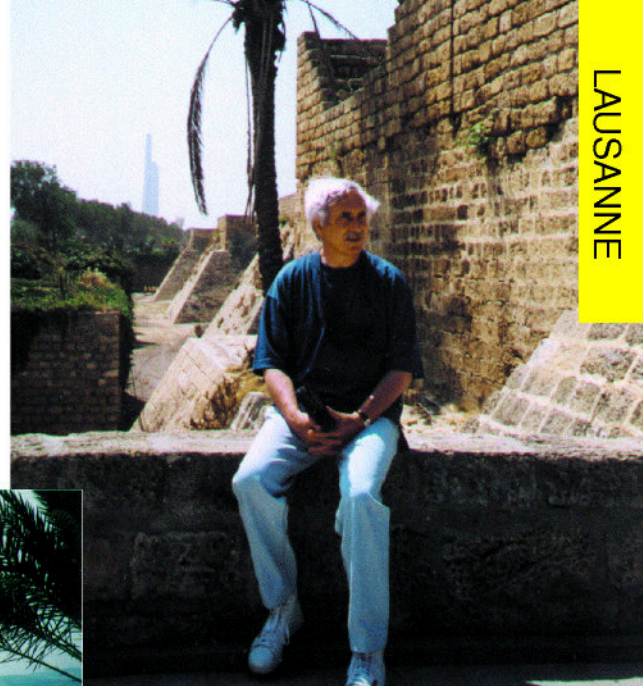


Then one night I had a vision of being at a table with my family. My uncle asked me why I had become so depressed. Deciding that I could not continue living like this, I sought out a place of healing. My first step was at a Christian retreat centre in Kent. After lengthy talks with a priest there, I resolved to find Jesus. That night I began my long narrow path to healing. Two years of



counselling and prayer later, everything had changed. During that time Jesus delivered me from the demonic oppression which had so plagued me. I was off the tranquillisers and anti-depressants. I know that some people receive a quick healing. In my case it took time, but God did heal me and set me free.

My husband, Raoul, had a serious drinking problem at this time. I had been praying for him, but one Sunday Jesus spoke into my heart while I was preparing for communion at our church, that I was taking care of other people's children at the school while my own husband needed my help. I felt God say that I should sell the school and my house – that I should give up my work and follow



where He would lead. It took a year to liquidate everything, but the most important thing was the welfare of my husband. We then returned to Raoul's home area in Switzerland.

There I began attending a prayer group on a regular basis. Meanwhile things had not improved at home. In fact, they had become a living hell. When I heard about the FGBMFI in Lausanne, I thought it might be something for Raoul – a place where he would meet Christian men in a non-threatening environment.

**Raoul:** The dinner meetings got me out of the house and that meant I wasn't at home drinking. However, much like Céline, the change in my life did not happen over night. I made a commitment to Christ at my first meeting, but still had problems with alcohol.

Each month we would return to the Chapter meeting. I often went forward for prayer. One time a speaker asked for those with a drinking problem to come



# Yoga, UFOs, & New Age

*Dr. Pierre Gilbert, Alma, Quebec*

Looking for something that would satisfy, I delved into hypnotism. People who could hypnotize others impressed me deeply and I wanted to learn everything I could about the topic. Like a fly drawn by the sweet nectar of a Virus Fly Trap, my infatuation to books on the topic drew me deeper and deeper into the mouth of a consuming obsession.

Yoga promised power, permitting masters to pierce their skin with needles – I did the same. Still not finding satisfaction, I pursued its underlying philosophy,

Hinduism. I became involved in the occult, where I encountered a superstructure which actually endeavours to manipulate even politics and government. I'd come into the philosophical network, which had its origins in ancient Babylon.

When I redirected my studies to UFOs, and realized how much evidence there was, I became very anxious. Despite my desperate search, the emptiness I felt inside only became greater, and I did not find the answers I was looking for. As a lecturer, I'd been a student of men like Joseph Murphy and the philosophy of positive thinking.

## New Age

New Age basically says that we ultimately become gods. One book I read with great anticipation was called "Three Magic Words". I fully expected to finally find the answer I'd been searching for. Again and again it promised, you will only know the answer when you have finished the book. The answer turned out to be, "I am god".

On discovering that even the author was not happy, I concluded there must be something wrong with the philosophy. It was about this time that a Christian began telling me about the Bible and God's plan for mankind. What he said impressed me. One evening in



forward for prayer. This time it was as if I were glued to my chair. The truth is that I did not want to be delivered.

**Céline:** At that moment God told me, "Just leave for a few minutes... go to the ladies' room and I will take care of Raoul. I had no sooner left the room, when he got up and went forward for prayer.

**Raoul:** It was a miracle – not only was I delivered from my problem with alcohol, but my body was absolutely cleansed from the side effects of alcohol. I have no liver problem. It was simply wonderful! God has completely changed our lives.

The most important thing I can say to others is that change sometimes takes time. God heals us and takes care of our problems, but it does not always happen overnight. In our case it was a process. Many people give up when they are not dramatically delivered the first time they pray. God does sometimes do that, but not always. You might be like Céline and I – you might need a bit of time. Take the time; God has something good in store for you. ●

## Not an Alcoholic

*Fraser Macleod, France*

Alcohol dominated my life for 20 years. This consumed me slowly at first, but at the end I tried to commit suicide two times. In 1968 in Nigeria I'd reached the end and could no longer continue. For six years I worked with Alcoholics Anonymous.

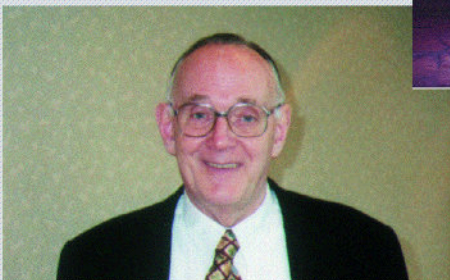
Then, after coming into a living relationship with Jesus Christ, I came in contact with FGBMFI Brussels. I immediately felt I should get involved with them.

The Chapter President, a South African, began teaching me about the grace of God. I remember

telling him, "I'm an alcoholic, but I don't drink." He asked, "Do you know Jesus – do you really know Him?" When I said I did, he went on, "Then you are not an alcoholic, because Jesus has changed you. He has made you a new person. Accept your deliverance." He went through all of the Bible verses on the subject. From that moment on I knew I was



liberated, freed from alcohol. Then, a few years ago I was out with my wife and drank an aperitif containing Champagne by mistake. That was when I knew for certain that I was indeed a delivered alcoholic. ●







are most definitely groups of people with plans paralleling the book of Revelation in the Bible. Evidence on these topics is available to anyone who wants it.

## The Old Same Lie

Man is still listening to the same lie that got Adam and Eve into trouble. The serpent told Eve, "If you take the fruit of the tree of knowledge, you will become like God." New Age philosophy is, in reality, absolutely "Old Age" philosophy – nothing has changed. The same old lie is just wrapped up in another kind of paper. ●

## No Other Way

*Colin Powell, Hitchin, England*

One man stood out from other "churchgoers" I'd met. Searching for truth, I began to study the Bible with him. His ideas were quite different from anything I'd heard before from other churches. As it turned out, he was involved with a well-known cult; nevertheless he had wet my appetite for the Bible.

I started reading the Bible on my own and discovered that God loved the world so much that He had sent Jesus, His Son, who had cared for the unlovely, healed the hurting, preached about His Father's love, and even prayed for those who hung Him on the cross. This was too much for

me! I had never encountered such love before. I knew He had died for my sins, too, in order to reconcile me to God. With this understanding, I broke down in tears – I had done nothing in response to His love.

A voice, which I now recognize to be the Holy Spirit, said, "You need Christ, NOT a religion which distorts the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus."

Committing my life to Jesus Christ has dramatically and positively changed my life because He *is* the Way, the Truth and the Life. It is only through Him that we can ever come to God. Much has happened since then and I would not trade Jesus for anything. ●

15 ➡

August 1980 a film was advertised in the newspaper entitled, "The Road to Armageddon", by David Wilkerson. When I went, I found myself so engrossed that I returned three evenings in a row.

It was a Christian production, so on the last evening a minister stood up and took a number of questions. He answered each one using his Bible. He then made an appeal to those wishing to commit their lives to Jesus Christ. It was the first time I'd heard such a thing. I found my own arm raised in response. Once I did that I was "invaded" by the Holy Spirit. Though at the time I didn't fully understand what had taken place, I felt clean deep inside. I began to weep for about 20 minutes, and I had a sense of peace that I had never experienced before.

My whole life changed. I started reading the Bible, then studying it. I now give lectures on these things and how the Bible relates to New Age and UFOs, etc. Currently I endeavour to let people know about the evil and danger in the groups and philosophies in which I used to be involved.

It is now clear to me that the devil uses such teachings for one purpose and that is to keep people away from the truth found only in Jesus Christ. Demonic forces want to keep us from truth and will even masquerade as messengers of light to do that. I have seen terrible things happen to people in the clutches of such forces, including suffering from acute depression.

## Flying Objects

On the topic of UFOs, it is my belief that they are demonic manifestations. This, of course, is not referring to flying objects created by man. There are many fantastic things being worked on by scientists and I am not referring to those, although technology can always be used for both good and evil. There

## Common Market

In 1978 Fraser Macleod, working for the European Common Market, felt God's leading to begin praying with another man at work. Soon the two became six and then Fraser announced his desire to put on a testimony lunch. Two others agreed that they had also felt God's guidance to do the same. 120 EEC officials attended the meeting.

This group went on for a number of years till one of the men shared a vision to have a prayer meeting in every EEC office building. Today there is a prayer group in more than thirty buildings. This is just one more example how a small step of obedience to God can bring a big result.





# Business Decisions

David Young, London, England

It is easy to speak about our faith and then go on making important business decisions based on our own reason. A few years ago I was offered a new job by a bank. Wanting to put God first, I prayed about it. Shortly after this I found myself at an FGBMFI meeting sitting next to some colleagues. When they asked how things were going, I confided in them. Independently each of the men suggested that I should hold off making a decision until I had fasted and prayed about it.

It was interesting to me that they both mentioned fasting, something I'm not very keen on – mostly because I enjoy eating too much! I decided to fast and pray that weekend, though I still had to work very hard in order to complete a presentation that was due the following Monday.

By Sunday afternoon I was quite frustrated that I hadn't yet heard anything from God. That evening I was en route to another country. Following the presentation meeting, I was dozing off at the airport while waiting for the flight back to London when I was woken by someone who recognized me. The man was a corporate development director, who I'd visited about a year previously. As it happened he had just retained the bank that had given me the job offer and had worked with them on a high-profile deal.

In the course of conversation he asked me if I'd ever thought of moving to another employer. "Occasionally one

does," was my non-committed reply. As we continued our conversation on the flight, I was interested to get his views on the firm that had made me the offer. He was very positive about them.

Upon our arrival we shared a taxi back into Central London and I told him about my job offer. He not only encouraged me to join them, but also told me that some time before, when he'd been approached by them for a recommendation on who should join them if they were expanding their team, he'd nominated me. At that point I realized that I had just received an incredible answer to my prayers.

On that basis I decided to accept the offer and it has turned out to be very positive place for me personally. Because I feel very much led to be there, I also feel confident about handing the challenges that come up, over to God, seeking His guidance. I work in a high-pressure environment with lots of deadlines and conflicting pressures. Prayer is important and very relevant to my work place. When I commit things to God, they tend to pan out and when I do not, things don't usually go well.

For business men who deal with difficulties I recommend they read the gospels and learn to pray to God in their own words. I feel very strongly that my prayer life has gained momentum since I have learned to do this – making short specific prayers before making phone calls and going into important meetings.

Though I grew up in a Christian family, I struggled with my faith and studied philosophy. In spite really wanting to serve God in business, I found myself drifting away from Him. When I finally sorted things out and realized how important it was to put God first in all things, it made

all the difference. God is now my number one priority. He has not only changed my life, but also my career in a positive way. ●



## It Really Pays

*Christoph Hägele, Germany*

In my position as FGBMFI Vice-President for Germany I am responsible for public relations. Professionally, I am a Building Developer. Normally I sell our apartments through Estate Agents, so when some Christian magazines asked me to put an advert in their publication, I didn't see any reason for it. After praying about it, I agreed but, to be honest, did not expect any business through the adverts. I thought this would be nothing more than a donation. As it turns out I have been able to sell 20-30 apartments through those adverts, and that just because I decided to support Christian ministry. I can really see God's hand in this. ●

## WHO ARE WE?

The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International is an international fellowship of Christian business men whose purpose is:

**1** To call men to God and into the church by witnessing to God's presence and power in the world today through the message of the total Gospel for the total man.

**2** To provide a basis for Christian fellowship among men everywhere under the single banner of their experiences in Jesus Christ and to strengthen them so that they can go back to their respective churches refreshed and renewed. The FGBMFI is not a church nor a sect. It has no priests nor pastors, and does not start churches.

**3** To bring about a greater measure of unity among all Christians.



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