



This Issue

BREAKTHROUGH

Despite our start in life, whether we have grown up in a wealthy home or in one that lacked material wealth, in a home where the parents have given us plenty of attention or left us to basically grow up on our own, whether it's in a large city or in the African brush, we all eventually have to decide for ourselves what our goals and values in life will be. The influence of our parents or our upbringing will certainly play a part in our thinking, but we alone can choose, and will be held responsible for, the way we walk through our lives. Dr. Tom Penistan faces many of the hard questions of life in his private medical practice. The answers are not always straight forward or easy. However, like Akin Famodimu and Dave Kelly, Dr. Penistan has found a source of wisdom and strength to face these problems and questions of our modern age. And, like Richard Shakarian, he has discovered that there is One who is there not only to meet our needs, but also the needs of the many people around us.

**Full Gospel
Business Men's
Fellowship International**

For further information, please contact:

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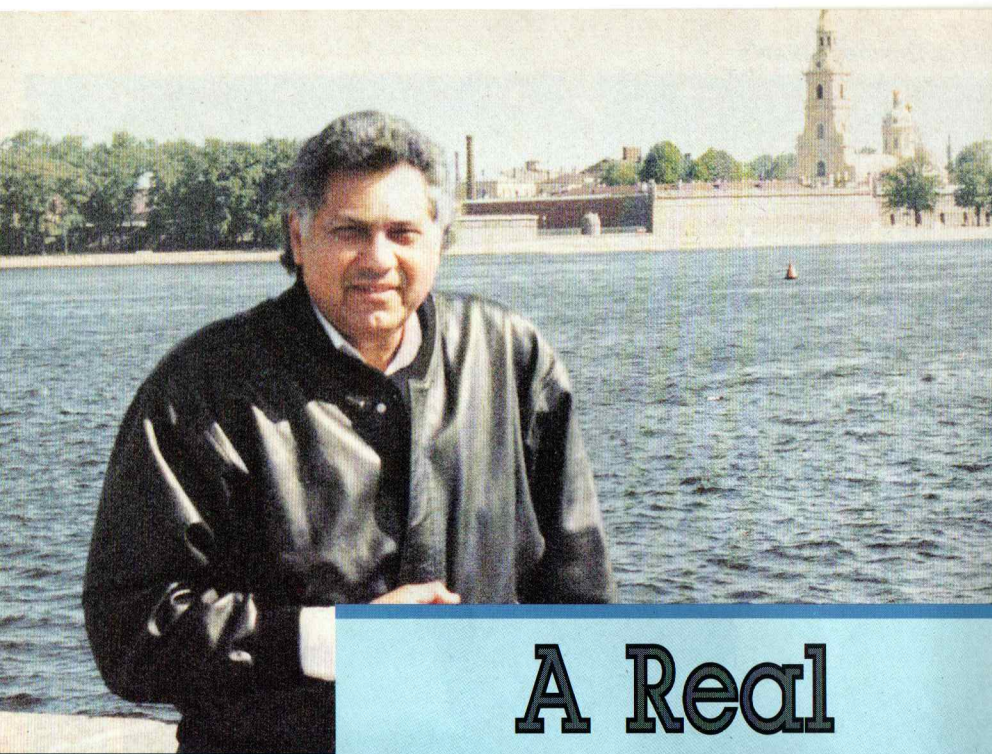
In this magazine you will see that God is interested in ordinary people, to heal and help them in everyday situations. You will also discover that it is possible to have a personal relationship with God. To order more copies of Voice magazine for yourself and your friends, see page 18.

Full Gospel Business Men's

VOICE



A REAL BREAKTHROUGH



**Richard
Shakarian,
Southern
California, U.S.A.**

A Real Breakthrough

HHeart surgery had left me in the hospital with several months of recuperation ahead. I had hit the bottom; my health and finances were gone. I had to start over from way behind. My wife, Vangie, and I knew that I needed a physical and financial breakthrough.

While recovering at home, my friend, Jay, came by and asked me to sell his very valuable five-acre commercial property next to the airport in Riverside, California. I said, "Look, Jay, I am not in that business and, besides, I am still recuperating." He replied, "You know the people who will buy this property. All the agents I've tried

have brought no results." He even suggested my friend, Bob, who might want to buy it.

I called Bob. Subsequently, the three of us drove out to Riverside. Within an hour Bob had agreed to buy the property. I received a full commission. I thought, "Here I am recovering, not yet in my business clothes, and the Lord is answering our prayers." Since committing my life to Jesus Christ when I was a boy I have served God with all my heart and He has never let me down yet.

After that, another friend, Carl, asked me to sell a 7-hectare commercial property near a college, situated on an intersection of two major highways. He wanted cash

money — \$860,000. He explained how he'd had a broker working on the sale for more than a year and had not sold it. I told him what the problem was — his asking price was too low! "It is worth at least a million dollars," I explained. He agreed that the price should be higher, but wanted not only cash money, but also to close the deal within a week of the time it was started. Now, that was almost impossible. I left that meeting with a fabulous piece of property, a good price, and no idea how I would fulfil Carl's conditions.

We began praying about the property, "Lord God, I dedicated our business to You. Now I confess I don't know how to sell this property on the terms Carl wants it sold. But Lord, You brought this opportunity to me and I believe that You have the right buyer lined up." A few days after that an oriental gentleman telephoned me and said, "Richard, I've got a friend who wants some property. He is extremely wealthy, and has many big businesses. He wants further investments in the United States. Do you have anything?"

"Yes, as a matter of fact, I have just the thing." I said. The man flew into L.A. When we took him out to see the property, he agreed to buy it and gave \$100,000 on deposit. Then he promptly started trying to change the deal. After I held firm and told him he could pick up his cheque, things settled down, and by the Friday of that same week he'd given another cheque for \$900,000. That was a total of one million dollars in one week!

**God launched me into
this business because
we prayed and let Him
have control in our lives.**

There was one more transaction before we could begin our real adventure in earn-

est. I had seen so often in my father, Demos', life, that God always seems to help in our personal life when we are doing His will.

Harold asked me to find him a partner for three square miles of valuable property he had accumulated in the Palm Springs area. It was an estate being surveyed for 8,000 houses, 2 shopping centres, an industrial area, and even two golf courses. He was asking ten million dollars and could not complete his transaction. I had always felt I would make the deal. By this time, he had most of the city approvals and I felt the value had gone way up. We set the price at fifteen million dollars.

A few days later, while cleaning my desk, I came across a business card, which I somehow could not throw away. After another few days I still could not throw it out. It seemed to light up in my hand. I decided to phone the man, though I thought he'd think I was crazy as I had no real reason to call.

When I asked what he was doing, to my surprise he told me he'd just become an estate broker and was working with a group of oriental agents. When I said I was in the land business, he suggested we get together. I told him about the Palm Springs property and subsequently showed it to one of his clients. The client loved the property, recognizing its tremendous potential. However, no sooner had he agreed to the transaction than he began to stall. He was playing a kind of a cat and mouse game. I prayed about the situation, and felt he was the wrong buyer. This was confirmed in the days following. Thus, I called a meeting with his broker and said we would not sell to that buyer.

They reminded me, "Richard, your seller needs a lot of cash in just ten days." I responded, "I know that, but the right buyer is out there." "Well, who is this



**Richard Shakarian
with his family**

health and financial condition, which was so broken and seemed so hopeless just two and a half years before. God had brought me from broken health and failure to great success. He raised us up as transaction after transaction was completed. Yes, God does honour those who trust Him. I knew then that my life was not over and that the prophecies given to me as a youth would certainly come

true in God's time.

I had always been involved in the Lord's work. Vangie and I had travelled to more than fifty nations. I had conducted many outreaches to young Americans, where 10,000 to 18,000 American young people would attend, with thousands finding Christ. I had even helped my father in many of the outreaches of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International years before.

Shortly after we completed the Palm Springs transaction I went to my dad and volunteered to help him with the FGBMFI as he saw fit. A few days later he told me the Government leaders of Armenia were coming to see him. After we met them, they extended an invitation to Armenia. Dad wanted me to go in his place. I must admit that I was less than excited about going to Armenia. This was the land that, by prophecy, God had led the Shakarians to leave. Because my grandfather and his father were obedient, God had blessed them greatly. That blessing and anointing has continued to this generation.

man?" they asked. Following that meeting I had to go to Tulsa, Oklahoma. There were some Christian meetings I'd agreed to take part in some time before.

When the others protested, "But the deadline will come and go before you get back," I explained that I must honour God, and He would take care of the transaction. While I was gone a buyer from Taiwan flew in. They were some of the wealthiest people in that part of the world. I had never met or even heard of them before. When they were shown the property in Palm Springs, they were very excited — they simply had to have it. When I phoned back to see how things were going, I could hardly believe my ears. We had sold the Palm Springs property for fourteen million dollars and they had immediately advanced the seller \$500,000 in cash.

What a miracle! There were many ups and downs before we finally completed the transaction, but the whole time we kept thanking the Lord that what He had given He would help us complete. Once completed, we looked back at my personal

I was not sure about going until we went to an FGBMFI convention in Sacramento, California, and a group of Russians were there from Kiev. They kept us up until two o'clock in the morning night after night, telling us what God was doing in Russia.

The Holy Spirit opened our hearts to go to the Soviet Union. A small group joined us, including Jeremy and Brenda Dalton (our daughter and son-in-law). Jeremy is a well-known gospel singer and song writer. His songs are known throughout the world. Paul and Joyce Toberty, who owns radio stations and office buildings, and a few others, also joined us.

Upon our arrival we were given the royal treatment. The Christians had set up meetings and the Government gave, without charge, stadiums, halls, and arenas. In those days the communists were in charge. The Government sponsored our meetings by providing facilities, our

travel within the country, and our lodging, all without cost.

We asked for the largest sports arena in the land for our final meeting in the capital. Their reply was, "Are you sure? There are not enough active Christian people in the whole republic to fill that." We insisted, however, and they gave it to us. As it turned out, a Christian television crew were there reporting on the aftermath of the big earthquake. As a result, they were able to document many of our meetings. During the one week we were there, ten thousand men made a commitment to Jesus Christ, saying in Armenian fashion, "We will lay down our lives for Jesus, if need be, and we will win the nation and all the Soviet Union to God." They were scientists, doctors, engineers, farmers, construction people, and even soldiers in

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Richard Shakarian — speaking to crowd of 15,000 in Armenia.



An Ordinary Fellow

**Dave Kelly,
Brighton, England**



Things were tight in our family as I was growing up. My father suffered badly with his nerves and, as a result, was very restricted in what he could do. This was a shame as he was a very clever man — a genius in electrical areas and fluent in French. To be honest, I never felt very deprived; I took the situation for granted. Besides, my mother would always try to make up for any deficiencies. She would take me to the park to play cricket, football, and tennis!

Although I was taken to church without fail every week, I found it boring and would have preferred to be on the sports field. Although I did make a commitment to Jesus Christ when I was about seven, it didn't change much.

As I went through my teens I became more and more interested in what the world had to offer. It seemed to me that

the Jesus of the Bible — a person who created a stir wherever he went, healing people and raising them from the dead — was portrayed in such a different light by the Christians I knew. There was no talk of miracles happening today and, to me, the Christian life seemed to be just a list of “do’s and don’ts” — mostly “don’ts”! By the time I reached my early twenties, I really had no time for God; my god was sport.

When I was twenty-three, every pillar supporting my life was suddenly knocked away. The girl, who I had been going out with for three years, and had hoped to marry, left me. I started failing in every sporting activity; I got into difficulties with my work; every horse I gambled on lost, and one even jumped through the side fence as if to rub it in. Nothing, absolutely nothing, went right. I was determined not to ask God for help; if I was going to become a Christian it would be when I was ready and not just because things were down.

Mostly to keep my mum happy, I was still attending church, but it had little real meaning to me. Of course, there were some attractive young ladies there.

Then, when I stopped going to church, to my immense surprise, I found that I missed it and couldn't understand why. Thus, I started going again and, amazingly what I heard began to make sense. So I recommitted my life to the Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing changed much at first, but I recall reading the Bible one night after I had made a complete hash of a job interview. I read how Jesus said that anyone wanting to be a disciple of His must first count the cost and put Him above everything else, including family, work, and recreation. The passage ends up by saying that He who has ears to hear should hear! I realized then that God wanted me to be serious with Him. I remember the peace that flooded over me when I finally gave in. It was terrific!

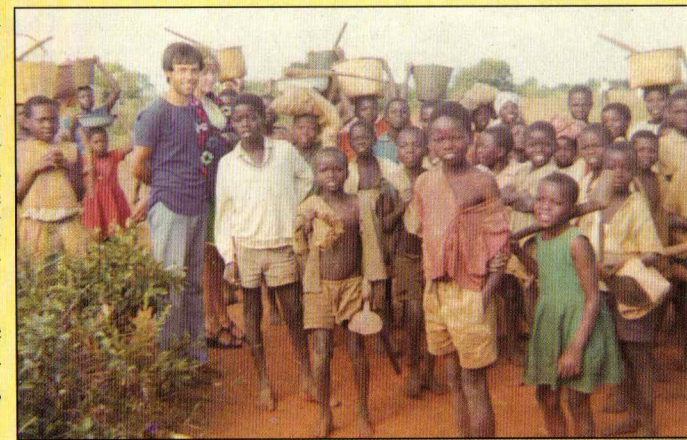
I developed a thirst for the Bible and was keenly interested in all that God was doing. A missionary from Youth With a Mission (YWAM) came to our church and at once the Lord gave me a desire to attend their next School of Evangelism in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), where the missionary was based. We prayed about it and it seemed right, so I applied for the School and was accepted.

I was still missing my girlfriend, who was a Christian, and by now was away at college. I asked the Lord to take away my feelings for her, but He didn't. One day as I was sharing my problem with a

friend, I was given the advice to spend some time alone with God — praising Him for what He had done.

The next day, a Saturday, was the ideal opportunity to do this, although I hardly felt like doing it. After about an hour, I remember being filled with faith that I would soon be back together with my girlfriend, and there was more. God led me to Jeremiah 31:18-22 in the Bible, which seemed to be speaking directly about the situation I was in.

Then, my girlfriend, Beverley, with whom I had not spoken for about nine months rang me up and we agreed to



Dave in Malawi during 1975 trip

meet. The Lord God had been at work in her life, too, and by Monday we were engaged. We were married four months later, and started our married life together by attending the School of Evangelism in Salisbury, Rhodesia.

During our nine months there, we witnessed Jesus Christ doing the same sort of miracles one reads about in the Bible. Our financial needs were met in miracu-



Dave Kelly with his family

lous ways. On one occasion we were about to set out on a long journey to Mozambique from Malawi; the only problem was that we had insufficient funds for the petrol. As we were due to leave camp at 1 a.m. a pastor, whom we had been working with, paid us a visit and said that he'd been praying for us with some other ministers when God had told them to give us some money without delay! The amount they gave us was sufficient for our requirements. Praise the Lord! This sort of happening was quite commonplace and we learned that God really does take care of His people.

While I was with YWAM the Lord showed me that He wanted me to return to England and secular work. He also clearly told me that I was to join a Christian businessmen's organization. I had never heard of the FGBMFI (Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International). Back home, I took a job with a leading insurer. In 1979 they moved me up to Bristol. While I was there someone lent me a copy of the Happiest People on Earth, the story of the founder of the FGBMFI. As I read the pages I realized

that this was what God had been calling me to join back in 1975.

I was thrilled to discover that there was a well-established chapter in Bristol. Ron McCatty was the president. I fondly remember walking into that large room at the Grand Hotel for a breakfast meeting and being hit by an incredible atmosphere of

warmth and love. This was my first encounter with the FGBMFI and it was a sheer delight to spend that morning there. I had experienced God moving in miraculous ways before, but this seemed to be a new dimension, another gear.

I shared my faith with those around me and saw a number of people come to the meetings and commit their lives to Jesus Christ. It was incredible! I saw the Lord healing people and setting them free in a way that I had not experienced before.

Much has happened since that time. The Lord God has led me back to Brighton, where I was brought up, and I have joined the FGBMFI Chapter there. We have seen God working in many wonderful ways there. Bev and I have now been married for 17 years and have two lovely children, Marianne and Neil, aged 14 and 11.

I consider myself to be just a very ordinary person, who is serving a very extraordinary God, a God who cares for me and who is able to do far above what I ask or even think. I would recommend Him to anyone.

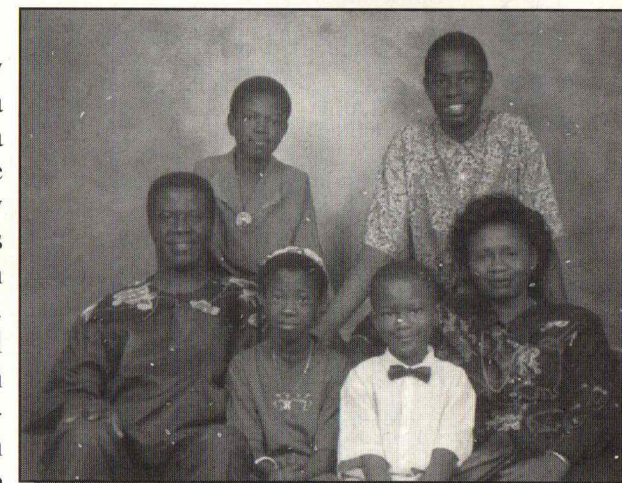
The Real Power

Akin Famodimu,
Nigeria

After the death of my mother when I was just a young child, I grew up under a lot of oppression by the powers of darkness. Then my father died in a suspicious motor vehicle accident. Both parents had been Christians. However, whilst my maternal grandfather was an Anglican minister, my paternal grandfather was a nominal Christian who had "African" powers to heal people especially with mental disorders. It was then frequently believed in Nigeria that mystical power came from India. As a young fearful orphan I vowed to go to India in order to fortify myself against evil forces.

Somehow I managed to make it through school. Each time I had an examination I would study through my notes several times and read in the Psalms from the Bible, believing them to have some sort of power for success. My performance improved as I progressed through the years. I graduated University with an MBA, having attained it with distinction.

By the time I graduated I'd come to suspect that the Bible, and especially the Psalms, had some sort of mystical or divine power. Church was just a routine, but



it played no major influence — I kept it at a distance. I took a job with Lever Brothers, in Marketing, as Brands Manager, and later got married to my charming wife, Bisi. My wife delivered our first son, premature, three days before our wedding! Of course this didn't say much for our Christian ethics. We merely named the son Ayodeji, meaning double joy — the wedding plus a bouncing boy!

This was, however, the beginning of a chain of harrowing experiences for us. A popular Nigerian joke says, "When the jungle matures, who doesn't want to know will surely know by force of experience."

My wife had great difficulty carrying children to a full-term pregnancy. She had many miscarriages. She usually had terrible dreams, in which she heard discussions about plans to block my children from coming into the world. As is typical

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in Africa, at times of miscarriages, anxious relatives took us to several “prayer houses”, “White Garment Churches”, malams and even fake Alhajis.

In spite of our own personal disdain for these “fetish churches”, my anxious wife and I felt we had no other option. We were reminded that our (then) only child was born just a few days before the wedding, but since then we’d not been able to have any children. All my reading in the Psalms had failed — they were supposed to lead me to God, who’d inspired them. I was blind to the real source of power, Jesus.

Then an old friend from the “White Garment Church” came to visit us. She’d since committed her life to Jesus Christ and wanted to tell us about her experiences. At first we resisted, not wanting to give up our selfish way of life; yet we wanted a true miracle. Over a period of time she spoke persistently about God and how we were seeking help from helpless and powerless sources. She was right and I knew it. For the first time, I heard the clear gospel of Jesus Christ.

After reading the books, “Quickened,” and, “In the Name of Jesus,” by Dr. Hagin, I surrendered my life to Jesus Christ. Following, this I devoured the Bible, as well as other books by Christian authors. My faith and thirst for God and His righteousness exploded. God eventually took care of my wife’s miscarriages and today we have two sons and two daughters.

Then, when our second daughter was born, a friend gave me a book, ‘The Verdict’, by Ron McDowell. Fancying myself an intellectual I was highly impressed by the evidence he laid out. In spite of the fact that I was convinced that Jesus was the only answer and the only way to God, it was all head knowledge — it had not become practice. After reading a number of other books I finally understood that I had to make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

Having read quite a bit about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, I had a hunger for everything God had for me. For this reason, in June 1983, I went to the U.S.A. for a Christian Seminar at a Bible College. On one of a series of trips to the U.S.A. I met Sam Mbata, an International Director for the FGBMFI in Nigeria, and he told me a little about a businessmen’s organization he was working with. However, it took an invitation from an Australian lady for me to attend an important World Convention of the FGBMFI in Melbourne to fully learn about the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International. It was there that I met Dr. Gerry Kibarabara, who was President of the African Council for the FGBMFI at the time. I’d often read about the FGBMFI, but had never known what it stood for. The Melbourne Convention was like a “Sea of Warm Love” — businessmen sharing their experiences with Jesus Christ. I was really fired up, and was constantly sharing my faith with others. As I checked out of the Melbourne Sheraton, an Australian came up and refunded all my hotel costs. I broke down in tears on realizing how much God cared for me. The man told me how God had told him to refund me. I was then able to buy all the audio and video tapes from the Convention!

Since 1985, I have served God in Lagos, working with the FGBMFI. I was the founding President of the first Lagos Chapter of the FGBMFI, which has now grown to 18 Chapters in the city. I currently serve as International Director in Lagos and Ogun States of Nigeria.

Jesus came to our world to bring life and joy. This has been my experience in Christ. His real power meets and surmounts every obstacle. This same LIFE and POWER is available to YOU! Invite Jesus into your life and things will change for the better. Jesus is the Prince of Peace and He can be yours if you only ask. ■

The Vision

By Demos Shakarian

In 1952 God told me to start a Fellowship for men who would meet in small and large groups in cafés, hotels and public places to fellowship and minister spiritually one to another. To attempt to accomplish this, we organized a group and met in Clifton’s Cafeteria in Los Angeles every week for a whole year. Interest and attendance was so small that it appeared we would be forced to give up a ministry I was sure God had called me to do. God was good and gave me a vision in my home while I was on my knees the night before I was going to stop the meetings.

God said to me, “I am the One, Demos, who alone can open doors. I am the One who removes the beam from unseeing eyes.” “I understand, Lord Jesus. And I thank You.” “And now I will let you see, indeed.”

At that moment, Rose, my wife, came into that living room. She stepped around me and walked over to the Hammond organ in the corner. As the music swelled through the living room, the atmosphere grew brighter. To my amazement the ceiling of the room seemed to have disappeared. I found myself staring up into the sky, a daytime sky although it must have been pitch dark. Although I was on my knees, I felt as if I were rising, leaving my body, moving up, away from the living room. Down below me I could see the rooftops of Downey, California. There were the San Bernardino Mountains, and over there the coast of the Pacific Ocean. Now I was high above the earth, able to see from the west to the east.

Whether the world was turning, or whether I was travelling around it, I do not know, but now beneath me was the continent of South America, then Africa, Europe, and Asia. I could see people on the

earth — millions and millions of them — standing shoulder to shoulder. Then, just as a camera can zoom in at a football game to show first the stadium, then the players, my vision seemed to move in on the millions of men. I could see tiny details of thousands and thousands of faces. Everywhere it was the same. Brown faces, black faces, white faces — every one rigid, wretched, every one locked in his own private death.

“Lord!” I cried. “What is the matter with them? Lord, help them!”

Suddenly Rose began to prophesy. Humanly speaking, of course, she had no way of knowing that I was seeing anything at all. But what she said was, “My son, what you see next is going to happen soon.”

The earth was turning — or I was moving around it — a second time. Below me again were millions upon millions of men. But what a difference! This time heads were raised. Eyes shone with joy. Hands were lifted toward heaven. These men who had been so isolated, each in his prison of self, were linked in a community of love and adoration. Asia, Africa, America — everywhere death had turned to life. And then the vision was over.

Since that time the FGBMFI (Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International) has grown and is now active in more than 100 nations. It includes in its membership of more than 2,900 local chapters, laymen representing every status of the market place and our society, including: business men, professionals, working people, people in high places of responsibility, and men in leadership of their countries. Its membership represents practically every Christian denomination. For more information see coupon on page 19. ■

Continued from page 5

full uniform. They stood there and wept as they gave their lives to God.

We distributed 20,000 copies of the Gospel of John, which had been printed on the Central Committee Communist presses and paid for by the American Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. When the government officials asked, "What else can we do for you?" we said, "Put us on television." So the next night they took us to the television station and we all shared on live television how Jesus Christ had changed our lives. On our final night, 15,000 came to the meeting — 4,000 could not even get into the stadium! On that night alone, six thousand people committed their lives to Jesus.

The next day the army opened fire at the train station. For the rest of our stay there were sounds of machine gun fire on the streets. Everyone was racing around — nobody even stopped for traffic lights! Smoke hung over the city. About 1:00 a.m. that night Paul and I found ourselves in the home of one of the top officials. He was a very kind man, but when we began talking, he asked some hard questions. He looked me right in the eye and asked, "How did you do this?" I didn't know what he was talking about, so I asked, "What do you mean? Do what?" "How is it that you came to the city one week ago, you had nothing — no organization, nothing — and in one week you filled the biggest stadium we have with thousands of people. How did you do it?" I replied, "It's very simple; we didn't do it. God did!" Then we shared what Jesus meant to us and asked him if he would like to commit his life to Jesus Christ. He said he would and we prayed with him.

We saw many miracles during our time in Armenia, including hearing a man speak, who hadn't been able to say a word in thirty years. A lady who'd been lame for

years was healed. And there were many more. During one meeting held at the foot of Mount Ararat, it was just as if Jesus sovereignly walked among the people, doing miracles. I have been attending Christian meetings since 1947 and I have seen many amazing things, but I've never seen anything like that meeting. It seemed we were simply bystanders, watching God at work as, for one and a half hours, miracles abounded in that stadium.

Afterwards a well-dressed top Communist Party Member came up to me and said, "Mr. Shakarian, I'm an atheist." I figured she hadn't stopped me just to tell me that, so I asked, "And?" "I have arthritis, and haven't been able to lift up my hands or arms for a long time without excruciating pain. While you were speaking I was cured." She raised her arms. I looked at this lady who was raising her arms, demonstrating that she was cured, and asked, "Now will you accept that there is a God?" When she said yes, I went on, "Will you accept Jesus Christ as the supreme authority in your life?" "Yes!" she replied. It was just like when Jesus healed the unbelieving; because of the signs, they believed upon Him.

There is no doubt Jesus worked through simple business men two thousand years ago, and He can do the same today. Those laymen changed their world and God wants to use us to change ours. All He requires from the business men of our complex 1990s is that we put Him first in our lives. There are so many stories I could tell, but space does not permit it. Let it suffice to say that anyone who puts Jesus first will never be sorry.

Richard Shakarian is a land investor and owner of Golden Eagle Properties, and is an International Vice-President of the FGBMFI. He and his wife, Evangeline, have four children and four grandchildren.

One Doctor's Practice



**Dr. Tom Penistan,
Suffolk, England**

Having decided to become a doctor, I first hitch-hiked around Greece before starting medical school. I had committed my life to Jesus Christ not long before at a Billy Graham evangelistic crusade, and I spent much of my time on the trip reading my Bible and praying. However, it seemed that something was missing. In one town I came across a young boy with a crippled foot. It bothered me that I

could not do as the disciples of Jesus had done and say, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." Just being brought up in a middle-class English family, where it was our practice to go to church, was not enough. Either Jesus was God, and would do what He promised in the Bible, or He would not; to me it was just that black and white.





Dr. Tom & Jan Penistan

The rubbish I kept hearing about all roads leading to God would not do. I knew that God was real and I knew I needed changing. There were so many conflicts — and I knew, as we all do, that I could not change myself. On my way home from Greece I passed through Italy and, while in Milan, I saw Leonardo de Vinci's 'The Last Supper'. A man came up to me there and told me that the artist had sought out models who looked the part — a fisherman for Peter, James, etc., but he had been unable to find a model for Judas Iscariot. Finally, several years later, he went to the deepest dungeons and found just the right man. However, when he asked the man if he would model for him, the man replied, "Don't you recognize me? I was your model for Jesus."

The man then asked me, "What makes you think you will not end up as that man? Just trying to be a good Christian is not enough. Jesus must be the Lord of your life." We then prayed together and I asked Jesus to change my life. When I then went on to medical school, I found myself faced with so many questions and decisions — abortions, friends, choices of jobs...

For some questions, there were easy answers, but there were others that were not so simple. One example was the area of greed versus compassion that a doctor

shows towards his patients (A doctor can earn more money by spending less time with each patient than is necessary for compassion to be expressed and trust built.) In the last year of school my wife, Jan, and I were married. After qualifying, we had a strong sense of God's leading, which was confirmed in the fact that I was accepted for all the jobs to which I applied — except one, because I refused to do abortions.

It was in Sudbury, Suffolk, where I ended up serving as a general practitioner, that I heard about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. After a meeting, where I heard Trevor Dearing, an Anglican Clergyman, speak, I was prayed for and there received this Baptism. I found it personally edifying and it drew me closer to God.

This led to all kinds of new experiences. I remember one patient, whose children had been taken away because she was a heavy drinker. After a series of appointments with psychiatrists, she was told they were unable to help her, and that she had 'a personality problem which is untreatable'. I finally decided there was nothing to lose, and everything to be gained, by offering to pray for her. She agreed. Shortly afterwards the woman moved away, but some years later Jan received a phone call from her, saying, "I am feeling drawn to God. Your husband prayed over me. I have heard that Trevor Dearing is going to be speaking in some meetings in Sudbury. Please tell me when they will be!"

Through a friend, Jill, we came to know the parents of a boy, who I will call Oliver. He had a rare red blood cell leukemia called Letterer Siwe Disease. Although his parents were not Christians, Jill asked them if they would take Oliver for prayer. Oliver's parents agreed, so Jill and Jan took Oliver and his mother to the Rev. Bill & Molly Worboys, who spent some time praying for him.

After that, Oliver improved day by day. His parents sensibly kept on with the medicine and every time the paediatrician saw him, he was able to reduce the treatment. Quite soon Oliver was off all medication and, although the steroid drugs could have stopped his growth, he grew normally. On the drugs he had been miserable, but now he is fine. A shock came to his parents when they were asked to which school they would be sending Oliver. He was then four, and it had never occurred to them that he would ever live to go to school. Oliver is now a fine, healthy, good-looking teenager.

This week I saw a patient who, only two years ago, could not cope emotionally with even very minor problems, particularly in the area of reproduction. Since then she has become a Christian. She has been able to cope beautifully with being wrongly told that a condition she had was a venereal disease, and then with the fact that a specialist who had treated her had since developed Aids and that she should be tested for it. The strength with which she coped with these traumas is a living proof of God's power in action.

Linda was a twenty-five-year-old with Anorexia Nervosa, almost dead, living on black coffee and cigarettes. She was frightened, hopeless and seemed beyond help. When I talked about Jesus she seemed interested. I explained to her, "Jesus is just like a friend, really." This spoke to her. Each time we talked it appeared that I said just the right thing. Some husbands bring their work home in a briefcase. I brought mine home in the form of a very disturbed young lady. It is a tribute to God's power and love — also to Jan's love and strength from God — that Linda is now an active well-balanced Christian, working in a girls' school.

Many people have asked me to do things, not realizing that it was always Jan who took care of get them done. She was



Rome Italy — August 1966

always gracious about me getting the thanks. In our home Jan took charge. I expected her to tell me what to do, and so she had the weight of the responsibility. She did it well, but it wore her out. Jan is much more sensitive than I am and thus the burden I'd left her with made her frightened, irritable, and worried. She felt pressured and I felt devalued.

Then we went on a Christian retreat dealing with marriages. We learned that husbands were to love their wives as Christ loves the Church. We realized that Jesus was the kind of leader who washed the

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Some stories published in this edition of *VOICE* magazine speak about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is a Biblical experience promised to the followers of Jesus Christ. Its purpose is to endow the receiver with power to do the will of God. The Bible speaks often of it in the book of Acts. For more information contact an FGBMFI Chapter in your area. (See pages 10 & 11).

ONE DOCTOR'S PRACTICE

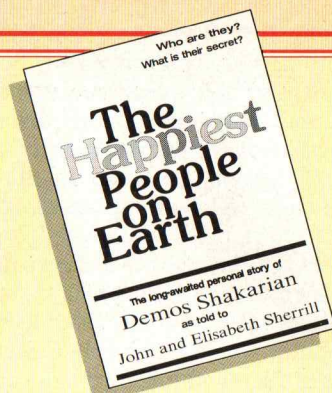
disciples' feet, but who also took responsibility and initiative. We repented and allowed God to bring healing in our relationship and marriage.

Now Jan feels secure when I take responsibility and I feel great. I know I have to listen to her and hear what is on her heart. Then, after prayer, it is usually clear which way we should go. Moving forward in this way has been a positive experience for both of us.

As a doctor there are many dilemmas I have to face. I am convinced that human life has a high value in God's eyes. This means that I cannot take or waste life. I am convinced that life starts at conception. I can understand how people think that the life of an unwanted baby will bring more harm than good to the world. Maybe it will ruin their health, or jobs or standard of life — maybe the child will be unable to live a full life for some reason, but if we kill it in the womb, for me, that is exactly the same as killing it later on.

Being close to those in illness and distress is a privilege. It sometimes means I can share my faith in Jesus Christ and witness situations as they change dramatically. I do not take advantage of our special doctor-patient relationship, but, when the situation presents itself, I simply ask a patient if they ever pray, or if they would like prayer. Surprisingly, I often receive a positive response to such questions. One thing I know for sure, prayer in the name of Jesus Christ has brought some amazing changes in my life, as well as in the lives of many friends and patients.

Dr. Tom Penistan MB, CHB, MRCS, LRCP is a practicing general doctor in Sudbury, Suffolk, England and is a member of the Newmarket Chapter of the FGBMFI. He and his wife, Jan, have two teenage children Miriam and Richard.



This thrilling book about the founding of the FGBMFI can be obtained through your local chapter (See pages 10-11).

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Dear Reader: While reading the testimonies in this issue of Voice Magazine you may have wondered if you too could know God personally and have peace in your heart. Jesus said that to know God, who is Spirit, you must be born again in your human spirit. For this to occur you should:

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 to God that you now take Jesus to be your 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 and speaking the scriptures to yourself, 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 of your relationship with 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 so that we may send you further information. Complete and post us the adjacent coupon.

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