

FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S

Voice



Baseball
LEGEND
DARRYL
STRAWBERRY

Welcome to **VOICE USA**

Welcome to the Fall/Winter edition of Full Gospel Business Men's **VOICE USA**. As you begin making plans for 2022, please consider joining us in Los Angeles when we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of when Demos Shakarian received THE VISION which launched Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. See details about the July 14-16, 2022 FGBMFI World Convention in this issue. Excitement is mounting as we anticipate a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit! "This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming—it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time." (Habakkuk 2:3) The Message Translation

In the following pages we believe that you will be blessed as you read the life-changing testimonies from: Darryl Strawberry, Dave MacBurnie, Moe Rivera, John DeBerry and Bill Bacon. We pray that as you read, you too will be encouraged to "trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

When you have the opportunity, please pass this issue of **VOICE USA** along to others who will also be blessed to hear the "Good News" about how much God loves them. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17)

His Banner Over Us Is Love!

Mike Postlewait

Mike Postlewait, National President
Full Gospel Business Men's
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Who We Are

Our Mission Statement

1. To reach men for Jesus Christ.
2. To call men back to God by walking in Love.
3. To help believers to be baptized in The Holy Spirit.
4. To train and equip men and women to fulfill the Great Commission.
5. To provide an opportunity for Christian fellowship.
6. To bring unity among all people in the body of Christ.
7. To do the things that Jesus did ... even more so. John 14:12

Our Core Values

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second most important commandment is this: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.”
Matthew 22:37-39

With God’s Help,

We Commit Ourselves to:

- Love – sacrificing for the good of others
- Integrity – choosing to do the right thing
- Relationship – value people above all other things
- Commitment – no obstacle is too great, never give up
- Networking – opportunities are born by reaching out to others
- Training – equipped for every good work
- Transforming – making this world a better place by God’s power

Please visit us at:
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VoICE

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table of contents

You Cannot Pick Your Consequences DARRYL STRAWBERRY	<u>4</u>
Connect to the Power DAVE MacBURNIE	<u>12</u>
He Turned My Life Around MOE RIVERA	<u>16</u>
It's a Wonderful Life JOHN DeBERRY	<u>19</u>
Crash! BILL BACON	<u>24</u>
SALVATION PRAYER	<u>30</u>
RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT	<u>31</u>
70th Anniversary 2022 WORLD CONVENTION	<u>32</u>

Baseball **LEGEND**
DARRYL STRAWBERRY

YOU CANNOT PICK YOUR CONSEQUENCES

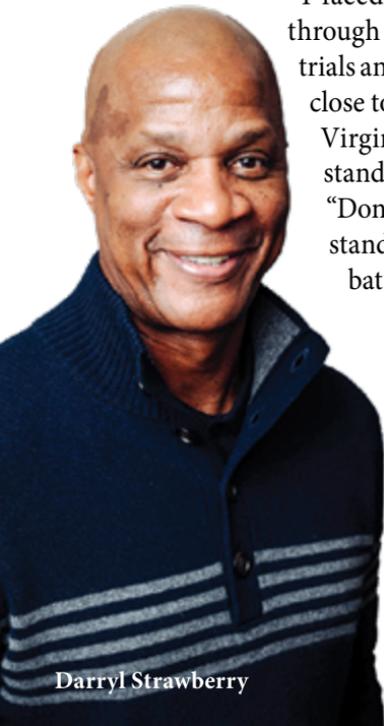
Iknew I had a lot of talent when I was very young. At the age of 14, I knew I was going to play in the big leagues.

I saw this one guy who played for the Cincinnati Reds. I realized this was the “complete” baseball player. It was Pete Rose. When I saw Pete Rose and I saw the way he played the game, his baseball uniform was dirty. I said to myself, “This guy is a baseball player! That’s what a baseball player looks like.” I realized right then that was what I wanted to do.

I faced a few challenges at the beginning, getting through the minor leagues. I had to fight through a few trials and tribulations in the minor leagues. I even came close to quitting. At 19 years old, I was in Lynchburg, Virginia. The crowds were saying racial slurs in the stands. I remember my manager. He kept telling me, “Don’t look up there!” If I looked up there (in the stands), I probably would have run up there with a bat and eliminate some of them.

But I am always grateful for people. I always want to put people around me. At the time, I was smoking weed every day. The organization in Lynchburg thought I went crazy. I was just lost. I had no direction.

Lloyd, the guy who was supposed to be my roommate earlier, came to the ballpark. He was in the locker room before me. He was like a big brother to me. He looked



Darryl Strawberry



Throughout his career, Darryl Strawberry was one of the most feared sluggers in Major League Baseball.

at me and questioned, “What’s wrong with you? You need to get straightened out!” For the rest of the season, I started to straighten out. I started to mature a little bit.

I didn’t have a great character, because I was broken from the beginning.

I was at the top of my game, and people saw that I had started to screw up. It was hard. I looked good on the outside when I put the uniform on. But I was totally broken on the inside. It is like most men do. They look good on the outside, but what counts is the inside, our character.

I was young and a professional baseball player. I immediately became a “star” as I won Rookie of the Year in 1983 and I went on and played eight All-Star games after that. So many things came with

that. Open doors to everything; everything that I wanted to do. Nobody had any say over me doing something or not. I made \$35,000 in my rookie year; and I went on to sign an \$8 million contract right after my rookie year. So there was an excitement of being successful.

I never had a male figure in my life. I did not have a father to teach me how to be responsible. You can pick your sins, but you cannot pick your consequences! Consequences are coming, no matter who you are! I had a big pile of consequences coming, because I was living a life completely separated from God.

Even still today. If you play in New York, you have nothing to do with Boston; that’s just the way it is. I don’t think that will ever change. I was able to beat the Sox. I was with the Mets and also with



Darryl speaking at a men's meeting.

the Yankees. Boston fans really did not like me. Fans are great. You've got to understand that from a player's standpoint. But some players take it personally. Even when fans are booing me. Well, at least they know I am in the ballpark!

Being a professional athlete, sometimes I had to think outside of the box. We'll never get to the promises over our life if we think so highly of ourselves. You can be good in that atmosphere, but you don't have to have an ego. A lot of professional athletes have giant egos, but I didn't. But when your career is over, then who are you? The day will come when you can't play anymore. You've got to come to the understanding that you are not going to be able to do this forever. I have a legacy of what I have achieved from an earthly standpoint, but who am I as a man? I might have fame, things, notoriety, but most importantly, who am I, really? Some go on to do great things. Some go on to become a sports analyst, etc. At the end of my career, I wanted to do something that God had for me! I am thankful to God for having learned all those lessons along the line. I was able to come to the place of doing God's work now.

My Dad was raised an alcoholic. My father was not a nice guy. There was true rejection of us. Every time he came home drunk, we would hide and be scared. We got to that place where there was this final time. He came home drunk and pulled out a shotgun and said he was going to kill the whole family. Me and my brothers went into action. I was about 14; my brother Ronnie

YOU CANNOT PICK YOUR CONSEQUENCES

was 15. Dad sat the shotgun on the couch. He chased after my mom. My mother later told us that she had taken the shells out of the shotgun, but we didn't know that at the time. Ron went into the kitchen and grabbed a butcher knife; and I was right behind him. I went in and grabbed a frying pan. My mom looked at us and gave us that look of, "Get out of the house right now!" She told us to go to the neighbor's house. My mom saw that we were about to do something that night that we would have very much regretted. We were about ready to kill him! Had it not been for her getting us out of the house, we would have killed him. We had it with the beatings. He made me take my shirt off and lay across the bed. He took the extension cord from the vacuum cleaner and he beat me with it.

My father was exactly like his father. He was an alcoholic, too. He saw his father beat his mother. That's all he knew. He repeated the same thing that his father did. My relationship with my father was really a broken relationship. I went

on to play professional baseball. For 17 years, I hated him. I never had a relationship with him.

Then I got saved. That's what I like about knowing God. He holds you accountable. I had to go back to my father and make amends. Regardless of what he did to me, God made me go back and repent to my father. He was in the hospital. God spoke to me and told me to go see my father and repent to him. He said, "It's not about you. You need to ask him to forgive you for keeping him out of your life."

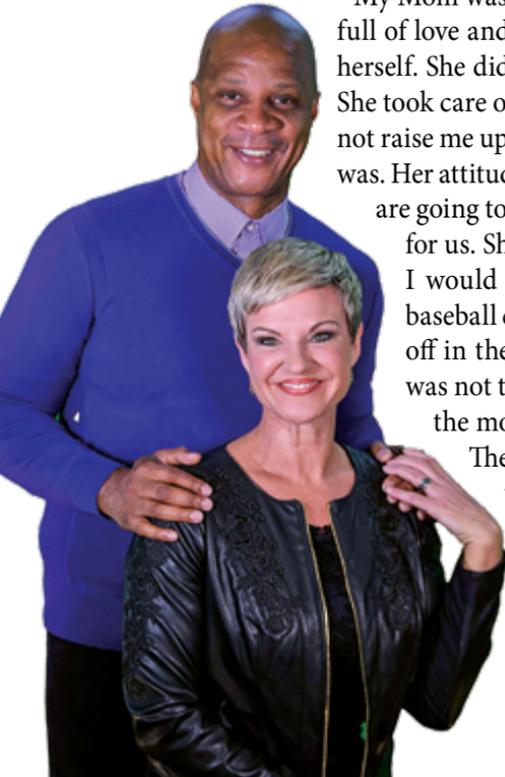
I visited him and asked him, "Will you forgive me for keeping you out of my life and keeping your grandkids from you?" He shook his head "Yes" and a tear came out of his eye. That's when I lost it. My brother watched me as I just laid in my father's lap. I was crying, "I am so sorry," because I did not let him to know his grandkids. Then the Lord told me to lead my own father in the sinner's prayer. There I was: the man that rejected me and beat me; I led him in the sinner's prayer. Six months later, he passed away. I just remember God speaking to me and just reminding me, "It's

never about you. How dare you not give him grace, when I have given you grace!” Ouch! Me and my brother were driving back and I was just crying. God was speaking to me, “The grace I give to you, you need to learn to give somebody else that grace.” He reminded me that two wrongs do not make a right. God told me in the midst of that, “The forgiveness was not for my father, it was for me.” That’s why I stayed broken all those years.

God gives you credit for doing the right thing.

Had I not had a good wife like I do, I probably never would have learned to do the right thing. She was the reason I started learning how to do the right thing. If I knew what I was doing, then why did I do it? God put her in my life to be a helpmate to help me understand how to make the right decisions. She helped me to see things different.

My Mom was an incredible woman. She was just full of love and full of joy. She raised five of us by herself. She didn’t ask for any help. She just did it. She took care of us and she raised us right. She did not raise me up to be the heathen and womanizer I was. Her attitude was, “If you are going to do it, you are going to pay a price for it.” She kept praying for us. She was a wonderful, wonderful lady. I would come into the house wearing my baseball cap. She would tell me, “Get that hat off in the house; or I will knock it off!” She was not tied up in my success, the fame, and the money and all the things I was doing. The woman was praying for us because we were lost; we were broken. She passed away at 55, and my sister found this journal under her bed. Reading in the journal, she was



Darryl and Tracy Strawberry

YOU CANNOT PICK YOUR CONSEQUENCES

really praying for our salvation. It would come to pass that I would get saved; and I would lead my family to the Lord. It's all because of my mother and her prayers. She did not get to see it in the natural. I remember when she died in the house. I would look directly into her eyes. She was worried about us. I told her she could let go because everything was going to be all right with my family. So, she let go. I was so heart-broken when she passed because my life was not right. She raised us in the right way with principles. She raised us not to be better than anybody.

I was at the height of my career. Mom told me I was going to be a pastor; I was going to be a minister. She told me I was going to lead my whole family to the Lord. At the time, I was so messed up with drugs and everything. She told me one night, "We need to pray." I said, "Okay." She said, "You are going to go through it. But the Lord told me that He is going to get it out of you. You have been called to preach. You have been called to minister." My response: "Mom, I need a drink! Mom, are you sick?"

She told me, "It is going to happen! You just watch and see. God has called you. You are going to be an example to the rest of them. And they will fall in line."

I remember my sister Regina was on her death bed. The Lord spoke to me and said, "Fly to California. Go to her hospital room. Get everyone out of the room. And lead her to Me!" I went into her hospital room and I said, "Regina, you know the Lord has changed my life. Do you want to accept the Lord? Are you ready?" She said, "Yeah. Please pray for me." We held hands and I led her in the sinner's prayer. She passed away about one month later.

People ask me, "How do you deal with sin?" I run. I do not play with it; "for the wages of sin is death." It is the real reality. The Bible is clear. I do not think people take the Bible seriously enough. It is clear when you start reading for yourself. He is going to give you the revelation of who He is and who He is in your life. He will clean your life up. Sin is deadly. I do not think that men understand how deadly it is. We all are going to fall short. We all are

going to have struggles. I lived in sin for so long.

I distinctly recall when Tracy (now, my wife) woke up. We were boyfriend and girlfriend. We were “shacking up”. She said, “I need to talk to you.” She had made a decision that she was not going to sleep with me anymore. She said, “I am not going to have sex with you anymore.” I unbelievably responded, “What?” Tracy told me, “I am going to follow Jesus!” That was a defining moment in my life! It took me on a journey and straightened me out. I knew that I loved her. She was willing to walk away from the fleshly part of what it was. She cleaned her life up. Then I needed to clean my life up. That would change the course of my life forever!

Tracy led me to Christ. I love her so much. She is amazing. She led me to finding my way through her faith, strength, encouragement, and tough love when I needed it.

Was it easy? No. Was it hard? Yes. It was a commitment to Christ that I was going to be serious about who I really was. I was going to give myself away from all my

bad lifestyle. I had to change the things that I was doing. I had to make a commitment to be a man and to start running FROM sin. Sin is fun; but it is deadly. There are consequences to sin at the end of the day. We must come to that understanding. We don’t have to live in it. People say, “That’s just the way it is.” No! The devil is lying to you. That’s not the way it is. But your flesh is telling you that is the way it is. Your flesh wants to be pleased. When you start starving your flesh, and you start feeding your spirit; that is when you become different. You need to start feeding your “spirit man”.

Sin is nothing to play with. I had so many years of being in it. I know what it was like. At the end of the day, it was empty. I was empty on the inside, because I was starving for something that was not real and didn’t really belong to me. It takes a real man to stand up and acknowledge that. I think when we understand that women were created for the right reason, and men were created for the right reason, we do not have to fall into those lustful desires.

YOU CANNOT PICK YOUR CONSEQUENCES

You only get that ability when you get into “covenant” with God. When you are not in covenant with God, you struggle with it. I struggled for so many years because I was not in covenant with God. I was in covenant with society, living in the flesh. I tell churches, “I am a sinner. I just don’t practice anymore.” I used to practice sin, but not anymore. We think God does not see us and our sin. But He is looking right straight at us! He is right there looking at us, knowing that we are struggling.

Go back to the fundamentals of what the Bible is all about. The Bible is very simple for complicated people. If we could stay with the fundamentals, just like when I was teaching baseball, to stick to the fundamentals. When I was struggling, I would go down to the batting cage and I would hit the ball. If you are struggling with something, then you need to start pushing it away. Decide that you do not need to do this. Help comes from the Holy Ghost! So many people are not

empowered with the Holy Ghost; and they will not ask for help. He will help you to overcome any sin you are struggling with. He will help you to overcome it. It is not an overnight miracle. It is a process. You need to depend upon Him. I think a lot of times people do not depend upon the Holy Ghost, and that is why they try to do it in the natural, in the flesh. They can’t get the victory because they are operating in the flesh, instead of the Spirit! ■

www.findingyourway.com



Darryl and Tracy Strawberry minister together to help lead people to Jesus.



CONNECT TO THE POWER

Dave MacBurnie
Denver, North Carolina

As a student at Fairleigh-Dickinson University, I received the dreaded telephone call. I had been seriously praying to God to head my dad. He was just a young man of 46. It totally devastated me when my dad died. I became very, very bitter; and even angry at God.

For many years, that bitterness really kept me from a close relationship with God. But I had a mother who prayed for me every day. She made sure that I went to church EVERY Sunday.

To help relieve me of bitterness and anger, I became a workaholic. In 1985, I was the youngest director of Continental Can Corp. (later bought out by Crown, Cork and Seal) ever had. I would what you would call a self-made man. I had money, cars, boats, country club memberships, all kinds of material things. I was very successful. But I was a very bitter and angry person. I did not have very much peace. The office was my god. Making money was the important thing.

But I went to church every Sunday. I read my Bible and I knew a lot about Jesus. But never did I have a personal relationship with Him.

In the mid-1960's, I met Jean, my wife. Jean went to the same university I did. I have to give her a lot of credit because she is a real

saint. For 25 years after we were married, I worked at Continental Can International Division. I traveled all over the world. I was on start-up teams to put new factories in. Even though we had two wonderful kids, Jean kept it all together. I was gone for many, many weeks at a time. I don't know how she put up with me being away that much. I was gone at least two-thirds of the time. I wasn't much of a father or a husband.

When I look at all those years, I really did not have any peace in my life. I had a terrible fear of failure. Work and the office were the things that were important to me. Not things of the Lord. Not things of my family. My most important thing was to make money.

However, money did not make me happy. I had many material things, but I was not happy.

In 1985, a neighbor invited me to the Naperville FGBMFI Chapter. I saw a happiness in those guys. I saw joy in them. They were praying in tongues. Of course, that was strange to me. I thought that was kind of crazy. I didn't understand that. But I did see a peace in them; it was a peace I did not have---and I wanted what they had! I did have a love for the Lord, even though I didn't have a personal relationship with Him. It was all new to me when I went to that Chapter meeting.

I took a VOICE magazine home with me from the meeting. The next day, I read that VOICE in my office and I came to the "Steps of Salvation", I knew I wanted to accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I knelt down right there at my desk in my office and prayed the sinner's prayer to receive Jesus! The next day I sent in that little decision coupon in the VOICE magazine. They sent me a book back for me to read.

I knelt down right there at my desk in my office and prayed the sinner's prayer to receive Jesus!

I immediately felt like there was a huge burden

lifted off me. All that anger and bitterness against God, all that anxiety that I had, was lifted off me.

After I received the Lord, life changed for me dramatically. I used to fight with anybody and everybody. I used to always be angry with everybody. All of a sudden, I started getting along with everybody. I used to do a lot of binge drinking. The Lord took that all away from me. He gave me a whole different nature. It was just amazing what He did.

I signed up for Evangelism Explosion at our church; then I became a trainer. I stayed in that for ten years, training people, door-to-door and street evangelism. It was a wonderful experience. God used that tremendously as I traveled throughout the world. I was able to lead people to the Lord all over the world, with the Holy Spirit, touching people's lives in all walks of life. It is amazing what God did.

I had learned about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. I

started to pray for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. In the middle of a FGBMFI convention, I do not know what came over me, the Lord just touched me and I stood up, and there were people up on the stage, and I declared, "I want to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit!" There were about eight guys who jumped up and laid hands on me right there and then. Just a few words came out in a prayer language. I didn't think too much of it. But on my way home, in my car, a beautiful prayer language overwhelmed me; and it went on for about one and one-half hours. It was a beautiful experience. Everything was lifted off of me.

That infilling of the Holy Spirit has been my strength and my power ever since. It connects you to the power of the Holy Spirit and God! It gives you the boldness and the strength. It will give you the power to witness for Him. It gives you the power to communicate. It shows you God's way and what God has for you.

I've had several healings in

my life. I was born with a heart rhythm disorder. A few years ago at the FGBMFI World Convention in Orlando, when Benny Hinn was there, I went up to be prayed for that, because the doctors were quite concerned about the rhythm not being right. I was completely healed! They have never found that situation since then. I give God the glory for healing me at the World Convention.

Twenty-one years ago, I was diagnosed with cancer. I was devastated by that because it was quite serious. The doctor told me it was advanced. I needed to have major surgery. I have to admit, my faith was not that strong. I got to a point where I couldn't hear from God. I couldn't feel Him. I thought He had abandoned me.

One evening as I was having a pity party for myself, the phone rang. I picked it up and it was Richard Shakarian (the late FGBMFI International President). Richard said, "I was sitting here praying and God spoke to me that you needed

to hear from me. Dave, don't let the evil one take your peace from you!" That lifted me up and changed my whole perspective about this problem. All my friends in the FGBMFI started praying for me. I think there were six churches praying for me. My wife, my children, my friends, all those prayers went up for me. Through surgery, they removed the cancer. I have been cancer-free for 21 years now. They have not been able to find any traces of it.

My desire is to serve God through my last retired breath. ■



Dave MacBurnie is V.P. of Quality Assurance for the American beverage division of Crown, Cork, and Seal. He has been with them for 46 years. He is an FGBMFI National Director.

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He Turned My Life Around

Moe Rivera • Houston, Texas

Prior to accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, I was a rebellious, combative, bad mouth-speaking man headed in the wrong direction. But through the prayers of my loving mother, Mercedes Rivera, the seeds were planted in the ground to my God; and He certainly listened. He visited me on August 21, 1986. In my humble home located in southwest Houston, the God of lights appeared. I knelt down and recognized Him as the great “I am”. I asked for forgiveness and God certainly forgave me.

The very first question I asked God was, “Who are You? Why

have you taken so long to visit, to show Yourself? He responded, “I’ve always shown myself to you through ministers, prophets, people that handed you tracts; it’s been you that has been far away from Me. I am the Alpha and Omega, the great I am!”

I realized that I had read that many years before in the Book of Revelations. But that night was a wonderful night because I accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into my heart and He forgave me. He took the desire from me to drink alcohol, to curtail my foul mouth; He turned things completely around. Thank God for His help. He restored my marriage and my life. He

He Turned My Life Around

also gave me opportunities to serve Him at a local church in southwest Houston.

Later on in 1986, my wife accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior. When she accepted Him, He baptized me with the speaking of tongues.

From that point on God blessed me, at my work, and also in the Army Reserves. I served in the Army Reserves at (MAC) Maneuver Area Command which later transformed into the 75th Division Exercise. God blessed me for the 20 years that I served in this unit and allowed me to train soldiers in Fort Hood, Texas and Fort Polk, Louisiana, helping to train and prepare units to defend this nation in the countries of Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 1989, I met a wonderful Catholic charismatic lady by the name of Joanne Guerrero. Meeting this woman changed my life because she invited me to my very first FGBMFI meeting. At that time, they were located

in downtown Houston, Texas. These very blessed meetings were held on Thursdays at noon. It seems like I grew up in the Chapter. I was accepted in this Chapter. I invited others to attend this Chapter.

At the same time God gave me grace to become a Reserve's Captain; also as a church treasurer serving God for many years. I was introduced to the leadership of FGBMFI in a regional dinner meeting in the Houston Galleria. For the very first time I heard Demos Shakarian, our founder, who motivated and exhorted us. I did not know that later I would serve his son, Richard Shakarian, as a Chapter President and Vice-President.



Moe and Ines Rivera

Through the years, I have seen, participated and been involved in many, many miracles. Good, through His Holy Spirit, has allowed me to pray with many people who have received their healings.

I have seen God save my daughter from a horrible car accident as recent as October 29, 2007, here in Northwest Houston. I serve a living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The latest prayer miracle is praying for a friend's mother with a large intestine tumor and she was miraculously healed. I am married to my wife Ines Rivera (for 39 years), and we have two lovely daughters: Stefany, age 38 and Rebecca, age 31 and a grandson Jordan (from Stefany), age 13.

I serve our living God as a Humble International, Texas FGBMFI Chapter President and a Salem Ministry of Peace Church Treasurer. I've had the honor to attend and participate in many FGBMFI World Conventions. I thank God for allowing me to



Moe Rivera translating for FGBMFI USA President Mike Postlewait.

serve Him through the years under the leadership of Mike Postlewait, President FGBMFI-USA. Around the world, I have met wonderful men and women through the Fellowship. I am very thankful for FGBMFI and for what Demos and Richard Shakarian, and now our International President Mario Garcia have accomplished. I'm also a translator at the World Convention.

I am currently working as a Purchasing Card Coordinator with the City of Houston's Aviation Department at Bush International Airport. ■

Moe.rivera55@gmail.com

It's A *Wonderful Life*

John DeBerry • Durham, North Carolina

I like to start off all my testimonies or teachings with the phrase “It’s a Wonderful life” the title of my favorite movie. My favorite movie of all time is a 1946 film with Jimmy Stewart. Halfway through the movie Jimmy Stewart wished he was never born. God gave him his wish. Because he was never born people died and the whole city was different in a negative way.

I asked God to show me if and what impact I had made on the earth, and He did. God show me many reflections especially with helping young males life change. He also took me back to when I stepped in front of a gunman who had pulled a gun out on my roommate in college. The gunman put the gun up. God showed me I was



John and Renna DeBerry

not special but most of his people have impacted other people lives that they are not aware of. You don’t realize you have impacted others life; you have a Wonderful Life. Your

community would have suffered without you.

I come from a great family. It was nine children plus my mother and father. My father and mother were my heroes. My father served in World War II. While fighting in Germany my father suffered life-threatening injuries. He was discharged 100% disabled, but that was not my father's personality. He worked himself back and went to trade school to be an upholsterer. My father went to work with one of the biggest upholster companies in North Carolina. He wanted to start his own business. My father left his job in 1963 to start his own business. What is so great about this he had great faith in God and his God-given abilities.

My father's favorite verse was, "The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want". There was my father, mother, and my siblings when he started this business. My mother never worked outside the home. They had a mortgage payment, car payment and other expenses.

My father encountered a lot of racism. The suppliers would not sell to him. Only one supplier decided to sell to my father, but my father had to drive over 30 miles to meet the salesman to purchase supplies. Deberry Upholstery is still in existence today.

My family is very close. There is plenty of love. My father and mother took us to church every Sunday. We went to Sunday School and we heard the preaching. I loved taking up the hymn books at the end of Sunday school. I can still remember the Sunday school superintendent saying, "You have heard the reading of the minutes are there any corrections if not we were going to ask two little boys to take up the books. I took off running to get the hymn books. I went to Sunday school just for that.

My world changed at age 13 when my father died out of the blue. Although this was crushing to me, God had His hands on me. I started watching Oral Roberts and Demos

Shakarjian on television. I started writing Oral Roberts and he would write me back. I watched the Full Gospel show every Sunday morning with Demos Shakarian interviewing successful businessmen. God was setting me up then for this day.

When my father died my mother jumped right in, took over managing the business while still raising nine kids. I made up my mind at age 13, I would not do anything to stress my mother. My oldest brother, my brother in-law, male educators, and community leaders stepped in as mentors. That is why I tell people to never discount your life. You can make a difference in people's lives even when you are not aware.

I met my future wife at age 14. We got serious about each other at 16. We knew we were going to be together. We got married at age 24. We have two children son John Jr. and daughter Johnria. I really have lived a wonderful life.

In 2013, my wife caught pneumonia. Since it was not treated in time, it damaged her heart. Doctors thought it would get better over time. But her heart continued to get worse. In 2018, the heart doctor told us if she doesn't have a heart transplant, she would die in a year. I had been praying for God to heal her heart and make it new. They tested her to see if she qualified for a heart transplant. You don't realize how many tests you must take to see if you are a candidate for a transplant. My wife qualified for the transplant. People ask me, "Was I afraid?" I was like King David who killed the Lion and Bear. God had healed my wife of Lupus earlier in our marriage. So, I know God heals.

*You can
make a
difference in
people's lives
even when
you are not
aware.*

It normally takes 2 to 8 months to get a heart. The doctor said we want her to stay in the hospital the whole time while waiting on the heart. We prepared for 2 to 8 months. She went on the heart transplant list October 18, 2018. On October 21, she received two hearts that

where matches for her. Yes, less than 72 hours, there were two hearts available. They took the best of the two and at 1 am October 22nd they installed her new heart. They called me every two hours to let me know the status. Can you imagine getting a call saying we letting you know we got the old heart out; everything is going fine. Then they call you and say “We were putting in the new heart, sewing her up, and everything was going well. Then they called me again, “We are finished putting the heart in, but it is not working right, and we don’t know why. We are going to keep her on the mechanical pump until we figure out what is wrong. We want close her up until we figure out the problem.”

Can you imagine getting a call saying “We are finished putting the heart in, but it is not working right, and we don’t know why”?

Thirty-six hours later, they go back in and saw their mistakes and corrected the problems. The heart started working fine. They closed her up after another 36 hours. Since they kept the tube in her throat so long, her throat swelled. They could not get the tube out. Her throat, tongue and mouth were swollen. She had contracted an infection. They had to Trae her and put a tube in her stomach to feed her.

While getting the mouth area under control, she caught an infection in her intestines. At the same time her body started rejecting the immune system medicines. They

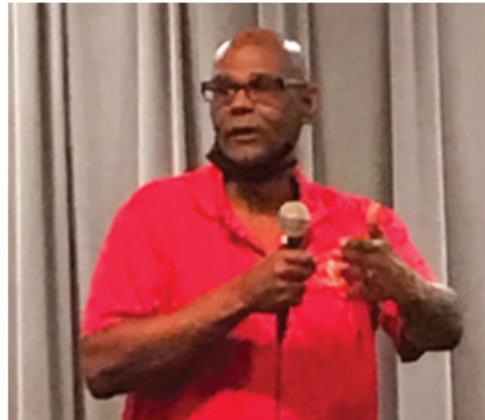
figure it was being caused by a medicine that she has taken in the past. A lot of these medicines stay in your system for ever. Next, they had to clean her blood for 5 days. They ran her blood out of her body through this machine and back in her body. This worked her body begin to receive the immune medicine.

My wife also had a stroke and her heart stopped. She died. You can imagine getting a call: "Your wife's heart stopped. We got it started back, but she is okay." I turned over and went back to sleep. The reason it did not bother me is because God came to me at the beginning of her stay in the hospital and told me everything in here is me. Your wife is me; her bed is me; the chair is me, the \$200,000 machine she is hooked up to is me, the nurse is me and the doctor is me. I got your wife. John 1:3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. I want you to concentrate on you and your wife future.

I began to imagine the future things we were going to do. I knew the whole time my wife would be all right. The moral to the testimony is God has got you, just belief. All together my wife stayed in the hospital 95 days.

My wife is doing great. The family is doing great. Our business, "Janay's Herbal" is doing great. I serve as a Regional Director of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. My life has truly been A Wonderful Life! ■

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John DeBerry speaking to the men's gathering at Fort Caswell, NC.

CRASH!

BILL BACON

Loganville, Georgia

My pride had cost me a family; my wife, home, sons, and almost my life.

Then one day, by accident I stumbled into an FGBMFI luncheon in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1981 and my life was changed forever! I'm getting ahead of myself, so let me jump to May 2, 1987. That day I was flying from Atlanta, Georgia to Charlotte, North Carolina by way of Greenwood, South Carolina for AT&T. My job was to patrol their light guide cable right-of-way and stop anyone who might dig up the buried cable. The cost of having that cable cut runs into the millions and I had saved it many times.

Helicopter flying isn't the easiest or safest job. I've had



Bill Bacon sharing his testimony.

all kinds of mishaps with the machine: engines to quit, blade strikes, transmissions explode, and blades come apart. I was even shot down twice in Vietnam. But I was never injured! I've always had the skill to land and the good fortune to crash without being hurt.

CRASH!

This particular day, upon taking off from downtown Greenwood, SC, the engine just quit just as I cleared the trees. I knew I was in big trouble; low altitude, full of fuel and nowhere to land. If I go into the street people will be hurt or killed. If I try to extend my glide the craft may rollover and crash upside down and burst into flames.

Directly underneath was an Exxon station and in a fraction of a second, I made the decision to put the helicopter into a CRASH mode.

The next thing I know I'm on an examining table in a hospital. Blood is everywhere. Little did I know but it was my blood! The place was crazy, people crying, nurses, firemen, police, rescue; it was maddening. They had never had a helicopter crash in downtown Greenwood, South Carolina before and this occurrence had everyone's attention.

The man standing to the left of the woman that was examining me could have been a doctor, so I ask him if he would stop the nurse from sticking me with an I.V. needle. He looked at me and said, "You are a lucky man!" I said, "Luck had nothing to do with it!" To keep me from going back into shock he kept the conversation going. "Well, what was it?" I answered them, "It was skill!" "Skill?" he questioned. "Yes, my brother and I brought this one in!" "Brother, did you say?," he exclaimed excitedly. You see, they only pulled one person out of the wreckage. Before I passed out, I said, "My brother Jesus," and left him with it.

*Upon taking off,
the helicopter
engine just quit
as I just cleared
the trees. I knew
I was in big
trouble ...*

When I came to, I was laying in a bed with tubes coming out of me. The nurse asked if she could bring me anything. I answered, “Yes, a Bible”; and we started my first hospital revival!

The following year I had to have three brain operations due to complications from the crash. Each time I came from under anesthesia I would ask for a Bible and Holy Ghost revival would break out. I’ve been asked to give this testimony all over the United States of America.

That’s the end, now let’s go back to the beginning.

August, 1981 Sara and I were having a hard time keeping our family from falling apart. Skip and Jan, our oldest children were starting families. Ann and Reid were in high school. Sara was working a full-time job and my business was failing. I had been sober for 90 days; the first time in ten years. Do you have any idea what hell a person goes through who’s been drunk that many years?

There had to be a change or

everything was going down the tube and I knew it. We both buried ourselves in our Methodist church. Sara and I were deeply involved in every activity of the church.

I taught Sunday School, was chairman of both pastor, parish and evangelism committees and Sara directed the acolyte and assisted me with an audio tape ministry. Still, we were lost as geese flying in a storm. I had an over-active drinking habit, one quart of drink a day, and Sara was a workaholic. The family structure seemed to be collapsing around us and I did not have a clue.

That August 18, 1981, at a Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship luncheon every life that touched my life began to change.

A client had suggested that if my business was doing badly, I should attend a businessmen’s luncheon at the Red Lobster that noon. I had not interest but for some peculiar reason I ended up in front of that restaurant at high noon.

When I found the meeting and sat in a booth, they all stood up, pinning me in my booth. If not, I would have been gone. As they sang a hymn, some raised their hands. I had never seen this done in my Methodist church. As one man prayed, another man prayed in another language. I felt that was disrespectful. The speaker did a great job and when it was over, I got out of there fast. One of the fellows ran me down and gave me his card. When I got home I realized the man who had given me his card was an Atlanta Braves baseball player. That impressed me so I went to the next luncheon to meet the famous ball player. The player did not show up, but the Holy Ghost did, and I got filled!

I began a search that took me all over Atlanta as far as North Georgia. Sara was sure that if I spent as much time making money as I did looking for more FGBMFI meetings, we could financially be independent. Then one day while driving around I-285, I received my

heavenly language. What a shock! I was so surprised I nearly had an accident.

From this point great and wonderful things began to happen. Sara received her infilling under the ministry of Richard Roberts at an FGBMFI Georgia rally. We were on a roll! Sara called our oldest daughter and she and her husband were already there. Ann, the youngest, and her husband had found purpose in their Baptist church.

Each Wednesday I would take Reid to a luncheon in Norcross, Georgia. One day he said that he heard the message as he consumed three platefuls of food. That made three down and one to go.

Skip had left home at age 18 to join the U.S. Army. Following in the footsteps of his father, in more ways than one. He also began to drink heavily. We felt that marriage and fatherhood would settle him down, but to our dismay, he only became worse.

One Saturday in the Spring of 1985 Skip's wife Brenda called me crying that Skip had overdosed on drugs and alcohol, and had collapsed in the streets of Denver, Colorado. She was going to leave him for the years of alcohol related abuse. I was heartbroken and there was nothing I could do to make a difference. A parent's greatest fear, not being able to help.

That Tuesday I was having lunch at the Georgia state capital with my FGBMFI friends under the leadership of Jackey Beavers, Governor Harris' special assistant.

Jackey immediately began to pray for Skip's deliverance only as a black American pastor knows how to pray. That whole assembly was moved to prayer and worship and praise and adoration. Everyone sensed the mighty moving of the Holy Ghost in that place of government as they came under conviction.

Some days later that young daughter-in-law called me to tell me that Skip was dry and

had taken them to church. He is still dry today. Both Reid and Skip are today lifetime members of the FGBMFI.

My Dad was an old-time stiff-neck. Everything had to be just right and in its place. He was so straightlaced that we even had to dress for breakfast. Coat and tie.

July 23, 1990, I was giving my testimony in Huntsville, Alabama when he went into the hospital in Augusta, Georgia late in the night. It was morning before Sara could get hold of me. My first impulse was to race to the hospital. The Lord impressed upon me to eat and drive safely. I arrive about 5:30 p.m. All the family had been assembled so I knew it was serious. After talking with my mother and sister, I went in to see him. They had him sedated and on a ventilator. Not a pretty picture. I felt totally at ease. The doctor came in to ask if I needed anything. I asked him to explain the monitors and he asked if I was aware he was dying. I acknowledged that I did. He

explained that all the lines would go to zero and it would be over. He wanted to know if there was anything else he could help me with and I thanked him and said, "No."

After the doctor left, I began to speak to my unconscious dad and recount to him my childhood in his hometown. How in the early 1940's myself and the other small boys would go down to the stables early on Saturday morning to ride the mules through town to auction. We were in shorts, barefooted and no tops. The older boys would put us up on top of the bare backs of those beautiful animals. Every now and then, one of us would fall off and they would have to stop, dust us off, dry our tears and put us back on top of our mule.

As I was telling him this early life experience, I was impressed that maybe he too, as a small boy, had fallen off a mule. It was then that the heartbeat line went flat. He was dead.

My mother took it well. My sister didn't. I then went to find

the doctor who had been so nice to me. Each nurse's station reported no one employed fit the description. I have not shared this with my family, they would not have understood. I knew he was Jesus.

For years I had sent him VOICE, but he would never acknowledge that he read them. The new thing I was involved in was not of his Methodist church, therefore, there was nothing else to discuss. I knew he did read them, though. He was a very intelligent man and he did not miss much.

I know that VOICE magazine touched his heart like it has so many thousands of others! ■

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Bill and Sara Bacon

SALVATION PRAYER

to have a personal relationship with Jesus

Please pray this prayer out loud and start a new life in Christ:



Dear Heavenly Father,

*I come to You in the Name of Your Son, Jesus. I admit that I am separated from You because of my sins and I want to be right with You. Thank you for forgiving me of all my sins because of what Jesus did for me...“who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-
-by whose stripes you were healed.” (1 Peter 2:24)*

The Bible says “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10) I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that Jesus was raised from the dead for my justification. I confess Jesus as my Lord & Savior.

*I am now saved! Thank You Father God! Thank You Lord Jesus!
Thank You Holy Spirit!*

PRAY TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Receiving the Baptism of Holy Spirit is an enduement of power for service. A difference in our service for Christ should be seen after we're baptized with the Holy Spirit.



On the Day or Pentecost, Believers were gathered together in a house when they heard what sounded like a rushing mighty wind. It filled the house where they were gathered. Scripture tells us that they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking with other tongues (Acts 2:1-4).

This experience is called being filled with the Holy Spirit. John prophesied, *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me ... shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire."* (Matthew 3:11)

You received The Holy Spirit when you accepted Jesus as your Lord & Savior by FAITH! You received the gift of salvation by FAITH. So begin to pray ... *BY FAITH, I have received the Holy Spirit. Thank You Father God that the Holy Spirit dwells within me, because Jesus promised He would in His Word (John: 14:16-17).* Now expect to speak in tongues, because believers spoke with tongues on the Day of Pentecost. And thank God, YOU will, too, as the Holy Spirit gives utterance. You will be blessed, strengthened and empowered as the Holy Spirit prays God's perfect will through you.

Notice, you must believe that you have received the Holy Spirit first, and then you will speak in tongues!

FGBMFI
LA 2022
WORLD CONVENTION
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA
July 14-16, 2022



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Isaiah 60:1

70th Anniversary

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

*Join us to celebrate
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CONVENTION SPEAKERS:

- Kenneth Copeland
- Mario Murillo
- Cash Luna
- Mario Garcia Olvera
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