

THE VISION INTENSIFIED

Newsletter

April 2020

POSTPONED

FGBA 60TH ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, especially self-isolation restrictions and restrictions on international travel affecting guest speakers and guests, the FGBA 60th Anniversary National Conference will be postponed to 2021.

The FGBA National Council will confirm the new dates (13th to 15th August 2021) when it is known all restrictions will be lifted and international travel is restored.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2020 – THE YEAR OF HUMBLING

Shalom all,

What a year this is. 2020 will not be forgotten for a long time, the way the coronavirus, SARS-COV-2 virus, the cause of COVID-19 disease which originated in Wuhan, China, jumped from the bats to human and rapidly spread throughout the world via air travel and cruise ships, and caused nearly all nations to self-isolate and lockdowns. Never has a disease caused such global disruption to people everywhere, from the poorest of poor to the wealthiest of the wealthy.

Church services could not be held in churches, but were beamed into homes everywhere via YouTube and/or Facebook. Prayer meetings were held over Zoom and similar video-conferencing programs. Many who did not attend church tuned in to these services. Families began to

gather together in prayer and build family altars in their homes.

Many believers began to meditate on 2 Chronicles 7:14 – *“if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”* Many took comfort from Psalms 91 and sent comforting scriptures to one another.

It was almost like Acts when believers met in homes.



George Perry with Hugo Chan (centre) and Gary Lau of Hong Kong at the Full Gospel Global Forum Annual Global Prayer Summit held at Heathrow, near London from 13 to 16 February 2020.

While it is believed 2020 to be the year of clarity of vision, this clarity could not be possible without first humbling ourselves before God, repenting from all ungodliness (James 4:7-10) and thirsting and crying out for revival. This is what is happening now in many parts of the world.

I look forward to witnessing many believers, new and old, being strengthened in love, faith and hope during this time.

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A NEW ERA?

I believe, we have now entered a new era of shaking, the era of economic warfare. The world had already experienced major shakings brought about by the era of modern military warfare, lead by Germany, with WW1 and WW2; the era of political warfare, led by Russia, with the rapid rise and growth of communism, socialism, common markets, the cold war; the more recent era of religion warfare, lead by Iran, with the rapid rise of religious groups, especially Islam, spreading internationally; and now the economic warfare, led by China, with COVID-19 impacting on economies throughout the world.

These shakings have not resulted in many turning to the true God, as God never promised to save us from our troubles as, although He passed by, He was not in these troubles. He promised to save us from our sins, and it will take a mighty global outpouring of the Holy Spirit to do this, speaking to our hearts with a still small voice, as He is the one who convicts us of our sins and convinces us of God's righteousness.

I am reminded of Elijah, when he experienced major shakings, from the great strong winds, the earthquake, and the fire before hearing and responding to the still small voice of God (1 Kings 19).

A SHORT TESTIMONY – CALLED FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

In mid-January, I departed for New York to attend the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS) Annual Conference where I was appointed to chair their Health and Safety Advisory Committee. The IETS is an international peak body for providing advice and guidelines on collection, storage and transfer of embryos in animals. Now I am busy consulting with internationally recognised experts, developing guidelines for all involved in artificial breeding in animals on managing COVID-19 when researching or conducting farm visits to carry out embryo collections and transfers. Thankfully, I have the resources of heaven, through our Lord Jesus, to give me wisdom and

understanding to do the tasks. Talk about being born for such a time as this (Esther 4:14)!! Thankfully COVID-19 had not yet arrived in New York, the first case being identified on 1st March 2020.

A BLESSING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

After New York, I flew onto the UK for the Full Gospel Global Forum (FGGF) - Global Leadership Prayer Summit (GLPS) to be held three weeks later. I holidayed in several locations in southern England. The first place I stayed (Horsham), I welcomed dear old friends of mine (and the FGB movement in Australia), Bishop



In England, Bishop Harry Westcott, Reverend Colin Urquhart, Caroline Urquhart and Doreen Westcott.

Harry and Doreen Westcott, who flew in for Rev Colin and Caroline Urquhart's 80th birthday celebrations. We (the Westcotts and I) shared an apartment and consequently, I found myself very blessed being included in the birthday celebrations. We also had a great time of sharing and fellowshipping. Many older members would remember Rev Colin

Urquhart as he was a strong supporter of the FGB movement globally.

FULL GOSPEL GLOBAL FORUM (FGGF)

- GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PRAYER SUMMIT (GLPS)

Some 90 leaders from around the world attended the FGGF GLPS at the Holiday Inn near Heathrow airport. A day was spent in prayer and fasting, Nigeria shared on their strategies in growing the FGB to 3,500 chapters nationally, nations presented reports and testimonies, and there was a great time of fellowshipping. In the meantime, COVID-19 had already arrived in the UK with the first case reported on 31st January 2020, with epidemiological indications that the virus was already spreading within the UK.

On the way home, I spent a night in Singapore with Papa Khoo for some discipling. Singapore was already under COVID-19 restrictions, looking like a ghost city, my taxi racing down the freeway towards the city as though we were in an F1 race, weaving past the light traffic.

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Soon after arriving home, I had myself tested for COVID-19, thankfully with negative results.

FGBA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

ADELAIDE – FEBRUARY 2020

The Council met to plan 2020, especially the proposed 60th anniversary celebrations. But as we all know, COVID-19 restrictions have caused us to change our plans.

During the current COVID-19 restrictions, the National Council is meeting fortnightly via Zoom to support each other with prayers and testimonies.

testimony to family, friends and to whoever the Holy Spirit brings to their mind. Henry Bole who was videoing our monthly dinners will use his gift in this area to extend the kingdom of God.

God is giving us a fresh resolve to pray for open doors and boldness to step out to 'let our light shine before men so they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven.'

FGBA REPORT FOR SA

Jan – Apr 2020

STEFAN HORVATH

Shalom! In these troubling times, we can trust that our God has us in his hands.

Psalm 91, verses 9 - 11:

*If you say, "The LORD is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;*



Leaders in prayer at the Full Gospel Global Forum Annual Global Prayer Summit held at Heathrow, near London.

FGBA South Adelaide Fellowship:

As our society enters a period of social isolation and contact distancing, the Leadership team has discerned the importance of maintaining connection across FGBA in South Australia. We have moved our monthly breakfast to a weekly State based Zoom meeting, which includes partners attending from the North East Adelaide, West Adelaide and East Adelaide Fellowships.

The weekly Zoom meetings are well attended and include a time of sharing testimonies, guest speakers and small group prayer breakouts.

FGBA REPORT FOR NSW/ACT

Jan – Apr 2020

ANTHONY CONNELL

FGBA North Canberra Leader
FGBA NSW/ACT National Leader
FGBA National Leader for Pastoral Care of Leadership

During the Coronavirus Pandemic all physical meetings for NSW/ACT have temporarily ceased. We have continued our weekly North Canberra meeting every Monday night through zoom.us. Even though it is not the same, we have been able to mutually encourage and challenge each other to draw near to God and to reach out to others via message, FaceTime, emails and so on.

We have just established a State Council with three men from the ACT; Paul Stewart, Frank Glavinic and myself and three from NSW; Michael Welsh, Peter Arena and Dr George Perry, our National Chairman, who will act in an advisory role. Every state councillor is anointed and desirous to further impact our region.

One strategy we will implement is to video short testimonies and each one can send the link of his

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FGBA Supernatural Encounter:

The first meeting of this year was very well attended but now because of the current situation we have reverted to a fortnightly Zoom meeting just for the members of the team. This has been a good time of prayer & worship and is building relationships within our leadership. We are all looking forward to going back to normal once restrictions are lifted.

FGBA Adelaide North East and City of Tea Tree Gully Prayer Breakfast

The Adelaide North East group work with local council members, schools, business owners, and other community leaders to provide the City of Tea Tree Gully Prayer Breakfast. At this stage the breakfast is scheduled for Friday, September 18, with NSW Emergency Services Chaplain Gary Raymond as our guest speaker. The breakfast will proceed if social distancing rules have been relaxed by then. However, the breakfast will be postponed to 2021 if social distancing rules are still in place then.

City of Onkaparinga Prayer Breakfast

Members of FGBA South Leadership work with other local ministries on the City of Onkaparinga Prayer Breakfast committee. The Breakfast event is scheduled for Friday 9th October with Fr Richard Leonard as the keynote speaker.

At this stage, we are still planning to proceed with the Breakfast event, assuming that Government regulations on mass gatherings and social distancing may be relaxed by October. However, we will move the event to 2021 if necessary.

FGBA SA Ministry Networking

We continue to network and collaborate by phone, Zoom and Skype, with other like-minded ministries and leaders across South Australia including:

Integrity in Sport, CBMC, Transform our World, Gideon 300, Teen Challenge, Eternity Matters, Kingdom Business Network, Australian Christian Lobby, Kingdom Facilitation Centre Adelaide, SA Liberal Party, Victory Business Fellowship and other local ministries.

FGBA REPORT FOR WA

Jan – Apr 2020

ADEWALE OSINAIKE

We held our first gathering in February 2020 and was well attended with Mr. Paul Morrison a Christian Radio Host ministering. It was a great way to start the year.

We were looking forward to a year of making Disciples of our city until the COVID 19 social distancing rules came into effect resulting in cancellation of our scheduled meetings.

The current membership of WA include the following on the FGBA State Council:

Mr. Henry Heng
Mr. and Mrs. Peter and Margaret Gossip
Mr. Mike Oliver
Dr. Adewale Osinaike

We have had 2 meetings in via Skype to encourage each other and pray together.

We are encouraged by the Adelaide Zoom meetings and hope to organize Zoom meetings in WA that will bring together a larger group.

We covet prayers to be more effective in our Disciple-making in 2020

To help us build our faith to deal with the COVID-19 disease outbreak, below is a copy of an amazing testimony of a minister facing sickness and death during a massive disease outbreak in Sydney in the latter half of the 19th century.

HE IS JUST THE SAME TODAY

BY REV. JOHN ALEX. DOWIE.

Extracted from “Leaves of Healing” Circa 1870’s

*HAVE you ever heard the story
How our Lord before He died
Laid His blessed hands in healing
Upon all who to Him cried?
How the sick and all oppressed ones
He rejoicing sent away?*

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***0, I'm glad, so glad to tell you,
He is just the same today.***

Let me speak to you of Jesus, kind reader of these pages. In simple, honest words, with tenderness and love, I want to tell you glad, good news. Christ changes never, and as He was on earth in ages long gone by, He is unchangeably the same even here and now. The Word which never dies is true, " Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."

All His life and ministry were beautifully described by Peter thus: "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed of the Devil." (Acts 10:38.)

"Teaching" patiently, "preaching" boldly, He went about with constant sympathy, "healing all manner of disease and all manner of sickness among the people." (Matthew 4:23 ; 9:35.)

He is the same today as when He trod the Holy land, blessing the fainting, scattered, burdened sheep of God with words of life. And still He journeys over all the earth and never wearies of His loving task. He binds up still the broken, bleeding hearts, He still delivers from the tyrant's fetters, and from Himself, the Fountain, healing virtue still is flowing.

With outstretched hands He stands, quick to respond to thine appeal and banish all thy woe. Unseen but "with us alway," as He said, He stands beside thy bed of weary pain.

Loved ones bend over thee, and minister with sympathetic care; but nearer than all beside is Jesus, thy Saviour and thy Healer still.

The Hand that cleansed the foulness of the leper's flesh and made it sweet and clean; the Hand that made the

deaf to hear, the blind to see, the lame to leap, the dumb to speak; the Hand which raised the dead to life is here, no vanished Christ have we.

Oh, wherefore doubt, and wherefore seek at other hands, from surgeon's knife or poison draught, the healing which He died to bring to thee, to me, to all mankind, in every age, in every land, in every clime? Christ changes never.

At noontide, sixteen years ago, I sat in my study in the parsonage of the Congregational Church, at Newtown, a suburb of the beautiful City of Sydney, Australia. My heart was very heavy, for I had been visiting the sick and dying beds of more than thirty of my flock, and I had cast the dust to its kindred dust into more than forty graves within a few weeks.

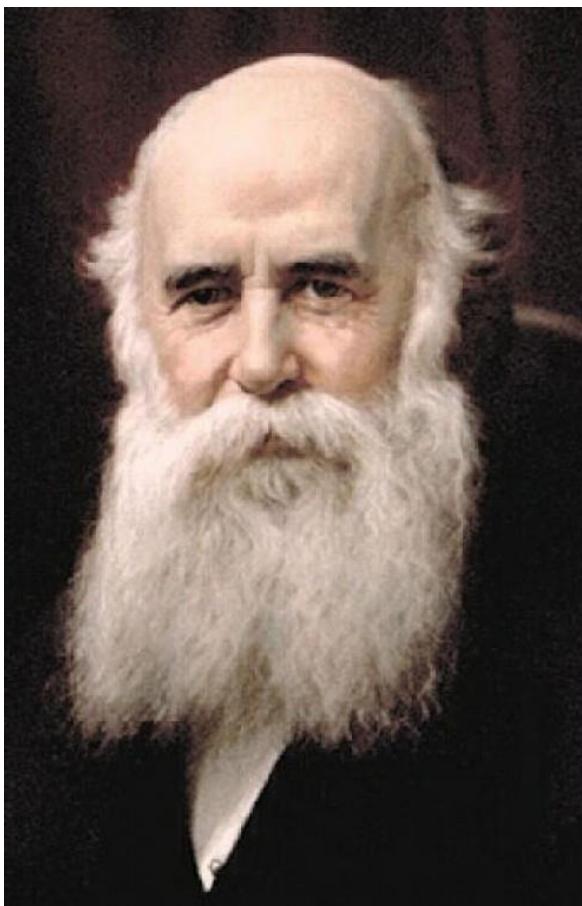
Where, oh where was He who used to heal His suffering children? No prayer for healing seemed to reach His ear, and yet I knew His hand had not been shortened. Still it did not save from death even those for whom there was so much in life to live for God and others.

Strong men, fathers, good citizens, and more than all, true, faithful Christians, sickened with a putrid fever, suffered nameless agonies, passed into delirium, sometimes with

convulsions, and then died. And oh, what aching voids were left in many a widowed, orphaned heart.

Then there were many homes where, one by one, the little children, the youths and the maidens, were stricken, and, after struggling with the foul disease, they, too, lay cold and dead. It seemed sometimes as if I could almost hear the triumphant mockery of fiends ringing in my ears while I spoke to the bereaved ones the words of Christian hope and consolation.

Disease, the foul offspring of its father, Satan, and its mother, Sin, was defiling and destroying the earthly temples of God's children, and there was no deliverer.



John Alexander Dowrie

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And there I sat with sorrow-bowed head for my afflicted people, until the bitter tears came to relieve my burning heart. Then I prayed for some message, and oh, how I longed to hear some words from Him who wept and sorrowed for the suffering long ago, the Man of Sorrows and of Sympathies. And then the words of the Holy Ghost inspired in Acts 10:38 stood before me all radiant with light, revealing Satan as the defiler and Christ as the Healer.

My tears were wiped away, my heart was strong; I saw the Way of Healing, and the door thereto was opened wide, and so I said, "God help me now to preach that word to all the dying 'round, and tell them how 'tis Satan still defiles, and Jesus still delivers, for ' He is just the same today!'"

A loud ring and several loud

raps at the outer door, a rush of feet, and then at my door two panting messengers, who said, "Oh come at once. Mary is dying; come and pray." With just such a feeling as a shepherd has who hears that his sheep are being torn from the fold by a cruel wolf, I pushed from my house, ran hatless down the street, and entered the room of the dying maiden. There she lay, groaning, grinding her clenched teeth in the agony of the conflict with the destroyer, the white froth, mingled with her blood, oozing from her pain-distorted mouth. I looked at her and then my anger burned.

"Oh," I thought, "for some sharp sword of heavenly temper keen to slay this cruel foe who is strangling that lovely maiden like an invisible serpent, tightening his deadly coils for a final victory."

In a strange way it came to pass; I found the sword I needed was in my hands, and in my hand I hold it still, and never will I lay it down. The doctor, a good Christian man, was quietly walking up and down the room, sharing the mother's pain and grief. Presently he stood at my side and said, "Sir, are not God's ways mysterious?"

Instantly the sword was flashing in my hands—the Spirit's Sword, the Word of God. "God's way!" I said, pointing to the scene of conflict. "How dare you, Dr.



Rev Dowrie's publication "Leaves of Healing".

K—, call that God's way of bringing His children home from earth to heaven? No, sir, that is the Devil's work, and it is time we called on Him who came to destroy the work of the Devil to slay the deadly, foul destroyer, and to save the child. Can you pray, Doctor; can you pray the prayer of faith that saves the sick?

At once, offended at my words, my friend was changed, and saying, "You are too much excited, sir. 'Tis best to say God's will be done," he left the room.

Excited! The word was quite inadequate, for I was almost frenzied with Divinely imparted anger and hatred of that foul destroyer, disease, which was doing Satan's will.

"It is not so," I exclaimed; "no will of God sends such cruelty, and I shall never say God's will be done to Satan's works, which God's own Son came to destroy, and this is

one of them."

Oh, how the Word of God was burning in my heart: "Jesus of Nazareth went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the Devil: for God was with Him." And was not God with me? and was not Jesus there and all His promises true? I felt that it was even so, and turning to the mother I inquired, "Why did you send for me?" To which she answered, "Do pray, oh, pray for her that God may raise her up." And so we prayed.

What did I say? It maybe that I cannot recall the words now without mistake, but words are in themselves of small importance.

The prayer of faith may be a voiceless prayer, a simple, heartfelt look of confidence into the face of Christ.

At such a moment words are few, but they mean much, for God is looking at the heart.

Still I can remember much of that prayer unto this day, and asking God to aid I will endeavor to recall it.

I cried :

Our Father, help! and Holy Spirit teach me how to pray. Plead Thou for us, oh Jesus, Saviour, Healer, Friend, our Advocate with God the Father. Hear and heal, eternal

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One? From all disease and death deliver this sweet child of Thine. I rest upon the Word. We claim the promise now. The word is true, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." Then heal her now. The word is true, "I am the Lord, I change not." Unchanging God, then prove Thyself the Healer now. The word is true, "These signs shall follow them that believe, in My Name, they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." And I believe and I lay hands in Jesus' Name on her, and claim this promise now. Thy word is true, "The prayer of faith shall save the sick." Trusting in Thee alone, I cry, oh save her now, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

And, lo, the maid lay still in sleep, so deep and sweet that the mother said in a low whisper, "Is she dead?" "No," I answered in a whisper lower still, "Mary will live; the fever has gone. She is perfectly well and sleeping as an infant sleeps."

Smoothing the long dark hair from her now peaceful brow, and feeling the steady pulsation of her heart and cool, moist hands, I saw that Christ had heard and that once more, as long ago in Peter's house, "He touched her and the fever left her."

Turning to the nurse I said, "Get me at once, please, a cup of cocoa and several slices of bread and butter."

Beside the sleeping maid we sat quietly and almost silently until the nurse returned, and then I bent over her and snapping my fingers, said, "Mary!" Instantly she awoke, smiled and said, "Oh, sir, when did you come? I have slept so long."

Then stretching out her arms to meet her mother's embrace, she said, "Mother, I feel so well."

"And hungry, too?" I said, pouring some of the cocoa in a saucer and offering it to her when cooled by my breath.

"Yes, hungry, too," she answered with a little laugh, and drank and ate again, and yet again, until all was gone.

In a few minutes she fell asleep, breathing easily and softly.

Quietly thanking God, we left her bed and went to the next room, where her brother and sister also lay sick of the same fever. With these two we also prayed, and they were healed.

The following day all three were well, and in a week or so they brought to me a little letter and a little gift of gold, two sleeve links with my monogram, which I wore for many years.



John Alexander Dowrie later moved to Chicago where he had the Zion Tabernacle built, capable of holding 6,000 people.

that

HE IS JUST THE SAME TODAY.

And this is the story of how I came to preach the Gospel of healing through faith in Jesus.

That very day I went to the cemetery and laid in the grave the bodies of three who had died two days before; but I rejoice to add that in the more than twelve years of ministry in Australia which followed, I only buried five, although ministering to many, many thousands.

And yet it was not all at once that I could discover how to teach the lessons that I learned that day. Not until six years after did I fully enter upon the ministry of healing as a part of the ministry of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, to preach which I was duly ordained twenty years ago.

In these twenty years I have prayed, and in Jesus' Name have laid my hands upon tens of thousands of sick ones, and, so far as man can judge, by far the greater part were fully healed. These witnesses have testified in thousands and the record of their testimonies has gone forth to many lands.

As I went away from the home where Christ as the Healer had been victorious, I could not but have somewhat in my heart the triumphant song that rang through heaven, and yet I was not a little amazed at my own strange doings, and still more at my discovery

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We have left our friends and home to carry Leaves of Healing from the Tree of Life to every nation we can reach. We have never proclaimed this Gospel in any city or country where God has not confirmed the word with signs following, although in some places it is still true as nineteen centuries ago, "He could not do there many mighty works because of their unbelief."

We bring this Message to this city, and to thee, kind reader. It will give us joy to tell it to all who will come. Salvation and healing are FREE, for God never sells His gifts. "Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

The mission opens its doors to all. It is the old-time religion and no new Gospel that is preached. 'Tis the Gospel of Jesus' Redemption for spirit, soul and body, bringing Salvation from sin, Healing from sickness, and Cleansing from every defilement of the flesh and spirit.

Let the words abide in thy heart:

HE IS JUST THE SAME TODAY.

And if thou wilt believe Him, first for Salvation and then for Healing, thou wilt go onward in the King's Highway of Holiness, singing the familiar words with a new meaning, as thou goest along the way through earth to heaven:

*Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in Thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.*

DIVINE HEALING IN THE GOSPEL.

We claim Divine Healing upon the ground of the Atoning Sacrifice. We claim it because it was said, "The chastisement of our peace was upon Him," and more, "with His stripes we are healed." That we humbly claim. Matthew eighth chapter and sixteenth and seventeenth verses distinctly refers this prophecy to Divine Healing.

Yes, it is true. "Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses."

We teach that the Atoning Sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ covers all kinds of sin and its consequences, of which disease is one.

Another point is that Divine Healing is a perpetual covenant with God's people; for He has revealed

himself by that name—Jehovah-Rophi—"I am the Lord that healeth thee." Exodus 15:26.

The "Gifts of Healings" are ever in the Church of Christ; for 1 Corinthians 12:9 shows that they are "in the Holy Spirit," and He is ever in the Church. Again it is written: "The gifts and calling of God are without repentance." (Romans 11:29.) Therefore, the Gifts of Healings, however they may be neglected, cannot be removed, for God's Word would then fail, and that cannot be.

"The redemption of our body" (Romans 8:23 and Thessalonians 5:22-24) is a present redemption, and if we will all let God have His way we may also say with Paul, "The Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the Law of Sin and Death." (Romans 8:2.).