

*Full Gospel Business Men's*

# VOICE

A color photograph of an elderly man with white hair, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark brown suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a patterned tie with diagonal stripes in shades of brown, tan, and white. The background is softly blurred, showing what appears to be a window with light coming through and some indistinct shapes on the right side.

*Demos Shakarian  
Memorial Issue*

And His Works  
Do Follow Him

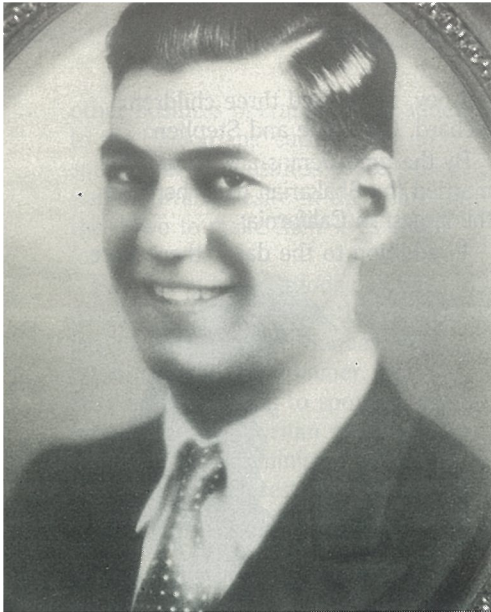
# The Demos Shakarian Story

## The Young Demos

On July 21, 1913 Demos Shakarian was born to Isaac and Zarouhi Shakarian in a little unfinished plank house in Los Angeles, California. The family had come to America from Kara Kala, Armenia as the result of a prophecy written by an 11-year-old Russian lad warning of destruction to come.

The Armenians worshiped in their homes and other simple buildings that were overcrowded with newly-arrived immigrants. The Shakarian home on Boston Street was one such home that on Sundays became a church.





*(Above) Demos, a young boy, on his way to manhood. (Right) The house on Boston Street where so much began. (Left) Demos and Rose Shakarian set out on an amazing life together.*

Demos worked with his father on the dairy ranch, as well as assisting him in the Armenian church as a very popular youth leader.

When Demos was 13 years old he was baptized in the Holy Spirit while sitting on the rear bench of the little Pentecostal church. All the way home he answered anyone who spoke to him by speaking to them in tongues.

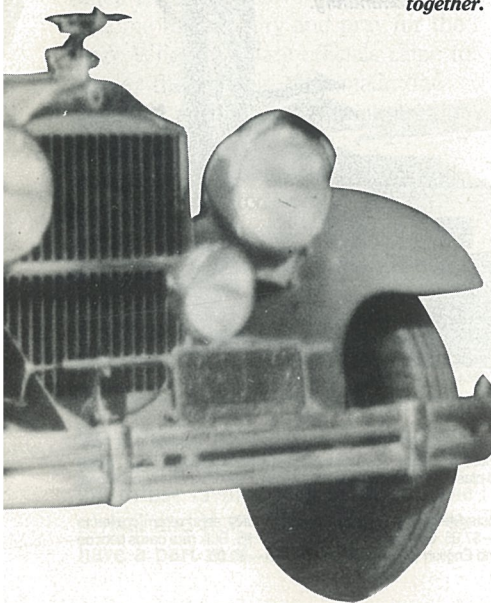
One of Demos' favorite chores on the farm was to weed the corn because he could go far into the field and talk to the Lord out loud. The long aisles seemed to him like a green cathedral.



In his teen years Demos continued to ask the Lord what plan He had for his life. One day in church he had an experience that made him wonder if God was going to use him as a healer. His sister, Florence, had a serious injury to her elbow that the doctor could only promise a 10 to 20 percent recovery.

During the service, Demos felt a sensation like a warm heavy blanket settling over his shoulders and he knew he was to go pray for his sister. During a hymn he slipped over to the women's side and prayed for Florence's elbow.

Weeks later when the cast came off the doctor said it was like an arm that was never broken.



## Reliance Dairy

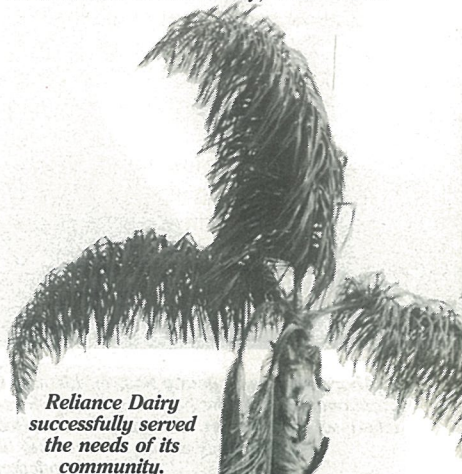
Demos started working at Reliance Dairy as soon as he was large enough to begin milking the cows, and he played a vital role in its growth from three cows to a total of 5,000. At that time Reliance became the largest independent dairy in the world.

In 1932 Demos was attracted to a lovely young Armenian girl, Rose Gabrielian. According to Armenian custom the parents met and arranged the wedding. When they were finally allowed to converse, Demos' first words were, "Rose, I know God wants us together." Rose's heartfelt answer was, "All my life I have prayed that the man I married would say those words to me first of all." They were married on August 6, 1933 in Isaac's home in

Downey, and raised three children: Richard, Geraldine and Stephen.

By the time Demos and Rose were married the Shakarian dairy herd was the largest in California.

In addition to the dairy, there were



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other business operations that added to the Shakarians' success. But in spite of all the business success there was a burning desire in the hearts of these two to make their lives count for the Lord.

First, they had outdoor meetings to reach the crowds that gathered at a large local park each Sunday afternoon for an entire summer. Then later on they began to sponsor tent revivals and auditorium meetings.

The mixture of ministry and business brought some interesting and challenging results. One of the most terrifying problems they faced was an outbreak of tuberculosis that threatened all of the cows in Reliance Number Three. There were so many affected cows that it looked like they were going to lose the whole herd. Demos and his father called Dr. Kelso Glover and asked him to come to the dairy and pray for the cows. When the state officials came to destroy the animals, they made one more test and not one cow showed any sign of tuberculosis.

It was during this time that Demos became acquainted with Dr. Charles Price. He had prayed for Demos' sister, Florence, after a terrible accident when she wasn't expected to live. God heard and answered the prayer and performed a miracle.

Demos and Price became very close friends, meeting for lunch regularly. Dr. Price prophesied to Demos what was ahead and that the Lord was going to use laymen in a great endtime revival and that Demos was going to have a part in it.



*(Top) Demos Shakarian, a proud dairyman, knew his cows by name. (Above) Demos and Rose early in their tent ministry.*

## Birth Of The Fellowship

In the fall of 1951 Demos organized the Oral Roberts campaign in Los Angeles and served as the chairman. One night after the service while having coffee with the evangelist, Demos shared with Oral the burden of his heart. An organization of laymen reaching laymen. A plumber reaching a plumber, a salesman reaching a salesman. Men testifying so that others can relate to it.



Oral said, "A good idea, what are you going to call it?" Demos answered, "Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International."

Oral agreed to help him get started and they announced the first meeting to be held at Clifton's Cafeteria on the Saturday morning before the closing Sunday of the crusade. To the surprise of both Oral and Demos, only 21 men showed up at Clifton's for that inaugural meeting.

Demos started holding a breakfast meeting at Clifton's every Saturday morning. For the first year it was total frustration. Attendance was spasmodic, opposition came from the churches, there were very few donations. No matter what they tried, it didn't work.

Finally Demos felt it was time to give up. On the Friday night before the final Saturday morning meeting at Clifton's, Demos determined to pray until he heard from God. When he began to pray it seemed as though the heavens were of brass—then came the vision that was to change his life and the Fellowship he had begun.

In the vision, he was taken around the world and as he passed over the continents he saw millions of people.



*(Top) The first Los Angeles chapter of FGBMFI meets at Clifton's Cafeteria. (Middle) Voice magazine is dedicated. (Above) Miner Arganbright hands Demos Shakarian a check for \$1000 to further the new Fellowship.*

Then like looking through a zoom lens he could see them up close—their faces, black, brown, yellow or white, were rigid, each cold and lifeless, locked in their own private death.

Then he was taken around the world again. This time the heads were lifted, the eyes shone with joy and the hands were lifted in praise—death had turned to life.

In the meantime, Rose had come into the room and was softly playing the organ. Then she began to prophesy: “You are in the will of the Lord. It was for this reason that you were born. That which you see will soon come to pass.”

The next morning at Clifton’s things had changed. Miner Arganbright, who a week before said he wouldn’t give a nickel for the whole works, now presented Demos with a check for \$1,000 and said this Fellowship must go around the world.

Also Thomas Nickel, a printer from Watsonville, California, came forward and told how the Lord woke him and told him to drive to Los Angeles and attend the breakfast meeting. He offered to publish *Voice* magazine and repeated the phrase Demos had heard in his vision a few hours before, “This organization must go around the world!”

## The Fellowship Overseas

And go around the world it did! Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International was incorporated on January 2, 1953.

The meetings at Clifton’s Cafeteria in Los Angeles began to grow. From the 15 to 40 men who came for most of 1952, the numbers shot up to 300 and 400! The new *Voice* magazine became an important tool for recruiting new members and spreading the message of FGBMFI over the nation.



*Demos and a group of “barnstormers” flew across the country introducing the Fellowship and establishing new chapters.*

Then new chapters started springing up all across America. Many of the new chapters were organized in the wake of crusades conducted by two leading healing evangelists — Tommy Hicks and Oral Roberts. A major factor in the growth of FGBMFI



*One of the early headquarters' offices of FGBMFI located on Figueroa Street in downtown Los Angeles.*

in those early days was the barnstorming travel of Demos around the country promoting the Fellowship. He often flew with C.C. Ford in his plane.

With the Fellowship exploding in the United States, interested people from around the world began to invite FGBMFI to bring its ministry to their own people.

By 1961, there were international chapters in Johannesburg, South Africa; Toronto, Canada; Calcutta, India; Monterrey, Mexico; London, England; Hong Kong; Singapore; Karlsruhe, Germany; Mexico City, Mexico and Havana, Cuba.

Demos visited the Havana Chapter and while there he met Fidel Castro after his takeover of Cuba and before he became a communist. Castro said of FGBMFI, "I like what you men are doing."

Demos also ministered to President Francois Duvalier when he invited Demos to bring his men to Haiti and conduct a crusade. Thirty-five thousand people packed the stadium. In spite of opposition by voodoo priests, the healing of a blind boy from a well-known family caused the stadium to overflow and more than 10,000 came for salvation. The country was in a desperate drought the president asked for prayer for rain. The team prayed and the next day there was rain.

Demos was later asked by President Jimmy Carter to represent him to President Anwar Sadat of Egypt at the ceremony commemorating the return of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt from Israel.

One of the milestones in the life of Demos Shakarian and the history of FGBMFI was the London Airlift. Ray Barnett, who founded the FGBMFI chapter in Calgary, Canada, envisioned a world convention of the Fellowship in London.

He shared this vision with Jerry Jensen, editor of *Voice* magazine and together they approached Demos with the idea. Demos said, "Let's go for it!" And in November, 1965 three jets left for London—one from Los Angeles, one from Chicago and one from New York.

Convention services were held in the London Hilton Hotel, Westminster Hall and Royal Albert Hall. People questioned the wisdom of using Royal Albert



The plane from New York arrives in London.

Hall because of its size. On the closing day of the convention it was filled, not only once but twice. In the afternoon for a youth rally with Nicky Cruz and



*(Left) Demos Shakarian, far left, and Henry Carlson, right, confer with Lewi Pethrus during an airlift to Sweden. (Below) Voice editor, Jerry Jensen, right, and FGBMFI director, Paul Toberty, left, meet with Chaplain Merlin Carothers to distribute Voice in Vietnam.*



in the evening for a closing rally with Oral Roberts, not only was it full but there were several thousand who were unable to get inside.

The men of the Fellowship then traveled throughout Europe giving their testimonies. They ministered in Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Sweden, Italy, Holland, France and Spain. This airlift made an indelible impression on Great Britain and these other countries and led to the establishing of hundreds of chapters in Europe.

Demos' worldwide vision was becoming a reality. Other airlifts from America went to Hong Kong, Manila, Seoul and Tokyo followed by Sweden, Estonia, Norway, Germany, Finland, Denmark, Holland, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela.

One airlift even went to South Vietnam where FGBMFI men ministered to U.S. troops right on the battlefield. *Voice* magazine continued to carry the testimonies of lives that were changed from around the world.

The ongoing ministry of *Voice*

magazine promises a brilliant future for FGBMFI.

## Media Outreach

**T**he tremendous growth of FGBMFI in America and abroad meant that Demos Shakarian and his Fellowship began to transcend denominational lines.

When denominational men like Dennis Bennett, Episcopalian; James Brown, Presbyterian; Larry Christenson, Lutheran John Osteen, Baptist; Tommy Tyson, Methodist; Harald Bredesen, Reformed; plus many others who had suffered persecution from their denomination, they were welcomed in by Demos and FGBMFI and were featured speakers at chapter

meetings and conventions. Shakarian said, "You can trace the breakthrough of the denominational churches receiving the Holy Spirit as a direct result of FGBMFI testimonies in hotels...all over America...they feel the marvelous presence of God here...not only do they feel it, but they get hungry for God."

An example of this was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Notre Dame through the influence of FGBMFI's Ray Bullard which in turn has influenced 70 million Catholics worldwide.

Demos was featured in one of the most inspirational and influential outreaches of FGBMFI, the "Good News" television show. At its zenith, "Good News" was broadcast over 150 television and 70 radio stations, as well as being featured on the newer CBN and PTL Christian cable networks.

In addition to the regular telecasts were several prime-time specials includ-



Filming on the set of "Good News."

ing "Good News America," "The Happiest People On Earth," "Turning Point" and others. "Good News America" was syndicated to the top 100 major American markets and drew a huge phone-in response. This special was produced by Steve Shakarian, who headed up the Fellowship's in-house agency, Omega Advertising, Inc. Roger Flessing was Associate Producer and Rick Eisleben was Director. The special won an Emmy Award.

Needless to say, the Fellowship received thousands of testimonies of lives that were changed and homes that were saved.

Chapters in America and other nations bought television time in their own communities for the release of "Good News."

Another very influential production of the late 1970s was the release of the book telling the story of Demos and Rose Shakarian, written by John and Elizabeth Sherrill of Chosen Books and former editors with *Guideposts* magazine.

*The Happiest People On Earth* has been translated into more than 25 languages and the list of those whose lives have been changed after reading the book continues to get longer.

Throughout the history of the Fellowship, Demos has had an effective influence and ministry among leaders of the world. Presidents, kings, prime ministers, spiritual leaders, athletes and many more have been included among his friends and have been touched by the Fellowship.



## The New Headquarters

Demos left a tremendous legacy to our Fellowship. His life of dedication, humility, warmth and help will never be forgotten. Only eternity will reveal his greatest legacy, the lives of millions around the world who have been touched by his ministry. But an ever present memorial is our wonderful Headquarters building. It was built at a cost of \$5 million.

At the dedication January 27, 1980, Oral Roberts gave the keynote address and Pat Boone, who served as emcee, read special greetings from then-President Jimmy Carter and Egypt's President, Anwar Sadat. During the ceremonies held outside in front of the building, a gentle rain fell. Oral proclaimed that these were "God's tears of joy."

During Oral's address, Demos remembered that first little meeting in Clifton's Cafeteria when Oral had challenged the new Fellowship to plant 1,000 chapters in the world. By the time

the Headquarters building was dedicated the Fellowship had long since surpassed that goal. In fact, by the end the '80s, FGBMFI numbered 2,646 chapters in the world, 1,800 located in the United States alone. Every month 600,000 to 700,000 people met regularly in chapter meetings, while it was estimated that the



*(Top) The 1980 dedication of the new Headquarters. (Above) Demos Shakarian meets with construction superintendent, T.L. Whaley.*

many ministries of FGBMFI touched the lives of over one billion people.

In many ways the life and course of Demos and FGBMFI were the best barometers of the growth and development of the charismatic renewal at large.

And his works do follow him!

*The dedicated life of Demos Shakarian enriched us all, and could never be condensed into these few pages of Voice.*

*He was greatly loved and God took him home on July 23, 1993, just two days after his 80th birthday.*

*Following are highlights of his funeral:*

**—Oral Roberts,  
Evangelist—**

I shall begin the service, leading a prayer of exultation.

Oh heavenly Father, we stand in Your sanctuary today, dedicated unto God. We stand in the presence of the physical body of our beloved Demos, and thinking about his great spirit as he walks over the Elysian Hills of glory. We exalt that he is home. We know he has beat us, but we know that we shall come, too. And we say, save a place for us. We call upon You now, the God of all comfort, the One who blesses us when Satan would destroy us, who lifts us when the evil forces would pull us down. You who gives peace. Peace that passeth all understanding. We rejoice in Your holy love and in Your support system that we feel in every fiber of our being. And we now bless our family, our dear Shakarian family, and our beloved Rose. Through Jesus we praise Your holy name. Amen.



**—Harding Mushegan,  
Pastor—**

It has been my privilege to be Demos' pastor for the past four years. The day before his passing his daughter, Geri, and I were in the room with him. As we began to pray the power of the Holy Ghost began to shake him. He began to rejoice in the Lord. I want you to know that the eulogy I am about to read is about a man full of the Holy Ghost, a man who walked with God, and who loved people.

Demos Shakarian was born in Los

Angeles on July 21, 1913 to Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Shakarian. He grew up in Downey, California. He attended Downey High School and Davis College. He was married in 1933, at 20 years of age, to Rose Gabriel. They had four children: Richard, Geraldine, Carolyn and Stephen.

Demos was a dairyman and a real estate developer. With his father, Isaac, they built the largest independently owned dairy in the world. He and his father owned 5,000 milking cows.

Demos was a pillar of the community. He was appointed by two governors, Pat Brown and Ronald Reagan, to the State of California Agricultural Board. He helped build Downey Hospital.

He started Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International in 1953 with 21 men. Today there are chapters in 120 countries of the world. Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International is the world's largest Christian laymen's fellowship with more than 500,000 persons attending monthly meetings in America alone, and the world attendance totaling more than one million. During the expansion of Full Gospel ministries Demos met with leaders of the world and presidents of many countries, including ours. He also served as trustee for Oral Roberts University and served on the board of Trinity Broadcasting Network. In addition, he and Rose, with the help of John and Elizabeth Sherrill, wrote *The Happiest People On Earth*. The book tells the story of the birth of the Fellowship that has changed the lives of men and women throughout the world.



*Pastor Harding  
Mushegan*



*Pastor Jeff Johnson*

## —Jeff Johnson, Pastor—

I can't help but think of an Old Testament Bible story when I think of Demos Shakarian. When Pharaoh kicked the children of Israel out of Egypt, they ran toward the Red Sea. There were mountains on either side. All of a sudden Pharaoh turned his back on the children of Israel and said, "We are going to destroy them, we are going to wipe them out." So he pursued them right down to the Red Sea. Moses saw him coming and he said, "I think it's time to pray." And so he got down on his knees and he started to pray. And God told Moses, "No, it's not time to pray, it's time to move. You better get going."

I remember when I first met Demos, we had a young church that was struggling. We were growing, but didn't have a place to meet, just bouncing around to different buildings. I came to this huge building and there was the world's largest flea mart or something in it. White Front Stores at one time leased it. I found out that the guy who owned it was a Christian. We were looking in the windows, we just wanted

**1993 A Year of Destiny  
for Demos Shakarian  
40th Anniversary of FGBMI  
60th Wedding Anniversary  
80th Birthday**

to lease the market on this side.

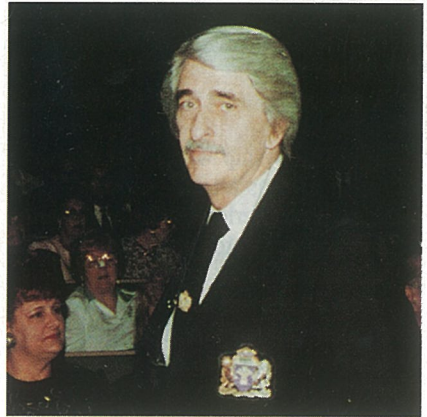
So I met Demos for the first time. When I saw him he had this cowboy hat on and a big smile. He met me in his office at Foxy's. Many of you know that's where he met many of us, at Foxy's and we had many great breakfasts together—a time of fellowship, breaking bread together. And I remember pouring my heart out to him saying, "Demos, I see that you're a man of God and I really need your help. I would like to lease this little market over here from you." He said, "No, we don't want to lease, we want to sell it." I said, "Demos, you're a man of God. You pray and I'll pray and let's see what God does."

Months later I got back with him again at his office at Foxy's and we sat down and I said, "Demos, have you been praying?" He said, "Yes, but I'm done praying and it's time to move." I said, "Wait a minute, Demos. Let's pray some more." He said, "No, it's time to move, it's time to do something."

There are so many things that we can get from this man of God. He was a doer not just a hearer. He believed in moving by the Spirit of the Lord. And when God spoke to him, no matter what the family said, no matter what anybody said, if he was convinced

in his heart that it was the Lord, he was going to do it. When he started to work with me—here's a young kid, ex-drug addict, no experience, really only pastoring a few years, we've now been in here 16 years. To have him work with me was a real blessing. To see how this man trusted in the Lord enough to work with us and do whatever it took to get us in here. And that's what he did. And the ministry continues to go on.

*—Paul Crouch,  
Trinity Broadcasting  
Network—*



Praise the Lord. This is not a funeral. This is the celebration of a great soldier's life. Praise God!

The first thought that hit me when I first heard the shocking news about Demos that just overwhelmed me was, Dear Lord, what an abundant entrance



this dear man must have just made in heaven. And if I know Demos, probably the first thing he's done in heaven is organize the heavenly chapter, and he will be the chapter president of a new chapter. So you guys that keep track of chapters, add another, will you, right now, in heaven.

One of the other things I always loved about Demos was he was always the same. I don't like moody people. Demos was not moody. He was always friendly. There was a smile on his face. You always felt you could sit down and share the deepest problems of your life with him, and many of you did just that, along with me. He was a great inspiration to Jan and me and to all of us at Trinity Broadcasting Network.

Another thing I always loved about Demos is he was full gospel from head to toe. There was no apology for the precious moving of the Holy Spirit. In the early days of Trinity Broadcasting many great leaders, men of God, advised me. They said, "Paul, we can't have the open moving of the Holy



*bove) Family and friends gather at Calvary Chapel of Downey in remembrance of Demos Shakarian. (Left) Sylvester Blue ministers movingly in song.*

Spirit on live television. You can't have speaking in tongues, you can't have the gift of prophecy, and these verbal gifts. It will offend the lost people." Well, brother Demos disagreed with that vehemently. Just like Full Gospel Business Men, he's been right up front, on live television for the world to see. This is what brother Shakarian said, "The world needs to see the supernatural. If we don't give them the supernatural and the true Holy Spirit, our enemy will give them his supernatural."

The gifts of the Holy Spirit operated in the chapter meetings. Many people

were saved and healed at these great meetings, conventions and rallies.

Demos was, of course, a great businessman. He was a great negotiator and a consummate businessman. In fact, somebody once called him a full business gospel man, as well as a full gospel businessman.

I want to say one thing to Rose and the family. Stories that you are not aware of and it moves me deeply to know that in all of these foreign countries where the Lord has opened doors for us to go in with Christian television, in every single one of them there was a band of Full Gospel Business Men there who would invite me to a chapter meeting, and who would open their arms and their love and their support and literally helped us plant these TV stations around the world. I say thank you to Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, because they have been the trailblazers that have gone before us and have opened up the doors for Christian television around the world.

Let me read from 2 Corinthians 5. For we know that when this tent we live in now is taken down, when we die and leave these bodies, we will have wonderful new bodies in heaven. Homes that will be ours forever more, made for us by God Himself and not by human hands. How weary we grow in these present bodies. That is why we look forward eagerly to the day when we shall have heavenly bodies, which we shall put on like new clothes. For we shall not be merely spirits without bodies. These earthly bodies

make us groan and sigh, but we wouldn't like to think of dying and having no bodies at all. We want to slip into our new bodies so that these dying bodies will, as it were, be swallowed up by everlasting life. This is what God has prepared for us and as a guarantee He has given us His Holy Spirit. Now we look forward with confidence to our new heavenly bodies, realizing that every moment we spend in these earthly bodies is time spent away from our eternal home in heaven with Jesus. We know that these things are true by believing, not by seeing.

We are not afraid, but we are quite content to die for then we shall be at home with the Lord. So our aim is to please Him always in everything we do, whether we are here in this body, or away from this body and with Him in heaven. For we must all stand before Christ to be judged and have our lives laid bare before Him. Each of us will receive whatever he deserves for the good or bad things done in this earthly body. So that is why we never give up, though our earthly bodies are dying. Our inner strength is in the Lord and is growing every day.

These troubles and sufferings of ours are after all quite small and won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessings upon us forever and ever. So we do not look at the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven, which we have not seen. The troubles will soon be over Shakarian family, but the joys to come will last forever.

# The Crowning Triumph

## The Graveside Service Delivered by Oral Roberts



**I**n the book of Revelation, chapter 14, verse 13 we are told by John, the great apostle. “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, said the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them.”

The man whose body we are committing back to earth, his spirit is speaking to us. He that is dead yet speaketh, the Bible says, saying that he is blessed and that blessing is a covering over his family. It is a blessing from God. It is an eternal blessing. It is a family blessing and you are blessed when you're under the cover of the blessing of a dear one who died in the Lord, who is now resting from his labors. And it must be a great rest for the labors were great. And that is the message to us, that our rest depends upon our labors. They shall rest from

their labors and their works do follow them. There is no way that Satan can interrupt Demos Shakarian's works. Hundreds of thousands of men in the business and professional world have been won to Christ, who are being won to Christ, who will be won to Christ in the days ahead, if Christ tarries.

Before he died, Demos put everything in order...he had passed the mantle to his son, Richard, the new president of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. I want you to know, Richard, I affirmed your father, Demos, as the president and leader of this Fellowship, the finest group of businessmen



*International Executive Vice-President, John Carrette bids a personal farewell to Demos.*



*(Right) Oral Roberts offers a word of comfort to Rose Shakarian at the graveside service.*



this world has ever known. And with the installation of the second president of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, Richard Shakarian, the older son of Demos and Rose, the work of Full Gospel Business Men will continue unabated and with new strength and anointing. The founder and the leader has finally joined with the Creator of us all, and they have talked it over, and I know that the answer is, "Go forth."

As a minister of the gospel, and a very close friend of Demos Shakarian for 42 years, and dear Rose, Richard, Stephen, and Geri and their spouses, their children and grandchildren, and all of the family, and relatives and loved ones, I take these flowers and lift them to God and I want to pronounce earth to earth, dust to dust, and ashes to ashes only to the outer garment that has been worn 80 years and two days upon this earth, and is now left behind to await the day of days, and the resurrection power shall sweep in

unabated powers that shall bring from the dead of this earth, wherever their remains are, every child of God. And we shall meet together with the Lord and be with Him forever. We are bent, but we are not broken. It is sunset here, but it shall rise again. The clouds are breaking and the dawn shall appear. So I place these flowers, representing the glory and the being of the Lord, representing the Rose of Sharon, our Saviour Himself. Now may the blessing of our Father, of God the Holy Ghost, of God the Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth be upon each and every one of you and your families. Blessed be the Lord upon you, Richard, and on your new responsibilities, to move forward with those glorious men of God, the Full Gospel Business Men, where your life will bloom like the rose that you are.

And now we go our ways to serve our God and to wait our summons, for it will come.



**At that moment** 160 white doves were released. Marvelously they immediately joined together, made a circle over the gravesite, flew off behind the trees, and headed home.

# Eulogies By Our World Leaders

## —Kwabena Darko, Africa—

Words cannot express what we have in our hearts for this great family. But I would like to say that we thank God that He made it possible for us to be a part of this great Fellowship. I'm praising God even at this time for Daddy Demos—I call him Daddy because scripture says that we should recognize them as our daddies and, therefore, we in Africa normally do that. And I had to do that because he was a father to every one of us. He would advise you. He would encourage you and he would pray with you. I thank God that though he is gone, he is amongst the multitude who has surrounded us, and I believe very well that he will be praying with us, that the good Lord would grant His grace to make it until the Master comes again.



*Fellowship leaders from around the world gather to pay homage to their friend, Demos.*

## —Bernie Gray, South Pacific—

I'd especially like to bring greetings and blessings to the family, and my love, too, all the way from the South Pacific. At any time when I would find myself in countries around the South Pacific, or wherever I am, and I'm asked, "You've met Demos Shakarian, what do you have to say?" I use these words over and over again: "A man in whom I have seen the love of Jesus oozing out, and it spills out all over." I personally have to salute a giant in the kingdom of God. I offer to the family the tribute that I always felt that every time I came just to say "Good day" to Demos, I felt like I needed to salute a warrior of the kingdom of God. And in saying what I just said, a man in whom the love of God just simply oozed out.

*Richard Shakarian introduces Kwabena Darko, FGBMFI Vice-President from Africa.*

There was such a volume of it there that it just simply came out and you sensed it. Demos was a man in whom the love of God was seen, not only by his family, not only by the family of the kingdom of God, but I frankly believe a man in whom was seen the love of God by the world.



*International Vice-President from Australia, Bernie Gray*



*International Vice-President from Scotland, Jim Winter*

—Jim Winter,  
Europe—

Our greetings to you, Rose, from the brothers in Europe. Many of them would have liked to have come, but were unable to do so. I came to represent all of these men who knew you, and loved you and Demos. It is just so wonderful to have known Demos. It was always super to fellowship with him and to know him as a friend. I first met Demos in 1978 when he came over to Glasgow, Scotland, where I come from, for our first United Kingdom Convention. And it's a friendship that's gone on all these years, and has grown as the years have gone by. We

loved Demos and his memory will always be with us, and the vision that he passed to us will continue in our region as if his spirit were with us, but it is the Holy Spirit that is there, of course. And I want to share this with you, Rose. God permits me, from time to time, to see visions and dream dreams. I saw a vision of you and Demos kneeling on the carpet. You were kneeling and praying together on the carpet and it seemed to be during the period that Demos had the vision originally. I saw Demos going up and the Lord said, "Come, I'm going to show you what I'm going to do." And I believe that Demos, while he was laying in the hospital, was taken up by the Lord and shown the fulfillment of the vision. And then instead of coming back, He said, "Demos, come on home." And he went home. The word from the Lord that came to me, Rose, was just keep kneeling on that carpet because that's where the anointing is. God bless you.

—Jim McEwan,  
Canada—

Rose, from Canada, our love to you, and our prayers at this time. I just thank God for Demos Shakarian. He was a man full of love. But more than that, he was a man continually filled with the Holy Spirit. The anointing was upon him at all times. I have to say this, and I've never mentioned this before, my dad was an alcoholic

and I never really had a father image. But Demos was my father image. He was a role model. And we had good times together. Just recently, Rose, this last year, we sat in your home and we got to mimicking people and we started to laugh and laugh and we had a great time. The night before, a bunch of us went there and you could feel, again, the anointing of the Holy Spirit. I thank God for the love and the anointing that Demos showed me. And tonight he is in the glory. He is alive with his Saviour, looking upon the face of Jesus. I thank God that I knew such a man as Demos.

**—John Carrette,  
Latin America—**

I used to call Demos “Pops,” so I guess I can call Rose “Mom.” I would like to thank this whole family. Guys like me have received a great gift and we are rich tonight. You know, before I was born, most people that

wanted to be used of God had to go into the ministry and become pastors and missionaries, or evangelists and had to go through Bible school and get a card so they could preach. But I remember one day I was in the Anaheim Stadium and Oral Roberts preached his “Fourth Man” sermon. It was great. Many people went forward to get saved, but I didn’t hear Oral. I had come for something else. I was already a believer and I wanted to be used of God but I just didn’t know how. I didn’t want to be a pastor. I didn’t want to be a missionary. But I did want to serve God. Then after Oral gave the microphone back to the dairy man, he said, “If you want to be used of God, come down front.” And I was one of 300 who went down that night. And that was two trips around the world ago. That was all my money ago. And yet I learned that the most precious thing that a man can ever have in his life is a ministry. And thanks to this family, I and thousands like me, have a ministry tonight.



*(Far left) International Vice President from Canada, Jim McEwan; (left) International Vice-President from Guatemala, John Carrette. (Above) A special dinner was held to remember a greatly loved and missed leader, Demos Shakarian.*

# The Family Reflects



## —Rose Shakarian—

I just want to say that he loved every one of you. He had such a great love for humanity. His desire was to see the world saved. His desire was to put his arms around everyone that he met and just love them unto the Lord.

I recognized early in our married life that God had given me a man called and anointed of God. God had answered my prayer. When I was about 12 years old I used to go into my father's garage and kneel on the cement so it would be hard and it would hurt me and pray that God would give me a wonderful Christian man as a husband. God heard that girl's prayer and gave me Demos. I recognized from the beginning that this man was called of God.

And you thank me for sharing him. I shared him because I knew he was called of God. And the night of the vision, He called me also. I was called of God to go with Demos, hand in hand, no matter what it cost, to put my hand in the hand of my husband to go around the world establishing chapters, calling men and women back to God, saving souls for eternity, realizing that we weren't going to be here that long. This is not our dwelling place. This is not the place where we are going to live forever. When we see each other and years have gone by, we notice how we are getting a little older. We see it in our faces. We see it in our walk. We see how our bodies are getting older and they can't take it. This is just a traveling place. We're all going to meet Jesus one of these days. We're all working...working for eternity. This is why I shared Demos whenever he wanted to go.

God gave me a man that was so happy, so loving and so kind. I used to marvel at the love that he had. God gave me a great love whenever I went to different countries and foreign lands. I didn't care about their nationality or the color of their skin because God had given me such love for them. God had given a double portion to Demos. Such love for humanity. How could you stay home and not do the things that God calls you to do? You're

compelled to go when God puts something in your soul, you just have to do it. He doesn't make you do it, you just do it because you love Jesus and what Jesus has done for you. He gave His all and you want to just give a little portion.

I'm going to miss him. I'm going to be lonely. I know that. A few nights ago I couldn't sleep, so I got up and I walked toward the window and I felt something come over me. It was a horrible feeling and I said, "What's going to happen, Lord? This is a terrible feeling. What terrible thing is going to happen?" Then I pushed it out of my mind. The Lord was warning me. That was after the convention and I knew something terrible was going to happen. But during the convention, Demos had no pain. God let him go through it. He was thrilled about the convention, thrilled about the souls being saved. He was thrilled about everything.

When we returned from the convention we had some beautiful days together. He had lost his wedding band. In a few days it will be our 60th wedding anniversary, and Demos wanted a wedding band. I called up the stores and said, "Honey, Tiffany's has 18 carat wedding bands. Let's go buy one." We went and Demos picked out a beautiful wedding band—he was thrilled.

Then we looked at office furniture and went out to eat. He was feeling so good, so happy. He had gone to the doctor the day before. Everything was fine, his blood pressure, everything. Demos told the doctor, "Well, I'm ready to go, but you say everything is

fine, so I guess I'm going to live a little longer." Imagine him making a remark like that.

The next day Demos started getting weak. I knew he shouldn't stay home so we took him to the hospital. I told Demos, "You'll stay there a few days, they'll adjust your body so you don't have any pain and you'll come right back home." While he was in the hospital he had a heart attack. Demos never went into a coma, never. He just slept. He got weak. His heart got weak. He had complications, but they were clearing up. However, the Lord saw fit to take him home.

I believe Demos asked the Lord to let him live until he was 80. I wish he had asked the Lord for 85 years. He was telling everybody, "I'm 80 years old." He lived 80 years and two days, then the Lord took him home. The children were around him. They sang. They prayed until the angels came and carried him to glory. I know that he wouldn't want to come back for anything.

He's in a better place. I could just picture my brother, my baby, his father, and all the loved ones. We have more over there than we do here you know. But I am thrilled. We have a lot of people that are over there.

God bless you. I'm so happy you came. Thank you. You know, Demos always went to hotels and I said, "Let's finish it out like Demos would. I want to invite everybody to a hotel ballroom like at the conventions." So we're in the last ballroom for Demos. Thank you for coming. And you men who flew over, I want you to know that I

love and appreciate you for doing this. It's lovely to see your faces and I'm so happy you're here. I shall always cherish this memory of seeing all of you. I thank you and I appreciate you.

## —Richard Shakaran—

Several of the people have asked, "Were you with your dad at the end?" The answer is "Yes." The family was. Mom was at home. Dad had been in the hospital for several days and a couple of hours before he passed on to be with the Lord, there was a quiet moment. The others had left the room and I pulled up a chair and sat down and was holding Dad's hand. All of a sudden I saw the monitors and realized that he was failing. I think it was at that moment, for the first time, that I realized that the Lord was taking him home and I didn't know what to do. It was like something inside said, "Sing." All of a sudden the words of an old song came to me and I started singing, "Friendship With Jesus, Fellowship Divine." Somehow all the words of that song came. Then I began to sing the songs about Jesus that my dad loved so well. Geri came in and said, "What are you doing?" I said, "I'm singing." "Oh," she said, "that's wonderful, sing some more." I said, "Geri, I ran out of songs. Come and help me." So Geri and two of her daughters came in and for about an hour we all sang to Dad. It was

kind of like a Benny Hinn meeting, just singing those beautiful songs. And when we did that, all of Dad's vital signs came up and he responded. Geri said, "He hears us." I said, "Do you think so?" She said, "Oh yes, look vital signs came up and he responded. Geri said, "He hears us." I said, "Do you think so?" She said, "Oh yes, look he's responding." He was squeezing her hand. Then Steve and Gene came into the room, and Vangie and others, I think Debbie was at home with Mom. As he was peacefully lying there, I think he heard us singing on this side and then as he got closer there he heard the beautiful choir from the other side singing. I think he chose to go with that beautiful choir. And I thought for a moment, "Oh, if I could only for a few seconds hear what he is hearing, see what he is seeing." I know right now that he is doing 100-foot leaps and probably a somersault thrown in for good measure. We loved him and he loved us so much.





*The Shakarians established a family business with Demos, his father, Isaac, and son, Richard.*

*(Below) Daughter Geri Scalf*

## —Geri Scalf—

Daddy had a very gentle spirit. I lived at home for 21 years and I can honestly tell you that I never heard him raise his voice over three times. That was his temperament. He gave us such an example of how the heavenly Father loves his children that it was always very easy for us as kids to go to the heavenly Father, because our father was such a loving father. He was such a good example for us.

In our family we were all musicians. In Dad's family they were opera singers and everyone well trained. When I was about 15 I loved rock n' roll. I had about 200-300 records. Every cent I had I put into every kind of rhythm and blues you could think of. I think the Lord had something different in mind for me. So one day when the folks were at a revival service and I was home, the Holy Ghost came upon me in the living room and my soul was being convicted and the Lord began dealing with me. I said, "Lord, it's about the music, isn't it?" And in my spirit I



heard Him say, "Yes, it's about the music." "You don't want me to listen so much to this, do You?" "No, I don't." I struggled with that for a few hours and I said, "Okay." Back then they were 78 RPM records. I took all my records into the living room and laid them, one by one, on the floor and said, "Okay, Lord." And I walked

on all those records. Being a kid, I didn't think about picking them up. So when Mom and Dad came home they walked into the living room and the whole thing was black. The red carpet was black from the records which had been broken all over the floor. The next day Mother asked what had happened. I said, "Well, the Lord dealt with me." I received invitations to play in dance bands. I was invited to the Coconut Grove to play gigs in the grill and bars there. It was easy to say no, because if I ever did anything in music, it was for the Lord. And that was a personal impact of living with parents that put God as a priority.

Since I was a little girl, the Lord chose to work with me in the night, sometimes in dreams and things like that. So He gave me a dream on Monday night which I pondered. Then I truly understood it on Thursday when Dad got sick. In our original home where the vision came, there was a tall ceiling and it had a huge skylight in it. It was just wonderful. Blues and reds and yellows were in this skylight. In my dream I was about eight years old and my mother and I were cleaning the skylight. As she was cleaning, she found a treasure up there. In her hand were gems that she pulled from the skylight. I looked at her and said, "Mom, are those real gems?" They were clear, like diamonds and crystal. Jewels and necklaces and bracelets. In the dream the skylight was able to be opened. So it was open and there had been caught underneath a beautiful monarch butterfly. It had already been

through its metamorphosis from a moth and now it was a gorgeously-colored butterfly. And as the skylight opened, the butterfly went straight up into heaven. And when I pondered that for two days I thought that surely means a homegoing, because I was about the age that my little sister had passed away, and it was a freedom as the butterfly went up. When Dad passed away I remarked to Steve, "Did you feel the freedom in this room?" A sense of liberty came and he said that he felt it, too. And it was as though he had gone up and the Lord took him and he went up to glory.

So the Lord prepared us. We dearly loved him. I'll say one more thing. I have no regrets where Dad is concerned. I don't think any of the family members have a regret. We cherished that man. When we were little we saw that there was something special about him, and we did everything that we could to keep him doing what we knew God wanted him to do. We helped him and encouraged him.

—Steve Shakarian—

Growing up you think of a father that takes you to a baseball game or a football game. We didn't have a lot of that. So in some ways he was a father that was missing. But the Bible says that whoever gives up their father, mother, brother and sister for the Lord, the Lord will give you hundreds more. When you travel around the

country it's like you're all my brothers, you're all my sisters, you're all my dad, you're all my mom. You come up and give me a hug like you really mean it. And I give you a hug back and I really mean it. In the same way Dad was a father figure to so many of you. I don't know how many people have come up to me and said, "Your dad was like my dad. In my eyes he was my father figure." It was a beautiful give and take that way, what the Lord can do. Some



of those guys I thought were old enough to be my dad, but they still thought of Dad as their father figure.

I would like to share with you a little bit about the last day with Dad. We

were scheduled to spend some time with Mom that evening, but we just felt led to come up early. We went over to visit Dad—Mom, Debbie, Vangie and I. I walked into his room and he was just resting there. He had been stable for about a week, but for some reason he just wasn't improving like he should have. He had developed a little liquid on the lungs but all that had improved and there was hope that everything might work out. I was holding his hand and he was squeezing mine as I talked to him. Then the nurse saw that his signs started to drop quite dramatically. They decided they had better take Mom home. The doctors came later and said he'd taken a turn for the worse. That was about three o'clock. At nine that evening he passed away.

While they were calling the other children, I was sitting in a chair looking at Dad and praying, quietly. I looked at this man and to me he was more than a dad. He was a man of God. I looked at him and thought about the prophet Ezekiel. I thought about the dry bones. That scripture (Ezekiel 37) came so vividly to me, I want to read just two verses of it: "The hand of the Lord was upon me and He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley. It was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley. Bones that were very dry. He asked me, son of man, can these bones live? And I said, oh sovereign Lord, You know." And I looked at Dad there and said, "Lord, can these bones live? You know." And then I thought about the

times that God had shown His power to Dad. I remember when he was 12 and 13 years old, a little younger than my children, he would go out in the corn fields and they would be like his cathedral. And about that time he received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. And that night in his room the Spirit of God came upon him and held him down and said, "Demos, can you get up?" And he tried to get up, but he said, "I can't get up, Lord." He said, "Try harder. Demos, can you get up?" And he tried and he couldn't get up. Then the Lord said, "Will you ever doubt My power?" And he said, "No, Lord."

Then my mind rushed to the vision of the Fellowship and how for a year the Fellowship had been struggling with one little chapter in Los Angeles and it was about to close. Dad had reached the same point. It was as though he said, "Okay, Lord. I can't do it. I can't raise up this Fellowship." And the Lord said, "Thank you, now I'll do it." And so I prayed, "Lord, You can raise up these bones, if You want to, if You will. And I pray that You give us mercy and grace, and that you do just that. But if it be Your will, let him go peacefully." And that night he just went peacefully.

### —Gene Scalf—

**T**here are two occasions in my life that meant a lot to me with Dad. The first: I'm sure most of you men in this room are somebody's son-in-law,

and when you marry into a family you don't know what to expect. You come in with a little bit of ego. You come in with a little bit of the feeling "They're lucky to have me." But that changed one day when we were out walking in the field, behind the dairies. You put on rubber boots and go out there with the cows. Dad was already out there with Brother Branham and two or three other men. I knew what he was showing and what he was telling them. He was saying this is such and such a cow, ear tag number 3495, and last year this cow gave 310-and-a-half pounds of butter fat. Her sire was bull so and so and her dam was so and so. And he would go from one to the next, right down the line. Well, when I walked up, Dad wanted to introduce me to his friends, so he turned around and said, "I want you to meet my son-in-law. This is uh,uh,uh." I had to tell him, "Gene Scalf." So that was one of those time that you all of a sudden realize your importance.

The other time was when I was a young businessman. I hadn't been married too long. I was going through some pretty rough spots in business, which in turn spilled over into my spiritual life. I think you men might relate to this. I prayed, "God, if You were really God, I wouldn't be going through this. What's the story here? I haven't done anything wrong." You know how you rationalize with God? For some reason Demos asked me that night to walk down to one of the shopping centers that he owned in Norwalk. We were walking along, just the two of



*Son-in-law, Gene Scalf, remembers walking by this Shakarian-owned shopping center in Norwalk, California and receiving some lasting advice from Demos.*

us, looking at the displays in the windows of the closed stores. We started talking. It was almost as if Dad knew I needed to talk to somebody, because frankly, I believe I was at a turning point. I've never been one to confide too much in anybody. I felt "If I can't solve it, nobody else can solve it for me." And I was kind of that way that night. I didn't open up very much at first because I thought, "He's a religious leader and more than likely if I tell him my problems, my doubts, my fears, he's going to say, 'Well, brother, you need to get closer to the Lord. You need to spend more time in prayer. Have you tried fasting?'" All of the religious cliches that I had heard before, but just didn't have the confidence that they were my solutions. So as we were walking and talking, point blank I just started leveling with him about where I was at. Surprisingly he

came back to me on the same level. He said, "I understand that, I've been there." He proceeded to talk and he gave me some good advice.

He had been there. He had gone through it. He told me about the times that he had had doubts. He said, "The only thing that kept me going is the tradition that carried me from this rock over to the next one. When I found out that that rock was solid and the next one was solid, and finally I gained faith in those rocks as we stepped from one to another. That's what you probably have to do yourself."

I feel very lucky and thankful that he was my father-in-law. He was a man that I could follow unreservedly, not only as a father-in-law, but also as a spiritual leader. Today, I feel deeply in my heart, as most of you men do, the impact he has had upon me. I thank God that he was in my life.

**Demos Shakarian—  
The Righteous Man Who Flourished  
Like The Palm Tree  
—Oral Roberts—**



**The righteous shall flourish  
like the palm tree  
(Psalm 92:12).**

**T**he palm tree is the most famous tree in the Bible. It is the tree that millions of people come to every day for its fruit, particularly the date palm. There are more than 350 uses of the palm tree. Rope and rigging come from the fibers of its stem, and lumber from its trunk.

The first thing I want to say about the palm tree in relation to Demos is that it grows tall and stately under the most adverse circumstances. It stands in the howling wilderness, where the fierce winds often reach 100 miles an hour, or sits under the blazing sun of 130 degrees. With the climate always shifting and changing the palm tree survives. When the winds blow tons of sand against it, completely surrounding it up from the bottom to a height of 30 or 40 feet, it still stands. It grows under great adversity.

Demos Shakarian was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth. His people came from Armenia and just a few of them, under the most hazardous conditions, landed in New York but the Holy Spirit had led through prophecy to come to Los Angeles. The first one was Demos' grandfather, who was named Demos, and by the way, received the baptism in the Holy Spirit shortly after he reached Los Angeles. With their big hands they went to work, that small colony of Armenians. And then Isaac, who had been born in the old country was growing up as a boy and a young man, who then married and sired the family of daughters and one son.

And finally had the dream of starting a dairy, which he did with three cows. When Demos came along it was his part to help with those cows, which had grown to 50 cows, then 100 cows, and eventually 5,000 great Holstein cows, the largest private dairy in the world.

As Demos was growing up, having to work hard, getting up early in the morning to milk the cows and to do all of the dirty work that one has to do in dealing with milk cows. They would often hitch Old Jack up to the wagon and take their produce from their gardens three miles to downtown Los Angeles. And from a child through high school he had to work like that. There were many times of adversity. They lost a beautiful child, he and Rose, a daughter. It was a sad, sad day, but they survived that.

And then when Demos undertook Full Gospel Business Men it was after he and Rose had conceived the vision of sponsoring young evangelists, of conducting special meetings for young people near a big park some 15 minutes from this church. Undergoing heckling and all the red tape they had to go through with the city government, but they began to win souls. Eventually, those meetings grew very large, even to renting the Fresno City Auditorium, seating 3,500 for a meeting which they sponsored. And they always paid for these meetings more or less out of their own pockets. No matter the persecution and the obstacles they grew tall and stately.

The second thing about the palm tree is that it is not really part of its sur-

roundings. It can do all of its growing in the barren waste of the desert, because it does not get its life from the desert. It's not really part of the desert. It sinks its roots down to the water table, where it finds its source. And for every foot it grows above the desert, it grows a foot below the desert so that the taproot of the palm tree is as long as the trunk of the palm tree itself.

Early in Demos' life he learned that God was his source. On an occasion when the great herds of Southern California were struck by tuberculosis it was a terrible moment for their dairy for more than 200 of the cows of the 3,000 herd took tuberculosis. The state authorities came down and discovered this and the law was that when a number of a herd was infected by TB all of the herd had to be destroyed. Isaac and Demos stood looking across the land where this great church is built, where 3,000 tremendous cows and their calves were feeding and waiting for milking time, knowing that soon if there were not a miracle, the entire herd would be destroyed and the family's possessions would be wiped out.

It's very difficult for us today to grasp the meaning of that moment of almost sure tragedy. Demos called Dr. Kelso Glover, one of the pastors of Angelus Temple, to come and lay his hands upon those 200 odd cows and to pray that God, his source, would heal those animals. Dr. Glover laid hands on every infected cow, with Isaac and Demos praying with him, crying, rejoicing, believing God, to invade that spiritual world that governs the lives of all crea-

tures. And when the state authorities came down two weeks later to destroy the herd they decided to look the cows over and examine them one more time. And there was not one infected cow left in that herd. He knew who his source was.

The third thing about the palm tree is that it grows the sweetest fruit. It is a fruit of sustenance. When my wife brings home fruit from the date palm to eat, it is always sweet and full of vitamins, and one can really survive on that fruit. Its greatest quality is that it is always sweet.

The sweetest spirited layman that I have ever known was Demos Shakarian, and I can add his lovely wife, Rose. As a matter of fact, the entire family.

I remember when the leaders of the largest Pentecostal body in the world called for a meeting with Demos some few years after Full Gospel Business Men had begun to filtrate the nation and the earth with their mighty message on souls being saved and the baptism in the Holy Ghost, and speaking with tongues, and the healing of the sick. Demos made the pilgrimage. He asked me to pray and I was not the only one. He asked people to pray. He went up there and met the fiercest opposition he had ever known. Good men, dedicated men, who simply did not understand that this flowering movement was not against anybody; not against them, not against any denomination, their sign was "His Banner Over Us Is Love."

But misunderstanding is a terrible thing. It can turn brother against



*Oral Roberts and Demos Shakarian's friendship and partnership has seen the Fellowship increase in outreach through the years.*

brother and friend against friend and saint against saint. It was a traumatic time. Finally, Demos said, "May I give you my story?" And he did. When he got to the part about his inner being he said, "When I came to get married I was a virgin. Since I have married I have never touched a woman other than my wife, Rose. I have never cheated a human being. I have been honest and sincere. I have grown up loving God and serving the church. My life is pure. Whatever you think about Full Gospel Business Men, my life is clean." Suddenly those men burst into tears and soon they were hugging Demos. From that time on other hierarchy of denominations began to

change their tune. And while it has not all been peace since that time, there was a compatibility established whereby the evidence showed that Full Gospel Business Men had the interest of the church at heart, and above all, the souls of men as their living passion. Sweetness of spirit, of not striking back, of enduring suffering, of taking whatever people do to us and producing the fruit of the Spirit.

The next thing about the palm tree that is important to Demos' life is that its roots always interlock with the roots of the next palm tree. Its roots were always spreading. They were never roots unto themselves, and they grew to the roots of other palm trees until they soon produced other little palm trees.

Demos' life with Rose began with the interlocking of their roots beyond themselves. Of sponsoring evangelists, of holding these youth meetings, of preparing...for example, when we had a date for Oakland, California 1951, and we could not get a location and the Holy Spirit would not take it out of our hearts, Bob Dewese, my associate evangelist, said that there was a family in Los Angeles who could find a location. It was a site owned by Golden State Dairies. They said, "Find the Shakarians." I turned to my dear brother Lee Braxton, a layman and dear friend who helped found Full Gospel Business Men with Demos. We didn't know the Shakarians—had never heard the name. I asked Lee to write them. He said he couldn't even spell their name, could I write them? Eventually we located Demos and talked to

his dad, Isaac, who was on the State of California Agricultural Board, and was a close friend of the Golden State Dairy family.

Demos Shakarian prevailed upon that great company to change their mind. A great tent was spread there on those grounds. One of those who came out of that crusade to full gospel was one of the great pastors of all time, Jack Hayford. There were many more besides him. There were thousands of souls saved, but their roots were interlocking. Not only did Demos found Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, but he was a member of the Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association's incorporated board for 30 uninterrupted years and he and Rose never missed an annual meeting. He was elected the vice-chairman of that board, and had something happened to me during that time he would have been the chairman of the Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association.

He was the one who put the first shovel into the ground, to break ground for the founding of Oral Roberts University. We have the picture of his foot on the shovel as it went into the ground. And there on that piece of ground, some 500 acres with nothing but a farmhouse, he, with my wife and me and four other men who were members of the board, the seven of us as co-founders of Oral Roberts University, saw a vision. And later when we came to visit the family, Geri, the daughter, who knew that it was just a bare piece of ground, but the ground had been broken and we

had announced that God had told us to build ORU, she began to prophesy and she said, "Oral, the university is already built." She'll never know what that meant inside my being, for there was nothing out there but the birds and squirrels and trees and a little stream and a barn, and things of that nature. But today there's a \$200 million university there, a world-class university. And one of the members of the pioneer class was Steve . He was elected the president of the student body before the sophomore year began. And Steve , we'll never forget how you almost rivaled Gabriel in blowing your trumpet on those grounds. How dear and precious all of you were. And the first youth team that we sent around the world was headed by Richard, who was received by kings and leaders such as the head of Germany, who received Richard for over two hours. This family's roots have been interlacing and my heart is in my throat as I talk about it.

And the fifth thing about the palm tree that's Demos' story is that it could not be grafted. If the palm tree is grafted into, or a tree is grafted into the palm tree it dies. It is a palm tree and nothing else. And when you see it, a tall sentinel, towering toward the sky, producing its magnificent sweet fruit, and having more than 350 uses, you remember that it cannot be grafted into.

Demos Shakarian stood up for the title of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. Not as one word, which was customary, like the Gideons, which is a very beautiful name for that

group of Christian leaders. And there were a dozen other fine names that could be taken out of the Bible, but Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, that said it all. When you heard Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International you didn't have to ask any questions, you knew this palm tree couldn't be grafted. And Demos was a man that you couldn't change from his roots, from the full gospel. He and his family have stood for souls, for the mighty baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire. How many times have we prayed in tongues together, and sang in tongues together. How many times has Full Gospel Business Men's services exploded with singing in tongues, with messages in tongues, with words of prophecy, and words of knowledge as they reached out to that group of people that the church has not been able to reach to any degree, and that is the professional and businessmen of America, and in 120 nations beyond our shores.

The first two campus doctors that we had on the ORU campus were baptized in the Holy Ghost through Full Gospel Business Men. Our dean of library services, Dr. Bill Jernigan, was a Nazarene and I sent him to Phoenix to their regional convention to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, that he might be a permanent member of our team. When he came back he was overflowing with the Holy Spirit. Dr. Howard Ervin received the Holy Spirit at a Full Gospel Business Men's convention in Miami. He became one of the great professors of our university.

So bless God for the man who could not be grafted into, but was the Holy Ghost manifestation that the world could see, hear and feel. And above all, the palm grows until it dies. It is an evergreen. Until the last hour it grows. And Demos' life was a life of growth. He grew from a small town called Downey, California to sponsoring little meetings and then larger ones, and then hurting inside to start something for business and professional people, grabbing that vision, growing with it as it got larger in his belly, and filled his being. He finally met a friend named Oral Roberts. Richard would pick me up every evening during our first Los Angeles crusade in his dad's Cadillac when Richard was only 17, and I was driven in style to the big tent over on

Atlantic Boulevard where several thousand people were saved while Billy Graham was at the Hollywood Bowl. Both of us were shooting our biggest guns at that time. But the Shakarians were the ones that secured that location, and Demos was the chairman.

One evening he came over and we walked down the street to a German restaurant that served magnificent food. On the way, Demos began pouring out his heart, sharing this vision, and me I'm a person that...well, my initials are G.O. My name is Granville Oral, and my initials are G.O. When you get around me with something that's rich and real, I say, "Let's go!" And that's all he needed, someone that he believed in to say, "Let's go."

And so he arranged to have a meeting in Clifton's Cafeteria on the following Saturday morning and asked me to speak. Twenty-one men, including Demos and me, showed up. I preached like there was 100,000 there. Then we joined hands and marched and sang "Onward Christian Soldiers." He announced Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. From that 21, today it serves a million full gospel businessmen a month in 120 nations. Before he died he put everything in order...he had passed the mantle to his son, Richard, the new president of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, the finest group of businessmen this world has ever known.

And the future is bright. And like the palm tree, Richard, you and this Fellowship will grow until God takes you out of this world.



*A special bond was established early on between Oral Roberts and Richard Shakarian.*



*The Fellowship's future is bright and growing.*

On Demos' 80th birthday last week, Ralph Wilkerson and I felt led to call the family, and asked to go to the hospital. I wanted to be with this patriarch, this prophet, this unparalleled leader of our times, this gentle and sweet man, father, husband, partner, associate, friend. I stepped into the hospital and met Geri and her daughter. Ralph and I were together, and all at once I felt that God was filling up that hospital because there was a patriarch lying on a bed soon to release his great spirit into the presence of the God we all love. And I said to Geri, "The Spirit is all over this place. Let us go in and see the patriarch, the prophet." She and her daughter were on one side and Ralph was standing there, too, and I on the other. Geri said, "Daddy, Oral is here. If you can hear me and you understand that Oral is here, press his hand." And he began to press my hand. And she said, "And Ralph Wilkerson is here." And Ralph spoke up and said, "He's pressing my hand." And although there was not much left as far as this human life is concerned, he recognized us. And I prayed a prayer, a little unlike most of

my healing prayers, I prayed for a complete healing because I believe that everyone of us is going to be totally healed. I believe either in this life, or at the moment of our departure the healing power will take over and the devil will have to step aside because he will then have no more power over our bodies. He'll no longer be our last enemy. He will be out of our lives.

And blessed Rose, who I often call Rose of Sharon, dear beloved wife and mother, and friend, and organist, and who can laugh the sweetest laugh that we've ever heard. We want to hear that laugh again some day soon. We say to you and to your great family and relatives and friends, the leaders of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, I want to say it with my darling wife, Evelyn, that what we see today in this human form is only the outward appearance of the real Demos.

The little experience I wanted to tell you about was when I got back from the hospital in Downey to our little apartment down in Newport Beach. I walked out on the porch and sat down and the sun was shining right into my face, and I said out loud, "Lord, I

wonder what Demos is doing?" And then later when I got the message from Richard about his homegoing I went back out on that porch and sat in that same chair and I asked the same question. "Lord, now what is Demos doing?" And I was given a panoramic sweep of heaven and I saw him as he was met by Jesus. And I heard them talk, I couldn't hear the words, but I knew the words without hearing them. And I saw him as he embraced Isaac and his daughter and loved ones and family and friends and Full Gospel Business Men who preceded him. I saw him as he came down the river of life. I saw him as he looked over the edges of heaven. I saw his hands extended. And that was the end of my vision. And I say in the name of the Lord, that I receive the extension of those hands to mine. And his heart with God

in harmony with my heart is also with the Lord while I yet live. I bless the day that he was born. I magnify God that he defeated the devil and took his blessed soul to him.

I look forward to the day when the trumpets will sound and the voice shall be heard across the universe and Jesus Himself will say, "Come, my people. Come, my people." And gravitation shall lose its force and Demos shall rise from the grave, brushing the dirt from his hair and shall ascend into heaven with those that have died in Christ. And if we are alive we will feel gravitation losing its force and we shall be snatched from this earth and we shall join together. Whether we live or die we shall rise, for I am the resurrection and the life, he that believeth in Me though he were dead yet shall he live. Demos lives. Thank You, Jesus.

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# VOICE

Vol. 41 / No. 10 / October, 1993  
 P.O. Box 5050 / Costa Mesa, CA 92628  
 (714) 754-1400

**Founder,** Demos Shakarian; **OFFICERS: President,** Richard Shakarian; **International Executive Vice-President,** John Carrette; **Vice-President,** Si Rickman; **Secretary,** Wayne Mitchell; **Treasurer,** Roger Johnson  
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**PUBLICATIONS: Editor/Communications Manager,** Jerry Jensen, Ph.D., Litt.D.; **Communications Coordinator,** Arlee Bowles; **Copy Editor,** Rose Hamill; **Contributing Writers,** Bob Armstrong, Ed Barton, Capitola Gwillum, Ken Walker; **Special Projects Voice Representative,** Chuck Sutton—(816) 667-5519; **Art Director,** Pete Berg; **Illustrations,** Steve Firchow, Ken Harris; **Foreign Editors:** Blair Scott, Belgium; Altomir Regis de Cunha, Brazil; Kleber Saavedra, Florida; Mark Raffills, New Zealand; C.K. Lee, Singapore.

**WHO WE ARE** Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International was founded in 1952 by Demos Shakarian to reach men for Jesus. One year later, God gave him a vision of the people of every continent, revealing that the ministry of the Fellowship would result in people everywhere being brought to Jesus and linked in loving community. That vision is becoming a reality through the Fellowship's ministries, now touching 115 nations and transcending denominational, racial and cultural barriers. Men interested in participating in this exciting end-time ministry are invited to write: Chapter Department / FGBMFI / P.O. Box 5050 / Costa Mesa, CA 92628.



# FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

## **CENT. WEST N.S.W. MEN'S EVENT** **Oct. 1993**

New South Wales, Queensland  
Contact: Australia Nat'l. Office  
c/o Mrs. Nell Gray, P.O. Box 67  
34 Old Cleveland Rd., Stones Corner  
Brisbane, Queensland 4120 Australia  
(61) 7-397-3557, Fax (61) 7-394-1049

## **9TH COLUMBIA GORGE CONV.** **Oct. 7-9, 1993**

Shilo Inn, The Dalles, OR  
Contact: John Fagan  
516 E. 2nd St.  
The Dalles, OR 97058  
503-296-1123

## **U.K. MEN'S SPIRITUAL ADV.** **Oct. 8-10, 1993**

Anan Court, Uckfield, Sussex  
Contact: United Kingdom Office  
c/o Mrs. Anne Hennelly  
P.O. Box 11, Knutsford  
Cheshire WA16 6QP England  
(44) 056-563-2667, Fax (44) 056-575-5639

## **SO. COLORADO RALLY** **Oct. 15-16, 1993**

Canon Inn, Canon City, CO  
Contact: Ray Harness  
11995 Partridge Lane  
Falcon, CO 80830  
719-564-3611 or 719-689-2316

## **NIGERIA NAT'L. CONV.** **Oct. 20-23, 1993**

Abuja, Nigeria  
Contact: Sam A. Mbata  
24 Ikwerre Rd.  
P.O. Box 674, Port Harcourt  
234.804.33.56.69

## **EUROPEAN LEADER'S CONFERENCE** **Oct. 22-24, 1993**

Leuven, Belgium  
Contact: Len Brookes, European Office  
Mechelse Steenweg 30  
B-3000 Leuven, Belgium  
(32) 16-20-7944, Fax (32) 16-20-7931

## **CENT. QUEENSLAND MEN'S EVENT** **Oct. 22-24, 1993**

Neerkal, Queensland, Australia  
Contact: Australia Nat'l. Office  
P.O. Box 67, 34 Old Cleveland Rd.  
Stones Corner, Brisbane  
Queensland 4120, Australia  
(61) 7-397-3557, Fax (61) 7-394-1049

## **2ND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CONV.** **Oct. 28-30, 1993**

Marriott's Sam Lords Castle  
St. Philip, Barbados, West Indies  
Contact: FGBMFI—Barbados Chap.  
c/o H.L. Toppin & Co. Ltd.  
Beckwith Mall, Bridgetown, Barbados  
809-437-4069

## **11TH OKLAHOMA MEN'S ADV.** **Oct. 29-31, 1993**

Methodist Canyon Camp  
Hinton, OK  
Contact: Alan M. Schmook  
3555 N.W. 59th St., Ste. 300  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
405-947-7600

**EVENTS PUBLISHED IN THIS ISSUE WERE APPROVED ON OR BEFORE JULY 27, 1993.**  
**CONTACT FGBMFI HEADQUARTERS AT (714) 754-1400 FOR UPCOMING AIRLIFTS.**

## **THE SHAKARIAN MEMORIAL TAPES**

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- The healing of the Shakarian dairy herd of tuberculosis.
- How God trained Demos and Rose Shakarian in ministry and faithful works.
- How Demos' business grew with God's blessings.
- How the FGBMFI was used by ORU to introduce their academics to the infilling of the Holy Spirit.
- The first meeting of the FGBMFI from Oral Roberts' perspective.

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# 6 STEPS TO SALVATION

*Men still cry, "What must I do to be saved?" The Bible provides a clear answer.*

- 1. Acknowledge** "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). "God be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13).
- 2. Repent** "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).
- 3. Confess** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).
- 4. Forsake** "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord...for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7).
- 5. Believe** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16).
- 6. Receive** "He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:11, 12).

**Why not make your eternal decision now:**  
*"Lord Jesus, I believe You died for my sins and I ask Your forgiveness. I receive You now as my personal Saviour and invite You to manage my life from this day forward. Amen."*

**Write us to tell of your decision. We'll send you a booklet, "Now That You've Received Christ." Our mailing address: FGBMFI/Box 5050/Costa Mesa, CA 92628.**

## LOVE COMES ALIVE

### The Miraculous Story of FGBMFI



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# CONTENTS

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*A life can surely be measured by the legacy left behind. When Demos Shakarian went to be with the Lord, he left a vast legacy to a world hungry for the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.*

*This special memorial issue of Voice magazine is dedicated not only to the memory of our founder/president, but also to the work which continues in his vision.*

*In Demos Shakarian, we continue to celebrate our past and to march boldly into our future.*

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|   |           |  |           |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|
| <i>The Demos Shakarian Story . . . . .</i>              | <i>2</i>  | <i>The Family Reflects . . . . .</i>           | <i>22</i> |
| <i>Funeral Addresses . . . . .</i>                      | <i>12</i> | <i>Oral Roberts' Funeral Address . . . . .</i> | <i>30</i> |
| <i>The Crowning Triumph—Graveside Service . . . . .</i> | <i>17</i> | <i>Fellowship Events . . . . .</i>             | <i>38</i> |
| <i>Eulogies By Our World Leaders . . . . .</i>          | <i>19</i> | <i>Six Steps To Salvation . . . . .</i>        | <i>39</i> |

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