The JIM BURKE Story

Satan's Lieutenant

2 Officers
$100,000

Confess Robberies

Held Up 10 Banks In 4 Years
I HAD BEEN on the Detroit, Michigan police force for ten years when I heard Federal Judge Theodore Levin sentence me to 225 years in prison. Reason: for almost five years of that time I had led a double life as a peace officer and bank robber.

I loved being a policeman. It was a perfect outlet for my aggressive personality. I had been a boxer from ages thirteen to twenty-one and was also into judo and wrestling. My sports were shooting and hunting. I worked a very tough neighborhood, and being an ex-boxer I was a good man to have around in case of a fight—of which there were many.

As a policeman assigned to the station's vice squad, I was fairly honest the first several years. Then I became involved with the Mafia, taking payoffs from the numbers racketeers. My precinct embraced five-and-half square miles, to which 600 liquor licenses had
been issued, about 225 belonging to bars. I personally knew 175 bar owners by the time I was arrested. This meant that the free liquor and the waitresses were equally available to me. Literally, I was a "pig" in taking advantage of my position in law.

My dear wife, Elnora, to whom I've been married for over thirty years, faithfully stood by and prayed for me through all this. She had become a Christian when she was eight years old, and we had met in Western High School when we were fifteen years old.

Elnora received the baptism in the Holy Spirit in 1960, at Pastor James Beall's tabernacle in Detroit, where she attended.

When we were expecting our first child, for financial reasons I had to take a job in a machine shop as a carbide tip tool grinder. This necessitated my working thirty hours a week in the machine shop as well as my regular forty hours as a police officer. This schedule finally took its toll, and I began using dexadrine to stay awake.

One day I heard a voice behind me say, "What do you know how to do better than anything else?" I know now that question was from Satan. I answered, "I can handle guns better than anything else." At the time I could shoot with both hands. When arrested I had forty-five guns in my "collection." That was my word for it. The FBI had another word for it—"arsenal." I was a small-arms expert. Guns were my gods.

Shortly after hearing Satan's question, I made the mistake of praying to him: "If I can get away with anything I want to in this life, I will be willing to suffer
the consequences later." This was the beginning of my five-year holdup spree, during which I thought of myself as Satan’s Lieutenant, and actually committed more crimes than the twenty armed robberies I was charged with when arrested.

After I made the covenant with the devil, everything seemed to open up for me. I had a lot of clothes and a lot of money. On one occasion there was as much as $20,000 in a cigar box in my apartment—and I was crying over all of those brand new twenty dollar bills in the realization that money could not buy happiness. I was reminded of the words of Jesus in Matthew 16:26, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

For almost three years I worked alone, but then I decided to ask a fellow officer, Dave Tapp, to act as bagman for me. This was because one day I’d missed getting $10,000 out of a bank vault due to fear that the employees would shut the door on me. It became Dave’s responsibility to pick up the money. Promising myself to never shoot a policeman, I instructed my partner, "I’ll handle the guns, you just grab the money." We changed our techniques and disguises at various times, but I preferred to wear an army combat jacket and carry a German submachine gun on the sling under my arm. The jacket’s two large front pockets accommodated .45 automatics, and I could put extra clips of ammunition in my top pockets and a stub-nosed .38 in my belt. This provided me with four guns, plus the sawed-off shotgun in the back seat of the getaway car. Dave would carry a long-barrel .38, a short-barrel .38, and a German Luger.

Soon, however, a problem began to develop. My partner in crime took to
drinking a fifth of whisky a day and was spending more money than was com-
mensurate with his policeman’s salary. One of the evidences of this was a
brand new Buick convertible, fire engine red. Another was the drinking par-
ties he would throw. All of this was causing raised eyebrows, and, seeing
the handwriting on the wall, I decided to eliminate the Frankenstein monster I
had helped to create. This was to be done as soon as he returned from his
three-week vacation tour of the western states with his girlfriend in his new
car. I was unaware that by this time I was under the surveillance of the De-
troit police holdup squad for ten days and then finally by the FBI after they
were reasonably sure that I was the bandit they had been seeking for five
years.

The lawmen were using six to eight cars to trail me, and even following my
police car around while I was on duty. They knew everything I did but were
waiting for Dave to return from his western jaunt before moving in on us.

While under surveillance, I was going through the dry-runs of escaping from a
planned murder scene. An old enemy, Hank Kruper, hung around a bar where
it would be easy for me to come through the alley door and find him at
the rear of the bar where he habitually stood drinking. The plan included firing
twenty rounds into him from my Ger-
man submachine gun. Later, in prison, I
realized that God had saved me from
killing that man several times during the
five years that I had been attempting to
set him up. He also stopped me from
shooting my crime partner in a set-up
that I had planned by permitting us to
be apprehended five hours after his
return.

There were times when it would
dawn on me that I was more gangster

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A Latin program director suggested I call my broadcast “A Message to the Conscience.”

"Un Mesaje a la Conciencia"

With a name like Paul Finkenbinder, no one ever thinks of me as being Spanish. However, as I speak to over ten million Latin Americans in Spanish daily as Hermano Pablo, by means of 800 radio broadcasts and newspaper columns in over thirty daily papers, no one thinks I am English.

My parents, Frank and Aura Finkenbinder, now retired and living in Denver, Colorado, went to Puerto Rico as missionaries. There I was born in 1921 and grew up with Spanish as my principal language. It was there at age eleven, I accepted Christ as my personal Saviour. We moved permanently to New York due to the serious illness of my mother, when I was fifteen. Thus, with all of my early school work in Spanish, and all of my childhood companions Spanish speaking, I was bi-lingual, not necessarily by choice but by expediency.

Attending (and graduating from) Zion Bible Institute in East Providence, Rhode Island afforded me a background of living by faith, which we did completely for every meal, for our
by PAUL (HERMANO PABLO) FINKENBINDER
The Evangelical Voice of the Spanish Speaking World

clothing, and for all other things, includ-
ing the very heat for our building. These
experiences undoubtedly helped to
sustain me in my missionary endeavors
these many years.

I was baptized in the Holy Spirit,
received my missionary call, and met
my wife-to-be, Linda Swartzentruber,
all at Zion. In Spanish, Linda means
“beautiful,” and my Linda is the most
beautiful person in my natural life. She
has raised five children in addition to
being my companion and encourage-
ment these thirty-five years. However,
you can imagine the consternation of
our recording angels as they struggled
with the names Paul Finkenbinder and
Linda Swartzentruber! It is fortunate
that we now are simply known as Her-
mano Pablo and Hermana Linda,
Brother Paul and Sister Linda.

Linda and I attended Central Bible
Institute in Springfield, Missouri doing
post-graduate work. As we were await-
ing missionary assignment, we pastored
a small Spanish church in Raton, New
Mexico for about a year and six months.
Then, with our first born, Paul Jr., we
departed for the tiny Central American
country of El Salvador, arriving on
Thanksgiving eve, 1943.

In 1955, after a twelve-year ministry in
El Salvador, I felt an urgency to do
something more for the kingdom of
God. I had performed all of the usual
tasks expected and required of a mis-
sionary ministry. Then I read a magazine
article on missions, which reported that
the heathen world was growing one-
third faster than we were reaching it
with the Gospel of Christ.

Project those figures a few years and
the Christian community becomes al-
most invisible. As I mentally blamed the
system and the church for not fulfilling
the Great Commission, God spoke to
me and said, “Paul, who is the church?
Do you imagine when roll time comes
that I am going to say, Now will the
Baptist Church step forward; now will
the Presbyterian Church step forward,
and so on? It’s not going to be that way.
It’s going to be, Now will Paul Finken-
binder step forward. Son, when you
stand before my throne, there will be
nobody by your side. You will not have
to answer for your salvation, I’ve taken
care of that, but you will have to answer
for obedience. Go ye into all the world
and preach the Gospel to every crea-
ture. Son, you are the church, and
where you go from here, is up to you.”

With all this going through my mind,
one day shortly thereafter, while toying
idly with the dial on my radio, switching
from station to station, the thought oc-
curred to me, Radio! These people are
coming unannounced into my house
and bombarding me with cigarette,
beer, whiskey, toothpaste, soap and all
kinds of advertisements, and they don’t
even know where I live! How about
that? They don’t even know where I live
or who I am—and as a matter of fact
they don’t even know IF I am—yet they
come into my house. Well, then, why
don’t I go down to the radio station, go on the air myself, and go into people’s houses? I don’t even have to know who they are!

At that time there were about 150,000 people in San Salvador, capital of El Salvador, of whom only 700 might be believers, for all I knew. Then I prayed, “God, is this your will, that I go on radio?” The answer I received was a repeated, “Son, I’ll go where you want me to go. I’ll go where YOU want me to go.” So I went down to the radio station and negotiated a six-month contract for a broadcast series. The cost was $133.00 per month, and I did not have the money. Although I had written to many friends telling them of my intention to go on the air, not one single one had answered. But I signed the contract anyway, by faith.

In about two weeks Gordon Lindsay, then publisher of the Voice of Healing, sent Roy Stewart down from New Mexico to speak at a pastor’s conference, and I invited him to be a guest on my broadcast. After the program, he asked me how I was supporting the broadcast and I told him I wasn’t. Fortunately for me, the first month’s payment was not due for a couple of weeks yet. Roy Stewart wrote a letter to his friend, Pastor H. C. Noah in Dallas, Texas, a man I had never met. In two weeks a check came from Pastor Noah for $140.00! This paid for the broadcast and left a few dollars for tape expense. Pastor Noah continued this support every month for over seventeen years.

During the initial stage of the radio programs, a fellow minister in Honduras reported that they heard me by short wave, but that few people had radios equipped to receive short wave. If I would send him a tape, he could get the broadcast on in Honduras for a small monthly charge. Just a few weeks before I had thought that if I could secure another recorder, I could make two tapes and be on two stations. After my Honduras brother had written, Gordon Lindsay came to San Salvador. He felt impressed to pay the cost of this broadcast in Honduras. From that time, the radio ministry grew and grew. Brother Lindsay’s Christ For The Nations organization, then other church groups and individuals helped pay for more and more radio time, until we were broadcasting on more than twenty stations.

That one broadcast begun in 1955 is now aired over 400 radio stations every day in Spain, Mexico, Central and South America, Puerto Rico, and every Spanish-speaking country in the world except Cuba, where we are still heard by short wave. With inflation, each radio broadcast could now cost about $200.00 per month, or a total of $80,000.00 each month—nearly one million dollars per year! Let me show you what God has done!

My first broadcast was fifteen minutes long and was called, “La Voz Evangelica de las Asambleas de Dios.” (The Evangelical Voice of the Assemblies of God.) I had been on the air about four months and the comments were very

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† Clockwise: Ministry to the “Upper class” in Saltillo, Mexico; massive crowds in bull ring, Lima, Peru crusade; rapt attention to Hermano Pablo’s “Un Mesaje a la Conciencia” in Mexico City; ministering in Catholic Church charismatic conference; two of Christ’s beautiful ones in Bogota, Colombia.
HOW WE'LL REACH THE WORLD

Fellowship chapters now meet in 43 nations. GOOD NEWS radio broadcasts are beamed to one-half of the world’s population. But God has given us a much greater task. He has told us to reach the world.

The Fellowship has developed the **Six-Point Continental Plan** to guide the development of our ministry in every country. Here is a progress report:

1. **Continental headquarters** now in North America, Europe and Australia. Will coordinate Fellowship activities in each continent.
2. **National offices** now in Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. Will guide Fellowship activities in each country and serve as liaison with individual governments.
3. **Global publications** will reach every person with news of what God is doing today. Special editions of VOICE and other Fellowship publications now read in six languages: German, French, Italian, Dutch, Norwegian and Finnish.
4. **National and international conventions** bring together businessmen from all over the world to share with people of other nations. Already held or scheduled this year for Canada, Germany, Australia, Israel, Italy, and Scotland; plus the World Convention in Chicago, Illinois.
5. **Chapters** now number more than 1500. Additional growth will be encouraged in every country.
6. **Chapter speakers** include businessmen who donate their time to travel to other nations and encourage men there to take a stand for Christ in their area.

**South Africa Unveils New Magazine**

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA—A new monthly Fellowship magazine has made its appearance in the Natal province of South Africa. “Voice of Renewal” contains 16 pages of articles reprinted from American editions of VOICE and other Christian periodicals, plus local chapter news.

**Praise Greets “The Christian Life is Exciting”**

COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA—Enthusiastic praise has typified early response to “The Christian Life is Exciting,” the Fellowship’s correspondence Bible course.

“It made me hungry for the Word and then fed me completely,” wrote one of the first people to complete the course. Other students write that the lessons have taught them how to study the Bible.
"Study techniques are an overriding emphasis of the course," says its author, Warren Angel. "We want the students to develop good study habits so they can study the Bible for themselves for the rest of their lives."

The course is now available for $25 from the FGBMFI international headquarters, Box 5050, Costa Mesa, California 92626. It is 170 pages long and includes 12 lessons on Jesus Christ, prayer, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, God and His relationship to man, the dynamics of faith, and other topics.

"What we've tried to do is just let the Bible teach itself," Angel says. "We study 200 Bible passages in the course and refer to 150 others. I believe the Holy Spirit will minister to the students' hearts as they study these scriptures. It won't be so much teaching, but rather the Bible speaking."

Australians Plan World Convention Trip

BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA—A globe-trotting group of Australian Full Gospel Business Men and their families and friends will journey to the U.S. this summer for both the World Convention and Hawaii International Regional Convention. The Australian national headquarters in Brisbane says stopovers on the trip will include Los Angeles, San Francisco and Fiji. The World Convention will be held July 3–9 at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. The Hawaii Convention follows directly, July 10–17 at the Sheraton-Waikiki Hotel.
“MESAJE A LA CONCIENCIA”
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good. However, since my unsaved and non-Protestant response was only about two percent, I changed from the singing of hymns on the broadcast to religious orchestrations, for I realized that my non-Protestant friends did not sing hymns in church, and did not even know what they were all about. Miraculously, the unsaved response went up to about four percent. When I later changed the name of the broadcast to, “La Iglesia del Aire” (The Church of the Air), my non-Protestant and unsaved response more than doubled to over ten percent! Thus were reaching and winning souls we could not have reached through conventional methods.

One day in 1962, as I entered the station to deliver the next week’s tapes, the manager asked to speak to me for a few minutes. “We’ve made a survey,” he said, “and found out that when you come on the air at 6:45 a.m. we lose a lot of our audience. I believe the problem is that at this early hour, no one is ready for a long monologue on God.” (Oh! what sacrilege!) “You need to be on about 4:00 p.m.” he continued, “when the ladies can sit down and hear you talk about God.” Of course I was disappointed in his opinion of my program, but, ever mindful of what people think (for what people think—that it is, for them), I asked if he had any suggestions for improvement. “There is an alternative,” he replied, “but you probably won’t take it. Why don’t you make a three or four-minute micro-program?” “But I have so much to say that I can’t even now do it in fifteen minutes,” I remonstrated. To this he replied, “Tell you what, blindfold yourself and pick out any one of your programs. Bring it to me and I will condense it to three minutes. Then you tell me if I have left anything essential out of it.”

What a blow! I asked for a couple of weeks to think it over. After discussing the matter with several Christian leaders and friends, and finding the consensus to be, “No, the program is too short already;” I made my decision. Since the Christians say it is too short, that means it is too long for the people I want to reach!

Back at the station, I expressed my willingness to change the program format on three conditions: First, that for the same price, they would give me three four-minute spots during the day; second, that they help me with the new format; and third, that they help me create a new and intriguing name for the program.

Almost immediately the program director said, “Call it, Un Mesaje a la Conciencia—A Message to the Conscience.” “That’s it!” I cried. Thus it was that this radio and communications professional, Raul Monson, furnished the name, and then went on to pick out the theme music and to introduce the program in his own voice, as well. It is still his voice today which says, in Spanish, “A Message to the Conscience; a moment of reflection in your daily life,
In makeshift “studio” in El Salvador in 1955, Hermano Pablo, right, interviews Gordon Lindsay.

in the voice of Hermano Pablo.” On each broadcast my first words are the words of a story—every day a different, new story, taken from daily events out of newspapers and other publications. With this new format, the response we received jumped to over fifty percent from unsaved persons, and remains so to this day. Praise His name!

I gained a son-in-law, Jon Brown, by 1967. One day he offered to write to the 3,300 radio stations in Latin America and tell them that we had a free program for them which would uplift their community. Until this time, no one had ever received sustained free time for religious purposes on radio stations, some of which were owned by the Catholic Church. So, even though I was fairly well regarded by the Catholics (my program seeks only to lift up Christ, not a church), his idea seemed an implausible one.

Thank God I did not stop Jon from writing! Within four weeks’ time we were on 100 stations free of charge as a result of those letters! On this same basis the program is now heard on over 400 radio stations, some of which are broadcasting each message three or four times a day.

My ministry to the Spanish-speaking people of Latin America is very similar to the ministry of Demos Shakarian and the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship throughout the world. I have had many occasions to speak to these dedicated men. For me, God has no green lights, only red. In other words, I do not believe in sitting idly by waiting for a “Go” signal. If something can be done for God’s glory, then it should be done—unless I see a red light!

Each month I see God working in our

Hermano Pablo speaks at Mexico City Catholic charismatic conference in 1975, and a penitent kneels in prayer.
behalf as His grace is multiplied, and
countless precious souls come to him
through Un Mensaje a la Conciencia. It
only costs us about $1.00 per broadcast
to produce each of the 20,000 Spanish
broadcasts each month. This includes
headquarters, staff, equipment, recording,
and duplicating costs. Thus our
budget is about one-fourth of normal
radio broadcast costs. Again, this is sim-
ilar to the Full Gospel Business Men’s
outreach. Because of its several hun-
dred international directors and field
directors, and its thousands of chapter
officers—all serving unselfishly in an un-
salaried capacity—the Fellowship is able
to operate on a very low budget as
compared to many organizations.

In 1959, when television came to San
Salvador, by faith I contracted for one
year at $300.00 per week, not knowing
how the finances would be supplied. I
did not wait for God to tell me to do
this, I simply knew that I could reach
more people for Him than before, and
so I launched out. Again God provided!
I had no red lights! God never said not
to! Now we are ready to step into daily
television. Over twenty TV stations have
offered us free time in most of the major
areas of Latin America. God has given
us the studios, equipment and staff at
our headquarters in Costa Mesa, Cal-
ifornia—very near to the Headquarters
Office of FGBMFI—to begin producing
these telecasts. We believe that this
could be our final thrust before the
second coming of our Lord.

In 1967 we commenced holding
crusades throughout Latin America,
with each crusade increasing in attend-
dance and results. Crowds have run in
certain areas over 15,000 nightly.
Seemingly, everyone from peon to El
Presidente has at one time or another
heard, seen, or read “A Message to the
Conscience.” It has been said (all credit
to God) that the voice of Hermano
Pablo is heard by more people daily,
than any single voice in Latin America.

A few years ago, God impressed
upon me the importance of reaching
the “upper class” in Latin America. The
extreme class distinction in Spanish
speaking countries made the Gospel
nearly the sole property of the “lower
class.” Yet it is the “upper class” who
can with one stroke of a pen, open or
close a country, province, or city to the
Gospel. So, we began another out-
reach—that of conducting concerts and
lectures in elite hotels. Special invita-
tions are printed and sent only to heads
of local governments, doctors, lawyers,
and other professional men and
women. Therefore, by personal invita-
tion people may hear a twenty-minute
professional concert—and Hermano
Pablo. This has been responsible for a
new awakening in a different sector of
Latin American society.

Someone has asked, “Hermano
Pablo, what will you do when you have
reached all of Latin America and every
Spanish speaking person in the world?”
My response is, “If and when that time
should come, God will have to teach
me Chinese!”
Number Three in the Series:  
"Victorious Living"

The Love of Jesus

BY FR. LINUS M. HENNESSY

Fr. Hennessy, O.F.M., graduated from college and seminary in his native Ireland. He has since taught high school in Buffalo, New York, and college in England. God has given him a ministry of inner healing, and he is very active in the Catholic Pentecostal movement. This article is a condensation of a message from the Full Gospel Business Men's cassette library. For more information about our tape ministry write to P. O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

One of the most difficult things for people to believe is that Jesus really loves them. They look at their own lives, their own sins and weaknesses, and that's all they see. They don't realize that Jesus would have gone to Calvary and shed His blood on the cross to save them from sin even if they had been the only person on earth.

We often think of redemption as something that Jesus did en masse—the redemption of the whole world. But actually the redemption Jesus offers is a person-by-person process. As He was hanging on the cross I believe that each one of us came before Him, and from out of that pierced heart there was love and redemption flowing to us personally. That is why He said through the prophet Isaiah, "I have called you by name, you are mine" (43:1).

In the fourth verse of the same chapter He says, "You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you." Let us remember that eternal fact, when in times of failure, frustration or sin we look upon ourselves with repugnance.

Throughout St. John's first letter to the church he says very simply that God is love. Jesus is really the concrete revelation of the love of God. When we see Jesus in action, we see the love of God in action. Again, in the third chapter of his Gospel, John says God so loved the world that He sent His Son (verse 16).

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I was born on a homestead in Saskatchewan—one of ten children—and grew up in the windy “dirty thirties” on a farm that excelled in crop failures, Russian thistles and shifting sand dunes.

I graduated from the eighth grade at age fifteen and quit school to help Dad on the farm. Our church affiliation was Lutheran, although we didn’t attend very often since it was eight miles away and we had no car. But on special occasions (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter) Dad would take us all to church in the wagon or sled. I was confirmed at the age of fifteen but didn’t become a true child of God until March 6, 1976—thirty-nine years later.

In the spring of 1937 Dad decided to move west to British Columbia. He bought a truck and loaded what it would hold and sold the rest. It took a month to reach Vernon, B.C. We older children rode in the back of the truck and when it rained Dad would throw a tarp over us to keep us dry. Dad was down to $75 when we arrived in Vernon but he soon got a job haying.

I got a job on a dairy farm for $15 a month. I milked fifteen cows and did other chores every morning from 5 a.m. until breakfast at 8:30 a.m., and then back to farm work until 5 p.m. when it was time to milk the cows again. My day ended around 9 p.m. And of course on a dairy farm the work is seven days a week. After six months I changed jobs and on July 19, 1940 I joined the army at the age of nineteen.

After basic training I was assigned to a motorcycle unit and later to a tank regiment. In November 1941 we sailed for England and trained there for two years before being shipped to fight on the Italian front. I had my first encounter with the enemy when on the evening of May 23, 1944 we ran into a mine field and sniper fire. Several tanks were lost. The next morning at dawn we attacked and within an hour my tank was blown up by an anti-tank shell. But none of my crew were hurt and we all made it back behind our line safely.
Life in Italy soon became routine. We would fight for a week or two and then be sent back to rest for a week. During one of these rest periods I had an experience that almost cost my life. Some of us were swimming in the ocean and had been told to be careful because of bad undertow currents. Two fellows got swept out and the rest of us formed a human chain in an attempt to rescue them, but it was no use. We became separated and it was every man for himself. I thrashed around until I became exhausted and thought for sure that all was lost. Then a still, small voice said to me, "Relax. You are going to get back home to British Columbia safely."

Although still miles from shore I did relax as the voice suggested. This gave me the feeling of floating on a soft cloud. I heard beautiful music and seemed to be heading for a great white light, then must have lapsed into unconsciousness, for the next thing I recalled was lying on the beach and feeling very sick. Later I was told that I had turned black from my waist up and was believed to be dead by those who found me. One of the medical aides thought he heard a faint murmur from me, however, and went to work on me until I regained consciousness. I really thanked God for saving me, and knew from that time on that I would get through the war safely. And God kept His promise. I was discharged from the army in February 1946 and returned home to help my dad in logging.

That summer I met Evelyn, the lovely girl who is still my life partner. She was a strong Lutheran and told me that she would never marry anyone who would not go to church with her regularly. I loved her and started going to church each Sunday. That Christmas Eve we were engaged and the next Easter we were married. Evelyn and I raised four fine children, but I must confess I left most of their religious training up to her.

A few years ago a revival meeting was held in Vernon and we attended. Near the end of the week my heart melted and I accepted Jesus Christ as my Saviour. For a while I was really on fire for the Lord, but I hadn't confessed all my sins and soon I was right back where I was before.

About this time I started attending the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship dinners. Since there was a yearning in my heart for something more, I decided
to go along when the Fellowship announced a retreat for March 5–7, 1976 at nearby Naramata. The main speaker was Mr. Charles Trombley, a former Jehovah's Witness.

I attended every session, sitting on the edge of my chair and drinking it all in. When the invitation was given Friday night, however, I suppressed an inner urge to go to the altar. But Saturday night was different. As I started to go forward, God spoke to me. "Not so easy this time, Wilf. No more little hold-outs or deals. You have to surrender yourself completely and then I will bestow my gifts upon you." I cried, "Oh yes Lord, take all of me." And He did.

Kneeling at the altar, I raised my face and arms to heaven and was wonderfully baptized in the Holy Spirit.

In the days and weeks and months since I received this outpouring from God life has been good. My church is more dear and precious to me than ever. I now have great love for my fellow men, and find great joy in visiting the sick and the elderly.

My wife claims she has a new husband. And in a way, I guess she has.

MAY TAPE MINISTRY
—check desired tapes—

☐ 18WCA5, Senator Mark Hatfield, "Faith in America"; ☐ BKC5, Dr. Raymond Brock, "The Holy Spirit and the Home"; ☐ 26A6, Fr. Dennis Bennett, "Practical Advice to Charismatics"; ☐ 4CLE6, Rev. Howard Conatser, "Ministering to the Lord"; ☐ 6KCM6, Dr. Robert Frost, "Divine Intervention"; ☐ 7KCM6, Rev. Charles Duncombe, "Baptism in the Holy Spirit."

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A SURE CURE

Dear Dr. Becker:

"Using the Six Scriptural Steps to Salvation in VOICE magazine I rededicated my life to Jesus in 1973. When I took this step of faith I was also baptized in the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues.

"A few years before this I fell down some steps, tearing ligaments in my back and neck. In 1972 I started going to Dr. Lally who always had a pile of VOICE magazines in his office. Every time I came for a treatment he would also pray for me.

"December 10, 1976 my husband and I went to a Full Gospel Business Men’s dinner meeting where Denny Strand was the speaker. As he sang, ‘Rise and be Healed,’ the Lord came down on me and gently straightened my whole back and neck. How I praise Him for this miraculous healing.

"My husband has joined FGBMFI and we are looking forward to more adventures in seeing Jesus Christ work in the lives of people."

Mrs. Doris Quist, Yakima, Washington

Editor’s Note: Be sure to obtain your copy of the latest FGBMFI book, A SURE CURE (The Acts of the Holy Spirit Within the Medical Profession Today), containing 14 exciting and up-to-date testimonies of other prominent doctors who pray for as well as treat their patients. The price is only $1.00 for this most helpful and timely book. See our Book Order Form on page 27, which also contains a list of other timely books published by the fellowship as well as a VOICE magazine subscription coupon.

SPANISH TO BE ADDED TO OTHER VOICE TRANSLATIONS

We are pleased to announce the launching of a consistent outreach to the Spanish speaking peoples of the Western Hemisphere. Dr. Raymond Becker, Editor and Director of FGBMFI Publications, is presently collaborating with Mr. Albert D’Arpa, Full Gospel Business Men’s International Director in Tampa, Florida, to publish VOICE magazine in Spanish on a quarterly basis. Thus will the Spanish LA VOZ join the German STIMME, the French VOIX and the Italian VOCE in our expanding language translation program.

We welcome your contributions to cover the cost of this vital ministry. Make checks payable to FGBMFI, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.
WHO IS my neighbor?” Let me tell you my experience of how I got a better understanding of this question.

When VOICE magazine announced early in 1965 that the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International was planning an airlift to London in November, I exclaimed, “What an opportunity—I surely would like to go!” That fire was quenched in a hurry. How could I afford the cost? Besides, what would justify my going clear across the United States and the Atlantic Ocean to attend a Full Gospel Business Men’s convention?

Three months later my hope revived, as the Lord of the harvest began to prod me gently. I said, “But, Lord, what about all that money? Wouldn’t it be better for me to give it to missionaries already in the fields?”

“They shall not lack” was His prompt reply.

I made no commitment about the trip during the next three weeks. Then came another prod from the Lord. I answered, “But, Lord, how can I be justified spending all that money to go to London when I’m constantly receiving appeals by mail, and more via radio programs, from Christian organizations needing funds on foreign fields?”

“All the cattle on a thousand hills, and all the silver and gold and precious jewels are mine,” came the direct reply.

The pressure was on. I still yearned to go, but was stubborn about wanting personal reassurance that it was God’s specific assignment for me. After another couple of weeks of “waiting upon the Lord” I offered Him another excuse about the size of the cost involved—although by His grace my bank account had grown to sufficiency. His answer was, “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you,
that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain.""

Through the many years of my Christian life I had read those same words many times in John 15:16. Of course I went on that airlift—and what a glorious, edifying experience it was!

As our huge chartered plane winged out of sight of the London airport on our way back to the States, announcement was made that another Fellowship airlift was being planned for the following August. This one was to the Orient. "To the Orient? Nothing doing! I don't want to go to the Orient." But by June I was willing to go; by July I wanted to go; and by August I had to go—by love compelled.

Beginning with 1965, our gracious Lord of the harvest has assigned, provided, sustained and used me on thirteen Full Gospel Business Men's airlifts—eight to the Orient and southwest Pacific and five to Europe. This has enabled me to witness to Him in twenty countries—some two and three times—in the past eleven years. He has saved many souls, healed many bodies and has done many other wonderful works! God is keeping the records—all the Lord Jesus asks us to do is be responsive and faithful.

It was God’s Holy Word that convinced, convicted and converted me thirty-nine years ago; but He had used a businessman, Bryan Britt in Spokane, Washington, to start the process. Not a drinker or a down-and-outer, I was a respectable newspaper man. But I surely needed the Saviour. Not only did I have a sinful nature but I had developed a diabolical hatred toward a whole race of people.

Two years later, in Seattle, God gave me a right-now spiritual birth when I determined to believe the Holy Bible as
His official record. I confessed I was a sinner, asked the Lord Jesus Christ to forgive me, and received Him as my personal Saviour.

What an immediate life transformation! God’s great love, peace and joy flooded my soul as my sinfulness was washed away in the blood of Jesus Christ the Lord. I then knew for a certainty that everything is true what the Bible says about the eternal, living Father, His Son and the Holy Spirit. They so distinctly and dramatically responded to my prayer when I responded to the challenge, “Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not” (Jeremiah 33:3).

Being thus born into the family of God, my relationship and fellowship with the Father and the Saviour-Son launched me into their glorious “more abundant life.” God’s all-encompassing love, goodness, mercy and power soon were transmitted to me in greater measure when the Lord Jesus Christ baptized me in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 1:8 and 2:4. Such out-of-this-world experiences have kept me steadfast through many testings and victories in the “good fight of faith.”

One of my early notable experiences took place as I was awakened one Sunday morning by hearing a heavenly choir. No earthly music could equal it. It vibrated through my whole being, so infusing me spiritually that for days I seemed to be walking on clouds of glory.

Another experience occurred after I had left for work one morning. Our baby daughter was so sick she could not lift her head off her pillow, and I wondered if she would live through the day. A Christian sister visited my wife that morning and they prayed for the baby’s healing. After talking of other things for awhile, they were amazed to see our daughter up and walking around in her crib, completely well. Praise God!

That is an example of how God in His great love, mercy, power and grace provided for our family’s physical and material as well as spiritual needs in the infamous economic depression of the 1930’s. We didn’t need “cold shots,” vaccinations and other usual health aids; our Great Physician took good care of us. Our oldest of seven children went through eight years of schooling without being absent or tardy. And the Lord supplied our food and clothing needs even when I was unemployed. We have had continuous experience
with God’s “loving-kindnesses and tender mercies” and His “daily loading us with benefits.”

After my conversion, I began to witness actively to my Saviour and Lord in Seattle’s jails, skid row missions, hospitals and in the U.S. Navy and Army offices where I was employed for twenty-four years as a civilian in publications and public relations. Through those and succeeding years I also have helped spread the Word by distributing many thousands of Gospel tracts. Since my retirement, I am in my sixth year as volunteer chaplain in Seattle’s Northgate General Hospital.

The greatest earthly influence in my spiritual life to keep me stable and progressive has been eighteen years of continuous membership in the Seattle chapter of the FGBMFI. The brothers’ unfeigned love, joy and faithfulness are inspiring and priceless. Also notable is their kindness and patience toward one another, without regard to denominational affiliation, and their devotion and loyalty to the cause of the Gospel of Christ, “the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes.”

On the FGBMFI airlifts, I not only have enjoyed outstanding Christian fellowship among our teammates, but also have found remarkable love, kindness and generosity among our hosts and hostesses and other nationals in the countries we have visited. God has privileged me to see many lives transformed and many bodies healed in direct answers to prayer. In a recent case the Lord instantly gave sight to a woman’s totally blind eye.

These experiences have contributed much to my understanding and appreciation of “who is my neighbor?” and what the Lord of the harvest requires of us. Despite scoffers and other unbelievers, the Lord Jesus Christ is continuing and even increasing His confirmation of the written Word with signs following, as His disciples in this generation go throughout the world preaching the Gospel as directed.

Our heavenly Father is persistent in His maturing process in the lives of His redeemed children. Although His ways are so varied that we cannot recognize pattern or formula, I must acknowledge they are exceedingly good.

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**PLAN NOW FOR THESE COMING EVENTS:**

- **Italian/European Conference, September 17–October 2, 1977.** Witnessing teams will minister throughout Italy from September 17–28, then convene in Naples for 3-day Conference. Cost: $740.00. For further information write, Angelo Ferr, Chairman, P.O. Box 182, Newtown, Pennsylvania 18940.

- **Second Jerusalem Regional Convention, October 13–23, 1977.** Cost: $1127, New York to Israel, including hotel, 3 meals per day and refreshments. A post-convention 4-day layover option is provided at cost of $150 extra. For further information write, Lynwood Maddox, Convention Chairman, 3490 Emperor Way, Tucker, Georgia 30894.
SATAN'S LIEUTENANT
continued from page 5

than police officer, and I began to consider suicide. It must be done very dramatically of course, and not to be made to look like suicide. If I could somehow die as a police hero in a hail of bullets, my wife would collect double indemnity and I could compensate for my sins. This was another example of my twisted thinking. God spared me!

During the last five years of my time on the police force I was separated from my wife twice for a year-and-a-half each time. This was the situation at the time of my arrest. On a real ego trip, I wanted to be known as America's greatest unidentified bank robber, and was willing to sacrifice everything to achieve this goal.

When I began my life of crime, the police holdup squad called me the “Green Bag Bandit” because I would throw a green bag at cashiers in department stores, supermarkets and credit unions, and tell them to fill it up. When the jobs got bigger, I was referred to as “Two-Gun Pete.” After my partner joined me we were tagged as the “Three-Minute Bank Robbers” because it only took us that long to pull a job and make our getaway. If there is such a thing as words of knowledge from Satan, I received them. I could walk in a bank and in seconds figure out the best way to rob it.

In the beginning I was undoubtedly psychotic—my mind was really sick. But as time went by, I robbed because I wanted to—not only for the money, but for ego kicks. I was stimulated by the thought that I could get away with it. Satan activated me to do what I did. But even though I robbed more banks and operated over a longer period of time than John Dillinger, I, too, finally got caught. What a relief to confess!

Here’s how it happened. We had held up two banks three times each and the FBI realized we were setting a pattern. They knew we would be back by May 22, 1958, because we had robbed the same bank May 7, 1956, and May 22, 1957. So twenty lawmen—FBI agents, Michigan State troopers, Wayne County Sheriff deputies, Dearborn police and Dearborn township police—waited for us. Some were dressed as workmen on scaffolding at the back of the bank and others were stationed as decoys around the neighborhood with Thompson submachine guns, rifles and shotguns. The only reason we didn’t walk into that trap was because someone dropped by to visit us and we weren’t able to leave my apartment in time. The next day all the lawmen were gone (since we hadn’t returned on the anniversary of our last robbery), so we went into the bank for three minutes and came out with $23,000!

We calculated our robberies like military commando operations—or so we thought. But no matter how smart you think you are there is always some little thing that can trip you up. In our case the clincher was a tip-off from a fellow officer whom I had considered a friend and confidant, but who had earlier re-
jected my offer to join with me in my robbery spree. This was all the lead the police needed. They had suspected that perhaps a rogue cop or an ex-military officer was responsible for the robberies because of the excellent planning involved. The law operated very effectively after that, and we were apprehended at 5:00 a.m. on June 17, 1958 and incarcerated in the county jail.

“Lawmen were dressed as workmen on scaffolding behind the bank.”

After nine charges for armed robbery against the state were dropped, I was finally indicted on eleven armed bank robberies, convicted of nine, and given an aggregate of 225 years in federal prison. That’s when I really began to think about Matthew 11:28, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” I was the first man to be judged under the new federal law which calls for the maximum sentence with the provision that it could be later reduced. Mine was reduced to nine twenty-year sentences to run concurrently, with parole eligibility after serving four years. I actually spent five and a half years behind bars in six different federal institutions before my parole, including old “1895-built Leavenworth.” I met “The Birdman of Alcatraz,” Robert Stroud, while in Springfield, Missouri, and many other well known criminals.

Dave Tapp was sentenced to 150 years for helping me hold up six banks. After six months his sentence was reduced to six fifteen-year sentences to run concurrently, with parole eligibility in three years. He spent a total of six years behind bars.

During my four months in the county jail, Elnora brought me a Bible and I faithfully read the New Testament. Naturally I wanted my freedom! I was impressed with Matthew 6:33, “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” On October 7, 1958, after lying awake all night in prayer, at 5:00 a.m. I opened my heart and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Saviour, and heard a soft voice say, “Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” Five hours later I received my “special rehabilitation sentence,” but that was not as wonderful as the “special regeneration spirit” given me by Jesus.

On May 30, 1974 I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, evidenced with speaking in tongues. The Lord also gave me a ministry of praying for the sick. This was rather amazing to me because I'd look at my hands and remember how many men I had punched with my fists. Now I lay these same hands on people and the Lord heals them instantaneously. I will always remember Pastor Ester Mallett of the Community Chapel of North Long Beach as the person that helped pray me through to the Baptism. I spoke eight different languages in thirty minutes—I, who used to
make fun of those who spoke in tongues. The Lord made me take a 180-degree turn!

Following my parole, I was for many years hesitant to discuss the past. Recently, however, the Lord has laid it upon my heart to give my testimony whenever possible so that others might be helped. Twenty-four hours after I gave my first testimony publicly in church, the Lord healed a twenty-year-old injury to my lower back that had been extremely painful, and I've never had a pain since!

Today I live in Bellflower, California where I own an apartment house and am a sales representative for an industrial service. I praise the Lord for allowing me to live through many dangerous situations, and for His amazing grace in saving my soul, filling me with His Spirit and granting me an opportunity to serve Him. I am constantly reminded of Matthew 10:32, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." On October 8, 1976, in the first meeting of the Downey, California chapter of FGBMFI, I became a member and was later elected secretary of the chapter. It was on this same date eighteen years before that I had received my 225-year sentence. The Lord delivered me from it all. On this same date I had the pleasure of meeting Demos Shakarian for the first time and giving him a short testimony of what the Lord had done in my life. He suggested that I share my testimony with others that they, too, might turn their lives over to our Lord and Saviour.

There are no problems too great for Jesus to solve, and He can raise up the lowest of men to serve Him!

FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S CHAPTER OUTREACH

As this issue was prepared for publication, the following chapters were submitted as having been recently chartered. Hopefully, one is in YOUR area! The president's name and telephone number are included in this list for your information.


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AFRICAN OFFICE: Posbus/P.O. Box 196, Honeydew, Transvaal, South Africa.

SIX SCRIPTURAL 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).

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 right now: “Dear God, I am convicted by Your Word that I am a lost sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died for sinners and shed His blood to put away my sins. I now receive Him as my personal Lord and Saviour and will by His help, confess Him before men.”

When you have made this greatest of all decisions, please let us know so that we may send you a booklet, NOW THAT YOU’VE RECEIVED CHRIST.

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Mail to: Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International, P.O. Box 5050, Costa Mesa, California 92626.
BARBECUES SPREAD GOSPEL TO SHOPPERS

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA—Monthly barbecues featuring chicken and spareribs dinners are being held in shopping centers here by the Northside Gateway chapter. Chapter Director J.A. “Tommy” Thompson says the food and special Gospel singing draw crowds of shoppers who then hear businessmen tell how Jesus has changed their lives. Money raised by the dinner sales goes toward sponsorship of the Fellowship’s weekly GOOD NEWS programs on local TV. John Allen is chapter president.

Children Led to Jesus

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—There was a remarkable move of God at the children’s meetings during the International Regional Convention here in January.

By the end of the convention, 176 children 3 to 13 years old had accepted Christ as their Saviour and been filled with the Holy Spirit, according to Gladys Hodges, the former school teacher from Downey, California who led the children’s activities. “These children will go on with the Lord,” Gladys said.

The children’s meetings feature songs, Bible stories, games, puppet shows, Scripture memorization and other activities. Most fellowship conventions include something for every family member. In addition to the children’s meetings, there are special activities for teenagers too.

God Chooses Convention Theme

AMARILLO, TEXAS—God gave a message to the Amarillo Regional Convention—held Feb. 23-26 at the Villa Inn—by impressing the same basic theme on the hearts of all the speakers.

Here’s what happened, according to Garland Solomon, a convention chairman: “God gave Morris Sheats (pastor of Trinity Church in Lubbock, Texas, and instructor at the convention’s teaching sessions) a theme a few weeks before. The theme was ‘Coming into the Age of Inheritance.’ Brother Sheats came and taught this, but even before he came, the other speakers were already in that line: what we have in Jesus; who we are as Christians.

“It all came together,” stated Solomon, a Hereford, Texas farmer and a FGBMFI field representative, “and we didn’t realize until probably the second day that this is what was happening.”
"THE PROMISE OF THE LORD IS TRUE"

Each day, letters telling of answered prayers arrive at the Fellowship's international headquarters. Here are some recent ones:

The Lord Miraculously Provided

"I was very happy when I received your letter and it seemed as if the Lord himself was speaking to me through your words of encouragement. But even before you replied with this letter, the Lord had miraculously provided a job for me. I believe my debts will be paid through it."

—Nigeria

God Was Good

"Thank you for your prayers. God was good to me this time. Last month, the cast and high shoes to protect my broken ankle came off. Doctors did not think it would knit, but God fooled them as I expected. . . ."

—Oregon

Marriage Restored

"The Lord turned us completely around. . . . We have been married 18 years. For 17 of those years we tried to put our marriage back together. We could never do it, no matter what we tried. But praise God, nothing is impossible with Him."

—Washington

God will meet your needs too. We invite you to write to Fellowship President Demos Shakarian at the international headquarters and share your prayer requests. We will pray for you. Write:

FGBMFI, Box 5050, Costa Mesa, CA 92626.

"The promise of the Lord proves true; He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him."

2 Samuel 22:31

FLASH! At press time, word comes that RUTH CARTER STAPLETON is scheduled to speak at a combined Ladies' and Men's Luncheon in the FLORIDA STATE CONVENTION, Friday, June 3, 1977. Convention dates are June 1-4. Demos and Rose Shakarian will host and Rose will emcee the event. Other speakers will include John Osteen, Bob Harrington and Hans Tanzler.
THE LOVE OF JESUS
continued from page 15

John is not talking about an abstract cosmos, but about living personalities such as you and I. It was because of the love of the Father for us—sinful, weak, frustrated and imperfect—that He sent the Son.

In this context, I think we can join another verse in chapter 13 where John again speaks about Jesus. He quotes Him as saying that having loved His own that were in the world, He loved them unto the end (v. 1). Thus, not only did the Father love us so much that He sent His Son, but Jesus Himself, having loved His own, loved them to the end.

The reason I believe that Jesus loves us so much and that He wants us to love each other so much, is because of His identity with His people.

In Matthew 25, where Jesus refers to the last judgment, this close identity is clearly revealed. "I was hungry and you gave me food," He says. "I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to me." His hearers asked to know when they had done these things, and Jesus responded. "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (25:31-46).

What we do for other believers because of Jesus identifying Himself with them in such a real way, He regards as something done to Him personally.

Remember the conversion of Paul on the way to Damascus. The question that Jesus asked him was not, "Why are you persecuting Christians?" but "Why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4). The love of Jesus is so intense that it creates a mystical union between Himself and His people. Paul later in his life would say, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20).

Sometimes you may think of heaven as containing millions of people, and that consequently you will be on the outskirts of the crowd, looking on at a distance. But actually, because He is infinite, it will be as if no one else is in heaven except God and you. This is because He will have so much love and so much attention and concentration for each of us, individually and personally.

Our redemption is not a global matter. Our relationship with God in eternity will be person-to-person. We will be there forever in His presence, in a relationship so real and so intimate that it will seem as if nobody else exists in heaven except God and us.

So there is this tremendous fact that while we sometimes look upon ourselves with contempt, Jesus never does. His is the look of eternal love.

It is well for us to remember in times when we feel the Lord is far away, that each one of us has come forth from His very heart—that each one of us came into existence by a special act of love and power on the part of God. Let us then be raised into heavenly places by His eternal promise, "You are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you."
TOTAL SALVATION

BY WILLIAM F. DRETKE
Communications Supervisor, Washington State Patrol, Mt. Vernon, Washington

I WELL REMEMBER that Friday afternoon in May 1975, when at the age of thirty-eight I came face to face with the realization that Romans 10:13 is not limited to salvation from sin. It was through that text—"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"—that in 1961 at the age of twenty-four I called on Jesus to save my soul and come into my life, and He was faithful to fulfill His Word. Neither is Romans 10:13 limited to salvation from the powerless and unfruitful life from which I was rescued, when in 1963 Jesus baptized me in the Holy Spirit. On that Friday in May 1975 I experienced Romans 10:13 in a very physical way.

My seven-year-old daughter, D'Arcy, and I had gone outside to fix a place for a hen and some baby chicks, and upon finishing the project stopped by to feed our rabbits—something I rarely did. While there, D'Arcy decided to go see if the hen was still sitting on the nest. Moments after she entered the chicken house, a tree suddenly fell down, hitting me in the head and knocking me to the ground. D'Arcy ran to the house screaming, "Mama, a tree fell on Daddy and he's dead!"

MAY 1977
Barbara, my wife, found me lying on my back with blood streaming from my nose and ears, having the appearance of being dead, yet groaning. She quickly called an ambulance and rushed back to my side. Dazed, I pushed myself up, sat on the tree, mumbled incoherently and repeated the name of Jesus, then with Barbara’s arms supporting me, staggered possibly seventy-five yards and collapsed.

In the Port Angeles Hospital emergency room and all that night I remained in a semi-conscious state. My ears continued bleeding from the inside and because of the concussion I had received the doctors were unable to give me pain killers to ease my suffering. So during the night I moaned out in terrible pain and repeatedly called upon the Lord. At times the nurse, who stayed continually by my side, had to tie me down for I became wild with pain.

Finally the next morning after numerous X-rays had been taken, it was determined that I had a skull fracture in the right temporal area, a basilar skull fracture, a shoulder broken in several places, a broken ankle and a dislocated neck, broken in two places with one bone so shattered that fragments were left floating around in it. As a result of their findings, without delay at 10:00 a.m. they took me to surgery and without medication drilled holes in my head above my ears in which they inserted metal tongs holding thirty-pound weights for traction. This was an excruciating ordeal.

All this time Barbara’s deep faith sustained her as she, my family and friends maintained a prayer vigil for me. At 3:00 p.m. Full Gospel Fellowship groups and church groups met for prayer in my behalf and at the same hour Pastor Robert Garling and the elders of our church, the Olympic Gospel Tabernacle in Sequim, Washington, gathered around my bedside to pray. Almost immediately I quieted down, and before they left the room, fell sound asleep until morning. Jesus changed a wild man into a sleeping baby. Also from that time on, to the amazement of the nurses and doctors, I no longer experienced any pain despite all my broken bones. I often wonder how many of us realize the magnitude of James 5:16: “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”
Sunday afternoon the doctor told Barbara that he thought surgery would be required on my neck and ankle, but first he wanted me transferred to another hospital where more extensive X-rays and a more thorough examination could be taken. He added in closing, “The excessive bleeding from his ears is coming from inside his brain. I’m afraid there’ll be permanent brain damage.”

Once taken by ambulance to the Virginia Mason Hospital in Seattle, due to my thick shoulders and short thick neck, a special type of X-rays were taken. Though still in a semi-conscious state from the concussion, I suffered terribly from their moving me so much. I grew icy cold and kept saying I was freezing.

After a week of X-rays the doctors—all specialists—decided that surgery was too great of a risk because a floating bone fragment might hit the spinal cord and produce further permanent damage. Also, such a complicated injury would necessitate going into the neck both from the front and side, and it would be almost impossible to avoid hitting vital nerves or the spinal cord itself which would cause paralysis.

I’m still vague about that first week in Seattle. Initial awareness of my condition and surroundings didn’t come until five or six days after the accident when I discovered an inability to move one of my arms and the other only partially. The doctor had already explained to Barbara that the paralysis which had developed in my arms might be permanent due to the effects of the bone pressing on the nerves. But with my realization of this, I became frightened and began to pray. Looking up, I saw
the Spirit of the Lord appear right above my bed. Then, the words, “Jesus Heals,” clearly appeared in reddish-colored letters about two inches high. At that moment my amnesia left, my mind cleared and even the paralysis started to wane.

From that day on I improved rapidly. Each day Barbara, D’Arcy and D’Ette, my nine-year-old daughter, joined me for Bible studies and a time of listening to inspirational religious tapes. Firmly we claimed Philippians 1:6: “Being confident of this very thing, that he who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ,” and Isaiah 40:31: “But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.” I believe that it was because of the power of God, and my faith in Him and His Word, that within the next few days the growing strength in my arms and legs were far beyond that due to therapy.

Finally, after I had spent fifty-nine days in traction lying flat on my back, the traction was released from my neck and I was placed into a body brace. During this time my circle bed which could be turned all the way around was raised a few degrees each day, until at last, after overcoming dizziness, I could be raised to an upright position and stand on my feet. Normally this would have been an extremely long process, but when my trial day came, they got me to a standing position, took my pulse and blood pressure and asked, “Aren’t you dizzy?” When I replied, “No,” they asked if I wanted to try a few steps. To their amazement, I took several steps and smiled broadly. Later the doctor admitted he had expected me to faint.

The very next day I sat in a chair, fed myself for the first time in two months, walked up and down the hall in a walker and felt the supernatural strength of God flowing into my body, allowing me to do the otherwise humanly impossible.

I left the hospital in a body brace which was to be worn continually for three months except for bathing and occasional relaxing. Upon my return to the hospital for X-rays and an examination ten days later, the hospital staff could hardly believe my recovery. One doctor said, “Bill, you’re lucky to be walking out of here. That bone was just too close to the spinal cord.” But I assured him it was because of the healing power of God, not luck.

Two months later I again returned for new X-rays, which the doctor then compared to those of a normal neck and said, “Your neck is normal. You can take that brace off.” This was record time for an injury such as I had sustained. I never even had to wear a stiff collar. When I reminded the doctor that the Lord Jesus Christ had healed me, he paused a moment, then looked at me and said, “I’m sure He has.”

God made my healing complete. I’m not restricted in any kind of work and have returned to my job as a communications supervisor with the Washington State Patrol at Mt. Vernon, Washington. Thanks be to God, I’m doing everything as before.
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1. Demos Shakarian, FGBMFI founder-president. 2. Warner Stevens, convention co-chairman. 3. Robert Fierro, guest of convention chairman Carl Williams (left) thanks audience for praying for his recovery and for voluntary spontaneous gift of over $12,000 to help defray recent medical expenses. 4. Charles Duncombe, minister, educator, author and editor, was a main speaker. 5. Velmer Gardner made a rare appearance to testify to his recent physical healing. 6. Henry J. Block, president of Block Brothers Industry Ltd. of Vancouver, B. C., inspired conventioners with his singing. 7. Max Krikorian, Glasgow, Montana FGBMFI field representative and chapter president spoke of God’s protective power throughout his life. He is a building contractor. 8. Cosmo deBartolo (1), FGBMFI director and president of the Youngstown, Ohio chapter, “talks shop” with Howard Alexander, FGBMFI director and president of the Fairbanks, Alaska chapter. The latter was one of six men from Alaska at the convention. 9. Steve Roseberry thrilled audiences with his operatic renditions of Gospel songs. 10. Dr. Warren Young of Cincinnati, in Phoenix for post graduate medical work, visited the convention to relate how people have been healed through his ministry of prayer as well as practice. 11. Kenneth Hagin challenged audiences with his usual positive message of faith. 12. Altars were lined nightly as many sought help from God.
Conventions.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
June 1–4, 1977
Skirvin Plaza Hotel
Bill Weaver/Dr. Lloyd Huneyager/Wendell Watkins, Chmn.
2604 N.W. 58th Pl., Oklahoma City, OK 73112

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY
June 1–4, 1977
Montclair State College, Upper Montclair
Al Mastrobuoni/Ralph Marinacci, Chmn.
P.O. Box 64, Allendale, N.J. 07401

FLORIDA STATE
June 1–4, 1977
Orlando Hyatt House
Sam Rudd/Charles Crisafulli/Wm. McNamara, Chmn.
P.O. Box 2815, Satellite Beach, FL 32937

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
June 2–4, 1977
Holiday Inn, Downtown
Dr. William R. Keller, Chmn.
Box 625, Laurel, MS 36840

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
June 8–11, 1977
Albuquerque Convention Center
Bill Smith/Clem Dixon, Chmn.
4807 Constitution Ave. N.E., Albuquerque, N.M. 87110

GEORGIA STATE
June 9–11, 1977
Dunlee Royal Coach Motor Hotel, Atlanta
Lynwood Maddox/Kermit Bradford, Chmn.
3490 Emporer Way, Tucker, GA 30084

WESTERN COLORADO/EASTERN UTAH
June 16–18, 1977
Two Rivers Plaza Convention Center
Adair Rippy/Daryl Hines, Chmn.
P.O. Box 792, Palisade, CO 81526

GREAT FALLS, MONTANA
June 23–25, 1977
Heritage Inn
Max Krikorian/Leonard Sampson/
Don Skidmore/Merle Current, Chmn.
3504 Fox Farm Road, Great Falls, MT 59404

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
June 22–25, 1977
Hotel Utah
James B. Howell, Chairman
1994 Panama St., Boise, ID 83705

CHICAGO WORLD CONVENTION
July 3–9, 1977
Conrad Hilton Hotel
Demos Shkarian/Henry Carlson, Chmn.
564 W. Fulton Ave., Chicago, IL 60606