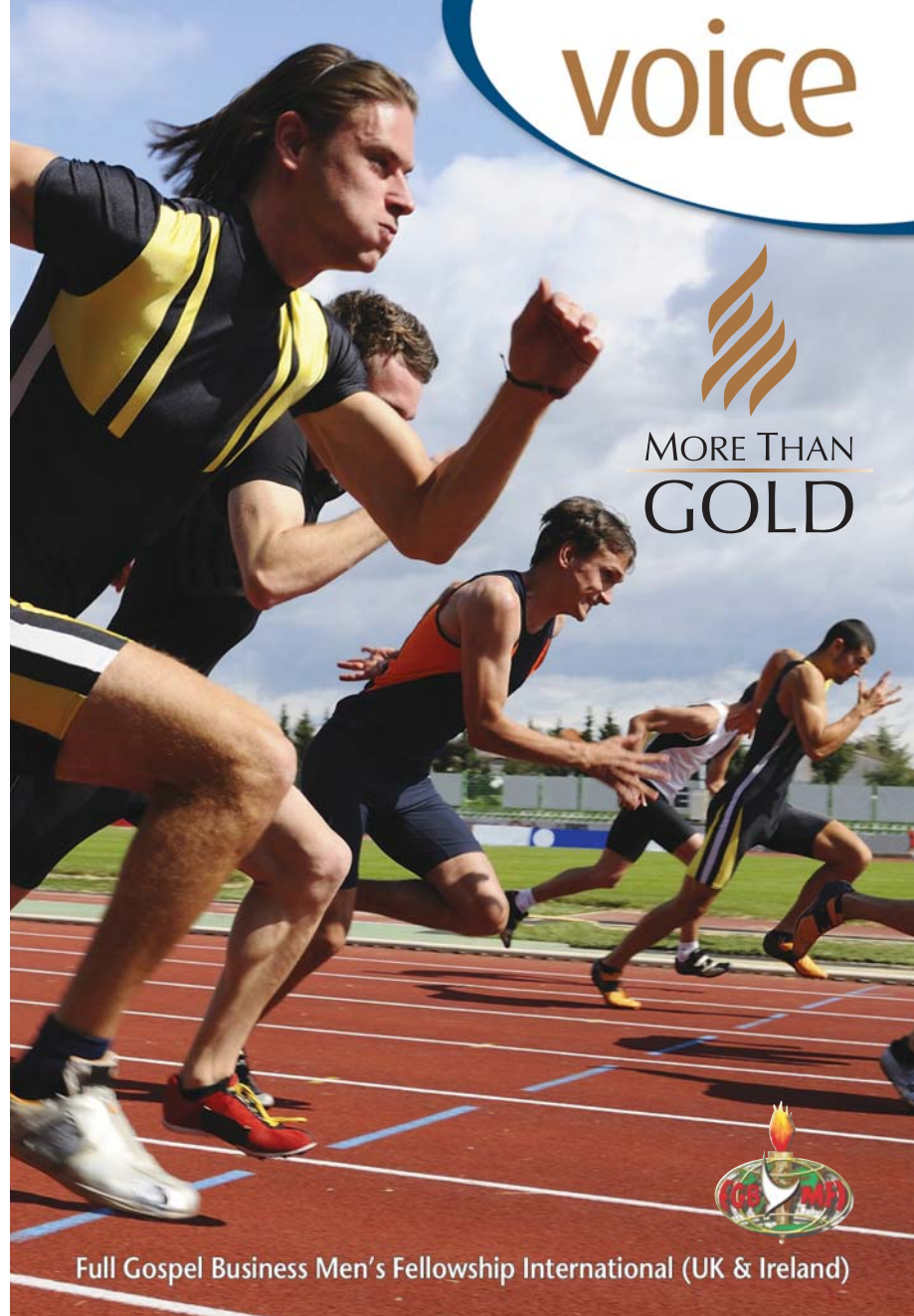


# voice



MORE THAN  
GOLD



Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (UK & Ireland)



## Ryder Cup Miracle Victory

**Bernhard Langer – German World Champion Golfer**

I come from a family near Augsburg with a humble background. I did not have pocket money so I went to the Golf Club as a Caddy to make some money. A Club member kindly gave me four golf clubs, including a bent putter, so I started to play golf.

To everyone's astonishment, because I was unknown, I won a German professional event at Munich when I was sixteen. But then I got a strange illness called 'Yips'. Surgeons and athletes get it. One suffers from uncontrollable shakes in the hands that does not help putting. Then came some very tough training in the Air Force. I suffered back injuries and was in hospital. It seemed as if my

golfing career was over just when it was taking off.

After my military service, with perseverance and willpower, I got back to golf and in 1983 was winning some European tournaments. Finally, in 1985, I won the US Master's Tournament at Augusta, Georgia. I had reached the top! I also met and married Vikki, a gorgeous girl from

Louisiana. Yet with all this success I felt an emptiness, a void.

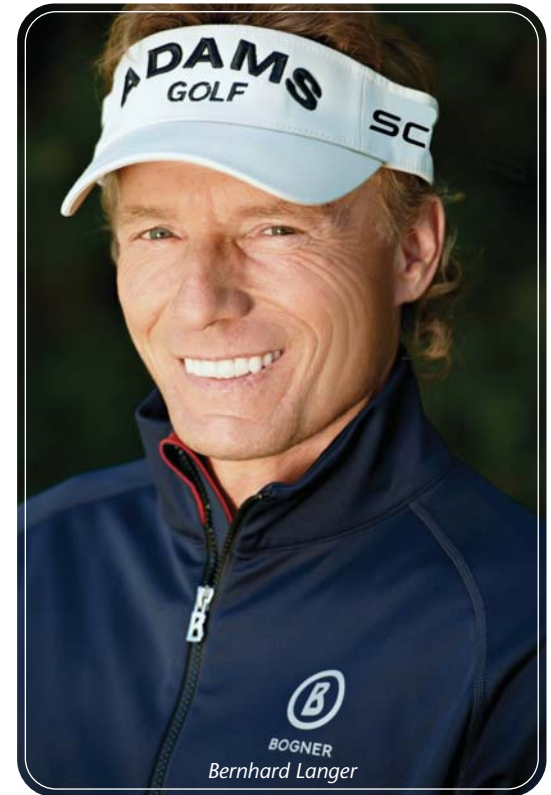
Fame and money and marriage did not bring the joy I had hoped for.

One day Bobby Clampett asked me to a Bible Study led by Larry Moody. We read about Nicodemus being told by Jesus that he could not see or enter Heaven until he was born again by the Spirit of God. This is not a physical birth, but a spiritual birth. It comes to those who recognise that we have all sinned and so cannot enter heaven. The only solution is to ask Jesus to forgive us, to take our sins and give us His 'Robe of Righteousness.'

Heaven is a gift for those humble enough to ask for it.

So Vikki and I invited Jesus to be our Lord and Saviour. Gradually I found that the peace and joy I had longed for became real. I stopped swearing, did not become angry so easily, became more patient. I was a new creation, a child of God. WOW!

As a consequence God has blessed the work of my hands as He promises. I was Captain of the European Ryder Cup Team against USA in 2004. USA



were the firm favourites but we won by a 18½:9½ record result. We gave thanks to God for a victory that seemed miraculous.

Life as a Christian has many trials and testings, but God promises to be with us and help us, and it is the only way to Eternal Life in Heaven. Most people go down the broad highway that ends in destruction. I hope that you will join Vikki and me by taking the narrow gate and the hard way that leads to Eternal Life.

# How the Blind can See

**Keith Oliver**  
Olympic Biathlon Competitor



I was born in Liverpool and lived my childhood with foster parents. When I finished school my education was very poor. I was a complete introvert. Later I heard one of my cross country team guys say "He can't half run, but he can't talk."

When I left school at 15 I worked in a factory before joining the Army about a year later as a Junior Soldier where my education improved. Before being posted to Germany I became the Army Cross Country Champion. I was encouraged to compete in the biathlon which is cross country skiing and shooting (a sport in which you need the stamina of a marathon runner and the marksmanship of a shooter). These sports became a major part of my life for 25 years.

I competed in three Olympics, 1972, '76 and '80 and I was a coach in the 1988 Olympics. I still have the best

Olympic positions in the UK and was honoured to carry the flag at the 1980 Olympics closing ceremony. Later I was given the BEM for services to sport.

In 1979, on one of the summer training camps in Dorset, I went to church where I was impressed by the sincere preaching of Stephanie Grindley, the lay preacher. During a talk with her after the service she explained that Jesus Christ, God's son, came into our world to save us from our sinful nature that leads to Hell. We are all blind to this until we humble ourselves and ask Jesus to be our Lord

and Saviour. He can then take our sins on the Cross and open the door to Heaven if we persevere in our new life. She then said "Do you want to become a Christian?" I said I would and she then helped me to invite Jesus into my heart.

About a week after becoming a Christian one of the national ski staff said to me that I had changed. He didn't know that God was changing my life. Now I was reading the Bible all the time and understanding it. The things I was doing wrong I now didn't seem to have the desire to do any more. It was a great feeling to know

for sure that God had answered my simple prayer to become a Christian.

My wife Margaret soon became a Christian and we both got water Baptised at an Easter Convention in Germany which was organised by the Army Scripture Readers Association.

Later I was 'Baptised in the Holy Spirit' as at Pentecost. This empowered me to share my faith with anyone. I'm the President of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship in Chippenham. To find a Fellowship in your area telephone our HQ on 01565 632667 or look at the website [www.fgbmfi.org.uk](http://www.fgbmfi.org.uk).

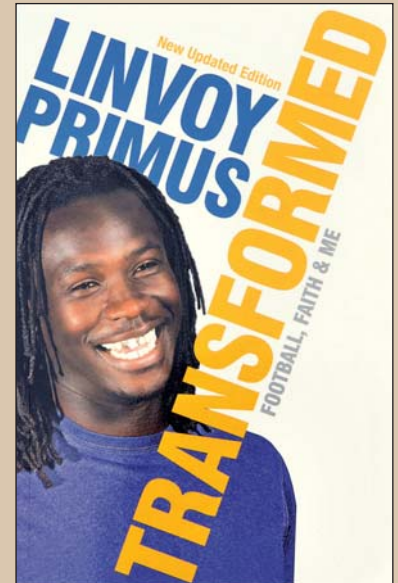
Keith Oliver can be contacted on [keitholiver72@btinternet.com](mailto:keitholiver72@btinternet.com)

## TRANSFORMED

### The story of Linvoy Primus

Football was my God. Everything I did, all the decisions I made were geared towards my ambition of success and fame through football. Following my time at Charlton Athletic as a young footballer and my other experiences at Barnet FC and Reading FC I realised that football could be a hard and heartless industry and that fame and fortune does not make you happy.

I had always tried to be loyal and work hard for the clubs I played for but



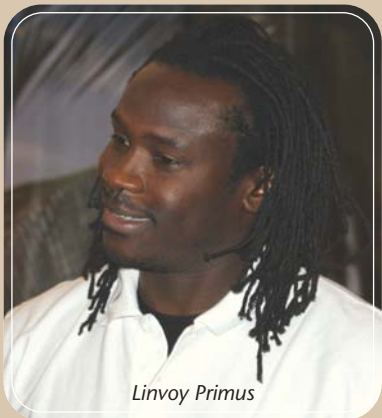
had been treated harshly and unfairly. As a result I came to hate football and all it stood for. That really set me questioning the whole way of the world and its values.

Suddenly life didn't seem fair. What sort of race was it, and was it worth it? Out of those feelings I had an urge to buy a Bible and go to church, but I didn't know where to go and I didn't know anybody.

When I came to Portsmouth FC I met Darren Moore who was a Christian. He helped me in my decision to give my life to Jesus and since then I haven't looked back. At last I knew what real peace in my life was and my whole attitude to football

and people changed as God changed me on the inside. As my confidence in God rose my relationships improved and I even began to play without fear and as a result perform to a higher level than I could have ever imagined – I even became 'Player of the Season'!

After an amazing 10 years at Portsmouth FC I can honestly say I owe everything to God and my life



*Linvoy Primus*

**After an amazing 10 years at Portsmouth FC I can honestly say I owe everything to God and my life just seems to get better and better!**

football and life in general. I'm sure it has been yours too! You only have to look at the current economic climate as an example of that. Circumstances seem to change suddenly and for no apparent reason sometimes plunging us into turmoil, uncertainty, even hopelessness.

However, since I became a Christian and have a personal relationship with God I have found that He is an unchanging rock in my life. No matter what is happening I know that He is with me through every change and storm of life and His promise of peace in my heart and mind give me a certainty of hope nothing else in life has ever done!

"The Lord is my rock, my protection, my Saviour. My God is my rock." Psalm 18 v2.

just seems to get better and better! I know God has an amazing plan for my future and that He will continue to use my football gifting for His glory.

Life is full of uncertainty. I can say that without fear of contradiction. That has been my experience both in

football and life in general. I'm sure it has been yours too! You only have to look at the current economic climate as an example of that. Circumstances seem to change suddenly and for no apparent reason sometimes plunging us into turmoil, uncertainty, even hopelessness.

## Crashing into Heaven

### Stuart Braye Paraplegic Olympic Medal Winner



*Stuart with his wife Marion*

I was born in 1958. Our family were not Christians and we never had prayers, Bible stories or church attendance. A normal family. I joined the Army and enlisted in the Royal Corps of Signals. In my final year in the Army I was attached to the Special Air Service in the 264 (SAS) Signal Squadron.

About a year prior to this my brother Charles and his family became Christians. Late one evening in 1981 I was bragging about how fit I was and he was telling me about Jesus. Having almost convinced me that Heaven was a good place, he said that the only way to get there was to, "ask Jesus to come into your life." I said that I would do that "just before I die".

I left the Army in 1981 to marry my wife Marion the following year, and began work driving articulated heavy goods vehicles. In March 1985, on my way to Glasgow, as I approached a traffic jam on the M6, the brakes on

my lorry completely failed. In a split second I thought, "This is it! I'm dead!" But I forgot my promise to ask Jesus into my life.

My right leg was completely crushed. In hospital my leg was amputated below the knee. Awesome!! What followed was a decade of ups and downs as I struggled badly to cope with life as a disabled person. Physically, however, I did well. I was quickly lifting weights and getting into athletics with other amputees.

By 1991 I was the fourth fastest below knee amputee in the World and the fastest European over 100, 200 and

400 metres. In 1992 I won a Bronze medal in the 400 metres at the Barcelona Paralympic Games. I had gained a Masters Degree in Sports Management and a secure job working in sports development. My family was great and we had a really nice house. I seemed to have



everything, but inside I was a total mess. Depressed, lonely, unhappy, unloving, not scoring very highly as a husband or dad and not liking myself very much. But a wonderful change was very near.

On 9th January 1996 my brother was diagnosed with cancer. He was peaceful and grateful for his life. I was a mess. After my first visit to see him I went to bed. Suddenly I remembered, "To become a Christian ask Jesus to come into your life." So that is exactly

what I did, quietly but audibly. I woke up the next day a totally different person. Marion says that I went to visit my brother like a cross between Arnold Schwarzenegger and Rambo and the next morning I was a cross between John the Baptist and Cliff Richard!

It is very hard to describe the change in me. Now I knew God, I knew I was forgiven for my sins, I knew Jesus, I was filled with the Holy Spirit. I was a new person. Still me but a much better me. I felt God tell me not to worry about my family or say too much. A year after this Marion became a Christian and our boys, then aged 11 and 13, made their first commitment. They are strong Christians today, Mike a worship leader and Andy a preacher.

God has never let us down. Marion has survived breast cancer; Andy survived a tour of Iraq with the Parachute Regiment. I now work as a Senior Lecturer in Sports Sociology at Teesside University. Life has been tough at times, but the last 16 years with Jesus have been the best. When things appear to go wrong, Jesus just gets closer. I hope you do as I did and ask Jesus to come into your life. You won't regret it!

Stuart Braye can be contacted at [stuartbraye@aol.com](mailto:stuartbraye@aol.com)



## *Saved to Serve*

**Michael Lapage – Silver Medal winner in the 1948 Olympics**

**I**n 1939, after securing a place at Cambridge, I was called up to start training in the Navy as a Fleet Air Arm pilot. Kneeling to pray in a barrack room took a bit of determination. My brother had advised me, "Let it be known immediately just whom you trust in." No boots came flying. In fact a hush descended on the dormitory. The next day two other recruits came to suggest we meet for prayer.

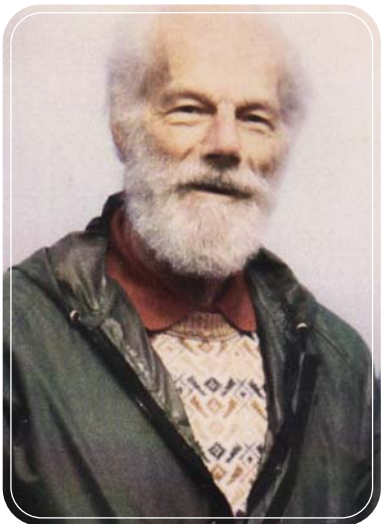
The next step was to learn how to land a Seafire (the naval version of the Spitfire) on the small deck of an escort carrier. The in-line engine gave it a long nose which had to be raised for landing at 68 knots. The stalling speed was 63 knots and it meant opening the cockpit hood and coming in on a curved approach with one eye on the batsman on deck and the other on the airspeed and altitude.

In April 1944, 807 Squadron joined the Carrier HMS Hunter in the Mediterranean. Seafires were wonderful in the air, but we had casualties. Over Southern France my wing man went down in flames. Next year, in the Pacific Fleet, I had a Japanese Zero on my tail; part of it was shot away. Why had I been spared? Perhaps because the Lord had work for me to do after the war. "Saved to serve"

became my prayer of thanksgiving.

At Cambridge, in January 1946, I took up rowing again, having rowed in my school VIII. I was selected for the University crew in 1948, a record-breaking year. Then, with very little warning, the Olympic Games appeared on the horizon and my Cambridge crew was finally selected to represent GB. We went through to win silver medals, losing only to a strong and well-fed crew from California University!

The calling to put Christ first led me to join the Church Missionary Society, but first I was advised to find a post in the UK for a year's experience. It turned out to be two happy years at Winchester College, coaching the school VIII. The crew won the Schools' Head of the River race at Putney, and the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley. The temptation to accept an offer to stay on had to be resisted! So I went to Kenya teaching in a school right on the Equator. Nearby was a Bible School where the Principal's daughter was about to attend the same Kenya Keswick Convention that I had booked



in for! We were engaged a week later and married the following year, both convinced of the Lord's leading. My reputation changed from being an Olympic oarsman to that of Canon Butcher's son-in-law, a good knock to my pride.

One day, on the way back from visiting a remote school, I came to a sandy river-bed crossing. Half way across, the car sank gently on to its belly. It was 7 miles each way to get help and I was on my own, or so I thought. Nothing for it but to walk, but first a short prayer. After walking for five minutes I saw, to my astonishment, a detachment of the British Army out on a training exercise with heavy moving equipment. They got my car back on the road in a matter of minutes. "Thank you, Lord," I breathed inwardly and outwardly to the Army, for answering my prayer so quickly.

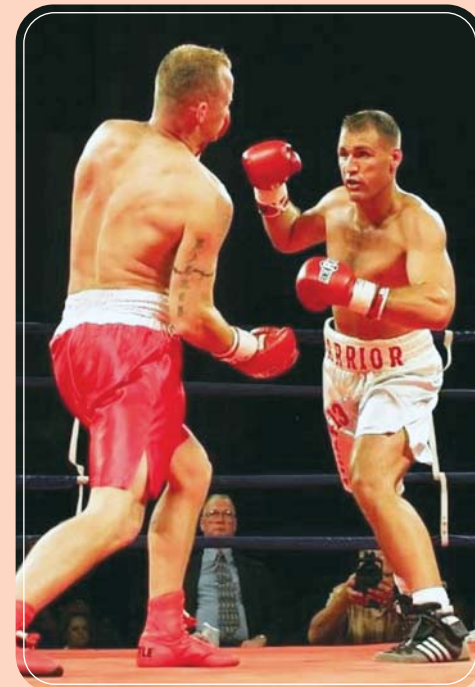
I hope my story shows that we have a prayer answering God who helps us when we call upon Him. But first we have to get to know Him, and that is only a prayer away.

Michael Lapage can be contacted at [mike@lapage.me.uk](mailto:mike@lapage.me.uk)

## More precious than Gold

### Cleveland Corder

Winner of NBA and IBC World Championships



I had been boxing since I was eight years old, and the Olympics were my lifelong dream. I was twenty three years old and had been following Jesus for about two years and growing stronger in His love every day.

I was on my way to the Olympic Games in 1996 – at least that is what I thought. I had my gear, my Bible and my spiritual pastor, Cliff Hancock. I felt unbeatable. The tournament was a double elimination, meaning you can lose one and still have another chance to make it. My first opponent was Michael Nunnley. During the bout, I was doing well, but not what I know I was capable of doing. I ended up losing the match. I didn't understand why I wasn't boxing up to my

potential; but I still had another chance at my dream.

I really wanted to go out in the next match and win. My opponent was Darnell Wilson. But, then something happened. I couldn't get off. I was slow and sluggish. I boxed just fine, but again... not fine enough. I was defeated, and my Olympic dreams were crushed. I didn't understand. I thought that this was what God wanted for me.



*The CAM Middleweight Title belt is awarded to Cleveland by Jim Hagen*

I flew home the next day and my parents tried to comfort me all day, but I wasn't being very cooperative. The next day was Easter Sunday, and I said they could come to church with me if they wanted. They had never attended church before and were a little hesitant, but went with me anyway.

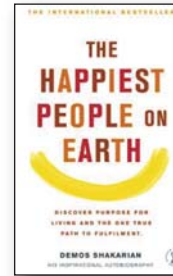
The next morning as I sat in the congregation and watched my parents devote their own lives to Jesus for the first time, I realised that God had given me the best gift of all. Sure, I wasn't at the Olympics winning a gold medal, but on the Easter Sunday, 30 March, 1996, I wasn't supposed to be at the Olympics. Instead, God wanted me there – in church – witnessing my parents becoming real born again Christians. My family were baptised all together later that month.

That was more precious than the Gold Medal I might have won.

My family and I are very blessed having Jesus as our Friend. I ended my amateur career losing to the 1996 Olympic gold medalist. I was blessed to beat two Olympic bronze medallists, Germaine Taylor and Roshi Wells. They both went on to have great careers, Germaine Taylor becoming the world's undisputed middle weight champion.

I have been blessed with a great wife and three wonderful boys. I have never looked back in regret. Through my many accomplishments and my many mistakes, I have learned to walk the path God has for me not the path I want to walk. As God tells us in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

**Cleveland Corder can be contacted at [teamcorder@yahoo.com](mailto:teamcorder@yahoo.com)**



## The Happiest People On Earth

This book contains the remarkable story of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International and its founder Demos Shakarian.

What began as a vision given to Demos, a business man, has spread to over 160 countries with almost 5,000 Chapters meeting in every continent of the world.

The most challenging feature is how God put His seal on the Fellowship, after early efforts to launch it failed.

It is a story to make you both laugh and cry but above all, build your faith in God and all He can do through dedicated men who love and serve Him. You will see God really does use ordinary men in the most surprising ways. To obtain a copy please contact the Office at Knutsford, address on the back cover.

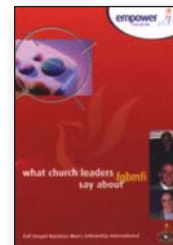


**empower**  
men for life

## What Church Leaders say about FGBMFI

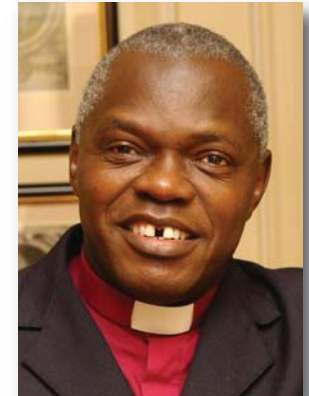
In this booklet church leaders, from a wide range of Christian denominations, affirm their support for Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. They highlight its effectiveness in reaching men, usually outside the church, with the message of God's love.

The Fellowship works as an arm of the church, revealing the power of Christ to men. The result is that God changes even the roughest diamonds into men of God.



"Here are men who take seriously Christ's command to preach the good news. They have found the will and the words to witness to God's deeds of power, Acts 2.11. We need more men like them who not only share what Jesus has done for them, but also practice what they preach in their work places."

**The Most Rev and Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York**



# Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

Local Chapter contact telephone numbers

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Killarney 00 353 66 714 7327  
Limerick 00 353 61 341 472  
Port Laoise 00 353 87 910 6766  
Tralee 00 353 68 23511  
Wexford 00 353 53 917 0078

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Southend on Sea 07980 019 217

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Isle of Wight 01983 840313  
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Weymouth & Portland 01305 826864

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Dartford 01474 356427  
Eastbourne 01323 729786  
Gateway to Europe (Folkestone)  
07717 696 580

Gravesend 01474 356427  
Horsham 01403 260380  
Maidstone 01622 743134  
Medway 01634 377965  
New Ash Green 01322 863171  
Royal Tunbridge Wells 01732 822713  
Sevenoaks/Weald 01732 832079  
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Halifax 07812 939336  
Hope Valley/Sheffield 0114 246 3601  
Hull & District 01482 817724  
Morpeth 01670 737311  
Ripon 01765 606133  
Stamford 01780 753557  
Stokesley 01609 775134

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Chester 01244 675892  
Douglas, Isle of Man 01624 677051  
Eden Valley 01833 637035  
Liverpool City 07958 781 229  
Liverpool University 07505 462 093  
Manchester 0161 684 7486  
Northwich (North Cheshire)  
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South Cheshire 01270 650424  
Standish 01942 245266  
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## If you have been challenged by the life stories in this Voice you may be asking, "How can I become a Christian?"

A Christian is someone who has a personal relationship with God by inviting Jesus to become their Lord and Saviour.

God loves and accepts you just as you are. He is able to turn any mess into something marvellous! To become a Christian and to receive the gift of Eternal Life there are three steps to take:

### Step 1

**Admit** that you have sinned and need a Saviour to deal with your past and assure your future.

### Step 2

**Believe** that Jesus is the Son of God who died on the Cross to pay the penalty for your sins.

### Step 3

**Receive** Jesus as Saviour and Lord of your life by personal invitation and ask His forgiveness for your sins.

## Why not pray this simple prayer NOW to invite Jesus into your life

Heavenly Father, I confess that I have sinned and am separated from you. But I believe you showed your love for me by sending your Son Jesus to die on the Cross for my sins. So I turn to you, Lord Jesus, with great thankfulness. I surrender my life to you.

I ask you to forgive me for all my sins, to cleanse me from all unrighteousness and to send the Holy Spirit to live in me as my friend, my teacher and my comforter.

I reject Satan and every evil spirit in the name of Jesus Christ and I declare the Word of God, "If the Son has set you free, you are free indeed". I declare that Jesus has set me free from all my sins and from every bondage of Satan. I have been born again, I am a child of God, I am a new creation, I have eternal life, in Jesus' mighty name.

Please let us know of your decision so that we can send you helpful information to "empower you for Life".

Please send me details of Chapter meetings in my area.

Please send me "New Life in Christ" booklet.

First Name: .....

Surname: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Tel: .....

E-mail: .....

Data information will only be used to send you details of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International information. (Full address details overleaf.)

If you have a testimony please send it to the Editor with jpeg photos at [info@branchpress.com](mailto:info@branchpress.com)



**Ryder Cup Miracle Victory**

Bernhard Langer



**How the Blind can See**

Keith Oliver

**Independence**

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**More precious than Gold**

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**Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (UK & Ireland)**

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