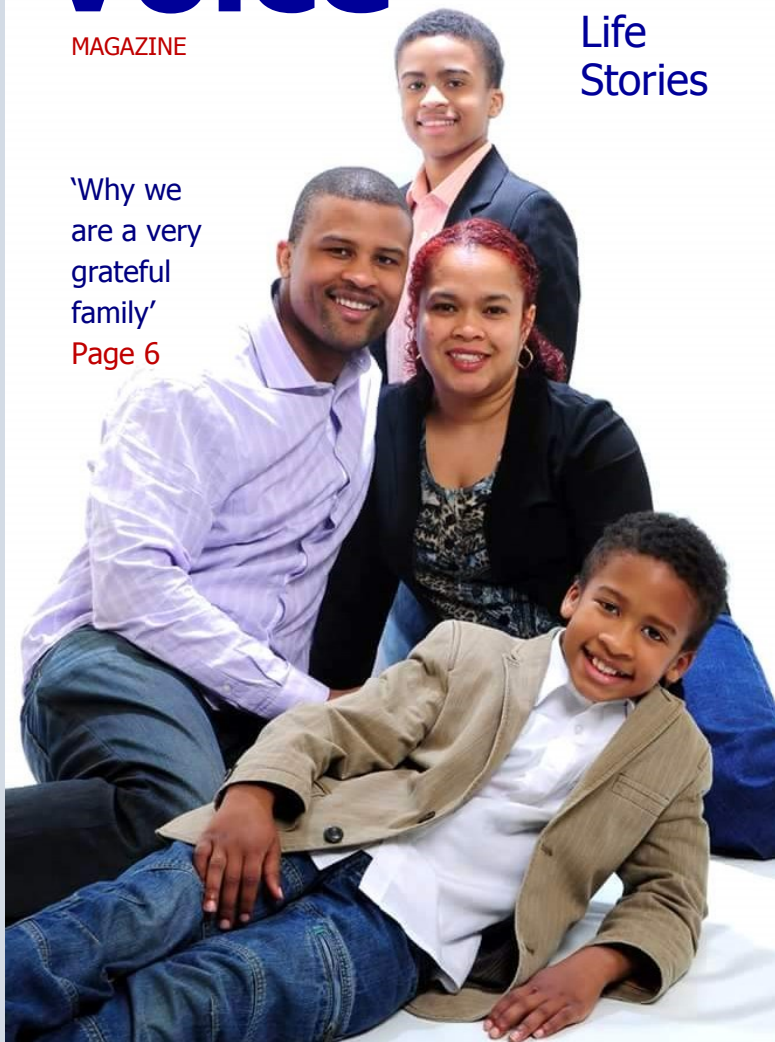


Voice

MAGAZINE

Sharing
New
Life
Stories

'Why we
are a very
grateful
family'
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More about your Voice magazine

For more than 50 years, this pocket-sized magazine has been distributed around the world in many languages.

In each issue, we share inspirational stories of ordinary people who share their own story in their own words.

Each story tells how the writer came to a living faith in Jesus Christ, who promised an abundant life to all who would trust in Him.

Jesus asked his followers:

“Are you tired? Worn out?
Burned out on religion?
Come to me. Get away with
me and you'll recover your
life.

“I'll show you how to take a
real rest. Walk with me and
work with me - watch how I
do it . . . I won't lay anything
heavy or ill-fitting on you.
Keep company with me and
you'll learn how to live freely
and lightly.”

- *An extract from Matthew
11:28 in the Bible, using the
popular 'Message' translation.*

The best news of my life

*Clive Addison, right,
a former Chief Officer in
Local Government and an
international expert in
horticulture, shares his
uplifting story*

I was surprised, even shocked, during a discussion group at the home of my neighbour, Peter, when a senior Local Government official shared his story – and mentioned that he had a heartfelt personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The speaker, Don Latham, said he ‘involved Jesus in every business decision.’ But what on earth did he mean? I’d never met anyone who included *God* in his professional career!

As I recall my childhood at Lymington, on the South Coast, I’d found church services incredibly boring. On Sundays, our family also went



sailing in the Solent and I much preferred that.

When I grew up and left home, I stopped attending church. Yet the strange story of the man in the same profession as me, and who heard from God, made me curious. So I'll share more later about the impact of that in a moment.

I'll mention here that I qualified in horticulture and met my wife, Heather, at college. We had two children, Lorna and Duncan. My family attended the local village church, but on Sundays I often found other things to do around the house and garden, instead!

I was also ambitious in my

work and studied hard for further qualifications – I wanted to be a Chief Officer in Local Government. I began with parks management in Swindon. Later, I became deputy parks manager for the city of Bath. Finally, after 15 years as a Director in a number of other Local Authorities, I took early retirement and became a worker with the Royal Horticultural Society as a judge for the 'Britain in Bloom' competition, where villages, towns and cities compete for the best environmental and landscape practices.

For six years I represented the UK as a judge in the European competition called '*Entente Florale*' – and became chairman of their international jury as we travelled to 12 countries. It seemed to me that I'd come a long way from early days as an assistant gardener to reaching the top of my profession.

Today, looking back, I vividly recall that day I first heard Don Latham tell us how he daily sought God's guidance in making important decisions. It set me thinking - and with some curiosity I accepted an invitation to attend a dinner evening of a Christian businessmen's fellowship at a local hotel.

The speaker was a professional marketing executive, who also

involved Jesus in everything he did! At the end of his talk, he invited non-Christian visitors to receive Jesus into their lives – to receive ‘new life.’ The Bible calls this being ‘born again’ spiritually, and in that way we also receive eternal life, he said.

Now I realised I definitely *didn’t* know this Jesus. I made no response to his appeal, perhaps through pride. Yet I was aware that this series of ‘God-encounters’ were no accident. I remembered that discussion group, when someone said, ‘if anyone wants to get serious with God, they should read John’s Gospel in the Bible.’

So, back home, I found a Bible which opened at that very spot. As my eyes flew across the pages of John’s Gospel, the words at the top of the page stood out: ‘Jesus said: “I tell you the truth, those who hear my message and believe in God who sent me, have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death to life.”’ (*John 5:24*).

I was amazed as I re-read those words – I felt God was speaking directly to my heart. The next verse promised: “I assure you that the time is coming, indeed

it’s here now, when the [spiritually] dead will hear my voice - the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live.”

Deep down, I knew I was spiritually ‘dead’, but if I ‘heard His voice’ and accepted Christ as my Saviour, then this would be life-changing. I couldn’t resist this God-given invitation, and confessed my long time indifference to God’s love. Then I asked Jesus to be Lord of my life. A simple step, but it has truly proven to be a life-changing decision.

Now, years later, that precious moment is still fresh in my mind. My new life as a believer in Jesus has been so much better than anything I could have dreamt. It was the best news ever – even my professional career ‘took off’ in a miraculous way. For example, I didn’t have the right qualifications but I was accepted for a MSc university course. Within two years, at the age of only 36, I gained my first position as a Chief Officer of a large multi-disciplined department in Local Government.

I found fellowship with other believers and was involved in exciting challenges – I’ve

always loved foreign travel. So in my new joy as a Christian I was involved in smuggling Bibles into 'closed' countries. We saw miraculous answers to prayer as we trusted the Holy Spirit to guide us.

Life can of course be tough for all of us, but Jesus promises never, ever to leave us. This is true, even in devastating times. Heather and I were heartbroken when our 16-year-old son, Duncan, who was once so wonderfully full of life, became seriously ill with leukaemia. He died, aged 19.

We faced agonising questions – why hadn't God healed Duncan? Yet in our confusion we knew many people were praying for our family, and we were strengthened by the Holy Spirit who is also called 'the Comforter'.

We know that death is not the end of the story – and Duncan is in Heaven right now, because the Bible promises us that 'nothing can ever separate us from God's love . . . neither death nor life . . . no power in the sky above or in the earth below will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ



Jesus our Lord.' (*Romans 8*). Despite our tears, there was joy ahead: six months later, our daughter, Lorna, now married to Stephen, told us they were expecting their first baby - and our first grandson arrived safely. Today, Heather and I have five healthy and active grandsons, **pictured above**. The family lives and works in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia and we regularly visit them.

We don't know what the future holds, but God will see us through. There's a little verse that says, "taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed are those who take refuge in Him." (*Psalm 34:8*).

That has been our experience – why don't you make it yours?

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Why we're a very grateful family

*Our cover story:
Aubrey Morris,
teacher, musician, singer
and author, shares a
journey of faith that has
taken him from South
Africa to Ireland*



I grew up among a family of 12 children in South Africa – we were hardworking but desperately poor. In our two-room home, it was difficult to even find a place to ‘put your head down’ at night.

As children, we made our own toys and sometimes went hungry, yet despite abject poverty, I remained quite optimistic that life would one day get better. Then, at secondary school, the very kind secretary, Mrs Goss, asked me what I was going to do next – and advised me to apply for a study grant. Amazingly, this was

awarded to me and I went to university - I felt it must be ‘a gift from God’ although I wasn’t a Christian. “Someone up there must be looking after me,” I thought.

At 17, I was drawn with other young people into drink, drugs and discos - despite the advice of my dear Granny who was the only Christian in our family. She loved me a lot and we were very close. But if you had said ‘Jesus’ to me, I wouldn’t have known much about him.

One of my younger brothers, still at secondary school, attended a Christian fellowship,

led by my former maths teacher, Mr Wayne Thring. Some of the members of this 'strange' but happy group visited our home and I had to admit that there was something genuine and magnetic about them – they were happy - and I wanted what they had. *But how?*

Three months later, I went back to that school, met my former maths teacher in the foyer, and said: "I want Jesus in my life." And right there, as Wayne prayed for me with his hand on my shoulder, I was 'born again.' It was that simple - suddenly the awful emptiness left me and God's love filled my life for the first time.

As the bad things fell away from my life, sceptical friends thought it a was joke that I had become a Christian, but I had flushed away all the drugs, declaring "no more!" It was a day of release and deliverance.

I've always loved sport, especially football and athletics. At University, talent scouts came to the Freshman's Ball, looking for people who they felt 'had the edge' to work in TV ads, catalogue and fashion modelling. They invited me to a free modelling course and soon I was working with producers and making money. It was a thrill for me, because I've always been fascinated by the media, the

music industry - as well as writing plays. This continued even when I was a teacher, as I ran a children's choir and launched a Christian club in a secular school where hundreds of kids came to faith in Jesus Christ. They would share their joy with their families, so that some parents got linked up with the local church, too. It was such a buzz – I really enjoyed it.

I met my future wife, Auriol, in 1998, and we were married two years later. In due course we had two sons, Dillon and Levi.

In my work, I knew God was calling me to minister into the lives of young people, and for four years I headed up the Sports Department at a Christian school.

By then, three of my brothers were living in Ireland – and I woke up one morning with a strong impression that Auriol and I would be moving there, too. Four months later it happened! And for nine years I worked at a Christian School in Dundalk, the county town of County Louth, Ireland – about half way between Dublin and Belfast!

I graduated from Bible School at Grace Fellowship church. We also felt led to serve with Newry Christian Centre, where I was Youth Pastor for two years.

Newry, in Northern Ireland, is an historic town on the border of Counties Down and Armagh.

I now teach at Newry Christian Centre Bible School. I also assist with the worship team and preach occasionally. In 2011, I took a mission team to South Africa.

I discovered early on as a Christian that life isn't always 'a bed of roses'. I have also known great sadness – having lost four members of my family, including my dear brother Leon, who was a Christian, too. However, I know from the Bible that he is 'with the Lord' and one day I'll see him again.

I've also learned that even as a believer, our lives are very much 'a work in progress'. God is so merciful – when we turn back to him there is always a fresh start with the help of the Holy Spirit.

In my early years of poverty, I often felt I was 'fighting to catch up' – I was overly competitive, always busy with this and that - and for years I struggled with frustration and anger issues.

Sadly, I brought this problem into my marriage. Ten years ago, despite much counselling, we faced the prospect of our marriage breaking down. Frankly, at that point, my life

was a mess. I remember driving away from home in tears, feeling far away from God. Then, at my lowest moment, I heard God whisper in my heart: *"I can fix your marriage."*

I turned the car around and drove back home. With God's help, Auriol and I rebuilt our marriage, as I learned to sort out my priorities as a husband.

God has truly blessed us as a family - we have so much to be grateful for! I know first-hand the freedom that is ours because of the restorative love of God. Whatever challenges you may face, please don't give up – *because God does not give up on you.*

I've discovered, too, that the Holy Spirit enables us to discover our God-given destiny to bring hope and blessing to others. For example, I've always dreamed of becoming an author, so with my wife's encouragement, I've written two books to help people to 'dream again' - to seek those things that God has for them as they pursue their goals and visions.

My first book is called "Wisdom for Life 101 – Life-changing Principles."

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Staying strong in tough times

*Businessman **Gordon Bambridge**, right, shares a story of recovery in the face of great loss*

One simple family event on a Sunday morning in May was a life-changer for my wife, Jacqueline and I.

Like many families, we had decided to have our two young daughters christened in the local Church of England – not so much for faith reasons, but really as an excuse for a big family party – which we did!

However, we hadn't reckoned on a 'God-encounter' in that service because, through it, we both became aware of our need for personal salvation.

Up to that point I'd say I was a normal chap with no real faith, but with a general belief in God. In my work I was reasonably



successful as a salesman with managerial positions, and well-regarded in my company.

After the guests left the christening party, Jacqui and I talked beyond midnight about the impact of the service – and eventually we both joined the local church! As we steadily grew in our new faith, we led Bible studies, taught in Sunday school and I even became a lay preacher in various denominations.

More surprises were in store for us: our church life was rocked by some members who claimed they had been 'filled with the Holy Spirit' and even spoke in a new prayer language, called 'speaking in tongues.'

Well, I 'knew better'! So I

took it upon myself to call on them, and 'set them straight' about what the Bible says about this phenomenon.

The outcome was quite different, as I too was soon baptised in the Holy Spirit in a church meeting in a neighbouring village.

I, too, spoke in tongues - an experience I had once struggled to ignore. I realised that God is very good to his reluctant followers.

This experience of knowing the presence and power of the Holy Spirit led us to a much closer walk with God – we started seeing miracles in so many areas of our lives. For example, trusting God to meet our material needs, even in the midst of a sudden business disaster when we lost everything through fraud.

There were healings, too – we prayed for a friend who faced a cancer operation but who was fully healed.

Around that time I was invited to a dinner of the Full Gospel Businessmen (FGB) in



After their visit to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace: Councillor Gordon Bambridge and his wife, Jacqueline

Norwich, part of a worldwide fellowship of Christian laymen.

I had even distributed their 'Voice' magazines, like the one you are reading now.

Up to then I thought that this fellowship was mainly in America, without realising they had a local Chapter a mile from my home in Norfolk!

I was really too ill to attend, due to a slipped disc in my lower back. During the early part of the evening, whilst people were singing a worship song, my back was totally healed, although no-one was praying for me. I shared my story after the meeting and became an instant FGB member.

Since I was filled with the Holy

Spirit 37 years ago, it has been my privilege to speak at church and FGB events all over the UK, as well as in Europe and North America. I've seen hundreds respond to the message of Jesus, but I've also learned that being a Christian can bring testing and trials.

As our wholesale business prospered, we were able to also promote the Gospel - I was able to take time out to travel and share the message of Jesus at home and abroad.

Then, in the 1990s, whilst visiting friends, FGB chapters and local churches in America, my business suffered a large fraud. Deals collapsed and we lost most of our stock, leaving us with massive debts - we also lost our savings, our home and pension rights.

In sharing my story, I had always emphasised our "trust in God for all things, including our substance." Now we had a new baby - but had lost our home and everything else, except for about £11 in cash.

Somehow we managed to keep our faith in Jesus to see us through, even as we moved into a 70-year-old wooden caravan on a field we owned. We had no electricity, no phone, no mains water - and

we never drew benefits.

Eventually we won permission to build our small home on this field, thanks to low rates provided by builders.

Amazingly, I also paid all my trade creditors without falling out with any of them. My biggest creditor, when he was told of my bankruptcy, said: "I know you are a man of honour, so place my account on the bottom of the pile and forget it till you can pay."

In due time, I was discharged from bankruptcy and I remain self-employed. I was also elected to a District Council in 2003, serving in many capacities, and being re-elected three times with an increased majority each time.

I know that my story of "trusting in God" is truly the way He has led us. We have learned that God really is the Great Restorer, who heals the broken hearted. I also know that whatever trials I face, I can remain strong because of the victory that Christ has won for us on the Cross. If you are facing tough times, remember that Jesus is only a prayer away. He longs to help you - all we need to do is ask.

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My journey from conflict to peace

Civil engineer Daniel Nquot shares his remarkable story

More than a million people died in the three-year Civil War in Nigeria. I was a child when my family fled from our remote village and we became refugees.

Up to that point I was a happy-go-lucky 10-year-old who loved playing football in our village of Mbiabong in south-east Nigeria. My father died of sickness during the conflict.

After the war, we moved back to our village. I was so fortunate to prosper after the terrible war: I was a keen student and became the only one in my immediate family who eventually went to University where I studied civil engineering and also gained a master's degree in structural engineering. I later became Chief Engineer with the Highways Department.

Looking back to those early

days, it seemed that God was looking after me, though I had no idea why. I wasn't religious, although our family was nominally Methodist. You might say I was a 'gentle sinner' – perhaps rather self-righteous because I didn't live an excessive life-style.

In 1988, two friends invited me to a New Generation Church where the speaker clearly presented the radical message that 'God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone – *including me* - who believes in Jesus will not perish but have eternal life,' (*John 3: 16*).

The speaker said that Jesus had opened the way for me to have an exchanged life – a new life, lovingly empowered by my Father in Heaven, in exchange for my old self-centred, self-righteous life.

I realized that this was my moment of decision, but I had an academic mindset, always trying to analyse everything. Now God was speaking to my heart – so in simple trust I responded to the 'altar call' to go forward as an outward sign that I truly accepted the salvation offered by Jesus, who had paid a great price for me by dying publicly on a cruel Cross.



Daniel and his wife, Kate

As I stepped out in faith that day, I was 'born again' – and I became spiritually alive. It was a landmark moment as a Christian counsellor led me in a simple prayer to accept Christ as my personal Saviour. I also welcomed the Holy Spirit into my life as my Helper, Guide and Friend, just as Jesus promised, (*see John 14:16*).

This was all very new to me, but as the months passed by I experienced a new freedom as the 'gentle craving for sin' subsided. Prayer became real, the Bible came alive – and I was living a daily spiritual adventure. I discovered I could even pray with people and see their lives changed, too. Some who were sick were healed!

On two occasions, we appeared to see the dead return to life. The first instance was a

neighbour, a lawyer, who collapsed at home after an epileptic fit. I heard shouts and rushed in to find him on the floor. A doctor said it was a 'hopeless' situation.

Suddenly, I felt the urge to pray for the lawyer. I put my hands on his head, and as I prayed, his eyes opened.

People were shocked, then the family broke

into celebration as the lawyer, now alive, was taken to hospital for a confirmation check-up.

Two years later, when Kate, my English-born wife and I were visiting relatives, we heard a tremendous commotion as a six-year-old boy lay still after choking on something. His family were crying helplessly, as others ran around in a panic. So my wife and I laid hands on the boy and, as we prayed, he suddenly sneezed and opened his eyes! I was amazed.

Many times we have seen God answer a prayer for healing. For example, an older relative of mine who was very highly regarded - he worked in the Diplomatic Service – became ill with a serious allergy. His face had swollen up, but when we prayed for him he rapidly recovered.

In Nigeria, I became a member of FGB – the Full Gospel Businessmen’s Fellowship – where I became president of a local FGB ‘chapter.’ We have more than 3,100 of these chapters across Nigeria, where our national conventions can attract over 20,000 people.

In my journey of faith, I have been inspired by many Christians, especially the life of Mary Slessor, (1848- 1915). She was a hard working Scottish mill girl and an unorthodox Sunday School teacher, who, inspired by David Livingstone, became a missionary in Calabar, Nigeria, an area where no European had set foot before.

Despite illness and constant danger, she lived with the tribes, learned their language, and traditions, earning their respect and putting an end to some barbaric practises, such as the killing of twins. She adopted many Nigerian children (particularly twins) who had been left to die.

Mary died in 1915, aged 67, with great mourning among the tribes to whom she had dedicated her whole life.

In 2002 I came to the UK to do a doctorate degree in Civil Engineering, and also saw FGB

groups set up at Liverpool University and in the city, where Kate and I and our three children were happily settled for 14 years.

I loved reaching out to our neighbours with the Gospel message, and gave away thousands of **Voice** magazines, like the one you are reading today. Nowadays I teach civil engineering at a college in Welwyn Garden City in Hertfordshire; my wife Kate is a health visitor.

We attend an FGB Fellowship in the city of St Alban’s and we are setting up a new FGB chapter in the London Borough of Enfield.

I thank God for the day I first heard the Good News about an amazing New Life with Jesus. I’d like to leave you with the words of the Apostle Paul, in the New Testament, who said: “I’m glad in God . . . I am just as happy with as little as much . . . whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the power of Jesus who makes me who I am,” (*extract from Philippians chapter four, in ‘The Message’ translation*).

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Your response?

As you have read the true-life stories in this magazine, you may also want to ask God into your life. There are three simple steps to do this:

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

STEP 1: Admit that you have sinned by falling short of God's standard - admit that you 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.

Your decision to receive Christ as Saviour and Lord is the most important decision you will ever

make. Here is a prayer you can pray - if you can find a quiet place to quietly pray this aloud:

"Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God. I believe you died on the Cross for me. I am sorry for my sins and I truly want to turn away from them. I ask you to forgive me and cleanse my heart." *(Pause here to mention anything on your conscience. Then continue . . .)*

"I want to trust you with my life, starting right now. Please be my Lord and Saviour. I invite you into my life. Please help me to live by the power of the Holy Spirit, to guide and to teach me.

"I now believe your promise in the Bible that I am born again. I am a true child of God. Help me to trust you with all my heart. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen."

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True stories in this issue . . .



Clive Addison
The best news
of my life



Aubrey Morris
Why I am so
grateful to God



**Gordon
Bambridge**
A story of hope



Daniel Nquot
From conflict
to peace

This magazine is produced by the **Full Gospel Businessmen** in the UK and Ireland — or **FGB** for short. This fellowship began through the vision of a Christian businessman. Today, there are thousands of Local Chapters meeting in more than 100 countries. FGB is in many towns and cities across the UK and we welcome newcomers to our regular events, usually dinner evenings with a guest speaker.

Men of all backgrounds are welcome, whether working, retired or unemployed, no-one is excluded. FGB is an 'arm of the church' endorsed by many Christian leaders, including the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu who says, "We need more men like them!"

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See our website for more true life stories: www.fgbuk.org

FGB



For your local contact:



Check our website for events in your region - see www.fgbuk.org