



Full Gospel Business
Men's Fellowship
International

**Chapter
Guidelines**
to empower men for life



chapter
guidelines

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

www.fgbmfi.org.uk

Index

Page 2	Vision Membership Participation
Page 3	Objective Relationship with Church Local Chapters
Page 4	Tools for reaching men
Page 5-7	Chapter Outreach Meetings
Page 7	Outreach opportunities
Page 8	Women of the Fellowship Young Members Development Plan
Page 9	Contributing to the work Chapter Officers
Page 10	Doctrinal Statement

Vision

The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International began in 1952. It was in response to a vision given to Demos Shakarian, a Californian dairy farmer. The call of God was to present the Gospel through the testimony of business men over a meal, confirmed by a remarkable vision best described in the book "The Happiest People on Earth". This is the story of Demos Shakarian's life and of the early years of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. The Fellowship now reaches almost 160 nations and about 5000 Chapters meet around the world.

We seek through the Fellowship to "empower men for life"

The primary aim and focus of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International is to reach men for Christ and help them to be filled with the Holy Spirit for an empowered life: to "empower men for life". Although this is primarily a men's Fellowship, both men and women need to hear the Good News of the love of God revealed in the life and witness of Jesus Christ, His Son and our Saviour. Many Chapter outreach meetings are open (to men and women), with other meetings held as specific men only events.

Membership

We welcome men into membership who acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Saviour, accept the Doctrinal Statement (on Page 10) and respond to the call from God to share their faith with those who are not yet Christians through the ministry of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. Women are encouraged to support the work through Women of the Fellowship (Page 8).

Members participate in the FGBMFI ministry through:-

- 1 Involvement in a worldwide fellowship.
- 2 Conventions, training seminars and fellowship meetings for sharing, mentoring, ministry and prayer.
- 3 Encouragement to move in the power of the Holy Spirit in ministry to others.
- 4 Outreach meetings for bringing friends and colleagues to hear how people like them have come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
- 5 Regular mailings of Voice and Vision magazines plus other resource materials to help reach others for Christ more effectively.

Objective of this Booklet

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGBMFI) seeks to be a respected ministry and tool to the Christian Church with a consistent message, presented in a non-religious way: we offer the challenge and excitement of a real and meaningful relationship with God in the world of business, family, leisure and church. This **Chapter Guidelines** booklet offers guidance to Local Chapters on the way to do this without restricting the individuality of the Chapters meeting in the local town or city.

Relationship with Church

We are not a church, but we are not independent of church: we are an evangelistic outreach arm of the local Body of Christ. Our membership is drawn from the various Christian churches in the area: the wider the representation, the better.

Members are expected to be in good standing in their local church community and called by God into the ministry of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. These men should be recognised by their church as involved in a Kingdom ministry which crosses denominational barriers: working with the churches, not in any way in competition. They should be the link with the local Church, encouraging others to come to FGBMFI meetings. As people become Christians, filled with the Holy Spirit and equipped for ministry, they are encouraged to be committed to the local Church for ongoing growth as Christians. FGBMFI welcome Ministers and Pastors as members but they are not eligible to hold office, however they can participate fully in the life of the local chapter.

Local Chapters

The President and Chapter leadership team should be men, filled with the Holy Spirit, dedicated to leading and equipping the men of the local chapter to reach and reveal the power of Christ to men: **to empower men for life**. The leadership team should ensure that everyone who attends the Chapter events feels the love of God and hears the testimonies of men who have become Christians and discovered the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Chapter members should be committed to prayer (personally, through regular Chapter prayer meetings and the monthly national days of prayer) to be led by the Spirit in their local outreach and ministry. Religious language and actions should be avoided in outreach meetings. The simple presentation of testimonies should be used to reach men and through them, their families for Christ. Members' resources are available as effective tools for reaching men for Christ.

Tools for reaching men

Website: The national website is an effective outreach tool with information about the Fellowship, real life stories (testimonies), a video library, facilities for news items and advertising Chapter outreach event details, and also provides members with access to the full range of resources and an on-line shop.

Happiest People on Earth. The wonderful story in this book has been used to introduce many people to faith. Use it to introduce men to the Fellowship, make the book available at your chapter meetings. Encourage members to read the Happiest People on Earth at least once a year, it always renews the vision.

Voice Magazine: Voice was given by God to the Fellowship the very day that Demos had the vision that enabled the Fellowship to take off. Voice is a tremendous tool for personal evangelism. With consent, place them in local surgeries, hospitals, churches and distribute them to local businesses or wherever the Lord leads.

Other literature: There is a wide range of literature/booklets to share about the work of the Fellowship. Please ensure they are displayed and available at every event. The STEPS booklets are particularly for new Christians. The “What Church Leaders Say about FGBMFI” booklet is especially valuable for sharing the vision with Church leaders. The Memory Sticks, containing lots of information and “Real Life Stories DVD’s” are powerful tools for sharing the vision and encouraging Christians to consider joining the Fellowship.

Breakfast, Luncheon and Dinner Meetings: A good meal in a non-religious, friendly environment is an excellent setting in which to effectively present the Good News through men’s real life stories. There is a list of recommended speakers on the website and is made available to Chapter Officers with the speakers’ contact details.

Fellowship Meetings: It is vital that Chapter members meet regularly to pray and seek the Lord’s leading in their outreach. These fellowship meetings should be the most powerful Chapter meetings, giving opportunity for every member ministry in the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit and mentoring in sharing effective testimonies. It is recommended that they take place every week or at least twice a month.

Conventions / Advances / Training Events: Such regional and national events are times for refreshing, teaching and ministry, opportunities for growth in the Kingdom: coming away from everyday pressures to seek the heart and mind of God for Chapters and individuals. Members and supporters should see themselves as part of a worldwide work of the Holy Spirit and embrace the vision.

Chapter - Outreach Meetings

Preparation: Prayer is the foundation of the power for the meetings. Pray for direction in inviting the right guests to the meeting. Pray before and in the meeting for the anointing of the Holy Spirit to move powerfully at the meeting. Have a group of men praying with the speaker before the meeting starts, preferably in another room. Men in the corner of the room with their arms around each other can make guests wonder what they have come to!

Frequency of Outreach Meetings: Throughout the UK & Ireland many chapters do have monthly outreach meetings. However, it is important to consider the effectiveness of the meetings as well as the frequency. This decision will depend upon how God leads in the local situation. Many chapters have come to the conclusion that it is better to have 6 or 8 excellent meetings a year that are special events. This gives more time to plan carefully and releases resources to bring more guests.

It is a priority to invite people who are not yet Christians to the meetings. However, Christians and Church leaders should also be invited: to see for themselves the opportunity for expanding the Kingdom of God through FGBMFI, and perhaps hearing a call from God to join in membership. Men need to experience the presence and the power of God the Holy Spirit changing lives and working miracles in Jesus' name.

Venue: Chapters are recommended to use quality hotels or restaurants: places where non-Christian friends and business people will feel comfortable. Good food and pleasant surroundings help people to relax. Easy parking needs to be considered. Wherever possible use a room where there are no restrictions such as pillars so that guests can see the speaker without difficulty.

Food: Always discuss the menu with the hotel or restaurant. We recommend considering a two course meal, to keep the price at a reasonable level and reduce the time it takes to serve the meal. Often a "chef's special" can be good value, little extra's like mints, or soft drinks on the table add to the friendly atmosphere.

Timing: Always start on time, no later than 19.30 unless local traditions dictate otherwise. Always explain to the Manager and staff that the meal is to be served quickly without the guests feeling rushed. Ask the staff to clear as guests finish each course, table by table and not wait for everyone in the room to finish. Serve the tea or coffee immediately after the sweet has been served. Most hotels/restaurants expect guests to take time over the meal, explain that the meal needs to be finished as near to 8.30p.m as possible so that our meeting can be well on the way by 8.45p.m.

Timing Guide for Dinner Meetings: The following guidelines must be subject to any amendments that the Holy Spirit introduces, but God is the author of good practice and order.

- 18.45 Members place the literature on the tables, meet for prayer, be at the door ready to welcome guests and make them feel at home. Make sure anyone who is alone is looked after and placed with a host at their table.
- 19.30 Welcome guests and give brief outline of the evening, followed by Grace
- 20.30 Coffee & Tea should be served. This is a good time to have any announcements about local group meetings.
- 20.35 FGBMFI vision and offering if needed
- 20.45 Local testimony/testimonies, music, etc.
- 21 00 Main Speaker
- 21.45 Invitation appeal & ministry
- 22.15 Ask those who responded for salvation or a deeper walk with God to meet officers of the Chapter. This will give you an opportunity to get their names and addresses. Release guests who wish to leave, encourage continued ministry and prayer support from those who remain.

Important meeting reminders! The person who is not yet a Christian is the most important person in the meeting. Everything should be done to make such guests comfortable, welcome and open to the testimony that follows. You may wish to have music, just make sure it is not done in a way to embarrass the guests. We recommend a musical presentation rather than congregational worship (which non-Christians could feel uncomfortable with). Christian music/worship should be used to create the right atmosphere, to help the guests relax and look forward to the rest of the evening.

The Chairman is responsible under God for the conduct of the meeting but should not hog the meeting but simply introduce the participants warmly and briefly. Do not announce Church meetings but possibly tell guests of inter-denominational events to demonstrate our commitment to the Churches as a whole in the area.

Those who are requested to give a short (5 or 10 minute) testimonies should keep to the time given and not present their whole life story: just one or two instances where they have had a special encounter with God, salvation, baptism in the Holy Spirit, or healing. When the Vision is shared, relate that the call of God to Demos was **to reach and reveal the power of Christ to men**, recommend guests to read "The Happiest People on Earth" to understand the full call of God upon the Fellowship.

If you take an offering, keep it simple and say something like this “We invite those who are able to contribute to the work of Full Gospel to please do so.

Guests are not under any obligation to contribute, nor should members’ giving diminish their commitment to their Churches. We find that as we sow into the work of God, He blesses and gives us more of Himself.

We recommend you to advise guests where the facilities are in relationship with the dining room at the beginning of the meeting. Try not to have a comfort break as this invariably takes up to 15 minutes out of the meeting time.

Speaker: The speakers should be invited to give a testimony and not to preach. Remind the main speaker again and suggest that a 30/45 minute testimony would enable ministry to begin before 22.00hrs and encourages a better response for ministry. We encourage the use of short testimonies from members before the main speaker, but ensure that these are restricted to 5 minutes in total. Plan to get the main speaker on as near to 21.00hrs as possible. The Chairman of the meeting should establish if the speaker is to make the appeal for a response, if not he must be ready or appoint someone with the gifting to do so. Be ready for the Holy Spirit to move as He wishes through the gifts of the Spirit. Encourage members to help with the ministry. announce this during the invitation so that guests will be ready to be prayed for by any member: remember it is God who empowers and heals through the Holy Spirit.

Follow up: Make contact with those who have made a decision, give them literature (particularly the STEPS leaflets: Directions to New Life and New Life in Christ) and establish who will be responsible for follow up. Try to ensure someone takes them to a church of their choice on the next Sunday to link them with a Bible believing Church as soon as possible.

Other Outreach Opportunities

The same timing guidelines apply in principle to all outreach events. It is important for the programme to run smoothly and efficiently. If it is a luncheon meeting, timing is particularly important. As a matter of integrity the meeting must end at the agreed time, at the very least release those who need to leave.

Be open to other opportunities to communicate with men who would not normally come to a Christian event. Consider business exhibitions, seminars, agricultural shows, community events, etc. Barbeques, golf and leisure events are good ways of building bridges with those who are not yet Christians and may even help us to get to know our non-Christian neighbours. Build relationships with Church Leaders and support inter-church events, to be seen as part of the outreach to the community: avoid exclusivity. Consider bringing churches together to hear a Full Gospel well known speaker. Offer our speakers to churches so that you can serve the local body of Christ.

Women of the Fellowship

The involvement of Women of the Fellowship is a vital part of our work. Membership of Women of the Fellowship is open to all ladies who support the objectives and ministry of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. There is a separate leaflet outlining the work and ministry of Women of the Fellowship. Our members appreciate the invaluable contribution the women make to the effectiveness of our work. Their prayer, practical support and ministry to other women alongside their husbands at open (men and women) events) are essential ingredients for an effective ministry. They also have a unique and very important role in releasing and encouraging their men into the ministry of reaching other men for Christ.

Young Members

Many Chapters do have young members involved in the ministry, which is vital if we are to have all age groups represented in the body: effectively outreaching to all age groups. Some university based Chapters are operating with a predominance of younger people, but every chapter is encouraged to consider carefully how we can reach more of the younger generation. Chapters and even Regions should consider their strategies, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, for themed events, such as activity sports, leisure evenings, music festivals or technical workshops (on digital photography, etc.).

Development Plan

It is essential for the continuing and developing work of the Fellowship that we constantly 'consider our ways' (as prophetically spoken over the Fellowship) and share the vision and objectives with new men especially the younger generations. The Fellowship in the UK and Ireland does have a documented Development Plan (available to members on the national website: www.fgbmfi.org.uk) This Development Plan is based on the FGBMFI vision and prophetic words shared at national level. It presents the overall strategy for achieving the objectives and aims of the Fellowship through Spirit led outreach. It is supported by a list of recommendations for action at national, regional and local Chapter levels. Every Chapter (alongside their husbands at open (men and women) events) are essential ingredients for an effective ministry. They also have a unique and very important role in releasing and encouraging their men into the ministry of reaching other men for Christ.

Contributing to the work

We are confident, that if God calls men into Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship, members will actively seek to contribute (through time, effort and finances) to the ministry and outreach work locally, nationally and internationally, in line with His direction. Giving is an outward expression of our commitment to the work of God through the Fellowship. Without sacrificial giving of time, prayer, dedication and financial resources from members and supporters, we would not be able to effectively "reach and reveal the power of Christ to men".

In order to fulfil our mission, we do incur administration costs, particularly through the work in the National Office and the provision of members' resources. We do therefore depend on financial donations to be able to operate effectively at a national level and to support the outreach work of the Fellowship at local Chapter and Regional levels and also to a limited extent in Europe and beyond.

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International in the United Kingdom is a registered charity, Charity No 275987. We have a Gift Aid scheme to permit tax-paying members, in U.K and in Northern Ireland, to channel gifts through the scheme by a standing order or donation. This enables the Fellowship to reclaim a refund of tax. Members are therefore encouraged to make financial donations under the Gift Aid scheme to the National Office, preferably through standing orders, reviewed each year at the time of membership renewal.

The Gift Aid scheme can be used at Chapter or Regional levels (where the principle of tithing offerings to the Regional or national ministry is encouraged) but there must be complete trace-ability linking the giver to a Gift Aid Donation form. All Gift Aid scheme donations must be routed through the Office so that full records are available for the Charity Commission Inspectors. Gifts from individuals designated for support of specific local Chapters can only be used for outreach and not for member's personal support. The Office will transfer such designated giving back to the Chapter, plus later (when the tax is refunded) half the tax refund. The National Office retains the rest of the tax refund towards administrative costs.

Chapter Officers

Local leaders are elected annually by the chapter members at the Chapter AGM. There should be a President, Vice President/s, Secretary, Treasurer and other such appointments to cover the ministries of Prayer, Voice and literature/resources and membership. Full details are outlined in the Manual for Leaders, which also covers the Chapter's role in praying for guidance and nominating Field Reps and a Director at the annual Regional Meeting.

Doctrinal Statement






In order to avoid any misunderstandings regarding our conditions for membership, our Biblical doctrinal statement is:

- 1 We believe in one God, Maker of all things, being in Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 2 We believe that the Son of God, Jesus Christ became incarnate, begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.
- 3 We believe the Bible, in its entirety, to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and conduct.
- 4 We believe in the resurrection of the dead, the eternal happiness of the saved and the eternal punishment of the lost.
- 5 We believe in personal salvation of the believers through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 6 We believe in the sanctification by the blood of Christ and in personal holiness through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.
- 7 We believe in Divine healing, through faith, and that healing is included in the Atonement.
- 8 We believe in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit accompanied by the initial physical sign of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance, as distinct from the new birth, and in the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12 as now available to believers.
- 9 We believe in the Christians hope, the imminent, personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 10 We believe in intensive world evangelism and missionary work in accordance with the Great Commission with signs following.

Application for membership implies full acceptance of our Doctrinal Statement

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

Our Mission Statement

-  Reach men in all nations for Jesus Christ
-  Reveal the power of Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit
-  Share Christian fellowship and mentoring
-  Bring greater unity to the Christian Church
-  Equip men to fulfil the great commission



Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

P.O. Box 11, Knutsford

Cheshire WA16 6QP

Email: office@fgbmf.org.uk

www.fgbmf.org.uk