



# Fulfil your **destiny**

IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

*'They that wait upon the Lord . . . shall mount up with wings as eagles' - Isaiah 40:31*

**P**eople around the world have been inspired by a remarkable prophetic vision given to a Christian businessman in 1951 — a vision that has brought about a global fellowship of laymen who are still reaching millions for Christ.

The story is told in the best-selling book, *The Happiest People on Earth*. This booklet gives you a brief taster — **read on and discover what this vision could mean for YOU today.**



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

# Birth of a **global fellowship**

**M**illions of lives are being impacted by the worldwide ‘**FGB**’ organisation – or the **Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International (UK and Ireland)**, to give it its full name. It has been said that the global Fellowship has probably done more to bring revival to the church at large than any other laymen’s movement in the past 50 years.

The founder was **Demos Shakarian** (1913-1993), a Christian businessman of Armenian origin, then living in Los Angeles. The original vision, described on the following pages, heralded the eventual creation of more than 7,000 local chapters spread across every continent of the world.

## **An arm of the church**

Demos, a dairy farmer, did not intend that FGB should ever become a big centralised organisation, but an outreach ‘arm’ of the church in many nations which is why a wide range of Christian leaders affirm their support for this worldwide Fellowship.

Through the God-given vision to see people set free by the power of Jesus Christ, FGB brings together men from all church backgrounds (or none), arranging meetings – large and small – in hotels, restaurants and marketplace venues, where men and women share informally how God has changed their lives. (A summary of our five main aims is listed on page 7).

Demos, a humble man, always said that God wasn’t looking for uniformity – he said that God told him “*I will never come to two men or two places in just the same way. Give Me outlets for My infinite variety.*” In our gatherings, men and women share their experiences, successes (and failures) in business and everyday life: how success, for example, has not always brought fulfilment whereas challenges have become a launch pad for a new direction or purpose in life.

They speak of marriages transformed, bodies healed, addictions overcome, business problems resolved, all through encountering the power of God in a personal way. Women are welcome at many events and actively support the Fellowship through ‘**Women of the Fellowship.**’ *More details and aims of the Fellowship appear at the end of this booklet.*



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# Fulfilment of a Vision

As shared by Demos Shakarian

THE original idea for the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International came to me in 1951. At that time, the prophetic words of the late **Dr Charles Price**, the English-born healing evangelist, given to me seven years before in 1944, began to sear deeply in my mind.

Dr Price had prophesied: "Demos, I shall not be here to see it, but you will witness one of the major events foretold in the Bible.

"Just before Jesus returns to the earth, God's Spirit is going to descend on all flesh, and laymen will be the most important channel through which He will work."

In the autumn of that same year, I helped the evangelist **Oral Roberts** set up his Los Angeles campaign, the largest mission yet seen in the city, with more than 200,000 people attending during the 16 days. "This is rewarding ministry," I said to Oral one evening as we enjoyed coffee and fruit pie after the service. "Even so, I keep getting the feeling that God is leading me into a different form of outreach, a unique kind of ministry."



**Dr Oral Roberts in  
younger years**



**Demos Shakarian,  
founder of the Full Gospel  
Business Men's  
Fellowship International**

"What's that, Demos?"

"I picture a group of businessmen who tell what they've experienced of God to other men like themselves – men who might not be interested in what a preacher says, but who *will* listen to a plumber, a dentist or a salesman because they themselves are plumbers, dentists and salesmen."

Oral's reply was quick and positive: "Demos, this is real. Is there anything I can do to get it started?"

"Yes, Oral," I replied. "If I were to invite businessmen from all over Los Angeles to a Saturday morning meeting, would you come and help launch this thing?"

He agreed. And for a meeting place we chose the second floor of Clifton's Cafeteria. Then I phoned every Spirit-filled business-

## HOW IT ALL BEGAN . . . the first breakfast venue

man I knew, announcing the first meeting.

At the breakfast meeting, Oral spoke for about 20 minutes, then closed with a prayer: “Lord Jesus, let this Fellowship grow in your strength alone. Send it marching in your power across the nation – and around the world.”

However, months of frustration followed that first meeting. Nothing seemed to be happening. I spent thousands of dollars, but no other contributions were made, no other Chapters started. Finally, I decided to terminate the Chapter and dissolve the Fellowship on Saturday morning, December 29, 1952.



Then on the Friday night before what was to be our last meeting, I suggested to Rose, my wife, around midnight – and to our house guest, the evangelist **Tommy Hicks** – that they shouldn't wait up for me, since I intended to pray in the living room and wouldn't leave there until I had heard from God.

***‘Something remarkable happened’***

I felt dazed and bewildered as I entered the living room. I wanted to quit – but couldn't. I fell to my knees, then stretched full-length on the patterned red rug, weeping until three in the morning. Finally, I managed to get to my knees. Rose, unable to sleep, came to join me.

She sat at the Hammond organ in the corner of the room and began to play. As the music swelled through the room, the atmosphere grew bright, and to my amazement, the ceiling seemed to recede, then disappear. I found myself staring up into the sky – a daytime sky, although outside it must have been pitch-dark. Then, all at once, Rose stopped playing, her fingers still resting on the keys.

She began speaking gently in tongues, then gave the interpretation:

***“My son, you are in the centre of My will. I am leading you by your hand. Look not to the left nor the right, but continue in the way in which you are going.”***

As Rose spoke, something remarkable happened. Although I was still on my knees, I felt as if I was rising – leaving my body – moving up, away from the living room, and was soon high above the earth, able to see the entire country from west to east.

What I saw next startled me. My eyes focused on millions and millions of men standing shoulder to shoulder, their faces set, lifeless, miserable, their eyes staring straight ahead, unblinking, unseeing. Then the vision changed. The world seem to turn beneath me until I saw the continent of South America, then Africa, Europe and Asia.

Once more the startling close-ups appeared, and everywhere it was the same: brown faces,

## WORLDWIDE VISION of lives transformed

black faces, white faces – everyone rigid and wretched. Suddenly, my wife Rose began to speak again – without, of course, knowing what I was seeing. “**My son, what you see next is going to happen very soon.**”

The earth was turning a second time. Below me again were millions upon millions of men. But what a difference! This time, hands were raised. Eyes shone with joy. Hands were lifted towards heaven. These men who had been so isolated – each in his prison of self – were now linked in a community of love and adoration.

The vision was over. I felt myself returning to earth. Below was our house and I could see myself kneeling, with Rose seated at the organ. Then the familiar objects of the room closed around me, and I was aware of an ache in my knees, a stiffness in my neck.

I stood slowly to my feet and looked at my watch. It was 3.30am. “What happened, Demos?” Rose asked. “Did you hear something from the Lord?”

“Honey, I not only *heard*, I *saw*.” And I described the vision. Rose listened with tears in her eyes. “Oh, Demos, don’t you see, He’s showing us that the Fellowship is to go on!”

And so it *did* go on. Money began to come in; ‘**Voice**’ testimony magazine was born; and other Chapters began to spring up like mushrooms. Within seven months, by the summer of 1953 we had nine Chapters and were planning a National Convention in October – exactly two years from the first meeting at Clifton’s Cafeteria.



**Demos and Rose Shakarian**



Six hundred people showed up for that autumn weekend at the Clark Hotel, in Los Angeles. Eventually, a convention could draw 20,000 people, so that first national meeting seemed small indeed. But to us it was enormous – and so was the enthusiasm.

The Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship was and always has been in the vanguard of the charismatic movement. We were the first to hold our meetings in hotel ballrooms and conference centres around the world, providing a place where Catholics, Jews, Protestants of all

denominations — and those with no faith at all — could gather freely to hear the good news that God loves them and that Jesus died to save, heal, and endue them with His power to do exploits in His name.

Men from all walks of life including business executives, corporation leaders, doctors, lawyers, scientists, pilots, farmers, contractors, car dealers – they’ve all become part of the Fellowship.

Today, there are thousands of Chapters around the world and I am deeply moved as I see the fulfilling of the vision that God gave me at 3 a.m. that Saturday morning. Conventions, regional ‘Advances’ and local Chapter meetings reach hundreds of thousands of people. Our ‘Voice’ testimony magazine appears regularly in many different languages and members’ testimonies are featured on Christian TV in many parts of the world.

Airlifts have opened doors in China, India, Egypt, Central America and many other nations where the Full Gospel Business Men have had the privilege of sharing their message of hope with national leaders.

I invite every Christian man to prayerfully consider having a significant role in this dynamic worldwide ministry.



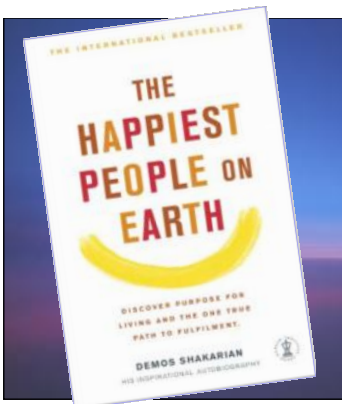
## A dynamic ‘every-member’ ministry

**The FGB Fellowship** is for men of all backgrounds, supported by the ‘Women of the Fellowship’. Hundreds of people testify of transformed lives through their involvement with the FGB in the UK and Ireland.

The inspiring paperback, *The Happiest People on Earth*, gives a much more detailed account of the Demos Shakarian story. Copies of the best-selling book can be purchased from the FGB’s UK and Ireland Office (see address details on page two of this booklet).

You can also download more of the story via the website,

[www.fgbmfi.org.uk](http://www.fgbmfi.org.uk)



# Is God calling **you?**



A **local Chapter** of FGB usually starts when a group of like-minded men catch the vision of the Fellowship and then pray and seek God's will. A director or regional representative will come to help set up the local Chapter, with members generally coming from a variety of church backgrounds.

Membership of FGB enables men and women to join a worldwide Fellowship — a global network, representing all nations in Christian mission. As an encouragement in fulfilling your destiny as a Christian, you will have the opportunity to fully use your God-given gifts and ministry potential as FGB is active in the world of work and leisure to reach men and women for Christ.

*Cut here*

You will envision and encourage other men by sharing the story of your encounter with God and how he is changing your life.

FGB includes those from marketing to plumbing, from farming to information technology, from the boardroom . . . to the unemployed.

## Five aims

The aims of the Fellowship can be summarised under five headings:

**To reach** men of all nations for Christ.

**To reveal** the love of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**To share** Christian fellowship and mentoring.

**To bring** greater unity in the Christian Church worldwide.

**To equip** men to help fulfil the Great Commission.

## YOUR RESPONSE

### *Reply coupon:*

For more information, please visit the FGB website **www.fgbmfi.org.uk** and/or complete this coupon and return it to the address overleaf:

- Send me details of how to become a member of FGB.
- Send me details of my nearest Local FGB Chapter.
- Send me the booklet, 'What Church Leaders say about FGBMFI.'

Name.....

Address.....

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.....Post code.....

Tel (daytime).....

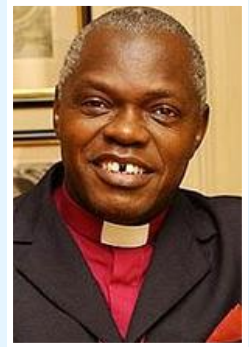
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# What **Church Leaders** say about the Full Gospel Businessmen

Leaders from a wide range of Christian denominations affirm their support for the Fellowship. Among them is the **Anglican Archbishop, Dr John Sentamu**, who says:

“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 workplaces.”



**Dr John Sentamu,**  
**Archbishop of York:**  
**‘We need more men like them . . .’**

*Cut here*



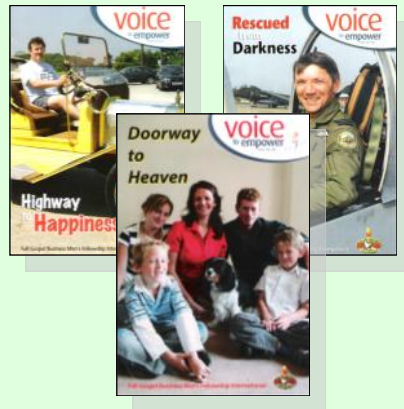
*Thank you*

for filling in the details overleaf.  
We look forward to hearing from you.  
Send this reply coupon  
today to:

**Full Gospel Business Men’s  
Fellowship International  
(UK and Ireland)**

**P.O.Box 11, Knutsford,  
Cheshire,  
WA16 6QP**

## TRUE LIFE STORIES



**Voice** magazine is published regularly with true life testimonies of men who have been changed by a personal encounter with God. The pocket-sized magazine is a great way to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Copies are available from the National Office (tel. 01565 632 667). Stories from Voice can also be viewed online via the website:

**[www.fgbmfi.org.uk](http://www.fgbmfi.org.uk)**