



Challenge at the National Advance



The National Advance at Penkridge in October was a great success, with a challenging message from Dan Chesney to live a Deeper Life in Christ, led by the Spirit of God and to reach individuals across this nation for Christ.

A short report from the Advance, with attached/linked images and video recordings, is presented on

the national FGB website www.fgbmfi.org.uk/?q=node/1707

The pictures in this newsletter will remind those of you who attended of the blessing and anointing we all experienced over the weekend, and perhaps encourage others to book in early for next year's National Convention.

More than 100 men gathered at Penkridge for the National Advance (we do not hold retreats!). The ministry culminated in a real sense of re-commissioning of all members not to wait for God, but to go in His Spirit and power to reach men for Christ.

Encouragement

Stuart Cripps, National Executive Officer, says: "There were times of wonderful praise and worship led by Trevor Bendrien and the Power Praise Band and many prophetic words of encouragement and challenge were shared from the body of men privileged to have had the opportunity to be a part of what the Lord was doing in our midst. Be prepared for new birth . . . and a new phase of effective personal witness."

Encouraging testimonies were shared by several of our younger members - how great it was to hear many of them were stepping out in faith in their individual careers and lives in close relationships with the Lord, and of their plans for activities and events to interest and attract more younger men. Exciting testimonies were also shared by some of the 'older' men, including: angelic visitations, divine protection and miraculous healings, particularly dramatic improvement in one man's eyesight and another man's hearing during the weekend.



A call to change the nation



Dan Chesney was the main speaker at the 2008 National Men's Advance. Here are some of Dan's powerful quotes:

On suffering: "There is no Pentecost without the Cross. You can't live the deeper life of faith without suffering and great pressure – consider the life of Paul in 2 Cor.1:8 – "but this happened that we might not rely on ourselves, but on God." This is the crux of Christianity . . . where the self-life is continually crucified. If you are not willing to suffer, you'll be dominated by the flesh. But God is glorified in our suffering – if we keep our gaze on Jesus Christ, and not on ourselves."

On conquering fear: "The main reason we don't witness is because we fear rejection. In this spiritual battle, we have to die to that fear, because the real Christian life is lived out in the trenches and on the front line – not in conferences.

"The time for sitting in comfort is over: the call is to GO. Yes, it will cost us in many ways. But there are enough people in this conference room to change this nation. Yes, you *are* nation-changers, because you have the Great Nation-Changer living in you!"

On evangelism: Dan Chesney, who has seen thousands coming to Christ and healed in his meetings, has travelled to 15 nations in the past three years. He said that God had spoken to him in Bulgaria about the next big move in Britain – "and He said it's evangelism."

Dan added: "It's time to get 'aggressive' and intentional in evangelism. We have a staggering job to do to get the Gospel out in Europe – the EU is in a dark and catastrophic condition. God is saying to the FGB: 'Get out there and win the lost.'

"So each of us needs to get out and about and speak about Jesus – it is time for action, but the problem is that some of us are still waiting for God to 'do something' to us, or drop something on us!"

On trusting the Holy Spirit: "Do we trust the Holy Spirit? *Does he trust us?* Remember the story of Jesus and his first sermon, (Luke 4). The crowd reacted with fury and drove Jesus to the edge of a cliff. Perhaps he wondered if had given the right message? But at the last minute, a few feet from the edge, he walks back through the crowd by the power of God the Holy Spirit. Yes, the Spirit knew then he could trust Jesus!"

Special word of thanks



We extend a special word of appreciation to Trevor Bendrien, our National Director for the North East, and the Power Praise Band for the wonderful way that they lead our times of praise and worship.

Others joined the Band and we thank them for their contribution to a new dimension of praise and worship.



London dinner hits 100 mark

Hiring the large first floor restaurant room at London's Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, requires a 100-to-pay for a dinner event. But praise God, exactly 100 were sitting down to dinner on the big night - though only some 65 had booked a few days before. As with most FGB events, some arrived who had not booked, and vice-versa! Yet God "brought forth the increase" as He has done consistently for such events in London over the last 30 years.

The first London chapter started in January 1978 after an earlier start in 1965, following a USA airlift. This chapter, which met at the Russell Square Hotel, closed after three years, the former President, Bill Thompson later becoming a missionary to India.

At the recent London dinner, at least three who gave their hearts to Jesus, in response to an anointed testimony by Wilben Short, Head of Transport for 2012 Olympiad. (Wilben was once President of the Milton Keynes FGB chapter).

FGB international director John Wright led one of the three to the Lord on Liverpool Street station in London after the dinner before returning home to Norwich.

Five minute testimonies before the speaker were given by three men: Rev. Idy Samuel, converted at a night club in London and now in ministry at Southend-on-Sea; also Rodney and Judy Radcliffe's son, Timothy, a Project Manager with Sodexo Ltd, who has been linking with the new Guildford FGB initiative; and Mishael Uwadiae, an MBA student, in London, whose father helped found the FGBMFI in Nigeria. Two of these powerful testimonies were from young, anointed men under 30!

Faith demands action

Dear Fellow Workers in the Harvest Field,

You will read, in this issue of Vision, something of the meetings recently sponsored by FGBMFI with evangelist Peter Gammons in Warrington and Midhurst.

Stuart and I quite independently were led to put on these meetings and you will see how the Lord used the events to touch lives, particularly the lives of those who would not normally come to our outreach meals.

At our National Advance in 2007, Peter Gammons offered to make himself available to speak at meetings in the towns and cities of our nation. "Your town does not belong to the pastors," he said as he encouraged us to reach out to our communities.

Well, we both forgot about that until prompted by the Lord, but having heard from Him and been obedient, there were some amazing results. Peter Gammons was very pleased with the response in Warrington and was amazed at the response in Midhurst.

Remember, as you read the reports, that whilst Warrington is very much a developing industrial town at the heart of the North West communications and transport networks, Midhurst is about as sleepy a conventional and occasional church-going a



Peter Spreckley
Chairman of
National Council

town as you will find anywhere in the UK. We both feel that the Lord was showing us something like: "This is what I can do in any town – your town !"

We therefore want to challenge you to pray about reaching out to your own community in a similar way, possibly using Peter Gammons, or any other evangelist, as Gods directs.



What if no one comes? Well, that is no problem to God. What if no one is touched or healed? That again is in the Lord's hands. It may seem like taking a risk, but please think and pray about it. Faith in response to His words requires action !! GO (which is of course 2/3rds of GOD), in Jesus' name, and be led by the Spirit to work with us all in reaching men and women for Christ in this nation.

Stuart Cripps, National Executive Officer

News in Brief

Good news in Guildford: "It was a riot of Holy Spirit fun on Friday, both my guests enjoyed the evening very much," said a guest in an email, following the recent dinner at Guildford, Surrey, where FGB members are in the process of reviving the Chapter. Another guest emailed: "I came away feeling excited: it was good fun . . . think this could be a very effective way of reaching the men of Guildford."

Seizing the moment: When a chapter president's teenage son lost his bus pass, his dad was delighted when an unknown couple phoned 'out of the blue' to say they had found it. So the chapter president, Michael Cant (Norwich) seized the opportunity to send them a *Voice* magazine and invite the couple as his guests to the next FGB Dinner!

Africa bound: Peter Spreckley, council chairman, will visit Kenya in February for ten days to follow up the eight chapters that have started in that East African country.

Lord Mayor's visit: Guest of honour at the 30th anniversary dinner of FGB in Norwich was the Lord Mayor, Councillor Jeremy Hooke, along with other civic guests. International director John Wright was host of the event in December.

Development plan: In December, the FGB's National Council unanimously agreed the FGBMFI Development Plan for the UK and Ireland, which includes important areas such as the ministries among young men.

Save up now: A suggestion from the National Council is that "some members may want to start saving up now" for the 2009 National Convention in October which would cost £320 for a couple. (See full details elsewhere in this Vision)

Halifax Street Angels: Full Gospel in Halifax is one of the groups supporting Halifax Street Angels, which was launched in November 2005. Volunteer groups patrol the town centre each Friday and Saturday between 9pm and 3am while using the town's Fairtrade Café as a base. The project contributes more than 8,000 volunteer hours annually and helped achieve a 42 per cent reduction in crime. More information on this and Halifax Street Angels is at www.streetangels.org.uk

Saved in Southend: Over a dozen people made commitments to Christ, at two recent events organised by the Full Gospel, Southend-on-Sea Chapter, with healing evangelist Ash Kotecha. More than 60 attended the evening dinner, and a boy with a serious back problem was totally healed, reports Reg Smith. "The response has been terrific – without doubt, a stronger emphasis on prayer has made the difference."



Pictured here: Core members and friends at FGB, Southend, (from left): Gilbert Tipper, Colin Bass, Reg Smith, Nigel Baldwin, Fred Ritson. Long-time member Rev. Fred Kenny was away.

Full Gospel speakers: Tom Bramble is updating the FGB speakers' list for 2009. He invites all Chapter presidents and secretaries to send details of recommended speakers, with contact details, directly to him by letter or email. Contact: tom.bramble@btinternet.com or write to: Tom Bramble, 'Shalom,' Main Road, Austrey, N'Warks - CV9 3EG

Our new website proves popular: In just one month (November 2008), more than 53 per cent of visitors to the website www.fgbmfi.org.uk were analysed as "new visits." Of the 1,238 visits in 30 days, 742 were "absolute unique visitors". People using the site looked at an average of seven pages per visit.

Bob Waters: FGB East Anglia veteran and worship leader, thanks everyone for the wonderful support shown him during the illness of his late wife, Margaret, who was recently promoted to glory.

Firesowers: After a big success in 2008, the Halifax Chapter is planning another month of Firesowers in the UK. Last year, the Firesowers month hosted Christian leaders from Brazil and Italy where they led events including; ministry in schools, FGB dinners, social clubs, Town Halls, bank headquarters, in churches and on the streets with many people becoming Christians and receiving healings and miracles.

February 2009 will see Firesowers again at various venues such as Halifax, Skelmersdale, Grimsby and Salford. If you are interested in hosting one of the team to minister in your area, contact Paul Blakey on 07725 501465 or see www.fgbmfi.org.uk

Man of vision: Battling on strongly at 85, National Director, Tom Bramble has a vision for 20 new chapters in the Midlands. He says: "Pray for the efforts being made to birth new Chapters in Birmingham South - Loughborough University and Lichfield. We are encouraged by a recent influx of new members – and wonderful blessings on the recent 'Midlands on Fire' training day."

Hitting the High Street: Full Gospel members were out in strength, at Keynsham, the town between Bristol and Bath, for the popular Victorian Evening in the town's High Street. Members chatted with passers-by and gave out *Voice* magazines, along with a special Christmas card which included details of local FGB events and dinners, plus an introduction to the Fellowship, and our web address. For the children, there was a Bible-based quiz with sweets for prizes which also led to introductions with their parents.

More London initiatives: A recent week of outreaches in London at varied venues with a final meeting in the South East region culminated in a Crawley town, where the Mayor raised his hand for Jesus. The guest speaker, Ernie, a miner from the USA, shared how he had been raised from the dead after a road accident. A Christian brother heard the news on the radio, prayed in faith and Ernie never reached his mortuary destination! Instead, he went on to develop an evangelistic ministry. During the week of outreach, around 110 attended the North London outreach at an Indian restaurant. Several also attended an event at an Full Gospel member's art gallery in central London.

From tragedy to triumph

A father whose teenage Christian son was stabbed to death in south-east London told listeners at Dulwich how he has been motivated to help bring the younger generation to Christ. Speaking at a recent "at home" evening, which included a Chinese meal for 29 people, Isaac Attram, shared how he has formed the Crossroads of Life ministry which has become a catalyst for revival with signs and wonders in South London.



Art Gallery

After the fatal stabbing, two years ago, Isaac is honouring his son's death by focusing on winning young people for Christ. He gained a degree in law and also gives practical help to people with housing issues, reports Rodney Radcliffe.

Isaac has evangelised in many countries including India, Ghana, Israel, America, Ivory Coast, South Africa and Botswana. He is an active witness on London's trains, underground and buses.

Rodney adds: "Isaac is turning a tragedy into God's victory believing wholly in Romans 8.28 – that all things work together for good for those who love Christ Jesus, who are called according to His purpose."

Holy Spirit fire in Midhurst!

Midhurst is a small rural town in West Sussex where very little happens to disturb its contented conservative community, some of whom grace the local churches. But God had a plan. In May, He had spoken to me to invite international evangelist Peter Gammons in the local community centre. I was so certain it was God that before the end of the day I had booked the hall for November 4 and Peter had agreed to speak.

I had that wonderful assurance that if God had told me to do it, then He was responsible for getting people there and for what happened on the night. He did not tell me to consult or involve the local churches, which was, perhaps, just as well, as despite my best efforts to arouse their interest, with one exception they showed little inclination to be in anyway involved. But that was not my problem, it was His.

When I announced the plan to the "Churches Together", one or two men and women expressed their support, and out of that grew a support group for giving out publicity



Dr Peter Gammons

and acting as stewards and counsellors on the night. So the Lord produced the support He had planned.

We advertised in the press and in addition to notices in prominent places, we handed out a thousand leaflets. People had to know the event was on, but we had no idea who would come. But He did!

We agreed that we would not pray for the Lord to bring people or to pour out His Spirit, as He already had a plan. We prayed that neither we nor the enemy would get in the way, and we just thanked Him that He would fill the hall and bring salvations and healings. He did. On the night about 200 came. After praise and worship, Peter Gammons spoke and when it came to the time for ministry he gave up acknowledging the hands which were raised for commitments or recommitments as there were so many.

When it came to calling people forward for prayer for healing or the filling of the Holy Spirit, there was a mass move to the front. There were bodies everywhere; Midhurst had never seen anything like it, and they are still talking about because so many lives were touched and bodies healed. To God be all the glory.

Peter Spreckley

Bringing HOPE to our towns



There is more hope for our towns or cities after a year of community action and Christian outreach as part of the HOPE08 national initiative.

Evangelist Peter Gammons came to speak and minister at an All Saints Rally organised by the local Chapter of FGB, and endorsed by the HOPE for Warrington committee of Church leaders.

Although only around 100 people gathered, they represented members, family and friends from several of the 50 Warrington Churches invited. They enjoyed an anointed time of worship, led by Full Gospel's Trevor Bendrien and his Power Praise Band, and a challenging word from Peter Gammons.

His message included the need for being: born again, baptised in the Spirit, led by the Spirit, a voice for the Christian Church in this nation, a call back to God and a channel for God's healing power. This power from God was then clearly demonstrated through Peter's ministry as many were visibly touched by God's power.

This was an opportunity for the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship to work with the local Churches and strengthen the working relationships for future FGB outreach events for extending the Kingdom of God and the Christian Church in Warrington. It was well worth organising – for His Glory.

Stuart Cripps, Warrington, National Executive Officer

North West Challenge



Indian-born Lex Thakur, (pictured here), a former Hindu who became a Christian when he came to England to study engineering, was the main speaker at the recent North West Regional Advance at Grange over Sands in Cumbria.

Thirty members attended the encouraging event at Abbot's Hall, where Lex challenged listeners to "enlarge the place of your tent ... do not hold back" (Isaiah 54:1-4). Larger tents imply larger ropes (reaping out more widely) and stronger ten pegs (our grounding in Christ). Anointed times of worship were led by Joe Reddy and Geoff Harescough.

News from the South-East

In the Medway Chapter, we are closing an incredible season of inspiring and spirit filled testimonies with Prof Roy Peacock who was guest speaker at our Christmas Dinner. Tunbridge Wells Chapter is starting up again, after many years in abeyance.

Terry Lowe writes: We have expanded our ministry from just dinner outreaches to dinners and breakfast seminars for the last two years. We have already made 27 hotel bookings for 2009 in faith and will successfully repeat the pattern and add a little more to our agenda.

We have also taken under our wing the Maidstone Chapter as our faithful brother Leonard Gill MBE (in his late 80s) is finding mobility difficult.

Our breakfasts take the form of small teaching seminars introducing guests to our dinners, as well as bringing teaching on areas not taught in many local churches, such as prophecy, healing and deliverance. There was much encouragement following the recent visit by Trevor Dearing.

Wonderful Testimony

Eddie Martin, forgave the man whose dangerous driving killed his wife, Myra. He even pleaded in court for the man's liberty.

Eddie, an award-winning railway manager, has since raised thousands of pounds to pay for what he calls "Myra's Wells" to supply water in drought-stricken areas of Africa. He has even been invited to Buckingham Palace in recognition of his charitable work

So, when FGB member Ray Graham put out a Tupperware box at a Chapter dinner, people queued to put in money. They gave £1,350 that night and by the time Eddie left Wales, the total had reach £2,500 – and it is still rising.

Our gratitude to June Milburn

*It's the end of an era in the FGB National Office,
as June Milburn plans to retire after 20 years.*



Everyone who has contact with the FGBMFI National Office knows June, if only as a friendly voice over the telephone. June has been a mainstay of the Office since July 1989.

She is the fount of all knowledge on all matters relating to membership and FGBMFI administration, and a *confidante* to many callers. Sometimes bluntly spoken, as befits a Yorkshire lass, nevertheless she has a heart of gold and is always willing to go the extra mile for the Fellowship.

Now, however, June has announced that she will retire in July. She will be sorely missed, not only for her ability, knowledge of

the fellowship and commitment, but, by those of us who help in the office, for her home made cakes! We pray God's blessing on her for a long and happy retirement, and much pleasure as she spends more time caravanning round the country with her husband John.

A BIG thank you June, for putting your heart and soul into the FGB Office administration for so long – you have been a real blessing to us all - from all the members of the UK and Ireland.



Members say thanks to the Office Team

We all join to say a special thanks to June, and to Liz who works so faithfully together with June, dealing with the finance and chapter supplies.



Our sincere thanks are extended to Bob Boler, our National Office Co-ordinator, Bob is a stalwart who works quietly in the background so efficiently serving the Fellowship in this voluntary capacity.

See advert on page 10



Please take careful note!

Mailing lists: Members are respectfully reminded that we should not use FGB mailing lists to promote non-FGB products or services by post or email.

SITUATION VACANT - Senior Administrator

Do you have a heart for supporting the ministry of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship ?

Do you live within commuting distance of the National Office in Knutsford, Cheshire?

Are you looking for paid employment as an administrator, perhaps on a part-time basis? **If yes, then please consider applying for this job vacancy.**

A position is available from April 2009 at the FGBMFI Office in Knutsford for a senior administrator to take over from June Milburn, who is retiring in July. Currently a part-time post (30 hours/week over 4 days), but could be negotiated to suit a successful candidate.

Duties include: maintaining the national membership database, communicating with members (telephone, mail and email), updating information on the national website and general office administration. The applicant must have experience of office administration, basic computer keyboard skills (specific experience with spreadsheets, databases and website maintenance an advantage, but not a pre-requisite for the job).

The successful candidate must be capable of working on their own initiative and with a part-time assistant, 3 days a week. The Office Co-ordinator and Executive Officer also spend time in the Office.

For further information or to apply for the position, please contact the National Office Coordinator or Executive Officer (Bob Boler or Stuart Cripps) on 01565 632667 or email: fgbmfi.uk@ntlbusiness.com

Breakthrough in Wales

"The best Full Gospel meeting I've ever attended" – that was the view of a long-time Fellowship supporter who was instantly healed of a painful shoulder condition at the event led by Ash and Sharon Kotecha.

Friday night dinners in South-West Wales and in North Wales were both followed by Saturday training days, where Ash emphasised our dependence upon the Holy Spirit.



Ash Kotecha at the Llanelli training day

"We cannot minister to others if we're as dry as prunes," he said. "But when you are flowing in the Holy Spirit, it's a piece of cake. Being led by the Holy Spirit is a wonderful adventure, but when you work by yourself it's very boring – and such hard work!"

Two Chinese students were among five people who responded to the Gospel at the Llanelli dinner, and seven more people responded at the later weekend in Conwy, which also includes a Sunday healing meeting in a local Welsh chapel where many came forward for salvation, healing and deliverance.

"These were breakthrough weekends with attendees coming from all parts of Wales," said one FGB member.

Thanks to Pip Tomkins – Welcome to Tom Rice



Tom Rice
Acting National Director

In the South West Region there has been a change in our National Director. Pip has resigned as National Director, members at the regional meeting on January 3rd expressed their appreciation for all that Pip has done for the Region. Tom Rice has taken the position as Acting National Director until the Annual General meeting of the Region due at the end of January.

We invite members to support the South West Annual Convention at Falmouth on January 30th to February 1st 2009.

South West Annual Convention

Date: Jan 30th - Feb 1st 2009 **Venue:** St Michaels Hotel, Falmouth

Speakers: Jennifer Rees Larcombe - Healing Ministry, Andrew & Carol Baker - Prophetic Ministry

Convention Package: Weekend Inclusive £120pp sharing. Day Delegate Rate please phone for details.

Booking: Jack Pomfret on 01209 713252 or Email: accesscornwall@btconnect.com

The way to blessing

A mere five minutes of prayer before an FGB dinner is a recipe for failure. This was one of the observations of healing evangelist Ash Kotecha who was asked by the National Council to frankly share his observations, having visited various Chapters in the UK. Fortunately, there are chapters that pray seriously and reap wonderful results. Ash, who has been in ministry for 30 years, and prays in the Spirit for one or two hours a day, felt that God had spoken to him at the National Advance about the need for more prayer in the Fellowship.



Ash Kotecha

"There is a great spiritual battle going on, though in most churches people ignore prayer," he said. Before outreach events, FGB Chapters needed to "pray and pray in the Spirit" (Romans 8.26) – praying and fasting for people, for the premises and practical areas such as sound systems.

Secondly, we need to co-operate fully with the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to orchestrate events. "Unless the Lord builds the house, we labour in vain."

Thirdly, many Chapters need to upgrade their sound systems ("some are dire") – only using equipment that is worthy of the King of Kings. A poor sound system can greatly hinder God's work.

Fourth, we need to take care of our speakers in practical, realistic and generous ways, which might mean setting up a "war chest" in advance, rather than just depending on what was in the kitty on the night. "If you don't bless the speaker, the Chapter won't get the lasting blessing that the speaker brings."

In reply, some council members suggested "we need need to be thinking of at least £150 a time" for visiting full-time workers whose entire livelihood depended on their ministry, and "even £200 to £300, on occasions" to cover expenses which can cost 40p a mile. But sadly a few people "were still stuck at the £50 level - or less!"

Remarkable times in Dublin



John Gates

The All Ireland Convention was held in Dublin in part to encourage the men who are trying to raise up a Chapter there again - and to let the people know that the Fellowship is back in business, and this was certainly achieved, *writes John Gates*.

"There was a definite bonding and healing for many past members who turned up and they were delighted to know that FGB was back in the city," he says.

Among many blessings was a visit by a Dutch couple, Huub and Annette Dijkshoorn, who rather surprisingly had heard about the Ireland Convention while on an FGB outreach to Bulgaria!

The Dutchman then invited an Irish Catholic business friend, Paul, to the convention. Paul's heart was touched in a way that he had never known before - he had never prayed to Jesus, but only to Mary.

So he prayed to Jesus for the very first time and asked for forgiveness and invited Christ to take charge of his life.

Later, Huub sent an email, saying: "Paul did not want to miss one minute of the convention. He come back and stayed in hotel until Sunday morning - and was going home as a born-again Catholic. Once I was just his customer and now he calls me his brother!"

A Voice for the Nations

Liam Moore, the Phil Collins personally-endorsed tribute singer (winner of TV's "Stars in Their Eyes") and a member of the Liverpool City Chapter of Full Gospel, is professionally producing a very special and unique song, with the assistance of school choirs from the Norris Green and Croxteth areas of Merseyside, *writes Stuart Cripps*.

More than 6,500 children are participating in this project. This will demonstrate to the nation that there can be unity in these troubled areas - a positive message through the power of the VOICE in song.

The CD will be sold nationally and is expected to make the charts. The reason is that this song, entitled '*You're the VOICE*', speaks out on behalf of the children of our nation against the ungodly trends, unjust treatment, peer pressures, gang cultures, guns and knife crime, racism, bullying and abuse of drugs, alcohol and illicit sex, to which our children are exposed. The project aims to loose the chains of injustice and set the captives free, (Isaiah 58). *This cry from the children of our nation themselves will be heard !*

Please pray for Liam in his Christian witness through this project and feel free to contact him to voice your personal support (07765 264312, www.liammoore.com or www.liammoore@talk21.com or via a blog on www.myspace.com/thevoice2008 as he works with the children in school assemblies and workshops towards recording this vital message in song.

He plans to launch the CD on the national music scene in March 2009. May this VOICE, as well as the FGB *Voice* magazine, be effective in taking a positive message of hope and Godly living to our nation.

Bert Sture - Tributes



Bert retired to Ripon from Bradford, where he had been a founder member and the first president of the Bradford Chapter. He encouraged a small group of us to start a new Chapter in Ripon, which first met in May 1988. From the start, his wisdom, enthusiasm and support ensured that the Fellowship quickly grew, by reaching out to men in the area, something we are still doing 20 years later. Over the years, he has brought many people to Christ, both by constantly bringing non Christian guests along to hear speakers give their testimony at FGB dinners, and also through his own testimony, which he has shared at many other Chapters all over the country.

He served as both a National and International Director of the Fellowship. Sadly, his first wife Pauline died in 1990.

Bert was a member of Holy Trinity Church in Ripon, here that he met Ann, whom he married in 1992. Having already been told by God that He was preparing "a new beginning" for him. Together, they worked and witnessed in the Church, the Fellowship, and the wider community. Bert was miraculously healed of arthritis in 1976. He had both a healing and prophetic ministry, always willing to pray for anyone in need. He always encouraged us not to underestimate what God can do when we step out in faith. His own life was a witness to this, and his wisdom, council and enthusiasm will be missed by all of us who have been privileged to know him.

John Foster

I have known Bert most of my Christian life as a friend, mentor, role model and as a man who was sensitive to the spirit. He heard God clearly with a prophetic gifting that blessed and guided many people. As the leader of the FGBMFI North East Region he was greatly loved and revered by all, when he had his first stroke many of us found it very difficult to cope with. When I was voted into the position of Director for the region I went to Bert and although by that time he could not easily communicate, as I knelt by his chair and he laid his hand on my shoulder I knew a oneness in the spirit that had always existed between us and I know even though outside Bert seemed not to be able to communicate, I know that inside he was in close communion with the Lord till the end.

I could not make a tribute to Bert without mentioning Anne, I knew Anne as an excellent Bible teacher long before she married Bert and she looked after our friend with the same excellence. She did everything anyone could do to the very end and for that I want to thank her as I know my later visits left me shouting why at God, and yet Anne had the serenity of a saint as she ministered to Bert, and it is to Anne that my thoughts and prayers go out to in these coming days.

Trevor Bendrien, National Director - North East

Bert was a very special friend, a Christian brother, responsible in many ways for my development as a Christian. Bert was a founder member of the Ripon Chapter of the FGBMFI. A great encourager and a wonderful role model with his quiet dignity and spiritual authority.

Bert was a tremendous help to me when I took on the role of President of the Chapter.

His advice when selecting when selecting speakers was invaluable and as a result we had many wonderful evenings of testimony and ministry. Bert was a member of Holy Trinity, Ripon and played an important role spiritually, being amongst other things co-ordinator of the Prayer Ministry Team.

At our house fellowship it was a joy to have him share his spiritual experiences in his quiet but spiritually authoritative way and to quote scriptures from his King James Bible.

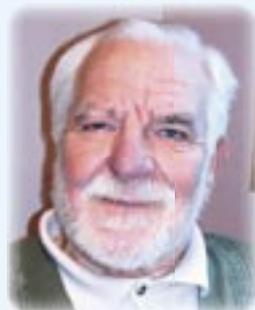
Bert lost his first wife Pauline in 1990. Bert's marriage to Ann was a Divine arrangement, their obvious joy and love for each other was wonderful to see. Zena and I formed a deep fellowship with Bert and Ann spending many happy times together. Bert was truly, a man of God, not flamboyant but with a quiet dignity, spiritual authority, and also an impish sense of humour.

Des McAleer (co- founder with Bert of Ripon Chapter)

Ron West - A Tribute

Sadly, Ron West went to be with the Lord on 10th December 2008. Ron was a previous National Director for the North West Region. He joined the Cheshire Chapter soon after it formed in 1976 and has been a stalwart of the Fellowship ever since, serving as chapter president and field officer at various times. More recently he has been less involved as he devoted his time to caring for his beloved wife who went to be with the Lord in August this year. We will miss Ron, but thank God for Ron's friendship, fellowship and service to FGBMFI, which included frequent encouraging personal letters and ministry to many of us. Well done - a good and faithful servant.

Bob Boler



Forthcoming events

Doncaster Chapter - New Year Dinner:

Date: January 19, 2009 at 7.15pm **Venue:** The Earl of Doncaster Hotel, Bennethorpe, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN2 6AD.

Guest Speaker: Gram Seed. **Cost:** £11.50.

Contact: Stephen Badger online at s.badger@constructionplus.net or by phone on 01302 539943.

Sevenside Men's Advance:

Date: March 13-15, 2009 **Venue:** Wessex Hotel, Street, BA16 0EF

Speakers: Professor Roy Peacock and Maldwyn Holland

Theme of Advance: "Jesus, the Holy Spirit - and me."

Cost: £125pp sharing; £155 single room. Deposit £40. Price includes Friday dinner, Saturday banquet and Sunday carvery lunch.

Booking form: send s.a.e. to Colin Goater. 22 St John's Road, Lower Weston, Bath BA1 3BW or contact Richard Cordy on 0117 986 5844, Richard@acordy.freeseve.co.uk

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**National
Convention**
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October 9-11, 2009

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