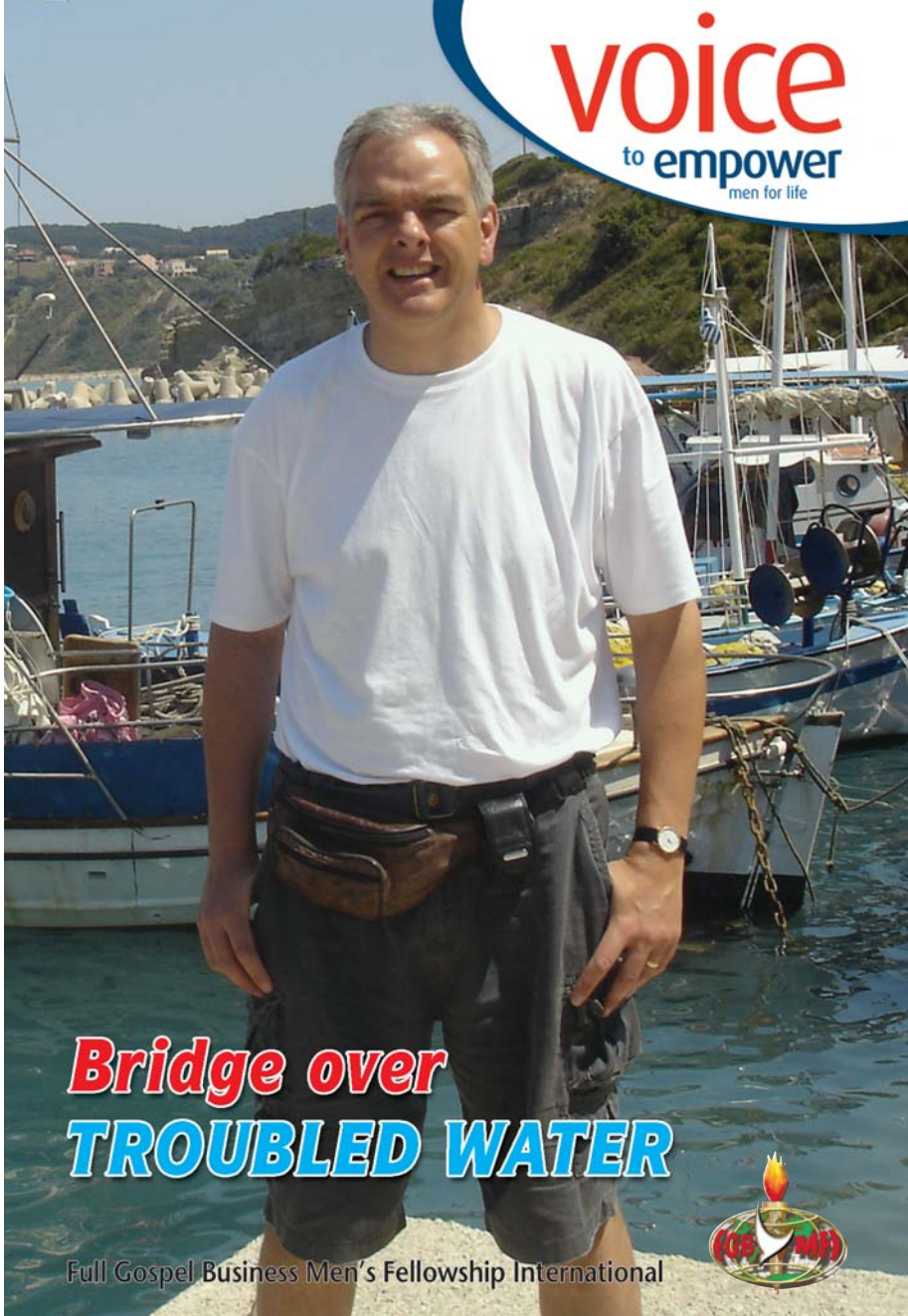


**voice**  
to empower  
men for life



***Bridge over***  
**TROUBLED WATER**

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International





## A Miracle Baby

**Michael Cant** BSc(Arch), B(Arch), RIBA

**“You asked for a miracle – and you have got one!”** said a senior hospital doctor to my wife – also a doctor – after the dramatic survival of our premature baby son, Jonathan. His name means ‘Gift from God’ which he certainly is.

### In a coma for three days

It was almost unbelievable that our tiny baby on a ventilator had survived such severe medical problems. He weighed only 2lbs 6oz and was in a coma for three days. The senior consultant said he feared for him living, because he was going to have so much brain damage.

Today, almost 15 years later, Jonathan is a lively teenager with a great gift for music. We are a happy

family of four, including Jonathan’s lovely young sister, Isabelle, nearly 12, whose birth was without complications.

As a family we have much to be grateful for. Apart from the gift of the children, my wife Bernadette is still a practising doctor and I’ve seen success as an architect on award-winning projects. But this has not always been the case.

### Your father has died

During my childhood my family faced a series of tragedies. I’ll never forget the day when, as a 12-year-old schoolboy, Mum arrived with a friend at our boarding school. She looked very distressed, and it was clear she had terrible news. We drove home in silence – I was not sure what to think. Then, in our lounge, Mum broke the news: “Darling, your father has died in a car accident.”

I was numb. Dad’s sudden death left a great void in our lives. Oh, how I missed his letters – he had such fine handwriting. Those regular letters of encouragement to me at boarding school had meant so much. As a child, I thought Mum must have fallen in love with Dad because he wrote so well!

Further tragedies followed. My mother married again but then my stepfather died in a diabetic coma. I was involved in a car accident where another close family friend died. My younger brother Geoffrey, then 34, also died in a car accident leaving behind two young children.

### Discussions about deep things

Although we were not a church-going family, I dutifully took part in my school’s Church of England traditions, even being baptised and confirmed. Later I moved to Dundee University to study architecture and found myself lodging with a Scottish family. Sometimes, I had discussions about deep things – such as God – with my landlady.

Then, out of the blue, she invited me to a dinner of the Full Gospel Business Men. I was only 19, but a free dinner sounded good. The guest speaker was a South African trader who described some ‘miracles’

in his own life. Once he had faced bankruptcy having bought a huge number of blankets which wouldn’t sell – they were all the wrong colour! But he prayed to God who is a ‘very present help in trouble’. The next day a tribal chieftain came to his store, liked the blankets, and bought the lot! As the dinner ended, the leader asked if anyone wanted to know Jesus as their personal saviour? He said people could experience the power of God’s Holy Spirit.



*Bernadette and Michael Cant*

## A relationship with God

I was curious and, along with others, went to the front. There I asked Jesus to forgive my sins and to come into my heart as my Lord and Saviour. Then I found myself praying in a strange language which is described in the Bible as 'the gift of tongues'. Tears filled my eyes as words of praise to God bubbled up from my heart in a language I had never learnt. It was not just a passing emotional experience, but a turning point in my life. At last I had a relationship with God as my heavenly father.

...the senior consultant advised us to turn off the ventilator and let him slip away.

To my joy, I also met other university members who had the same radical experience – architectural students and trainee doctors included.

Later, I moved to Norwich where I met my beautiful red-haired wife, Bernadette, at our lively local church. We were engaged within a year. Bernie, as a GP, knew that Jonathan, our first-born, was a miracle baby who had survived a brain haemorrhage, a blood-clotting disorder and other complications. He was so ill that the senior consultant advised us to turn off the ventilator and let him slip away.

Medically there was nothing more that could be done.

## God's love changes lives

"Oh God," we cried in despair, "take this decision from us – please intervene and decide for us." At this point I remembered how God had intervened at the last moment to save the boy Isaac, the beloved son of Abraham, from certain death. I knew God was calling us to trust Him, just as Abraham had done. Then to our great joy, just as the ventilator was about to be turned off, Jonathan suddenly began breathing on his own after

3 days in a coma. He was able to leave hospital eight weeks later; weighing 5½lbs. Brain scans revealed, NO damage!

Many have been touched by the story of our miracle baby. The Christian consultant who had prayed with us. Also Bernie's father, who came to faith in Jesus Christ as a result of the recovery of his grandson. Yes, my family has known deep tragedies – but also great miracles. We also know that God's love changes lives – and he is 'just a prayer away'. He promises that if we look for him with all our heart we will find Him.

Michael Cant is a Chartered Architect, based in Norfolk, where he has worked on a number of acclaimed county projects. Until recently, he was President of the Norwich Chapter of the FGBMFI.



# ARRESTED BY GOD!

Constable David Gilbey, Essex Police

**B**orn in 1962, I was brought up on a council estate in Chelmsford, Essex. I had loving Christian parents and two younger brothers and a sister. Throughout my childhood and teenage years I attended Sunday school and later played an active part in youth activities. But despite such a wonderful grounding in the things of the Bible, by the time I was eighteen, I seriously doubted whether God existed at all.

## Alcohol and young ladies!

When I left school at sixteen, I started work at a bank in London. Very quickly I was introduced to lunchtime drinking and over the next couple of years, alcohol and young ladies became my pre-occupation. There were also other issues in my life, of which I was not proud. My interest in church waned

although, as a duty, I continued to go along.

Early in 1980, our family received an invitation to hear a testimony of a miraculous healing. This man had lost every hair on his head. The doctors had told him that it would never grow back, but after much prayer by people convinced of

God's desire to heal, it had all come back. He was asking people he knew to come to the Elim Church to hear his story of what God had done. So we all went along.

### God is real

Although nothing particularly touched me that Sunday, God began to speak to me about himself.

During a morning service in April that year, following an invitation by the pastor, I slipped my hand up as an indication that I believed that God was real and that I had accepted his son Jesus as my personal Lord and Saviour. I had been arrested by the love of God!

Following my 'new birth' as a real Christian I had a real enthusiasm for God.

During this time I felt I should leave the bank and in 1981 became a police officer with Essex Police. However, I told no one in the Force of my faith in Jesus. Over the next 18 months I found myself slipping into a double life where I would seem to be a 'good Christian' at church but at work I was just one of

the lads. I wasn't really paying attention to my work either. As a trainee constable, unbeknown to me, my sergeant was having doubts as to whether my probation should be confirmed.

### Baptised with the Spirit

Being a member of a Pentecostal church, we believed in the

experience as described in the Bible in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2, of being Baptised or filled with the Holy Spirit. Deep down I was aware something was still missing in my life and was actively seeking this experience. At the same time I was reading a book on the subject which clearly set out how to receive.

At work things came to a sud-

den head. I was called in to see my inspector who bluntly told me that unless I showed a marked improvement, I would be out! Head whirling, I returned to my lodgings. That evening I prayed earnestly for the Holy Spirit. A peace descended and then I found myself speaking in a language I did not understand, just



David Gilbey

like in the Bible! I had received the Baptism with the Spirit and the gift of tongues or language of the Spirit.

### The power of God sustained me

After that things turned around. I had a new inner strength and a few weeks later, the sergeant who had expressed his doubts put in a lengthy report saying how well I was doing and that he had made a mistake. My life took a new and exciting turn. Although not every problem was instantly solved, I now had the power of God to sustain me.

Around this time, I was going out with one of the attractive girls from our church. In 1987 we married and now have three wonderful children all of whom love Jesus. God has a sense of humour too because the man who gave the testimony of his hair returning is none other than my father-in-law.

### Broken toes healed

Over the years that followed, I began to take an interest in the Biblical teaching on healing. Since the beginning of 2008, I have started to pray for people to be healed with real faith. As a result, by the power of Jesus, I have started to see genuine miracles happen in front of my eyes. A girl at church had two broken toes but after prayer

she was literally jumping up and down, her toes completely mended. There was the man who could not lift his arm, but after prayer immediately thrust it above his head and whirled it around like a windmill. A man with chronic degenerative back pain and walking with a stick, left pain free, carrying his stick. He was wondering what he was going to do with his recently acquired disabled parking badge!

So I praise God for what he has done and is continuing to do in my life. As the time of Jesus' return gets closer, I have determined that I will continue to press on with all my heart. The Bible says in 1 Peter 2 v.24. "Christ himself carried our sins in his body to the Cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. It is by his stripes you have been healed." It's a done deal. Two thousand years ago Jesus died and rose again to set you free from sin, from death and to heal your body so you can live a fully victorious life for him.

All you have to do is to surrender your life to Him. Don't delay, He is waiting for you to slip your hand up and ask Him to come into your life. If you are sick, come to Him in faith. He is the healer, the same yesterday, today and for ever.

David has served with Essex Police for over 27 years. He is a former Branch leader of the Christian Police Association and regularly brings the healing gift of Jesus Christ to those in need at his local Healing Rooms and elsewhere.

# What is Life all About?

**Liam Moore**



I was born in 1968 in Liverpool, having a rough early life. Expelled from school at 14, I started to earn a living on an ice cream van and then on Liverpool market stalls. My fascination with music caused me to launch out as a 'tribute artist' performing Phil Collins songs. I always wanted to sing and got the opportunity on Stars In Their Eyes performing as Phil Collins. I sang in front of Phil and was endorsed by him as his number one tribute in the world. But it seemed, even though I had this affirmation and a bit of publicity, I was never happy with my life.

## **I contemplated suicide**

Despite having achieved one of my main goals in life, the questions "what's life all about?" and "is this all there is?" haunted me. Achievement, money and fame did not satisfy. Relationships broke down. Cocaine and alcohol did not fill the emptiness inside me. I had seen the heights of fame but sunk into the depths of depression. My mother died in my arms in 1990. I had a devastating relationship break up

and ended up snorting cocaine until I was 'ga ga'. In 1998, whilst driving alone down the motorway to a 'gig' near Worcester, thoughts regarding the pointlessness of life started to overwhelm me. I contemplated suicide to escape from a meaningless world.

## **The voice of Jesus**

In the midst of this despair I heard an inner voice urging me to "phone Andrew". So I did. He told me that

it was the voice of Jesus and encouraged me to pray. My mate explained to me that Jesus loved me and that I needed to ask him to forgive me for all the wrong things that I had done in my life. As soon as I did this, my life changed. I stopped swearing. I didn't crave drugs anymore as I discovered peace and contentment. I had found a faith that was not based on 'religion' but was based on a 'relationship with God'. Since then I've been going all over the world using my story and my singing gift from God in prisons, on death row, at rehabs, schools, etc.

## **The key to the future**

I wanted to see if I could make a difference in some way, so I started going to schools in Croxeth and beyond. I started singing Phil Collins and self-composed Christian songs and sharing my testimony at assemblies and workshops with 11-17 year olds. The teachers and kids were thrilled. This has been great. These kids need love, acceptance, approval and affirmation.

I believe if we can reach them young, then we have a chance. The kids are the key to the future, they are the key to the breakthrough and they are the voice of tomorrow.

## **No guns, no knives, no loss of lives**

Over the last few months I have been going around all the primary and secondary schools in Norris Green and Croxeth, involving over six and half thousand kids. I have produced a remake of the



song 'You're The Voice' (originally written by John Farnham). This song carries a massive message saying: "Enough is Enough" and "We are a Voice and we are not going to let you

walk all over us". Twenty five kids from each school are forming a community choir of 300 kids all from the area. They will be the backing to the song. All the schools are already playing the song in their assemblies. The aim is to bring the song out in March 2009 as a pro-Life message from Norris Green and Croxeth, to say "No Guns, No Knives, No Loss Of Lives".

Currently Merseyside Police, Brian Reade of the Daily Mirror, Liverpool F.C, Everton F.C. and other leading lights in the community are supporting Liam in giving birth to the vision of "THE VOICE" You can contact Liam at [liammoore@talk21.com](mailto:liammoore@talk21.com)



## The **CRASH** that Woke me up

Dr 'Chuks' Okereke

It seems like a series of miracles have literally transformed my life. I have gone from being a wild young 'rebel' in Nigeria to discovering academic success in Europe and a whole new meaning to life. Today, I am a published author and a senior researcher in international development.

### Under arrest!

But in my earlier years, it was a very different story. At university in eastern Nigeria, I became a radical union activist, challenging the government of the day – and was arrested several times. It seems I was a natural leader, as each time my fellow students demanded my release.

I was also ambitious and happy-go-lucky, out for all the fun we could find – a life very different from my Catholic upbringing. My parents, both career teachers and respected leaders in our community, had no idea how badly I was behaving.

### Encounter with God

Then something odd happened. My elder sister, Mneka, was invited by a group of Christian businessmen to a dinner in Port Harcourt. There she experienced 'an encounter with God' and claimed to have become 'born again'. I was baffled.

Worse was to follow. At another meeting, a Christian speaker had what they called a 'prophecy'. He pointed directly to my sister and said, "You have a brother," – and then gave her my name! "Go to your brother and say the Lord has a claim on his life," he added. "But remind him that, if he will not listen to the call, he will be in great danger."

Nneka told me later, in tears, what the speaker had said. But I laughed. "What are you doing, hob-nobbing with heretics who are only after your money?" I said. After all, I was a nominal Catholic with a strong sense of justice. What had this crazy prophecy to do with me? But my sister prayed and fasted that I would "listen to the advice of the man of God". She vowed she would never stop praying for me.

It was a ghastly accident as the vehicle somersaulted on a busy road.

### A ghastly accident

But I couldn't have cared less until I got the shock of my life. In February, 2000, I was out with my friends when the front tyre of our Jeep burst. It was a ghastly accident as the vehicle somersaulted on a busy road. The young driver was fatally injured and my other friends were badly hurt. I escaped without a scratch, but as I carried my injured friend to a nearby car, I found myself crying out to God to save him.

Days later, I was still in complete shock. Then a girl, passing by on the street, gave me a leaflet about a Christian meeting for the following weekend. It was a wake-up call. I honestly couldn't wait till Sunday, so under great conviction I phoned the pastor whose name was on the leaflet. I also remembered the prophetic warning that my sister



Dr 'Chuks' Okereke

physical healing. By then, I was also a teacher when a chance came to go to the Netherlands to study environmental science – but it would cost ten thousand euros and I didn't have a bean!

However, I had learned through the Bible that God will supply all our needs, if we trust him. I felt God was saying to me, "if you release what's in your hand, I'll release what's in My hand!" So, in faith, I gave my month's salary to God – with no idea how he would provide. But he did – and I had enough to travel to Europe.

### University Doctorate

Then I was given a scholarship for a University Doctorate in the UK and saw God provide in amazing ways. I also wrote down in faith how I believed God would guide my research career – and, sure enough, it has worked out that way! Today, I believe that a life that is not in God's plan is a wasted life. There is no 'mountain' you cannot climb with God's help.

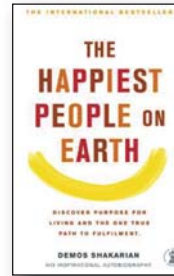
My wife Boma and I were married in January 2007, in Nigeria, where we first met. We have a daughter, Ruth, and are now based at Oxford.

had given me – since I had escaped death by inches.

### Why Christ died for me

As the pastor led me in a prayer for forgiveness, so I came to simple faith in Christ. Now I understood why Christ died for me – for all of us – on the Cross. It was a life-changing experience. Within months, I had read the New Testament. I discovered that God can heal us by faith, and I, too, experienced

Dr Chuks Okereke teaches on international development and has written two books on global justice and the politics of the environment.



## The Happiest People On Earth

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

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

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

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

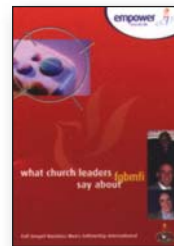


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## What Church Leaders say about FGBMFI

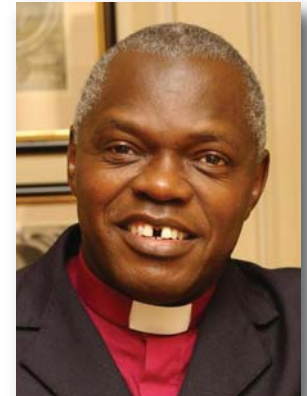
In this booklet church leaders, from a wide range of Christian denominations, affirm their support for Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. They highlight its effectiveness in reaching men, usually outside the church, with the message of God's love.

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



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

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



# Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

Local Chapter contact telephone numbers

## IRELAND

Ballymena 028 9447 3227  
 Belfast 028 9186 1535  
 Craigavon 028 4062 4525  
 Donegal 00 353 74 9175951  
 Enniskillen 028 6773 8346  
 Killyarnley 00 353 64 6635629  
 Limerick 00 353 61 312924  
 Tralee 00 353 66 9767366

## ENGLAND – GREATER LONDON

Croydon 0208 660 9172  
 Central London 0207 937 8668  
 Lambeth & Southwark 0208 653 5294  
 North London 0208 441 9895  
 West London 01932 706502

## ENGLAND – SOUTH CENTRAL

Basingstoke 01256 853040  
 Blackmore Vale 01963 313833  
 Bournemouth 01202 733084  
 Chichester/Petersfield 01243 542222  
 Christchurch 01202 488056  
 Guernsey 01481 247582  
 Isle of Wight 01983 840313  
 Jersey 01534 855202  
 Southampton 023 8045 6069  
 Weymouth 01305 826864

## ENGLAND – NORTH WEST

Ashton in Makerfield 01942 730334  
 Blackburn 01254 888982  
 Bolton 01204 417804  
 Chester 01244 675892  
 Douglas, Isle of Man 01624 677051  
 Eden Valley 01833 637035  
 Liverpool City & Univ. 0151 709 4663  
 Manchester 0161 684 7486  
 North Cheshire, Northwich 01606 781882  
 Salford 0161 794 5916  
 South Cheshire, Nantwich 01270 650424  
 Standish 01942 245266  
 Stockport 0161 494 2230  
 Warrington 01942 706014



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## ENGLAND – NORTH EAST

Doncaster 01302 560789  
 East Riding 01482 860043  
 Grimsby 01472 884311  
 Halifax 07812 939336  
 Hope Valley/Sheffield 0114 242 4004  
 Hull & District 01482 879066  
 Morpeth 01670 737311  
 Ripon 01765 606133  
 Selby & District 01757 291489  
 Stamford 01780 753557  
 Stokesley 01609 775134

## ENGLAND – MIDLANDS

Aylesbury Vale 01628 485937  
 Bedford 01234 824112  
 Birmingham 0121 351 3288  
 Burton on Trent 07796 924985  
 Coventry 02476 720041  
 Derby 0115 928 4869  
 Hitchin & District 01462 616185  
 Litchfield & District 01543 673140  
 Milton Keynes 01908 521751  
 Northampton/Kettering 01604 700521  
 Oxford 01865 558557  
 Shrewsbury 01691 653008  
 Stafford 01543 422268  
 Tamworth 01530 832291  
 Worcester 01905 641742

## ENGLAND – EAST ANGLIA

Broadlands 01493 700396  
 Cromer 01263 824550  
 Norwich 01603 503274  
 Southend on Sea 01702 482363  
 Waveney Valley 01502 518973

## ENGLAND – SOUTH EAST

Crawley 01293 882411  
 Eastbourne 01323 729786  
 Gravesend 01474 356427  
 Maidstone 01622 743134  
 Medway 01634 377965  
 New Ash Green 01322 863171  
 Royal Tunbridge Wells 01732 822713  
 Sevenoaks/Weald 01732 353049

## ENGLAND – SOUTH WEST

Barnstaple 01271 373388  
 Callington & Launceston 07870 603321  
 Exeter 01395 222240  
 Newton Abbot/Torbay 01803 409840  
 St Austell 01726 883610  
 Street/Glastonbury 01458 210367  
 Truro 01872 241680  
 West Cornwall 01326 574450

## ENGLAND – SEVERNSIDE

Bath 01225 405021  
 Chippenham 01249 651599  
 Keynsham 0117 904 3447  
 Weston Super Mare 07737 977418

## WALES

Abergavenny 01495 306568  
 Anglesey 01407 760331  
 Brecon 01497 847416  
 Cardiff 02920 593470  
 Carmarthen 01267 220234  
 Conwy Valley 01492 572924  
 Hereford 01432 840254  
 Llanelli 01792 893445  
 Newtown (Powys) 01686 626438  
 Port Talbot/Bridgend 01639 897993  
 Presteigne 01544 267378  
 Swansea 01792 893445

PO Box 11  
 Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 6QP  
 01565 632667 www.fgbmf.org.uk  
 fgbmf.uk@ntlbusiness.com

## If you have been challenged by the life stories in this Voice you may be asking, "How can I become a Christian?"

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

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

**Step 1** **Admit** that you have sinned and need a Saviour to deal with your past and assure your future.

**Step 2** **Believe** that Jesus is the Son of God who died on the Cross to pay the penalty for your sins.

**Step 3** **Receive** Jesus as Saviour and Lord of your life by personal invitation and ask His forgiveness for your sins.

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

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

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

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

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

Please send me details of Chapter meetings in my area.

Please send me "New Life in Christ" booklet.

First Name: .....

Surname: .....

Address: .....

.....

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

E-mail: .....

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

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



**A Miracle  
Baby**

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**Arrested  
by God!**

David Gilbey

**What is Life  
all About?**

Liam Moore



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**Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International**

PO Box 11 · Knutsford · Cheshire · WA16 6QP · Tel: 01565 632667

E-mail: [fgbmfi.uk@ntlbusiness.com](mailto:fgbmfi.uk@ntlbusiness.com) · Website: [www.fgbmfi.org.uk](http://www.fgbmfi.org.uk)

For your local Chapter contact:



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