

voice
to empower
men for life

*The Heavens
declare His Glory*

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International





The Universe declares the Existence of God

Stuart Cripps

I was born in Manchester, the son of a policeman, and had a loving family upbringing, although attacks of asthma made me miss school all too often. Despite this, I managed to pass the 11 plus, did well in science at grammar school and finished up with a first class honours degree in physics from Manchester University. I went on to start a career in the UK nuclear industry with The Nuclear Power Group, where I became the manager of the physics department and corporate specialist in radiological safety.

At the age of twenty-one, having the year before picked out the prettiest girl in the dance hall, I married Anne, and we have now just celebrated 40 years of happy marriage on our Ruby Wedding Anniversary. We have been blessed with three sons and a daughter and now three lovely grandchildren.

There had to be a creative intelligence

I had no room or desire for God in my life, being more concerned with supporting Manchester United and keeping tropical fish. However studying science at university brought me face to face with the existence of an all powerful, creator God. It was my nuclear physics Professor who explained the amazing balance and ordered sub-atomic structure of matter throughout the universe, quite apart from the complexity of genetic information in all life forms. So I became convinced that a random process could not be the answer. There had to be an infinitely powerful creative intelligence behind such order and balance, but I had no idea that I could meet Him personally.

I was twenty-three when one of Anne's close friends, who had just become a Christian, claimed to have a personal relationship with God. She was a normal, mentally stable person, but I just did not believe that a creator God would want to have a relationship with mere earthlings. However, our friend's gentle persistence drove me to my first prayer: "God, I know you exist, but if you can hear me, please show me the TRUTH!"

The Vicar called!

The very next Monday evening the Vicar called! We had for some unprecedented reason gone to Church the day before and politely

told the Vicar we had not understood a word of his sermon. So he had come round to answer some questions. As quickly as I fired questions he found satisfactory answers from the Bible. At the end of his visit he put a question to us: "Is there any reason why you should not become Christians?"

**We then asked Him to
come into our lives as
our Lord and Saviour
and take away our sins
– and He came!**

We had no answer. He had clearly revealed from the Bible that Jesus is the only Saviour of the world. So Anne and I prayed for forgiveness for leaving Jesus out of our lives. We

then asked Him to come into our lives as our Lord and Saviour and take away our sins – and He came! Although we didn't feel any different, that night we were born again.

The Baptism with power

Six months later we were prayed for in our living room to receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit as happened to the Disciples in the Bible at Pentecost. I found myself having the same sort of experience, as I breathed in the presence of God: love, mercy, joy, power and peace all mingled together. I immediately started to pray in an unknown language supernaturally given by the Holy Spirit. After that I began to hear God speak to me in many ways to guide and encourage me through every circumstance of life: specific answers to prayer that convinced me that the God of this universe really does speak to all His children, even scientists!



Anne and Stuart Cripps

I was also amazed to discover that His disciples can do the things that Jesus did, like healing the sick, through the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit. So we began to pray at Full Gospel Business Men's dinners and have seen many answers to prayer: an artificial hip that did not need to be replaced in Southport, arthritic pain that left a lady in Standish, hearing restored for a man in Wetherby, damaged tendons healed for a man from Manchester...

Now, in my office every Friday lunchtime, I meet to pray with work colleagues who have all recently

become Christians. We see the power of God at work from within the nuclear industry. I now know that the power of God is infinitely greater than the power of the nuclear reactors I have helped to design.

Anne and I live in Warrington where the Golden Gates have the Latin inscription, 'Deus dat incrementum' meaning 'God gives the increase'. From the first great moment of creation, to our daily efforts to share the Good News about Jesus, I have found through scientific logic and personal experience that God is the creator of all life!

Stuart Cripps is now semi-retired from his work in the nuclear industry, so that he can also work as the National Executive Officer of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship.

Christopher and Pauline
with their son

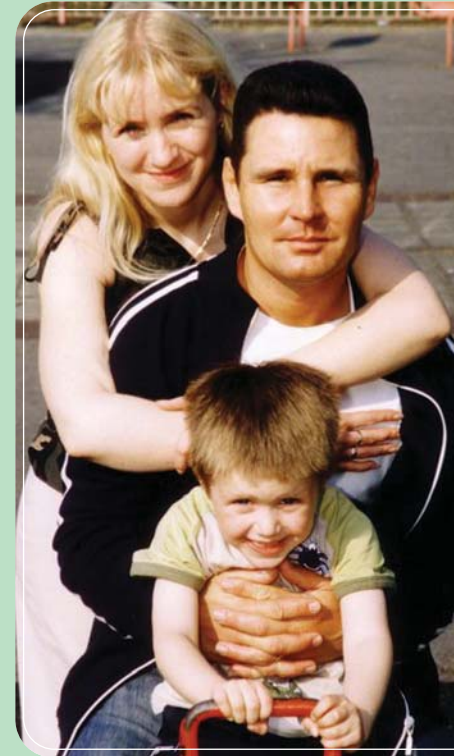
From the Street to the Stage

Christopher Lee Power

I grew up in Rock Ferry, just across the River Mersey from Liverpool, where my mum and dad, Irish 'Catholics', had settled from Ireland. We lived in a two bedroom flat with no bath and an outside toilet. My dad was often in trouble with the police, spending about eighteen years in and out of prison. I followed in his footsteps.

It seemed like I was hell bent

I started stealing at five, was sexually abused at eight, and would go out of my way to pick fights with anyone in uniform. I was involved in teenage gangs, drugs and crime. Bonfire night on November 5th was always a great occasion. We would build barricades and throw bricks and bottles at rival gangs. It seemed like I was hell bent on an unstoppable downward spiral.



I cried out for help

So I was in and out of juvenile courts, with my dad coming to bail me out when he could. I was given community service and probation many times but they didn't change anything. Finally, at the age of eighteen, I was sent to Foston Hall Young Offenders Institute in Derbyshire. It was known as 'The short, sharp, shock.' There I found a

Gideon Bible in the dormitory and began to read. I remembered the stories from Sunday School. Everything else had failed to give me any joy or satisfaction – so maybe there was something in this religious stuff after all. So I cried out for help to see if anything happened.

An old school friend approached me

When I got out, an old school friend called Jean Pierre called and asked if he could have a chat with me. We went to a Churchyard nearby, sat down under a Cross, where he began to talk about Jesus and having a relationship with Him. He said I needed to ask Jesus to come into my life, clear out the rubbish, and give me a new start with His help. It sounded like a good idea,

so I prayed a prayer with him. From then on I knew something was going to happen.

I joined a Pentecostal Church and over the next few years I was weaned from drugs, drink, smoking and gambling with the help of the Holy Spirit. I came to realise His power when I was prayed for at Church to receive the Baptism with the Spirit which followed my water baptism. I began to speak in another language supernaturally given to me by the Holy Spirit. I have never felt so clean and free and light hearted – so much better than alcohol or drugs and no hangover!

Wonderful horizons opened up

I had always wanted to be an actor but it had seemed impossible. But with God all things are possible! The



Chris being made up for his part as George in 'Remembrance Day'



Christopher playing the Baron in Cinderella

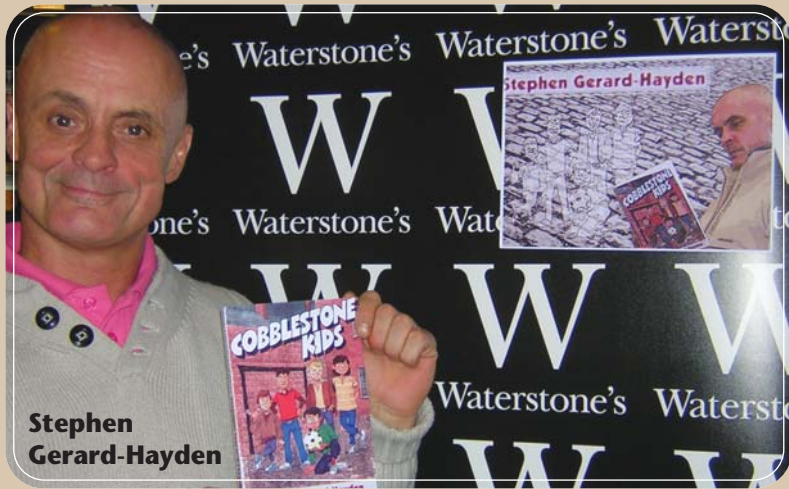
money came in from various sources – my Church, the parents of a friend, the Prince's Trust etc. I went to drama school, then the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. In 1997 I gained an Oxford Diploma in acting – suddenly wonderful horizons were opening up for me. I appeared in Coronation Street, Hollyoaks and Brookside. Then came films – *Baby Blues* on 2001, *A Mind of Her Own* in 2004, and *The Spell* which gained distribution across the UK as a film and as a DVD.

The unexpected other marvel has been the change in my attitude to teachers and policemen. Now we are good friends and I help as a voice for young people in discussions with

Councils. This miracle and so much else has transformed my life from going nowhere to having the sky as the limit. All that was missing was a wife, but Jesus fixed that too. I was interviewed in a park for local radio by such a nice young lady called Pauline who – you have guessed it – is now my wife!

This may sound all too good to be true – but it is! Of course my life as a Christian is still full of the problems and troubles that we all encounter, but now I have Jesus to help me win through and climb higher. It is also the only way to Heaven. If God can do this for me despite the mess I was in, He can do it for you. Try Him and see!

More of Christopher's remarkable turn round can be found in his autobiography, *Breaking Free from the Street to the Stage*, ISBN 978-1-84694-171-9. He can also be contacted at 0151 645 9928.



From Death to Life

I was christened as a Catholic but went to Protestant schools. Despite this I was never encouraged to practise Christianity. When I was seventeen my mother became a born again Christian and I watched her life begin to change. At first I thought that she had 'lost the plot' but over time she did become a much happier person which I had to give her credit for.

Life was fun

At school I was always in trouble. I gathered people around me and encouraged them to be non-conformists. Life was fun. Fighting, playing truant, smoking and chasing girls. Being the leader in such adventures gave me the prestige for which I craved. However my reputation followed me into adult life when things became serious.

I broke a couple of people's arms, nearly blinded another guy and almost beat one bloke to death outside a nightclub. In 1980 I went on holiday to Torquay and got into another fight.

The police were called, I had a go at them and ended up in a police cell. I had a panic attack and called my mother. She said, "God is calling you out of the rebellious culture you have got caught in." "So much for that," I thought.

But soon afterwards I was back home in Widnes in desperation demanding that my mother take me to her Church. I needed to get rid of those feelings of sheer terror. I thought they were going to kill me. At the end of the Service the Pastor asked, "Who would like to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour?" I went forward

immediately, not fully understanding what it meant, but knowing it was the right thing to do.

The worst year of my life

I had some great times in the next fifteen years. I worked for a fabrication company in South Wales where I met and married Alison. We had a lovely son, Gareth. We went to Church regularly and I attended conferences and Church camps, meeting a lot of interesting people. However in 1994-5 I had the worst year of my life. I was divorced and lost regular contact with my son which I found hard to bear. Then my mother died of cancer aged fifty-one. "Where was God?" I wondered.

Then the business that I had started began to run into deep trouble. I had designed and patented a golfing device, but the company making the injection moulding tool included so many faults that I could not supply orders. I was losing a fortune. When I won damages in Court, they were never paid as the company went bust.

I was bitter and angry and began to drink too much. I was homeless and without friends. I decided to get revenge by murdering the people who had destroyed my business. I went north to get a shotgun from a friend. I got onto the train stinking, dirty and smelling of stale booze. Violence was no problem for me, I had become a very dangerous man.

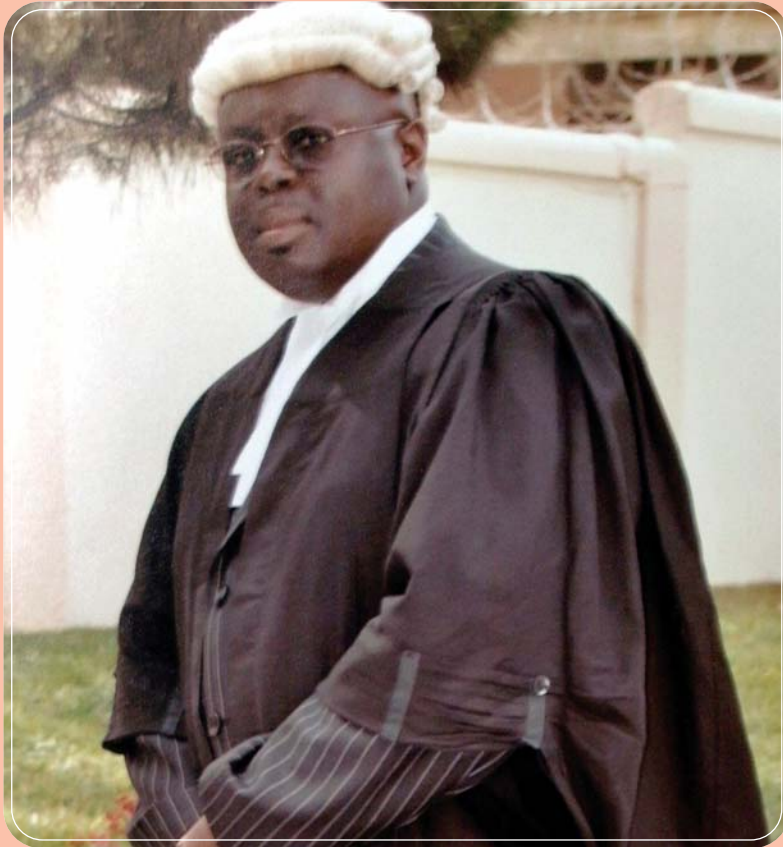
I was dying and I did not care

When I arrived at my friend's house to get the shooter he was out. Still bent on murder, mostly drunk, I spent time in and out of psychiatric hospitals. In December 2001 I was admitted to hospital with a ruptured duodenum. I was dying and I did not care. I had nothing to live for. Then an old Minister friend came on the ward. He told me I was dying and that it was important to forgive those who had ruined my business and then God would forgive my plans to murder them.

I wrestled with the idea, still wanting to shoot them. As I looked out of the window, with the ground covered with snow, a voice deep inside me said, "You will never see snow again." "Well, I am not bothered," I thought, but then it really hit home that I was going to die. "Forgive them and I will forgive you and heal your addiction," the inner voice spoke again.

After some deep soul searching, I knew it was the right thing to do. Just like it was the right thing to do to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour all those years ago. "OK, OK," I thought, "I will, just help me here." Ten days later I left hospital totally delivered from addiction to alcohol and with no more thoughts of murder towards those who had robbed me. Though I turned my back on Jesus for a season, He never gave up on me, just as the Bible promises.

Stephen Gerard-Hayden is now the author of a teens book called *Cobblestone Kids* which can be obtained on Amazon and at Waterstones. He goes into schools and Youth Prisons to tell his story and can be contacted at isca.publications@yahoo.co.uk



Blind but now I See

David Owusu-Yianoma

I was born in London in 1964 to Ghanaian parents. My father was reading Law and my mother was a fashion designer. As providence would have it and to alleviate the struggle, I was brought up by a white lady I knew as 'Mum' in Eastbourne. She took me faithfully to Church where I believe the seeds of my salvation were sown. When she died in 1970 I returned to London and found myself as one of four children.

I excelled academically

Traumatised by the death of 'Mum', and finding it difficult to adjust to my new environment, I began to get into all sorts of trouble. Things might have got seriously out of control, had it not been that my family returned to Ghana in 1973 once my father had qualified as a Barrister. There my behaviour did not improve but I excelled academically. As a result, in 1977, I won a place at a boarding school based on the English system which was a welcome relief from a troubled home environment.

The Scripture Union 'club' was very strong, and it was at these meetings that the Word of God impacted my life. I was conscious of a battle between right and wrong, and the great questions, "Why am I here? Does God exist? Are heaven and hell real places?" Ultimately it was a battle for control of the future direction of my life.

Broken glass full in my face

In 1979 I was involved in an accident. A cricket ball came through a window. I looked up at the noise and received the impact of the broken glass full in my face. I was rushed to the school hospital unable to see. But even at this time of shock and crisis, the peace and presence of God was very real to me. By His providence I retained the sight of my right eye.

The following year brought a further crisis. A lucrative business, renting out

my bicycle for five minute rides in the park, collapsed when a boy rode off and never came back! Every day I passed Calvary Baptist Church, Accra. The following Sunday I found myself in this Church, and propelled to the front when Pastor Williams invited people to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. My Baptist Church believed in the necessity to be baptised not only in water but also with the Holy Spirit as at Pentecost. This

Life did not immediately become a bed of roses. There were times when I travelled a very lonely road...

would give me the power to walk as Jesus walked and do the things He did. So I was prayed for and enabled to pray in the supernatural language of the Holy Spirit. It was awesome!

A very lonely road

From this point, the conflict and confusion that had characterised my life began to fade. I experienced the truth of God's promise, "If you will draw near to Me, I will draw near to you." Life did not immediately become a bed of roses. There were times when I travelled a very lonely road, but I was conscious of God as a sculptor chipping away rough edges and moulding my character. So I was learning that the whole duty of man is to fear God and to keep His commandments.

I returned to the UK in 1985. The Sunday after my arrival I attended Kensington Temple. Although the £20 that I had borrowed was all that I had, I felt challenged to give £5 in the



David and Nora with their children Kezia and David Jr at Chamonix

offering. This seemed crazy, but I was learning to trust God to provide for my needs provided I would give to Him as well. God has honoured that act in many ways.

In 1990, shortly after graduating, I married Nora, the most beautiful girl in all the world who loved the Lord! We had met during my sojourn in Ghana. It was a hard struggle to make ends meet. Not long afterwards Giancarlo Elia, an Italian Solicitor and fellow member of Full Gospel Business Men, called to say that God had told him to pay my course fees amounting to £3,400!

Back from the brink

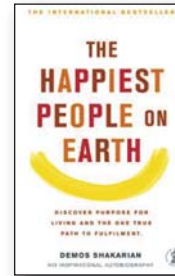
I was called to the Bar in 1992 as a member of the Inner Temple. We were blessed with two beautiful children, David Jr and Kezia. Life was hard until in 2004 Nora qualified as a Solicitor. Gradually our finances improved and we were able to build a small property portfolio. But with worldly success it

seemed that our marriage, like the Titanic, was heading for an iceberg! Despite much counselling we finally ended up in court representing ourselves against each other.

It was not until then that God spoke to me as I sat in court. "The two of you have so much strength which needs to be harnessed and channelled to fulfilling my purpose for your life. Your children need you. Stop fighting each other and break this vicious cycle. I hate divorce." Immediately I agreed to Nora's requests. Over the next few months, after a massive dose of patience, forgiveness, humility and loving communication, our marriage was restored. The Lord had brought us back from the brink. Praise God!

Now we are truly blessed as a family, but it has been no easy ride. I have been so blind, both physically and spiritually, but now I see ever more clearly what God requires. It is simply to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with my God.

David Owusu-Yianoma currently practises as a Barrister at the Criminal Bar.



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.

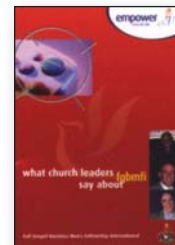


empower
men for life

What Church Leaders say about FGBMFI

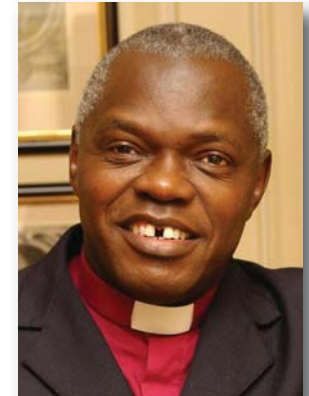
In this booklet church leaders, from a wide range of Christian denominations, affirm their support for Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. They highlight its effectiveness in reaching men, usually outside the church, with the message of God's love.

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

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Coventry 02476 720041
Derby 0115 928 4869
Hitchin & Letchworth 01462 616185
Gloucester 01452 529465
Lichfield & District 01922 642 689
Milton Keynes 01908 521751
Northampton/Kettering 01604 700521
Oxford 01865 751378
Shrewsbury 01691 653008
Stafford 01785 714290
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Exeter 01395 222240
Newton Abbot/Torbay 01803 404772
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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

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