

Some
—
“GOD HAPPENINGS”
—
in my life

50
YEARS

of
**The Gospel Faith
Messenger Ministry**

1964 - 2014

By Rodney W. Francis

Printed by Ken Ray Communications Sdn. Bhd.
(Penang, Malaysia)

Published by and for
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First Printing (2014)

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Special thanks to my younger sister, Joan Emery (Hamilton, New Zealand) for her help in the editing of this book.

**Celebrating 50 years of
The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry
(1964-2014)**

This book is dedicated to my dear wife, Jean, who has stood with me through all our trials and testings, and has encouraged me all the way; and for the many volunteer workers who have been involved in this Ministry, some for many years and are still involved today.

It is also dedicated to all who carry a genuine desire to see the testimony of the Lord Jesus developed in their lives, and in commemoration of 50 years of The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry (commenced in April 1964). We give thanks to God for His wonderful Faithfulness to those who will hear and believe His voice (because they especially see that it is an important part of the Holy Spirit-filled life, as well as "the norm" for New Testament Christianity). The GFM Ministry is a testimony that the voice of the Lord is right, as it has and is built upon what the Holy Spirit has spoken and asked us to do. The result is that multiplied thousands around the world have been blessed and impacted by this Ministry. All Glory to God!

Some "GOD HAPPENINGS" In My Life

By Rodney W. Francis

Foreword

God's Faithfulness: We are to count it all joy when all kinds of trials come our way because they cause our faith to grow, and gives us the ability to endure ~ that brings us to the realm of being complete, and lacking nothing (James 1:2).

God truly is Faithful. Over all these years of our journey with Him, He has proved to us again and again His faithfulness through many tests and trials on the way. As we have learned to walk with the Lord, and trust and obey Him in our lives, it truly amazes us at God's greatness, His faithfulness and His wonderful love. We give God all the praise and glory as we look back over the years in awe and see where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going. We would have never thought this possible when we started our lives together in September 1962. What an amazing God we serve; One Who never leaves us nor forsakes us ~ and the Only One Who can make the impossible possible. He is truly a Faithful God! ~ *Jean Francis*.

Introduction

When one walks with the Lord over a number of years with a commitment to obey His voice, you cannot help but have some amazing “God Happenings” in your life. This is a testimonial book of some of those happenings. We have so much to thank and praise the Lord for, or as the Scripture declares: *“Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!”* (Psalm 107:8,15,21,31). God desires to show His love and commitment to us ~ and to show us what He can do, for HE IS GOD! More and more I am convinced that GOD WANTS TO BE GOD TO HIS PEOPLE! How often we are guilty of limiting Him by our smallness of thinking rather than believing His promises. May this book prove to be a blessing, inspiration and a challenge to all who read that God is alive and well in this 21st Century! ~ *Rodney W. Francis.*

Some “GOD HAPPENINGS” In My Life

More and more, as we share testimony to what the Lord has done in and through our lives we (Jean and I) have been asked, “Why don’t you put some of these things into book form?” So, after some considerable thought and prayer, we have decided to produce this book. May it prove to be a real help and encouragement to you, and inspire you to know that we do serve a Mighty, Living God Who does wonders when we will obey Him.

MY SALVATION

The greatest happening in anybody’s life has to be the born-again experience. That happened for me in 1959 when I was 17 years old. I had been brought up as a nominal Christian but did not know Jesus. As a result of being invited to a little Pentecostal Church in Palmerston North, New Zealand ~ and on my third visit ~ I heard a fiery old grey-headed preacher by the name of Albert Hague preaching with the fire of God. He literally “scared the hell out of me” and I gave my life to Jesus that night. I remember leaving that meeting feeling like I had been a bird locked inside a cage, and that night the door had been opened and I was free to fly (birds are created to fly; not to be locked inside a cage). And so began my walk with Jesus. Unfortunately a few months later, when I went away with a sports team, I discovered that I was the only Christian on the team ~ and they found out, and let me know that they did

not like Christians. I did not like the resulting persecution and so I said “*Good-bye*” to Jesus and entered into a period of about six months of being a backslider. Those six months have proven to be the most miserable of my entire life! At the end of those six months, on one Sunday afternoon, my mother (who was a born-again, Holy Spirit-filled believer), came into my room and told me that the old grey-headed preacher had died that day. I told her I was not interested anymore (I was full of excuses); that I had tried Christianity and that it was not for me, etc. She replied, telling me she thought I needed to know that news and walked out of my room. In the next few minutes I became aware of the fact that whether I liked it or not, somehow I was connected to that old preacher ~ he was my spiritual father! Suddenly I was aware of the presence of God and I heard these words strongly impressed in my spirit: “*Somebody has to take his place.*” In a moment of time I knew that “*somebody*” was me! The power of those words turned my life right around, filled me with a whole new hunger to want to get to know Jesus better than ever before, and set me free from all my backsliding ways! I went back to church that night and have been seeking to walk with Jesus ever since!

MY WATER BAPTISM

I was then instructed that I needed to be baptized in water by total immersion as written in the Scriptures. So I joined in a water baptismal service. My experience was very different to most baptisms. The pastor had me standing in a home-made baptismal pool, which was simply a three-quarter inch galvanized pipe frame on legs with canvas stitched around the frame. When it was filled with water it looked like a pregnant hippopotamus! Unfortunately (for me) I did not know the pastor had me standing in the wrong place, and when he went to “dunk” me under the water, the back of my head connected with the pipe frame with a mighty whack.

Instantly a lump about the size of a golf ball came up on the back of my boney head. I’m sure the people standing around were saying to one another: “*God is trying to knock some sense into this young man!*” The pastor was also very embarrassed and apologized profusely, before he baptized me correctly. But I fixed him real good! Do you know what I did to him? I married his daughter! (Our Wedding Day was 22nd September, 1962.)

MY HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM EXPERIENCE

The next thing is I am being taught of my need for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which is power for service (Acts 1:8). I knew that God was calling me to the ministry and I knew I needed more power than I had. For some reason I had grown up with a failure complex and felt that I could not succeed at anything. It even had caused me to leave school one week before the most major examination in school life. My reasoning was that “*Why put myself through the ‘agony’ of sitting an examination when I knew I was going to fail anyway?*”

When the Christians would pray for me to receive the Holy Spirit I became aware of another problem in my life: fear! Fear of man would not allow me to get the necessary breakthrough to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I would feel the presence of the Lord, but I could not get the release in the Holy Spirit language that comes with it. This went on for some time and I began to feel that maybe this experience was not for me. A little time later my mother brought into our home a fiery old Pentecostal lady ~ one of those “in your face” types who was always talking Jesus! I remember mother introducing me to her. “*Rodney, this is Sister . . . Sister, this is my son, Rodney.*” “*Hello Sister,*” I replied and the next thing her finger was right in my face, her words flowing freely, “*Young man,*

have you given your life to Jesus?” (I nearly had heart failure with the shock and surprise.) “Yes,” I replied. She came right back at me: “Young man, have you been baptized in water?” “Yes,” I replied. But she wasn’t finished yet. She came right back at me again . . . “Young man, have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit?” “I’m seeking” was my sheepish reply. But that was not a good enough answer for her. She had not been in our home five minutes and she had me on a chair, with her hands firmly fixed on my head, praying confidently for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Now I did not have the fear of man; I had the fear of woman! And I couldn’t seem to escape from her clutches! This went on for some time until, finally, she began to realize that she was not winning in getting me baptized in the Holy Spirit ~ and I knew I was not winning! ~ so she changed tack and said, “Young man, just say the first thing that comes into your mind.” At that point I felt my mind was blank! At her persistence I finally plucked up courage, took a deep breath, opened my mouth and heard myself speaking out loud, “George! George!” To this day I do not know who George was, is, or ever will be. When I heard what I had spoken out, I was so embarrassed, feeling like a real idiot and wondering why I would say such a word. The result was I wrenched myself out of her clutches and ran out of the house, vowing and declaring that no one would ever lay hands on me to receive the Holy Spirit again. And they did not! But I knew that I needed to have the power of the Holy Spirit if I was to fulfil God’s call to take the preacher’s place. Well, God had mercy on me. A short time later, at 5:30 a.m. in the morning (it was still quite dark), while rounding up the cows for milking (I was brought up on a dairy farm), suddenly the Holy Spirit visited me and I was sovereignly baptized in the Holy Spirit. A new language just poured out of me as though I had been speaking it all my life. It was an amazing experience, and the cows did not seem to mind (I did not have the fear of cows, so God got me where He could fill me without fear getting in the way). I do not remember how long

I spoke in the Spirit language, but I know that when I stopped I then heard very clearly the voice of the Lord saying to me: **“I am raising you up to be a preacher of the Gospel; and My sign to you that I am raising you up to be a preacher of the Gospel is that I am going to open doors for you to preach straight away.”** And that is exactly what happened. A short time after this a door opened at a Maori Marae (native meeting house and ground) just north of Foxton, New Zealand. In the very first meeting the pastor (who baptized me in water) was asked to pray for a two-year-old Maori boy who had a badly deformed club-foot. That prayer brought an instant healing and that miracle caused people to come to that marae every Thursday night for quite a period of time. The place would be filled with people and all kinds of signs, wonders and miracles of healing took place there. I got “thrown in the deep end” and began to preach. I was 18 years and two months old! And I have been preaching ever since! It is interesting to note that that club-footed boy was so healed that he grew up and played the sport of rugby (one has to have good feet to play that game)!

CROSSED-EYES GO STRAIGHT!

In one of those packed meetings I was sitting back in the crowd. Right in front of me, over the shoulder of her father, was a little girl with badly crossed-eyes looking me directly in the face. She had a very snotty nose, which was running down her face as she stared right at me. I was trying to concentrate on the meeting but was getting more and more distracted by her (as she was approximately only one or two feet away from my face). I began to get a little agitated. I then complained to the Lord about the distraction. The next thing I saw the girl’s crossed-eyes go perfectly straight right in front of me, and they stayed straight! No one had prayed for her. The power of the Lord was present in the meeting to heal her (Luke 5:17). I quickly repented before the Lord for my getting agitated! God showed me a miracle right before my eyes. I was starting to see and experience some “*God happenings*” in my life.

GOD GAVE ME A PROPHETIC FOUNDATION FOR MY LIFE AND MINISTRY

In my first year of being a Holy Spirit-filled Christian, the Lord spoke to me and gave me what I call the “Prophetic Foundation for my life and ministry.” He said this to me: **“If you will get to know My voice, and will do what I ask you, there is nowhere in this world where you and I cannot go together, and we not be successful.”** For someone who grew up with a failure complex, that was great news indeed. From that day to this, getting to know God’s voice in my life has been top priority. Again and again I have been able to prove that the **“word/voice of the Lord is right.”** When we hear and obey the voice of the Lord we will experience “God happenings” in our lives. God wants to display His power and majesty amongst us, and He does it through our obedience to what He asks of us.

GETTING TO KNOW HIS VOICE

That same year (1960) there was a Convention in Palmerston North city. About six churches co-operated. I was busily doing my farm work so I could get into the day-time meetings. Suddenly I heard the voice of God saying to me: **“You do not need to go to those meetings today; why don’t you spend the day with Me down by the river?”** (Our farm ran on to the Manawatu River). With that came a desire to take my Bible and go down to the river and spend time with God. I obeyed and was there for about five hours. While there I was reading through Ephesians 6:10-20 about putting on the whole armour of God. Then I heard the Lord say: **“I want you to preach this message at the Convention tonight!”** I was shocked. I knew I had no invitation, let alone authority to speak at that meeting. But I heard the voice of God. So I said to the Lord: “If

this is really You, Lord, then You have to cause the man in charge of the meeting tonight to walk up to me and say these exact words: ‘Rodney, do you have a word from the Lord for this meeting tonight?’” I thought that that would settle it (as no one knew what was happening miles away by a river)! After milking the cows, I went to the meeting that night. I had somehow forgotten what I had said to the Lord down by the river . . . until I walked inside the large meeting place and saw the leader in charge of the meeting right across the far side of the hall. The moment he saw me he started to walk straight toward me. I remember gasping and saying, “Oh, no!” He walked straight up to me and said: “Rodney, do you have a word from the Lord for this meeting tonight?!” I was amazed. God had arranged it all and answered my prayer exactly! I did preach that night and God did some wonderful things. Lives were yielded to Jesus. I remember the pastors present had given a call for those who needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Several responded and went forwards for prayer. None seemed to get filled. I had sat down on the far side of the meeting (thinking my job was finished for the night). The next thing the Holy Spirit said to me: **“Go and put your hand on that man’s head.”** “That man” was the one who was the furthestest away from where I was sitting and I entered into a big argument with the Lord. I said, *“If those pastors prayed and nothing happened, what will they think or say if, after they have sat down, I walk across the meeting in front of everyone and lay my hands on that man’s head?”* The more I argued the stronger the anointing of the Lord came on me and I literally began to bounce up and down on my chair! On one of my ups my feet went down and I found myself walking across the hall in front of everyone. I simply laid my hands on the man’s head. The power of God hit him and he shot forwards out of his seat and landed on his knees on a wooden floor. His hands went up and he was sovereignly baptized in the Holy Spirit! It was amazing ~ and the man was (and is) my first cousin.

AN UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE

In that first year of being a Holy Spirit-filled believer, I had an experience on the farm that had a real impact on me. I was walking towards the milking shed when I saw a large water-shoot of water heading straight at me through the sky. It was long and looked about 3-4 feet wide. I knew it was going to hit me and that I would get soaking wet. I prayed and asked the Lord to hold it back until I reached the shelter of the cowshed. Before my very eyes I saw that thing stop, then it moved sideways across the sky, stopped again, and then came straight at me. I determined not to run, but walked at my normal pace. I watched that thing get closer and closer to me. The moment I stepped under the shelter of the cowshed roof, it poured down with water in a deluge. I was dry and saw God do a miracle just for me!

A SUPERNATURAL HAPPENING

While still a very young Christian I had the opportunity to attend a Convention amongst the Maori people at a marae outside of a small settlement called Tuai (about 30 miles inland from Wairoa, NZ). Jean's oldest Brother (Ian Hunt) was a Tent Evangelist in those days, so the meetings were held in a large tent. Night after night I saw big, grown men walking the aisle to the front to give their lives to Jesus Christ (up to 30 at a time). It was very impacting and one just knew that God was at work there amongst the people. One night, about 12:30 p.m., people were drawn sovereignly out of their beds into the tent to worship God. It is the only time in my life when everyone was in a "meeting" in their pyjamas and nighties! There was no electricity in that small settlement; the meetings were lit-up by a generator. Yet in the dark hours of the night, as the people raised their hands and worshipped the Lord, suddenly the whole tent lit-up with the glory of God. You could

see everyone very clearly yet the generator was not running. When that light shone on us in that tent, people went face-forward on to the sawdust floor. The moment they hit the ground they were sovereignly baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues for the first time in their lives! It was such a privilege to be there and to experience something so special and precious.

I clearly remember that when I returned back home to the farm it was milking time. As I walked into the cowshed on the concrete flooring, my legs were jarring on the concrete. It made me realize that I had experienced something heavenly ~ but now I knew I was back on earth again!

THE GFM IS BORN

In April 1964 ~ as a result of a second request from a group of Maori people in the Urewera country of New Zealand ~ The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry was born. I say second request because when I was approached the first time to send those people a printed Bible Study each month, I rejected it because I did not think that that was my calling! Over the next few months God dealt with me about that, and when they approached me again some months later, I told them if they wanted me to do that, then they would need to provide me with some names and addresses of people to receive the Bible studies (Praise God for a second opportunity!). They gave me a list of 27 names and addresses. So we started with 27 names and addresses of those Maori people, who lived in the back-blocks of New Zealand. Each month we sent out a printed Bible Study through the mail. It had not been circulating for very long, when I was challenged by a well-known preacher to close it down because he believed The GFM was my own idea and not God's. It was as though a knife had been plunged into my heart. I cried out to God that if this GFM Ministry was

of Him, that He would need to confirm it by sending us more new names and addresses than we had ever received before **by the end of that week!** Three days later I took a large envelope out of my letterbox. When I opened it, it was full of names and addresses requesting to get on our mailing list; more than we had ever received before! With it came the peace of God, and I knew we were meant to continue with The GFM Ministry.

Over the years there have been a number of Christians (most in leadership positions) who have tried to dissuade us from continuing in The GFM Ministry. Those are usually hurtful times. But I have learned that if we let those times “push” us closer to Jesus Christ, then we come out the other side of the experience all the better for it. And, in our case, The GFM goes up another level of effectiveness in the purposes of God.

- **How important it is for us to know the will of God for our lives!**

OUR FIRST OVERSEAS MISSION

In 1966 an American Prophet by the name of Frank Skierski came to New Zealand. At a Convention in Foxton he called Jean and I out to the front and asked us to sit in chairs facing the people. He then asked the people to file past and around us, laying their hands on us and blessing us as they walked by. This took about 30 minutes for everyone to do that. At the end my shirt was wet with tears and snot from people weeping on our shoulders! Then Bro. Skierski announced that God was sending Jean and me to the Fiji Islands and proclaiming the sign that God was calling us there was that we would step foot in Fiji by the end of that year. Prior to this pronouncement we had absolutely no thoughts of going to the Fiji Islands. The prophet gave us a name and address of a pastor in Fiji and told us to write to him and he would open all the right doors for us. So I wrote to him and he replied, telling us we were not

needed over there! It seemed the door was slammed shut in our faces. However, Jean’s Mum (Edith Hunt) knew some missionaries over there and wrote to them saying that there was a young couple willing to come and help out if they needed anyone. They wrote straight back, saying they had been praying for God to send a couple to replace one of their missionaries going on furlough. The door was opened again. So we prepared to go on our first overseas mission trip.

We were booked to fly to Fiji about 30th December of 1966. However, when we checked in at the Palmerston North Airport and were waiting to board our flight, there came an announcement over the public address system saying the airport had been closed owing to bad weather. There was a group of 10-15 Christians gathered to say farewell to us. So we all prayed together in the airport that God would provide a way for us to get to Auckland to catch our International Flight to Fiji that night at 9:30 p.m. (it was approximately 6:00 p.m. at this time of our praying). A very short time later the airport staff came and told us that an unusual thing was about to happen. They had communicated with a direct Christchurch to Auckland flight that was a larger aircraft, and the result was the plane was able to land at Palmerston North, pick us up and take us to Auckland. At Auckland we faced another problem in that our luggage somehow had gotten lost (quite nerve-wracking for ones’ going on their first overseas flight). It could not be found anywhere. The “*last call for passengers to Fiji*” was going out over the public address system, but they would not book us through without our luggage. This time it was only Jean and me. So we prayed together and asked God to find our luggage so we could get to Fiji to do His will. There were hundreds of people milling around at Auckland International Airport. In the next few minutes it was like a big hand came down and separated the people, leaving a large empty circle in the midst of all the

crowd. There in the middle of the empty circle was our luggage! No one had any idea how it got there! We quickly grabbed our suitcases, checked them through and soon we were on our way to the Fiji Islands. I had been taught one Fijian word at that time: “*Bula*” (Greetings). When we got to Nadi Airport in Fiji, as we stepped off the plane, we were hit by a heat wave we had not experienced before. We were in the tropics! As we walked into the Airport Terminal I remember seeing all these big, bushy-haired Fijian men. So I said “*Bula*” to one of them. He broke out into a big smile and said: “*Bula! You come with me*” and he took us through Customs so that we were virtually the first ones checked through.

We stayed in Fiji for six months: three months in Sigatoka, then the rest of the time stationed in Ba and Tavua. We visited a number of places around those beautiful islands and God used that time to stretch and increase our faith. We were there to teach them; but I think they taught us more on trusting God and having faith than we had ever experienced before! We mostly ministered with “The Pentecostal Churches Of Fiji” which had been started by missionaries, David and Elsie Sugar (from New Zealand).

FAITH WAS CHALLENGED!

After those six months we returned to New Zealand full of faith and vision for stepping into full-time service for the Lord. We had just experienced a wonderful half year ~ and we loved it. However, on returning to New Zealand, it seemed that all the doors were closed and I had to return to secular work. One thing that was different was that we now had more faith, so we gave ourselves to developing The GFM Ministry in a greater way. It was by then starting to grow and go beyond the shores of New Zealand (how, we do not know to this day; only that God is with us).

It was very difficult re-adjusting to New Zealand again. However, God has His purposes. After we were married (1962) I worked in the NZ Post Office as a postman. I had many opportunities to witness for the Lord in that job. In fact I am the only person (that I know of) to have held a church service in the Post Office at the invitation of the Post Office staff. It was also during the Christmas mail rush when extra staff were hired. I accepted the challenge and preached to the mail sorters as they worked. I remember preaching on Moses, that as he lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must Jesus Christ be lifted up, that all men everywhere might believe on Him (John 3:14-18). The sorters did not say much after I preached. I had to return and work there with them myself just an hour or two later. I went to work rather nervously that afternoon ~ but to my surprise, when I arrived, I found all my work done for me with a note of thanks left on my desk. Whew! They appreciated what I had spoken to them. I had the joy of leading at least four of the staff to Jesus while I worked in the Post Office.

On one occasion, again during a Christmas mail rush, while the packed room of people were busily sorting the mail, a young Open Brethren man suddenly blurted out for all to hear: “*I don’t believe all this Holy Spirit rubbish you talk about, Rodney!*” It was totally unexpected and “came out of the blue” as we would say. When I heard his challenge to me, I made sure that I replied to him out loudly so everyone could hear my reply. I remember saying something like this: “*Well, David (we’ll call him that), I want to share with you just what I have personally seen the Holy Spirit do in and through my life.*” Then I began to share some of my testimony with him. As I kept speaking I noticed more and more workers were putting down their mail and coming over closer so they could hear everything I was saying. So I kept testifying. Before long the whole room of people (about 40) were huddled together in a corner of the large room listening to me telling about the Holy Spirit and His

works. It was a powerful moment. David never said another word! As a footnote to this story, some years later I met up with David again and the first thing he wanted to tell me was that he had been filled with the Holy Spirit and he now knew that what I was saying back then was completely right! Praise the Lord!

On another occasion a lady stubbed her cigarette out on the back of my leg (behind the knee) ~ that hurt! But I did not retaliate. Then another lady (a Jehovah's Witness) manifested when she found some of my Gospel tracts on the sorting bench. She tore them up in pieces and stomped on them. When I asked her why she was doing that, the anger on her red face was evident as she swore at me and then kicked me in the shins. There is opposition to the ways of the Holy Spirit.

Before I left working at the Post Office to step into full-time Christian Ministry, the worldly bosses had provided me with my own Counselling Room and also the staff for me to counsel. God's hand of blessing was on my life ~ and they knew it! I was well-known in the Palmerston North Post Office for a number of years after I left that place, because we were regularly posting mail out around New Zealand and some overseas countries. The bosses completely trusted me to have the correct postal stamp prices on the mail, etc. All glory to Jesus!

The 18 months re-adjusting back into New Zealand and secular work, etc., were very hard for me to come to terms with. I knew I had the call of God on my life; I had experienced God using me in different wonderful ways ~ yet the doors seemed closed in all places except my local church. There I was able to minister quite regularly. But my heart yearned for more. In October 1968, God spoke to me in a clear way from Isaiah 54, telling me to **“Sing O Barren . . . and break forth on the right hand and on the left . .**

.” (interestingly Jean was pregnant with Mark at that time). God was challenging me to change my confession of myself; that He wanted me to believe and confess what He said about me ~ not what ‘I’ said about me. My confession of who I was, was negative compared to what God said about me. So I set about to agree with God! But I soon found out that a lifetime of negative confession does not automatically change overnight. I had to consciously confess what God said about me in His Word rather than what I felt, thought and said about me. I must be a slow learner, for if I am to be very honest with you, it took me approximately 10 years to change! But I learned something very powerful in those 10 years. As I made positive changes in my attitude and heart in seeking to obey the word of the Lord to me from Isaiah 54, I noticed The GFM Ministry was also growing with me. In fact, in those 10 years of re-positioning my confession to that of a positive one of who I am in Jesus Christ, **The GFM Ministry multiplied sixteen times over! I have learned from that point on that effectiveness and fruitfulness is all proportionate to how much God can have His way in me, the individual. I cannot blame someone else if I am failing to live up to the standard that God sets for me!**

I put that message, **“Sing O Barren . . . For You Shall Break Forth!”** into tract form, and it has gone around the world and ministered to multiplied thousands of lives.

MORE ON FIJI

On that first mission to Fiji (I have ministered there a number of times since), while we were in Sigatoka, Jean and I were asleep in bed when a knock came on the door at about 10:30 p.m. I dragged myself out of bed, and, with eyes half shut, answered the caller. There stood Sister Elizabeth from Togovere Village and her 17-year-old son. He was weeping. Elizabeth showed us his

leg where there was a large boil on his shin bone with an ingrown head. The pain was dreadful, we were told. Then Elizabeth said these words to me: *“Brother Rodney, God spoke to me at the village tonight and told me that if I would bring my son to you, that you would pray and, within 30 minutes after you pray, we will see the head of the boil turn around, the skin of his shin will split open and pus will run down his leg!”* Elizabeth was a woman of faith and she had to find someone to bring her the 17 miles to the Mission House, then wake us up and tell us that! You can imagine how strong my faith was at that time of night! I knew I did not have that kind of faith. But I also knew that I needed to do what Elizabeth had requested as she did not go to all that trouble at that time of the night on just a hunch or feeling. So I prayed with all the faith I could muster. After praying we sat around and watched the boy’s leg. And, just as Elizabeth had declared, within 30 minutes we saw the head of the boil turn around; I literally saw the skin splitting open and then the pus started to run down his leg. What an awesome miracle to be a part of. Today that young man is a pastor in that same village of Togovere. Praise the Lord!

AN AMAZING MIRACLE

On one of my Fiji Ministry Trips (about 1993?), I took a team of four young men from Hamilton with me. We went to the interior village of Nawairabe, up the Sigatoka River. When we arrived there it was announced that a cyclone/hurricane was to hit the region that night. The village elders gathered in the little tin shed we were staying in and made an announcement: *“We believe that God will spare this village, because the man of God is here.”* I looked around to see who they were talking about and realized that it was me who they were referring to! Having never experienced a cyclone before I had no idea what to expect ~ but we were to soon find out. It was well dark when it struck. The noise of the wind,

rain and flying debris hitting against the tin house was very loud. The wind was so strong and the rain was so heavy that water was squirting through the nail holes that were in the iron. To say it was scary would be a mild statement.

At that time in my life I had been studying the lives of Jesus and Jonah, and how they both went to sleep in the midst of the storm. So I prayed and asked the Lord for the same experience and, to my surprise, I went to sleep for the next five hours! When I woke up it was daylight; the cyclone had moved on; our floor was under about three inches of water. I got up and looked outside. The village is built at the fork of two rivers. On looking across to the smaller river I was amazed to see that it was flooded to the very top of the banks ~ but no water had come into the village. I then walked through the village to the other end, where the larger river flowed. The first thing I noticed was that every village house was undamaged (the only damage was a concrete wall on a building of a new house, which was blown over, and a small implement shed that had one wall blown out). Every other bure (house) was undamaged! A greater surprise was to await me when I got to the larger river. There, on the river bank, a very large rock (larger than 10 men could move) had been spewed or tossed out of the raging river, and was sitting on the same level of ground that the village houses were on. Close to the large rock were two coconut trees with flood rubbish wrapped around them at least two to three feet high up their trunks! That rock and two trees were about 20 feet from the first village house, on the same ground level ~ **yet no water went into any of the houses!** It was an amazing miracle of God! God answered the faith and prayers of the village elders!

We could not leave the village for five days. I will never forget walking out of that village of Nawairabe and travelling back to Sigatoka. Every other village had major damage. Some houses

were even washed down the Sigatoka River and out to sea about 40 miles away! One village was buried in six to eight feet of mud. 23 people lost their lives in that cyclone, but God demonstrated His power at Nawairabe and no damage was done! God had honoured the village elders' faith and spared their village! Praise the Lord!

Several years later, Doug and Jackie Hodges (who manage The GFM Hamilton Office overseeing all the Bible Correspondence Courses students), ministered at Nawairabe Village, and this is what they have to share: *"It was in February 1998 that we went up to Nawairabe. The Sigatoka River was in full flood so the folk were not expecting us to arrive due to the shocking weather. We had to cross the river on tyre tubes and then scale a cliff, etc. We arrived after dark (and very bedraggled), much to their amazement. They then prepared a meal and it was a very late one! Being New Zealanders the first question we were asked was if we knew Rodney. We were then entertained with everyone's version of the events surrounding 'the man of God's' visit and all the subsequent happenings. Next morning we were taken outside to be shown the mark where the river had risen to. We also stayed right on the riverbank and the mark was higher than me. It certainly was a miracle."*

AN INTERESTING DELIVERANCE

One time, when I was still pastoring, I received a telephone call from a businesswoman who was very concerned about one of her employees. It was a hairdressing business. The employee had suddenly had a change of character and was acting very strangely, like at closing time she would stand at the door with a pair of scissors threatening to harm anybody who tried to leave the premises. The staff were frightened of her, so the owner had to act. She gave the young lady an ultimatum that she had two choices ~ either to be fired, or she be taken along to see Rodney Francis for help. The young lady chose to come to me for help. We talked

and discovered that she had received an evil spirit of fear through watching a horror movie on the television. This had caused the woman to behave in this unusual way. I was assisted by another minister (Bill O'Brien) and when we prayed for the young lady to be healed she screamed very loudly on the floor, then rolled toward us as she was set free and sat at our feet a very different person. She was delivered through faith in the name of Jesus Christ. This experience is being shared to help people realize that when we involve ourselves with fearful, negative things that have spiritual connotations, we can open ourselves up to receive an evil spirit which can cause us to behave in some very unusual ways. Make sure you only watch good and edifying things on television.

GOD TAKES US AT OUR WORD

I remember the time when I was a speaker at a Leadership Training Camp in the Waikato Region of New Zealand. I was very desirous for God to move in a wonderful way. So I was praying to this end, even promising God that if He wanted to use me to do a new thing, then I was available (it is easy to say things like that when alone praying!) By the time the camp started I was very keen and excited to see what God would do. I was not officially involved in speaking at the first meeting, so I sat right at the back to observe what God would do. To my disappointment the meeting didn't seem "to get off the ground" and I started to feel that all my praying had been a waste of time. The more the meeting went on, the more I became disappointed. I observed the people looking at their watches and yawning, weary from their travels to the camp. Finally I complained to God about things and my unanswered prayers. To my surprise the Holy Spirit spoke straight back to me and said, **"Why don't you do something about it?"** My reply was that it was *"not my meeting and I did not have authority to do anything ~ but what would You want me to do?"* He said, **"I want you to get out of your seat and walk up and down the main aisle speaking**

in tongues at the top of your voice!” I was shocked! I had never done anything like that before (there were about 130 people in the meeting) so I immediately went into self-defence mode with the Lord, *“I can’t! I’ve never done anything like that before!”* The Holy Spirit replied, ***“Do you remember your prayers? You promised Me that if I wanted you to do a new thing that you would be available? Now, when I ask you, you don’t want to do it. Now get up and do it.”*** After some argument with the Lord I finally got up out of my seat and, instead of walking up and down the main aisle, I walked back and forth across the back of the meeting speaking in tongues in a very quiet voice (where only the speaker could see me). When I was across the other side of the hall (at the back), the Holy Spirit said to me, ***“What are you doing?”*** I said, *“I’m trying to obey You, Lord.”* His reply was, ***“I never asked you to do that. I asked you to walk up and down the main aisle speaking in tongues at the top of your voice ~ now get and do it.”*** At that point the speaker stopped speaking and just stared at me, wondering what on earth I was doing. So I shut my eyes and started walking up the main aisle speaking in tongues at the top of my voice. Every time I opened my eyes I saw heads wrenching towards the centre aisle, wondering who and what had come amongst them. When I got to the front of the meeting I turned to walk back down the aisle towards the rear of the meeting, when the Holy Spirit said to me, ***“When you get to the back I want you to turn around and walk up and down the aisle again, prophesying the word of the Lord!”*** So I did. The moment I finished obeying the Lord the Holy Spirit came on those people and the spirit of prophecy broke out all over the meeting. The first to prophesy was an elder from my church who had been seeking to prophesy for six years and had not been able to break through. But he broke through that night, as did many others, and something was broken and released in the spirit realm. We had a marvellous camp with the Holy Spirit doing wonderful things. Praise the Lord! It pays to obey!

DEAD GIRL RAISED UP!

After trying to avoid pastoring for some years, Jean and I were called into pastoring the church I was saved in. We found we enjoyed pastoring as we loved people and it enabled me to have regular ministry. God gave us many different experiences while pastoring. We learned a lot of things, especially that we had to live with our decisions and watch how God worked in and through people.

One of those highlights came one morning early when a young, 16-year-old Maori man rang us at 6:30 a.m. from the Palmerston North Hospital saying that his cousin, a patient there, had died. He had testified to the numbers of relatives and friends gathered around the young lady’s bed in intensive care, that if he could bring Pastor Rodney up to pray for her she would be healed. The people agreed and so I found myself going to the hospital wondering what I was going in to. I went to the intensive care unit and saw all these people standing around the bed of a 17-year-old Maori girl. I noticed all the machines she was connected to were stationary ~ nothing was moving to let one know there was life in the girl. I shared briefly with the people and then prayed for God to do a miracle and raise her up. After I said ‘Amen’ I stayed around for approximately another 30-minutes, then left. There was no evidence whatever that my prayers were answered; in fact my faith was such that I kept watch on the Death Notices column in the local newspaper. After three days of not seeing her name there, I rang the young man’s mother (Mary) and enquired about the girl. To my amazement she told me that not long after I left the intensive care unit at the hospital the young lady had woken, sat up and asked for something to eat! She shocked and amazed everyone present. I was told that the young lady was still in hospital under observation. On hearing that news I jumped into

my car and drove to the hospital to see the young lady. When I asked at the reception desk to see her, the charge nurse said to me, “*Oh, you mean our little miracle!*” She acknowledged that a miracle had taken place. I was taken into a room where the young lady was and saw her sitting cross-legged on her bed talking to a friend. I introduced myself to her. She told me they had related to her what had happened and how I had prayed for her. She thanked me very much for saving her life! An interesting side to this miracle was that it put such a fear in the hearts of the people that they were afraid to come near me or the church! The young lady was a Mormon. As far as I am aware she is still alive today.

LEARNING TO LOVE PEOPLE!

After being a Holy Spirit-filled believer for 16 years, I had an encounter with God that literally stopped me in my tracks. I had been pastoring for three years and thought I was doing okay. The Lord spoke to me and said these words: **“I am going to teach you how to love people.”** I was shocked! I really believed I did love people. I re-acted to the Lord, saying, *“Excuse me, Lord! I do love people. I’m a Pentecostal Pastor, You know!”* The next minute, very clearly through my mind passed the faces of five or six Christians I did not like! I saw them clearly. Following those faces came the words: **“How can a man say he loves God Who he has not seen, if he does not love his own brothers and sisters who he has seen? I want you to know that you can measure your love for Me. Your love for Me is only as great as your love for these the least of My brethren!”** In a moment of time I was reduced to what felt like nothing. I really believed I loved people, yet there was God telling me that I had fallen short of His love conditions. My “balloon had been pricked”, as it were. Suddenly I knew that I truly needed to learn how to love people; but I did not know how or where to begin! In my 16 years of being a Holy Spirit-filled Christian

I had spent hours and hours seeking the face of God, searching the Scriptures and making every effort not to miss any fellowship meetings. I was being “Mr. faithful, loyal and true.” But it was not sufficient for what God was asking of me.

It did not take long before I began to realize that God was taking me on a whole new journey to teach me how to love people. I would be sitting in my pastor’s office when total strangers (one at a time) would knock on my door and walk in, saying words like this: *“Hey, Preach, I need to talk to you.”* As they were already halfway in I would then invite them to sit down and talk. They then poured out their heart to me, confessing to sins and crimes they had committed that literally saw me squirming in my chair. I was hearing things that I had not thought were possible for human beings to commit! Quietly I would cry out to God to help me how to minister to them, and He would reply with, **“Son, I’m teaching you how to love people.”** This went on for some time. Then one day there was a knock on my office door, and the head of the Criminal Investigation Branch of the Police walked into my office. He asked what were the people coming to see me about. I said to him (proudly): *“What is a church for?”* His reply was, *“Yes, but they are not coming on Sundays, are they?”* At that time our church was very small. He then went on to tell me, *“I think it is time that you knew that the police have had a 24-hour watch on your church for the past three months ~ and all the most-wanted criminals in the Manawatu are making a ‘bee-line’ to your door. And we want to know why!”* Well, that was news to me. I was so ignorant as to who those people were that were coming to confess their sinful deeds to me.

As time went on it seemed that God was sending to me people who were deeper into all kinds of evil activities than the previous ones before. I was now becoming well-informed with all kinds of information about the “goings on” of the underworld. About

that time a young woman phoned me and asked if we could help heroin addicts. By then I had developed this simple philosophy: *“I don't care how far in life anyone has fallen; I believe in Jesus Christ they can rise again.”* I assured her that Jesus could help her. We met and started counselling her. Not too long after that her drug-dealing husband left her, and so we took her into our home. We soon discovered that heroin addiction was only a part of her problems. Through the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (through several people) we discovered that she was “Number Four” in the strongest Satanic coven in New Zealand. And when the Satanists found out that we were setting her free from the bondages associated with that lifestyle, all hell began to break loose against us. For two years our telephone rang non-stop from 10:30 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. every night. They were trying to break our spirit so we would let the woman go (they were desperate to get her back). We would not take our telephone off the hook as we were determined that they were not going to dictate our life to us; and we wanted to be available to our church people if and when they needed us.

We discovered the woman had a curse of barrenness on her life; she had never been able to have children. In our enthusiasm for Jesus we broke the curse of barrenness. Though she was living in our home she was also still seeing her ex-husband. She got pregnant and, guess what? I got the blame for being the father of the child. Not from the underworld people, but from the Christians!

The Satanists then began to apply pressure on us by giving us telephone threats, like: *“Keep your nose out of our business, Preacher Boy, or you will be dead.”* When we did not respond in the way they expected us to, they then increased the pressure: *“We know the route your son takes to and from school. If you value his life, then keep your nose out of our business or we will kidnap him”* and words similar (Mark at that time was 12 years old). When you get threats

like that you have to be real serious in how you respond. But by that time I had to prove for myself that Jesus was stronger than Satan ~ and sure enough, we were about to learn and know that! Because we did not stop helping these people, their next step was to inform me that I had three death contracts on my life; I was a ‘marked’ man to be killed. On one occasion I received a telephone call on a Thursday night saying that there were two hit-men from Birmingham, England, arriving in the city the next day; that I would be dead by Saturday and they would be back in Birmingham by the Tuesday and would never be found out. We found out that they did arrive in the city as they said; but there was such an upheaval in the Satanic coven that they had to stay in our city for two years ~ and, due to God's total protection, they could not touch me! Hallelujah! How frustrated they must have been. At the end of the five years the queen of that coven telephoned a local pastor in our city and confessed over the telephone that Jesus Christ had to be stronger than Satan, because everything they had done to kill me had failed ~ and they had never failed before!

On one occasion we were told that when they actually came to our house to get us and burn it down, that they could not even get onto our property because (in their words) our property was surrounded by *“nine feet tall angels!”* My response was, *“I wish I could see them.”* How true the Scripture is: ***“For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways”*** (Psalm 91:11; Luke 4:10). And how wonderful when you experience those promises in living reality!!

Here's an interesting thing: During those five years of having the death contracts on my life, our church grew from about 30 to 400. When pastors ask me how to make their church grow, I often jokingly tell them to get a death contract on their life! Jean and I lived very close to God in those five years and saw His power of protection in marvellous ways.

During all this time God was teaching me how to love people. To say that He changed my heart as a Christian is an under-statement! So many times I felt totally inadequate with the people who were sharing with me the problems they faced. Many of them could no longer live with themselves; that's why they were sent by God to me. I was able to help so many of them find relief. There is much more we could share here, but suffice it to say we proved that the power of God is greater than the power of the enemy! **Jesus Christ is Lord! The love of God delivered us from fear and the enemy's threats against us.** That is such a victorious place to be in. I never knew that one could be so free and fearless against all the tactics of the enemy. Praise the Lord, we can!

If I am totally honest with you, I believe it took me about 10 years for God to teach me how to love people ~ to change me from a person who kept others at arm's length (for fear that if they got too close to me they would discover something about me they did not like, and would therefore reject me. And I did not want to be rejected!). The difference between living like that and what God brought me into ~ and the freedom to express one's self when filled with the love of Jesus ~ has no comparison. It changed the way I ministered and preached. And I have seen and experienced so many more positive results along the way. (See my book, "You Can Measure Your Love For God").

Consider these verses of Scripture: ***"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in***

love. We love Him because He first loved us. If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (1 John 4:15-21).

VANUATU

It has been my joy to visit and minister in Vanuatu (in the South Pacific) on about five different occasions. I well remember the first time I went there and on Sundays seeing people walking to church with their Bibles and one of my books under their arms! This was the result of John and Kathy Nunes-Vaz' vision to get my writings into book form, print them and then they sent them to Vanuatu to be distributed. It is an interesting feeling to be in a country where you have never been before and to see people walking around with one of your books under their arms!

One of the highlights of my times there ~ and my whole ministry ~ was the time my good friend, Harvey Walker and I, were taken to the island of Pentecost to a remote village called Naruwa. The journey to Naruwa was an experience in itself, as the vehicle we were in had to be winched up a muddy track to get there. On arrival we were greeted by the village elders, and it was stepping back several generations owing to their lack of contact with the outside world. We were the first white persons in 27 years to visit that village. What an experience it was to be the centre of attention, especially from the young people who had never seen such anaemic specimens of humanity before! Everywhere we walked in that village ~ even to the outside toilet ~ we were followed by a number of them. When we awoke in the mornings, our windows were full of faces peering in to see us!

We started meetings with a very small number attending. In the third meeting I remember the Holy Spirit speaking to me to **“release the people to prophesy.”** My mind struggled with it as my thinking was, *“What would they know about prophesying?”* However, I obeyed the Lord and spoke out what He asked me to. The next thing a young lady who could not speak a word of English started to prophesy. It was a very simple prophecy. When I asked the interpreter what she was saying he was reluctant to tell me as (he said) she was just repeating herself. When I insisted he gave me this interpretation: **“The Lord is now saying, ‘It is time for the men to come in, it is time for the men to come in. The Lord is now saying, It is time for the men to come in, for the men to come in.’”** When she finished prophesying I quickly did a count up of the people in the meeting. There 20 women and three men. But the prophecy released something in the spirit realm, as from the very next meeting men began to pour in. **Over the next four days we saw 40 percent of the area come to Jesus Christ!** It was amazing. Over 200 new converts as a result of one simple prophetic utterance! The power and presence of the Holy Spirit in those meetings were awesome from that point on. I remember trying to walk around in the meeting as I was preaching ~ and the atmosphere was so “thick” that it pushed me backwards! Every morning the four village elders would come and tell Harvey and me the different things the Lord was doing during the hours of the night while the people slept. We experienced a visitation of God in that village, and we will never forget it. Praise the Lord!

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

I have ministered in Papua New Guinea on three different occasions. One of the highlights for me was speaking at a Pastors Conference at Mt. Hagen. It was a wonderful time. At the end of the Conference two of the top Government Officials came to address the gathering, for that is how they communicate with the

people in the inland villages: via the pastors. My time of ministry was officially over when they addressed the Conference. I was sitting on the platform behind them, and the Lord gave me a word of knowledge for one of the Government Officials. While I was wondering what I should do, I quickly got a burden to get a word of knowledge for the other man too. The Lord gave me one; so when they had finished speaking I broke protocol by getting up and facing them. I said words something like this: *“Sirs, I have been privileged this week to be able to share with many of these Pastors words that the Lord gave me to share with them. And, right now, the Lord has given me a word for both of you men ~ if you would be willing to receive it I will be happy to share them with you?”* They responded with a *“Please do.”* So I shared the words of knowledge with them and the whole Conference burst forth into clapping as they knew the men (and I didn’t); and they knew that what I had spoken to them was true. They were words of encouragement that God would promote them if they did certain things, etc. Those men were surrounded with newspaper reporters and photographers, who were busily recording all these happenings.

I left that Conference feeling happy with what had happened, not realizing that act of obedience with those two Government Officials was going to have an ongoing impact yet to come. For on my next trip to Papua New Guinea (about one year later), when I arrived at the International Airport at Port Moresby, I was met by a delegation from the Papua New Guinea Government and taken to Parliament House where I was given an escorted tour around the buildings, debating chamber, etc. At the end they then sat me down and asked me if I had a word for the Government! I was able to share the word of the Lord with them.

Those two Government Officials that spoke at the end of the Conference in Mt. Hagen (which is many miles away from Port

Moresby the capital) obviously had gone back to the Parliament in Port Moresby and told them all about me! When they heard that I was returning to Papua New Guinea they made sure they could get me to the House of Parliament to speak to them. God is good!

A WORLD MINISTRY TRIP

In 1994 God spoke to me that I was to go to the United Kingdom for ministry in 1995. At that time I was a part of the National Executive of the Elim Churches of New Zealand. That year, 1994, they had decided to send a New Zealand representative to attend the UK Elim Pastors' Conference. Their method of choosing who would go in 1994 was to cast lots, i.e. put our names in a box and the name picked out would be the representative. My name came out. I then explained to them that I was to go in 1995 and that someone else should go in 1994. So the name was drawn again. Each time my name came out! Finally my name was left out ~ and I went in 1995.

Prior to going to the United Kingdom I received an invitation to go to "Christ For The Nations International" Bible Institute in Dallas, Texas, to minister for four days. (CFNI is the largest Pentecostal Bible College in USA.) Then I was invited to preach at a Ministers' and Missionaries Conference in one meeting at Columbus, Georgia, USA. I accepted, thinking that was not too far from CFNI and I could fit it in. When it came time to book our seats for our world trip, to my amazement I discovered that Columbus, Georgia, was on the other side of USA. What were we to do? We decided we would go by faith and see what the Lord would do (if I had accepted and gone to the UK to represent New Zealand Elim in 1994 I would have missed these marvellous opportunities).

THE LADY IN A BLUE DRESS

On our way to mainland America we were invited to preach in a church on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. Two weeks before leaving for Hawaii, I was sitting in a Pastors and Elders Meeting. It was a very rare Leaders Meeting. I say this because we had a time of prayer over the matters being discussed. The Holy Spirit took over and we all sat in total silence for the next two hours. (Can you imagine a Leaders Meeting like that?). During that time of silence, the Holy Spirit spoke to me with these words: ***"I am sending you to Hawaii to minister to a lady in a blue dress, to heal her of a wounded spirit. When you see her, compassion will be released within you and tears will run down your face. Share with the people what God is going to do in Hawaii with that lady."*** When the time of silence had finished I said to those present: *"I don't know where you have been, but I've just been to Hawaii to heal a lady in a blue dress of a wounded spirit."* That was met with laughs. It was far more difficult to announce at a meeting of about 130 people what God had told me was going to happen in Hawaii. My thoughts were that people would be asking me (when I returned back to New Zealand) about that lady . . . and what if it didn't happen?, etc.) But I did obey.

I had never preached in Hawaii before. The meeting was at Pastor Mervyn Walker's Church (older brother to my good friend, Harvey Walker). I remember when I stood up to speak, looking around the church and, to my amazement, nearly every woman had a blue dress on! They were mainly Hawaiian and Japanese people. As I preached my eyes were looking for the lady the Holy Spirit had spoken to me about back in New Zealand. I had nearly exhausted all the possibilities when suddenly my eyes noticed a white American lady sitting there. Immediately compassion welled-up in me and I just knew that I had found the right lady. Her name was

Jo Lynn. I knew that I was in the right place at the right time with the right message for the right person! It was a 'God-appointment'! With tears running down my face I told the lady what God had spoken to me before leaving New Zealand and that He had sent me there to heal her of a wounded spirit. By this time she and her husband were also crying as they totally identified with what I was saying to her. She was instantly healed of that wounded spirit. After the service we were taken out for a meal and Jo Lynn and her husband were part of the group. She told me how she had been involved in a world-renowned Evangelistic Ministry, and how she loved the work, etc., but could not say "No" to whatever was asked of her. As a result of this she was asked to baby-sit the children of the Leader and his wife while they went out at nights; and then the Assistant Leader started wanting her to do the same for them. The result of all this was that she was working day and night, causing her spirit to snap within her, so she had run away. She ran away to Hawaii where she met and married her husband. From memory she had been there about three years. After some time she believed she was healed of her wounded spirit, but just two weeks before I arrived there, another Christian Sister (who knew nothing of her situation) said something to her that stirred-up the wounded spirit within her, and she knew she was not healed of it. She told us that the past two weeks had been horrible as she realized that not only was she not healed, but she also did not know how she could be healed. She then went on, relating to us this amazing story: She said that she never wore blue; that blue was not her colour. But just one week previously she had received a package in the mail from her father in America that contained two dresses for her ~ one of which was that blue one! She said she only wore that blue dress that day to honour her natural father; it was the first time she had worn a blue dress in her adult life! When the Holy Spirit told me that I was going to heal a lady in a blue dress, she did not even own one! She went on to tell us that the thing that impacted her

the most that day was the realization that God so loved her that He sent a total stranger more than 6,000 miles just to heal her! It was a wonderful moment in God! And I certainly had an awesome testimony to share on my return to New Zealand! My last contact with Jo Lynn was that she was back in USA ministering for the Lord.

COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

We flew across America for that one meeting at the Ministers and Missionaries Conference. I was the second-to-last speaker. I remember standing up to speak and there sitting in the audience were all these international evangelists and speakers whose magazines I had been reading for some years. Now here I was preaching to them. I was somewhat awed to think that here I was preaching to them! As I spoke, the Holy Spirit would give me words of knowledge for different ones of them. I would stop preaching, ask them to stand up, and then deliver to them what the Holy Spirit told me to tell them. At that point each of them burst into tears and cried openly in public (I didn't think my preaching was that bad ~ smile). This happened for a number of them. At the end of the meeting a queue of about 20 of them lined-up to speak to me. I thought they had come for prayer so I asked them what they wanted me to pray for. Their reply was that they did not come for prayer. I asked, "*Then what did you come for?*" They replied by saying, "*How do you do that?*" "*Do what?*" "*How can you preach and give words of knowledge together? We don't know how to do that.*" Then they said to me something I have remembered ever since... "*Rodney, we preach and minister to thousands of people around the world; you are the very first person to minister to and encourage us!*" I was gob-smacked! As a result of that one meeting that we travelled so far to speak in, two years later I was the guest speaker at that Ministers and Missionaries Conference in another part of USA!

“SONG BIRD” LADY

On that second trip to minister at that Ministers and Missionaries Conference in USA, I also went back to Columbus, Georgia. In one of the meetings, as I was speaking, the Holy Spirit directed me to a lady sitting about halfway back in the congregation. He told me she was His “*song bird*” and that He had raised her up to sing the song of the Lord. When I spoke the word out to her, I could feel the whole meeting quickly go flat ~ it seemed that faith “went out the door.” It was so noticeable that I asked the people, “*Why did you do that to me?*” A man then stood up and addressed me in front of everyone, asking if I knew the lady that I had just given the word to about her being a “*song bird.*” I answered, “*No.*” He then said, “*I think you ought to know that that lady used to sing. But about three years ago she got a disease in her throat and had to have major surgery. The surgery went all wrong and her voice box was permanently damaged. The experts have said that she will never sing again!*” Right at that moment I felt like the latest false prophet in town! It was a horrible feeling and made me feel like getting out of town as quickly as I could. But there was still another meeting to speak at the next morning. When that next meeting started, it had not been going long, when the lady I had given a word to stood up and walked to the front of the church. No one asked her to; she simply did it on her own initiative. At the front of the church across the platform there were six microphones on cords. The lady stepped up to the first one and simply stared at it for a few moments. She then moved on to the second and did the same again. Then she stepped to the third one, and the fourth one. After staring at the fourth one for a few moments she stepped forwards and picked it up. She then turned, walked to the front row of the church and stood there in the aisle with the microphone in her hand. The place went absolutely quiet. Then, putting the microphone to her mouth, she began to sing the most beautiful prophetic song! The

whole place burst into tears (including me), as everyone heard the fulfilment of my prophecy to her, as well as hearing first-hand a miracle of God in restoring her voice to sing right there and then. It was an awesome thing to witness. I left town vindicated. God is good! A few years after this God reminded me of that miracle, then spoke to me and said: “***I want you to know, Rodney, that My word is more accurate than the word of an expert!***”

CHRIST FOR THE NATIONS

In 1995 I had the wonderful privilege of ministering in Dallas, Texas, for four days at that great Institution, “Christ For The Nations”. I was told I was the first New Zealander or Australian to minister in that place for many years. God used me to speak into the lives of 1,100 students over those days. It was a precious time. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are “people-openers” and “door-openers” for ministry. When the Holy Spirit of Truth is listened to and obeyed, we witness things happening that we see no other way.

I remember going to the cafeteria to have a meal with the students. They told me I was the first visiting speaker to actually sit down and have a meal with them (I thought that was sad ~ we should be able to relate personally with those we minister to)! Three years later I was back there for another four days of ministry.

CALLED TO TEACH AND RELEASE PROPHETIC MINISTRY

In 1995 God spoke to me to develop, conduct, equip and release people in the Prophetic Ministry. This Ministry is focussed on recognizing and hearing the voice of God and how He speaks

to us; releasing people into the Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12-14), and obedience to whatever God says to us. We began to run “International Training Schools” (now called “Prophetic Equipping Schools”) and our first one was held in Manila, Philippines in 1996. A Team of seven went from New Zealand and we ran it for 12 days. A teaching manual was printed (450 copies) and given to those present. It was a wonderful School and enabled us to see the potential of running such, as well as the impact it had on those who attended.

Three years later I was back in the Philippines in the city of Cebu (which is many miles away from Manila), to speak at a Conference there. As I was standing on the footpath in that city of one million people, within ten minutes I saw two men walking separately along with one of the manuals from the Manila School under their arms! I was amazed. They both attended the Conference I was speaking at in Cebu. God has been good over the years in allowing me to see some of the results of our getting literature into the hands of the people. Unless it is destroyed it remains to minister again and again. Hallelujah!

We have continued to conduct these Schools up to this day in New Zealand and other nations, and have had the joy of seeing many thousands of people greatly impacted by the Holy Spirit Ministry, and encouraging the people to do what we are doing in hearing the voice of the Lord and obeying Him. These days our Prophetic Equipping Schools run from 5-7 days, depending on the situations we are going into. For me, personally, I think these are some of the best things we do in The GFM Ministry.

OUR FIRST MINISTRY TIME IN THE UNITED KINGDOM (1995)

From America we flew to the United Kingdom via Canada. I was going there to represent the New Zealand Elim Churches at the UK Elim Churches Conference at Prestatyn, North Wales. An itinerary had been arranged for me prior to the Conference, so it was good to have that experience and to meet some of the people beforehand. I was booked to speak in four different sessions at the Conference, straight after lunch when there were a number of other things organised for the Conference Delegates. The meetings I spoke at were in a large tent. The first meeting only about 30 people turned up. I preached and let the Holy Spirit lead me. Several words of knowledge were shared. The next day about 75 turned up. Again the Holy Spirit ministered through me and numbers were touched by Him. In the third meeting, which was larger again, the Holy Spirit told me to release the people to prophesy. So I did, and all over that tent people began to prophesy. Something was broken through by the Holy Spirit and the people prophesying. The final meeting was packed with people standing all around the walls of the tent. Those meetings opened the doors for me to minister on a number of different occasions in the UK. At the time of writing I have had 10 trips to that nation to minister in England and Wales, and have also ministered once in Scotland, Guernsey and Isle Of Man.

God demonstrated His power in a way I have never seen before or since at that Elim Conference. In one of the evening meetings with at least 1,000 people in attendance, I was sitting in the second row on the platform with the other Conference Speakers. The front row was taken up with the six leading U.K. Elim Ministers. As the meeting progressed I became aware of a growing noise in the ceiling of the roof on the right hand side to where I was sitting.

The noise grew louder and louder ~ and then suddenly there was a great “Whoosh!” sound and the six men sitting in front of me were swept into the orchestra pit to the left of the platform. It was amazing! I can still see those men in their suits trying to unravel microphone cords, chairs, as well as untangling themselves one from another as the power of God hit them. No one could have organised something like that! It was a God Happening, and He showed us something of what He can do when He wants to. It was a wonderful Conference!

SWANSEA, WALES 1997

In 1997 (September to early December) we were invited to be based in the Elim Church in Swansea, Wales, to run a “**School Of The Holy Spirit**” there every Thursday night for 14 weeks, where 200-300 from around South Wales attended each week; to be a part of the church, as well as to do some ministry in other churches around the country. It was a very blessed time for us and numbers of people were impacted by the Holy Spirit. Out of that School my manual “**School Of The Holy Spirit**” was developed and has been ~ and is now ~ a blessing to many thousands of people around the world. The manual has been translated and printed into a number of languages and we are continually receiving reports of the impact it is having.

One of the highlights of the School happened one evening. Before the session started, three different people came to me saying they believed God had spoken to them that He wanted to heal a crippled lady who was part of the church there. None knew that the other had the same word regarding Elaine. I shared with Elaine what the three people had said and asked her if she minded if we prayed for her. She was happy for us to do that. I called those three people to come forwards and join me in praying. At the end of the prayer

(which I led), we watched to see what would happen. Elaine was in her 30's and was bent over from her crippled condition. She walked with a stick. After prayer we watched as Elaine slowly straightened up, looked around at where she was and then threw her walking stick away. At that point I did something I had not done before or since: I grabbed Elaine and we danced together around the front of the church! It was amazing. The people were ecstatic! God had shown His power in our midst.

The next day Elaine and her husband were going away for a three-week holiday to stay with her atheistic brother. She had been praying for an opportunity to witness to him. I can only imagine what he must have thought when his formerly crippled sister walked in normally! I remember being in the church the Sunday (three weeks later) Elaine returned from holiday, and to see her walk into the church like any other normal, healthy person was amazing. Those who were not present on the Thursday night were so impacted to see what the Lord had done in her life. There was great rejoicing! I am so glad I listened ~ and acted upon ~ the three words of knowledge those three people had about her. “**By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established**” (2 Corinthians 13:1).

THE POWER OF PROPHESYING

Another highlight for us was the night I taught on “The Gift of Prophecy” and then released the people to prophesy. One lady, about 55 years of age, prophesied for the first time in her life. She gave a good, encouraging word to the people. Unknown to us was that there was in that meeting a 28-year-old man (we'll call him Edward) who was there for the first time. He had been invited by a workmate to attend. He was actually a blood relative to Aleister Crowley, one of the highest warlords/warlocks in the United Kingdom and Europe. Edward was going to be initiated

into a Satanic coven in three weeks' time from that Thursday night. When that lady prophesied for the first time, what Edward heard her prophesying was very different to what everyone else heard. What he heard was this: ***"You're in the wrong camp; you're in the wrong camp," etc.*** So he said to himself, *"I sure am!"* and got up and left the meeting. However, when he went to bed that night ~ and for the next three nights ~ he continued to hear the words of that lady prophesying in his mind, ***"You're in the wrong camp."*** After three sleepless nights he decided to come back to the church and seek me out for help. It was now Sunday night, five minutes before the evening service was to commence, with 400 people present. I was sitting at the front row when Edward came and sat beside me with the words, *"You've got to help me."* I asked him what his problem was. He explained that he had attended my session on the Thursday night and this lady had spoken out these words to him, ***"You're in the wrong camp,"*** etc. When I enquired further of him, he told me that he was a blood relative of Aleister Crowley and that he was soon to be initiated into the strongest Satanic coven in the United Kingdom during Halloween. Having dealt with Satanists back in New Zealand, I was then wondering that if I prayed for him then and there (in front of all the people), that we could have quite a manifestation of the enemy. However, he begged me to help him, so I took his two hands in mine (we were both seated) and quietly led him through a prayer of renunciation of all his evil beliefs and involvement in things Satanic (no one in the church knew what was happening). He was very good and did not manifest at all. Over the next week we had the joy of seeing Edward come free of his evil practices, etc. The next thing was that he invited me to attend his water baptismal service (held at the Swansea Elim Church), and Jean and I were present to witness that. Our last conversation with Edward before we left to return to New Zealand was him coming and telling us that he was now to prepare his life for full-time Christian ministry; that Jesus was

calling him to serve Him. That was our last contact with him and we have often wondered where Edward progressed to after that. We learned another lesson on that Thursday night with regards people prophesying. When we obey the Holy Spirit and speak forth His words, then He can take our obedience and use it in whatever way He desires; He can use our voice to speak one message to one person and a different message to another person at the same time! As far as we know no one else heard what Edward heard that night; we heard the encouraging prophecy that the lady gave. Praise the Lord!

THE POWER OF LOVE

Another highlight of our stay in Swansea happened one Sunday morning in the church service. I was waiting to speak when the Holy Spirit pointed out a young man to me who was sitting about two-thirds the way to the back of the church. He asked me to walk down the main aisle, invite the young man to come to me so that I could take him into my arms and impart the love of a father into him. The Lord said he had not known the love of a father. When I got up to speak I told the congregation what the Holy Spirit had said and invited the young man to meet me in the aisle. I then walked down the aisle (400 people present) and embraced the young man. We stood there together in one another's arms while I imparted all the love I knew how into him. After several minutes we separated, and when I turned around to walk back up to the pulpit, my eyes looked around the congregation. All over the church I saw people wiping tears from their eyes with their handkerchiefs. That demonstration of love for that young man had powerfully ministered into the lives of the people. At the end of the service that young man came to the front and asked to speak to me. I told him that was fine. Then he said, *"Before I tell you what I have never told anyone else in my life, could I please have another hug!"* I was happy to give him one. He then looked at me and said,

“I cannot read or write; I have never told anyone else about this. Today, when I was in your arms, I heard a voice speak to me and say, ‘Son, I am going to teach you how to write.’ I want to make a promise to you today, that I am going to learn to read and write ~ and I am going to write my first letter to you”. Two weeks later I received that letter and could read it word for word! Through that act of obedience of inviting that young man to come into my arms in front of a whole church, something was broken inside of him that released him to learn to read and write. Hallelujah! What a tremendous blessing that has been for him. I later learned that he had existed on the streets until just recently when he had found Jesus as His Saviour and was then going through the Teen Challenge Rehabilitation Centre in the area.

Our obedience to the Holy Spirit always has someone waiting on the other side of our obedience. **It is not until we obey that we see the works of the Holy Spirit unfolded through us. It always turns out right when we follow His instructions!** Those 14 weeks at Swansea have proven to be one of the highlights of our lives. The people were lovely and they were impacted by our love for them and by the Holy Spirit Ministry.

A TIME OF PAIN AND CHANGE

We came back to New Zealand and walked into a very difficult period of our lives. No matter what we tried to do to solve things it just seemed to work against us. After some period of time, the Lord spoke to me. It happened when I was ministering outside of my regular church circles at a Presbyterian Elders Retreat in South Auckland. It was a wonderful time of speaking prophetically into the lives of those Leaders. At the end I told them that I had some major decisions to make and would they please pray for me. They surprised me by “turning the tables” on me, sitting me in a chair

and then prophesying over me! One man stepped forward and said this: *“Rodney I have got this crazy word for you. It does not make sense to me, but I am going to tell you anyway. God is showing me that you do not belong in the local church.”* (At that point my “alarm bells” began to ring as I had been a local church person all my Christian life.) He then said: *“The Lord is now showing me why you do not belong in the local church ~ it is because you belong in every church! As long as you stay in the local church you will always be weighed down with Leadership responsibilities.”* At that moment something “snapped” inside of me and I heard the Lord say, **“Yes, Rodney, I want you to resign all your church positions, trust Me with your life and future, and I will show you what I can do for you. Live by faith and do not raise a financial support base!”** Amazingly, as soon as I heard those words, my natural mind (and the devil) tried to take over and dictate to me. I suddenly began to recall all those other Christians I knew who had tried to live the faith life (and had failed), and my mind was telling me that would happen to me also! What God had said left me feeling very vulnerable, for it meant for me to obey Him I was going to have to let go the security of my pastor’s salary!

The words those men prophesied over me were recorded, so I took them home for Jean to listen to, so she could hear exactly what was spoken over me. The words impacted her also, and, on the strength of what we believed God had spoken to us, we wrote out our resignations from the local and national church we were a part of. We decided we would not tell anyone for 10 days what we had done. Yet from the time we passed “the point of no return” something was released in my spirit and we stepped into another realm in God. Immediately invitations began pouring in from around the world for me to go and speak (yet we had told no one what we had done). In fact in those 10 days of telling no one we received 20 invitations from at least six different nations

asking me to go and preach. Since that time I would have averaged one invitation every day to go and preach somewhere! After those 10 days, as people began to hear what we had done, we were told that we had made a big mistake, that we would regret what we'd done, that we would be the losers, etc. The truth is that we have not looked back from that time. God had released us into a whole new realm of ministry. At that time The GFM Ministry had grown to be in 55 countries ~ at the time of writing we are now in at least 110 nations, impacting multiplied thousands of lives. God has wonderfully provided financially for both Jean and I, and the growing GFM Ministry! Our testimony is that every month every bill is paid. God has certainly shown us something of what He can do when we will trust and obey Him! And the ministry continues to grow. Our Website alone averages around 850-900 different people per day visiting it.

It is very difficult to describe the difference between living the way we used to (with man's security of a salary) and that of living without one, and not knowing where the next dollar is coming from. I am just so glad that we obeyed the Lord, for we would never have experienced the things we have and do, if we had not stepped out in obedience to what He asked of us. And I have never felt more secure in all my life as I do now! Hallelujah!

THE SALVATION OF OUR FAMILY

In 2007 Jean and I moved to Paraparaumu, New Zealand, to be closer to our son, Mark, his wife, Tania, and their two lovely children, Annahlise and Brayden. Besides wanting to be able to see our grandchildren growing up, we were desirous of seeing them all become born-again Christians, as at that time they were not walking with God. Not too long after we moved here we had the joy of seeing a big transformation taking place with their lives ~

and it happened in a very unexpected way. One morning (can you believe it, while sitting on the toilet!) the Holy Spirit turned up and revealed Himself to Tania ~ she had not been brought up with any Christian convictions, came from a broken home, and so was quite ignorant as to the ways of God. Her spirit and life were immediately impacted and so began a whole new life and walk with God. This change in Tania impacted Mark, as he saw God in a different light, and he, too, recommitted his life to Jesus Christ and has been walking with Him ever since.

Mark's Comments:

"I was raised a Christian but never knew God personally. I encountered several demonic attacks as a child and saw others attacked as well by them. From my wrong mind-set of Who God/Jesus/Holy Spirit was, I turned away from Christianity, falsely believing it was too hard to please God. I saw the true God in a different light through His impact with Tania. I recommitted myself to Jesus Christ a few days later, and now know the truth which set me free. All I needed was a gentle reminder that God was the true Master. This came about when I discovered that God was more like a loving Father and not the "mean old Judge" watching out that we didn't put a foot wrong and so we end up going to hell. My biggest desire now is to teach the truth to others, especially to other Christians" ~ *Mark Francis*.

My Journey with God by Tania Francis:

"My journey with God has been hard, awesome, rewarding and full of fun! That may sound contradictory but this has been my walk. Full of ups and downs! The hardest part of my walk from someone who never knew God until I was sovereignly saved five years ago has been trying to trust Him. Trying to control my own life whilst having God in the centre of it didn't work too well for me! God is gentle and patient and soon began to teach me (as hard

as it was to let go and trust Him). Am I completely there yet? No! Do I trust Him more today than I did five years ago? Absolutely!

The best thing about my walk is the fact that I have a personal relationship with Him. I spend many hours with Him in His presence. I know Him and I like what I see. He is very real and interested in every detail of my life. Without this personal relationship it would have been merely religious and not at all rewarding.

When God saved me I was severely broken; broken to the point of no return. God took that brokenness and created a Ministry from it. He was the father, I was the mother and our baby was the Ministry. He birthed the Ministry from the innermost depths of my broken soul. Every wound and broken part of me God is cleansing, healing and restoring. Whatever God shows me becomes part of the Ministry. E-Mails are coming in from people who are receiving healing from our material. God is using something that was ugly and broken and turning it into something beautiful, pure and good. Only our wonderful God can do this because He is ~ and always ~ will be GREAT”!

ITALY

I have had the privilege of ministering in Italy on six occasions. My introduction to Italy came as a result of my having a word of knowledge for an Italian Pastor at a Ministers Conference at the York Raceway, England (I had no idea who he was when I gave him the word). The pastor’s name was Giuseppe Piccolo and he was the Leader of the “Elim Pentecostal Churches” of Italy. He purchased a copy of my “**School Of The Holy Spirit**” manual, translated and printed it in the Italian language ~ all at no cost to The GFM Ministry. Then he invited me to go to Italy the following

year to speak at their Annual Elim Conference. I accepted and a new country was about to open up for me. One week before I left for Italy, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and asked me to speak His Message on the Love of God that He has impacted my life with personally. He then gave me a vision and I saw myself standing in Italy at the Pastors Conference speaking on the Love of God. In the vision I saw the results of my obedience to speaking there what God asked of me. I saw people crying in one another’s arms asking forgiveness of one another for not loving them enough.

When I arrived at the Conference at Caserta, Italy, I knew in my spirit that I was to speak that message in the Friday evening session. I obeyed and after I finished speaking I saw the fulfilment of the vision shown me back in New Zealand: Leaders were embracing one another, weeping and expressing their forgiveness and love one to the other. It was such a blessing to see. That opened the door for me to minister around Italy on several occasions.

At that Elim Conference there were two Youth Pastors who were not sure about my ministry. They had big question marks about the prophetic realm. Then (I think to their horror) they learned that I was going to their church in Messina, Sicily, next! They decided to put me to the test to see if I was genuine or not. They agreed that they would both hide separately in the large building where the meeting was being held, and had schemed that if I was a man of God I would find them! I knew nothing of their scheme at all. On the way to the meeting in Messina I was taken to a shop to pray for a businessman whose wife had left him. It had left him somewhat devastated. I prayed for him and was then taken to the meeting. From memory there were about 600 people present. As I was speaking, I suddenly felt compelled to do something I would not normally do. The Holy Spirit gave me a word of knowledge for a lady sitting right at the back and, instead of me getting her

to stand or calling her out to the front, I went marching down the long aisle to where she was sitting and delivered the Prophetic Word to her. I had no idea who she was. When I turned around to walk back up to the front of the meeting I noticed a young man hiding across the building behind a large round support beam that went from the floor to the ceiling. I carried on speaking and then suddenly I started walking down the aisle again and called to the young man to come out to the front. Sheepishly he followed me to the front of the meeting. I then ministered prophetically to him and, instead of allowing him to go back to where he was, I carried on speaking again for a little bit with him standing a short distance away at the front of the church. Then I found myself walking down that long aisle again and called out another young man on the other side of the building hiding behind another beam. When he got to the front he stood next to the other young man standing there and I delivered to him a Prophetic Word also. As soon as I had finished one of the young men asked if they could speak (they were the church's Youth Pastors). He then testified to the whole church of their doubts about me and how they had schemed to hide and see that if I was a man of God then I would find them. They then told the church that I had to be a man of God for what had just happened.

The amazing thing to me was that the lady who I had given that word to at the back turned out to be the estranged wife of the businessman I had prayed for on my way to the meeting (I was totally ignorant of that fact). The word I shared with her broke something in her spirit and the result was that the marriage was restored. Praise the Lord! It pays to obey. If I had not been free enough in myself to do something out of the ordinary by walking to the back of that large building, I would not have noticed the first young man hiding where he was. It proves again that "there

is always somebody waiting on the other side of our obedience." When we listen to the Holy Spirit He always works it out right and gives us a testimony to go with it!

On one of those trips I was in Trapani, Sicily, ministering when the Holy Spirit pointed out to me a lady sitting in the meeting. Her name was Giusy. The Holy Spirit told me to tell her that He had given to her the Gifts of Healings and that He was going to use her to heal people. There was no immediate evidence of that being a true word, and I left that town without seeing Giusy's ministry in action. Several months later I was back in Trapani again, and everywhere I went, people who knew me would stop and say, "*Have you heard about Giusy?*" Then they would tell me the following story: Not long after I left Trapani, one morning while Giusy was having her devotions, the Holy Spirit spoke to her and asked her to take a walk down the other end of her street; to knock on the door of the house He would show her, and to offer to pray for anyone sick in that house. Nervously Giusy obeyed and walked down her street. As she neared the end, the Holy Spirit spoke and said, "***Knock on that door.***" So Giusy went to that door and knocked on it. A lady opened the door and Giusy explained that she was a Christian, that God had spoken to her, and why she was there. The lady burst into tears and took her inside to a room where there was another lady in bed dying of a massive tumour on the brain. Giusy prayed the prayer of faith and God wonderfully healed her! I am told that the doctors have even accepted that the lady's healing is a miracle of God. Praise to the Lord! I am so glad I had the opportunity to return to Trapani and hear that testimony! How wonderful is our Lord Jesus!

NIGERIA

In 2007 I led a team of 11 to Nigeria to conduct a “Prophetic Equipping School” in Akwa Ibom State. It was out in the backblocks so we were not expecting a large turn-out. To our surprise about 3,000 attended. It has been the only time in my life when we were escorted to and from the meetings by bodyguards to protect us. On the team was a prophetic musician by the name of Kerry Wright (Hamilton, New Zealand). He had spent a small amount of time demonstrating prophetic music and it had created a stir among the people watching as others had interpreted the music and spoken their interpretations with accuracy to the person receiving it. Then he asked the Holy Spirit what to do next and felt the Lord told him to **“Quiet the people first.”** So he asked them to *“please be quiet and wait for a minute.”* The hall went quiet and he waited, unsure what to do next: *“I could feel something like heavy air hanging about three metres above the stage floor over the entire hall ~ but I have never sensed that before and was not sure if I was being spiritually overly-ambitious.”* Then he felt the Lord say, **“Play now,”** so he lifted the saxophone to play a tune, whatever came to his mind but only got so far as **“one note, which he held, turning what was going to be a tune into one long note, because the manifestations came very quickly upon the sound of the note.”** At first a man behind him on the stage fell to his knees dry wretching and coughing; then someone in the congregation to his left fell forwards into what looked like some sort of a convulsion with people parting to make room for the person now lying on the floor. Then another woman cried out nearby on an aisle seat and started waving her hands around the air madly as if swatting at flies around her head. Kerry turned to me and the other pastors, unsure what to do and what was happening; by the time he looked back the whole auditorium was “popping up and down like popcorn.”

Kerry continues: *“I also remember another woman doing the same swatting thing further to the right back of the hall and I thought that was very strange and quite funny as it was the same swatting action of the woman at the front.”*

The Holy Spirit swept across those 3,000 people, sweeping them off their seats on to the floor ~ the noise of laughing, crying, screaming, manifestations, etc., was enormous. So many lives were impacted by God, for they knew that it was an act of God that had just taken place. It was truly amazing! From memory I think Kerry and I were the only ones left standing? You would be surprised at how many wanted to buy Kerry’s saxophone off him after that!

KENYA

The Lord has used me to touch and impact many thousands of lives in the nation of Kenya, through my writings and my preaching (since 2004). It has been so wonderful to see and hear of the responses from that country. My books and writings have impacted many thousands of lives in that nation as the Lord has enabled us to print thousands of copies of several of my books in both Swahili and English languages. Scores of mails have and are being received telling of a sovereign working of God in the lives of the people, including many Christian Leaders. The Holy Spirit has broken through in places where the teachings for generations have been that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the Spiritual Gifts, etc., all passed away with the early Church. Now they have experienced the Holy Spirit outpouring for themselves their eyes have been opened to see the truth of New Covenant Christianity. One bishop wrote and said how he received the Holy Spirit in his house while reading one of my books. He started speaking in tongues and prophesying. Then the Holy Spirit asked him to go

around all the churches he was in oversight over and to publicly repent and ask the peoples forgiveness for teaching them wrongly over the years. He was humble enough to do that and mighty things have been happening as a result.

Another pastor wrote to tell me that he was invited to speak at a Pastors Conference. When he stood up to speak, he held up my book, “**Voices, Worms and The Prophetic Ministry**” and made a few quotes from it. The next thing the Holy Spirit was poured out and the Conference was prophesying for the next 12 hours!! Praise to the Lord! Hallelujah!

In 2010, while flying from Dubai to Nairobi, Kenya, there was a very high ranked chief man on board the flight with an entourage of people around him. He was about 10 rows in front of me. As I was sitting on the plane minding my own business, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, “***I want you to go and sit next to that man and talk to him.***” My heart pounded within me as I thought that would be intruding on such an important person. I stood to look towards him and noticed that the seat right next to him was empty! So I walked to where he was sitting and sat in the seat next to him. I introduced myself, and he asked me where I was going. When I told him to Nairobi he wanted to know my purpose for going there. When I told him that I was going to conduct a **Prophetic Equipping School** his face changed and he then told me his father was a pastor, but that he had never followed his ways. I told him that it was not too late and that he could give his life to Jesus right there on the plane. With tears running down his face I took him through a prayer of repentance and led him to Jesus (with all his official party watching me)! He told me that when he got home that day and shares with his wife what he had done on the flight, that she would be a very happy woman as she had been praying for his salvation for years! It pays to obey the Holy Spirit!

God Happenings! God wants every Christian to experience them in their lives. When you are a first-hand witness and participant in the things that are written in this book, then you get to know that God is very much alive today and is so much bigger than what we can accomplish in our own strength. So much more happens for us when we develop a sensitivity to the voice of God and have a love relationship with Him that makes you desire to do whatever He asks you. It is the obeying of what He asks of us that releases His hands to do what He promises us.

In the more than 50 years of ministry we have seen God provide for us again and again, and has enabled us to touch multiplied thousands of lives over that time. How important it is that we learn to recognize how and when God is speaking to us, and then be committed to obey whatever He asks us, because of our love for Him. Jesus taught us: “***He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest (“reveal”) Myself to him . . . If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My word; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s Who sent Me***” (John 14:21, 23-24).

THOSE WONDERFUL “BEHIND THE SCENES” PEOPLE WHO HELP TO KEEP THIS MINISTRY GOING AND GROWING

We cannot conclude this book without mentioning those people who, over the years, have given sacrificially to The GFM Ministry. Some people have been devoted and committed to supporting us

for many years, and we really do appreciate them. It is interesting to note that there has only been one small church continually supporting us over many years ~ and that is in the region where the Ministry first started way back in 1964 ~ all the rest of the giving to this Ministry has come from individuals who have felt to do what they do. When we stepped into fulltime faith life and ministry at the beginning of the year 2000, God raised up some people who have faithfully supported us personally (one couple very generously); another couple have provided us with produce, and so it goes on. It is a testimony that when we step out in obedience to God's call, then He takes care of the provision. We thank and praise God for everyone who has supported us and the Ministry over the years.

And then there are those who have given of their time to work voluntarily in The GFM Ministry; again some for many years and who still continue to this day. It is so encouraging when you see others catching the vision and committing to it in ways that they feel in God to assist with. A Ministry is only as fruitful as its "behind the scenes" supporters. God knows every one of you and rewards you accordingly. God bless you. May the testimonies shared in this book of the "God Happenings" in my life bless, inspire and encourage you to believe God for greater things in and through your life in these challenging days of time. God bless you abundantly!

Comments

Who would have thought that the mischievous, tormenting and cheeky brother of 50 years ago would now be the loving God-fearing man who has travelled to many countries around the world because He has learnt to hear the voice of God and **obey**. In the many years that I have been involved with The GFM, I have seen the ups and downs that Rodney and Jean have been through. They

have had to suffer a lot because of their stand for the Lord and the work that He has ordained them to do. Each time they have come through victoriously because they listened to God and did what He has told them to do. When I first started working in the office there were only two Bible Study Courses, "John's Gospel" (19 Lessons) and "The Book Of Ephesians" (7 Lessons). Then Rodney produced the "Divine Healing" Course (12 Lessons) and these studies are still being used in many countries as word continues to get around about them. Rodney has produced many tracts. I remember one day someone said, "*Those tracts are old fashioned and are no good for today.*" What that person did not know is the power of the written word. "***The word of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul***" (Psalm 19:7). We have received many testimonies of people's lives being challenged and changed. In some cases lives had been saved from suicide because the Holy Spirit had led them to a certain tract. Then the Lord challenged Rodney to start writing the "Barnabas Bulletin" to encourage leaders all around the world. Oh how we need to take notice of what the Holy Spirit says to us, for as the Word says, "***God is no respecter of persons***" (Romans 2:11). Also over the years "Prophetic Equipping Conferences" and the "Equipping Stations" have developed (which are wonderful teaching times), all of which have been started because Rodney heard the voice of the Lord and obeyed. All thanks and praise is to our great and loving God. We look forward to what the future holds for this ministry. ~ **Valerie Dodge** (Rodney's older sister, Masterton, New Zealand).

Never did I imagine, when this Ministry first began in 1964, that it would become known internationally as a great tool for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Even my 'wildest dreams' never foresaw or 'pushed open the door' that would see it touching so many lives, from world and government leaders to men and women locked away in obscurity behind prison walls. I am so overjoyed and humbled

by Rodney and Jean's obedience to God's specific calling on their lives, and can truly testify that, regardless of having no notable school qualifications, they have been expertly trained by the Holy Spirit to achieve the greatest success possible in God. And, despite the fact that they speak only the English language, much of their literature has been translated into different languages, further widening the scope of The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry. To God be ALL the glory! ~ **Joan Emery** (Rodney's younger sister, Hamilton, New Zealand).

Rodney Francis is a very close friend whom I have known for almost 50 years. His life backs up what he preaches. We first met in Palmerston North when I was boarding with Jean's parents. Rodney invited me out to his parent's dairy farm to shoot ducks. That was the beginning of a friendship that has spanned many years.

During these years Rodney and I have worked together, firstly, in pastoring Elim Churches, then in running Prophetic Seminars. Certainly one of the highlights of our ministry together was in Vanuatu on the island of Pentecost (see section on Vanuatu). This was a special time when the Holy Spirit moved in His sovereignty amongst the people there.

Rodney has excelled in teaching and demonstrating "Hearing from God". He has successfully released many people into prophecy and other gifts of the Spirit, both in New Zealand and many countries around the world.

From a poor start regarding education, Rodney has written over 37 books and manuals, etc. Incredible! This is what the Holy Spirit can do in a surrendered life. Well done, Rodney.

This book touches only a few experiences of Rodney's life and ministry. The hope is that it may bring some encouragement to others who are also on a journey to Christ-likeness. ~ **Harvey Walker** (Founder/Director: Mission Impart Ministry, Tauranga, New Zealand).

Hearing the clear call of God on his life at an early age, Rodney has dedicated his life to listening to God and encouraging others to seek and find that same intimate walk with our God.

Despite many tempting diversions to God's vision for his life, Rodney has remained steadfast and secure in his determination to remain true to that early prophetic call.

His passion over the past 54 years has been to teach and encourage others to find their own God-given purpose and vision for life. This latest book from Rodney provides encouraging highlights of what God has accomplished through his walk with Jesus, and can also do through each of us when we truly seek His prophetic call on our lives. ~ **J. Russell Fyfe** (The GFM Treasurer, Paraparaumu, New Zealand).

We are delighted to acknowledge the wonderful achievement of 50 years of Christian Ministry for The Gospel Faith Messenger. Rodney and Jean Francis have faithfully served the vision given to them by the Holy Spirit in their younger years. The fruit of this being thousands upon thousands of lives powerfully and prophetically ministered to through the written word, and Holy Spirit-inspired utterance.

We know of no other couple who minister in and through the genuine love of God as do Rodney and Jean. This dynamic is the firm foundation of all they say and do ~ God is Love and we are His love manifest here on earth. We have had the privilege to serve and support Rodney and Jean on ministry trips abroad, International Training Schools, Weekend Refreshers and Equipping Stations. Wherever we went, whatever we did, it was always the love of God that was so strongly expressed in and through the ministry. This rubbed off on us and on all those who have joined them in reaching out to others through The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry. Well done good and faithful servants of Jesus. Yours ~ **Tony & Anita Donaldson** (Perth, Western Australia; Tony was The GFM Treasurer for some years when in Hamilton, New Zealand).

We first got to meet Rodney in the mid 80's in the farming community of Galatea. All these years later it is a joy to be part of The GFM Ministry and touching the lives of people around the world. The stories Rodney recounts here are as fresh now as when they happened. WHY? The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are living and active, changing lives, giving hope, setting people free, challenging us into new levels of faith. Hearing the voice of God and obeying Him changes circumstances, impacts individuals and communities, and can open doors to travelling and being a vessel for God to use in any given situation ~ ALL of which Rodney testifies to.

We have been privileged to travel with Rodney on GFM Teams to Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and the Fiji Islands where **“The Schools of the Holy Spirit/Prophetic Equipping Schools”** impact individuals and have the potential to impact Nations ~ which Rodney also testifies to.

Rodney and Jean are to be commended for their stickability in the face of adversity, their faithfulness to the call of God on their lives, their integrity regarding finances ~ [everything goes into the Ministry]. Jesus said, **“Freely you have received, freely give”** (Matthew 10:8).

We stand amazed that God would call a young man, baptise him with the evidence of tongues in a herd of cows, make a promise that if he obeys His (God's) voice that as God leads and he (Rodney) follows, success for the Kingdom of God will be the result. 50 years later it is still happening. Thanks for having us on board; it is such a privilege. ~ **Dougie & Jackie Hodges** (The GFM Hamilton Office Leaders, New Zealand, and Overseers of The GFM Bible Correspondence Courses Ministry).

My husband, John, was in Vanuatu some years ago, helping an elderly friend build a church for a small village on the island of Ambae. While felling trees, milling timber, and constructing the building, one of the teenage girls from the village came to John and asked him if he had any Bible studies that she could do. John was not able to give her anything at the time, but promised her that when he returned to New Zealand, if he could find some suitable studies, he would send them to her. When he arrived back in New Zealand, he asked our then pastor if he had anything suitable to send the teenager. Our pastor did not, but recommended that John make contact with a Rodney Francis who was pastoring a church in Palmerston North (New Zealand), and also administering free Bible studies by correspondence. We travelled to Palmerston North to meet Rodney, who then invited us to attend the Leadership Training Days that he regularly ran at his church. We attended many of these all-day training sessions, where those present often received sheets of notes on the various teachings that we listened

to. My husband saw the potential of these notes being put into printed form so that many more people could benefit by the good foundational teaching that we so much enjoyed. Therefore, John suggested to Rodney that he would collate these notes, and print them in book, manual and booklet form. As all of the teaching notes (and Bible Correspondence Lessons) were printed on foolscap sheets of paper with a 'Gestetner' printing machine at that time, they were not computerized, so had to be typed into the computer before John could print them into book form. I was given the job of typing a multitude of notes into the computer. Many times I sat down to type, feeling depressed, defeated, and miserable. But, as I began to type, reading and learning from the notes as I did so, I found that the words were life-changing, and I would come away from the computer feeling refreshed and energized having my spirit and soul watered by life-giving Scriptures and teachings. What a turning point in my Christian walk that was for me!

John and I continued to print much of Rodney's literature for approximately the next 10 years. When John died suddenly in 1998, I tentatively took on the printing work alone, many times having to pray for God's inspiration and help in doing so. It was a very steep learning-curve for me. I continued to do this work for some years after that. By this time, some of Rodney's books and manuals were now being published in Malaysia where the printing costs were very much better. Therefore, Rodney was able to print much larger quantities, having them shipped to New Zealand for distribution.

It has been personally rewarding to be involved in a non-profit Christian Organisation such as The GFM Ministry, seeing and hearing of so many Christian lives throughout the world changed by participating in the free Bible Lessons, reading Rodney's many books and attending The GFM Ministry Training Days over the years.

I have now passed on the printing work to Karen (Murch) who, I am sure, is being just as blessed as I have been through this work, and I continue to be involved in The GFM, sending out the many requests for prayer that are received each day from around the world. These requests are currently sent out to over 200 prayer intercessors (plus to 6-7 Prayer Networks) who regularly pray with us in the spirit. ~ **Kathy Nunes-Vaz** (The GFM International Prayer Team Co-ordinator, Inglewood, New Zealand).

I met Rodney for the first time at a men's ministry night at Elim Christian Church, Howick, Auckland, back in April 1999 and I have been in association with Rodney and The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry (GFM) ever since. Our spirits connected immediately, having myself being equipped and anointed with a call of the prophetic on my life. From that first encounter Rodney and I have ministered together on many 'Equipping Weekends' and week-long Schools of Ministry to churches in Conferences locally and International Training Schools/Prophetic Equipping Schools, around the world. I have observed Rodney's relentless passion to see the Body of Christ restored in their God-given gifts; fully equipped and functional.

I have witnessed Rodney and Jean as they have dedicated their lives to their call to ministry to know and recognize God's voice and to equip others to know the voice of God for themselves as well. They have followed God's purpose with passion and excellence in every way, demonstrating a high level of integrity, faithfulness and obedience to God, regardless of the cost to themselves personally. Rodney and Jean have always emphasized their love and compassion for God and His people. This has been a hallmark of the ministry and many thousands have been released into the same love relationship with God, bringing freedom and liberty through the ministry of Holy Spirit.

Over these many years, as I have been involved in The Gospel Faith Messenger Ministry, I have seen many thousands of Christians benefit from the ministry of GFM through Rodney's unique Apostolic and Prophetic gifting and a down-to-earth, often humorous, Bible approach that meets the needs of the people. His Internet mentoring and equipping, along with numerous volunteers from around the globe, touches the hundreds of thousands!

With over 50 years of ministry experience Rodney has a depth of experience which fully qualifies him to speak with credibility and authority on most ministry subjects. Rodney is a gifted Christian Father of the Faith, teacher and writer. His many books, translated into many different languages, have circulated the globe bringing sound practical Biblical principals and revelation in the knowledge of Christ to countless of thousands. My encouragement is to read Rodney's books; they will inspire and encourage you to go and fulfill God's call and destiny in your life. His heart is for this generation to break out of the restrictions and limitations often put on the Church and our selves. ~ **Leonard A. Buttner** (Founder Director, Eagle Ascend Ministries, Howick, Auckland, New Zealand) – www.eagleascend.com

BOOKS/BOOKLETS/MANUALS BY RODNEY W. FRANCIS

Books:

- The Urgency Of The Hour!
- Some "God Happenings" In My Life.
- Voices, Worms and the Prophetic Ministry (English, Nepalese, Swahili Kenya and Myanmar)
- Developing Prophetic Ministry (English, Swahili Kenya, Myanmar and Nepalese)
- Equipping For Leadership (English, French Ivory Coast, Swahili Kenya and Urdu Pakistan)
- Divine Healing ~ A Key To The Growth Of The Christian Church! (English, Nepalese, Telugu India, Tamil India, Malayalam India, Myanmar, and Italian languages)
- You Can Measure Your Love For God (English, Nepalese, Telugu India, Myanmar, French Ivory Coast, Urdu Pakistan and Italian)
- God's Call Can Be Fulfilled! (English and Swahili Kenya)
- Unbelief ~ The Power That Needs To Be Broken! (English, Urdu Pakistan, and Italian)
- The Prophetic In The Exodus (English, Myanmar, Italian, Swahili Kenya, Urdu Pakistan and Nepalese)
- An Encounter With God (English, Urdu Pakistan, Telugu India, Nepalese, Swahili Kenya and Italian)
- Counselling And Deliverance (English, Korean, Nepalese, Myanmar and Urdu Pakistan)
- The Evil Powers Of Canaan
- Keys To Worship God
- Blessed Are . . . A Study Of The Beatitudes
- Discovering The God-Factor!
- Spiritual Warfare
- How To Handle Criticism
- Are You Called To The Ministry?
- Those Two Trees!

Booklets:

- The 'Dunamis' Power Of God
- God Wants To Set Your Future Up!
- Healing & Holy Communion
- God's Supernatural Call! (English and Myanmese)
- The Power Of The Prophetic
- Do You Know And Understand The Prophetic Foundation Of Your Life And Your Church?
- Capture Your Vision!
- The Prophetic Double Anointing
- Prophetic Acts And Declarations (by Joan Emery)
- Discernment ~ A Key To Christian Maturity (by Kathy Nunes-Vaz)

Manuals:

- School Of The Holy Spirit (English, Nepalese, Swahili Kenya, Telugu India and Italian)
- The General Epistle Of James
- Counselling And Deliverance
- Kingdom Living (Teaching on Matthew Chapters 5 to 7)
- Baal (or Baalim) Worship
- Bible Basics (Foundational teaching for Newer Christians ~ 15 Chapters) (English and Chinese)
- Curses (What the Bible has to say) (by Rodney Francis, Len Buttner and Kerry Wright)

Feel free to send for our catalogue of what is available through "The Gospel Faith Messenger" Ministry. For further information on the writings and ministry of Rodney Francis, please feel free to contact him via the following:

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Rodney W. Francis

Rodney W. Francis was converted in 1959 at 17 years of age in an Independent Pentecostal Church at Palmerston North, New Zealand. He is the Founder/Director of “The Gospel Faith Messenger,” a literature/prophetic teaching Ministry that commenced in 1964 and has been developed to bring individuals to personal faith in Jesus Christ, instruct them in the foundations of the Christian faith and to equip them to repeat the process. Scores of people in over 110 nations have and are being ministered to through “The GFM” by means of E-Mail and Web Page Ministry, books, booklets and manuals, 3 Bible Correspondence Courses (several thousand students currently), International Preaching Ministry, Prophetic Equipping Schools, mentoring, fathering, releasing people in the Spiritual Gifts ~ all built around the importance of hearing the voice of God in our lives. Operating in the Spiritual Gifts has opened the world for him to minister internationally. He has proven the benefits of the Spiritual Gifts and desires that all Christians experience the reality and joy of functioning in them too.

Rodney is married to Jean, who has faithfully stood by him and supported him over all the years of his more than 50 years of ministry. They have one son, Mark, who is married to Tania, with two lovely children, Annahlise and Brayden. (Mark and Tania are developing their own Christian ministry in the field of healing and deliverance.)

Rodney has a number of Timothy’s in full-time ministry, both in New Zealand and overseas. His heart is to see others equipped with the love of God, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and a passion to release the reality of Jesus into the lives of others. He has had the joy of seeing many people released into Spiritual Gifts over the years. Today he is also developing and facilitating prophetic teams, and is released to minister in the wider Body of Christ worldwide, working out from Paraparaumu, New Zealand.