



Men's Advance – James Byrne Centre

15 – 17 August 2008

Reporting Editor – Tony Vaughan

This year's Men's Advance was held at James Byrne Centre, Toowoomba. This was a wonderful facility with the exception of the frost on the ground each morning. The weekend started with the registrations and introductions of all involved, some men had come from as far as Victoria.

Bernie Gray (Minister of Encouragement) got things underway, introducing Ian Smith to lead the Praise and Worship. This was followed by a formal welcome by our State Director Peter Monson. Our National President Bill Sgro gave a shortened version of his testimony and said in conclusion how important it was to find your place in God.



Bernie Gray



Peter Monson

Weston Carryer was introduced and shared a powerful testimony on what God had done in his life. Weston was a very successful farmer who was called to be a travelling healing evangelist.

Weston related how that many years ago before he was a Christian, a man came knocking at his door late at night in the pouring rain. The man had cycled 5 miles to tell Weston that God loved him..

Weston has been involved with FGBMFI for many years and was also a past Chapter President. After his testimony, Weston, through words of knowledge, started to call men with various medical conditions to come forward. He proceeded to pray for these men and then asked them how they felt. Well, the good news was, that many men received a healing that day, while others were healed by the next day.

Some men are still trusting in God for healing and Weston pointed out that healings are in God's time. Weston went to great pains to point out that Jesus is the healer and that we should know that Jesus does not bring sickness or disease on anyone. Weston said how important it is when praying for the sick, to only have people of faith involved!

Saturday morning started at 7:AM with Mike Crosby leading the Prayer and Praise. This time together set the tone for the day and it was fair to say that everyone was very expectant about what God would do. After breakfast, Ian Smith again led the Praise & Worship followed by a song from John Townsend. John is a very gifted singer and added a special touch with the music he chose to sing over the weekend.



Weston Carryer in ministry

Weston started the Saturday session by outlining some of the keys required for healing to take place. We had to bear in mind that Weston was teaching us in two days what would normally take ten. Here are some of the keys:-

- Jesus wants us to be well and live a healthy life.
- To be effective we must be single minded and committed in serving Jesus, we must do what God wants us to.
- When praying for the sick take a holistic view, eg what else is going on in their lives as sickness is a by product of the problem/s.
- Weston mentioned that the blood of Jesus is powerful and reminded us of the Passover when the blood of a lamb was placed on the doorways and lintels of the house of God's people living in Egypt.
- We were also reminded that in Isaiah 53, nothing was left undone and when the Israelites left Egypt, every one of those people were well. Weston also expressed the need that when praying for people, we must take our eyes off the problem and focus on Jesus.
- Weston spoke on Power and Authority. We are given authority by God the Father that whatever we ask of him in Jesus' Name believing it is done, it shall be so.
- Weston said, that what we watch on TV can cause and bring sickness and that the world view is that sickness is normal. Sickness is not normal and we require the right thought patterns to counter the world view. The question of why Christians are not healed can only be answered by God and as Smith Wigglesworth said, God is the only one who understands healing.
- Eating unhealthy food or bad diets will cause sickness; we must be sensible about our life styles and not over eat. Weston said that sugar was "pure poison" and should be avoided at all costs.
- The need for regular exercise was essential to oxygenate the body. Say grace over every meal to eliminate items you may not know about. Stay away from alcohol, drugs and smoking and remember to have proper rests. For healings to take place there must be a level of faith and to build up our faith we should spend time regularly reading scripture.

On the Saturday night Weston took time to relay testimonies from people healed at previous meetings. Weston did this to build the faith level of those who were there, reinforcing that God still heals today and to be expectant for any need we may have. I do not think there was anyone present who did not receive prayer for some needs and many went forward for healing from anxiety and fear.

Some other points given by Weston was the need to examine ourselves before taking communion. Taking the Lord's Supper when you are in a state of sin can cause sickness – have a good confession before taking the communion.

Weston said that when he hears of “Christians that are still hurting” over relationships with others means that they have not forgiven the people concerned. Unforgiveness will cause sickness and the Lord's Prayer talks about forgiveness which is conditional on us forgiving others.

Some people say that its God's will that I do not get healed or I will be healed in God's time – God's time is NOW.

It is important to give thanks in all circumstances, very hard to do, but essential when growing in Christ. Giving to the poor and honouring our parents regardless of what they have done, will release us into God's promises.

Weston said that there are two fears we should have; the fear of the Lord and the natural fear to alert us to danger.

It is important that when we experience grief to resolve it as quickly as possible; extended grief will affect your health. We all need a passion to be healthy.

Weston has written many books about healing, which include testimonies of those who have been to his healing meetings. I suggest that to purchase any of these books would be an investment in God's Kingdom and it would expand on many areas only touched on during the weekend.

I first met Weston in the late 1980's and it's hard to believe that he is 77 years old. What a blessing to have him and his ministry in our midst and the opportunity to draw near God in a new and exciting way.

I think all those who attended the weekend will be greatly encouraged in praying for the sick and now have a greater understanding and expectation in seeing God move sovereignly in healings and other needs put before the throne room of God.

Throughout the weekend, men were asked to share a short testimony and this was so encouraging to hear how God had moved and was still moving in peoples lives. It is hard to comprehend the power behind testimony, but we all know that it is an effective weapon against Satan and his strongholds.

It was great to see men at the weekend who had never been to a FGBMFI camp before. The fellowship throughout the weekend was amazing and we have all met men that we will want to contact again to encourage each other in our walk with God.

Bill Sgro (man of big hugs) addressed the men and talked about the way forward for the organisation. This was an exciting address and I could feel Bill's heart beat for the organisation.

Bill mentioned personal experiences on how he related to people and the effect of how making and keeping relationships wins people to Christ. Bill is unashamedly a people person who has an empathy with those in need.

The thought crossed my mind how blessed we are to have a man like this leading our organisation. I would encourage all members to keep our leaders and their families in our prayers every day.



Bill Sgro – National President

Peter Monson and his team are to be commended for the administration and attention to detail for the smooth running of the weekend.

The accommodation and facilities were first class and the food was nearly as good as home. Camp etiquette was of a very high standard and those few who broke protocol contributed to the Camp Commandants superannuation fund.

A State Convention will be held next year instead of the Men's Advance. Details for the Convention will be forwarded in due course by Bernie and his team.



“ His Banner Over Us Is Love”