Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (NZ)
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Dan Pryde

RELIGION TO RELATIONSHIP

I was born in August 1975.

My mum's dad died when she was 15. She got engaged to my dad at 16, married him at 18, and had me at 20. My dad's dad also died when he was 15, and he met my mum when he was 18.

Both Mum and Dad came from extremely poor families. One had an alcoholic father, and the other had a father who was a convicted offender.

Despite coming from nothing, my parents built an empire. They owned and ran a copy and print shop in Dunedin while building up rental properties, subdivisions, land banking and commercial properties.

From a young age, I learned that hard work was key to life. But I also learned to measure success by what you had. The whole "look at me" and "biggest is best" attitude was something I aspired to when I grew up.

Nothing was given to me or my sister without hard work. We weren't spoiled. It took Mum and Dad many years before they saw the fruit of their success.

In my early years, Mum took us to a Presbyterian church. She had a Brethren background and feared God as a God of judgement, almost like He sat there with a naughty stick, waiting to beat you every time you stepped out of line.

That crazy ideology made me fear God too.

As a teenager, I joined Christian Fellowship and went to a few YWAM concerts in the Octagon. We would get drunk first and go there to meet girls. I wanted to respond to the salvation calls, but if the hot girls didn't go up, or my mates told me not to, I would just sit there feeling disappointed in myself.

God was knocking on my door, but alcohol had a grip on me.



From about 15, I was drawn into parties, pubs and nightclubs. Fake IDs were easy when your parents owned a print shop!

I smoked various drugs and sampled pretty much anything that was going around.

Sexual immorality was also huge on my list. The "look at me, I'm the man" attitude was growing as I bounced from girlfriend to girlfriend, seeking notches on my belt.

I didn't realise at the time that I was actually seeking true love and validation.

In my mid-20s, I went into marriage thinking I was successful. The same year, I started a business.

I remained faithful to my wife, but I was still seeking validation from the world. I wanted to outdo my parents in success and image.

In 2012, a police officer started stalking me. This

went on for five years and took me to some incredibly dark places.

Meanwhile I was trying to keep up with the Joneses. Image was important. I couldn't let people see that I was failing in life, marriage or business.

I started going to the gym, but I could never achieve the size I wanted. Steroids became the key to achieving short-term success.

I was chasing the dragon of muscle mass. The attention and validation from the world gave me a real sense of achievement and boosted my ego like I felt I so desperately needed.

But I was so broken on the inside.

In 2017, my stalker was convicted and found guilty on five charges. Just under two months later, my dad became critically unwell.

For the first time in my life, I prayed. As Dad was dying, I asked God to forgive him for anything he had done wrong in his life. I didn't know it at the time, but this was my first prayer of intercession.

Not long after my dad passed away, I left my wife. I thought that she needed someone in her life who loved her. I didn't love her. I didn't know if I loved my own children. And deep down, I hated the man I had become.

I regularly visited known suicide spots around Dunedin, hoping that if I finally did it, it would happen quickly and that my girls would someday understand.

By 2020, I was out of my marriage and into a relationship built around lust and sexual immorality.

It was incredibly dysfunctional, but because I was competing in bodybuilding and gaining success, I had convinced myself that I was succeeding in life.

I had a holiday home, my business, 10 staff and plenty of toys.

I saw grown men with toys as something to aspire to. Buy something cool on Trade Me and have all my mates drooling over it.

It was short-term fulfilment covering a pit of darkness.

My body mass was increasing, my head was swelling, I was the man… but inside, I was absolutely destroyed.

I became narcissistic, trying to catch out a cheating girlfriend while being convinced that we still had to remain together.

I was also drawn into new-age spiritual practices, including reiki and clairvoyants.

Everything was dark and not going well.

Then COVID happened.

I heard, deep in my inner core, the words, "End times," and I knew there was some biblical significance to what was happening in the world.

So I headed to church.

Church broke my relationship with my partner, and at times I wondered if this God stuff was worth it. The more I went to church, the more demonic dreams I had, and suddenly I was walking through life alone.



After about six months, I was convinced to get baptised.

I had been a party man. Try this drug, this steroid, this quick-fix money investment… so I thought I'd have a go at baptism. Nothing to lose. Another notch on the belt.

I then decided I better buy a Bible so I could call myself a proper Christian.

But I didn't read it.

I was still seeking validation from the world. I'd tell people I was going to church, but would quickly add, "Oh, but I'm not one of those weirdos."

I still liked to party and have the odd puff. I even jumped on Tinder looking for another worldly relationship.

I had given up the gym by this stage, and the baptism waters convicted me of swearing, gossiping and lying. But I still really didn't understand what this new walk was about.

After a couple of years, I changed churches.

I wasn't being discipled in a way that helped me

understand the fullness of what Jesus had done for me, and I hid the things I was still holding onto from my past life.

At the new church, I was encouraged to get ministry — inner healing and deliverance.

During a three-hour deliverance session, I received the Holy Spirit and started speaking in tongues.

That night, God told me to read Ephesians 4:11.

In the two years prior, I had received two prophecies that I would be a five-fold evangelist. I had no idea what that meant, but God confirmed it that night through the scripture.

I went to bed knowing God was real.

But more than that, I understood that Jesus wanted a relationship with me.

For the first time, it wasn't about ticking religious boxes or trying to become a better version of myself. It was about Jesus.

That night, the worldly desires I had been chasing for years disappeared.

It was me and Jesus.

I began to understand that Jesus hadn't just come to forgive my sins and give me a ticket to heaven. He had rescued me from darkness and brought me into a completely new life.

I had spent years building my own kingdom, trying to make a name for myself, trying to be the biggest and the best. But none of it had satisfied me.

Now I was discovering a different Kingdom, a different identity and a different way to live.

I didn't have to prove myself anymore. I didn't have to chase validation. I didn't have to keep performing for the world.

Jesus had become my everything.

I started to understand that surrender wasn't about losing my life to some miserable religious existence. It was about giving my life to the One who had created me, loved me and knew what I was made for.

I wanted all of Him.

I said, "One day You may bring me a wife, but I don't want to chase a girl because I lust after her or notice her cute smile. I want to fall in love with someone who is chasing You, Jesus."

And then God brought Jess into my life.

Within two years, God brought me the Proverbs 31 wife.

Jess was a beautiful woman who was running after Jesus. We both got this image of us running towards Him, and when we looked across, we saw that we were both running in the same race. Fully, completely committed to Jesus and His will for our lives.



It wasn't about finding someone to fill the emptiness in me. Jesus had already begun doing that work. It was about two people who wanted Him, choosing to build a life together with Him at the centre.

We got married, and as we have continued walking with Jesus, we have discovered that God's plans for our lives are so much bigger than simply getting married, having a family and living a comfortable Christian life.

We know He has called us to something significant in His Kingdom.

Over time, we have received multiple prophetic words spoken over us, pointing towards ministry, the call of God on our lives and what He wants to do in and through us. Words have been spoken about the significance of what lies ahead, and we have continued to seek Him for understanding, wisdom and direction.

The more we have pursued Jesus, the more our hearts have been stirred for people to encounter Him for themselves.

Not just to hear about Him. Not just to attend church. Not just to know the right scriptures or say

the right things.

We want to see people encounter the living Jesus, experience His love, find freedom, be healed and discover who they are in Him.

We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit who encountered me in that deliverance session is still moving today. Jesus is still saving, healing, restoring and setting people free.

We have had the privilege of being involved in ministry where we have seen God move, people respond to Jesus and lives be touched by His presence. And rather than making us feel as though we have arrived at some 'higher calling', it has stirred something even deeper in us.

We don't want to build something for the sake of having a ministry or making a name for ourselves. I've already spent enough of my life trying to make a name for myself.

This time, it's about making Jesus known.

We believe there is a fullness of what God has for us that we are still stepping into. We are learning to trust Him, obey Him and follow where He leads, even when we don't have the whole picture.

We know what it is to build a life around our own plans. Now we want to build our lives around His.

And that changes everything.

Religion will never be greater than relationship.

Looking back, I can see how much of my life was driven by the need to prove myself.

I wanted the money, the business, the body, the toys, the attention and the image. I wanted people to look at me and think I was somebody.

But I was empty.

I also know what it's like to approach God through fear, believing He is waiting for you to get something wrong. I know what it's like to attend church, own a Bible, get baptised and still not understand the freedom and fullness of life with Jesus.

Religion can teach you about God without you ever truly surrendering your heart to Him and knowing his character and love.

For me, surrender meant allowing Jesus into the places I had kept hidden. It meant no more pretending, no more double life, no more holding onto the things I didn't want Him to touch.

It meant allowing Him to change me from the inside out.

And that transformation is still happening.

I am not saying I have arrived or that I have everything figured out. But I know the man I was, and I know the One who rescued me.

I know what it is to be lost in darkness, chasing things that never satisfy. And I know what it is to encounter the love and power of Jesus Christ.

I have watched people, including those I love, struggle with illness, pain and difficult circumstances. I have come to understand that knowing about God and experiencing the fullness of life with Him are not the same thing. My heart is that people would know His presence, His freedom and the hope that comes through Jesus.

I don't want people to settle for a religious life when Jesus has made a way for them to know Him personally.

Jesus didn't die and rise again so we could simply tick a box and carry on living the same way. He came to reconcile us to the Father, give us new life and bring us into His Kingdom.

Today, Jess and I want to keep saying yes to Jesus. We want our marriage, our family and our lives to reflect Him. We want to walk in the calling He has placed on us, to love people well and to see others encounter the same Jesus who changed my life.

I spent years trying to build my own empire. My own empire and lifestyle was my religion.

Now I want to spend my life building His Kingdom.

My story is not about how I found religion. It is about how Jesus found me, rescued me and brought me into relationship with Him.

And I believe the best way to honour what He has done is to keep surrendering, keep following Him and keep making Him known.

My hope is that everyone who reads this would discover the same thing.

Not just a belief system. Not just a church to attend. Not just a set of rules to follow.

But a real, living relationship with Jesus Christ.

Because once you truly encounter Him, everything changes.

All glory to Him.

Daniel Pryde, Taieri chapter

Introducing New Board Members

Short biography of Rod Bent, new National Board member

I am a retired dairy farmer from near Te Awamutu and have lived around here nearly all my life. It is a great privilege to be called to serve for one or two years on the National board, and I thank God that I have been found trustworthy to serve FGBMFI NZ diligently, along with Chairman Graham Simpson and the others board members.

In the April 2026 Vision magazine, I gave a full testimony of the work of the Lord in my life. In this biography I want to mainly write about the Te Awamutu chapter, that I joined in 1980. Over the past 46 years we have been blessed with many fine Presidents, all men of God. For a few years I was the secretary, then in 1992 I was elected to be president for the first time, and I served for two years. The chapter was very active with a strong membership. In one dinner meeting we had a South African speaker, Bob Trench (below) and had 152 people attend! These days we usually have 15 to 25 people at our dinner meetings.



Our policy then was to elect a new President every two years, so I stood down in 1994, but continued to serve as the secretary. Keith Woodersen was our President sometime in the 1980's and as many of you know he served on the National board for many years since 2000. Another former President was Owen Johnson. He was elected as the Waikato-BOP Regional Director and served for about twelve years in the later 1990's and early 2000's. Owen is 85 and still a keen member. We had other very good Presidents over the years, and committee members. Our chapter is a blessed chapter!

I was re-elected as President in 2019 and was also elected in 2024 as the Waikato-BOP Regional director for two years, handing this role to Allan Levi in 2025. You can see I am standing on the shoulders of a number of very dedicated Presidents and chapter members. I have attended most of the National conventions over the years, and I have been greatly blessed in attending them, with their inspirational worship times, testimonies and teaching.

Men, keep serving, giving, encouraging and testifying in your own chapter. They need you! While there are not as many members in Full Gospel as in the 1980's and 1990's, we are touching the lives of many hundreds of men in Aotearoa, and we are part of what the Lord is doing in our nation. God bless you.



Rod Bent (above)**, Te Awamutu chapter**

Autobiography of Allan Levi, new National Board member

Greetings FGB men & family.

My name is Allan Levi, and at 34 years old, I have the privilege of serving as one of our newest and youngest National Directors. God has placed a massive passion in my heart for this fellowship, and I am honored to serve in the roles of President for the Hamilton Chapter, Regional Director for the Waikato/Bay of Plenty, and Regional Vice President at Large for the Pacific Region!

Behind the success of every man is a strong family, and I am incredibly blessed to walk this journey with my beautiful wife, Ariana, and our 3 amazing children: Eva, Mirraco and Alicia.



My passion for the vision of FGBMI comes from a radical life changing encounter with the Holy Spirit.

Seven years ago, at age 27, I was trapped in a cycle of addiction, brokenness, and destruction. I was completely desperate for change. In my lowest moment of life I challenged God.

And let me tell you, He answered.

God's grace blessed my life, He met me exactly where I was, and revealed Himself with undeniable power. Since that day, I haven't just known about God; I have known Him as the real, living, and consuming holy Spirit that transforms the broken and completely sets them free.

Getting involved with this fellowship has completely changed my world. I look around FGBMFI and see men with real faith, Godly men and mentors who carry the original vision of this movement with power and wisdom.

Through their encouragement, the incredible support of my wife, and the leading of the Holy Spirit, my heart became wide open. I told the Lord: "I am yours. Use me as a vessel for Your glory." I am so excited for what the Holy Spirit is going to do in our chapters, our regions, and across the Pacific. Let's expect the supernatural, look for the harvest, and watch lives be radically transformed by the power of God, Hallelujah.



Allan Levi

National Vice President - New Zealand

Regional Vice President at Large - Pacific Region

Report on Bali International Convention

Ariana and I took our family over to Bali for the World Convention in August. It was a massive eye opener for us, and it was a huge honour to represent New Zealand, especially having my family there with me. I've come home excited, and I want to encourage all of you to get along to the next one.

Things started two days early for me with a full day of golf at New Nusa Dua. I got to play with Doug Woolley (the International Secretary), Daniel Wright (the Australian National President), and Stephen Sutanto (the Indonesian President's son). My golf skills could definitely have used a lot more practice, but we had a great time and I ended the day very sunburnt.

That night, we went to another part of Bali for a FGBMFI dinner meeting. It was our first real chance to catch up with guys from other countries. We sat at a table with some of the members from Australia and had an awesome time catching up in fellowship together.

The next day was an early start. Our National President, Graham Simpson, couldn't make the International Directors Meeting, so I was privileged to step in for him as an observer. It was brilliant to meet the global leaders face-to-face. A lot of them are guys I've only ever seen on Zoom prayer meetings, so shaking their hands in person was great. We got through the business side of things, had a few laughs, and a big highlight was seeing Francis Awusu appointed as International President again.

Late that evening, Ariana and I were invited to a black-tie gala dinner. They served us a six-course meal while we listened to testimonies and watched cultural items. We felt incredibly blessed. But for me, the absolute best part of the day was when the international cabinet announced to the whole room that New Zealand has rejoined the international fellowship, Hallelujah! Everyone was genuinely excited to have us back.

When the main convention got going, the power of God was definitely there. There were two big altar calls where heaps of people went forward to respond.

Every region brought a bit of their own culture to the stage. Some of the testimonies were very emotional and others were full of joy, but every single story did the exact same thing: it glorified Jesus Christ.

Seeing what God is doing through this fellowship all around the world changes your perspective. If you want to get your faith stirred up, start saving and planning for the next world convention now. You won't regret it!

The World Convention is really what you make it. It can be a quick three-day business trip where you network and talk strategy, it can be a nice family holiday, or it can even turn into a powerful mission trip. The Holy Spirit meets you exactly where you are, using your business and your life for God's work. With the next convention coming up in Panama, I really want to encourage everyone to start praying about it now. Let's go with open hearts, ready for whatever God wants to do in our businesses and our lives. See you in Panama.

Allan Levi

Report on the En Hakkore Camp hosted by Southern Region on 11th - 13th September in Central Otago

En Hakkore Camp Review 2026 – by Mike Bunt

How do you do a camp review when your speaker pulls out on the day before the camp and when we have a first-year Regional Director leading the camp? A bit of background might help. Damien Goodsir, our speaker and wife Jacinda, shared powerful testimonies in Timaru and Dunedin prior to the camp, and we were excited and keen to have Damien to be our camp speaker. Unfortunately, Damien's mother had a serious heart attack and rightfully had to be at his mother's side.



National Leaders team stopped over Middlemarch to have tea.

The Holy Spirit knew the problem we were going to have. Many new younger men from Timaru (Band of Brothers, below) and a good number of new men from Christchurch and Rangiora attended.





Evan Walker (left), our new Regional Director, took it in his stride. His job involves having to solve many problems. He approached men from Timaru and the Christchurch area to fill in Damien's speaking times and they all said yes.

"A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps" Proverbs 16:9 is an apt verse for what happened. I stand in awe of God and what happened during the camp and how the replacement speakers came from the new attendees. The replacement speakers were excellent. Stu Marr talked about sanctifying yourself before the Lord and how praise and worship is a big part of that. Stu (below, leftmost) also led one of the morning prayer times. A theme came strongly through, as a prophetic word about entering the river of life (Ezekiel 47). I sensed a strong anointing on the word and 3 others confirmed it with one seeing a vision of swimming out into the middle of the river.



Sunday morning prayer meeting - photo by Rod Bent.

Sam Daly shared how one of the Band of Brothers was praying and sensed that Stu Marr would be speaking at camp. Jake Esterhuyse and Hadleigh Oudemans both spoke to us.

Neil Smith shared a powerful testimony about hearing from God, being obedient and the ways God speaks to him. Andrew McSkimming also spoke.

The praise and worship times were great, bringing the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Ministry went on over the weekend, not as much up front as usual. However, away from the meetings it happened and men were encouraged, set free and built up. One man asked and received the Baptism of the Holy

Spirit and tongues.

On a personal level having the National Board attend is wonderful, including Rod Bent as a first-time attendee at En Hakkore. He was doubly blessed to catch up with a man, currently living at the camp. Rod had invited him to a FGB outreach many years ago and he became a believer at that meeting. He also had a reunion with another man who made a big impression on his faith at boarding school.



Dining room of camp - photo by Rod Bent.



Sunday morning meeting - photo by Rod Bent.

The attendees also had three elective meetings to choose between: inner healing; how to give a testimony *(speaker: Bruce Beckingsale)* and how to hear from God *(speaker: Mike Bunt)*.

We were enriched spiritually and physically, were well fed and left the camp with excitement in our spirits.

Having attended 38 of these camps, they are still a highlight for me each year. Once again I thank our Lord Jesus Christ for drawing us by the Spirit to attend.

- **Mike Bunt, Taieri chapter**

How can I sum up Camp26 in less than a 5000 word essay ?? - by Michael-Craig Anderson

In one sentence:

Better than all the drugs I've ever had and I've tried them all. Well, not all prescription ones, but most of the illicit ones anyway.

The weekend was: Amazing, Awesome, a full-on Bodacious Experience and a set of encounters filling me to overflow with our Lord God Yahweh's living waters of LOVE.

I cannot recommend the camp enough, both to newbies like me (2 yrs in) and to Christ lovers with many years' experience.

I believe everyone got so much out of the weekend. I know I sure did.

I now know so much more than from all my studies. I don't know how I know, I don't want to sound arrogant in my knowings, but I simply know, that I know, that I know.

It was a weekend of God's downloads from his massive mighty mind to my little brain.

Visions:

During the weekend, in a wonderful atmosphere of worship and praise, God downloaded in my spirit a number of visions that strengthened my faith in a very personal way. At least 3 of these featured images of water - flowing, crystal clear, fresh, cleansing, liberating, filled with God's love towards me. I experienced in great measure how much God loves me. These visions helped me to understand and realise the depth of that love towards me.

Key Features:

Electives were optional. By His Holy Spirit's guidance I walked into and ended up where he wanted me to be.

I didn't mentally decide where I would go as I had no idea what areas I needed to gain more knowledge on, but God did. So I sent up a quick prayer asking "where do you want me to go G-Bro, you lead, I'll follow". And so he did.

Fellowships, over meals, late night 1on1s, friends I made, being with my fellow nutty brothers, similar mindset men with whom I don't have to explain why I am the way I am. I felt so found at home with

strangers I now call my brothers from other mothers.

I'm comfortable with my brothers from Timaru & the band of brothers (B.O.B) but I tried not to hang with my fellow Timaruvans as I can see them almost daily or weekly. Instead I mixed with other city dwellers who I may not see till next camp in a year's time, well 11 months but who's counting. :-)

It's all soooo good, but I'll stop now as I was asked to write about 50 words for this small summary and I have lost count but I'm pretty sure there's a lot more than 50 already.

Finally...I just want to sincerely Thank you.

Thank you to the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGBMFI)

for creating this life changing event and inviting me to attend.



Sunday morning photo taken by Rod Bent (Michael-Craig Anderson is 2nd from right. Rightmost is Mike Bunt).

- **Michael-Craig Anderson, Timaru chapter**

Note: Michael-Craig made the decision to join FGBMFI during the camp. He is now officially a member.

Elective : Inner Healing – by Edmund Dickie

In the lead up to this year's FGBMFI Southern Region Camp at En Hakkore I felt His spirit leading me to prepare to take the lead in running one of the electives (the original plan was to have me in a supporting role with Damien).

Trusting it was the Lord's voice, I listened and prepared.

The *Inner Healing* elective was tailored to teach others how to help themselves (through Christ, His Holy Spirit's prompting) but mainly how to help others. Praying for one another!

Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Isaiah 6:8

There is a response required, stepping forward in obedience.

My main takeaway and what I witnessed God doing through many others at camp, is that, He is equipping men, creating new leaders. He is greatly blessing those who are obedient and are willing to serve Him. Not serving themselves but Him in whatever He is asking them to do.

He wants us all learning and teaching others, discipling. Not having us depend on one man, expecting that man (usually a pastor) to do all the heavy lifting. He wants us equipped and equipping others for service. The equipping of others is where dramatic growth can occur.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much. Luke 16:10

It starts with small things, that still small voice prompting you to volunteer your time – It might be a place your flesh determines to be lowly – don't be fooled; you could be rejecting His calling.

Prayer for revival isn't answered while you're spending most of your day on the couch.

Be encouraged, respond and serve Him in what He is calling you to do.

As the lyrics of a song we sang at camp said "Lord send revival, start with me"



Edmund Dickie, rightmost (facing camera), conducting this Elective.

- **Edmund Dickie, Timaru chapter**

En Hakkore Camp (Southern Region) Photographs





Group photograph taken by Rod Bent.

New Features on FGBMFI(NZ) Website

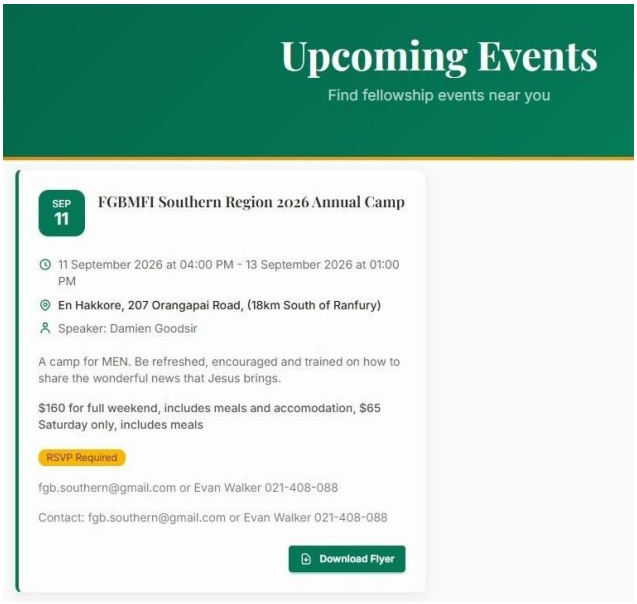


Navigate to the bottom of home page to see the 'Events' button as shown on left of above image.

Following the soft announcement on 16/5/2026, the few features on 'Events' on https://www.fgbmfi.org.nz/events/ are now fully functional. The Moderators are Allan Levi, Ariana Levi and Steve Spring. In their email request to upload events, Chapter Presidents / Secretaries must include the wording "FGBMFI Related" in the headings. These new features are attributable to Michael Miller, who developed the membership software office.fgbmfi.nz on his personal time.

A brief description of the new features are :

(1) It is for publicity of chapter activities, like dinner meeting, on the Website.
(2) Pdf file of the event can be uploaded onto the Website, that can be downloaded by anyone who access the Website.
(3) Chapter presidents can email to the designated Moderator covering that region, a description of the event including :
- (a) Title.
- (b) Start date & time, End date & time. The publicity will automatically close out immediately after the End date.
- (c) Location.
- (d) Audience: select "All welcome" or "Men only" or "No Audience".
- (e) Contact info.
- (f) Chapter name.
- (g) Speaker name.
- (h) Pricing (if none, event is for "Free entry").
- (i) Choose "Donation welcome" if so desires.
- (j) Can choose "RSVP" (and provide note).
- (k) A short description of other details.



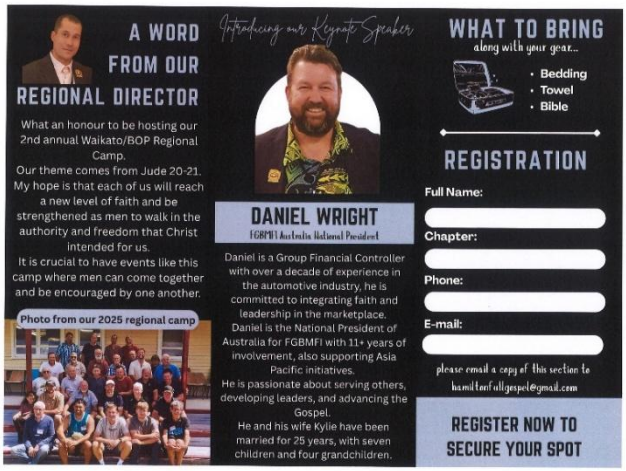
After clicking on the 'Events' button, an output appears (sample taken on 20/8/2026).

The Moderators' common email address is : events@fgbmfi.org.nz

Upcoming Events

(1) Waikato / BOP Camp 20-22 November 2026. Anyone is welcome to participate. For more information, please contact Allan Levi on 022 631 5541.





(2) A 2-Day Convention will be held 4-5 June 2027 in Christchurch. Anyone is welcome to participate. It is in intermediate planning state. For more information, please contact Hugh August on 0210 542 257, Steve Blakemore-Terry on 027 212 2900 and Kerry Andrell on 027 403 5178.