

Are You Famous Yet?

History is usually a record of famous people who are credited with influencing society or world events. *Famous* means *celebrated, illustrious, popular, notable, well-known, important*. At school we learnt about many of these prominent people – Kings, Queens, Inventors, Benefactors, etc. But we rarely learn about “ordinary” people—people like you and me—who have not been noticed by the world’s media or achieved anything (yet!) so spectacular that it changed the course of history. Yet every one of us is unique and important and we are different from the rest of Creation. Because we were created in God’s image, we have an eternal spirit that will survive our physical death to rise either to eternal life, or to eternal punishment. *Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.*^{Mat.25:46} *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.*^{Jn.3:36}

After having peace with God, the greatest accomplishment for any of us, is to introduce someone else to Jesus Christ. *Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, 'We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about! His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.'*^{Jn.1:45}

This is more important and has greater consequences than any invention throughout the world’s history, regardless of how much money it made or how many people applauded the inventor. To play a part in saving a person from an eternal hell is not only possible but is what God expects from us. *My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.*^{Jas.5:19-20} The value of a human life is beyond price: *No one can redeem the life of another or give to God a ransom for them - the ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough.*^{Ps.49:7-8}

We are all commissioned to witness (give testimony) to Jesus. *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my*

witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”^{Acts 1:8}

To witness is to actively share what we believe about Jesus:

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith.^{Philemon 1:4-6}

The NKJV translates this verse slightly differently by emphasising that our testimony becomes effective when we acknowledge all the good things of Jesus that are in us: *that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.*

Salvation comes from faith in Jesus: *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God*^{Eph. 2:8}

and faith comes from hearing about Jesus: *The same Lord is Lord of all. He richly blesses everyone who calls on him. Scripture says, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How can they call on him unless they believe in him? How can they believe in him unless they hear about him? How can they hear about him unless someone preaches to them? ...So faith comes from hearing the message. And the message that is heard is the word of Christ.*^{Rom. 10:12-17}

If we sow the good seed of God’s Word (who is Jesus) then God will watch over that seed and it will produce a harvest: *Jesus also said, “Here is what God's kingdom is like. A farmer scatters seed on the ground. Night and day the seed comes up and grows. It happens whether the farmer sleeps or gets up. He doesn't know how it happens. All by itself the soil produces grain. First the stalk comes up. Then the head appears. Finally, the full grain appears in the head. Before long the grain ripens. So the farmer cuts it down, because the harvest is ready.”*^{Mk. 4:26-29}

This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.^{Lk. 8:11}

The LORD said to me, “You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled.”^{Jer. 1:12} *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.*^{Gal. 6:7-9}

God keeps a record of our conversations: *Those who had respect for the LORD talked with one another. They cheered each other up. And the LORD heard them. A list of people and what they did was written on a scroll in front of him. It included the names of those who respected the LORD and honoured him. "They will belong to me," says the LORD who rules over all. "They will be my special treasure. I will spare them just as a loving father spares his son who serves him. Then once again you will see the difference between godly people and sinful people. And you will see the difference between those who serve me and those who do not.*^{Mal.3:16-18} Paul was confident that God would bestow on all of us a crown of righteousness if we keep the faith and finish the race: *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.*^{2Tim.4:7-8} **But not all God's promises are for the future:** *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*^{2Cor.1:20-22} **We can wear a crown of blessings now!** *Blessings crown the head of the righteous.*^{Prov.4:10}

To know God is important: *Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*^{Jn.17:3} **But our greatest claim to fame will be having God say to us:** *Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!*^{Matt.25:21}

God can and will use our testimony to produce the miracle of new birth in others. We can never know what God has planned for the person we talk to (see examples below). **By sharing our faith we can play a part in another person's salvation.**

That surely makes us "famous" and "important"!

Frank Jenner: The Man from George Street

This all started a number of years ago in a Baptist church in Crystal Palace in South London. The Sunday morning service was closing and a man stood up at the back and raised his hand and said: “*Excuse me pastor can I share a short testimony?*” The pastor looked at his watch and said “*You have three minutes.*” The man proceeded with his story: “I’ve just moved into this area. I used to live in Sydney Australia. Just a few months back I was visiting some relatives and I was walking down George Street. You know where George Street is in Sydney going from the Business Area out to the colonial area. A strange little white haired man stepped out from a shop doorway, put a pamphlet in my hand and said: ‘*Excuse me sir, are you saved, if you die tonight are you going to heaven?*’ “I was astounded by these words. No one had ever asked me that. I thanked him courteously and all the way home to London this puzzled me. I called a friend and thank God he was a Christian and he led me to Christ.”

The Baptists love testimonies like that. Everyone applauded and welcomed him into their fellowship.

The Baptist pastor flew to Adelaide, Australia the next week and 10 days later in the middle of a three day series in a Baptist church in Adelaide, a woman came up to him for some counselling. He wanted to establish where she stood with Christ. She said “I used to live in Sydney and just a couple of months back I was visiting some friends in Sydney and doing some last minute shopping down George Street. A strange little white haired man stepped out of a shop doorway and offered me a pamphlet and said ‘*Excuse me madam, are you saved, if you die tonight are you going to heaven?*’ “I was disturbed by those words. When I got home to Adelaide, I knew this Baptist church was on the next block from me. I sought out the pastor and he led me to Christ. So I am telling you that I am a Christian.”

The London pastor was now very puzzled. Twice in two weeks he had heard the same testimony. He then flew to preach in the Mount Pleasant Church in Perth. When his teaching series was over the senior elder of that Church took him out for a meal and he asked the elder how he got saved. "I grew up in this church from the age of 15. I never made a commitment to Jesus, just hopped on the bandwagon like everyone else. Because of my business ability I grew up to a place of influence. I was on a business trip to Sydney just three years ago. An obnoxious spiteful little man stepped out of a shop doorway, offered me a religious pamphlet and accosted me with a question: *'Excuse me sir, are you saved, if you die tonight are you going to heaven?'* I tried to tell him I was a Baptist elder. He wouldn't listen to me. I was seething with anger all the way home from Sydney to Perth. I told my pastor, thinking that he would sympathize, but he agreed. He had been disturbed for years knowing that I didn't have a relationship with Jesus, and he was right. My pastor led me to Jesus just three years ago."

The London preacher flew home and was soon speaking at the Keswick conventions in the Lake District and he threw in these three testimonies. At the close of this teaching series, four elderly pastors came up and explained that they too had been saved between 25 and 30 years earlier through that same little man on George Street, offering them a pamphlet and asking that same question.

The following week he flew to a similar Keswick convention in the Caribbean to missionaries. He shared the same testimonies. At the close of his teaching three missionaries came forward and said that they had also been saved between 15 and 25 years earlier by that same little man's testimony and the same question on George Street in Sydney.

Next he stopped in Atlanta, Georgia to speak at a Naval Chaplain convention. Here for three days he spoke to over 1000 Naval Chaplains. Afterwards the Chaplain General took him out for a meal and he asked the Chaplain how he became a Christian. “It was miraculous. I was a rating on a Naval battleship and I lived a reprobate life. We were doing exercises in the South Pacific and we docked at Sydney harbour for replenishments. We hit King’s Cross with a vengeance. I was blind drunk, got on the wrong bus and got off in George Street. As I got off the bus, I thought I saw a ghost as this man jumped out in front of me, pushed a pamphlet in my hand and said, ‘*Sailor, are you saved, if you die tonight are you going to heaven?*’ The fear of God hit me immediately. I was shocked sober, ran back to the ship and sought out the Chaplain. He led me to Christ. I soon began to prepare for the ministry under his guidance. I am now in charge of 1000 chaplains who are bent on soul winning today.”

Six months later that London pastor flew to a conference for 5,000 Indian missionaries in a remote part of NE India. At the end the head missionary took him to his humble little home for a simple meal. He asked how he as a Hindu came to Christ.

“I grew up in a very privileged position; I worked in the Indian Diplomatic Mission and I travelled the world. I am so glad for the forgiveness of Christ and blood covering my sin. I would be very embarrassed if people found out what I got into. One period of diplomatic service took me to Sydney. I was doing some last minute shopping, laden with toys and clothes for my children. I was walking down George Street when a courteous white haired little man stepped out in front of me and offered me a pamphlet and said ‘*Excuse me sir, are you saved, if you die tonight are you going to heaven?*’ I thanked him very much but this disturbed me. I got back to my town, sought out our Hindu priest. He couldn't help me, but he advised me that to satisfy my curious mind, I should go and talk to the missionary in the mission

home at the end of road. That was good advice because that day the missionary led me to Christ. I quit Hinduism immediately and began to prepare for ministry. I left the Diplomatic Service and here I am today, by God's grace in charge of all these missionaries who have together led 100,000 people to Christ."

Eight months later that London Pastor was preaching in Sydney. He asked the local Baptist Minister if he knew of a little elderly white haired man who handed out tracts on George Street. He replied, "*Yes I do, his name is Mr Jenner, although I don't think he does it anymore because he is so frail and elderly.*"

Two nights later they went to meet him in his little apartment. They knocked on the door and this tiny frail old man greeted them. He sat them down and made them tea. He was so frail that he was slopping the tea into the saucer as his hands shook. The London preacher sat there and told him of all these accounts from the previous three years. This little man sat with tears running down his cheeks. He told them his story.

"I was a rating on an Australian warship. I was living a reprobate life. In a crisis I really hit the wall. One of my colleagues, to whom I gave literal hell, was there to help me. He led me to Jesus and the change in my life was night to day in 24 hours. I was so grateful to God; I promised God that I would share Jesus in a simple witness with at least 10 people a day. As God gave me strength I did that. Sometimes I was ill and couldn't do it, but I made up for the days I missed it at other times. I wasn't paranoid about it. I have done this for over 40 years. In my retirement years, the best place was on St. George Street where I saw hundreds of people a day. I got lots of rejections, but a lot of people courteously took the tract. In 40 years of doing this, I have never heard of one single person coming to Jesus until today."

You know, I would say that he has to be committed to show gratitude and love for Jesus to do that for 40 years and not hear of any results. That simple little non-charismatic Baptist man witnessed to perhaps 147,000 people. I think what God was showing that Baptist pastor from London was the tip of the tip of the tip of the iceberg. Goodness knows how many more had been arrested for Christ, doing huge jobs out in the mission fields.

Mr Jenner died two weeks later. Can you imagine the reward when he went home to be in Heaven? I doubt his face would ever have appeared on Charisma Magazine. I doubt there would ever have been a photograph and a write up in Billy Graham's Decision Magazine. No one except a little group of Baptists in Sydney knew about Mr Jenner, but I tell you his name was famous in Heaven. Heaven knew Mr Jenner and you can imagine the welcome and Red Carpet and the fanfare that he received when he went home to Glory.

“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38



Frank Jenner

Chance Coincidence or Destiny

Much had been said and written about the events that take place in our lives, as to whether they happen by chance, coincidence or by an intricate plan. For someone committed to the Lord Jesus and wanting God's will in their lives, there is no better summary than the words of Jeremiah: "*I know that plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for good and not for evil; to give you a future and a hope.*" ^{Jer.29:11}

Look at this amazing sequence of lives and events:

In the 1800's there was a Boston teacher named Edward Kimball who shared his faith in Jesus with a shoe salesman, who eventually gave his life to Christ. The young shoe salesman was Dwight Lyman Moody. In later years as an evangelist, D.L. Moody had a great influence for Christ on multitudes of lives, but one in particular – F.B. Meyer who became a renowned speaker and author. Meyer preached the Gospel on college campuses across the USA and brought J. Wilbur Chapman to a faith in Jesus.

Chapman became a leader in the YMCA movement across the States. He brought the great baseball legend, turned preacher, Billy Sunday to North Carolina for a series of Gospel revival meetings in a town called Charlotte. The community leaders were so enthusiastic about the success of the meetings, they decided to have another outreach event, this time led by Mordecai Ham.

In response to one of Ham's invitations to receive Christ, a teenager from a dairy farm made his decision to follow Jesus. That teenager's name was Billy Graham.

When you share your faith in Jesus with people, you never know what God is going to do with their lives. You may just be leading a future world reformer to Christ, who in turn will bring multitudes to Jesus. You'll have a huge investment in that. Notwithstanding when you lead even one precious life to the Lord you rescue a soul from a lost eternity. Few of us are gifted to preach to thousands at

meetings, but we can all speak about our Saviour to family, friends and colleagues, especially when we realize they have needs and we reach out to help and care in those needs.

Look at quiet Andrew in the Gospel of John. He at first brought his brother Simon to Jesus, who over the years brought thousands to Jesus. In fact every time Andrew is mentioned in John's gospel, he's bringing people to Jesus. In John 1 - Simon, John 6 - a boy with his lunch of loaves and fish, and in John 12 - he and Philip bring a group of Greeks to Jesus. What a memorial quiet Andrew. We shy, introverted people can do the same, and watch God make a huge difference in them and us.

Here's a story to cheer your heart, that happened in the same context. In May 2003, I was ministering in Western Australia in a Church of Christ at Kalamunda near Perth. The Lord moved mightily by His Spirit, in the meetings and seminars on evangelism, especially in the context of healing. Many needy people were touched by the power of God. Word got around the neighbourhood especially to a young lady who had a nerve-destroying disease that would eventually cause her death.

A friend of hers having immigrated from Devon in England, had heard from another close friend in Devon about a preacher named Dave Smethurst who'd preached in her father's Brethren Church in Brixham, Devon. Now the story gets interesting. Seven years ago, one cold January I was ministering in the town of Bridgwater in Somerset, England. The pastor, Paul Fermor, asked if I'd like a drive to the Devon coast to visit the Elder of a Brethren Chapel named Graham Browse. Graham had a fish and crab shop on the docks in Brixham and we enjoyed great fellowship and lovely crabmeat sandwiches. Over the next few years I enjoyed ministering in the Chapel and saw the Holy Spirit's sweet power touch and heal many needy lives.

It was Graham's daughter who, after all those years, contacted her friend, who then in turn heard about what God was doing so close by in Kalamunda. So with the compassion and concern of this friend, the sick lady was brought to a "healing service" I was conducting in a Salvation Army Church, in Perth. The sick lady committed her life to Jesus in the meeting, and in the prayer ministry for the sick, God tangibly touched her body. She, not being orientated to this context, said it was like a river of power that flowed through her.

I think this is all very encouraging, that seven years ago a sequence of events started that resulted in a needy lady receiving Christ and being touched by God's healing power. Be encouraged that nothing you ever do is by chance or in vain. God is watching and connecting everything you do to work for good for others and yourself. The reward is huge and the memorial you leave behind is precious.

The lady who was touched by God's power, wrote to me four days later saying, "Monday morning I was walking in the house and my husband, Graham, said to me, 'you are walking normal, not limping, not stiff, not dragging your leg, what have you done?' For me it was quite a big step to say to him, that it was God healing me. To my surprise he just said, 'That's good, if it works it's great.' Yesterday a friend and I went for a 45 minute walk. I used to be a runner and into trekking, however, I have not been running for one year and not been walking since January 16th. I slipped on a gum-nut and broke my leg, since then I have not been able to walk very much - but yesterday I did walk - I had to sleep four hours when I got home, but I felt great!"

Smethurst Ministries

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This article can be downloaded from our website [here](#)

There is also an MP4 of Dave Smethurst
narrating the story of Frank Jenner

