

THE BUSINESS MEN'S

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VOICE



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Bribe

Sexual Addiction
Broken

Bouncing Back
From Grace To
Grass

Breaking Up With Marijuana

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VISION:

A vast global movement of laymen, comprising men and women being used mightily by God to bring this last great harvest through the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit before the return of our Lord Jesus Christ

MISSION

- To reach men in all nations for Jesus Christ
- To call men back to God
- To help believers to be baptised in the Holy Spirit and to grow spiritually
- To train and equip men to fulfill the great commission
- To provide an opportunity for Christian fellowship
- To bring about a greater unity among all people in the body of Christ

VOICE

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**FULL GOSPEL BUSINESS MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL**

Breaking Up With Marijuana

- John Asogonnde



Going To Church Doesn't Make You Christian

I have come to understand that it is one thing being a Christian and another thing to be a regular church attendant. The two are worlds apart. Even though I was born by default into a Christian family by reason of the fact that my father was a Pastor of a renowned church in the Oti region, it was not until September 2018 that I finally encountered Christ Jesus and accepted Him as my Lord and Personal Saviour.

Sinking Into Rebellion

I started masturbation when I was 13 years old and broke my virginity two years later exactly on the night after my last BECE paper. Thereafter I became more rebellious and started indulging in all manner of deviant behaviour. In 2012, my friends and I broke bounds from school for a fanfare at Krobo Girls and we were so reckless that we returned to school after almost 5 days. By this time, our absence had come to the attention of the Headmaster and we were suspended indefinitely from school upon our arrival. By some divine intervention I gained admission to Valley View University even though I still had one year left to finish high school.

I was so excited and felt I was finally free as I now had my own room in the university free of parental control. With my new found freedom, I delved deeper and deeper into rebellion and immorality. I became sexually promiscuous having multiple

sex partners. Having started smoking cigarettes in secondary school, I was curious about marijuana and sooner than later, I got hooked to this herb at the expense of my academic work. My friends and I neglected lectures and turned our hostel into party headquarters. We renamed our hostel "GoatHouse" after the famous GoatHouse of an American TV series, "Blue State Mountain". Anyone who has seen that TV series would know exactly what sorts of conducts we put up.

At a point I started working for an entertainment TV channel and later with a renowned Ghanaian musician who owns a night club and a record label. This gave me the opportunity and access to explore all the world had to offer. One of my nicknames back then was "Vice President". It was an irony comparing my ambition of becoming president with my lifestyle which was filled with all sorts of vices.

U-Turn on YouTube

After school, I continued working for the musician and even moved into his apartment. I continued my notorious lifestyle at an even higher pace until I finally got saved by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I recall one cozy evening when I came across a sermon on YouTube by Dr Mensa Otabil. The title of this message was "Stepping out Of Your Prison". I absolutely got interested because it resonated so well with my life which had nothing to write home about. I always had troubles every other day, was involved in several car accidents, habitually got drunk and kept misplacing valuable items, had issues with different girls and fell sick often. The sermon instantly gave me a new perspective on life and I kept listening to more sermons by Dr. Mensa Otabil till I finally gave my life to Christ few months later.

Parting With The Past

After becoming born again, I kept out of touch with friends and acquaintances who

could easily lure me back to the wayward life of sex, drugs and alcohol. The moment I decided to put studying above partying, marriage and family above sexual promiscuity and hard work above money, my turnaround came into being and I began to rewrite the script of my life on a new page all together. I have lost many friends but through it all, my God has not failed me and I have learnt to trust Him for my sustenance and to depend upon His word.

I decided to write about my experience with marijuana in a book titled "Breaking up with Mary Jane" in which I incorporated a 30-day guideline on how to quit smoking. By God's grace, the book has been well received so far with numerous testimonies flowing in from around the world.

Looking at what the Lord has done for me over the past year, I call Him "EL REBRONDE - The Lord who rebrands you into the best version of yourself."

Shalom



BOUNCING BACK FROM GRACE TO GRASS

- Enoch Dzah

From Grace To Grass

Until my 5th birthday, life was really good growing up as a child in Accra. All was rosy and smooth for my parents who, being devoted members of a charismatic church, raised us up with Christian values. My parents lost everything including their jobs and property and we had to make very drastic changes which were almost unbearable coming from such a pampered background.

My mum, with two of my siblings and I, had to move to the village leaving only my

dad and sister here in the city of Accra. Life in the village was tough as we had to adapt to the new environment. I have vivid memories of the countless occasions when we fell sick. For the next 10 years of my life, I ended up farming and schooling at the same.

It wasn't surprising therefore that I made a mess of my BECE, coming up with aggregate 25. I couldn't proceed to the school of my choice. Staying at home and watching my friends trooping to Senior High School was

one of the most humiliating ordeals of my life.

In Church But Not In Christ

I relocated to Accra with my siblings and went to Senior High School a year later where I joined the Scripture Union (SU). Here, I met a gentleman by name John who led me to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Personal Savior. Mind you, I had always been in the church doing church related stuff but had not surrendered my life to Jesus as my lord and Personal Saviour. I then noticed a change in my Christian life with consistency in my prayer life. I remember waking up to pray each night at 11:30pm.

The Tables Begin To Turn

All of a sudden, my academic performance started to improve and I started getting excellent results. It was second term in Form 2 when I received my end of term results and to my amazement, I had 8A's, a B and a C. This could only be

God looking back to my four-four-four-four-four-five-five-six-six (4-4-4-4-4-5-5-6-6) from Junior High School.

Miraculously, people I didn't know started paying for my fees through some of my teachers. I was awarded a PTA part scholarship in Form 2 and by divine intervention, I was also awarded a CHESD Foundation Scholarship which was to cater for both my School fees and books at High School and tuition and hostel fees including stipends for my University education. I have now completed University, currently working with one of Ghana's leading indigenous banks, a pastor and a member of the Full Gospel Business Men Fellowship International which has been very instrumental in my success story.

This is what God has done for me and I want to encourage you as you read this testimony that God can do just that and even more for you.



“AS FOR ME, I DON’T TAKE BRIBE”

- Seth Amponsah

Unashamedly Ethical

“AS FOR ME, I DON’T TAKE BRIBE” - This was a statement that changed the course of my life and drove me to the Young Executive Chapter (YEC) of the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International (FGBMFI).

It was during a sales pitch with Mr. Seth Koomson (Vice President-YEC) when he made the above statement. I really wanted to land this deal, and was using the normal trend of promising a percentage cut if he pushed through a deal for me. It

usually works, but not with this guy. I got offended but was also confused as to why a young marketing manager in his prime could reject such an offer. After all, everyone else is doing it and it has become an industry standard so I found his refusal very strange.

Some few weeks later, I saw a flyer on his WhatsApp status displaying Mr. Frank Nelson as a guest speaker of the Young Executive Chapter. I attended the meeting thinking that it was going to be an opportunity to push further and impress upon him

to land this deal.

My life hasn't been the same after visiting the FGBMFI, YEC. I was amazed at the reception accorded me, and all other first time guests to the Young Executive Chapter received. I responded to the altar call and went through the mandatory bible studies program happily. I got myself a study bible as I came to the understanding that God wants me **read my bible, and fellowship with equally yoked believers.**

Has God Neglected Me?

Prior to all this, I had quit my job due to family reasons and things weren't going as planned. I had started my own company and sent numerous proposals to several organizations but there were no signs of hope. How could there not be a single response from all these companies I had sent proposals to? I kept wondering whether God had neglected me. I was on a downhill slide and I was going down very fast. My faith in Christ was diminished

even though I occasionally went to church.

Breakthrough

The first call came a few days after the August breakfast meeting of our chapter requesting me to supply some billboard advertising locations. Another call came within the same week and this was followed by calls offering me various contracts. Like a flood gate that had been opened, I began getting calls from organizations I had never sent proposals to. Some clients would even make advance payments before commencement of the projects. Surprisingly, I never paid a dime to anybody to solicit for a contract, but the calls never ceased. I could count as many as fifteen new deals between August 31 and October 7.

God Answers Prayers

A friend called me some few days later and handed over a car key to me. Apparently, he had gotten a new car for his wife and wanted me to use

the car his wife was previously driving. This was an answer to a pressing need I had been praying for. I didn't have an office so I needed a car for my sales meetings as well as a mobile office.

On October 5, I received a call from a colleague in the advertising industry that I was entitled to a commission for referring a client to her company. Two days later, while on my way to the Monday Seminar meeting, I got a bank alert prompting me that the money had hit my account.

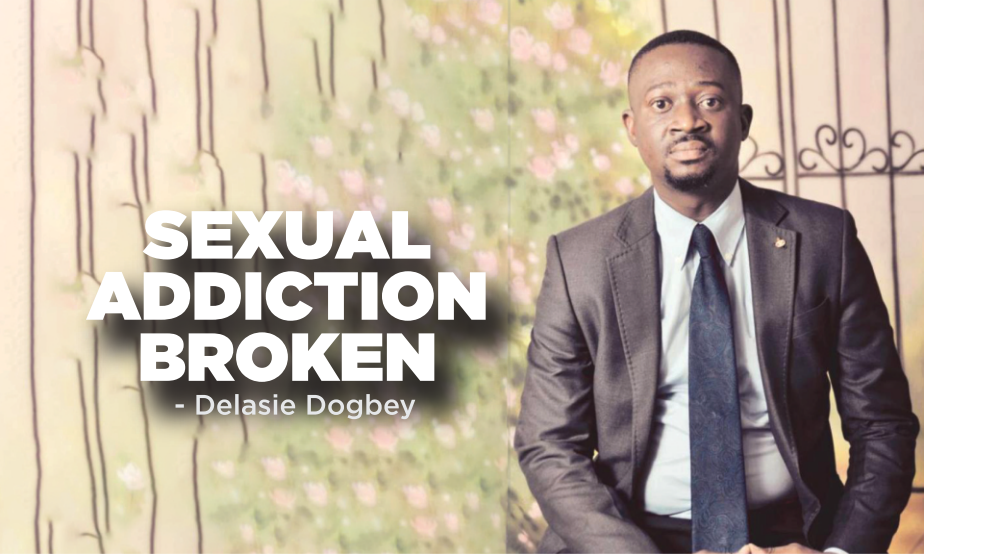
A Better Life

Today, it's all smiles in my home. My wife is eager to visit the Chapter and find out what has caused this transformation in my life.

Glory be to God for this massive transformation.

We can all live a victorious and a better life.

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. Let's hold on to our faith and work diligently and righteously in His kingdom. The integrity of one person who stood his grounds and refused a bribe from me has enlightened me, and that was what I needed to return to the path of heaven. To God be the glory.



SEXUAL ADDICTION BROKEN

- Delasie Dogbey

Parents Beware!

At the age of 8, I struck up an acquaintance with a 15 year old girl in our neighborhood and this relationship unknown to me was the gateway to decades of addiction to sexual promiscuity spanning across pornography, womanizing and a reckless party life.

This girl coincidentally was also an offspring of parents whose jobs took them away from home most of the time and she was always left alone in the house. To break the boredom and keep herself busy, the devil found work for

her idle mind and pornography had become her companion and better half. She introduced me to pornography and taught me how to arouse her erotic feelings and satisfy her sexually. I became hooked to this way of life and became enslaved to it and for years, the comfort of the privacy of her room became my second home where we explored our new found world with unlimited degrees of freedom.

Until then, it was an exciting life growing up in a plush residential area in Accra and

attending the best of schools in the care of Christian parents who were also astute professionals in the market place. My parents were both Human Resource practitioners who worked in the Public Sector. Life was good and we were raised up with sound Christian principles and values.

Unfortunately, the demands of work ensured that my parents had very minimal contact hours with us and I therefore ended up in the care of my grandmother who in a typical fashion could not crack the whip to enforce checks and controls to keep me from going astray. With my new found freedom, I began to find solace and comfort in the homes of friends and one of such acquaintances turned out as the defining point of my life.

Birth of a Monster

A monster was born. Like introducing candies to a child, I tasted it, discovered the sweetness and became hooked to it to the extent that I couldn't do without it.

We succeeded in guarding this secret with a jealous care that was known only to the two of us. I had become a prisoner to this new found attraction and I always looked forward to our next encounter with great expectation and left with lingering, insatiable, obsessive and compulsive nostalgic feelings. Being older than myself, she offered voluntarily to walk from her school which was not too distant from mine to pick me up and accompany me to her room routinely to explore our new found world. She schooled me well and in no time, I had graduated with distinction from an apprentice to an expert consultant at the game.

Looking unassuming and innocent as I was, I had become a monstrous predator and when she left for boarding school, I turned my attention to the girls in the neighborhood and most of them succumbed to my predatory instincts. Ordinary visits by girls to my grandmother's house ended

up in a showdown. This way of life continued and escalated to alarming proportions in secondary school where as though by “divine providence” I was linked up with a school mother who fuelled this passion. Even though she was in SHS 3, my experience from home had equipped me thoroughly to handle older women with ease and finesse as I knew too much for my age. So by some form of telepathy, we clicked at first sight and she begun to line up her mates for me and I always delivered and excelled with distinction to their dismay at the erotic capabilities of this seemingly innocent but monstrous whiz kid. I meritoriously earned the nick name “Raspetwe” as a befitting tribute to my way of life.

By the easily visible standards of morality, I was a good boy: never flouted school rules, took my studies serious and even managed to become a prefect and attended Scripture Union meetings with this baggage

of worms.

When I got to the University in 2004, I vowed to forsake this way of life and chart a new course but sooner than later, I was spotted by my mates and the usual hype started extolling my virtues and in no time, I was at it again. I scaled up and added drinking and partying to adorn my CV. I became a party organizer and typical of my stock in trade, I was able to attract a lot of ladies to my functions to garnish the occasions.

Life In the Media

I ended up in the media enclave after graduation and this was a fertile ground which promoted and supported my way of life as women are easily attracted to people in the media space. At a popular TV Network where I worked at the marketing department, I came by a lot of free tickets for events and these avenues added to the array of arsenals at my disposal in furtherance of my game plan. In the midst of all these

events, I strategically never made any commitment to any girl as I cherished my freedom and did not want to be saddled with any responsibility. A childhood lady friend of mine was however an exception to this rule. I loved her sincerely and started going out with her but unlike the multitude of other ladies who had fallen prey to my game plan, this lady was different and wouldn't yield to my much touted pedigree no matter how hard I tried. In her presence, I struggled to curb my feelings. Unfortunately, she travelled out of the country and I bounced back to business as usual.

Stop The Car! Turn Back

It was a nice Friday night in 2010, a friend of mine invited me to Tema for a function where he had lined up some of the finest ladies in town. He wanted me to be around and make them comfortable as I was accustomed to older women who unlike the young ones did not need any grooming. I was excited at

this invitation and my friend came over to my house and I handed over the keys to my car for him to drive me to Tema. As we were warming up and getting into the mood for the long night, he started scanning through the radio channels to get a station playing the right music for the occasion. Accidentally, the dial landed at a station where a man of God was preaching.

The sermon resonated so well with my life: the preacher was saying that "it is time, aren't you tired of this way of life? Where you are going, is that where God wants you to be? God has greater and better things for you. Won't you give up this life and give Jesus a chance?" My friend wanted to skip the channel but I strongly resisted and insisted that he keep the radio on that channel. By the time we got to the Tema end of the motorway, I had become so emotional and I instructed my friend to stop and make a U-turn back to Accra. He became upset and angry at

the turn of events but since the car was mine, he had no choice but to obey.

Incidentally, I had encountered several men of God in my life who had declared to me on different occasions that there was a special grace upon my life and that God had a unique assignment for me. It was no wonder therefore that even in the depth of my depravity, I got whatever I wanted without sweat. I had indeed taken the grace of God for granted and I rightfully referred to myself as the stubborn child of God.

Turning Point

When we got to the Accra Mall, I asked him to park the car and the voice on the radio asked me to say a prayer after him which I obliged to the surprise of my friend who was undoubtedly perplexed. By then, my girlfriend had returned from her trip and I called her that evening and recounted the ordeal that I had gone through. I confessed to her that I had been naughty and she

responded that “Oh yes! I know you have been naughty but I have been praying for you all this while”. She assured me that she had forgiven me unconditionally for all the offences that I had committed. In the very words that the Pastor on the radio had used in his concluding remarks, my girlfriend re-echoed the same phrase: “finally, you have to surrender”.

I had always felt that I would encounter Jesus in a spectacular way in church, but it wasn't so. Jesus confronted and arrested me in my own car on the highway through a radio evangelist and I gave my life to Him. I went round to all my friends and acquaintances and told them that IT WAS ALL OVER.

That is when that monster was quenched. Jesus can meet you anywhere and in any situation. My mother had always told me not to treat any woman badly so I went round all the women I was hanging out with and told them that I was tired and that

it was all over. Some thought I was joking and greeted me with laughter whilst others were weeping inconsolably.

Dawn of a New Era

I asked my girlfriend to marry me and she agreed. After having dated her for seven years, she was at the point of giving up because she had waited on me for so long and it seemed I wasn't ready to make an eternal commitment to her in marriage. I took her to the altar in 2011 and a new day dawned on me ushering me into another chapter of my life where stability was restored.

By then, I was working with Vodafone and I left and moved on to SIC Insurance Company and life started getting better. My father who had been a workaholic all his life had also become a Pastor and he was extremely excited. My friends and loved ones were all genuinely happy for me as it had become patently manifest that the old things had passed away and all things had become new and some

calmness had settled in my life. I started going to church again and began to develop a personal relationship with Christ which is still flourishing from strength to strength.

Your Wife Is Dying

Three months after marriage, my wife became pregnant and one of the doctors said that with the eye of faith he could see that she was carrying twins. My grand aunt who is a twin had predicted before her death that I would give birth to twins. Putting together the doctor's report with what my grand aunt had predicted, the darts were connecting perfectly and we were looking forward to her expected date of delivery with excitement. The scan report established that one of the babies was lying in a breech position in the womb: the baby approaches the birth canal with the buttocks or feet instead of the head. Under the circumstance, it was not possible for my wife to have a spontaneous vaginal delivery. She had to

go through a Caesarian section.

A day to the surgery, we both had a dream that her womb had exploded. I called my father and he reassured me not to fret but to be still and know that He is God. I had to run around looking for blood and in the process, the nurses hinted me that if I delayed in getting the blood my wife was going to die as the condition had become critical. I managed to secure the blood and my twins were given birth to: a boy and a girl. A partial hysterectomy (surgery to remove the womb) was done to save the situation. You would have thought that the birth of the twins should have brought me some relief but on the contrary, I had this sense of heaviness and premonition that something undesirable was going to happen. The door to the theatre opened and out came the doctor with a very gloomy face. He told me that he had tried his best but his best was just not enough. Peeping through the door, I could see my wife's

lifeless body with her womb by her side and the nurses sobbing in the background. By then my mother and mother-law who had been waiting with me had collapsed and had to be taken away. The doctor directed that my wife should be taken to recovery ward. He was frank with me that her condition was critical and the outcome did not look promising.

Miracle Days Are Still Here

I heard my daughter crying and she sounded very much like a person crying from a deep seated anguish and pain. I asked the nurse to give me the little girl and I carried her in my arms and put her beside my wife and started throwing questions at her: "are you going to leave these little kids for us? Who is going to take care of them?" I began pouring my heart out in prayer. A voice started pointing accusing fingers at me that I was being rewarded for all the sins that I had committed in the past but a counter voice which was

undoubtedly that of the Holy Spirit kept whispering to me that “your sins and iniquities, I will remember them no more and that as far as the heavens are above the earth, so far has God separated my sins from me.” In the midst of prayer, my wife miraculously coughed and regained consciousness. The doctor who had given up and was on his way out was called back. It was a miracle! Who says miracle days are over? No, miracles still do happen. My wife had come back to life again and I give all the glory to God.

I Found True Happiness

In June 2017, I honored an invitation to a book launch of a friend of mine who used to be my accomplice in crime at the height of my “insanity”. This event was held under the auspices of the Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International (FGBMFI). This friend had tried unsuccessfully on several occasions to get me to attend the outreach meetings of the fellowship.

This time however, I saw his “Display Picture on whatsapp” and it was an invitation to a book launch and being an avid reader and writer, I decided to attend the event at City Escape Hotel-Accra.

A lady Pastor by name Happy Crentsil did the launching and afterwards she invited people to step out and support her ministry. I responded and she prayed and prophesized over my life. In her own words, she said to me that “you have finally come home”. In several dreams after this encounter, I could see Mama Happy stretching her hands towards me and repeating the same phrase “you have finally come home”. Persistently, I woke up from those dreams with bad headaches. On the advice of my wife, I decided to attend the breakfast meeting of the FGBMFI after I had turned down countless invitations in the past. At the breakfast meeting at the City Escape Hotel, I felt a sense of genuine happiness amongst the members. From my

background, it was easy to tell people who were faking and mimicking happiness from genuinely joyful people. I had come to a firm conviction that these people were genuinely happy and from that day, I took a decision to join the fellowship and I have not regretted.

I had always been a private person but after having been exposed to the power of

testimony in Full Gospel, I decided to break the silence and share my story. Together with my wife, we authored the book “Allow God to Be God-Our Testimony”. A lot of lives have been touched reading and listening to my testimony. God has given me a ministry to take the word of God to young people, especially amongst the women.

God bless you for reading.

SIX STEPS TO SALVATION

Men still cry: "What must I do to be saved?" The Bible provides a clear answer.

- 1 Acknowledge** to God that you have lived selfishly and that, in not honouring Him as Lord of your life, you have sinned and been separated from Him. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" Rom. 3:23
- 2 Repent** by turning to God, asking for His forgiveness of your sins and for His help to live as He desires. "Except you repent, you shall likewise perish" Luke 13:3. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" Acts 3:19
- 3 Believe** that Jesus is the son of God and that He died on the Cross and took your sins upon Himself that you may obtain God's Forgiveness. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" John 3:16. "He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" Mark 16:16.
- 4 Confess** to God that you now take Jesus to be your Saviour and Lord of your life. "If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved" Rom 10:9. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9.
- 5 Forsake:** "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord... For He will abundantly pardon" Isaiah 55:7.
- 6 Receive:** "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" John 1:11-12

VISIT OUR CHAPTER

Be part of this great move of God bringing ordinary men who never ever thought of talking about Jesus, but are now declaring with passion the unsearchable love of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

What a joy to see men from different backgrounds and disciplines, walking, talking and living in the love of Christ. This, you must look for.

There are Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International chapters all over the nation. We encourage you to join one nearest you. Come and be equipped with the knowledge and truth about Jesus. Be the head and not the tail. Your spiritual upliftment, through your coming closer to God, is our goal.

Be the man God wants to see and be proud of. This is your lifetime joy.

Look for a chapter near you and be part of *The Happiest People on Earth*.

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