



**First Fruits**  
Ministries

***Sharing Christ with the World.***

**Larry Wells**  
**President**

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**Board member**

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**Board Member**

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**Board Member**

The enclosed information is to introduce you to the Board and Ministry of First Fruits. We have been formed for approximately six years and have gotten our approval as a 501 C(3) not for profit corporation.

As a Christian, I have always been alert to the fact that we are called to support God's work at home and around the world. As a couple, Clair, my wife, and I began tithing after about five years of marriage. It's never been an issue with us since.

However, God impressed on my heart over the past few years that tithing might be more than what I had conceived of in the past. I have always wondered if it was to be on the pre-tax income or the income left after paying taxes. You know the old argument that ensues. But God impressed on me that we should be doing much more with what he has given us. I felt that we should be tithing on what you might call our "gross income" at work. Certainly the business, Eye Care for Tulsa, is owned by us and therefore we are responsible as stewards of what it generates.

I never shared that idea with my wife until early in 1997. It January 4, 1997 that I went through a baptism of the Holy Spirit and that resulted in a major change in the emphasis and direction of my life. Involved in the overall experience was a trip into Mexico on a medical mission doing cataract surgery. We had been doing similar missions for 20 years so what was so different about this trip? God impressed on me several things. One of those was that I had not been making Him the priority of the trip. I had been working on my own strength and had been creating my own "blessings". I had seldom trusted Him for guidance since I had the ability to do whatever was needed. We were a pretty good surgical team but we were not truly God's team.

On the flight down He impressed on me the imperative to include a witness of why we make these trips. We were to share the truth of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was so

filled with His Spirit that every move, thought, and deed was washed in Him throughout that week. His love was flowing through me to the extent that I could not contain my love for the people with whom we were working. I had never experienced such a tenderness and compassion for the people of Mexico.

Within a few hours, on our first operating day, He taught me how to change my blocking technique for anesthetizing eyes. Throughout the week, His touch was felt through my hands. It was a touch that comforted and calmed. All patients were at ease throughout the difficult time of injecting medicine behind their eye, even those who had been a challenge to those instilling their drops etc. The difference in their demeanor was remarkable. A task that generally required several re-injections each day, sometimes more than once, became so easy and predictable that I fully expected a single injection to suffice. If there was a question about a block working, simply massaging gently would result in success each time.

It was the end of our week. I will never forget the moment. I was blocking a gentleman, about 50 years old. His name is Guillermo. He looked at me after the block and simply said, "I feel the touch of God in your hands." The statement humbled me and brought tears to my eyes. He had validated what I had felt all week, the power and touch of God flowing through my weak body. "*Christ in you the hope of Glory.*" We did 77 cases that week and every single one required only one injection. Could that happen at random. Possibly but it has never even come close in over twenty years of practice for me. Not even at home where conditions are much more ideal.

Miracles also took place in the operating room that week and discernment of spirits was at a peak. It was, for me, an introduction to the supernatural world that had been missing in my relationship with my God and Creator. God took what could have been very divisive, the change in me, and allowed it to strengthen our marriage. Our relationship has benefited immeasurably

So many things happened that week that my life will never be the same. I was blessed with a meaningful prayer life for the first time in my Christian life. I began to read the Word as if it were written to me. The words jumped from the page and spoke with authority. Through the Holy Spirit I learned just how to defeat several of the very "demons" that had been plaguing me for years. The concept of my body as a "temple of the Holy Spirit" became a revelation not simply something I had heard. My desire to share Christ was renewed with the power and boldness to begin a lifestyle of ministry that has resulted in several patients, friends and acquaintances coming to Him over the past two years. What an exciting time this is.

By July of 1997, I had shared with my office staff on several occasions that Eye Care for Tulsa was no longer my business but was given over to God. I think I used the term "dedicated to God". It was at that point that I ran across the text from Proverbs 3:9-10 and, under the conviction of the Holy Spirit I saw the implication for our business. It was the answer I had been looking for as to what God expects of us in relationship to stewardship.

As I began to share the vision with my wife, she was not unexpectedly concerned with the possibility. We were in the midst of one of the most challenging financial crises that

we have faced since starting in practice in 1977. We were often asking God to provide our “daily bread” literally to make payroll every other week. That means we were trusting for approximately \$50-60,000 each time. He had always provided but we were definitely working with no margin. We also had a bank loan we had taken about eighteen months previously for over \$100,000 that we had been servicing with interest only, unable to make a dent in the principal.

Needless to say, her concern was reasonable. Just how did we expect to take another 10% off the top, before paying any bills or salaries and still expect to make out? This in a business that was spending 65-70% on overhead. Suddenly we increased that number to 75-80%.

Well, I fought with the leading I felt from the Holy Spirit for about two months. Then finally, one afternoon in my office, under deep conviction in a prayer time with my wife and our administrator, I said to God: “I’m not sure just what it means but we are willing to do what you have told us to do financially in this practice. From this day on, we are going to give you the First Fruits of our labors.” I said that without consulting my wife but knew it was the right step. She smiled at me and, through tears, agreed that it was time.

Probably the most amazing thing to most people might be what happened next. Just twenty-four hours later, my wife walked in with a smile on her face and said, “Guess what?” Not knowing where she was headed I asked what she meant. She said, “I had enough money in the bank today to pay off the loan completely!” She wasn’t really sure where it all came from but we were debt free again. It had not been a request but it had been a blessing. Praise God for being in the details.

So that was the beginning of what has developed into First Fruits Ministries. We found that to have funds “roll over” from one year to the next, we had to have some sort of tax free fund so that money sitting in the bank wasn’t considered income to the business or me and therefore taxed again. As it turns out, that requires having a Board of directors and has created several opportunities to include many others in the blessing of giving and supporting missions throughout the world.

We hope to spread the concept of First Fruits to other businesses and see if it might help tap some of the infinite resources that are God’s that may be presently mis-directed due to lack of understanding of God’s challenge to each of us. If we buy into the concept that everything in our possession is God’s and we are simply stewards of it for a time, it becomes exciting to see just how much we can direct into areas that will bear fruit for the Kingdom of God.

We have prayed that seeds sewn with the monies of First Fruits will fall on soil that is prepared for an abundant crop. We have also prayed that as we *“Trust the Lord with all our hearts; and have sought not to lean on our own understanding. In all ways we have acknowledged Him, and he promises to direct our paths.”* (My paraphrase.) We are truly excited about what God is doing through this ministry.

May the Lord Bless and Keep you,

Lin Brister, Founder,  
First Fruits Ministries