

Fleeing A War & Finding His Peace!

AFTER A BROKEN MARRIAGE, ATTEMPTED SUICIDE & FLEEING THE DRAFT, HE RAN RIGHT INTO JESUS!

From Tiras Seeds; México

Con Vida:
HELLO! GUY ALL! MY NAME IS TIRAS. I'm a native of southern California, born & raised in San Diego. I was born in 1947, the second oldest child in our family of four children.
AS A CHILD I REMEMBER BEING ALONE MUCH OF THE TIME, as my brother & I always seemed to argue & fight. I can remember my parents also having arguments much of the time, as my father was very jealous & possessive of my mother. My dad used to take a belt to punish us for our mistakes, & I can truly say I never felt loved by my dad.

MY FONDEST MEMORIES WERE FROM THE AGE OF 12 when I discovered girls & my need for love & comfort. I remember falling in love many times, yet always finding no real lasting relationship. About this time I began to learn to surf, & this was a new-found pastime for me. I loved the ocean, the sky, the sound of waves racing to the shoreline from the other side of the world.

I DIDN'T LIKE SCHOOL EXCEPT FOR WOOD-WORKING CLASS, which I excelled in because I loved to create things with my hands. All my friends were baseball and football addicts, but all I could think about was girls. At the age of 16 I moved out of my folks' house & got an apartment at the beach, thus making it even harder to go to high school. However, I decided to excel as never before, & I did, arriving as #1 in my class & receiving a good preparation for south-to-college college. As a youth, I also loved to fly & spent much time at a nearby airport practicing



Tiras—healthy, handsome & happy at work for the Lord.

rides in private planes from sympathetic pilots.
WHEN I WAS 16 IT SEEMED THAT SO MANY THINGS HAPPENED ALL AT ONCE TO ME. I began to feel as a black sheep in my family. I was thrown out of public schools; I crashed my mother's car one morning while drunk on wine. At 16 I was an alcoholic, almost killing myself & wrecking my relationship with my friends in the process. At the same time my girlfriend got pregnant & took me to court for child support, & as a result my folks almost disowned me as a shame & contempt in their family.

WELL, THEN I TRIED TO DO BETTER. I started college & tried to be a faithful student, yet after 5 semesters it seemed that all I was interested in was pretty girls & finding the one true love for me. Viet Nam was getting hot at this time, 1968, so I tried to stay in school to avoid being sent to war.
I WAS IN A TERRIBLE CAR ACCIDENT AT THIS TIME IN MEXICO. WE WERE 1/2 CUPLES WHO HAD BEEN DANCING AND

drinking, & on the road home we hit a dump truck head-on, & I was unconscious with a major opening in my head. I awoke the next day in the hospital after major surgery, & someone told me, "God loves you!" Wow! A real miracle to be alive, yet I didn't know Jesus & couldn't give Him the glory as yet.

SOON AFTERWARD I MET A GIRL WHO I WANTED TO MARRY, & we decided to tie the knot. All my friends came to our marriage in a nice beach chapel, yet somehow I felt I was jumping in over my head. Well, it lasted 6 months, as Viet Nam was calling me to war & the pressure it put on our marriage destroyed it, so we decided to separate.

I THEN BEGAN SMOKING MARIJUANA LIKE MAD, & began to realize that I needed a change. Yet I didn't know what to do or to whom to go for help. My wife had told me about Jesus, but I didn't like church, so I always rejected her advice to me.

AT THIS SAME TIME I JOINED AN EVANGELICAL ACTION COMMITTEE to try to help stop

pollution, & yet I saw that no one would give up their cars, so what was the use. I was truly looking for a cause for my life, a reason to live, & yet I found no answer. It was shortly thereafter that I was fired from the gas & electric company in San Diego because of my refusal to trim off my beard, so that was the last straw. I came to an end of my life, & I lay down & drank a glass of strong poison, wrote a good-bye note to my friends & wanted to die. Well, sadly I awoke the next day, & there was the same old world.

SO I THEN PROCEEDED TO GET A PASSPORT & LEAVE THE COUNTRY for Europe, France being my destination because surfing was popular on the coast there. I shipped my board to New York & left, just on the same day as my inunction papers came for the army. I was feeling like a refugee escaping a war-torn country, as the Kent State killings also happened the same week.

I STAYED IN FRANCE FOR A LONG 7 MONTHS, very lonely & spending each day wondering what to do with my life. I left France for South Africa, hitch-hiking, yet at the entrance on W. Africa the officials would not let me into the country because of my long hair. I was not going to conform to anyone's laws or regulations, so I went back to France.

WHILE I WAS STAYING WITH A FRENCH BOY WHOM I MET THERE, my parents wrote me & told me that the FBI was going to search for me if I didn't come home, plus my dog died & my grandfather died too, plus my divorce was final. This was too much for me, so I decided to return & be a con-

scientious objector & go to jail for 5 years & write a book on life's experiences.
SO IN DEC. OF 1971, I flew home to New York from London. I phoned my folks upon arriving & said I'd be home for Christmas. I then started hitchhiking to California. Everyone who helped me on my way was like an angel, & I ended up one morning in Texas. The young people there told me to get out of Texas because the cowboys would shoot me if I stuck around. They didn't like long hairs, yet I was in no way a hippy.

SO OUT THERE ON HIGHWAY 80 I WAS ONCE AGAIN ALONE & SCARED, hitch-hiking hurriedly to California, & there two carloads of kids stopped. As we drove they told me about Jesus, read the Bible to me, & told me of a farm where they were going where many people were living in harmony & love as the early Christians, & they asked if I'd like to visit. I said okay & then went to see this new life.

I MUST SAY I WAS IMPRESSED BY THE LOVE & FRIENDSHIP I FOUND THERE. Everyone was studying the Bible & singing praises to their God. Well, I didn't yet know God or His Son Jesus Christ, so I

just sat & listened. Soon I felt I had to leave, as my heart didn't have the same love & joy these young people had. So I asked a boy named Cephas to take me out. He & I then sat in a small greeting room for visitors & he shared his life with me & read me Bible verses.

THIS WAS SO NEW TO ME, yet I loved every word. I was so proud of my life, yet in the light of these loving people it seemed like nothing. I then broke down and cried & prayed with Cephas & asked Jesus Christ to come into my heart & fill me with His Spirit to be a witness for Him. I was born again!

FOR A FEW DAYS I STAYED THERE & read the Bible & shared with many people, & on the third day I saw it was for me. I had a new life to gain & wanted to start all over. How wonderful it was! I was in love with love! I now had a family for the first time in my life.
AS JESUS HIMSELF SAID, "I am the way, the truth & the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me." (John 14:6) Jesus said, "Whosoever will my come." Please come to Jesus, won't you? He loves you, & I love you too. Thank you Jesus!



Leading inspiration as the kids at MW perform.

Jesus Healed Where Asylums Hurt

FROM AARON HONESTLY AS NOW: I WAS BORN ON SEPT. 1, 1949 IN BOGOTA, COLOMBIA. My father was a successful architect & national tennis champion, a celebrity amongst his friends & family & society in Bogota. His father, my grandfather, was a famous lawyer from there & his last office build was president of the Supreme Court. Before he died, the government of Colombia gave him the country's highest award.

MY GRANDFATHER ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE became a wealthy chemist, however in 1948 there were political plots & revolt in Bogota, & all his wealth was lost. MY CHILDHOOD WAS HAPPY UNTIL I WAS 8 OR 9 which was the time when my father began to get hooked on Alcohol & my mother began to stray from her duties and callings. By the time I was 13, my Dad was in New York undergoing psychiatric treatment, & our family of 4 brothers & one sister & my mother began to reap the results of all that turmoil.

ANYWAY, I KNOW THE DEVIL REALLY TOUGH MY TOLKS & ME, because I was a mess & I never could concentrate on my studies. In spite of all the heartbreaks my folks went thru, they did the best they could to put me in some of the best schools of Bogota, but I got into & out of each in less than three months.

WHEN I WAS 18 YEARS OLD, I had an automobile accident which threw me into several years of psychiatric hospitals & doctors & drugs & confusion & even an attempt to commit suicide, but the Lord preserved me by His love & mercy. I also flew to New York & then to Minnesota, all the way from Colombia, & it was estab-

lished that I had to stay there at the Mayo Clinic. THE ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIC UNIT OF THE METHODIST HOSPITAL became my home for 8 months until I flew to Colombia where I visited & lived in 3 psychiatric hospitals, one of them a real mad house, even worse than the one in "One Flew over the CooCoo's Nest". I was in there for one whole year, & the last place was like Hell.

THEY LOADED ME WITH DOWNERS EVERY DAY & even gave me a shot daily of a drug which was meant to have on me the same effect as shock treatment. So I also walked like a zombie thru the halls of this "Green Door" until finally God got me out of there after several frustrated attempts to escape. I flew to Rochester again where I stayed for another 6 months as an outpatient, only to prove I was a total failure, so my doctor had to send me back to Bogota where my fate would have been worse if I'd gone back & lived with my family under the former circumstances. I would have ended up in a hospital for the rest of my life.

WELL, THANK THE LORD, ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T KNOW HIM IN THOSE DAYS, I had enough sense to flee away from my parents' house to try to make it on my own. I travelled to the Atlantic coast all alone on a bus without any preparation whatsoever to perform a decent job in order to support myself. All I had was a few clothes & my guitar & a deep desire & longing for life & love.

I SPENT 3 1/2 YEARS AFTER MY ARRIVAL TRAVELLING FROM PLACE TO PLACE TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO FIND LOVE & a job which could enable me to support myself & "make

HEALED HIS HEART & MIND: I'M in life. Finally I went to a school in Bogota (a well-known high school) & spoke to the dean. I told her that I didn't have a college degree or anything like that but that I had a strong desire to make it in life. I offered to work for her in her high school teaching music to the kids, drawing, arts & crafts or physical education. It must have been the Lord that touched her heart, because I got the chance to prove myself!

SCHOOL WAS OPENING IN 10 DAYS, on the 7th of August, 1973, & I had time to bring on the opening day 10 charts of drawings to serve as audio visual aids for teaching English. I was full of conviction, so I went down to a store & bought the materials to work with, & God did the rest; it could not have been me! Whew!



Aaron during inspiration.

I GOT THE JOB, & I began as a physical education teacher for children, & also as a drawing teacher. After 2 months I got promoted to teach in the 8th & 9th grades & was doing fine, but my soul was dying & I didn't know why.
FINALLY I WAS REALLY DESPERATE & WENT TO MY HOUSE, a little cottage in the mountains near Bogota, sat down, got on my knees, &

for the first time in my life I prayed that if God was real He would show it to me. And He did!

TWO DAYS AFTERWARD, UPON RETURNING HOME FROM MY REGULAR 4 PM DAILY JOB, I was hitch-hiking my way back to my house, & a car drove by with 3 people in it, & the front seat next to the driver was empty. The two guys in the back had also been picked up by the driver while hitch-hiking, & they ended up playing a very interesting role in my life that day, because I invited them to my cottage to show them the surroundings & possibilities of getting a "refuge farm", which was the reason they had come up there.

WE STARTED TALKING ABOUT THE STATE OF THE WORLD & HOW TO CHANGE IT, when one of them told me that they were working to build a nation whose economy was not based on gold or international commerce or war, but actually built upon sharing, loving & trying to make others happy. In the deepest part of my heart I knew this was exactly what I was really looking for! As crazy as it sounded, if it was the truth, it was what I was looking for!

WELL, THOSE TWO GUYS INSPIRED MY DAY, so I went down to their house two days later. I found that there was no fighting amongst them, but rather an honest & warm love towards one another. I had one of them explain what everything there meant, why they were so happy. So the first thing that this person explained to me was about Jesus Christ & receiving Him into my heart.

SO I DID I RECEIVED JESUS INTO MY HEART on that day about 7 1/2 years ago, & even though I've had to go through a lot & have

struggled up here to keep on fighting & learning the lessons.

ONCE WHEN I WAS A VISITOR AT THE HOME IN BOGOTA, I was really going thru it, so this brother told me that the answer was to get naked before the Lord, & that's exactly what I did! I went into the next room & took all my clothes off & prayed desperately. And as I was opening the door, a girl who was visiting started getting a little uncomfortable with me beside her, & I was waiting for God to "speak to me". Then a brother came down & sang "Pet Shop" for me, which really broke my heart!

I HAVE SPENT TIMES OF JOY IN THE FAMILY, times of

that I have failed & pulled bones that have been hard to mend, but I am now really learning to give my all to God & to have nothing in mind except seeing His kingdom of love established in the minds & hearts of men, in obedience to the Bible & the Letters.

WORKING FOR MCV HAS BEEN A REAL BLESSING WHICH BY NO MEANS I DESERVE, but thanks to the Lord, He's given me a lot of new songs which have & will be included in the MCV tapes, God willing! I hope these songs will be a blessing in reaching God's sheep & also for all of you who listen to them. I love you! (P.S. GBT, SMITHLY, MCGE)

New Members

THE WORD & FELLOWSHIP HELPS FAMILY GROW IN FAITH & LOVE!

From Jesse Ammon; Europe: OUR GOD IS STILL THE GOD OF MIRACLES. The Lord is helping us change the world of many lives here on this island. The Lord led us to the family of Manolo & Estrella while we were out witnessing in an area of apartments; we met them & two of their 5 children. AFTER WITNESSING TO THEM, all of them humbly asked Jesus into their hearts. From that wonderful day until now, they have been growing in faith & love & all the fruits of His Spirit. Every Sunday they come to our Home for our day of fellowship, & they really love the Word & the Spirit of David. In fact, their oldest daughter, who is 14, received the Lord & the Holy Spirit at one of our fellowship meetings.

FROM JESSE AMMON; EUROPE: EACH week one of us or a few of us go to visit them. We share the Bible, read MCV Koex together, show flannelgraphs & have inspiration. At one visit the other two of the children received Jesus into their hearts; so now the whole family is saved. Hal! ALTHOUGH MOST OF THEM HAVE PHYSICAL DEFECTS, suffering or problems with health, they are very sincere & loving people. Their oldest son, who is a diabetic, is also memorizing verses. He's learning to play the guitar & has a gift for music.

NOW SHE IS A CATACOMBER & memorizes the Word, litresses, witnesses & even uses the M Letters & Flannelgraphs to teach her catholicism group of young chil-

THIS FAMILY IS EVEN CHANGING THE LIVES OF THEIR NEIGHBOURS & THEIR NEIGHBOURS' CHILDREN. A next-door neighbour, upon noticing our visits, comes over with her two children, who have both been saved & like to read the Bible & listen to the songs of the Spirit. She really hungers for the Word which gives her strength, love & faith to cope with her marriage problems. GBT!