

Brought

To

Life



I'm Tony Ahie, this is a true testimony to the power of the Lord and how He can change *ANYONE*.

The day I truly gave my life to the Lord and became a born again Christian was a day I will never, never forget. But before I get into that life changing day I'll give you a brief history of my life growing up.

I was born in Putaruru, moved to Opunake when I was about 3 or 4 and went to Opunake Primary School until the last term of standard 4 then moved to Hawera as my earthly father got a job there. Well, that's what I got told and believed anyway. My time in Opunake seemed short but I remember my little friend of about 8 or 9 years old taking me to Sunday school. I still remember how I felt after going there only a few times even at such a young age. I felt loved, accepted, and confident within myself. It was almost as though someone turned a light on and I could finally see and feel the love I was always longing for. Even children's Bible stories came alive.

"Looking for fulfilment through sex.....I never found it"

Hawera was a different story. As soon as I got there at about 9 or 10 years old I found the world of girls and then went through the whole "going out with you" buzz, a new girlfriend every week sorta thing. I don't recall doing a lot, other than a kiss on the lips and holding hands. However, the year I hit high school at 13 years old it became much more. It involved almost every and all filth you can think of. I won't go any further than that on the subject. Also, I was never stable with any girl, nor was I fulfilled. I jumped from girl to girl to girl to girl all the way through until I met my future wife at the age of 18. So from the age of about 13 to 18 I was "active" with girls and **looking for fulfillment through sex.**

"To add to my insatiable hunger for girls I now added the need to steal....."

- - I never found it.

At around the same early age that I started seeking to fulfill the void in my life with females, I started stealing. Again it started out on a small scale. I remember the first time I stole from a business. It was a supermarket and I took a KitKat chocolate bar. I went in by myself and I don't remember even why I did it at the time, but hid it in my clothing.

Man what a rush! I was freaking out that I might get caught, so I was outta there, straight through the checkout, bought nothing and out the door. I kept looking back in case the staff or police were after me. A day or so later I was back. To add to my insatiable hunger for girls I now added the need to steal, doing it again and again. After a while I became what I thought 'more clever' at thieving and then the bigger stuff started. Before I knew it, I was doing over people's houses and businesses, taking whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted it. I remember me and an old mate of mine were seeing how many houses we could burgle in a week or so. Instead of going to high school we were walking the streets robbing people's homes. I think we did 15 homes or so in a week. Again **looking for fulfillment, this time through stealing, but - - I never found it.**

To add to my early misery and rocky start, at 13 years old I also started drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco and doing drugs. Once I had my first drink at 13, tobacco and drugs soon followed. Raging parties, drunkenness, drugs, sex, violence, thieving, vandalizing, tagging & gangs were the norm. Everyone was doing it, so I thought. After living this way for years, it took its toll on my mind and body and I was spiraling out of control, going deeper and deeper into



"I was mean, nasty, untrustworthy and violent. I hated myself and I hated everyone else"

depression, desperation, despair, loneliness, fear and worry. I had numerous suicidal attempts and an insane thought life -- all before I was 18. There was a phase where all I wanted to do was smoke weed and go surfing.

I remember waking up after one of the suicidal attempts, in hospital, naked, with a tube down my throat, oxygen mask, over my mouth and hand cuff marks on both of my wrists and ankles and not remembering how I got there or what happened beforehand. Most days of my youth I used to drink as much as I could, smoke as many cigarettes as I could, do as much drugs as I could, get as many girls as I could, commit as much crime and fight whenever I felt like it and I didn't care if anyone liked what I was doing or not. All my mates were doing it so it seemed pretty normal to me at that time.

I tried to fill the emptiness I felt inside with drink, drugs, cigarettes, sex, crime and violence. Again looking for fulfillment, and again - - I never found it.



I remember the social worker that eventually got allocated to me after we got snapped doing the burglaries, was so nice to me. Most people outside of my circle hated me. Also when I had to report in to the police station to “check in” I met another man who treated me like I was ‘normal’. He actually cared enough to take the time to talk to me and show me a little respect. His name is Chester Burrows. Recently there was a picture of me in the local newspaper. I was in there for a mentoring position, standing next to him. God is good! Back in my youth however I was not the same man I am today. I had a big ugly tattoo across my neck, piercings and dreads that I’d sometimes put up like a pineapple.

I was mean, nasty, untrustworthy, and violent. I hated myself and I hated everyone else that wasn’t in our circle even though we smashed each other over most weekends after a night of hard drinking and drugging. I hated everyone & everything except my little brother who’s 10 years younger than me. I had no respect for woman not even my mother or my grandparents as I ripped them off too.

“I tried to fill the void I had through appearance and ego trips.....”

In my twenties I chilled out a lot, now I had a fiancé and a baby boy and knew I had to get my life together somehow. So I applied to go on a sport and fitness course to become a personal trainer. I thought to myself I could get a better physique and a better way of life and maybe even a job at the end of it. I did the course then got a job

“I tried to find lasting joy in material items and money.....”

at a gym real quick and worked my way up the ranks as a respected highly sort after personal trainer. I also took up martial arts at about the same time. Personal training and fight training lead me to a new level. A new level of egotistical, big headed, proud, self-centered, super arrogant, self-idolization. I was carving my own idol and that idol was me! One of my

businesses was actually called ‘CARVE Personal Training’. What started as just a bit of fun, training and making money, just like the youth days, turned against me, but instead of spiraling down into desperation, despair, depression, loneliness, fear and worry.....

I was now what I thought, at the top of my game and no one was getting in my way. I had plans to do bodybuilding and fighting competitions, modeling (which I never told my wife about) and franchise my personal training business over the country all for my ego's sake. I even got my teeth whitened a few times, hit the sun beds, hair waxing and made an appointment to get plastic surgery and was one step away from going on hard core bodybuilding and powerlifting steroids. Summer was my 'prime time'. I wanted to look my absolute best when the weather got hot, get "beach ready." Every summer for years and years and years without even knowing it, I had the devil's claws jammed right in me. **I tried to fill the void I had through appearance & ego trips. Again looking for fulfillment but - - I never found it.**

"Looking for fulfilment in other religions and spiritual practices.... I never found it....."

Money was another thing I used to try to find fulfillment in. As my first personal training business took off my wallet kept on filling up with cash. Day after day my clients would pay me and my wallet kept getting fatter and fatter. I got to a stage

"I was frustrated and confused as to why I felt alone....."

where I didn't know what to do with it all. It's strange, back then I never knew why my money never stayed with me. It was as though I was putting it into a bag with a hole in it, as it never lasted. I would buy material items to try and fully satisfy me, things like, TVs, lounge suites, clothes, shoes, gaming consoles, stereos, computers, motorbikes, cars, rent out expensive

houses, gym gear, fight gear, expensive bodybuilding food, highly priced training supplements, proteins, fat burners, testosterone boosters, creatine, you name it, I would've tried it.

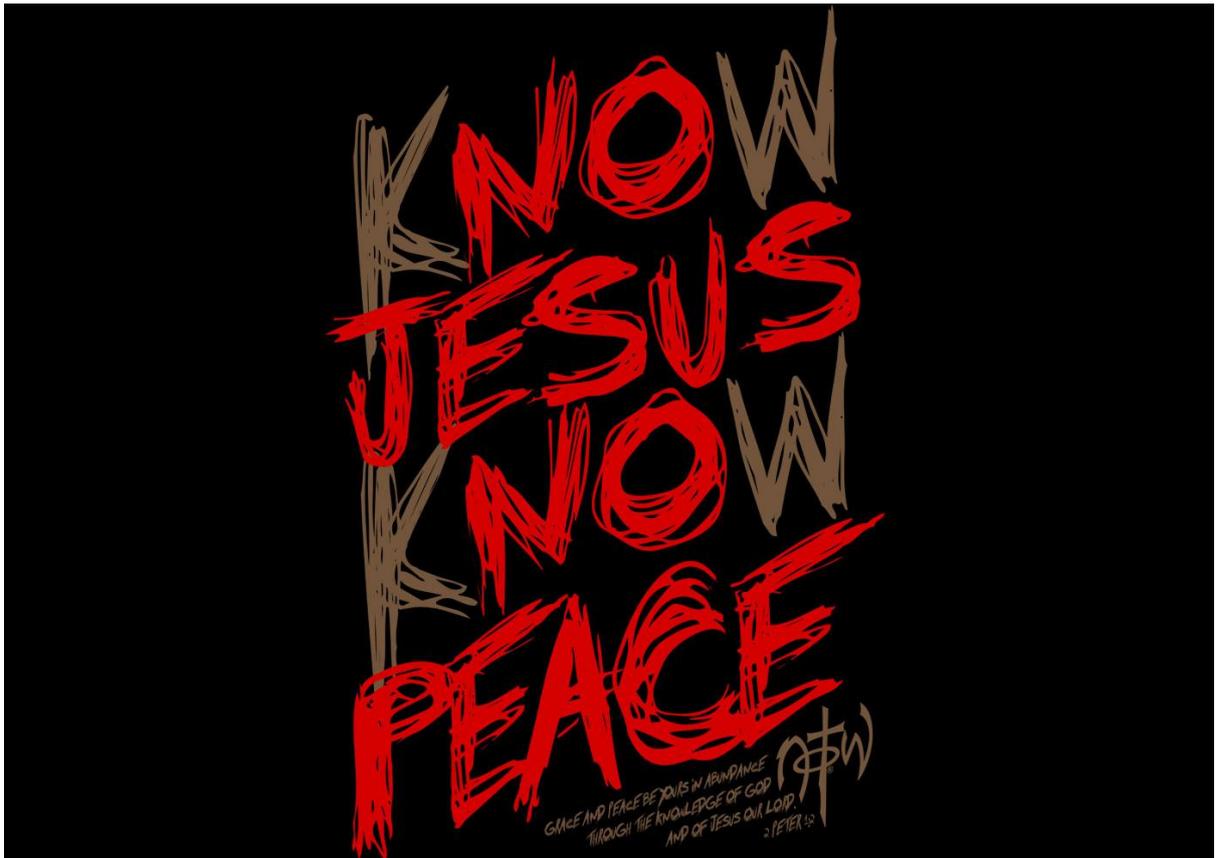
I tried to find lasting joy in material items and money. Again looking for fulfillment - - I never found it.

I also went through a stage of real deep spiritual searching. I have explored other religions such as Buddhism and Taoism, I got into clairvoyance, reiki, channeling, mediums, astral travel, divination, I ching, heavy spiritual martial arts like soft and hard qi gong, eastern and humanistic meditations sometimes including yoga, witch craft, goddess summoning, pentagrams, fortune telling, hypnotherapy, tarot cards, paganism, astrology, gothic practices, past lives, near death experiences, AA, NA, plus deep crystal meditations and healings. I even thought the movie and book, the secret and a medium called abraham hicks had all the answers. Anything that didn't mention Jesus I was into but if Jesus was mentioned I would turn away from Him. If I was reading anything that may have been Christian, I'd scroll over the document and check to see that Jesus wasn't mentioned, if it was I'd stop reading right then and there. Over and over for years and years I turned away from His name. I hated Jesus and I hated everything He stands for. I even thought Christians were dim-witted dreamers who needed to get a life!

Looking for fulfillment in other religions and spiritual practices - - I never found it.



In my time as a personal trainer I met many different people from many different varieties of life. As I was working away with a client in the gym one day this Samoan man came up to me and started passing comments I thought were a bit discourteous to someone 'of my caliber'. I thought he was a bit of a 'smart Alec' to begin with. He was always making cheeky comments to me then laughing at the top of his lungs. Sometimes I wished he would just go away and stop bothering me. After a few weeks of his smart mouth I thought I'd confront him and see what he was on about. After talking with him he actually seemed quite knowledgeable about life. He seemed to know about the spiritual laws governing money, so he held my interest, and then he mentioned he used to be a Jujitsu instructor, now he really had my attention. He spoke with authority in what he believed in and didn't budge on his beliefs.



I'm not sure who initiated it (it was probably him since I thought I was 'too good' for every one) but we started meeting for protein milkshakes in my office on a regular basis. I never discovered he was actually a pastor at one of the local churches until much later. His name is Illiafi Esera. This man actually became my early mentor into Christianity and in his small office at his church one day I thought I'd given my life to Christ. However, whether I'd genuinely given my life to Christ or not, that wasn't the end of the old nature.

Satan wasn't ready to let me go just yet and I backslid within a month and was back into weights and martial arts harder than ever and forgot all about God, Jesus and The Holy Spirit.

Years went by and I was still searching for the meaning of life and I started to hang out with a Christian man named Warren who I met though training his wife at the gym. By this time I had three children. I was relatively happy at this stage of my life but felt there was something missing and couldn't put my finger on it. I knew there was more to life than what we can perceive through our physical senses but didn't know what it was that I needed, as I had already tried so many ways to fill the void I had. However Warren and I started to do some studies from the Bible. It was to do with Solomon's riches, so of course I was going to try it because it had to do with

money. We finished that study and that was that, no major change in my life. So on I went, walking through life getting by loving my family.

Many years later of a somewhat lonely existence, I had had about enough. I was so frustrated and confused as to why I felt alone when I had everything I needed to survive and had a loving family with a beautiful partner and kids and not even training was a buzz any more. I was sick and tired of being sick and tired. I was searching the net one day and came across a few bands that claimed to be Christian. One of them was a Christian rapper, Lecrae and the song that caught my attention is “Take me as I am”. I pumped that song over and over. Most days I listened to it, just letting the words roll over in my head while I was exercising or working on the computer.

“I was shaking like I was having a convulsion and couldn’t stop the tears or the shaking.”

I got to a point where I just asked Jesus, **“If you are real show me”**. I wasn’t really expecting an answer, plus I was still worshipping other gods, goddesses and spirits, so I thought, hey why not just one more. I thought OK, what have I got to lose, I’ll try this Jesus character again and just see what will happen, plus it was a no commitment arrangement. If Jesus was the way, like He says He is, then sweet as, if He isn’t, then sweet as, no loss.

It was my wife’s birthday and we were at her home town. We attended her old church where her family still fellowships today. This was truly the day my life took a 180 degree turn.

Maybe I was ready, perhaps the Lord wanted me to try all these other ways of trying to fill the gap I felt inside. I remember the pastor of this church David Fredrickson was calling people up, asking if they wanted to give their life to Christ. When he was asking people to go up the front, bang, I hesitated, I hesitated some more but I knew there was going to be two songs before ‘this time’ to be saved had passed. So here I am singing away and trying to gather my thoughts. At one stage I looked down at my shoes, they wanted to move and go up the front. The first song had finished, ok so now I’m getting really nervous, only one to go. So here I am, singing away with my

‘two face’ and I looked down at my shoes again, but this time they were moving. Now my body was moving, following the path of my shoes. “Oh no, I’m actually doing it”, I thought. I was actually going up in front of everyone at Church to give my life to the Lord. I tapped my wife on the shoulder and said, “I will see you soon” smiled at my youngest daughter then I gave my two older kids a high five and said, “see ya soon”. “Where are you going?” one of them asked. I smiled then continued up the front.

I strolled up the front of the Church that day feeling like the biggest jerk of all time. I stood in front of the altar for a brief moment then dropped to my knees. Brother Warren from the Solomon Bible study and his wife Hailey drove an hour to support me. Warren and a man named Bruce were right there beside me, hand on shoulder as Pastor David went through the salvation and repentance prayer. As the pastor was going through the prayer, tears were streaming down my face and wouldn’t stop. He mentioned the blood of Jesus and it was as though the blood of Jesus were my tears and it was cleansing me from the inside out. I was shaking like I was having a convulsion and couldn’t stop the tears or the shaking.

I felt the Lord that day and it was and is real. I have never turned back.

Today I now have peace, joy, happiness and the fulfillment that I couldn’t get anywhere else. I am full of joy every single day, I’m not perfect, but my Heavenly Father smacks me in the ears when I’m out of line and convicts me of my wrongs but has the grace and power to forgive my sins and has wiped away my guilt and messed up life and allows me to feel unconditional love, deep sustained joy, beautiful, powerful, victorious, happy, peaceful and abundant in all areas of my life no matter what ‘the world’ thinks of me.

“I felt the Lord that day and it was and is real. I have never turned back.”

Today I am now rich beyond any dream or goal I’ve ever had, due to the love of my Heavenly Father, Christ the Son and the Holy Spirit. I work jobs I absolutely love and touch thousands of people all over New Zealand with the gospel including hard to reach people and places like prisons and places struck with crime, poverty and unbelief through the work of Maori Postal Aotearoa. I’m also studying towards a Biblical Diploma through The Shepherds Bible College and play in a Worship Band.

I used to cry tears of sadness, now I cry tears of joy. I love my life and I actually love myself, flaws n all!

Again, looking for fulfillment..... This time

I found it.

I could go on and on about how great my life really is now that I have Christ. If you are a true believer then you know what I'm talking about, if you're not, I want to give you the opportunity to experience the same joy as I now have.

I want to ask you If you are serving any other god or idol other than the God of the Bible, can your god take away your addiction to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, crime or violence? Can your god fight your spiritual battles when the enemy wants you dead? Can your god save your loved ones that are in ICU after a drunk driver hit them? Can your god stop your porn addiction before you lose your family and job? Can your god reach your family member that's hooked on P and working the streets?

Philippians 4:6-7

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

John 14:27

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

John 14:6

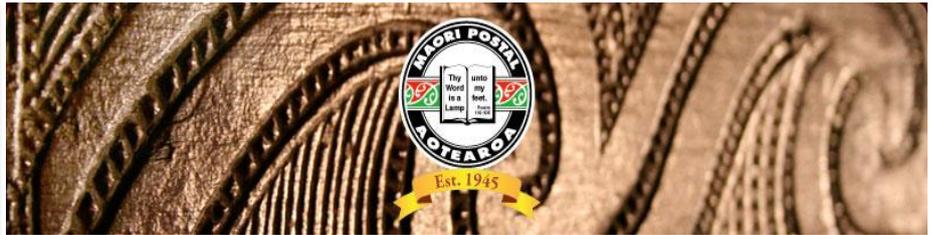
Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Matthew 11:28

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

1 Timothy 2:5

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus"



If you don't truly know Jesus and you know you need Him please contact us or your Church to see how to receive Christ into your life. There is no other way to true lasting joy, unconditional love, peace & abundance.

To contact us or to donate:

Maori Postal Aotearoa
Box 10, Wanganui
Ph / Fax (06) 343 7957
www.maoripostal.co.nz
info@maoripostal.co.nz



Maori Postal - Westpac - Wanganui

03 0791 0401491 00

