

AVERAGE NO MORE

I've always felt like I'm just an average kind of guy. In many ways, my story starts off probably a lot like yours. But along the way, the birth of my first child brought a new birth to *me*, and my life has never been "average" since then...

I grew up in Parma, Ohio during the 1960s. We were a baby boomer family with Italian heritage. My father was a truck driver, my mom a homemaker. I had one brother and two sisters. We did most things together as a family, with Sundays being the most special day of the week to me. On that day, I usually attended Sunday school and Mass with my brother and two sisters. Then it was off to see all the grandparents, with as much good Italian food as we could eat! Life was good.

In my early teen years however, I started to realize my parents' apathy toward their faith. I believe it was always there, but as a youngster I didn't recognize it. I started to question church teachings. Even at 14 years of age, contradictions became apparent to me, and confusion was setting in. The church taught that Jesus Christ died for our sins, but also taught that good works, keeping the Holy Days, and performing the sacraments were *also* required to obtain eternal life. As hard as I tried, I could not live up to these standards. My best efforts seemed futile. I left the church in frustration at the age of 15. My parents voiced no objections. I returned to the church only to get married.

It was a few years into my career as a mechanic that a co-worker asked me about my belief in God. I tried to give answers based on what I had learned years earlier, but I wasn't even sure God existed! He gave me a Bible to read, even though I told him I had no intention of reading it. He told me to keep it because someday, I would read it! Three years later, I was deeply touched at the birth of our first child and I felt a strange new desire to read the Bible! I didn't realize then that this was the beginning of my new faith! The Bible says it this way in Romans 10:17...

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”.

A year and a half later, we were blessed with another child. I was still reading that Bible. I never tired of it. Reading the Bible seemed to uncover a strange new spiritual appetite...the more I read, the more I seemed to be hungry for it! In September 1988, during a study on the book of Revelation, I came to understand from its teachings that Jesus Christ would be returning soon to judge the earth! Learning this put such a great fear in me that I couldn't sleep for 2 or 3 days. I cried out to Him in a desperate plea to save me from His wrath. In Acts 2:21 it says...

“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The Lord heard my cry and soon led us to a bible-believing church, where my wife, Cathy, and our 2 children, Dominic and Lauren, also believed upon Jesus Christ and His saving power. Since then, great blessings have flowed to us from God's grace.

He healed me from arthritis. He used biblical principles to show us how to manage our money successfully. He has given us deep and meaningful relationships with our children. The bible says in Malachi 4:6...

“And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers...”

Dear friend, if you have read this tract of mine, it is *not* by accident. Jesus Christ wants to save **YOU** also! He died on that cross 2,000 years ago, and took the punishment we deserved for *our* sins against God, so that *we* could have everlasting life!

I thank you for reading this tract...if you were encouraged by my story, you may want to access our web-site. There you will find many other such stories of men and women who have come to know the same wonderful God in the same way, through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, His Son. Or come visit me sometime at my church.

May God bless you as you seek Him,

Tim C

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