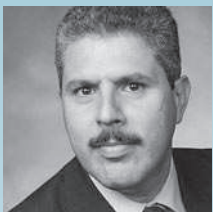


Created for His Glory



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When everything is going well we don't need God! Maybe we don't express it this way, but our attitude and lifestyle give proof of this. We don't seek Him when we don't need Him.

I was born on the small island of Puerto Rico - a place blessed by God, with a strong Christian witness.

It was a very pleasant upbringing within an Evangelical Church. I studied at a Military Academy, played sports, and was an honour student throughout my school years. However, at age 16, I began to be attracted to music, dance and new friends and ended up leaving church. This broke my mother's heart, but God never left me ... because of His promises to my parents.

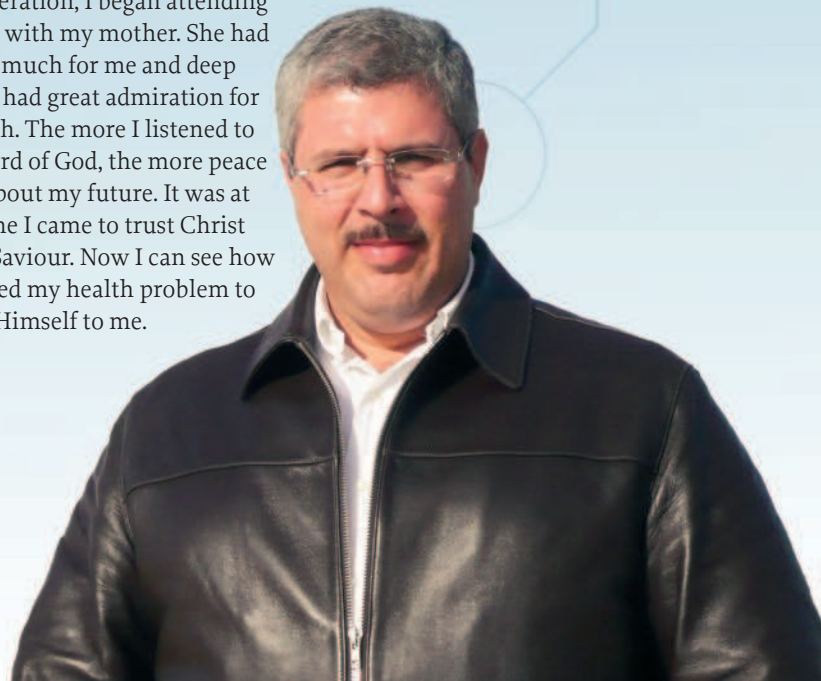
At 18 years of age I left Puerto Rico to study at the University of Southern California. From a very early age I had wanted to pursue a career in the United States Marine Corps. I prospered in my studies and started building my military career by joining the Marine Corps Reserve.

Due to my mother's deteriorating health condition, I moved back home and transferred to the University of Puerto Rico. Toward the end of college studies and having attended the Marine Corps Officer School, I was about to be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. The last requirement was to pass a physical examination. This was the least of my worries because of my excellent physical condition. To my surprise, the doctor found that I had lost hearing in my right ear due to a perforated ear drum. So I failed to pass the physical exam and was medically disqualified from the Marine Corps

Officer Programme! This could not be happening to me! My whole life had been built around a military career and now this dream was vanishing before my own eyes. I immediately went to see the best hearing specialist in Puerto Rico. Having conducted several tests, the doctor confirmed that I had a cancer in my right inner ear which had not only destroyed the ear drum but the whole hearing apparatus. He decided to operate that very week to remove the affected tissue and prevent the cancer from spreading further.

This was the worst time of my life. I had been declared deaf in my right ear, disqualified from the Marine Corps and left completely disoriented by all these events!

In the midst of this crisis, in an act of desperation, I began attending church with my mother. She had prayed much for me and deep down I had great admiration for her faith. The more I listened to the Word of God, the more peace I had about my future. It was at this time I came to trust Christ as my Saviour. Now I can see how God used my health problem to reveal Himself to me.



A short while later, during a Saturday night prayer meeting, God touched me physically. Next morning I woke to hear the birds singing and the sound of the breeze in the trees! I could hear sounds that I had not heard in a long time! I immediately told my family that God had healed me! I got dressed and ran to church. I wanted to tell everyone and give thanks and glory to God!

On Monday morning I visited the same doctor who only a few weeks earlier had surgically removed my whole inner ear. After checking thoroughly, he acknowledged what I already knew. Something strange had happened ... I had a brand new right inner ear! This was a really great confirmation of God's miraculous healing, and also a great witness to both my doctor and hospital staff. Praise the Lord; He healed my body and transformed my life through this experience!

All this happened over a period of four months. I requested a review of my case by the military doctor. He too checked thoroughly ... he had to re-admit me into the Officer Programme!! I dedicated my life to serving God without conditions or reservations. I promised to serve Him wherever He took me and under whatever conditions He placed me.

This is how, by the grace and power of God, I served as an Infantry Officer with the Marine Corps for five years,

attaining the rank of Captain. Now my whole desire was to live a life worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Phil 1:27a).

I served in the first Gulf War for almost a year. When people are facing death, many questions such as: "Who am I?" "Why do I exist?" "Where am I going?" go through their minds. The Lord allowed me to speak of Christ to many young men serving with me ... men who did not have faith or hope for their lives. During my 11 months in the Persian Gulf, I prayed each day for the safety of my Marines. By God's grace and mercy, not one of them was lost in combat!

Upon returning to the United States, I sensed that God was preparing me for change in my professional life. At this time, I learned about the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and trusting God to lead me, started the application process. Within four months I was accepted. On completion of Special Agent training, I was assigned to the Miami FBI Office. God was initiating another chapter and was taking me on a new adventure. John 12:26 "If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour."

I was determined to continue to serve God in the workplace and see His Kingdom advanced wherever He placed me. If Jesus had rescued my

soul and healed my body, He must have a perfect plan for my life! God showed me why He had taken me to the FBI. It was not only to be an agent for the US Government, but also to be an agent for His Kingdom. The Lord helped change my attitude and develop an evangelistic lifestyle, even as an FBI Agent. Wonderful things started happening! Without much effort, I began arresting many people wanted for alleged criminal violations of the law. Whilst in custody, I would share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them and in many instances lead them to the Lord. God was faithful in keeping His promises: if we seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness, He would add all things unto us. In my second year ... I was selected Agent of the Year!

After six years, much prayer and God's re-direction, I resigned my position with the FBI; accepting an executive position with the largest healthcare provider in Puerto Rico. This gave more freedom to travel and develop an evangelistic and leadership training ministry in many countries.

In 2006, following ten years in healthcare, I moved my family to Spain in obedience to God's call to start the ECLA (European Christian Leadership Academy). ECLA serves the European Christian community by training influential leaders in advanced leadership skills for effective evangelism.



Today, more and more believers throughout the world understand that their calling in the workplace is to reflect Christ in and through their work. Their focus is on using business as a platform for ministry, rather than solely for material success.

God wants to use us to reveal His glory to people who don't yet know Him, telling of His salvation wherever He has placed us ... in our homes, neighbourhoods, schools or businesses. He uses lives which are completely surrendered to Him! ■