

New Man Story

Mike Timmis — An Eternal Invitation

Mike Timmis was born in Detroit, where he had a distinguished career as an attorney and businessman. Now retired, he serves on the boards of Alpha International, New Canaan Society, and as an advisor to Men's Golf Fellowship. Mike also served as Chairman of Prison Fellowship International, where he succeeded his close friend Chuck Colson. He and his wife Nancy spend much of their time traveling and ministering to the poor in the Third World as well as addressing the educational needs of children in Detroit.

While he was very successful in his early career, here's the condition Mike found himself in at the age of 40: ***"From all outward appearances I was extremely successful. I was popular, active in politics, active in charities...the all American family—but everything tasted like cardboard and I was dying inside. My marriage was becoming quieter and quieter, my teenage son was becoming an adversary, and I didn't know what to do about it."***

Around that time, Nancy asked Mike to come with her to a religious meeting. His first reaction was "no" but he reluctantly agreed. One of the speakers was a man from Ford Motor Company who shared his faith in Christ. Mike was impressed with the man's courage for sharing his story. He left the meeting glad he chose to attend.

A few days later he received a phone call from one of the meeting organizers who asked him if he'd care to attend a Bible study at a private club with 10-15 other men. Again, his first reaction was "no." However, because he was impressed with the man's courage to invite him, he accepted. During the meeting, Mike said nothing and no-one expected him to return the next week—but he did. It was then that the Bible Study leader took Mike under his wing for the next year. He taught him the Bible and mentored him in his newfound faith.

The rest of Mike's story is one of miraculous transformation. God used Nancy and a few good men to get his attention. In his opening comments to us in his MGF talk, Mike said: ***"The closest thing to my heart is reaching out to men, because many years ago someone reached out to me and saved my life."***

Discussion Questions

1. Did God use someone to get your attention?
2. Have you been used by Him in a way that would change the course of a friend's life?
3. Is there someone you sense God leading you to do that with now?

Click below to watch an 8 minute clip of Mike's MGF talk

vimeo.com/417660661