The Golden Minute ©

The story of a Boy, a Rebel and a Saint by Martin De Villiers

I dedicate this book to my wife Suzette, daughter Shannon, my family and all the good people who have had a share in my life!

My whole life has been lived around one promised of God namely "...Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart ..." Psalm 37:4, this is a story of a person who believed this promise and boy have I seen God move in my life.

Prelude

I am an everyday, normal Christian man living in South Africa. The events of my life might be unique but once you become a Christian God can do much more in your life if you would only let Him.

Today, I could be much further down my walk of life but I often let people and circumstances hold me back, so my advice to you as you read this book is to live your life flat out for God, nothing is better and more of a pleasure than living a life of total surrender to God. Do not let people, circumstances or finances hold you back from God's amazing will for your life.

As you read my life story in this book, I want you to understand that these are events that actually happened to me personally and can be vouched by the people who were with me. I have made every effort to be as accurate as I possibly can with dates, names and places.

I did not think my story was any different from any other Christian's experience with God, although I knew my life's story has a powerful message. Someone once said that you do not have to have a terrible past to have a good testimony and I believe that is so true. Sometimes God gives you awesome testimony of faith, overcoming but mostly everyone has just normally come to God. It is not how bad you were before you came to God, but what is important is your testimony, people want to know how you Mr and Mrs average came to know Jesus. The bible says that we overcome the devil by the power of the blood and the word of our testimony.

Towards the end of 2006, I believe God commissioned me to write this book for His Glory and Honour. The purpose of this book is not for financial gain or fame but to bring ALL glory and ALL honour to Jesus Christ and in thanks for Him saving me from a Christless eternity and I pray and trust God that many more people will be drawn to Him through this book.

I do not believe that some of the events in this book should be re-enacted in anyway, as they are just plan naughty, dangerous and/or life threatening.

I am really sorry for my actions towards the people who were my victims and I humbly tell my life story knowing I was very naught and my life was not God honouring till I was born again on the 21st of September 1986.

As many of these events have happened over many years, I have taken every effort to remember in detail the things discussed in this book, if there were any doubt to what exactly happened I decide not to include these events in my book. If any part of this book sound like another book or story it is purely coincidental.

There are also many events which I either did not include or refuse to include as they would either bring people's reputation into disrepute, hurt some people or to make the points I am trying to convey too long or too tedious, for this reason I did not mention my lady friends by

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name, that I have had relationships with or I do not go into too much detail about my love life in this book, and I do not boast in my school career high lights or merits.

I have also chosen to ignore and not write anything about family fights, "secrets" and failures because they are not God honouring and will do little to improve the book, so if some of my stories seem short an sweet that is because I do not want to remember more or I do not want to bring a relationship into dispute or hurt people. The purpose of this book is not to bring out, all the dirty washing concerning my country, my family, my friend or any church or organization.

Lastly, this book is still incomplete as I am forty-five year old, as I write this book. I have been working for one company for nearly twenty six years and I am still trusting God to fulfil the many prophesies and promised He has given me for my life and I intend to still be alive for at least another few decades.

Introduction

When I was small I though that life was just great, live from birthdays to Christmas. Each year took long to roll by, then I got a little older and life was one big party to be enjoyed from party to party, in everyway possible, time also start to roll by very quickly.

Now that I met Jesus Christ I am living a life that is so amazing I can not believe that what I though was things to live for mean so very little in my life now. I value my friends, cherish my family, love my Wife and Daughter and love God. Life consists of helping people to see Jesus Christ, as the awesome God, He is.

At the start of 1986, I was a far away from God as the distant galaxies are far away from earth. I was living in the fast lane and loving it but only outwardly. Inwardly I knew I was far from God and desperately need a saviour and a change in my life.

I often wonder how my life would be without the experience I had in May 1986?

Would I ever of had a second opportunity to accept Jesus or would I still be in a Christ less eternity, without Jesus in my life?

How many of the blessings and miracles I have experienced, would I have missed, especially not knowing my wife, Suzette, the love of my life? Most important, where would I be today without knowing Jesus Christ personally?

You see, contrary to popular opinion, you can only experience true life when you have an intimate relationship with God. Jesus is the answer for any life, good or bad, He is the answer because He bought us with His precious blood to reconcile man to God. He can change any heart, if you will only come to Him.

I used to believe that true living was partying, drinking, socializing, a life of "fun" and having a good time, but that is a foolish lie, which we rather want to believe than what we think, Christianity has to offer.

I was wrong! Real life has it is foundation in Christ Jesus and a life of obedience that He offers. You see by dying to yourself and the world you really start to live a life of true freedom. Can you imagine a life where you conscience is clear, your sins are totally forgiven and you are made right with God, the creator of all things? That is when real living starts and it can start right now for you; all you need to do is to ask Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Saviour.

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All I knew and believed at the time of my accident, was that I thought that I could live my life as I liked and before I died one day, I would have a few minutes to make right with God before I passed away. This I called my Golden minute. How wrong I was.

This was the greatest deception I believed and was the greatest gamble of my life. A gamble that almost cost me an eternity in hell! I was not expecting to be facing death at such a young life.

You see the world offers you a life, which will end in death and separation from God, this is commonly know as hell, this can never be true living because you are a slave to sin. On the other hand, Jesus Christ offers you life eternally with God Almighty, which is known as heaven, and this is eternal life, which never end. You get to choose, life or death!

What is your deception? What lie do you believe? Why can Jesus, not save you? Jesus is the answer; He came that we would have real life! Not a counterfeit as we are experiencing now and take it from me, this Christian walk has been both tough but amazing.

When you are dying, some of your last thoughts are where you will spend eternity, yes, it is true some people do think about getting right with God, but the vast majorities do not. I was one that did not think about salvation!

While I was lying on the stretchers at Oshikati and later in Ondangwa, Grootfontein and One Military hospital, I never once thought to use my golden minute to make right with God it never crossed my mind.

I was too scared to die and too busy trying to live to think of that. It came too sudden, when I least expected it. One minute I was fine, the next I was fighting for my life. How I wanted to live and not die, I was only twenty-three years old!

What I did know was that on that day, it was a start of a three-month journey to my salvation. I would start a journey that would last a lifetime and I am still living this incredible life today.

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