



Africa Missions News

Go...teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
—Jesus in Matthew 28:19

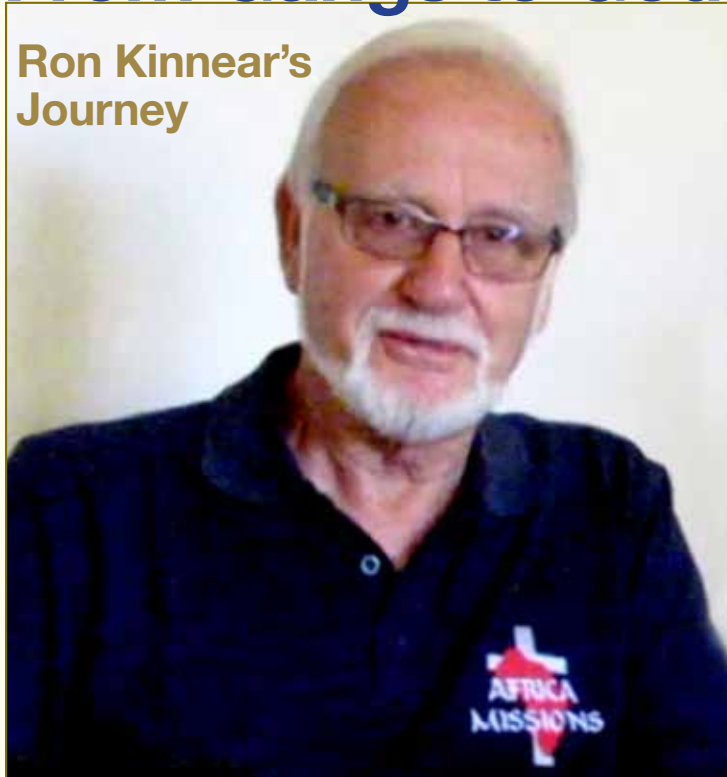
April 2018

EMPOWERING LEADERS THROUGH MINISTERIAL, EVANGELISM, AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

From Gangs to God!

Did you know that Ron Kinnear was not always on God's team? Watch the video (or read the transcript) and find out his amazing journey from Gangs to God!

Ron Kinnear's Journey



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

—2 Corinthians 5:17

I felt trapped, and I was on a search to find what my heart was longing.
—Ron

As we are in this holy season of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, we want you to be encouraged by my journey to God. So many hearts are open during this time. You might be surprised by those who are looking for what you and I now enjoy—God and His presence.

Please take time to look at this important and hopefully encouraging video at <https://youtu.be/h4GEUHRMyMg> or read the transcript below.

Together we are making a difference,

Ron & Rina Kinnear
and the AFRICA MISSIONS TEAM

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Ron Kinnear's Salvation Transcript

From Gangs to God

Gary: On this video we are visiting with Ron Kinnear and you will find out that Ron's not always been a pastor. He's going to tell us about his salvation experience. Ron actually was a hoodlum before he came to the Lord. This is going to be an interesting story and we are ready to hear how the Lord brought you to himself.

Ron: It's quite a story: My conversion to Christianity when I changed from being a nominal Christian to a born-again Christian. At the age of twenty-one everything changed! Before then I was very complacent and satisfied with myself. I had grown-up in a very rough neighborhood. We knew about gang fights, alcohol, and whenever we opened a new jug of wine, we used to pour some on the sidewalk for friends who were incarcerated in prison.

I tried to lift myself out of that environment, but I did not succeed. I saw a better lifestyle elsewhere, but I was trapped. I could not get out of that. The group that I associated with was racist and we had fun on Friday evenings especially to beat up the people of another color. We would pick fights! This became my lifestyle.

When I started working I made contact with people outside my environment, outside of my community. I started working at the age of fifteen. Surprisingly, I was fairly successful, got several promotions in the bank, even lead a department where the people under me were all degreed. That wasn't good for my ego, because I thought people did not need degrees, because look how successful! Then I started playing in a rock'n roll band, and my life blossomed! I was very busy over weekends and had lots of friends.

But I realized that when I was fifteen, I was exposed to the gospel message and it did something to me. I was longing to get that back. It was by chance there was a tent (where the Gospel was being preached, when I was fifteen) and we went inside to cause trouble. It was right at the end of the service, when they were giving the altar call, and they came and ministered to me. When I walked out of that tent, I was really different. But because I wasn't followed-up, I had no concept or understanding of what church is, it didn't grow very deep.

But now I was longing for that experience. Then one of my friends—one of the real baddies in our gang—got converted! But his conversion only lasted three months. But what I saw in him for those three months made me realize there could be something out there that I wanted.

So I prayed this simple prayer, "Lord, if there is something else, something more than what I have, help me find it. If not, if this is all I'm going to have, I'm so content with who I am and what I have and my circle of friends, and my activities, then it's alright."

So I was not down and out, I was not desperate, I did not have a crisis in my life that turned me to the Lord. It is really a search, a hunger, thinking there could be something else; and if there is, how can I find it? You know, the Lord said, "Seek and you shall find, knock and the door will open unto you (Luke 11:9)."

Then it happened! I started meeting people all around me who were born again! I was a teller at the bank and I served many customers. But there were a few that I really felt I could build the relationship, when they came to the counter, I had a great chat with them. We would talk about this and that, but they never ever pushed Christianity.

I spoke to one of them, a fisherman, who took part in fishing competitions. He had the the best tackle and camping equipment and was very enthusiastic about fishing. That particular day, he told me he was going to leave early in the afternoon from work, because he was going to take part in a fishing competition. And he shared with me what he was going to fish and how he was going to do it. So I said to him, "So you are going to be gone the whole weekend and come back on Sunday afternoon or evening?"

But he said emphatically, "Oh, no! I will not miss church on Sunday morning for anything!" You know a bell rang, here was somebody speaking very enthusiastically about his hobby, but there was something more important that he wouldn't miss for anything.

My back-sliding friend, who served the Lord for three months had a crisis—his twin committed suicide. Suicide

Anonymous, an organization that helps people in bereavement who have lost people through suicide, introduced us to Pierre Landy (He was a refugee from Belgium who had lived in the Belgian Congo; but because of the unrest, and the changeover from the Belgian government to the local popular government, he and his family fled to South Africa), and he was born-again. He counseled my friend.

We went to visit Pierre Landry and he was on his way to church. He said, "Excuse me, but we cannot really entertain you now, because we are on our way to church."

In my culture we would invite people to drink with us, to party with us, to fight with us. We would not ostracize people. We would not excuse ourselves from them, we would embrace them and bring them into our group. But He pushed us aside, because he was on his way to church. I discussed that with Steven as we drove back home. Here is a contact of somebody I know that goes to church.

So I phoned him one day, and said that I would like to go to church with him, and he was very surprised! I think he about fell off his chair. Then he said, "You know that I've been praying for you." (Laughter) So we arranged to go to church on Sunday evening. That afternoon he phoned me and said that he was sorry, but he couldn't make it, something came up. He gave me the address of the church and I decided I was going to go by myself.

When I walked into that church I was very impressed. They had padded seats, the choir was full of pretty girls, there were beautiful chandeliers, and a beautiful building. I was surprised! It was warm and pleasant and I enjoyed the service. When the preacher spoke it was interesting. But when it came to the moment of decision, when he gave the altar call, I was ripped apart. I knew that I found what I was looking for. The amazing thing is that I didn't surrender my life to Christ that evening. I went home and shared this with my mother and my friends. The next Sunday I had my family in church and several of my friends. My mom and dad were separated, my father was a confirmed alcoholic, but two or three Sundays later I had him in church! It was amazing to stand there and during the altar call to see my friends and my family put up their hands and accept the Lord! But I did not. There was something that held me

back. I don't know what it was, but I knew that I knew that I'd found what I was looking for.

One evening during the altar call, I went forward. The strangest thing is that the youth leader came and prayed for me. He never prayed the sinners prayer, never showed me how to accept Jesus, he just put his arm around me and kept saying, "Please, Lord, please. Please Lord, please?"

And I said, "Yes, Lord, please, Lord please!" When I got up from my knees that evening I was soundly converted. Christ became real to me, my life was changed! I realize that experience was going to determine my future. I was going to leave my banking career. I knew nothing of church or ministry or the Bible, but I knew that moment, when I got up from my knees, that this was something that would determine my future. Somehow I knew that it would also include Black people. I was prejudiced against them, I had even beaten up several, and somehow my heart changed towards people!



Ron Kinnear and Gary Gilmore are ready for the the interview

I walked out of there with my perspective changed, my values changed, my life was totally brand-new! And you know what? Since 1963, nothing has changed! That experience, that conversion experience is still as fresh today as it was then. I am passionately in love

with Jesus! I thank God that I have pursued my heavenly vision. God gave me the opportunity, the privilege of becoming a missionary, reaching out to the lost across cultural barriers, through borders and nations. It is such a joy!

I thank God when Christ come—darkness flees! Paul said, "If any man is in Christ Jesus, old things have passed away, behold everything has become new (2 Corinthians 5:17)." That's who I am, I'm still new, I'm still fresh, I'm still young in the Lord! I thank God for that day that I had that wonderful encounter with Jesus Christ!

Gary: I hope you made some decisions yourself to invite people to church, don't just tell them about church. And I hope you made the decision to listen to people as they are speaking and seeing their hurts and hearing their hurts and reaching out to them. He had a number of people who told him about church, but they never really invited him to church, and he was ready to go. So please don't pass-up that opportunity.

This has been riveting! I love hearing this story. Can you imagine that hoodlum, who did all those things he referred to is the same man who has reached all of these nations with the Gospel? He has now spent fifty years in ministry. His life in Jesus is just as fresh as it was when he started at the age of twenty-one.

That can be your experience, too. I'm going to ask Ron to pray for you in case your heart needs a revival with Jesus.

Ron: If you are a seeker, pray this prayer. Heavenly Father, I accept Jesus as my Savior. Wash me through the blood of the Lamb. Forgive my sins. Help me to become Your child. I believe you love me and right now, You have accepted me. I thank You for that in Jesus' name. Amen.

Gary: Please notice our website—www.africamissions.org.za. If you prayed that prayer, please contact us. We would love to hear from you.

See our other videos on the Africa Missions Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/GoAfricaMissions>

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