

# ÉDGAR AMÍLCAR MADRID'S TESTIMONY

I was born on the 29th of December 1940. My mother Mary Morales Madrid was an Evangelical Christian from childhood, and her parents, Jesus Mary Morales Villeda and Mary of Jesus Machorro Sandoval, were the founders of the "Friends" Evangelical Church in the village of Tierra Colorada, Saint Joseph La Arada, Chiquimula, Guatemala. In fact, I am a third generation of Evangelical Quakers. My father, Jenaro Ovidio Madrid Salguero, Grew up in highly Catholic home, but he received Jesus Christ by the time of his wedding.

When I was three years old, my father delivered me to one of my aunts, sister of his who was highly Catholic, And she rapidly taught me the ways of sin. But my mother did not feel any peace knowing that I was on the hands of unbelieving people. So, one day she traveled to Zacapa and, in a moment of carelessness of such a family, she kidnapped me and brought me back home. I am so thankful to God for such an action.

When I was home again, there happened some serious difficulties, because all things they had taught me were already impressed on my mind, which was very firm. I despised my mother, for I considered her an impostor. Some time later, my father came back home from the faraway place he worked at. All my brothers and sisters received him happily, but I felt jealous, because I considered him also as an impostor. I said I was a son of such "Father Morales, who lived in Guatemala City". He was probably Mr. John Morales, who had been my Aunt Clementina's husband, who had adopted me. In order to reconquer me, my father had an idea: He asked all his children to make up a line for giving them some money. He thought he could deceive me that way, but he didn't get it. I was not ready to accept any subornation with a compromise. All my brothers and sisters made up the line happily, except I. He would ask me: Aren't you going to enter the line? Look, I am giving money to all my children, and he showed me several coins. Yet, he was not able to dissuade me. Of course, I was always well educated and respectful, and did not reply any words to him; I just stayed silent and with my head down. Finally, my father had to give up himself, and gave me a coin and said: "O. K., take it, even because you are being raised with my children". This time I received the coin from him, because there was no compromise of recognizing him as my father. It is such a firm way of thinking which I've held during all my life. That is the reason why I have been so firm an Evangelical Christian in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Around 1948, when I was only 7 years old, within our family we organized the Children's Society "Christ Ambassadors", of which I was the first Treasurer, and was given two cents to start with. It was a very serious children organization concerning the things of God, and Christian discipline. One time, I had to preach my first childish sermon. When that Society was closed, due to an enormous attack done by some wicked children and boys from the "Angel's Neighborhood", there was organized an "Intermediate Children Society" at the local Friends Church, of which I soon became the President, after the resignation of my brother Edmund.

In 1955, when I was only fourteen years old, I received my first direct call from God to a Christian Ministry: God said to me: "You have to go and preach in jail". Immediately, I agreed with Sister Soledad Giron, who used to distribute fruits to the prisoners every Sunday in the afternoon, and evangelized them. I invited my

schoolmate Everard Duarte, and went together to the jail, but, it rained hard that afternoon, and Sister Soledad did not arrive. All we got was to get awfully wet because of the rain, and could not enter in jail. I returned home very sad.

About two weeks later, there came the voice of God again, and said: "I sent you to preach in jail and you didn't go." Immediately, I got in touch with brother Charles Mendez, who was the alphabetization teacher in jail on behalf of the Tabernacle Friends Church. We put ourselves on agreement, and started to go every Sunday morning. Brother Charles would lead the services and I would preach.

Any person could say: "But, it is not convenient that an almost child may be visiting jail; prisoners might corrupt him". But the situation was quite different, because God was with me. Prisoners respected me very much.

There in jail I had very beautiful experiences, but, may be the best was the following: One Sunday, there appeared a young man in jail, and he accepted Christ that day. I felt faith that it was a true conversion, and so it was. Later on, that young man was expecting his law suit to come back from the Appeal Court in Jalapa, to be moved the Guatemala's Central Penitentiary, in order to suffer a long punishment. We were praying for him, and, as a surprise, he got his absolution. As he CAME out of jail, that young man promised that his first son would be named alter me, Édgar Amílcar. About twelve years later, he married a girl with a last name Morales and, as he had my same Lasso name, Madrid, when his first boy was born, he got my full name, Édgar Amílcar Madrid Morales. Marvelous, isn't it? His son is also a good Christian.

When I graduated as a Teacher of Primary Urban Education, and as Public Accountant, at the same time, I went out to search for a job, so that I might support my theological studies, which was my great illusion. I started to work at the Accounting Department of the United Fruit Company, at Bananera, Izabal, in Guatemala. I started to work intensively as the General President of the Youth Societies "Friends Ambassadors", of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. I also worked as Director of the youth news paper "Friends Ambassadors", and started visiting several Friends Churches on the Easter part of Guatemala.

By 1961, when I was preparing myself to travel to the United States for taking my theological studies, in the Company were I was working, they appointed me to the position of an executive who had retired. He was the chief of the Materials and Supplies Department, M&S. That was one of the highest positions in the United Fruit Company. But they told me that I should accept the position, or present my resignation. I found myself in a great dilemma, because I was not sure as yet of getting my scholarship for my theological studies. I asked my chief a three days term to give my answer. When the term expired, I did not have any assurance for my scholarship. So, in an act of faith, I presented my resignation. But, as God is always faithful, I received the assurance of my scholarship three hours later. Thus, I left to the United States to take my studies at George Fox University, Newberg, Oregon, which was an evangelical Quaker University. I had despised a great economic and social position, in order to serve God in His Christian Ministry.

While I was taking my studies in that University, I maintained myself in several Christian ministries, especially at Eola Village, which was a place of Mexican immigrants, at Peniel Mission, with drunkards and prostitutes, and singing with the Spanish Quartet. In June 1965, I graduated as a Bachelor of Art, specialized on

Religion and Philosophy, Music and English and returned to Guatemala. Later on, I continued my studies at the Saint Charles State University of Guatemala, and graduated as Pedagogical Science Licentiate. After that, I continued some other theological and biblical studies, at the Quaker Theological Seminary, and graduated as Magister Magnus in Theological Education, and then, as Doctor Magnus in Theological Philosophy.

Having returned to Guatemala, I started working for the Friends Evangelical Mission (Evangelical Quakers), as Treasurer of the Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador Yearly Meeting of Friends, Friends Literature Producer and Director and Editor of the "Life and Heart" Sunday School Lessons Magazine.

On the first of April, 1965, I founded my personal Radio Program "Back to Jesus", which has been transmitted worldwide on several AM, SW and FM radio stations.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1968, I founded the Second "Friends" Church, which later on became the Holiness Friends Yearly Meeting. On June the first 1985, I founded the Quaker Theological Seminary, which offers all academic levels. And, on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February of the year 2000, I founded the Educational and Evangelical Radio Station "Radio Truth", which has expanded itself worldwide on Short Wave and Internet, with educational and evangelical programming for social and economical development, presenting only good and high spiritual music.

From my youth, I have despised different very high and attractive economical positions, for following and serving Christ. I rejected a very high executive position at the United Fruit Company of Bananera, Guatemala; I rejected to become the Advisor of the Minister of Defense of Guatemalan Government; I rejected to become the Governor of Chiquimula; I rejected seven times to become the Regional Director of Education, for the East of Guatemala; I rejected to become the General Secretary, and then, Dean of the Humanity Faculty, within the Saint Charles State University of Guatemala; my name has been mentioned to become the Minister of Education and even the President of Guatemala. But, instead of all that, God has honored me with several very high prizes, such as: Cum Laude Honor and University Medal, from Saint Charles State University of Guatemala; Order Francis Marroquin, granted by Guatemala's President for distinguished teachers; Distinguished Teacher; Order "INVO" from The Normal Institute of the East; chosen for the "Book of Dreams", by the Ministry of Education; First Place as Inventor; and many diplomas, trophies and many more. The glory and honor is to our Lord Jesus.

During all my ministry, I have been a victim of so many attacks from modern and false Christians, as well as great attacks from Satan. However, I have always overcome, and have enjoyed the sincere appreciation and friendship from my local and international community, for I have humbled myself under the powerful hand of God, and have been restless and tenacious in the service of God.

**My Motto Verse:**

**"Be nor overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."**

**Romans 12:21.**

**For God be the glory and honor.**

**Amen.**