



Cumbria Bible Challenge

Testimony Six

Finding a Friend

Nicky Cruz



Everyone was afraid of Nicky Cruz. He wasn't just any New York gang leader, he was the leader of the toughest gang of all, the Mau Mau's.

"New York was like a jungle", said Nicky, "and animals in the jungle survive by killing each other". Which is exactly what Nicky and his gang did.

Nicky felt good being a part of a gang, but inside he was hurting badly. Lonely and hopeless, Nicky guessed that he would die young.

But God had other plans. God sent a man called David Wilkerson to the gangs in New York. David risked his life to tell these tough, violent young people that Jesus loved them. When David told Nicky, "God has the power to change your life", Nicky spat in his face and told him to get lost. Nicky didn't expect David's next words: "you could cut me up into a thousand pieces and lay them in the street, every piece would still love you".

For two weeks after that, Nicky couldn't sleep. He was thinking about love and what it really meant. He realised that the greatest love of all was shown when Jesus died on a cross, taking Nicky's punishment so that he was free to become God's friend.

That love changed Nicky's life completely. He left the gangs and went to Bible college. He met a girl called Gloria, and married her. Together they set up 'Teen Challenge', a charity that helps troubled teenagers in New York.

Now, instead of killing people, Nicky loves them and helps them.

