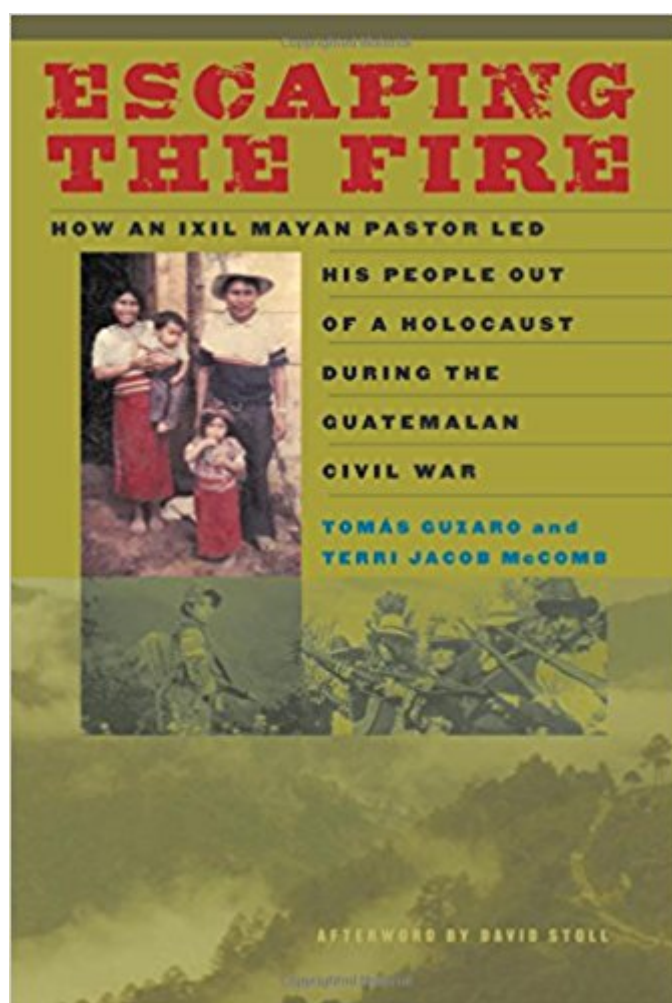


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# Escaping The Fire: How An Ixil Mayan Pastor Led His People Out Of A Holocaust During The Guatemalan Civil War



## Synopsis

During the height of the Guatemalan civil war, Tomás Guzaro, a Mayan evangelical pastor, led more than two hundred fellow Mayas out of guerrilla-controlled Ixil territory and into the relative safety of the government army's hands. This exodus was one of the factors that caused the guerrillas to lose their grip on the Ixil, thus hastening the return of peace to the area. In *Escaping the Fire*, Guzaro relates the hardships common to most Mayas and the resulting unrest that opened the door to civil war. He details the Guatemalan army's atrocities while also describing the Guerrilla Army of the Poor's rise to power in Ixil country, which resulted in limited religious freedom, murdered church leaders, and threatened congregations. His story climaxes with the harrowing vision that induced him to guide his people out of their war-torn homeland. Guzaro also provides an intimate look at his spiritual pilgrimage through all three of Guatemala's main religions. The son of a Mayan priest, formerly a leader in the Catholic Church, and finally a convert to Protestantism, Guzaro, in detailing his religious life, offers insight into the widespread shift toward Protestantism in Latin America over the past four decades. Riveting and highly personal, *Escaping the Fire* ultimately provides a counterpoint to the usual interpretation of indigenous agency during the Guatemalan civil war by documenting the little-studied experiences of Protestants living in guerrilla-held territory.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

TOMÁS GUZARO played a central role in aiding the Ixil refugees during the Guatemalan civil war and since 1987 has been the administrator of a private hospital in Nebaj, where he served as vice mayor from 2000 to 2004. He currently oversees ninety-six churches within the Church of

God. After moving to Nebaj in 1993, TERRI MCCOMB and her husband got to know Tomás Guzaro while working with agricultural development programs. They still live in Ixil country, where Terri divides her time between schooling her four children and writing.

This tells the story of the Guatemalan "holocaust" from an indigenous person's point of view, caught in the crossfire of warring forces. As such, it is not as biased as other accounts which EITHER seem to exonerate the Government OR excuse the actions of the guerillas. Translated from Mayan into English, it's a valuable study resource.

Escaping the Fire is a beautifully told story about the faith and courage of Tomas Guzaro in the midst of an impossibly difficult situation. With so many opinions expressed about "who did what" in the Guatemalan armed conflict, it is refreshing to read the story of an Ixil leader who not only lived through it but who also demonstrated the integrity and wisdom that was lacking in so many quarters during this dark time in Guatemala's history. Warning: this book may bring you to tears as you read the details of the brutality the Ixil people suffered.

I thought this book was very good. I enjoyed learning about the man from Guatemala who saved a lot of his people of his village from being killed. I actually got to meet the author two years ago in person. He is such a humble person and loves God. I am so glad we do not have to go through the persecution he did, but hope I would have the faith and strength like Tomas if I did.

"Escaping The Fire" is well written. It is tragic but excellent story about a group of Mayan Indians in Guatemala who were caught in the middle of a civil war. God led some to safety on earth and some He safely led to heaven. The story of their plight had to be told and Terri McComb told the story very well. I highly recommend the book, read it and share their story with others.

A glimpse of reality of what the Guatemalan civil war was like for civilians...great read

Amazing story of determination and love. Shows how amazing God is and how He saved this group of people through very difficult circumstances.

It is one of the best books I have ever read ,by a great lady who I have met and can not wait to have her sign my book.

I've read 100's of Christian biographies throughout the years. This book will rank toward the top of that list. It is the heart wrenching story of a man who risked his life and his families to follow Jesus Christ. Although the book is thorough in its historical setting (Guatemala during the Guatemalan Civil War), the impact is found in Tomas Guzaros faith and how it was walked out through incredibly difficult circumstances. His radical obedience helped lead many of his people into freedom. This is one of those books that will be hard to put down once you've begun. Set aside some time before you start. I will be giving these to many friends to encourage their faith.

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