

**BEYOND THE  
Sunset  
AND RAZOR WIRE**

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# CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	v
BEYOND THE SUNSET AND RAZOR WIRE.....	1
ORDER OF IMPORTANCE .....	3
WHEN IT SEEMS GOD MADE A MISTAKE .....	5
GRACIOUSLY UN-NORMAL.....	9
OF BLEMISHES AND SCARS.....	11
THE INDUSTRY OF EMPTINESS .....	15
FOR HUSBANDS AND THEIR WIVES.....	17
LEAVING THE DONKEY.....	21
FAITH IN FOOLS .....	23
LOVE IS NOT A FOUR-LETTER WORD.....	25
OF MUSIC AND BONDAGE BEHIND BARS .....	27
THE DAY STOP SIGNS CHANGED .....	31
THANKFUL FOR GETHSEMANE .....	35
CHAIN DAYS.....	37
MY FAVORITE VERSE.....	41
OF PLASTIC BOTTLES AND OTHER PILLOWS .....	45

<b>MY GRANDFATHER .....</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>FAKE MEAT; FAKE CURES .....</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>WHITE HAIR AND ALLERGIES .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>LEGAL MAIL ONLY .....</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>JOB AND THE CHICKENS .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>ALONE .....</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>OF MUSCLES AND WIVES' WORDS .....</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>SALINE PUDDLES .....</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>CERAMIC KNIVES AND OTHER WORSHIP INSTRUMENTS ...</b>	<b>77</b>

# FOREWORD

For being a Good Samaritan in a situation where man's laws opposed God's laws, Timo Miller was kidnapped in broad daylight on a street in his hometown of Managua, Nicaragua. Jailed without due process, then deported, he was in prison for nearly eight months. The first six weeks were a test of endurance in one of Nicaragua's most notorious prisons. The balance of his prison time was in the United States, where he was to be sentenced.

It was painful being away from his family and the small church he pastored in Managua, but God was with him! God gave him many opportunities to witness to fellow inmates, prison officials, and even the prosecution's investigators and attorneys.

Timo found new friends in prison—even Christian brothers. Prison life also provided time to reflect on God, on life, and on the human condition. Some of his thoughts he wrote down.

Timo wrote this compilation of meditations in prison and mailed them as letters to his family. They encourage us that a person who knows Christ can be free in spirit even though his legs are shackled, his window barred, and he's surrounded by razor wire.



# BEYOND THE SUNSET AND RAZOR WIRE

This evening the sun went down amid flaming clouds and golden reflections on snow. Who but God could have thought up something so gorgeous? And it's always different! This wisp of cloud here. That silver lining there.

As I stood gazing out of my narrow prison window, I burst out singing "How Great Thou Art." I considered the beauty and praised Him for it. Then I noticed the razor wire.

I was already emotional about the splendor of the sunset. But now the tears flowed in earnest.

I assume everyone enjoys sunsets, at least I've never heard anyone say they didn't. I also like sunrises, but a photographer friend of mine doesn't. She says sunrises come around too early in the day to be beautiful. She echoed what someone else once said: "If God would have wanted humans

to enjoy the sunrise, He would have scheduled it later on in the day.”

Sunrises and sunsets inspire in me an awe for God. They speak to me of magnificent beauty and freedom. Something beyond human words to describe. Something that can't be contained with concrete, chain-link fencing, or razor wire.

Humans are easy to pen up. But not God. Through nature He teaches us a little bit of Himself. He shows us a faint whisper of who He really is (Job 26:14). And Psalm 19:1 tells us that the heavens proclaim His glory and His works, but only to those who listen. Only to those who are willing to look. Only to those willing to get up in time to observe.

In the last months, I've been asked repeatedly if I've ever seen God. They ask this trying to discredit His existence or His power to transform lives. But even if I've never seen Him with my physical eyes, I have definitely felt Him and seen His marvelous works in my life and others. I have witnessed what happens when He comes into a heart and transforms it.

I look forward to the day when I'll be able to thank God face-to-face for what He has done for me. When I meet Him. Beyond the sunset. Beyond the razor wire.



# ORDER OF IMPORTANCE

What is important? Serving time in El Chipote, a prison in Nicaragua, helped me answer that question. Being stripped of everything except one borrowed piece of clothing can bring into sharp focus what is really important.

For me, it boiled down to two things: first God, because He is eternal; and then family, because I am personally responsible for their eternal souls. Not even my aching bones and the primitive conditions of El Chipote changed this order of priority.

As I focused on God, it became crystal clear that I had a lot to learn about walking with Him. Why had I so many times focused on other things? Why had I found it so hard to take time to kindle a relationship with Him each day? Why was it often easier to do work other than His?