

## "The Story of Alex Avendano" Alex's "Way of the Cross"

In 2003, On a February day as the sun sets and a gentle breeze blows in small town in UT, a man ponders his Mormon faith once again. He has had his doubts many times in the past but somehow this time is different. Alex Avendano was born into a Catholic family in Venezuela in 1966. At the age of 14 he became curious about American ways and wanted to learn english. After meeting and talking with some missionaries of the Later Day Saints, he decided to become a Mormon.

After graduating college with a degree in electrical engineering he was soon married and within a few short years was a father of two children. In 1992 he moved his family to the United States and settled in Utah. Only a couple of years later Alex found himself divorced and plagued with back problems. After a few surgeries things were not much better. He also now had issues with his right hip and leg. In 1995 things seem to get better when Alex met and married his current wife Carol.

After being a Mormon now for 23 of his 37 years he began to see his Catholic roots more clearly. In the previous few years he had learned much more about the Mormon faith and now saw what he calls "The Truth" about that religion. In February of 2003 Alex decided to start attending a local church and became a Catholic once again. After a few months Alex started to second guess himself and wondered if he had made the right decision. So in April of 2003 he began to pray and ask the Lord for a true and real sign to show him that he was on the right path. As he struggled through the month, on April 24th he received his answer.

An excruciatingly painful answer.....

***"I was in the bathroom and my hands began to bleed on the backs of my hands," he recalled in a bio. "I had been having pain in my hands for awhile and I thought it was my carpal tunnel coming back. I was frightened and I went out to the living room to show my wife and she was afraid I had fallen and asked me how I cut myself. I honestly cannot remember what happened after that. A week later, I began to bleed from my feet, side, and forehead. There were two separate times that I had whip marks on my back."***

Alex's journey back to the Catholic faith, to be closer to God through Jesus and Mary had now begun. At the time he had no idea how long, painful and difficult that journey would become.

Alex went through these pains and sufferings many times over the years. He also claimed on the 13th of each month to see apparitions of the "Blessed Virgin Mary" and as such became deeply devoted to her and the messages that she gave to him and others around the world.

***"Our Blessed Mother comes with green eyes, black hair, a white mantle, and the edge of her mantle is a dark blue color."***

Alex was examined by doctors physically numerous times. Those results were often mixed and mostly opinion, because the facts were obvious, the wounds were clearly visible. Alex was also examined psychologically and was never found to have any disorders or mental afflictions of any kind. He suffered these wounds severely yet kept his faith strong by praying the rosary, attending Eucharistic adoration and Mass on a regular basis. At other times Alex also claimed to be attacked by very strong demonic forces.

***"He was attacked physically," said his wife Carol. "It was almost like he was taken over. He had such attacks at times and we were told it was for his purification. When he came out of one, he was more humble. He was a very holy man."***

After 3 years of agonizing, excruciating pain, after numerous demonic attacks and many consultations with Priests, Bishops, Doctors and Psychiatrists, on October 18th 2006 after a recent demonic attack earlier in the day Alex passed away in his home.

When she returned home from work at about 8:30 p.m., his wife Carol said, she found her husband in a "deep sleep," and after a while she noticed that he stopped breathing. She called 911 and they worked on him for 45 minutes to no avail.

According to his wife and a priest who served as his spiritual director, Alex Avendano, who was just 40 years old, slipped into his last coma-like sleep shortly after telling those around him that he needed prayers because he was under an intense attack by the devil.

Because he was often known to lapse into a deep sleep after an attack, or following visions, his wife was not alarmed until she noticed he was no longer breathing. She said he had also encountered another attack by the devil a month before this.

Carol believes that the attack itself did not kill Alex, but that it was "simply his time" and his heart stopped. Previously in July 2006, he had been tested after experiencing chest pains, but no problems or conditions were evident.

After reading this story some may brush it off and say "He did it to himself just to get attention" or "I wouldn't believe that unless I saw it myself" however there were many, many witnesses to these events over the 3 years that Alex was afflicted. In light of that we ask you to see for yourself in the pictures shown below exactly what Alex looked like during that time. Alex has left us, although there were and still are others afflicted with the Stigmata "The Wounds of Christ". For example St. Padre Pio lived with his wounds for 58 years, St. Francis of Assisi received his wounds in the year 1224, and Fr. Zlatko Sudac who lives in Croatia today, as well as many others.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THESE ARE "VERY GRAPHIC PHOTOS" and are not for the faint of heart. Most decent people find them very difficult to look at and some people are changed forever just because they have seen them. Please reflect carefully before allowing family friends and especially children to view these photos. Please use careful discretion.



