

Once a wise guy, now he's God's guy

by Sue Mort

A life transformed by God

Rocco Morelli, was a well-known businessman and rising politician. During his tenure as a Pennsylvania state constable, notary public, licensed private detective and former police officer, he associated with the right kind of powerful friends of the world. He was on his way to hell—until the Lord set him free!

Rocco was born and raised in New Kensington, PA, better known in the underworld as "little Chicago," a place notorious for the MOB running things their way, a haven for worldly pleasures and desires. At an early age Rocco went for the good times, with a free ticket to ride forever, or so he thought. He became a musician at 15 and, at 16 was performing with his own band in nightclubs everywhere. Rocco's theme was wine, women and song. He learned fast—every vice, from gambling—to the drugs that were at his beckoning and call.

Despite all this, at 19 he somehow fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming a cop—one of the youngest in the county! Still, Rocco continued his music career and playboy gangster lifestyle. Then suddenly, while in the line of duty he had a close encounter with death while dealing with a member of a motorcycle gang—stress kicked in, the trauma of "battle fatigue" kicked in. Once again death knocked at Rocco's door; stress and trauma nearly killed him.

Through it all, Rocco had a praying family. God's mercy and miraculous power brought healing to Rocco's body. He later



Rocco Morelli

went into business, married and had a precious daughter, Raquel.

He got into public office through the support of his old friends and associates; friends who would later help him make his way right into prison. Because of his criminal conviction in 1987 as an alleged drug associate linked to organized crime figures, Rocco was removed from public office.

Prior to his trial and subsequent prison sentence, God stepped in and Rocco was saved by God's grace at a Full Gospel Businessmen's meeting. Steve Totin, of Cornerstone TeleVision, who was ministering at the time, suddenly had a burning desire to begin a prison ministry—the Lord was working in both of their lives!

Inside prison, Rocco was a new man. He Lord used to touch many lives. Through the ministry of Steve and the newly established prison ministry outreach of CTV, Rocco received support from new friends and associates—those who would minister through the power of God's Word.

Recently Rocco shared his testimony with a small group of teens at the Greensburg Detention Center. Before Rocco had a chance to give the invitation to accept Christ, hands went up; a young girl and another guy waiting to ask their questions. The girl said, "I want to ask Jesus

continued on page 13

The "wise guy"

continued from page 12

into my life." The boy lowered his hand and said, "me too." Another girl and two more boys also said yes. Five young people met Jesus that night by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through Rocco's testimony, God's love and miraculous power once again ministered to lost souls who needed and wanted God to work in their lives.

Since his release Rocco has owned several businesses, but more importantly, God placed a call on his life. He has been obedient to the call and diligently ministers to bring salvation, deliverance, and healing to the captives. Captives that are set free through the power that works within—the

power of Jesus Christ. Rocco is now an active prayer partner and counselor at CTV, an ordained minister of the Full Gospel Assemblies International, and serves as the Chaplin for the Pittsburgh Chapter of Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship International. Rocco's prison and evangelistic ministries are supported by Pittsburgh East. He is an outreach minister called to evangelize through sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and by the word of his testimony. Rocco's vision is for REVIVAL in the church; The Body of Christ must be quickened for the coming of our King, The Lord Jesus Christ.