

# A HEART FOR EVANGELISM



Rev. Tony Loeffler, Sr.  
IMF Member



IMF Ordained Minister and musician Tony Loeffler is proof that what doesn't kill you can only make you stronger. With close to 20 musical albums under his belt, he might also attest to the fact that when it comes to ministry, those who are broken by the world are often the quickest to turn and reach out with evangelism.



Wandering the streets of Chicago as a young man in 1971, Loeffler was invited into the Salvation Army shelter one day, and soon thereafter left a world where he ate from garbage cans to feed on the Bread of Life. Right after he was saved, he began to minister to the broken, the addicted, the imprisoned, and the homeless. What resulted was Solid Rock Ministries of Royal Palm Beach, Florida which generates Bible courses, discipleship programs and networking for prison inmates, using music as a platform to get in the door.



Raised in a dysfunctional home where his father's absence was a continual source of pain and anguish, Loeffler struggled to find answers to life's questions. Feeling abandoned by a father who was imprisoned, a mother who died early from cancer, and having suffered physical abuse for years, Tony first turned to drugs, alcohol and other abuses before he turned to God.

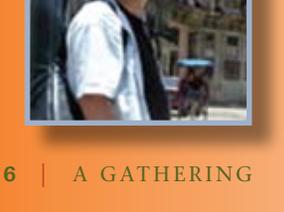


Over the years Loeffler has ministered to drug addicts, the homeless, and prisoners in the United States and in countries around the globe. He's seen over 100,000 inmates repent and seen Satan worshippers remove their upside-down crosses from their necks and come to Christ. Recently he ministered to 500,000 bikers at the After Sturgis Gathering Motorcycle Rally in Wisconsin, performing ten concerts and giving out over 1000 CDs and gospel tracts.



## PRISON MINISTRY

Loeffler performs over 120 concerts a year in prisons around the world; his music is the key that opens the door. "I'll go wherever people are willing to listen."



## SWITZERLAND

In Geneva, Loeffler ministered to nine language groups through two interpreters. One prisoner in particular "was a real nasty guy." According to Loeffler, the other volunteers, including his wife, Mary Ann, left the room because of the violent nature of Danny Lou. A songwriter, Danny Lou shared a song about his search for God and his determination that He just wasn't there. Loeffler said, "I told him his content was wrong."

"I shared the truth of the gospel, prayed with him, and told Danny Lou to get into the Bible." Months later, Danny Lou called Loeffler to say, "Something's happening to me." After a few more phone conversations and another personal visit at Christmas, Danny Lou repented and was saved. Loeffler laughed, "It's funny really; apparently Danny Lou was so vicious, so violent, that no one else was ever left alone with him." Yet the Lord gifted Loeffler with the words and insight that would pull the man from darkness.

## INDIA

"We were warned not to try to convert anyone or we might not be allowed to leave. I could play my songs, share my testimony, even talk about my personal life, but I couldn't ask if they'd like to become a Christian." Instead, one of his volunteers asked, "Who wants to go to heaven?" Working around the warnings, 61 of the 62 men who attended that prison performance received Christ.

## ENGLAND

In Dartmoor Prison, a dark, dank place built in 1809 where cockroaches are the size of rats, Loeffler's band squeezed onto an 8' x 8' stage and performed and ministered to prisoners so tough they showed no response. "One guy looked like he ate nails for breakfast, yet he was the first to raise his hand for prayer." Before a year's time, nearly half of the prisoners there had accepted Christ as Savior.

## UGANDA

When he visited Uganda with Prison Fellowship, he said 85% of the condemned men received the Lord. "In this horrible place where to die from starvation is a given, those whose souls were saved sing praises 24/7 in shifts so praises are always heard," Loeffler said.

## MINISTRY TO THE HOMELESS

"Isaiah 58 exhorts believers to feed the hungry and clothe the naked," Loeffler said, "It is a mandate for us as Christians to balance evangelism with social need." Again, with music as his platform, he goes into cities to conduct press interviews, give concerts, and talk to church and civic leaders, all in an effort to unveil practical ways to help the homeless in their communities.

## WASHINGTON

"I was standing in an alley after a performance for Homeless Awareness Week, when all of a sudden these people came toward me like zombies, with slow movements and distant expressions, closing in, like you see in the movies."

"But they just wanted to be saved. A roughneck biker joined the crowd. I made eye contact, but continued talking and praying with those nearby. While he waited, I physically tried to 'beef up.' I stood taller, took a more authoritative stance, even puffed my chest a bit, all the things a man does when confronted with a dangerous individual. But he only wanted prayer, like everyone else."

## HOMELESS AND PRISON MINISTRY COMBINED

Loeffler presents the work his team does in prisons and on the streets of Cuba to other churches in an effort to develop partnerships, providing a conduit for churches to fulfill the Great Commission.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

**“AND BE YE KIND ONE TO ANOTHER,  
TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER,  
EVEN AS GOD FOR CHRIST'S SAKE  
HATH FORGIVEN YOU.”**

**EPHESIANS 4:32**

## **A HEART FOR EVANGELISM**

*continued from page 6*

### **CUBA**

“When I first went to Cuba, I was bowled over. I’ve never seen such oppression in my life; it even surpassed that of Uganda and India.”

The call to minister in Cuba hasn’t been easy for Loeffler, who has been forced to leave three times in the last ten years. But, then, God rarely calls one to a ministry of convenience. “I may have been physically thrown out, but heart and spirit never left. I continued to pray.”

The need is great as there are over a million inmates housed in Cuban prisons. Finally, Loeffler has been given the green light. He’s allowed to play

his gospel blues music and share his testimony in public theaters as long as he doesn’t turn concerts into church services. “With the power of Jesus’ name, we’re not afraid to go anywhere in the world.”

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*Tony Loeffler was a homeless and suicidal drifter eating from garbage cans, a hopeless drug addict. His marriage was ending. He was someone everyone passed by—until a Salvation Army officer gave him a place to sleep one December night—and introduced him to Jesus. His life has never been the same since.*

*Tony’s life has come full circle. His marriage was restored and his wife Mary Ann serves with him in ministry. Today Tony is President of the Solid Rock Ministry, an ordained minister of IMF, and a musician leading a powerful work throughout the world. For more information, please visit [www.thesolidrock.org](http://www.thesolidrock.org). You may reach Tony at 561-784-5188 or [tloeffler@thesolidrock.org](mailto:tloeffler@thesolidrock.org).*