

## Aaron Adame - Additional Info

*Below is a list of relevant questions that should provide further personal information beyond the professional resume.*

### 1. *How did you become a Christian?*

- a. I became a Christian at age 20. I was raised in a divided house. My dad was a non-practicing Catholic and my mom was a Jehovah's Witness, which was the dominating religious practice in my house as a child. However, my mom, burdened by the legalistic practices and views of the JW's, excommunicated herself when I was 11. Shortly afterward, my mom went on a search for truth. She met a family that was Baptist and they invited her to their church. She went and heard the gospel and became a "born-again." She went through a lot of changes in her new found faith—her theology was everywhere *but* straight. The response that I, as well as my brother, sister, and dad had was to reject anything that smelled of religion or Christianity.
- b. My siblings and I, at a young age, became extremely rebellious. My sister joined gangs, ran away from home at 14, became pregnant and had my niece shortly after turning 15. We all became involved in drugs. I started at 13 years old and didn't stop until the day I became a Christian 7 years later.
- c. In High School, I continued to do drugs, but also maintained a decent lifestyle. I quit soccer and started to play golf. Golf became my escape. I played every day throughout High School, immersing myself in it. My first job was at a golf course.
- d. After graduation, I quit the golf course and got a job working for a finished carpenter. He had a brand new company and I was his only helper. He was not a Christian and even hated Christians, which was the exact place that I was in. Ironically, however, he came from a very strong Christian family. Despite the situation, I believe that working for him made me into a responsible man and gave me a strong work ethic.
- e. While I worked for him I started dating a girl that was a "Christian" whom I had known since High School. I was still doing drugs, which she didn't like, but it showed where she was at in her faith. She invited me to church every week but I never went with her—I was not going to change just for a girl. However, I did tell her that I would consider going to church "one-day" but I was *not* going to go with her.
- f. But things did change after I met her family. Up to that point in my life I had only met crazy Christians or Christians in "name only." But when I met her mom and dad, I discovered real Christians. And for the first time I saw Christianity working. At this same time I was starting to hate the person I was becoming. The drugs were making me into someone I never thought I would be. I was depressed, angry, and lost without any answers or hope to escape from my situation. So I think that meeting her family softened the idea of Christianity for me.
- g. Then, on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, 2004, I became a Christian — I was 20 years old. My girlfriend was out of town in Chicago for a wedding and I was off work for the holiday. So I woke up and decided I was going to smoke-pot in my room and just

relax. Shortly after, I thought to myself, “what am I going to do all day?” and out of nowhere, a thought came into my mind: Go to church (I am not exaggerating). This thought was crazy! I didn’t go to church. I didn’t even know where a church was or if they were having services that day. For hours I had an internal battle, dialoging between a desire to go and a desire to ignore it. But I couldn’t. So I decided to look into it. I called my older sister (she had become a Christian during High School but had fallen away at this point) and asked her if she knew of a church that was having services that day. She told me to go to Harvest. After taking a few showers in a failed attempt to sober up, I went to church. I walked up by myself and sat in the back. The service was terrible. I even thought/prayed toward the end of the sermon: “Wow, God, I gave you a chance and this is what I get?” And right after I thought that, the pastor transitioned into a time of communion. And as he explained communion and the meaning behind the elements, things started becoming clear. I had heard the gospel before but not like I was in that moment. I heard of a God who desired to forgive me. Moreover, I learned of a God who knew everything about me and wanted me to know Him. After all the things I had done, I was shocked by the reality that God loved me and wanted to have a relationship with me. The pastor led everyone in prayer, but he didn’t even get to that point in his presentation before I bowed my head in my seat in the back and prayed a basic prayer: “God, I believe you exist, I believe that you sent your Son to die for me and that you desire to have a relationship with me—I am going to follow you from this day forward.”

- h. I can say with confidence that I have been living out that prayer ever since—for 12 years.
  - i. Only because it adds color to the story... When my girlfriend came back from Chicago, I took her to dinner and told her everything that had happened to me while she was gone. Then I called her out in her own nominal Christianity. She repented on the spot. By God’s will we did not stay together. However, she married a solid Christian man a few years later. I told her dad what happened (I am sure that he was praying that God would take me away from his daughter, I would have been; instead, God used him to lead me to Him). I told my mom the next day when we gathered for Thanksgiving, she broke down crying. She had been praying for me for years.
  - j. Today, my brother, sister and I are all Christians and were still praying for my dad.
2. *Were you baptized as a believer under the authority of a gospel-preaching church?*
- a. I became a Christian through Harvest Christian Fellowship and have been at this church my entire Christian life. There is not a formal church membership. However, I was baptized about four months after becoming a Christian and would say that it was taken very seriously.
3. *Describe the church that you currently attend and your involvement (include spouse).*
- a. Harvest Christian Fellowship is HUGE! When I first started coming, the church was one location in Riverside, CA averaging around 12k every Sunday in attendance.
  - b. Currently, the church has grabbed onto the modern thought of multi-site, video, venue. We have three church campuses (Riverside, Irvine, and Maui), as well as three satellite locations (Eastvale, Woodcrest, and Corona) that are mobile churches.

- c. Pastor Greg Laurie is the senior pastor. He is most known for the Harvest Crusades.
  - d. Currently I am the HS/Youth pastor. I teach weekly, write small group curriculums, and organize all the events, retreats, and outreach to local High Schools. I have a secretary, and two assistants who help me in this work.
  - e. My wife, Michelle, has always assisted me in whatever ministry function I have had. Currently, we have our two little girls at home. By the grace and provision of God we are able to afford her to stay home and raise the girls full-time.
4. *What kind of service do you think God is leading you into?*
- a. I believe that God has called me to pastor. Furthermore, I also believe that God has called and gifted me to be a lead pastor. I believe through my experience and academic training that I can effectively lead a church in faithfulness to Christ through the grace of God.
5. *Marriage concerns?*
- a. I have a great marriage. My wife is already fully aware of what being a pastor's wife is all about. She is fully on board and loves the adventure of serving the Lord in this capacity. I love her tremendously and we are both so blessed that God brought us together for each other and for His glory.
  - b. We are actively a part of a community group of like-minded people who help to keep us accountable and stretch us in our faith.
6. *Tell us something about yourself we would not learn from your resume.*
- a. I have been a pastor for 4 years. On staff at Harvest for 10 years. A Christian for 12 years. I have only been a part of one church.
  - b. I am 32. Married for 6 years (Michelle) and together we have 2 girls: Olyvia (3) and Adalyn (18 months) and a dog named Elliot.
  - c. I love golf.
  - d. I have plans to further my education by achieving an MDiv and, in time, a PhD.
  - e. I enjoy going to the gym.
  - f. I also love the outdoors and city life.
  - g. I consider myself to be a hard worker. I know how to prioritize my life and responsibilities.
  - h. My wife and I own an older home in Riverside and have really enjoyed restoring it.
  - i. I have three passions in ministry: (1) Watching people who have no church background come to faith in Christ (2); watching young people with a church background embrace personally the faith they were raised with (3); and, lastly, watching other people being used by God in the ways that he has gifted them and in the spaces he has placed them.