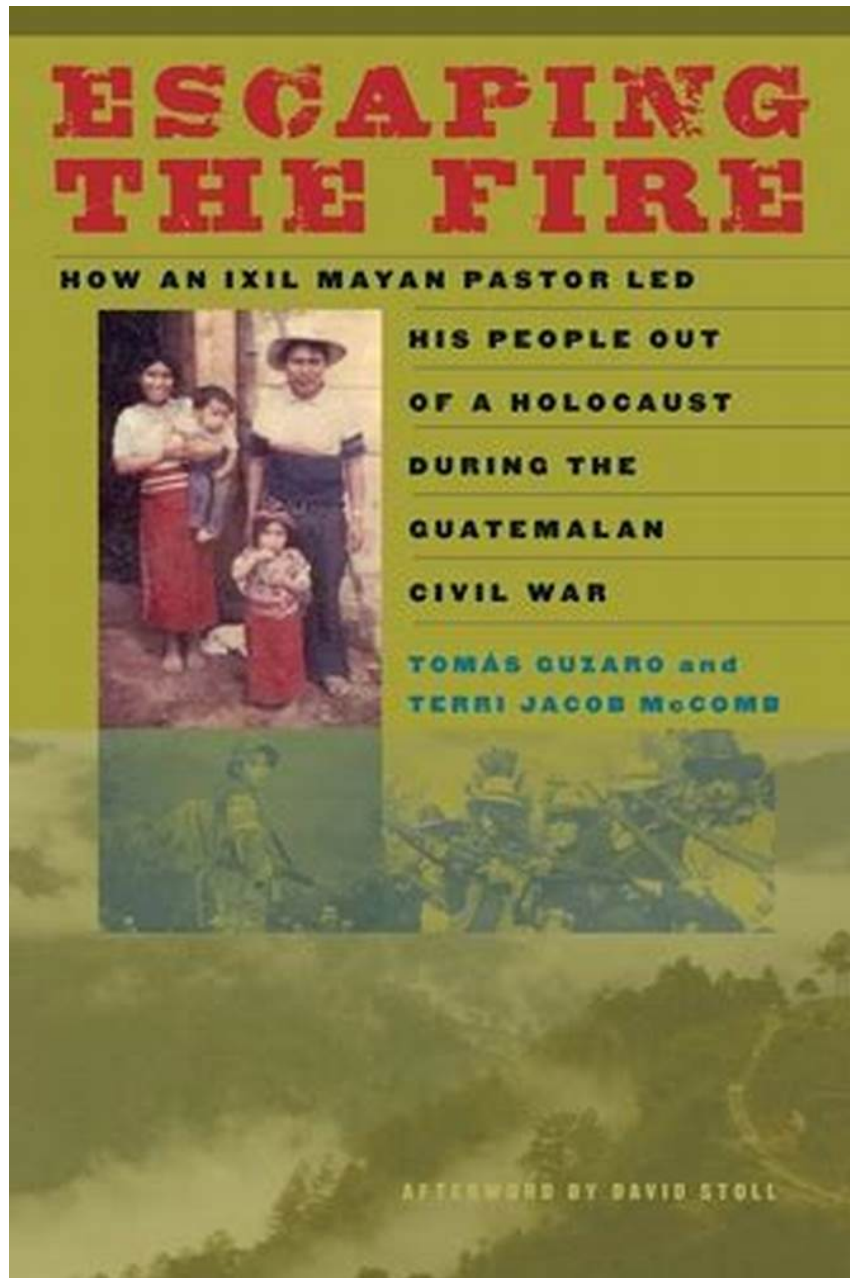


# How an Ixil Mayan Pastor Led His People Out of Holocaust During the Guatemalan Civil War



The Guatemalan Civil War was a brutal conflict that lasted from 1960 to 1996. During the war, the Guatemalan government and military carried out

a campaign of genocide against the Mayan people. Over 200,000 Mayans were killed, and many more were displaced from their homes.



## Escaping the Fire: How an Ixil Mayan Pastor Led His People Out of a Holocaust During the Guatemalan Civil War

by Tomás Guzaro

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
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One of the most tragic episodes of the war was the massacre of the Ixil Mayan people. The Ixil are an indigenous people who live in the highlands of Guatemala. During the war, the Guatemalan military targeted the Ixil for extermination. Over 10,000 Ixil were killed, and many more were tortured and raped.

In the midst of this horrific violence, one man emerged as a beacon of hope for the Ixil people. His name was Pastor Nicolas Ajuchán.

Ajuchán was born in 1940 in the Ixil village of Nebaj. He became a Christian in his early twenties, and he soon felt called to become a pastor. In 1970, he was ordained as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church of Guatemala.

When the Guatemalan Civil War broke out, Ajuchán refused to abandon his people. He stayed in Nebaj and continued to preach the gospel, even though he knew that he was putting his own life at risk.

In 1982, the Guatemalan military launched a major offensive against the Ixil people. The military burned villages, killed civilians, and tortured and raped women and children. Ajuchán's church was destroyed, and he was forced to flee into the mountains.

For the next several years, Ajuchán lived in hiding, preaching the gospel to small groups of Ixil who had also fled the violence. He also worked to document the atrocities that the Guatemalan military was committing against the Ixil people.

In 1992, the Guatemalan Civil War finally came to an end. Ajuchán was able to return to Nebaj and rebuild his church. He also continued to work for justice for the Ixil people. He testified before the Guatemalan Truth Commission, and he helped to establish a museum to document the Ixil genocide.

Pastor Nicolas Ajuchán was a courageous and compassionate man who dedicated his life to helping his people. He was a beacon of hope during one of the darkest periods in Guatemalan history. His story is an inspiration to us all.

The story of Pastor Nicolas Ajuchán is a powerful reminder of the importance of faith and courage in the face of adversity. Ajuchán's unwavering belief in God gave him the strength to stand up to the Guatemalan government and military and to fight for the rights of his

people. His story is an inspiration to us all to never give up, no matter how difficult the circumstances may be.



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