

A BULL RIDER WITH FAITH

Adriano Silva Moraes is one of the best bull riders in the world. His flawless technique and natural riding ability won him three Professional Bull Riders world titles, with two titles at the National Finals Rodeo.

Moraes is deeply committed to Jesus Christ. “Work, faith and humbleness” is the motto by which he and his family live. “When I’m close to my God, I’m doing well,” he says.



During one rodeo, his faith was severely tested after he saw a fellow Brazilian rider get thrown from his bull and go down hard. The rider didn’t move as a crowd of cowboys and officials gathered around him, loaded him on a gurney, and took him to the nearest hospital.

Suddenly, Moraes was gripped with fear. He didn’t want the same thing to happen to him. Later, in his hotel room, he knelt by the side of his bed and prayed, “Lord Jesus, strengthen me through your Holy Spirit, who lives in me.”

The Lord blessed him with peace and courage. “I can die now,” Moraes said.

While still a champion rider, Moraes headed up *Rodeo with Christ*, a multifaceted ministry in Brazil. The ministry includes television shows and an annual evangelistic *Rodeo with Christ* crusade. The primary goal is to spread the truth of Jesus Christ to those who need to hear it.

Moraes announced in January 2008 that the 2008 *Built Ford Tough Series* season would be his final season of bull riding. His overall PBR career earnings totaled nearly \$3.5 million. Moraes and his wife, Flavia, married since 1989, have four children.

Clearly, God bestows an array of abilities to people, and bull riding is not one of mine. Moraes required exceptional courage in a dangerous profession, but his story demonstrates the importance of faith and prayer in whatever we undertake.

And in Moraes’ case, he used his talents to glorify God as he became a witness for Christ.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go (Joshua 1:9 NKJV).