

NO TURNING BACK



“Even though I looked happy on the outside, I felt numb for a very long time.”

From rejection to restoration, Caylin Cloete found strength and direction in something greater than herself.

Hope after heartbreak

Caylin Cloete witnessed her parents' divorce at a young age. When her stepbrother died in 2016, her family became dysfunctional and she witnessed the breakdown of another marriage.

By this time, Caylin no longer believed in love and marriage.

“My parents' second divorce really broke my heart and convinced me that love is a myth and that marriage doesn't work anymore,” she tells *Challenge News*.

“I had decided that I would never get married because commitment only lasts a while and then people discard each other when they grow tired of 'being stuck.'”

Without a stable family foundation, Caylin felt rejected, frustrated and hopeless.

It seemed as if the people she cared about always left unexpectedly.

She turned to sexual sin “as a way to escape and find comfort” but it only led to her feeling shame.

“I felt very rejected and then started rejecting myself. I couldn't accept myself and started to resent myself and others around

me,” she recalls. “Even though I looked happy and healthy from the outside, I felt numb for a very long time.”

In 2022, Caylin enrolled in Target Life, a Christian gap year programme.

There, she experienced God's love through the love that the people had for each other.

Despite being raised in a Christian household, Caylin described her faith in Jesus as “passive or neutral towards God as any unbeliever” until that point.

“I was a lukewarm Christian who would only pray whenever my mother asked me to at the dinner table.”

But in January 2022, Caylin made the decision to recommit her life back to God.

“I believed in my heart and confessed with my mouth that Jesus had died for me and rose up from the grave.

“I proclaimed that He is my Lord and Saviour and gave my life to Him,” she shares.

“I am in awe every time I think about God and how He never stops pursuing our hearts.”

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A man once deeply entrenched in addiction and brokenness, Brandon Meyers' story is one of radical transformation – a life once on the edge, now firmly planted in faith.

Born and raised in a coloured community in the south of Johannesburg – Eldorado Park Extension Two, Sneeuweg Street, also known as B-Section – Brandon grew up in a bachelor flat with four older siblings and a single mother who did her best to raise them.

Their home doubled as a shebeen – Brandon's mom sold alcohol to make ends meet.

Despite occasionally attending church as a child, Brandon admitted, “I never read a Bible, only prayed to God when I needed help or was in trouble. I had no relationship with God.”

After finishing school in 1979, Brandon trained as an assistant chef and later worked as a bank teller.

At just 21, he bought a house, but things soon unravelled. After losing his job, he sold his home and left South Africa for the United Kingdom.

“It was [in the UK] in 2005 that I was first introduced to drugs,” he recalled.

Upon returning to South Africa two years later, Brandon worked in call centres and quickly climbed the ranks to project coordinator and acting assistant call centre manager.

However, his growing drug addiction caught up with him. “I lost this job after about 10 years – because of drugs.”

Brandon's life became a cycle of temporary recovery and relapse. He entered a government rehab facility in 2015 but was expelled for inappropriate behaviour.

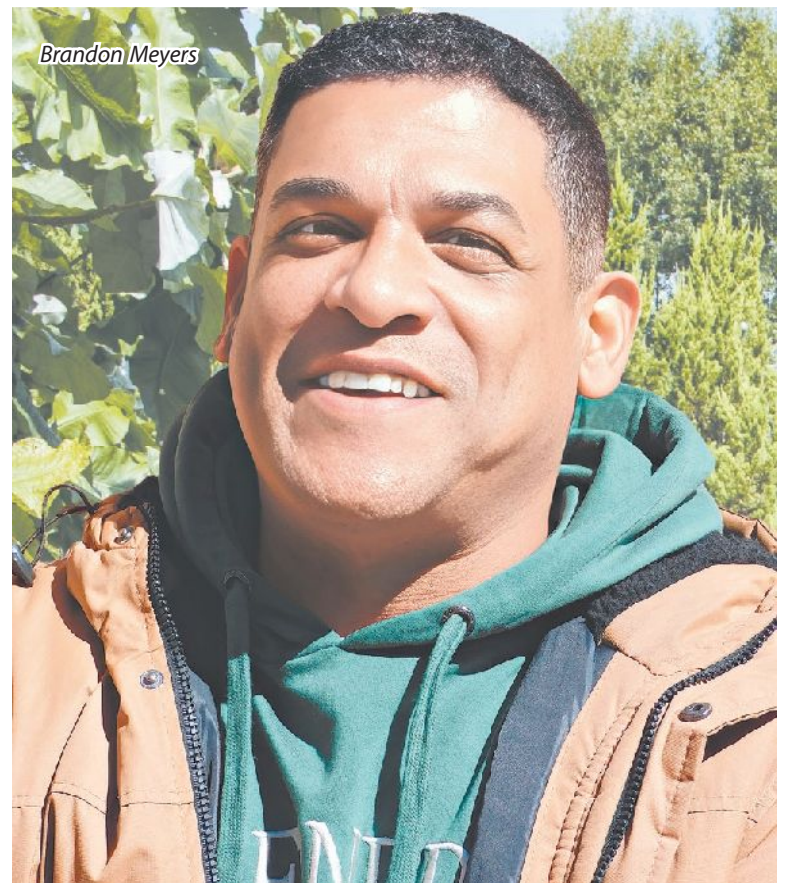
Though he managed to run a small business afterward, he continued using CAT (a street drug) occasionally.

But “when COVID hit, I found no joy in CAT and moved to the strong stuff – crystal meth. I became a daily user.”

By May 2022, Brandon had hit rock bottom.

“Meth changed my entire being. I became unrecognisable, as if I became possessed by something...”

“I moved into a garage – just palisades and a roof. I enclosed with cloth and kept warm by making a



Brandon Meyers

fire inside,” he shared. “It was in that garage that I lost touch with reality – and finally came to my senses.

“I had one smelly pair of tekkies and one jacket because I sold the rest. I had no friends, no-one who could help me because I'd pushed everyone away...”

“I called out to God and asked Him to take my life. I wanted to die that day, I couldn't see myself in the future at all. I felt like my life was over.”

But in that moment of despair, something shifted.

“Looking back, God killed me that day. My life ended – the old me died and the new me was born.”

Brandon decided to seek help and tried to find a rehab centre.

Nineteen calls later, with no luck, a woman who knew his mother gave him the number of one last centre.

“It was the 20th call... by that Tuesday, I was at the rehab.”

He didn't realise until he arrived at the rehab that it was a spiritual rehab centre – something he was not interested in. But God had other plans.

Brandon avoided devotions at first, but he couldn't ignore what

he heard. “Three weeks in, I started reading the Bible that I received from the pastor.”

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ZULU/SHONA story PAGE 6

Fun for Kids
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BACK PAGE

FIGHTING FOR HOPE
MARK PRINCE

Gaining a new life

Growing up in Kenya, Bridget Rose Munyasia attended church as a child, influenced by her grandmother. Although she attended church regularly and followed the rituals that were required by the church, she felt like something was not right.

Bridget Rose grew up in a big family of four children. When her parents separated, her grandmother became her main caretaker until she went to live with her father. At the age of 13, Bridget Rose started attending youth meetings and experienced a different type of church, one with less traditions and systems.

"I had a divine encounter with Christ," she tells *Challenge News*.

"I got born again in a radical way."

She started attending crusades, against the traditions of her old church.

"I was so hungry for God until there were no more crusades left that I did not attend."

Today, she is a lecturer at BBM college where she gets to serve pastors and see them graduate every three years.

"It is an international college and I've seen more than 26 nations of believers," says the 50-year-old.

"My life has been exciting, serving the Lord full-time and seeing these pastors pass through my hands."

Her favourite verse is Jeremiah 1:5: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before

you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

"Jesus is real. He saves, heals, protects and delivers completely." •

Bridget Rose Munyasia



Faith above the Earth

Astronaut Butch Wilmore is safely back on land after technical issues with Boeing's Starliner spacecraft extended his mission to the International Space Station from a planned eight days to 286 days.

Since returning to Earth, Butch has spoken with news outlets about his experience. CBS reporter Mark Strassmann asked him: "What is your life lesson or takeaway from these nine months in space?"

Butch replied: "God is working out His plan and His purposes for His glory throughout all of humanity, and how that plays into our lives is significant and important, and however that plays out, I am content because I understand that."

"I understand that He's at work in all things, some things are for the good – go to Hebrews chapter 11 – and some things look to us to be not so good."

"But it's all working out for His good, for all those that will believe. And that's the answer."

Butch's perspective is rooted in a lifelong faith journey. Raised in a Christian family that attended church "Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night," he first accepted Christ as his Saviour at age eight after a sermon about sin [breaking God's laws] and hell.

"I knew immediately that sin separated me from God," he said in a YouTube video.

"That's where I started to understand the truth of Scripture but for the next two years I struggled to comprehend what salvation was."

When he was 10, his mother explained the good news about Jesus dying for his sins to him again and "from that point on I felt confident in my salvation."

After graduating from college, he joined the Navy out of a "patriotic tug" to serve and fly. While deployed, a friend asked him some questions about a biblical concept and Butch realised he didn't know the answer.

"It was at that point that the Lord began to show me how little I knew of His Word and I became truly born again..."

"In my mid-20s I began a long journey of study of God's Word in depth. The Scriptures started to come alive to me piece by piece verse by verse, chapter by chapter, book by book."

That foundation would sustain him in a career that took him from combat missions in Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield to joining NASA's Astronaut Corps in 2000.

In 2014, during a six-month stint commanding the ISS, Butch had a moment that cemented his awe at God's creation.

While working outside the station, he caught sight of his reflection in a radiator. Behind him stretched the blackness of space and the gleaming station; below him, Hawaii's turquoise waters shimmered under white clouds.

"It was a sensory overload – mesmerising, amazing," he recalled. "The Lord in His planning purposes allowed me to be there... My purpose in being there was to glorify Him."

Butch says he has realised what sets biblical Christianity apart from every other religion is that in every other religion, man has to do something.

"There's some act, some prayer, something that man's got to do



ABOVE: Barry "Butch" Wilmore works outside the International Space Station (ISS) in 2015. (Photo by NASA via Getty Images)

RIGHT: Butch looks on during a news conference at the NASA Johnson Space Center days after returning to Earth in March, 2025 in Houston, Texas. (Photo by Brandon Bell/Getty Images)



to atone," he explained. "But [in Christianity], there's nothing man can do as Christ has done it all. He paid the price."

"I now know that at the point of salvation you may not understand everything about obedience, you may not understand everything about repentance, you may not

understand everything about the lordship of Christ, but everyone that is truly saved will strive to obey. "True salvation brings repentance over sin. It's about turning from our sin and seeking Christ and His lordship and power in our lives."

"Revere Christ as Lord even if you don't understand it." •

Coffee Break CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

ACROSS

- 1 Use very sparingly
- 3 Get out of there quick
- 6 Baled farm product
- 7 Like a busybody
- 8 Decimal system
- 10 Tennis blast
- 11 Latte maker
- 14 Type of light bulb
- 15 "___ in the bag!"
- 17 Court lawyer
- 18 Ship's front
- 20 A dozen minus one
- 21 Cast wearer's problem
- 22 Always, poetically
- 23 Cold war initials
- 24 Administer by syringe

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- 4 Harp's cousin
- 9 A bereaved husband
- 16 Agree out of court
- 5 Concert finale
- 12 Regain one's health
- 18 Hive dwellers
- 6 Making warmer
- 13 French cake
- 19 Cosy talk

- ### DOWN
- 1 Went down, as a ship
 - 2 Mischievous one
 - 3 Tycoons (3,4)

[SOLUTIONS PAGE 7](#)



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Ask Y: Peter Meadows answers your questions about God

QUESTION: DOES THE CLAIM THAT GOD IS 'HOLY' HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH REAL LIFE?



THIS IS A great question. And when it comes to 'real life', to talk about God as being 'holy' has everything to do with it. Real life is about knowing the God who made us and experiencing His help to live the kind of life He has in mind for us.

All of which involves taking into account what God is like – which is where 'holy' comes in. It is easy to imagine that God is much like a puppy dog – safe, agreeable and okay to take on – no matter what. But that's not how Jesus conveyed Him.

Not as 'safe' at all. That's not because God is nasty, cruel or vindictive, but because of the very substance of what He is. Let me try to explain.

Day by day you sit within reach of an electric socket and don't give it a second thought. Of course you are careful.

You don't stand in a bowl of water, lick your fingers and stick them in the sockets just for the fun of it. You are simply happy to use electricity to run your appliances.

But many miles from you a huge power station is generating raw, naked, electrical power.

This electricity is nothing like the few meager watts that help keep your hair curled, your model train chuffing or your toaster toasting.

No way. If this kind of electricity went straight into your home there would be a meltdown. Everything would be left as a charred blob on the landscape.

We can too easily assume the

great God of the universe to be like common domestic electricity. Tame. Safe. Manageable.

But those who heard Jesus' offer to follow Him knew God to be like the raw power that comes from the electricity plant.

The ancients had a technical word for this kind of power – 'holy'. God is holy. Pure, powerful and unspoiled goodness. A searchlight, not a flashlight. A forest fire, not a flickering match. A tsunami, not a wave.

And 'holiness' consumes anything that is not of the same substance – in the same way darkness is consumed by light, forests are consumed by fire and whole swathes of land are consumed by a tsunami.

What turns that raw electricity into a safe power that makes life work better?

A transforming sub-station. A go-between that stands between the ultimate power and us. And that is exactly what Jesus came to be – so we could have real life.

By His death on the cross Jesus stood between God and us – and goes on doing so.

Through our faith in Him we have a way to relate to an all powerful and 'holy' God. To know Him.

And to make it possible for that same God to be our strength and help. This is what makes 'real life' possible.

Peter Meadows is the co-author with Joseph Steinberg of *The Book of Y* the basis for the eight week Y Course that explores life's biggest questions.

NO TURNING BACK

● From page 1

“The next day, I burst into tears, uncontrollably. I felt filthy and convicted.”

Brandon decided to stop living his own way and committed to following Jesus.

A pivotal moment followed. “I told my friend, ‘I don’t want to be a homosexual anymore.’”

He had lived a homosexual lifestyle for 21 years but now his desire to be with men vanished.

Brandon left the rehab early – but not without a transformation. At home, Brandon returned to the same garage where he’d once lived in despair.

“I tidied the place and prayed. I asked God, ‘Where to from here?’”

He opened his Bible to Philippians 1:17 and read: “...knowing that I am set for the defense of the Gospel.”

Brandon knew he had found his purpose. “From that moment, I never stopped studying and reading the Word of God.”

Since then, Brandon has been discipled [mentored in how to live according to the teachings and example of Jesus], and is currently in his third year of theology, pursuing a two-year diploma in ministry through World Hope.

He is also completing an evangelism training program (EE3).

Brandon now lives a celibate life, free from his former addictions.

“I no longer smoke cigarettes or drink alcohol, my weed addiction is gone, I no longer watch porn, I no longer lie, steal, fornicate, commit adultery and I no longer work for Satan. My life isn’t perfect, and neither am I – but I know that *‘He who began a good work in me will bring it to completion’* (Philippians 1:6).”

Today, Brandon travels with international missionary teams, ministering in rehab centres, prisons, and schools.

“Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and that’s what He did for me,” Brandon said.

“Because of His death, burial, and resurrection, I have eternal life – and a life of purpose now.”

“Every morning when I wake up, I lay my life on the altar, I give it all up for my Saviour, the One who knows my tomorrows. I trusted in myself for 42 years and it brought me to a place of nothingness.

“I live my life with complete gratitude for my new life in Jesus Christ. He sustains me and I go to bed with peace and wake up with Joy, because He is true to His word. He says in Matthew 6:33: *‘Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.’*”

Even though Brandon has been unemployed for three years, God has provided.

“I lack nothing. God has put a desire in my heart for Him alone and I can’t live without Him.” ●



The garage where Brandon hit rock bottom – and began his journey back to life.

Fatherless no more

Life changed in the most tragic of ways for Mercido Banze when he was a child. His mother, who fell ill soon after giving birth to him, never recovered and died when he was eight.

His father never got over her death and, in Mercido’s words, “became a completely different person”.

He tells Challenge News: “He went from being a very present father to being someone who just wasn’t there.

“I grew up without the love of a mother or a father and I became very sad.”

Feeling like he had lost both parents instead of just one, Mercido says he began to hate his father. He started getting into fights – and then he discovered girls.

“I got involved with all sorts of immorality,” he admits. “I became a liar and got into debt with many people.”

Mercido laid the blame for his downward spiralling life squarely at his family’s feet. “By the time I was a teenager I was completely lost,” he shares.

Feeling he needed a fresh start, he left his family home and went to live with his brothers in the town of Maputo when he was 15.

It was there that he met the Person who didn’t just give him a fresh start but a whole new life.

Before she died, Mercido’s mother had brought her children to a place called Zion, which he thought was a church.

“But it wasn’t a Christian church,” he says. “It was a place for ancestor worship.”

In Maputo, Mercido heard a man preaching about worshipping someone else – Jesus Christ. The preacher quoted John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” ●

Mercido Banze



“That was the first time I heard about Jesus Christ. He was introduced to me as a loving God and as a Father.

“I decided to become a Christian because I was a nobody and I wanted to be somebody with an identity. Christ gave me a new identity.”

Mercido prayed and committed his life to Jesus. He confessed his sins, asked for forgiveness and said God gave him peace.

He spent the next nine days in prayer and fasting and says he experienced the Holy Spirit (the inner presence of God in the believer) in a powerful way.

Slowly but surely, Mercido’s life changed for the better. He began attending church after school and leaned on the friends he made there to help him overcome his struggle with immorality – a challenge he reports he eventually got the better of.

He says prayer and Bible study also helped him get on top of his destructive thought patterns – the bitterness and the unforgiveness towards his father being chief among them.

“Thanks to God, all my hope was restored and I was able to forgive my father. I am a new person, transformed.”

Today Mercido is on his way to becoming a fully-fledged pastor. He has finished his second year of Bible College and has only one more to go.

In his search for meaning in life he says everything points to the only one way, the true Way – Jesus Christ.

“The world will try to take away your identity and your hope but I want to tell you that nothing is lost and that God is willing to help you to become a new person,” he says.

“Don’t let the devil destroy your everything. The things that happen to you are not the end of your story. You can change the course of your life if you accept Christ today.

“The Bible says in 1John 1:9 that if we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

“Believe in that.” ●



Anke du Toit

FORGIVEN AND FREE

Anke du Toit recalls a wonderful childhood growing up in a close-knit family in East London in South Africa’s Eastern Cape.

“I was blessed with wonderful parents that raised me with good biblical standards,” the 19-year-old told Challenge News.

She said from as early as she can recall, she has had a personal relationship with God. And in grade seven she fully committed herself to following Him.

After she graduated high school, Anke participated in a Christian gap year programme and it was there that her relationship with God deepened.

“I started realising my own sin [wrongdoing against God],” she shared. “I was convicted and realised that I had struggled with sexual immorality. I felt unworthy.

How could I spread the Gospel [the good news that Jesus came to Earth to die for our sins] when I was so dirty? But God was faithful. He showed me a vision of how He had washed me clean and purified me.”

Anke said she now understands that sin, “stands in the way of my personal relationship with God.”

She added, “I now see how faithful He is in every detail and every aspect of my life. How blessed I am with a wonderful life, family and friends that love me. God renewed my identity in Christ and the way I viewed myself.

“Since I have been really committed to God, He has given me compassion and a heart for people. My relationships with my family and friends have grown stronger and stronger and now I am really excited for my purpose in life.”

Anke said God loves everyone, despite our sin.

“God is super faithful and wants to spend time with you. He loves and adores you specifically and just wants to be your Father, your Daddy, even though we (humans) are the ones that nailed Him to the cross.” Anke encouraged people to seek God’s forgiveness, trust Him and follow in His footsteps. ●

“ I am really excited for my purpose in life. ”

HOPE AFTER HEARTBREAK

● From page 1

Since making the decision to renew her faith, Caylin has gone through “an intense and ongoing process of inner healing” as well as prayer and mentoring from her leaders at the programme.

“God is restoring my innocence and identity in Him. Today I believe that I am worthy and accepted in Jesus Christ.”

Much has changed for Caylin since then. She has found a new purpose for her life through her gift of music and a new desire for marriage.

“I believe that I have a purpose on this earth and that is to honour God with the gift of music He has given me. He has healed my

heart and showed me what it is to really love unconditionally. And now I am ready to do the same.

“I also have a desire to get married and I am so thankful that God restored my view on marriage. I believe that marriage does work and with God’s principles and guidance as the centre point, it is a wonderful thing.”

Caylin admits that the Christian walk is a “narrow road” but she finds that having a real relationship with God makes all the difference.

“He is real and He still works miracles!” she proclaims. “I have hope and peace even when my circumstances are really tough. I have learned to be bold and brave and I desire only to try and represent Jesus well.” ●



Illustration by Between Sundays

English translation

Living life to the fullest

Patrick Mudenda knew something was missing in his life, but he didn't realise what it was until he hit his teens and early twenties.

Raised by a Christian mother, he knew about God and attended church from the time he was a child – but that was the extent of his relationship with God. Then when he was about 12, he heard a pastor preaching about the true meaning of salvation.

“That sermon made me evaluate myself,” Patrick tells Challenge News.

“I realised I was just a church-goer without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As he preached, I thought of how I lived my life. Despite attending church, I was not living right.

“I was not living right.”

“The pastor gave an [opportunity to respond to the good news about Jesus]. I responded, went up and received Jesus Christ.”

The 26-year-old says that was when he began to get a fuller picture of what it meant to be a Christian.

“I developed the desire to pray more and study the Scriptures. It totally changed my personal relationship with Christ. I discovered it's one thing to be a committed church-goer but another to have an intimate walk with Him.”

Patrick says the pastor of the church he was attending sensed there was a call on this young man's life and challenged him to “get serious about discipleship”.

His advice to Patrick came from the book of John 15:7 – “if you abide in Me and I in you, then whatever you ask in My name it shall be given unto you.”

“The pastor taught me that to be able to overcome life's challenges I needed to abide in Him; for me to receive all that God had for me I had to abide in Him. So I dedicated myself to fasting, prayer, studying the Scriptures and attending seminars.”

He also began sharing his faith in schools and churches and is now a youth pastor at his church in South Africa. His previous pastor's instincts proved spot-on and Patrick is now studying for his degree in theology.

He now speaks from a heart that is overflowing. He says: “I want to reach out to the world to take the good news everywhere.”

Portuguese translation

Viver a vida ao máximo

Patrick Mudenda sabia que algo estava a faltar na sua vida, mas não percebeu o que era até chegar à adolescência e ao início dos seus vinte anos. Criado por uma mãe cristã, ele conhecia Deus e frequentava a igreja desde criança, mas essa era a extensão da sua relação com Deus.

Então, quando tinha cerca de 12 anos, ouviu um pastor a pregar sobre o verdadeiro significado da salvação.

“Aquele sermão fez-me avaliar a mim mesmo”, conta Patrick ao Challenge News.

“Percebi que era apenas um frequentador da igreja, sem uma relação pessoal com Jesus Cristo. Enquanto ele pregava, pensei em como vivia a minha vida. Apesar de frequentar a igreja, não estava a viver corretamente.

O pastor deu uma [oportunidade de responder às boas novas sobre Jesus]. Eu respondi, fui até lá e recebi Jesus Cristo.”

O jovem de 26 anos diz que foi então que começou a ter uma visão mais completa do que significava ser cristão.

“Desenvolvi o desejo de orar mais e estudar as Escrituras. Isso mudou totalmente o meu relacionamento pessoal com Cristo. Descobri que uma coisa é ser um frequentador assíduo da igreja, mas outra coisa é ter um relacionamento íntimo com Ele.”

Patrick diz que o pastor da igreja que ele frequentava percebeu que havia um chamado na vida desse jovem e o desafiou a “levar a sério o discipulado”.

O seu conselho a Patrick veio do livro de João 15:7 – “Se vocês permanecerem em mim e eu em vocês, pedirão o que quiserem, e lhes será concedido.”

“O pastor me ensinou que, para ser capaz de superar os desafios da vida, eu precisava permanecer nele; para receber tudo o que Deus tinha para mim, eu precisava permanecer nele.

“Então, dediquei-me ao jejum, à oração, ao estudo das Escrituras e à participação em seminários.”

Ele também começou a partilhar a sua fé em escolas e igrejas e agora é pastor de jovens na sua igreja na África do Sul. Os instintos do seu antigo pastor revelaram-se certos e Patrick agora está a estudar para obter o seu diploma em teologia.

Ele agora fala com um coração transbordante. Ele diz: “Quero alcançar o mundo para levar as boas novas a todos os lugares.”

Traduzido com a versão gratuita do tradutor - DeepL.com

Sesotho translation

Ho phela bophelo bo felletseng

Patrick Mudenda o ne a tseba hore ho na le ntho e haellang bophelong ba hae, empa o ne a sa eellwe hore na ke eng ho fihlela a fihla dilemong tsa botjha le tse qalang.

A hodisitswe ke Mme wa Mokreste, mme a kena kereke ho tloha ha esa le ngwana, empa hoo e ne ele tekanyo ya kamano ya hae le Modimo.

Jwale ha a le dilemo di ka bang 12, o ile a utlwa Moruti a ruta ka se hlileng se bolelwang ke poloko.

Thero eo e ile ya etsa hore ke itlhahlobe, Patrick o bolella Challenge News.

Ke ile ka eellwa hore ke motho ya kenang kereke feela



Patrick Mudenda

ya se nang kamano ya botho le Jesu Kreste.

Moruti o ile a fana ka monyetla wa ho arabela ditabeng tse molemo tse mabapi le Jesu. Ke ile ka arabela, ka nyolloha mme ka amohela Jesu Kreste.

Moshanyana ya dilemo di 26 o re ke nakong eo a ileng a qalaho utlwisisa haholwanyane hore na ho ba Mokreste ho bolelang.

Ke ile ka hlaolela takatso ya ho rapela haholwanyane le ho ithuta Mangolo. Ho ile ha fetola kamano ya ka ya botho le Kreste ka ho feletseng.

Patrick o re moruti wa kereke eo a neng a kena ho yona o ile a utlwa hore ho na le pitso bophelong ba mohlan-kana enwa mme a mo phephetsa hore a ikemisetsa ho ba morutuwa.

Keletso ya hae ho Patrick e tswa bukeng ya Johanne 15:7 - Haeba le dula ho nna le nna ka ho lona, eng kapa eng eo le e kopang ka lebitso laka le tlae fuwa.

Moruti o nthole hore ho kgona ho hlola diqholotso tsa bophelo ke hloka ho dula ho Yena, hore ke fumane tsohle tseo Modimo a neng a nale sona bakeng sa ka ke ne ke tlameha ho dula ho Yena.

Kahoo ke ile ka inehela ho itima dijo, ho rapela, ho ithuta Mangolo le ho ya dithupelong.

O ile a boela a qala ho arolelana tumelo ya hae dikolong le dikerekeng mme hona jwale ke moruti wa batjha kerekeng yahae ya Afrika Borwa. Maikutlo a hae a pele a moruti a ipakile a le teng, mme Patrick ose a ithutela lengolo la hae la thuto ya bodumedi.

Jwale o bua ka pelo e kgaphatshang. O re: “Ke batla ho ya lefatsheng lohle ho bolela ditaba tse molemo hohle.”

Shona translation

KURARAMA HUPENYU HUNOFASHUKIRA

Patrick Mudenda aiziva kuti pane chaishai kwa muhupenyu hwake, asi haana kuziva kuti chaive chii kusvika ave nemakore gumi nemaviri zvi-chienda kumakore ekuyaruka.

Akarerwa namai vake avo vainamata, aiziva nezvaMwari uye aienda kucheche kubva achiri mwana - asi ndipo paigumira ukama hwake naMwari.

Paanga ave nemakore gumi nemaviri, akanzwa mufundisi vachiparidza zvinoreva kuponeswa kwechokwadi.

“Mharidzo iyoyo yakaita kuti ndizviongorore kuti ndakaponeswa zvemazviro kwazvo here,” Patrick anoudza veChallenge News.

“Ndakaona kuti ndaingova munhu aienda kucheche ndisina ukama naJesu Kristu. Paiparidza, mufundisi ndakafungisisa mararamiro andaita, pasinei nokuenda kucheche, ndakanga ndisiri kurarama zvakanaka.

“Mufundisi akapa mukana wokugamuchira Jesu saIshe neMuponesi.” Ndakasimuka ndikaenda mberi ndokugamuchira Jesu Kristu muupenyu hwangu saishe neMuponesi wehupenyu hwangu.

Murume ane makore 26 okuzvarwa anoti ndipo paakatangana kunyatsonzwisisa zvazvaireva kuva muKristu.

“Ndakava nechidokwa dokwa chekuda kunyengetera uye kudzidza Magwaro. Zvakashandura ukama hwangu naKristu. Ndakaona kuti pane musiyano wemunhu akazvipira kuenda kucheche nekufamba pedyo naJesu.”

Patrick anoti mufundisi wake akaona kuti aive akadanwa naMwari, ndokumukurudzira kuti “asimbe nekurevesa kuve mudzidzi akure munaKristu.”

Mufundisi vakapa, Patrick, kuruziwo inobva mushoko panaJohanne 15:7 - “kana muchigara mandiri, nemashoko angu mamuri, Kumbirai zvamunoda muchazviitirwa.”

“Mufundisi akandidzidzisa kuti ndikagara muna Jesu Kristu ndichakunda zvipingaidzo zveupenyu; uye kuti ndiitirwe zvese zvandakagadzirirwa naMwari.

“Saka ndakazvipira kutsanya, kunyengetera, kudzidza Magwaro nekuenda kumisanganano.”

Akatangawo kugoverana kutenda kwake muzvikoro nemacheche uye zvino ava mufundisi wemajaya nemhara pacheche yaanopinda muSouth Africa. Zvakaonekwa namufundisi wake vakamupoaridzira zviri kuratidza kuti ichokwadi pari zvino Patrick akuendera mberi nekudzidza zvfundo zveBhaibheri achiita Degree in Theology.

Ava kutaura zvizhibva pakadzika dzika pemoyo wake achiti: “Ndinoda kusvikira kunyika dzose ndichiparidza shoko reruponeso kuvanhu vese.”

Zulu translation

Ukuphila Impilo ephelele

Patrick Mudenda wayazi ukuthi kukhona okushodayo empilweni yakhe, kodwa wayengazi ukuthi kuyini waze waba ibhungu. Wakhuliswa umama okholwayo wayazi ngoNkulunkulu futhi ebuntwaneni bakhe wayeya esontweni-babulapho ubudlelwano bakhe noNkulunkulu.

Kwathi eneminyaka ewu12, wezwa umfundisi eshumayela ngokuthi kusho ukuthini ukusindiswa.

“Leyontshumayelo yenza ukuthi ngizihlolisise,” uPatrick etshela iChallenge news.

“Ngazibona ukuthi ngiyisihambi sesonto ngaphandle kobudlelwano noJesu. Eqhubeka eshumayela ngacabanga ngendlela engiphila ngayo. Noma ngangiya esontweni, ngangingaphili kahle.” Umfundisi (wasinika ithuba lokuziphendulela kulezindaba ezimnandi mayelana noJesu). Ngazinikela, ngasukuma ngamukela u Jesu Kristu.”

Lona oneminyaka ewu26 uthi waqala lapho ukuqonda ukuthi kusho ukuthini ukuba ikholwa.

“Ngaqala ukulangazelela ukuthandaza nokufunda imibhalo.

Lokho kwaguqula ubudlelwano bami noKristu. Ngafunda ukuthi kwahlukile ukuba umkhonzi nokuba nobudlelwano noKristu.”

UPatrick uthi umfundisi webandla ayekulo wabona ukuthi unobizo “wamkhuthaza ukuthi afunde ngokuzimisela.”

Iseluleko sakhe kuPatrick sivela encwadini kaJohanne 15:7-“Uma uhlala kimi nami kuwe, uyocela ngabe ini egameni Lami uyokwenzelwa.”

“Umfundisi wangifundisa ukuthi ukuze ngikwazi ukunqoba izinselelo zempilo ngidinga ukuhlala Kuye; ukuze nami ngithole konke uNkulunkulu angibekele kona ngidinga ukuhlala Kuye.

“Ngazinikela ekuzileni, nokuthandaza, nokufunda imibhalo nokuhamba inkonzo zokuqeqeshwa.”

Waqala wakhuluma ngokukholwa kwakhe ezikoleni nasemasontweni usengumfundisi wabasha esontweni lakubo eSouth Africa. Imiyalelo kamfundisi wakhe yaba iyona njengoba esefundela ukuba umfundisi. Usekhuluma ngenhliziyo ephuphumayo. Uthi: “ufisa ukufinyelela umhlaba wonke ngevangeleli.”

I STOPPED BELIEVING IN EVOLUTION

BY NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN, CMI

As far as Dr Boris Fung was concerned, there was nothing theoretical about the Big Bang theory – it was fact.

The right material at the right time coming together to make copies of itself? Check.

The progressive generation of structures of increasing complexity while adding encyclopedic amounts of new information? Check.

Evolving into ever more advanced

forms without plan or purpose? Check. This is what evolutionists claim happens over time. Boris believed it too.

Today he has a completely different conviction – that these speculations are not proven in the laboratory or supported by the facts, and lack concrete evidence.

Since becoming a Christian while in medical school he now believes in the biblical account of creation.

Boris was born to a non-Christian family in Hong Kong and didn't have any contact with the Bible until his first year in high school in the late 1960s, where it was taught as part of the curriculum – and dismissed it as a collection of fairy tales.

"The sad thing was that I did not study the pros and cons of creation versus evolution," he revealed. "I believed in evolution without really thinking about it. In hindsight, I suspect this was because I wanted to 'do my own thing'. I did not want to be answerable to the Creator."

The turning point for Boris came in medical school as he learned about the complexity of the human body.

He explained: "An ordinary cell has a cell membrane which is selectively permeable to



Dr Boris Fung



Dr Boris Fung (centre) with his family.

some substances and impermeable to others.

"Harmful substances are kept out and only good substances are welcomed into the cells. I had to ask myself, 'Could this arrangement come about purely by chance?'"

"As I learned of the many additional characteristics specific to individual cells, many of them vastly more complex than the membrane, I began to wonder – could the random arrangement of certain atoms and molecules really eventually form the first proteins, phospholipids, and mucopolysaccharides?"

"And after that, the first cell, after some hundreds of millions of years, as claimed by evolution theory?"

The extremely complex interplay of the genetic materials that govern the formation of biological molecules further amazed him.

"It was at that point that I realised there had to be a Creator who has made us in His image," he conceded. "I consequently started to attend church and eventually believed in Jesus as the Son of God who died for my sins."

Boris' field of expertise is the

human hand. "Our hand is quite different from that of a chimpanzee. Our fingers have better sensation than those of chimps."

"This is so superb in the fingertips that we can differentiate two points as little as 2-3mm apart. We have a longer, opposable thumb, and numerous small hand muscles to carry out the orders from our mind."

"All that is essential for us to build our modern society. A large cortical area in the brain is allocated for the sensation, proprioception (sensing position and movement in space), and motor functions of the hand."

These "built-in" features allow him to perform intricate procedures such as reattaching of severed digits or joining arteries of less than a millimeter in diameter.

Though his journey with God had begun, staying close to Him proved challenging.

"I was drawn away by the values of this world. Furthermore, the demands of my training and specialty examinations led to a distant relationship with God."

A fresh awakening didn't occur until his early 40s when he realised

that nothing in this world could satisfy except God's words. "I enrolled in Bible Study Fellowship," he recounted, "and finished the seven-year series."

Another milestone in his Christian walk occurred after he and his wife Betty became parents – and clashed over how to raise their daughter Bettina.

They attended a church parenting seminar by biochemist Esther Su, who said the key to raising children was simple – "parents should follow the instructions in the Life Manual that God gave us – i.e., the Bible. Otherwise it is like violating instructions from a car manufacturer and putting water instead of petrol in the fuel tank," Boris said. "That simple message of reading and obeying God's words has taken many years to become our lifestyle," he admitted.

"We still have our ups and downs. But we know how to face life's difficulties, sufferings, and even physical death because we are longing for a better life in eternity."

"Something that Dr Su said repeatedly has left a deep impression in our minds: Christianity is not a 'religion' in the sense in which many understand that word."

"Rather, it is all about us as God's children being willing to build a loving relationship with our Father in Heaven."

Boris sees the crucial importance of creation outreach. He said: "It was unsettling for us to discover that a significant number of Christians no longer believe in a literal six-24-hour-day creation and a young Earth."

"How can we believe the rest of the Bible if the opening chapters are not true as written? The whole Bible must be consistent from Genesis to Revelation because it is God's words through man."

"Our problem is that we want to understand God's wonderful creation through our limited minds. We need to realise that our existence and thinking is still bounded by time, space and our own mortality." •

HOW DO I BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

Anyone can gain the eternal life offered through Jesus Christ

We read in God's word: "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16)

OUR PROBLEM:	Separation from God "Everyone has sinned. Nobody is good enough because God's standards are perfect" (Romans 3:23)	ADMIT
GOD'S REMEDY / SOLUTION:	Jesus died on the cross "God demonstrates His own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8)	BELIEVE
OUR RESPONSE:	Trust Jesus by receiving Him "To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12)	COMMIT

Here is an example of how you can pray.

Dear Father in Heaven. I come to you now because I want to be saved. Please, forgive me of my sins. I believe that you sent your Son Jesus Christ to die for me and that you have raised him from the dead. I now ask Jesus Christ to come into my life as my Saviour and Lord. Take control of my life. Please make me the person You created me to be. In Jesus Christ's name. Amen

The Lord Jesus says: "I tell you the truth. Everyone who believes in me has eternal life." (John 6:47). He gives life of a wonderful quality that continues forever.

What now?

1. Tell someone - either a Christian that you know or email us at info@challengenews.org
2. Use the resources in the green box on this page to find a Bible to read and more information regarding Christianity.
3. Keep praying. Talk to God anywhere, about anything. He is always listening, and you don't need a formula.
4. Reach out to the ministry that distributed this paper (see back page) and/or find a Bible-teaching church to attend.

AS A NEXT STEP: Please send me: Bible Some 'starting off' literature Information on a helpful church

I have prayed the prayer [ABOVE]

* Please tick and write clearly *

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Email to: sachallengenews@gmail.com

Out of South Africa enquiries are referred onto someone in their own country

Want to explore more?

Here are some free, helpful, Christian online resources

Online Bible - Olive Tree app (we recommend that you start with an easy-to-read version like the ESV)	Audio Bible - Bible.is app , or Youversion Bible app
Christian radio stations - CBN radio app, Trans World Radio and Radio Pulpit	Christian podcasts and sermons - Edifi app
Christian movies, serials and kids' shows - Good. app	Daily thoughts and inspiration - Our Daily Bread app
Advice on specific issues, Bible reading plans and studies for new believers - Youversion Bible app .	The Bible explained with visual aides - Bible Project on YouTube .
Alpha Film Series on Youtube - an online introduction to Christianity	For kids - Superbook Kids Bible, videos and games app
Jesus Film project - 200+ videos in 2000+ languages jesusfilm.org/app youtube.com/@jesusfilm	Christian comics/manga - goodandevilbook.com and Manga Messiah app

YMI - Christian news outlet for young adults with devotionals and resources. **ymi.today**

More inspiring faith stories - **back issues of Challenge News at challengenews.online**

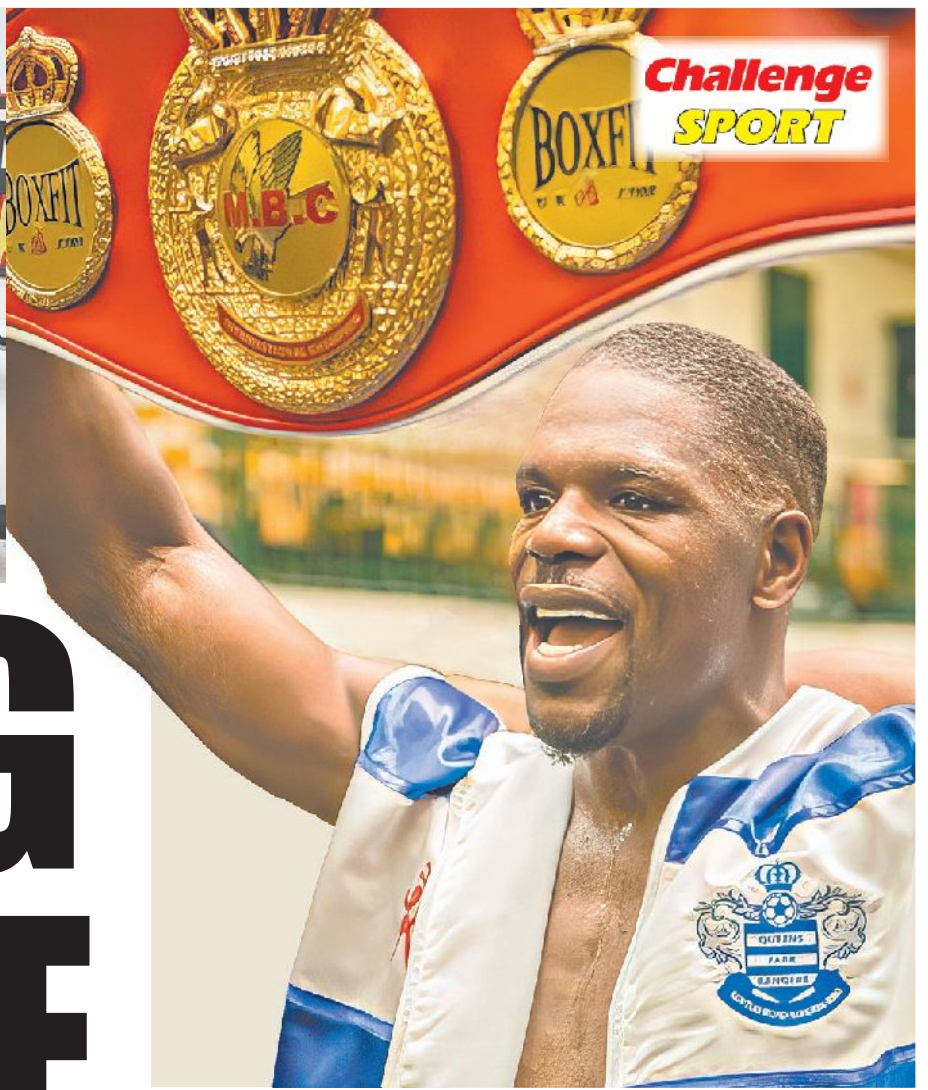
NEED PRAYER ?

Let us pray for you!
Phone toll-free: 0801 229 015
WhatsApp: 079 375 3345
Visit: needprayer.co.za

DR BORIS FUNG was born in Hong Kong. He earned his B.Sc. (Hons) from the University of the East, Manila, and his M.D. from the University of East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Manila.

After returning to Hong Kong, he worked in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Queen Mary Hospital. Following training and examinations, he was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and also as a Fellow in Orthopaedic Surgery through the same institution. He sub-specialised in hand and wrist surgery and was actively involved in clinical research. He has authored/co-authored 65 published papers. Dr Fung was also involved in teaching and was Honorary Associate Professor in the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, University of Hong Kong.





FIGHTING FOR HOPE

UK professional boxer Mark Prince won 20 out of 21 fights, including the World Boxing Organisation intercontinental light-heavyweight title in 1997.
Photos: facebook.com/dmarkprinceobe.

In May 2006, successful UK professional boxer Mark Prince's life fell apart at the seams.

His 15-year-old son Kiyán, a promising soccer player with Queens Park Rangers club, was stabbed to death while trying to stop a fight in London.

"It was my worst nightmare come true," he told YouTube channel TNT Sports Boxing.

"I think I lost my mind... I made some mad, crazy, screaming, crying noises... My heart was torn up."

Mark was no stranger to tough times. His father, he told Stephen Tomkins from Christian publication *Reform Magazine*, had been a harsh disciplinarian.

"This was the only thing that spoiled my childhood," Mark said.

"He beat us to the point of emotional damage. He beat my sister one time till she couldn't see out of one eye."

As a teenager, Mark ran away from home.

"I was on the streets at 15, bumming around, sleeping in cars, just surviving really."

"I was a hurting kid, wanting love and attention."

I met new people; they introduced me to weed. All my problems seemed to go away when I was smoking and drinking.

"I got into the mindset of the streets: the only way to 'make it' and get the clothes and the cars was crime."

"I was doing fraud, robberies."

"More friends and more drugs came into the picture."

He lived like that for six years, and then suddenly woke up – both literally and figuratively – when he was 21.

"Something happened to me. I remember waking up, looking at my friends smoking a crack pipe, and just felt like a waste of life."

"I used to believe I was going

to be somebody. I had this crazy thought: What can I do? Well, I can fight. Why don't I use what I've got? I wonder if I can transform my reputation from the streets into the ring as a professional."

Which was exactly what he did. Immersing himself in his chosen sport, he went on to win 20 out of 21 fights, including the World Boxing Organisation intercontinental light-heavyweight title in 1997.

It was during that time that he

also began to think more deeply about his upbringing.

"I'd been brought up to know God," he said.

"When I grew up we sang hymns and had Bible texts, we had that sense that there was a greater power, and you valued someone else's life."

"In 1997, I began to investigate what impact it had on my life, and I began to fall in love with God for myself."

"It made me a calmer person, more purposeful. I went through a lot of healing."

Then in 2006 came the phone call that changed his life forever. It was from his daughter Tannisa, who was screaming down the phone that his son, Kiyán, had been stabbed.

"I said a prayer to save my son from getting killed, but what I said was: 'Please help me to accept it if this does happen.'"

"I thought: 'Where do you even have the sense to come out with that?' But now I've gone through it, I look back and I know it is accepting what's happened in life that allows you to move on."

"Many people are still in the same place – in pain and in hurt and anger – because they can't accept what's happened."

At the hospital, he saw things that would "never leave [his] head and experienced pain unlike anything before."

And then there was the rage – so intense that he smashed his fists into the hospital walls and left blood trails everywhere.

Then through the agonising fog, he heard God ask him: "Do you trust Me to bring something good out of something horrible like this?"

"I told God I couldn't fight this anger, and felt like I had to kill this guy [Kiyán's killer], but I had to let



Boxer Mark Prince holds his OBE medal, awarded to him during an investiture ceremony at Buckingham Palace, on March 19, 2019 in London, England. (Photo by Dominic Lipinski - WPA Pool/Getty Images)

go of that. I had to accept that God is still in charge.

"God gives and God takes away. I prayed that prayer and I cried like a baby, and said: 'Show me what You need me to do.'"

There was no bringing Kiyán back, but there was a way to forever honour his life.

After he died, Mark founded the Kiyán Prince Foundation, a charity in memory of his son.

"I began getting invitations to speak. I felt this was God working and I needed to say yes."

The foundation works to stop knife crime and youth violence. It organises seminars and provides mentoring and physical fitness programmes, all aimed at steering youth in the right direction.

Mark poured himself into this work so completely that he was awarded an OBE in 2019 for his role in battling knife crime.

That same year, the stadium where the Queens Park Rangers trained was officially renamed the Kiyán Prince Foundation Stadium.

But Mark never forgot it was God

who picked him up and breathed new life into him when he had no strength left. Receiving the Helen Rollason Award for outstanding achievement in the face of adversity in December, he said:

"I am proud that at a time when everything seemed like there was no hope, that I stayed believing and trusting that Jesus Christ my

“
I was doing fraud, robberies.
”

Saviour was going to use me to do great things still in the name of my son. I'm proud of the fact that I didn't give into revenge.

"I didn't give into bitterness and anger and unforgiveness and all the

things which try to hold onto us as human beings. God has given us a choice, we can choose no matter what happens to us... we've got a power of choice. We can choose how we deal with it.

"We haven't got the choice of what happens, but we have the choice of how we deal with it." •

Some material in this story was used with kind permission from *Reform Magazine*, along with information from other sources such as YouTube.

