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MY FIRST CHRISTMAS

GIFT

After Rwanda's brutal genocide, five-year-old Alex Nsengimana found himself in an orphanage, where he received his first ever Christmas gift. That shoebox planted a seed of hope within him that helped him begin to make sense of the trauma he had lived through. Now Alex shares that hope with others.



Alex Nsengimana as a child growing up in Rwanda.

To say Alex Nsengimana has faced trauma in his life would be a massive understatement. One of his earliest memories is of his mother dying of HIV/AIDS. Then, during the genocide, family members he lived with were brutally murdered in front of him. Somehow though, he still manages to be thankful for the blessings in his life.

After his mother died, Alex and his siblings went to live with their grandmother and uncles. They lived in poverty, sleeping on banana leaf beds. Their grandmother took them to church, and Alex recalls feeling jealous of the altar boys. At just four, he decided he wanted to be

a priest.

When Alex was five, ethnic violence swept through Rwanda. Hutu militias began targeting the Tutsi minority.

"It was so brutal; this hatred was so ingrained in people's lives that a neighbour never saw a neighbour anymore as a human being and the dehumanisation went on for years and years." Alex told Paul Hastings of the Compelled podcast.

On April 7, 1994, Alex awoke to the sounds of bombs. Soon, men stormed their house.

"We were watching through the window. It was the toughest day. It was rough because these people were not strangers. These were our neighbours. And it wasn't a gun. It was just literally beating our grandmother to death with sticks."

Not long after, Alex's uncle was also killed.

"We were right there, closing our ears," Alex remembered. "They shot him through the ribs... As little kids standing there and watching that, that [destroyed] me, my brother and my sister very deeply and years later would reap the consequences of that trauma."

The children fled to their aunt's home in Kigali, where nineteen other people were sheltering. One day, a militia member discovered them. "And he is looking at us and he's yelling at us to lie down and he went to load his gun. In the process of loading his gun, the magazine fell out of the gun and his bullets fell to the ground."

Alex's life was spared again when a bullet narrowly missed his head. Eventually, Tutsi rebels captured Kigali and ended the genocide. In just 100 days, up to one million people were murdered, 500,000 women raped, and 95,000 children orphaned.



In 2013 Alex returned to the Rwandan orphanage where he used to live to deliver gifts for Operation Christmas Child.

Life after the genocide

The violence had ended, but the effects continued. Soon after, Alex's aunt and her husband died. His sister went to live with family friends, while Alex and his brother were placed in an orphanage. "After three months on the run, the trauma we had been unable to process was catching up with us. In the middle of the night, there were screams after screams in the orphanage, because the kids are

reliving exactly what they saw." The orphanage encouraged the children to pursue faith. Remembering his grandmother's example, Alex began attending church. "I memorised scripture and prayers, but I did not have relationship with the Lord."

That Christmas, Alex received a shoebox gift through Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child.

"That was the very first time I got to receive a gift. When we got to receive that gift, the orphanage

shared with us about Jesus Christ being the greatest gift of all. For me, a seed was planted but I didn't know what kind of seed it was."

Seeds of faith


After two years, Alex and his brother joined the African Children's Choir, a Christian organisation providing education and care for orphans. In Uganda, Alex learned English and more about Jesus.

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BACK PAGE



MORE THAN
MEDALS

CINDY SEMBER

Never the same again

BY FAY FOSTER

IT STARTED AS just another night at work for the shepherds around Bethlehem.

Taking care of sheep was a 24-hours-a-day job, so the shepherds lived out in the open with their sheep. They made, or found, 'folds' in which to keep the sheep at night. A fold could be a cave, a circle of stones with some branches or thorns for a roof, or a basic shed.

Each day, the shepherds led their flocks out of the fold to find pasture, then at night, once all the sheep were counted back into the fold, they would lie across the door of the fold to protect their flock. Thieves, wolves, lions and bears were constant dangers. It is very likely that the shepherds took turns to sleep.

Shepherding was considered an unskilled job, and

shepherds were on the lowest levels of society. How amazing then is this account from Luke chapter 2, verses 8-14, of the night when Jesus was born:

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will

find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly hosts appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on Earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.'"



● Turn to page 2

MY FIRST CHRISTMAS GIFT

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“I started to think, does God love me? Does God really care?... The Bible said we were all created in the image of God, and that God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for all of us for all of our sins.

“As a nine-year-old boy in Uganda, I’m thinking, how can a God who loves all of His children in this world, who created all of us in this world, watch a million of his children being killed in Rwanda?”

“He loves me so much. He loves us so much that He sent His son Jesus Christ to die on cross for me then why would He watch while my grandmother and my uncle were being killed in front of me? How about the people who killed my grandmother and my uncle, does He love them? Did He send His Son Jesus Christ to die for them on the cross? I was so angry... But the more I got angry, the more I pointed fingers at God, the more I missed out on the miracles that he did to protect me because I had never processed that I’m alive, that I walked through it for three months and nothing happened to me.”

While reading the Bible, Alex came across Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans of welfare and not of evil, to give you a future



Alex spending a moment with his surviving uncle who cared for Alex and his siblings during the opening days of the Rwandan genocide.

and hope.”

He reflected on the miracles in his life – that his mother’s HIV virus was not passed to him, that a gun jammed, that he survived bullets and explosions, and that a shoebox gift had planted the Gospel in his heart.

“When I saw that God’s presence was with me from the day I was born, that’s when I specifically invited Jesus Christ in my life, to be the Lord of my life.”

Processing the past

On tour with the African Chil-

dren’s Choir in America, Alex’s chaperone Christine encouraged him to share his story.

“The more I did that, the more I realized I was actually processing.”

Christine asked him, “What would you do if you saw the person who had caused you the most pain in your life?”

Alex already knew: “I would kill them.” He began to pray instead: “Lord help me to heal that one day I can actually see them. I can see them face to face and tell them what You have done.”

Over time, he realized that God even loved those who had hurt him. “We will never ever forget about that pain. But that pain doesn’t have to define who we are.”

A new life and a new mission

When Alex was 14, he and his brother were adopted by an American family.

Every Christmas, he packed shoe-

boxes for Operation Christmas Child – the same kind of gift that had once given him hope. That eventually led to an internship and then a job with the organization.

In 2013, at age 24, Alex returned to Rwanda to distribute shoeboxes at the same orphanage where he had once lived. With help from the director of the prison system, Alex was able to meet the man who had killed his uncle.

“**Forgiveness is not easy, but it is possible.**”

“It was the toughest day of my life. I’ve never been so nervous in my life.”

Alex shook the man’s hand and prayed with him.

“I shared how God had transformed me and that God loved him too.”

Alex says he can never forget what happened to his grandmother and uncle, but he now knows that doesn’t have to define him. “The journey of forgiveness is not easy, but it is possible.”

This article is adapted from an interview with Alex by Compelled Podcast. To listen to it and other stories, visit compelledpodcast.com.

Never the same again

• From page 1

Sometimes God does things quietly. But on this occasion, this holy night, He announced the birth of His Son Jesus with a sky full of angels, with singing and light and prophecies.

The second chapter of Luke’s gospel, verse 15, tells us that after the angels had made their stunning announcement, they returned to heaven, leaving the shepherds in the fields.

Having witnessed this spectacular direct-from-heaven announcement, the shepherds were clearly expected to do something about it! Why else would the angel tell them they would know they had the right baby when they saw Him wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger? And how could they NOT respond on such an amazing night?

So the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about” (verse 16).

I suspect that none of the shepherds stayed in the fields that night – hopefully God looked after the sheep on this very special occasion.

We don’t know how long it took the shepherds to walk to Bethlehem, or how they managed to find the right building. Luke just tells us that they “found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the manger”. And once they had seen the baby for themselves, they couldn’t stop talking about what had happened. Everyone who heard them was amazed at what the shepherds said to them (verses 17-18).

The shepherds returned to their flocks, but they would never be the same again. They had seen and heart things that filled them with a new kind of faith. As they walked back to the fields, they glorified and praised God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Sometimes, when we decide to act of the good news we have heard, God provides such great evidence of His truth that we are overwhelmed with the reality and the goodness of it all. And we will never be the same again.

This article was first published in *Salvos Magazine* and is used with kind permission.

Coffee Break CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

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 - 21 Bath stopper
 - 22 Good-looking, ... man
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- 2 Farm harvest
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- 12 Shrek’s bestie
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Smile files...



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Ask Y: Peter Meadows answers your questions about God

QUESTION: IF JESUS WAS SUCH A GOOD PERSON HOW COME HE ENDED UP BEING EXECUTED?



YOU ARE RIGHT – no one could ever say Jesus was anything other than ‘good’. And that has to be the greatest understatement of all time.

So how come He died strung up like a common criminal? The answer – amazing as it must sound – is that this was God’s plan from the start.

The significance of Jesus’ death is ultimately wrapped up in who He was and what He came to do. You see Jesus didn’t stumble onto the stage of history.

The script had already been written – with Him as the central character.

Jesus was to be the kingpin of God’s rescue plan. The one who would deliver us all from the mess we’ve created.

The Jewish scriptures had been promising such a deliverer for hundreds of years.

They made clear statements – prophecies – recorded centuries before Jesus was ever born. This included specific details about the One who would come as the deliverer, such as –

- He would be born in Bethlehem and of a virgin
 - He would be betrayed by a friend and sold for 30 pieces of silver
 - He would be struck and spat on
 - His hands and feet would be pierced – and so would His side
 - The soldiers would throw dice for His clothes but would not break even a bone of his body
 - He would be buried in a rich man’s grave – and would rise again from the dead
- Imagine the odds for any one

person living a life that matched even a few of these prophecies. Yet Jesus fulfilled them all. Without doubt He was THE One.

And God took all that trouble because of what the death of Jesus was designed to accomplish.

He was to die as a sacrifice to pay the debt all of us owe to God for failing to live His way.

The picture becomes clear when you take account of what happened at the time Jesus died. The record shows that at midday the sky went black – as black as midnight.

Again this had been foretold. Over 800 years before a Jewish prophet, Amos, wrote, “*In that day, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will make the sun go down at noon and make the earth dark in broad daylight.*” (Amos 8:9)

That darkness points to the magnitude of what was taking place. It was a picture of the way Jesus had been abandoned due to our sin – and for the first time separated from his Father as He called out “*My God, My God why have You forsaken Me?*”

As Jesus became the curse of the world he drowned in our sin on a midnight afternoon.

And it was all for us – to make our forgiveness possible and so we can be clean and comfortable in God’s presence.

But, of course, that calls for a response from us – one that calls for us to trust God with our life.

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.

“God seeks to influence humanity. This is at the heart of the Christmas story. It is the story of light coming into the darkness, of a Saviour to show us the way, of light overcoming the darkness, of God’s work to save the world.” – Adam Hamilton

SAVED BY A MIRACLE

By the age of nine months Carmen "Cari" Aucamp had gone through a brain operation and at age four went through a second brain operation. She had a couple of other health issues and surgeries during her childhood, spending a lot of time in hospital.

"My childhood was hard, dealing with my health issues and being rejected because I was slower than the other children in class and sports," Cari tells *Challenge News*.

"I changed schools a lot. It was difficult to get a school that could accommodate me. It was a hard journey for me."

Although Cari was raised by Christian parents, she found it difficult to see the purpose for her hardships.

"I struggled to understand the will of God for my life and why I needed to go through what I went through."

But after hearing from her parents about a miraculous incident that happened when she was a baby and a young child, Cari made a decision.

"I heard the gospel [good news about Jesus Christ] from my parents and learned about God for the first time from them because He saved my life when I was a baby," she recounts.

"I was close to death and my parents prayed that God will spare my life. The doctors told my parents that I will be disabled and will not have normal brain functions. 'But God saved me and my parents told me the story. So I chose to live my life for Him.'"

At 15, Cari prayed to accept Jesus into her life. "I prayed and said to God that I give my life to Him and that He is my Saviour."

Since then, Cari has gained a new perspective on life.

"I realised that through God I can do all things even though I have a lot of limits and do not fit into the world's view of how someone should be," she says.

While Cari continues to face difficulties in life, she finds hope and strength in her relationship with God.

"The fact that I choose Him and love Him is more important than anything else. In all my challenges, I know God will help me



Carmen "Cari" Aucamp

through them as He did in the past.

"I can rely on Him and trust that He has the best for me."

Reflecting on her life, Cari hopes to encourage others: "[God] gives strength to those who call on His name. Everything you struggle with, God sees it and wants to help you so you don't have to do this alone."

Cari's favourite Bible verses are from Psalms 23:

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." •

Beer was my best friend

A peek into Sara Kabuswe's fridge told you immediately what her favourite drink was – beer.

"I filled my fridge with all kinds of different beer; alcohol and music were my best friends of all," the 32-year-old tells *Challenge News*.

"Any time I felt stressed I would open the fridge, get drunk and then I was okay after that."

Her mother had raised Sara as a Christian and scolded, begged and even cursed Sara in the hopes that her daughter would leave her bar and booze lifestyle.

But Sara had long stopped listening to her mother.

Of course by this time she had also stopped going to church, something she enjoyed doing as a child. It was when she became a teenager that her downhill slide began.

"I thought the things of the world were better than the things of God," she admits.

Thrown into the mix were toxic emotions like unforgiveness, anger and pride. For 10 years she turned her back on God, thinking she would find what she was looking for in clubbing and drinking.

"I would go out and come home late. I reached the point when I stopped listening to my parents. Mom cursed me

in so many ways but that didn't change my mind.

"I only wanted alcohol, alcohol, alcohol and nothing more."

Yet her external bravado masked deep pain. She says she was heartbroken and felt abandoned but didn't know how to change her life.

"My family deserted me," she recalls.

Memories of her childhood faith trickled into her despair.

"I suddenly remembered I was already a Christian. One day God spoke to me in a vision. I saw myself standing behind a pulpit in front of many people."

Certain that God had touched her, Sara re-committed her life to Him – and says that from that time on, things changed for the better.

"I saw the grace of the Lord in my life; He is indeed faithful," says Sara, who is now a psychologist.

"I couldn't believe it myself; it was the work of God. I began to develop a caring heart which I did not have before. God has brought joy into my entire life."

She says that while there are still challenges, she faces them confidently "because of God". •

Sara Kabuswe



PEARL HARBOUR: A miraculous conversion

CAPTAIN MITSUO FUCHIDA was more excited than usual as he awoke the morning of December 7, 1941. As general commander of the Imperial Japanese Air Squadron, he made some last-minute checks on intelligence information before going to warm up his plane.

Three hundred and sixty Japanese planes led by Captain Fuchida headed toward Hawaii. He knew the objective of this mission: to surprise and cripple the American naval force in the Pacific.

The destruction left behind included 20 naval vessels and among them were eight massive battleships, and more than 200 aircraft. The human cost was over 2000 military and civilians killed and more than 1000 injured.

Fuchida was the first over the target and the last to leave. It was his voice that sent his aircraft carrier the message "Tora! Tora! Tora!" (Tiger! Tiger! Tiger!) indicating the success of the surprise mission.

After Pearl Harbour, he had many close brushes with death including six crashes into the sea. Recovering on board after an appendectomy, the ship was bombed and both his legs were broken and he was thrown into the sea. He realised he was the sole survivor of the seven Air Commanders and the thirty two squadron leaders who took part in the Pearl Harbour attack.

It was not until the war was over that he realised why God had kept him from death on so many occasions.

After the war ended and his military career was over, he became more unhappy and depressed. This was further aggravated by his call to be a witness at the war crimes trials.

On his way to give evidence and as he got off



the train, he was handed a leaflet entitled "I was a Prisoner of Japan."

The leaflet produced by the Pocket Testament League documented the experience of Jake DeShazer who was held in a Japanese Prisoner of War camp. Jake described how he was cruelly treated. He told about his violent hatred for the Japanese guards.

But one day, the prisoners in the camp were given Bibles. As Jake read it he came to understand that the book was more than a historical story.

Its message of love, grace and forgiveness became relevant to him right there in his cell and he accepted Jesus into his life. His life changed and his entire attitude toward his captors changed too. His hatred turned to love and concern, and he decided that should his country win the war, and he be set free, he would someday return to Japan to introduce others to this life-changing Bible. Jake DeShazer did return to Japan after the war as a missionary.

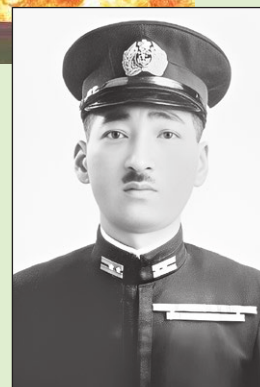
Now Fuchida had Jake's story, printed in leaflet

form, in his hand. It was all about a forgiveness he could not understand and could not explain. Since the American had found that peace in the Bible, he decided to purchase a Bible.

Eagerly he read the Bible and sought help from the Pocket Testament League representative on how to become a Christian. Now he understood about the love of Jesus and for the first time he understood the meaning of Jesus dying as a substitute for his sin.

His actions at Pearl Harbour could not be changed but now he was aware of why God had kept him from harm. His new mission in life was to tell others how they can overcome the hatred in their hearts and minds.

He learnt that Jesus is the only One who was powerful enough to change his life and inspire him with God's thoughts. Jesus was the only answer to



Captain Mitsuo Fuchida

Jake DeShazer's tormented life and He is still the only real answer for people today.

God's forgiveness is powerful and life-giving. When we feel it deep down it can be infectious and really change our lives.

Is there someone who would benefit from your forgiveness today? •

Adapted from 'Pearl Harbor and the Christian Connection' by Tim White from Pocket Testament League

"The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity – hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory – because at the Father's will Jesus Christ became poor and was born in a stable so that thirty years later, he might hang on a cross. It is the most wonderful message that the world has ever heard or will hear."
– J. I. Packer

English translation

Forgiveness changed everything

When Eusebia Chidzambwa looks back at the first half of her life, she recalls an angry, proud, jealous and unforgiving person.

“I was short-tempered,” she admits. “I would not forgive and was bitter to my father when he married another wife. When I got married I would challenge my husband and take advantage of his quietness... bitterness and pride was my daily life.”

Eusebia was raised in a Christian home in Zimbabwe but what she learnt about God hadn't penetrated her heart.

Everything changed when she went to an evangelism crusade 23 years ago.

It was there that Eusebia heard what it meant to be a born-again Christian – becoming a ‘child of God’ by trusting in the name of Jesus Christ.

It was then that she confessed her sins [wrongdoing against God] and forgave those who had hurt her including her father and husband. She received Jesus' forgiveness, put her faith in Him and began to follow Him completely.

Since becoming a Christian, Eusebia

says her life is now full of peace and forgiveness.

“The best part of being a Christian is I now have peace of mind,” she attests. She says she can now give her problems to God and He helps her deal with them.

Eusebia's husband passed away but she says she has discovered, “God is a God of widows.”

“My God hears my prayers. In all the difficult times, God is able.”

Eusebia's favourite Bible verses come from Psalm 23: “The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie

down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake.”

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”

Now 56, Eusebia tells others, “In hard times my God will comfort you. He did fight my battles and He is a provider. Focus on God.”

“ I now have peace of mind. ”

Zulu translation

Ukuthethelela kwashintsha konke

Uma u Eusebia Chidzambwa ebuka ukukhula kwakhe ubona, umuntu ozikhukhumezayo, nonolaka, futhi ongathetheleli.

“Ngangingathetheleli ngithukuthetheleli nokuthi ubaba wami wayeshade omunye unkosikazi. Sengishadile ngangimelana nomyeni wami ngoba ethule... ukuzikhukhumeza nobumuncu kwakuyimpilo yami yamalanga onke.”

Eusebia wakhuliswa ekhaya lamakholwa eZimbabwe kodwa ayekufunde ngoNkulunkulu kwakungangenanga enhlizweni yakhe.

Konke kwashintsha uma eya ku crusade eminyakeni ewu23 edlule.

Ilapho u Eusebia afunda ukuthi kusho ukuthini ukuba ikholwa elizelwe kabusha-ukuba ‘umtwana kaNkulunkulu’ ngokwethemba igama likaJesu Kristu.

Ilapho avuma khona izonzo (ukwenza okubi kuNkulunkulu) zakhe wathethelela nalabo abamenze okubi nobaba wakhe nomyeni wakhe. Wamukela ukuthethelelwa uJesu, wabeka ukukholwa kwakhe kuye wamlandela ngokuphelele.

Selokhu aba ikholwa, uEusebia uthi impilo yakhe igcwele ukuthula nokuthethelela.

“Into emnandi ngokuba ikholwa ukuthi manje usenokuthula engqondweni”, ezisholo.

Uthi manje usenikela inkinga zakhe kuNkulunkulu amsize.

Umyeni ka Eusebia washona kodwa uthole ukuthi, uNkulunkulu unguNkulunkulu wabafelokazi.

“UNkulunkulu wami uyayizwa Imithandazo yami. Kubo bonke ubunzima, uNkulunkulu uyakhona”.

UEusebia uthanda ivesi elivela kumaHubo 23: “uJehova ungumelusi wami. Angiyukwesela. Ungilalisa emadloleni aluhlaza, uyangiyisa emanzini okophumula, ubuyisa umphefumulo wami, uyangihola endleleni zokulunga ngenxa yegama lakhe.” Noma ngihamba esigodini sokufa, angiyukwesaba, ngoba wena unami. Intonga yakho nodondolo lwakho luyangiduduza”.

Uneminyaka ewu 56, uEusebia utshela abanye, “ezikhathini ezinzima uNkulunkulu wami uzokududuza. Uyangilwela izimpi zami futhi uyabonelela. Beka amehlo akho kuNkulunkulu.”

Shona translation

Kuregerera kwakashandura zvose

Eusebia Chidzambwa paanotarisa kusure muhupenyu hwake, aive munhu anehasha, kuzvikudza, godo uye nokusaregerera.

“Ndakanga ndine hashha,” Eusebia anopupura. “Ndaisaregerera uye ndakatsamwira baba vangu pavakaroorwa mudzimai wechipiri. Pandakaroorwa ndaigara ndichipikisa murume wangu. Ndaitora mukana nekuti anga akanyarara ... shungu uye kudada ndiwo hwaiva hupenyu hwangu hwezuvu nezuvu.” Eusebia akarerwa mumhuri yechiKristu muZimbabwe asi zvaakadzidza nezvaMwari zvakanga zvisati zvambopinda mumwoyo make.

Zvese zvachinja paakaenda paiparidzwa ivhangeri makore makumi maviri nematatu apfuura. Ipapo ndipo paakanzwa zvezvairaiva kuva muKristu akazvarwa

patsva—kuva ‘mwana waMwari’ nokuvimba nezita raJesu Kristu. Akareurura zvivi zvake, akaregerera vose vakamutadzira kusanganisira baba vake nemurume wake. Akagamuchira kuregererwa naJesu, akaisa kutenda kwake maari uye akatanga kumutevera zvakazara.

Kubva paakave muKristu, Eusebia anoti hupenyu hwake hwazara nerugare uye kukanganwira.

“Chinhu chakanakisisa chokuva muKristu ndechokuti ndava norugare mumoyo mangu,” anotsinhira kudaro.

Anoti iye zvino ava kukwanisa kuudza Mwari matambudziko ake uye anomubatsira kuti aagadzirise. Murume waEusebia akashaya asi anoti akawana kuti, “Mwari ndiMwari wechirikadzi. “Mwari wangu anonzwa minyengetero yangu.

Eusebia anoti. “Ndinofarira Mapisarema 23, Jehovha ndiye mufudzi wangu, hapana chandinoshayiwa.

Kunyange ndikafamba mumupata wemumvuri werifi, handingatyi zvakaipa, nokuti imi muneni; tsvimbo yenyu nomudonzvo wenyu zvinondinyaradza.

Iye zvino ave nemakore 56, Eusebia anoudza vamwe kuti, “Munguva yakaoma Mwari wangu achakunyaradza. Akarwa hondo dzangu uye Ndiye muchengeti wangu.”

“ Ndava nerugare mumoyo. ”



Eusebia Chidzambwa

Sesotho translation

TSHWARELO E FETOTSE TSOHLE

Ha Eusebia Chidzambwa a hetla morao karolong ya pele ya bophelo ba hae , o hopola motho ya halefileng , ya ikgohomosang , ya boulelang le ya sa tswareleng.

Wa dumela :Ke ne ke sa halefe. Ke ne nke ke ka tswarela mme ke ne ke utlwile bohloko ha Ntate waka a nyala mosadi e mong .Ha ke nyalwa ke ne ke qholotsa monnawa ka mme ke nke monyetla wa ho kgutsa ha hae ho hlonama le boikgohomoso e ne e le bophelo ba ka ba letsatsi leletsatsi .

Eusebia o holetse lelapeng la Bokreste Zimbabwe empa seo a neng a ithuta sona ka Modimo se ne se sa filhla pelong ya hae .

Ntho e ngwe le e ngwe e ile ya fetoha ha a ne a ya tshebeletsong ya boevangeli dilemong tse 23 tse fetileng.

Ke hona moo Eusebia a ileng a utlwa hore na ho bolelang ho ba Mokreste ya tswetsweng la bobedi hoba ngwana wa Modimo ka ho tshepa lebitso la Jesu Kreste

Ke hona moo a ileng a bolela dibe tsahae {ho fosetsa Modimo} mme a tswarela ba mo utlwisitseng bohloko ho akarelletsatsi le ntatae le monna wa hae .O ile a amohela tswarelo ya Jesu , a beha tumelo ya hae ho yena ,mme a qala ho Molatela ka ho feletseng.

Ho tloha ha Eusebia e eba Mokreste , o re bophelo ba hae jwale bo tletse kgotso le tswarelo .

O re : Karolo e bohlokwa ya ho ba Mokreste ke hore hona jwale ke na le kgotso ka ho nna

O re jwale o kgona ho fana ka mathata a hae ho Modimo , mme o mo thusa ho sebetsana le wona

Monna wa Eusebia o ile a hlokahala empa yena o re o hlokometse , Modimo ke Modimo wa bahlolohadi .

Modimo wa ka o utlwa dithapelo tsa ka , dinakong tsohle tse thata , Modimo wa kgona

Ditemana tsa Bibeletse tseo Eusebia a ratang haholodi tswa ho Pesaleme 23: Jehova ke modisa wa ka , ha ke hloke letho: o tsamaisa makgulong a matala , o tsamaisa ditseleng tse lokileng ka bakala lebitso la hae

Leha nka tsamaya kgohlong e lefifi , nke ke ka tshoha bobele ha bo le bong , hobane o a le nna , Lere la hao le se e kokotlelo sa hao ke tsona tse ntshidisang.

Hona jwale Eusebia wa dilemo tse 56 o bolella babang , Dinakong tse thata Modimo wa ka o tla le tshedisa.Oile a lwana dintwa tsaka mme ke mohlomedi.

“ Hona jwale ke fumane kgotso ka hloohong yaka. ”

Portuguese translation

O perdão mudou tudo

Quando Eusebia Chidzambwa relembra a primeira metade de sua vida, ela se lembra de uma pessoa raivosa, orgulhosa, ciumenta e implacável.

“Eu era impaciente”, admite. “Eu não perdoava e era amarga com meu pai quando ele se

casou com outra mulher. Quando me casei, desafiava meu marido e me aproveitava de sua quietude... amargura e orgulho eram meu cotidiano.”

Eusébia foi criada em um lar cristão no Zimbábue, mas o que ela aprendeu sobre Deus não havia penetrado em seu coração.

Tudo mudou quando ela participou de uma cruzada evangelística há 23 anos.

Foi lá que Eusébia aprendeu o que significava ser uma cristã nascida de novo – tornar-se uma ‘filha de Deus’ ao confiar no nome de Jesus Cristo.

Foi então que ela confessou seus pecados [transgressões contra Deus] e perdoou aqueles que a haviam magoado, incluindo seu pai e seu marido. Ela recebeu o perdão de Jesus, depositou sua fé nEle e começou a segui-Lo com-

pletamente. Desde que se tornou cristã, Eusébia diz que sua vida agora está cheia de paz e perdão.

“A melhor parte de ser cristã é que agora tenho paz de espírito”, atesta.

Ela diz que agora pode entregar seus problemas a Deus e que Ele a ajuda a lidar com eles.

O marido de Eusébia faleceu, mas ela diz ter descoberto: “Deus é um Deus de viúvas.”

“Meu Deus ouve minhas orações. Em todos os

momentos difíceis, Deus é capaz.”

Os versículos bíblicos favoritos de Eusébia vêm do Salmo 23: “O Senhor é o meu pastor, nada me faltará. Ele me faz deitar em pastos verdejantes, guia-me às águas tranquilas, refresca a minha alma. Guia-me pelas veredas da justiça, por amor do seu nome.”

“Ainda que eu ande pelo vale da escuridão, não temerei mal algum, porque tu estás comigo; a tua vara e o teu cajado me consolam.”

Agora com 56 anos, Eusébia diz aos outros: “Em tempos difíceis, o meu Deus os consolará. Ele lutou as minhas batalhas e é o meu provedor. Concentre-se em Deus.”

“ Ngangingaphili kahle. ”

Faith found in proteins

Call it a protein shake. Pharmacologist Tarryn Malan was looking at protein cells when she suddenly came face-to-face with proof that the world was created in six days and not over billions of years.

"I was looking at chaperones (specialised cells in proteins) when suddenly it just clicked – it was impossible to produce a functional protein without there being an already existing protein!" she told *Creation* magazine writer Mark James.

"This was what finally confirmed six-day creation for me."

The Kiwi scientist, who was born and raised in a devout Christian home, had been through a difficult time in her faith.

"I had gone from faith in God to faith in science but science was letting me down," she said.

"It felt like everything I had ever believed in was crumbling."

"I had been railing at God and now I'd found the answer was not in human systems. Maybe the faith of my parents really was what I needed."

Her parents, she shared, had provided a very strong Christian base for Tarryn and her two brothers at home, which was a small town just outside Johannesburg in

South Africa. Everyone in her family, including her grandparents, were heavily involved in church and Tarryn herself was a founding student at the local Christian school.

"From a very young age, I was a follower of Christ."



Tarryn Malan

But as is so often the case, this faith was tested.

"We had a church split, which also affected our school."

"At the same time, we had a school leader who was emotionally abusive to myself and a number of my friends, most of whom eventually left."

After leaving school, Tarryn joined a Christian ministry but described this time as being "a very difficult year, with conflict the whole time."

During this period, two events rocked her world. Firstly, her grandfather, who she fondly remembers as "a gem of a man and the rock of our family" passed away and a good friend died in a tragic bus accident while on a mission trip to Kenya.

"I was completely shattered at this point," Tarryn continued.

"I was hurting and I had also been failed by people who called themselves Christians."

"In my naive 18-year-old mind I did not distinguish my anger at man from anger at God and I blamed God."

All this happened just as she was about to start university and "for the first time in my life I wasn't in a Christian environment."

At university she studied science. All her lecturers were firmly on the side of evolution. "To them the idea, the concept, of God was completely irrelevant. I found that I had nothing solid to hold onto."

It was at this point that Tarryn's crisis of faith came to a head and

she decided she was done with Christianity.

While writing her thesis for her master's degree in pharmacology, Tarryn took a job working for an organisation conducting clinical trials, a job so demanding that

she almost suffered a complete breakdown.

It was also during this time that she began to doubt the medical industry she had so enthusiastically joined in the belief that she could make a difference in the world.

Instead, she discovered that some pharmaceutical companies were more focused on profits than people.

Exhausted and disillusioned, she turned back to God, rediscovered her Christian faith and – once and for all – submitted her life to Christ.

While her faith became a settled issue, it took a little longer for her belief in Biblical creation became similarly anchored.

The breakthrough came while she was at work, studying proteins.

"I spent a lot of time working with... their formation, structure and function, their interactions and how sophisticated those processes are."

This realisation was the missing piece of the puzzle and led Tarryn to the conclusion that the Biblical account of creation – in which God established the world in six days – was true.

Tarryn and her husband Mark moved to New Zealand in 2022, where she works with Creation Ministries as its business development specialist.

“ ———
Suddenly it just clicked.
——— ”

"God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart."
— Charles Spurgeon

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

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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

True friendship

BY CAROL ROUND

IN HIS BOOK, *The Pleasure of His Company: A Journey to Intimate Friendship with God*, author and pastor Dutch Sheets opens Chapter 15 with the following statement:

"I called myself a Christian for 17 years before I discovered I could have a truly personal relationship with God. Prior to this, I certainly knew Him as God and I definitely knew Him as my Saviour. I didn't, however, know Him as my Father, and walking with Him as a friend wasn't even in the field of view."

I can relate to Sheets' statement, except I was in my mid-40s. It took a life-changing situation to lead me to the foot of the cross. Yes, I knew of God but didn't know Him personally, let alone have a friendship with Him.

Having a friendship with God

I attended church faithfully until my early 20s. I drifted away but returned in my early 30s.

Even then, I didn't understand I could have an intimate relationship with Him. At that time, God was always painted as a distant being, someone to fear, judge, and punish me for my sins.

As a child, I felt a pull from God when I was outdoors. Spending time in His creation helped me to understand a different side of the Lord. He was a Creator God. But having a friendship with God never crossed my mind. Even in my childhood, though, God was reaching out to me. 1 John 4:19 says, "We love because he first loved us."

What does friendship mean?

What does the word 'friendship' imply? First, friendships take time to develop. Ironically, Facebook changed the definition of friendships. For some of us, our list of friends grew to include people we've never met. Of the nearly 5,000 on my list, most are acquaintances.

However, I have a few close friendships. I enjoy spending quality time with those friends and sharing life's experiences.

Knowing God as a friend

In Genesis, we read about Adam and Eve's relationship with God.

They spent time together as friends in the garden. Life was good. Then, Satan entered the picture. After the couple's fall from grace, they were dismissed from the garden and estranged from their Creator.

But our friendship with God was restored when Jesus died for our sins.

Just as we spend time with our close friends, being God's friend requires us to spend quality time with Him, being honest and trusting Him with our deepest hurts and fears, and sharing our joys and dreams.

Let's not forget we have a divine friend who walks beside us each day, guiding and loving us unconditionally.

Please feel free to share your comments by emailing me at carol@carolaround.com I always love hearing from my readers.

SCOTLAND	F	6	2	9	3	5	1	4	8	7
R	W	F	E	X	I	T	1	8	5	7
M	O	V	I	N	G	P	L	4	3	7
O	P	E	N	H	E	A	L	E	D	8
T	R	A	R	I	O	8	6	2	1	3
H	I	B	E	R	N	A	T	I	O	5
E	N	I	R	K	7	9	3	6	8	4
R	A	Z	O	R	S	H	O	S	E	1
L	U	T	W	E	N	T	Y	3	5	8
P	L	U	G	A	N	E	9	7	4	2
Y	H	A	N	D	S	O	M	E	2	1

MORE THAN MEDALS



Cindy Sember of Team Great Britain competes in the Women's 100 Metres Hurdles Semi-Final 3 on day two of the 26th European Athletics Championships - Rome 2024. (Photo by Michael Steele/Getty Images)

For two-time medallist Cindy Sember, track-and-field wasn't initially her first sport of choice – a surprising fact, considering she's now one of Britain's top sprint hurdlers with two medals under her belt.

Since her breakout season in 2016, Cindy has earned a silver medal in the 2021 European Indoor Championships and a bronze in the 2022 Commonwealth Games in the 100m hurdles.

Born to a Nigerian father and British-American mother, Cindy attended the University of Michigan where she competed in the NCAA athletics and followed in the footsteps of Olympian Tiffany Porter, to become one of the top collegiate hurdlers. Though born in the US, her mixed heritage allowed her to represent Great Britain and compete internationally.

Growing up watching her sister succeed as a professional athlete, there was no doubt in Cindy's mind that she was going to be an athlete herself. When she was 16, she decided that she was going to be a professional volleyball player.

"I was convinced that this was a sport that I was going to play for my career," she shared on her

YouTube channel. "I had this plan in my head and nobody could tell me otherwise."

However, things didn't quite work out for the teenager. Despite all her hard work, she wasn't getting any offers from schools; neither was she progressing in the way she expected.

"I didn't understand it. I just realised this wasn't for me."

Following in her sister's footsteps, when Cindy entered high school she decided to give track-and-field a try.

"I tried out sprinting and I hated it," she told Sports Spectrum.

"This was not for me. I sucked. I was getting injured, everything was just crazy."

Feeling discouraged, Cindy wanted to quit for good. But her high school coach encouraged her to continue pursuing the sport.

"I don't think you should leave," her coach told her.

"I see potential, I see something great in the making. It's just a matter of time for you."

The following year, Cindy returned to track-and-field.

"That's when I started to develop into the athlete that she told me she saw inside of me."

In 2016, she achieved a personal best of 12.6s and finished fourth in the Rio Olympics in the 100m hurdles, narrowly missing a medal.

However in 2017, Cindy ruptured her Achilles tendon. This meant that she had to miss key competitions in the next year. She also couldn't train or play any sport.

"It was just such a terrible time for me. I felt very isolated," she recalled. "I didn't know how to move forward with where I was in my life and it was very frustrating."

Being a professional athlete, whose whole life revolved around her sport, Cindy couldn't help but define her identity around her sport and her achievements.

"I had placed my worth in [track-and-field]. Every time somebody came up to me, they would always say, 'How's track? When's your next meet?' I became associated with track. So without it, I felt like I was not interesting and people wouldn't want to talk to me."

Physically, she struggled with her lack of progress.

"It was very difficult for me to see myself not performing and not training and not doing the things that I thought God was leading me to do."

With nothing else she to do, Cindy did what she had always done in times of trouble – she prayed.

"I spent a lot of time asking the Lord to help me to figure out who I was, to show me who I was outside of track."

Cindy grew up in a Christian household where she learned about Jesus.

"Growing up, my parents always taught me to go to church and follow the commandments. I'm very

happy they instilled this faith in me.

"But it wasn't until I started seeing things for myself that I was able to understand a little bit more about what it looked like to be a Christian."

Even as young as eight, Cindy would ask questions about her faith and her parents would answer. She credits her college years as the time when she began to take her relationship with God seriously.

"I got really strong in my faith and I started to see it grow."

So when she got injured, God became her close companion.

"That is when I truly fell in love with just listening to God's word [the Bible] and praying God's word over myself."

Without the competitions and the need to progress, Cindy turned to God to discover who she was without her abilities and accolades.

"When you don't have the thing that you feel like gives you worth, you have to search outside of that, and [God] definitely showed me

who I was outside of track."

She created her YouTube channel which enabled her to create a community and meet new friends.

"Knowing that I am first and foremost, a child of God underneath. Everything else is not as important."

"That really showed me that sport is a good thing to have and a blessing but it's not my identity."

She returned to training in 2019 and went on to win two medals.

However, life is not all smooth-sailing. During the 2024 Olympics, Cindy crashed into a hurdle during a 100m race, which meant she could not qualify for the finals. It was a devastating blow.

"That was one of the hardest things to deal with after training for four years and dealing with a fall out of nowhere."

Cindy admits that she would often ask God why He would allow this to happen.

"But I think just being rooted and keeping my eyes fixated on Him, I think that's what kept me going." •



Cindy Sember after winning the 100m hurdles during the Microplus UK Athletics Championships at the Manchester Regional Arena in England in June 2024. (Photo by Pat Scaasi MI News/NurPhoto via Getty Images)

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