

# UNBROKEN

Her body was battered and her heart shattered – but hope and healing had the final word.



Lydia Harris

To say South African Lydia Harris has had a difficult life is like saying Mount Everest is “a little bit high”. Her life has been extraordinarily difficult.

The 66-year-old pensioner tells *Challenge News* that she has had internal defects and deformities that required 30 surgeries, epilepsy, fainting fits, scoliosis, kidney problems – and those were just the conditions that doctors could identify.

According to Lydia, she had other ailments “unknown to doctors in my province”.

Her adversities continued. In 1986, her first child was born deaf and needed hearing aids in both ears.

Two years later, her second child was born blind in one eye.

Lydia bled profusely for almost a year but still dragged herself, pale and listless, to work every day.

In 1992 she was expecting twin girls but lost one during pregnancy.

“I never took alcohol or smoked but I led a painful life,” she shares with *Challenge News*. “I wanted to end it.”

She may have too, if not for the people she calls the pilgrims, who visited her community with bread, soup, oranges – and the Bible – when she was a child.

“The Bible reading made me read it myself,” she adds.

“I longed to be a child of God but didn’t know how.

“At a tent church I went for prayers to be healed. My problems were still there but Jesus became my Saviour and friend. Before Christ my life was hell.”

Unfortunately her health problems persisted into adulthood. She sought many treatments; during one of them she fell into a coma and stayed comatose for six days.

While in the coma, she shares, she “heard every word uttered. I asked God to take me or let me live to serve Him – and He saved my life.”

It was her fledgling faith, particularly singing praise songs, that sustained her.

In November 1989 while singing *There Is None Like You*, she says “a strong feeling overtook my body.”

She says that was when she felt led to the Lord and surrendered her life to Jesus.

That experience changed her from the inside out.

“God is great. I never felt so wanted before. I was calm, relaxed, had no fear of anything or anybody.

“It became easier to forgive and let go of my painful life.

“I always thought my problems would flee after my conversion. Some God handled immediately, some He left for me to become stronger, have faith and hope to conquer them.”

Lydia found strength from James 1:2: “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds.”

Through it all, she thanks God for His many mercies – her deaf son was prayed for when he was 15 and was miraculously healed.

He turns 39 this year and has not needed hearing aids since.

All three of her children graduated; two from college and one from university.

“God is truly great,” says Lydia, who has written five books recounting this and other experiences in her life.

In 1995, she had an operation to correct her scoliosis.


It failed and at 38, she was declared unfit to work and spent the next three years bedridden.

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BACK PAGE



**VOICE OF COURAGE**  
**HENRY OLONGA**

## Why is life so hard?

**HOW DO WE** explain what we see in this world? Terrorist attacks, sex slavery, racism, world hunger?

What about closer to home? Our parents get divorced. The girl down the street gets abducted. A relative gets cancer. We’re likely to think, “Something isn’t right here. Something is really, really wrong. This isn’t how life’s supposed to be!”

So, WHY do bad things happen?

There is an answer to the WHY question, found in the Bible. But it’s not an answer that most people like to hear: the world is the way it is because it’s the world that we, in a sense, have asked for. What or who could make this world different than the way it is? What or who could guarantee that life is pain-free, for everyone, all the time?

God could. God could accomplish that. But He doesn’t. At least not right now. And we’re angry with Him as a result. We say, “God can’t be all-powerful and all-loving. If he were, this world wouldn’t be the way it is!” We say this hoping that putting a guilt trip on Him will make Him change the way He’s doing things. But He doesn’t seem to budge. WHY doesn’t He?

God doesn’t change things right now because He’s giving us what we asked for: a world where we get to treat Him as though He is absent and unnecessary.

Remember the story of Adam and Eve? They ate the

“forbidden fruit.” That fruit was the idea that they could ignore what God said or gave them, and strike out on life apart from God. For Adam and Eve sort of hoped that they could become like God, without God.

They believed there was something more valuable in existence than God Himself, something more valuable than having a personal relationship with God. And this world system – with all of its faults – came as a result of the choice they made.

Their story is the story of all of us, isn’t it? Who hasn’t said – if

not audibly at least in their hearts – “God, I think I can do this without you.

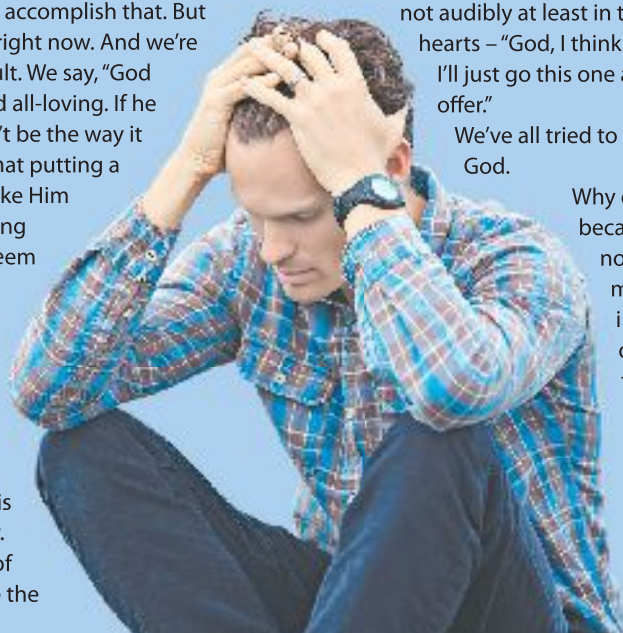
I’ll just go this one alone. But thanks for the offer.”

We’ve all tried to make life work without God.

Why do we do that? Probably because we’ve all bought the notion that there’s something more valuable, more important, than God. For different people its different things, but the mindset is the same: God isn’t what’s most important in life. In fact, I’d just as soon do it without Him altogether.

“This isn’t how life’s supposed to be!”

• Turn to page 2



# Why is life so hard?

● From page 1

What is God's response to that? He allows it. Many people experience the painful results of

others' or their own choices that run contrary to God's ways...murder, sexual abuse, greed, lying/fraud, slander, adultery, kidnapping, etc.

All of these can be explained by people who have refused to give God access and influence over their lives. They are going about their lives as they see fit, and they and others suffer.

What's God view on all of this?

He's not smug. He's compassionate, hoping we will turn to Him so that He can bring real life to us.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28). But not all are willing to go to Him.

But what about when life is unfair, when bad things happen to us? What about those horrible circumstances that hit us in life, caused by someone other than ourselves? When we are feeling victimised, it's useful to realise

“**But what about when life is unfair, when bad things happen to us?**”

that God Himself, in the form of Jesus, endured horrendous treatment from others. God more than understands what you are going through.

There is nothing in life that could be more painful than what Jesus endured on our behalf, when He was deserted by his friends, ridiculed by those who would not believe in Him, beaten and tortured before His crucifixion, then nailed to a cross, in a shameful public display and then dying of slow suffocation. This was no surprise to Jesus. He was aware of what was coming, foreknowing all the details, all the pain, all the humiliation.

There is no question that there is pain and intense suffering in this world. Some of it is explained by selfish, hateful actions on the part of others. Some of it defies an explanation in this life. But God offers us Himself.

God gives us the knowledge that He has endured also, and is aware of our pain and needs. Jesus said to His disciples, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27).

There is ample reason to be afraid, troubled, but God can give us His peace, which is greater than the problem before us. And if we will trust Him with our lives, relying on Him, though we encounter difficulties, He will hold us securely.

This article was first published on EveryStudent.com and is used with kind permission

# I found true healing

Samuel Dito Nghulele grew up as a sick child. His health struggles caused him to become angry at everyone. Although he went to church regularly with his family, he turned his back on Christianity when his health issues did not improve.

"I remember certain people came and took me, promising me healing which led me to quit church," he tells *Challenge News*. "They said that God does not exist. If He truly exists, He will appear to me."

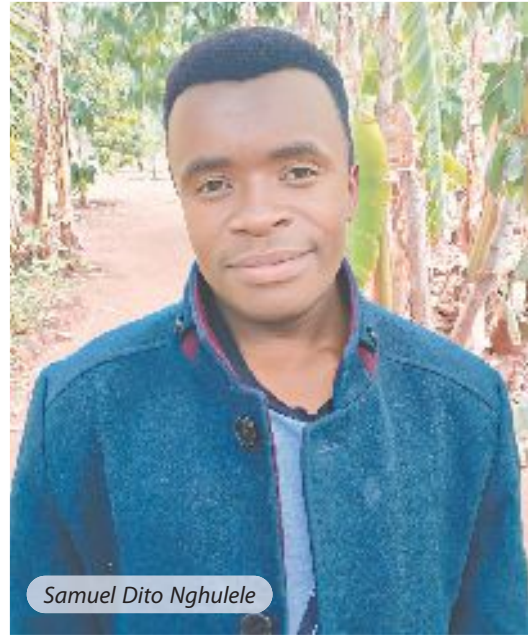
His family would take him to Sangomas (traditional healers) but nothing changed, which made him angry at his plight. "I thought I was the only child who always gets sick in our family," he recounts.

Then in 2015, Samuel had a powerful vision.

"Jesus appeared to me in a vision in His glory. I saw hell fire and a heavenly place with a throne. There was even a place of seats. That was how I believed that Jesus Christ is God and He exists."

After that, Samuel committed his life to Jesus. Since then, he finds himself less angry and his health situation has improved. He now sees that his poor health had been caused by dark spiritual forces.

"After the appearance of Jesus Christ in my life, I realised that I never encountered any spiritual attack. I no longer struggle with anger because I understand



Samuel Dito Nghulele

that Christ lives in me. Jesus Christ teaches me His Word [the Bible] and I am experiencing the goodness of God in my life. I discovered that my life changed and that I didn't need any traditional magic objects or charms to heal me but Christ paid the price for my healing on the cross."

However, the journey is not always easy.

"The challenge is that as a Christian, the devil always tries by any means to make me lose hope in God," he admits.

Yet, through these challenges, Samuel finds hope and strength in a new source. "It is not that everything

moves smoothly but God is my strength and hope. When I became a believer, I lost many friends and family members turned their backs on me since we have different beliefs.

"But I believe that in Christ, everything is made complete. I don't need gods or animals or goats for healing but Christ alone."

Samuel's favourite verse in the Bible is Romans 5:5: "And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

"Though I encountered rejections and disappointment, God has always been there for me. Even though my friends left me, I know that God never forsakes His loved ones. Indeed, He loves me." ●

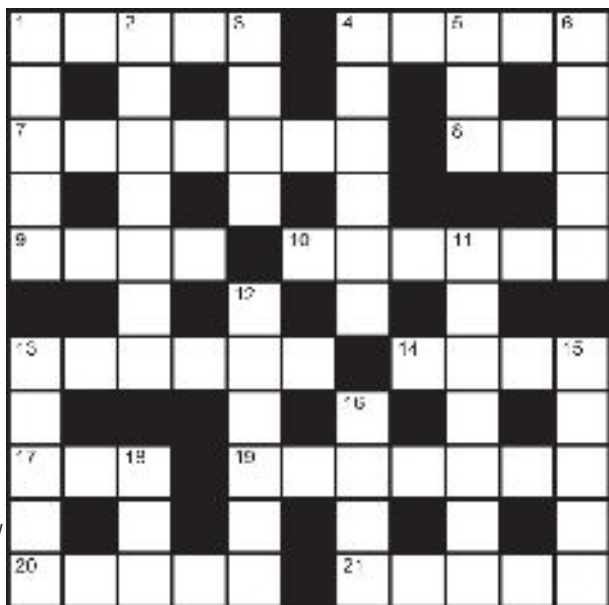
## Coffee Break CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

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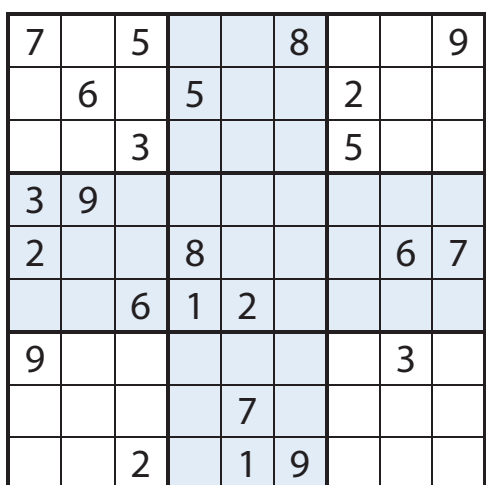
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- Got to have
- Frozen coffee treat
- Repetitive behaviour
- Use soap and water
- Unruly crowd
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|                                   | 15. African howler |                    |



SOLUTIONS PAGE 7



"If a rooster can crow, why can't a crow rooster?"

## Unbroken

● From page 1

In 1998 while still confined to her bed, she started making Chinese tapestries and decided she would try to sell them.

To her surprise, they sold quickly. The realisation that she had found a way to provide for her household made her ecstatic.

"From my bed I rolled onto the floor and crawled to the stairs and got help to go to a church.

"After an altar call and prayer, I had no pain and I walked upright again! I ran home and did not want a lift. I just ran."

Although her medical challenges continued – her entire colon was removed in 2005 – she says God has carried her through.

"I've been without a colon for 20 years but everything works normally," she says.

"After all is said and done, the Lord made me the head, not the tail (Deuteronomy 28:13).

"I was born dyslexic (there was nothing wrong with my intellect), by the grace of God I completed my matriculation and became a private secretary, was one of the first three coloured police officers in Bloemfontein, a nurse and a captain in the army."

Her advice to others is to "cling to hope, faith and prayers. The Lord's power is unspeakable. I will write songs and sing for Him until I cross over.

"I love Jesus so, so much. Before Christ my life was hell. Today I'd love the whole world to experience what I did.

"God is too great to ever let go even for a second. I still cling to His every word and promises." ●

## Ask Y: Peter Meadows answers your questions about God

QUESTION: SURELY JESUS' DISCIPLES JUST IMAGINED HE CAME BACK TO LIFE AFTER BEING CRUCIFIED BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE EXPECTING?



IT SOUNDS IMPOSSIBLE, to a sane mind, that Jesus was seen alive after He was executed. So it's no wonder there have been lots of attempts to explain it away. And the suggestion that His followers fooled themselves into believing it is a good example. Yet, when you look at it closely, the claim that His followers somehow imagined it happened because that is what they were expecting simply doesn't hold water. And I'll explain why.

Imagine your car has just had a very big argument with a brick wall – and lost. Next stop is the junkyard. Everything you know tells you it will never run again and that's the way you treat it.

You strip off the plugs, points, wheels and a few other ratty bits that might be worth a bit for scrap or be useful in the future.

However, what if you had a wild hope that the "Fairy Car-mother" would somehow appear, restore the wreck, and deliver it to your door in mint condition three days later?

If you believed that might happen, you would do all you could to cooperate. You would leave everything as unbroken as possible. But as you have no such expectation – you strip it bare and walk away.

This is exactly the attitude the disciples showed to the body of Jesus – but with considerably more respect. When you look at their behaviour, it is absolutely clear they

had no expectation of a grand finale. No hope of Him rising from the dead. So, they did nothing to make it easy.

Not that they cut lumps off Him or donated His vital organs.

But they did, according to the custom of the day, bind Him up so tight and weigh Him down with so much embalming ointment that movement would have been impossible even if He had come alive again.

Wrapped tight round the body – in a way that would have defeated even the greatest of escapologists, were yards and yards of fabric.

To that was added 75 pounds – that's the weight of two big boxes of fish – of aloe and myrrh, a thick gooey tree resin that congealed it all together.

Far from expecting Jesus to appear three days from then, here was every sign that they had given up the ghost – so to speak. Yet the events of the days following the death of Jesus led these

same embalmers to an absolute conviction that the same Jesus had met with them, talked with them, eaten with them and walked with them. And not just them but up to 500 people at one time. If ever there was a 'surprise, surprise' this was it. No wishful thinking. Just wonderful but unexpected good news. ●

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.

# I LOST MY FAITH IN ATHEISM

“I had a personal crisis. I lived for about a decade with intense depression and anxiety and self-loathing.

“I hit rock bottom; I went to a place where I actually didn’t want to live anymore but wasn’t brave enough to take my own life.

“I had... seen a psychiatrist, other doctors. I was trying to understand my condition and trying to treat it with the help of pure evidence-based science.

“Last year I saw one therapist who said ‘perhaps it’s something else that you have’. She described it as spiritual bankruptcy.

“I had absolutely nothing to lose; I prayed and I prayed desperately. And for me, that was a turning point.

“What happened after that is a miracle in its own right. I feel connected to something higher and greater than myself; my zest for life is back. And that experience has filled me with humility... God turned me around.”

Those words are so familiar, echoing as they do the stories of countless others who, like this woman had turned, with the last bit of strength they had, to the God of the Bible – and found Him waiting for them with healing in His open arms.

Except these are the words of Ayaan Hirsi Ali, an avowed atheist and author of the book *Infidel*, in which she declared: “The only position that leaves me with no cognitive dissonance is atheism.”

She was in fact, a poster child for the new atheist movement and was considered the fifth horseman of the group, which includes Richard Dawkins (author of *The God Delusion*) and Christopher Hitchens (*God Is Not Great*).

So when she announced in November 2023 that she had become a Christian, it was as if a tsunami had hit the elite intellectuals for whom belief in Jesus Christ was silly and Christianity just plain nonsensical.

Initially there was some scepticism about her conversion, which she wrote about on the online news site *Unherd* with the headline: “Why I Am Now a Christian”.

Some people felt it was all too clinical and rational, that it hinted more at her becoming a cultural, political Christian than a true convert.

But then *Unherd* organised a debate between Ayaan and her old colleague Dawkins.

It was during their exchange, titled *The God Debate* and tagged as “the clash of our times” that the 55-year-old Ayaan expanded on her written testimony.

Her words were so moving, so sincere, so whole-hearted and vulnerable that in the end Dawkins, who had hoped to discredit and embarrass her, threw up his hands and admitted: “I came here prepared to persuade you, Ayaan, that you’re not a Christian. But I think you are a Christian.” Who is Ayaan Hirsi Ali? Born in Somalia, she is a Dutch-American woman’s rights activist, author, and scholar.

She had a traditional Muslim upbringing and endured female genital mutilation when she was five. In 1992 she fled to the Netherlands



Ayaan Hirsi Ali speaking at the 2016 Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).

anity is actually obsessed with love. That is in the figure of the teaching of Christ.

“The message of Christianity I get is that it’s a message of love.

“It’s a message of redemption. And it’s a story of renewal and rebirth. So, Jesus dying and rising again for me symbolises that story.”

Stunned, Dawkins asked: “Do you really take it seriously that Jesus is the Son of God? That Jesus rose from the dead? Jesus was born of a virgin?”

She replied: “I choose to believe that Jesus rose from the dead... For years I agreed with you that there is nothing.

“But if you come round to the idea that there might be something much more powerful than we are... then something like Jesus rising out of the dead, Jesus being born out of a virgin, for that higher power is not a big deal. Yes, I choose to believe in God.

“I think what the vicar is saying no longer sounds nonsensical, it makes a great deal of sense... it’s also layered with the wisdom of millennia. I did mock faith in general, probably Christianity in particular. But I don’t do that anymore.

“After I went through that experience it doesn’t seem nonsensical

“**Atheism failed to answer a simple question.**”

to me and I don’t mock it. I think I’ve come down to my knees.

“It is also people who have faith like the woman who told me to

pray said, ‘You’ve tried everything and you’ve lost hope, you’ve lost faith. Try it. Pray.’

“Just in that one word there is so much wisdom... I’m just trying to say no, it’s not stupid. It’s in fact clever, and it’s wise.”

## Comfort in a busy world

When Rozelle Oosthuizen was nine, she lost her father to illness. The young girl struggled to accept her new life without him.

“It really shattered my heart because my father meant a lot to me, he gave me comfort, security and identity,” she told *Challenge News*.

Things became more difficult when her mother eventually remarried, and they had to move homes.

“It was incredibly challenging,” she said. “I had to adapt to a new environment, a new family, and a new father figure whom I didn’t really know very well yet.”

Rozelle struggled to cope with the changes happening in her life and developed feelings of fear and anxiety.

“I was so crushed, and I didn’t know how to cope,” she admitted.

“I knew the Lord at that time, but I felt upset with Him because to me, it felt like He allowed my father to pass away... I felt as if the Lord had completely forgotten about me, and I decided it would be easier to just stop having a relationship with Him.”

“I have learned about Jesus as I grew up, but after my difficult past experiences, I struggled to connect with Him.”

But breakthrough came in March 2023 when Rozelle reconnected with God at Target Life, a Christian gap year programme.

“I decided to enrol because I was desperate for healing and meeting with the Lord again,” she said. “At that moment, the Lord started healing my shattered heart in the gentlest way imaginable.”

Rozelle decided to give her life to Jesus and her heart started to mend.

“I did not want to feel so lost and depressed anymore and ever since, the Lord has given me so much joy and peace, even during tough times.”

Rozelle has since gained new purpose through her newfound relationship with God.

“In the past, I did not feel like there was a purpose in life, and I felt heavy in my heart. It was extremely difficult to get up every day.”

“After I gave my life to the Lord, I [finally] had peace in my heart. It is so calming and provides so much comfort in such a tough and busy world.”

Now, Rozelle finds her comfort and strength through her relationship with Jesus Christ.

“I used to think that I am not strong enough and I got so afraid of everything because I never felt able enough to do anything. But the Lord gave me worth. He reminds me daily of how much He loves me.

“I know I have the strength to take on anything because He provides me with incredible strength. I know that I’m not alone.”

But the best part, she added, is knowing that she is saved despite her sins [wrongdoing against God] and bad behaviour.

“I know that Jesus loves me endlessly, so much so that He died and suffered for me. He brings so much joy and peace and direction in my life.”

Rozelle holds on to 2 Timothy 1:7 to remind her of the strength she has in God: “For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”

“I have learned that it is so much better to be with God in a difficult place, than to be in a happy place in the world,” she reflected. “When your hope is in yourself, you’ll run out of sources, but when your hope is in God, you are connected to a source of limitless hope.”



Rozelle Oosthuizen

“**I was so crushed and I didn’t know how to cope.**”

## I choose faith over fear

Thirty-five years ago when he was 19, South African Stephane Syphowa was given some wise advice by a friend.

“He told me to think carefully about what I was going to do with my life,” Stephane tells *Challenge News*.

“I thought about it for the next six days. The seventh day was a Sunday so I went with him to church. That day, the pastor preached as if he knew me and when he asked if anyone wanted to be a Christian I went to the front. That day I became a child of God.”

Up to that point, Stephane had lived a pretty ordinary life. There was school, there were girls. But becoming a Christian marked the start of an extraordinary eight years – and not in a good way.

His family, who were idol worshippers turned Muslims, subjected him to great persecution because of his new faith.

The situation became so bad Stephane wanted to leave home but couldn’t because he was still a student without the means to support himself.

“I did not know where to go,” he says. “Who was going to welcome me?”

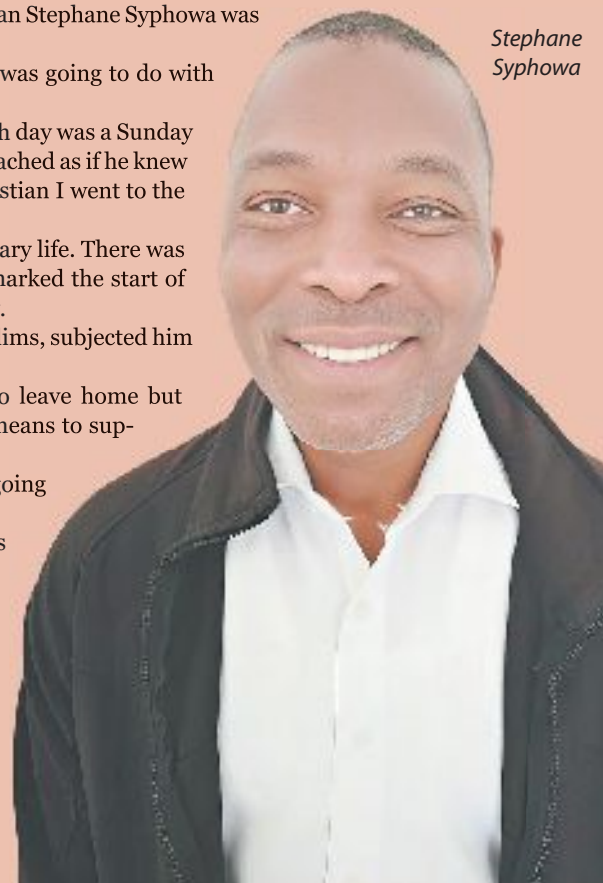
“I could not retreat from my faith. I was sure it was the truth and I wanted to continue my walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Finally, Stephane was able to leave the difficult situation at home when he was taken in by a pastor who had been through a similar challenge.

In 1997, he became the pastor of a church in South Africa.

“The Christian’s life is a life of purity,” he shares. “Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. I am happy that I faced and won my challenges and battles.

“I love Jesus and I serve Him with all my heart.”



Stephane Syphowa

Shona translation

# AKAWANA RUGARE RWECHOKWADI

**K**ubira amai vake mari yekutenga zwiwitsi, kutukurira vakuru vake pamwe neku-gara achirwa nevamwe—ndihwo hwaive hupenyu hwekukura kwaElvis Musonda wekuZambia.

Elvis akakurira mumusha wechiKristu achienda kukereke nguva dzose asi, aka-taura neveChallenge News, kuti akafuratira dzidziso dzese dzaakapihwa kuti aite zvakanaka muupenyu.

Zvakadaro, chimwe chinhu chakaita kuti arambe achienda kukereke ndezvaitika ikoko.

Nerimwe zuva mangwanani muri munaKukadzi 2012 akanzwa mharidzo yakashandura upenyu hwake.

“Mangwanani emusi weSvondo iyoyo Pastor Mutale ndivo vakaparidza, ndinotenda kuti Mweya Mutsvene wakandibata. Ndakatora danho rekugamuchira Jesu saIshe naMuponesi wehupenyu hwangu.”

Kubva musi iwoyo, ndakawana rugare rwakadzama, rwuri mumwoyo mangu nanhasi uno.

“Rugare rwakaunzwa nokuti Jesu Kristu akapinda mandiri, ndiri mwana wake uye ndiBaba vangu,” anodaro Elvis.

Hupenyu hwaElvis hwakashanduka. Akarega hupe-nyu hwekurwa, kubira amai vake uye kutuka vamwe. “Ndakarega zvose izvozvo nokuti Jesu akanga ave mandiri, ndiri mwana wake uye ndiBaba vangu.

Kana uchifunga kuti ave kutaura semufundisi unenge uchirevesa.

Murume ane makore makumi maviri nematanhatu okuberekwa, avekupupurirwa nevanhu kuti akazvin- inipisa zvikuru, uye ave mufundisi wechechi. Ndima yemubhaibheri yaanofarira ndiVaRoma 10:13 “nokuti ani nani unodana zita raShe uchaponeswa.”

Anowedzera kuti: “Jesu ndiye chete anopa rugare rwechokwadi, kwete zvinhu zvepanyika.

“Zvisinei nokuti nyika inonakidza sei, hapanna rugare. Jesu ndiye rugare rwatinoda. Jesu Ega. •



Elvis Musonda

English translation

# True peace found

**S**tealing money from his mother to buy sweets, insulting his elders and getting into fights – that was what Zambian man Elvis Musonda’s childhood was like.

Elvis had been raised in a Christian home and attended church regularly but, he tells Chal- lenge News, he ignored the preacher’s encouragement to do the right thing in life.

Still, something about the atmosphere in church kept him going and on a February morning in 2012 heard a sermon that changed everything.

“That Sunday morning Pastor Mutale preached and I believe the Spirit of God touched me. I took the step of accepting Jesus into my life.”

After that, Elvis experienced a deep peace, a peace that continues to this day.

“That peace is because Jesus is in me. I am His child and He is my Father,” he says.

Elvis became a changed person. He stopped fighting and stealing from his mum and insult- ing people.

“I stopped all that because Jesus was in me. I am His child and He is my Father.”

If you think he now speaks like a pastor you would be right.

The 26-year-old, who people say is a very humble man, now pastors a church. His favourite verse is Romans 10:13 “for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

He adds: “Jesus is the only true source of peace, not anything in the world. It is not an easy journey in Christ but it’s worth it.

“No matter how sweet the world can look, there is no peace. Jesus is the peace we need. Only Jesus.” •

“  
I am His child and He is my Father.  
”

SPIRITUAL PROGRESS

- Hear and UNDERSTAND .....Matthew 13:23
- Hear and RECEIVE.....Mark 4:20
- Hear and KEEP .....Luke 8:15
- Hear and DO.....Luke 8:21

Shona translation

# Rudo runokunda hasha

**N**okuda kwekushungurudzika nokushaikirwa nomurume uyo aisimbirwa nemoyo, mai vaLena Heldzinger vakava munhu asina rudo zvokuti vakanga vopedzera shungu pamwanasikana wavo.

Lena nayewo, nekuda kwemakuriro ake akawawo munhu ane hasha uye asina rudo.

Akazowaiqua asi anoti aishungurudza murume wake zvokuti uye akange asiri mud- zimai akanaka.

Lena anoti “Ndaiva mudzimai ane godo, ane hasha, asinga terere uye asina rudo.” Zvisineyi murume wake ainzwisisa hupenyu wemudzimai wakenaizvozvo haana kuvhun- dutswa nazvo.

Pakazova nevana vakewo Lena akayeuka kuti aisatarisira kuti vana vake vakure nen- zzira yaakange akura nayo, yekusaziva rudo, akatanga kutswagurudza zvakanaka zvakan- ganisika muupenyu wake.

Panguva iyoyo akanga achishandira kam- bani yaiita zvokutsikisa mapepa uko shamwari dzake dzaigaro muudza nezverudo rwaMwari uyo akatuma Jesu kuzofira zvivi zvedu.

Lena anoti, “Shamwari dzangu dzaindiudza kuti pandingotenda nokugmuchira Jesu, hupenyu hwangu hwaizo Shanduka.” Asi zvakaizotika kwaperwa nguva refu pagungano rokuparidza apo Lena akazvipira hupenyu hwake kunaJesu.

Lena anoti “Mufundisi wangu akadonedza misodzi apo mudzimai wake aindinamatira, ipapo ndakava ndaziva kuti paiva nazvaitika kwandiri.” Murume wake pamwe nevana vakava vazvipirawo kuna Jesu kuti ava Ise nemuponesi wavo.

Lena anoti Mwari vakabata zvikumumu- penyu wake zvokuti akanzwa achida Mwari

zvokuru, zvisinei dambudziko rehasha kupera pakarepo. Lena anoti “Zvakatora kutenda mushoko raMwari kukuru kuti ndidzikinurwe kubva mudambudziko rehasha, ndakaverenga Bhaibheri zvokuru, kunyanya ndima inoti ‘Zvino kana Mwanakomana akakusunungura, uchasununguka kwazvo kwazvo.’ (Johani 8:36)”

Lena akaregererawo amai vake nokuti akanga oziva kuti shoko raMwari rinoti munhu wose aakatadzira Mwari uye anoda rudo rusina makodzero uyewo nokuti mai vake vange vasingazive kuti vogamuchira sei dambudziko rakanga ravawira.

Kubva muchimiro chokuva munhu ane hasha, asina rudo, Lena ava munhu akazad- zwa norunyararo pamwe ner- udo rwaMwari kunavamwe. Anonyanyo farira ndima inoti “Ngatidananei, nokuti rudo runobva kuna Mwari...nokuti Mwari ndirwo rudo” (1 Johani 4:7-8). •

Lena Heldzinger says she had to find out what was missing from her life.



Lena had been a very bitter woman

English translation

# Love defeats anger

**U**nable to cope with the sudden death of her husband from heart failure, Lena Heldzinger’s mother had very little love or affection for her eldest daughter, and beat her frequently.

As a result of her difficult upbringing Lena says she grew into a “very, very angry person with no joy, no peace and no love for anyone”.

She eventually got married but admits that she caused her husband a lot of unhappiness and was an unpleasant wife.

“I was a very bitter woman, with out of control anger, very stub- born and unable to show love,” she confesses.

Her husband, how- ever, understood Lena’s past and stood by his wife.

When she had children of her own Lena realised that she did not want them to grow up as she had, without knowing love, and she had to find out what was missing from her life.

At the time she was working in a printing factory where her colleagues told her about the love of God and that Jesus died for her sins.

“When I believe Him and accept Jesus as my Saviour, my life will change, they told me,” Lena remembers.

But it was only later, at an open-air tent meeting that Lena finally decided to turn over her life to Jesus.

“There were tears streaming down my cheeks as the pastor’s wife prayed for me and I just knew something had happened within me,” she recalls. Later her husband and chil- dren also invited Jesus to be their ruler and Saviour.

Lena experienced such great love from God that she says she could not help but love Him in return, however her anger problems did not just resolve themselves.

“It took a great deal of faith in God’s Word [the Bible] for me to be completely delivered from anger. I read the Bible and meditated on it (mullied it over), especially the verse that says “so if the Son (Jesus) sets you free, you will be free indeed” (see John 8:36).

Lena also forgave her mother because she realised from reading the Bible that everyone is a sinner in need to God’s undeserved kindness and her mother just did not know any better way to react to her circumstances.

From being a very angry, unloving person, Lena is now filled with peace and love for God and others. One of her favourite verses is “let us love one another, for love is from God ... because God is love” (1 John 4:7-8). •

# All in vain



“ I decided to become a Christian because I realised that, even though I was a good, religious person, without Christ all my good works were in vain. ”  
 – Marion Muzeya

# SCIENCE GROUNDED IN FAITH

BY SHAUN DOYLE, CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

**THERE'S LITTLE DOUBT** that the most famous scientist of the 20th century was Albert Einstein (1879-1955). Today his name is synonymous with 'genius'. Most people today would recognise his most famous equation,  $E=mc^2$  (though many would be hard-pressed to explain what it actually means!). But even Einstein had his science heroes.

So whom would the great Einstein have admired? They must have been incredible scientists for Einstein to have thought highly of them! And they were. Einstein had pictures of his three heroes of science on his study wall.<sup>1</sup> They were Isaac Newton<sup>2</sup> (1642-1727), Michael Faraday<sup>3</sup> (1791-1867), and James Clerk Maxwell<sup>4</sup> (1831-1879).

All three men were deserving of Einstein's veneration. Newton's laws of motion and his notion of gravity were the first ideas that successfully unified ideas about the motions of the stars, planets, and



Painting of Isaac Newton (1642-1727) by Sir Godfrey Kneller, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons.

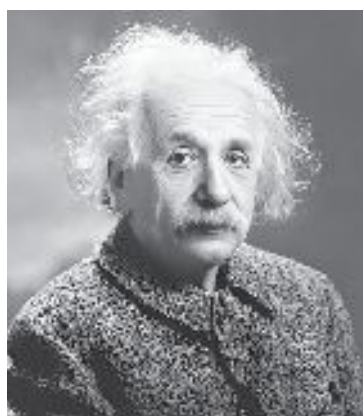
the earth. Faraday is widely regarded as the greatest experimenter of all time. His work involved showing that magnetism could produce electricity, and discovering benzene, among many other things. Maxwell discovered the four fundamental equations of electricity and magnetism, and predicted electromagnetic radiation at a certain enormous speed. Light was measured to have that speed – 300,000km (186,000 miles) per second – showing that light was electromagnetic radiation. Without their discoveries, we wouldn't have much of the technology we have today. Practically everything involving moving parts, electricity, and magnetism can in part be attributed to the work of these three men. But these three men also had another thing in common – they were all Bible-believing creationists. By today's standards all three would be regarded as 'fundamentalists'.

Newton wrote more on theology than he ever did on science and Faraday was a member of a very conservative offshoot of the Church of Scotland. They were known for their plain interpretation of the Bible. A recent book said: "Faraday was deeply religious and viewed science – exploration of nature – as an extension of his heartfelt faith. "Although we in the 21st century debate the conflict of science and religion, Faraday saw no such division. "The book of nature, which

we have to read, is written by the finger of God," he wrote. For Faraday, 'unravelling the mysteries of nature was to discover the manifestations of God.'<sup>5</sup> Maxwell was widely read in theology. He interacted with many of the best theological minds of his day, always as a solid evangelical Christian. In fact, he often chided other believers for tying religious truth too tightly to the science of the day. He understood this not as a problem for God's unchanging Word, but as a problem for man's ever changing understanding of how the world works. Maxwell's faith in the Bible even shocked a young Karl Pearson<sup>6</sup> who, when he questioned the Noah's Flood, was reprimanded by Maxwell for questioning the Bible! "The conversation turned on Darwinian evolution; I can't say how it came about, but I spoke disrespectfully of Noah's Flood. Clerk Maxwell was instantly aroused to the highest pitch of anger,



Painting of Michael Faraday (1791-1867) by Henry William Pickersgill, CC0, via Wikimedia Commons.



Albert Einstein, 1879-1955.

reproving me for want of faith in the Bible! I had no idea at the time that he had retained the rigid faith of his childhood, and was, if possible, a firmer believer than Gladstone<sup>7</sup> in the accuracy of Genesis."<sup>8</sup> Sadly, Einstein did not share the spiritual convictions of his heroes. Like many in his day and now, he felt free to abandon the biblical God.<sup>9</sup> Little did he know that for all his great work he was operating on borrowed assumptions.

Newton, Faraday, and Maxwell were not biblical creationists for nothing. They understood that the only reasonable ground for the amazing regularity we find in the natural world is the orderly and unchanging God of Scripture. They understood that the assumptions of science,<sup>10</sup> which only find their grounding in God, cannot be separated from the history<sup>11</sup> to which He has testified. And they understood that His Word is surer than the foundations of the universe, including the laws that govern it. They sought to think God's thoughts after Him.

Einstein's heroes have a lot to teach us. The world is ordered because God orders it. God's Word doesn't change and is always trustworthy, unlike man's scientific theories. But good science will always square with Scripture – they both come from the same God, after all. They also teach us that far from being opposed to science, biblical creation is its solid foundation.



James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879), CC0, via Wikimedia Commons.

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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)

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

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Disciple Making Movement's  
C'o Methodist Church In Zimbabwe

111 JMN Nkomo ST & 11th Avenue, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe  
Contact: +263 713 619 000 +263 736 785 555

## Want to explore more?

Here are some free, helpful, Christian online resources

Online Bible - <b>Olive Tree app</b> (we recommend that you start with an easy-to-read version like the ESV)	Audio Bible - <b>Bible.is app</b> , or <b>Youversion Bible app</b>
Christian radio stations - <b>CBN radio app, Trans World Radio and Radio Pulpit</b>	Christian podcasts and sermons - <b>Edifi app</b>
Christian movies, serials and kids' shows - <b>Good. app</b>	Daily thoughts and inspiration - <b>Our Daily Bread app</b>
Advice on specific issues, Bible reading plans and studies for new believers - <b>Youversion Bible app</b> .	The Bible explained with visual aides - <b>Bible Project on YouTube</b> .
<b>Alpha Film Series on Youtube</b> - an online introduction to Christianity	For kids - <b>Superbook Kids Bible, videos and games app</b>
Jesus Film project - 200+ videos in 2000+ languages <b>jesusfilm.org/app youtube.com/@jesusfilm</b>	Christian comics/manga - <b>goodandevilbook.com and Manga Messiah app</b>
<b>YMI</b> - Christian news outlet for young adults with devotionals and resources. <b>ymi.today</b>	<b>NEED PRAYER ?</b>
More inspiring faith stories - <b>back issues of Challenge News at challengenews.online</b>	<b>Let us pray for you!</b> Phone toll-free: 0801 229 015 WhatsApp: 079 375 3345 Visit: needprayer.co.za



# VOICE OF COURAGE

**W**hether on stage or on a cricket pitch, Zimbabwean fast bowler Henry Olonga has a voice and isn't afraid to use it.

The 48-year-old Test cricketer was Zimbabwe's first black cricketer and the youngest to play Test cricket for the country.

But his sporting career ended when he and a teammate wore black armbands during an international competition in 2003 to protest against the rule of dictator Robert Mugabe, saying the armbands were to "mourn the death of democracy in Zimbabwe".

"Scripture spoke to me," he tells Anne Lim from Eternity News. "I remember reading Isaiah 1:17, which says contend for the widow and the orphan, rebuke the oppressor."

That act resulted in Henry being dropped from the team and accused of being a British spy. Then came the death threats. These were no

idle threats; Henry knew his life was in real danger.

The only way to escape would be if Zimbabwe won or drew against the World Champions Pakistan after which the team could fly to the next match in South Africa.

"Before that final match I knew my life was hanging in the balance, potentially," he says.

"Long story short, I said a prayer the night before we got to the ground.

"It was very theologically complicated," he jokes. "I said 'God, help!'

"Perhaps the fact that my life was preserved on that occasion was a sign that God was with me."

With the help of a match that ended in a draw, a cyclone and heavy rain, Henry escaped to South Africa and then to the safety of exile in Britain.

Henry became a Christian during a youth camp when he was 16.

Although he had often heard the Gospel [the good news of how Jesus' death and resurrection reconciles us to God] while growing up, one of the sermons at the camp really got through to him.

The pastor preached from the central message of the book of Romans – that all have sinned [committed wrongdoing against God] and fall short of the glory of God.

Speaking to Tony Davenport on Vision Christian Media, he says: "You can get anaesthetised to the message if you hear it often... but I was always intrigued by the story of the creation, of the Creator and Jesus coming to Earth as a baby, and Him living a sinless life and dying for my sins on a cruel Roman cross – I got that, I understood God's justice, I understood God's love, I understood God's mercy, His



**ABOVE:** Test Match Special commentator Henry Olonga during day three of the Rothesay Test Match between England and Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge on May 24, 2025 in Nottingham, England. Photo by Gareth Copley/Getty Images.

**RIGHT:** Henry Olonga during the 11 nation International Cricket Council (ICC) tournament in October 2000 in Nairobi. Henry bowled out two of New Zealand's batsmen. Photo by ALEXANDER JOE / AFP via Getty Images.



Henry Olonga wears a black armband in protest at the 2003 Cricket World Cup opener in Harare, denouncing the 'death of democracy' in Zimbabwe. Photo: ALEXANDER JOE/AFP via Getty Images.

grace. "On that occasion, I was ready, and I understood what was at stake," he recalls.

"Ultimately, I just got it on that day, and I converted.

"From that moment on, I'd always wanted to live a life that reflected what I said I believed.

Henry left Britain for Adelaide in 2015, where he is now a commentator, musician, and public speaker, advocating for justice and human rights.

Just in case you think he's all work and no play, Henry showed his artistic side when he competed on *The Voice*, where his beautiful tenor voice turned three judges' chairs and got him past the blind auditions.

Unfortunately, he failed to progress to the next round, but he is philosophical about the disappointment and lives for higher ground.

"I try to live my life in the wonder of the adventure of living with a God who wants to do things through you... I'm very mindful of that.

"If I can live a life that I can look back over and say, in spite of my clangers, in spite of my failings, I still have woven a tapestry of a life that counted, that made a differ-

ence, and that people can look back over and say good things about...

"I know that we're saved by grace, but [the biblical book of] James says faith without works is dead and so,

I want the work of my life to have Jesus shining through it. I know I do that imperfectly; I know that I'll fail in the future, but that's where my heart is." ●

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