

A SECOND CHANCE AT FREEDOM

Once on death row, Eddie got a second chance at life, love, and liberty. Would he find redemption?

BY CHERISE BOPAPE

Eddie McLoughlin grew up in Long Island, New York, when times were simpler. He and his brothers spent summers along the Atlantic Ocean – swimming, fishing, and boating. As young children, they had a financially stable home in what Eddie describes as “a typical Irish Catholic family.” They seemed picture-perfect but had deep flaws.

The lure of the streets

By the time his family moved to Arizona, 12-year-old Eddie had experienced physical, emotional, and psychological abuse. His father had become an alcoholic, and Eddie even ran away from home several times. Eddie hoped he would find purpose and meaning as he embraced the drug culture of the ‘70s, but that lifestyle led to his

downward spiral.

In Arizona and California, law enforcement officers arrested Eddie for minor violations. Court-ordered programs and mental health professionals helped. But still, Eddie yielded to the lure of the streets. His poor choices culminated in his arrest in Scottsdale, Arizona. The charges: first-degree murder and armed robbery. Eddie was only 20 years old.

The sentence

When he needed legal representation, Eddie had the best: a famous trial attorney, John Flynn, who had argued the 1966 U.S. Supreme Court case *Miranda v. Arizona*. Despite Eddie’s lawyer’s prowess, a jury found Eddie guilty, and two years after his arrest, the presiding judge sentenced Eddie to die in the gas chamber.

Eddie had deep-seated problems, and his lawyer

noticed. John reminded Eddie that he had taken a man’s life. He urged Eddie to search his heart and find out why that happened, but Eddie had been hardened by the streets and his home life.

What Eddie needed was a life transformation – one that could only be found by nurturing a relationship with Jesus Christ.

The surrender

Though Eddie knew about God, he says, “I wasn’t saved.” He admits: “I was a handful in the jails.”

John Nelson, a Vietnam veteran and evangelist who frequented the jail where Eddie was held, also wanted to see Eddie change. Twice a week, Nelson walked the cell-block with his Bible in hand. When he stopped at Eddie’s cell, Eddie often refused to acknowledge his presence. Yet John never gave up on him.



Eddie McLoughlin

Eddie eventually listened. Kneeling in his jail cell, Eddie sobbed and surrendered his life to Jesus. Even the jail personnel were amazed.

The influencer

Though Eddie was growing in his relationship with

Christ, he still grappled with insecurities and shame. He craved encouragement.

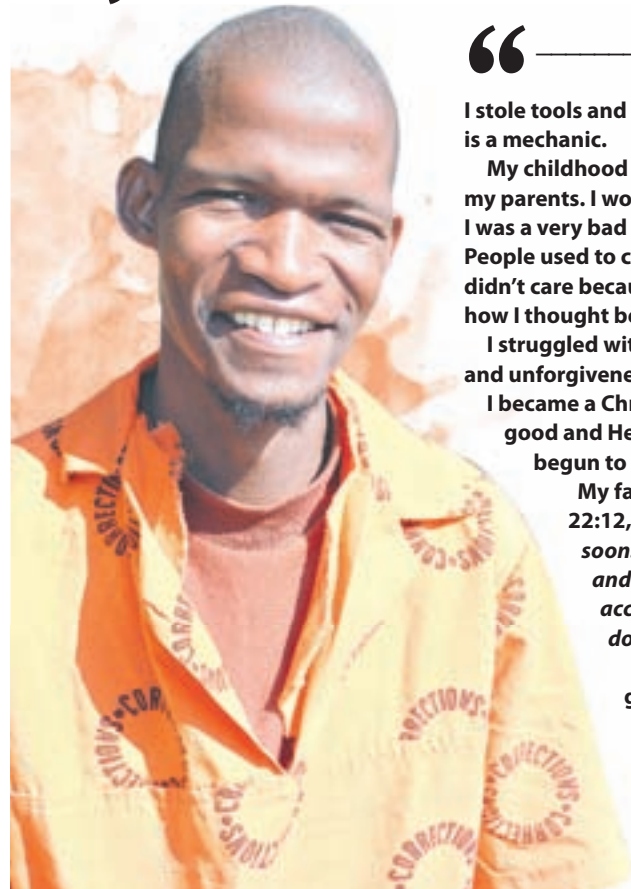
That encouragement came from Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship. Chuck visited the Arizona State Prison complex where Eddie

was housed and spoke during an outdoor evangelistic event. That day, the warden allowed Chuck to visit with Eddie in his cell on death row. The two men talked and prayed. Afterward, they corresponded through the mail for several years.

Chuck helped Eddie to recognize the role of justice in incarceration. Through his interaction with Chuck, Eddie learned to accept greater responsibility for his actions and said, “Probably for the first time in my life, I was able to look at my crime from the perspective of the victim. It was really weighing heavy on my heart.”

• Turn to page 2

My life is changing



“

I stole tools and money from my uncle who is a mechanic.

My childhood was bad. I grew up without my parents. I would steal and smoke drugs. I was a very bad child in my community. People used to complain about me but I didn’t care because it was my life. This is how I thought before I met Jesus.

I struggled with drugs, stealing, anger and unforgiveness.

I became a Christian because God is good and He won’t fail me. My life has begun to change. God is good.

My favourite verse is Revelation 22:12, ‘Look, I [Jesus] am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.’

I want to tell others to give your life to Jesus. He will save your soul and life.

”

- Thabo Mbikwane

TIME TO COME CLEAN

BY GREG LAURIE

YEARS ago, a talk show segment featured the story of a little dog named Mugsy who had been hit by a car and was presumed dead by his owners. His grieving family buried him in a corner of their yard. But the next morning at 5:30, there was scratching at their back door.

Much to the family’s surprise, it was their beloved Mugsy. Apparently, he wasn’t dead after all. The persistent pup dug himself out of his grave.

That is what unconfessed sin is like. We may think we’ve buried it, but it will be back. There is only one way to get rid of our sin, and it’s at the cross of Jesus Christ. We can’t cover it. We can’t hide it. And we can’t run from it. It will stay with us until we confess it.

After his sin of adultery and murder, David eventually admitted to God that he had sinned. Later he wrote about it in Psalm 32: “When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long” (verse 3).

David continued, “Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, ‘I will confess my rebellion to the Lord.’ And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone” (verse 5).

He didn’t try to blame someone else for his sin. He didn’t try to hide it at this point. Rather, David called it what it was, and he dealt with it in a straightforward way.

We always want to blame others for our sin and say that it isn’t our fault.

Do you need to own up to something you’ve done? Or, are you playing the blame game? There must come a point in your life when you say, “I’ve sinned. I’ve committed this iniquity. The problem is me.” And that is when things will change for you.



A SECOND CHANCE AT FREEDOM

• From page 1

Chuck had a profound influence on Eddie. So when Eddie's convictions were overturned he said, "I was able to go to my family and tell my family that I was guilty of what I did, and that I needed to accept responsibility, and that I was going to go into the courts and plead guilty to my crimes."

Eddie's mother wanted him to have a new trial and come home, reminding him that he had already been away for five years. But on March 17, 1983, true to his word, Eddie went into the judge's chambers, pled guilty, and listened to the judge sentence him to 25 years to life.

He returned to the Arizona State Prison system, but this time Eddie was the influencer. He helped other men to know Christ. He would lead the prison church there for 25 years before his release.

The graciousness of God

After serving his time, Eddie moved into a discipleship training center. Without technical skills and an education, he stood on the side of the road and waited to be picked up for day labor – a task he considered humbling and difficult. At one point, he held three minimum-wage jobs simultaneously.

Eddie met Paula when he was 50 years old and working for a Christian ministry. Her father taught a Bible study in the ministry Eddie worked for. Eddie and Paula began dating, and five months later, they married. They've been together for 17 years and have two children. Eddie says, "God's blessed me with a family. ... I thought maybe those dreams had been forfeited, but yet, God's been very, very merciful to me, very gracious to me."

The legacy

Eddie has since returned to prison as a volunteer. Before COVID-19 restrictions were implemented in 2020, Eddie was going into 13 prisons and ministering to about 300 men a week.

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Aaron and Pam

A family held together by faith

BY LOU HAVILAND

Aaron and Pam were both 25 when they began dating after almost 10 years of friendship. Friendship is a great foundation for romance, but their courtship began against the backdrop of drug abuse and addiction.

"We were at a bad time," Pam says. "We were both using drugs. We weren't going anywhere good."

Aaron began experimenting with drugs after the death of his best friend, Mike, who was killed in a fight. Pam was raised in a Christian home with a father who served in the military and says, "There was no reason I should have ended up the way I did."

But within the space of one year Pam was, in three separate incidents, sexually assaulted, raped, and viciously beaten while being robbed. None of her offenders were prosecuted, leaving her angry and bitter. She started using drugs and working as an escort.

"I was of the frame of mind that if men were just going to take from me, I was going to at least get paid for it," Pam says.

Turning to drugs helped dull the memory of the violence and trauma she'd endured. She stopped working as an escort once she and Aaron began dating, and the perfect storm of drug addiction and a lack of money to finance the habit formed over the couple.

Aaron had previously served time in the late 1990s for burglary and remembered a former cellmate's counsel for holding up a bank. All he would need to do, his friend assured him, was walk into a bank, hand them a note, and the money would be given to him.

"Somehow I didn't disagree," Pam recalls. "I drove the getaway car, and Aaron went in and robbed the bank."

The two reasoned that since Aaron was unarmed, no one would get hurt, and that the bank, being insured, would recoup their money later. They saw it as a victimless crime. The robbery went well enough that they decided to try another bank a month later.

"When you're addicted to drugs, everything sounds like a perfect plan," Aaron says.

Within weeks, Aaron was arrested. Pam's arrest took place soon after—followed by her realization that she was pregnant.

Aaron was sentenced to over 20 years in prison. While Pam's sentence of two years was much lighter than Aaron's, her time behind bars was intensely painful.

Pregnant with their son, Pam gave birth while serving her sentence.

"[It was] the worst thing I've ever experienced," Pam says. "You have to go to the hospital in the shackles and the cuffs. And people are looking at you like you're a monster having a baby."

Soon after Pam gave birth, her mother, who had been caring for Pam's older son from an earlier relationship, took care of her newborn.

"The vein that runs through this story is God," Aaron says. "I have a praying mom and a praying family who are just relentless. In their prayers for you, you can't be fully lost. You get lost, but you can't be lost."

When news broke of Aaron's arrest, his mother was interviewed on television, where she spoke life

into her son's emptiness.

"My son has a purpose, he's not this guy," Aaron recalls his mother telling the news reporter. "He's going to be a leader among men."

In his cell, Aaron cried out to God to rescue him, not only from physical incarceration but from the addictions he was enslaved to. His aunt and uncle, who serve as pastors and missionaries, regularly reminded him that he had a hope and a future. His aunt urged him to turn each area of his life over to God.

"I had a lot wrong with me," Aaron says. "My aunt, my mentor, told me, 'Just take one thing at a time. Don't try to fix everything tomorrow.' So that's what I did. I started to live my life in preparation for the day that I was going to walk out of prison."

Piece by piece and moment by moment, Aaron asked God to heal him from the areas of life that he struggled with: cursing, pornography, gambling, fighting.

It was a painstaking process but one that resulted in absolute surrender to Jesus.

He began an in-prison ministry, praying for other men and telling them about the life-changing love of Christ.

After serving her sentence, Pam returned home to raise her sons and became a volunteer for Prison Fellowship Academy.

Pam and Aaron married while he was in prison. For various reasons, their marriage ended, but she continued to visit him so Aaron could spend time with their son.

Despite the dissolving of their marriage, the couple's friendship endured.

They had been friends first before anything else, and that solid foundation was strong.

But as they grew in their faith they fell back in love with one another and became engaged in 2021.

And after Aaron's release in 2022, they married again.

While in prison, Aaron completed college courses and countless programs, wrote two books, and continued heading up his ministry to fellow prisoners.

Despite being sentenced to decades of time in prison, Aaron was released after 17 years and now works for re-entry organization Rise, where he serves as a mentor/facilitator for men and women coming out of prison.

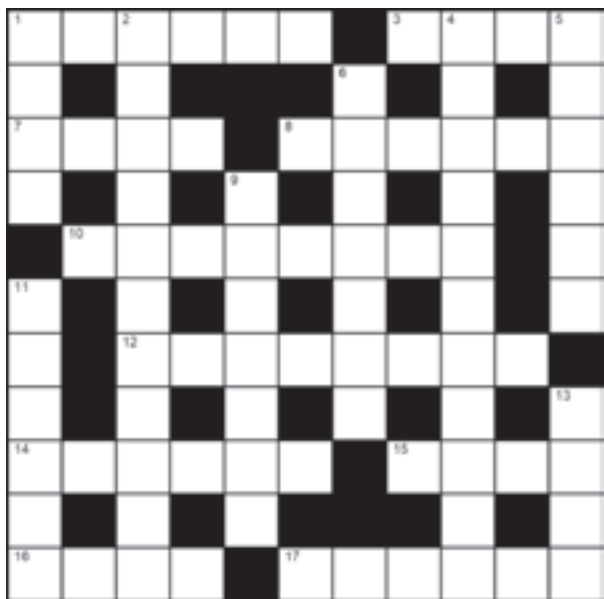
The baby Pam gave birth to during her incarceration is now 16 years old, and the couple has four other children: two 24-year-olds, an 11-year-old, and a 9-year-old.

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Coffee Break CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

ACROSS

- 1 Internet access devices
- 3 Not many (1,3)
- 7 Errand, job
- 8 To make amends for
- 10 Blood infection
- 12 Toy with rail track (5,3)
- 14 Solitary
- 15 Mix, as ingredients
- 16 Coral formation
- 17 At fault



DOWN

- 1 Silent
- 2 Stop, cease
- 4 A primary principle
- 5 Any tech thingy
- 6 Staying power
- 9 Moral allegory
- 11 School financial officer
- 13 Site of a fabled gift horse

SOLUTIONS PAGE 7



"Ah ha, here's your problem! You're trying to make a living as a farmer!"

		1	3	8			
4		7		6			8
					2		
8		6		9			
	4				5		
			6			7	9
	7		9			8	3
	3	5					
6			1	3			7

“ I drove the getaway car and Aaron went in and robbed the bank. ”

DESERT OASIS

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

— ISAIAH 55:2 NIV

Addiction shattered my rock star dreams

BY AMANUEL MENGISTU

Ripped jeans. Long hair. Earrings. As a teenager growing up in Iowa in the 1980s, Rodney Pieres had the appearance of an aspiring rock star, but he did not want to just look the part – he wanted to be a rock star.

“For whatever reason, I just had a natural inclination,” Rodney recalls. “Every time I’d pick an instrument up, I could figure it out by ear.”

Rodney’s guitar-playing uncle introduced him to the hard rock sounds of bands like Led Zeppelin and KISS, and by the age of six, Rodney knew that he wanted to be a musician. Starting when he was a sophomore in high school, Rodney played in a few bands, and his interest in music soon became an obsession. But beneath his obsession with music was a darker fixation with drugs and alcohol that soon overshadowed his musical ambitions.

Contrasting worlds

When asked about his childhood, Rodney likes to say he grew up in “a good, broken place.”

After his parents divorced when he was a small child, Rodney split his time between their homes. During the week, he stayed with his mother and stepfather, who tried to raise Rodney in a godly environment. On the weekends, however, Rodney would enter the dangerous world of his wealthy, reckless, drug-dealing father.

“At 12 years old, I was allowed, at my dad’s house, to drink,” Rodney says. “I was allowed to smoke pot. I wasn’t allowed to do cocaine, but I stole it from him and did it anyway because he did it, and he was my hero.”

During his adolescence, Rodney’s life was divided between these two worlds. By the time he reached high school, he had developed an addiction to alcohol and drugs. His grades dropped, and his interest in football and wrestling faded. It was around this time that Rodney began playing in rock bands, because performing music was more compatible with heavy drug use than sports. He also rebelled against all authority figures in his life.

Running wild

“My mom, God bless her, tried really hard, but I was just wild,” Rodney remembers. “I was a wild kid that just didn’t care. I would just do whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted. If they grounded me, I’d sneak out. If they took the car, I’d steal the keys.”

At the age of 18, Rodney got into a fight and punched his opponent so hard that the man’s spleen was ruptured. The incident resulted in a felony assault charge and a year in prison. After being released, Rodney moved to Arizona, where his father was living, and jumped right back into his old lifestyle.

“I was taking steroids and cocaine and drinking,” Rodney says. “All I wanted to do was play music and lift weights.”

Rodney needed work and became an electrician. However, even while working, he continued to drink and do drugs. He got married in 1997 and eventually became a father to two daughters, but the bondage of



Rodney and his wife.

addiction prevented Rodney from settling into normal family life.

“I would do crack cocaine, and I would disappear for three or four weeks,” he recalls, adding that he had “many, many overdoses.”

Rodney’s substance abuse led to multiple car crashes and near-death experiences, including a three-day, drug-induced coma. However, despite these brushes with death, and dozens of stays at rehab and detox centers, Rodney continued to relapse.

Over time, he developed a heroin addiction and began turning to crime to fund his drug habit.

“I was defrauding companies, doing identity theft and all that,” he says. In 2009 he was sent to prison for 10 years.

The sound of redemption

Being incarcerated deprived Rodney of the things that mattered most to him, including playing music.

“It was horrible,” he says of the first half of his prison sentence. “I had all this music running through my head, and I couldn’t get it out. I had no outlet for it.”

After four frustrating years in prison, Rodney had a life-changing encounter in the summer of 2013. While walking on the prison yard

track one day, he heard the sound of music coming from a nearby building.

“I got interested, and I walked in,” he remembers. “It was a prison worship band that was playing, and I sat down, and I just listened.”

Rodney was overcome with emotion while listening. Members of the band approached him and prayed with him, introducing him to faith in Christ. Over the next year, Rodney got sober, joined a Bible study, and started playing in the worship band.

“From that point on, I followed the Lord,” Rodney says. “I didn’t change. He changed me – the way I acted, the way I held myself. I was able to have peace in a place that usually doesn’t have a lot of peace.”

Coming full circle

Rodney also served as an assistant to the prison chaplain, a role that allowed him to help facilitate Prison Fellowship Hope Events.

At one of these events, Rodney was impressed by a group of rappers sharing testimonies about their criminal backgrounds and the redemption they had found in Christ. The experience inspired him to consider how God could use his life story and musical gifts to minister in a similar way.

Rodney was released from incarceration in 2018.

A year later, he began to perform at Hope Events in prisons across the country, singing rock songs infused with his story of redemption through Christ. Between running a thriving electrical contracting business and an anti-trafficking non-

profit that he founded with his wife, Rodney is a busy man, but he always makes time to minister to people who are incarcerated.

“I [once] thought being a rock star, touring and being idolized by people, would fill a void inside me,” he says. “Today, I realize that God gave me the gift...to bring my voice and my words to the hurting, lost, and broken. That is my dream today.” ●

The original of this story can be found at www.prisonfellowship.org and it is used with kind permission.

“I was a wild kid that just didn’t care.”

Questioning the truth

BY HARRIET COOMBE

HAVE you ever wondered why Christians believe the Bible is the truth? Is there evidence outside of the Bible that Jesus really existed? Does history back up the claims the Bible makes? Thankfully, there is plenty of evidence available to answer these questions:

Accurate records

The Bible has the most surviving copies of any ancient document.

There are about 25,000 manuscripts of the Bible from all over the ancient world, some dating back to as early as the second century. Although some people like to claim the Bible has been changed throughout the centuries, New Testament records are actually very accurate. The physical evidence confirms the Bible we can read today is the same as what the authors wrote 2000 years ago.

Historical evidence

Unlike other religious texts, the Bible includes historical claims that can and have been verified. Archaeological finds have proven numerous times that the Bible corresponds to historical reality. For example, many buried cities have been uncovered exactly where the Bible describes them being.

Consistency is key

The 27 books of the New Testament were written independently of each other. So the book of James was written without the author having previously read the Gospel of Mark, or vice versa. And yet the messages within the books are clear and consistent. There are occasionally small differences in manuscripts, called variants, but they don’t change major Christian beliefs or claims. The New Testament books were written relatively close to when Jesus lived on the earth, and before they were written, the history was preserved by a lost art called oral tradition as the majority of people in the ancient world couldn’t read.

Prophecies fulfilled

The Bible is filled with hundreds of detailed prophecies which were written centuries before the events they accurately described.

For example, it says in the Old Testament that Jesus would:

- Be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), as a descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:1–3), Isaac (Genesis 17:19), and Jacob (Genesis 28:14)
- Be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9) for 30 pieces of silver that were used to purchase the potter’s field (Zechariah 11:13)
- Be mocked and ridiculed, pierced in his hands and feet, and that lots were cast for his clothing (Psalm 22:7, 16, 18).
- Die (Daniel 9:26) as a sacrifice for our sins and buried in a rich man’s tomb (Isaiah 53:8–10).
- Rise from the dead after a short time in the grave (Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 53:10) (from answersingenesis.org)

Why would they lie?

Historical evidence shows that most of the New Testament authors were put to death for their claims that Jesus died and rose from the dead.

Why, if they had concocted a lie about Jesus, would they continue to lie in the face of extreme suffering and death?

Historical documents

There are historic documents that refer to Jesus, His miracles, His disciples, His death, resurrection, and the rapidly growing group of followers who worshipped Him. These writings have survived from early in the first century, the majority of which were handed down through Roman and Greek scribes and are free from any allegations of tampering.

First century non-Christian historians, Thallus and Phlegon of Tralles, wrote about the crucifixion of Jesus and that darkness fell over the land when He died, which they concluded was due to a solar eclipse. Another historian, Julius Africanus, wrote in AD 220 that this theory was “unreasonable”. As Jesus was crucified during the Jewish Passover holiday, which is celebrated at the full moon in the Hebrew month of Nisan, it was impossible for there to have been a solar eclipse.

In the first century, a Syrian writer, Mara Bar Serapion, wrote a letter to his son in prison which referenced Jesus as a real person.

The letter now resides at the British Museum and is often cited as evidence for the existence of Jesus. Flavius Josephus (AD 37–103) was a Jewish historian whose writing confirms the existence of Biblical characters such as John the Baptist, Jesus’ brother James, the High Priest Annas who tried Jesus before His crucifixion, and of course, Jesus Himself. In one of his books, Josephus writes that Jesus was crucified and rose again three days later.

The Babylonian Talmud is a commentary on the Jewish scriptures and was most likely compiled between AD 70 and 200. It refers to Yeshu (Jesus) and the time, reason and mode of His execution. ●

About Crossroads

The Crossroads Prison Ministries mentorship program connects you with mentors who help you study the Bible.

Mentors write to you, answer your questions, share stories from their own lives, help you see how God is speaking to you through His Word and encourage you to continue to grow in your faith.

Through the mentorship program, Crossroads offers more than one dozen different correspondence Bible study courses that each contain up to 14 lessons.

Each course is designed to help you learn more about God and how to follow Him.

If you are interested in joining the program, please fill out the attached application form and mail it to us today!

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Prefiero el curso en español.

Complete Mailing Address: _____
Institution Housing

Street or PO Box

City State ZIP

STUDENT COMMITMENT

I will finish each lesson I receive in a timely manner and, with the help of my mentors, I will complete each course that I start. I agree that Crossroads may use anything I submit, such as my picture, testimony, writings or artwork, for promotional purposes or to further its mission.

Student Signature

Date

When you have completed this form, please return it to:
 Crossroads Prison Ministries | PO Box 900 | Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0900
 Crossroads Prison Ministries Canada | PO Box 5837 | Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8

I'M BACK IN PRISON BUT THIS TIME IT'S FOR GOOD

When Californian Johnny Chang was 10, he was beaten up and robbed on the street. When he told his father what happened, his father thought he was lying and gave him yet another whipping.

Johnny was a child of poor immigrant parents from China. His father was abusive and an atheist who never said "I love you" or apologized.

His mother was a Buddhist who played by the traditional rules of her culture – she was submissive and never stood up for her son.

At 12, Johnny was an explosive mixture of pain, rejection, hurt and anger. But more than anything he was lonely for a family and emotional connection – so he joined the one place that promised him that – a notorious street gang.

Speaking to the Delafe channel on YouTube, Johnny says: "I took to the streets; if I went home I would get beaten and have to deal with my dad in a drunken rage."

Joining a gang, he says, was the "lesser of two evils."

"When I hit the streets I volunteered to do a lot of things – shooting people, stabbing people – because I wanted to unload my rage and my anger."

Within a year, he was arrested and sentenced to four "really, really traumatic" years in the California Youth Authority.

Sixty-seven days after his release from the CYA, he was convicted again – this time for assault with a deadly weapon in an attempted robbery. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison and had to serve eight.

Life when Johnny was released from prison was no joy ride. As a convicted felon he couldn't find any work and went back to the extremely profitable trade of selling drugs.

He had money – "like \$30,000 to \$40,000 a month" – and he had freedom but he couldn't shake the loneliness and depression. "I always had this emptiness, this void inside me," he says.

One day, his mother asked him for a lift. In the car he told her he noticed she was happier and more peaceful than before, even though the situation at home had not changed.

She told him it was because of church. Johnny rolled his eyes. "I said, 'Mom you're crazy. You've been a Buddhist your whole life and now you're telling me about this Jesus. I don't believe in God. We were raised Buddhist.'"

His mother smiled knowingly and said, "Fair enough."

At his mother's church, Johnny met the pastor, who took him out for a meal and shared the gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ). In two hours, over a bowl of black bean noodles, the young man's life was changed forever.

"Johnny," he began, "are you a sinner?"

"Yes," Johnny replied. "Lying and stealing and stuff."

The pastor replied, "Sin isn't just about lying or stealing. Sin is not believing in Jesus Christ."

"What he said captivated me," Johnny shares.

Sin, the pastor explained, was putting yourself and not Christ, in the driver's seat.

"When you do that you stand in the

position of God," he added. "You're putting your thoughts above the Word of God."

"That's why you feel so empty all the time. The emptiness is the by-product of how you've been living your life."

The pastor told Johnny he had a choice – he could run his own

life, with its ever-changing feelings and thoughts, or he could trust in God's Word, which never changes and would never lead him the wrong way.

Then he told Johnny how much God loved

him. "No matter what, God died for you," the pastor added.

"That was the first time I met Jesus," says Johnny. "I knew about Him theoretically but that day I accepted Him into my heart and that's what changed my life."

Encouraged by his pastor, Johnny

saw himself as a "messenger" to his gang mates and was able to share with them his newfound hope in Christ.

One of the hardest things he had to do was reconcile with his father. "But I knew God wanted me to do this."

Father and son met at a cafe and again over a bowl of noodle soup, Johnny's life was changed.

"Dad," he said, "I'm sorry for not being a good son. I'm sorry I brought shame to our family." He had been afraid his father would throw it back at him and say, "That's right! You should be sorry."

Instead, he burst into tears and apologized for his drinking, and his abuse. "I should have been a better dad," he said.

Father and son reconciled and now share a relationship that includes

regular fishing trips and, of course, noodle soup.

"It's amazing. And it was only possible because of God," Johnny says.

All this happened eight years ago. Today the one-time, big-time gangster has done a complete turnaround and is now a prison counsellor.

He shares the gospel on many

social media platforms and his story has sparked conversations even among people in rival gangs.

"Now I'm doing prison ministry – counselling people who are suffering from depression, loneliness, emptiness, void – and I just want to advance the kingdom of God." •



Once a big-time gangster, Johnny Chang now counsels prisoners who are struggling with depression and loneliness. Photo: youtube.com/@vladv

No more misery and fear

Mzimkhulu Sothuko and his siblings grew up without their parents in extreme poverty.

"Only my granny was taking care of us," Mzimkhulu recalls.

"We never had food or shelter or even clothes other than what she passed on to us."

As he grew older, Mzimkhulu went to aid organizations for help when he was really struggling.

"My life had no direction," he admits.

"I was lost. I had so much anger, unforgiveness, I was ungrateful. Everything was useless and I had suicidal thoughts."

Eventually Mzimkhulu found himself in prison for a crime he denies committing. It was there that he found hope.

"At Modderbee Correctional Centre I heard about the good news about Jesus Christ," he shares.

"I was reading the Book of Life (the Bible) and praying and I gave up all my misery, pain, sorrow and fear to Him..."

"I understood that Jesus saved my life. God gave Him so that we can become unified with Him. The spirit that we have in our body is because of Him."

"And He wants to use me to be His messenger and to reveal the power He gives me. I testify that God is love."

Mzimkhulu says since becoming a Christian his life has become easier.

"I understand that God loves me and He doesn't want to hurt me and He is not the one who has caused all the trouble in my life."

He now encourages others not to give up



Mzimkhulu Sothuko

paying attention to Jesus.

"He is the real Savior. God is the only One whom we can cry to and He is above all."

Mzimkhulu's favourite Bible passage is Psalm 23, which says: "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."

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

"Jesus has been with me from my mother's womb," Mzimkhulu attests.

"I seek Him all the time. In all the trials and troubles God is the only Master who can open all closed doors to a better life." •

"[God] is not the one who has caused all the trouble in my life."

RISING ABOVE MY TOUGH PAST

Peter Ekwenuo grew up in a loving but poor home. He didn't attend school and as a result now, at the age of 39, he can't read.

"My childhood was not nice," he tells *Challenge News*. "[But] my father and mother were good people and did all they could to give me a good life."

He was raised in a Christian home and he made a commitment to Jesus as a child but as he grew older he walked away from God. Peter admits he struggled with sexual immorality, alcohol and drug addictions, anger and unforgiveness.

Currently a prisoner at Modderbee Correctional Centre, Peter is six years into a 15-year sentence for robbery and kidnapping.

He says things changed for him when he became a truly committed Christian while he was in hospital.

"The spiritual workers at this hospital shared the Gospel [good news about Jesus] with me and helped me to make a recommitment of my life to Jesus Christ."

Peter says the best part about being a Christian is hearing the Word of God and the hardest part is keeping up the discipline of prayer.

Peter reminds people that God loves them and he encourages people to repent [turn away from wrongdoing] and love one another.

His favourite Bible verses is Matthew 6:5 and 14: "[Jesus said] When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites

who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get" and "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins." •



Peter Ekwenuo



Rick's nickname while in prison was "demon". Now he has a new nickname: "Pastor".

THEY NO LONGER CALL ME "DEMON"

BY LEXI AGGEN

They called him Chamuco. Devil. Demon. As the leader of a prison gang, Rick was notorious around the yard. Anyone who encountered him also encountered his anger.

Rick's fury had early roots. Growing up, he watched his mother suffer a string of bad relationships, leading him to believe that all men were liars. This planted seeds of rage in his heart, and he began to act out, beginning with theft at the age of 12. When Rick was 16, he had a child, a daughter named Ahlexses, and he was arrested for a serious criminal offense a few months later. Though he was a juvenile, because of his history and the nature of his offense, Texas law allowed him to be tried and sentenced as an adult.

Once in prison, Rick was so violent that he was sent to solitary confinement. Everything seemed to set him off – but he found enjoyment in the heavy metal band Metallica.

His headphones blasted the song *Nothing Else Matters*, the lyrics expressing a trust in someone so deep that nothing mattered in comparison. It led Rick to wonder, "Who do I trust in that nothing else would matter?"

The response was alarming; no one. Then, to his surprise, Rick says he heard a voice call out, "Trust and follow me, and nothing else matters."

Only it didn't come from the song. Rick felt unworthy, and yet here was this voice, calling to him. He didn't want to be touched by the words.

Waking from a dream

Rick found little relief in sleep. In his dream, he was walking down a dirt path that forked, and he heard the same voice call out, "Choose life or death."

"I'm not a religious guy," he thought to himself when he woke up. But even as he considered this, a steady knowledge that God existed was growing inside him. He found himself getting down on his knees to pray, but the words didn't come to him – until something hard hit



Rick is now the pastor of a church.

him on the top of his head.

His Bible, which he had only used for rolling paper, had fallen off the shelf in his room. A prayer suddenly materialized: "God, I'm going to follow you. What do I do now?"

A father's love

Rick wanted to make Ahlexses proud and to show her love. That was why he signed her up for Prison Fellowship Angel Tree, a program dedicated to serving the children of the incarcerated. At Christmas, Angel Tree volunteers delivered gifts to Ahlexses on Rick's behalf.

After Rick found Christ, things changed. He requested a Bible to be delivered alongside the gift every year, recognizing the importance of the volunteers who delivered the gifts to Ahlexses. He couldn't be there to share the Good News with her every day, so he could only ask that others would step in for him.

A visible change

One year, when Ahlexses was 12, she left her birthday party early so she could make the journey with her grandmother to visit Rick.

"Are there questions you might have that I can answer about God, the Bible, or anything?" he asked.

Her response floored him. "If you really loved me, how come you've never been there for me?" she asked.

But this moment was a turning point for the two of them. Rick told Ahlexses he did love her – that he didn't know how to before but was learning now. He explained that he was beginning to understand that love took commitment, sacrifice, and responsibility.

And then he asked for her forgiveness. She gave it willingly, and this time her words uplifted him.

"I know you're different now," she said.

"How do you know?" he asked.

"Because you smile," she said.

Soon Ahlexses had given her life to Christ, too.

Finding new roles in freedom

Rick was released at age 34. Ahlexses was now 18 and starting a life of her own.

Rick never forgot the impact of Angel Tree Christmas. In his first year after release, he became a volunteer. He began recruiting churches to partner in the ministry, was hired by Prison Fellowship, and later became a field director for Prison Fellowship in Texas.

After he moved to Houston, Rick planted a church and became a full-time campus pastor. He also founded a non-profit ministry that sponsors Angel Tree children.

Each year, Rick's growing ministry sponsors 200 kids. His non-profit's slogan is "giving hope by doing good."

Ahlexses works as the Angel Tree coordinator at her own church.

"Before I came to Christ, they called me 'Demon,'" Rick says. "I lived and I thought like one, and I thought my value was like one. When I came to Christ, and He called me and I accepted that call, I'm no longer called 'Demon.' Eventually, now I'm called 'Pastor.' And I realize that my value is in Christ and my worth was demonstrated on the cross." •

The original of this story can be found at www.prison-fellowship.org and it is used with kind permission.

Successful sportsman arrested 45 times

Before John "Robby" Eddy had reached his 30s he had been arrested 45 times, almost died several times (including an attempt by a contract killing), destroyed his mind and body with powerful drugs and nonstop drinking for years, and overdosed twice.

Now he's coming up on 13 years sober, a proud husband and father, and runs a successful business. And he has hope and purpose in his life, thanks to a supernatural encounter in his jail cell.

Sharing his story in a Supernatural Stories YouTube video, Robby says he was raised in a "great family" and was a successful wrestler and football player. But he struggled in his academic classes and worried about what he would do for the rest of his life.

"I started drinking at 18 years old and the consequences happened so fast for me, it was immediate," he recalls. "By 19 I was already in and out of jails numerous times, [and had a] couple of DUIs. By the time I was 21 years old, I was drinking and drugging like a pig."

As time went on, Robby spent years in and out of jails.

"I had overdosed on drugs and alcohol six or seven times. One time I was brought back with Narcan and paddles... I was mentally, physically, spiritually, completely bankrupt."

Robby had lost his driver's license for life due to drinking under the influence.

"I got to the point where I was like, 'Man, I'll never be anybody. I'll never be anything.'"

On March 25, 2011, Robby was in a jail cell, feeling overwhelmed.

"I dropped to my knees in anguish," he remembers. "And I asked as I cried out to God. I didn't even know if I believed in God.

And I cried out and I said, 'Father God, if You're real, please help me.' And sure enough, I heard a voice tell me, 'Have you had enough?' And it was powerful. And the obsession to drink or drug was lifted from me, immediately. It was gone. It was supernatural... God delivered me. There's no doubt about that."

When Robby was released from prison he began reading the Bible and attending church with his wife.

After the first week he wasn't sure church was for him.

"[But] the very next week I came back and

I literally became born again. I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior... I started reading the Bible every day, and then I started walking in my house and praying over my wife and my children. And I did this stuff all the time and things started happening. I started interceding for other people. I started praying. And you know what? Miracles started taking place."

Although Robby's driver's license had been permanently revoked, he was able to get it back.

"I'm a 45-time arrest, three-time convicted felon - I'm not even supposed to be employable. [Now] I employ 40 guys. I've got 20 trucks on the road. That's all glory to God, it has nothing to do with me.

"When God is for you, nobody can be against you."

Robby says he takes the principles from the Bible and implements them into his life.

"I don't just go to church and listen and walk away. I live this on a day to day basis."

Robby has written a book about his life called *The Unfair Advantage: My Story of Conquering the Beast of Addiction*. •

“The obsession to drink or drug was lifted from me.”



Robby Eddy with his wife.

nudge

WITH KARL FAASE

Growing in the presence of God

HAVE you ever considered how your view of God impacts your ability to grow in your relationship with God?

There are those who see God as an angry and aloof divine being, judgmental and angry. This has been replaced in some quarters by a God that gives us all we want and cares for our every need without any moral parameters.

Bishop Geoffrey Robinson has written, "We cannot grow under an angry god and we will not grow under a god of soft, indulgent love." Both these views of God are extreme and unhelpful. God loves us and reaches out to us, but God is holy and concerned with how we live. Love does not mean He has no concerns with our behaviour and attitudes. •

WORDS FOR THE HEART

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Welcome to this Bible Study. Read slowly what I have written. If you have a Bible, look up the reference verses given, and allow the Holy Spirit to minister to your soul through them. – ALAN BAILEY

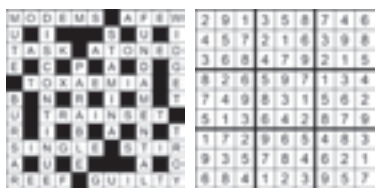
Mark 1:1-20

INTRODUCTION

OUR studies in the Gospel of John have ended so we take up another Gospel which has a different approach to the telling of the story of Christ's life. Mark's Gospel focuses on events, the happenings of Jesus' life without a great deal of teaching being added. It is a fast-moving narrative. One of his most-used words is "immediately" as he moves from one event to the next. In this way we learn more and more about the nature of Jesus and who He is. Perhaps the greatest impression we gain is that Christ is Lord over all things and Lord in every circumstance.

It is believed that Mark knew Peter the disciple well, and that he received much of his information from him.

Chapter 1:1-3 *The beginning of the Gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way – a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'"*



We see that Mark does not commence his record with the birth of Jesus. He starts back a little to the preparation that was made for Christ's coming. In the Old Testament the prophet Isaiah spoke about a future messenger who would announce to the world the coming of the Messiah, Jesus. That messenger was John the Baptist.

Verses 4, 5 *And so John came, baptising in the desert region and preaching repentance and baptism for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan river.*

It seems surprising that there would be such a mass movement of people, especially seeing they were admitting their sinfulness. But this was God's plan. The people needed to realise that they needed a Savior. In this way the door was being opened for Christ and His saving work. So the masses responded, though we learn later that some of the leaders didn't. The ritual of baptism was to mark the occasion of a change of attitude.

Verse 6 *John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.*

Perhaps the description of this man and his strange appearance caught



the attention of the people. He would remind them of the very famous prophet of older times, Elijah. Maybe some even thought it was Elijah coming back. But reincarnation was not accepted by the majority.

Verses 7, 8 *And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."*

Now we see how John introduces the ministry of Jesus. He takes a lower place and tells that Jesus is superior to him. The water baptism had its importance but what Jesus would do was far more important. In contrast to the ministry of Jesus, John the Baptist did no miracles. He was "a voice crying in the wilderness."

Verses 9-11 *At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As*

Jesus was coming up out of the water, He saw heaven torn open and the Spirit descend on Him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased."

The question comes to mind concerning why Jesus would need to be baptized. After all, He had no sins to confess. Indeed, John hesitated about baptising Him according to Matthew's Gospel. But Jesus was identifying with the human race which He had entered, acting in obedience before all observers. The approval from heaven would have been a startling event for those who witnessed it. God speaking from heaven is recorded only three times in the Gospels.

Verses 12, 13 *At once the Spirit sent Him out into the desert, and He was in the desert 40 days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals*

and angels attended Him.

We can't fully understand the relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit but we know they work in complete unity. The Son has become man and now is tested to prepare Him to be Savior of the world. The enemy of God and man, Satan, needed to be confronted and Jesus needed to get the better of him. So a battle was fought. Mark is very brief in his report but Matthew and Luke tell us more detail. It was not a matter of Jesus being inclined to do wrong but a decisive refusal, on His part to do anything but the will of His Father in heaven.

It was Satan's hope to turn Him off course. It is interesting to note that Jesus was with wild animals yet was not hurt.

Verses 14, 15 *After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," He said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"*

We note that the ministry of John the Baptist came to a sudden end. The great man was imprisoned and later executed by Herod the King. Jesus moved from the desert to Galilee where He was to spend the majority of His ministry. He followed on from John the Baptist in what He said. It was a call to people to realise that God was dealing with them-- that He was making an offer to them. The term "kingdom of God" is used throughout the Gospels and in brief, means the rule of God over the hearts of His people. The fulfillment of this is through Jesus, making a way for us to be saved from sin and to be brought into fellowship with God.

Verses 16-18 *As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed Him.*

This is how the calling of the first disciples began. Though this was not the first acquaintance they had with Jesus, (according to other Gospels), it is surprising that they were willing to drop what they were doing and follow Jesus wherever He went. We can only think that the Lord had a magnetic attraction about Him, and that they felt compelled to obey His call. The expression "fishers of men" refers to the winning of others to loyalty to Christ.

Verses 19, 20 *When He had gone a little farther, He saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed Him.*

We can't help but wonder what Zebedee thought about his sons walking off the job. But they joined the others making four future disciples. Little did they know what was in front of them – just what an amazing calling it was. The first steps were taken.

CONCLUSION

Mark has given us a quick introduction to his narrative of the life of Christ. Already we see how this man, Jesus, is different to all others. Yes, He is truly man. But He is a man without sin. He has come from another place (heaven) on a mission. His mission is to do the Father's will which concerns a great plan of salvation for mankind. A heavenly man joins with some earthly fishermen on a journey which is to change history. This is no small matter. It is life-changing. Let's keep looking at this amazing life!

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 fellow prisoner who is a Christian, or your Prison Chaplain.
2. Ask a friend or family member to bring you a Bible. Ask the Prison Chaplain to sign you up to a correspondence discipleship program.
3. Keep praying. Talk to God anywhere, about anything. He is always listening, and you don't need a formula.
4. Find out if your prison has church services and attend them regularly.

AS A NEXT STEP:

I have prayed the prayer [ABOVE]

Please send me: Bible
 Some 'starting off' literature
 Information on a helpful church

** Please check and write clearly **

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Address _____

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FINDING CONTENTMENT

NICO BOUGAS

CHARLES Swindoll tells the story of a woman in West Palm Beach, Florida, who died alone at the age of 71. The coroner's report was tragic. "Cause of death: malnutrition."

The dear old lady wasted away to 50 pounds. Investigators who found her said the place where she lived was a veritable pigpen, the biggest mess you can imagine. One seasoned inspector declared he'd never seen a residence in greater disarray.

The woman had begged food at her neighbors' back doors and gotten what clothes she had from the Salvation Army. From all outward appearances, she was a penniless recluse, a pitiful and forgotten widow. But amid the jumble of her unclean, dishevelled belongings, two keys were found which led the officials to safe deposit boxes at two different local banks. What they found was absolutely unbelievable.

The first contained hundreds of valuable certificates, bonds, and solid financial securities . . . not to mention a stack of cash amounting to nearly \$200,000. The second box had no certificates, only more currency – lots of it – \$600,000 to be exact. Adding the net worth of both boxes, they found that the woman had in her possession well over a million dollars! She was a millionaire who died a victim of starvation in a humble home. Admittedly this was an extreme case but many people imagine themselves to be poor and needy when they should be content with what they have got. Many do not really appreciate how good they have got things.

The multi-millionaire Rockefeller was asked how much it took to be satisfied, he replied, "Just a little more...!"

It is a funny trait in mankind that the more we get the more we want. We hear stories of the rich and famous and we envy them as though they had all that life has to offer. But are they really satisfied with all they have got?

Enough is never enough. No matter how much some people have they will always want more. There are millions of examples to which we could point to prove that wealth, prosperity and material things do not satisfy, they only create a desire in us for more. Just take a look at the stars of television and movie fame. It is amazing how many of them are addicted to alcohol and/or drugs and anti-depressants. They have it all, yet there is emptiness deep down inside of them that they are still trying to fill. There is a hunger they cannot satisfy, and a thirst they cannot quench.

Paul's life was filled with many difficulties, which he could have complained about. He faced constant stress, confusion, persecution, and beatings that left deep scars and permanent injuries. But Paul had learned an important secret to life. He said, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:11-13).

His happiness was not based on situations, it was based on his relationship with Christ. He knew he had all he needed, for it was Christ that gave him the strength for life.



Stephen Curry #30 of the Golden State Warriors drives to the basket while defended by Dillon Brooks #9 of the Houston Rockets in the second half at Toyota Center on October 29, 2023 in Houston, Texas. (Photo by Tim Warner/Getty Images)

CHANGING THE GAME

American basketballer Wardell Stephen “Steph” Curry II is one of the National Basketball Association (NBA)’s most successful players and has been described as the greatest shooter in NBA history. He is also credited with inspiring teams to regularly use the three-point shot.

But the four-time NBA Champion, two-time Most Valuable Player and nine-time All-Star says he knows basketball is just a game that can be taken from him at any moment.

Stephen, 35, has been playing for the NBA’s Golden State Warriors since 2009 and he talks about the role his faith has played in his career and personal life in a Facebook video as part of a series called Stephen vs The Game.

“You can control what you can control but outside of that there’s another force that’s shaping things the way they are supposed to be,” Steph says in the fifth episode, which is dedicated to his faith.

Steph grew up attending church and says he saw that faith was important to his parents (his father is former NBA player Dell Curry) but he never really understood it and had to make a decision for himself.

When he was in eighth grade, he attended a

youth service and listened as the pastor taught that young people couldn’t live off their parents’ faith but needed to make a decision for Christ for themselves. He says he went down to the front of the church and gave his life to Christ, marking the beginning of his personal journey as a Christian.

Steph says his faith is about a personal relationship with Christ rather than observing a specific religious practice. “Faith to me is believing in the unseen and having a conviction there is a higher power

that has given me a purpose to what I am doing on this earth and for me that is the foundation to how I try to live my life and... see the world through that lens,” he says.

He says he plays basketball to honour God but that doesn’t stop when he leaves the court and he uses every opportunity he has to let his actions speak louder than words.

“My faith is tested on the court as much as it is in life but it’s the part that always keeps me focused on what I need to do, when it comes to my family, when it comes to job, when it comes to how I treat other people, my appreciation for life and all the good things that happen and how to deal with the bad things that happen,” Steph says.

After a bad injury on the court, Steph’s mother encouraged him to find a Bible verse that he could rely on to give him strength and purpose.

He says he chose Philippians 4:13, which says “I can do all things through Christ Who gives me strength.”

He now regularly writes this verse on his basketball shoes.

In an article he wrote for Fellowship for Christian Athletes, Steph says, “God’s given me talents to play basketball for a living, but I still have to work hard to improve every day.

“I know that in the grand scheme of things, this is just a game that can be taken from me at any moment.

“But I love that basketball gives me the opportunities to do good things for people and to point them towards the Man who died for our sins on the cross. “I know I have

a place in heaven waiting for me because of Him, and that’s something no earthly prize or trophy could ever top. There’s more to me than just this jersey I wear, and that’s Christ living inside of me.”

Steph met his wife Ayesha at their church in Charlotte when they were 15 and 14 years old. They have three children.

The couple started a foundation in 2019 called Eat. Learn. Play. The foundation works to end childhood hunger, increase access to quality education, and provide safe spaces for children to stay active. Nick Friedell of ESPN says Steph is “The greatest shooter of all time.”

“Curry’s ability to hit shots from

all over the floor changed the way the game is played,” he continues. “He has led the Warriors to three NBA championships and earned two MVP awards, becoming the first unanimous MVP in league

“**There’s more to me than just the jersey I wear.**”

history in 2015-16. Curry’s influence on the game is seen on every level of basketball as younger generations shoot more than ever while trying to replicate his game.”

In 2021 Steph was honoured as one of the greatest players of all time by being named to the NBA 75th Anniversary Team. And last year, American media and entertainment company Complex ranked him as the 10th greatest player in NBA history.



Stephen Curry during the Warriors’ media day in October. (Photo by Ezra Shaw/Getty Images)

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