

"I decided to make [the hard] choices, and today I am... free," says Tony Hoang



WHEN MY BEST FRIEND asked me to lunch last weekend, my initial thought was I did not want to spend any more money. The past few weeks had been full of birthdays and outings with friends that had completely blown my budget.

After much thought, I knew some quality time with my friend was worth the few dollars I would have to spend on a meal. As I glanced through the pricey menu, looking for deals and bargains, I tried to push thoughts of money away and focus on enjoying the atmosphere, food, and company.

When it came time to split the bill, she slipped right under my nose and paid for all of it herself. Despite my protests she would not let me pay her back, and I realised ashamedly I had not needed to spend all that time thinking about myself – my friend was already thinking about me, and she had it covered.

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'I'M SO FREE'

'No matter how far you've gone, you can come back,' says former dealer turned drug educator

BY JOANNA DELALANDE

As a witness of domestic violence Tony Hoang grew up an angry child in Cabramatta NSW, often labelled the drug capital of Australia.

This anger led to over eight years of drug addiction, crime, and violence.

"My earliest memory, going back when I was five or six years old, is of being in my room with my mother and my sisters. [My mother] was crying after my father had just beaten her... I remember feeling a frustration and rage in my heart," Tony says.

Now a happily married father of four, Tony is all smiles as he says: "My relationship with my father has been restored... My relationship with people has been restored – I speak to strangers on the street like they're my best friends. I have love in my heart..."

But that love was not always there. In his younger years Tony was full of hatred and distrust, and the rage he felt towards his father saw him joining a heroin-dealing gang where he thought he had finally found his true family.

With money and a newfound sense of belonging Tony thought he was happy.

"I didn't think about conse-

quences. I just thought: 'this is my new family. These are the guys that love me'. And so, because of that, I did what was asked."

No one visited 14-year-old Tony after being arrested for dealing drugs, which only led to more anger and disappointment

Upon his release he knew he had a choice to either return to school or to continue dealing.

"I made a dumb choice," Tony says, "and I continued dealing drugs for eight years of my life."

With the dealing came addiction and more violence, until he was looking down the barrel of a gun and running for his life as the bullets miraculously missed his body.

In this time he lost 13 of his friends and family, six of whom were murdered.

Tony recalls that he felt dead inside and could no longer stand the life he was living.

In a last act of desperation, he visited the church he attended as a child. He began to weep in the knowledge that if God were real He would be the only person to know all he had gone through.

"I said, 'God, if you died for me to live like this then I don't want to live. I'm at the end of myself'. So with tears running down my face I asked Him to please give me a sign."

The very next day, walking

through Cabramatta, Tony was drawn to a church group playing RnB music on the sidewalk.

As he approached them, one of the members handed him a flyer that read: "If you are looking for a sign from God, here it is."

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MVP HUMBLE IN VICTORY



Stephen Curry 2015 NBA Most Valuable Player BACK PAGE

FACING DEATH IN A DESERT

BY ALAN BAILEY

Travellers in the Australian Outback are awed by its vastness. There is a lot of open space out there.

Recently, a tourist felt its loneliness and emptiness and nearly lost her life. With her husband, she walked for 15 minutes or so from the camp ground where they had spent the night. For some reason they lost sight of each other and became seriously separated.

The husband made his way back to the camp, trusting his wife was going to show up. But she was lost. The area was undulating with low bushes and looked fairly similar in all directions. Having no clear landmark coupled with loss of a sense of direction, the lady simply wandered.

Her husband soon became agitated and a search began. No trace was found that day. The operation escalated the following day with police and emergency workers becoming involved. Soon wide swathes of the landscape were being surveyed by helicopters while scores of volunteers scoured the earth.

Another unsuccessful day went by. Efforts were increased but the following day was also unsuccessful. On the morning of the third day, a movement was seen among the bushes and the lady was found. Cold, (the temperature was around four degrees overnight), and dehydrated. She had had nothing to eat or drink for the whole time. At night she had crouched among bushes to gain some shelter. Her husband was a much relieved man.

KEEPING ON TRACK

We will do all we can to prevent anything like this happening to ourselves. Yet, it is possible that right now, ordinary, everyday people are even more seriously lost. A line from the Book of Proverbs reads "Sometimes there is a way that seems to be right, but in the end it is the way to death."

Treacherously, we feel that all is OK about the way we are travelling through life. But Jesus warned "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it."

We may well ask, "What is so wrong about the wide road the majority are walking?" God is being ignored, His authority denied, His law constantly broken. Very serious stuff.

We need a Saviour. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Jesus took our penalty on the cross, rose again and opened the road to life that never ends. We enter it when we find Him.

'I'M SO FREE'

From page 1

"I was amazed," Tony says. "I took that flyer and I was in awe of what I saw. I sat there and I listened to this guy tell me about the Gospel, about how Jesus came and died for my sins; things I knew in my head but didn't know in my heart.

"Right there on the street he asked me to pray, to ask God for a new life, to forgive me of my [wrongdoings]. So I did that," Tony smiles. "On the eighth of February 2004, I said that prayer that changed my whole life."

Tony asked the Lord into his heart to change him and make him new, and he says in that moment, in the middle of a street where he was known as a heroin dealer, he burst into tears of joy and restoration.

Not everything was smooth sailing from then on. "It was hard for me to put that life away," Tony explains. "For eight, nine years of my life this was all I knew. It didn't happen overnight; I had to make some very difficult choices.

"But having come to Christ and knowing what He went through for me, I decided to make those choices, and today I'm clean. I'm free," he laughs.

"I'm so free, you can lock me up today and I'll still be free."

Today, Tony is a chaplain, youth worker, and pastor who aims to help young people avoid the life of addiction and crime he led for so long.

"I want them to know that it doesn't matter how far down that road you've gone, you can always come back," he says.



Tony Hoang with his family

We love generosity

From page 1

Money, time, material objects; these are all things we treasure because they come at a price. We work for them, we make sacrifices for them, and we feel like we are entitled to them so it sometimes becomes difficult to part with them. The irony is, parting with these things brings us more joy than having them ever could. Only once we make a sacrifice can we realise this.

Catherine realised it. She worked hard every day at a bread company saving up for a car. Then one morning when regular customers – a married couple – asked how her savings were going, Catherine responded that she had given every last cent of the \$5000 she had saved so far to a widow in need.

That couple realised the joy of giving too when they decided to buy Catherine a brand new 4WD car. Her joyful and teary response to the generous gift is now inspiring many millions of people in the I Like Car video on the social campaign website called ILikeGiving.com.

Other inspiring stories on this website include a family buying bikes for refugees who had theirs stolen, a woman paying for someone else's groceries after they left their wallet at home and a couple sharing their home with a homeless man. The reality about our money and material possessions is they are only temporary. The smiles on people's faces and the peace and joy we feel when we give is priceless and the effects are long-lasting.

Money, time and material possessions will often bring us more happiness when we see them in someone else's hands. Yet there is one thing we hold with even greater value, one thing when given away that becomes the ultimate act of generosity: our lives.

That is why people like George Tyson, who died in 2012 when he pushed his disabled son Gary out of the path of an oncoming car and took the full impact, fill us with such admiration.

People like Ryan Arnold, who died when giving his brother Chad a liver for a transplant.

And the touching story of 13-year-old Jordan Rice who saved his brother from a flood in Queensland but did not make it



back to safety himself.

We hear these stories and are in awe of the courage, the love required to make such a sacrifice. But like Gary, Chad, and Jordan's brother Blake, it might surprise you to know we have all been on the receiving end of such an act of generosity.

To release us from fear, the guilt and shame from past mistakes and wrongdoing and to make us right before God, Jesus Christ made the ultimate sacrifice.

His innocent death still brings humanity hope today and the free gift of eternal life with God in heaven if we choose to accept and believe in Him.

It does not take much to make someone's day. A simple act of generosity, from paying for someone's meal to helping someone with a flat tire, can make a huge difference.

It leaves me thinking about ways I can help make someone else's day but most of all, it reminds me why I live to bring Jesus honour in the way I live – after all He made the ultimate sacrifice.



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Crossword

ACROSS

- 8 Post-op time (5)
- 13 Cover up (4)
- 19 Weaken (5)
- 1 Manchu
- 9 French cabaret
- 14 Ukraine
- 20 Badge (9)
- homeland (9)
- legend Edith (4)
- capital (4)
- 7 Waterlily (5)
- 10 Ocean predator (4)
- 17 Wait on (5)

DOWN

- 1 Grinder (5)
- 2 Place for jotting (7)
- 3 Mounted soldier (6)
- 4 Like hen's teeth (4)
- 5 Volcano output (3)
- 6 Deadly snake (5)
- 11 Pasta "cushions" (7)
- 12 Straight line of descent (6)
- 13 Rush (5)
- 15 Primp (5)
- 16 Bit of sweat (4)
- 18 Edge (3)

SOLUTION PAGE 11

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

Puzzle Level: Medium

6 3 8
4 2 9
7 5 1

SOLUTION PAGE 11

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

Walking wounded can be healed

Peace and healing can be found, says former radio celebrity

As a former radio presenter to 3.5 million South Africans Clint Davis has long understood that people share the same concern on where peace can be found.

"Some seek peace in yoga, but whatever it is – we are seeking peace – about this life, about our circumstances, our governance of our lives and what comes after this life," says Clint Davis, who recently filled-in on community radio in Australia.

Clint says he was walking wounded because he did not know the love of his father.

"My parents were church goers, but my stepfather was quite abusive physically and emotionally," he remembers.

As he was raised in church, at age six, Clint says, "I remember committing my life to the Lord (Jesus)" but as he looked at his stepfather's lifestyle he adds, "It was easy for me to hold very loosely to what a Christian life looked like".

After graduating from a Bible school in 2004 Clint became even

more disillusioned about God and Christianity.

"What I had seen on stage from some preachers at my church was not what I had seen behind the scenes," he recalls sadly.

As he departed from his religious heritage Clint found success at a music-focused Johannesburg radio station, a place where no one ever talked about God.

"If anybody is to know what commercial radio is like, look at the celebrities of today, and you will know how easy it is to be caught up in that world."

He says he was drifting, "as I was invited to 'celebrity events'" and caught up in "celebrity-ism", the hedonistic pursuit of fame and popularity.

"For six years I was speaking to about 3.5 million listeners every day, doing all kinds of shows, fill-in roles, all sorts of stuff," Clint says, recalling that he loved the rush of filling in on live TV as well.

Then Clint met a beautiful charming woman and his life was turned



Clint Davis

upside down.

"I met my wife in the celebrity world. We felt that if we were heading towards marriage for real then we had to get into church."

Since they had seen broken lives and marriages where God was absent, they decided to pursue God for real and not attend church just for the social aspect.

"We sat on the back row as I wanted to be there for God and really rediscover Him," he says.

Clint and his wife then pursued freelance media work in Dubai for six years from 2009 and became involved in a church there.

"We worked in the entertainment industry as freelancers, my wife often

sharing the stage with 'A list Celebrities'. Freelancing took a lot of faith for provision and taught me about our heavenly Father's heart.

"We started ministering into the different nationalities in that church and into other nations, and for the last two years I worked on staff at the church we attended."

However, that fatherhood wound remained.

In counselling many others about fatherhood Clint recalls that God challenged him in an area he had not dealt with: "How do I relate to God as Father?"

With the desire to "understand the heart of the father" and tell his biological father how Jesus had changed his life Clint says they connected over social media for several months.

"The months of difficult discussion was tough, emotionally draining. I met up with him when I was last in South Africa.

"Without dishonouring my father in any way, I felt God saying to me, 'You see now that I've been your Dad the whole time – I've guided and lead you. That might sound 'flakey' but that is the truth.'

Clint believes that the way people experience fatherhood often taints their view of God, our heavenly Father.

In those years where he believed God was absent, due to his father's earlier absence, Clint affirms that God had never left him alone.

"If our heart is breaking around the subject of fatherhood, I believe we

need to understand that the trinity of God is one in nature. God the Holy Spirit is here with us [speaking to us], and if we trust in Jesus the Holy Spirit is in us. The Holy Spirit carries the same father nature, as does God the Son."

Now as he works in community radio in Australia, guest lectures at an Australian Bible college, teaches in a local church, Clint says he enjoys sharing the good news about Jesus everywhere.

"God has given me a gift to explain complicated things in a simple way. I never used that when I was on commercial radio, but God did a 180 degree switch on these things when I gave it to him."

While some see Jesus as one of the answers to a weakness or hole in our life Clint says that "Jesus is everything".

Now we live in a broken world, Clint says, because we chose to be separated from His perfection, but Jesus has provided for us to have peace with God.

"Imagine I gave you a million dollars but until you go and draw that money out of the ATM you don't have it. In the same way, Christ died for all, but until you accept that free gift you don't have it."

"Once you do give Him governance over your life, a good God who only brings good things to His children and governance over your future, you will have His peace about where you'll be for eternity in heaven in God's Kingdom."

Shoplifting mother finds a reason to change



*"I was permanently angry and jealous"
Leana Bester says of her former life*

Leana used to steal to help her children, now she wants to teach them a whole new way to live

Leana Bester was in her teens when she began a relationship with a much older man. After having a child together they married, but divorced nine months later. She had two more children to another man but admits she had no direction or purpose in life.

"My life was out of control," she describes. "I was doing wrong things and was not teaching my children about God as my parents had. I was permanently angry and jealous."

When she began shoplifting to support her children she was soon caught and sent to prison.

"God saw that I was messing my life up and took me away from all temptations," she recalls. "God allowed me to be sent to prison for the wrong I had done."

"I was very angry, hurt and sad at the time. I did not understand why, if there was a God, He allowed me to go to prison. I was shoplifting to look after my children. I asked myself how God could send me to prison when I was shoplifting for the right reasons. I blamed Him for my mistakes."

In prison Leana was went through Christian courses as part of a restorative justice program.

"In the beginning, I did these courses with a heavy heart," she says. "But after a few weeks I began to enjoy the classes and was learning about God and His Word, the Bible."

"I never understood why God sent me to prison, but the more I read the Bible, the more I began to understand."

"I realised God wanted to save me from my sinful life (of rebelling against God's laws). He saw I was doing wrong and that I was living my own life, a life full of sin."

Leana says the Bible course that she did changed her life. Though, at first it was an effort to go along, she found she started to enjoy it and it changed her mind about God.

"After a few months I finally repented (turned away) from my sins and accepted Jesus as my personal Lord and Saviour," she says, trusting that God had forgiven all her sin through Jesus's sacrifice on the cross.

"God sent me to prison where I got to see how wrong my life was. I know now that I am a child of God. I want to go

home and teach my children about God and His Word."

After becoming a born-again Christian, she recalls, "I started praying to my God and saw how He made my life better."

"I committed my life to God and am not an angry person anymore. I will keep on praising God."

"I know that I have changed. I am a better person. I am much friendlier and no longer swear and get worked up. I am patient and kind and people can see the difference in me. My mother said she could hear that I am a changed person when we spoke on the telephone recently."

"Now when I get angry I talk with God. I really enjoy talking to God, because He listens to my prayers."

"Since my conversion, God has made a huge difference in my life. He has healed my pain, hurt and insecurities. I am a much stronger person and I am able to forgive the people that have hurt me."

"God has protected me in very difficult situations here in prison and has helped me when I was lost. He is keeping my three beautiful children safe and gives them lots of love," she concludes.

nudge

WITH KARL FAASE



Our ability to say no

Two researchers from the University of California, Roger Bohn and James Short, found that the amount of information consumed per capita by Americans increased by 60 per cent between 1980 and 2008 – from 7.4 hours a day to 11.8. Shockingly, these figures exclude working hours!

In a world so crowded with information and distraction, it is incredibly difficult to maintain focus on any one task. We can end up jumping from one input source to another and finish the day with information overload.

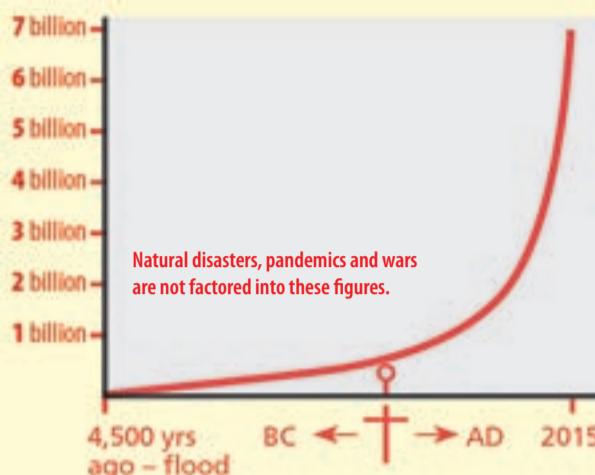
So what is the solution? It is the ability to say no. Choose what you will focus on at any one time and block out the rest.

One of Jesus' personal skills was that at times of extra pressure and expectation, He found quiet time to be with the Father rather than feeling like He always needed to do more.

It was wise then and it is even more important now.

For more Daily Nudge by Karl Faase, see Nudge.org.au

7 BILLION AND COUNTING



BY ATHOL MEINJTES

POPULATION GROWTH EXPERTS tell us that the Earth's population grows at an average of 0.5% per year. Just a boring statistic that doesn't have anything to do with you, right? Wrong!

It actually gives solid proof of your origin, or more precisely, the origin of the entire human race. Let's start with the 7 billion people who inhabit planet Earth today and travel back in time.

At a reasonable average rate of 0.5% growth per year, we can work backwards and, as any mathematician can easily verify, we will arrive at a population close to zero only about 4,500 years ago.

Let's look at this from another angle. Evolutionary scientists tell us that the first human beings evolved about 1 million years ago. So, let's apply the 0.5% growth rate from then. It doesn't take long to calculate that we end up with an unbelievably ridiculous population of literally trillions upon trillions of people. Can you see here the insurmountable problem for an evolutionist? For those who believe in a Biblical world view, however, there are no problems at all with these figures.

Biblical history tells us that only about 4,500 years ago a worldwide watery catastrophe and judgment occurred. We call this event "Noah's Flood". Only eight people survived the disaster and, according to the Bible, are the ones from whom all of Earth's current population have descended. Interestingly, Earth's population would have had to double only 30 times to reach our current 7 billion (refer to creation.com). The Bible proves to be true once again!

Clearly, the evolutionary theory has deep and serious flaws. Will you bravely face the only other alternative for the origin of the universe and of the human race: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... So God created man in his own image...male and female he created them."

If you accept that the Bible is true, and you accept that God is your Creator, you will soon realise that you must also face the issues of accountability and judgment. You cannot avoid it! One day, sooner or later, you will die and face your Creator God as your Judge or as your Saviour (Hebrews 9:27).

How can God judge you? Have you really committed a crime against your Creator? Just consider how God has given you life itself and every blessing you enjoy in life. You owe Him so much! He deserves the highest place of honour in your life. So, how important is God to you? If He is ignored or means very little to you, you are inflicting great grief to your loving God, and you are also violating the first of His Holy Laws which commands you to "love the Lord your God with all your heart." These Holy Laws, often referred to as "The Ten Commandments", have been written by God's own finger on the conscience of each person (Romans 2:14-16, 3:23), and are the standard by which God will judge you at the end of your life.

So, let's see how you would measure up. Have you ever lied, stolen, hated, or used God's holy name as a swear word? If so, God sees you as . On Judgment Day, even if you are guilty of only one of these crimes, you will be sentenced to Hell, and will miss out on Heaven.

But wait, here's the good news! "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17).

God actually sent His perfect and sinless Son, Jesus Christ, to take your punishment on the cross, so that you could go free and escape paying for your own sins forever in Hell. Then Jesus arose to life again, defeating death and proving that all sin has been paid for. So now, God is able to dismiss your case legally. Jesus has paid the full penalty of your crimes against God with His own life's blood!

Find out more about how to receive God's amazing love gift, see "Could God love someone like me?" on page 11.



Actor James Franco played Michael Glatze in the movie I Am Michael

Eight years after his lifestyle change, former gay activist Michael Glatze is still sending the media chattering as his story is told in a Hollywood movie "I am Michael" which stars gay actor James Franco and premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2015.

Despite opposing views, there is mutual respect between Michael and the film's gay director and actors, so much so that they appreciated Michael thanking them for making the film.

Perhaps the reason for this respect is that Michael Glatze and his wife Rebekah say that their emphasis is unconditional love.

"We're here... to love everyone unconditionally," Michael told the Christian Post in 2014. "Our emphasis is on spreading the good news [of Jesus] to reach people, inspire them and serve the community."

Once a participant in gay rights rallies and the editor of two prominent gay magazines, Michael championed the cultural plasticity of sexuality and gender in major TV and magazine stories, and received the National Role Model Award from major homosexual-rights organization Equality Forum.

Michael's journey into homosexuality began at age 13 after his father's death. He recalls feeling "unable to handle my own masculinity" and as he became attracted to men "I decided I must be gay."

Wanting to champion the causes of young homosexuals, Michael says he worked for a gay magazine that he knew "bordered on pornography" knowing it was a stepping stone to more virtuous work. At 22, he became co-founder and editor of what he describes as a "not-so-pornographic" magazine. In his time there he co-produced Jim in Bold, the first major documentary film to tackle gay teen suicide.

Yet, he recalls a constant inner questioning of his motivations and lifestyle that others saw as mere idealism: "Even in the darkest days of late-night parties, substance abuse and all kinds of things... I felt like, 'Why am I here, what am I doing?'"

"I would assume that since I'm a loving, kind person, then [my sexual attraction to men] must just be... a homosexual form of love. I'm not lustful, I'm not dirty, I'm loving," he said in a 2014 interview with Dr Joseph Nicolosi.

This assumption was false, according to Michael. He wrote in a WND.com column in 2007: "Under the influence of homosexuality... lust is a virtue, there is no homosexual desire that is apart from lust."

This lust is never satisfying, he explained, because it "takes us out of our bodies, 'attaching' our psyche onto



Michael Glatze and wife Rebekah

someone else's [desirable] physical form... Homosexuality causes us to forever pine for an outside physical object that we can never possess."

Michael shared with Dr Nicolosi that homosexual feelings were a lustful desire for another's masculinity, sometimes fuelled by "confusion", "terror", and the feeling, "I can't do what this guy is doing and I can't be what he is."

As the gay magazine he co-founded took off in 2005, Michael was asked to speak on the JFK Jr. Forum at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. It was after watching a videotape of his speech that Michael says, "I began to seriously doubt what I was doing with my life and influence."

Unsure of who to approach with his doubts, Michael says, "I turned to God."

"I'd developed a growing relationship with God, thanks to a debilitating bout with intestinal cramps caused by the upset stomach-inducing behaviours I'd been engaged in."

"I'd always been told that if you had doubts about the rightness of your homosexuality, which I had been having for a while but was trying to silence, that it was because you just hadn't worked through all your internalized homophobia. But that didn't feel true now," Michael explains.

As he studied the Bible, his hopes that

How do our brains understand the mathematical laws of the universe?

How can it be that fractals exist both as a mathematical entity (which is abstract, non-physical), and in the physical world outside of us (such as in lightning and broccoli)? If the universe was not made by a Designer and was instead made by chance, why does it follow mathematical rules?

"How can it be that mathematics, being after all a product of human thought which is independent of experience, is so admirably appropriate to the objects of reality?"

— Albert Einstein

Not the same love

Hollywood film explores why editor left gay lifestyle

the Bible approved of his lifestyle were shot through. He remembers, "I began to understand things I'd never known could possibly be real, such as the fact that I was leading a movement of sin and corruption."

"It became clear to me, as I really thought... and prayed about it – that homosexuality prevents us from finding our true self within. We cannot see the truth when we're blinded by homosexuality."

He explained in a 2007 WND.com article that "Homosexuality, delivered to young minds, is by its very nature pornographic. It destroys impressionable minds and confuses their developing sexuality; I did not realize this, however, until I was 30 years old."

He stepped down as co-founder of XY Magazine in 2007 in dramatic fashion through a departing note left on his work computer: "I am straight", and as this felt true, he added, "Homosexuality = death. I choose life."

From studying the Bible Michael realized that "God creates us heterosexual", as reported by the NY Times in 2011.

In his "coming out" column in 2007 How a Gay Rights Leader Became Straight, Michael explained that when "tempted to lust, I noticed it, caught it and dealt with it". Instead of dwelling on lustful feelings Michael writes that he focused "on my God-given self".

"God loves you more than any dude will ever love you," Michael shared with NY Times reporter Benoit Denizet-Lewis in 2011. "We go from guy to guy, looking for someone to love us and make us feel O.K., but God is so much better than all the other masters out there."

Michael met wife-to-be Rebekah during studies at a Wyoming Bible college in 2011. They married two years later.

"As a Christian," Michael wrote in a World News Daily blog post in 2013, "I would be a liar if I did not tell who God is, what He has done in my life and how He continues to provide for me (and now – thank God – my family) in ways more numerous than I can count."

In the right favour

Is fear driving me to follow the crowd, Cameron wondered

"Scarfies on the grog! Scarfies on the grog!" shouted Kiwi uni student Cameron Mackenzie as he partied in a bar with his scarf-warmed Otago University peers.

Yet as the party rolled on Cameron recalls sensing a small inward voice, saying "There's more to life than this."

In the coolness of the morning he realised it was fear of not being accepted that was motivating his lifestyle, not enjoyment.

"I had this underlying fear of not fitting in or being seen as 'uncool', which impacted the things I did and said," Cam admits.

In his early school years he recalls that the occasional mockery of his ginger hair and freckles drove his desire for acceptance.

"I've heard it said that acceptance attracts while rejection repels," he reflects.

"For me, this means we are drawn towards that which accepts us whilst hiding from any sort of rejection."

He was raised attending church by religious parents, where he did not shy away from the cool activities.

"I did youth group, played drums in the music team and played sport on the weekend," Cam says.

However, as a 12-year-old he remembers seeing his priorities clearly while disconnected from outside social pressures at a youth group camp.

"In the outskirts of Canterbury, New Zealand the reality of God's love for me became real and in response I placed my faith in Jesus."

"In that moment, God came to live in-a-supernatural-but-very-true-way inside of me, and began His work of making me into the person He created me to be."



Cameron Mackenzie asked himself, "Why am I afraid of what my peers think?"

Years later, as he drank among his peers, Cam realised he was looking in the wrong place for acceptance.

At a Christian conference run by Student Life he newly considered the message of Romans 8, verse 31: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

"I asked myself, 'if the God of the universe is for me, why am I afraid of what my friends think?'

"God used this verse to show me where my priorities were and that they needed to change if this verse is true."

He also learned what it means to be accepted.

"I learned that absolute acceptance is when someone (Jesus) dies for you."

As he trusted in what Jesus had done for him Cam gratefully responded in obedience to Him.

"I began to truly follow Jesus and live my life in a way which demonstrated the acceptance that I had come to know."

Courtesy Student Life NZ, www.studentlife.org.nz

NEVER GIVE UP

Young vet nurse is no longer worried about the future

A challenging year spent away at the third-world tropical islands of Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands introduced Hayley Budge to a whole new world and yet as she returned to Australia she had no idea what she was supposed to do.

Her father, an experienced civil engineer, worked for AusAid to help with new planning of roads for Vanuatu's residents.

The year away was eye-opening but not without its difficulties as Hayley struggled with being so far from the life she was used to. Despite this she found the experiences to be amazing and the rich culture fascinating.

"I learned a lot about how the Ni-Vans people lived, and I was amazed at their open, friendly and generous ways as well as their culture and way of life," Hayley says.

"I spent a lot of time with a few close friends because there were a small number of English-speaking people around my age. We went to a lot of amazing places, and some of the most beautiful beaches I have ever seen."

Going back to a less adventurous life in Australia led to difficulties in working out what her purpose in life was.

"I had to start from scratch again, such as finding something to study, finding a job, and even in some cases I had to start again with friends."

"Back in Perth, I found myself drifting. I was raised in a Christian family, but I no longer wanted to spend any time thinking about God or what He intended for my life," she admits.

Although she had no plan for what she wanted to do, Hayley says



Hayley Budge

His forgiveness.

"Even though I can never be perfect, God still loves us and through the perfect life of God the Son, Jesus, I am saved and appear as perfect in God's sight."

Now Hayley continues, "I am learning all I can about God's will for my life. I still do not know what is ahead for me, but I am no longer worried about it."

"I know I can trust God's plan and I look forward to what He will do with my life."

One of Hayley's favourite verses says, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40, verse 31).

"This verse reminds me what God has done for me and what He will do for anyone who believes in Him," Hayley concludes. Now a qualified vet nurse, she has found employment as a wildlife park keeper.

Holding out for a hero

BY CODY KNOX

AFTER VIEWING Christopher Nolan's latest mind-bending epic, Interstellar, I left the cinema that night, I can honestly say, a different man.

Have you ever noticed how the movies we love and cherish have a hero? A central character who, often at great cost to himself, saves the day? We find ourselves cheering for these characters without having any personal connection to them whatsoever.

In this dramatic tale, the earth is dying and Earth's smartest remaining minds task themselves with saving it. They realise that our blue planet does not contain the answer, but distant worlds just might. By sending a team of scientists through a wormhole near Saturn, they hope to scout a new home for humans. The weight of mankind's fate is placed in the capable hands of a small few, and we love them for it. The end of the world will not be the end of us.

The hero narrative is ingrained into our deepest hopes and desires. We seek for someone to follow; someone to enter the darkness of the great unknown and lead us into the light.



"Mankind was born on Earth.

It was never meant to die here," says Cooper (Matthew McConaughey) in Interstellar

(Picture: Aegaeus Mann, CC BY-SA 2.0)

We yearn for that person to crash into our world and save us from all the pain and suffering that threatens to consume us. We are all holding out for a hero. Who will save us from this world of death?

The glorious, original Hero

In our favour, we understand that if someone is to save us, they need to be like us (human). So we stick our own hands up. How is that going for us? All the efforts to "make the world a better place" definitely don't seem

to be working. If anything, things are getting worse. Has it ever crossed anyone's mind that mankind isn't the solution?

Despite all of our arrogance and pride in our attempts to solve this world's many problems, we just can't. We only make things worse. The only thing that you and I contribute to the dire situation we find ourselves in is the pain and sin that needs to be dealt with.

The solution to this problem is not found in G20 summits, better money management, or laser-guided bombs, but rather in someone who came to this earth 2000 years ago. Jesus Christ taught of His coming kingdom – a reign with no death, worry or pain – and promised that for all those who would give up on their own efforts to save the world and themselves, they would be welcomed into this New World as sons and daughters. The Lord Jesus' flawless life, death, and resurrection provide His people with righteousness, forgiveness, and hope in a world teeming with counterfeits.

We are all holding out for our hero. Instead of looking inward or outward to your fickle fellow man, look to Jesus. He victoriously died and rose in the past, to secure your future. •

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BRITISH COACH FREES ATHLETES OF PRESSURE

Christine Bowmaker warns of media echo-chamber and says developing the person is her top priority

Former British international sprinter Christine Bowmaker has made it her mission to coach Britain's top athletes to success in the cauldron of public pressure.

"I have been privileged to work with an Olympic, World and Commonwealth Champion and British number one sprinters over the 60m, 100m and 200m," says Christine, who formerly competed in the same distances and the 4x100m relay.

Great Britain's track performance has surged in the past year with nine new international senior and junior medallists. Christine coached one of them, Jodie Williams, to a silver-winning time in the 200m at the 2014 European Games.

This lift has occurred, Christine

told the BBC, because "the coaching has improved".

"You're looking after young people's lives, and you have to appreciate that. You coach the event, but you develop the person."

"I do a lot of reading, listening and watching. There's a sharing of ideas now. Coaches are becoming more professional in everything they do."

What sets Christine apart is her awareness of the false identity that the media and the public pushes on athletes.

"If [athletes] are not being talked about or written about their self-worth and value diminishes," she explains in a Back Pages magazine interview.

"As long as the athlete is performing, everyone wants them in news-

papers articles, on the television and in magazines, but they are quickly forgotten if injured or performances start waning."

Christine believes these athletes need a firm external foundation.

"Athletes need to see themselves as multi-faceted and not just as an athlete. That is the way God sees us and that is the way I have to see them."

As a devout Christian she says that her foundation is her relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

"I am the person I am today because I am a Christian," she shares in a YouTube video for Christians in Sport UK, referring to how she has surrendered control of her life to Jesus Christ.

"My identity is not found in track and field. This is just a facet of who I am. God's given me a gift to be a coach. I believe that God wants me to be here, to make a difference and I believe that athletes need to see a difference."

Regardless of whether an athlete gains a medal, Christine points out from her own experience that "a void remains that only God can fill".

"When athletes enter the world of sport they don't realise how cut throat it is, so as a Christian coach, I feel it is my duty to make sure they know that I value them, how Christ values them, not as the world values them."

Christine admits she feels pressure from media and the governing bodies in sport, but people notice her different approach.

She tells these enquirers, "I am different because Christ is in control of my life, not the media and not British Athletics. Is the path that I walk easy? Certainly not. Do I feel overwhelmed at times? Yes I do."

It did upset her when a high profile athlete recently decided to change coaches, a crushing blow for many



"Athletes need to see themselves as multi-faceted," says Christine Bowmaker

coaches, but she responds differently.

She explains to Christians in Sport, "I am different because I've got Christ. I know Christ loves me and

He wants the best of me. And even though [others] don't see it as the best for me, I know that God sees it as the best for me."

One of Christine's favourite verses is from Jeremiah 29, verse 11: "For I know the plans I have for

you; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

When athletes leave, Christine says she chooses to respond as Jesus would have her do.

"I have lost high profile athletes and I still let them know that I love them, I care for them and that I'm

still there for them.

"I thank God that He always affords us His good grace, and I try to do the same to others."

When Christine was a track and field competitor herself, she remembers that attending church and Bible study group leaders were essential to her spiritual growth, and she now does the same for others.

"At my second World Student Games, Jules Wilkinson (a Christians in Sport staff worker) and Ashley Nulls (sport chaplain) both helped me through those games."

For the last years, Christine and Jules have run Bible studies with athletes from many sports at Christine's training base at the Lee Valley Athletics Centre.

"It is comforting to see other people worshipping the same God. We can pray for one another and be a support each other," she says. •

Believe it or not

BY CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, CREATION.COM

Chalk it up to the Flood and its algal blooms

A satellite photograph published by the University of Michigan, shows green pollution in Lake Erie, which they describe as the worst algal bloom in the lake in decades.*

In the 1950s, algal blooms were common due to high levels of phosphorus from farms, sewage, and industry. The phosphorus-rich nutrients promoted the bloom, but improved environmental practices in the 1970s reduced their occurrence. However, high phosphorus levels have returned, promoting a giant bloom in 2011.

Algae blooms kill fish, clog harbours, and are sometimes poisonous to people. They absorb the oxygen in the water creating dead zones where marine life cannot survive. They can appear very quickly—i.e. within just a few days.

Half way through Noah's global Flood, conditions emerged that were conducive to algal blooms. The warm water, rotting vegetation, and decomposing animals produced the necessary nutrients for enormous blooms, which left their record as the vast chalk deposits found across the earth. It all happened quickly, contrary to the supposed millions of years of diatomaceous accumulation. (See creation.com/chalk.)

* Climate change likely to increase Lake Erie algae blooms and 'dead zones', U-M ecologist says, University of Michigan News Service, 11 September 2012.



TOLEDO, OHIO - AUGUST 4 2014: A jar with water collected from Lake Erie.

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EVERYBODY WORSHIPS

"There is actually no such thing as atheism," said the late American author and agnostic David Foster Wallace in a 2008 college commencement speech.

"There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships... If you worship money you will... never feel you have enough. Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly. Worship power, you will end up feeling weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to numb you to your own fear. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart, you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out."

S Family Finance

INTERNET BUSINESS MODELS EXPLAINED

An internet business relies on the same principles as an in-person one, it just uses the internet channel to reach and serve customers.

The viability of all businesses depends on how whether they provide real value to customers in the good or service, which provides enough revenue to pay business expenses and make a sustainable profit.

Accessing customers via the worldwide internet means that for some products and services you can reach many more customers with higher levels of efficiency and more information (including customer relationship information) than was possible before the internet.

New business models have emerged, such being an intermediary for information-rich transactions, or offering 'free information' that is funded through advertising, affiliate or broker relationships or lead generation for other business.

There are nine Internet business categories, according to Michael Rappa, in his book *Managing the Digital Enterprise*: Brokerage, Advertising, Infomediary, Merchant, Manufacturer, Affiliate, Community, Subscription, and Utility.

Excellent descriptions of these nine 'digital enterprise' categories are available at the CrownBiz website: crownbiz.com/internet-business-models-explained.



Requirements may vary in the capital and time for the building and operation phases. These depend on how quickly a brand needs to establish to achieve a customer base and awareness in the market.

Some web businesses only require a simple inexpensive website or a presence on internet auction sites like

Ebay.com. Other online businesses may need years and many millions of dollars to achieve a sustainable and successful brand. Many successful internet businesses will have a strategy somewhere in between.

Focus on the problem the business is solving and a detailed plan on how to achieve measurable and profitable outcomes.

The specific model, pricing and marketing strategy may change over time as a business experiments with what works. •

Adam and Eve and getting high



WIESBADEN, GERMANY - November 13, 2014: Part of 2.9 tonnes of recently-confiscated chloephedrin, one of the main ingredients used to manufacture methamphetamine.

BY ANDREW SINCLAIR

P, AMP, SPEED, TWEAK, ICE, CRYSTAL, CRANK — there are many nicknames for methamphetamine. Destroying lives through ruined looks, the once beautiful smiles ravaged by drug use. Users shackled in self-induced slavery and reliance, the paranoia, violent reactions or freaky hallucinations. The results of methamphetamine use are shockingly destructive but I think the most frightening thing about methamphetamine is what it does to the brain.

Methamphetamine alters the brain to feel great pleasure by tampering with the way the brain manages its natural pleasure chemical, dopamine. Methamphetamine blocks the part of the brain that recycles dopamine, so the brain receives a huge dopamine hit.

This hit of pleasure, this huge high is so incredible that users become obsessed with achieving the same euphoria of their first hit. But the initial high cannot be recreated. After it wears off methamphetamine leaves the user worse off than before.

Methamphetamine destroys the body and mind. More and more methamphetamine is required to get a high. Normally gratifying activities lose their shine. The natural highs of life become less and less pleasurable the more someone takes methamphetamine. Even taking it once changes the way you look at the world.

A high called Eden

I wonder if Adam and Eve felt the same. They were created by God and placed in a beautiful, incredible garden called Eden. It must have been amazing, their normal every day must have been a great high; a dopamine hit, as they had nothing to worry about; great beauty to experience and the blessing of being able to walk with God in the garden. There was nothing to get in the way of them and God. It must have been a remarkable experience!

But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, when they acted like their own gods and brought a curse on our world, the amazing garden and the beautiful closeness they had with God was gone. It must have been a huge shock to their system, from the great high of being close to God they were cast out of the garden, far from God.

I can only imagine how low they must have felt. Like a drug user coming off a high with no way of getting it back. The dopamine high of being in a sinless and curse-free world and walking with God each day — all lost.

Desperately holding out for closeness with God again, this withdrawal must have caused them great grief and depression. Surely Adam and Eve clung to the hope God would keep his promise to deal with sin so they would someday be able to be close to him again.

The hope of a promise fulfilled

While we have never experienced the high Adam and Eve would have felt we all know what it is to seek fulfillment, satisfaction and pleasure. Our world comes up with creative ways of trying to meet our every need, to give us a unsatisfying dopamine high. We were made for more than this.

God is bringing people back to be close to Him. Through faith in Jesus we have the hope of a new heavens and a new earth. In Jesus we can have closeness and intimacy with our creator once more. The final book of the Bible reveals what this will be like. It describes the restoration of Eden, where God dwells with His people. Where there will be no more curse of sin. The mediocre highs of life will be replaced with the supernatural high of being with God, an everlasting high that will never disappoint. A high that's worth looking forward to.

Andrew Sinclair is a Kiwi studying theology in Sydney.

CLEAN SLATE after miserable past

Abuse, rejection, addictions, abortions, depression and even time in prison could not keep Kathy Hunt from accepting an unbelievable offer of a new life.

After being molested by a family member, Kathy thought being abandoned in a children's home at age 11 was the rescue plan and answer to this scared little girl's prayers.

Then, after being diagnosed with multiple personalities, no one would believe her when she confessed to being gang-raped by some of the boys living there.

Feeling "ripped into pieces", Kathy recalls turning to drugs, alcohol, prostitution, lesbianism, and gangs after she fled her abusers by hitch hiking with truckers.

"Bitterness and anger boiled within me and I asked myself: why was I even born? I attempted suicide and thought I might as well give sex away so it couldn't just be taken from me. Abortions became my method of birth control," she admits.

Abusive marriages followed and Kathy struggled to bring up the children she had amidst her unstable home life and addictions to methamphetamine, marijuana and cocaine.

The drugs were still not enough to numb her pain and Kathy says she clung to the hope of 'one day' and would "talk towards the Heavens" in the hopes that if God existed, He would keep her safe and make all the bad things stop.

Throughout her life she had dabbled in various religions and cults but says most of it had been forced upon her.

"I had been baptized in the mountains of Dakota while at a summer camp at age 12, yet I did not truly and wholeheartedly believe that Jesus was real at that point," Kathy admits.

It was only a year after the death of her 12-day old son, Kathy says she began to understand who the real Jesus was.

She had been attending a small church



"I have let go of my scars," says Kathy Hunt

with a pastor who motivated and inspired her to read the Bible, despite battling dyslexia.

"It was there I began to believe that there really is a Saviour and His name is Jesus," she explains.

"As I read the Bible I began to pray 'God please make the Bible, your Word, come alive to me so I will know without a shadow of a doubt that You are real'."

God answered this prayer in a personal way after her youngest son was born and the baby's father was incarcerated.

"I prayed like never before, crying out to God, 'I know there is more to you than this, show me who you are!' I knew there was nothing left for me to do but give God all I had."

Kathy wanted to trust in Jesus Christ, despite her doubts, and prayed earnestly that God would allow His Holy Spirit to come into her life and help guide her.

"Deep in my heart all I could feel was a strong sense of assurance, and later I saw

it was really in that moment of time that God was touching my life," she says.

God answered her prayers for help but, despite her genuine commitment, the doubts that God would continue to provide resurfaced and Kathy confesses she made some bad decisions "to get ahead".

After skipping probation on drug charges in 2007, Kathy was arrested in 2009 and was sentenced to five years in maximum security prison, where she says she was finally able to make a fresh start.

Released on probation after 18 months, Kathy vowed not to return to her old ways but instead search for God's direction, which lead her to begin an internship in a Christ-centred transitional home and become a certified instructor for two faith-based '12 step Overcomers Support Groups'.

"God blessed me and gave me a sound foundation to stand on. I excelled far beyond my own dreams and ambitions," she says joyfully after putting all her trust in Jesus.

Although she once felt completely alone, believing that no one understood the pain hidden deep inside her, Kathy now says God has given her a new outlook on life.

"Jesus met me right where I was, accepting me just as I was, and helped me understand the mercy and grace [undeserved kindness] of a living God who loves us unconditionally," she explains.

"I have been able to let go of so many emotional scars because I believed the Scriptures when it says 'For whom the Son [Jesus] sets free is free indeed!'

"Pain runs deeper the longer we carry and hide it from God. When I acknowledged and confessed my sins, God met me in the middle."

In 2014 Kathy completed all her parole requirements and programs.

She says, "I am so excited about the fresh start I have ahead of me, and what God has in store for me."

Essence of a real man

For years Johan Kemp believed he would be a social outcast if he did not act like a "real man" — one who drank, smoked and cursed — yet he desperately wanted something more in life.

"These pleasures did not last and did not fill the gap in my heart," Johan explains. "I had an emptiness inside that needed to be filled."

Although raised in a religious household, Johan says, "I chose to smoke from age 13 and began drinking while still at school because I did not feel part of the crowd."

However, matching other's smoking and drinking was not enough, as Johan admits that soon he was "swearing just as they did, or exceeding their efforts."

At work one day he noticed a sudden peace had settled over a formerly angry co-worker and immediately wanted to

know more.

"This man went home red with anger and came back to work green with peace the next day," says Johan.

"I thought that it was a show or a charade, because I have never seen a man change 180 degrees in attitude. I wanted to see what caused this dramatic change overnight in a person's life."

His curiosity led him to attend the church his co-worker had started going to.

"At his church, I learned that all humans had a choice as to where they want to spend eternity. You just had to realize that you are born a sinner, repent (turn away) from your sins and accept the Lord Jesus into your life."

A few Sundays later in October 2009, Johan remembers a sermon that spoke about the same three sins that were present in his life.

As he listened, Johan says, "I

realised that I had to receive Jesus' forgiveness and He would help with my drinking, smoking, and swearing.

"I had a desire to be fulfilled like the changed man that I worked with."

As he heard that sermon, Johan says, "I prayed to God that I wanted Him in my heart, but there was still the battle with alcohol abuse, smoking and swearing, which I could not stop by myself."

"I prayed that He could help me to get that out of my life, fill that emptiness in my heart. So He did. I stopped drinking immediately without any effects. I stopped smoking after 38 years of addiction without any side effects — no cravings and no remedies. I also stopped swearing and road rage dropped out of my system



Johan with his wife and son

overnight."

"In one prayer", Johan says, "Jesus made me free of my addictions."

Although not all new Christians experience an immediate freedom from addictions in their lives, Johan is testament to the fact that anything is possible for God.

"Without looking back I laid my struggles down and believed in what He did for me on the cross. And Jesus forgave my sins and gave me the right to be called a child of God."



Building Better Marriages

WHAT IS FALLING IN LOVE?

BY ROB FURLONG

I've been asking myself this question lately: "When do you fall in love with a person?" In fact, what does it mean to "fall in love"? I think most people believe that it is something that cannot be controlled, that you fall into love itself, much like you fall into a pool of water and are engulfed by it.

One author described a couple as having "a feeling or a feeling had them...they didn't quite know..." He was being humorous but I think he had a point.

So here is what I think. To fall in love is much the same as what happens to a soldier or knight who falls in battle. He goes in prepared for the fight but it soon overwhelms him. The odds against him are greater than he can withstand and he falls, a casualty of the battle.

I think this is what happens when we fall in love. We don't fall into a feeling so much – as wonderful as

the feeling is – but we are conquered by our love for the other person, overwhelmed by it and it's also because we realise that we have found someone that we want to spend the rest of our life with and who is worthy of all the love that we can give them.

Now I can't prove this definition of falling in love because I haven't checked it out but I think I'm pretty close to the mark!

So I return to my first question. When do you fall in love with a person?

Ah, that is the question!

Couples begin to date because they like each other and as the relationship grows they find that they like each other even more. Many of them get to the point of loving each other enough to marry and to commit to spending the rest of their lives together.

I discovered at a point in my relationship with Karen that there was a lot of narcissism in my love and although I did not fully understand it completely at the time, God was



patiently teaching me what real love was like. That it was not about me but about the other person and I am ashamed to admit that this has been a lesson I have been slow to learn in my life – to love my wife first and then others without conditions, expectations or manipulation.

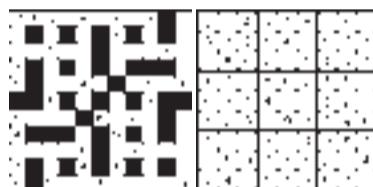
And falling in love also involves honesty. I well remember the night that Karen and I took the step of being brave enough to share who we really were with each other. Our feelings were a jumble but it was the best thing we ever did in our relationship. During that time we told each other that we loved one another and we did this because we were both confronted with a choice. Now that we knew more about each other we could walk away or we could accept each other.

This wasn't necessarily an easy choice for either of us to make, but all these years later we know we made the right one. Neither of us wanted to be another "also ran" in a line of people whom we had already been rejected by. No matter how confused our feelings might have been at the time we wanted each other to know that we could count on each other and that we would be there for each other.

That night we fell in love. And that process continues today, because falling in love is not a one off event but a life-long process.

I am still falling in love with Karen and I think that is how it will be for the rest of my life. I don't think you ever just fall in love once. I think you fall in love with the same person, over and over again.

That is what I think it means to "fall in love".



COULD GOD LOVE SOMEONE LIKE ME?

Yes, He LOVES you and has a plan for your life

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

"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (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.

"Lord Jesus, I need You now. Please forgive me for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Saviour and Lord. Thankyou that You loved me so much that You died on the cross for me. Take control of my life. Make me the person You created me to be. Amen"

The Lord Jesus says: "He who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38)

AS A NEXT STEP :

If you prayed the above prayer, tick this box

I have prayed this prayer.

Please send me:

- Bible
- Some 'starting off' literature
- Information on a helpful church

If you have NOT prayed the prayer at this stage, tick this box

I would like to think about this.

Please send me:

- More information as I am inquiring about being a Christian.
- I have a problem (see attached letter)

* Please tick and write clearly *

Name _____

Address _____

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Computers & Technology

Windows 10 is a delightful free upgrade

Windows 10 is what Windows 8 should have been and has smartly mixed in some good features of Apple OS X to keep up with the competition.

BY DARRYL BUDGE

If your PC is fully updated to Windows 7 SP1 or Windows 8.1, Microsoft has made Windows 10 desirable by offering a direct upgrade for free via Windows Update "for a limited time" until mid-2016. Thereafter it will be \$150 for Home or \$260 for Pro.

Get instructions on how to upgrade at Microsoft.com/Windows.

Will you like it? Here is what is new:

NEW START MENU: For desktop users the Windows 10 start menu now looks like the old Windows 7 start menu, but with resizable live tiles added, which function like the Windows 8 Start Screen tiles. Turning off your PC is 1-2 clicks as per Windows 7. Right-click on Start for the 'power user menu'.



'CORTANA' SEARCH: Cortana is a 'smart' assistant (like Google Now or Siri on iOS), which sits on the taskbar next to the new Start Menu. Using your voice or keyboard you can input any action, question or search query. It is still faster to find a file on your PC via Start menu search box. Cortana is also on Windows 10 Mobile for phones, and on Windows 10 tablets.

UNIVERSAL APPS: On the new Windows App store, there are desktop apps and new 'Universal Apps' that will simultaneously install on your desktop, mobile or tablet if it has Windows 10. At last Windows Store apps will float on your desktop rather than take up the whole screen.



TASK VIEW (APP SWITCHER): Hit Windows Key + Tab, or tap on the 'Task View' taskbar button, where you can switch apps and virtual desktops, or 'Add a desktop'. This is just like the OS X app switcher, plus 'Snap Assist' that can tile up to four apps. Alt+Tab switches between apps on your current (virtual) desktop.

ACTIONS CENTRE: Click on the 'speech bubble' icon in the system tray to bring up a list of Notifications (emails, appointments, system maintenance, etc.), plus Quick Actions for common tasks like Airplane Mode, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and other settings. The clunky Windows 8 Charms menu is gone.

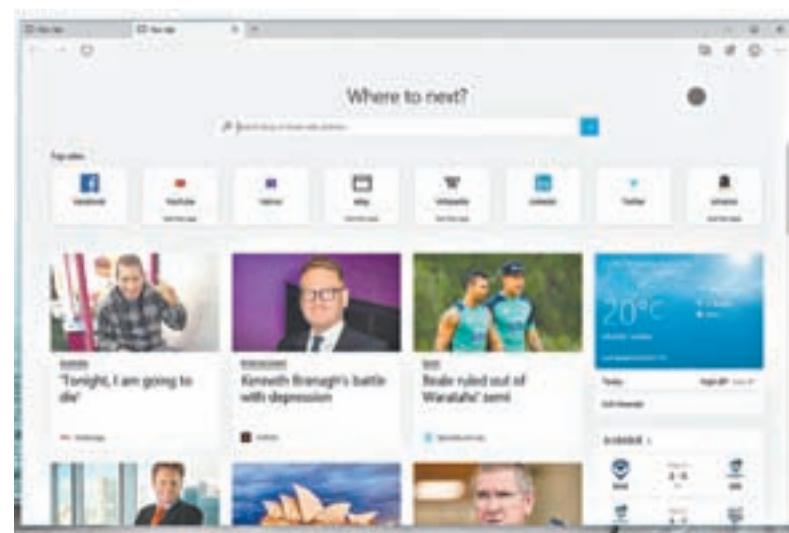
Cortana universal search with the microphone button at bottom right

WHAT IS MISSING? Removed features include Windows Media Centre, Windows 7 Desktop Gadgets and Microsoft Hearts (Solitaire and Minesweeper were moved to the Windows Store). Windows RT devices cannot be upgraded.

You will need to install separate DVD and Blu-ray playback software, like the software included with your disc player, or free software like VLC Player (videolan.org), MPC-HC, or PotPlayer (for Blu-ray).

Windows 10 Home will not be able to turn off automatic important Windows Update patches. If you have Windows 7 Pro or Windows 8 Pro, you will be upgraded to Windows 10 Pro which will have this option. To upgrade from Win 10 Home to Pro is a \$130 "Pro Pack" purchase via the Windows Store.

DO YOU HAVE XP OR VISTA? I would not recommend XP or Vista owners buy Windows 10 until they are forced to buy a new PC that has it pre-installed. Otherwise, try picking up an old Windows 7 or 8 license and install media, then get the free direct upgrade to Windows 10. The spec requirements are almost the same as Windows 8 or 8.1, so check your PC can run Windows 10 via the 'Windows 8 Upgrade Assistant' (do a web search). For good performance you will need a PC under five years old with a dual-core 64 bit processor and 2GB RAM. •



Windows 10 "Edge" browser has faster page rendering, extensions like Google Chrome, plus touch-based highlighting and annotation to share with contacts

BASKET MAGNET

2015 NBA Most Valuable Player Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors shows great humility even though many consider him one of the greatest shooters of his time

BY JOANNA DELALANDE

The son of Dell Curry, an NBA player from '86 to '02, Stephen Curry beat his own NBA season record in 2015 with 286 three-pointers, leading the Warriors to their first NBA championship in 40 years and an NBA-best 67 wins.

The field-goal specialist – with 47% career accuracy and a game-point average above 20 – is also a two-time NBA All-Star and dual Olympic gold medallist, having helped USA to victory at the 2010 and 2014 Olympic Games.

Along with his awe-inspiring talent, the 27-year-old also has tremendous humility, as displayed in his MVP speech.

"First and foremost I have to thank my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ for blessing me with the talents to play this game and with the family to support me day in day out," Stephen began.



"I am His humble servant right now, and I cannot say it enough how important my faith is to how I play the game and who I am. So I am just blessed and thankful for where I am."

Stephen has fond memories of playing well into the night on his backyard basketball court in Charlotte, North Carolina.

But it did not always look as though Stephen would have a promising career in the sport, as all the schools he tried out for took a pass on him during the recruitment process.

"I had my sights set on Virginia Tech during my high school years," he recalls. "Unfor-

tunately, the Hokies and other ACC schools weren't interested."

Stephen was determined not to give up on his dream and, when head basketball coach of the Davidson College Wildcats Bob McKillop offered him a chance to play for the modest school, he took it.

In 2009 he became the seventh pick in the NBA draft, joining up with the Golden State Warriors.

Later in the 2011-2012 season, when ankle injury after ankle injury and surgery after surgery saw him missing 40 out of the 66 games, he approached the frustrating situation with the same attitude of patience and resilience.

"He had a pretty rough year and a half when it comes to his ankle injuries," his wife Ayesha says. "But there has never been a day that he has had a frown on his face... It's to the point where I'm in awe and shock. How do you not bring all of that stress home with you?"

Stephen has a simple answer: "I know that in the grand scheme of things, this is just a game that can be taken from me at any moment."

Instead of depending on his performance Stephen chooses to rely on something more permanent for happiness: the day he gained everlasting life.

"I remember it like it was yesterday, the day I gave my life to Christ," says Stephen.

"I was in fourth grade, and I recall hearing and understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ and walking down the (church) aisle to give my life to Him."

Since that moment Stephen knew his whole life – every circumstance, every course of action – was not in his hands but in God's hands.

And he knew as long as God was writing his story he had nothing to worry about.

So when no schools seemed to accept him, he decided to keep his trust in the Lord who, it turns out, had a greater plan.

"I was confident the Lord had blessed me with the talent to play the game, and I just wanted to go where He wanted me to be. That place became as clear as day to me once I met Bob McKillop... he was a man of God, so it was an added bonus to play for a leader who was grounded in faith," Stephen recalls.

"The entire recruiting and signing experi-



JUNE 14, 2015:
Stephen Curry shoots against LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game Five of the 2015 NBA Finals in Oakland, California.

INSET: Stephen celebrates winning the Championship with daughter Riley

ence taught me about patience and seeking God's will, because He had a plan all along. I couldn't see it at the time, but I trusted He knew what was best for me."

Stephen trusted God in the same way when his injuries stopped him from playing. Knowing his Heavenly Father was taking care of him took away any frustration about the present or worry about the future.

Stephen focuses on playing and enjoying the game instead of letting it be the be all and end all of his success and joy.

And the Bible verse he has written on his sport shoes, Philippians chapter 4 verse 13, lets others know where his talent really comes from: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

"I love that

basketball gives me opportunities to do good things for people and to point them towards the Man who died for our sins on the cross," he says.

"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." •

Follow Stephen on Twitter @stephencurry30, on Facebook @ StephenCurryOfficial and on his official webpage stephencurry30.com



JUNE 19, 2015: Stephen Curry, daughter Riley and wife Ayesha at the Golden State Warriors Victory Parade in Oakland, California. Thousands celebrated the Warriors' first NBA title in 40 years.

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