



[Final Video]

<https://www.facebook.com/michellechongrocks/videos/2592559134101773/>

[Concept]

Michelle Chong Productions worked with Teen Challenge to tell the story of former drug abuser turned motivational speaker Bruce Mathieu. To tell a compelling story, we felt that it was necessary to get a full picture of Bruce's life. We thus met with Bruce to conduct a comprehensive interview, first easing him in with simple prompts before asking more personal questions. Through the interview, we understood Bruce as a victim of circumstance. However, Bruce was also aware that he made active choices in his history of substance abuse. Our challenge then, was to highlight his disadvantages and virtuous qualities, whilst deemphasizing his mistakes. We also had Bruce read the script in Hokkien as it gave his story a raw and relatable quality. Through those techniques, we created empathy and support for Bruce but more importantly, delivered a compelling message that it is never too late to turn one's life around.

[English Script]

The first time I took heroin, I puked a lot. It was horrible. The funny thing was after that, I wanted to try it again.

When I was young, my father left my mother and me. To make ends meet, my mother worked as a cook for other people. She worked long hours and always came home late.

I was just 13 when I joined a gang, where I was introduced to drugs. Because of drugs, I did many foolish and dangerous things. In all, I was in prison five times.

During the fifth time I was in prison, one day, my wife brought my daughter to visit me. It was my daughter's birthday, she was very, very happy. When she saw me, she asked me to carry her. I did not know what to do but to stare blankly at her. My daughter started crying her heart out. At that moment, I told myself, "Bruce, it's time to sober up. You cannot let your daughter cry like that anymore."

I prayed to God to help me lead a proper life. When I get out, I will be 46 by then. No skills, no nothing. What am I going to do to support my family? But then, God told me, "Don't worry. Be a good person and everything will be okay."

Michelle CHONG

PRODUCTIONS

For the last three months of my sentence, I was sent to Teen Challenge (Singapore). The staff and residents at Teen Challenge kept motivating me to change for the better and helped me immensely.

One day, I was given a chance to share my story at a meeting. I was afraid at first, but in the end, I did it anyway. The audience seemed to enjoy my talk, and appreciate what I shared. After I finished, six people approached me to speak at their organisations. It was then that I thought God was telling me, "Bruce, use your storytelling gift to help others."

Now I work as a full-time barista. On the side, I speak at organisations and share my story. I do not make any money from giving these talks. I work with the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), to speak at schools and educational institutions. I also speak at churches, youth and other organisations.

I may have done many bad things in the past. What is done cannot be undone. What I can do now is to be a good man. (End)

[Hokkien Script]

(After writing the English script, I translated it to Chinese first before translating it to Hokkien hanyu pinyin (translating from English straight to Hokkien hanyu pinyin would be too difficult). With the Hokkien hanyu pinyin, Bruce had a better reference when he read the voiceover.)

Chinese: 第一次吸白粉，我吐得很困难。奇怪的东西是，我吐完了我还要吸。

Hokkien hanyu pinyin: Wa tao jit bai xiu bei hun, tor ka jin kang kor. Gi guai eh taiji tio xi, tor wan liao wa kor pei xiu.

小的时候，我的老爸抛弃我和我的妈妈。

Soi eh xi zhun, wa eh lao pei pau ki wa ka wa eh lao bu.

为了生存，我的妈妈去医院煮东西给别人吃。每天很晚才回来。

Wee liao seng chun, wa eh lao bu ke pain in zhi mi kia kok pat nang jiaq. Tak jik jin buan chiah deng lai.

十三岁的时候，我加入黑社会。黑社会教我吸烟。为了吸毒我做了很多笨的事，总共进牢五次。

Michelle CHONG

PRODUCTIONS

Zhap sa hui eh xi zhun, wo ka jip si where dong. Si where dong gio wa kip tok. Wee liao kip tok, wo zhor liao jin joi gong eh tai ji, zong gong jei kam gor bai.

有一次我的老婆待我的女儿，Beatrix,来看我。因为我没办法抱她，我的女儿哭得很辛苦。在那时刻我跟自己讲。bruce, 你要清醒了。生了一个孩子不可以给他受罪。

Wu ji jit, wa eh bor che wa eh zhaborkia beatrix lai tam wa. Yin wei wa bo pian por yi, wa eh zha bor kia kau ga jin kang kor. Hi eh xi hao wo ka kaki kong. Bruce. Le ai leng zeng liao. Seng ao jip eh kia erm tang kor yi siu jue.

我更天主祈祷救援。帮助我。他真的听到我的祈祷。

Wa ka thian chu ki to kio oan. Bang zho wa. Yi jing eh tia tio wo eh ki to.

在我坐牢最后的三个月，他们派我去teen challenge.

Teh wa zho gam zui ao sar go gek, yi nang pai wa ke teen challenge.

有一天有人问我，要分享我的生活故事吗？我想，天主给我讲话的天才不妨运用。所以我说ok. 我推测听我说话的人欣赏我的故事，因为我讲完了有六个人过来问我可以去他们的组织分享我的故事吗。那个时刻，我想天主是跟我讲，Bruce, 这是我指派给你的使命，运用你的讲话天才和人生故事帮助别人。

Wu ji jip wu nang meng wa, ai hun hiong wa eh jin-seng ko su bo. Wa siu. Thian zhu kor wa gong wei eh thian cai put hong un iong. Sou yi wa gong OK. wa ka thib tia wa gong wei eh nang him siong wa eh ko su, in ui wa gong ho liao wu lak eh nang koe lai bun wa oi sai ki yi nang eh cho chit hun hiong wa eh ko su bo. Hit e si chun, wa siu thian chu si kak wo gong, bruce, ji eh si wa chi pai kok le eh su beng, un iong le eh gong wei thian cai i kip jin seng ko su bang zhor ba nang.

如今我是咖啡师傅以及演讲者。我跟cnb合作，去学校分享我的故事。我也去教堂，青年会以及组织讲吃毒的危险。我更人分享不收钱的。

Ju kim wa si kopishihu i kip ian soat chia. Wa ka cnb hap chok, ki oh teng hun hiong wa eh ko su. wa ma si ki ka teng, qin lian hui i kip cho chit gong jiaak do eh gui hiam. Wa ka but nang hun hiong bo xiu lui eh.

我以前有可能做了很多坏事。已经做了就没办法。现在我能做的就是好好做人。

Wa gu zha wu kor leng zho liao jin zhoi pai tai ji. Yi keng zho liao tio bo pian. Ji zhun wa oi sai zho eh, tio xi ho ho zho nang.