

# 不再是那片飘着的羽毛

陈九华

我来自中国大陆，生活在美国已多年了。回首人生，虽无大富大贵，但也一帆风顺，没有经历各样坎坷。

在国内硕士研究生毕业后，就留校任教，又随着出国潮来到美国。记得那时申请美国学校，很多事自己无能为力，就求上苍保佑，还去过上海静安寺。收到录取通知书后，与室友到美国领事馆去签证，那时没有提前预约，上午排队面试，下午取证。中午有很长等待时间，于是去看电影。那是一部美国电影“阿甘正传”(Forrest Gump)。影片开始时，看到一片羽毛随风飘起，很久没有落下，心中颇有感慨。觉得自己就像那片羽毛，不知将飘到何处。父母信奉大陆民间宗教，平时烧香拜佛。出国前，他们带我去别人家里去求菩萨保佑。那时我不知道有一位创造天地能真正保佑自己的真神。

来美以后，忙于学业，无暇它顾。就读的学校有华人查经班。由于从小所受的教育和成长环境，去过几次后就不愿意再去。将近两年后，一对美国夫妇要教我们学圣经。本着学英语的目的，就同意了。他们是 Navigator 的成员，在新加坡宣教多年，回美后在大学校园服务华人。通过学习，逐渐知道一些圣经故事，但更多还是当作神话来读。

临近毕业，找工作时，为很多的事情担忧。那时有华人牧师去传道，呼召时就举手。当时并没有认识到这就是决志，只

是想，神若是真存在的话，我愿认识祂。这以后，我并没觉得自己有多大的改变，但读圣经的态度有了不同，少了反问和排斥，多了接纳。记得有次圣经学习时，读到哥林多后书 5 章 17 节“若有人在基督里，他就是新造的人，旧事已过，都变成新的了”，内心感动，若不是努力控制，眼泪几乎流下。只有我知道自己内心是多么的不洁净，多么渴望成为新造的人。然而因着我的罪性，靠我自己是没法成为新人的。正因为如此，神的儿子，主耶稣基督，在十字架上为我的罪而死，用祂的宝血洗去我的罪。我所要做的就是接受这份珍贵礼物。祂又从死里复活，战胜死亡，使我能有永生的盼望。

工作以后，与太太分离有一年半，因为她学业还未结束。这期间路上开车的里程超过两万英里，虽然有各样的气候，因着神的保守，一路平安。每当遇到困难与挫折时，最喜欢默念的经文是哥林多前书 10 章 13 节。因着神的恩典，终于换了一份工作，一家能团聚在一起。我以前很容易为各样的事情担忧，但信神以后，有了改变。马太福音 6 章 25-34 节给我很大的帮助。我不知道明天会发生什么，但我知道谁掌管明天。

认识神后，读了哥林多前书 13 章，才知道自己是那么缺乏神所定义的爱。人到中年，上有父母，下有儿女，对他们和妻子的爱是那么的肤浅和有限，更不用说对别的人。扪心自问，有多少自己所做的

事是出于爱，是不求自己的益处？靠自己不可能有真正的爱，只有依靠神，让圣灵住在我里面。有了儿女后，想到他们在美国没有别的亲人，但若是能把他们带到神的大家庭里，有那么多的兄弟姐妹，更重要的是有那位掌管万有的天上的父，岂不是更好。

我从一九九九年开始参加以马内利华人浸信会，后来在南堂，至今已有很久。从决志到受洗，经过许多年。这中间有很

多的挣扎，经历不必要的痛苦。正是由于神不变的爱和教会很多兄弟姐妹的关心和祷告，我和太太才能同时受洗，归入主的名下，进入神的大家庭。连在主的葡萄树上，不再有如羽毛般的飘泊感。虽然天不会常蓝，但靠着主可以有平安。这从神而来的平安，不是世上的任何东西可以带来的。

愿一切的荣耀归于我们的主耶稣基督和天上的父神。

## No Longer A Drifter...

Jiuhua Chen

I was born and raised in mainland China. I have moved and lived in the States here for years. As a flashback, I would consider my uneventful past a smooth life with no major setbacks.

In China, I taught in the college where I graduated with a master degree. Subsequently, I decided to further my studies in the States. During the school application process, I felt everything was out of my hand. That feeling drove me to seek the unknown 'god.' I also visited a temple in Shanghai. After I was informed of the acceptance of my application, I headed to the US consulate with my roommate. While we were waiting to pick up my visa, we decided to watch a movie - *Forrest Gump*. It started with a scene that a feather was drifting in the air. I was moved. I could see myself as that drifting feather - not sure where my future would land. My parents were believers of folk religion. Before I moved to the States to continue my

education, they took me to see their Buddhist friend to seek for the protection of Buddha. At that time, I hadn't known the only true God who would be my true protector.

I was pretty occupied when I began my study in the States. My upbringing and the education received in the past prevented me from fully participating in the Bible studies in the campus. I quitted attending after several meetings. Two years later, I decided to start Bible study again which is led by an American couple but my only intention was to improve my English. They worked as missionaries in Singapore for a long time. They were also associated with a Christian organization called the Navigator. They have continued to serve the Chinese-speaking students in the campus ministry after returning to the States. I gradually came to know more about the Bible stories through the Bible study. However, I considered them more as fiction stories.

Graduation was quickly approaching. I was worried about getting a job. During an evangelistic meeting, the Chinese pastor preached and gave the invitation, I raised my hand but I did not realize that was actually a call to follow Jesus. What I meant was to show my willingness to know more of this true God, should He exist. Thereafter, I did not notice any dramatic change except my more open attitude towards the Bible and God. I still remember one time during the Bible study when I was reading 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; The old has gone, the new has come." I was so moved by the verse that my tears nearly fell from my eyes. I knew well about my own sin and my desire to be made new; however, I could not be renewed by myself due to my own sinful nature. Because of this, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for our sin on the cross and cleansed my sin. He is risen from the death and overcame sin and all I need to do is to accept his precious gift of salvation.

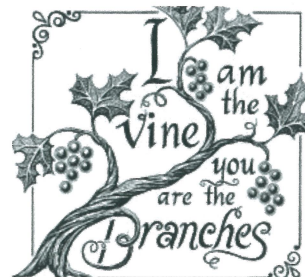
My wife and I were living in separate cities for a year and a half because of my job and her study. During these eighteen months, I have driven back and forth for more than 20,000 miles to meet her. God has protected me from all kinds of weather hazards. Whenever I came across difficulties, I meditated on my favorite scripture, "No temptation has seized you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." (1 Corinthians 10:13). By God's mercy I had a new job, and I was able to stay with my family. I used to be very worrisky but my faith has changed me for I have found

support in Matthew 6: 25-34. Although I do not know what is going to happen tomorrow, I know who holds my future.

I realized that I lacked the love defined by God in 1 Corinthians 13. My love for my parents, wife and children was shallow and finite, not to mention my "love" to strangers. Have I not often done things out of self-serving rather than a genuine love for others? I can never love truly without God, without the Holy Spirit living inside me. Ever since I had my children, I cannot stop worrying their lives in the States without any relatives and hope that someday I can bring them to our big family in Christ and, most importantly, to bring them to our Heavenly Father.

Many years have passed since I joined ECBC in 1999. I later joined the South Emmanuel Chinese Church. I went through a lot of struggles and unnecessary painful experiences prior to my baptism. Because of God's unfailing love and the support from our brothers and sisters in Christ, my wife and I were eventually baptized together into God's family. I no longer feel like a feather drifting aimlessly, for I am now clinging to the Vine. God has given me peace amidst all the difficulties. His peace surpasses everything and nothing else in the world can bring such peace.

May all the glory be to our Christ Jesus and our Father in Heaven.



# 寻求神，必寻见

金振萍

人在平淡的生活中，家里没什么特殊变故的情况下，不容易想到信仰的问题。几年前我因为老伴患肝癌去世，对我触动很大，我的生活发生了很大的变化。我在孤独、忧伤的同时，想到人死以后到那里去的问题。对于一个七旬的老人来说，这个问题应是想明白的时候了。为了找到精神上寄托，我开始想到宗教信仰问题。

在信仰基督教和佛教的问题上，我进行了几年的挣扎。在离我家一站地的地方，有一个教堂叫宏德堂，旁边有一家书店。我先到教堂去听了一堂牧师讲道，然后又到书店去买了一本圣经，回家后就象读小说一样地读。牧师的讲道我没听懂，看圣经也不知所云：如上帝造人、童女生子、人死还能复活等，我认为都是不可能的事，不合自然规律。总之一句话，不可信。最后的结果就是离开基督教，去寻找佛教。

上海的寺庙离我家比较远，乘车要一个小时。我到静安寺去看了看，又到佛教书店去买了几本书，开始研究佛了。在寺庙里看到些老人，也有许多年青人，在那里磕头拜佛，有求平安的，有求财的，有求官的、也有求子的。我跟一些老人聊天，他们劝我信佛吧，说死后可以进天堂，不下地狱。我回家开始看那些佛教的书。这整个修炼过程，没有人能帮你，完全靠自己的努力，我一个

普普通通的人，能做到吗？我试，但连一个小时都坐不下来，安静不下来，满脑子都是乱七八糟的东西。我感到苦闷，没了方向，不知将来何去何从。

二零一一年底，儿子给我办了绿卡，我来到了美国。这是我第一次走出国门，对外面的世界感到新鲜。这儿的生活环境、自然环境很好，空气清新，都使我感到比国内好。虽然也是大城市，但在街上散步看不到人，也闻不到汽车尾气。春天的各色花草，秋天



的红叶，使城市很美。我到大片的草地上散步，周围的安祥、宁静，使我的身心都得到了很好的调整。但过了一段时间以后，我

的问题又出现了，在美国半年多的生活使我整天面对的就是家里人的这几张面孔。我没了朋友、没了同学、没了社会人与人之间的交往，也没了自己的生活，整天就是儿孙们的老保姆，烧饭洗衣等。有时间也看看电视，小说等，整天心里空空的，也感到寂寞，不知道国家大事，不知道外面的世界发生了什么变化。我住不下去，便回国了。等到我第二次来美国后，经过儿子朋友介绍，让我到教会认识新朋友。我认识了许多中国人，可以聊天、可以交流，这很好。所以二零一三年初我来到城南以马内利华人教会，认识了在座的各位兄弟姐妹，也认识了钱牧师等。更主要的是使我重新认识圣经。每次牧师讲解我都认真听，弟兄姐妹发言我也认真听，

仔细分析。以前我认为世界上没有神，自然界宇宙万物都是自然形成的，认为人进化而来的，非神造。现在通过学习圣经使我大大地改变了观点。

自然界宇宙星球之间运转的规律如此精准，如此奇妙，这并不是大爆炸能形成的，宇宙大爆炸肯定会炸得乱七八糟，怎么会爆炸出这许多精准的规律来呢？空气、水、阳光、氧气、世间万物都是供人类存活，而有灵性的人如果不是上帝造的，是猴子变的，那人类已有几千年的历史，谁已在这几千年里看见猴子变成人了呢？人们只是通过一些化石，根据进化论来推断猜猴子变人，其实一想也不可信。我自己因为文化程度不高，知识浅薄，而那些具有高深知识的科学家、史学家和物理学家们，他们通过各种研究最终承认宇宙万物非神造不可能如此神奇，他们最后都拜倒在天父神的脚下，不但承认神的存在，而且只有大能的神是万能的神。我有什么理由不信呢？我认识到自己的错误，认识到自己在犯罪。

我相信了神，神是确实存在的，用祂的大能创造了宇宙万物，创造了人类。神的存在问题解决了以后，在我头脑中其他的一切问题就迎刃而解了。神有神思维方式，是我们人类不能理解的。神所做的奇事也是我们人类想不到的。所以我对圣经上讲的如神用泥土造人，童女生子、人死复活等这些奇事都顺理成章地相信，认为是真实的，是历史上实实在在发生的，圣经上有记录，不能不信。因为神是万能的，祂可以移山倒海，可以无医无药来治病，可用很少的食物使几千人吃饱，可以使水变酒，这些奇事除了神以外谁能做到呢？无人能为！

主耶稣基督是神的儿子。神爱世人，为

了救赎人类，舍自己的儿子基督降世为人，为赎我们的罪被钉在十字架上，用祂的宝血救赎罪人。人类只有接受耶稣作救主，才能进得天堂。当我读圣经读到主耶稣说：“我就是道路，真理，生命，若不藉着我，没有人能到父那里去。”的时候，我感到震撼！多么铿锵有力的话语！除了神，谁能说，谁敢说出这斩钉截铁的话语呢？这不就是我要寻求的吗？我寻来寻去就是要知道自己将来到那里去，我突然觉得心里很亮，我好像找到了回家的路。所以我决志信主耶稣基督，我要请耶稣基督做我的救主，赦免我的罪过而接受我。

当我决定信主以后，我心里又有些胆怯。我知道自己有许多缺点，如贪心、软弱无能、自私、有时不敢讲真话、爱自己胜过爱任何人。耶稣要求我们要爱自己的敌人（仇人），别人打你的左脸你要把右脸也伸过去给他打。我能做到吗？我过去没做到，现在做不到，将来能做到吗？我不知道像我这样有罪的人能当基督徒吗？我有些胆怯，不敢提出。后来我读圣经又看到主耶稣说：“并我们心中天良的亏欠已经洒去，身体用清水洗净了，就当存着诚心和充足的信心来到神的面前”（希伯来书 10: 22）。感谢神的这句话给了我很大鼓励。所以那天在叶弟兄家团契学习的时候，钱牧师介绍他刚为一位慕道友做了祷告，那个慕道友已成为基督徒。我说当基督徒这么简单，那也请为我做个祷告吧，我也想当个基督徒。钱牧师便为我做祷告，我心里感到很温暖。弟兄姐妹都向我祝贺，我也成了神大家庭的一员，也都是兄弟姐妹了。我深知，这都是圣父圣子圣灵三位一体的神在暗中帮助我，神没有放弃我这个又老又有罪的人，神用祂宽大的胸怀，耐心的等待我找到了回家的路，一条永生的路。我的心里充满了感激和喜乐。

# Seek And You Will Find

Zhenping Jin

Hardly ever would a person pondering on religion/ faith had he or she sailed smoothly in life. My husband passed away a couple of years ago and that shook my world. I started to wonder where a person went after death. I believe it is time for me to find an answer for the question, as I have advanced in years and have approached my seventies. To find some mental support, I started to look into religion.

I struggled for years over whether I should choose Christianity or Buddhism. Not very far from my home was a church and next to it was a bookstore. One day I listened to a sermon in that church and then purchased a Bible from the bookstore. I started reading the Bible at home as reading myths. I did not understand that sermon and the Bible also did not make sense to me. God's creation of mankind, Jesus' virgin birth and bodily resurrection all seemed impossible to me. I finally concluded Christianity was not trustworthy. Then I looked into Buddhism.

Buddhist temples in Shanghai were a bit far away from my home. It was about an hour driving distance. I visited one anyway and there I purchased a few books about Buddhism. While I was in the temple, I saw people of all ages, worshipping and asking for divine protection, wealth, fame, and children. The elderly I met there persuaded me to put believe in Buddha so that I would not go to hell but heaven. As such, I started reading the books I purchased. An ordinary person I was, I doubted if I would ever succeed. I tried hard

but my mind became easily distracted. I could not even sit quietly for an hour. I became frustrated, lost and confused about my future.

Through my son's help, I received US permanent residency, and moved to the States in late 2011. For the first time I left my homeland. Everything in the US seemed novel to me. I was impressed by the living condition, natural conservation as well as air quality in the States. Kansas City is a beautiful place with year-round nature wonders in spring and fall. Through serenity my body and mind were refreshed. Unfortunately, problems resurfaced as time had gone by. I did not have much social life. I felt confined to my role as a caregiver to my grandchildren. I was out of touch with what was going on in the world. I felt lonely. So I went back to China. In 2013, I returned to the States for the second time. Through a friend of my son, I knew about South Emmanuel Chinese Church. I went to a church meeting and met new friends. There I also met Pastor Qian. But most importantly, I gained new knowledge from the Bible. I listened to the sermons carefully. The Bible study greatly changed my worldview. I used to be a firm believer of evolution but I started to challenge the theory.

The miraculous and orderly design of the universe and planets could not be possibly formed by a Big Bang, which was supposed to create only chaos instead of a precisely-designed world. Now I know the water, sunlight and oxygen are all God's

provision for human survival. Should the theory of evolution hold “human being evolved from apes”, why have we not found any evidence of such evolution in human history? Evolution is only a hypothesis based on fossil records. It is not trustworthy. Scientists, historians, and physicists ultimately confess the Creator exists. They are amazed by His power when they study His creation. I am not well educated as these scholars. If they believe in God, why wouldn't I? I realized that I have been wrong and my disbelief was sin.

I believe in God. God truly exists. He created everything including humans with His mighty power. Once I acknowledged God exists, the rest of the questions in my mind were automatically answered. God's way is higher than my way. I therefore believe man was created by God from the dust, Jesus was born of a virgin, and he resurrected. All these facts are backed by historical evidence and are undeniable. As God is omnipotent, only He himself but no other can perform these miracles. He commanded the nature, performed healing using no medicine and following no medical procedures, fed thousands with a small portion of food, and he turned water into wine.

Jesus Christ is God's son. God loves the world so much that He gave His Son to redeem us from our sins through his blood shedding on the cross. Only by accepting Jesus as Savior can we enter heaven. I was trembling when I read Jesus proclaimed "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) How authoritative is His word! Who can say this except God himself? Isn't Him the God I would seek? I was trying to figure out where I

will go after death. All of sudden I was illuminated. I have found my way home. As such, I have decided to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, who pardons my sins and accepts me.

I was a little scared after I made the decision to follow Jesus. I knew my sins such as greed, incompetence, selfishness, the fear of telling the truth, and loving myself more than others. Jesus commanded us to love our enemies. Can I do this? I could not in the past and cannot do this now. Can I do this in the future? I don't know and doubt if a sinner like I am qualified as a Christian. I was timid and I tried to avoid these questions. Later, I read the Bible and I found comfort in God's word, "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water." (Hebrews 10:22) One day Pastor Qian introduced us to a new convert in a fellowship Bible study. He had led this new convert to Christ through saying a prayer. I told myself, "How easy it was to become a Christian". So I asked him to lead me into prayer. I wanted to be a Christian! My heart was touched when Pastor Qian prayed with me. Brothers and Sisters congratulated and welcomed me into God's family. I knew this Triune God was at work leading me to Him. He had not forsaken me and had waited patiently for me to come home, the eternal home. I am joyful and grateful.

# A Testimony

Cecilia Raab

I am praising the Lord because I have had the privilege of seeing Him work through the years at Emmanuel Chinese Baptist Church! I'd like to share with you some of the ways I connected with our fellowship after I became a born-again Christian in 1970. I was born and raised in Kansas City. The only Chinese I knew were twin girls who were adopted from Hong Kong by my piano teacher in the 1950's. Of course, I met some Chinese at KU & UMKC, but didn't become friends.

By 1974, I had joined Broadway (Baptist) Church and sang in the Choir, directed by David Hunker, Pastor Hunker's son. I vaguely knew he had been born in China, but his parents were still in Taiwan. Then in the early 1980's, I had a Taiwanese roommate, Ling Auyeung, who invited me to her Chinese Bible Study at Emmanuel Baptist Church! This was the beginning of a long fascination with Chinese culture and history. Others were going to China to teach English, and since I was volunteering to teach ESL at my church to Hispanics, I considered going with English Language Institute/China. I found out from a lady who had known my great-grandmother, Maria Anderson, that while still in Sweden in the 1870's, Maria wanted to be a missionary to China but she came to America instead. I was also motivated by a play at church about Lottie Moon who wrote that more workers were needed for the harvest. (But the

Tiananmen Square incident happened before the summer I had planned to go). I postponed it until 1990-1991. I taught English in Hengyang Teacher's College in Hunan Province. I also got to see my former roommate in Taiwan. I met so many dear Chinese: students, parents and other friends. We had many great times together, especially with the Christian believers there. I was "called to be a blessing", and they blessed me in return! Thanks to Jesus.

I first attended the Emmanuel Chinese Baptist Church in 1994 or so. Pastor Hunker was preaching. It was the combined service, but the singing of hymns in Mandarin reminded me of my Chinese Christian students. I was completely nostalgic and felt the Lord calling me to return to China again. I knew it was the Holy Spirit touching my heart at the church, because I began weeping and couldn't stop! I had no tissues and kept wiping my nose and eyes to my embarrassment. But the two Chinese guys near me didn't act like that was strange. So the Lord worked it out for me to visit China again in 1995 and reconnect with some friends there. I came back and revisited ECBC a few times, but didn't get to know anyone because I was a member of another church. God led me back to China again in 1998, and I was so happy to worship Jesus with old friends and pray for a pastor in Guangzhou. I returned to visit



ECBC and got to share with the members at the luncheon about my experiences.

Occasionally, about every 3 years I would drop by and visit with Pastor Hunker and attend Chinese New Year. Finally, the Lord drew me to minister at ECBC as an English Teacher to Chinese Adults. I then joined the church, and have been inspired by the strong Bible teaching, fellowship groups and the love of the brothers and sisters.

Now, I am so thrilled to be meeting with everyone in our new building (a school where I substitute-taught Art in the 1980's). I pray that we will all be built up in unity to continue loving God and each other.

Colossians 3:14 “And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”

## 一个见证

Cecilia Raab

感谢神，我能够亲眼见证神在过去的许多年中在以马内利华人教会所彰显的大能。我下面跟大家分享我自一九七零年成为一个新生的基督徒以后，是如何加入我们的教会的。我在堪萨斯城出生并长大。在长大的过程中我所认识的仅有的中国人是一对从香港来的孪生姐妹，她们是我的钢琴老师在五十年的时候收养的。我后来在堪萨斯大学和密苏里大学堪萨斯分校也遇到过一些中国人，但我和他们没有成为朋友。

时间回到一九七四年，我在那时候已经是百老汇（浸礼）教会的一员了，我还参加了教会的诗班。当时这个诗班是由杭牧师的儿子杭大卫负责的。我隐约记得他是在中国出生的，但当时他的父母还都在台湾。后来到八十年代初的时候，我从台湾来的室友凌奥云邀请我去参加以马内利华人教会的中文查经班！就这样，我逐渐

对中国的文化和历史越来越着迷。当时有一些人去中国教英语，而我由于在教会给西班牙裔的朋友教授英语，顺理成章地也打算这样做。我当时还从一个认识我曾祖母（玛丽亚·安德森）的女士得知，我的曾祖母一八七零年的时候还在瑞典，她当时就打算去中国做传教士，但她后来来到了美国宣教。我当时另一个选择到中国的原因也是因为看了教堂里一个关于美国女传教士慕拉第生平的表演，从而了解到在中国的宣教需要更多的同工。（但是当我打算去中国的那个夏天之前发生了天安门事件，从而使得）我把行程推迟到了一九九零到一九九一年左右。到了中国以后，我在湖南省的衡阳师范大学教授英语。我也得以与我以前的室友在台湾相见。我遇见了许许多多中国朋友，包括学生，（学生的）父母亲们以及其他许多朋友。我和朋友们在一起度过了许多美好的时光。我尤其是怀念和基督里的兄弟姐妹们在一起

的时光。当时我被称为是神给“大家的祝福”，他们也给我带来了很多的祝福！感谢主耶稣。

我第一次来以马内利华人教会参加崇拜是一九九四年左右。那次是杭牧师讲道。当时是联合崇拜，但唱中文圣诗使我想起了我的中国基督徒学生们。我当时有一种特别怀旧的感觉，我感到主在引领我再次回到中国。我知道圣灵在我的心里做工，因为我在教堂里开始哭泣，无论怎样都停不下来。我当时没带纸巾，只好尴尬地不停地用手去擦拭鼻涕和眼泪。但在我周围的两个中国弟兄表现坦然自若，就好像我的行为举止没有什么怪异似的。主在一九九五年的时候又引导我回到了中国，并重新和那里的一些朋友们相聚。我从中国回来以后，又来过以马内利华人教会几次，但因为当时是另一个教会的成员，我在这里认识的人并不多。主在一九九八年的时

候又引导我回到了中国，我非常高兴在广州和老朋友们一起敬拜耶稣，并为一名牧师祷告。我回美以后又来到马内利华人教会，并把我的经历在一次午餐会上与大家分享了。

大概每三年左右，我会偶尔过来参加敬拜，探望杭牧师，参加中国新年的庆祝活动。最终，主呼唤我来到以马内利华人教会参加服事，给中国成人开设英语课程。我从此加入了教会，并一直为我们教会的查经班、团契组和兄弟姊妹之间的爱所鼓舞激励着。现在，我非常兴奋地和大家在我们的新堂里面聚会（八十年代的时候我曾经在这座小学做过代课老师）。我向神祷告祈求我们大家在主里面合一，继续我们爱神爱人的旅程。

歌罗西书 3:14 “在这一切之外，要存着爱心，爱心就是联络全德的”。



# 圣灵降服我

阮英昶

在堪城以马内利华人教会献新堂庆典之时，也正是建堂二十周年之际，神的工作是明明可知的。神透过教会赐恩予我是不争的实际。

圣灵降服我，于一九九五年十二月二十五日在众人面前公开承认耶稣基督是我的救主和生命的主，受浸归于三一神的名下，成为神家教会中的一员。

圣灵保惠师的工作在我里面发动，祂引导我有三方面的工作：

祂使用祂的老仆人和带着爱的使者们的辛劳，使我将审视这个世界的眼光从身外朝向自己，祂责备我，让我知罪。自我中心的一切罪污必须除灭，降服在至圣、至爱、至大的神脚下。于四十八岁的我被抓回到主耶稣的十字架下，认祂为王，成为我家祖的第四代首生的基督徒。（一九九六年的复活节，我女儿也成为我家第五代首生的基督徒。）

“故此，凡吞吃你的必被吞吃；你的敌人个个都被掳去；掳掠你的必成为掳物；

抢夺你的必成为掠物。”（耶利米书30:16）圣灵保惠师将那被罪的权势掳去的心智，在过去被使用来抵挡神，今时反转过来，被使用透过圣经来不断地追寻认识神。祂在我身上成就“他升上高天的时候，掳掠了仇敌，将各样的恩赐赏给人”（以弗所书4:8）的果效。

祂曾使我愿意并逐步投入神家中几乎所有各方面的信心的工作。

在这个教会中，我被操练、打磨成愿意服侍神的人。因为我的背景使我知道，这种生命的改变不可能来自这个世界的力量。因这个世界给我的只是要我去首先改变这个世界的英雄，而不是要首先改变自己，成为过去不承认的神使用的仆人。“如经上所记：‘夸口的，当指着主夸口’。”（哥林多前书1:31）

教堂是神的家，基督的教会要使用的场所。在这里为造就神的儿女提供了更大的便利。新堂空间大了，愿神使用这更大的空间，成为圣灵工作更多荣耀的见证。

Let him who boasts  
Boast in the LORD

1 CORINTHIANS 1:31 NASB

# I Surrender To The Holy Spirit

Phil Ruan

At the time of new building dedication at Emmanuel Chinese Baptist Church, as well as the twentieth anniversary of our Church, the work of God in our Church is very obvious. I have no doubt that God blesses me through our Church.

I surrendered to the Holy Spirit. On December 25, 1995 I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and my Lord in front of brothers and sisters, baptized under the Trinity of God and becoming a member of God's Kingdom.

The Holy Spirit, the Counselor, stirs my heart and he guides me to three areas of works:

He uses his old servant and other ambassadors of love to surround me. Through their labors, I can switch my focus from this worldly material thing into my inner self. He chastises me, so I can know my sins. He allows me to see that I need to remove all the sins from my self-centered life and surrender to the holiest, most loving and most mighty God. I was captured by my God and returned to the cross of Jesus Christ when I was forty eight years old. I take Him as my King. I become the first Christian of my fourth generation Christian family. (In 1996, my daughter became the first Christian of her generation. She is in the fifth generation of my Christian family.)

“But all who devour you will be devoured; all your enemies will go into exile. Those who plunder you will be plundered; all who make spoil of you I will despoil.” (Jeremiah 30:16) The heart and soul used to be under the power of sins and resisting God, but Holy Spirit the Counselor has reversed them today. They are seeking and following God unceasingly through the Bible. He has accomplished such impact in me, the effect is just like Ephesians 4:8 states “When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men.”

He has made me gradually willing to participate in all kinds of works of faith in Church.

In this Church, I have been trained and ground to become a willing servant. Because of my background, I know the force behind this kind of transformation in life is not coming from the world. This world teaches me to be a hero that can change the world. But God wants me to change myself first and become a servant to be used by Him. “Therefore, as it is written: ‘Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.’” (1 Corinthians 1:31)

A church building is God's house, a place where churches of Christ use. Here, it provides greater convenience for building up children of God. The new space is a big church building. May God use this larger space so that it becomes more glorious witness of the Holy Spirit.

# Sincerity Is Not Enough

Angela Tsang

I have been thinking about this for the last two weeks: I could spend the rest of my life studying theology, reading apologetics, searching the world for the greatest philosophers, and even studying the Bible with other Christians yet have absolutely no relationship with God. I could potentially be considered God's greatest stalker, and He would still be a stranger to me. I remember Jeremiah 9:23-24 says *"Thus says the Lord: 'Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches,<sup>24</sup> but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.'"* This passage tells me that the Lord delights that we know and understand him and love what He loves. It's not enough to simply have knowledge, or riches, or even strength.

I remember meeting my best friend, Cindy. I'm still not sure what a best friend is but that's how I label Cindy. After we met and became close, she had told me she stalked me on Facebook and knew a lot about me before we were friends and knew what people told her about me, but you could agree that she probably didn't really *know* me. So what does it mean to know God? Anyone can be sincere and passionate if they really set their mind on it. Just look around and you can find passionate people here and there. But my challenge is when I look at Jesus, it seems that sincerity is not

quite what he prescribed for humanity, and neither is it what he brought. "Jesus didn't come to make bad people good. He came to make dead people alive." said Pastor Garrett at Life Church.

Sincerity isn't enough because if it is, then we're not achieving Jesus' purpose. When I test Christianity and look at Jesus, he brought more than sincerity. Jesus had **authority** and **power** that **produced authenticity** that was driven by a love that even death couldn't stop. Jesus literally conquered death. To be honest, people don't need another message. The world doesn't need something more sincere to believe in, but rather we need something living, real, that lasts, that can restore and expresses who we were created to be. So then my next questions for myself have been these: *How did Jesus attain this power and authority? Where did it come from? And if this way of living is accessible, how does it produce an authenticity that changes us?*

This is what I found...

## 1. Identity

*"<sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;<sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:16-17)*

There was the Father who declared that Jesus is His son and that He is well pleased. I am amazed when I look at the life of Jesus, because his identity was established and true even before he did any great miracles and healing. The world that we live in says that identity and worth is earned by our achievements and efforts in life, also known as *success*; simply said, it's a work based identity. This is such a lie because culture, language, status, social norms are constantly changing. That is why we find people achieving their dreams yet still having insecurity in who they are, their identity. Throughout my life, I know a lot of things about myself, but only has God been the one, through Jesus, to prove truth of who I am and who He is. Jesus knew what his purpose was because he knew who he was, and this is the same identity that Jesus has purchased for us. Through the death and rising of Jesus he has purchased for us this new life by his blood, that we might become the children of God, loved, redeemed, healed, reconciled, empowered to bring glory to Him.

## **2. Restored Life**

**The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the  
brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those  
who are bound;**

**<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;**

**<sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,**

**the garment of praise instead of a faint  
spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of  
righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, that he may  
be glorified. (Isaiah 61:1-3)**

I don't want to believe in something in order to become a mere nicer or a "better" person. I don't need God to do that. When I look at Jesus, he was really good at challenging the religious people who claimed to be the "experts" of God's work, yet Jesus said to them, "...these people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules." The religious peoples' way of living was based on words and practices, yet their hearts were far from God. It says that because He was *anointed* by the Lord, so then the Spirit of the Lord was upon him. And somehow, this Spirit of God gave him power to bring healing and redemption in the world. I've noticed that when Jesus impacted the ones around him, he touched people, commanded with authority, and most importantly he was obedient to the Father; He *demonstrated* what love is. A restored life does not mean a better understanding of ourselves or God, but rather it is a transformation of ourselves and our relationship with God. From orphan to child, from broken to whole, from filthy to whiter than snow, from hopeless to hopeful, from being lost to being found, from being dead to being alive.

## **3. A Living Lifestyle**

I know a man named Glenn Kahler, and he once said to me "The world doesn't need more examples. We need *living* examples." When we look at Jesus, he had a lifestyle that displayed what having

relationship, in oneness with the Father looks like. He simply asked that we be like children, believe in him, and follow. Jesus constantly stayed connected with the Father, and out of his abiding came overflowing love and power. True passion doesn't come from sincerity. Jesus' passion was by driven by the fact that we are worth dying for. Peter was one of the first followers of Jesus who experienced both shame and redemption in his relationship with Jesus. He became a great leader and influence in the church. This is what Peter said to the early church:

**<sup>16</sup>For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup>He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup>We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. (2 Peter 1:16-18)**

When we look at the early church, they were practicing the same works and same unity that Jesus shared with the disciples. Based on my investigations, it seems that the early church was so prominent because they were living off a real encounter they had with God. The Holy

Spirit was a personal, living person who was filling the body of Christ. Knowing and following Jesus isn't a better coping method but it's a new life, a changed life that produces an authenticity that loves, lives, and looks like Jesus. In the Bible, when people encountered the love of God, it either radically changed their lives, or they hardened up, but never did it create lukewarm people. It seems that today, I am having to relearn everything as I am learning to recognize the voice of God and obey, because I love Him. Not that I loved Him, but He loved me first.

I'm not sure about a lot of things these days, but one thing I am sure about is this: I've heard His voice and I'm going to respond. Based on all my investigations and conversations with God, I finally decided that I am "leaving" cultural Christianity as a religion and following Jesus as a relationship with God as it was demonstrated. I'm not passionate about life because I've set my mind to a great cause...I'm passionate about life because I have something that is worth dying for, and it is simply this connection I have with Jesus, who has died for me and so that I may live by having a relationship with Him. I'm desperate and I need a living God to change me. I am looking forward to experience more than mere sincerity.

## 真誠是不夠的

曾安祖

近半年來，我一直想著這件事：我可以窮我餘生研讀神學，讀護教學的書，在

世界尋找最偉大的哲學家，甚至與其他基督徒一起讀聖經，若完全沒有與神之間的

關係，我很有可能被稱為神的最大“窺探者”。然而對我而言，祂仍是一位“陌生人”。我記得耶利米書九章 23~24 節說過“耶和華如此說：「智慧人不要因他的智慧誇口，勇士不要因他的勇力誇口，財主不要因他的財物誇口。誇口的卻因他有聰明，認識我是耶和華，又知道我喜悅在世上施行慈愛、公平和公義，以此誇口。這是耶和華說的。」”

我記得與我最好的朋友辛蒂相識過程的前面一段事。雖然我不確定到底什麼是“最好的朋友”，但我就把辛蒂看作是我最好的朋友。當我們見面而且變得熟悉之後，她告訴我，在我們成為朋友之前，她曾經在臉書(Facebook)上窺探我，知道很多關於我的事，也聽人家講有關我的事。但，你會同意，她並不真認識我。所以，我要問：“認識神”是什麼意思呢？人們可以很真誠、很熱誠，如果他們的心意是在某人或某事上的時候。環顧四周，在各處，你都可找到熱誠的人。我的問題是：看來，真誠並不是耶穌為人類所提供的良方。生命教會的葛瑞牧師(Pastor Garret, Life Church)說：“耶穌來，不是把壞人變好，祂來，是要把死人變活。”真誠是不夠的，光有真誠，我們就沒有達到耶穌要我們達到的目的。當我藉著觀察耶穌來察驗基督教時，祂帶來給人類的，比真誠多得多。祂有著權柄和能力，從祂的權柄和能力中產生“真實”(authenticity)那是從愛的激勵而來，死也攔阻不了的。耶穌確是征服了死亡。

光是真誠是不夠的，因為如果是這樣，那麼我們就無法達到耶穌的目的。而是需要活的、真實的、長存的東西，一個能恢復並表達我們起初受造原有樣式的東西。所

以我接著要問我自己一些問題是：耶穌怎樣得到這些權柄和能力？這權柄和能力是從那兒來的？如這種生活方式是可及的，它又如何產生那可以改變我們的“真實”(authenticity)呢？

經過我的尋找，以下是我得的結論：

### 1. 身份

耶穌受了洗，隨即從水裏上來。天忽然為祂開了，祂就看見神的靈彷彿鴿子降下，落在祂身上。從天上有聲音說：「這是我的愛子，我所喜悅的。」(馬太福音三章 16~17 節)

從上面經文，我們看到父神宣告耶穌是祂的兒子，是祂所喜悅的。當我看到耶穌的生平，我是何等詫異，因為甚至在祂未行任何大神蹟和醫治之前，祂的身份已被確定。我們生活的這個世界告訴我們，身份和價值是我們生活中的努力和成就(也就是成功)賺來的。簡單地說：那是基於“勞力工作”而得的。這是何等大的謊言！因為文化、語言、身份地位、社會常情經常在變。這就是為什麼我們看到人們雖然達到他們的夢想，卻對他們是誰，他們的身份是什麼仍感困惑，沒有安全感。從小至今，我知道許多關於自己的事情，然而唯有神(藉著耶穌)能證實“我是誰”，“祂是誰”這些真理。耶穌知道祂的目的是什麼，因為祂知道祂是誰。為著我們在神面前的身份，祂買贖了我們。藉著耶穌的死和復活，靠著祂的寶血，祂買贖了我們，使我們有一個新生命，一個讓我們可以成為神兒女、蒙愛的、被贖的、



得醫治的、有能力的生命。這新生命是來榮耀神的。

## 2. 重建的生命

以賽亞書六十一章 1~3 節「主耶和華的靈在我身上；因為耶和華用膏膏我，叫我傳好信息給謙卑的人（或作：傳福音給貧窮的人），差遣我醫好傷心的人，報告被擄的得釋放，被囚的出監牢；報告耶和華的恩年，和我們神報仇的日子；安慰一切悲哀的人，賜華冠與錫安悲哀的人，代替灰塵；喜樂油代替悲哀；讚美衣代替憂傷之靈；使他們稱為「公義樹」，是耶和華所栽的，叫祂得榮耀。」

我不想要相信某種東西只是讓我成為“比較好”的人，我不需要神也能成為好人。當我觀看耶穌，祂真的很會向自稱是神的事工的“專家”的那些宗教人士發出挑戰。耶穌對他們說：「這百姓用嘴唇尊敬我，心卻遠離我，他們將人的吩咐當作道理教導人，所以拜我也是枉然。」，這些宗教人士的信仰只在嘴邊，只是行禮如儀，而他們的心卻遠離神。上段經文說因為耶穌被耶和華所膏抹，所以主耶和華的靈在祂身上，這神的靈給了祂能力為世上帶來醫治和救贖。我注意到祂給予周圍的人生命上一些衝擊的時候，是藉著觸摸或滿有權柄的命令，最重要是藉著祂對天父的順服，以及祂表露的愛。一個重建的生命並不表示我們對己對神了解更多而是我們有了自我的轉變以及與神之間關係的轉變；從孤兒變為有父母的、從破碎變為完整、從污穢變為潔白如雪、從無望變為滿有希望、從失喪變為復得、從死復生。

## 3. 一個活的生活樣式

我認識一個人，他名叫葛蘭卡勒（Glenn Kahler）。他曾對我說過：「這世界需要的不僅僅是榜樣，我們需要活的榜樣。」當我們觀看耶穌，我們看到祂有一個生活樣式顯明與父合一的關係。祂要我們像小孩一樣，相信祂，跟隨祂。耶穌經常與父連結，從與父同在當中就流露出愛和能力。真正的熱誠並非從真誠而來。耶穌的熱誠是怎麼產生出來的？是因祂看我們寶貴，值得為我們而死而產生出來的。在與耶穌的關係中，彼得是基督門徒中第一個經歷到羞恥與救贖的。他成為教會偉大的領袖，並對教會有很大的影響。他曾向初代教會這樣說：

「我們從前將我們主耶穌基督的大能和祂降臨的事告訴你們，並不是隨從乖巧捏造的虛言，乃是親眼見過祂的威榮。祂從父神得尊貴榮耀之時，從極大榮光之中有聲音出來，向祂說：『這是我的愛子，我所喜悅的。』我們同祂在聖山的時候，親自聽見這聲音從天上出來。」（彼得後書一章 16~18 節）

當我們看初代教會，他們合一作工就如同耶穌指示門徒的。基於我的考察，看來初代教會之所以如此突顯，是因為他們與神有真實的相遇。認識並跟隨耶穌是一個新生命的產生，而不是選上一個比較好的應付各種生活問題的方法。這個更新的生命能產生一種“真實”（authenticity），能像耶穌那樣地愛，那樣地生活。在聖經裏，當人們與神的愛相遇，他們的生命要不是徹底地被改變，就是變得剛硬起來，從來沒有變得不冷不熱的。今天，當我正在學習認識神的聲音並且順服祂的時候，我應該重新學習每樣事情，因為我愛祂。其實不是我先愛祂，是祂先愛了我。

這些日子，我不確知許多事，但有一件我確知的是：我已經聽到了祂的聲音，我要回應。基於我所有的考察以及與神的對話，我終於決定要離開一個“宗教”，一個文化的基督教，來跟隨耶穌，進入與神的關係，就如耶穌所顯示的祂與父神的

關係。我對生命有熱誠，不是因為我有個偉大的目的，我定了心意要達成。我對生命有熱誠，是因為我有個值得為之而死的一樣東西，就是我與耶穌的連結。祂為我捨命使我能藉以與祂連結而活。我極需要一位活神來改變我。我期待比僅僅是真誠所能帶來的，還要更多的經歷。



**The Youth Fellowship**



**The College Group**

# 《客西马尼园之夜》

## 'Tis The Night In The Gethsemane

王瑞鹏 Philip Wang

客西马尼园的夜晚  
层层乌云遮盖明月  
历经孤单憂患傷痛  
承受羞辱鞭打摧残

橄欖树梢冷风吹过  
耶稣禱告汗如血滴  
背负沉重十架的耶稣  
苦路艰辛步履沉重

父啊  
求你把这苦杯拿去  
求你叫我不因罪孽受死  
父啊  
求你不依我的意念  
唯願你的旨意成就

哦，耶稣被钉十架  
他身体破碎  
担当我一切罪愆  
使我释放罪蒙赦免

主耶稣流出宝血  
洗净我的罪  
他受鞭伤我得医治  
他受刑罚我得平安

耶和华我的神  
竟为我舍命  
救我脱离罪的捆绑  
使我自由罪蒙赦免  
耶和华我的神  
竟如此爱我  
道成肉身的基督  
使我自由罪蒙赦免

'Tis the night in the Gethsemane  
The moon hiding behind the cloud so thick and dark  
Experiencing loneliness, sorrow, and grief  
Taking the ravage of shaming and scourging

Chilling wind whistled by the olive branches  
Jesus prayed while sweating blood drops.  
The weighty cross heavily burdened Jesus  
Stumbled on, He trudges through Via Dolorosa

Father!  
Please remove this bitter cup  
Lead me not to see death for the sake of sin  
Father!  
Not My will..  
But Thy will be done.

O, Jesus was nailed on the cross  
His body was broken  
For the sake of my sin  
To liberate me through forgiveness of my sin

Lord Jesus shed His precious blood  
Cleansing all my sins  
I am healed because of His wound of scourges  
I received peace because of His chastisement

The Lord God of Jehovah  
Gave up life even for me  
Saved me from the bondage of sin  
To give me freedom through the forgiveness of sin  
Jehovah my God  
so loves me  
by Christ whom the Word became flesh  
To give me freedom through the forgiveness

# 祂是我的神

卜占伟

“我要引瞎子行不认识的道，领他们走不知道的路。在他们面前使黑暗变为光明，使弯曲变为平直。”（赛 42:16）。神的话就是一面镜子，使我认识自己的本相。在神面前我就是那瞎子，看不到自己前面的道路。当我承认自己是瞎眼的，神说：“我要教导你，指示你当行的路。我要定睛在你身上劝戒你。”（诗 32:8）

在没认识耶稣的时候，自以为是聪明的却是愚蒙的，自以为是勤劳的却是瞎忙的。繁忙的餐厅工作使我好衣服挂着，钱放柜里锁着，一切生活的丰盛尽在沉默之中，以至迷失生活方向，不知生活为了工作还是工作为了生活。正如经上记着说：“我闭口不认罪的时候，因终日唉哼而骨头枯干。黑夜白日，你的手在我身上沉重；我的精液耗尽，如同夏天的干旱。”（诗 32:3-4）

感谢主！在这样的光景中让我认识耶稣，并且相信祂就是我的救主，从此就请耶稣做我生命的主，我的生命得到完全的更新，生活发生完全的变化。我选择了以敬拜主信靠主的生活方式走余生的道路。每周日来教会学习神的话，敬拜全地全能的主，每天读经、祷告，亲近神。

三年过去了，我学会“知道怎样处卑贱，也知道怎样处丰富，或饱足，或饥饿，或有余，或缺乏，随事随在，我都得了秘诀。”（腓 4:12）。我学会怎样支配时间，怎样使用金钱，怎样爱家人，怎样爱朋友。祂让我“要专心仰赖耶和華，不可倚靠自己的聪明。在你一切所行的事上，都要认定他，他必指引你的路。”（箴 3:5-6）。我愿在我一切所行的事上，都要认定祂，因祂是我的神。



# He Is My God

Zhanwei Bu

“I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.” (Isaiah 42:16). God’s word is a mirror, in which the reflection shows me who I am. Before God, I am like the blind, not being able to see the road ahead of me. Once I admitted that I was the blind, God spoke to me: “I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.” (Psalm 32:8)

Before knowing Jesus, I thought I was clever but in fact I was foolish. I thought I was a hard-working person but in fact I worked hard for nothing. My restaurant job was so busy that the nice apparel I bought was always kept in the closet and the money I made was always locked in the drawer. My material life was filled with silence and I started to lose my direction in life. I was not sure if I lived for work or I worked for a living. As it was written in Psalm 32:3-4: “When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.”

Thank God! I was brought to know Jesus Christ in the midst of such difficult time, and I placed my trust in Him that He is my Savior. I accepted Jesus to be my Lord. My life was then renewed and changed completely. I decided to worship Him and trust in Him for the rest of my life. Every Sunday, I come to church to learn God’s word and worship Him – the Almighty God. Each day, I come to God through reading the Scripture and prayers.

Three years have passed since I came to God. Here is what I have learned: “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.” (Philippians 4:12). I have also learned how to manage time, spend my money wisely, and love my family and friends. Because of God, I learned to “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6) I want to acknowledge Him in all my ways because He is my God.

# 单单仰望主耶稣

邓敏平

我出生在广东省的一个农村，十岁那年我们全家移民到香港。我还记得，到了香港的第一个晚上，我爸说今天是香港人的平安夜，明天就是圣诞节。那时候我还不知道什么是平安夜，圣诞节又是什么意思。对我来说，它意义是这个晚上我们一家人平平安安的到达香港开始新生活。

我第一次接触到基督信仰是在香港的中学时代，我们学校是天主教背景，天天都要在早会上念主祷文后才能进课室。念了三年，我对神仍然没有任何的认识，也从来没有人跟我们解释过主祷文的内容。一直到中学4年级的时候，我经常跟一个基督徒老师值班做学校的事，他向我传福音，并介绍我看《拙苗》这本书。这是我第一次接触基督教思想，不知道为什么我很接受。老师带领我和另外八个同学每周团契。大概半年后我就在一个布道会上决志信主，决志后非常积极的参加教会的团契、诗班、崇拜。我的课余活动都是围绕教会的活动，我成了基督徒圈里的活跃份子。我看了很多基督教出版社出版的书，却从来没有把整本圣经读完，认识了很多基督徒朋友，却没有跟神亲近。当时我们教会有个很火热的牧师，他是从美国回去香港的。他录制了一个关于上帝存在的录音带，很有说服力，可以说自此我就没有怀疑过上帝存在的这个事实。但是那么多年来，我对上帝的认识也很粗浅。在基

督教圈子活跃五年后的圣诞节，我参加了洗礼。

洗礼后，我也很快出来工作了。几件事情让我在信仰的路上产生疑惑，灵命一直没有成长。我在教堂“混”了几年后，发现很多基督徒总感觉自己是圣人似的，站在道德高位对别人指指点点，别人都是罪人。他们做很多“善良”的行为，自我感觉良好。其实离开教会圈子后，这些人的行为简直极端讨厌而不自知，就好像性格分裂一样。当时我已进入社会工作，感觉像教会的教导有点脱离现实生活。我不要变成这样，我是不是要早点离开教会，免得变成这种人。

我信主后也带我弟去教会参加各种各样的活动，我弟弟在一个布道会上决志信主了，但基督教信仰带给我弟的只是内疚感，内疚自己的罪，或自己不够好，做不了圣经要求的行为。他后来也接受正式的辅导，好像也没什么效果。我一直在想，是不是我“害”了我弟。如果我当初不带我弟去教会，他会不会成长得快乐一些。这让我从此不怎么敢向别人传福音。

处在这矛盾期，本来最好是该找牧师谈谈，那个火热的牧师又决定回美国了，后来的牧师我总感觉与我格格不入，也就不想说了。

后来又发生了两件事情，让我彻底离开了教会。

还记得前面说过的九男女吗？刚信主的时候一起去参加学校附近的教会，后来我去参加了我家附近的教会，其余八人大部分继续参加学校附近的教会，我偶尔也会参加一下他们的活动，对我们这班少女来说，这教会是我们信仰的摇篮。但是几年后这教会发生丑闻，一位男团契团长，跟一位刚信的女教友，发展了不该有的男女关系。还有那个传道人也利用教会而得到个人利益，这两个事深深的伤害了我们还那么幼嫩的心灵，有几个同学因此转了教会，有个同学因此彻底离开了基督教圈子。而对我的影响就是原来教会也有“坏人”，传道人也不一定是“好人”。

最后一个事情让我对教会死心，是我们教堂邀请我做义务审计，因我是做财务的。在还没开始之前，教会的会计就跟我讲，现在你看到教会有那么多资产，但不要告诉别人，免得奉献减少。她这么说，完全破坏了我对教会的信任，原来教会也会考虑自己的利益。

自此，我就离开教会，我的信仰进入长达二十年的矛盾期。一方面我打从心里是相信神的，另一方面我却不喜欢教会生活。这二十年间我也主动告诉基督徒朋友关于我的挣扎。我的朋友圈子超过一半是基督徒，有三个同学做传道人，奇怪的是那么多年来从来没有人关心一下我的信仰历程，偶尔会有基督徒朋友说起，没说上两句就把我扔给他们教会。一般当有人邀请我去他的教会，我都会去，但始终没有

让我彻底回心转意。慢慢的我对基督教就形成一种冷眼旁观的态度。我也多次向神祷告说，“神呀！我知道你存在，你知道我的挣扎，我不想去演一个好基督徒的角色，我要从心里真正的信靠你，求你帮助我！”

神听了我的祷告。二零一二年的圣诞节我移民来到 Kansas，来到 Kansas 这一年最大的得着就是有个空间让我重新认识了神。我刚到这，还没有自己的生活圈子，只能是跟着我老公参加聚会和团契。我老公一直是来以马内利华人浸信会的，这是二十年后我有了稳定的教会生活。我迫切地向神祷告，“我不愿因为要一个社交圈子而来教堂，你知道我是不能演基督徒角色的人，我真的要认识你，如果我还没有那种感觉，我想我还是选择离开教会”。在年初的时候简牧师呼吁我们一年把圣经读完，我想反正我来这边也没什么事做，我就立了心志一定要完成，有不明白的地方也继续读下去，一直坚持，一边读就发现原来我是那么不了解神的话语，我过去只会懂一些金句，或只是听别人解经，原来自己看圣经的感受是那么不一样。

读经一段时间后，我突然明白我过去在信仰上的核心问题，焦点放错了。我一直定睛看着别人，原来我没有跟神建立关系，原来跟神建立亲密关系是多么美好的经历。我突然很渴慕神的话语，于是我参加 BSF ( Bible Study Fellowship )，也参加教会的查经班，神让我再次看见了自己的罪，也让我体验了和神和好的甜美，而我过去人生的很多矛盾都通过读神的话语得到了解答。前面我谈到我后悔带领我弟

信主的事，我弟一直都有去教堂，但灵命那么多年来也没有突破，上个月我回香港跟他分享我的信仰历程，我鼓励我弟弟要跟神直接建立关系，天天读神的话语，而不是只听别人如何解读神，要跟神直接交流。感谢神，我弟弟也看到自己过去把焦点方错了。

过去那些绊倒我和人还是天天在不同的角落发生，很多教会和基督徒的行为让人失望，但这些事已不再成为我的绊脚石，因我已决定要定睛耶稣。如果你也像我一样因别人的行为或教会的行为而失

望，我鼓励你把视线转到主耶稣身上，我们是信仰耶稣基督，而不是信仰教会，不是牧师，不是传道人或哪个基督徒。跟神建立亲密的个人关系，他一定赐你出乎意料的平安。

我人生很多的转折点都是在圣诞节，包括我移民到香港和美国、第一次受洗。二十年后的圣诞节，我愿意再次来到上帝的面前承认自己的罪，再次邀请耶稣做我生命的主，求主帮助我在灵里不断成长，作合主用的器皿。



## Look To The Lord Jesus Only

Karly Deng

I was born at the farm village of Guangdong Province. At the age of ten, my whole family moved to Hong Kong during

Christmas season. I also remember the first night of our arriving HK, dad said today was the Silent Night for people of Hong Kong



and tomorrow is Christmas Day. I had no idea what Silent Night was nor did I know the meaning of Christmas. In its practical meaning, that night was this very night that our family safely arrived Hong Kong—the beginning of new life.

My first exposure to the Christian faith was at Hong Kong's high school which had a Roman Catholic background. We were required to recite the Lord's Prayer every morning before entering the classroom. I studied there 3 years without growing in any understanding of God at all, neither did anybody ever explain to us the content of the Lord's prayer. Until my 4<sup>th</sup> grade middle school because I was often on duty involving school matters, I met a Christian teacher who shared the Gospel with me and introduced me to read the book called "Grow the Seed". This was the very first time I encountered Christianity which I found truly acceptable. Then, this teacher led other 8 classmates and me weekly in a fellowship group. Later we called ourselves "9 men and women" and half year after an Evangelistic conference, I accepted the Lord to be my Savior.

After that decision I became actively involved in church activities, fellowship, choir, worship. My extracurricular activities were all around church activities. And my belief was built on top of these activities. I was active in the circles of Christians, feeling that I was on the right track of doing the things that Christians were supposed to do, read a lot of books published by Christian Publishing House, but never read through the whole Bible. I made many

Christian friends but never grew close to God. Our Church happened to have a very fiery pastor who was from the United States and came back to Hong Kong. He had produced a very persuasive tape about the existence of God, which confirmed my belief without doubt since. But my knowing God stayed there without moving forward since all these years-- just believe, not yet to trust and faith. I was baptized on Christmas Day after being so active in Christian community.

After the baptism, I graduated and found a job. A few things that happened stirred up doubts in my belief during those years while I stayed at church. I found many Christians with an arrogant attitude in which they saw themselves as Saints but others were sinners; they held high moral standard by condemning others, and did many good acts to feel good about themselves. Actually after I left church, my behaviors were quite disgusting but without knowing that. Especially, when I was working in society, I found those teachings from the Church led me away farther and farther from the reality of life. I didn't want to become like that and pondered if I should leave church so that I would not become a person like that.

I also took my brother to church after I became a Christian and got to him participate in a variety of activities. My brother then accepted Christ at the Evangelistic Conference. But this Christian faith constantly brought guilt on him, about his sin, or feeling not good enough, or unable to meet the biblical requirement. Though later he received formal counseling,

he didn't seem to have any effect. I kept thinking "What if I "harmed" my brother badly? What if I did not take him to the Church, would he grow happier?" I dared not to preach the Gospel to others.

In this conflict, the best solution was to talk to the pastor but then the fiery minister decided to go back to United States. I always felt out of place with the new pastor, and I did not want to talk about it. Then two things happened, so I left the Church.

Do you remember I mentioned earlier about "Nine men and women"? In the beginning of our spiritual journey, we went to the church nearby school together and later I went to the church close to my house and the rest of the eight people continued to attend church nearby the school. I would occasionally attend their activities because for us, this church is the cradle of our faith. But a few years later there was a scandal at church: one leader of the Men's Fellowship group had an inappropriate relationship with a new sister who was young in the faith. Additionally, the Evangelist used the Church to get personal gain. These two incidents had brought detrimental hurt to our young minds, which resulted that a few classmates turned to another church and one particular classmate left completely out from the Christian community. And the impact made me realize that there are bad people in the church and an Evangelist is not necessarily a "good guy".

That one last thing had caused me to give up the church, was that the church

invited me to do volunteer audits on our church finance because I was in the financial profession. Before I started, the church's accountant told me that "Now you do see the church has many assets, but don't tell anyone, so the offerings will not decrease. Her telling me this completely destroyed my faith in church and I realized that the church also pursued its own interests.

Since then, I left the church and that brought me a twenty-year long faith struggling. On one hand, I firmly believe; on the other hand, I disliked church life. I had shared my struggles with my Christian friends in the past twenty years. Among my friends, more than half were Christians and three of them were ministers but strangely none had ever cared about my situation. Occasionally Christian friends would raise their concerns by two or three sentences, and then threw me back to the church. Some would invite me to their church, but I never completely returned willingly back to church. Slowly I became a spectator with a critical attitude. I prayed to the Lord: "Oh, God, I know you exist and you know my struggles, and I didn't want to only play a role of being a good Christian, but I really want to trust God from my heart. Please, help me!"

God heard my prayers! I came to Kansas last Christmas in which I had whole year and a chance to rediscover God. I didn't have my circle of friends when I came. Along with my husband, I attended gatherings and a fellowship group since my husband has joined the Emmanuel Church. This became my stable church life after


twenty years. I fervently prayed to God: "Please help me to come not for the cause of social life and You know that I cannot attend simply for the sake of playing a role to be a Christian but I really want to know You. If I cannot get the true sense of You, I will choose to leave the church." Earlier this year, Pastor Jean encouraged us to finish reading Bible yearly. Since I just moved here without a specific plan, I determined to do it; therefore, I continually and persistently read my Bible even though sometimes I could not understand what I read. Soon I discovered how little did I know about His Word. In the past, I might know some golden verses, or refer to others' interpretation but this time I read it myself and the experiences turned out very differently.

After reading for some time, I suddenly understand the core issues of my problem in faith. It turns out that my focus was wrong, I've been looking intently at someone and I don't have a relationship with God. It was such a wonderful experience to establish an intimate relationship with God. I was hungry for God's Word and then I joined BSF (Bible Study Fellowship). Also I participated in our church's Bible study. God again let me see my own sins and also allowed me to taste the sweetness of the reconciliation between God and myself. God cleared up many contradictions I had in the past. I said earlier today that I regretted bringing my brother to church. He has gone

to church all the time, but not seen any spiritual breakthroughs over the years. Last month, I returned to Hong Kong and shared with him my faith journey. I encouraged him to establish a direct relationship with God, read God's Word every day. Rather than just listen to others' interpretation but he should communicate directly with God. Thanks be to God, my brother also recognized that he had placed his focus wrongly in the past.

People and things that tripped me in the past still appear on a daily basis in a various ways, but they no longer become a stumbling block to me, because I've decided to fix my eyes to Jesus. If you're like me - disappointed because of the behavior of others or actions of the Church - I encourage you to look to Jesus. The faith we profess is in Jesus Christ, rather than in a Christian or church itself. Establishing a close personal relationship with God will give you surpassing peace.

Many turning points in my life happen at Christmas, including immigrating to Hong Kong and the United States, and the first time I was baptized. At Christmas twenty years later, I am willing to come again before God confess my sins, invite Jesus to again be the Lord of my life. Lord, help me to continue to grow spiritually, as co-master of the vessel.

 ***Turn your eyes upon Jesus***  
***Look full in His wonderful face...***

# 多祷告多有能力

黄秀华

教会的郑彩英姐妹虽年过七十，却显得神采奕奕，她无私地为教会做着各样的服事，热心地为弟兄姐妹们送去温暖的关怀，从她那敬虔坚定的眼神里总是深深地透着对上帝的爱和信心，让人感觉到她的生命在基督里得着了丰富。郑姐妹一生坎坷丰富，从年轻到现在受了很多苦，曾经也一无所有，但每一次她都毫不惧怕，靠着神使她的生命得到完全地翻转，她感叹说主的恩典是多么地奇妙。在困难软弱时她总是来到神面前不断地祷告，在神面前真诚地认错认罪，把各样的琐事细节贴心地交托给神，我们应该好好向她学习如何祷告。

**黄秀华姐妹（以下简称 Helen）：**我们当中常常有人会忽视祷告，为什么祷告对我们基督徒来说很重要呢？

郑彩英姐妹（以下简称郑姐妹）：如果把读经比喻成吃饭，那么祷告就如呼吸一样重要，通过祷告使我们与神有交通，无论什么事情都带到神面前来祷告，与神亲近。当我们向神祷告的时候，他会知道怎么来安排。作为基督徒，我们要清楚地明白祷告是与神亲近的每日重要功课。

**Helen 姐妹：**为什么你的祷告很流利，很有智慧？

郑姐妹：我常常读圣经，祈求圣灵的带领，有主的感动，自然而然就祷告出来了。

**Helen 姐妹：**很早以前你有没有不会祷告的经历，祷告不流畅？

郑姐妹：当然有了，我信主十几年了还不会祷告，去教会也马马虎虎，有时去有时不去。后来我的丈夫叶善坤弟兄来美国，虽然我的生活因来异国奔波的原因而不富裕，但神却感动我，使我下决心和师母一起祷告、读经、探访。师母说，祷告就像平常讲话一样，没办法抄袭的，只有向上帝求，赖着求。我们一直坚持向神祷告，所以叶弟兄来美国后也没有生过病。

**Helen 姐妹：**在你生活经历中，有没有哪一件特别的事让你感受到通过祷告经历了神？

郑姐妹：在我年轻时很软弱，聚会时也马马虎虎，后来我在教会遇到师母、牧师他们很有爱心，他们想来探访我，我告诉他们不用来探访，我自己会去教会去读经，那个时候我还不会祷告。当年我先生叶善坤在美国，我的家里很穷，亲戚们也看不起我们，而且孩子生病等等让我焦头烂额，于是师母就和我一起祷告。后来在布道会上我听到“奇异恩典”这首歌就真诚悔改，愿意坚定地仰望主。我当时就开

始学习祷告，我先生当时还不去教会，不像一个基督徒，后来我就把四个儿女都奉献给神，让他们都去读神学院，使儿女也为我先生祷告，终于在十年后我与我先生在美国团聚，接着我坚持带他去教会，去了教会后他的生命也不一样了。那个时候他的餐馆生意还不好，于是在每天开馆前我们就带员工们查考圣经，每天下班后就向神祷告交托，后来餐馆生意慢慢好起来了。通过向神祷告，我先生的生命得到了改变，他的身体一直也很好，没生什么大病，我的儿女们也都来跟随主，我也从过去愁苦烦恼到现在喜乐平静。我深深地感受到多祷告多有能力，也让我更加地与神亲近，凭着自己什么也不能，唯有把一切交托给神，神的恩典是何等奇妙。

**Helen 姐妹：你每天有几次祷告，每个早上、中午、晚上？**

郑姐妹：我每天早上坚持灵修，醒了后睡不着，就唱诗歌，然后看《圣经》，空腹祷告、认罪，为教会及朋友祷告。日常每次吃饭前就进行谢饭祷告。晚上临睡前，将今天所做的向神祷告，然后平安入睡。

**Helen 姐妹：你平常是如何祷告的？**

郑姐妹：我常向神祈求学习祷告，抓住神的话来祷告，正如圣经《以弗所书》六章第十八节所说“靠着圣灵，随时多方祷告祈求，并要在此警醒不倦，为众圣徒祈求。”《腓利比书》四章第六节，“应当一无挂虑，只要凡事借着祷告、祈求和感谢，将你们所要的告诉神。”还有《诗

篇》里也有很多关于祷告的内容。当我生气、妒恨、犯错时我就祷告不出来，好像水管里有石头阻住了。

**Helen 姐妹：在谢饭或是遇到难事生病时如何祷告？**

郑姐妹：在谢饭时——“创造天地、赏赐万物给我们的天父，感谢你赐给我们日用的饮食，让我们饮食饱足，满心喜乐，有信心和力量完成份内的工作，荣耀你的圣名。在用饭之前，我们向你感谢祷告，求你洁净桌上的饮食，求你赐我们身体健康、平安喜乐，作你的好儿女。阿们！”在生病时——“主啊！你是我们的避难所，是我们的力量，是我们在患难时随时帮助。求主使我心里的力量刚强起来，让我在病痛中经历你，求主赐给我一位合乎心意的医生，求主医治我病痛的地方，使我早日恢复健康，奉主耶稣基督的名祷告，阿们。”

**Helen 姐妹：圣经上说，要关起门来祷告是什么意思呢？那还需要到祷告会吗？**

郑姐妹：“关起门来”是针对个人在家祷告而言。而祷告会如同很多火柴放在一起燃烧，只有力量大才兴旺，通过祷告会我们能互相服事、了解、代祷、同工，多祷告也能使我们经历神；参加祷告会还能使我们学习祷告，参与的同时也给别人和自己祝福；如果是同工最好能参加祷告会，也能同心合意在神里一起事奉。

**Helen 姐妹：你对弟兄姐妹们的祷告有什么建议？**

郑姐妹：祷告可开启的天上窗户，祷告能得胜。弟兄姐妹们或许有时软弱，很

有可能是因为没有常常祷告。希望大家多祷告多得能力，它能增进神与人的关系。开始的时候可以祷告五分钟、十分钟，然后就慢慢延长，随时随地都可以祷告。

## Praying Strengthens

Helen Huang

Sister Tsai-yin Zheng (Mrs. Yeh) is over 70 years old yet very vibrant. She actively serves with a selfless heart. She cares for brothers and sisters wholeheartedly. Her Spirit of godliness and the unwavering devotion reveals her deep love and faith in God. People around her can testify the abundant life she has in Christ. Not without trials in life, Sister Zheng walked through many dark valleys and at one point, she lost everything. Yet fear did not take over her. Her life was anew for she trusts in the Lord. She testifies of God's amazing grace. In difficulties and weakness, she comes to God and prays without ceasing. She confesses her sin with sincerity and surrenders every detail to Him. There is much to learn from her regarding the power of prayer.

**Huang: Many Christians overlook the importance of prayers, why is praying essential for Christians?**

Zheng: If reading the Bible is like eating, praying is like breathing, a vital part for life. Through prayer, we can talk to our God and bring everything before Him. When we pray, He knows what the best

arrangement will be. As Christian, we should be clear that prayer is an important daily devotion that draws us near to God.

**Helen: How is that you pray so naturally and fluently and full of wisdom?**

Zheng: I read Bible often and pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit. When God's Spirit moves within, prayers just flow out naturally.

**Helen: Have you experienced not knowing how to pray or praying rigidly?**

Zheng: Of course. After being a Christian for more than ten years, I still didn't know how to pray. My church life was also inconsistent. When my husband Shann-Kuen Yeh came to the United States years ago, leaving our family in Taiwan, there were a lot of ups and downs in our life. God gave me the desire and determination to pray, to study, and to visit brothers and sisters with my pastor's wife in Taiwan. She taught me that praying is just like talking and is not something you can copy. Ask and keep on asking and that was what

we did. Brother Yeh never got sick once since we came to the States.

**Helen: Throughout your life experience, do you have a particular incidence that let you experience God through prayer?**

Zheng: When I was young, I was weak in faith. I did not take fellowship very seriously. My pastor and his wife loved me and wanted to visit with me. In my weakness, I even rejected their offer. I told them that I would go to church myself and would also read my Bible. At that time, I didn't know how to pray. While my husband was working in the States, we were very poor. Being looked down upon by relatives and having ill children made me restless. My pastor's wife continued to pray with me. One time, in an evangelistic meeting, I heard the song "Amazing Grace" and I confessed my sin wholeheartedly, and I was resolved to follow Christ. I started learning how to pray then. My husband would not go to church at that time. Later I dedicated all four of my daughters to God and sent them to seminary to study. They also prayed for my husband. Ten years later, my husband and I finally reunited in the States. I persisted in taking him to church, and his life started to change. At that time, his restaurant business was not good, so we had time to study Bible with our staff before it opened, and we prayed together after work. Our business started to improve afterwards. Through prayers, my husband's life slowly changed. God protected his health and he had no serious illness. All our daughters followed Christ wholeheartedly. Anxiety and sorrows

are replaced with a life of peace and joy now. I am convinced of the power in prayers. Prayers draw me near to God. I can do nothing without Him. I can only surrender myself to Him. God's grace is so amazing.

**Helen: How often do you pray every day? In the morning, at noon and at night?**

Zheng: Daily devotion is a must in the morning. When I can't fall back to sleep, I sing hymns and read the Bible. In the morning, I always pray before breakfast. I confess my sin and then pray for church and friends. As usual, I pray before meals and before bedtime. I tell God about the things I have done during the day in my bedtime prayer and then go to bed with peace in my heart.

**Helen: How do you usually pray?**

Zheng: I often ask God to teach me how to pray. I use God's Word to pray back to Him. Ephesians 6:18 says: "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." Philippians 4:6 also says: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." The book of Psalms is also a good prayer guide. However, when I am angry, envious or sin, my prayers would be hindered. It feels like a blocked water pipe.

**Helen: How do you pray before meals and at times when bad things or illness happen?**

Zheng: For mealtime prayer, I pray like this: “Our Heavenly Father, you are the Creator of the heavens and the earth and the Giver of all things, thank you for giving us our daily food. Your provision is sufficient and you fill us with joy, confidence and strength to complete the work before us to glorify your holy Name. We give you thanks before our meal, and please purify our food, and give us good health, peace and joy. Guide your children in the path of obedience. Amen.”

At times of illness, I pray like this: “Lord, You are our shelter and our strength. You provide help in times of needs. Please strengthen me with power through your Spirit in my inner being, Lord. Please let me experience you in illness. May you give me a doctor after your own heart. Heal me, O Lord, so that I can recover soon, in Jesus’s name I pray, Amen.”

**Helen: Bible says, “Close the door and pray”. What does that mean? Do we still need prayer meeting?**

Zheng: “Close the door” refers to an individual prayer life. However, a prayer meeting is like burning a bunch of matches together. The more matches there are, the bigger the flames are. Through prayer meeting, we serve each other, work together, learn of each other, and pray for one other. The more we pray, the more we experience God. Through praying with others, we also grow in our prayer life. Participants have opportunities to bless others and be blessed by others. It is good for church workers to come to prayer meeting because they can learn to serve God in unity.

**Helen: What suggestions would you give to brothers and sisters regarding to prayer?**

Zheng: “Prayer opens up the floodgates of heaven”, “Prayer triumphs”. When brothers and sisters experience weakness, it is most likely due to inconsistent prayer life. May we be strengthened as we devote more time in praying, for it increases our intimacy with God and people. Five minutes is a good start, then ten minutes. Lengthen the time gradually until we pray without ceasing, whenever and wherever.





# My Journey Along ECBC

Michael Huang

My family and I first attended Worship service at Emmanuel Baptist Church (EBC) in 1985. Pastor Gardner was our Pastor then, we met in the fellowship hall at EBC where the congregation was about 35-45 people. As a newly arrived immigrant and not able to speak much English, I felt welcome by the members and quickly felt at home.

These last twenty-plus years, from a mission at EBC, until now Emmanuel Chinese Baptist Church (ECBC) has been a great part of my journey, one that I have encountered great joy and deepest sorrow. When my dear mother was ill, I felt God's love through brothers and sister with every visit at the hospital and home during her last 6 month stay in this world. With every visit, my mother's spirit was lifted and gave her the comfort that she was not alone in her fight. Every prayer was felt and every visit I felt as if God had sent angels to check on us and comfort us. When my mother was called back home to be with God, ECBC was there to comfort us and support us during such difficult time. Thank you ECBC.

ECBC was and is the anchor where my faith has always returned. God has truly provided me a safe haven where I could and still can feel God's love in many ways and many people in ECBC has shared His love with me.

One of those people has especially showed the love of God and is deeply engraved in my heart, he began by showing interest by speaking to me during the potluck luncheons that we had after worship. After only few weeks, I quickly puzzled why this "old man" was so interested in what, a fifteen-year-old kid did throughout the week and why he was always talking to me. Only year later I realized that this man had a vested interest, to show me ways that I can serve/praise our God, he showed me that I don't have to be a preacher to serve God. He showed me how in my own way, I too, can serve God. I thank God He sent this old man named Pastor Hunker to encourage me.

Also ECBC is where I met a kid named Matthew, that in his own way allowed my brother and I to hang out with him even with our broken English, and we quickly became the 3 stooges at church. We did just about everything together; from making trouble with our Sunday School teacher, to showing off by carrying one table by oneself to show who is stronger, to pushing each other into the lake at summer retreats, and to blaming each other when we got in trouble with our mothers. Indeed, God provided us someone to help us in our adaptation to American teenage life in US. The good kind, the kind that kept us from straying away from God, but we always tried to justify our action by trying to find a

verse in the Bible that would justify our mischief and failed every time.

As each year passes; many have come through ECBC; many have stayed; many have moved away, however God's love never wavers. Year after year, I see different faces; many from knee high to now, college graduates and young professionals. Many have accepted Christ among us, many have spiritually matured.

I as look back in time, ECBC has always stood the test of time, the test of cultural diversity, and continues to stand tall and be united in one faith under God in



servitude to our Lord by fulfilling our greatest purpose – to spread the Good News.

Thank you ECBC.

## 我隨著以馬內利華人浸信會的旅程

黃宏文

一九八五年，我的家人和我第一次出席美國以馬內利浸信會（EBC）參加主日崇拜。那時簡國忠牧師是我們的牧者，我們在交誼廳相遇。以馬內利浸信會的會眾人數大約三十五至四十五人。作為一個新移民，不會說很多的英語，但我覺得很被成員歡迎，很快就覺得在自己家裡一樣。

過去這二十多年，從一個在美國以馬內利浸信會的宣教點，直到現在的以馬內利華人浸信會（ECBC），一直是我生命旅程中很大的一部分。在這裡我經歷了極大的喜悅和最深的悲傷。我親愛的母親生病了，且在她留在這個世界的最後六個月期

間，藉著弟兄和姊妹們每次到醫院和家裏的探望，我感受到神的愛。每一次的探望，就看到母親的精神被提昇起來，從安慰中她知道她並不是一個人單獨與病魔戰鬥。每個禱告都深受感動，每個探訪，都仿佛是神差遣天使來查看我們和安慰我們。當母親被召回天家與神在一起的時候，在我們處於如此困難的時期，是以馬內利華人浸信會，在那裡安慰我們和支持我們。謝謝妳——以馬內利華人浸信會。

以馬內利華人浸信會，是我的信心始終回轉的錨點。神供應了我一個真正安全的避風港，在那裡從很多方面不僅過去，

並且現在仍能感受到神的愛。很多在以馬內利華人浸信會的人也與我分享祂的愛。

在那些人之中，有一個人特別顯出了神的愛，並深深地刻在我的心裏，他首先在崇拜後一家一餚的午宴時，很有興趣地和我說話。幾個星期後，我感到困惑，為何這個"老人"對一個十五歲的孩子整個星期在做什麼，有如此的興趣；為什麼他總是要和我說話。幾年後，我才明白這個人有一個既定的心意，向我展示事奉/讚美我們的神的方法，讓我看到我不需要成為牧師才可以服事神。他教我如何用我自己的方式事奉神。我感謝神祂遣送這位名叫杭克安的牧師來鼓勵我。

此外，在以馬內利華人浸信會我遇到了一個名字叫馬太的孩子，用他自己的方式允許我弟弟和我與他混在一起，縱使我們帶著不流利的英語；很快地，我們成了教會的三個搗蛋鬼。我們基本上在一起做所有的事；從招惹我們的主日學老師、舉起桌子來炫耀誰比較強、互相把彼此推到

夏令營會的湖裡、當母親們責備我們時，我們就互相指責對方。事實上，神賜給了我們朋友，好讓我們在適應美國青少年生活的時候得到幫助。那種好的影響，使我們不致於偏離神。我們經常試著從聖經中找經文來證明我們的行為和惡作劇，而每次我們都失敗了。

一年一年地過去，很多人來過以馬內利華人浸信會，許多人留下了，很多人搬走了，然而神的愛永遠不會動搖。一年接著一年，我看到不同的面孔；許多膝蓋高的小孩都長大了、成為大學畢業生、成為年輕的專業人士。很多人在我們中間接受了主基督，很多人在屬靈上成熟了。

當我回望在以馬內利華人浸信會的時間，她總是經受得住時間的考驗和多樣性文化的考驗，並繼續地屹立高聳，藉著同一信仰合一在神裏面來服事神，實現我們最大的宗旨——傳播好消息。

謝謝妳：以馬內利華人浸信會。

\*\*\*\*\*  
God created us in His image.  
Our sins separate us from God.  
Sins cannot be removed by good deeds.  
Paying the price of sin, Jesus died and rose again.  
Everyone who believes in Jesus alone has eternal life.  
Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.  
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# 明天是神的礼物

李羿

每天，好像都有解决不完的事情等着我去做。一件事，当我好不容易花时间去完成，马上又会出现另一件事来搅扰我。因此，我常常害怕新的状况发生，尤其是从来没遇到过的，会为明天担心，因为当下解决不了的，明天我还是要继续去面对，但明天到底该怎么办，我常常也很困惑和烦恼。

每当感觉不知所措的时候，神的话就安慰我。“不要为明天忧虑；因为明天自

有明天的忧虑；一天的难处一天当就够了。”（马太福音6：34）不要为明天忧虑，因为明天的生活祂已经都为我安排好了。我知道神的话都是信实的，我相信我的明天祂已经为我作了美好的计划等着我向前走。而我遇到的事情既然都是神所允许发生的，祂必会看顾，会指引，会保守我去完成。每一个明天都会成为一个个不可复制的昨天，为的是造就我成为更好的自己，这是来自神的礼物，感谢祂！

## Tomorrow Is A Gift From God

Yi Li

There seems to be endless works waiting for me every day. When I am almost finishing one task, another thing pops up and requires my attention. So, I start to worry about what bad thing is going to happen next, what if it is something I have never dealt with before. I worry about “tomorrow”. Whatever I cannot get done today, I still need to face it tomorrow. What should I do about it? This thought worries me and troubles me a lot.

However, every time I feel overwhelmed by my worries, the word of God comforts me. “Therefore do not worry

about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:34) Do not need to worry about tomorrow, because God has planned everything tomorrow for me. I know that God’s words are truthful. I believe He has a beautiful plan for me tomorrow and take me forward. Since everything I encountered in life is under God’s permission, He will take care of me, guide me, and protect me. Every tomorrow is going to become a unique and not repeatable yesterday. This is the gift from God, to build me up to be a better self. I thank God for it.

# 人生風暴中經歷神

劉淑君

二零一二年十月初，在每月定期自我乳房檢查時，突然摸到一個小小的硬塊，天性樂觀的我雖然未往壞處想，但直覺知道必須找醫生檢查，很快在一週內就做了乳房 X 光攝影以及超音波檢查，乳房 X 光攝影未照出任何異常，超音波倒是照出我所觸診到的小硬塊，醫生們的診斷應該是良性腫瘤，十年後轉變成癌的機率是百分之一點四，並安排我六個月後回診進行超音波追蹤檢查。十月底做年度體檢時，我的弟兄建議我請家庭醫師推薦另一個醫生來尋求其它意見，因此十一月中我到了外科醫生處報到，醫生經觸診後也同意之前的診斷，表示應該是良性腫瘤，然而，沒人可以保證十至十五年後是否會病變，因此若我願意，可以安排手術將腫瘤取出並化驗，這個建議正合我意，當下馬上安排十一月二十七日動手術。

十一月二十九日，是我在這平順的生命中所經歷的第一個大風暴，先生約下午兩點時打電話通知我化驗報告結果，那個小小的腫瘤竟然是癌，我得了乳癌！從他的語氣中，可聽出他很難過，我當下的第一個反應就是安慰他說：「沒事的，你不要擔心。」話雖如此，電話掛下後，我的世界彷彿被翻轉過來，腦子一片空白，諾大的房子就我一個人呆坐在餐桌前，心想「怎麼可能？我這麼健康的一個人怎麼可能得乳癌呢？」此時，不知道該找誰說什麼，愛唱詩歌的我，馬上試著用詩歌來填

補那似乎已有破口的心，詩歌一放，淚水就再也止不住的流下，我心裡絕望的想到我的弟兄以及三個還很需要母親的寶貝，最小的還不到五歲呀！這時再樂觀的我也禁不住的自問，如果我的生命就在此劃下句點..我不敢再想下去，從來沒想過死亡的陰影竟然如此快的降臨到我身上。感謝神，藉著教會主內弟兄姊妹電話一通接一通的打來慰問。很奇妙的，當天晚上我便從驚恐中走出來，並有一種莫名幸福的感覺！為什麼說幸福的感覺呢？我不是才剛被宣判得乳癌嗎？因為當我們夫妻二人安靜在神面前尋求祂的旨意，我們看見神揀選我們，要來經歷神的慈愛，神的醫治，神的大能，並藉此見證神的榮耀，我有一種受寵若驚的感覺。我是如此的不配及渺小，神竟要用我！我們相信這苦難的背後必有神美好的旨意，這苦難必成為神所賜的化妝祝福。當下，夫妻二人立志，我們一家要在這突來的苦難上，為主做那美好的見證，靠著主的應許，憑信心來走過這人生一大風暴，並求神幫助我們能成為傳遞神賜福的出口！

接下來半個月，弟兄投入許多心力來尋索乳癌相關資訊，並著手進行尋求合適的醫生，尋求醫療幫助，我們學習將每一件事、每一個決定都帶到神的面前禱告尋求。感謝神的帶領，教會的醫生弟兄以及我的家庭醫師都建議我到 KU 癌症專科中心，由一組醫療團隊會診，經禱告後，心

中極有平安，於是開始了我的抗癌之路！第一次與醫生會面後，便知道這裡便是神預備醫治的開始，醫生排定下一次手術在一個月後進行。好漫長的一個月，在等待神醫治大能的臨到時，最大的恐懼莫過於那對未來的未知數。癌細胞有無轉移到身體的其它器官？癌細胞是否在上次手術全部取出？我是乳癌第幾期？每一個未知數都和療程以及生命長短息息相關。聖經教導我們，生命氣息在乎神，神掌管我們每一天，信神的兒女有永生的盼望！然而內心仍不由自主地擔憂生命就此劃下句點。豈不知神為祂的兒女所預備的是超乎我們所求所想的。「神為愛祂的人所預備的，是眼睛未曾看見，耳朵未曾聽見，人心也未曾想到的」（哥林多前書 2:9）。這一個我並不想要有的苦難突然臨到我，靠著神的話語，我相信神必定有所預備。感謝神，祂在我們等待手術前難熬的日子裡，預備了一場屬靈的饗宴-美中冬令會（十一月二十二日至十一月二十五日），我們一家五口在冬令會中完全享受神的愛，領受神的教導，並有機會與冬令會講員蘇緋雲博士有極好的交通分享，幫助極大。在接下來的抗癌路上，蘇博士一直以屬靈長輩身分鼓勵扶持我們，神的預備果然是豐富豐富，遠超過我所求所想的！

十一月二十四日，是手術前所需做的第一項檢查核磁共振（MRI）的日子，我心中頗有平安。檢查過後，我馬上全心的回到冬令會繼續享受那屬靈的饗宴。三天後，核磁共振結果出來，發現另有一個五公分疑似腫瘤的陰影。醫生要求我隔天回診討論核磁共振的結果，看診時醫生不僅親自讀片，並來回進出兩次和專門讀片的

醫生討論後，確信那五公分的陰影與上一次手術無關，乃是另一處腫瘤的陰影。我再一次保持樂觀態度的問，就算是腫瘤也不一定是惡性的吧？醫生面色嚴肅的回答我，這看起來像是癌細胞，當下，我的淚水再也止不住的流下，這是我得知患癌之後，第二次流下懼怕的淚水，我也知道神有教導「不要怕，只要信！」我不是已經將這苦難完全交托給神，相信神的醫治大能嗎？但那死亡的陰影似乎漸漸擴大，再次籠罩著我，讓我無處可逃。感謝神賜給我堅強的弟兄在一旁鼓勵及堅定我軟弱的信心，經上不是說「因他受的刑罰我們得平安，因他受的鞭傷我們得醫治」（以賽亞書 53:5），神的話語再一次地堅定我的心，「神是我們的避難所，是我們的力量，是我們在患難中隨時的幫助。」（詩篇 46:1）。是啊！不要被五公分這個數字嚇倒呀！我所信的神是大有能力的，他既然可以在曠野開道路，在沙漠開江河，使瞎子得看見，瘸子能行走。若他願意，移除腫瘤豈是難事！我迫切求神將這五公分腫瘤挪去。在人不能，在神凡事都能，神的意念高過我的意念，神既然將這極大的苦難擺在我面前，也必有那美好的旨意要行在我身上，我所需做的就是憑信心來戰勝病魔，為主得勝！

十一月三十一日，我又回到癌症專科中心報到，進行三項不同檢查，第一項是乳房 X 光攝影，這次還使用最新的 3D 攝影，仍然沒有檢查出任何異樣，第二項是乳房超音波檢查，這次檢查倒是看到了另一處小於一公分的腫瘤，至於核磁共振發現的五公分腫瘤則不見蹤影，哈利路亞，感謝神！神聽了我的禱告，挪去那令人極

其害怕的五公分腫瘤。第三項檢查是粗針切片檢查，為了取得足夠的樣本，所以前後共抽了十至十二針！四天後，粗針切片的病理報告出來，當弟兄在電話中告知我MRI以及超音波發現的不是癌細胞，我聽了好感恩，內心不住的感謝慈愛又憐憫人的神！弟兄在電話的另一端激動的哭了，我再次被他的愛深深打動及感到不捨，我好感謝神賜給我一個愛主愛我的弟兄。生病期間，他彷彿成為我的秘書，是我和醫生護士之間的橋樑，所有的門診、報告等的聯絡工作，都是他在費心處理！

學習凡事交託，完全倚靠主實在是一門不簡單的功課。就在認為一切穩妥，只等一月七日與醫生會面並確定一月九日手術事宜的那個週末竟然生病了，許多感冒症狀都來了，並且半夜腹部絞痛地無法入睡，此時內心不由自主懷疑，難不成是盲腸炎？就算不是盲腸炎，等了一個月的手術會不會因為生病感冒就此延遲？此時只能再度專心仰望神，再次用神的話安定自己忐忑不安的心，聖經教導「凡事都有定期」，神的時間永遠是最好的時間，若手術因此延後，也必有神的美意。「我要向山舉目，我的幫助從何而來？我的幫助從造天地的耶和華而來」（詩篇 121:1-2）。我知道我必須專心倚靠神的幫助，感謝神，經過禱告後，腹部絞痛症狀減輕可以安然入睡。一月七日和醫生會面時，醫生診斷後決定一月九日手術仍可如期進行，然而醫生對粗針切片化驗的正面結果採取保留態度，因為MRI所顯現的五公分異常腫瘤實在不容忽視，因此建議由先前的乳房腫瘤切除，改成為單邊乳房全面切除！我和

弟兄在神面前安靜禱告後，心中極有平安，因此接受醫生的建議！

從診斷出得了乳癌到手術，雖然只有一個半月的時間，但對我而言卻是非常漫長的等待，也藉此學習許多神給的功課。一月九日，這等待許久的日子終於來到，心裡其實很平靜。雖然有一點緊張，但並不害怕，神藉著詩篇 118:17「我必不至死，仍要存活，並要傳揚耶和華的作為」來堅定我的心，因此我是帶著笑容踏入醫院，準備接受神藉醫生的手來醫治我的疾病。然而，弟兄所揹負的重擔極大，是我極其不捨的，他緊張的程度讓辦理入院手術的人員誤以為是他要動手術，這手術前發生的趣事，背後是弟兄對我全心呵護及完全的愛！進手術房前，弟兄拿著聖經，一句一句的讀經文給我聽，並為我迫切禱告，好堅定我的心，讓我不懼怕。愛我的弟兄，讀到後來就忍不住淚水，邊讀邊流淚，並跟我道歉說不該流淚讓我傷心，因為我一直都保持樂觀喜樂的心來面對這次手術，直到此時才流下不捨的淚水。

準備入手術室的時間終於到了，正如預期中，麻醉藥馬上生效，我完全不省人事。張開眼時，手術已經結束，護士看我恢復的非常好，終於讓急的像熱鍋上螞蟻的弟兄進入術後恢復室，我很意外的看到簡牧師跟著弟兄一起來探望。後來由弟兄口中得知，原來弟兄獨自一人在等候室中迫切的為我禱告，後來當他得知手術將超時一至二小時後，許多不好的念頭就一個個進到他的心裡，內心極其憂傷，便在等候室中啜泣起來，後來他打電話請牧師為在手術中的我禱告，愛我們的屬靈大家長

在電話中為我們禱告完，馬上就趕來醫院陪伴弟兄渡過接下來難熬的等待，對於我的弟兄在苦難中所流露出的愛，實在讓我極為感動！

手術後的隔天早晨在病床上靈修的時候，神給了我一句話，「我受苦是與我有益，為要使我學習你的律例。」（詩篇 119:71）我當下馬上想到十誡中其中一條『要孝敬父母』。「要孝敬父母，使你得福，在世長壽，這是第一條帶應許的誡命。」（以弗所書 6:2-3）神的話重重的提醒我，我信主多年，從未試著傳福音給在台灣的家人。剛信主時，嘗試著向媽媽傳福音，但碰釘子，因為怕被罵，就再也不曾向家人傳福音，想來真是不孝。因此在神面前認罪後，寫了封網上家書分享我這苦難後的人生省思，並把主耶穌介紹給親愛的家人，想一想若因我受的苦可以換來家人信主，這苦就不是白受的！「當信主耶穌，你和你一家都必得救」（使徒行傳 16:31）。我相信神的應許，求主賜我剛強不膽怯的心，為主傳福音！

出院回家修養後，我再次經歷了神的愛及豐富預備，也看到自己的小信。手術前幾個週末，我花許多精神體力在烹調上面，儲備糧食，因為知道自己會有好一陣子無法為家人預備飲食。神不是已經提醒我生命勝於飲食，不要憂慮吃什麼嗎？真的是在神裡面，凡事都不缺，許多教會弟兄姊妹，在我出院前便已安排好我們一家未來三週的伙食，好讓我無後顧之憂的安心休養，並且都是開車來回近二小時專程送上美食，讓我非常感動。教會弟兄姊妹又顧慮我休養三週後回去上班很辛苦，便

又再安排三週的食物，主內肢體的愛，豐富富的安慰我們的心，也餵飽我們一家人的胃，食物豐富到需要存放到冷凍庫，因此可以取消後三週食物的安排，神的愛真是美好，「我們愛，因為神先愛我們。」（約翰一書 4:19）

愛唱詩歌的我，以前都是一首接著一首喜樂地唱！其實現在也是，但都加上感恩的淚水。一月二十三日回診時，醫生說各樣化驗指數都非常好，笑容滿面的看著我說：「你的癌症不會奪走你的性命，你還有很長的路要走。」哈利路亞，感謝讚美主，二月十三日再次回診接受最後療程時，醫生開心的告訴我，我不需要做化療了，只需服用十年的口服藥，神真的是太恩待我了。「我的恩典夠你用的，因為我的能力是在人的軟弱上顯得完全」（哥林多後書 12:9）。是的，感謝神，神的榮耀在我軟弱的身子上得彰顯，使我得到全然醫治！如今回想，從被宣判得乳癌，到完全得醫治，不過短短三個月，但感覺恍如隔世，像是做了一場夢。一路走來，有淚水、有懼怕，但神藉著他所賜下的話語以及主內肢體所擺上的來扶持我，心中有無限感恩。

經過這一個人生風暴，讓我對生命有許多的省思，我很感謝神再次賜給我一個新生命，人生開啟了另一個里程碑，每一天的生命氣息都是神的恩典，白白的賜給我。與死亡擦身而過之時，在神面前認罪，因生活忙碌，時常將讀經靈修放在睡前，因此有時太累便忽略了。參加冬令會時，蘇緋雲博士對我們下一個挑戰，就是每日清晨靈修親近主。當下就下定決心接受這



個挑戰，重新在神面前立志，每日清早親近神，研讀神的話，從神那重新得力。教養孩子上也有了新的領受，知道兒女在靈裡面的成長更重於課業，因此重新與子女一起讀聖經，在神的話語上下功夫。正如經上所說，「求你指教我們怎樣數算自己的日子，好教我們的得著智慧的心」（詩篇 90 :12）。願神幫助我成為一個有智慧的妻子、媽媽、媳婦及女兒。

感謝神賜給我一個愛主愛我的弟兄，對我細心照顧，不離不棄；感謝神賜給我三個可愛健康的孩子，在我身體軟弱時會一起分擔家事，照顧自己；感謝神賜給我親愛的家人，讓我在最需要時，得到父母及姊弟的關懷；感謝神賜給我一對好愛我的公婆，疼愛我如女兒一般，持續為我禱告代求得醫治；感謝神賜給我一個愛主的小姑，用心的寄許多屬靈書籍，幫助我渡過苦痛，得以由神的話語支取力量；感謝神安排我們與蘇緋雲博士在冬令會認識，她對我在抗癌路上有極大的鼓勵，並在主內彼此代求，真是美好；感謝神賜給我屬靈的家庭以及主內肢體的愛，照顧我身心靈所需；感謝神將一對夫婦放在我們生命中，從赴美求學到一家五口，受到他們百般照顧，在我們最需要時，為我們接送三個小孩，以及照料飲食起居，讓我可以安

心的去醫院做各樣檢查，並無後顧之憂的入手術房。我要為著患癌之事感謝神，在人看來似乎是再壞也不過的人生風暴，但一路走來，極其甘甜，充滿了神的慈愛與恩典，就像使徒保羅所說的：「所以我不喪膽，外體雖然毀壞，內心卻一天新似一天。我們這至暫至輕的苦處，要為我們成就極重無比永遠的榮耀。原來我們不是顧念所見的，乃是顧念所不見的，因為所見的是暫時的，所不見的是永遠的」（哥林多後書 4:16-18）。

「我從前風聞有你，現在親眼看見你」（約伯記 42 :5）。親身經歷神的醫治後，讓我真正體驗到神是那又真又活的神，不是僅限於聖經上的知識。感謝神全然的醫治我的身體，讓我無須經過電療或化療的痛苦，僅僅只須服用十年的藥，這樣的結果實在是超乎我所求所想。神賜予我新生命，我定意要天天為主而活。願神幫助我時時定睛在他身上，並且顧念天上的事，而不是地上的事！願神憐憫我的家人，可以早日得著救恩，成為神的兒女！我樂意將自己所經歷苦難的心路歷程和他人分享，求神幫助我有一顆更敏銳的心，知道如何安慰關懷有需要的人。我願意天天為主而活，願我所言所行能為主發光，行出好見證，時時榮耀主的名。阿們！

## Experience God In The Storm

Charity Liu

In early October 2012 when I was going through my routine breast self-

examination, I felt a lump. Although I was optimistic about it, I intuitively knew I must

go see a doctor. In a week I did X ray and ultra sound test. The former did not detect anomaly but the latter confirmed about the lump. The doctors diagnosed it as benign tumor. The chance it became cancerous in ten years is merely 1.4%. In six months I was to return for a follow-up ultra sound test. At the end of the month when I was having my annual physical check, my husband suggested I should seek a second opinion from another doctor. In November I went in to see another doctor, who also agreed with the diagnosis of my family doctor. But nobody can be sure that it won't turn out to be a cancer tumor in ten to fifteen years. If I willed, I could have it removed through a surgery and tested. I agreed and the surgery was scheduled on November 27.

On November 29 I sailed into the first storm of my rather trouble-free life. My husband called around 2 pm and I was told about the diagnosis of breast cancer. He sounded deeply sadden over the phone. My first reaction was to comfort him, saying, "I will be fine. Don't worry." After I hung up, I felt my world was turned upside down. My mind went blank. I was sitting alone in the dining room, thinking, "How is this possible? How could a healthy person like me have breast cancer?" At the meantime, I had nobody to talk to. I loved to sing. So I sang hymns to find comfort in my broken heart. Tears started to rain down, and I thought about my husband and our three children, the youngest was not even five. They needed me! Although I was usually optimistic, I could not help but asked myself, "If I die..." I didn't have the courage to continue my thought. I never thought death was so close.

I thank God because brothers and sisters called and I found comfort in their caring. Amazingly, I walked out from my fear that very night. I even had a strong feeling of being blessed. Why blessed? Wasn't I diagnosed with cancer? When Patrick and I sought God's will together, we saw God had chosen us to experience his love, healing and power. We would be witnessing his glory. I actually felt honored. I was unworthy and insignificant but God chose me. We believed behind the curtain of suffering was God's good will. This suffering was the decoration of God's blessing. So, our household determined that our suffering would be a witness to God. We also determined to trust God. By faith we shall walk through the storm. May God help us to become a blessing to others.

Over the next fifteen days my husband Patrick collected information about breast cancer, and looked for a doctor and medical treatment. We learned to pray and seek God's will in very decision we made. We thank God for his guidance. Medical professionals from our church and my family physician recommended to me a medical team from KU medical center. We prayed and found peace in our heart. So, I started my journey to fight against breast cancer. After the first meeting with the doctor, I knew this was the place God had prepared for me for my medical treatment. The doctor scheduled the next surgery in a month. That was a long month. When I was waiting for God's healing, the biggest fear came from the unknowns. Did the cancer spread to other parts of the body? Did the previous surgery remove all the cancer cells?

What cancer stage was I at? Every unknown was closely related to the treatment and my life. The Bible teaches that our life is in the hand of God. God is sovereign over us day by day. His children have the hope of eternal life. But I still could not help but being worried about my life. Didn't I know God prepared for his children what was beyond their thoughts? "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived"-- the things God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthian 2:9). This unwanted suffering came to me. But trusting God's words I believed he prepared something for me. I thank God for he prepared us a spiritual banquet, the winter retreat (December 12th through 25th). We dwelled in God's love during the retreat, and learned his teachings. We also had a chance to talk to one of the speaker, Dr. Su Fei Yun. She was a great help to us. During the phase of my battle against the cancer, Dr. Su was an encouragement to me. What God prepared for us was abundant, more than what I thought and asked.

December 24, I went in for MRI. I had peace in my heart. After the test, I returned to the winter retreat. Three days later I received the test result. They found a 5 cm mass. I discussed with the doctor about the test result on the next day. Not only he examined the film, but also talked to experts and confirmed the five-centimeter mass was not related to the previous surgery. I was still optimistic and asked, "We didn't know for sure it was a cancer tumor, right?" The doctor had a serious look when he replied, "It looks like a cancer tumor." My tears

started to fall for the second time after I found out about the breast cancer. I knew God spoke to me, "Do not be afraid but believe!" Had I not put this onto his hands? Did I not trust he could heal? But the shadow of death grew and covered me that I found no escape. But I thanked God for giving me a husband strong in faith, who encouraged me and strengthened my faith. Did not the Bible say, "the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) God's word again strengthened me, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (Psalms 46:1) That's right! Do not be scared by the number 5 cm. My God is mighty. He can open a way in the wilderness and a river in the desert. He could make the blind see, the paralyzed walk. If he wills, the removal of the cancer cell is not difficult to him. I prayed earnestly for God to remove the five-centimeter mass. In God everything is possible. His thought is higher than my thought. God had placed this suffering before me, he must have a good will for me. What I needed was to overcome the illness by faith. Victory to God!

December 31, I returned to the cancer treatment center for more tests. First was X ray/3D scan. No anomaly was found. Second was ultra-sound. A new 1 cm mass was spotted. But the 5 cm disappeared this time. Hallelujah, thank God. He heard my prayer by removing the 5 cm cancer mass. Third was biopsy. To get more samples, 10-12 biopsies were taken. Four days later the report came out. Patrick told me over the phone about the results of MRI and ultra-sound tests. Not cancer! I was thankful and

thanked God for his mercy and love. Patrick wept over the phone. I was deeply touched by his care and love. I thank God for giving me a husband that loved God and me. During these times, he acted as my secretary. He was the medium between me and the medical personnel including all the hospital, visitation, report and communication.

Learning to trust God wholeheartedly was no simple lesson. While waiting for the appointment with the doctor on Jan 7 to discuss the surgery on Jan 9, I caught a cold. The pain in my stomach kept me awake during the night. I started to suspect appendicitis. Even if it wasn't, was the cold going to delay my surgery? I could only look upon God, and rely on his words to comfort my troubled heart. The Bible teaches "Everything has its season." God's timing is always the best. If the surgery was delayed, that was out of his good will. "I lift up my eyes to the mountains-- where does my help come from? (Psalms 121:1) I knew I must trust God for his help. Thank God, after prayer my pain was relieved and I fell asleep. On Jan 7, I met with the doctor. He decided the surgery should go on as scheduled. The doctor remained cautious about the positive report of the biopsy. This is because the five-centimeter mass found in the MRI must be taken seriously. Doctor suggested instead of removing the cancer tumor, the entire one breast was to be removed. After praying with Patrick, we had peace in our heart and we would follow the doctor's instruction. From the diagnosis to the surgery, although it was just forty five days, it was a long time of waiting for me. I learned many lessons that God entrusted me.

On Jan 9, the day of long waiting has finally come. I felt quite peaceful. Although a little bit nervous, I was not scared. God gave me the Psalms 118:17 "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord" to strengthen my heart; therefore I entered the hospital with smiling and was ready to accept God's healing on my disease through doctor's hands. However, the burden for my husband to carry is enormous. It was I that felt much regret. His anxiety was at such a level that the administrator of surgical team mistakenly thought he was the one who would endure the operation. It was his total protection and complete love for me behind this humorous occurrence before the surgery. Holding the Bible and reading verse by verse before I entered the operation room, he fervently prayed for me to calm my heart and to help me not to be afraid. My beloved husband couldn't help but burst into tears while he read and he apologized that he shouldn't be in tears to make me sad. I've been optimistic with a joyful heart to face this surgery until this point, but I shed tears, too.

The final moment into the operating room arrived; as expected, I went immediately into unconsciousness when the anesthetic medication took effect. When I opened my eyes, the surgery was done. Like ants on a hot pan, my husband was called to the recovery room when the nurse noticed my recovery had stabilized pretty well. I was surprised to see Pastor Jean come by with my husband to visit me. Later, I learned that my husband was alone praying fervently for my surgery at waiting room. When he found out the surgery would be over extra

one to two hours, he grew exceedingly sorrowful and many negative thoughts started to come into his mind. Eventually, he sobbed in the waiting room, then he called Pastor Jean to pray for me who was right in the midst of surgery. Once Pastor Jean finished the prayer, he came to the hospital to accompany my husband. Together, they bore the hardest time of waiting. I was deeply moved by my husband's flowing love during this hardship time!

The following morning after surgery in the hospital bed, during my devotional time, God gave me these words, "It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees" (Psalms 119:71). Immediately I thought of one of the Ten Commandments, "Honor your father and mother". "Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise—", "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." (Ephesians 6:2-3). God's words reminded me that I had never shared the Gospel with my family members in Taiwan since I became a believer for such a many years. During my early faith, I tried to preach the Gospel to my Mom. My effort was totally against the wall. Because of the fear of being scolded, I had never again shared the Gospel with my family members. It was an act of impiety now when I thought about it. So, I confessed my guilt before God and I wrote an email to share my life experience on this hardship of sickness and to introduce Jesus to my beloved family. It wouldn't be counted as a waste of my sufferings if my family in return came to know Christ! "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be

saved—you and your household." (Acts 16:31). I believe God's promises and in Him who gives me a fearless heart but strong to preach the Gospel!

Staying at home after being released from the hospital, I once again experienced God's love and His abundant provision, and at the same time my little faith was revealed to myself. A few weekends before the surgery, I cooked and stored up the food for the whole family, knowing that I wouldn't be able to prepare food for the family during the recovery. Hasn't God reminded me that life is more than eating, stop worrying about what to eat? It is true that in God, all things are not in want. Many brothers and sisters from the Church, had signed up to prepare meals for the next three weeks before my being discharged from the hospital, so that I could be worry-free and have a true rest from the recovery. It took them almost two hours to drive back and forth to deliver the food. I am deeply moved. Knowing about my recuperation three week later, church brothers and sisters again planned the meals preparation for another three weeks. The love of church body in the Lord, not only richly comforted our heart, but also physically fed full our stomach. The food was so plentiful that we had to store up in our freezer and the arrangement for the next three weeks was cancelled. God's love is truly beautiful and good. "We love, because He first loved us."(John 4:19).

Loving to sing praises, I used to sing one by one with joy! In fact, now I still do so but with tears of gratitude. On January 23, when I returned to the clinics, the doctor

said that all tests indicated positive conditions and he smiled and said "your cancer will not take away your life and you still have a long way to go." Hallelujah! Thanks and praises be to the Lord! On February 13, upon return to the clinics for my last treatment, the doctor announced happily that there was no need for me to do chemotherapy but to take oral medication for ten years. God has greatly shown His kindness to me. "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9) . Yes, thank God for His glory shone on my weak body. I am completely healed! Now looking back, from being diagnosed with breast cancer to being completely healed in these three months, I feel like I was in another world and just had a dream. Along the way, there were tears and fear, but with the words of God and the support from the Christian body, I am infinitely grateful.

Through this storm of life, I have contemplated many things in life. I am very grateful that God once again gives me a new life which opens up another milestone and every breath is the grace of God. What an amazing grace that is freely given to me. When the death passed by, I pleaded guilty before God. With busy lives, I always put Bible reading and devotion before my bedtimes. Sometimes I was just too tired and skipped them. When I attended the winter conference, Doctor Su, Feiyun challenged us to take on daily devotion in the early morning. I immediately decided to accept the challenge, renewed my commitment before God to daily draw near to Him in the early morning, read His word, and to be re-

strengthened from God. Gaining the new inspiration on child rearing, I realize that to grow in spirituality is far more important than schoolwork. Again together with our children, we read the Bible and deepen our understanding on God's Word. As Scripture says, "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). May God help me to become a wise wife, mother, daughter, and daughter-in-law.

Thank God for giving me a husband loving the Lord and me, his care will neither leave, nor forsake me; Thank God for giving me three beautiful and healthy children who were able to share the household chores and care for themselves during this time of my physical weakness; thank God for giving me a loving family in which my parents, older sister and younger brother had sent their regards and cares; thank God for giving me wonderful in-laws who love me dearly as their own daughter and intercede for the healing; thank God for giving me a sister-in-law who loves the Lord, sending me many spiritual books to help me through the pain, to obtain the strength from God's words ; Thank God for arranging the wonderful encounter with Dr. Su, Faiyun at the Winter Conference for she offered a great encouragement to me during my battle with the cancer, and mutual intercession in Christ; thank God for giving me a spiritual home and Christian love in the body of Christ, providing my physical and spiritual needs. Thank God for placing a couple in our lives, from our study in USA to a family of five. We have been cared by them with all different ways, especially when the help was most needed. They would shuttle our three

children and take care of the routine so that I can go to the hospital to do all check-ups with peaceful mind and worry-free into the operating room. I thank God for this seemingly beyond the storm cancer battle. Along the way, it is extremely sweet, full of God's mercy and grace, just as the Apostle Paul said, "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

"My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you." (Job 42:5) Experiencing God's healing makes me assure God is the living and true God and

not limited to the Bible knowledge. Thank God for His complete healing on my body with no need for the suffering through radiotherapy or chemotherapy but taking only ten years of medication. Such a result is really more than I can ask or think. God has given me a new life in which I am determined to live every day for Him. May God help me fix my eyes on Him always, care for the things of the above, not on things on the Earth! May God have mercy on my family so that they can be all saved and become children of God! I would be more than happy to share my afflicted journey and experience with others. May God help me be more sensitive to know how to comfort and care for those who are in need. I would like to live every day for the Lord. May my words and acts shine for the Lord to carry out a good witness and always to glorify His name. Amen!



# 福音使者

唐延国

二零零九年九月，我们教会一行六人去达拉斯华人基督教会参加了三福培训（一种系统的传福音的方法）。在一次集训前的祷告中，一位弟兄说他在异象中看到成千上万的中国人渴慕福音。一周的强化训练下来，我们受益非浅。在我们的毕业庆祝会上，牧师的一个比喻深深打动了我的心：“湖边的大雁，舒舒服服，吃的肥肥胖胖，已经失去了飞行的能力；高山上的老鹰，换了新的羽毛，磨出新的尖嘴和利爪，正准备展翅高飞；你们愿做湖边的大雁，还是做高山上的雄鹰？”“我要做高山上的雄鹰，在神的国度里飞翔，做他福音的使者”我的眼角含着泪花，我的心在涌动……

回到教会后，我们接连举办了两期的三福培训班。虽然不够完美，可是神也大大祝福，我们在培训中探访慕道的人，有一半以上信主，以后也接连受洗。我们看到灵魂的得救，生命的改变。我们感到圣灵的同在，福音本是神的大能。在这整个过程中，我时不时会想到我国内的家人。想来惭愧，信主几年，却还从没有向我的哥哥、姐姐和妹妹传过福音。当然，他们都知道我成为基督徒，他们也看到了我生命的改变。我也尽力做一个好的见证，他们任何人在经济上有需要，我都会解囊相助。我也曾问过神：“主啊，既然我是你福音的使者，什么时候救恩能临到我的家人？”

二零一二年我妈妈的身体日渐虚弱，我们家在前一年已经订好去阿拉斯加游轮的机票和船票。我跟神祷告说：“愿神赐平安于我妈妈，如果任何紧急情况发生，最好不要发生在我们度假那一段时间。”可是，就在我们要飞往西雅图的前一夜，我突然收到妹妹的电话，妈妈病危。于是我放弃了与妻子和孩子的旅游，坐上了飞往中国的飞机。在机场上我得知妈妈已经过世，我跟神祷告：“神，我不知道这是为什么，但是求你在这回国的过程中使用我”。在飞机上，我身边的一位女士很奇妙的与我谈起了信仰，我是一个不会很主动给人传福音的人。既然她主动地跟我谈起，我就用“三福”向她传福音。心里还在想：“主啊！，如果你让我回国的目的是为了这位女士的灵魂得救，也就值得了”。快要下飞机了，女士很感谢我的分享，心灵却没有打开。我的心里既有丧失母亲的伤痛，不能与家人度假的遗憾，又加上了这位女士不能接受福音的失望。

到了家中，抚养妈妈的大妹妹伤心欲绝，大姐也悲泣流泪。可是大姐讲了一件事：“老弟，知道你信耶稣，虽然你没能见到妈妈最后一面，可是在妈妈的病房，来了一群人，给另外一个家庭唱基督教的歌（在我家的小城，是很少见的），也算是给妈妈送行了”。听到这番话，我流泪了，我知道神听我的祷告，也好像是神轻声告诉我：“我送你回来，不是要为了你



家人得救吗？”一个从来不敢给家人传福音的我，一下子好像有了无穷的力量：

“是啊！我要借着这个机会，跟家里人讲耶稣，使我们可以有一天，也能在永恒的天家，团圆相见。”

当天晚上，我就和大妹一家三口，二妹，二姐坐在炕上用三福传讲福音，讲完后，圣灵大大感动，五口人一起流眼泪，手拉着手，与我做了接受耶稣的祷告。我的心如此欣喜感恩，我现在明白神把我带回中国的美好意愿。当天夜里，我跪在床上，一边唱着“宝贵十字架”，一边祷告。

“‘主耶稣我感谢你…’，是的，主，我为家人的救恩感谢你；‘你的身体为我而舍…’，是的，主，你在十字架上为我的全家献出生命；‘带我出黑暗进入光明国度…’，是的，主，带领我家人走出黑暗的权势，在你光明的国度里得生命…”。第二天，我们又和二哥讲耶稣和永生，二哥也欣然接受。接连几天，我晚上祷告，白天传讲，大姐，大嫂也接连信主。几天内共有八位家人成为神的儿女。我真是感

到圣灵的能力和同在，我的心也充满了喜乐，不断地感谢主，赞美主。

回想这奇妙的福音之旅，我看到当我有一个愿意的心，神是多么的祝福我。我看到我给家人从主耶稣来的见证，做了多么好的福音预备；我看到我受了传福音的训练，是多么的帮助我能讲的清楚明白；我看到圣灵的同在，是多么奇妙和大能。我的故事还没结束，第二年，我的儿子送了我一份生日礼物，与他一起再去阿拉斯加游轮，补回上次我不能去的遗憾，我们父子俩度过了难忘美好蒙福的时光。

福音的使者，被神祝福的福音使者，送去祝福的福音使者，蒙受更大祝福的福音使者。你可愿意成为基督福音的使者：你可愿意做美好生活的见证，影响你周围的人；你可愿意接受培训，准备好传福音的工作；你可愿意圣灵与你同在，彰显福音的大能；你可愿意被神使用，去传扬福音，拯救生命。你可愿成为天国福音的使者？

## Ambassador Of The Gospel

George Tang

In September of 2009, six people from our church went to Dallas Chinese Bible Church to attend Evangelism Explosion (EE) training. During a prayer time before one training session, one brother saw a vision, thousands and thousands of Chinese desired Gospels. After one week training, we learned a lot. In our graduation

ceremony, pastor used one analogy, which touched my heart so much: “Geese by the lake are so comfortable, they eat a lot and gain fat, they can no longer fly; the eagle on the mountain, grew new feathers, new claws, new bills, and are ready to soar in the sky. Would you like to be the geese by the lake, or the eagle on the mountain?” “I want to be

the eagle on the mountain, I want to fly in kingdom of God, I want to be the ambassador of Gospel”, my eyes were filled with tears, my heart was deeply motivated.

After we went back to church, we had 2 sessions of church EE training. Though they were not perfect, but God blessed us a lot. Among those we visited during our training, half of them accepted Christ; they were also baptized later on. We felt the presence of Holy Spirit; we learn the power of Gospel. We see souls are saved, life are changed. During the whole process, I sometime think of my family in China. I felt guilty that I had not shared gospel with my brothers and sister yet since I became a Christian. Of course, they all knew that I was Christian; they also saw a changed life. I tried my best to be a good testimony. If anyone of them had financial need; I always send them the money and help. I once asked God: “Lord, since I am your ambassador of Gospel, when the salvation will come to my family.”

In 2012, my mom got really weak; my wife already reserved the airplane ticket and Alaska cruise the year before. I prayed to God: “May God bring healing to my mom, if any emergency happens, it is better not during our vacation time”. But on the night before we flied to Seattle, I received a phone call from my sister, my mom was in critical condition. So I gave up the trip with my wife and my children, and got on the flight to China. At airport, I learned that my mom just passed away, so I prayed: “God, I do not understand why this is happening, but please use me on my way home”. On the airplane

to China, a lady who sat by me started a conversion about belief. I am not a person who can start sharing gospel actively. Since she talked to me, I just used the EE method to share gospel with her. I was thinking: “Lord, if the purpose you want me to fly back China is to save this lady’s soul, it is worth it.” The plane was about to land, the lady thanked me for my sharing, but her heart was not opened. I had the pain of losing my Mom, the sadness that I could not be vacation with my wife and children, now the disappointment of the lady who could not accept the salvation.

After I arrived, my younger sister was deeply sad, my older sister was crying. But my older sister told me something: “dear brother, we know you are a Christian, though you could not see mom before she passed away, but a group of people came to mom’s room and sang some Christian songs to another person in the same room(It is rare in my small town), it is like a farewell for mom.” After these words, I cried, I knew God heard my prayers, it seemed God was whispering to me: “I send you back; it is just for the salvation of your family”. As a person who does not have the courage to share gospel with family, suddenly I had so much strength. “Yes, I want to use this opportunity, to tell my family about Jesus, so one day, we will be reunited in the heavenly home.

That evening, I used EE to share gospel with my first younger sister’s family, my second younger sister, my second older sister. After my sharing, Holy Spirit touched them; five of them all accepted Jesus with

tears in their eyes. We held our hands together; they prayed to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. I was so joyful; I now knew why God brought me back home. That night, I kneeled by the bed, praying while I was singing “The Precious Cross”. “Yes Lord, I thank you for the salvation of my family, on the cross you give your life to my whole family also. Yes Lord, bring my family out of darkness, and into the light and gain new life”. On the second day, I shared Jesus and eternity with my second older brother, he accepted joyfully also. In the next few days, I prayed at night, and I shared during the day time, my first elder sister, my sister-in-law also accepted Jesus. In a few days, a total eight of my family members became children of God. I really felt the presence and power of Holy Spirit. My heart was filled with joy, gratefulness and praise.

Look back on this wonderful journey of gospel sharing; I see that how God blessed me when I am willing. I see that

how loving testimony toward my family prepare their heart; I see how the EE training helped me to share gospel clearly; I see that how the Holy Spirit is with me, to show the power and wonder. My story did not end here; a year later, my son bought me a birthday gift, a trip with him to Alaska Cruise, to make up the time I could not go last year. Father and son had a wonderful, memorable and blessed time together.

Ambassador of Gospel, the blessed Ambassador of Gospel, send blessings to others and receive more blessings in return. Would you like to be the Ambassador of Gospel for Christ? Would you like to be a good testimony to influence the people around you? Would you like to get training to prepare the work of sharing gospel? Would you like to be powered by the Holy Spirit, to show the wonder of Gospel? Would you like to be used by God, to spread gospel, to save a life..... Would you like to be ambassador of Gospel for the heavenly kingdom?

