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編者的話 A Word from the Editor

自從去年三月疫情在美國爆發以來,過去這段時間大家所經歷的真可 比擬為坐了一程驚險的雲霄飛車。從開始時瘋狂的搜尋衛生紙和口罩,到 後來每天面對媒體不斷的報導觸目驚心的新增病例及死亡人數,導致人們 人心惶惶唯恐被感染。接著是破天荒的失業率,因隔離引發的家暴及自殺 事件,還有許多垂死的病人沒有親人在旁的心酸畫面。除此之外,還有種 族對立,社會動盪,一群不法之徒衝進美國國會等事件。回顧這一切, 果我們至今安然無恙,那不是因為我們運氣好,不屬於高風險的群族,或 是剛好沒去不該去的地方,沒呼吸到有病毒的空氣。事實上,我們能安然 度過這場史無前例的災難,再次證明了我們活在天父的護理中,祂是宇宙 的創造者與護理者,我們的安危與統計數字或存活機率完全無關。使徒行 傳17:28上說,"我們生活、動作、存留,都在乎他。"詩篇3:5也說,"我躺 下睡覺,我醒著,耶和華都保佑我。"其他如詩篇91篇和121篇,對於信靠 神的子民都有著非常令人安慰的應許。

在人們開始接受疫苗,美國也逐步小心的準備再度開放之際,我們應當感謝神保存了我們的性命,不要輕易忘記過去一年經歷的痛苦。在生活漸漸恢復正常之時,我們更當求神教導我們數算自己的日子,過有智慧的人生,愛惜光陰,尋求明白主的旨意。

Since the pandemic broke out in March of 2020 in the US, it has been a wild roller coaster for all of us - the frantic search for toilet paper and masks in the beginning, the dread of becoming infected as the staggering new infection cases and death tolls were being broadcasted around the clock, the record-breaking unemployment rate, the increased domestic violence and suicides due to isolation, and the heartbreaking scenes of the dying without their loved ones by their side. On top of this, racial conflicts, social unrest, and the terrible riot in the Capitol all played out amidst the widespread chaos and suffering. If we have survived all these, it was not because we were lucky, we did not fit the risk profiles of the COVID patients, or we were not in the wrong place at the wrong time breathing in virus-filled air. In fact, our surviving this unprecedented historical event confirms once more that our safety or our doom does not exist in statistics or probabilities, instead, we live in the providence of our Father, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Acts 17:28a says, "For in him we live and move and have our being." And Psalm 3:5 says, "I lie down and sleep, I wake again, because the LORD sustains me." Psalm 91 and 121 also offer enduring comfort to those who trust in the LORD.

As people are getting vaccinated and the US is reopening slowly and cautiously, let us thank God for preserving our lives and not forget what we have been through. While life is finally returning to some degree of normalcy, we should ask God to teach us to number our days so we may live wisely, understanding the Lord's will, and making the most of every opportunity we are given.



福音是神的大能,這大能臨到我的時候,我剛滿十二歲。彼時心智雖不成熟,竟也明白福音的意義。那時,姨媽剛剛成為家族中的第一個基督徒,十分熱心分享福音。她不遺餘力地把福音講給家裡的每一個人聽。當我聽到我是罪人,罪會使我們落入永罰;而耶穌基督在十字架上流血,代替我們受罰,使得我們進入祂永恆的國度裡,我就十分確信,我應該相信這福音。於是在姨媽的影響下,我確信自己是一個基督徒,並開始隨著家裡的長輩開始參加聚會禮拜。在參加禮拜一年之後,我在教會受洗歸主,成為教會裡年紀最小的成員。

早早開始的天路歷程並非一帆風順。由於頻頻搬家,離開家鄉後,就不再有長輩帶領我去參加聚會崇拜了。中學期間,我曾停止聚會五年之久,但是上帝總有祂的安排。我在高中時遇到許多困難,發覺自己迫切需要這位救主,因而又重新回到教會。但這時卻發現當初帶我信主的姨媽被東方閃電所擴走,一心篤信女基督。自從信了異端,她們就不再有見證,連不信的親戚朋友都知道她們信錯了。我多次勸阻,但是毫無效果。為此,我痛心不已。沒有基督就沒有生命,信異端實在無異於不信基督。從那時起,我開始思考,如何才能讓基督徒免受異端的迷惑。那是我第一次有了讀神學的想法。

讀神學對於那個時代的我而言,不過是個縹緲的夢想。大學時期, 我開始熱心於教會事奉,並如饑似渴地閱讀教義方面的書籍,也由此發 現教會講台的缺乏和軟弱。但是由於不確定自己的呼召,依然不敢邁出 讀神學的一步。出於對知識的渴望,我選擇了在研究生階段跨專業到哲 學系宗教學專業就讀,專攻基督教思想史。在這一時期,缺乏神學生的 教會認定我就是半個神學生,於是鼓勵我參與更多的事奉。事奉中, 我逐漸認識到上帝對於我的呼召是在教會裡,而不是在象牙塔中;我也 認識到宗教學全然不同於神學,世俗的學術研究與教會裡話語的事奉完 全是兩個不同的世界。我需要的是屬靈的裝備,而不是冷冰冰的學術知 識。於是在研究生畢業的時候,我決定要去讀神學。

我開始思考,如何才能讓基督徒 免受異端的迷惑。那是我第一次 有了讀神學的想法。 讀神學是有代價的。自 由派的神學院不用繳學費, 還給生活費,而保守派的 神學院則需要自己出錢。剛 剛畢業的我就在經濟的壓力

下,暫時擱置了讀神學的念頭。但是上帝的安排很奇妙,工作第六年, 我有了一定積蓄,並在此時遇到了同樣想讀神學的另一半,讓我意識到 上帝的時候到了。在結婚後的第二個月,我辭去工作和妻子一起登上了 飛往美國費城的飛機,在那裡有我們一直嚮往的西敏神學院。

神學院的學習僅僅是事奉的預備,教會實習才是學習事奉的開始。 在西敏完成為期四年的道學碩士課程之後,我來到了北維州華人基督教 會開始實習。隨著Covid-19的開始,教會實習成了網絡實習。但值得感 恩的是,通過網絡,我依然可以分享上帝的話語,並和教會肢體間有美 好的團契。這半年裡,我收獲良多,發現了自己諸多的不足,明白了事 奉的艱辛和挑戰,經歷了上帝的恩典和引領。我期盼上帝可以使用我 的口和筆,來傳講祂的大能和美意。如約書亞24:15所言:"至於我和我 家,我們必定事奉耶和華"。這是傳道者的心聲,更是上帝的呼召。既 是上帝的話,就必不落空。⋘



我是個在鄉村長大的孩子,生於台灣省嘉義縣。父親是農夫,母親 也是。十一歳那年我上小學,因為不喜歡讀書,每天到處玩耍。有一天 上午十一點,我走到家前面的一條小河玩,看見小河上金光閃閃,像條 龍到處翻騰,心裡特別害怕。初中在東石中學讀了兩年,十五歲那年家 道中落,房子田地都變賣了。

我到桃園跟著父親做小吃生意,半年後我到台北餐館找工作。因為 餐館有很多人賭錢,所以我也學會了賭錢。雖然每天努力工作,但浪費 很多時間也沒學到什麼手藝。一晃眼十幾年過去了,我也26歲了。經人 介紹,我結婚了,兩年後,有了兩個孩子。

1982年,我興沖沖的從台灣到美國來作餐館工作,在美國住了一年 多,但因為思念太太和孩子又回到了台灣。1983年因為台灣的生活壓力 又回到美國做餐館工作一年多。1986年開始辦身份到1989年拿到綠卡, 然後1993年買了房子。五年後失去了工作,生活壓力很大,我又去賭 錢。每個禮拜都到大西洋城去賭,後來因為打老婆一巴掌,從此失去 了家庭。1998年我坐牢一年後出來,去馬里蘭州找工作,在那裡住了兩年,後來回到維州,工作時有時無,那段時間我以車為家。我非常想家,常在家附近過夜,看著自己的家十分無奈。每天心都是碎的,常常夜不成眠,又去賭錢,不知生有何歡死有何懼。我想自己做了一輩子的工,後來卻是個零,什麼都沒有,覺得自己人不像人,鬼不像鬼。我到底在追求什麼?什麼是我該追求的方向?我該去哪裡?我真是希望破滅,灰心喪志。

2015年我終於決定去死,我上大西洋城把車賣了,拿了一點錢在賭城賭了一個禮拜。錢全部輸光了,我就去跳海。那天天很黑,風很大。我想我已死去,但不知不覺被漂到岸上,然後救護車把我帶到大西洋城的醫院。兩個禮拜後我坐車回到維州,住進了無家可歸者的庇護所。

我想這一切都是上帝的安排,在庇護所裡有春田市Harvester教會的人,是個台灣人陳姐妹和Lisa姐妹去我們裡面傳福音。她們叫我跟他們去教會認識上帝,那時我心裡想,這是不是上帝的安排,讓我可以去教

我相信上帝知道我一切的罪, 每一天我都改過自新, 每一天都向主悔改。 會。牧師給我受洗,我傻傻的,六神無主,心想就跟著上帝走吧。我覺得我的罪太多了,自己無法消除,就交給上帝吧,希望上帝帶領我過平安正常的生活。Lisa姐妹一直

帶領我,但是覺得英文教堂語言不同,所以他們帶我來到春田分會。這樣,我就能夠聽懂,能夠明白一些真理,在靈命上有一些長進。我知道我需要更加努力,雖然我渴望擺脫賭博這個成癮的惡習,但是我有時仍然會跌倒。我願意更多的尋求上帝,好讓我能夠戰勝賭博這個仇敵。我相信上帝知道我一切的罪,每一天我都改過自新,每一天都向主悔改。主耶穌赦罪的宏恩浩大無比,從此我走進天家,得到永生。在此我也勸勉所有的賭徒,不要再沉迷其中,回頭是岸。≪



漂洋過海聽福音

2019年七月14號,我帶著一顆破碎的心走進教會。那天是我人生中第一次走進教會。當天我收穫很多,知道了什麼是福音,認識到了上帝,意識到了自己是個罪人,我需要向上帝認罪悔改。當我第一次聽到《你真偉大》這首詩歌的歌詞"甘願背我的重擔,流血捨身為要赦免我罪"時,我不禁流下了眼淚。我回想這一路走來,上帝在我還不認識祂時,就已經在看顧我了。我要感謝上帝,是祂把我帶到美國,讓我能在這裡聽到福音;感謝上帝對我的眷顧,在我懷孕和生產時一切順利;感謝上帝在我的婚姻和家庭出現重大變故時賜我很多恩典,差派了很多弟兄姐妹來幫助我。

當時我住在Reston,帶著兒子Franklin出去辦事,那時我沒車,外面下著小雨,我打著一把傘和Franklin蹲在馬路邊等公車。沒多久,一輛黑色的SUV停了下來,車上是一位黑人中年婦女。她問我:"需要幫助嗎?我可以免費載你回家。"我就上了她的車。到家樓下後,我想給

她一點現金答謝她,那位中年婦女沒有收。她說,"我不收你的錢,我 幫你是因為上帝。"我當時真的好感動,很想當面感謝上帝,但因為還 沒聽過福音,不知道如何感謝上帝。

巧合還是神眷顧

回想我生完孩子後沒多久就開始收到醫院,產檢中心,兒科中心的 帳單。其中醫院的帳單共有\$4000左右,產檢中心的有\$1000多,兒科的 也差不多有\$500。我既沒有收入,也無法出去工作,因為Franklin還不 到三個月大,而且他全身有很嚴重的濕疹,我必須在家照顧他。帳單 不停的寄來,每份帳單都將要過了付款日期,如果我再不付,他們就要 把我的帳單轉給追債公司,若追債公司也收不到錢的話,那麼我的信用 評分就會降低。信用評分低了,對我以後租房或找工作都會有很大的影

…我流下了眼淚。那時還沒有 認識上帝,但我發自內心的説 了一句"感謝老天爺!" 響,我實在很不希望事情發展到那個地步。然而,我當時住處不定,房租也交不起,孩子小又病著,真的很無助,感覺自己走不下去了。我看著醫院的帳單,一直問自己怎麼辦?

突然,我看到帳單上有一行字:如果你付不起這個帳單,請撥這個電話。我撥了那個號碼,客服很快接聽,我就用我三角貓的英語吞吞吐吐的說明我無法付帳單的原因,客服說她會寄表格到我家。我填完表格,再將他們需要我提供的收入證明文件一起傳真到指定的傳真號。大概一個月後,我收到醫院的回函,顯示我所欠金額為\$0。看著那個零,我流下了眼淚。那時還沒有認識上帝,但我發自內心的說了一句"感謝老天爺!"

接著是產檢中心的帳單\$1000多,我也無法支付。我當時沒車,沒存款,沒有穩定住所,沒有錢買寶寶的奶粉,已經到了山窮水盡的地步。產檢中心是私人的,不能申請免單,我當時很發愁,不知如何是好。想了很久,我決定打電話給他們,請求他們讓我推遲幾個月付,等孩子濕疹好點我就出去工作,再分期還。對方聽了我的情況和計劃,答應暫時不把我的帳單轉到追債公司,並建議我選擇分期付款。接著對方說,"我很抱歉聽到你目前的處境,我想知道如何能幫助你。比如說你需要寶寶的奶粉嗎?我們可以免費給你一些奶粉的樣品"。我跟她說我確實需要寶寶的奶粉,但是要防過敏的。對方說他們中心沒有這樣的奶粉,只有普通奶粉,但她可以幫我打電話到供應商幫我申請。後來她幫我申請到了兩箱防過敏的配方奶粉的樣品,足夠Franklin喝一個多月。

之後不久,我聯繫前面的雇主,告之他們我想回來工作。就在那時,公 司剛被政府調查,發現沒有案例付給員工加班費,被政府下令必須把 加班費補發給員工。大約兩個星期後,我收到了以前這家公司補發的 \$1800的加班費。真是雪中送炭!我收到錢後立即就把產檢中心的帳單 付清了。真是意想不到,會有這麼巧的事。

至於兒科診所的帳單,我打電話給他們,想問我具體還欠多少錢, 但是打過去沒人接,留了言,他們也沒有打回來。直到現在我也沒有付 兒科診所的帳單,而我的信用評分去年有降低一點點,但是沒有顯示是 因為帳單沒付而降低的。

之後我換了一個兒科診所,是在我婚姻發生變故其間換的。他們知 道我沒有錢付掛號費,不但不收掛號費,還主動給我\$50去拿藥,並且 給我兩箱防過敏的配方奶粉。之後每次去,他們都會問我還需要奶粉 嗎?當時我還是沒有聽到福音,但我心裡真心的感謝上天對我的幫助。

肢體之愛環繞我

幾個月過去了,我感覺冥冥中有上天暗中在幫助我解決一個又一個 難關。但我未來的路還很長,我還是感覺每一步都走得很艱難很無助。 那段時間我還經常要到法院處理一些事,而當時孩子只有七個月大,法 院部門不能帶孩子去,我必需找人幫忙。我身邊沒有家人,只能花錢請 人臨時看護。我找了一個托兒所,他們幫我看了兩次就說不能接Parttime的小孩了,加上兒子身上的濕疹讓他很不舒服,總是大哭,造成

其他小朋友也跟著哭,所 以他們不願意收Franklin 了。眼看著法院要我出庭 的日子馬上要到了,而我 還沒找到人看孩子,心裡 很著急無助。我在幾個微 信群裡發求助信息,神真 的就派了教會的姐妹來幫

這一切的愛心都讓我很感動,覺得 他們都是上帝派來幫我的天使, 帶著上帝滿滿的祝福而來。 我終於來到了神的面前, 認識了這位獨一的真神。

助我,不但幫我臨時看孩子,還送了很多小孩子的衣服和玩具。就在 2019年七月14日這天,我第一次走進了教會。之後我開始接受很多素眛 平生的人給予的幫助。有些人住得很遠,他們有大人小孩的衣服和玩具 要給我,就找附近的朋友相互轉交,最後裝滿了一車子送到我的住處。 還有一個姐妹細心的發現我沒車,出門買菜不方便,於是在百忙中抽空 幫我去大中華買了很多中國食物。這一切的愛心都讓我很感動,覺得他 們都是上帝派來幫助我的天使,帶著上帝滿滿的祝福而來。我終於來到 了神的面前,認識了這位獨一的真神。通過上慕道班和教會弟兄姐妹的 幫助,我開始慢慢的明白聖經,讀聖經,也開始練習自已禱告,學習去 感謝和讚美神的大能和慈愛。

神的預備最美好

前年冬天我和Franklin住在一個地下室,那個房子很老舊,有霉味。暖氣不夠暖,冬天外面下雪,裡面很冷,Franklin在那個房子裡感冒了兩個月。我當時幾乎每個星期五都帶他去看兒科醫生,就是不見好轉。我請求教會裡的弟兄姐妹幫忙代禱,求上帝為我們安排一個長期住所,要溫暖的,我自已也誠心的日夜禱告。最後蒙神應允,為Franklin和我安排了現在的住所。早上到中午都有溫暖的陽光照進來,下午三點到六點也有陽光照進來,加上房子裡的暖氣很足,就算外面很冷,Franklin也可以在家裡曬得到太陽了。當我和Franklin搬進來住了兩個星期後,Franklin的感冒不藥而愈。真的很感謝神的恩典。

還有一個小插曲,就是去年我和Franklin還住在那個濕冷的地下室 時,我決心要盡快搬出來,於是就和過去當過室友的一位韓國女生聯 繫,她那時也在找房子。後來我看中了一個公寓,我們決定合租下來, 我也一直為此向上帝禱告,求上帝讓我們能順利的租到這房。當時我 倆都沒工作,於是我們找社工幫忙,我也繼續為租那個房子的事早晚禱 告,求神祝福。結果我倆沒有租成,我感到非常不解。經上不是說," 你們祈求,就給你們,尋找,就尋見,叩門,就給他開門"嗎?為什麼 我這麼誠心的日夜禱告,上帝卻沒有給我呢?難道上帝對我另有安排? 後來這位韓國女生自己租屋,兩個月後又換了另一個住處。疫情爆發 後,她曾回韓國治療牙齒。回來後,她發信息告訴我,她要搬回韓國住 了。這時我才恍然大悟,為什麼上帝沒有應許我和那位韓國女生成為室 友的禱告,因為我所尋求的不適合我。試想如果我和這位韓國女生成為 室友,然後她又要搬回國,我還得在疫情期間另找室友,甚至暫時要支 付兩個房間的費用,那將是超乎我經濟能力的。還有她往返之間必定 接觸不少人,增加我被感染的機會。現在我終於明白,上帝是無所不知 的,而且祂要把最好、最適合的給我。

我要讚美耶和華,歌頌祂的救恩。求主赦免我的罪,使我成為祂的 兒女,一生一世有恩惠慈愛伴隨著我,且要住在耶和華的殿中,直到永遠! ※



耶和華有憐憫,有恩典,不輕易發怒,且有豐盛的慈愛。他不長久 責備,也不永遠懷怒。他沒有按我們的罪過待我們,也沒有照我們的罪 孽報應我們。天離地何等的高,他的慈愛向敬畏他的人也是何等的大! 東離西有多遠,他叫我們的過犯離我們也有多遠!父親怎樣憐憫他的兒 女,耶和華也怎樣憐憫敬畏他的人! (詩篇103:8-13)

感謝神的呼召,我終於能站在祂的殿裡見證神的救恩。在當下這彎曲悖逆的世代,神的恩典給我心靈巨大的安慰。倘若我依然頑梗不悔改轉向神我們的天父,我便是永遠地與神隔絕了。

我是1960年代出生於蘇州郊外的鄉村。16歲時幸運地考入了北京大學,23歲時已經讀完研究生留校成為一名大學教師。1990年代初離開大學去深圳的企業從事投資、財務管理,後來回到上海的企業工作。在上海安家立業,生活事業頗為順利。然而,在心靈深處,我一直在荒野裡逃亡。幼時,文革年代鄉村生活十分困苦,為了離開農村,我發奮讀書。然而十年寒窗之後,慾望也更膨脹了,在都市裡我仍然是一個困

頓的人,大學的工作不能滿足我對物質生活的追求,於90年代辭職離開大學,奔向南方的深圳。近二十年沈浮之後,收穫了些許物質財富,有了一個不錯的家庭和生活。色彩繽紛的外表之下,我的心靈更加荒蕪沉淪,對錢財等物質利益的追求愈加強烈,將成為學者的理想拋棄失落。職場上勾心鬥角,市場中潮起潮落,讓人心力交瘁,都市燈紅酒綠,茫茫人海車流,讓我無所適從。我又一次地逃向更遠更未知的地方,移民來到新大陸。

到了美國,蔚藍的天空之下,我的心靈卻在困境之中,焦慮不安、陌生孤獨。半生奔波,此時此地我還能逃向何處呢?我的心靈怎樣才能得到安寧呢?我努力靜下心來讀書,堅持跑步鍛煉,企圖自我修行,形成好的行為習慣,但成效甚微。家庭裡夫妻間的衝突、子女教育、事業中的焦慮都沒有緩解,有的只是更多的束手無策。直到在信主的弟兄姐妹引介下,於三年前初夏的一個週五來到了本教會一對夫婦家中參加團契,聆聽主內弟兄姐妹們的唱詩、查經和分享,才開始逐漸理解生命的意義,耶穌基督的救恩,開始懂得怎樣閱讀理解聖經。一次我聽主內弟兄姐妹們分享這一段經文,「愛是恆久忍耐,又有恩慈;愛是不嫉妒,愛是不自誇,不不喜歡不義,只喜歡真理;凡事包容,凡事相信,凡事盼望,凡事忍耐。愛是永不止息。」(哥林多前書13:4-8)時,我真是醍醐灌頂,一股清泉流遍全身。我常常自己以知識豐富自翮,但對愛的理解卻是那樣的膚淺貧乏,更不要說在言行上是那麼缺乏了。基督的愛長闆高深,來自純潔的心靈,而我的心早已受世界的污染,充滿了自私自利,被罪捆綁。許久以來,自我

到了美國,蔚藍的天空之下, 我的心靈卻在困境之中,焦慮不安、 陌生孤獨。半生奔波,此時此地我 還能逃向何處呢? 價值,自我奮鬥是我經 常標榜的,竭力追求所 謂的成功,試圖通過過 己的知識和行動來塑造 全備的心靈。就像這篇 見證我竟用了兩年多的 時間完成,並不是我缺

乏知識,而是缺乏信靠神的信心。沒有神的呼召和恩典,沒有神的救恩, 其實我做不了什麼事情,只是處在無序的忙亂之中。若事情進展順利,我 就沾沾自喜,自負、自大、自私、貪婪;反之遇到挫折時,又非常容易情 緒化,陷入沮喪、脆弱、自卑、焦慮中。生命就像浮萍一樣隨波逐流,又 像野草一樣在荒原自生自滅。在家庭、子女教育以及人際關係,乃至個人 事業發展等方面都出現各種衝突,難以駕馭,只能陷於難以自拔的焦慮和 苦毒的網羅之中,生活被罪和黑暗所淹沒。 當我沉淪在物質世界的追索之中,主耶穌基督呼召我,我看到生命需要改變。耶穌基督是唯一的道路。約翰福音14:6說,「我就是道路、真理、生命;若不藉著我,沒有人能到父那裏去。」從慕道班開始,我持續、反復地閱讀聖經,也逐漸地操練禱告,在父神、主耶穌基督的恩典和引導下,心靈逐漸轉向三位一體的真神。在學習聆聽神的話語中,領會生命的真理和神的恩典,把自己的視野拓展開來,不再局限於狹小的空間,並在禱告中用神的話語純淨自己浮躁的心靈,信靠神,追隨基

督。這幾年我比較狂躁的脾 氣有不少的緩解,性情平和 了很多,也逐漸用基督的語 言祝福,禱告,祈求,鼓勵 女兒學習聖經,接受耶穌基 督。當下的世界彎曲悖逆, 新冠疫情讓世人慌亂,但信

當我沉淪在物質世界的追索中, 主耶穌基督呼召我, 我看到生命需要改變。 耶穌基督是唯一的道路。

主的弟兄姐妹藉著神的恩典在主耶穌裡祈求禱告,團契合一,得著生命的祝福,平靜內心來自世界的恐慌,這是何等偉大的恩典!我平時不太善於交際,若不是和教會的兄弟姐妹通過團契、敬拜一起交流分享,我真不知道怎樣度過這段艱難的時間。

我的生命剛剛開始覺醒,家人還都不信主,有許許多多的事要更新,願耶穌基督成為我生命中的標竿,燈塔,保惠師,聖靈時刻地澆灌我的心靈。我們唯有追隨主耶穌,背負自己的十字架,效法基督才是生命真實的道路。最後,我用這兩段經文結束我的見證。耶穌又對眾人說:「我就是世界的光。跟從我的,必不在黑暗裏走,卻要得著生命的光」(約翰福音8:12)。「神就是光,在他毫無黑暗!這是我們從主所聽見,又報給你們的信息。我們若說是與神相交,卻仍在黑暗裡行,就是說謊話,不行真理了。我們若在光明中行,如同神在光明中,就彼此相交,他兒子耶穌的血也洗淨我們一切的罪。我們若說自己無罪,便是自欺,真理不在我們心裏了。我們若認自己的罪,神是信實的,是公義的,必要赦免我們的罪,洗淨我們一切的不義。我們若說自己沒有犯過罪,便是以神為說謊的,他的道就不在我們心裏了。」(約翰一書1:5-10) 《



考前心情

因為疫情、族裔示威、大選等事件讓我的工作變得忙碌,自己在學習的網路安全新領域也不那麼容易,面臨的證書考試壓力也有些大,複習計畫因為加班被打亂,過程中偶爾會懷疑自己的能力,但靈修禱告的時候總會想起來自己經歷過神的恩典,就覺得要打起精神好好努力,用「在人不能,在神凡事都能」這句經文不斷勉勵自己,但有時還是信心不足。備考過程有一天清晨,我剛好讀到約伯記1:21,「賞賜的是耶和華,收取的也是耶和華;耶和華的名是應當稱頌的」,瞬間被鼓勵。除了被約伯在巨大試煉中仍能讚美神、感謝神的精神感動,我也意識到我所有時間的賞賜和收取都在於耶和華,我不應當因為某天加班,完成不了自己的複習計畫,就滿肚怨氣,或者因為工作和學業的雙重壓力而"可憐自己",覺得自己很辛苦。被這句經文點醒後,我變得很有

動力,每天盡可能完成工作、課業和複習計畫,如果工作佔用了複習時間,我就早起;如果學業耗用了工作的精力,我就抽時間運動讓頭腦清醒。這不僅幫助我在忙碌生活中作息變得更規律有序,更重要的是,內心變得不那麼慌忙,原來會因為倒計考試的日子而緊張,認為書本、題目唸不完就無法完成考試。有了來自神的安穩後,我反而更願意去面對挑戰,因為知道在疫情期間我能有工作、學習的機會,甚至有好的資源可以去參加考試,都是神的賞賜。

「神的道是活潑的,是有功效的,比一切兩刃的劍更快,甚至魂與靈,骨節與骨髓,都能刺入、剖開,連心中的思念與主意都能辨明,並且被造的沒有一樣在他面前不顯然的;原來萬物在那與我有關係的

主眼前,都是赤露敞開的。我們既然有一位已經升入高天尊榮的大祭司,就是神的兒子耶穌,便當持定所承認的道。因我們的大祭司並非不能體卹我們的軟弱,他也曾凡事受過試探,與我們一樣,只是他沒有犯罪,所以我們只管坦然無懼

我剛好讀到《約伯記》1:21, 「賞賜的是耶和華, 收取的也是耶和華; 耶和華的名是應當稱頌的」, 瞬間被鼓勵。

的來到施恩的寶座前,為要得憐卹,蒙恩惠,作隨時的幫助。」(希伯來書4:12-16) 這段經文提醒我神完全了解我的心思和意念。

還有以下這些經文,都在我覺得心煩意亂,卻不知是為什麼的時候 再次的提醒我神不僅知道原因,更知道如何安慰我,讓我重新振奮,快 跑向前。

「他們奔跑卻不困倦,行走卻不疲乏」(以賽亞書40:31)

「信是所望之事的實底,是未見之事的確據」(希伯來書11:1)

「凡勞苦擔重擔的人可以到我這裡來,我就使你們得安息。我心裡 柔和謙卑,你們當負我的軛,學我的樣式,這樣,你們心裡就必得安 息,因為我的軛是容易的,我的擔子是輕省的」(馬太福音11:28-30)

有了這些經文的鼓勵,我就算生活忙碌,也不太感覺到疲憊。

考試當天

考試的當天早晨我又讀到神的鼓勵,「有人問你們心中盼望的緣由,就要常做準備,以溫柔、敬畏的心回答各人」(彼得前書3:15);「神阻擋驕傲的人,賜恩給謙卑的人」(彼得前書5:5);「你們要將一切憂慮

卸給神,因為他顧念你們」(彼得前書5:7)。我想好要在考試之後將見證 分享給他人,讓他們知道神在我身上做的奇妙之事,但最後我差了一點 點而没通過考試。當晚仍然有些沮喪,但我憂心的是不知道該如何做見 證,不知道該如何用自己的經歷向人詮釋「在人不能,在神凡事都能」, 因為我的考試沒有通過,我怕自己沒有成功的經歷不足以說服別人。

考後醒悟

後來我明白,神的話是不用我去向人證明的,因為神自己已經證明了,我的疑慮說明我的信心仍然不足,還是在用世界定義的成功來做見證,這個方向並不對,我應該看到的是神的作為,看到祂帶給我的改變,包括充實安穩的心、規律的靈修生活,以及在工作、學習和備考的三重壓力中重新得力。

當天我也讀到彼得後書1:4-7「他已將又寶貴又極大的應許賜給我們,叫我們既脫離世上從情慾來的敗壞,就得與神的性情有份,正因這緣故,你們要份外的殷勤,有了信心,又要加上德行,有了德行,又要加上知識,有了知識,又要加上節制,有了節制,又要加上忍耐,有了忍耐,又要加上敬虔,有了敬虔,又要加上愛弟兄的心,有了愛弟兄的心,又要加上愛眾人的心」。我明白神要鍛鍊我節制情緒,忍耐到底。

調整目光

考試隔天蔡牧師的證道題目正好是「得智慧」,經文也剛好是我在備考階段讀到的雅各書1:1-7,我再次明白神的信實且對我的愛永不改變。蔡牧師教導說,追求屬地的知識是容易的,但追求屬天的智慧更重要。考試的知識不能大於神的智慧,神沒有讓我通過考試,但讓我經歷控制情緒、刻苦忍耐的過程,更重要的是反思自己與神的關係,想要與神更親近。蔡牧師也說,神讓我們經歷試驗,不是要讓我們受苦,而是要讓我們生出忍耐來,知道自己內心真實的光景,變得更成熟。確實,

神讓我們經歷試驗,不是要讓我們受苦, 而是要讓我們生出忍耐來, 知道自己內心真實的光景,變得更成熟。 如果我不經歷這 些,就不知實的 己內心真實的景 況,如果我續 了考試,後續也 許不會更深入思

想神的話,不知道神的話要如何應用在生活中。我知道自己軟弱,但不知具體該如何克服,知道自己不完美,但不知要如何悔改。於是我明白

神是為了預備我,重點不在考試通不通過,而在於我需要與神更親近, 更多倚靠祂、仰望祂,在未知和艱難中看到祂的愛和帶領,更順服祂的 計畫,並且生出信心後,就更有智慧去應對未來不同種類的環境和試 驗。

因為這門考試不完全是出於興趣,就算真的通過了證書考試我也不知道下一步該如何,但正因如此,我每天所做的就不是受自己的驅使,而是出於對神的追尋。每天在清晨讀經禱告,看著窗外的天空從黑變亮,都會進入新的盼望。

「你們落在百般試煉中,都要以為大喜樂,因為知道你們的信心經過試驗,就生忍耐,但忍耐也當成功,使你們成全、完備、毫無缺欠」(雅各書1:2-4)這讓我更明白,神的方式總是超乎我的想像,我原以為要通過了困難的考試才能為主做見證,鼓舞人,但現在分享自己的心路歷程和內心改變,才更符合神的心意,因為最大的神蹟就是罪人悔改,而且在磕絆中我才學習放下自己,認真咀嚼神的話,並思考如何在生活中踐行。感謝神!



去年疫情來臨時,算算我信主已經十二年了。我一直很羨慕那種可以清晨起來享受神的同在並在祂面前傾心吐意的人。但我習慣晚睡,早晨爬不起來,總是在最後一刻才跳起來趕著弄兒子上學,之後自己也趕著坐地鐵上班。其間我嘗試操練過好幾次晨更靈修禱告,但都堅持不了多久。

2020是個不尋常的一年,從三月開始疫情嚴重後,我就完全在家工作。開始時跟許多人一樣,很恐慌。每天早上起來先查疫情擴散狀況,接著開始上網到處找酒精、口罩、衛生紙等民生用品。也花很多心思想著煮什麼營養食物,做什麼運動來提升免疫力。居家隔離的頭幾個月,每天就重覆這些事。然而,買的越多做的越多,並沒有帶給我平安或安全感。

我很感謝蔡牧師在這段期間的信息,一直提醒基督徒在亂世中要倚靠神,要委身禱告。父親節時,牧師用約伯清晨獻祭的例子來勉勵爸爸們和基督徒在早晨為自己和家人獻祭。一大清早,就帶著敬畏神的心來到神面前,為自己,為每一個家人警醒禱告。另外,牧師在主日學透過「利未記」教導獻祭需要流血,以此提醒我們獻祭要付上代價。我開始迫切的為自己禱告,求神加添力量給我,挪走我的懶惰和賴床,能在清晨將時間分別為聖,做最重要的事情,就是親近祂。既然現在天天在家上班,不用趕著送孩子上學,不用趕搭地鐵,那我要做神喜悅的禱告勇士,每天早晨將自己獻上。

從2020年六月25號開始,每天早上我一起床就拿著聖經,到另一個房間的書桌前坐下。我不先吃早餐,因為一吃就沒完沒了。我也絕不看手機,因為一看信息,就忙著回這個答那個。我常常覺得自己對

神的感恩讚美太缺乏,所以 我會以讀一篇詩篇開始,讀 完詩篇,我就用詩篇來禱告 讚美感謝我們的神。之後我 會讀一篇箴言,用箴言來為 自己的罪禱告。箴言就像腳 前的燈路上的光,提醒我要

隨著疫情開始,我終於有時間看 看窗外的景色,發現春天, 夏天,秋天,冬天,萬物生長, 節氣改變,一切井然有序。

過與我所蒙的恩相稱的生活。接著我就開始為國家、疫情,教會、牧者、團契、肢體需要以及各樣事工禱告,再為先生孩子以及還不信主的家人禱告。

經過半年這樣穩定的清晨靈修,聖靈打開我的眼睛看到一些以前沒 看見的事:

- 1)隨著疫情開始,我終於有時間看看窗外的景色,發現春天,夏天,秋天,冬天,萬物生長,節氣改變,一切井然有序。正如傳道書3:1所說的「凡事都有定期,天下萬物都有定時」。縱使全世界都因疫情恐慌,但是周圍的一切仍然按時規律的運行著,因為神用祂權能的命令托住萬有(希伯來書1:3)。神創造,神掌權,神保守,神看顧。人不能做什麼,再多的思慮也改變不了環境。當我每天禱告仰望神,定晴在祂的身上,我心裡非常安定,因為「洪水氾濫之時,耶和華坐者為王;耶和華坐著為王,直到永遠」(詩篇29:10)。
- 2)每早晨帶著獻祭的心,使得我心中感恩又警醒。感謝神我能藉著信靠耶穌基督被稱義,可以呼叫上帝「阿爸,父!」我的身份是神的 兒女,我可以坦然無懼來悔改,知道耶穌基督的寶血必洗淨我的罪。每

當經歷這美好的赦罪之恩,我就越信越悔改,我的生活也就越輕省,真實經歷「我們若認自己的罪,神是信實的,是公義的,必要赦免我們的罪,洗淨我們一切的不義」(約翰一書1:9)。在為自己禱告中,聖靈也提醒我,疫情期間有那麼多時間跟家人相處,我要改變自己,在做妻子和做母親的角色上來榮耀神。我求神讓我更愛自己的丈夫,體貼關心他靈裡的需要;對兒子也要更有耐心,用溫柔管教而不是大聲叫罵。正如箴言25:15「恆常忍耐可以勸動君王,柔和的舌頭能折斷骨頭」。

3)透過禱告,聖靈拉近我與代禱的家庭和姐妹們的關係,更深的體會到「肢體彼此相顧,若有一個肢體受苦,所有的肢體就一同受苦;若有一個肢體得榮耀,所有的肢體就一同快樂」(哥林多前書12:25-26)。有

我每天都求神讓我把這個 屬靈習慣堅持下來, 成為我生活的一部份… 些姐妹原本與我並不熟悉,但透過一 起禱告分享和讀經文,不僅與她們成 為好姐妹,更一同經歷神的大能與 同在。我親眼見證神如何使用人看 起來痛苦的過程,來翻轉一個人跟一 整個家庭的生命。很多姐妹在患難中

痛苦,在軟弱中掙扎,但她們願意順服神、仰望神、等候神,神就親自 搭救安慰她們,使她們站立的穩,能在別人看起來無法喜樂平安的景況 中,得以靠主平靜安穩!這非常鼓勵我,也讓我經歷到為人代禱真是一 件甜美的事,並帶給我許多意想不到的祝福!

我每天都求神讓我把這個屬靈習慣堅持下來,成為我生活的一部份,並保守我慢慢調整作息,預備回去上班後可以一樣日日享受美好的清晨禱告時光!感謝神,禱告不只是神的命令,更是神大大的祝福! ◆◆



2020年對我來說,是個充滿害怕、恐懼、和不知所措的一年。三月 新冠病毒疫情的大爆發,維州發布緊急命令,州內所有公立中小學校停 止上班上課,我的老公也在那時候開始沒去上班,直到暑假結束後九月 才恢復工作。就在他回去上班約三週後,一天早上,我起床要去確認他 是否有準時出門,才剛下樓,就看到他戴著口罩,坐在客廳沙發上,然 後揮著手叫我不要靠近他,說:「我應該中了,昨晚我拉了幾次肚子, 發燒、身體無力、頭痛、喉嚨也些不太舒服。」當下我想著,真的嗎? 才恢復上班不到一個月就中標,況且明天還是老公的生日。還來不及思 考太多,我得趕緊做些措施。立馬要求孩子們先別下樓,家裡做些防 護,又急著上網找尋如何做新冠檢測等等。一連串的事情讓我慌亂,腦 海裡不斷湧出一個個畫面,因為突如其來的發生,讓我感到害怕,不知 道下一步要做甚麼。這時才驚覺我該冷靜一下,於是向主禱告,求神憐 憫,求神保守和看顧,如果是上帝給我的操練,求主給我能力來承受。 但我仍然無法靜下心來,思緒凌亂,好多現實生活的事情要處理。家裡 突然少了一個支撐,覺得擔憂,然而我相信神總不會撇下我們,他必看 顧保守,我繼續祈求禱告。

雖然老公的狀況沒有好轉,看了家醫也沒有得到妥善的治療,然而幾天後,收到COVID-19檢測結果,是陰性,全家稍微鬆了一口氣。但是他的身體狀況反而更糟,無法下床走動,吃不了東西,體重掉了很多,說話比蚊子飛還小聲。由於疫情因素,只能透過網路再一次讓家醫檢查,但是沒有得到改善。我再次問主,你讓我通過第一關,但

是接下來又要給我什麼試煉與挑戰呢?我的害怕與擔憂程度比之前更大,對主的禱告也更加迫切頻繁。在讀經中,有句話出現,「我的弟兄們,你們落在百般試煉中,都要以為大喜樂;因為知道你們的信心經過試驗,就生忍耐。但忍耐也當成功,使你們成全、完備,毫無缺欠」(雅各書1:2-4)。頓時身上擔子有些釋放,我知道上帝是有權柄並且有憐憫有恩慈的,祂不會置之不顧祂的兒女們。雖然老公頭痛且身體軟弱與無力,也不知道是否帶有傳染性的疾病,但是生活在同一屋簷下的我和孩子們都蒙神保守,健康地度過每一天。

由於我的個性不想尋求外界援助,也不知道老公到底是什麼病,會不會傳染給其他人,就這樣撐了兩個禮拜。他一點都沒好轉,我既擔心又覺得心力交瘁,難道上帝還沒聽到我和孩子們的禱告嗎?我再次懇請上帝因我信心不足和軟弱憐憫我。聖經裡有許多耶穌行的神蹟奇事,都是因為對耶穌有堅定的「信」,所以得著醫治;因為「信」,魔鬼都從生病的身體害怕地逃了出來。那麼我到底要做些什麼,還是我沒做到什麼,才可以讓上帝差派他的天使來幫助我們呢?隔日參加主日崇拜後,聖靈在我心裡說話,有個聲音告訴我,拿起電話尋求幫忙。之後,神的恩手親自動工,教會弟兄姊妹們來幫助我們,讓我感受到支援的力量,並為此特別感謝上帝。主是垂聽禱告的,在祂手中並沒有難解的問題,沒有什麼事情是出乎祂意料之外的,因為經上說到「他顯明深奧隱秘的事,知道暗中所有的,光明也與他同居。我眼中的黑暗在祂看來是光明的」(但以理書2:22)。

這一次老公生病,遇到另一位負責盡心的醫生,從裡到外做了許多的檢查,他也開始正視自己的生活作息。回想這整個過程,看到我們生活中一直會遇到各種各樣的挫折與困難,我們也會求上帝伸出援手來解救我們。但是,當上帝似乎沒有回應時,我們就精疲力竭地用自己的方法,孤軍奮戰,最後發現像是走進了死胡同,無能為力。然而上帝讓我經歷這試煉,使我感受到祂無比奇妙的救恩,祂有能有力,主宰著萬物萬事,雖然我信心不足,有軟弱,有低谷,但神使用困難帶領我,讓我更加親近祂,依靠祂,也讓我學習要「完全」交託仰望祂。面臨磨難與挑戰時之所以會驚慌失措,是因為忘記了自己的身份,忘記了自己是上帝的兒女,忘記了上帝的權能和預備,忘記了近在咫尺而且正在我身上成就美事的上帝。生命裡所有的一切都是上帝賜的,不是我能,是上帝使我能!這次試煉就像化妝的祝福,是一種大喜樂,讓我再次經歷神,更加感受到神的寶貴和信實。感謝主!祂憐憫的恩手在我身上成就了美事。《



我出生在一個非基督徒的獨生子女家庭中。記得很小的時候常常會想到死亡,想到自己或是家人終有一天都會消失,這個世界不再有我的存在,瞬間就會感到無比窒息,對於死亡我感到恐懼。

當得知姑信主了大約是在小學五、六年級。那時只是把姑姑口中講的耶穌當作一個故事,儘管她告訴我是真實的,可是我們家庭是拒絕的。隨後的三年,家中經歷種種不平安的事情,快要使整個家庭破碎,母親的精神和身體每況愈下,也近乎走到了自殺的邊緣。就在這樣的絕境中,姑姑帶母親第一次走進了教會,從那一天開始到如今,母親常說她這條命是主給的!但母親對上帝的認識仍然缺乏,隨後的年日中上帝藉著各樣環境使母親不斷地認識到自己不僅在肉體上是失喪的,在人際關係上,在生活中的方方面面,包括整個靈魂都是失喪的。因此,人若不知道自己是失喪的,就不會呼求神的拯救。

把這一切都看在眼裡的我,雖然看出母親生命中的變化,但還是不明白上帝賜下的聖靈是如何改變人心的。儘管如此,我因著母親的改

變,在高中一年級也受洗歸入了基督。現在看來當時的決志似乎是一種 宗教意識上的決定,而非內心的轉變,但我相信即使那樣的決定也是上 帝的工作。受洗後,我也只是履行宗教行為,守禮拜,參加青少年主日 學,傳福音,以及母親參加的查經和教會的各種活動。我只知道這樣 做,神會祝福我的家庭,甚至會幫助我滿足自己的功利心。

由於對福音沒有清楚的認識,在大學的一段時間內,福音對我來說 僅僅成了得救入門的一個秘訣,剩下的只需要通過學習、訓練,一股腦 兒地栽進了如何實踐福音,變成了和其它的道德主義沒有兩樣,只是多 了耶穌的字眼。長此以往,我厭倦了持守"好行為",甚至對傳福音也失 去了熱情,因為我深感傳福音最難的部分就是向別人指出他們是罪人。 我沒有能力克服這種困難,以致陷入了窘困之中。另外,我發現自己似 乎也不清楚在信什麼,不曉得這位上帝究竟和我有什麼關係。我開始懷 疑自己是否重生,因為重生對我而言只是一種認同的記號。於是我的 生活開始過的和非基督徒沒什麼兩樣,無論是講話、做事的優先次序、 人生目標、理想伴侶、都與不信主的人相差無幾;這種糟糕的生活狀 態持續了兩年左右。直到在一次大學生營會敬拜中,我隱約感受到耶穌 在為失喪的靈魂哭泣,瞬間我淚如雨下。那一刻我只想知道究竟什麼是 福音?兜兜轉轉才發現,我所認為的基督徒應有的好行為,其實也是被 罪玷污的。上帝藉著各種環境擊打我,讓我看到自己的醜陋、驕傲和自 義。當我在掙扎中再次尋求祂時,上帝為我預備了進入神學院學習聖經 的機會。藉著這些學習使我重新認識上帝在救贖中的作為,以及我需要 的是與上帝和好,需要的是上帝宣告我為義。

我發現當我沒有深刻地理解自己是活在上帝的震怒下,我也就無法理解上帝的愛對我有何意義。而十字架不僅彰顯了上帝對我們的愛,同時也彰顯出祂的公義。當我明白罪人無法平息上帝的憤怒,而公義的上帝又不容許罪人不償還罪債,因為犯罪是必須付上代價的,因此祂設立了耶穌為挽回祭,血淋淋的活祭,來背負我們的罪孽、羞辱、死亡、咒詛,從而滿足上帝的公義。有很長一段時間我都無法理解,上帝顯明祂公義的方法竟然是透過耶穌十架上的死稱不義的人為義。我知道後來我能相信這真理的心也是神賜給的,是聖靈的工作。

當我真正明白福音,兒時曾經對死亡的恐懼也就不再纏繞我了。如 今上帝仍然在操練我的信心,藉著婚姻使我更加體會基督的福音,並願 意立志成為合神心意的兒女。 « »



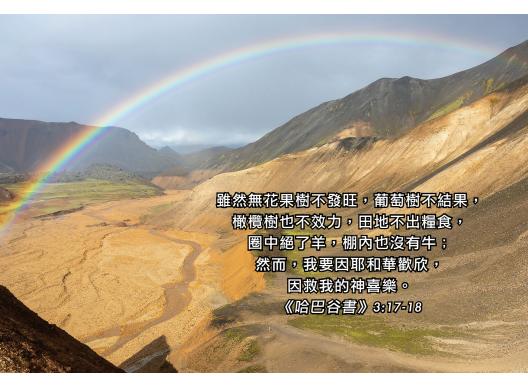
感謝主藉著春田分會的一位姊妹,在我未結婚時就開始向我傳福音。但因我在佛教家庭中長大,信仰佛教,所以沒有接受福音。2018年初,我跟老公為了讓小孩離開網路的誘惑,希望能靠信仰來幫助兒子有自我控制能力而來到教會。很感恩,主這十多年來沒有放棄我,藉著這個機會讓聖靈帶領我們一家人來到CCCVA認識主。

我在慕道班認識到創造天地萬物和人的大能天父,也認識到我們都是罪人。羅馬書1:28-32說,「他們既然故意不認識神,神就任憑他們存邪僻的心,行那些不合理的事。裝滿了各樣不義、邪惡、貪婪、惡毒。滿心是嫉妒、兇殺、爭競、詭詐、毒恨。又是讒毀的、背後說人的、怨恨神的、侮慢人的、狂傲的、自誇的、捏造惡事的、違背父母的、無知的、背約的、無親情的、不憐憫人的。他們雖知道神判定行這樣事的人是當死的,然而他們不但自己去行,還喜歡別人去行。」這段經文讓我深深體會到不只我的孩子需要主,充滿罪的包伏的我更需要主耶穌基督的救贖!

結婚有小孩後,老公的工作常常得出差,我每天有如陀螺般的在工作和家庭之間打轉。有時一句無意的話就可以把我脾氣牽出來,雖然事後我都後悔萬分,但對親愛的家人心靈已受到傷害。不只老公想改變我,連我自己也非常想把脾氣改掉,只是始終無法做到。認識主後,我才了解我們都是罪人,單靠自我的行爲是永遠無法稱義的。感謝慈愛天父的恩典和祂的救贖計劃,由祂無罪的獨生子主耶穌基督被釘死在十字架代贖我們的罪,用祂的寶血洗淨我的罪。我現在才明白唯有在耶穌基督裏,我才有可能把老我除去,經歷重生。我開始無數次謙卑的來到主的面前,祈求主幫我挪去我的脾氣,賜給我一個謙虛溫柔的心,並求聖靈時時監督帶領我。感謝神的憐憫和救恩,漸漸地每當我動怒要出口的時候,好似突然多出一秒鐘問自己,該說嗎?這是從來沒有發生過的!以前血氣一來,滿腦子是反駁的話,現在就如雅各書1:19所說,「人人都應該快快地聽,慢慢地說,慢一點動怒。」神是又真又活的神!

透過讀經禱告,我更認識真理,也更認識自己的軟弱。感謝主的恩典,常常用聖靈光照我,帶領我,加增我謙虛,耐心,溫柔和愛心,不再以自我爲先。雖然有時老我還會意外出現,但我願意謙卑的來到主面前認罪悔改,讓上帝做我生命的主!詩篇119:105,「你的話是我腳前的燈,是我路上的光。」在主裡,我在軟弱中有依靠,失望中有盼望,平凡中看到上帝的偉大!感謝主的恩典,讓我的老公和小孩都能被主揀選!願一切頌讚、榮耀都歸給我們的神!

神的能力在人的軟弱上顯得完全 爾惠娟



苦境中聽見神的呼喚

2020年我經歷了很大的婚姻危機,三月份時我實在忍受不了老公的 語言暴力,搬出去住了。其實這樣的痛苦我已經忍受很多年了,長久以 來都是靠主的話度日。老公撕了我很多本聖經,外加不讓我去教會。我 禱告了,覺得有平安,就訂了賓館拿著衣物走了。當時有很多兄弟姐妹 勸我回家,我就問他們是否經歷過我的痛苦,沒有,一個也沒有。

當時我在心靈上確實已經不再需要依靠老公了,我讀了一些屬靈前輩的自傳,看到她們經歷的痛苦以及如何立志以耶穌基督為自己的丈夫。我在賓館也做了同樣的立志,但是我還是十分軟弱,後來我把三個孩子接到了賓館,未來怎樣我真的不知道。

在困境中,有很多兄弟姐妹幫助我,給我提供信息。有個做專業諮詢二十多年的姐妹告訴我,我們家庭暴力情況變好的概率不到1%-2%。

聽了之後我十分絕望,想的是離婚。她告之我需要諮詢的包括情緒處理,夫妻溝通,以及教養子女這幾方面。後來我又諮詢了一位牧師,他們夫婦在帶領一個單親媽媽的團契。他告訴我,三個孩子都還小,單親媽媽是十分辛苦的。他建議我們可以暫時分開住,若分居兩年情況不見好轉一般就自動離婚了,我應該嘗試一下,不要想著立刻離婚。然而我還是開始詢問離婚事宜,因為我的心十分絕望。有一天半夜三點我起來,真的是淚流滿面,覺得神離棄了我,但有個聲音跟我說:我必拯救你的婚姻,只是你要去幫助那些在同樣苦難中的人。我半信半疑這個聲音從哪裡來的,是我腦海裡想出來的,還是神告訴我的。

絕望中神開一條道路

在這個過程中,有幾個姐妹到我住的地方探望我,還帶了吃的和玩具。當時的問題集中在老公的父母在這裡住產生的矛盾,還有他的暴力問題。透過這些姐妹,我聯繫了角聲護家中心的諮詢師。當她聽完了我的情況,她說1%-2%的機率確實是很小,但只要我是在這1%-2%裡面,對我而言就是100%。我決定使用她的諮詢服務,在這同時VA的一位弟兄也說要幫助我和老公。我心裡列出一些基本要求,例如在信仰方面,我需要有敬拜,十一奉獻,帶孩子去教會的自由;家庭生活方面,先生不能動手,不能恐嚇威脅孩子等等;婚姻方面,我要求他和我一起接受諮詢。除此之外,我希望他父母不要再和我們一起同住了,因為每次我和他父母衝突時,老公從來不護衛我,我感覺他還沒有離開父母。就這樣在VA弟兄的幫助下,我和孩子們搬回來了。接下來,出乎意外地,我的生命發生了徹底地改變。

首先,我在諮詢師的建議下買了一本每日靈修的書,感受到神的同在。同時,我也參加角聲護家中心的情緒管理,協談聆聽的課。我工作不忙碌的時候,每天早上讀的靈糧可以幫助我度過一天,但是忙碌或是特別累的時候,我就需要重新溫習,充充電,再繼續面對挑戰。漸漸地,我學習每天早上禱告時求神賜給我智慧來安排一天的生活。

我的禱告生活也發生很大的轉變。我以前是有需要才禱告,說穿了是利用神。VA的弟兄告訴我應該時常感謝神。詩篇100:4,"當稱謝進入他的門,當讚美進入他的院;當感謝他,稱頌他的名。"所以,我就操練禱告時先感謝讚美主,我感謝主自己還活著,有飯吃,有地方住,有工作,有孩子,孩子還很健康。凡事讚美神!我以前是碰到問題才禱告,現在是事情還沒開始之前就先禱告,求神帶領。我還使用幾本禱告書籍來操練為老公,為孩子,和為自己禱告。

順服中經歷神的恩典

我和神的關係開始有了很大的變化。過去我憑自己的旨意,現在我願意聽從神的旨意。例如,有一次我和老公又鬧的不開心,本來我想找他理論,但是禱告時神卻讓我去安慰他。安慰到一半的時候,他說的話刺激了我,我眼淚花花地流下來,本來很希望得到老公的安慰,但是我轉念想到神讓我來安慰他,我就耐心聽他講完。後來他問我的想法和感受,我就坦白說出來,心裡也好受很多。沒想到依靠神的交流是如此地平靜和愉快。

工作方面呢,我一直覺得幹得鬱悶,因為薪水不高發展前景也不好。後來我看了一些工作方面的講座,知道工作是為了服事他人,我就開始常常為我的項目、同事、公司禱告,從中得到了樂趣和滿足感。

我審視和老公的關係,發現自己一直沒有好好聽老公的心聲,所以他心懷憤怒,把怒氣發在孩子們身上。有一次他又重蹈覆轍和以前一樣,我感到十分絕望,看到他如此對待孩子我心裡十分痛苦。我一個人開車去教會待了很久,不想回家,心中得不到安慰。諮詢師問我能否感謝主的救恩,我回想神是如何拯救了我,又想起詩篇23篇,"耶和華是我的牧者,我必不至缺乏。我一生一世必有恩惠慈愛隨著我,我且要住在耶和華的殿中,直到永遠。"後來我就一個人在車裡數算主的恩典,心裡很受安慰地回家了。當然這些問題在我每週六的諮詢中,VA的弟兄會幫助我和老公一一解答。那位弟兄也鼓勵我以恩慈對待家人,多多表揚他們。歌羅西書3:12說,"因此,你們既蒙神揀選,是聖潔和蒙愛的人,就應當穿上憐憫的心腸,以及仁慈、謙卑、溫柔、耐心。"腓立比書4:8也說,"弟兄們,我還有未盡的話,凡是真實的、可敬的、公義的、清潔的、可愛的、有美名的,若有什麼德行,若有什麼稱讚,這些事你們都要思念。"當我這樣做的時候,我們家庭的氛圍真是徹底地改變,由高氣壓籠罩的氛圍變成了平靜溫馨的氛圍。

家庭中蒙受神的祝福

孩子教育方面也有很大的變化。因為我們夫妻關係不好,所以大女兒心靈受了損傷,沒有安全感,也很叛逆,學習成績一直都不好。但是老公不同意孩子們去基督教學校,我覺得很苦惱。神給我開闢了新的出路是藉著姐妹提醒我,要把大女兒和神的關係先建立起來,學習是其次。我就開始跟她每天一起讀聖經,時間都很短,每天才一句,但要確定她真的明白。有一段時間她特別害怕,不敢一個人睡覺,我就在她睡前和她一起背詩篇23篇。她晚上醒來,我再和她一起背,她就睡著了。

幾天過去,她不怕了,說神與她同在。後來,在教會一位homeschool姐妹的幫助下,我給老大買了一些homeschool的教材,女兒讀了之後有很大的變化。有空時我也會和兩個小的一起背 Bible ABC。申命記6:7告訴我們,"要殷勤教訓你的兒女。無論你坐在家裡、行在路上,躺下、起來,都要談論。"

2020年我申請綠卡,向一二十個人要了推薦信,花了一年多的時間,準備了幾百頁資料交上去,結果被拒絕了。我聽到這消息的下午十分沮喪,一個人躺在床上,覺得很傷心。小兒子過來問我怎麼啦,我說很傷心。但我想起我應該為自己的救恩感恩,而不要讓世事的不順利奪去了我的喜樂感恩之心。哈巴谷書3:17-18說,"雖然無花果樹不發旺,葡萄樹不結果,橄欖樹也不效力,田地不出糧食,圈中絕了羊,棚內也沒有牛;然而,我要因耶和華歡欣,因救我的神喜樂。"頓時,我發現了喜樂的秘訣不在於環境,而在於我們的主。

在護家的諮詢和學習中,我逐漸找到了服事的方向。每每想起我在賓館住的時候那微小的聲音,"我必拯救你的婚姻,但是你需要幫助在同樣苦難中的人"。還有神賜給我天使一般的諮詢師和VA的弟兄,我實在太感恩了。我想學習lay counseling,來服事經歷類似苦難的人。但是我有工作,身體也不是很好,還有三個孩子,我該如何做呢?馬太福音7:7告訴我們,"你們祈求,就給你們;尋找,就尋見;叩門,就給你們開門。"我透過讀一些書籍漸漸找到了自己的優先秩序,那就是和神的關係,和自己的關係(包括身心靈),然後才是和老公的關係,孩子的關係,工作和教會的服事。為了好好的實踐,我聽了很多講道,尋求管理時間的方法。詩篇90:12,"求你指教我們怎麼數算自己的日子,好使我們得著智慧的心。"求神幫助我,給我智慧能夠有次序的管理好我每天的生活。

老公這半年進步很多,我也漸漸明白他為什麼會這樣。從小到大,他不聽話的時候就是被打被罵,所以他也不知道有更好的相處方式和教育孩子的方式。他基本上沒有再動過手,但是觀念上還是覺得打罵是可以的。我雖然不認同,但是正如VA的弟兄說的,愛是恆久忍耐和相互包容加上體諒,我也有很多缺點,需要老公的包容和體諒。我只能迫切地為老公禱告,一起參加婚姻諮詢,學習神的話,希望神在他心裡動工,讓他徹底意識到有神是一件多麼美好的事情。回顧過去這一年,我真是非常感恩,家裡的氛圍從負面變為正面了,這都是神的恩典!



我在一個基督徒家庭長大,幾個兄弟姐妹中只有一個是從小渴慕神 的話語,其它人都是跌跌撞撞,經歷各自不同的磨練,又重新回到神的 裡面,這也顯出神的大能和奇妙作為。箴言20:7說:"行為純正的義人, 他的子孫是有福的"。我覺得我們兄弟姐妹得救蒙恩,離不開家裡祖輩 們從神得來的眷顧。雖然祖輩們對神的話未必理解的完全,也未必都能 將聖經的教導活出來,但是祖輩們對信仰的認真,對神的敬畏,以及隨 時多方的禱告代求,確實對我們有很深的影響。

我是2005年在學生團契真正認識神,2009年在國內學生團契受洗。 小時候也在主日學長大,可是只知道聖經故事卻沒有建立起和神的關 係。到了大學離開家才在團契認真思考人生和信仰。第一次去團契恰好 碰上一個應許節的活動,每個人可以禱告後以抽籤的方式來看神在未來 一年內給自己的應許和祝福。我抽到的經文是詩篇66:12: "你使人坐車 **軋我們的頭;我們經過水火,你卻使我們到豐富之地"。應許節的經文** 大部分都是直接祝福的話,這句經文讓其他的弟兄姐妹都不知道該如何 解釋,但那一年神確實翻轉了我的世界觀和對他的認識,所以"軋我們 的頭"在我身上其實是改變了我頭腦和理性的認知。以前我對於這世界上的不公平不公義不理解,對自己身上揮之不去的罪性也不能理解,聖經給了我答案,也再次把我的焦點帶回到十字架的救贖。從那時起,我渴慕聖經的話語也開始禱告讀經的生活,團契弟兄姐妹在團契裡的忠心服侍也特別激勵我。那時候背誦經文,聽讚美詩歌,晚上在宿舍室友面前跪著禱告,給自己的信仰打下了基礎,讓我在學業上更有目的,也排解學業上的緊張和壓力。當然成為基督徒並不是終點,我們是神手中

在我忍受不住的時候 總有安慰和喜樂, 所以我能因他的信實歌頌他。 的泥土,他必會陶造我們,讓 我們經過水火,煉淨我們身上 的雜質。所以,我沒有一帆風 順的生活,反倒是經歷更多的 磨難和壓力。研究生的畢業論 文盲審,出國簽證的審核,剛

到美國的闌尾炎手術,工作後H1B延期被無故拒絕等等。雖然苦難是煎熬的也使人失去生活中的快樂,但它讓我更貼近神,看到自己身上神不喜悅的罪,漸漸的磨去那些不好的地方。每次在苦難中,他也給我開出路,在我忍受不住的時候總有安慰和喜樂,所以我能因他的信實歌頌他。

托爾斯泰說:幸福總是相似的,不幸卻有各自的不幸。人所能享受的幸福不外乎身體健康,學業有成,工作順利,豐衣足食,家庭合睦,子孫滿堂。我們勞碌一生卻可能只是鏡花水月,因為地上的幸福太脆弱太短暂了,而我們又是完全的敗壞。好在有耶穌為我們預備了救恩,賜下聖靈在我們心中工作,讓我們在世能背起自己的十字架來跟從主。



2020年感恩節過後我和先生都得到流感,吃幾天的藥都好了。到了 12月中旬,先生再次感到身體不適,全身無力又咳不止,便在家休息两 三天也吃藥,但都沒有好轉。我因先生咳嗽不止難以入睡,便多次起來 禱告,求主醫治。我雖禱告但心中非常不安,我求主耶穌賜下祂的平安 給我。這時想起恩典團契幾年前背的經文,便找出來再次背誦。希伯來 書4:12,"神的話是活潑的,是有功效的,比一切兩刃的劍更快,甚至魂 與靈,骨節與骨隨,都能刺入、剖開,連心中的思念和主意都能辨明。" 路加福音1:37,"因為出於神的話沒有一句不帶能力的。"箴言30:5,"神 的言語句句都是煉淨的;投靠祂的,祂便作他們的盾牌。"背到此時我 的心已經平安了,睡意也來了,在半睡半醒之中我似乎兩次聽到"這病 不至於死。"清晨眼睛才睜開,我又再次聽到"這病不至於死。"哈利路 亞!讚美主!我下樓跟先生說此事,並與他一同禱告。"有了我的命令 又遵守的,這人就是愛我的,愛我的必蒙我父愛他,我也要愛她,並且 要向他顯現"(約翰福音14:21)。

隔天我們诱過視屏看診,家庭醫生查問病情以後,告訴我到藥房買 止咳的藥,我一邊找藥一邊求問主哪個藥最有效,就選了其中一盒,先 生吃了藥以後咳止住了,但是到次日的傍晚他全身無力還會喘,我就開 車带他到家附近的 Patient First 急診護理站就醫。大約半小時醫護人員 給他做幾項測試,先生確診感染新冠肺炎要馬上送醫院,他們打電話叫 911送到Fair Oaks Hospital。隨後我開車也到醫院急診處,但在這特殊 時期家屬無法進入,我便回家了。

到家之後,我想家中佈滿病毒,要如何處理、消毒,很可能自己也感染了,特殊時期也不好找人協助。正思念這事,腦海裡竟然想到幾年前在報紙上看到一張Mother Teresa修女和Diana王妃合影的照片,我非常欽佩Mother Teresa的精神,在那時也買了一本她的傳記。她一生不畏懼被傳染,犧牲奉獻在印度的貧民窟照料痲瘋病人(那時的痲瘋病有如現在的新冠病毒是不治之症),直到她回天家。我求告神使我不畏懼,不慌亂,才能照顧先生。感謝神,祂應允我平安無事。"耶和華本為善,在患難的日子為人的保障,並且認得那些投靠祂的人。"(那鴻書1:7)

深夜11點左右醫生來電話詢問先生之前的情況,病史,我一一告知。 她研判我可能也被感染了,要我多加注意。隔天早上護士來電告知先生已

耶和華是我的亮光, 是我的拯救,我還怕誰呢? 耶和華是我性命的保障, 我還懼誰呢? 經移到普通病房,可以跟他通話, 我便打電話到病房給他。一两天後 他的身體漸漸康復,要求醫生讓他 出院,醫生說要打完五天的藥劑才 可出院 (Remdesivir 是在 2020年10 月22日才獲批准可以給病患施打, 感謝神的恩典)。他一人待在醫院

很無聊,我便請團契的弟兄姊妹給他打電話問安,五天後的黃昏我到醫院 門口接他回家。

"這病不至於死"原來是約翰福音十一章,有關拉撒路患病死亡之事,耶穌說他只是睡了,之後所行的神蹟。感謝神,凡活物的生命和人類的氣息,都在祂手中(約伯記12:10)。聖誕節前夕先生回診,醫生詢問檢查一切都正常,並且在年底開立健康報告,他就在今年的新年上班了。

我再次感謝神的恩典,先生出院在家休息期間,團契的弟兄姐妹送養生湯,以及大家的代禱,電話的慰問,我感謝他們的愛心。恩典團契從2014年開始背聖經經文,背神的話。我在此摘錄一些讓我享平安,得安慰,蒙引導的經文與大家分享。

詩篇119:130,你的言語一解開,就發出亮光,使愚人通達。

希伯來書^{11:6},人非有信,就不能得神的喜悅;因為到神面前的人,必須信有神,且信祂賞賜那尋求祂的人。

約翰一書5:14-15,我們若照祂的旨意求甚麼,祂就聽我們,這是我們向祂所存坦然無懼的心。既然知道祂聽我們一切所求的,就知道我們所求於祂的,無不得著。

腓立比書4:6-7,應當一無掛慮,只要凡事藉著禱告,祈求和感謝, 將你們所要的告訴神。神所賜出人意外的平安,必在基督耶穌裡,保守 你們的心懷意念。

詩篇16:1-2,11,神啊,求祢保佑我,因為我投靠祢。我的心啊,你曾對耶和華說:"祢是我的主,我的好處不在祢以外。"祢必將生命的 道路指示我;在祢面前有滿足的喜樂,在祢右手中有永遠的福樂。

詩篇27:1,耶和華是我的亮光,是我的拯救,我還怕誰呢?耶和華 是我性命的保障,我還懼誰呢?

幾次遇到家人的病危,突發的困境,心中難解的愁煩,我就背神的 話,心也就安靜下來了。

有一首詩歌是這樣寫的:

當我們走進聖殿的時候,有一個聲音從天上傳下來,請把你的心思意念告訴我,這裡是你心靈釋放的地方。當我們走進聖殿的時候,有一個聲音從天上傳下來,請把你的勞苦重擔交給我,這裡是你得享安歇的地方。親愛的天父,耶和華上帝,坐著為王的三一真神,和祢在一起我們心歡喜,和祢在一起我們靈快樂,我們將跟隨祢直到永永遠遠。

在這疫情肆虐的日子裏,我仍然持續背神的話,每天經歷神豐富恩典,雖似囚禁在家,但心中是雀躍歡樂無比的。願將一切榮耀頌讚都歸給我們在天上的父。阿們! ※



I was converted to become a Christian in 2012 when I was in college. My roommate took me to a fellowship which was located in a nearby village. A sister from the fellowship shared some fundamental doctrines with me, and I accepted Jesus as my Savior. It was this Jesus who kept attracting me to go to that fellowship because I desired to know more about him. After knowing Jesus, my life was changed. I was no longer interested in my career goals or the values I had cherished, and gaps started to appear between my friends and me. I never expected that one day I would be in the US studying God's Word. It was hard to imagine that a Chinese, whose parents are communists would become a Christian and determine to give her life to God. As I built a relationship with Jesus, my heart was drawn gradually to ministries. I started to take part in all kinds of ministries including missions to Guangxi province, leading prayer groups, and teaching new visitors; the only ministry I didn't get involved was preaching.

The church I stayed at that time was an evangelical church and women were allowed to preach. However, the theology was significantly influenced by Arminianism and I found many differences between my knowledge of God and that of the leaders concerning several doctrines. I did not leave the church immediately but tried to communicate with them, but none of us had any formal theological training.

After graduating from Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in 2014, I went to Shenzhen to work as a volunteer in a Christian school which used textbooks by ACE (Accelerated Christian Education). I stayed there for three months. My primary job was to help with devotions in the morning, serve lunch, and participate in other school activities as well. During these three months in Shenzhen, I met my husband in an evangelical church, and we decided to come to Westminster to study and equip ourselves for future ministry. We got married in May 2015 and came to the US in July 2015. During the studies here, I joined RTF (Reformation Translation Fellowship) and translated a booklet called What is Faith written by R.C. Sproul. My husband and I both agree that I should focus more on the Word ministries such as translations or scholarly writings.

At Westminster, I received a lot of help. Some American students shared notes with me so I could better understand the professors, others prayed with me in hard times. When I was weak, teachings from my church, Calvary OPC, and prayers from church members helped me a lot. I do not deserve any of this. Whenever I faced persecutions from my parents or friends, I felt so weak that I could no longer move on. But by God's grace, my faith has been growing through all these difficult situations, and the Spirit has been working to change me. My attitude towards this world, non-believers, my family members, my neighbors, and my ministries has also profoundly changed.

My husband plays a crucial role in my life. Since I am not a social person and lack experience in many things, he has become my spiritual leader, my companion, and my help in every hard situation I encounter. Without his support, I would not be able to continue my Ph.D. study at the Catholic University of America.

I was admitted to the Ph.D. program of Semitics Language & Literature in the School of Arts and Sciences of the Catholic University of America in Fall 2019. It is such an honor to study the languages of the Old Testament, although I am always the only female student in every class and there exist numerous challenges in my study, God continues to strengthen me nevertheless. It is so amazing to personally experience God's grace and guidance day after day during this time, and I firmly believe God has a perfect purpose for His kingdom which He Himself will fully accomplish one day.

A Long Journey to Come Back Home



... I read through the whole Bible one time that year and a strong sense of belief in the personal God in the Bible came into my mind and ignited relief and hope in my heart.

I was born in a Christian family in Pingyang, Wenzhou, a small coastal town in eastern China. Though my home church in Wenzhou has a background in the "Three-Self Church", the ministers in the Wenzhou area received a relatively low government control in comparison to other provinces in the 80s and 90s. So, by God's grace the seed of the gospel was planted in my heart as a little child.

Later on, my faith was challenged when I was in middle school. First of all, the school was required to teach courses based on evolutionism, atheism and other secular beliefs. Though my parents tried to teach me to walk in their faith, my stubbornness began to prevail. Under the influence of the school, my fellow students and friends, I came to believe what they taught was true. As a result, I gradually lost interest in Sunday school and seldom went to church any more.

But God heard my parents' prayers during my middle school and high school years when I turned away from their way of Christian life. When I thought I had found a better way of life, God showed me the emptiness of that "better way" of life. In those years, the more I believed in their teachings, the more I was disappointed because these teachings could not provide any positive, consistent and meaningful answers to life. Even more sadly,

I struggled greatly with my relationship with the class director because I skipped his classes a lot. This was an irony because I thought I had found a more interesting life but I ended up losing interest in what the school was teaching. Having this void in my heart was frustrating, but now I understand it is God's grace that I felt that way so he could lead me to build a close relationship with him.

It was so until one day in the second year of high school when I suddenly started to read the Bible given to me by my father. I read through the whole Bible one time that year and a strong sense of belief in the personal God in the Bible came into my mind and ignited relief and hope in my heart. Gradually, I realized that the essential problem was not the teaching of the school, nor the relationship with teachers and fellow students, but my own sin and lack of a personal relationship with God. How can I deal with my personal sin? How can I overcome the power of sin which will result in destruction, eternal death and God's judgment? Though it took me several years to articulate the gospel well, the faith in a personal God who is able to save sinners fundamentally changed my worldview.

Slowly, the Lord opened my spiritual eyes. I had wasted two years in high school and now only one semester was left for me to catch up with all the course materials for the national exam of "Gaokao." I no longer complained about the school or the teachers, instead I cherished this last semester for God's glory. My class director was amazed at my change.

The following summer when I graduated from high school, a minister of our local church gave me around twenty theological books. One of them was Systematic Theology written by Isaac C. Jen, one of the Chinese alumni of Westminster Theological Seminary in the 1950s. Gradually, in the light of the Spirit, I came to know myself more clearly as a poor sinner who can only be saved by Jesus Christ from my sins. The power of his resurrection essentially changed my relationship with sin. I was no longer under the power and dominion of sin, but under the grace of God. I finally understood I was not called to live in the way of the world, but to become like Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit. Later on, I was baptized in my second year of college and I have since committed my life to follow Christ and to serve Him for the rest of my life. **



I was raised in a Buddhist family, my wife used to be a devoted Taoist, but I myself was never religious nor a worshipper. Before I trusted in Christ, I was an atheist. I was a self-righteous being, indulged in my abilities, and believed I was solely independent. I developed a strong ego identical to that of my peers and mentors in my professional life, which was fostered by the competitive environment I worked in.

My path in life of obtaining a degree, pursuing a career, and attaining professional merits was satisfactory to my personal value but proved to be short-lived and unsustainable. The perceived self-gratification was masked by sin, the cause of the Fall of mankind. I was idolizing subjects and objects in our society and occupied by the pursuit of material things, fame, power, and personal fulfilment, not knowing all these were essentially meaningless, as depicted in the book of Ecclesiastes.

In Romans 5:12 it says "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned." From this, I know we are all sinners. I was lost in a busy and meaningless lifestyle. My hectic work life and career, which fostered the arrogant and pompous demeanor, were infused with unending stress and disappointments. I realized I have the 'original sin' from Adam and Eve since birth, and the 'actual sin' like everyone else in the world. Because of my sins, I need a Savior. I am grateful that God found me about three years ago when I was a lost sheep, and he brought me back to his pasture. Salvation and atonement can only be accomplished by God through Jesus Christ. My path to Christ is through hope, faith, and love. Through Christ, the LORD grants me salvation and sanctification. Only Christ may allow entry into his kingdom and grant eternal life.

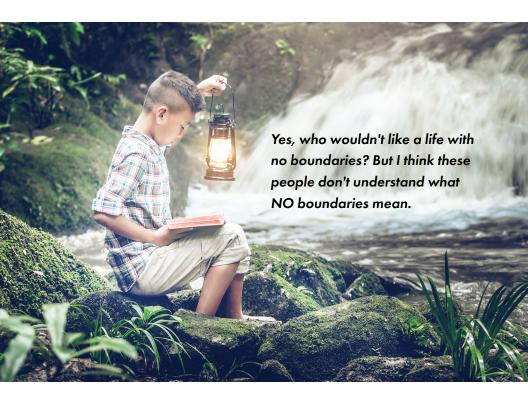
In John 3:16 it says "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life". And John 10: 27-28 says "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish". Since I have put my trust in Christ and come to him with my humble soul, life has changed, and my consulting work has transformed for the better. I begin to look at things with a new perspective and would take a different approach when a situation arises. In doing so, I can feel the Triune God guiding me through my difficulties.

This spiritual change is also transparent in my relationships with my wife, children, and others. Honoring marriage and family has a renewed meaning and I realize it requires me, the head of the household, to have patience, respect, love, and leadership. I have witnessed the positive change and peace with my wife as well, all by the grace of God.

I have confidence that God has a plan for my future because he is in control. I am learning to rely on, trust, and depend on the Lord. Moving forward, I know I have a responsibility to lead my family spiritually, share the good news with others, and live a holy life that honors God. I pray to the Lord for the continuing growth, and also for granting his miracle to other members of my family. I am committed to letting God be the center of my life and lead my life in the future. **

The Gift of God is Eternal Life.

Jonah Treitler



As a child, I was lucky enough to be born into a Christian family. My mom always brought me to church before I even knew what church was or meant. And every week, I would go to Sunday school, learn about Noah's ark, and sing songs, that sort of thing. This practice helped me be close to God at a young age.

However, it became hard to resist temptations when I was older, such as video games. Video games are something that my mom doesn't approve of in this family. So, unless I was at a friend's house, I usually wasn't supposed to play video games. At one point, instead of doing things my mom wanted me to do, like study chess or do math, I would take that chance to head up to my room and play video games. It took a long time to know why I didn't stop. I mean, I remember that I would say sorry to God and ask him for forgiveness, but my heart wasn't in the right place, and I just went back to playing the next day.

Around February of last year, something changed. I got caught by my mom playing games. Even though this wasn't the first time, I think I really wanted to stop at that moment. Of course, I doubted I could completely stop by myself, so I prayed harder and more often to resist the temptation that Satan was throwing at me. I went on the Bible app more often and read plans about resisting Satan and his temptations. With God's help, I managed to stop playing games altogether! Now, sometimes I will play an online game with my friends at a party, but I know that I can resist the temptation of getting addicted to video games. I couldn't have stopped without God's help, which is precisely why I need him in my life.

I need Jesus in my life to be saved because without him, we wouldn't have a purpose on this earth or a direction. A lot of non-Christians say, "Why do I need Jesus in my life? Life is going my way, there are no boundaries, and I don't need that to change!" And I admit I have thought that before. I mean, until you find the real answer, it kind of makes sense. Yes, who wouldn't like a life with no boundaries? But I think these people don't understand what NO boundaries mean. It means there's no one like God to protect you from temptations, from evil, and Satan in general.

Now, I could list many reasons why we need Jesus in our lives, but I'll name a few that are relevant to my life and temptations recently. One reason we need Jesus in our lives is simply the truth. God knows all, sees all, and hears all. There's no hiding things from God, which is pretty evident if you've read the first chapters of Genesis (Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, etc.). And there's no tricking God ever. Also, we can never find lies within God; we can only see the truth. In Colossians 2, Paul says, "...Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Or in Ephesians 4:21, where again, Paul says, "...Assuming you have heard of him and were taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus." I have one more reason of why we need Jesus in our lives. We need Jesus because of sin and death. In your life, whether you're Christian or not, you sin. And as the famous Bible verse goes, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23) So, what would we do without Jesus in our lives, whether you are a non-Christian or Christian? We would be dead. Just the thought that you would be dead if God hasn't given the gift of life to you should make all of us eternally grateful! «



The COVID-19 pandemic started on March 20, 2020 for me. It was the date that I received the first report of a patient who had tested positive at my hospital. My experience during the pandemic is like the millions of healthcare workers who were and still are fighting the virus on the frontline. Every day at work, my job is filled with non-stop questions and demands of mitigating the risk of COVID-19 infection.

For the first few months of the pandemic, the unknown of the virus put tremendous pressure on my workload and my family. I am thankful that my husband Jay took over all the household responsibilities when I was forced to focus on work 24/7. Also, I am thankful for Pastor Chua's weekly letters; they spoke to my heart and helped to keep me close to God. As I was busy with work, I had more excuses not to read God's word. However, I made it a point to include devotional time and to not cast God's word aside. I started to do daily devotion with My Daily Bread, and I have kept it up to this day.

At the beginning of the pandemic, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) were limited. Most people at work wore one mask for days and weeks. From the start, CCCVA brothers and sisters delivered masks to my house. I was able to share my good fortune with healthcare workers in my workplace. One day, when I came home, there was a bag of eye goggles from a sister and I took them to work and gave them to the night doctors. They were so happy!! Another sister gave me boxes of N95 masks and surgical masks. I also took them to work and gave them to the nurses. Our insurance agent who I had never met, sent me a few boxes of gowns and I sent them to our admission units and gave some to the respiratory therapists. Friends from our fellowship made masks for hospital patients and I took them to work and distributed them. PPEs were scarce and difficult to get anywhere in the country in the beginning, but I was rich with PPEs due to everyone's generosity. I do believe that those PPEs I received from CCCVA brothers and sisters saved many lives.

When I got sick with COVID-19 in November 2020, I knew I would recover, but others were not as fortunate. I have seen deaths among patients and coworkers. I spoke with coworkers who wrote wills for the first time in their lives, just in case something happened to them during the pandemic.

In December 2020, I finally felt that things had turned the corner. The vaccine is out!! As an infection preventionist, I can see the impact of the vaccine on the infection rate at my workplace, although the hesitancy of getting the vaccine is a reality.

Regardless of how the pandemic will turn out in the next year or so, I am grateful to all my brothers and sisters in Christ for their prayers and support. I know in my heart that God is good and faithful, I am not alone, and He is guiding me through this most unusual and difficult time. Here is a verse I read in the early months of the pandemic; may God's word be a blessing to us all.

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:6-7)

Kid's Corner

The Happy Blind Poet's Songs

Kiana Hsu



Do you know who wrote the most hymns in the world? It was Francis Jane Crosby. She was wise. She was witty. And she was blind. Amazingly she drafted nearly 8,500 hymns! Known as Fanny Crosby, she composed the popular hymn, "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine". Fanny was born in an old English town in New York. She descended from a Mayflower's Puritan family, who was devoted to knowing God. As a baby, Fanny turned blind because of an awful medical treatment. However, she never gave up. Lovingly her family cared for Fanny. Reading the Bible relentlessly to Fanny, her grandma taught her to stay strong through faith. Fanny attended a school for blind children in order that she could live like a normal person, if not more. After she grew up, she became a famous hymn writer.

When Fanny was a baby, an inexperienced doctor mistreated her infected eyes with hot mustard plaster, which scarred her lens. After the incident, her

Kiana is a fourth grader who dreams of becoming a children's book illustrator one day. Although Kiana didn't know who Fanny Crosby was, after hearing the hymnist's "Blessed Assurance", she decided to explore Crosby's life and work for her writing assignment. Hopefully Kiana's writing will encourage more kids to share in future CCCVA newsletters. ~ Kiana's mom, Annie

vision was blurred. Thankfully she could still sense light and shadows and catch blurs of colors as if she was peering through an iced window. Admiring the lavishly chromatic sunset, her Grandma Eunice explained to Fanny what purple is by showing her a blossoming violet. Violets became her favorite flower. At age five Fanny visited Doctor Valentine Molt, a famous eye doctor in New York City, who woefully declared that her injuries could not be healed because it had been too long since her injury. Permanently she was blind.

Because Fanny Crosby's family was kind and encouraging, she did not regret being blind. Although her dad died when she was one, her mom Mercy persevered. While Mercy worked as a maid for a wealthy family, Grandma Eunice, Fanny's older siblings, and aunts cared for her. Reading the Bible to Fanny, Grandma Eunice reverently helped her memorize many Bible books by age 10, including the four gospels, Genesis, and parts of Psalms. Diligently Grandma Eunice also taught her to cherish God's plants and animals. With descriptions of nature and her love for God, Fanny Crosby's poems and hymns were charming. Her Aunt Polly, who was just one year older, was her playmate. Together they played hide-and-seek, climbed trees, rode ponies, picked flowers, ventured through the forest, and enjoyed many fun games. Both Grandma Eunice and Polly were Fanny's eyes. They read to her. They described the intriguing world. They taught her to live independently by using other senses. Even though she was blind, her family helped her thrive.



She wrote at age eight:

"Oh, what a happy child I am, Although I cannot see! I am resolved that in this world Contended I will be!

How many blessings I enjoy
That other people don't!
So weep and sigh because I'm blind,
I cannot - nor I won't."

By God's blessing Fanny was able to attend The New York Institute for the Blind, where Fanny Crosby blossomed like a violet in the garden. Loving writing, grammar, philosophy, and astronomy, she outshined. However, Fanny wasn't always so perfect. She hated math and Braille. Sometimes she did mischievous things like stealing a watermelon from the school. Because Fanny received so many praises for her poetry, she became arrogant. Wholeheartedly her superintendent Dr. Silas Jones advised, "Do not think too much about rhymes, and the praises that come from them. Store your mind with useful knowledge and think more of what you can be than what you can appear." She humbly listened. During her time in school, she had visited many places to promote education for the blind. She had even spoken at the Congress, met many presidents, and became a lifelong friend with President Polk. She was famous! After graduation, she stayed at the school to teach and was a respectable and compassionate teacher to her students. When the cholera pandemic of 1848 hit and most students returned home to quarantine, instead, Fanny Crosby stayed behind to help the students who had nowhere to go and cared for the sick students. In school Fanny bloomed into a competent, confident, and charitable woman.

Because Fanny Crosby thought that God had given her a purpose for life, she wrote hymns that glorify God and urge people to trust in Jesus. Affectionately encouraged by William B. Bradbury, the musician who wrote "Jesus Loves Me", Fanny started to write hymns. Hymn writers would play their music to Fanny, she would draft the lyrics in her head, then her assistant would record as she dictated the words. Fanny had worked with many famous music writers, such as William H. Doane, a Cincinnati tycoon. Working ardently together like pen and paper, they created the popular hymns, "To God Be the Glory", "Pass Me Not", and "Near the Cross". Through Fanny Crosby's hymns many people grow strong in faith. By singing "Blessed Assurance", a teenage boy with an incurable disease converted fourteen patients in the hospital. As he was ready to meet Jesus, he passionately sang "Safe in the Arms of Jesus", which Fanny composed after her only baby died. Fanny's hymns vitalize faith.

Although Fanny Crosby was blind, she lived contentedly. Her family, who provided her strength like guardian angels, encouraged her daily. Because of the 20 years at The New York Institute for the Blind, she learned to be independent and was able to overcome her weakness. Profoundly Fanny's insightful hymns motivated many people to love God more. Her hymns witnessed God's beauty. Fanny Crosby is the queen of heavenly music. So on your next visit to YouTube, search up Fanny Crosby's hymns. Don't forget to click "Like" and be blessed by the happy blind poet. ***

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本刊宗旨

The Purposes of This Newsletter

- ♥ 提供文字園地見證主恩
 To provide a forum for us to testify God's grace.
- ♥ 增進肢體同心分享主愛
 To improve our unity in Christ and share the Lord's love.
- ♥ 可作傳揚福音信息資料
 To be used as evangelistic literature in sharing of the Gospel.
- ▼ 互通傳遞教會活動信息To communicate our church's activities and messages.

大使命

耶穌進前來,對他們說:「天上地下所有的權柄都賜給我了。 所以,你們要去,使萬民作我的門徒,奉父,子,聖靈的名給 他們施洗(或作:給他們施洗,歸於父,子,聖靈的名)。凡我 所吩咐你們的,都教訓他們遵守,我就常與你們同在,直到世 界的末了。」(馬太福音 28:18-20)

The Great Commission

Then Jesus came to them and said "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20)



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