

# 總目錄

## ❖ 与神亲近

- 亲近神的心.....李绍沅 牧师 02
- 感謝神.....楊莉蓮 07
- 生命在于选择.....丁武 09
- 那个替我们追风筝的人.....唐梦宇 12
- 患难生忍耐.....林黄秀芬 13
- 我的哀哭变为跳舞.....Cathy Liu 16
- Love People, Love God – My First PBL Experience .....Alena Zhang 18
- 青少年夏日年读书会简报 ..... Ashley Cao, Grace Fang,  
..... Rebecca Hu, Erin Li, Katherine Li,  
..... Crystal Yeh, and Alena Zhang 20

## ❖ 見證如云

- 哈爾濱短宣見證 .....曹嘟嘟 23
- Angelina Li 的見證 ..... Angelina Li 24
- Fred Yi 的見證..... Fred Yi 25
- Angelina Wang 的見證..... Angelina Wang 25
- Carsten Liu 的見證..... Carsten Liu 27
- Chinne Dai 的見證..... Chinne Dai 28
- Ethan Lam 的見證..... Ethan Lam 30
- Grace Liu 的見證..... Grace Liu 32
- Ian Lam 的見證..... Ian Lam 34
- Raine Guidarelli 的見證..... Raine Guidarelli 35
- Ryan Zhou 的見證..... Ryan Zhou 37
- Vincent Lau 的見證..... Vincent Lau 38
- 编后记..... 40

# 亲近神的心

李绍沅 牧师

在教会里面，我经常提到亲近神，而亲近神必定要包括『心』。这是必然的，如果若缺乏『心』，也就没有亲近可言了。什么是亲近神的心？『心』这个字的意思是明显的，即使不多作解释，一般人都能明白它的意思。『心』不同于肉身的器官。如果问，人的身体上是哪一个部位受到音波的影响呢？答案当然是耳朵。哪一个部位是以思想为主要功能呢？当然是大脑。但是，当我们提及亲近神的时候，我们是否能举出这是跟哪一个身体部位有关的吗？当然不行！可是，人总是要引用某一个“部位”，好表达出他的意思，所以『心』是经常被使用的字。除『心』以外，『灵魂』（soul）和『本能』（instinct）也经常出现，但是，因为『心』是一般人比较熟悉的概念。让我们来探讨什么是『心』。

## 从“真心”来看『心』

『心』所要表达的是我们对耶稣全心全意的态度。当我们赞美神的时候，外在赞美的话是出自我们的内心，而外在赞美的话是显出我们内心的真情。福音书中的法利赛人就是我们的警惕。法利赛人有好一些的问题，譬如他们虽然

了解旧约，可是当旧约指向的弥赛亚来到世上的时候，他们却认不出祂。其中的一个问题是上一章提到的假冒伪善。法利赛人虽然能行出当时敬虔的三大美德，也就是施舍、祷告和禁食，但是他们不是真心的（马太福音第六章）。所以，当耶稣在这上下文教导主祷文的时候，主祷文的内容就是我们自心中所要发出的祷告。因此，主祷文不仅是要我们去背诵的，它更是要进入我们的心里，使祷告的内容成为我们的心愿：

“我们在天上的父：愿人都尊你的名为圣。愿你的国降临。愿你的旨意行在地上，如同行在天上。”既然『心』是真实的，对我们而言，主祷文就成为我们真心的祷告。

事实上，亲近神的人对神而有的回应都多多少少有真心的成分，而不仅是单单的例行公事。其实，能做到例行公事已经不错了，譬如说，我们有多少人能每天有固定的灵修生活？从正面来看例行公事，这表达出一个人的责任感和他尽本分的心志。耶稣也曾经从本分的角度教导仆人应有的态度（路加福音17:10）。虽然如此，耶稣肯定不是要我们单在外表上活出敬虔的生活，因为祂说最大的诫命是“尽心、尽性、尽意

爱主—你的 神。”（马太福音 22:37）因此，亲近神的人不仅是遵守诫命的人，他遵守的动机和目的是爱神。换句话说，他是真心地以『心』来追求亲近神的生命。

### 从“关系”来看『心』

当耶稣从爱的角度来教导遵守命令的时候，这已经从行为进入关系的层次里了，因为爱是有关于关系的。这就是为什么我们的生命必要超越例行公事，我们的目的不能是“办完”工作的心态，乃是在我们所做的事情上，我们与神有个人的、亲密的交通。譬如，我们不仅能作到固定的读经生活，更进一步的是与神亲近，听见神对我们说的话，和与神有对话。虽然我们仍有其它读经的目的，好似藉读经而学习，使圣经知识能有增长，但是建立与神之间的关系及与神亲密是我们读经生活的基本目的。

一般来说，与神的关系乃是透过读经、祷告、敬拜、顺服、事奉而建立起来的。我们必要从亲密关系的角度来衡量这一切。我不断地会提醒教会同工，事奉的目的，严格来说，不是把事做好，乃是在所做的事上经历神的同在和作为。因此，事奉的结果不是精疲力尽，反而是灵命充沛，因为在所做的事上能经历神，能与神亲近。

钟马田（Martin Lloyd-Jones）

牧师曾经提醒我们避免“死气沉沉”的“正统”敬拜生活（dead orthodoxy）。人可以参加教会的主日崇拜，唱诗歌，听讲道，和与人有交通，但这若只是出于习惯，或例行公事，虽然做到外表的敬拜行为，但是缺乏内在的生命。若以关系（『心』）为主日崇拜的出发点和目的，我们会在崇拜中期待站在神的面前，与神相遇，听祂说话。自崇拜的程序中，我们会感受到我们是围绕神的宝座，对神发出我们的赞美，而神就在我们的中间，接受我们的敬拜。愿我们对神的敬拜是出于我们跟神之间而有的亲密关系。

### 从“本能”来看『心』

当我们祷告，说，“愿你的旨意行在地上，如同行在天上”，我们就是敞开心地去追求、接受和实行神的旨意。我们行事为人的目的不是为了满足自我的心意，因为我们所追求的是神的旨意。虽然有时神的旨意跟我们个人的心愿不同，我们也能坦然地，甚至喜乐地接受。不仅如此，当我们越亲近神的时候，我们的心愿就越符合神的心意，甚至到一地步，神的心意几乎成为我们的本能了，好似呼吸是人身体的本能一样。从这角度来看，『心』可以被看为是人思想、动作、情感最基本的基础，掌管着人的一切，使人能“自然”地按着『心』而运作。它几乎可以被理解为耶稣所说的

“重生”或保罗所说的“新人”。

当保罗说“心意更新而变化”（罗马书 12:2），不论“心意”是翻译为“心思”、“思维”、或“见解”，它的意思是，当我们最基本的成分受到了更新，我们就能“察验何为 神的善良、纯全、可喜悦的旨意。”我们有什么具体的变化呢？第一，我们的世界观不一样了：我们从这世界和世界里的一切看到了神的主权，也就是一切都是属于神的。第二，我们的价值观也改变了：因为一切是属于神的，所以，唯有当这世界归回到神的面前，符合祂的心意的时候，我们方能找到真正的价值。第三，我们的情感也起了变化。当所有的一切，包括自我，符合神心意的时候，我们就得到喜乐和满足。相反的，我们会为自己的罪感到悲伤，不仅因惧怕惩罚，更是因为我们违背了在耶稣里所得到的“新本性”，以及我们没有正当地回应神的爱和恩典。当我们的“心意更新而变化”的过程中不断地成长的时候，我

们的心就越来越接近神的心。

亲近神的目标就是以神的心意成为我们个人的心意，以至神的心意变为我们自然的本能或反应。在任何的情况中，我们能自然地以神的心意来处理和回应这情况。初信的时候可能还做不到这点。譬如，当我们要遵行圣经的教导去爱我们的仇敌的时候，我们可能刚开始还做不到；即使能够，也是要勉强自己才能去爱仇敌。但是，当我们越亲近神的时候，勉强的程度开始降低了，甚至，到一地步，我们的本能反应就是去爱所以的人，包括仇敌在内。这是何等荣耀神的生命！

当我们要亲近神的时候，必须从『心』开始。我们要经常为自己的心祷告，并察验自己的心。我们不再因外在行为符合神的心意而满足，我们所追求的是里外一致，心和行为都符合神的心意。若从『心』来衡量亲近神的生命的时候，你亲近神吗？

# Intimacy with God with the Heart

Pastor Steven Lee

I often teach intimacy with God in the church, which, naturally, involves the heart. This is necessary, for if the heart is absent, there is no intimacy to be spoken of. What is this heart in intimacy with God? Its meaning

is obvious; the average person understands the meaning of “heart” even without further explanation. “Heart” (not the physical organ in a human body) is different from organs on a physical body. If one asks, “what is the

organ on a human body that receives sound waves?" The answer is the "ears"; If one asks, "what is the organ that has thinking as its primary function?" the answer is the "brain". However, when we seek intimacy with God, can we name the physical organ that we use for this purpose? We do not have an answer, but we still need to name an "organ" in order to express our ideas, so "heart" is a word that is often used in intimacy with God. There are other words such as "soul" and "instinct". Since "heart" is a familiar concept, let's use it for our discussion here.

### **"Heart" as Sincere**

One understanding of "heart" is our sincerity toward Jesus. When we praise Him, our external expressions of praise arise from our hearts of praise; therefore, our external acts express the attitude of the heart. The Pharisees in the Gospels are warnings for us. They had many problems, although they understood the Old Testament, when the promised Messiah came, they failed to recognize Him. Another problem is that although they were able to fulfill the three major acts of piety (giving, prayer, and fasting), they were not sincere in these acts (see Matthew chapter six). In contrast, when Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer in this context, it is a prayer from our hearts. The Lord's Prayer is not only something that we need to recite; moreover, it is to enter our hearts and become our desire. Since the "heart" means sincerity, we pray the Lord's Prayer with sincerity.

In our relationship with God, we are, more or less, sincere; we do not simply do things out of routine. Actually, it is not bad when we can do things out of routine; for example, how many of us can have quiet time every day? Positively speaking, when a person does things out of routine, this is a responsible person and Jesus has taught us to become responsible servants (Luke 17:10). Despite

this fact, Jesus's desire is definitely not for us to live a pious life only in terms of routines that involve our external behaviors because He said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37) For this reason, one who is intimate with God is not only someone that obeys His commands; moreover, the motive and the goal of this person is to love God. In other words, this person sincerely seeks a life that is intimate with God.

### **"Heart" as Relational**

When Jesus teaches obedience in terms of love, this has already entered into the level of relationship because love involves relationships. This is why our relationship with God must go beyond routines and responsibilities. The goal of our doing is not simply to complete tasks; rather, everything that we do has the goal of building a personal, intimate relationship with God. For example, not only should we read the Bible daily, we should also have the goal of intimacy with God, to hear God speaking to us, to converse with God as we read God's Word. Although Bible reading has other goals such as learning and the building up of knowledge, the building of a relationship and intimacy with God is the most necessary goal of Bible reading.

Generally speaking, we build our relationship with God through Bible reading, prayers, worship, obedience, and service. We need to measure all these things through the perspective of intimacy with God. I have often reminded the coworkers that, strictly speaking, the goal of service is not to do things, but to experience God's presence and works through the things that we do. As a result, exhaustion is not the outcome of service; rather, it's the revival of our spiritual life because we have experienced God and been intimate with God through our service.

Martin Lloyd-Jones has reminded us of the danger of dead orthodoxy. We can attend worship services, sing hymns, listen to sermons, and have fellowship with others, but if they are done out of habits or routines, although there is the external act of worship, the vitality of inward spiritual life is absent. However, when “relationship” or “heart” is the starting point and the goal of worship, our expectations for worship are to stand in God’s presence, to meet with God, and to hear Him speaking to us. From the different parts of a worship service, our experience is surrounding God’s throne and offering Him our praises. God, on the other hand, is present in our midst and receiving our worship. May our worship originate from our intimate relationship with God.

### **“Heart” and Instinct**

When we pray, “May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven”, we are seeking, receiving, and doing God’s will with open hearts. We do not do things to satisfy our own desires because it is God’s will that we seek after. Although God’s will is sometimes different from our desires, we willingly, even joyfully, accept it. Not only that, the more intimate we are with God, the more our desires become God’s will to the extent that God’s will and desires have almost become our instinct, just as breathing is an instinct of the human body. From this perspective, the “heart” can be understood as the most basic foundation to thinking, doing, and feelings that controls the entire person, so that a person may “naturally” function according to the “heart”. It is almost the equivalent of “born-again” and “new man” in the Bible.

When Paul said to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2), no matter how we understand the word “mind”, it is saying that our most basic components have been renewed such that we may “test and approve what God’s will is—his good,

pleasing and perfect will.” What transformations do we undergo? First, we have a different worldview. We see God’s sovereignty from this world and everything that is in it, which means that we see all things as belonging to God. Second, we have different values. Since everything belongs to God, it is only when the world has returned to God and is aligned with His desires that we have found true values. Third, we have different feelings. When all things, including ourselves, are aligned with God’s desires, it is only then that we attain joy and satisfaction. We will grieve over our sins, not due to the fear of punishment, but due to the failure to act according to the new self and to properly respond to God’s love and grace for us. As our hearts continue to grow in this transformation, our hearts are closer and closer to the heart of God.

The goal of intimacy with God is to have His desires as our own such that they become our instinct. As we face any circumstance, we can deal with and react naturally to it with God’s desires. It may be difficult in the beginning. For example, when we seek to obey the teaching of the Bible of loving our enemies, we may not be able to do it at first; even if we can, we have to force ourselves to do it and we do it reluctantly. However, the more we are intimate with God, the more the level of reluctance decreases to a point that it is our instinct to love everyone including our enemies. What a glorious life this is!

When we seek to be intimate with God, it must begin with the “heart”. We need to constantly pray for our hearts and examine them. We are no longer satisfied with external behaviors aligning with God’s desires; rather, we seek consistency internally and externally, and conformity of both the heart and behaviors to God’s desires. If we measure our intimacy with God with the “heart”, are you intimate with God?



# 感謝神

楊莉蓮

自小就在基督家庭長大的我信主已有七十多年了，在台灣受洗的。來到美國也快40年了，中間為了生活和工作，暫時離開了神的家，沒能在星期天上教會敬拜神。這樣一晃就是二十幾年，心中深感虧欠父神，直到2010年退休後才又正式回到父神的家。感謝父神的不離不棄，把我帶回到祂的羊群裡，讓我不再迷失。記得主曾說過，祂從不丟棄任何一隻羊，放下那99隻的羊，也要把那隻迷失的找回來。感謝主！我就是那隻被尋回的羊，安祥地在羊圈裡，享受著主的看顧保守與平安喜樂。讓我更深深的體會到神的同在。

與大家分享一個奇妙的見證，就在剛過去的七月份裡：七月中旬我準備去佛羅里達州渡假一個月，看看妹妹及几位老朋友，機票在5月份已訂妥，而且一切都已準備就緒，可是卻在要上飛機的前一天出了個意外。也就是在這個意外中，我看到了神在我身上的作為，奇妙的恩典。

這一天傍晚吃完晚餐，孫女Lilly

突然一個提議，她對我說：婆婆妳明天就要出去玩了，好幾個禮拜都見不到妳，現在我們出去走一走。因為我平日都有這個習慣走走，她時常陪我走。我們會邊走邊聊天。當時天氣不太好，好像要下雨的樣子。但我不忍心讓她失望，我答應了，而且建議只走一小圈，平時我們會走一個大圈的。就是因為只要走一小圈，所以我沒換球鞋，就穿著拖鞋我們就出門了。是個小上坡，我們剛走到坡上面，突然一陣大風吹來，接著就帶著雨，而且很快愈下愈大。我們互相望了一眼，決定打道回府。我們就牽手開始跑步回家，而且愈跑愈快，就在快到家時，我的右腳拖鞋拌了下左腳，失去平衡跌倒了。奇妙的是我們是往下坡跑，而且速度很快，沒有可能會往後跌，應該就是往前面撲倒才對。若是這樣，不但是我會滿臉磨傷，而且以我的年齡膝蓋或其他骨頭一定斷了。但奇妙的是我當時即將倒下時，突然感覺有股力量輕輕地把我的身子往左邊推動了一下，才倒下去。更奇妙的是，不是直沖沖躺下去，而是偏右側地倒下，受傷處只在右邊偏上的頭頂邊，當時若是正躺跌，肯

定會是很嚴重的腦震盪。當時我的感覺是有點昏迷，但聽到了孫女被嚇的哭吼聲。我的淺意識讓我向上帝呼求：“襠我爬起來，不要嚇壞了Lilly”，因為她真的被嚇到不知所措。前面輕推我一把的是父神大能的手，是祂救了我，現在是父神伸出祂萬能的膀臂，第二次的彰顯祂的全能。我在昏迷當中站了起來，自己往家裡走。

事後Lilly告訴我，她當時好奇怪，她一直叫我，我沒知覺，而且我的眼睛不會眨眼，人直直的一直往前走還會轉彎回家，又說當時我的右手扶著頭頂傷口，血直流到脖子，左手平伸開在左側，樣子很好笑很很奇怪，神真的是又真又活的！是祂救了我。是祂知道我的意念，成全了我。是祂把我從昏迷中抱起來，是祂纏扶著，小心翼翼地把我扶回家中。我坐在沙發上一陣子才感覺醒了過來，我不知道發生了什麼事情。當時這麼嚴重的情況下，應該是相當不樂觀的，但結果只是輕微的腦震盪。這一切的一切真的是太奇妙太奇妙了，一切榮耀歸給我們天上的阿爸父。因祂是全能的神，祂掌管一切，權柄都在祂手裡，我們是祂兒女。只要信靠祂，相信祂。

父是永遠與我們同在，看顧保守著所發生的一切，絕對不是偶然，是全

能的父神向我們彰顯了祂，讓我們看到祂真的是一位又真又活的神。是昔在今在，一直永在的神！讓我更深深感受到父神一直是在我身邊，是我的避難所，是我的山寨，是我的力量。祢愛是何等長闊高深，有了主還要什麼。我要獻上我最真誠的感恩和感謝，一切榮耀歸於神。哈里路亞！

在此我要特別感謝李牧師的禱告及禱告會的弟兄姊妹們為我的代禱，及喜樂團契全体弟兄姊妹的關懷問候及禱告。要特別感謝因神的厚愛，讓我因此可以見到許久未見又正巧回來教會看望大家的成鵬弟兄及瑛豐姊妹，太好了！原本我若去了佛州我是看不到他們的，心中正感到非常遺憾時。神的奇妙作為真的是人不能莫測的。我見到他們了！也很感謝他們的愛心。在匆忙的行程裡，在教會完後趕來家裡看我，陪我一起禱告，感謝主。也非常感謝懷德及Sara他們愛心的擺上，特地百忙中抽空來看我，還把他們當天的晚餐一整鍋的雞湯全帶過來給我吃，心中非常過意不去，真的好感恩，神家的兒女！最後還要感謝雅芳帶陪江弟兄夫婦特地專程看我，慰問我，親手在這裡炒面給我吃，讓我覺得溫暖。在此借筆謝謝你們大家！神祝福紀念大家的愛心，讓我們一起把神的愛活出來。阿門！



# 生命在于选择

丁 武

引言：在“生命在心”一文中表明，人的生命（包括灵和肉体二者）是由心主宰着。灵命永恒与否，与心相信耶稣与否相关；肉体长相之美丑，与心地善恶相应；肉体寿命之长短，与心能否放下世界、心中平静和愉悦相依。因此，生命在心，实质上是在于心对上帝恩典的正面选择。本文试图讨论生命在于选择问题。

## 一．生命的意义

人类生命有三个境界。第一个境界：自然境界。这个境界相应于普通百姓的一般层面的活着。他们终日为吃穿用度忙碌奔波，赡养老人，抚养孩子，养家糊口，有些人有每日担心衣食之忧。他们中有些人有自己的信仰；有些人什么都不信。他们如工蜂如蚂蚁，辛勤耕耘，默默无闻；第二个境界：功利境界。这个境界相应于一群人体面的活着。他们的价值观是荣耀自己。他们做到立德、立功、立言或之一，或之二，或全部。他们聪明，热爱世界，知道自己能做什么，能把握机会知道什么时候该出手，总是把自己闪光的一面表现出来，也就是脱颖而出；追求极致和完美；

但缺少智慧。因为他们计较自己的得失、荣辱，因而他们的心总不能平静，没有长久的喜乐，只有长久的烦恼与忧愁；第三个境界：天人合一境界。这里天是指上帝，天人合一即是人与耶稣合一。这个境界相应于一群人明白地活着。明白地活着，就是信耶稣、有理想、有追求地活着。明白自己是谁，明白自己从何而来，明白自己的归宿。他们的价值观是荣耀神。他们或者是普通百姓，或者是在立德、立功、立言方面贡献辉煌的一群人。他们爱神，他们既聪明又有智慧，知道“施比受更为有福的道理（使徒行传20：35），能放下世界，知道自己不能做什么，知道什么时候该收手；爱人，不计较别人的恶，不求自己的益处，乃求别人的益处，总是让别人把闪光的一面表现出来；他们喜欢简单自然。因此，他们能与自然、社会和谐相处，精神生活丰富，心中长久平安、喜乐。第三个境界是人类生命的最高境界。人能否达到这个境界，在于人能否对上帝的恩典做出正面选择。

## 二．自由意志与决定论

### 1. 自由意志

自由意志是能在各种可能的方案中进行选择和决定行动的能力。上帝赐予人理性，“神说：‘我们要照着我们的形象，按着我们的样式造人，使他们管理海里的鱼、空中的鸟、地上的牲畜和全地，并地上所爬的一切昆虫。’”（创世纪1：26）；“耶和华神将那人安置在伊甸园，使他修理看守。”（创世纪2：15）；

“耶和华神用土所造成的野地各样走兽和空中各样飞鸟都带到那人面前，看他叫什么。那人怎样叫各样的活物，那就是它的名字。那人便给一切牲畜和空中飞鸟、野地走兽都起了名，只是那人没有遇见配偶帮助他。”（创世纪2：19，20），其中“管理”、“修理”、“看守”和给“各样活物”起名表明，人已具有理性中的明智法则；同时，上帝又赐予人自由意志，

“耶和华吩咐他说：‘园中各样树上的果子，你可以随意吃，只是分辨善恶树上的果子，你不可吃，因为你吃的日子必定死。’”（创世纪2：16-17），其中“各样”和“随意”表明，上帝让人自由选择，但“只是分辨善恶树上的果子，你不可吃，因为你吃得日子必定死。”表明，自由是有限制的，不是什么都能做。也就是说，上帝还制定了理性中的德性法则，自由选择还要按照这个法则进行。

然而，人类的始祖在魔鬼引诱下，做了违背上帝旨意的选择，吃了禁果，于是罪从一人入了世界，死就临到众人（罗马书5：12）。在人犯罪以后，上帝仍然

让人自由选择，“看哪！我今天将生与福，死与祸，陈明在你面前。”（申命记30：15），并且颁布了律法（出埃及记20：3-17）和发出爱神、爱人的教训（申命记6：5；利未记19：18；约翰福音13：34），使德性法则具体化。后来人类（包括外邦人和上帝的选民）的历史和现实表明，人类一而再再而三地选择违背上帝的旨意，罪性越来越严重，世界越来越败坏。

## 2.决定论

决定论认为所有的状态产生完全被它之前的状态决定，就是说，状态产生遵从因果律（加拉太书6：7-9；希伯来书11：39-40）。

决定论与自由意志是密不可分的。决定论提供了两种或多种可能性，自由意志表现在对这些可能性的一种选择。自由意志只存在于单一独立的观察点，决定论贯穿于所有观察点[2]。

## 三．上帝恩典与个人选择

### 1.上帝恩典

由于人类“死在过犯罪恶之中”（以弗所书2：1），人的得救必须依赖上帝的恩典。这个恩典有双重意涵[3]：一是上帝的主权和大能（罗马书9：21；出埃及记33：19；以弗所书2：1；罗马书8：1-2）。救赎由天父发起、圣子完

成和圣灵实现，人类由于罪性严重，无法自救；二是上帝的慈爱与公义（以西结书33：11；利未记11：44；约翰福音3：16；帖撒罗尼亚前书4：3-5；彼得后书3：9；希伯来书6：4-8；彼得后书2：20-22）。上帝向每个人发出救恩的邀请，每个人有足够的恩典来回应上帝的呼召，因为上帝不偏带任何人。

## 2.个人的选择

经过救赎的人类，每个人都有足够的恩典对上帝的呼召做正面的选择。人对上帝恩典的正面选择就是归向他，听从他吩咐的一切话，从而得福，得新生命（申命记30：2-3，9-10）；相反，拒绝上帝恩典，就是负面选择，从而得祸，得死亡（申命记28：15-20）。人对上帝恩典的正面选择必须贯穿于他的一生经历之中，因为，如前所述，上帝的恩典贯穿于人蒙恩得救的整个过程之中。人对上帝恩典的正面选择是根据明智法则和德性法则以及外在环境和内在潜意识经验进行的。因此，虽然正面选择常表现为偶然性，但这种偶然性是寓于必然性之中的。上帝在实施救赎计划中，仍然让人自由选择，“神爱世人，甚至将他的独生子赐给他们，

叫一切信他的，不致灭亡，反得永生。”

（约翰福音3：16）：选择信耶稣的人得永生；选择不信耶稣的人必灭亡。因此，人的结局没有注定，在于对神的恩典做出正面的选择。在上学、工作、成家、立业的每一个台阶，当你有机会选择时，你能做出正确的选择吗？当你没有机会选择（由于天灾、战争、社会黑暗）时，你又如何？什么是“机会”？什么是“正确”？不同价值观的人有不同的答案。

如前所述，荣耀自己和荣耀神的人，他们或者都是普通的默默无闻的一群人，或者都是在事业上获得重大成功的一群人；但他们的生命却完全不同。因此，人生首要的和根本的选择，是信仰耶稣与否！因为耶稣就是道路、真理、生命（约翰福音14：6）。人因信称义，改变了客观地位（由在罪的权势之下变成神的儿女），成为基督徒，此后又面临选择：是止步不前？还是继续前进，经历成圣之痛？只有经历“我的肉体之中，没有良善。”（罗马书7：18），“我真苦啊！”（罗马书7：24）之后，才能随从圣灵，而不是肉体，效法耶稣，遵行神的律法，“向着标杆直跑。”（腓立比书3：140），进入人类生命的最高境界。

# 那个替我们追风筝的人

唐梦宇

早就听说过阿富汗作家卡勒德·胡赛尼的长篇小说《追风筝的人》，却一直没有闲暇。今年春天终于开看之后，一发不可收拾，几乎是夜以继日地把书看完。之后心情久久不能平静。似乎很久没有读过如此让人震撼，让人难忘的书了。

《追风筝的人》讲的是七十年代发生在阿富汗喀布尔市的故事。主人公阿米尔和他们家仆人阿里的儿子哈桑因为年龄相仿，并喝同一个奶妈的奶长大，成为了经常在一起玩的童年玩伴。阿米尔虽然怯懦，却喜欢写作；而哈桑很勇敢，在性格上和阿米尔的父亲相像，所以深得父亲的喜爱，让阿米尔或多或少有些嫉妒。在那个年代的阿富汗喀布尔市，男孩子们一到冬天就会去玩一种斗风筝的游戏：两风筝在空中相撞，线绳缠绕拉扯之间，断了线的风筝为败。斗到只剩下最后两只风筝的决斗之际，最后一只仍然在空中飘舞的风筝为终极赢家，而那个最后才败的风筝就成了孩子们觊觎的对象；谁能在山坡上树梢间追到这只风筝，这风筝就归谁，是人人羡慕的战利品。除了勇敢，哈桑还有能追到这战利品风筝的“特异功能”。尽管

哈桑的个头和年龄都算小的，可不管风筝落在哪里，哈桑似乎都有本事把它追到。有一年，阿米尔卯足了劲儿，制作了一只上好的风筝，想做终极赢家，给在屋顶上和朋友们一起“观战”的父亲看看，好让父亲为有自己这个儿子骄傲。果不其然，阿米尔的风筝打败了最后一只蓝风筝，而哈桑为了讨阿米尔的欢喜，飞快地追蓝风筝去了。哈桑似乎过了很久都没有像以往那样带着风筝回来，阿米尔就去寻找。在一个荒芜的巷口，阿米尔看到了惊心动魄的一幕：哈桑追到了蓝风筝，却被社区里的几个霸凌拦截住了。霸凌们让哈桑放弃风筝，否则就会遭到强暴。为了让阿米尔得到战利品蓝风筝，哈桑选择了后者。而阿米尔因为自己也惧怕这些霸凌，也因为太想得到蓝风筝，并没有上前阻止，而是偷偷溜走了。

从此，阿米尔没有了平安。尽管哈桑在抑郁了一段时间后，对阿米尔友好如初，阿米尔却因犯罪感驱使，无脸面对哈桑。为了让哈桑离开，他孤立哈桑，用石榴果打哈桑，甚至栽赃，说哈桑偷了自己的钱和手表。无奈之下，阿里只好带着哈桑离开了住了一辈子的

家。多年以后，哈桑在战乱中身亡，而阿米尔无比震惊地发现，他以为只是家里仆人儿子的哈桑，却是他同父异母的弟兄！小说的后半段写的是已经移民美国的阿米尔怎样重返故乡阿富汗，通过解救哈桑的儿子而赎罪，成就自己心灵救赎的故事。

读完后，我想：这世界上真有像

哈桑这样心甘情愿牺牲自己，成全他人的仆人吗？很快我就意识到，其实我们每个人的生活中都有一个这样替我们追风筝的人。在地上，是父母；在天上，是主耶稣基督。“哪知他为我们的过犯受害，为我们的罪孽压伤。因他受的刑罚我们得平安。因他受得鞭伤我们得医治（以赛亚书53:5）。”那个替我们追风筝的人，我们将何以为报？

## 患难生忍耐

林黄秀芬 ( Mary Lin )

星期五晚上的家庭查经，主题是苦难，里面有一段经节：“患难生忍耐，忍耐生老练，老练生盼望。”（罗马书第五章三至四节）。读了这段经节，突然在我心里有种灵感，要用我个人亲身经历过的苦难，做一个真实的见证，来与大家共勉，并荣耀神的名。

1980年正月，也就是7年前。在菲律宾的马尼拉市，我的丈夫因为长期的高血压，导致心脏衰竭，血管阻塞。经过医生检查后，发现随时有生命的危险。他的弟弟在美国是位外科名医，特

地赶回菲律宾接他赴美治疗，打算经过检查以后，就准备开刀做BY PASS的手术。

四月初，我接到他最后一封信。信里说他决定不打算开刀，因为这种手术很危险，而且又没有十分的把握会成功。只要好好休息，注意饮食，有足够的睡眠，按时吃药，不做剧烈的运动，应该不会有危险的。信里还讲了些教导孩子们要孝敬妈妈，不要让妈妈生气的话。他要我八月底到美国接他回去，回程可以顺便度假游玩几天。

前6月15日那天正是父亲节，我接到小



叔的长途电话，说我丈夫想家，一定要回去了。他要我四天后到机场来接他。我听了觉得很惊讶，为何不是我丈夫親自和我說話呢？就在這時候，我小姑走進我家，我發現他臉色蒼白，眼睛紅腫。我立刻猜到一定有事情發生了，我求她把實情告訴我。結果他哭了，他說我丈夫當天在花園挖土種花，突然暈倒在地。雖然救護車及時趕到，但送到醫院時已經離世了。神啊！你真的把他帶走了。我獨自坐在一邊，沒有說任何一句話，也不接受任何人來探訪。小兒子從學校回來，問媽媽為什麼這樣子？我說你沒有爸爸了。他呆了一會兒，把書包放下，跑進他爸爸的房間，見到他父親的毛毯，就抱頭大哭。我的心真是破碎了，心中有說不盡的苦楚，想不通為何神忍心把他帶走？世上為何有疾病呢？埋怨神為何給我這些苦難？

我晝夜不吃，也不睡，等了四天，我們全家一起到機場去接他們。九點鐘的飛機抵達馬尼拉機場。眼見小叔一人走下飛機，我覺得很心酸，想到當時我送他們倆上飛機，如今只剩下他一個人回來。我丈夫的遺體，由殯儀人員的車接到殯儀館。一副亮晶晶，好名貴，金黃色的銅棺出現在我面前。我站在它的前面等著開棺，我已全身無力，眼前一片模糊，快要暈倒。就在這瞬間，突然聽到他們叫道：“打不開

啊！”我突然清醒過來，就說：“請你們找一位比較有經驗的人來開光吧！”那人對我說：“太太，我在這裡工作已經15年了，開過這種銅棺有數百具了。像這種名貴的銅棺，鎖都是自動的，只要一開，四副鎖就會全打開的。你看不是已經開了三個鎖了嗎？奇怪！只有中間這一副打不開。”

從早上九點到下午4點，一直沒辦法打開它。這時候，我們全家的心情都比較平靜，也不那麼緊張了。我的大兒子走到我的身邊來，握著我的手，扶我坐下來，輕輕地在我的耳邊說：“媽！我有幾句話，一定得對你說。這些話像是有聲音告訴我要轉告給你。媽！你注意聽著。媽！自從你接到爸爸離開我們的消息以後，你不停的埋怨人和一切事物，你很爸爸不應該去美國；去了為何又不開刀。你恨叔叔不該來帶他去美國。你埋怨神，怪罪神為何帶走他。媽！你心裡充滿著恨。媽！我要求你現在就答應我，不再怪罪神，馬上向上帝認罪，求祂赦免你，你再也不怪任何人，也不再恨任何事情，你願意接受並順服神的安排。媽！你想想看，如果爸爸真的開刀，動手術，又沒有成功，結果變成殘廢，那他活著不是更痛苦嗎？媽！打開你的心門，全心全意接受神的旨意，順服祂。媽！相信我，只要你能做到這一點，爸爸就會打開來給我們見

他最後一面的。”

我聽到這些話，覺得好奇怪。那年這孩子才15歲，平常是個安靜，不愛講話的孩子，怎麼今天會說這麼多話來呢？我像是從夢里清醒過來，眼前显出一片亮光，心头好像落下一塊压在心裡好久好久的大石頭，我心覺得好輕鬆。我默默的禱告：“神啊！原諒我的過錯，我願意接受你的旨意，除去我心裡所有的怨恨，我要寬恕人。”就在這一刻，我聽到大家在叫銅棺打開了，“神啊！請你原諒我吧！”我覺得好平靜，於是慢慢走到丈夫面前，默默地看著他雙手握著四朵花，三朵白花代表他有三個兒子，一朵黃花代表他有一個女兒，雙手的位置正好在那打不開的鎖旁邊。真的是他拉著鎖不放嗎？我再也不哭了，因為我聽見到他的臉是那麼的安詳平靜，使我從內心深處感到無限的安慰。他是很快樂地被主接去的。我用手捋他的頭髮，對他默默的說：“你放心的去吧！本來我們是要一起走過這段人生的道路的，既然你已經太疲勞，走不動了，就半途停止。你放心休息吧！雖然留下還那麼長，又難走的一段路程，我相信有神與我同在並照顧下，祂會給我足夠的力量，使我能夠勇敢，忍耐地走過這段路。”這就是患難生能耐的第一段經節。

經過7年的時光，長久忍耐，面臨著世上一切苦難的過程，無論在事業上，在孩子的成长过程中，或在我感情方面，种种压力，磨练出我成为一个又勇敢又坚强的妇女，使我可以面对现实，解决任何苦難的困境。这是忍耐生老練的第二段經節。

忍耐造成老練的我，总算有了盼望。儿女成长了，已经有三个进了大学，一个高中快毕业，盼望他们学业完成，将来做个有为的青年，为社会人类服务，成家立业，我就满足了。这是第三段老練生盼望的經節。

神啊！感谢你，这一切的一切都是出于你，只求你再与我同在，带领我的子女早日信靠耶穌，接受你的救恩，将来也能专心服事主。我凭着信心，凭着祷告，愿神的灵能亲自做工，愿神的灵继续运行在我们每个人心中，愿你的灵光照耀我们，把一切榮耀都归与神。啊門。



# 我的哀哭变为跳舞

Cathy Liu

诗篇30

1 耶和華啊，我要尊崇你，因為你曾提拔我，不叫仇敵向我夸耀。

2 耶和華我的神啊，我曾呼求你，你医治了我。

...

11 你已將我的哀哭變為跳舞，將我的麻衣脫去，給我披上喜樂，

12 好叫我的靈歌頌你，并不住聲。耶和華我的神啊，我要稱謝你，直到永遠！

每当唱起由诗篇30编写的诗歌：“我的哀哭变为跳舞”时，心里就有对天父说不完的感恩的话语。

回顾我2016年1月由于工作压力和肾衰竭引起的严重的忧郁和焦虑症，在床上一病不起，直到今年7月又能重新站立起来独自生活，其间经历了跌倒，落入死荫的幽谷，灵性低落到谷底，昼夜无声地祷告祈求，认罪悔改，亲近神，靠主加给我的力量，重新站在属灵的磐石上，得着属天的平安，喜乐！一路走来虽然跌跌撞撞，心情跌宕起伏，但天父一直保守陪伴着我，从没有丢弃撇下我。天父派教会的于师母，

薛阿姨，周佩良大姐，姐妹团契，姐妹夜团契，感恩团契的弟兄姐妹以及身为基督徒的父，母，弟，妹，关心我，开导我，为我代祷。

在我卖掉房子需要找一个住房的时候，魏秀嫒姐妹接纳了我住在她家，这样我在心情低落的时候有了她可爱的四个孩子的陪伴。每天送当时9岁的Justin上学，每天教他写作业，孩子天真活泼可爱的话语总是逗得我开怀大笑。感谢天父为我预备了最适合我康复的家庭，让我安居三年，把Justin从9岁带到12岁，我的忧郁症也得到了天父完全的医治。



在我可以独立生活之时，神又让

我买到了心仪的小公寓，我又有了自己的家。李牧师与师母亲自来我家探访并为我做祝福祷告。沈玲姐妹做为我的属灵伙伴也时时为我代祷并鼓励我。在我卧室的墙上挂着“Footprints”，其中有一段写着：“My precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints in the sand it was then that I carried you.” 每每读到这里我都会热泪盈眶！

现在我虽然每周要肾透析三次，不能上班，但天父供应了我生活，医疗所需要的一切。马太福音6:26 “你们看那天上的飞鸟，也不种也不收，也不积蓄在仓里，你们的天父尚且养活它，你们不比飞鸟贵重得多吗？” 神的话语真是一句都不会落空！

以前常听基督徒说：“每一个苦难背后都是化了妆的祝福！” 我一直想不明白苦难怎么可能变成祝福呢？现在回望自己这三年半来走过的人生轨迹，才真正理解并亲身体会了这句话，同时

也正在并且会一生体验属天的平安与喜乐！约翰福音16:33 “我将这些事告诉你们，是要叫你们在我里面有平安。在世上你们有苦难，但你们可以放心，我已经胜了世界。”

由于身体的病痛，我还要继续接受透析，换肾以及之后重返职场等等的挑战，但是我有神！

正如“Whom Shall I Fear” 诗歌中唱到的：“You crush the enemy Underneath my feet  
You are my sword and shield Though troubles linger still Whom shall I fear I know who goes before me I know who stands behind The God of angel armies Is always by my side The one who reigns forever He is a friend of mine The God of angel armies Is always by my side。”

是的，我们有创造宇宙万物的唯一真神做我们的天父，良友，还要惧谁呢？！

哈利路亚，荣耀归于万王之王，万主之主！

# Love People, Love God - My First PBL Experience

Alena Zhang

Our church has been participating Philadelphia Brother Love (PBL), a one-week long summer service camp in Philadelphia, for three years. PBL serves the community of Philadelphia by maintaining the streets of the city and helping the homeless and needy. The high school youth that participated in the past always came back with stronger faith and fond memories, so I could hardly wait for my time to go. Finally, in this past summer, I became a rising high school freshman and I was eligible to attend. You can imagine how anxious and excited I was waiting for PBL to begin.

At PBL, we started each day with morning devotions to keep our spirit strong. Afterwards we trekked to our destination to work with various non-profit organizations. At the end of the day, we sang hymns, studied God's word, and reflected our daily activities and thoughts through prayers.

On Monday and Wednesday, we worked with MANNA, an organization that packages free and healthy meals and delivers them to several counties in Philly and NJ for people who lack nutrition due to serious illness. In the kitchen, we formed an assembly line to pack chicken burgers and salmon cakes. After we bagged hundreds of patties, each of us switched roles within our group to change things up and add efficiency. Although hours of standing up and putting together burgers was tedious, the ending was a sweet one. Rows upon rows of food were packaged and organized

because of our hard work. By gritting our teeth and continuing to work, at the end of the day, we packed one thousand plus meals that will be important nutrients for the patients' recovery.

On Monday and Tuesday, we went to the Chinatown Center and weeded around the trees along the street. This task, although seemingly small, was very tiring. Clods of dirt flew into the air as we vigorously pulled out weeds. Cigarette butts, broken soda bottles, food wrappers, etc. were also picked up along the way. Bugs buzzed frantically around us and our clothes were soaked with sweat. Even though it was mercilessly hot, we still forged on. Through three hours of hard work, the dirt squares were grass and trash free. Yes, pulling the weeds and picking up trash were a small matter, but did they neaten up a part of the city? Absolutely. Through this experience, I became more patient and appreciative for the daily work others do to keep the community clean.

On Thursday, we served through Whosoever Gospel Mission, a Christian nonprofit organization, which took in 55 homeless men and provided work experience and all their needs. There, we sorted the donations of used clothing for their thrift shop. Although the giant piles of clothes and shoes seemed intimidating, we steadily worked through all of the bags assigned to us. Not only was volunteering work about serving, it was also about the experience. The people in my group added laughter to the daunting tasks we had and we encouraged one another to keep going.



On Friday, we volunteered at Chosen300. This organization served food to the homeless and also provided them with chapel and ministry services. Our group mopped floors, sorted canned food, and cleaned chairs for the organization's facility. After working steadily as a team, our group of nine people finished our task half an hour earlier.

Throughout these five days at PBL, none of our daily tasks were easy. Although they took a lot of physical strength, the end results were completely worth it. Seeing an

overgrown area pruned carefully, stack upon stack of packaged food going out to the needy, and the service facility squeaky clean is the best feeling in the world. Without God's love, I would have given up easily from the harsh environment and tough tasks. Each day I have to be filled with God's love first before serving others willingly in the midst of heat, dirt and weariness. We didn't do those services for our own honor and glory - we did it because we love people and love God.



# 青少年夏日年读书会简报

*by Ashley Cao, Grace Fang, Rebecca Hu, Erin Li,  
Katherine Li, Crystal Yeh, and Alena Zhang*

今夏的青少年读书会顺利举行。今年我们的主题是关于知名基督徒和知名基督徒慈善机构。孩子们选择感兴趣的**主题**，上网查找相关资料，最后用**google slides**作报告，并回答大家提出的问题。

这次我们青少年们选择的人物和相关慈善机构是：

## 彭柯丽(Corrie ten Boom) 1892 – 1983

彭柯丽和她姊姊、父亲住在荷兰的哈林，照管一家钟表店。全家人敬虔度日，过着简单的生活。他们一家是属于荷兰归正宗教会的。

后来二战来临，德国人占领了哈林市。**1942年**，一个犹太妇人敲响他们家的门寻求庇护。从此他们一家人加入了藏匿、拯救犹太人的行动。那些年他们帮助犹太人有将近**800人**。

彭柯丽的名言节选：

- Let God's promises shine on your problems.”
- “There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still.”

- “Happiness isn't something that depends on our surroundings; it's something we make inside ourselves.”
- “Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden.”
- “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

## 迪特里希·朋霍费尔 (德语：Dietrich Bonhoeffer) 1906 – 1945

神学家，牧师，和作家。认信教会成员之一，出生在德国**布雷斯劳**。朋霍费尔著作讨论纳粹独裁带来的问题。他曾经参加在德国反对**纳粹主义**的抵抗运动。因同伴计划刺杀希特勒失败，朋霍费尔在**1943年3月**被捕，并于希特勒自杀前**22天**被绞死。他在狱中的信札、祷文、诗歌及杂感被集结成《狱中书简》。

朋霍费尔的名言节选：

- If you board the wrong train, it is no use running along the corridor in the other direction.
- The ultimate test of a moral society is the kind of world that it leaves to its children.

- We must learn to regard people less in light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer.
- Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility.
- Only he who believes is obedient and only he who is obedient believes.
- God's truth judges created things out of love, and Satan's truth judges them out of envy and hatred.
- To endure the cross is not tragedy; it is the suffering which is the fruit of an exclusive allegiance to Jesus Christ.

### 鲁益师 (C S Lewis) 1898 – 1963

鲁益师出生于北爱尔兰首府贝尔法斯特，是英国知名作家、诗人及护教家。他以儿童文学作品《纳尼亚传奇》而闻名于世。鲁益师出生于新教徒家庭中。但是15岁时，因为看到世上的诸多不公他开始不相信上帝。在他好友另一知名作家 J·R·R·托尔金互 (Lord of the Rings 的作者，天主教徒) 的帮助下，他重拾信仰。

#### Lewis's faith

Over the course of Lewis's life, he went through many stages of faith. At a young age (15), he stopped believing there was a God, but through a friend, he was able to answer his doubts and come to Christianity. Later, he wrote book that alluded to Christianity and brought many people to faith, including his wife. C. S. Lewis's journey of faith is inspiring and teaches us to search for answers to our doubts towards God.

### 南丁格尔 (Florence Nightingale) 1820 – 1910

南丁格尔生于意大利佛罗伦萨的英国上流

社会家庭。她蒙上帝呼招从事护士工作。由于南丁格尔的贡献，让昔日地位低微的护士，社会地位与形象都大为提高，成为崇高的象征。“南丁格尔”也成为护士精神的代名词。

#### Nightingale's Faith

- Baptized in the Church of England in Florence
- Regularly read and studied the Bible
- Nightingale believed God created the world and ran its laws
- She believed God wants us to act and reflect God's glory to the world by making it better, rather than praise Him.
- Life of prayer was required to support active work.

### 贝萨妮·哈密尔顿 (Bethany Hamilton) 1990-

哈密尔顿出身于美国夏威夷。美国职业冲浪运动员。2003年13岁的哈密尔顿遭受鲨鱼袭击，失去左手。之后她重返职业冲浪生涯。2004年，哈密尔顿出版自传《心灵冲浪者，一个关于信仰，家庭，和重回职业运动生涯的真是故事》一书记录自己的经历。2001年同名电影上映。

#### Hamilton Stayed Faithful

Even in the toughest situations, Bethany Hamilton stayed faithful. During the shark attack, she barely cried and was calm, because she knew that God was in control and she would be okay. Letting God guide her allowed her to overcome what seemed impossible. Despite the trauma of the accident she returned to surfing. She never gave up on what she was passionate about, and was grateful that she could be accepted

for  
who she is and her faith in God. Bethany believes that having good friends that encourage you to stay truthful to God and not pull you away from him is very important, but you also have to shine the light as God's children to other non believers.

## 世界宣明会 (World Vision) 1950-

是一个基督教国际救援及发展机构，目前在全球约100个国家或地区工作。世界宣明会透过开展儿童为本区域发展项目、救灾及重建、教育、医疗卫生、农林环保、孤儿及有特殊需要的儿童服务，以及城市事工等发展项目，协助贫穷人摆脱贫穷，达致自力更生及持续发展。



Helped 16 million total people during  
natural disasters Brought clean water  
too4,000,000 people Served 317  
communities (15 graduated)

## 保罗·班德 (Paul Brand) 1914- 2003

保罗·班德(Paul Brand)世界级著名手部外科和麻疯病专家。他是第一位外科医生认识到麻风病不是造成病人皮肤组织的腐烂的原因，而是麻风病使病人失去疼痛感，

使得其容易受伤而引起的。除此以外，他还出版多本关于医学或是信仰的书籍。这其中有《Clinical Mechanics of the Hand》，《The Gift of Pain》(与杨腓力合写)，和《God's forever feast.》

## 班德的名言节选

“I have sometimes wondered why Jesus so frequently touched the people he healed, many of whom must have been unattractive, obviously diseased, unsanitary, smelly. With his power, he easily could have waved a magic wand. In fact, a wand would have reached more people than a touch. He could have divided the crowd into affinity groups and organized his miracles--paralyzed people over there, feverish people here, people with leprosy there--raising his hands to heal each group efficiently, en masse. But he chose not to. Jesus' mission was not chiefly a crusade against disease (if so, why did he leave so many unhealed in the world and tell followers to hush up details of healings?), but rather a ministry to individual people, some of whom happened to have a disease. He wanted those people, one by one, to feel his love and warmth and his full identification with them. Jesus knew he could not readily demonstrate love to a crowd, for love usually involves touching.”

“Previously I had thought of pain as a blemish of creation, God's one great mistake. Tommy Lewis taught me otherwise. Seen from his point of view, pain stands out as an extraordinary feat of engineering valuable beyond measure.”



## 哈爾濱短宣見證

曹嘟嘟

爷爷奶奶们好，叔叔阿姨们，你们好，我叫曹嘟嘟。今年暑假我和爸爸妈妈一起去了中国东北短宣。

其实我开始不想要去中国，因为我觉得我没法看见弟弟和朋友们，就会很难过，而且很孤单，并且我听说到中国之后，倒时差特别难。后来我想到圣经诗篇46：1写道：“神是我们的避难所，是我们的力量，是我们在患难中随时的帮助。”所以我就放心的踏上了短宣之路。

在东北，每次去教会，看到叔叔阿姨们为主勤勤恳恳的，踏踏实实的做事情就让我感到神的同在。有一天，我们去一个老年公寓为他们办一个布道会，我们跟他们一起唱诗歌，牧师给他们讲道还有作见证，他们看着特别感动和喜乐，我非常感动的是有些爷爷奶奶还信主了！

在我们住的地方，旁边有一个蛋糕店，里面的蛋糕看着很可爱，我特别想吃，但是因为每天早上需要5点钟起来参加教会活动，蛋糕店还没有开门，晚上11点才回到住处，蛋糕店也关门了，所以总是没有办法去。开始我非常难过，但是我想到要为主做事情，常常要放弃自己想要的。

妈妈爸爸要去农村的一家教会参加培灵会，就把我留给师母照顾，牧师的女儿和我的年龄只差了一岁，所以我们在一起玩的很好，她们也带我去了很多地方玩，那是爸爸妈妈都没时间带我去的地方。感谢主，祂会看顾我们每一个人，不会把我们孤零零的撇下。

短宣结束了，但我非常喜欢那里，喜欢那里的教会，也喜欢教会里的叔叔阿姨，爷爷奶奶，我也跟爸爸妈妈说了，明年我还要回来。我也希望我的朋友们能和他们的爸爸妈妈一起参加短宣。



# Baptism Testimony

Angelina Li

My name is Angelina Li, I am 13 years old, and this is my testimony. When I was four years old, my family and I started to attend Ashland Church in Voorhees. My mom had gone to church when she was younger, but stopped when she came to America. Our neighbors had invited us to go, and we decided to give it a try. During Sunday Service at that church, the children stayed for worship and praise, and when the time for the message began, they were ushered out into a room where they would do fun activities. I used to always want to go there, not because I was motivated to learn more about God, but because I wanted to play with my friends. I looked forward to eating snacks, watching movies, playing games, singing songs, and coloring. I didn't pay much attention when the teacher taught about the Bible. The repetitive lessons bored me. It was all about the fun and games, and this continued on for about four more years.

However, in fifth grade, my parents told me that we were going to attend to another church, this church, nearby instead. We went the next week, and liked it. We decided that we wanted to attend this church more often, and started to go almost every week. My brothers and I began to go to youth group on Fridays as well. Again, I only went because of the games and to hang out with my friends. It wasn't until the middle of seventh grade did I really start to listen to the messages that were taught. I realized that I didn't truly understand who God was at that time, and I suddenly had the urge to want to learn more. I started to pay more attention to the sermons

the pastors gave during youth group and Sunday Service. I began to read the Bible and pray more often. I remember the exact moment during praise night at the QFL retreat when I was going through a rough time in my life, when I realized that God was always there, with us, protecting us. That night was the night I knew that I could count on Him to always be there and listen to me through anything.

As I went to more and more retreats and opportunities that were offered to us such as the youth retreat at Refreshing Mountain, Quest for Life, and VBS, my faith started to grow. My family and friends encouraged me, offered continuous support, and reminded me of God's plan and that God is always in control no matter what. Through all of this, I learned about what it truly meant to have a personal walk with God. I have now decided that I want to take the next step and accept Christ and let Him take control of my life. I want to always remember to Trust in Him and remember His plan whenever and wherever I am. I will try to set aside a quiet time with God to study His word, pray daily, and be thankful for everything that I have been blessed with. Ever since I made the choice to receive him and grow in my faith, I have found a new purpose to life. To love as He loved. To forgive as He does. To obey Him. I know that I am and always will be a sinner, that I will always mess up again and again, but I know that Jesus is my Lord and Savior. He died on the cross for our sins, and through God's grace I have been saved. Thank you for listening.

# Baptism Testimony

Fred Yi

Hello, my name is Fred Yi and I am currently 17 years old. When I was raised my parents never really talked about religion. They didn't send me to a church or went to church themselves either. It was like this until around 4th grade where my good friend Richard invited me to come to church with him. I went having many questions as to what exactly church was, and what people did there. I was at first really confused by what they were learning about and these things they talked about. For the next year, I went to church but only went to hang out with friends and have fun and did not feel like learning about the

lord. I then stopped going to church around middle school and was on and off with it for several years. Then one day, I heard about a retreat called Quest For Life. I was not so sure what this was but I was excited to go as a lot of my friends were. When I went to the retreat, something clicked in me and I felt as if God called me to go to quest in order to gain faith. I wanted to learn more about him after the retreat was over. I then started to go to church again more often as well as starting to actually go not to hang out with friends, but to learn about God.

# Baptism Testimony

Angelina Wang

When I first moved to Cherry Hill in 3rd grade, I came to this church. I didn't really know why I was here or what this place even was. The first person I met here was Grace Liu. I remember how welcoming she was and how kind she was to be with me through the day. However, after 2 weeks I stopped going to church for the next 2 years.

In 5th grade, my dad wanted to come to church, and so I decided to come with him. Again, it was on and off. When I heard that the 5th graders were moving up to Youth group I thought it would be fun, so I started to come more often because of that. There, I met so many new people that I could call my friends today, but I was never able to focus on anything about God. I would sit in service and Sunday school and just think about my

life outside of church. I was in the deepest Valleys of my life and I didn't even realize at that time. I wasn't listening to anything that was being spoken. I read words on a screen but never meant any of them. I didn't pray or read the Bible.

The event that woke me up inside and decided I wanted to get baptized was GJam 2018. Again, I didn't know what to expect at first. But that night I felt something. Something that I had never experienced before. I could feel the holy spirit come into the congregation. I could fill its presence into every single one of our bodies. I started to sing loudly, not giving a care in the world. Usually, I always had a hard time focusing during worship and the songs to me were just words that don't mean much. However,

during that night it all changed. I finally could focus, and began to understand the reason why everyone was there and the purpose. I also began to gain a deeper meaning of God. The words on the screen became deeper, and I wasn't just singing, I was praising. Everyone always talks about their one on one time with God. I never understood it before, but at that moment I realized that that time of worship was my one on one. During that moment, I felt like it was just God and me, alone and without any sort of distraction. Then I started to get out of this mindset of "I'm just in church" and began to really try to understand the things that were discussed in church. I started to pay more attention during service and Sunday school.

The last thing that I experienced that pushed me to baptism was VBS. Although it was only for a week, I got to see that VBS wasn't just "watching kids" but this was me serving for God. I realized that we are planting the seeds of God in them. Seeing the kids so happy and learning about God was just such an amazing thing. I saw many differences in the kids from the first day of VBS to the last. I can recall that many kids were very shy on the first day, and they didn't want to be there. However, something happened and they became happier as the days and weeks had gone by. It was eye-opening for me to witness the little things that God was working in them, like their changes and attitudes. Even just getting them to talk was amazing. Seeing them so happy and so full of joy, I could see that the seed of God be planted and growing.

I don't think I have a drastic change. I started coming to church on my own will. I started to pray more not only for tests or desires but also to give grace and thanks for everything.

Also, I started to pray for and with my friends during lunch at school. It was surprising at first because they're all atheists. I prayed for their grades and loved ones. Seeing them willing to pray with me shows the Holy Spirit working in them. Till this day we pray every day. Finally, the Holy Spirit is working in me to share the gospel. Today I am able to pray for my friends and explain the word. As well as who God is. I don't really know what's to come for me after Baptism and committing myself to Christ. I believe that in the future even if I'm in my valleys I'll be called back to God. Instead of jumping to conclusions of situations and people, I'll see that they're a child of God going through trouble and hardship. Instead of turning my back to God when times get rough, I'll turn toward him and pray. I'll begin to pray for everyone when I see them going through a hard time. I think that's what I expect to occur after this. Although I still have doubts about everything and have trouble with understanding a lot of things, understand that even though I still sin I'm loved regardless. Understanding I am allowed to have doubts. Sometimes doubting my identity and who I am as a person. I doubt my faith in Christ and just ask the question "Why?" a lot. Even though those things will still happen to me, I know that God will call me back. It might take time but all I have to do is be patient and wait. I've been writing this whole testimony on the bus. I realize now what it means. It represents all the distractions in life. The people. The loud noises. And the bumps in the road. However, with God, he calmed my heart and put my mind in rest to focus solely on him. In a circumstance when I'm crowded with distractions, I have to let God take control of my life and turn to him for he will know what to do.

# Baptism Testimony

Carsten Liu

Hi, my name is Carsten Liu, I am 13 years old and have lived in Moorestown for around one and a half years. Being born into a Christian family, I was always familiar with daily prayer several times each day, basic Bible knowledge, and weekly attendance to church, but I always just saw these things as chores and church as a meeting place for friends. For the first part of my life, I didn't realize the actual importance of our religion, as I had always seen it as unnecessary and just something that took up a lot of my weekends. In addition to church, we had a Friday program called Awana. During this program, we learned Bible lessons and memorized verses. However, instead of actually focusing on the messages, I just wanted to memorize the most verses and be the top of the class. But a few years before we moved, I decided that I should become more focused in church and actually take in the information and messages that they were teaching us, so that I would enjoy going to church more. By doing this, I was motivated to actually pay greater attention in church. As a result, I started participating a lot more in Sunday school by answering questions and being involved with the lessons, which helped expand my knowledge of the Bible. I also began to help set up the projector and sound system for the Cantonese congregation. My relationship with God gradually grew and became more personal. After this, everything seemed to go quite smoothly. Then sixth grade came around, and thanks to God it wasn't very difficult for me to settle in middle school, I formed new friendships with people from other elementary schools in my town and I had pretty good grades. However, near the end of the school year my sister told me that we were moving to another state in the middle

of spring. At first, I thought that she wasn't serious since this seemed like the type of stuff that would only happen in movies, but later when my parents confirmed this, I was very disappointed. Soon later, I felt as if life was never the same, my grades declined, I didn't talk to some of my friends as much, and I started to drift farther away from God, this trend continued for a while. Finally, in the summer of 2017, we began our move, I was a bit excited but mostly nervous. For the first week here, it was difficult trying to settle in. I was much more socially awkward and I didn't want to talk to anyone. I was mad at my parents for moving and already hated New Jersey. But fortunately, this actually helped connected me to God more, as I started to pray to God for help and guidance. Then my prayers were answered, I gradually started to make friends and I eventually started to settle in. Then over a holiday break, we visited West Hartford. Of course, I was very glad to finally be back in my hometown, and I had a good time hanging out with my friends. However, after returning back to Moorestown, I was very sad and missed West Hartford greatly. I eventually got over it but I still do feel an aching feeling which I can't quite describe. We also looked at two churches, this church and a church in Philadelphia, but we decided on this one because there was more youth, so I'm pretty happy about that decision. Even though my relationship with God was improving, for quite a while I didn't choose to socialize with anyone in church, I still didn't like the church since I was too sad about moving away from our old church in Connecticut. Once the first year of school ended, over summer with some of my old church friends I attended RBGY Camp, a one week long Christian sleepaway camp. At first, I didn't

want to go because of my unsteady relationship with God at the time and my dislike of sleepaway camps, but after my friends kept insisting on me joining them, I decided that it was right for me to go. During the camp, we played team games and had outdoor activities, while also having church services and bible study classes, which familiarized me with God again and taught me how important he was in my life. After, attending the camp, I felt closer to God and I wasn't angry at him anymore. I was reminded that instead of pushing God away in difficult situations, I should be asking for help from him and think of every challenging situation as his way of guiding me down the right path. Now I feel a lot more comfortable

in Moorestown, I have made a lot of new friendships and I have gotten over the fact that we have moved. I also try to listen to my parents a lot more and I don't get as easily frustrated anymore. Thank you for listening to my testimony.



## Baptism Testimony

Chinne Dai

If you're in a hurry, you may not worry about leaving the house wearing a stained shirt or mismatched socks, without brushing your hair or putting on makeup. But what if other people could see beyond your physical appearance and look at your insecurities, pride, shame, or malicious thoughts?

Those are the kinds of things our society urges you to cover up. After a while, you create masks to hide your true thoughts and feelings and present an image you hope will prove your worth. The longer you wear your masks, the more comfortable they feel. "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light." (Second Corinthians chapter 11 verse 14) But you can't enjoy healthy relationships unless you remove the masks and show others who you really are. My name is Chinne Dai and I will be sharing

my testimony with all of you.

I've been a Christian for my entire life. I knew there was a God, and I knew there was a heaven. I knew we had to pray before we eat, and I knew all the cool stories. But I didn't really think much about it. I believed it, sure, except I wasn't sure why I was even doing this stuff.

It all started in the school year of 2014 to 2015. It was my first year of fifth grade and I'm in a new school, new environment. Fast forward a couple of months, I'm made some nice friends and had a little group. At least I thought they were nice. Now that I think back on it, they weren't the nicest friends out there. They would always point out all my flaws and make me feel uncomfortable. Because of this, I tried so hard to "fit in" with my so-called friend group that I even sinned



on purpose. I couldn't be myself all day. In fact, I got lost with trying to fit in with my surroundings and I didn't know who I was anymore. I kept on changing until the point I acted exactly like everyone in the group. I laughed at the same thing they laughed at, I said the same things they said, I would also try to get the same exact clothes they had. Church resulted in being the only place where I could truly be myself.

Then, the summer of 2014. The head pastor suggested that we should go to a stay away camping trip. On a placid lake in upstate New York, was Pilgrim Camp. Miles from civilization, and away from my distracting friends. Everyone there was a strong believer in Christ. Two weeks seems like a short period of time, but those two weeks have changed my life.

Every day, we would go learn about the bible. It was there where I learned about taking my mask off. Everyone, including me, was in tears because of the touching lessons that Sister Caroline had just taught. It touched me so much, I even felt the presence of our Savior with us. Sister Caroline had revealed that masks keep some of your aspects from God. I left the main cabin, in awe of what just happened. It was only a few minutes later when I noticed this was meant to be. Jesus brought me here for a reason. So, day after day, I started noticing that being myself, would make my life generally more relaxed.

When school began the next year, I realized

that I should forgive all of my friends. They are kids after all. They didn't mean to hurt me. Even when they said some mean things, I still need to forgive and still love them. This is what God commands us to. So, every day, bit by bit, I began to forgive all of my friends, take off my mask, and become so much closer to God. I still know that right now, I'm still flawed with my identity issue. But I know that God is standing right beside me, helping me through it.

Everybody is not perfect. That's just the way we are, we're all sinners. Just remember that our Lord, our Savior - Jesus Christ - is always with you and he will protect you. Just like he protected me, from becoming too stressed out about putting a mask on. He helped me learn how to take it off instead. Thank you, Sister Caroline. Thank you, God. And of course, Thank you, everybody, here at church. I also have to thank my friends, at school, not only have they made me become stronger but has strengthened my relationship with God too.

Somedays I think to myself, why did I even put on a mask on the first place? Well, the answer came when I was writing this: wearing a mask protects me from emotional vulnerability. I feared that if I stand tall and exposed, I'll be "weak" in some way. But when you wear a mask you stand in resistance to your true life and end up attracting realities that conflict with who you really are.

This is my testimony, thank you for listening.

# Baptism Testimony

Ethan Lam

Hello! My name is Ethan Lam and this is my testimony. I first started going to church when I was about 6 years old. Even though I had attended the children's ministry, I did not enjoy going to church. I felt that it was just another activity that my grandparents and parents made me go to. Eventually, my weekends filled up with other activities and I did not go to church as often as I have before. I had attended a few Sunday services here and there, but I felt the messages were boring and did not think too deeply of them.

When I was 11, I had received my first phone on the condition that I would start going to church. When I started attending Sunday service again, I felt like an outsider and I knew nobody in the church. After a couple months of going to church, I had stopped attending the Sunday service. However, I had experienced an awakening when I was discussing the purpose of going to church with some friends of mine. I said that it was to make friends and hang out with them. After I said that, 3 of my friends immediately corrected me and had said that the purpose of going to church was to worship and learn about God and that making friends was another benefit. I believe that if I never met these three, I would not be standing here today. After this conversation, I began to view church more seriously and developed an urge to begin establishing my faith. I felt that those words were not the words of my friends, but the words of God spoken through my friends.

Although this event had sparked up my interest to know Christ, there had been two events that motivated me to get baptized at this point in my life. The first event had been at Quest for Life. During Quest for Life, I

learned about the love that God has for every single individual, and how we can and should rely on him for everything. It was there that I first learned how to pray. Although I had heard others pray in Sunday service and Sunday school, I never knew how to pray for myself and had never prayed deeply to God. It was at Quest For Life that I first spoke with God. On the last night, we worshiped together after people shared their testimonies of how they came to know Christ. I felt the Holy Spirit come inside of me when we sang those praise songs to God, and seeing how those around me poured out their soul when worshipping God. I became extremely motivated and passionate for God. Not only did I have an urge to learn more about God, but I also had an urge to love the Lord and just appreciate everything that he has done for me. The second event occurred at a Christian summer camp called Pilgrim Camp. Even though the messages were powerful and extremely meaningful, the most influential part for me had been campfire night when my group sat around a fire and talked about our faith and God. At that campfire, my friend Francisco Ramone shared his testimony. His testimony had been about the demons in his lives that had continued to harass his family. After we put out the campfire, my cabin was extremely terrified after we heard his testimony. The fact that the camp was located in the middle of the woods in the dark only added to our fear. That night we prayed for peace and protection from literal demons that could have harmed us during the night, and I had learned yet another valuable lesson in my faith. If you truly love and believe in Jesus, he will protect you from all the demons—literally and figuratively.

An important verse from the Bible which stills gives me hope whenever I look back to these stories is Deuteronomy 31:8 “He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” This verse has helped me keep my head high in my faith towards the Lord, who provides nourishment for all of his children. I see God as my father that I can go to for guidance and love. His infinite love has lifted me from the depths of despair into his holy kingdom. A moment of despair had been one night, about a month ago, when I was facing extreme pressure due to the high amount of homework assigned and many upcoming tests. On top of this, I had also worked very late the previous night, and I was extremely tired and felt sick the entire day. Then, out of nowhere I had begun to cry. I could not stop despite the multitudinous things I had tried on my own. I sat on my bed feeling powerless and weak. After a while of trying to deal with my problems on my own, I prayed to God to heal my sickness and give me strength and endurance to finish all my homework and study for all my tests. That night had turned into one of the most productive nights in my life. My sickness had been completely healed. My homework and studying had been completed, and I still had the time and energy to write this testimony. In fact, I had felt re-energized and more alive than I have ever felt. That night, I prayed once more before going to bed, giving thanks to my Father in Heaven. That night was the night which truly made me turn to Christ for I had first handedly experienced the miracles God can perform.

I have now proclaimed that Jesus Christ is my savior. For I have committed my life to follow his teachings. I am excited to see what my future holds for me as a follower of Christ. My transition to Christ had been from

a kid, obsessed with the world and its sins, to a young man, who has learned to have a childlike dependence upon our heavenly father. After my awakening, I have taken the time to speak to individuals in my life about God and the miracles that he can perform. How as a loving Father, he provides for his children. How he is forgiving and will welcome anyone who truly believes and loves him into his holy kingdom. Not only do I have an urge to share the gospel, but I also feel the urge of self-improvement for God. I have made it a daily routine to make time for praying to God and spending time with him, just as a friend would do. However, I could not have made it to this stage of my life without my family. I would like to thank my family; this includes both my family by blood and my family by faith.

Thank you to my family by blood, for supporting and encouraging me throughout my wavering journey in coming to know God. Thank you to my family by faith, for teaching and leading me toward Christ. Lastly, and most importantly, I thank the Lord for introducing all these absolutely amazing people into my life, I thank the Lord for accepting me into his family of beautiful believers, and I thank the Lord for leaving the ninety-nine to save the one wandering soul.

Thank You



# Baptism Testimony

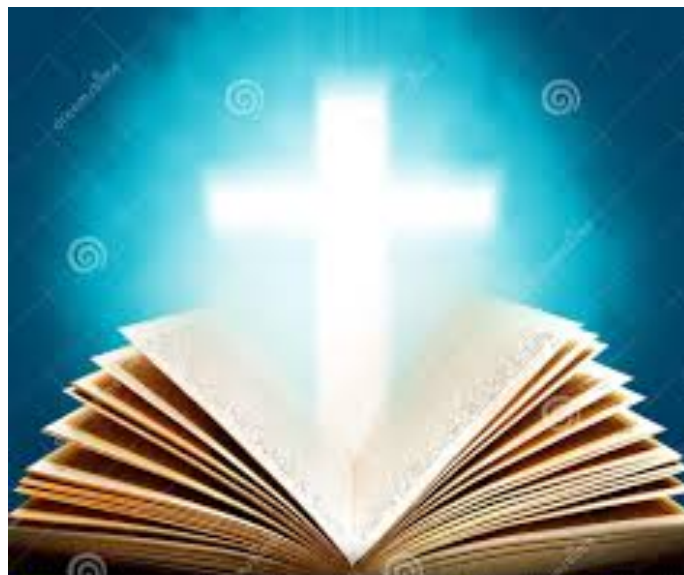
Grace Liu

Hello, my name is Grace Liu and this is my testimony. I am currently 13 years old and I am in eighth grade. I was born into a Christian family and I have three older sisters. As the youngest, I was very spoiled and always being taken care of, which made me a really immature child (so I apologize to my sisters who had to put up with me). Therefore, I never really took the time to learn what was important because I lived in a world where everything was done for me. After my two oldest sisters left for college, many things changed so I had to learn to take care of myself and grow up. With this in mind, my behavior at home affected my place in church. In the past, I've never really thought of church as someplace special. Growing up in a church community helped introduce me to God, but after years of attending church, it became an ordinary routine just like school and other activities. And so, for a long time, church became a place I go to see my friends and because my parents go there, I had no choice. Then, in the sixth grade, I entered youth group. Youth group was a big transition. From children's ministry to a bigger community was so overwhelming I couldn't tell if I was excited or intimidated. I thought, "Okay, this is where it gets serious so I have to try my best not make a fool of myself." This was a horrible concept I had in mind and therefore I was trying to become someone I was not. Looking back at this, I realized even after leaving the children ministry and entering into a much more serious community, I was still blind to who Christ really was. I remember at the end of my sixth-grade year, I became so lost of this approach of who God is and what He meant to me. I was like this for about a year and I had enough of it. Then

this one particular night made me feel empty and lost. I was so stressed from school and personal problems that I started to break down because I felt so burdened and tired. For the first time, I cried with confusion and actually took the time to talk with God. This was my real first connection I've encountered with Christ and it felt as if the Holy Spirit inside me suddenly triggered. It was a difficult feeling to explain at first and it still is but this was definitely a life changing moment. Then, there was QFL 17. The Quest for Life I attended this past year was one of the main reasons I decided to commit my life to Christ. It was especially this year because of the messages made by our invited pastor and the late Sunday night where everyone was just pouring their hearts out to God. Forgetting about the people around me or how they would think of me, that night, I let everything out. The pastor told us to pray aloud and I had no shame in doing so whereas if I was attending a normal youth group night, I could barely volunteer to open or close prayer. This something I'm still struggling with now, but with the constant memory of the brokenness around me, that night sets as a reminder on how much I've changed and that I should not feel shame in what I believe and feel. In Romans 1:16 it says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." Throughout this long time period of me waiting for an open baptism classes, I was happy with myself and I was willing to learn about the gospel. But I would be lying if I said that there weren't any bumps along my journey. I've had to focus on school and go through a lot of family issues where sometimes I just wanted to push God away.

It's ironic because when you're on a spiritual high, it seems as if nothing in the world could separate you from God, yet when you wait for a period of time and add some distractions, you could see how such a holy and committed person can turn away and become distracted from God. Now, not everybody may relate to this, but this was definitely something that happened to me and it's incredible that God is willing to forgive us every single time. Now, my spiritual level and understanding of the true word of God has definitely changed, but that doesn't mean I know everything just yet. My

journey with God has just begun, and that's when I have committed my life to Him and stand as a witness for Christ. I still struggle and I still sin and drift away from God, but being able to talk with the youth leaders and read the Word reassured me that I'm going to be okay. The Lord has changed me and I've never felt more loved and protected by Him. He tells me that I am not alone and that he is the light of the world. With him, all things are possible. "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." - Philippians 4:13. Thank you for listening to my testimony.





# Baptism Testimony

Ian Lam

My name is Ian Lam and I was born on October 2nd, 2006. I've been at this church for 2 to 3 years and I want to get closer to god. For about all my life until the age of 9, I have been an atheist and never cared about god. When I was younger, the only reason I went to church was because my brother dragged me into it. The reason I didn't go was because I thought it was boring and pointless and I thought I would never change. When people asked if I was Christian, I said yes even though I was lying to them and myself. At school, I thought that the rules of Christianity didn't apply and cursed a lot. Then when my brother started going to youth on Friday, he dragged me into it. After going for a while, it became a habit and I started



enjoying church and Friday youth. I started understanding the messages and took them to heart. When my brother started going on retreats, I never went and always stayed home, when he came home, he would tell me how awesome it was and that I was missing out on a lot of things. Then, fast forward to 2019, when I heard about DVJYR, I decided to go and to have the experience just to see what it was like and hangout with some friends. After going to DVJYR, I felt a connection to god. I felt that I wanted to get closer to god, and to take my faith to the next level and overall, wanted to be a better Christian. A couple weeks later, I was losing that kind of connection that I really wanted and started turning back into my old self the one who cursed a lot and didn't think about god. I really didn't want to go back to my old self. I didn't know a solution to my problem of changing back to my old self until I found baptism class. When I attended baptism class, I didn't think I was ready and only went to try it out, and see what it was like. Then, after going to a few lessons on Sunday, I finally realized that I truly wanted to grow closer to God and have a better connection with him. I now accept Christ as my personal savior, and believe Jesus died at the cross for my sins. I want to change to get closer to god. A change I started to make was starting to pray more often and include god in my decisions. I'm looking forward to making my faith in god better and improving my faith in Christianity. I'm starting to pray more and listen more to the bible. Thank you for listening to my testimony.

# Baptism Testimony

Raine Guidarelli

Hi. My name is Raine Guidarelli. I grew up in a passionate Christian family. My mom and dad are both strong believers. I sort of just figured that all this church stuff was for everybody else. I remember a long time ago, we would have a bible reading every day at night. I read the stories and prayed, but I just pictured it as another one of my fictional books that I'd read. Like, a guy builds a boat and puts some animals on it. And then, it rains a lot. Woaaa... I would go to church every Sunday but just drew on the little lesson papers. I still looked forward to church every week. It was a time to play zombie tag with my friends. I just didn't think God was real. While I was in elementary school, I completely ignored God. I did whatever I felt like. The next summer, my parents send me to a place in New York called Pilgrim Camp. It's like a Christian summer camp out in the woods, completely separated from the distractions of the outside world. It was great, we played basketball, swam, and had a lot of fun. One day, walking back to camp from where we had lunch, Brother George (the head counselor) asked me when did I come to accept God. I was speechless. I had no idea what to say. One night, we had a prayer meeting. It started with the one counselor praying out loud, and when he was finished, he told us that anyone else could start praying too. One kid, who was mean to everybody in the cabin, prays for his grandpa, who is sick and might die. The next kid prays for the first kid, and then all of a sudden, every kid in there is waiting for his turn to pray. The feeling I had when I got my turn was amazing, talking to God out loud, without worrying about the kid next to you judging you. In that moment, I actually felt that God was real. Somewhere up there,

watching over me. Despite that being a great experience, when I went back home, to middle school, it was like Pilgrim Camp never happened. In middle school, I had a lot of friends. The sad thing was that some of them were really bad. They cursed a lot and sometimes got you into it. It was worse than elementary school. I never felt so far away from God. When I went to church, a little part of me might've wanted to be redeemed, but I was just so distant. Then it was time to go to Quest for Life. I've been to Quest before, but never with the older kids. It was a little new to me. They encouraged us to worship with our hands up. Most people didn't. One night, it was more serious than usual. They had people give their testimonies and asked some people if they wanted to give theirs. Then, they got their instruments and started singing. One of the song's verses really stood out to me: "Oh the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God Oh, it chases me down, fights till I'm found, leaves the ninety-nine. I couldn't earn it, and I don't deserve it Still You gave Yourself away"

I never really understood Jesus dying for me, but the pastor said something that really spoke to me. He said, "Look at yourself, all that sin that you have done, all of it, and all of the sin that you will do. Jesus knew you were going to do that, yet he still died for you." In that moment, worshipping God, I raised my hands. So did a lot of people in the room. The pastor asked if anyone in the room wanted to accept Jesus Christ as their savior. I stood up and the counselor and some kids prayed for us. I cried. That night, I felt filled. Like for once in my life, I was complete. Now, in seventh grade, I went through another Pilgrim Camp over the summer that

really help strengthen my faith for the school year. I now read the Bible at least once a day and try to make my prayers like talking to God, not just repeating the same thing over and over again. School is still hard. I am surrounded by temptations continuously, but I'm reminded by 1 Corinthians 10:13, "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 endure it." Now, when I look at places that normally are full of sins: The locker room, the hallways, the bus, I don't just see sin, but I see a Father in heaven, looking out for me and loving me.

Thank you for your time.



# Baptism Testimony

Ryan Zhou

My name is Ryan Zhou, I am 13 years old and this is my testimony. When I was younger, I went to China for the first 5 years of my life after I was born in America, and what I heard from my grandma was I went to church, but I don't remember it because I was so young. When I came back to America all I did was pray with my grandma because there was no church in the area. Every time I prayed; I had no idea who I was talking to. It all changed when I moved to Voorhees and I started attending church, and at first, I thought of church as something boring I had to go to. Eventually I started to enjoy church, but I still didn't really care that Jesus Christ died for our sins and he rose again and that he is the savior. I liked it only because of my friends. Then something bad happened to me 6th grade, my grandpa got sick and he went to the hospital. I started to pray that my grandpa would get better and soon enough he was able to come home and start gaining strength to walk. At that moment in time I realized that God listens to my prayers. I had to go through the worst time of my life which was when my grandpa died and I felt really

sad and also, I felt guilt too. I felt like I didn't listen or talk to him that much. I hated myself for next week, but God comforted me and my grandma as well. She was the most devastated because she cried every day, but I know God was helping her through it. Eventually she didn't cry every day, but she is still really sad. As I learned more about Christ, I saw how much I sin against him and I started to pray about it. Also, before this in 5th grade I was bullied verbally by people in school and I felt no worth, but God showed me that he cares about me because of what he did on the cross. After praying and repenting the next couple weeks I stopped some of my bad habits. I now rarely curse and right now I am starting to listen to my parents more. I also gained good habits such as reading the Bible more often. This is when I started to give my life to Jesus Christ. I knew that he was the one who changed my life. I know that without him I would dead in my sin. Right now, in my life, I am still learning, and God is still changing me to become a better person and to spread his message. Thank you for listening.



# Baptism Testimony

Vincent Lau

My name is Vincent Lau. I am 15 years old and I was born into a Christian family and attended this church all of my life. Ever since children's ministry I had the knowledge to be what is thought as a good Christian, but one of the biggest problems I had during children's ministry was two ideas that were just floating around in my head. One of them was why does humanity suffer, but I was around 6 years old and I was probably thinking of myself. So, it would be more like why do I suffer. And when you are 6 you think that getting a bad grade is suffering. Another concept I had in my mind was fate is already chosen by God. In other words, God has a plan for you and you can't change God's plan, therefore you cannot change your actions and your sins. The problems with thinking this are I often saw no reason to try to do my best in doing what is right and wrong. I thought that God plans me to be in heaven, so I will be in heaven no matter what. I also thought at this time if you failed a test God planned for you to fail that test. These ideas made me drift away from God. Mostly because then I thought about God's plan the more certain I was that I would be Christian no matter what I did. I started to be more arrogant, more ignorant, and I started caring less. I led this type of lifestyle until about youth group. This was a big transition because it's also the transition to middle school. Unlike most others, I don't get nervous over the first day of school so I didn't feel nervous on the first day of youth group either. Youth group really changed my perspective. I am still unsure of what changed my perspective, but I saw God more like a loving than God than before. During youth group is also the time retreats open up. I attended retreats because people said it was fun and a good experience. With my new

mindset, I attended my first retreat and it put me on what I thought was a spiritual high. I understood the want for a relationship. I finally understood how it felt to be truly worshiping God. Later that year I attended quest for life. Quest for life in elementary school students is very different from the quest program designed for middle schoolers and high schoolers. There I felt again a passion for God and the pastor made me my commitment to God just like he did for everyone. I came out of quest with an entirely new mindset where I felt I was living for God. But after a week or two, I fell back to my own original ways. This process of going to retreats and falling back to old routines happened for until eighth grade. That is when I suddenly randomly was moved by a pastor during an ordinary church service. I made myself a commitment to Christ and I followed through my commitment because I felt more attached to it being my own commitment. The commitment I made last to my current state. One of the events that helped me stay attached to my commitment was Pilgrim Camp. In a place of isolation with God, I was inspired to build the best relationship with God and push through the hard times I knew that was going to come. I knew there was going to be hills and valleys and now I know that even if I am in a valley God is with me. After that experience I still and a sinner and I have to realize how useless I am without God. Every day I try to remember to devote time to for a time to study God's word. I need to be constantly reminded to let God take over my life and that I am clueless. As I go through high school's constant stress, I know that God is walking with me every step of the way. Thank You for listening to my testimony.







## 编后记

在神的带领下，樱桃山华人基督教会走进第十七个年头。教会在十月份进行堂慶，并計劃出版年刊。年刊編輯小組联络投稿人和组织稿件，李绍沅牧師協助，丁荔姐妹幫助设计封面，江怀德弟兄负责全面審稿，涂漢明弟兄负责最终年刊排版。感谢弟兄姐妹们的投稿，在这里分享团队服事、宣教经历和个人感人肺腑的見証，弟兄姐妹共同見証 神在個人，家庭，工作，團契和教会所彰显的榮美和恩典。我们也要为未来的岁月祷告，求神使樱桃山华人基督教会继续归耶和華為圣，直到基督再来的日子！

年刊編輯組同工