

泉谷之音



從心作起 追求聖潔 建立教會 榮耀基督 Transforming Heart Pursuing Holiness Building His Church Glorifying Jesus Christ

泉谷華人基督教宣道會
Spring Valley Chinese Christian Church
of Christian & Missionary Alliance
2013

Table of Contents

目錄

	Page貝
神要賜我們為業之地—2013年的回顧檢討 (李光陵牧師)	1
2013 - 威恩年 (孫立徳傳道)	4
2013 the Year of Gratitude (Minister Lee Sun)	7
Salvation The Greatest Gift and Blessing (Elder Michael Kwong)	11
2013 大事記 (邵錫圓)	12
論古說今 - 歲末的感恩與感想 (姚健生長老)	13
受洗見證 (Baptism Testimony)	
范莫乃慧	16
Brandy Pham	17
Kenny Pham	17
Peihan Huang	18
Deanna Fong	18
Sarah Fong	19
Camila Huang	23
Haotian Ye	24
感恩見證 (Thanksgiving Testimony)	
Lilia Sia	26
刘焕文	27
孫嘉	29
恩典在我家(沈愛華)	31
Angel Relax的按摩師的見證 (彼得)	34
神藉著楊老太太讓我經歷祂 (焦盪)	35
雲彩般的見証人 (焦孫桂林)	38
没有四肢的佈道家力克。胡哲的见证 (孫傳道提供)	41
神奇的一刀 (焦璗提供)	43
2014年度經文和焦點 /Verses & Focus of the year	46
2013年財務報告 (2013 Financial report) (邵錫圓)	47

神要賜我們為業之地—2013年的回顧檢討

李光陵牧師

「我要將你現在寄居的地,就是迦南全地,賜給你和你的後裔永遠 為業,我也必作他們的神。」(創十七8)

前言

很快的,泉谷華人宣道會成立至今已經有三年的時間了,神所差派到我們中間服事的孫立德傳道也已經任職屆滿一年。因為過去一年,除了每個月一次回「泉谷」證道之外,我個人對教會的服事可以說是乏善可陳。要不是孫傳道夫婦堅守崗位,盡忠職守地在我們當中牧養,教會事工才能穩定地順利開展。

正因為,從2013年起,教會的事工主要是由孫立德傳道與教會長老來帶領,今年教會的事工分享與報告有賴孫傳道和長老們多多費心著墨了。我就只跟大家分享一些我對「泉谷教會」的觀感與寄望做一些分享。所以,與其說我是在寫一份報告,不如說我是在寫一封家信給大家。

感謝神的揀選與差遣

感謝神的大恩,差遣了祂所揀選的僕人孫傳道夫婦,來到我們這間初創的小教會來牧養。在過去一年裡,每一位弟兄姊妹在孫傳道夫婦的餵養照顧之下,一定能夠觀察並感受到這一對可敬的夫婦在我們當中虛己的服事與認真事奉的榜樣。舉例來說,弟兄姊妹每次坐在那裡聽孫傳道教導主日學與孫傳道有過師生之緣,我很瞭解孫傳道治學的態度。我從他過去所交的課業報告就知道,他是個非常敬業、專業的學者。他毫不馬虎地完成每篇的作業,也反應在他為各位所準備的主日學教材中。這即使在灣區的許多大型的教會中,我也很少看見有傳道人像這般的認真,為著弟兄姊妹靈命的培育,儘管我們的人數是這麼的稀少,他的忠心與付出,遠超出一般傳道人所能做到的工夫,令我佩服不已。

我提到這點,主要是想要告訴我們的同工與弟兄姊妹,神真的很愛「泉谷教會」,把一對非常愛神,也非常愛人的傳道夫婦差派到我們當中來服事大家。我們要感恩、我們要懂得珍惜。這是神給我們豐富的賜予。我的感受是,我們彷彿像是那貧窮的撒勒法的寡婦,非常的缺乏,但神竟然把大

先知以利亞差遣到她家中,並且醫治了她兒子的病,成了他們的祝福。當然,我只是用這個來做為比喻,因為我相信神也要透過孫傳道夫婦成為我們「泉谷」這間現在看起來什麼都沒有的小教會的極大祝福。

提到神的揀選與差遣,我也跟弟兄姊妹們說:如果孫傳道夫婦是神揀選差派到我們中間來的,我想問大家,那我們是不是也是神揀選與差派來到Tracy 和 Mountain House 這裡的呢?神為什麼把我們帶到這裡來居住呢?只是為了我們自己的安居與樂業嗎?還是神在我們的身上也有祂要完成的旨意呢?我們是用什麼樣的心態來回應神的呼召呢?你我可以在神對「泉谷」教會的期待上有什麼樣的角色?有什麼樣的參與呢?我想說的是,弟兄姊妹,神要大大地使用你們,正如同祂使用在你們當中服事的孫傳道夫婦。因為我們都是祂所揀選、所差派到這裡來的。

體會福音的生產之苦

不久之前,孫傳道曾在電話中與我交通說:今(2014)年的復活節可能沒有人報名受洗。我們交通到,在我們這樣華人不算太多的社區,領人歸主並不容易。再者,人能不能信主,並不是掌握在我們的手中。我們可以傳福音,但只有聖靈能叫人知罪,悔改、信福音。是的,以我們這樣小的人來與我們可以來信耶穌,看見更多的人來與我們同敬拜神。但傳福音、領人歸主的工作並沒有捷徑可走。連使徒保羅也同樣的經驗與感受。在寫給加拉太教會的信中,保羅提到:「我小子」當然,這節經文保羅講的主題不是傳福音,而是責備加拉太的信徒那麼快離開保羅所傳給他們的真理,以致保羅必須再次地告訴他們不是靠行為稱義,乃要「因信稱義」。但保羅要指出的是,不管是領人歸主,或是信徒靈命的造就,都不是簡單的事。就好像作母親的要生下一個孩子一樣,不是同月可以做到的事,而必須有一段艱辛的過程與時日。

回想過去三年來,是的,我們的人數成員也有些變化,有來、有去,人數也總是在三、四十位上下。我想鼓勵弟兄姊妹不要太在意人數的多少,要在乎我們對神的信心,在乎神的同在!比起加州灣區其他地方,華人在Tracy 地區本來就是「少數民族」,但我們當初在這裡設立教會,就是看到這裡的華人,有很多人還沒有信耶穌。即使已是基督徒的,他們要開很遠的車程才能有機會去做禮拜敬拜神。為這個緣故,我們受感動,在這裡開始福音事工。我們相信,這是神的工作,也會有更多的華人為了工作、

為了家庭會搬入這裡的社區,這是神給我們的機會。我們也願意接受這樣的挑戰,一起來體驗這種為福音所必須經過的「生產之苦」,但在基督裡卻是值得的,也是神要我們去經歷的,至終將會成為我們喜樂的緣由。

等候神所賜之地為業

從2014年起,每次我回來「泉谷」證道,基本上我會持續在「亞伯拉罕生平系列」的講道。我個人特別從神所給亞伯拉罕的應許感受到神的應許的偉大與亞伯拉罕信心跟隨的榜樣。亞伯拉罕的確是個大有信心的人,但他也並不是從來沒有懷疑過的人。創世記十五章提到神給亞伯拉罕的應許:「我是耶和華,曾領你出了迦勒底的吾珥,為要將這地賜你為業。」亞伯拉罕是這樣回應神的:「主耶和華啊,我怎能知道必得這地為業呢?」但神的應許就是應許,到了十七章我們看見神給亞伯拉罕再次的保證:「我要將你現在寄居的地,就是迦南全地,賜給你和你的後裔永遠為業,我也必作他們的神。」(創 十七8)

我盼望「泉谷」的弟兄姊妹可以學習效法亞伯拉罕的信心榜樣,能夠看到神將來所要賜給我們的為業之地。是的,目前我們仍然是寄居的,我們還借用別的教會的建築物作為聚會的地方,但我相信,有一天神會在 Tracy和 Mountain House 這個地區賜給我們一個專屬於我們的用地,作為用來敬拜神的教會。它會在什麼時候出現?我們現在沒有人知道,但神知道!時候到了,神自己會有預備,神會照著祂的計劃與時間表來成就自己的旨意。希伯來書的作者鼓勵我們:「我們既有這許多的見證人,如同雲彩圍著我們,就當放下各樣的重擔,脫去容易纏累我們的罪,存心忍耐,奔那擺在我們前頭的路程。」(來十二1)

結語:

「泉谷」的弟兄姊妹,我們是何等的有福的人,有幸於神國大業的參與! 我們都是神放在這個地區的一小撮「麥子」,看起來並不明顯。但不要灰心,不要喪膽,更不要失望。只要我們學習基督的虛己謙卑,甘心犧牲奉獻,靠著神所給我們的恩典,擺上我們最好的給神,神會使用,神會賜福的。正如同主所說的:「我實實在在地告訴你們,一粒麥子不落在地裏死了,仍舊是一粒,若是死了,就結出許多子粒來。」(約十二24)在我們還沒有看見「許多子粒」之前,讓我們每一個人都願意先學習作那落在地裡死了的那「一粒麥子」。求主憐憫,幫助我們能看見神所要我們看見的,作神要我們為祂去作的事情。

服事的使命:

提後4:2~5-"務要傳道,無論得時不得時,總要專心;並用百般的忍耐,各樣的教訓,責備人、警戒人、勸勉人。因為時候要到,人必厭煩純正的道理,耳朵發癢,就隨從自己的情慾,增添好些師傅,並且掩耳不聽真道,偏向荒渺的言語。你卻要凡事謹慎,忍受苦難,作傳道的工夫,盡你的職分。"

新的開始:

過去這一段日子,我使用 Henry Blackaby 及 Richard Blackaby 所寫的Experiencing God Day-By-Day 作為我的晨更材料,我從中常常得到神及時的幫助與提醒。 "神的話是我腳前的燈,路上的光。 "幫助 "我將祂的話藏在我心裡,免得我得罪祂"。 2013年是一個感恩年,是一個新的使命的開始,是一個忘記背後的開始,是一個向這標竿直跑的開始,是與神更加親近的開始,是一步又一步更經歷神恩典的開始。

感恩,感恩,感恩:

2/4 蒙神的呼召,宣道會的差派,以及泉谷華人基督教宣道會的接納, 我們開始成為全職傳道來服事神與服事祂的羊群。在過去的九個月裡, 我認清自己的有限。看到自己的不足,但是神是信實的。我們感謝神, 祂賜給我們忠心監督的長老們,以及不辭勞苦的執事們,還有滿有愛心 的團契小組長們,還有認真學習的會友們,還有充滿活力的 One Desire 青少年/英語事工,還有慕道的朋友們。我們相信神的全能、全知、全 管、全在。我們非常感謝弟兄姊妹的接納與愛心,雖然也有挫折的時候 ,但讓我們學習更謙卑,更倚靠神。也因為知道我們只是客旅,只是寄居(來11:13),我們只有終日仰望那創始成終的主耶穌基督(來12:2)。 也深信 "那在你們心裡動了善工的,必成全這工,直到耶穌基督的日子。"(腓1:6)

歡迎新舊會友:

感謝神,經過五週,以兩種語言,開了四堂的會友班,大多數的弟兄姊妹都願意認同宣道會以「神關心失喪的人」為首的七個核心教會價值,而加入教會,其中包括了十四位新會友。求神繼續幫助每一位屬於泉谷華人基督教宣道會的弟兄姊妹,不但接待耶穌基督成為救主,並且竭力成為聖潔,讓耶穌基督成為我們生命的主。

神的心意:尋找失喪的人/本地傳福音:

九個月裡,我們學習並且經歷雅比斯的禱告 "甚願你賜福與我,擴張我的境界,常與我同在,保佑我不遭患難,不受艱苦。" (歷上4:10) 神應允了弟兄姊妹的禱告,祂不斷把屬於祂的羊帶到教會裡,帶到團契裡,帶到我們的生活中。祂讓我們更確定神要在Tracy 建立教會的心意,我們知道祂的國度擴大是祂的羊回到祂的羊圈裡,祂讓我們看到十幾份了向按摩師傳福音的機會,這真是出乎我們意料之外,絕對不在我們預備了向按摩師傳福音的機會,這真是出乎我們意料之外,絕對不在我們的計劃或經驗範圍之內。神愛世人,神所幫助的,誰能敵擋得住呢?願神的國擴張。我相信耶穌基督的應許 "來跟從我,我要叫你們得人如得魚一樣" (太 4:19),以 "都恆心遵守使徒的教訓,彼此交接,聲餅,祈禱。(徒2:42) 讚美神,得眾民的喜愛。主將得救的人天天加給他們(徒2:47)。"教會中所有的 "活動"都是以此為導向.除了在團契中操練傳福音,我們也將學習去挨家挨戶報好消息。求神預備精兵,一起作戰。神必定按照所應許的讓我們"得魚",就是那屬於祂,但仍然不在羊圈裡的羊,能回到祂的家中。

門徒造就:

感謝神,祂興起新的主日學老師,並且參加英語及普通話主日學的弟兄姊妹也漸漸增加。我們特別感謝粵語的弟兄姊妹,他們為了讓教會有空間給兒童們作主日學教室,他們犧牲了兩季沒有粵語主日學,神是知道我們的需要,今年(2013)冬季及明年春季,神允許我們全教會以英語,

團契生活:

這是教會生活中重要的一環。我們為那些忠心來帶領,又立下好榜樣的小組長感謝神。求神繼續幫助我們以神的話語來吸引更多願意來認識神的弟兄姊妹及朋友們來參加團契。 感謝神,Mountain House 的清心團契,Tracy 及Manteca 的平安團契,與粵語的喜樂團契都有接棒人,成為小組長。神幫助我們成立了守約團契,在每週四早晨聚會,服事沒有上班,餐飲業,按摩業的弟兄姐妹及朋友們。還有弟兄團契與長青團契也積極的在籌備與禱告中,求神帶領與預備。也求神幫助我們有一個團契來服事住在 Dublin 及Livermore 的家庭及朋友。

家庭生活:

那看不見的雙手在帶領我們一家人。當我們要來 Tracy面談時才知道我們的大兒子,良宏住在離 Tracy 約一小時的車程之外。三月十日他們得到第一個兒子,孫多恩Paxton。他的出生使我們晉身為祖父母。感謝神,六月底二兒子良偉訂婚了,神的手繼續工作,為老二在舊金山美式足球隊49ers 找到工作,他的未婚妻也順利的在灣區找到工作,九月中開始上班。九個月以前,我們一家人都住在靠海約兩個小時的距離,只是不同的海,神讓我們現在能夠定期的全家團聚,不能不讓我們感謝神。九月底,全家七口去多倫多看九十多高齡的爸媽,雖然不是那麼簡單,在神的恩典之下,四代歡聚一堂。

2013年是一個感恩年,我們會銘記神在我們身上的恩典,成為「立石」 的記錄,並且常常拿出來提醒與鼓勵我們。

Mission Statement:

II Timothy 4:2~5 -- Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they'll gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

New Beginning

This year I use EXPERIENCING GOD Day-By-Day by Henry Blackaby and Richard Blackaby as my morning devotional material. God has been using His Word through this book to encourage me in time of my needs. His Word is the light to my path and lamp to my feet. I will keep His Words in my heart, so I will not sin against Him. 2013 is a year of gratefulness. A year with a new mission, a year that we need to forget what was behind us, a year with a new purpose and charge ahead, a year that He draws us near Him, a year of experiencing His Grace day by day.

Grateful, Grateful, and Grateful

After obeying God's calling, C&MA's assignment and church's acceptance, we started to serve the Spring Valley Chinese Christian and Missionary Alliance Church as a full time minister from 2/4/2013. In the last nine months, I definitely realized that we are very limited in all aspects. We thank God for providing us a group of faithful overseers, the elders. He also provided us a group of never tired deacons. He provided loving small group leaders, He also gathered a group of

members who are willing to learn, and He also energized me with the English speaking young friends. He also let us encounter with many seekers. We know our God is sovereign. He is all knowing, all able, all presence, and all controlling. We thank God for the love and care we received from the brothers and sisters, even though we also faced difficult times, which taught us to be humble and lean on Him more. We praise the Lord because it is all about Him. We also realized that we are aliens and strangers on earth. (Hebrews 11:13). We only need to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and protector of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) and also believe "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it onto completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)

Welcome the existing and new members:

Praise The Lord, after offering the membership classes for five weeks, four sessions, and through two languages, most of the brothers and sisters understood the seven core values of Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA) which start with the "Lost people matters to God" and want to be the member of our church. There are fourteen new members. I pray that all the members in our church not only received Jesus Christ as our Savior, but also be obedient to the Holy Spirit and making the greatest effort to receive Him as The Lord of our life.

God's heart to find the lost peoples/Local Mission:

During the past nine months, we have learned to pray like Jabez "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." (I Chronicle 4:10) He did answer our prayers and is faithful. He brought the lost people to our church, to the fellowship groups, to our house, and to our lives. We knew He expand our territory by leading the lost sheep to His sheep pen. We are confident that He wants to have this church in Tracy for His people. In the past nine months, I saw more than ten lost souls came home to the Lord's family. Besides, due to the love of a faithful

brother, He opened the door for us to share the Gospel to the people working in the massage stores and restaurant business. This is definitely not our plan and not what we had experience before. God so love the world. If God is for me, who can against me? (Romans 8:31) May His Kingdom grow. I firmly believe God's faithful promises, "Come, follow me, "Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." (Matthew 4:19), "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:42), and, "..... And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (Acts 4:47). All the church activities are geared toward this purpose. Fellowship groups are the best place to practice. We will also practice the "door to door," sharing the Gospel. May God lead the way and also motivate us to the faithful warriors. God is faithful, He is the promise keeper and He will make us fisher of man and find the lost sheep.

Discipleship:

Praise The Lord, He raised up new Sunday school teachers. The adult and youth Sunday school attendance increased gradually. We specially praise the Lord for the Cantonese congregation; they gave up two seasons of Sunday school to leave room for the children Sunday school. God knows the needs of the church. This coming Winter and Spring of 2014, a group of teachers will offer two seasons of Genesis in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin. We pray for motivating our new teachers to put out a good effort in preparing themselves for six months to feed His people. We also give thanks to the weekday morning Bible study group (Promise Keeper Fellowship), their faithful fellowship attendance encourages us tremendously. Their hungry hearts provide us comfort. May God satisfy their needs. God is faithful and He will provide.

Fellowship:

This is a very important element in the body of Christ. We praise The Lord for the faithful fellowship leaders who are willing to be good models.

May God give us the wisdom to teach the truth in the fellowship and the truth will draw people to Him. Praise the Lord, God raised the new group leaders for the fellowship groups serving people live in Mountain House-Pure Heart group, live in Tracy & Manteca- Peace group, and Cantonese congregation- Joy group. In order to serve the people who do not have to work during the day, the restaurant professionals, and the massage business, God allows us to have their fellowship called "Promise Keeper fellowship". We meet every Thursday morning. We are planning and praying for the brothers fellowship group, elderly fellowship group.

Family life:

We simply cannot deny that there is unseen hand of God leading our We did not know our older son Gary lives only an hour family. away from Tracy until we decided to interview last Oct. In March 10, they got their first son Paxton and we became grandparents. In June, Michael, our younger son got engaged. God provided him with a graphic designer position with SF professional football team, 49ers. Within six weeks, our future daughter-in-law also found a job in the Bay Area. Nine months ago we were all lived at the locations two hours from the seas, except they were different seas. Today, we are only one hour from each other. Praise the Lord we are able to meet regularly. End of September, we got a chance to visit our parents who at their 90s It was not easy, in God's Grace, four generations can enjoy in Toronto. the time together.

Year 2013 is the year of gratitude. We will always remember His Grace. This report also serves as "standing stone". We should review it frequently as a reminder and encouragement from God.

Salvation - The Greatest Gift and Blessing

Elder Michael Kwong

As the year of 2013 draws near to its conclusion, it is good to spend some time reflecting upon the past year of what God has done in each of us. It has been said that "hind-sight is always 20/20." I believe this saying has some truth in terms of performing evaluation. Reflection on the past may yield a clearer picture of the things that have happened; it can also help us discover and understand the reasons for that which has happened to us over the course of the year. We want to pay special attention to the things that He has done in us, through us, and in spite of us. In doing so, this will bring us closer to God and a better understanding of ourselves.

The year 2013 may have brought you triumphs and defeats, occasions of joy and celebration or of grief and tears. No matter what we have gone through, we are close to putting 2013 in our own history book. Our lives are compiled by these mini chapters of time, consummating one day when either the good Lord takes us home, or we may have the privilege to gaze upon the sky and witness His great return. As I count His blessings one by one, I keep reminding myself that the reason for my current blessedness and my future hope lies within the immoveable foundation of the redemptive work accomplished by Jesus Christ on the cross. Paid for with His blood, our eternal salvation is guaranteed by the stamped seal of the Holy Spirit.

Someone once asked, "What is the essence of Christianity?" The answer was Grace! And, "What is the essence of a Christian mindset?" The answer was Gratitude! I think these two words truly captured the fundamental nature of the gospel, the core of our beliefs and the proper response of a sinful person toward our gracious God.

The salvation we received is given to us based on the gracious act of the allloving God that, according to His divine wisdom and will, He designed before the creation of the world and in due time executed upon His people. This salvation is given to us freely but not without a cost. It is given to us freely because we cannot earn it or purchase it with anything we have or do. It is not without a cost because Jesus paid the penalty of our sins upon the cross and satisfied the demand of the law—all sins are punishable by death.

In contrast to our Christian faith, which is God centered, all other religions are man-centered. In other words, they are systems that emphasize that man has the ability to reach God through his own merit and effort—that man himself is the ultimate deciding factor in determining whether one can be saved from the wrath of God, which is provoked by darkness of the heart and horrific acts of sin. This system of belief damned many, for it encourages man to look inwardly (self) rather than upwardly (God). It thwarts people's chance to be reconciled with God. It is a hopeless hope; a path that leads to a "dead" end.

So, as we reflect on the past and look forward to the future, let us not forget that all good things come to us as a result of the graciousness of our loving Father. Our salvation is the greatest gift and blessing that we have experienced and we dare not overlook this fact lest we become an ungrateful person.

2013 大事記

邵錫圓

2/3 - 孫立德傳道就職禮

2/15-18 青少年参加在 Mt. Hermon 舉行之營會

3/23 - 長執同工退修會, 週六在孫傳道夫婦家舉行

4/7 - 春季洗禮,有七位青少年接受浸禮,他們是方玉媚(Sarah),方玉鳳(Deanna), 黄璐(Camila), Rumi Shiraki(白木榴美),俞伯順(Bert), 葉浩天(Haotian), 劉禹辰(Eugena Liu)

5/18 - 團契聯誼野餐會,在 Tracy的 Thoming Park 舉行

6/8 - 崇拜部同工訓練會, 週六晚在孫傳道夫婦家舉行

8/10 - 野餐會,在 Antioch 的 Contra Loma Regional Park 舉行

9/8, 15 - 差傳月主日, Alex Wong(黃佐堯)宣教士, Dale Edwardson分享證道

11/2 - 弟兄團契成立,第一次聚會

11/23 - 感恩節聚餐見證會

12/1 - 冬季洗禮,有四位接受浸禮,他們是莫乃慧(Navis), Brandy Pham, Kenny Pham, 黃培涵(Peihan)

12/15 - 聖誕節特別聚會, 節目內容有短劇, 詩歌, 證道

話說主前486年亞哈隨魯在波斯為王,並奇妙地娶了一個猶太女子以斯帖為后。王信任惡人哈曼,任其狐假虎威,無惡不作。哈曼並且計謀殺絕全國的猶太人。以斯帖的養父末底改聞訊大爲緊張,趕緊傳訊給以斯帖,要她求王救救所有的猶太人。以斯帖同答說王宮規矩甚嚴,若非國王召見而私入見王者是死路一條。末底改再傳訊警告以斯帖說你若想在王宮強過一切猶太人,得免這禍,此時若閉口不言,猶太人必從別處得解脫蒙拯救,你父家必致滅亡。焉知你得了王后的位分不是為現今的機會嗎?(以斯帖 4:13-14) 末底改一言驚醒了以斯帖。在以斯帖願意冒死見王,加上全城的猶太人禁食了三天三夜,事情得以峰迴路轉、逢凶化吉,圓滿結束。諸位看官欲知詳情可參閱以斯帖記保證拍案叫絕,並請特別留意前面用斜體的經句。

論古

主後197X年密州聖路易市有幾家愛主弟兄姊妹成立了一個查經班,向附近大學裡的中國留學生傳福音。但因對像是學生,人來人往有如流水席,多年下來人數沒有增長,固有成員人數反倒下降,於是他們開了個會要決定這查經班的去留。感謝神,他們沒有收攤打烊,反將查經班改為教會,且從紐約請到一位牧師願意憑信心,一家五口搬來聖城與弟兄姐妹一起打拼。

老姚兄嫂是1979年搬到聖城,在一次去朋友家途中不經意的見到一家民房前有塊招牌寫着中文字"聖路易華人基督崇拜中心"。之後便開始一連卅年在那聚會、敬拜神,老姚更在該教會從慕道、得救、受洗、學習事奉,並經歷到該教會從借用別人的車房敬拜神,到後來買地改建、擴建及至如今擁有五畝地、三四百人聚會的教會。基於三十年與該教會共生共長,老姚想將該教會在建堂事工上的點點滴滴與泉谷弟兄姐妹分享,因為這個實例可作為泉谷建堂的借鏡,所謂他山之石可以攻玉。

大概是八零年初聖路易教會鑒於寄人籬下非長久之計動了建堂的念頭。可是

當時的教會也是剛成立不久,在經濟上只够支持牧師的生活費,雖有建堂之心卻無餘力積極進行,但是沒人能禁止我們對神求我們心中長遠的夢。

一日教會某弟兄向大家宣佈他找到一塊兩畝半的地,上有民房一糧,要價相當便宜,只要八萬五千元。原有猶太人在那聚會,我們不需大費週章申請使用許可,只需將車房改建為禮堂。就這樣我們有了自己的固定地址可在其上聚會。神不斷地將慕道友或基督徒帶給我們,不久那兩車位的小車房開始顯得擁擠,於是又動了擴建的念頭。這次可是給大家的信心一大考驗,因為這次絕不是十萬、八萬可以擺的平了。當弟兄姐妹對於是否借錢或不借錢的事情達到共識後,最後以二十六萬餘元加建了兩百人敬拜的新堂。可是神並不要我們止於二百人,祂將更多的人帶來。新堂幾乎在一開始啓用時就已顯擁有,沒多久就不得不在堂內走道間加添折椅,從旁邊一行、兩行,到中間三行、四行,真是擠的水洩不通。於是又得加建,這次是建了一個數百萬元、四百人聚會的堂,教會長執決定下一次將會用植堂來疏散擁擠。

說今

主後2010年在密州聖城西面約 2000 哩外的一個小城,一粒細小的種子落地 生根開始成長。一間名為泉谷的中國教會在神的祝福中誕生了,讓離鄉背井 的華人有了個屬靈的家,可以在這家中敬拜造天地萬物的真神。

泉谷從有異象、籌備、找聚會場所、...在短短半年中搞定,落實。神在每個時段,讓我們經歷祂的同在和奇妙的作為。我們若非恭臨其事就不能親身體驗神是又真又活的。這就是所謂的"曾經滄海難謂水,除卻巫山不是雲"。譬如說:我們能借到好牧人教堂聚會,全是神的憐憫和供應,若非你是草創同工,就不能見證當時的情景和喜樂。邀請孫傳道夫婦來泉谷一同事奉神又是一例。也只有當時的弟兄姐妹才能體會到禱告的大能和神應允的喜樂。

如果你不相信這是神親自的帶領、祝福和成就,老姚也是沒折。因為當時的 草創同工均齊聲驚訝事情進行順利的難以相信,若不是神的信實、同在、祝 福、成就,實在無法解釋。有句中國話說,人心動一念,天地盡皆知,我們 所求、所行的合乎神的心意,神焉能不為我們逢山開路、遇架水橋嗎? 泉谷成立迄今將屆三載,好牧人教會雖好,難免還是有寄人籬下之感。敬拜神的場地雖然足足有餘,但主日學的場所卻是捉襟見肘。尤其若再加上兒童事工就更是施展不開了。就在同工們興起建堂之念開始為此事工禱告向神祈求之際,神又開始了祂的善工。2013年感恩節前接到孫傳道一封電郵,告知市郊有塊三畝多的土地極適合教會建堂所用。去看過這塊地的弟兄姐妹,各舒其感。有人說是"踏破鐵鞋無覓處,得來全不費功夫"。老姚也想到上海話好像有一句話說 "冷灰中爆出熱栗子"。 不管是鐵鞋也好,冷灰也好,有人比喻機會猶如一艘輪船,無情的不停的向前行。你不是搭上,就是脫班。我們何其有幸,能身逢其會。此時大家應該好好地為建堂禱告,求神顯明祂的旨意,將合一的心賜給我們,讓泉谷弟兄姐妹在建堂的事上同心合意。

此外就是得為建堂所需的款項奉獻。最近老姚在小組中帶查約翰福音第六章,就五餅二魚一事多加推敲。其實耶穌基督想要餵飽這五千人,大可不必大費問章。又問腓力,又問安得烈,結果却找來一個童子五餅二魚的午餐。耶穌也可以降一場嗎哪和一群鹌鹑來餵飽大家。同是場神蹟何必辛辛苦苦將餅和魚經過祂的雙手,從那微不足道的一點小兒午餐,讓五千男人加上婦女、小孩大家飽餐一頓,還有十二籃剩餘。殊不知神是要我們參與祂的爭工,盡己力擺上,祂就因而成就大事。

結語

能事奉神是有福的,能在一個蒙神祝福的教會裏事奉祂,更是福上加福。你我何其有幸在泉谷剛剛起步之際參與其事。神將你我放在泉谷家中絕非偶然,要我們一起來經歷神的奇妙的作為,這機會一逝永不囘頭。我深信,也常喜歡引用以斯帖記4:14b末底改警告以斯帖的話說:焉知你得了王后的位份,不是為了現今的機會嗎?老姚完全相信神對泉谷有其美意,絕比你我相像中的更大。讓我們問自己是否願意在神心意中有份?是否要讓這福份不經意的從眼前流失?我們願意親身來經歷,還是做一個旁觀者?我們只願意用別人的例子來見證神,還是用我們親身的經歷來述說神的奇妙和大能?

讓我們用禱告和行動來配合神的帶領! 阿門.

受洗見證 Baptism Testimony

范莫乃慧

我今天能站在這裡作見證都是我主耶穌基督的恩典揀選。原來在我出世前神已經默然的保守我: (我媽媽經多次流產,婚後十年才懷有我,經八個月靜休在床,生產時難產要用儀器吸出來)。四十多年來的人生,經歷了多少的漂泊流離,病痛,生離死別,主一直的看顧。

10歲與父親坐船到馬來西亞難民營,十一歲到達佛羅理達州,後搬遷到北加州。1984年母親、弟弟、嫲嫲才來美定居團聚。可惜媽媽早去世沒看見我結婚生兒育女。剛來三藩市時曾跟 Rach 及堂姊去今巴倫教會,但因年少無知聽不明白。但愛我的主耶穌仍忍耐愛我愛到底。十年前我經歷了一次開腰骨的大手術。當時我好害怕,擔心從此不能走動,相信那時主耶穌已聽了堂兄姐們的代禱,保守我手術成功和康復。直至去年中檢查到有'大頸疱'瘤大得好快,要在11月12日做手術。在等候數月中,我常常憂慮自己的病和掛心四個兒女,甚至茶飯不思只喝奶,也不能入睡,瘦了幾十磅。感謝神,又藉著堂兄姊們的禱告,尤其是 Carol 堂姊寄一些 CD、書籍、聖經節並叫我向主耶穌祈求。我就照著中信「讀者回應」的祈禱文祈禱,並將我擔心的事交托神,才能安睡。 感謝主的憐憫手術好順利,一 切的擔憂都除去了,我決志病好後一定去教會敬拜真神。

今年二月,Natalie堂姊介紹我参加"泉谷華人基督教會",我渴望更多的認識這位愛我和憐憫我的主耶穌。除了崇拜我還參加主日學查經班,雖然我的中文、英文都是半桶水,加上聽普通話也是一知半解。大半年來有牧師、姊妹們耐心的教導、幫助、鼓勵,使我清楚明白福音,認識到自己是罪人,並且願意認罪、悔改接受耶穌基督在十字架上的受死、埋葬、復活救贖的恩典。主耶穌是我的救主、我的主宰。

我現有主耶穌賜的新生命,過的是新生活,我的心靈得到說不出的喜樂、平安和滿足,不再像以前憂心重重,為生活、兒女擔心。現我懂得交托一切給全能的真神,無論順逆都順服神的帶領。我謹記「聽了要做,聽了不做等於

沒有聽」。怎樣過一個真正基督徒的生活?我懂得不多,但我願意盡我所能的不斷地去學習。盼牧師、弟兄姊妹們多多的包容、指教。今天我和第三女與小兒一起受浸歸入神的教會,我們是一家裏的人了。正如約翰福音十四章六節「耶穌說:我就是道路、真理、生命;若不藉著我,沒有人能到父那裡去」。六章 68-69節:「主啊!祢有永生之道,我還歸從誰呢?我們已經信了,又知道祢是神的聖者」。我得到了救恩和盼望,願我的家人和在座的親友們都能早日蒙恩得救!

Brandy Pham

Unlike many Christians, I did not have the privilege to receive God at an early age. I began going to church very recently, only five months ago. Although the time has been short, I know that the person I am today is not the same person I was just five months ago. Despite having a few obstacles of skepticism on my journey to today, I have received Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord; and through my weekly progress, I have become a Christian. There was not one situation that made me realize my faith, but a gradual development that made me realize who I want to become.

Kenny Pham

My story of how I became a Christian started with family. Before I realized it, many of my family members past away and was very sad for me and my family. My mother decided she wanted to accept Christ and his teachings, so she started to go to church. After a few months she wanted other members of her family to enjoy what God has brought us and brought my sister and I to church.

As weeks went on, I learned many things of Jesus, what he did, and how God is relevant in our daily lives. I became to understand God and Jesus. I wanted to be blessed by accepting them, because I know they could give me a valuable life on the world God created. So I accepted Christ and will be proud to call myself a Christian.

Peihan Huang

I was born in a Christian family and I've been going to church since I was a kid. As I remember, I've been believing in God in my entire life. Even though I never really experienced the life without God, but I found out I felt lost when I had doubt / questioned about God. I felt sad about how would I still had pain when I believed God long time ago. There was a period of time I have been questioning all about him and forgot what he did for me. I never realized how lucky I was to be born in a Christian family until one day I heard a testimony from a person about what kinds of troubles he had gone through in order to be a Christian. I am glad everyone supported when they knew that I would get baptized this time. I believe God's blessing is everywhere at anytime.

Deanna Fong

I was not born into a Christian family like many others. At about Age 7, I was introduced to church. Sunday school was fun, but after I left church, I left God too. As I was going into middle school, all I cared about was myself like my appearance, boys, friends, what others thought about me, and popularity. Grades were my only reason for living because it was pounded into my head that I needed straight A's like every other Asian kid even though I hated school. On top of that, basically all of my relatives were non-Christian so it was very easy to slip out of line. I was so embarrassed to pray in front of them or to even pray in public.

I could never understand God because I had so much doubt. So then I thought it was stupid when people said God was "talking to them" or they could "feel his presence". I heard about a winter retreat coming up. I had never like going to those youth camps and I didn't want to go, but my parents gave us no choice. And then I thought maybe it wouldn't be so bad because I could finally meet new people and learn about Jesus. I could not have done anything better on that three-day weekend. Peter Ong was a guy who knew how to relate to the youth, to make us laugh, to inspire us, and all in all get his message through.

Leaving the winter retreat, I had a spiritual high and the changes started to occur. I began to listen to Christian music, pray more often, and think about God a lot. Aaron had brought up another retreat, CBM that he had been going to ever since middle school and invited us to that one as well. He bragged about how much better it was so of course we were really excited. What I liked about CBM was that you could barf up your whole life to your counselor and they would understand everything and not judge you, which is a common thing people fear.

I still have everyday struggles and temptations, but then again who doesn't? I can ask for help no matter how small. Somehow all my prayers or thoughts are heard whether it's through the Bible or klove.

God really tests me and I experience miracles through them. I now truly understand what is meant when people say, "I feel the Holy Spirit" or "God is talking to me". I am no longer ashamed of God, I am more of a proud Christian and I want to influence others to become a believer too. My relatives on the other hand, are still non-believers except for a few blessed and I hope to one day convert them in trusting in God instead of pushing him away. They may question God including me, but that's all about the journey of knowing Christ. God, you are my true savior and you have died on the cross for me. You have every right to take my life away, but instead you saved it and there are no words to express the gratefulness I have when I wake up another day. Martin Luther King once wrote a very famous speech "I have a dream". I'll rephrase it by saying I have a dream that all people will accept the one who gave them life.

Sarah Fong

Hi, my name is Sarah and this is my journey with Christ. When I was little, I would sometimes space out and wonder what the true meaning of life is, who created me, and why I existed. I've always had a gut feeling that there's something more to life than birth and death. There has to be because I always hear people say there's such things as miracles performed by God. Thus, I've always wondered why and what makes God so amazing.

My journey of getting that question answered began when I went to SouthWinds Chinese Christian Church. The only reason why I went there was because of Chinese school and I didn't want to go there because I love to sleep in, especially on the weekends. I also didn't want to go to Chinese school because no one wants to go to school on the weekend after a long week of regular school. However, I really appreciate that Chinese school because not only did I learn Chinese and make new friends, I also got to learn about God. During that time, I wasn't serious about God. I honestly thought Bible study was very boring; I spaced out all the time and didn't really listen to the pastor when he was preaching. Once my parents got baptized and I saw some of my friends grow spiritually, I decided that maybe there is something more to church because I always had a perception that church was a lame place to go to. Whenever it was time to sing for worship, I always thought that it was stupid or I was too good for it. Then I decided to give it a chance and I ended up loving it. Once I gave worship time a try, I felt this strange lively, joyous aura around me. I wondered what this powerful feeling was. Then one day, the pastor was talking about the Holy Spirit, and then I realized that the wonderful feeling I felt was the Holy Spirit. After that, I really enjoyed going to church because I loved growing in my faith in God with my friends.

Then life happens; I grew up and hit the teenager stage. Of course, my image, friends, popularity, and boys mattered the most to me. At that time, I didn't care about God; I not only just focused school, but also myself. That's also the period when I was really rebellious. I just focused on wanting to grow up and be an adult or do adult-like things, which my parents didn't approve of, so I would often get into arguments with them. Looking back, to me, I was a really bad kid because not only did I often disobey my parents, I was also very distant from God and ignored Him a lot.

Like any typical teenager, I thought about killing myself. I was struggling with accepting myself because of my insecurities, all of which I had bottled up inside not bothering to tell anyone because I was embarrassed to share about my troubles. Since I heard that God helps you when you're in need, for a long time, I prayed to God asking Him to help me through this time, to

overcome my insecurities, and to be able to love myself. Unfortunately, I felt that God wasn't helping me because I didn't notice any changes in my attitude towards life and even myself. I was extremely angry at God for not helping me when I cried to Him for help. Knowing me, I wouldn't have killed myself because I'm a big baby when it comes to pain. Though that's true, it didn't cover up the fact that I still had suicidal thoughts. Day by day, I eventually got out of my depression stage and that made me come to the realization that I don't need God. I was able to overcome this obstacle all by myself. I obtained good grades in school because I worked hard to earn them. I am the way I am because of me. I felt like I grew up on my own without God's help.

Then I came to SVCCC and I was wondering why my parents made me go to church because I didn't feel close to God at all. I also had doubts that He even existed, and if He existed, He didn't love me because He hasn't helped me through any of the troubles I asked Him to help me with.

At times, I would look back and realize that I really didn't have a horrible life. I'm healthy, I have a wonderful family and great friends, I have a roof over my head, and don't live in a third-world country. While thinking this through, I wondered why am I so selfish? I just became ashamed of myself for acting that way and thought that maybe that's the reason why God never helped me.

Then I went to the winter retreat with SVCCC, which was my first retreat. I've never heard bad things about Christian retreats, but for some reason, I thought they would be lame, stupid, and a waste of my time. As a result, I tried everything to convince my parents to not force me to go. I even pulled the "it's too expensive" card because I know my parents are cheap. My attempts of begging and convincing didn't work, so I was really angry at my parents and entered the retreat with an angry attitude. At the end of the retreat, I was glad that my parents forced me to go because it was not only fun, but it was also inspiring to see how beautiful this world really is when you're secluded in a nature-oriented environment and away from all the distractions of the modern world.

In addition, there was also the "crying session", which was the moment that really hit me hard and was the turning point of my journey with Christ. The pastor was preaching about if you're willing to present all of your problems to God, are you willing to be honest with Him, and are you willing to let Him in and let Him help you. Afterwards, we were given a moment to reflect on the pastor's message. That's when I let out all of my feelings, confessions, and everything else I held in.

Not only was I angry at God, I was also ashamed of myself for pretending to be a Christian whenever people asked me if I was a Christian. I always said yes because my parents are Christian so I felt like I had a duty to be one as well. I also felt like I needed to belong somewhere. Sadly, there were times I even asked myself if I was a Christian and I would always say and convince myself that I was, but deep down I knew I was lying because I wanted to be saved just in case God is real. All in all, I felt extremely guilty for acting the way I did, and I let out all of my guilt, shame, fear, anger, and other emotions through tears. Even though I hate crying in front of people, especially my youth group, whom were practically strangers at the time, and other churches, I didn't care how ridiculous and ugly I looked because it was my one-on-one moment with God. I'm extremely happy I let everything out because I felt the Holy Spirit once again, but a million times stronger than I've ever experienced. I felt someone hugging me in His arms.

I was so sorry for the way I acted and pushed Him away. To this day, I still struggle with the reason why He still loves me, especially after how badly I treated Him. After going to the concert we recently went to, I realized that I can't be too hard on myself because we're all imperfect and He understands that and still loves us despite our imperfections. Now it's my turn to love myself and see myself in His eyes.

My life is like a never-ending rollercoaster of complete faith and complete doubt. For example, when I went to the summer retreat, CBM, I consciously went there as a Christian and subconsciously went there with the one question that constantly sticks with me, which is if God truly exists. After expressing my doubt to my counselor, she said that God is like the wind.

Even though we can't see, feel, taste, touch, or smell the wind, we know the wind exists because of the effects it does to the people around us. God works the same way because we can't apply our general senses to God, but we can see the many amazing miracles He performs in people's lives.

I've grown to really appreciate everything He has done for me. This journey with Him isn't over and I'll forever walk with Him hand in hand. I love everything He has given me, especially this youth group. We grow stronger in Him together and without them, the state of my relationship with God wouldn't be where it is today. I now realize more than ever of how much I need my brothers and sisters in Christ, and especially our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Thank you so much for listening to my testimony. I'm forever thankful for everything He has given me and I can't wait to see Him. ☺

Camila Huang

I am blessed that I have never experienced a day without God. Actually, no one has ever experienced that because God is always present and He is always looking over us even though we don't see him. Knowing God and accepting Jesus being my savior was the best thing that ever happened in my life. Being able to grow up in a church really made me set apart from kids that did not; I realized that their words and actions aren't the same as a Christian's. Bad words and bad behaviors come mostly from non-Christians. I always reminded myself to do the right thing because that is what God wants to see us doing. I would always think about the Ten Commandments that I learned in Sunday school and apply it to my daily life.

Since I grew up in church, I never knew and still don't know how life is without knowing God but I've heard many stories from non-Christians and how miserable their lives were until they got to know about God. For them, it was a huge turning point in their life.

In 2002, around the age of 6, I went to my first retreat. I remember repeating word by word after the pastor confessing to God about my sins and opening

my heart to Jesus. It was then that I realized that I was a sinner and that I was in need of Jesus' blood to save me from my sins.

My family always provided me everything I needed and I feel blessed for everything I own. My mother was a believer way before I was born and she was the one who brought Christianity to her family.

Whenever I struggled with anything, I would always pray to God and end up feeling much better after my prayer. I don't know what I would do if I didn't know God. I have the feeling that God is always present around me even though I don't see him. And this is the reason why I am getting baptized today. Even though I don't see Him, I still feel Him in my heart.

"Then Jesus told him, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.' (John 20:29)

Haotian Ye

Before I became a Christian, I didn't really like going to church at all. Church, to me, was just a boring place to hang out with my friends and play some video games on our video game systems or something. I barely paid attention to the lesson during Sunday school, the only thing I would pay attention to was the time. Almost everything was just plain "boring" at church (except when we play our video games, of course). To be honest, I still think Sunday school is sort of boring, except for when there is some sort of excitement like candy or humor. So basically I didn't truly accept Jesus in my life during my childhood time. I used to ask myself, "What is the purpose of getting baptized? You just get dumped in a tub of water. What is the point? What feels different? I guess nothing happens." Boy, was I wrong. Now I know why we get baptized. We have to confess our sins by lying down in the water and then when you come back up, you are the new person that is reborn without their past sins.

What caused me to want to become a Christian was music. Even though I hated church, I grew more and more fond of Christian music. Most of the songs talk about how they are weak and how they confess their past sins to the

one and only God. If you listen to my iPod, you will notice that most of the songs on there will be Christian music. I started listening to Christian music and started to download music sheets off the Internet to play on the piano. Another reason I want to get baptized was my friends encouraging me to, especially Aaron. He didn't tell me face-to-face, but I knew that he encouraged me to get baptized through his mental change over the past two years. So Aaron is my "role model" whenever it comes to Christianity.

I recently went to a retreat at Mount Hermon. In the beginning, I didn't want to go because I thought it was a waste of time and a waste of money, but later I realized that if I didn't go to the retreat, I would still be one of those "Christians" who believes that they are Christian but they don't truly believe in God. The retreat was worth going to because I learned a lot about God that I didn't know about. The speaker at the retreat talked about becoming a member of God's holy kingdom and so on.

What really surprised me was that the speaker talked about how "hesitant" we are when we show other people that we are Christian, which is very true in my life. A few weeks ago, I was walking to school with my friend while listening to Christian music on my iPod. He asked me what kind of music I was listening to. I said, "Um... Party Rock Anthem." That was a complete lie. Then he took my earphone and started to listen to it. He then said, "This isn't Party Rock Anthem. What is it then?" I hesitated and said, "Christian music." What is there to be ashamed about being Christian? I felt really bad afterwards about lying to my friend and most importantly; I disgraced the name of the Lord. How could I? The same thing happened to me at Chinese school. My friend asked me what kind of music I had on my iPod, but this time, with no hesitation or embarrassment, I said, "Most of the songs on my iPod are Christian music." Then he asked me, "Really?" in a tone that seemed like he looked down on me. I said, "Yeah. Is there a problem?" After that, he just stopped talking. That time, I didn't disgrace the Lord. I told him that I listen to Christian music like there is no problem at all.

What I liked about the speaker during the retreat was that he would relate

his life experiences to the messages and most of the time, it would be funny. During those three days, I felt that God was there at the retreat looking over us and was changing my relationship with him. I began to understand more about Jesus and what our purpose in life is.

The main reason I want to become a Christian is that I want to be <u>redeemed</u>. I want to be His son, <u>forever</u>. I want to be set free. What is <u>me without You?</u> Nothing. I am <u>worn</u> without Him. So <u>here I am to worship</u>, here I am to bow down. He is my <u>everlasting God</u>. <u>How can I keep from singing?</u> When I lay down in the water, I will remember <u>how great is our God</u> and that <u>Your grace is enough</u>. When I come out of the water, <u>I will rise</u> as my new self, which will <u>awake my soul</u>. Since Jesus died on the cross for me, I will sacrifice myself to Him and be reborn like Jesus. His love is <u>indescribable</u>, uncontainable. So <u>whom shall I fear?</u> What is there to fear when God is within me? Nothing, nothing at all. You are <u>God of wonders</u>. <u>You are Holy</u>. Thank you.

感恩見證 Thanksgiving Testimony

Lilia Sia

I became a Christian when I was 19 years old. I was baptized then. I knew God and I know being a Christian is to be good and kind. Attending church every Sundays. I acknowledge myself a "Sunday Christian" because I have ears but I was not listening to the message. I have my Bible but I was not reading it. I will pray if needed. Totally no relationship with the Lord.

Until at the age of 27, I was at the lowest point of my life. No one to turn to, "I was a lost sheep then". I cried for God wholeheartedly. I realized I was far from Him. I realized my weaknesses and mistakes. My taking Him for granted. (I'm a sinner saved by His grace) he heard my cries, my prayers and forgive my sins. He healed me, He leads me in the path of righteousness, with His grace and mercy, He saved me. He is the God of second chance. He restored me, I was revived by His great love to me.

From that time on, I start attending Bible study, reading and study His words. I attentively listen to the Sunday message. I pray to talk to Him. His Holy Spirit dwells in me, comforts me, gives me peace and joy within me. I place Him in the center of my life.

I have a big turning point in my life to become a true Christian. By God, continually kept changing me from inside out. To be the light and salt on this earth. To love and serve Him for the rest of my life till His coming. Praise God! To God be the Glory! Amen!

刘焕文

在四年前身体出现了各样的不适,关节疼痛、头晕、疲倦乏力,看了不少医生,也找不到根由。却在一次例行的检查中,发现尿带血,CT扫描证实我的左肾有复杂的肾囊肿,九成是癌性。当时有专科医生提议立刻开刀,而另一位医生因见囊肿还小,则建议可以多等一些时日再作决定。在那无奈的等候过程中,深感觉到人的渺少,正如诗歌所说,"有许多未来的事情,我现在不能识透,但我知谁掌管明天,我也知谁牵我手"。虽觉无助,但心里却平安感恩,因为知道神与我同在。

由於头晕、疲乏又加上手脚关节发炎,皮膚像灼伤般疼痛,唯有奔波于不同的医务所中,希望能找出病因。终於在2010年中,医生诊断我患有系統性紅斑狼瘡,是一種慢性的自體免疫疾病,免疫系統攻擊自身細胞和組織,導致發炎和組織損害。由於紅斑性狼瘡目前無法治癒,也通常無法預知何時發病,医生只能針對症狀下藥,一方面使用類固醇和免疫抑制劑为我控制症狀,而另一方面要我盡量休息,因此我就从全职工作减到半职,但是身体状况还是时好时坏。

与此同时,丈夫 Michael 在中国的事工也是越发繁重,常常在中美雨地來回往返,又看见我身体当时的狀況,每次出門总是担心我的安全。因我病发严重时,常会头晕、双脚无力,像站在浮沙上,如适逢脚关节发炎,就是自己上楼回卧房也是一个问题。他多次劝我辞去工作,调养身体,减低身体的负担和压力,若身体好转过来,就跟他一起回国事奉,这样我们可以彼此照顾

,他也不用孤单上阵,也不用为我担心。其实我自己对中国事工也是蛮有感情,今天仍然感受到在二十五年第一次回国时的激动,那一份欠同胞福音的债之催逼仍在燃烧。不过我对辞职此事仍然有所保留,小信的我在心中打算,若我真的不工作,只有Michael 的一份工资够用吗?

在2012 年十月,经过祷告,安静等候,终於递上辞职信。工作这么多年,与上司和同事们愉快相处,在工作上也很顺利,如今突然辞职,心中实在依依不舍。再有前面的路对我而言还是不太明朗,是真的跟 Michael 一起回中国事奉吗?那么我的身体能负荷旅途奔波吗?我们能负担起每次出入的旅费吗?虽然无数问题仍在,不过心想若是神的带领,他必有安排。

今年一月份买了机票,预备好跟随 Michael 在二月一起到中国事奉,虽然担心自己的身体状况,不过还是凭着信心作好安排,在这其间需作全身体检,包括验血、验尿等。那天到了医务诊所,医生问我最近做了什么,我有一些愕然,还没有想清楚她这句话的意思,她就很快的告诉我,验血报告正常,紅斑狼瘡病情缓解,不再需要打類固醇针。感谢神,这几年缠绕着我的疾病,就这样被控制了,而且在报告中,提到尿也没有血,再经肾脏医生诊断,我的肾囊肿没有扩大,所以没有必要开刀,只要每年做超音波检验就可以。神真是信实,就在我们准备出去事奉前将我的担忧全都拿走。

神让我今年有三次机会陪同 Michael到中国事奉,无论是寒冷的黑龙江或是炎热的广州,城市或是农村,都蒙神的保守,让我的身体能够适应,而且身体状况更是一次比一次好。 在国内的事工行程濒密,除了为Michael 打点细节外,常与弟兄姐妹交通祷告,彼此在主内劝勉扶持,看到弟兄姐妹对主的渴慕,认真的学习,真是为他们满心的感谢神,但同时也为他们中间缺乏分辨异端与真理的能力而担忧,再加上世界的引诱、家庭的问题、教会中的冲突等,这些事情都需要有人辅导、教导及代祷。

神除了让我身体康复,也以奇妙作为供应我们的需要。总是借着不同的人与事让我知道祂是又真又活的。神没有答应天色常蓝,我们每天的生活仍需要

面对不同的难处,但神就是让我们在软弱中体会到祂的恩典,在这个常变的世界中体会到祂的信实。愿一切荣耀颂赞都归与我们的父神。

孫嘉

信主,在我們家已是幾代人了,但等到我的媽媽和我真正的認識主,也就是這兩年的事。短短幾年中,天父讓我們見證了他是真神,活神,一切榮耀都歸於天父。

初到加州,我們遇到了很多煩心事兒。從南卡搬家過來托運的行李丟了一件 ,偏偏是最貴重的一箱;我懷孕了卻找不到合適的醫生;每次例行檢查至少 需要\$500;姚堯找新工作,第二輪面試由於沒接到電話,只聽到讓他預約面 試時間的留言卻再也聯繫不上;加州的冬天又濕又冷,沒有適應天氣,姚堯 病了一場;去產檢的路上,擋風玻璃莫名其妙的被小石子給擊碎了。面對這 一切,我後悔來到加州,卻不曾想到求告神。通過視頻,我將一切告訴了媽 媽。此時我的媽媽因為見證了外婆歸入天家而頓然醒悟。開始為我們懇切地 向天父禱告。媽媽當時對我說,天父一定不會是這樣的,我們失去的一定都 會回來。當時的我,根本沒抱什麼希望,只願這一切早些過去。就在我們丟 失包裹三個月後的一天,郵寄員將包裹送到了,儘管那天下著大雨,箱子的 狀況卻比之前的十八件都要好,沒有一丁點兒破損。就在那天中午,姚堯接 到了美國銀行第二輪的面試通知。這也已經過去了快兩個月的時間。接下來 ,我申請了 Medi-cal (全免費),找到了一位美國婦產醫生,她居然會說中 文,而且說的非常好。生晃晃的醫院是灣區最好的,產房也是最大的一間。 順產後還在醫院住了三天(後來才知道這是很難得的),連同我媽媽的床位 ,一日三餐全免費。我們的神是聽禱告的神,祂的恩惠和慈愛遠遠超出我們 的想像。讚美主!我們永遠都不知道天父的時間表,我們所知道的是天父愛 我們,非常的愛我們!

儘管信主己有兩年多的時間,我們之前卻沒有"什一"奉獻過。我們以前總覺著自己的收入不高,天父會諒解的,以後有了錢再補上。那日,在教堂讀到經文 "你們要將當納的十分之一全然送入倉庫,使我家有糧,以此試試我,

是否為你們敞開天上的窗戶傾福于你,甚至無處可容"。(瑪拉基書3:10) 我們覺得該是奉獻的時候了。就在奉獻後的第一週,公司免了姚堯當交的 social security 的相關費用\$4070。天父就是要讓我們看到,他所說的字 字句句都兌現。我們本不配天父這樣的愛,天父却仍然愛我們。

我的外公在外婆走後的一年,幾乎是同一天也住進了同一家醫院,心梗,腦梗交替發作,心肺功能衰竭,心門無法完全閉合。醫生多次發出病危通知。一日,已是深夜,外公再次發作,這次比以往的都要厲害。外公已是九十歲的高齡,血管本已很難找,加上多年的輸液,針頭根本扎不進去,一來一時,濺的滿地的血迹。醫院讓準備後事,當時我的兩個姨媽和我媽媽在場,寫不已。外公臉色發紫,却一直想說話。(外公自從腦梗後,說話已是非常的不清楚,甚至到了很多簡單的詞都不知道怎麼表達的地步)。外公憋了很久,清楚的說出了兩個字:"禱告!"當時他已是氣都喘不上來了。這時,媽媽們才恍然大悟,開始迫切的邊哭邊禱告。半個小時後,外公平靜了下來,平安的渡過了危險期。第二天,外公開口說:"魔鬼還想把我奪了去,那是不可能的!"全家都笑了,齊聲讚美主!

我現在仍記得小時候見外公戴著眼鏡抄聖經的情景,到了冬天為了抄聖經外公的手上長滿了凍瘡(我們那兒的冬天是沒有暖氣的)。外公以前沒讀過什麼書,很多聖經上的字他都不認識,只要他不認識的,他就會問,甚至向那時正在上小學的我請教。那時的我還覺得很可笑,這麼認真幹嘛?現在我終於明白了外公的心,一個虔誠的基督徒,應該是天父所喜悅的!現在外公的身體狀況居然比之前好了許多(醫生常說像他這樣的身體狀況,年輕的小伙子都撑不過去),可外公却平安喜樂的生活著,讚美主!

昨天和媽媽視頻得知我的小姨自信主受洗後,變化非常大!感謝主!小姨現在和大姨的關係改善了很多,以前小姨縂是嫌大姨說話囉嗦,甚至還和大姨吵。現在小姨覺得大姨非常可愛,她們姐妹間更加地相愛了!感謝主在這其中動工,信靠主的人有福了!

恩典在我家

沈愛華

2012年8月我来到泉谷华人教会,在这里得到了你们的鼓励和帮助,谢谢兄弟姐妹们,在这一年里一起学习主的话语,一起团契交流分享,分享彼此的喜悦,分担生活中遇到的麻烦,我们一起哭一起笑,彼此鼓励,一起在主里成长。因着耶稣我们彼此建立了深厚的感情,在这感恩的日子里,想与大家分享主的恩典在我家。

大家都见过我爸爸,他的语言不流利,那是他得病留下的后遗症,他得的是脑血栓,而且拴在了言髓的部分,除了失去行动能力外,他还失去了吞咽功能,语言功能。是我的一位阿姨带来了最美的礼物,使他认识了主耶稣,给了他活下去的勇气,给了他顽强的意志,是主耶稣医治了他,使他不仅能站立起来,而且可以讲话,自己可以照顾自己,他每天与主同在,为我们祷告,感谢主的救恩,他坚信一人信主全家蒙福。

09年我的脚一踏上这片土地,主就在看顾引领我,那时我还不认识主,他把我安排在基督徒的身旁,让我第一时间见到他。他知道我需要帮助,就有热心的兄弟姐妹在我身边出现。一切是那么的自然,我参加了主日的崇拜,崇拜时有一首歌《耶和华是爱》是我听到的第一首圣诗,好美,超好听啊!心理有一种说不出的滋味,喜欢!崇拜结束时送给我一盘光碟,回家后迫不及待听起来,都是赞美诗歌,从刚听过的《耶和华是爱》到《最知心的朋友》,从《空谷回音》到《轻轻听》不论在家还是开车在外,这张碟在那段时间一直陪伴我。

直到参加湾区华人春令营活动,世界级的钢琴家Sandra Shen 做的见证感染了我,我惊呆了,心颤抖了,她从音乐之父巴赫讲到贝多芬,从音乐神童莫扎特讲到舒伯特,对于学习过音乐的我来说,这些著名作曲家的名字并不陌生,但我并不知道他们都是基督徒,而他们感谢上帝赋予他们的卓越才华。Sandra讲述自己的信主历程,经历了主对她的试练,她的演奏太美了,我的眼眶湿润了,听到熟悉的音乐与以往不一样了,散会了我的脸浸在泪水中,

Sandra 走到我身边紧紧抱住我说:"我懂你,我懂",我崩溃、蜕变了,我自认为的坚强不见了,是那么的渺小我软弱,是需要有保护的,我需要变刚强的。

春令营最后一天,当张伯立牧师最后说到:"无论你的生命光景如何,耶稣爱你,无论前面的道路如何,都需要他的引导,无论你有多刚强勇敢,离开他你都无法前行,必须靠他的宝血才能坦然无惧来到上帝面前,必须靠着他的恩典,你才有平安喜乐,你愿意要耶稣吗?愿意让他成为你生命的救主吗?到前面来我为你祷告,他爱我们,是我们最知心的朋友"。我不想与这份爱擦肩而过,我认罪,我悔过,我要平安喜乐,我举起双手来到他面前决志了,全场响起雷鸣般的掌声,掌声持续了很久,这掌声像是天使的歌声,讚美神引领迷失的羊回家。心中的欢喜难以言表,我相信从我认识小玲姐那一刻起,圣灵就在为我做工了,对的时间遇见对的人。那双看不见的手一直拉着我来到他面前。陪谈会Sandra与我谈了很久,并答应我受洗的时候一定来参加。

10/24/2010 对我来讲是一个特别的日子,在大堂座无虚席,见证我与主耶稣同埋葬同复活,除去老我,得到全新的我,我不再是我,耶稣在我里面,我要活得更像祂。受洗典礼结束时,我看到了Sandra,我好高兴啊,她再一次将我紧紧抱住许久,太惊喜了。给她发邮件的时候,不知道她能不能来,因为她太有名了,而且路程太远了,原以为她太忙了来不了,可当我知得她来了,因为没有座位而坐在过道的地上,参加完我的受洗典礼,马上回去准备下午的演出,除了感动、流泪,我说不出话来。

我把受洗作为一个新的起点,继续学习灵命的功课,信心的功课,顺服的功课。在马太福音中耶稣教导门徒说:你们祈求,就给你们,寻找就寻见,叩门就给你们开门。因为凡祈求的就得著,寻找的就寻见,叩门的就给他开门,主的话一句也没有落空。在我练习祷告的过程中,奇妙的事情一再出现,我就讲三件事情与大家分享:

- 1. 我很久没有练琴了,手真的有些痒了,在脑海中闪现过要是能有一台钢琴就好了,没过多久我搬家了,在房东闲置的房间里我见到了一架满是灰尘的钢琴,我又惊又喜,后来得知是前房客不要了留下的,他们正准备处理掉,感谢上帝这台琴此刻在我家里,我用它弹奏诗歌服侍主。
- 2. 美国的房市跌倒谷底了,百年不遇,而且房贷利息又低,我们也加入了购房大军,在Fremont 看上一套房,当开始贷款的时候才发现我丈夫的 credit 很差,经过调查发现是美国银行搞错了。 把同名同姓的欠款记录在我丈夫名下,解决 credit 烂记录用掉了大半年的时间,房市上涨了,我丈夫很沮丧,但我相信这是主的美意,主会把最好的给我。在约翰福音16:23说:我实实在在的告诉你们,你们若向父求什么,他必因我的名赐给你们。徐牧师告诉我,为买房的事情祷告吧,如果有平安在你心中就可以买。我不止一次的这样做了,我们搬到了这里,感谢主赐平安与我。
- 3. 我们搬到了Tracy,每天还在Fremont上班,每天舟车劳顿确实辛苦,但每天沿途看到上帝赐给我们的礼物是何等的美,一样的路程不一样的天空,看到风车在绿色的山坡上被蓝天白云衬托下像巨幅风景画一样的好看,心情也格外的好,在心里无数遍的感谢上帝。有一天,我不知道发生了什么事,就觉得车子失控往前窜出去,脖子有些痛痛的,我被追尾了,我急忙把车子停靠路边,看到我被一个老墨给撞了,由于语言不通,我给小玲姐打电话救援,就在我打电话的时候,肇事者加大油门跑了。感谢主对我的保守,我与车都没有什么大碍。就在前不久,开车接电话时,我又将车子撞到马路牙上,轮胎都撞破了,感谢主,我没有撞到行人和车辆。我将车子停在路边,第一件事就是祷告,我知道我错了,主要告诫我,要遵守一切律法。感谢主耶稣保守我每天出行的脚步。

一路走来感谢神让我成为他的儿女,感谢主耶稣的引领、教导与帮助,让我体会到在他的爱里得到平安与喜乐。我来到泉谷华人教会是必然的,因为有

主的带领。这里有一群爱主,乐意事奉主的兄弟姐妹,这里有尽心尽力的牧师,有长远的规划,近有完整的学习计划,使我们每一周都有丰丰富富的灵粮。天天与主同行,让我们不断的成长。完全的信靠交托,坚定我们的意志,远离世界的引诱,学习在任何困难下的忍耐、信心与忠心,感谢神,让我生长在一片好的土壤上,求主修剪我,使我茁壮成长,开花结果。

Angel Relax 的按摩師的見證

彼得

八年前的某一天,心 血来潮 特发奇想赶时髦想起个洋名字,在电视上有个彼得名让我感到舒服就认了。

后来成了基督徒,在很多牧师讲道中得知彼得是耶稣其中一个门徒,而且三次不认主,其人喜欢夸夸其谈,在耶稣受难时不敢认主,而耶稣对这个门徒了然于心还特别原谅他也没有怪罪,哈哈,我是受到共产思想影响深重的人,无神论在幼儿园时候已经根深蒂固,而且也受毛大爷"教誨"和尚打伞无发无天。我喜欢看科学宇宙论,对神的认可是难上难。

如今,我成了一名真真实实的基督徒,血肉与耶稣相连,说到怀疑,我也毫不掩饰的大声说:"我怀疑过,我扣心自问过,世上有那么一位上帝吗?" 经过一番"思想较量"从另个角度可以解释得通,就如我们交朋友,认可的 朋友就不应该怀疑他们,水至清则无鱼。相信就是幸福,怀疑就意味着痛苦 。既然选择幸福,我会毫不怀疑毫不保留,全身心去爱,思想轻松了,快乐 也漂进来了,所以我会毫无试探的去认可上帝,我们是神的儿女,我们是全 世界全宇宙中最快乐的人,因为我们有上帝,耶稣复活,他与我们同在,藉 看耶稣,我们拥有上帝给予的一切,分享到那份无以伦比的荣誉.

The greatest way to bless your pastor is to be one of those faithful people who attends, serves and gives consistently.

忠心的參加敬拜、事奉、並持續的奉獻是信徒給牧師的最大祝福!

神藉著楊老太太讓我經歷祂

焦璗-前角聲癌友關懷網關懷者

聖經說:「因為我耶和華─你的神必攙扶你的右手,對你說:不要害怕!我必幫助你。」(以賽亞書41:13)

認識楊老太太,使我又一次的經歷了神,認織了祂的恩典,祂對祂兒女的信實,及祂奇妙的作為。「我們曉得萬事都互相效力,叫愛神的人得益處,就是按他旨意被召的人。」(羅8:28)

大概是2005年十二月的一個星期日,我一如往昔去療養院去探訪一位老朋友 May。 正準備離開的時候,療養院的工作人員找我去見楊老太太。今天她剛搬進來,不會說英語。那兒的工作人員無法與她溝通; 大概見我是東方面孔,希望我和楊老太太有共通的語言,能為他們做翻譯。的確不錯,我們都是華人,但可惜我們還是講不通。她講的是廣東話。而我只會說帶有揚州口音的普通話。她說的我聽不懂,我講的她也不明白。兩人比手劃腳了一番,看得工作人員名其妙。我只好搖搖頭,表示愛莫能助。這就是我和楊老太太第一次見面的情形。

言語不同 還是每週去看她

雖然我們言語不通,但是楊老太太見到我的時候,那種愉快喜悅的神情,恰深深地感動了我。對她念念不忘。起先,我並沒有打算繼續去看楊太太;但也許是她那歡欣愉快的個性深深吸引了我,也可能是聖靈感動吧,反正以後每次看 May,就不由自主地去看楊老太太。每週日由教堂裡出來,總是先到亡妻的墳上看看,換一束花。再去看 May,最後去看楊老太太。去亡妻的墳上,可以安慰我對她的思念之情;去看 May,享受到老友相見的親切;但每次見過楊老太太,卻使我步履輕健,精神煥發。

楊老太太的英文名字是 Joy。真是人如其名。每次見到她,她都是興高采烈 地拍著手,抱抱我,有時還親親我,給我帶來了無比的喜樂。有時真不知道 ,究竟是誰在探訪誰,是誰給誰帶來了喜樂。我不禁低頭,感謝我的神,也 驚嘆我的神行事奧妙。 我們還是無法溝通,還是比手劃腳,好在多半是她在講。楊老太太似乎有說不完的故事,而我只能在一邊察言觀色。或是點點頭,或是搖搖頭。但就這樣子,還是弄清楚了一些事情。譬如說,她不喜那兒的伙食,更不喜歡那兒的茶水。我就去買了一盒茉莉花茶的茶包送給她。後來才知道,Joy 最喜歡的就是茉莉花茶。我怎能不低頭敬拜神的奇妙恩典和安排,讓我就選了茉莉花茶。冬天的時候,她的手很冷,我就把她的手放在自己的手心裡,慢慢地搓暖。有時候她指指門,我就推著她的輪椅,在走道裡走走。就這樣子,差不多有半年之久。

迫切感動 要和她一齊禱告

楊老太太很瘦小,我覺得可能有病。因為我不是她的親人,療養院的工作人員不會告訴她的病情,我也沒有打聽。本來做探訪的工作,就有這麼一個規距:要絕對尊重對方的隱私,文化背景及宗教信仰。我不知道楊老太太有沒有宗教信仰;但心裡卻有迫切的感動,要和她一起禱告,而且這樣的感動越來越強。

終於我忍不住,有一天臨走時,請她和我一起禱告。我的禱告很簡單,求神給老太太平安,喜樂和健康;如果楊老太太不是基督徒,則求神帶領她接受主耶穌成為她的救主。她雖然聽不懂我說得是什麼,但也高高興興地大聲說「阿門」。從那次以後,我們總是用禱告來結束我的探訪。

最後見面 原來她是基督徒

最後一次見到楊老太太是二○○六年母親節,星期天。這時候楊老太太住院 已經有兩個星期。那天下午,我有一種奇妙的感動和迫切感。我告訴自己, 今天下午甚麼事都可以擱下,一定要去看看楊老太太。我買了一枝紅玫瑰和 一小盒茉莉花茶去醫院看望她。但很遺憾的是她已經認不得人了,而我竟也 認不出她來。本來瘦小的楊老太太,已經腫脹到無法辨認了。

也是這一天,我第一次和她的女兒聯絡上。才知道楊老太太得的是癌症,而且已經到了末期。也從她女兒那兒知道,原來楊老太太是一位虔誠的基督徒。神啊!我並不知道楊老太太是一位基督徒,但你知道。神啊!難道不是你感動我與你的女兒楊老太太一起禱告的嗎?

第二天她女兒打電話告訴我,楊老太太己於星期一中午十二點卅五分回歸天家。這一天也是楊老太太的生日。神啊!你知道我心裡掛念著楊老太太,也知道她喜歡我去看她。難道不是你感動我在楊老太太回天家的前一天,去和她道別嗎?我除了低頭感謝敬拜神,還能說什麼呢?

同在主裡 相愛相助相關照

與楊老太太交往半年,這段經歷使我認識到,神對他的兒女是多麼地關心愛護。當祂的女兒孤獨地來到一個不熟悉的新地方時,祂沒有忘記她。是神感動了我去探望她,是神感動我去和她一起禱告,是神感動我去買一盒她喜歡喝的茉莉花茶。「他 病重在榻,耶和華 必扶持他;他在病中,必為他鋪床。」這節經文對我有了真實的意義。更一次的經歷到神的信實。這又何嘗不是神對我的鼓勵和教導呢?

自從妻子病逝之後,我很消沉。常常感嘆,我老了,身體又不健康,記憶力退步,聖經也忘了許多。我還能事奉神嗎?但是慈愛的神啊!你卻讓我看到,一位病重的老太太,只要心裡有神,不僅生命中仍然充滿了喜樂和平安,並能帶給別人快樂。她使我精神煥發,步履輕健。像我和楊老太太,年齡差別這麼大,言語不通,但在主愛裡,確能建立起友誼,相助,相關照。這不就是事奉神嗎?這對我真是很大的鼓勵。

以賽亞四十一章十節告訴我,「你不要害怕,因為我與你同在;不要驚惶, 因為我是你的神。 我必堅固你,我必幫助你; 我必用我公義的右手扶持你 。」無所謂我的年齡,也無所謂我的健康,只要虛已地跟隨神,倒空自己, 甘願為神「將身体獻上,當作活祭」。我們信實的神,必會在最不可思議的 情況下,使用我,事奉我的神。

探訪楊老太太半年,深深地體會到「萬事互相效力,叫愛神的人得益處」 (羅馬書8:28)。不僅是聖經的啟示,更是我親身的經歷。

這就是我的見証。

為保護當事人隱私權,使用假名。此文修改後,曾載於角聲情,第5期(2007年,1-2月)

<u>詩篇52:8</u>「至於我,就像神殿中的青橄欖樹;我永永遠遠倚靠神的慈 愛。」

<u>以賽亞書46:4</u>「直到你們年老,我仍這樣;直到你們髮白,我仍懷搋。我已造作,也必保抱;我必懷抱,也必拯救。」

引言-神在Tracy 教會催促了教會領袖及數位弟兄姊妹們成立長青團契。使住在附近的華裔老年人,有機會彼此分享在天路歷程上所經歷的神的慈愛或呼召。正如希伯來書十二章一節,「我們既有這許多的見證人,如同雲彩圍著我們,……」然而在我自己一生中給我印象最深的,莫過於加拿大籍的Mr. and Mrs. Wiskin, 我稱他們為魏老先生和魏老太太。這篇短文就是要講他們的故事。前幾個月,因為撰寫教會的 Mission Insert ,我提到了戴紹曾牧師(戴德生的曾孫)來加拿大Kingston 的Queen's University中國團契証道。先夫與我負責招待之事。時光匆匆,我的記憶又回到四十二年前;

就是在那次証道之後,茶點招待的時候,一位矮小,滿頭銀髮的洋老太太走向我,自我介紹了她自已,「Nora Wiskin」,我正希奇她怎麼會來中國學生團契?她在這裡似乎格格不入,「我的父母曾是在中國的傳教士,我小時候就隨父母去過河南。」今晚她來是希望見見戴牧師,也想認識些中國學生。「我喜歡中國人,」她說,「我可以參加你們的查經班嗎?只要有人坐在我身邊為我翻譯就可以了。」我深深的被她的中國心所感動,就自告奮勇的答應替她做翻譯。也覺得這是神美好的安排。 從此 Nora每星期五晚上由先夫和我接送。風、雨、雪、冰無阻地來中國學生團契聚會。有時也分享一些她個人的見証。更喜歡年節時的potluck。熱鬧的氣氛,美味的中國菜,總讓她笑顏逐開。

Nora 的先生, Eric, 高大英俊, 卻常年被困在輪椅上。 團契完後, 我們送 Nora回家,總是看見Eric在門口等侯。既使是陰雨之夕, 仍是門開一縫, 藉 著屋內透出的昏黃的燈光, 仍可以看見一位坐在輪椅上的老者, 引頸向紗門 外看望… 小巧的屋子, 前面有政府為他輪椅舖修的上坡道(Ramp), 便於輪 椅運行。如此Eric可以自行去後院的車房做他喜歡的木工。工具都放在特別 設計,與他輪椅等高的架子上。一個個babyfood 小玻璃瓶裡,各種釘子按大小分類,裝妥,排列整齊,讓人一目了然且有情趣。

和他們熟了之後,漸漸了解他們的過去。 原來 Nora 年輕時是一位護士。 Eric以榮譽生從Queen's University的電機系畢業。在眾公司爭聘的情況下, 他選擇了 Queen's University 的所在地,Kingston,的一家公司, ALCOM, 作工程師。 Nora 和 Eric也快樂的結婚,同心的事奉神。不久兒子Richard 誕生。 小家庭在神的恩典下,歡樂融融。

「天有不測之風雲,人有旦夕之禍福。」就在他們兒子約四歲的時候,小兒麻痺症在Kingston流行。兒子 Richard 和 Nora 的小侄兒一齊被感染了。身為護士的 Nora,忙著照顧這二個孩子。 兩個孩子在她細心的看護下,病完全好了。 誰知道 Eric 卻感染上了小兒麻痺症。 當Nora 注意到時,為時已晚。 一個大學畢業不久,年輕有為,前途未可限量的 Eric 從此坐上了輪椅。我認識他們時,他的輪椅生涯已超過了四十個年頭。望天流淚,「無語問蒼天」,又何止一回。年輕貌美的Nora也因此經歷過很多次的試探。Nora開玩笑的說,她在後院晾衣服時,不時會有年輕男人向她搭訕。小城裡,每個人都知道每個人的事。Nora明白這些男人心裡想些什麼。生活的擔子,一生的幸福,對年輕的Nora來說,的確是不小的試探,嚴峻的考驗。儘管如此,她明白婚姻是神所安排的。婚禮時在神面前莊嚴的誓言:「for worse, for health, for sickness」是要尊重而身體力行的。四十多年來,不離不棄,她一直留在Eric身邊。不怨不悔,她要照顧他一輩子。

我生了老大後,一家三口,經常成為魏老太太家的座上客。他們的獨子Richard已成家,在東歐宣教。Richard小時候的玩具,Eric親手做的小火車什麼的,還保存的依然如新。也就成了我家老大的玩具。他們生活簡樸。招待我們的晚餐,永遠是義大利麵。但我卻認為她老人家做的拌醬特別可口,百吃不厭。餐桌中擺了一個搪瓷的小盒子,裡面裝著印了經句的小卡片。倆老一天背一句。我們在時,就大家一齊背。連牙牙學語的老大,也跟著啷啷上口。那親切的氣氛,必定在他小小的心靈裡,也留下了溫馨的記憶。吃完晚餐,是老先生該上床的時刻了,只見老太太把他推到床邊。再用特別為傷殘人設計的吊帶机器,把老先生由輪椅轉送到床上。四十年如一

日。是什麼力量讓這嬌小的老太太如此地堅強?又是什麼力量使一位終身困在輪椅上的老先生如此喜樂?他們不是不食人間煙火的聖人,有一次 Eric 毫不隱瞞的告訴我; 曾經有很長的一段日子,每次收到 Queen's University 的校友通訊時,或同學會的期刊時,都很痛苦,會埋怨神的不公平。許多當年才華遠不如他的同學,或成為這家公司的董事長,或升任那家公司的總工程師。他們到處旅遊,將子女送到最好的大學。他們人生的成就,不免使他產生自卑感。然而,他也說,每當他親近神時,總會體會到神所給他的那一份,才最真實。苦難中與 Nora 攜手同行,才最可貴。彼此相愛的人,一起與神親蜜同行,又是那么的甘甜。當他們走完人生短暫的旅程後,神會為他們預備的永恆,將是他們最大的獎賞。「我願意得耶穌,勝得一切」在Eric 和Nora 身上,見証得清清楚楚。

先夫完成學業後,我們全家赴巴西。從此就沒有再見到這一對敬神愛主而彼此思愛不渝的老夫婦。 Eric 還常常寫信給我們。 信上說,「Nora 的身體越來越衰弱,終於住進了醫院。」醫護人員也不得不把老先生送到養老院。兩個一生相愛,不離不捨的老人,同住在Kingston,見一面卻不容易。後來收到Eric 最後的一封信,翻成中文是這樣寫著:

「親愛的桂林,Nora 病得不輕,前幾天是我們結婚 50週年紀念。 她在醫院,我在養老院,我們只有彼此默禱,為對方祝福。 但仍然充滿了喜樂和感謝。 神聽了我們的禱告,完成了我們一個小小的心願。祂感動了中國學生團契的 Nick Yu弟兄。余弟兄用車將 Nora 載到我的老人院。 為我們在已打烊的餐廳裡,擺上了我們最喜歡的中國麵,還點上了蠟燭,便悄悄離去。 讓我俩再享受一次燭光下的晚餐,再一次雙眼相視,雙手緊握,說一聲 "Ilove you。" …幾天後,Nora 回天家了。天堂從此有了一個更吸引我的力量。 有一天我也會去那裡,脫去我殘廢之體,不再依賴輪椅。換上滿有榮光之軀,我可走向 Nora,據她入懷,再一同迎向我們的 神,面對面的告訴祂,"感謝你,我們多愛你"… 」。

他們「…就像神殿中的青橄欖樹;…永永遠遠倚靠神的慈愛。」也使我想起了<u>以賽亞書46:4</u>「直到你們年老,我仍這樣;直到你們髮白,我仍懷搋。我已造作,也必保抱;我必懷抱,……。」半年後,從余弟兄那兒聽到了老先

生逝世的消息。 忍著淚,走進書房,我將聖經翻到希伯來書11章:13-16,「¹³這些人都是存著信心死的,並沒有得著所應許的;卻從遠處望見,且歡喜迎接,又承認自己在世上是客旅,是寄居的。¹⁴說這樣話的人是表明自己要找一個家鄉。¹⁵···¹⁶他們卻羨慕一個更美的家鄉,就是在天上的。所以 神被稱為他們的神,並不以為恥,因為他已經給他們預備了一座城。」

安息吧!親愛的 Eric 和Nora,你們在天上的賞賜是大的。不用高言大志,無需深不可測的神學哲理,你們堅貞的愛情,不可憾動的信心,為主所發出的光輝,永遠成為我的安慰和力量。你們是身邊雲彩般的見証人,伴隨著我,讓我不再感覺步行天路的孤寂,也更盼望那榮耀的冠冕。

没有四肢的佈道家力克•胡哲的见证 孫傳道提供

12月13日下午,著名的福音佈道家力克·胡哲(Nick Vujicic)首次来到杭州出席"世界名人·中国企业"论坛。据国内媒体报導,在媒体发布会现场,力克·胡哲向大家谈起了自己的信仰、家庭和教育。力克认为"最重要的就是信仰,之后是家庭",并告白说,信仰和家庭是他成为今天的自己的最大动力。

在活动现场,力克被问到"想对中国的基督徒说些什么"。这位天生没有四肢的佈道家说,他希望中国的基督徒首先一定要多多读圣经,第二是一定要保持和神的关系。此外,力克也鼓励大家,要信任那些愿意助你一臂之力并能够指引你的人。

在下午近一个小时的演讲中,力克与现场的数万观众分享了改变自己生命的 8个原则:

1:学会感恩。

2:除非你去試,你不知道自己能够做到什么。

3:不要害怕失败。

4:要有勇气。

5:永不放弃。

6:远大的梦想。

7:坚定的信仰。

8:抓住时间。

作为虔诚的基督徒,力克·胡哲的生命和演讲激励了许多人。力克自己曾见证说,他15岁时读到约翰福音 9章中关于生来是瞎眼人的故事,耶稣说这个人"是为了显出神的作为来",那之后,他便决志把生命完全献给耶稣基督。在一系列的经历之后,力克说,"从某种方式上来说,神在我身上彰显的荣耀是在其他人身上无法彰显的","我生命中唯一的恐惧就是怕忘记神在以前如何带领我"。

力克·胡哲于1982年生于澳洲,天生没有四肢,其父母都是虔诚的基督徒。 他出生时,父母及其所在的教会都感到极度震惊和悲痛,无法理解为什么这 样的事情会发生在这个虔诚的基督徒家庭里。而力克小时候也经历过一段痛 苦时期,甚至想过自杀。但父母并没有放弃对儿子的培养,教会他了基本的 生存技能。

力克说,当读到"万事都互相效力,叫爱神的人得益处"时,他的心被深深地触动了,他感受到完全的平安。因为这让他确信,生命中遇到那些看似"坏的"事情,并不是出于什么巧合、意外或者偶然;除非神有一个良善的目的,否则神绝不会随便允许这些事情发生在我们的生命中。

力克·胡哲已于2012年2月10日和宫原香苗(Kanae Miyahara)在美国加州举行了婚礼,他们的儿子 Kiyoshi 也在结婚一年后出生。

神奇的一刀

(一刀剪出一個十字架) 舉世震撼的真實故事

焦璗提供

「文化大革命」時,有一位虔誠的美國宣教士到中國傳福音,被捕入獄,獄長警告他不准向人傳講耶穌,否則將判他死刑!在監獄中這位宣教士還是勇敢的向人傳「耶穌基督為世人贖罪被釘十字架」的福音。有一天,獄長非常兇惡的丟給他紙和剪刀,對他大聲吼叫:「你的耶穌如果是真神,祂必能教你直線的一刀剪出十字架,我就放了你,否則槍斃!」

(十字架有8個直角,怎麼有可能一刀剪出十字架的紙樣?)

於是宣教士謙卑的跪下哭求:「至高全能的神、親愛的主耶穌基督啊!求你憐憫你的百姓,賜下神蹟救他們,因為在你沒有難成的事,讓他們知道你是創造宇宙萬物的獨一真神!」禱告後宣教士感覺有一雙奇妙的手牽著他摺紙,直直剪一刀,哈利路亞!竟然出現了十字架!更不可思議的是,將剪下來的十字架和剩下的碎紙一片也不差的,可排「永生」字樣;沒有十字架時,只能排「死亡」或英文HELL(地獄)的字樣。 獄長和周圍的人看了都大大震驚!俯伏在地,呼喊:「耶穌基督的確是又真又活的神!」於是他們都信了耶穌基督,釋放了宣教士。

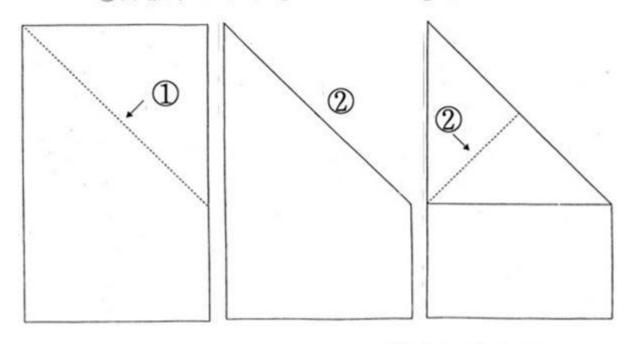
多麼神奇!一刀顯出宇宙間最偉大的奧妙:「神愛世人,甚至將祂的獨生子賜給他們,叫一切信祂的,不至滅亡,反得永生。」(約翰福音3:16)人算什麼?祂竟如此愛我們!全能的神透過一位謙卑勇敢的宣教士,行了一件超越人類智慧所能想像得到的神蹟,賜給我們這傳福音的無價之實——「神奇的一刀」!

神奇的一刀"摺法與剪法:

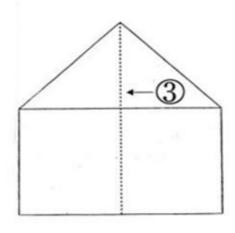
請用 A4 一半大小紙張即可! <請馬上折折看再剪>

①按"虚線"往下折=②

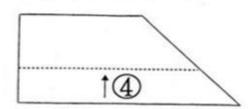
②再往"虚線"往下折



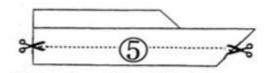
③再往"虚線"對折



④再往"虚線"折



⑤往"虚線"一刀剪下 "神蹟"就出來了!



※就可以開始"排字"了 一張紙折 4 折剪一刀"神蹟" 就出來了!

● 接下來將剪碎的小紙片~排列組合



2014年度經文/Verses of the year

約翰福音 15:7,8; John 15:7,8

你們若常(一直)在我裏面,我的話也常(一直)在你們裏面,凡你們所願意的,祈求,就給你們成就。你們多結果子,我父就因此得榮耀,你們也就是我的門徒了。

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

2014焦點/Focus

信心 / FAITH

跟隨基督: Following Jesus

增加愛心: Abundant in His love

喜愛靈糧: Increasing in His knowledge

廣傳福音: Telling His story

堅固信心: Holding onto His faithfulness