

『珊瑚泉之光』

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珊瑚泉華人浸信教會

Chinese Baptist Church of Coral Springs

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信徒處世漫談

主耶穌說：“你們是世上的鹽。你們是世上的光。”（看太 5:13, 14）

所以我們信徒必須懂得處世，為主作美好見證。



成功 劉廣華牧師

讓我們先談談“成功”。誰不想成功呢？世人天天忙來忙去，目的就是要成功。做父母的，天天催逼他們的孩子讀書，目的也是想他們的孩子成功。老實說，連我們基督徒也想成功。這有沒有錯呢？凡是為了榮耀主而作，或作在主身上的成功，都沒有錯。

十九世紀末美國偉大佈道家慕迪，曾經對芝加哥一群基督徒商人證道說：“你們要

好好的做生意，好好的賺錢，務要達到成功的地步。但是，你們要愛神，奉獻更多的錢財，用在傳福音的工作上。”聖經裏面有兩個好榜樣。第一個是保羅；第二個是亞居拉、百基拉夫婦（看徒 18:1-3）。在世人眼中，他們都是非常成功的人物。

有許多人，包括一些基督徒在內，只會處卑賤，不會處成功。當失敗潦倒，走頭無路的時候，他們就非常謙卑有禮，不恥下問，甚至甘受凌辱。信主的就敬虔度日，讀經祈禱，熱心聚會。不信主的，或燒香拜佛，或仰天求救。可是一旦成功，就變成另一個人。他們立刻對神忘恩，對人負義。所以當大衛貴衛君王，

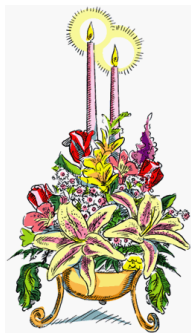
享受成功的時候，他作了一首詩，題醒自己說：

“我的心哪，你要稱頌耶和華，不可忘記祂的一切恩惠。” (詩 103:2)

跟著，不會處成功的人，對下必斥喝驅策，嚴而無恩，以示自己的權威。對年長的，則冷莫無情，置之腦後，因為覺得他們已經沒有什麼可以利用的價值。當年，神降下天火，將所多瑪和蛾摩拉焚燒，就是因為他們的罪惡太大 (看創 19 章)。按旁史記載，他們先將他們的老人集體活埋或焚燒，因為覺得老人是社會進步的負累。假如今日成功的美國或正在成功的中國不好好的對待老人，她們也將會如此滅亡。如果教會和信徒也仿效世人的醜惡行為，神必定施行祂的審判。

那麼，我們應該怎樣處成功呢？讓我們回到保羅、亞居拉和百基拉的故事。這三個人都是以造帳棚為業。若用今天的話來說，他們都是建造房子的大商家。正當保羅在事業上達到非常成功的時候，他突然蒙神呼召，奉獻一生，作主僕人。從此，為了傳揚福音，丟棄萬事，看作糞土 (看腓 3:8)。雖然亞居拉和百基拉沒有得到神的呼召，他們也將自己看作是神的僕役，甘與保羅同工，熱心事奉主。

但願各主內弟兄姊妹都好好的把握神賜給你們的機會，努力發展神交負你們的事業，一直達到成功的地步。同時，要忠心愛神，為主而活，隨時隨地竭力傳揚福音，高舉基督的名字，將一切榮耀歸給天父。



戰爭與禱告

基督一兵

從(出 17:8-16)的記載中，我們看到摩西在利非訂囑咐約書亞帶領以色列民在前線與亞瑪力人爭戰，而摩西則帶著亞倫與戶珥卻上了山頂舉手。摩西何時舉手，以色列民就得勝；摩西何時垂手，亞瑪力人則立即反敗為勝。我們同時看到摩西畢竟是人，受到肉體的限制，手會發沉，便會垂手，至使以色列民受到虧損。於是我們看到，摩西的同工幫助他，亞倫和戶珥首先搬一塊大石給摩西坐下來，再一左一右的在摩西旁邊扶著摩西的雙手，使摩西一直穩著住舉手。直至約書亞殺了亞瑪力王，取得了戰爭的最後勝利。從這段經文中，我們看到一個真理，在前方打仗的固然重要，但在後方同心合意的禱告更為重要，只要後方禱告的不徹醒，便會直接影響了戰果。

在上世紀二、三十年代裡，神在中國重用的僕人宋尚節，曾走遍祖國山河以及南洋各地，主領了很多大型佈道會，帶領了成千上萬的人歸入主名下。但我們別忽視了在他佈道的同時，有上百的弟兄姊妹組成了祈禱團，在密室中跪在神前，為宋博士及失喪的靈魂流淚地迫切禱告。這是前方作戰(佈道)與在山上舉手(禱告)，從而取得勝利(千萬人歸主)的近代版範例。

但願神開我們的眼睛，讓我們都能看到此真理，正如大衛王看到的：“耶和華使人得勝，不是用刀用槍，因為戰爭的勝敗全在乎耶和華。” (撒下 17:47)。

更願聖靈感動我們，讓我們一起參加教會的祈禱會，同心合意地興旺福音，讓多人蒙福，榮耀歸與神！阿們。



Serving

Eddie Au

Serving is probably one of the most used terms by all Christians. Serving should become our second nature or instinct just like breathing once we put our trust in Christ. It is motivated by love for Christ who first loved us. It is our natural response to God's grace and His plan for our salvation. It is clearly instructed in His Word which we must obey. Serving God is part of a spiritual exercise regiment that will help us grow spiritually so as to be mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Eph 4:9) A believer who claims to have faith but shuns serving God and fellow believers is the same as a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. Praise and thanks to God that our church is continually growing in number. Thereby opportunities for serving abound. Anyone with a heart and desire to serve should be able to find his or her place of serving within our church family. There are a few things we should keep in mind when we are serving.

(1) We must serve within God's will. Very often when we are serving, we serve according to our own liking and according to our own will. In 1 Samuel 15, the Bible tells us that Saul did not follow God's instruction on completely destroying the Amalekites. (1 Samuel 15:18-19) Saul started out his mission as God told him but finished his job against God's will. It resulted in God's rejection of Saul as king. We must not

assume that in the name of serving God we can ignore His will. To serve God is to heed God's command. We must put "obeying" before "serving". The Bible and our in-dwelling Spirit is our unerring guide.

(2) We must first get right with God when we go about serving God. Joshua pointed out that we cannot serve properly without first recognizing any sins that come between God and us and we must first turn back from our sins. "You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins." (Joshua 24:19)

(3) We must serve faithfully. Faithfulness is another distinct attribute in Christianity. Nothing pleases God more when we are faithful to Him. The Bible repeatedly tells us that when we are unfaithful to God, God's wrath and punishment will come upon us. In 1 Samuel 12:24, "But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart". Joshua also admonishes us in Joshua 24:23, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." If we have anything which is taking up the throne in our heart, let us throw them out and give God the rightful place in our heart when we are serving our God.

(4) We must serve one another. John 13:34-35, Jesus said to his disciples, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." A loving relationship among believers is so important that our Lord made it a new command to His disciples. Apostle Paul even

editorialized in Galatians 5:14, "The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself"". What better way can we express our love for our brothers and sisters by serving them? By faithfully serving our brothers and sisters, God's name is exalted and His grace is exemplified as in 1 Peter 4:10, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

(5) We must serve enthusiastically. Very often it is easy for us to be zealous and enthusiastic when we are working on a visible church project. But when it comes to serving brothers and sisters, especially some of whom we may not particularly like, it is hard to be enthusiastic. We must constantly remind ourselves that "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does," (Ephesians 6:7-8) Enthusiasm can be more contagious and much stronger than any virus we may ever find. It is a culture we must develop as a living New Testament church.

(6) We must serve in humility. While we are serving with zeal and enthusiasm, it is easy for us to get carried away sometimes. Holding steadfast to one's opinions rigidly and insisting on one's own way of doing things very often result in most of the friction and strife within a church. Therefore we must temper our enthusiasm with humility. God's Word rings true in Phillipians 2:3, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." Serving without humility is worse than not serving at all because

we may unwittingly cause irrevocable harm to our brothers and sisters.

(7) We must serve gratefully and graciously. Some believers who hop from one church to another in hope of locating their spiritual home where they might find a sense of belonging. It is sad to say that they are often disappointed. It is because either they are not offered a chance to serve in that hope-to-be home church or more often than not they have not willingly or eagerly joined in to serve in the church. There is nothing in the world which is more precious than one is enjoying what one is doing. If one is truly willingly and enthusiastically serving others, he or she cannot help but experience genuine joy beyond measure. To be able and to be allowed to serve is truly a blessing. Therefore, if you call this church as your spiritual home, serve gratefully and graciously. "If they obey and serve him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment." (Job 36:11)

侍奉

區煒文執事

侍奉是基督徒常掛在口邊的慣語詞，對已信主的人來說，侍奉就像呼吸一般那麼自然。我們侍奉是因受基督先愛我們才引出的愛所催動。我們侍奉是因領受神的恩典和赦恩而發出的回應。聖經也清楚地教導我們要侍奉。侍奉可說是我們靈命上的操練，可使我們得以長大成人，滿有基督長成的身量。一個信主的

人若只談信心而忽略事奉，就如鳴的鑼，響的鉦一般。感謝主讓我們的教會不斷成長，人數不斷增多，侍奉的機會也隨而增加，任何有心志侍奉的弟兄姊妹都應可尋找到侍奉的崗位。在我們侍奉的時候，有幾件事情我們應當留意。

1) 我們侍奉要以神的旨意為依歸 我們在侍奉的時候，往往依照我們自己的旨意及喜好，把神的旨意拋于腦後，在撒母耳上十五章，聖經告訴我們掃羅沒有完全依照神的吩咐，沒有把亞瑪力人滅絕淨盡（撒下 15:18-19）。掃羅奉神的命令去辦事，卻違背神的旨意去完事，導致神不再接納掃羅為以色列民的王。在我們高舉侍奉神的大字標題下，我們不可忽略神的旨意。要侍奉神，我們先要服從神的命令。先聽命，後侍奉，這樣的侍奉，才蒙神的賞納，聖經與住在我們心中的聖靈就是我們最好的帶領。

2) 要侍奉，先要修好我們與神的關係 在舊約中，約書亞提醒我們，若要好好侍奉神，必要醒察隔絕我們與神之間的罪，從罪裏回轉，再歸向神在約書亞 24:19：「你們不能事奉耶和華；因為他是聖潔的神，是忌邪的神，必不赦免你們的過犯罪惡。」

3) 侍奉要忠心，要全心全意 忠心信實是基督教的特質，對神忠心是蒙神所最喜愛的，聖經重複又重複地告訴我們，我們對神不忠心，必遭受神的刑罰，及面對神的忿怒。撒母耳口提面令我們：“只要你們敬畏耶和華，誠誠實實地盡心侍奉他。”（撒下 12:24）約書亞也在約 24:23 說：「你們現在要除掉你們中間的外邦神，專心歸向耶和華——以色列的神。」我們心中若有任何佔據我們心靈的事與物，願我

們現在就把這些事物拋棄，將我們的心靈完全交給神，忠心侍奉神。

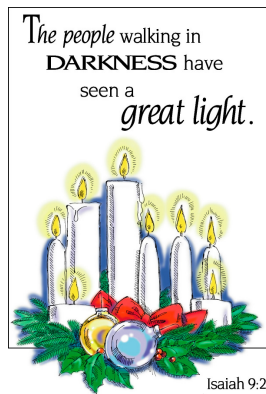
4) 要彼此侍奉 主耶穌吩咐他的門徒要彼此相愛，約翰福音 13:35 記載：「我賜給你們一條新命令，乃是叫你們彼此相愛；我怎樣愛你們，你們也要怎樣相愛。」主耶穌認為信徒彼此相愛是多麼的重要，祂把「要彼此相愛」成為祂門徒的新誡命。使徒保羅在加拉太書 5:14 中斬釘截鐵地告訴我們：「因為全律法都包在「愛人如己」這一句話之內了。」還有什麼方法比侍奉我們的弟兄姊妹更能表達我們彼此之間的愛呢？能夠彼此侍奉，可使神的名得到高舉，祂的恩典得蒙彰顯，如彼得前書 4:10：「各人要照所得的恩賜彼此服事，作 神百般恩賜的好管家。」

5) 要熱心侍奉 在教會侍奉中，若在龐大或令人觸目的事工上，熱心侍奉是很容易做到及讓人理解的。但在侍奉自己平常並不太喜歡的人時，要熱心侍奉確實不易，以弗所書 6:7-8 鼓勵我們：「甘心事奉，好像服侍主，不像服侍人。因為曉得各人所行的善事，不論是為奴的，是自主的，都必按所行的得主的賞賜。」熱心是最有感染力的，能帶動會眾，作美好見證，是一個活潑新約教會必須養成的風氣。

6) 要謙卑侍奉 誠然我們熱心侍奉時，很容易做事過份自我，堅持己見，毫不讓步，往往做成教會中很多的磨擦與紛爭，我們應熱心中常帶謙卑，腓立比書 2:3-4 有云：「凡事不可結黨，不可貪圖虛浮的榮耀；只要存心謙卑，各人看別人比自己強。各人不要單顧自己的事，也要顧別人的事。」沒有謙卑的侍奉，比不侍奉更不

謊，因為會在無心無意之中做成對弟兄姊妹不能挽回的傷害。

7) 要滿有恩慈地，感恩侍奉 有一些基督徒為了尋找令他或她有歸屬感的屬靈家庭時常從一間教會，跑到另外一間教會。最可悲的是他始終找不到一家滿意的教會。原因可能是他跑進去的教會沒有給他侍奉的機會，但最可能的是他從頭到尾沒有很樂意地和渴望地參加教會的侍奉。在世上沒有一樣東西比一個人做他喜愛的工作更可貴。若我們能樂意地，熱心地去侍奉，一定能夠親嘗到無限的喜樂。能夠侍奉是神賜的福氣。所以，若你接受這教會是你屬靈的家，就當在感恩中及滿有恩慈地侍奉，約伯 36:11：「他們若聽從事奉他，就必度日亨通，歷年福樂；」



神在302所作的奇妙工作

錦燕

去年 12 月 31 日，當我們跪在神的面前，數算神這一年中的帶領和恩典的時候，神非常清楚地告訴我們，他在這一年中在我們的 302

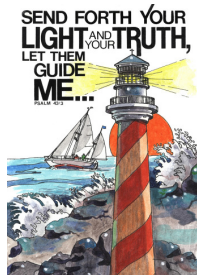
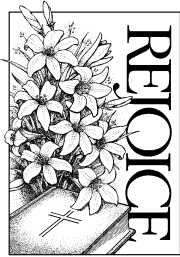
做了奇妙的工作，就是在上海的我們的那批朋友、親人中，把一群不同職業、不同文化程度和不同經歷的人，從世界中召回到光明的國度，成為一群樂意讚美神的子民，並建立了 302 福音堂。作為我們個人，曾經有過許許多多為自己前途設計的美好計劃，也設想過各種今後回國如何事奉神的打算，但就是沒有想過象我們這樣卑微、渺小的人竟然能夠去牧羊他的羊群。感謝主，他的奇妙深不可測。只要我們願意為神擺上，願意順服他的旨意，他就會為我們開闢一條奇妙的充滿榮光的道路！

302 是在上海房價最高的那一段時間買下的。才過了一個多星期，政府開始調控房地產，房價開始下跌。於是有人說我們買虧了。我們想，奉獻給神是沒有價格的。如果要等房地產下跌才買那房子，也許今天還不會買。但正因為了有了聚會地點，302 的聚會很快就開始了。從去年 5 月 15 日主日開始崇拜，一直堅持到今天，每個主日都有 30 人左右參加。雖然弟兄姐妹們住得都不近，有的要換乘兩輛公車，有一位姐妹甚至來回要花費四個多小時才能來參加，但從他們的眼神中可以看出他們來到神的家裏時流露的那種喜樂。許多人發自內心說：今天是我们一個禮拜中最盼望的一天。記得去年 10 月 30 日的主日崇拜，我們的牧師、師母來到 302 探望弟兄姐妹並講道，師母看到那些敬虔的弟兄姐妹沒有一個遲到的，她流下了激動的眼淚。牧師那天講道的題目是：天國的鑰匙。後來過了很久，一些弟兄姐妹還常常分享這天國的鑰匙。牧師和師母那天和大家一起吃飯，一起分享生命成長的見證，當離開的時候和他們每個人擁抱，已經有點捨不得了，一些姐妹也流出了感激的眼淚。牧師還當場為一位年輕的剛從法國回來的何豔姐妹做了決志禱告。燕玉很佩服牧師的親和力，才認識不到一

天，就象相識很久的老朋友了。這說明什麼？說明我們都有一個共同的生命。

我們的主日聚會邀請了三位家庭教會傳道人分別來講道。聚會時間從上午九點半開始，先是敬拜，中午全體留下午餐，這段時間同時也是大家分享一個禮拜神帶領的見證的時候，然後就是主日學，最後是分組禱告。有一個非常令人驚喜的事情，就是每個弟兄姐妹都開口禱告，哪怕是剛剛信主才幾天的，也從讚美感謝開始，一點點學會了禱告。結束時間是下午三點前，但不少弟兄姐妹都依依不捨，還在那裏交通、分享和互相代禱。

現在，福音堂的同工正在準備禮拜三晚上的禱告會。牧師曾在上海期間問我對 302 福音堂有何異象。我說，不僅要把這些弟兄姐妹帶到神的面前，而且要讓他們每個人都自己直接和主耶穌產生生命的關係。牧師表示贊同。當然，我清楚地知道，要實現這個異象，靠人絕對不行，必須全部仰望我們的神，請大家為 302 禱告。



神為我父親打開天上的門

陳燕玉

父親于 2006 年 1 月 14 日晚六點五十六分被神接回天家。那天傍晚六點三十分時，他對守候在病床邊我的妹妹說：“啊！天上的房子怎麼這樣美麗啊！”他哈哈笑了幾聲，突然開始抽筋，幾分鐘後就停止了呼吸。我們怎麼也不會想到父親最後的遺言竟然是向我們子女見證他看到了神為他打開的天上的門！

父親這是在說昏話嗎？不是！父親住院治療 50 天，從未昏迷過，他在生命的最後幾天，神志非常清楚，和我們一個個子女交談，當我那個專從澳大利亞趕回來探望的小妹假期滿即將離開的時候，父親緊緊拉住她的手，那種場面很傷感。我當時就想，我們回美國的日子也快到了，這種場面我可受不了。但錦根之所以在他剛剛回上海的時候就決定 1 月 19 日回美，就是為了趕回來參與教會的新春佈道會的工作，因此顯然不大可能延遲回美。但父親的一個願望是由錦根為他主持追思禮拜，因為他聽說錦根前幾天剛剛為一個信主的親友主持了追思禮拜。我們的神真是又真又活的神，他顧念我們的心思，也顧念父親的心思，在 14 日傍晚接他去了天家。

追思禮拜於我們回美前的一個下午（18 日）舉行，有將近 70 位親屬朋友參加，其中我們 302 福音堂就有 20 多位弟兄姐妹參加。他們擔任詩班，唱《耶穌面前再相會》、《更加與主接近》等充滿活潑盼望的詩歌。這美好的詩歌在追思禮拜會場內外引起很

大的反響，加上我們 302 的傳道人雅各弟兄分享的資訊《信耶穌得永生》，把福音的種子撒在所有參加者的心中。代表家屬答謝的是我的哥哥，他尚未信主，卻也在父親的遺體前表示：請父親放心，你走的路我們遲早也會走，因為這是一條永生之路。我們雖然和自己親愛的父親告別，但並非象世界上其他還不信的人失去親人那樣悲痛，因為神給父親親自打開的天上的門，也給所有我們家屬中已經信主的人很大的安慰，我們知道他現在已經安息在主的懷中。

父親是 1998 年 10 月底來美國的。才來 7 天，他就因不慎從我們家樓梯上跌落下來，那是整整 12 格樓梯啊！但神的保守竟然使他絲毫未受損傷。那天他當即表示：

“你們的家有神看顧，我要信你們的神！”

那年感恩節他和我媽媽一起在劉廣華牧師講道完呼召的時候舉手決志，並成為褚媽媽初信班上“最認真的學生”。1999 年復活節他們在母會受浸加入我們教會。回國後，他們也堅持守主日，讀經禱告和奉獻金錢，盡一個基督徒的本分。我父親是個十分節儉的人，就在他被神接走前幾個月，他拿到了加給他的二百元退休工資，他對我媽媽說，從現在開始每個月要多奉獻二十元。我妹妹的女兒就是父親把她帶到神的面前，現在她已經是 302 福音堂的熱心事奉主的同工。父親在病床上還拉著我大姐的手要她發誓：今後一定要相信主耶穌。

父親生命的改變和他在人生最後時刻親眼看到神為他開啟的天國之門，這給我們還生活在世上的人以極大的鼓勵。我們的神在一個 88 歲老人身上所作的奇妙工作，也一直在我們每個人身上做。讓我們順服在神

完備的旨意下，獻身基督，為討他的喜悅而活每一天。



肢體來鴻

劉思彤

少靖並轉牧師和弟兄姐妹：

主內平安！感謝神，我和兒子已經順利到達濟南。想起出發的那天凌晨三點，明哲夫婦就來接我去機場，也想起許執事為我們母子辦理了商務艙，免去了長途飛行的勞累，一切的一切都感謝神！

我這次是帶著福音的使命回去的。那天中午我們相聚的情景還歷歷在目。真是靠著你們的禱告，雖然我的行李中有 117 張福音的 VCD；有 20 盤錄影帶；有 38 本劉廣華牧師的《信仰問答》；有多本教會換下來的藍色封面的讚美詩本；有王執事給我的一套福音資料《非基督徒的問題探索》；李欣送我的一套《天堂之路》；特別是劉牧師給我的 100 多本傳福音的小冊子《你能夠確信會上天堂嗎》以及幾本聖經。這樣多的福音材料竟然安全地帶到國內，實在是神的保守啊！感謝神！

從飛機上開始，我就先後向五位小姐和先生傳了福音。我發現他們大都沒有聽說過福音，但也不拒絕，因此，有的人我就送他們那小冊子，並為他們禱告。我相信不是我一個人在傳福音，我的後面是我們的牧師和眾多的弟兄姐妹的禱告。我已經買了刻錄 VCD 的機器，準備大量複製那些福音的碟片，讓神的名在中國大地被傳揚，被高舉！

3月5日，是我們家給我父親上墳的日子，我在墓地遇到了挑戰：他們在父親的墓地擺好了供位之類的一切，只等我到來就向父親磕頭了。儘管我的小姐姐已經提醒弟弟，思彤已經是基督徒了，她不會磕頭的，但弟弟卻馬上變了臉說：“我不管你是什麼信仰，這是對生你養你的老人的禮節！你自己看著辦吧！”面對如此頑固的兄弟，我沒有和他正面衝突，而我默默向神祈求給我智慧。我說，好了，我跪下來，但我是跪拜我的神！我要感謝神，沒有讓我父親受痛苦！我也感謝神沒有讓你們因此而受累。我的禱告是先背誦了聖經中的主禱文，我接著求神憐憫我家的每一個人！賜給我每一個家人永恆的生命，將來有一天，我們姐弟七人在天國相聚。禱告到這裏，我聽到了抽泣聲，我禱告完站起來的時候，感謝神，他們沒有一個對我的禱告有質疑，包括我的那個弟弟。這也要感謝我們的每個禮拜三的查經班，這次在墓地遇到的難題，因為我們已經在查經班多次分享過了，所以依靠神的智慧，我過了這個難關。後來姐姐說，我的禱告很令他們感動。我相信是神自己在感動他們。

回來才幾天，但已經看到福音工廠的廣大了。也正是在傳揚過程中，我才知道自己對聖經還很不熟悉，因此特別要在查經和禱告上努力，否則正如保羅所說，向別人傳了，自己倒反被棄絕了。所以，我每天清晨起來必首先問神：神啊，今天你要我做什麼？

非常想念教會的眾多弟兄姐妹！你們的臉一個個都常常浮現在我的眼前，願神祝福你們！

以馬內利！

在遠方的姐妹 思彤

主後2006年3月6日



Tony Chu

I grew up in a Christian school when I was in Hong Kong. Bible stories, biblical teaching and Christian hymns had been both academic burden and spiritual blessings to me. I publicly accepted Christ as my personal savior during an evangelical meeting at my school when I was in my 1st year secondary school (equivalent to 7th grade). However, I did not start to grow spiritually until I was in 11th grade; it was during the night of 1975 Chinese Mid-autumn festival. After the Friday night Chinese Christian fellowship at my school, my roommate Daniel Lau helped me to re-examine my spiritual situation. I did not know the answer when he asked me whether I knew I would go to heaven if Christ came back at that moment. Since I did not want to go to hell, I let Daniel lead me to pray and to re-dedicate myself to the Lord that night.

Today, 31 years later, if someone asked me how I sustain my faith to follow Christ, my answer would be - the love and patience of God, and the comfort of His word through the Holy Spirit. He is a living God. He is my creator, provider and sustainer. Through good and bad times, He re-confirmed to me that He is sovereign, He is all good, He is in control

and He knows what is best for me and my family.

After telling you the background of my spiritual growth, I would like to share some of the struggles I went through before accepting the deacon nomination last summer. I was diagnosed with Meniers's disease in 2001. It was a balance disorder caused by the inability of the inner ear to remove fluid. Episodes of dizziness and tinnitus can be triggered when the body is tired due to lack of sleep or under stress. My church life experience in the last six different churches over 31 years told me that the job of a deacon is demanding and stressful. Besides, my parents and my doctor also advised against it.

It could have been an easy decision for me, if I just looked at the physical circumstances. However, my spirit is alive because of what Christ had done for me on the cross. It was a totally different ball game altogether if I let the spirit lead. The decision process was not so easy anymore ... it can not be made according to my will, but His. You see, deaconship in Baptist church is a life time commitment. My decision was a no turning back decision. It was very much like my wedding vow with Meylina. Extraordinary decision called for extraordinary measure. I turned to God ... went to His word and pray. I was studying the book of Ephesians that month (August). As you may know, the message of Ephesians is "God has called us and equipped us through Christ". To make the story short, God's message to me was loud and clear through Eph

5:13-21. "Be very careful then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is ... Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ". My study bible also pointed me to Philippians 2:5-7. "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus ... but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant".

It has been more than two months since my ordination on Dec. 4, I am still an adolescent when compare to many of the deacons in the board. I have been examining myself in front of God to see whether I am living up to the calling. My two months deaconship experience can be characterized as "living responsibly in grace". That is, living and serving in the grace our Lord has bestowed upon me. He could have done it all without me. I am so imperfect, so inadequate. In many ways, lacking of wisdom, compassion, sensitivity and love. Yet, He loves me and welcomes me with patient to participate in His plan of salvation – to save souls and to strengthen believers' faith.

*Tony Chu
2/25/2006*





Testimony

Audrey Wong

I did not come to know God through the vision of burning bushes and voices from heaven. I feel his presence through the events that have happened in my life. As I never know what lies ahead, I am always amazed how things have eventually worked out, especially when I go through a bumpy ride in life.

I was baptized as an infant and brought up in a Christian family. While I was still living in my parents' house, dutifully, I went to church with my parents every Sunday. As a teenager I resented the Sunday ritual. I almost always daydreamed or slept through sermons. When I got married, I stopped going to church until 7 years ago. It was my way to declare independence. My father used to tease me, "You are no good. You have left God." Each time he said that, I would quickly reply, "No, I don't have to go to church to prove I believe in God. He lives in my heart." Luckily, God is a forgiving and loving God. He has never held a grudge on me because he showers my family and I with many blessings. I thank God for a good marriage, a steady career, my parents' longevity, my husband's career opportunities and my daughter's successes. The Lord always makes sure that when one door closes on us, the other

door opens.

My family and I relocated to Florida with my husband's company approximately 15 years ago. I did not like to be uprooted because I had to leave my friends, give up a high paying job and a house we just spent a lot of money to upgrade. The move was very traumatic for me. I moved down with much anger and resentment. I resented that I had to take exams all over again as I had to be licensed in my profession. I resented that I had to prove myself all over again in a new job. I resented that I had to take a huge pay cut. I resented I had to cultivate and form new friendships. I missed the four seasons up north and could not understand why Christmas was 80 degrees in Florida. I wasted time feeling sorry for myself and failed to appreciate the positive things that had happened to my family and I.

I neither appreciated nor realized that God had actually paved the way for us and made the transition as painless as possible. I should have realized the move was good for us and we needed to move with the flow. After 15 years in my current job, I am a senior psychologist in my department supervising interns and new psychologists. My daughter graduated from medical school and is now a Captain in the Air Force, practicing psychiatry. My husband eventually left the company he moved down with and has found a new job he enjoys. I am not saying things are always smooth in our lives. However, God is always watching over us, making sure we are able to deal with the obstacles in our lives. I am glad we are living in Florida. I like my job and have made new and lasting friendships.

Christmas should be 80 degrees. Life is good.

Thank you God.

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