

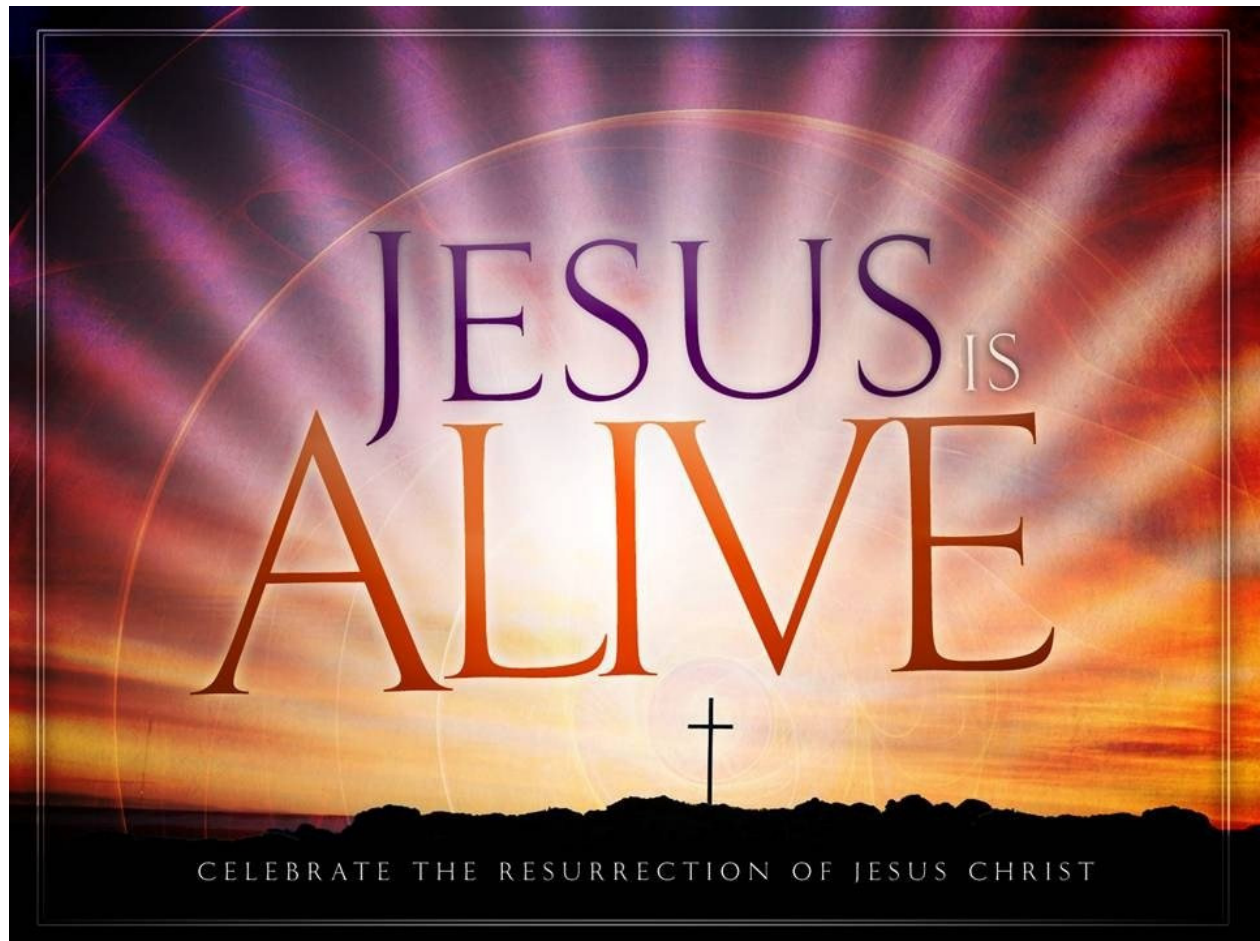
The Light of Coral Springs

珊瑚泉之光

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陳克勇牧師就職典禮

編輯部

二零一七年三月十二日是我們珊瑚泉華人浸信教會歷史上一個里程碑的日子，是一個大喜的日子，天父把陳克勇牧師帶領到我們教會正式就職成為教會歷史上第三任主任牧師。當天約有四百位教會會友和朋友，參加了就職敬拜典禮。不少弟兄姊妹從母會美亞美華人浸信教會上來觀禮和敬拜，還有母會的執事們。珊瑚泉教會鄭敏舜執事擔任敬拜程序主席，母會主任牧師黃英杰證道並主持就職典禮。黃牧師證道題目：互相扶持（刊登在本期刊物中）。證道完後，黃牧師帶領陳牧師宣告就職誓言：

黃牧師：我們此刻在神面前聚集，開始陳克勇牧師的就職典禮。

陳牧師已回應神的呼召，願意在珊瑚泉華人浸信教會擔任主任牧師的職分。

陳牧師，聖經明確闡述你的職分，並且你的職位說明書也清楚勾畫出你的責任。身為牧者，你的首要責任是傳講神的話，並教導全本聖經所啟示的真理。你要忠心的為神所託付給你的人禱告，成為信心和善工的榜樣，來榮耀神的名。你要愛和牧養你的羊群，使他們遵行神的誠命和教導。你要裝備弟兄姊妹，同心服事傳揚福音，並造就門徒。你接受這些職分嗎？

陳牧師：靠神的幫助，我願意。

黃牧師(對會眾)：親愛的弟兄姊妹，接納神所賜給你們的牧師，陳克勇。要歡歡喜喜並嚴肅的接受神藉著他所傳講的真理。要為他禱告，祈求在此進行的一切事工帶領多人得救，直到進入神永遠的榮耀。要尊重他是牧養你靈的牧者。珊瑚泉華人浸信教會的弟兄姊妹們，你們是否願意接受這責任和義務？

會眾：靠神的幫助，我們願意。



CBCCS Pastor Tan's Installation 3/12/2017

黃牧師：陳牧師，在你莊嚴的誓言下和會眾莊嚴的回應中，我現在就將你任職，陳克勇牧師，為珊瑚泉華人浸信教會的主任牧師，奉父、子、聖靈的名，阿們！

然後，陳牧師跪倒在父神的腳前，面朝會眾，黃牧師與珊瑚泉教會的執事們：區煒文、馮紀新、朱德文、陳偉倫、鄭敏舜、黃騰彪、林啓璋，給陳牧師按手祝禱。

崇拜結束後，母會執事們，珊瑚泉教會全體教牧同工集體合影留念。

感謝父神自始至終在敬拜中的保守與看顧，所賜的平安和喜樂。



Trust in The Sovereignty of God

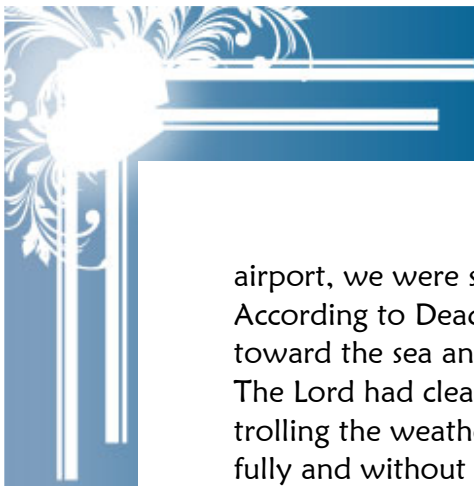
Pastor Keh Yeong Tan

Psalms 135:5-6 (ESV) says, “For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatever the LORD pleases, he does, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.”

God has a wonderful plan for each of His beloved children. Last August, 2016, I saw an online advertisement about CBCCS searching for a senior pastor. I was excited about it. It was through a friend’s friend that my resume was sent to Pastor Ying Kit Wong (Miami), and then to Deacon Samuel. In September, the search committee had a few telephone interviews with me. We all felt good to move forward with the search process and the search

committee arranged for Jessica and me to visit the church. Since we had already planned a short-term mission trip to Asia, the church visit was scheduled prior to our trip.

A few days before the visit to Fort Lauderdale, it was forecasted that Hurricane Matthew would land in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area about the same time we were to arrive. What a coincidence! We were praying and even contemplating postponing the visit. However, after consulting with Deacon Samuel, I changed the flight from Thursday to Friday, which was one day after Matthew’s passing. Jessica and I had never experienced a hurricane and did not know what to expect. When we landed at FLL



airport, we were surprised to see no traces of hurricane damage in the area. According to Deacon Samuel, Hurricane Matthew moved eastward 100 miles toward the sea and spared the Miami-Fort Lauderdale area. It was a miracle! The Lord had cleared the way for us! I believed God's mighty hands were controlling the weather so that we could go through the first church visit successfully and without delay.

Immediately after the Coral Springs' visit, Jessica and I went to Thailand for a month. Besides the mission work, it was a period of praying and waiting for God's guidance. Jessica wasn't sure if the senior pastor position would fit me well because I had been away from church ministry for over a year and had no prior senior pastor experience. Even though I was excited about this new ministry opportunity, I believed if it was truly God's will, then both of us should have the same conviction. The Lord is the Master of the harvest, and He is responsible for sending His servant to his harvest. Though the final outcome of serving at CBCCS was not certain, I had His peace in my heart. In His sovereign will, He could change Jessica's heart.

After we returned from the short-term mission trip, the search committee again decided to invite us for a second church visit. At that time, Jessica's concerns about me serving at CBCCS remained unchanged, but I did assure her that I would discuss her concerns with the search committee and would not make a decision without her full consent. The waiting continued! I was thankful that Jessica trusted in God's sovereignty and she agreed to pray for God's will be done!

The second visit was a turning point for both of us. We appreciated the openness and intimate fellowship we had with some brothers and sisters, and staff. We understood the mission at CBCCS that God had for us and how both of us could utilize our gifts to serve Him. We also learned about some of the challenges and difficulties that CBCCS faced. It was by His grace that we did not feel discouraged, but rather we felt peaceful and passionate about serving at CBCCS. How true it is that a person's heart "is [like] a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will" (Proverbs 21:1).

I had recently preached from Isaiah 40:27-31, those who wait for the Lord (or trust in the Lord) shall renew their strength. When we are willing to depend on the Lord for His guidance and accept His will for our lives, we shall be strengthened. If I insisted on my own desire, my marriage relationship would definitely have suffered. However, if the Lord will, He will bring his plan to completion. Nothing can stop the almighty God! Therefore, I thank God for a lesson in life to trust in His sovereignty. In Him we shall find peace and understanding. We are blessed to be here at CBCCS. Glory be to the Lord!

互相扶持

黃英杰牧師

2017年3月12日主日證道

哥林多前書 4:1-5

“人應當以我們為基督的執事，為神奧祕事的管家。所求於管家的，是要他有忠心。我被你們論斷，或被別人論斷，我都以為極小的事，連我自己也不論斷自己。我雖不覺得自己有錯，卻也不能因此得以稱義，但判斷我的乃是主。所以，時候未到，什麼都不要論斷，只等主來，他要照出暗中的隱情，顯明人心的意念。那時，各人要從神那裡得著稱讚。”

今天是教會新的主任牧師陳克勇牧師的就職禮。首先，我為弟兄姊妹感謝神，盼到了主任牧師來到你們當中。我也為陳牧師感到高興，感謝神帶領你到這裡服事。

當一位新的牧師剛到任，會眾肯定對他有很高的期望，而新任牧師也會對自己、對教會有很高的期望。你個人對新牧師有什麼期望呢？很強的領導能力、帶領教會成長、有力的證道、精彩的查經？這些是一般人會提出的要求，也是合理的期望。但若我們太看重牧師的表現以及他的才幹，就會忽略了神對牧師有更基本及更重要的要求：

人應當以我們為基督的執事，為神奧祕事的管家。²所求於管家的，是要他有忠心。(哥林多前書 4:1-2)

在這裡保羅敦促哥林多的信徒，要將牧師視為基督的執事，神的真理已託付給他們了，而保羅認為自己是神的僕人，他有責任完成使命。我不知道你們是如何看待牧師的，或者牧師是如何看待自己的。儘管廣義而言，每個基督徒都是基督的僕人，但對我來說，牧師更常被稱為神的僕人或傳道人，他們被呼召獻身，在教會或其他事工上服事主。如果牧師是僕人，他們最重要的品格是什麼？根據今天的經文，是要有忠心。

我們基督徒常常把忠心掛在嘴上。但忠心是什麼？忠心的含義是可信賴的、可靠的。在主人和僕人的關係上，忠心的僕人要竭盡全力履行主人交託給他的事；而忠心的牧師明白他的呼召，並且盡一切能力去完成神付予他的使命。這個真理應該很容易理解。在座當中若有人是餐廳或公司的老闆，當你僱用一個員工時，你想請什麼樣的人？你會要一個可靠且信得過的人，對嗎？你會要一個盡力完成任務的人，對嗎？這也正是神對祂僕人要求。德蘭修女曾經說過：「神呼召我們不是要成功；祂呼召我們要忠心。」的確，在聖經中，神呼召人們是要他們忠心而不是成功。

以先知以賽亞為例：當神呼召先知以賽亞將信息傳給以色列民，祂已經知道以色列人不會聽從以賽亞的話。若以世人的觀點，他並不成功；但以神來看，先知以賽亞成功地履行了所交付的任務，就是忠心地傳遞神的信息。即使是我們的救主耶穌基督，當祂被釘在十字

架上時，並沒有幾個門徒留在他身邊。對眾人而言，祂失敗了。但我們都知道，我們的救主忠心地完成了祂降世為人的任務，就是以十字架上為我們流的寶血拯救了世人。

兄弟姐妹，如果 神呼召人，要的是忠心而不是成功，我相信我們也應該期望我們的牧師要忠心，但不一定要成功。身為牧師，我們也應該盡自己能力做到忠心，而非一定成功。

但牧師怎麼知道自己是不是忠心？忠心與否有沒有指標？這裡列舉一些忠心牧師的記號：

忠心的牧師辛勞事奉。

正如一個忠心的僕人總是辛勞工作。當然我不是說牧師應該每週工作六十個小時，但忠心的牧師總是為該做的事做好準備。他為講道做好準備，為查經做好準備，為其他事工做好準備，他會花許多時間在所服事的事工上。

忠心的牧師不斷發展他的恩賜。

他總想讓自己能更好，才可以事奉主更好，因為他相信 神配得更好的服事。

忠心的牧師建立好的榜樣。

他不僅是口說而且還要實踐。他不單單是傳道人，也是在人群中服事眾人的僕人，就像耶穌一樣。

忠心的牧師為教會的利益著想。

他不會在意自己的福利，但會看重教會的整體好處。所以當他做出決定時，總是先考量如何使教會更好。

兄弟姐妹如何能幫助牧師有忠心？要幫助一個人成為忠心的人的確很難，但我們可以鼓勵他。告訴他，你很欣賞他的教導和證道；告訴他，你留意到他花了許多時間為查經備課；告訴他，你已注意到他的服事有所進步；若你看到牧師立了好榜樣，告訴他這榜樣有很好的影響。我並非要你們口是心非地去恭維牧師，而是當你真心覺得牧師做得好時，要表達欣賞和感激。

所以，忠心應該是體現在牧師的生活中，這意味著牧師一生中應該隨時、隨處都保有忠心。身為牧師，我自己知道在教會裡有多少事需要牧師分心去照顧的，但我認為一位牧師應該在下列三方面竭盡全力、忠心地事奉，就是關懷，講道和教導。

1.關懷：基督徒都知道我們信仰的中心是「愛」。神愛我們，在耶穌「道成肉身，降世為人，成為世人的拯救」中體現出來。牧師也應該關心他的會眾，就像牧人照顧他的羊群一樣。牧師不單在辦公室服事，也要站在人群中服事；不單在輔導和證道服事，也要在日常與人交往時服事。說實在的，要做好關懷工作需要花相當多的時間，但這是 神呼召我們做的，就要做好。務要忠心。

2.講道：講道是牧師的特權，是宣講 神真理的絕佳機會，但牧師不應該利用講壇達到自己私人目的或公開攻擊某些人。另一方面，牧師不應該害怕說出真理，即使真理會冒犯某些人。講道是一門藝術，每一次都想講得好是很困難，但至少牧師應該次次都忠心地講出真理，讓 神的話改變人心，務要忠心。

3.教導：教導與講道之間密不可分。講道中有教導，教導中有講道，雖然二者所表達和呈現的方式可能不同，但都是用來傳達 神的真理。牧師既要教導又要講道，責任重大，要努力勤讀 神的話語才可以教別人。牧師的另一個重要的任務，就是要找出教會裡的假教導，加以更正。務要忠心。

讓我們謹記保羅對提摩太的勸勉：

“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。”（提摩太前書 2：2）

會眾會不會愛一位忠心的牧師？通常會，但也不是總是會。我相信每位牧師都知道，無論因為是你的緣故或你所做的事，都不能取悅所有人，教會裡肯定有人不喜歡你，更甚者會批評你。接下來要講的希望能給你些許安慰。

“我被你們論斷，或被別人論斷，我都以為極小的事，連我自己也不論斷自己。我雖不覺得自己有錯，卻也不能因此得以稱義，但判斷我的乃是主。所以，時候未到，什麼都不要論斷，只等主來，他要照出暗中的隱情，顯明人心的意念。那時，各人要從 神那裡得著稱讚。”（哥林多前書 4:3-5）

眾所皆知，保羅是耶穌基督的忠心僕人。對我們來說，他是超級使徒。但若我們細讀聖經，特別是讀保羅的書信，會留意到他也曾被教會的一些人批評過。他怎麼面對？基本上他的態度是：我不會在乎這些批評。雖然我有清潔的良心，並不表示我一定對，也不表示我是完美的。當末日來臨，審判我的會是誰？那位審判我的會是 神。這樣看來，我為什麼要被別人的批評所困呢？這樣的態度不是很好嗎？

是的，一位忠心的牧師並不見得事事都對，但他總會保有清潔的良心，總會為 神、為教會做出正確的選擇。兄弟姐妹，如果你知道牧師的動機是正確的，請盡量不要太多、太過地批評他，就算他的決定可能不是最好的。請以耐心對他，要有恩典。要記住，有一天你也將面對 神的審判而不是人的審判。務要謹慎。

讓我用這節經文鼓勵你們：

“弟兄們，我們勸你們敬重那在你們中間勞苦的人，就是在主裡面治理你們、勸誡你們的。又因他們所做的工，用愛心格外尊重他們。你們也要彼此和睦。”（帖撒羅尼迦前書 5：12-13）

保羅鼓勵兄弟姐妹們要敬重那些辛勤服事、關懷照顧、勸誡眾人的人，放在今天可以是指牧師。這裡的「敬重」一詞是翻譯自希臘文「知道」，有些聖經版本翻譯成「欣賞」或「尊重」。不論你喜歡哪種翻譯都好，希望你都能領會到其中的精髓。在教會裡，牧師和會眾必須相互扶持，以建立健全的教會。牧師必須學習忠心，才可以成為好牧人；會眾必須學會尊重牧師，跟從他的領導。如果你們彼此扶持，我相信 神會祝福這個教會，你們會經歷到 神的大作為。

最後，讓我們總結一下。首先，我們對牧師應有正確的期望，不應過分注重教會達到世俗上所謂的「成功」，相反的，我們應該鼓勵牧師成為忠心的僕人。其次，牧師需要學習保持忠心，在不同的領域上忠心服事，特別是在關懷，講道和教導。還有，會眾需要學會欣賞牧師的事奉並且敬重他。

陳牧師，你服事的這個教會很棒。執事們很同心，團結一致，而且願意與你一起同工，使教會更加茁壯。教牧同工及職員不但有才幹，盡心盡力，而且努力不懈地事奉。我確信這些資源是許多牧師夢寐以求的。懇求聖靈賜下智慧，讓你領導教牧同工，與執事們同心合作，並關懷牧養會眾。相信 神將會大大使用這個教會，傳揚奇妙的福音。願 神大大祝福祂的教會。

Support One Another

(Senior Pastor Installation on 03/12/17)

Pastor Ying Kit Wong

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God. ”

Brothers and sisters, first I would like to thank God that you have found Pastor Tan to lead your church. Pastor Tan, I also want to congratulate you that God has called you here to serve this church. This is indeed a joyful day for the church, and I am honored to preach God's word on this occasion.

As a new pastor comes to town, normally the congregation will have high expectations for the pastor; and the new pastor will also have high expectations for himself and the church. Let me ask you this question: “What are your expectations for the pastor?” Some may say “strong leadership”; some, “leading the church to grow”; some,

“powerful preaching.” These expectations are common, and reasonable. But sometimes, I believe that we focus too much on the side of a pastor’s performances and talents and we forget that to God there is something more fundamental for a pastor. What’s that?

Let’s look at the first two verses of today’s passage:

This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Here Paul urges the believers in Corinth to regard them as ministers of Christ and those who are entrusted with God’s truth. So basically Paul sees himself as God’s servant. He has a duty to fulfill. I don’t know how you see a pastor or how a pastor sees himself. But to me, although, in a broader sense, every Christian is a Christ’s servant, pastors are more often considered as or referred to as God’s servants or ministers. They are called to dedicate their lives to serve the Lord in the church or other ministry contexts. If pastors are servants, what should be their most important character? According to today’s passage, it is being faithful.

We Christians talk about being faithful a lot. But what does it mean? The word carries the meanings of being dependable and reliable. In terms of the relationship between a master and a servant, being faithful for a servant means that the servant is trying his best to fulfill what the master has entrusted him to do. This is what a faithful pastor needs to do: understand his calling and try his best to fulfill what God has called him to do. This truth should be easy to understand.

Some of you are owners of a business or a restaurant or a company. When you hire an employee, what kind of person do you want? You want someone who is dependable and reliable, right? You want someone who will try his best to accomplish the tasks you

have given him, right? This is what God wants from His servants. Mother Teresa once said: “God has not called me to be successful. He has called me to be faithful.” It’s true. In the Bible, God calls people to be faithful not successful.

Take Isaiah as an example. When God called Isaiah to deliver his messages to the Israelites, He already knew that the Israelites wouldn’t listen to Isaiah nor his messages. He was not successful according to the world’s perspective. But for God, Isaiah successfully fulfilled his tasks by delivering the messages faithfully. Even our Lord Jesus Christ, when he was nailed on the cross, not many of His disciples were around Him. Again, for many, He failed. But we all know that our Lord successfully accomplished His tasks faithfully by saving the sinners with his blood and giving them new lives.

Brothers and sisters, if God calls people to be faithful but not successful, I believe that we should also expect our pastors to be faithful but not necessarily successful. And as pastors, we should also try our best to be faithful not necessarily successful.

But as pastors, how do we know that we are faithful? Being faithful has many indicators. Here are some.

A faithful pastor works hard: A faithful servant always works hard. Now, I am not talking about a pastor should work up to 60 hours a week that kind of thing. But a faithful pastor is always well prepared for what he does. He is well prepared in preaching, leading the Bible study and other duties. He spent time on his ministries.

A faithful pastor continues to develop his gifts: A faithful pastor always wants to get better to serve our Lord better because he believes that God always deserves better.

A faithful pastor sets good examples: A faithful pastor is not just the one who talks the talk but also the one who walks the walk. He is not just a preacher but he

is also a servant serving among people like Jesus.

A faithful pastor cares about the benefits of the church: A faithful pastor doesn't care too much about his own benefits but the benefits of the whole church. So his decisions are always motivated by making the church better.

How can brothers and sisters help a pastor to be faithful? It's hard to help someone to be faithful, but we can encourage him. Just tell him how much you appreciate his teaching and preaching. Tell him that you notice how much time he must have taken for preparing the lessons. If you see some improvement in his serving, just tell him you have noticed that. If you see your pastor sets a good example, just tell him that his example has a good influence. I am not telling you to flatter your pastors even when you don't mean it. I am telling you to show your appreciation when you sincerely think so.

So, being faithful should be a pastor's life style. That means a pastor should try to be faithful all the time and in every aspect of his life. As a pastor myself, I know how many things a pastor needs to take care of in a church. But there are three things in ministries that pastors should always try their best to stay faithful to. They are caring, preaching and teaching.

Caring:

As Christians, we all know that LOVE is the center of our faith. God cares about us. That's why He sent His only Son Jesus Christ to come down to earth to save us. We call this incarnation. I believe that a pastor should also care about his congregation like a shepherd caring for his sheep. He should serve not just in the office but among people. Caring should not just happen in counseling sections or in preaching; it happens in our regular interactions with people. I have to confess caring takes a lot out of you. But this is what God has called us to do, so stay faithful.

Preaching:

Preaching is a privilege for a pastor. It provides a great opportunity for a pastor to proclaim God's truth. A faithful pastor, on the one hand, should never use the pulpit to achieve his own agenda or attack certain people personally. But on the other hand, he should never be afraid to speak the truth, even if that truth would offend certain people. Preaching is an art. It's hard to do it well all the time. But at the very least, a pastor should always stay faithful in delivering the truth. Let God's word change people's hearts.

Teaching: Teaching is closely related to preaching. In preaching, there is teaching. In teaching, there is preaching. Although the ways of teaching and preaching may be different, they both are used to deliver God's truth. A pastor, as a teacher and preacher, has great responsibilities. He needs to closely study God's word in order to teach others. He is also the primary one who detects other false teachings in the church and corrects them.

Let's all remember the charge that Paul gives Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2:

Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. “

Will a faithful pastor be loved by his congregation? Well, more often than not, yes. But this is not always the case. I believe that all pastors know that it doesn't matter who you are and what you do, you will not please everyone. There must be some people in the church who don't like you, and even try to criticize you. The second half of today's passage may give you comfort. Let's look at it.

I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not

make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.” (1 Corinthians 4:3-5)

We all know that Paul is Jesus Christ’s faithful servant. To us, he is a super apostle. But if we study the Bible, especially Paul’s letters, we notice that he is also criticized by some of the members in the churches. What is his attitude? His attitude basically is this: “Well, I don’t care much about this criticism. Although I have a clear conscious, it doesn’t mean that I am right or I am perfect. But who is going to judge me ultimately? God is the one who will judge me. So why do I need to bother with people’s criticism?”

Isn’t Paul’s attitude a great attitude? It’s true that a faithful pastor is not always right. But he always has a clean conscious. He is always trying to do the right things for God and for the church.

Brothers and sisters, if you know that your pastor has the right motives, even though his decisions may not be the best, try not to criticize him too much. Be patient with him and show a little grace. Just remember, one day you will also be judged not by others but by God. So you must be careful as well.

Let me use 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 to encourage you:

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.”

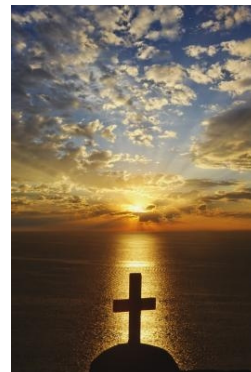
Here Paul encourages the brothers and sisters to acknowledge those who work hard among them, who care for them, and who admonish them. Those are the pastors in today’s

context. The word “acknowledge” is translated from the Greek word “to know.” Some versions translate it as “appreciate” or “respect.” It doesn’t matter which translation you prefer, you grasp the gist of the verse. I believe that in a church the pastor and the congregation must support one another in order to build a health church. The pastor must learn to be faithful and be a good shepherd. And the congregation must learn to respect the pastor and follow his leading. If you support one another, I believe that God will bless this church. You will all experience something great in your church.

Finally, let us summarize what we have talked about. First we need to have a right expectation from a pastor. We shouldn’t focus too much on the success of a church in a secular sense. Instead, we should encourage the pastor to be faithful. The pastor needs to learn to stay faithful in different areas especially in caring, preaching, and teaching. And the congregation needs to learn to appreciate what the pastor does and respect him.

Pastor Tan, this is a great church. You are surrounded by a group of wonderful deacons who are united and willing to work with you to build up this church. And your staffs are capable, dedicated, and hard-working. I can assure you that many pastors will admire your resources here. My sincere prayer is that the Holy Spirit will grant you great wisdom to lead the staff to work with the deacons and to care about the congregation and that your church will be used tremendously by God to share His glorious gospel.

May God bless His church abundantly!





Unconditional Cooking

- In memory of Sister Kwei Ching Poon
Cassandra Au

There are multiple ways to show your love for someone dear. You can say "I love you," you can buy an expensive gift for them, you can spend a lifetime together, or you can shower them in hugs and kisses. As many people know, my grandma's way of saying "I love you" was by cooking.

She made sure my siblings and I knew that she deeply loved us by constantly cooking or preparing something for us, even when we didn't want it. For every dish she cooked for us and we enjoyed, there was also a dish that we refused to eat simply because she would stuff us full, always making sure we had more than enough to eat. Just as our Heavenly Father loves us unconditionally to the point where we may miss or reject His love, my grandma loved us unconditionally even when we were ungrateful or dismissive of her effort to serve us.

Her love permeated so deeply that even my friends from school and work who had never met her, knew of her and admired her because of her desire to love me and prepare tasty meals I could enjoy and share at school and work. Just as the Lord's love for us permeates so deeply in our lives that the people around us take notice and are drawn in, my grandma's love made a parallel impact in my life. I am so thankful to the Lord that He was able to show my grandma how to combine her skillset of cooking with her deep desire to love and give to those around her because there have been so many people who have been touched by her love and care.

I have full confidence in claiming that my grandma has left a legacy of giving and serving to my siblings and me. Some may say cooking is an easy task, but through her, I have learned how to serve in the smallest of ways so that my impact can be maximized. It wasn't her one grand meal on Chinese New Year that summed up her love for us, but all the breakfasts she prepared, lunches she packed, dinners she cooked, and fruit she cut day after day. Through her unconditional cooking, she has taught me to unconditionally love. To love and impact even just a fraction of the people she has, I would be utterly privileged.



不可輕慢神

-憶亡弟往事見證神

陳可蘭

因家父早喪，導致家庭貧困，所以母親和兄長都整天在外為口奔波。因而照顧弟弟和妹妹以及操持家務的擔子便臨到了我身上，致使我失學三年。

亡弟在家排行最小，我比他年長九歲，可以勉為其難在家照顧弟弟和妹妹兼做家務。所謂日久生情，姐弟情深，我疼愛他，他也尊重我。他有事願意向我傾訴，我也特別憐惜他。在他成年後，無論在工作上或生活上，即使我生活並不充裕，對他也有所扶持。所以，他便將我當作傾訴的對象和精神的支柱。我移民美國後，與他闊別多年，他常以“在美國有個好姐姐”來安慰自己。

然而，在他成家立室後，際遇並不從人願，因他是代課老師，不屬編制範疇，無論晉升、工錢和福利待遇以及人際關係等都次人一等，甚至沒有退休金，並被人攻擊，而導致他感到失望、無奈和不公平。

其後，還不慎失足跌斷了小腿骨，長期疼痛難忍，行走不便。此外，還有糖尿病纏身，耗盡積蓄仍無濟於事而致貧病交加。在屋漏偏逢連夜雨的景況下，便向我訴苦，但我卻愛莫能助，唯一可以做的便是為他向神禱告，求神憐憫，饒恕和恩待，求主醫治他軟弱的身體，讓他盡快康復。

不久，弟弟喜出望外的跟我說：最近我無緣無故的獲取一筆數目可觀的現金收入。說是他的學生知道他的困境時，便大發熱心，齊集募捐而來的。我為他感謝神之餘，也告訴他，乃是神的憐憫和慈愛的大能作為所致。但因他還未認識神，也未信主，所以對神的真道一竅

不通，不但不懂得感恩，而且心中無神，致力否認和諸多反駁。在他心目中，只有“錢”最重要。

於 2015 年春節期間，我曾回國探親，我也不例外的給親人們派紅包，當中數目自然有等級之別，但令我感到匪夷所思的是，在我回香港途中致電向弟弟道別時，他竟對我說：

“姐姐，你這麼久才回來一趟，久別重逢，想你必會有所資助（大利是），但你卻不然，你令我很失望，以後你不要再打電話給我……。”那時我才恍然大悟，知道自己弄錯了。但事實如此，無可挽回，只好認錯道歉。

誰料，小弟一語成讖，我於三月初離國回美，同年六月初，便接到弟弟離世的噩耗，原來竟然我再沒有給他打電話的機會，回顧以往的種種，結果他竟然以“對我很失望，以後不要再打電話給我”而告終，作為永別的贈言，所以我放聲豪哭，傷心不已，我不知哭了多久，在感到幾乎昏迷，難以支撐的景況下，我忽然醒覺，明天是星期三，是馬太團契聚會的日子，我要回教會做“領詩”的事工，藉著聖靈的感動，提醒我要向神禱告，求神憐憫、赦罪，求主攙扶帶領，讓我即時安靜下來，重新得力，重新振作，還能煮東西吃和午睡。次日（星期三）早上我已如常回到教會領詩和學習神的話語，全然恢復正常。感謝神！

以上見證，讓我清楚明白到：神是輕慢不得的，也是聖潔、公義、信實、慈愛的，又真又活的獨一真神。為此獻上稱謝和頌讚，並獻上感恩，願將一切榮耀歸給神！直到永永遠遠！阿們！



信主得救

(詩兩首)

陳可蘭

(一)

不信耶穌行己路，
罪惡綑綁至壽終。
感慨浮生數十載，
辛勞掙扎皆成空！

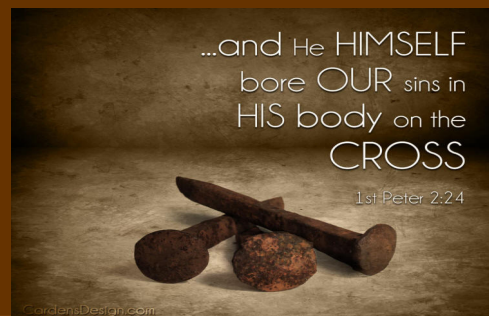
(二)

信靠耶穌罪赦免，
走出黑暗入光明，
坦然無懼見主面，
屬天福樂享年年！



成為基督徒後的新生活

吳明熙、張貴珍



我和太太都生長在信奉多神論的佛教家庭，六十幾年的人生都在虛度，都在拜假神而不自知，直到兩年前蒙主恩典，揀選我們作為祂的兒女，引導我們到祂身邊，赦免我們的罪，保護我們，教導我們，感謝主，讓我們夫妻倆在兩年前一起受浸歸主，真是神所賜莫大的恩典。

我在這裏和大家分享一下，我們信主前和信主後的人生轉變：

1.) 信主前的日子：

人生忙忙碌碌，只以賺錢為目標，尤其是在三十年前移民加拿大後，每天工

作十幾小時，每星期工作七天，連國定假日也不例外，大人不休息，連孩子們除了上學外，也都在幫忙，連年紀老邁的媽媽也在出力，全家都沒休閒娛樂時間，孩子們沒有童年，我們不知道也沒有教導他們人生真正的意義在哪裏？為什麼要移民？移民的目的在哪裏？

那時家裏沒有信仰，心靈沒有寄託，所以家裏常常會有爭執的事發生，人生沒有盼望，過一天算一天，只是偶而燒香拜拜，以為就會有神明保佑，現在回想起來實在無知又可笑。那時拜的神明其實都是虛假不存在的，是木頭刻的、石頭或

泥土做的偶像，也有一些只是紙上的畫像，什麼都拜，什麼土地公、媽祖、財神……，連關公、張飛也拜，以為這樣就會保佑我們，當然也常常會求發財、求平安、求健康，但都無濟於事，其實這些都是虛幻不存在的，全是虛擬的，只是自己對著空氣喃喃自語而已，根本沒有用，什麼也沒有得到。尤其是當我們生病軟弱時、困難重重時、孤單寂寞時、偏行己路時，我們得不到任何溫暖和安慰，沒有任何的提醒和幫助，只是恐懼、焦慮、絕望和無助。

十幾年前我的大女兒開始上教會，參加主日崇拜，那時候我還常常反對她的信仰，但是感謝主，由於她堅定的信心、恆久的忍耐，女婿一家人也是虔誠的基督徒，終於也慢慢影響和引導我們認識主、相信主、信靠主。

2.) 信主後的新生活：

兩年前我們家曾經處在非常艱苦的處境中，我的太太兩度病得相當嚴重，全家處在恐懼絕望中，這時候主的憐憫和恩典，讓我太太神奇的痊癒，神的大能救了我們，耶穌的愛激勵我們，敞開我們的生命，讓我們能夠堅強勇敢踏出跟隨主的腳步，之後我和太太在珊瑚泉華人浸信教會，聽了鄭敏舜執事的講道：「生命的連結」，感動流淚，一起決志信主，在天氣暖和後，回到蒙特婁恩典堂教會受浸，正式成為基督徒。

從此以後我們的人生完全改變，過著基督徒的新生活。首先我們摒棄送走了所有的佛像，把事業交給兒女管理，我們開始研讀聖經、上教堂主日崇拜、上主日學、參與查經班、參加團契和教會各種活動、參與服事、散發單張、探訪生病的弟兄姊妹……。生活平安、喜樂，很充實，整個教會像個充滿愛的大家庭，弟兄姊妹互相代禱、互相扶持、互相尊重、學習、和幫助，牧師、長老和執事們都很熱心的教

導、耐心的解經、溫暖的關懷，一切讓我們感到非常溫馨、喜樂，深深體會到主恩的浩瀚、主愛的長闊高深。

我們的生活方式也改變了很多，以前會著迷電影、電視、連續劇，花很多時間打球、旅遊、逛街購物，現在這些都沒興趣了，連報紙也很少看，改為專注於聖經的研讀、禱告和每天的靈修。

我們內心的想法也跟以前有很大的不同，由於主的恩典和引導，以前很計較的事，現在不計較了，以前很在意的事，現在無所謂了，以前不能原諒的人或事，現在都可以了，以前捨不得的事，現在可以了，以前不會關心的人或事，現在會了，以前會犯下錯誤的想法或行為，現在不會了，但我們人畢竟是軟弱的，還是有很多地方需要學習和改進，需要更進一步充實、理解、追求神的話語，進而更新我們自己，把神的話語真正實行在我們生命中。

我們感謝神的引導和恩典，我們一路走來，在人生道路上的每一小站，每一台階，一直有主的慈愛和恩惠相隨，讓我們能追隨主的腳步，走在永恆的人生之路。

人生的下半場，才讓我們深深領悟生命真正的意義，願我們對耶穌基督的信仰，能夠留給我們的兒孫做榜樣，願他們的一生一世，能有堅定、誠摯信靠的心，仰望神，藉著主的愛，把生命活在主的旨意裏。

詩篇 73:26:「我的肉體，和我的心腸衰殘，但 神是我心裏的力量，又是我的福分，直到永遠。」

詩篇 71:18:「神阿，我到年老髮白的時候，求你不要離棄我，等我將你的能力指示下代，將你的大能指示後世的人。」

去，使萬民作祂的門徒！

— 拘留所事工簡報

孫月華

感謝主！讓我在祂的事工上有份，早在911事件之前，我們在劉勝培牧師的帶領下，應那時在拘留所服事的美籍牧師的邀請，展開了這項事工；也是神為我們預備的一條傳福音的機會。當時有一批華人因沒有合法的居留身份而被關入拘留所，且他們因不懂英文，在溝通上有很大的困難。所以那位牧師就打電話到我們教會，希望我們能去探訪這些中國同胞。

因為911事件發生之後，美國的安全局對各項安全檢查十分嚴謹且規定，所有去探訪的宗教義工都要做背景調查。我記得那是一份很厚的背景調查資料要填寫，資料填完送進去之後等批准，合格後才能進去探訪。

我因此就耽擱了一段時間；但我心中仍有這個負擔。直到去年當明惠姐妹問我是否願意加入這項事工，我就毫不猶豫的答應了，相信這是聖靈我的感動。神給我們的大使命，是要我們去，使萬民作祂的門徒，奉父、子、聖靈的名給他們施洗。我仔細分析後，神都把這些未得之地放在我們身邊，我們不需要走很遠就有土可撒種籽，有什麼理由不去呢？此地對這些同胞們來說是異鄉，又有語言不通的困惑，這時他們最需要的是我們這些跟他們說同樣語言的人的關懷，將耶穌基督的救恩介紹給他們，給他們帶來最大的安慰。

拘留所是被拘留者的暫居之處，他們可以請律師來為他們提出申訴，經法官審查案件後，來決定是否可以留在美國，還是被遣返回國；所以這裡人數流動很頻繁。在拘留所中除了有我們華人外，還有

其它如：西語系，及來自海地……等不同國家的人。在拘留所裏將男女分開；我與明惠姐妹去探訪的是女同胞這一區，多時有十多人，少時大概六，七人；聽徐伯伯說他們男區，人數較多時有二，三十人左右。

神的預備很奇妙，除了我們教會外，還有Calvary Chapel的弟兄姐妹，去那裡傳福音並提供星期日上午的主日崇拜，並配有翻譯事工，由英文翻西班牙語及華語，但聽說參加主日崇拜的華人不湧躍，所以要停止華語的翻譯而改為海地人的法語翻譯。

最初在911事件前，在當時被拘留的華人，幾乎多數的人是沒聽過福音的；這次我發現被拘留的女同胞中，有少數已是基督徒，有些曾去過教會或聽過福音，但還沒有相信，有一部份是從沒聽過福音，還有一部份是信其它宗教或是無神論者。

感謝神！前幾年，在拘留所決志後的人，會有幾位在那裡受洗，但現在已沒有這一項目了，也不知道以後是否能恢復。

我若休假就會與明惠姐妹一起去，是在星期四上午去女生區，徐伯伯則去男生區。我們會帶她們唱詩、禱告、查經、分享。有一次我們唱詩歌《全新的你》，其中一位已信主不久的姐妹，感動的落淚。當她們被拘留，自由受到限制，不知道未來將會如何？就像詩歌中那一句『對於未來沒有一點信心』，然後在副歌：『耶穌能夠叫一切都更新，耶穌能夠體會你的心情，耶穌能夠改變你的曾經，

耶穌愛你，耶穌疼你，耶穌能造一個全新的你。'' 這是一首帶有能力及安慰人心的詩歌。

有一次，一位還沒信主的女同胞，在拘留所待了有一段時間了，但都沒參與我們的聚會；那次是她第一次參加，也與我們有分享，很喜歡這樣的聚會；但她後悔為什麼不早加入，因為她不久，就要被遣返回國。還有一位是初次聽福音，她認為，在拘留所這六個月，也讓她改變了許多，學習不在那麼的任性，知道要感恩，及珍惜所擁有的。

我與明惠姐妹都鼓勵她們出去後，找教會繼續尋求依靠、仰望 神來帶領她們前面的道路。

感謝 神！感謝教會弟兄姐妹一直給予這項事工的支持及禱告，相信 神會藉著這事工讓 神的國度擴展，使更多的華人來參加聚會，因此而得到這上好的福分。願 神祝福這事工並讓更多的人得著這白白的救恩。

Go therefore, make disciples of all nations

- Summary of Detention Center Ministry

Jasmine Hsun - Translated by Jade Au

I thank God that He has given me the opportunity to be a part of the Detention Center ministry (now known as a transitional center). Before the September 11, 2001 tragedy, Pastor Linus Lau started this ministry. There was a pastor from the detention center who asked Pastor Lau if our church could interact with the many Chinese detainees there. At that time, most of the Chinese detainees were held there because they did not have the proper paperwork to be in the United States. They had very limited communication skills because they could not speak English, which is why the pastor of the center asked our church to visit and talk with them. After September 11, 2001, security became much tighter, so the center required all of us to get background checks and fill out appropriate paperwork to be approved before we could continue doing visits with the detainees.

This new security protocol was a long and involved process, which prevented me from going for some time.

Last year, a sister, Michelle Tang, asked me if I wanted to rejoin this ministry. In Matthew 28:19, it says, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*" This verse convicted me because I realized we do not have to go all the way to China to minister to our Chinese brothers and sisters. They were already here, even though they were here illegally. We had the opportunity to share the Gospel with them and it gave them a lot of comfort.

For these detainees, America is not their home. They have a big cultural and language barrier. They really need people who can speak their language to love and care for them. The detention center for

them is a temporary place. They have options, like hiring a lawyer to petition for them if they want to stay in America. They still have to stand in front of a judge who makes the final decision, but if the judge rules against them, they must go back to China immediately. Besides Chinese people, the detention center also houses Haitians and Spanish-speaking people. It is separated into men and women.

Michelle and I regularly visit the female Chinese detainees. On average, there are about 6 or 7 of them at one time, but there can be as many as more than 10's. There are many more Chinese men, almost as many as 30 at one time. Calvary Chapel also visits the detention center regularly and they hold a Sunday service that is translated from English to Spanish to Chinese. However, lately, not many of the Chinese detainees have been coming to the service, so they are thinking about discontinuing the Chinese translation and replacing it with Creole instead.

When I first began this ministry, before 9/11, many of the Chinese detainees never heard of the Gospel. However, this time around, I discovered that some of them are already Christian or they have attended church, but they haven't accepted Christ as their Savior. Others are either atheist, believe in another religion, or have never heard of the Gospel. Before last year, the detention center held a baptism. If people were willing to accept Jesus and wanted to be baptized, detainees had the option to be baptized, but now they no longer have this service. So, some of the detainees were baptized, but many of them have already left the center.

If I have the day off, I will usually visit with Michelle on Thursday mornings. We sing Christian songs, pray, and have Bible study. One time, we were singing a hymn, "A New You" and one woman, who was a new believer, was so touched that she was in tears, as the song: "you said cloudy day represents your mood, rainy day reflects your view of life, you said life is the same every day, no faith for the future, Jesus can make everything new, Jesus knows your heart, Jesus can change your old life, Jesus

loves you, Jesus cares for you, Jesus can give you a new life." In the detention center, they do not have much freedom and their futures are very uncertain. The hymn really touched her because it sings about how Jesus can make us new regardless of our past. He gives us hope for our future.

There was another woman who attended for the very first time that day and she was so touched by it. She regretted not going before because she was being sent back to China soon. The day she finally came to our meeting was her first and unfortunately, her last. Another woman we visited heard the Gospel for the first time through our visits. She had been in the detention center for many months and felt like in that time, her heart had changed from what it was before. She said she used to make decisions based solely on what she wanted and never considered anyone else or their feelings. Through hearing the Gospel, talking with us, and God working in her heart, she no longer felt like living her life that way. She felt more thankful for what she has in life and appreciates it much more. She does not care whether she stays in America or has to go back to China because she has a whole new outlook on her life.

Michelle and I encourage them to find a church when they leave the detention center so they can continue to learn and hear God's word and be in community with fellow believers. We hope that they will continue to build up their new faiths and submit their lives to Jesus.

I thank God for all the support from our brothers and sisters in our church through service and prayers. I pray that God would continue to bless this ministry so that more people would come to know Him and His Good Word.





虞美人. 靈修分享

文/王學英

弟兄禱告恒如許，姊妹欣添語。同心和睦意殷殷，暢敘父神萬里送情真。
晨曦未露波卡思，夢系長沙喜。問伊心靜可安眠？訴敘耶穌恩典感千言。

箴言4:23: “你要保守你心，勝過保守一切，因為一生的果效是由心發出。”

靈修日子，進行到29天，每一天忙著上班下班，回家輾轉於孩子們的課外活動，坦誠的說，讀經禱告就像兩個若即若離的新人。收到國內家人的通知，耄耋之年的家母，髖股壞死，安排換髖手術。多方收集打聽關於這個手術的詳細資料，我非常擔心術後的狀況，術後風險可能有腦梗、心梗和肺栓塞，媽媽曾是中風偏癱患者...，疲憊不堪，憂心忡忡的我，快速瀏覽著聖經中關於信心的經節，滿腦子都是母親苦痛的樣子。馬上買了飛機票飛回長沙，內心深處有個聲音告訴我，至少可以陪在母親身邊，讓她老人家心寬點？平安點？我還能做點什麼呢？反覆覆問自己，剎那間腦海裡閃過腓力比書4:6-7: “應當一無掛慮、只要凡事藉著禱

告、祈求、和感謝、將你們所要的告訴神。神所賜出人意外的平安、必在基督耶穌裡、保守你們的心懷意念。”

聖靈光照，我心如釋重負，我是軟弱的，無助的，可是我的天父是那萬軍之耶和華！眾弟兄姊妹合一的祈禱，天父上帝必蒙垂聽。我在教會各個微信群發出緊急求助通知，請求主內弟兄姊妹為母親換髖手術禱告，求主在社港醫院掌權為王，賜主刀醫生智慧能力，保守帶領換髖手術順利完成。


78歲的母親換髖手術於美國時間週一凌晨在中國順利完成，手術為時兩小時五十分鐘。手術前一晚弟兄姊妹為此事恒切禱告，那賜平安的主，真真實實將那出人意外的平安加給我和我的家人。

於二零零一七四月一日
波卡家

挽區伯母-桂菁姊妹

文/王學英

一生賢德毓神門，撫孫立志，教兒成才，勸勉聖言猶在耳。
八秩遐齡歸天國，話別春風，情深以諾，追思歡曲感予心。



Remembering Mom and Dad

Phoebe Seto Cheung (1924-2015) and Martin Yau Kee Cheung (1921-2015)

When Nina Becerra asked me to forward my speech files from my parents' memorial services for the church Home News, I said, "OK" but I guess I wasn't quite yet ready to revisit the documents to review for publication. So here they are now. It is my personal hope that these two passages ignite and/or renew a spark in your personal journey with Christ for He is our one and only eternal hope. Remember God's faithfulness and all that He has done for you. God gives us each day as a gift to us to use for His glory. From studying God's Word, we learn how we should strive to live.

"I am the Lord your God,
who teaches you what is best for you,
who directs you in the way you should go."
Isaiah 48:17

From my mother's memorial service:

My father wanted to thank Phoebe for being a part of his life, for loving him, and receiving his love in return. He loves her with his whole heart. He never left her side.

Dear God,

Thank you for giving our family a loving wife, mother, and grandmother who challenged us to live for You, God. Mom was a true Proverbs 31 woman. She feared the Lord but was not afraid to live for the Lord in every aspect of her life. She was not afraid to die. She said she had peace in her heart. Thank you for showing me that God has His perfect timing. Lord, thank you so much for giving her to us during the past 90 years. We have learned much from her. We will sense her love with us always. God, you know how our hearts ache with her loss. Comfort us and give us the same strength you gave Mom until we are once again together with You, God. Bless her grandchildren, Max, Lauren, and Taylor. Let them remember their grandmother as a Godly woman who loved the Lord with all her being and as a grandmother who wanted her grandchildren to continuously grow in their walk with God. Amen.

- Who is Phoebe Seto Cheung?
- Who is this smiling, beautiful, courageous, and vivacious lady that has graced us with her presence for 90 years?
- What legacy does she leave with us?

I can only give a brief glimpse into the life of my mom. May those of you who knew her cherish your own personal memories in your heart as I reflect.

One day, years back I went by my parents' home to visit and my mom was very anxious to show me a lengthy letter that she had just received from China. I always found it so interesting to hear about her past and her old friends though she seldom shared those things with me. She would tell me when I asked about her childhood that those things have passed and that it was important to look forward – to look to the future to see what good things God has in store for us rather than dwell on the past. She shared with me Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

But on that particular day, I found that I had the special opportunity to hear a little bit about her college days. The letter was from one of her college professors. Now I have to ask each of you, how many of your college professors or elementary school teachers do you remember not only by face but also by name? I remember distinctly only a handful of grade school teachers who made an impression on me. If I were to ask them if they remember me now, I doubt that even one would after 40 years. So close your eyes and imagine now a professor who remembers one student, Phoebe Seto, from over 60 years ago well enough to write a multi-page letter after not keeping in touch previ-

ously. It would be different if he were one of the 200+ friends and family that she unfailingly sent correspondence to each Christmas. I loved getting the mail at home, especially at Christmastime. The cards came from all over the world with unique and beautiful stamps, card designs and personal greetings from classmates, teachers, relatives, pastors, missionaries, and friends. Many of them I had met when they visited us or when our family traveled. If the correspondence was written in Chinese, I would always have her translate it to me. So I had a pretty good idea from year to year who most everyone was. So who was this professor? I don't remember anything from him coming to the house. He was able to find my mom's address through her university anniversary member directory. He wrote this multi-page letter to her and reminisced about having her in his classes and what a pleasure it was to have known her as his student. Wow.

Mom touched so many lives with her magnetism, her smile, and her warm personality. When she worked at the various businesses with my dad in the US, customers would come in specifically to see her. If I was there, customers would ask "Is Phoebe here today? We came especially to see her! When will she be back? We don't want to miss her." And if they didn't see her they were genuinely disappointed and say that next time they would call first to make sure she was there before they came because it just wasn't the same without her. Astonishing! How did she generate this type of following among mere acquaintances? She was gentle, yet strong. She had a love for people in her heart and soul. When she talked to you, she focused on you. She had her values and did not deviate from them. She spoke her mind. She used every ounce of energy and every breath to support her husband Martin, to teach her children, to lead others to Christ, and to further the spread of God's word. I never saw for a moment when Mom was idle unless she was sleeping.

Mom loved to write as you can tell from her biography in the program (she wrote for the Woman's Missionary Union, the Baptist Press, and others). She thoroughly enjoyed teaching Chinese to American missionaries in Hong Kong and being active at church, especially with the women's ministry. She supported missions with an undying passion and challenged others to do the same. My mom received her first handmade Valentine's card from a Southern Baptist missionary named Miss

Millie Lovegren. She and Miss Fay Taylor were among Mom's closest missionary friends whom she met in China and kept in touch with through the years.

A few personal memories stand out among others. First and foremost, Mom always impressed upon me the importance of attending church regularly, learning about God, praying, reading the Bible, and serving. I don't think I ever missed a Sunday growing up unless I was very ill. She wrote in the Bible she gave me Psalm 119:105, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" to remind me to always seek God's Word for answers to my questions.

Second, I remember that our home was a Christ centered home and that it was open to numerous church groups and visitors all the time. When my parents' friends would come over, I could feel the genuineness of their relationships. One time a missionary friend was visiting my parents. I asked him to color with me in my coloring book and he was gracious enough to do so. I happily participated in these fellowship opportunities. Conversations more often than not centered on church and God. Prayers were said not only before meals but also during their time of fellowship and before the visitors left.

Third, my mom diligently read her Bible and did her personal daily devotions and prayers each morning. She had bookcases filled with a wide collection of English and Chinese Christian books that she often referenced for writing, teaching, and sharing. She would tell us that she prayed for us and even after I married she continued to pray for me, my husband Chris, and later our children, Lauren and Taylor, each and every day. She prayed daily for my brother Sam, May, and their son Max. She prayed for our church, the leaders and the members. She prayed for friends and family near and far.

Last, Mom used to tell me little stories and prayed with me before bed when I was in elementary school. This ritual provided a very secure and nurturing environment for me growing up that now as a parent I find myself trying to do the same.

Mom, I aspire to follow your example. Thank you for showing me that no matter how hard we try that we are all imperfect humans. You reminded me to always forgive others just as God forgives us. You relayed a stark example of forgiveness when you shared with me about your trip as part

of the Kowloon City Baptist Church delegation attending the Asian Baptist Women's Union Conference in Iloilo City, Philippines in April 1963. You said that World War II taught you many important life lessons. You recounted how everyone had to forgive the Japanese for the atrocities that occurred during World War II and to put it behind them no matter how deep the hurt and resentment. God intended us to be one in the Lord and to work together to spread His Gospel and His love. You shared how the 300 women at the conference cried that night at the campfire in the stillness of the moonlight on the sandy beach in the Philippines and let go of any hardness in their hearts for the Japanese and decided to love the Japanese people just as Christ loved us. You said you lost your mom to the Japanese and told me about how Dad's dad was injured by the Japanese bombing. You expressed to me the fears you faced when you had to flee at a moment's notice in the middle of the night while attending university in China because the Japanese were invading and how you managed to get on the last boat back to Hong Kong. In spite of all this, you accepted and loved the Japanese as children of God. You taught me to forgive.

We can only do our best each day to be what God wants us to be and do it all for His glory and not our own. Thank you for showing me that marriage isn't always a fairytale – that it not only takes respect and work from both sides but also a tremendous amount of prayer to be one in heart for God. Through your respect for your husband you showed me that you can be submissive to your husband and still be your own strong woman. Mom and Dad, you both demonstrated that it is possible to love until death do you part. Over the 63 years of marriage together, the love and care I saw each and every day between you both was beyond words. Life brought along various trials and tribulations but you both never stopped doing whatever you could to support and love one another. Your love did not waver and your faith in God gave you strength. You were never afraid because the Lord was with you.

I will hold on to these things that I have learned from your Mom to be strong and not give up.

I will hold on to your perseverance.

I will hold on to your bravery under all circumstances.

I will hold on to your forgiving nature.

I will hold on to your joy and positive outlook.

I will hold on to your sense of inner peace.

I will hold on to your strong work ethic.

I will hold on to your thoughtfulness of others and the kindness that you always showed. Even in your last days you asked us to serve tea to the visitors.

I will hold on to your giving attitude.

I will hold on to your tenacious support for missionaries.

I will hold on to your continuous desire to serve God.

I will hold on to your love –

your love for God,

your love for your husband, your children, your grandchildren

your love for others.

Most of all I will hold on to your unwavering faith in God. You have taught me over and over to always place my trust in God through everything that I encounter in life and that He is the One and only true God who will lead my path to eternity.

What is your legacy? It is all of these things and more. It is something different to each person who has known you and who was touched by you. You were a precious friend, grandmother, mother, and wife of influence. Thank you Mom for blessing us with your life and for loving us. Until I see you again, I will carry a part of you within me.

Matthew 25:23 states, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"
I love you Mom!



From my father's memorial service:

Life is beautiful. We often hear it said.
Then what is death? Is it beautiful as well?

I had been editing what I planned to say for my mother's service for over a year. I had been thinking since my mom went home to the Lord about writing something for my dad but just couldn't get started. Perhaps it was because there was a sense of finality to it and I wasn't prepared for that to happen yet. So yesterday I sat down in front of my blank paper with my Bible, several inspirational books, and thesaurus and just stared. I got up and sat back down several times... still no words. I put on music by Michelle Tumes and the song "Life is Beautiful" came on. That was it. I knew where to start. The lyrics were inspiring me!

Martin Cheung
Cheung Yau Kee
He had love in his life
 love from God, from his wife, Phoebe, from his family and friends
More often than not,
 I heard him singing adulations to the Lord in our living room
He sang hymns that soothed his soul
He had no mansions on a hillside
But he had castles in the sky awaiting him
He had no gold for inheritance
He had time on his side
...94 years in fact



What happened during all those years? In the program you can read a brief synopsis of his life. But who was he really? Through this short passage I hope that you can understand the essence of who my dad was and how he influenced me and those around him.

My dad's nature can be characterized as silent and strong. He had many passions but you wouldn't know it through conversation because he rarely spoke about himself. You simply had to be around him to EXPERIENCE who he was. He loved the Lord our God and served him faithfully since he was a boy when his father was a minister for Christ in China. Later in Hong Kong, his circle of friends from choir and fellowship groups at Kowloon City Baptist Church met often for activities. Some of his lifelong friends, David Lam, Victor Leung, ... were made at church. It was during this time that he met my mom, Phoebe. They married and served faithfully for God in Hong Kong, Chicago, and Miami. Dad especially found joy in singing and sang not only in the choir when he was younger but also continued singing solos for special events at church through the years. From his spiritual leadership at church and at home, I learned to rely on my faith in God to sustain and guide me through all circumstances.

My dad loved working outdoors in the garden. He maintained an immaculate patio filled with orchids, a trimmed yard of tropical fruit trees: mango, lychee, long-on, carambola (star fruit), and a serene, colorful koi fish pond. He took gentle care of canaries and cockatiels. At night, he carefully covered their cages and brought them indoors when there was even the slightest chill in the air. For a short while, he even had a few noisy chickens. I wonder if he was influenced by his mother who had banana trees and chickens at home when he was young.

Entering the food industry in the US entailed much hard work and dedication. My dad served loyal customers innumerable pounds of rice cake, roast duck, BBQ pork, and delicious pastries such as moon cake and winter melon cake. I have fond memories of striking the wooden molds on the stainless steel counters to make the moon cakes drop into my palm, of folding and stacking white pastry boxes, and of applying force to tortilla presses to flatten egg custard tart dough. My mom would often pack 20 lbs. of rice cake for customers to take on trips out of town to visit friends. Dad's passion for cooking was evident at home as well as he constantly tried new recipes and creatively decorated dishes. You couldn't visit our house without

being fed. Even if you were not hungry, you had to eat or take something home. Thank you for teaching me Chinese hospitality Dad.

Various hardships over the years did not deter my dad from his entrepreneurial goals while his faith in God kept him grounded. His drive and determination kept him going. When he renewed his license at age 88, church was one of the few places he would still drive to besides Publix (groceries) and Home Depot. This past year he often listened to hymns, spoke to calling friends and visitors, and kept up a healthy appetite. He knew his heart was failing but he didn't spend time thinking about how weak he was. He focused on God's strength. Billy Graham wrote his book Nearing Home when he was 93. In it, he reminded us that God knows that our strength diminishes as the years pass and that we need to depend on Christ when we grow weak. He quoted the psalmist in Psalm 73:26, "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

Yes, we chose hymns ("I Know Who Holds Tomorrow", "His Eye Is On The Sparrow", "Sweeter Than The Day Before") our dad favored, but I'd like to tie them together for you. Truly, Dad knew who held tomorrow. He knew who watched over him. He knew each day was sweeter than the day before. All this he knew because he knew our Heavenly Father and placed his life in God's hands. In Corinthians 12:10 we learn that true joy is derived from dependence on the Lord Jesus. He is the One who supplies our strength in weakness, for when we are weak, He is strong. My dad saw God's majesty in the beauty of his creations: flowers, birds, fish, people. Isn't that what makes life so beautiful? It is the ability to EXPERIENCE through our senses the beauty of each day that the Lord has blessed us with and the beauty in those with whom we interact and share God's message. And now we can say, too, that death IS beautiful because as we trust Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour and seek to follow Him every day, we can fully EXPERIENCE eternity with our Maker one day. That is my hope and wish for us all.

Thank you Dad for showing me through your actions and attitude that there is beauty in life and death. Thank you for passing to your children and grandchildren the foundational truths of God's Word. I love you. I miss you. I look forward to seeing both you and mom again.

"And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:2

Mom and Dad, over a year has passed since the Lord called you home. It seems like yesterday. Thank you for all you were and continue to be in our hearts and in your legacies. Your steadfast faith and conviction in the Lord has taught us to sing to the Lord and praise Him through all things – even when life has its twists and turns and the path ahead is blurred. I found so many little notes and reminders to pray when I was going through your things. I was reminded of the magnitude prayer had on your lives and your total and complete reliance on God. Thank you for impressing on me to trust God one hundred percent. I wish I could feel the warmth of your hands, but I still sense the compassion of your love.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Thank you for allowing me to share this very personal remembrance of my parents with you. For those of you who did not know them, come and see me. I would be happy to share with you a bit of their life's journey with the Lord. I hope you have been inspired, even if only a little, to dive more deeply into God's Word, to forgive others (Luke 23:34), and to always treat others with respect, kindness and love (Matthew 7:12). Incessantly seek His will and direction to share God's love with those in your life who have yet to know Him so they may enter eternity with God. What you share with others may impact their lives in ways more than you will ever know.

Note: During the past few years, I received immeasurable peace and understanding from Billy Graham's book, written at age 93, Nearing Home: Life, Faith, and Finishing Well. I highly recommend it for all ages. He has since written, at age 96, Where I Am: Heaven, Eternity, and Our Life Beyond. Billy Graham is now 98. Praise God for his faithful ministry!

EXPERIENCE...

HOW does one truly **EXPERIENCE**?

L I F E: defined by...

Ephemeral relationships
Intangible joys
Fleeting beauty
Transient power
Short-lived wealth
Momentary happiness

LORD, BREAK DOWN our many walls

TOUCH our souls

So we can **FEEL** with our hearts

TEACH us to follow You always

So we can **SHARE** Your message

HEAL our hurts

So we can **LOVE** others

REMOVE the distractions

So we can **HEAR** Your voice

OPEN our eyes

So we can **SEE** Your face

FILL us up **GOD** with Your Spirit

So we can **UNDERSTAND** Your sacrifice

LORD, PERMEATE our being with Your **LOVE**

To free us to truly **L I V E** for **YOU**

by Karen Oei



一封家書 — 秦英姿



前言：

舊約中有許多人物，有些人物是我們學習的榜樣，但有些人物卻是值得我們借鑒的。比如羅得，他雖為一個義人，但他在生活中沒有活出神的榮耀，沒有將神的話語教導給他的家人，以至妻子因貪戀世間的繁華，回頭觀望時，變成鹽柱。兩個女兒更是生出遭神咒詛的後裔，而他自己，也僅僅是得救而已。所以，我一直以來，對我的家人傳福音，有很重的負擔，因為，在這個世界上，我的家人是與我緊緊相連的親人，我多麼希望他們能與神的應許有份，能夠得到這上好的福份。因此，我在情人節的前夕，給我的先生寫了一封信：

一封家書

老公：

今天早上在送 Ashley 上學的路上，小家伙不禁談起去年的情人節，她還記得，你送給我一束鮮花和一盒巧克力，結果巧克力全被她吃掉了，說到這裏，小家伙不禁開心的笑了起來。仔細想想，好像每年的情人節，都是你在送我禮物，我好像從未送你過禮物，今年的情人節馬上就要到了，應該送一份特別的禮物給你。可我考慮了許久，你喜歡的都已經擁有了，而且什麼也不缺，我該送你什麼好呢，想來想去，還是寫一封信，送上我的祝福吧



。（老公，看到這裏，我想你心裏肯定在打小嘀咕，這個老婆，摳門是到了極點啦）

說到寫信，我已很久沒有寫了。如果我沒有記錯的話，上一封寫給你的信，應該是我們倆剛吵完架之後，我所寫的“討伐檄文”吧，我想，你看完那篇情緒激昂，言詞尖銳的信之後，應該是氣的輾轉難眠。感謝神，我寫完那封信以後，感覺痛快淋漓、心情舒暢，那天晚上睡的好香。不過這麼多年來，我也很感恩，我的睡眠質量一向不錯。

這封信，我已經醞釀了很久，有些話我一直想對你說，可我又沒有勇氣進行這樣直白的自我剖析，直到當你聽到母親去世時，那一聲撕心裂肺的“啊”字，深深地觸動了我，讓我決定不再沈默，勇敢的將這句話講出來：老公，信主吧。

我知道，讓你信主是一件很難的事情，我也曾經嘗試過，但都以失敗而告終。我曾經多少次的為你禱告，希望神能改變你，讓你信主。可不知為何，我的禱告，神好像從未垂聽過，我越禱告，你的心腸越硬，不瞞你說，有一段時間，我已經放棄了。直到有一天，我在學習《申命記》11：27“你們若聽從耶和華—你們神的誡命，就是我今日所吩咐你們的，就必蒙福。”我不禁自問，我有守神的誡命嗎，我為你禱告，讓你改變，而我自己有改變嗎？做為一個基督徒，跟隨主耶穌需要不斷的自我改變，讓自我的價值與基督相同，因為這是一條充滿應許的道路，只有順服，才能蒙福。而我，卻沒有盡好一個妻子應盡的義務和責任，你沒有信主，最主要的原因在於我，因為我沒有活出神的榮耀來，沒有讓你看到一個基督徒的平安、喜樂和順服，這讓你如何對神有信心。所以，從那一刻起，我決定改變我自己，但我也知道，改變是非常難的，我只有不斷地向神禱告和祈求，因為改變的力量來自於他。我也很感恩，我想你也可能注意到了，我現在終於將多年睡懶覺的習慣改掉了，每天早上堅持早起，為孩子做早飯，送孩子上學，你知道，我為能夠早起有多感恩嗎？因為早起的感覺真好，不但讓我一天精力充沛，還勾起了我少女時幸福的回憶，那時，幾乎每天都會早起，與父親一起晨跑。



老公，你我結婚已近二十載，雖無波瀾起伏之驚心動魄，卻也是平淡尋常間，不時翻起開心的浪花。你我結識於微時，雖到現在，物質生活上也沒有什麼起色，但一直以來日子卻也是過的溫馨滿足。現在，我們已有了兩個可愛的女兒，Ashley 馬上就 10 歲啦，老二正值“見人初解語嘔啞，不肯歸眠戀小車。一夜嬌啼緣底事，為嫌衣少縷金華”的時候，老大的懂事貼心，老二的蒙稚可愛，給我們的生活帶來了無窮的歡笑。你不知道，我為此有多感恩，每次看到她們倆可愛的小臉，我都感覺到此生足矣。

“君生我未生，我生君已老，君歎我生遲，我恨君生早”，你我之間的年齡差距大，可能你我的夫妻緣份不會像一些少年夫妻那樣走過銀婚、金婚。我也知道，這麼多年來，你為這個家付出了全部，你愛我和孩子們，也正是你的這些愛，讓我們這個家顯得如此的富足，尤其是兩個小家伙，更是一刻也離不開你。但是，人生苦短，總有一天“我離君天涯，君隔我海角，化蝶去尋花，夜夜棲芒草。”我多麼希望那一天真的到來的時候，你我只是暫別，終有一天我們會在天堂相聚，我也希望在那一天，跟我們的孩子講，爸爸在天堂等著我們，在那裏，我們又可以快樂的在一起。要知道，沒有盼望的人生是可怕的，感謝神，他將盼望給了我們，那就是永生，你只要信主耶穌，他便會將你的罪洗淨，到時我們一家會在神的國度裏相聚，那將會是一件多麼美好的事。你也知道，兩個小家伙非常愛你，即使小老二還不到兩歲，就已經會一邊邁著蹣跚的小步，一邊喊著爸爸，爸爸，衝你撲過來。你剛經歷喪母之痛，這種痛，或早或晚，我們的孩子都要面對，若她們知道，地上的分離是短暫的，是為了天上的再聚時，她們應該是多麼的受安慰。

老公，信主吧，不光為了自己，更是為了你我所愛的孩子們，為了我們的家，讓我們一起生活在盼望中，在神的國度裏得到平安和喜樂。阿們。

愛你的妻子

秦英姿

2017 年 2 月 9 日



我拿甚麼報答耶和華

向我所賜的一切厚恩

姚保羅 & 郭倩媛

暈倒在地，不省人事九個小時才被發現，送醫院救治。幾番周折，到了邁阿密的 Jackson Memorial Hospital。適逢有過路的腦科手術名醫，立即展開手術，清潔前腦的積血。幾天後醒來，懵然不知為何躺在醫院病床上。除了感到肢體有點乏力外，還算頭腦清醒。起初Betty跟我說這一切，我還摸摸自己的腦袋，不相信曾經動過腦部手術。

這是發生在我身上的事，在半年前聖誕節的時候。前此兩天，我們西棕櫚灘福音堂一行二十多人去報佳音。Bonnie Simo 請慶功宴，興盡而歸。那天早上，準備回校辦點事情。梳洗完畢，從浴室出來，穿好衣服，事情就這樣發生了。一點預兆也沒有，只是記得當時有個念頭：今天洗澡的水好像比平常稍熱一點。往後便甚麼都不知道，直到一個星期後在醫院病床醒過來。

「中風」是很可怕的事情，一般後遺症相當多。我卻好像沒有失去記憶，手腳活動功能也沒有失去，只是雙腳內有積血，需要動手術疏通。每個聽者，包括醫生在內，都說這是難以置信的神蹟。我說這是上主放我一馬，要我知道祂是真真正正掌管我的生命、我的一切的主，提醒我要更緊貼祂的心懷。我現在可以每天正常工作，只是還有幾個月的時間不能駕駛，出入要Betty接送。整個經歷，沒有甚麼明顯的痛楚。這明明是神的厚恩。其實痛楚憂心的卻是自己的妻兒和弟兄姊妹們。

Betty不用說了，兒子臨時從奧斯汀趕回來。弟兄姊妹們不單禱告托住我們，常常問候，更遠道從珊瑚泉上來給我們各樣的幫忙。神給我們的大愛就在此表明了。

- 姚保羅

「我兒，你不可輕看主的管教，被他責備的時候也不可灰心。因為主所愛的，他必管教，又鞭打凡所收納的兒子。」你們所忍受的，是神管教你們，待你們如同待兒子。焉有兒子不被父親管教的呢？管教原是衆子所共受的，你們若不受管教，就是私子，不是兒子了。來12:5-8

這段日子，我總是想起這些話。因為我是在愛中長大的孩子，週遭從不缺乏呵護我的人：父母、兄姊、師長、同學、教會、同事、丈夫、兒子。所以我的世界總是美好的，什麼不如意的事在我腦海中也不會停留很久，什麼困難的事，忍耐點總會迎刃而解。姚保羅生病了，精神被病折磨，偶爾也會有小脾氣，但我還是開心的，人還在啊，要珍惜神額外的恩典。

只是，現在寧靜的日子多了，在家處理雜務外，思想神話語的時候也多了。魯益師說苦難可以是神對我們的超級擴聲(megaphone)，從2015年我家的鼠禍開始，一連串不大不小的災，主要我學習什麼？過去我的鴻圖大志是退休後好好的作主的精兵，雖說是依著智者迦勒的心志；「我還是強壯，...無論是爭戰，是出入，我的力量那時如何，現在還是如何」，卻掩不住心底點點的傲氣，到底我還要撐著幹的，根本不屑待在家裏作小女人！現在大多時間都在家，靜默、聆聽、慰問、服事、不執著神一定要給我什麼，只求能珍惜每一小時刻。取樂於平淡中，卻隨時作神召命的準備，真的，我們的日子如何，力量也如何，這是主給我們的應許。

- 郭倩媛

THANK YOU FOR THE CARE PACKAGES

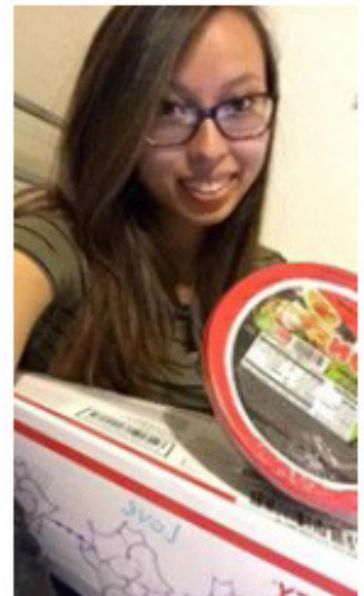
Every November college students are sent care packages filled with love, food, and letters from KCFC's children. This year, Miss. Cathy asked all of the college students for prayer requests so that the children could pray for them. We are always so blessed to have a wonderful church family that can pray and encourage us even though we far away from home. Thank you for always thinking us!

What was your favorite item from this year's care package?



Lauren Chan

Anita Kwong



Tony Wu



Caleb Chen





Rachel Oei



Julia Wu



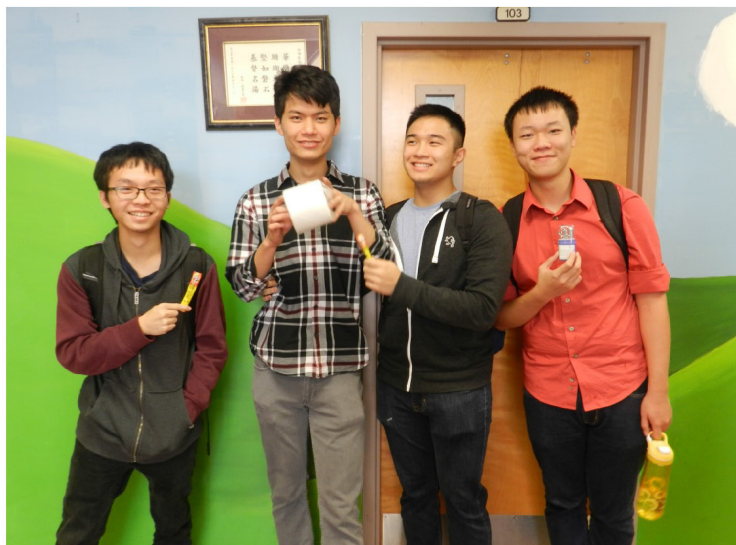
Eric Chou



Priscilla Tang

Jordan Zhu, Matthew Zhu, and Caleb Hwee

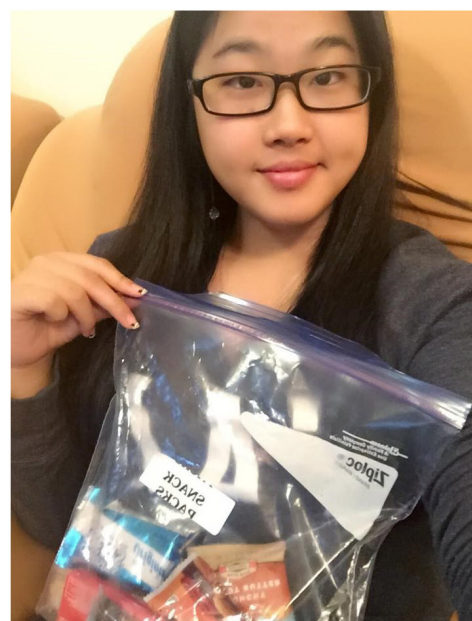




**Vincent Huang,
Calvin Chan,
Aaron Wong,
and Shang Chen**



Nathan Ma



Yinmei Zhou



Alex Yuen

Alex Ng

Thank you to Ms. Cathy, Ivy Tam, and all the kiddies in KCFC for my amazing gift! So blessed to have a loving church family back at home praying for me!



Adrienne Lam

Thank you so much for the care package!! It means a lot to me especially since I am still trying to adjust to my new job & lifestyle in Dallas. My favorite item would always have to be the toilet paper roll, just because it has saved me sooooo many times!!!

Victor Chen

Thank you for the care packages! My favorite item is the bubble wrap.

Alison Li

Thanks so much for putting love and care for assembly of these packages I am reminded the power of Christ can serve one another, which is an extension of God's call for accountability and his choice of choosing and loving his children.

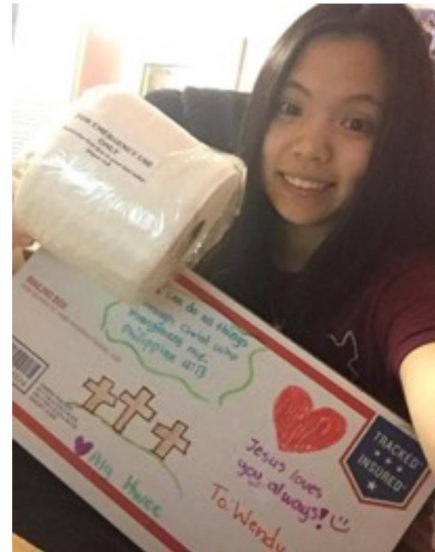
Daniel Hsu

I'd like to say thank you to the kids of KCFC for preparing these packages for us and keeping us in their prayers. It's great to see that everyone still thinks about us and gave some thought to the things we need in college.

Russell Zhou

Thanks for the care package!

Wendy Hwang



Florence Xiong



Thank you KCFC for sending us our care packages!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Romans 15: 13

見證感恩-

上帝的憐憫臨到了爸爸

歐海燕

中國時間2017年1月24日星期二下午3點06分爸爸走了。我在美國的24日清晨打開手機才看到留言，由於年關前，家人需要匆忙辦後事，周四上午就要火化，我趕不回去了，心裡的失喪與淚水瞬間淹沒了我，但上帝卻真實地安慰了我、媽媽與家人。

爸爸於1月20日周五進醫院，在ICU裡撐了四天，走時，我弟弟在他身邊。26日周四就要火化，火化前有一個追思會。感謝主，22號周日早上，我這邊的周六晚上，我默想禱告中有一個突然的想法，想讓爸爸決志歸主名下。因為去年夏天回國去看爸爸，跟他禱告時，他的心柔軟很多，也願意讓我與他一起禱告。

於是在微信上到處聯系朋友找牧師，甚至準備在貴陽找牧師，讓朋友帶到家鄉的城市去，但想起我高中的同學曾經給過我一個當地教會的介紹圖片，當時馬上轉發給我還未信主的妹妹，讓她周日帶同樣還未信主的媽媽去教會看看，妹妹大

略看了一下地址，說在她家不遠的地方，她也沒放在心上，這事也就不了了之了。

這時候我抱著試試看的想法，趕緊讓我妹妹去找當地的牧師，平時她不配合只應付我，但這天(主日)她說試一下，結果找到了馬上即要上台主日證道的林牧師，趕緊把電話給林牧師與我通了話，我問林牧師守不守“使徒信經”，林牧師說必須每主日證道前，會眾要朗讀，我確定這間教會是純正的基督信仰後，請林牧師給我爸爸做決志禱告，林牧師問了我爸爸一些基本信息後，答應主日一結束就去醫院給爸爸做決志禱告。後來就成就了這件事，感謝主的憐憫！

我現在靜心地數算神的恩典，如果有任何一個時間環節不對，如林牧師當時已經在主日證道了，我妹妹也許就打電話給我說她忙，以後再說吧(她總怕麻煩人，敷衍我)，或者林牧師證道後的時間超過十一點，之後坐車趕到醫院(醫院ICU只能每天探望一小時，11am~12pm)，已

錯過了探望時間等等，爸爸就錯過了決志禱告得救恩的時間，感謝主，這只能是神的恩典與憐憫！

這四天裡，我仍然按原計劃完成了趙長老的直播佈道與周曉勤姐妹在單身群的語音見證分享，以及家人為媽媽星期一(23日)的生日慶祝及切蛋糕。爸爸體貼我們做兒女的，一直撐到周二下午才離世，周四殯儀館可以安排火化。周五是年三十，在我們家鄉的城市，從年三十放假直到初八才上班，如果在其中一天離世，都沒法處理遺體，自己抬回家花大錢找製冰公司保存，直到初八上班後才可以火化與追思，那樣的話，媽媽要承受多大的痛苦呀，這真是神的憐憫！

其實我們每天都在與生命的時間賽跑，救靈魂是何等大的事！有時候覺得哪一天信耶穌決志受洗都沒有關係，似乎有大把的時間在後面可以支配，如果錯失了，該是多麼大的距離，是地獄與天堂的距離，是永死與永生的隔絕！盼望我的親人們，不要等，去叩門進入上帝的家中吧，這是一條恩典盼望之路！爸爸要是早早地信主耶穌，不會有那麼多的罪與苦白白地受！從周六晚上七點開始，我們教會的弟兄姐妹與基督信仰群的同工，肢體們開始為爸爸禱告，是上帝垂聽了他們的禱告，施行了祂的憐憫！

遠離父母一萬五千多公里的我，為

他們年老時不能在他們身邊盡孝常常落淚，兩年回去探望一次，十幾天還不能時刻陪著他們。內疚感挾制著我，我除了禱告，就是找機會給他們傳福音，帶給他們聖經播放機聽，懇求上帝揀選他們，讓他們歇了世上的勞苦後，靈魂歸主耶穌，能夠回天家。這是兒女們最大的孝道，因為地上幾十年是短暫的寄居。永恒的家只在天上。“我們一生的年日是七十歲，若是強壯可到八十歲；但其中所矜夸的不過是勞苦愁煩，轉眼成空，我們便如飛而去。”（詩篇 90:10）。

爸爸終於歇了地上的辛苦疼痛，走完了79年的人生路。他回天家了！“他使我的靈魂甦醒，為自己的名引導我走義路。我雖然行過死蔭的幽谷，也不怕遭害，因為你與我同在；你的杖，你的竿，都安慰我。”（詩篇 23:3-4）

感謝主，在祂的裡面有盼望！我要迫切地給我媽媽及中國的家人傳福音，讓他們的心在主裏得真平安，在世上有永恒的盼望，這是真理！“耶穌說：我是復活，我是生命。信我的人雖然死了，也必復活。”（約翰福音 11:25）。

我把平安與喜樂代替了憂傷，用禱告代替失落，用讚美代替悲泣，因為我的盼望在天上更美的家，爸爸天上見！

大女兒海燕 (Helen)

2017年1月25日 寫於美國家中

愛的回應：

- **燕姐妹：**親愛的海燕，妳的爸爸安息主懷，不再有痛苦，但我知道以後的時間妳還是會有傷心，那是因為妳想念他。然而因為他在主那裡，妳是放心的，也因此得到安慰，這也是神愛我們的方式啊。神真是讓認識祂和愛祂的人得永生，得安慰，用各種方式。願一直安慰妳的上帝同樣一直安慰我與媽媽，家人！
- **麗梅姐妹：**知道妳很傷痛與不捨，沒有什麼話足以安慰妳，除了神自己的話！願賜安慰與盼望的神與妳和家人同在！
- **怡文老師：**主與妳同在。求主的靈安慰妳母親與家人，賜給他們平安。也願妳有機會分享妳和父親那永恆的盼望。
- **徐思進弟兄：**在這個悲痛的時刻，我們與你們全家同在；神也與你們全家同在。求神保佑你們全家，接納妳父親的靈。耶穌已戰勝死亡的毒勾，神必賜下喜樂，讓我們用讚美代替悲痛，盼望那更美的新天新地。
- **唐明惠姐妹：**感謝神，祂親自成為我們的安慰，我們的力量，可以面對世上一切的艱難險阻！
- **施亭竹傳道：**願神的安慰充滿妳和妳

的家人，我們以禱告和妳一起同行。在我們的眼淚中有盼望，我們的傷痛中有得勝！將來我們都要一起進入那榮耀的安息！

- **王倩姐妹：**“願稱頌歸於我們主耶穌基督的父上帝。他是慈悲的父親，也是賜一切安慰的上帝。我們遭遇各樣患難的時候，上帝都安慰我們，好叫我們能用他所賜的安慰，去安慰遭遇各樣患難的人。”（哥林多後書 1:3-4）
- **姚弟兄：**願主安慰撫平妳和家人在世上親人的離別之痛。“母親怎樣安慰成年的兒子，我也要照樣安慰我的子民。你們必因耶路撒冷而得到安慰。”（以賽亞書 66: 13）“願稱頌歸於我們主耶穌基督的父上帝。他是慈悲的父親，也是賜一切安慰的上帝。我們遭遇各樣患難的時候，上帝都安慰我們，好叫我們能用他所賜的安慰，去安慰遭遇各樣患難的人。”（哥林多後書 1:3-4）
- **徐久仁弟兄：**求神安慰你們一家。也求祂用喜樂代替悲哀，用讚美代替憂傷。因為我們舉目仰望那更美的家鄉！
- **王珍姐妹：**神與我們同在，我們的阿爸天父是慈悲憐憫的主，歐伯伯的決志禱告如此的順利，也因為妳的信是神所喜悅的，故神必成就！“這律法書不可離開你的口，總要晝夜思想，好使你謹守遵行這書上所寫的一切話。如此，你的道路就可以亨通，凡事順利。”（約書亞記 1: 8）阿們！

- **楊夏伊姐妹:** 我不知道怎樣安慰妳，但我知道神的話語是最大的安慰！“論到睡了的人，我們不願意弟兄們不知道，恐怕你們憂傷，像那些沒有指望的人一樣。我們若信耶穌死而復活了，那已經在耶穌裏睡了的人，神也必將他們與耶穌一同帶來。” (帖撒羅尼迦前書4: 13-14)
- **龍紅衛弟兄:** 妳的父親已息了在世上的勞苦，安息在主懷中。願天父的安慰，慈愛，平安和你們全家同在！
- **施蘊芬姐妹:** Helen，願主的安慰來幫助妳和家人，願祂的愛圍繞著你們。願主賜妳力量和信心，日日加深！
- **梁嫻嫻姐妹:** 感謝主，老人家臨終前能決志信主。阿們！
- **劉穎姐妹:** 願神與妳和家人同在，賜平安給你們，阿們！
- **王東牧師:** 我父親也在79歲被主接去，從我們角度看是一大損失，在祂卻好得無比，這不是終結，而是一個新開始！
- **蔡志明長老:** 願賜安慰盼望的恩主與妳及家人同在！
- **劉孝棟牧師:** 主與妳同在！為妳禱告！該哭的時候就哭，記得我們都是妳的後盾！
- **趙武夷長老:** 願賜人安慰的主與妳同在，聖靈給予適宜話語安慰妳的家

人，願妳的家人因著盼望能信靠主耶穌。

- **張凱牧師:** 願從天上來的安慰和能力與妳和家人們同在！凡事藉著禱告祈求、上帝的智慧與幫助扶持、一定會伴隨著妳！
- **王道坤長老:** 願主與妳同在、安慰妳與家人！
- **張長老:** 求主安慰妳和你的家人。這一步每個人都要邁出，但是我們屬於主的人是邁進好得無比的永久的家。有別離的難捨，更有將來再見的盼望。這是我們基督徒在地上最大的盼望。求主早日帶領妳及其他的親人成為神的兒女！
- **與傳牧師的對話:**

傳: 為妳禱告！求主安慰妳和妳的家人。我知道當人的靈魂還沒有離開身體的時候，是有聽覺的。妳爸爸一定聽到了那個牧師的禱告。

我: 林牧師告訴我，當林牧師幫他決志禱告時，爸爸心裡是知道的。

傳: 沒錯，他也一定親眼看到了天使，明白了人靈魂的去處。所以，是神給他機會讓他得救。他一定會選擇接受耶穌。妳將來也一定能再見到他。

神的恩典數算不盡

張祥，陳生佩

John
11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"



2016年12月12日是我和先生結婚50周年。50年前因為政治和經濟的緣故，我們沒能舉辦結婚儀式，也沒有宴請親朋好友。先生每每念及，總覺得是一件憾事。女兒提出在教會為我們慶賀金婚，馬上得到先生的贊同。我本不願意張揚，但鑒當前世風日下，結婚被同居替代，夫妻的概念裏混入了同性結合。為了向世人見證神的命定：婚姻，人人都當尊重（希伯來書13：4）。我們必須信守婚姻的誓約。美好的婚姻應該是一男一女，互相立約，互相敬重。便同意女兒的提議，在教會舉行我們的金婚慶典。

自從來到美國，我就和先生信了主，成為基督徒。神是我們的救主，教會是我們的家。教會眾多弟兄姐妹們熱情幫助搭建花團錦簇的愛情拱門，用鮮花和彩燈裝點會場，和我們一起在神的殿堂見證了我們一家的蒙恩和被選。牧師領著我和先生在神和眾人面前立誓：永遠尊神為大，在主內互相敬重，相親相愛。並以交換戒指為約。看到兩位白髮老人在神面前莊嚴宣誓，親密擁吻，很多姊妹感動得熱淚盈眶。年輕人對我們50年能信守婚約表示敬意，送來祝福。很多家庭與我們合影，願他們也象我們夫妻一樣，執子之手，與子偕老。我和先生感慨萬分。回想過去50年的歷程，風風雨雨，坎坷崎嶇，每次危難時都因神的看顧，得到轉機，讓我們能不離不棄相伴相隨，神的恩典真是數算不盡。

我和先生都認為是神讓我們相遇相識的。兩個素不相識的人居住在不同的城市，兩城相距400多公里。一個偶然的機會他隨朋友到表哥家作客，我剛好去看望回家探親的表哥，得以邂逅。當時正值文化大革命，社會上對出身不好的人特別歧視，流行說法是：龍生龍，鳳生鳳，老鼠生兒打地洞。我們倆人家庭出身都不好，都希望找個出身好

的對象，能夠鳳凰涅槃，哪知道神讓我們相遇，還讓我們放棄對家庭出身的顧慮，接受對方，定了終身。

婚前有人對我說：好女不嫁勸探

郎，一年四季守空房，我不以為然。沒想到婚後12天，他就被單位召喚回去上班。我回到家中，望著空空的洞房，心中無限落魄，憂傷，不由想起女詞人李清照的《聲聲慢》“尋尋覓覓，冷冷清清，淒淒慘慘戚戚”。從此我們每年像傳說中的牛郎織女一樣，春節才能團聚12天。婚後兩年，第一個女兒出生，他都沒能回家。我躺在醫院病房裏，病房很大，一個房間住好幾個產婦，其他產婦有丈夫陪伴，好溫馨，好甜蜜。我獨自抱著初生的嬰兒，冷冷清清的，想著遠在外地的他，止不住眼淚撲簌簌落下來。好不容易盼到春節，他回來了，因常年在野外，英俊的臉曬得黧黑黧黑，露著雪白的牙齒，望著孩子和我，只管傻笑。一家人團圓了，可我的心裏酸楚楚的。為了不讓我傷心，他故意調侃，對我說：“地質人員都是這樣的，出門像公子，在外像花子，進門像駝子，報賬像傻子。”逗得我破涕為笑。看到他從登山背包裏掏出一件件禮物，有“搶”購的給我做衣服的兩塊小花布，有下鄉時從農民那裏買來的稀缺物資：一小罐豬油，幾塊農民自己宰殺的豬肉（當時城市人口食油和豬肉限量，每人每月三兩豬肉，半斤植物油），心裏的怨氣都被趕走了，只剩下心疼——他要怎樣節衣縮食才能買回這些東西啊！後來女兒會說話了，又過了不久女兒會走了，卻一直沒有見過爸爸。等爸爸回來時，孩子會跑了。看見一個胡子拉碴的男人來到我

家，孩子嚇得躲到門後，讓孩子叫他，孩子戰戰兢兢的叫了聲“叔叔”，馬上藏到媽媽身後。

“傷感情！”父親歎息地說，他的心中充滿了愧疚和無奈。

婚後的日子很現實，除了相思就是柴米油鹽。我是文化大革命時期的老三屆畢業生，中央政府一聲令下，全國停課，停產，知識青年上山下鄉。剝奪了我們繼續求學的機會。地方政府更是有過之而無不及，一道命令，就連已經退學參加工作，已經結婚生孩子的我也被迫離廠回家。等待孩子斷奶後下鄉。我沒了工作，沒了收入，家中又添了一張嘴，他沒有半句怨言，反倒安慰我說：“別害怕，還有我呢，我能養活你們”。是神給了他勇氣，讓他有擔當，給我支持，靠著他的鼓勵和幫助，我在鄉下度過了難熬的兩年，最後費盡周折，神蹟般地被文教局招聘回城。

1976年，國家爲了加強中央科學研究，增設機構，選調一批科研技術人員入北京，同時爲了照顧一些長期分居的家庭，直系親屬可以隨同調動。因爲北京人口太多，新建機構直屬北京管轄，但工作地點，職工和家屬都遷到鄰近的天津。先生和我一同調到天津地質研究院工作。橫亙在我們之間的銀河被填平了，但因爲工作性質，先生每年還是要出野外半年。感謝主，12天增到180天，這已經好了很多。

當年是文革後的第一年，百廢待興，國家恢復高考。我那時已是兩個女兒的媽媽了。整天除了上班就是照顧孩子、做飯洗衣服，對外界的事情漠不關心。突然收到先生來信，讓我準備報名高考。我猶豫重重，第一，擔心12年沒有摸書本，高考要考五、六門課程，我剛到天津，行李還沒有運到，手頭連一本複習資料都沒有，怎麼去考？第二，從小學起，我就背上了家庭成分不好的包袱，過去的考生，但凡家庭成分不好的，考試卷子都不審，直接不予錄取，我怕會有同樣下場。第三，我已30出頭的人了，四年前，文教局招聘我回城時都嫌我年紀大，結了婚，有孩子。如今我比以前的條件還要差，這次是考大學回去再做學生，害怕不夠資格。我把擔心和顧慮告訴了先生，他馬上回信，並從報紙上剪下有關政策寄回，堅定了我報考的信心。多年後高中同學聚會，很多同學羨慕我能讀大學，還念了碩士，後悔自己當初顧慮太多，沒有報名參加高考，失去了改變自己命運的最佳機會。我真感謝

摯愛我的先生，在人生的軌道上以他爲首，幫我找對了拐點。夫妻二人一體，共負一轡，把婚姻這架馬車駕馭得穩穩當當。

婚姻並不總是蜜，還有思戀之苦，離別憂傷，爭吵的不快，甚至有生離死別的斷腸。我親眼看到朋友在愛人訣別時哀嚎欲絕的場景。至今想起來心口還隱隱作痛。2001年我到醫院檢查婦科，因爲工作忙，讓先生幫我去醫院取結果報告。下班回來，聽鄰居告訴我，他讀了報告後關著門在家嚎啕大哭，我從來沒有見他落過淚，更不用說哭出聲了，知道情況一定不妙。詢問後得知我患了子宮癌。我倆一起找到醫生，研究病情，及時開刀，做了全部婦件摘除手術，術後他日夜守護在我身邊，直到我脫離危險，身體漸漸恢復才有了笑容。我的身體一直不好，生病時很多朋友前來看望。有幾位比我年輕，比我健康的朋友現已作古。感謝神的保守，讓我能重病脫險，仍與先生爲伴。

2001年，來美國看望女兒，爲了幫助她們讀書，我在下飛機後14天就找到了工作，申請了H1，合法在美國留居和工作。孩子和我們一同來到教會，結識了眾多兄弟姐妹，找到自己的家，成爲基督徒。神是聽禱告的，信實的主，他施恩於我們，讓我們懂得兄弟姐妹要相愛，要愛我們的教會，家庭是教會的肢體，夫妻應該互相尊重。神的恩典數算不盡，現在我的兩個女兒都在美國學成畢業，找到了自己喜歡的工作，還添了兩個活潑可愛的外孫。我的病自從開刀後沒再復發。退休後過著衣食無憂的生活。我和先生從認識，相愛，工作，生活都得到父神的關愛，走過這50年。我們也要將這種愛轉送他人，願家家夫妻恩愛，人人蒙恩喜樂。



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