

PASS IT ON



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FOREWORD

Greetings in the precious name of Christ Jesus our Lord!

I wish to thank the Board of Evangelism for compiling a second booklet on testimonies – *PASS IT ON*.

It is always heart-warming to read and find out what God has done in the lives of the different people. I know some of the people who have shared their testimonies here. However, I did not know their experience of God. Now I am glad to have been informed.

It is my prayer that those who have shared their testimonies here will continue to grow in Christ. There will be deep ongoing changes in their souls brought about by their continuous walk with the living God.

It is also my prayer that all who read these testimonies will come to know God, experience Him daily, and have this assurance that God accepts them and they are loved by God.

May we all continue to mature in Christ and may our lives serve as a testimony to others, so that we *PASS IT ON*.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. T. Jeyakumar
President
Trinity Annual Conference
The Methodist Church in Malaysia

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This booklet by the Board of Evangelism is a compilation of testimonies from various members of the Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC), The Methodist Church in Malaysia, to bless readers.
Address: TRAC, 2 Jalan 5/39, 46000 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

HOW I CAME TO KNOW JESUS

By Emi Diong

I grew up in a family that believed that every religion is the same. All religions lead to heaven. All religions teach us to be good. It does not matter which one you follow. I faithfully followed my parents to temples regularly. At home, we prayed to various deities that we as Malaysians are familiar with.

We tried to do good. We did all we could to please the idols we knew.

After my secondary school, I went to study overseas. There, I met some Christians. They were very helpful and kind. One Sunday, they invited me to the church. I felt obligated to accept because they were nice to me. That Sunday's Worship Service went by all right. However, I felt uncomfortable, meeting so many new people and being in a new environment. The next week, they invited me again. Reluctantly, I said "yes", but deep down in my heart, I had wanted to say "no".

The following week, something happened to me. I felt more at ease. I felt different. I felt like I wanted to know more. Who is this Jesus? Why are these Christians so nice? There was something different about them. I wanted to find out more. So, I started to attend the church's Worship Service and Bible studies. In the process, my view of 'religion' changed. I discovered that Christianity is more than a religion. It is a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Before I became a Christian, I offered sacrifices to the idols to please them. Now, I realise that I do not need to do that anymore. That is because God sent His Son, Jesus to be the sacrifice. It is through the blood that He shed that my sins are forgiven. It was a

sacrifice made – once and for all – for my sins. When I believed in Jesus, invited him into my heart and confessed my sins to Him, I became a child of God.

In the past, I prayed and followed all the rituals because I feared that something bad might happen to me or my family if I did not pray to the idols. Now, I do not fear anymore because I know that God loves me. I come to Him in prayer because I love Him.

My life is still a journey. There are both happy and sad moments. There are still struggles and problems, but in times of difficulty, I have the peace – the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. I have the assurance that God loves me and He is with me at all times.

Most importantly, I know for certain that I have eternal life.



“God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, ‘I love you.’”
- Billy Graham

THE NIGHT I FELT GOD'S PRESENCE

By Kevin Lee Song En

An unforgettable incident happened when I went to a Christian youth camp called Youthquake at Nan Hwa High School. I wasn't very familiar with my peers who went to the camp, so I stayed close to one of my good friends named Kenneth.

When I reached there, I was amazed to see many Christians from other churches. I was very scared at first. However, with the confidence given to me from God, I made quite a number of friends on the first day.

I recall there was a night when we gathered in the hall to listen to the sermon by the Pastor. During his sermon, he asked us a very deep question saying:

"If you passed on, do you think you would go to heaven? To those who said 'yes', gather on the left side, and to those who said 'no', gather on the right."

I paused for a moment and looked to see what my friends would choose.

I felt so unsure about myself that I gathered around those who said "no". One of the thoughts that came to my mind was that I had done so many sins in my life. I felt that God would not forgive me.

When we had made our choice, the Pastor prayed for the people who chose the answer "no". When I heard his prayer, I started crying because I felt God's presence. It was as if I was freed from any trouble or worry within me – everything that had disturbed me suddenly disappeared.

From that experience, I knew that God is my Saviour – that by His grace, He will always save me from the tough challenges in my life. That youth night was the night that I would never forget.

“When Jesus said, ‘It is finished’, he meant it.
It’s done. The price has been paid.
You can be forgiven today.”
- Rick Warren



I FOUND JESUS IN BOYS' BRIGADE

By T. Jeyakumar

If not for the Boys' Brigade (BB), I wouldn't know whether I would have been a Christian today. But I thank God for leading me to join BB where through their regular Bible devotion, I realised that God sent Jesus Christ to die for my sins. I am glad to say that I was even baptised in my BB uniform. That was on 3 April 1983.

When I first attended BB meeting, the devotion made a deep impression on me. I found myself paying great attention because for some time I had been searching for the true God.

At this point, I must tell you that I was brought up in a non-Christian home. At the same time, I had been going to a temple of another religious faith for more than a year. I attended the Sunday religious classes, hoping to find some true teaching and the true God. However, I was not satisfied with what the two religions were teaching me.

God's timing was truly perfect. It was at that point of my desperate search for the true God that He led me to BB. That first devotion gave me something special to think about.

For the first time, I was being told about God who loved the world so much that He gave His only Son to die for our sins.

And so I attended BB meetings regularly. Most of all, I looked forward to the devotion which meant a lot to me. No matter how tight our programmes might be at times, our BB Captain never neglected the most important time, which was the devotion hour. I thank God for such a Captain.

Then, I stopped going to the temples because the Bible answered

most of my questions which other religions couldn't answer. Later, I asked another friend of mine in BB for a Bible and read it myself.

Soon after, I learnt to pray. I prayed for the first time during my end-of-the-year examination because I was desperate. Actually, God was so gracious to me. What I studied came out in the examination! I passed even though I was not well-prepared.

Even after this, I refused to accept Christ. I wanted to be sure that He was the true God before I committed my life to him. As I delayed my decision to receive Christ, I saw God changing my life in certain areas. I became conscious of His power and sensed His protection. I started to experience this living God in my daily life.

Finally, on 1 November 1982, I invited Jesus Christ into my life, and asked Him to take control of my life. Now I am very sure that I have found the true God.

And so to you my friends who have not accepted Christ yet, I share with you a verse from 2 Corinthians 6:2, "Now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation". And also as someone has said:

"Defer not till tomorrow to be wise,
Tomorrow's sun to thee may never rise."

“Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, or takes off the relish for spiritual things then it is sin for you, however, innocent it may be in itself.”
- Suzanna Wesley

GOD'S LOVING VOICE SAVED ME

By Beatrix Kang

I used to attend Bible study classes, but it was more of an intellectual activity and I did not get to know or meet God.

I was under the impression that I had to earn God's love through deeds. I tried that but I did not find Him either.

Eventually, I became frustrated. I decided that I did not want Him as my God. Sure, He could exist, but I did not want to have anything to do with Him.

I started to build my identity based on earthly things to fit in with my peers and society. However, I was constantly rejected. I had to constantly change my personality to fit in with others.

Soon, I did not even know who I was. My identity was always changing. I sank into depression. I developed borderline personality disorder. I engaged in self-mutilation or self-harm. I also attempted suicide a few times. I blamed God for the mess I was in.

Depression took hold of me when I was 13. One night, I was about to make the final cut to end my life when I heard a distinct voice saying, "STOP". It was in the dead of night and no one was around me. The voice started to tell me that He loved me, even if I did not love myself.

I started to cry and went on to confess all my sins, telling Him that I was sorry and hoping that He could forgive me. I now know that I was led by the Holy Spirit to say the sinner's prayer and I accepted Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Holy Spirit descended on me. I felt peace for the first time since falling into depression.

Subsequently, I managed to take baby steps to recover from depression. It has been two years since I have been free from self-harm. I have learnt to grow closer to Christ. I understand how I am saved by faith through grace.

I have learnt to use my talents such as my knowledge of the Bible for His glory. I can now find joy even in hard times and peace in war. It is all because I have Jesus Christ in me and with me.

I have experienced God's love. I have also learnt to love and fear God. My story has become an encouragement to others. There will be trials in life and if I have to face any trial now, I know I will have peace in Christ as He walks with me through life.

“Grace is God's free and unmerited favour shown to guilty sinners who deserve only judgment. It is the love of God shown to the unlovely. It is God reaching downward to people who are in rebellion against Him.”
- Jerry Bridges

GOD'S GIFT OF A SECOND CHANCE TO LIVE

By Seong Hoong Hung

I came from a non-Christian family and my father was a hawker. Growing up in Teluk Intan, I sometimes thought about the purpose of my existence. I felt something was missing in my life. I did not understand many questions about life and death. I kept myself busy so that I didn't have the time to think about these questions. I studied very hard during the day and at night, I helped my father at the hawker stall until past midnight.

The turning point in my life was when my father-in-law in Penang was diagnosed with stomach cancer. I saw God's love through fellow Christians who came to care for him.

During the wake service, I was deeply touched by two hymns, "Amazing Grace" and "What a Friend we have in Jesus", as well as the message that was preached. A relative invited me and my wife to attend the Worship Service at the Sungai Way-Subang Methodist Church.

We were warmly welcomed by the church's Pastor. Later, we joined a care group in SS2, Petaling Jaya. From the Bible study conducted by the care group we had a better and deeper understanding of the Gospel, especially the fact that I have broken God's law and Jesus came to die on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins. I recalled the Bible verse which says: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

We also learnt about praying and putting our hope and trust in Jesus. In 1992, my wife Saw Hoon and I were baptised. Three years later,

Saw Hoon was offered a scholarship to do her Master's degree in Sheffield, UK. The visa application for me and our two children were rejected and our passport stamped with the words "Entry refused" by the UK High Commission in Malaysia. In our desperate moments, we turned to God. The care group prayed for our visa re-application. We believed God opened a way for us to get help from a lecturer in the university. Later, all our visas were approved.

In 1997, I had to undergo open-heart surgery at Institut Jantung Negara to rectify my mitral valve leakage. My heart had enlarged, to the point of almost failing. That was a trying time for us and we turned to God. The care group prayed for us. I believed God provided a skilful and experienced surgeon to perform the operation on me. My mitral valve was repaired successfully. As the valve was not replaced but repaired, by God's grace and mercy, I was freed from a lifetime of medication. God has given me a second chance to live again.

I retired in 2011 and my wife and I are presently actively serving in Trinity Methodist Church, Sungai Buloh.

Not everything is perfect now. I still have concerns about many things. However, I have learnt to put my trust in Jesus and this gives me the inner peace. Looking back throughout all these years, I see God's plan, faithfulness, love, mercy and His supreme control over circumstances in my life. Most of all, I have a personal relationship with God and have eternal life.

All glory and honour to God.

“Once a man is united to God,
how could he not live forever?”
— C.S. Lewis

FOR GOD
SO LOVED
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THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON,
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JOHN
3:16

LONG, HARD SEARCH FOR TRUE HAPPINESS

By Stephanie Tan

Before I accepted Christ, success was my one and only tool for living. During my teenage years, it was all about how to do well in my studies, how to impress teachers and bring honour to my school. At a later stage of my life, it was all about how to climb the corporate ladder and fill up my treasure. I lived by this motto: "It is my life and I will do it my way".

My insecurity occurred when I lost my power and authority and I failed to win the approval of my boss and friends. The more I hunger for validation, the more I thought I deserved to be treated in a certain way. The more I thought I needed such approvals, the more the lies deceived me – that life was unfair and that only I could make it right for myself.

Due to my uneasy feeling at work, I was searching for something – for true happiness. I did not find it even when I was with my family or my boyfriend then. I knew something was wrong but did not know what. I bought lots of self-help books, I kept myself fit, etc. Yet, I did not find true happiness. At work, I was prideful, arrogant and demanding towards my colleagues. The only persons who liked me were my bosses. At the back of my mind, I knew that everyone was putting on a face to win a good yearly appraisal from me. I kept on searching and was shown the way when I went to Labuan to work.

No one shared the gospel with me in Labuan. It was an indirect way of encountering Jesus – I was invited for a monthly Friday night food gathering. It turned out that my friend was having a cell group meeting. I was embarrassed to ask him to send me home after dinner, so I stayed on at a corner and did my reading while waiting for his meeting to finish.

Gradually, over time, I overheard the cell group's sharing and their

LONG, HARD SEARCH FOR TRUE HAPPINESS

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extended prayers for one another. One day, I was curious and asked myself, who was Jesus? Was He great? Was it true that He was a healer? Was He so powerful that He could solve everyone's problems?

To satisfy my curiosity, I flew to Kota Kinabalu and bought a Bible. I wanted to understand what the Word of God meant. I loved reading, so reading the Bible was not an issue for me. I began with the New Testament. After a few weeks, I found most of the answers to my questions in the Bible.

I did not accept Christ immediately. I was monitoring how Christ "behaved". I tested prayer. I tested the Word of God. I questioned God many times. When I returned to Kuala Lumpur, I searched for a suitable church. I read the history of each church, going from one to another, but I was disappointed when I met the people in the churches. I questioned God why the Christians I met in Labuan were so different from those I met in the Klang Valley.

I backed off until I attended a few spiritual classes in Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur. While I was disappointed with people, God never failed me. I saw the difference and asked myself how to be the person who pleased God. Again, I kept searching, reading the Bible (even though I did not quite understand at that juncture) and reading Christian books until one day, during a Sunday Worship Service, I was crying (with joy) and felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. That was the moment I felt real joy and God was the One who taught me what true peace was all about.

The day I was baptised, I was renewed and the Holy Spirit lived in me. However, there were still voices continuously disturbing me –

to do what was not pleasing to God. I was quick to react, slow to compassion, sometimes giving in to procrastination by doing what I liked or felt like doing. Slowly, I gave in to the flesh (sinful nature), rather than yielding to the Spirit of God. I made repeated wrong choices that led to negative habits, for example, anger at work.

For me, self-realisation is one of the tools to victory over sin. Jesus Christ never committed any sin and yet He was the One who went through the pain of crucifixion. Through His death on the cross, Jesus brought us to salvation. I did nothing to deserve it. No matter how great my sin is, God's grace is sufficient for me. The only way for me to be right with God is to have faith in Christ.

“Regardless of how we might feel about another human being, they are made in God's image and of infinite value and worth.”
- Peter Scazzero

HOW GOD SAVED MY HOUSEHOLD

By Peter Khor Teik Hooi

The year 1947 was an eventful one for my mother, brother and me. We left Xiamen, China in June secretly, without the knowledge of my grandfather. He had earlier said that “you can only take my two grandsons away from me over my dead body”.

However, it was a critical time, with the civil war between the Nationalist and the Communist forces at its height. The fire of war was burning fast down south towards Fujian. Eight years of war time earlier under the Japanese Occupation was too much for my mother to endure. The suffering took its toll and mother’s health was not that good. The prospect of coming under the fire of war again was unbearable. She made up her mind to be strong and courageous and to take us to Malaya, where my father was. She knew that the decision would break the heart of her father-in-law, but it was for the well-being and future of her children. With the help of friends, we were taken away from the school to the ship that would take us to Malaya.

When we landed in Alor Setar, everything was not that rosy. My father had another wife, whom he married during the Japanese Occupation of Malaya (December 1941 – August 1945), and I had to call her “Aunty”. She had four children of her own, all younger than us. We stayed in a big community-type house owned by our fourth grand uncle, and there were many families sharing this place. Our grand uncle had three wives, all staying under the same roof.

My mother was very miserable, having to share a husband with another woman. On top of that, she was very lonely, not knowing anybody and the environment was strange to her. As children, we ran carefree around the area and often returned to see her weeping away in misery. There was no joy in the family, and my mother kept to herself most of the time.

God was merciful. One afternoon, my father who had not learned how to drive, cycled home from his shop. There was a rather stout and gentle lady cycling near him. We came to know that she went to China to pursue her theological education a few years ago. My father met her on board the ship. That afternoon, they met again and my father told her that his first wife had come from China and that it might be nice for them to meet. The next day this lady, Pastor Ms Lim Swee Beng, visited us. She met my mother and introduced Jesus to her.

Later, she invited my mother to the Chinese Methodist Church. We were actually no strangers to churches because our house in Xiamen was near a church, and as children we used to play in the church compound. In fact, we used to throw small stones and other things at Christians going to the church on Sundays and abused them with not-so-nice words. Generally, the Chinese were against Christianity. Later, when I became a Christian, I read in the Bible about Saul who persecuted Christians by beating them, putting them in prison, and even stoning them to death. We were then small Sauls to those Christians whom we persecuted in a small way.

When my mother indicated that she was interested in Christianity, my brother and I were against it. We argued and reasoned with her that she should not accept a foreign religion. We had been worshipping our ancestors and our Chinese gods for centuries, and we should not throw them away in favour of this Jesus whom she had just heard. She just smiled and refused to prolong the conversation.

We were brought up to be obedient children and we accompanied her to church. Each time, there was this discussion of religion and belief. Of course, we left her in church and went our separate ways. We soon realised that we could not persuade her to deny her faith

HOW GOD SAVED MY HOUSEHOLD

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in this new-found religion. We thought that a little threat might make her change her mind. One Sunday, as we walked to the church, we told her that we would not worship her after her death. That indeed was a serious matter. To our dismay and amazement, she gently said that she did not need all the rites as she would be in Heaven with Jesus. That was our last weapon to win her over and we failed miserably.

We began to notice that she had changed. From a lady of sorrow and bitterness, practically washing her face with tears each day, she would sing hymns, read the Bible and showed love and care for my aunty's children, whom she would not cast her eyes on before. Her life had been transformed, as the Bible said: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17).

At that time, we did not know the power of the Holy Spirit. We failed to see that the transformation of our mother was God's mighty work. There was joy and peace at home. We were not the only ones who noticed the changes. My father remarked that the home atmosphere was different and much better than before.

My brother and I decided to explore further. The next time we accompanied our mother to the church, we went in too and sat at the back of the church – just in case we needed to run off quickly. The soothing and melodious music and the beautiful meaning of the hymns drew our attention to the reality of God. We felt peace and our souls were at rest in the presence of God.

We began to question what we had believed and worshipped all those years. When I was a child in China, I followed my grandmother and others to worship the ancestors and idols. Now my eyes were

opened to the folly of my past action and belief when I saw the truth and the light.

The next time we took our mother to church, we sat with her which made her very happy. The Pastor noticed that too and we had a wonderful fellowship after the Worship Service. We were joyfully taken in and there was no turning back. Hallelujah! To God be the glory.

The Holy Spirit was our teacher as we searched and learned. The three of us were baptised on the same day. Our father was the witness to this miracle, seeing there was much love in the family which was non-existent in the past. He was so touched that occasionally he followed us to church. Not long after, our father too accepted Jesus as his Lord and Saviour and was baptised. Praise be to God.

I firmly believe in the Word of God as stated in Acts 16:31 – “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” As time went by, my younger siblings were introduced to the church school, and later, the Methodist Youth Fellowship. They were grounded in the Word of God, and one by one was added to the kingdom of God. The most beautiful of all was my aunty, who was illiterate, also came to the Lord in her old age. She had experienced the tremendous blessings of God bestowed upon her children and their families, thus completing the promise of God that “you and your household will be saved”.

“We are not saved by doing anything; rather we are saved by trusting in what Jesus has already done.”
- Curtis Hudson

MY STORY AND MY SONG

By Lynette Loh

I was a child and teenager who was uncertain of my identity. I lacked self-esteem and confidence; felt lost, adrift, lonely and even depressed. I did not know my purpose or where I was headed. At times, I thought I had been born into the wrong family, the wrong country, the wrong race and culture, the wrong time in history.

I did not like the way I looked and wanted to change my face, features, bone structure, shape. I felt like a misfit, not loved or accepted for myself whether in physical looks or character, personality, beliefs, passions, talents and interests.

While I realise in retrospect that I had a happy and blessed childhood in many ways, despite challenges with my parents and family – and I am even able to feel much joy and thankfulness to God for it now. Back then, clarity, peace and wholesomeness were not the theme of my days. There were broken, dark, confusing and missing strands in the fabric of my tapestry, as is the case for most people at some point in their lives, in our broken imperfect world and in our own broken imperfect psyches.

And then, I met Him – my loving Heavenly Father. As the Bible has said numerous times, “But God ...” God intervened and stepped into my story. With deep thanksgiving and gratitude in my heart, I am glad to be able to tell you that my encounters, interactions and relationship with Him over the years have changed me mostly into an optimistic person. Even when I feel alone, I know that I am not, because of the faithful, promise-keeping God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. All creation has told and shown me that not only God will never leave or forsake me, He holds and sustains me in His hands, and He even lives with me and within me!

I know that I am a child of God the Creator, Sustainer and King of the Universe. I know whom I belong to. I know my source. I know that I am beautiful in His eyes, He made me and knit me together in my mother's womb exactly according to His perfect and gracious plan for me before the earth was even formed (Psalm 139:13-14). I know that He looks upon me with love and delights over me with joyful songs (Zephaniah 3:17). I am happy, secure and content knowing that He accepts and loves me – just as I am.

I was a person used to sparring and honing my skills at cutting with words to protect myself. I am a person who has laid down her "sword", and takes great joy in encouraging, building up, and speaking love, goodness, hope, wholesomeness and peace into the lives of others with my words. I thank God for enabling me to do all this in my personal life with the people around me, as well as during the five years when I had the opportunity to write testimonies to honour God as I served my former church (Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur) as the editor of the church magazine – a richly fulfilling time of shaping for me.

I am happy with who God has made me into and I look forward to becoming all that He has planned for me to be from the beginning! I know my purposes, big and small, why God has chosen in His love, wisdom and sovereignty to place me in my family and my country at this specific time in history. I have seen His work in me and in my family – how He has used them to shape me through our shared history and circumstances, and how He has used me in turn, as His instrument within it. I rejoice in this! I understand why He placed me in a country I would never have chosen for myself. I learned and continue to learn to submit myself to His choice, will and purpose,

MY STORY AND MY SONG _____

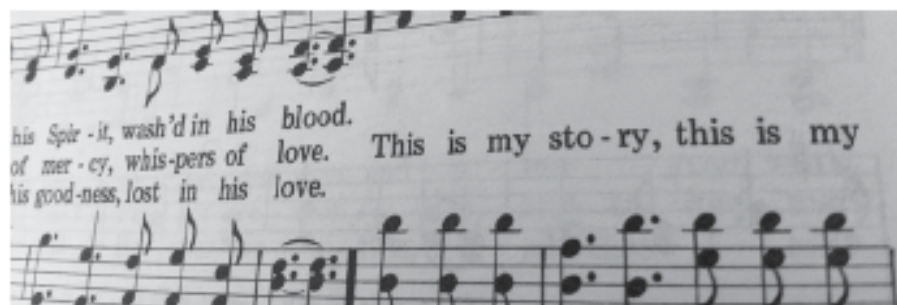
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and using me to serve Him. I know my ultimate goal, my glorious and joyful future.

I know and I have unshakeable confidence born of faith in my Lord and my God, and His Word, not confidence as the world understands it. Through the changing seasons of life, challenges of health, death of loved ones, shifting tides of temporal fortunes, betrayal or abandonment, God was and is and will always be my faithful Rock and Fortress, my loving Abba Father. He always has a place for me within His arms where I can take refuge and find restoration!

So it is and will always be my joy to:

- Tell the unfolding story of God's ongoing work in me and love for me.
- Sing my song of praise, worship and adoration to the only One who is worthy of all honour and glory and praise!
- Choose to serve Him for all the rest of my days that He holds in His hands.



GOD TOUCHED ME THROUGH HIS PEOPLE _____

By Kim Goh Siew Kiew

Throughout my childhood, I was always very fearful of the “god” written on a piece of crimson-coloured paper, pasted on the wall. That “god” seemed distant and ready to punish anyone if he/she did wrong.

I remember being told to kneel down mechanically and ask for blessings of good grades, etc. Life goes on while I had minimal contact with any belief since everything seemed all right.

During my first teaching posting to Raub, God opened my eyes to see the inadequacy of Chinese families in spiritually preparing their children. Not much was emphasised regarding religion. As a result, any family crisis would easily expose the children to abuse. In the secondary school that I was teaching, I witnessed many Chinese girls being converted and taken permanently from their families.

I begin to wonder what should be done to prevent similar tragedies from happening. God’s timing was perfect. He provided me with a few Christian housemates from various churches in Kuala Lumpur. They invited me to church and prayed for me to overcome my fear and concern. One of them (Swee Kheng) eventually led me to say the sinners’ prayer in the school staff room.

Later on, at the Bukit Bintang Girls School in Kuala Lumpur, God prepared Evelyn and Danny Ho, a committed Christian couple, to continue bringing me to church. I thank God for the extra mile that all His servants were willing to go for me. Their warmth and kindness truly touched me and made me feel welcomed into God’s big family.

Thereafter, I attended Subang Methodist Church, which was a

GOD TOUCHED ME THROUGH HIS PEOPLE _____

(cont'd)

preaching point opposite Subang Parade then. This period was a turning point in my journey with my Lord Jesus. I brought my children to the Sunday School. This proved to be an effective way of helping me to learn about God's Word in a simple manner.

Later, I was given a chance to serve in the Sunday School, which was renamed as PraiseKids Church. I helped out with Scripture memory verses, preparing for games, and eventually teaching the object lessons. This allowed me to slowly instill godly values in my children.

By joining the monthly prayer meeting of the church, I was able to encourage my children to "always pray before doing anything".

Today, I still have my worries over my children, especially when they will soon be young working adults. However, I know I can always pray for them, knowing well that God will not let them go very far away from Him. If they have their Lord Jesus with them, I know everything would be fine.

I thank God for understanding my fear, for His grace and mercy. Praise the Lord for including all of us in His master plan!



GOD TURNED MY LIFE AROUND

By Peng Cheng Yu

My parents came to know Jesus when I was five. I was blessed being brought up in the church. It enabled me to acquire the basic knowledge of who Jesus is, the work He has done and the function of a church.

However, knowing the truth as head knowledge and believing the truth in my heart are vitally different. My knowledge puffed up. My faith did not grow.

During my teenage years, doubts about God and Christianity came into my heart. It seemed to me attending church was a duty of every Christian.

I was also struggling with another 'giant' in my personal life. I was an introvert with low self-esteem since adolescence. This affected my social life, especially in school. Although I was blessed with kind and welcoming friends, I could not fit in. I struggled to open up to them. I was unwilling to join the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF), despite constant encouragement from adults in the church.

In my studies, I strived to achieve good results in school because I perceived that a better result would help to improve my self-esteem and my social life. Studying became dry and meaningless, and I no longer enjoyed learning. My life became hopeless, meaningless and clueless.

Amidst these struggles, I recalled a truth that I learnt in my childhood that Jesus came to give me hope, joy and peace (Romans 15:13). I asked myself why I was not experiencing it.

GOD TURNED MY LIFE AROUND _____

(cont'd)

When I came to the end of my own resources to help myself, I experienced the intervention of God's gracious hand in my life. One day, a Christian senior shared with me that it was essential to seek God in my life. He shared his personal experience of seeking and experiencing God. His sharing left a deep impact on me because I knew it was God who had sent him to speak to me. That was the turning point of my life.

I gradually learnt to attend church with a seeking heart. When I let God take control of my life, God worked in my heart and turned my life around. He gave me the courage to join the MYF. It was a huge step of faith that God enabled me to take. I could socialise better with people. I enjoyed being in the fellowship that God graciously gave me. Through turning my heart to Him, I encountered God through His works and His words.

I now understand the meaning of the life I have in Christ. I am certain that in Christ I have hope, joy and peace.

After completing secondary school, I pursued my nursing studies in Singapore. God again worked so evidently in my life. It has been an adventure with Christ through these three years of studies.

I thank God for His grace, mercy and power in transforming my life. All glory to the Lord who loves me – and you.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

By Jennie Lee

I was born in a non-Christian family. I was brought up in a disciplined and strict manner by my grandmother who did not tolerate any excuses. However, I was never restricted from learning about other faiths.

When I was seven years old, I was enrolled in a missionary school. I spent 11 years there. That was the beginning of my walk with Christ. Each school day began with an assembly. All teachers and students sang hymns and prayed. Every session would end with the recital of "Our Lord's Prayer" in unison. Pretty soon, the Lord's Prayer was on everyone's lips, irrespective of colour or creed! I could feel this air of holiness that encompassed us, especially when the school celebrated its birthday with a special service in the Anglican Church that was within the compound.

Though I grew up observing other religious festivities and rituals, either at home or in temples, like offering sacrifices, holding sticks of incense and burning sacred papers, I never really understood the meaning. My mother was my role model, like an angel in some ways. She was the one who bought me a gold chain with a little gold cross! Until today, the cross has never left me.

Most of the time, I found myself talking to God. There were many things I revealed to Him, asked and thanked Him for, and even got angry with. My Heavenly Father never failed me. Each time I stumbled, He was there to help me. When I faced obstacles or found myself in deep trouble, I called upon Him. I cried to Him in

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

(cont'd)

various situations in my life whether at home or abroad, at work or when I was lonely and distressed. At a loss for words, I would recite the Lord's Prayer, at first in silence but gradually louder till I was saying it at the top of my voice! Thank You Lord for You have always looked out for me, and You have never forsaken me.

My Lord has lit up and straightened my road all this while. In Him my confidence rests. He will always be my guide. Indeed, Psalm 23 has been my pillar of life all this while.

I have been blessed with a beautiful family, a loving husband and two wonderful children. I thank God for my son-in-law, who is a devoted servant of God. I thank God for a grandson. It is the Lord who has been showering me with goodness, keeping me safe and providing for all my needs.

By God's grace, Howard (my husband) survived a severe heart attack. I am indebted to a group of fervent prayer partners, who swung into action the minute I sought them!

I realised in the past we had strayed from God, when we were abroad. However, God never forsook us. Instead, He sent an 'angel' to lead us back to Him and to a church. I remind myself never to forget the blessings which I have witnessed, not only for myself but also for those I had prayed for. I believe that we must always remember to live according to His will and remain faithful.

Finally, I thank God for His Word in Proverbs 3:5-6 which says:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.



MY QUESTIONS AND DOUBTS ANSWERED

By Tracy Ng

I was born in a non-Christian family, but I would never consider myself a religious person. As I grew up, I became a strong believer of science and everything has to have a reason and explanation. Ironically, my past religious faith had a lot of beliefs and practices which nobody could explain to me the logic behind them. We were doing certain things simply because that was how things were done.

My mother was encouraged by a colleague (aunty Jenni) to attend the Alpha course in Trinity Methodist Church, Penang. My mother did not want to attend Alpha alone, so she pulled me along. To be honest, I was not too keen about this course. I had never heard of it. I had no idea what to expect and 13 weeks sounded like a long-term commitment!

Surprisingly, my first class turned out to be quite interesting. I thought what the speaker (Rev Nicky Gumbel) shared in the introduction video made sense. He had reasons, evidences and explanations about God and Jesus. It was an eye-opener and it gave me the opportunity to consider and explore my own beliefs.

Through this course, a lot of my questions and doubts were answered. I now know that there is a God and Jesus does exist, and He is who He claims to be. I was starting to experience a new approach to the Christian faith. I began to accept it as the guiding light of my life.

I was baptised about a year after attending the Alpha course. I know that this does not mean that I will not have any more questions but I now know that I will have more people to ask.

Looking back, I am thankful to aunty Jenni for encouraging my mother to attend the course and for my mother who pulled me along. All aunty Jenni did was to reach out to a colleague, which led to two people's lives being changed by God.

I realise that we will never know what God's plan is and how He chooses to reach out to someone. God will do the rest if anyone is open to listen and respond to Jesus' invitation to be his or her personal Lord and Saviour.



JESUS CHANGED MY LIFE

By Chan Kok Chong

Currently, I am serving as sound-cum-visual technician in Trinity Methodist Church, Penang. My wife Serene is also serving in the Sunday school ministry. We were baptised in 2012, while my daughters (Cady and Adele) were baptised last Christmas. Cady is now serving as Scripture reader. We are also in a small group to learn and grow together with our community of faith.

Now, was I always a Christian? The answer is no. I was a non-believer until 2007 when we sent Cady to Trinity kindergarten for pre-school education. We came to know some members of the church – people like Rita and Mrs Woo. Through their introduction to the church, we started to attend Sunday Worship Service when we sent our daughters to the Sunday school.

However, there were questions and lingering doubts that we had in Christianity. Later, we were introduced to a deeper knowledge of the Christian faith. In 2009, Mrs Woo talked to my wife about the Alpha course. She said, “Even though you think Alpha is not for you and your husband, come without expectation, just come”. My wife “dragged” me along to attend the 13-week course.

Everyone at my Alpha small group was insightful, although we came from completely different backgrounds and had different perspectives on Christianity. It was such an amazing learning experience for me. Thanks to friends at my Alpha small group, I was able to get over several huge stumbling blocks that I was struggling with.

I realised that the course had helped me to have a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ and His call upon my life. It was

through Alpha that I learned the importance of being united with Christ. Gradually, I grew in my commitment to serve and support others. I experienced Jesus changing my life and the life of my family too.

Indeed, it was by the grace of God that someone had invited my wife and me to the Alpha course. This simple gesture had worked wonders in my life. I hope you will have a chance to attend the Alpha course too and be much blessed.



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THE JOURNEY TO CHRIST

Dr Peter Ho Chin Aw

I was born in 1937 and grew up in Penang. I received my education at St Xavier's Institution, together with my brothers. The school was managed by the Lasallian Brothers, who were very good.

The teachers were strict and taught well. When I was in school, we had to say prayers every morning before the lessons began. Sometimes, I would go to the Catholic Church with my classmates. The Scripture lesson was my favourite, which was compulsory for us to take in the Senior Cambridge Examination.

At one stage, I was contemplating joining the Catholic Church, but I did not. I spent eight years away in Ireland and England doing my studies and I never thought of accepting Christ or becoming a Christian. Even God was not in my mind at all.

The desire to know God rejuvenated in me when I joined the Bukit Rasah Care Group of Wesley Church, Seremban. I was invited to join the group by Mr Tan Foo Tee who was the leader and my neighbour. I found the gatherings good and encouraging.

I also joined the Wesley Church Senior Fellowship and found many friends. Soon I attended church services on Sundays and found myself wanting to accept Jesus as my Lord and Saviour and to join the fellowship.

My wife and I joined the Membership Class of the church conducted by Pastor Ronald Yap. We were baptised on 25 December 2014.

I am involved with patients with cancer who need treatment, comfort and guidance. They may be in the last stage of their earthly lives and would be suffering a lot. I myself seek God every day through prayer for strength and encouragement as I serve these patients.

In finding God, I have found strength in Him to serve His children.



LOST BUT FOUND

By Michael Foong Peng Kwan

I was born to a Christian family where both my parents were from China. They came to Malaya in search of better opportunities and settled in Ipoh.

I was baptised at five years old at the Chinese Methodist Church in Gunung Rapat, Ipoh. During my childhood days, I attended church with my parents. I enjoyed it as I had the opportunity to play with other children.

I was educated in the Anglo-Chinese School, Ipoh, a well-known missionary school. I attended the chapel regularly and studied the Bible as it was one of the compulsory subjects at that time.

After completing my secondary education, I moved to Kuala Lumpur to work in the tin mines. Those days were tough as most of my colleagues were much more senior than me.

Subsequently, after I got married, I moved to Kuantan to start my own auto spare-parts business. However, things did not work out and I moved back to Kuala Lumpur after two years, and ventured into the insurance line. Later on, I worked in a family recreation and karaoke club for 16 years until my retirement. During my entire working life, I did not spend time with God and failed to seek His ways. In fact, I was far away from Him and followed my own way.

Since retirement, I felt lonely and lost direction in life, although I am now keeping myself busy by being a dog trainer. My daughter encouraged me to go to church again. So, I joined the Alpha programme in Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur, and later on I attended Faith Methodist Church (FMC), Cheras.

I began to understand more of the Bible and God through the encouragement of Pastor Buell and other church members. I was confirmed and became a member of FMC in November 2015. Currently, I join a cell group on a weekly basis to know and understand more of the Bible. Now I realise that Jesus is always with me.



Amazing
Grace

GOD THE SHINING LIGHT

By Frescia Yau

I was born in a non-Christian family. So I had to pray to the idols that my parents placed in our house. I never understood to whom we were praying to because there were so many different 'gods'.

During my younger days, I heard many things about Jesus. However, I never got the chance to go to church as my late father did not allow me to do so.

One day, my son asked me about the meaning of Wesak Day. I could not tell him the answer because I did not know it myself. I told my husband that we needed to do something about this.

We had not been praying to our idols for quite some time. Our son did not believe in the faith that I was brought up. I remembered him asking me about Jesus, "Could I become a Christian?" His father said, "No". I was also not a strong believer of my earlier faith.

We were invited to a Christian Worship Service in Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) in 2012. We visited the church again last year to attend the Chinese language Worship Service. My husband also attended. We were so happy. The following week, we bought the Holy Bible for ourselves.

I missed one Worship Service. The next Sunday at 4.30am, I saw Jesus asking me to attend Worship Services. I woke up and brought my son along to church. As the weeks went by, my husband joined us. I was very happy that he came along.

At the church services, we requested for prayers. We joined a Cell Group and the Alpha course. I was quite worried that I had to work on

certain Sundays and miss two classes. During the second Sunday at around 2.30pm, God spoke to me, "If you work on a Sunday, it doesn't mean that you can sign a sales order." Then I decided to complete my Alpha classes.

God is so great. I sold 10 cars in October and 12 cars in November. I gave one unit to a colleague who did not sell any car in November.

One night in November, I saw a shining light in my room. On 22 November, we decided to remove our idols. I shared with my mother and sister, and my family accepted Jesus as our Saviour.

My family always love Jesus. Every Saturday or Sunday we look forward to attend church service. We are much happier now. We attend Cell Group and meet new friends, who are our brothers and sisters. Our lives have changed tremendously. God answers our prayers. We thank you, Lord, for everything.

GOD OF RELATIONSHIPS

By Chang Yen Ting

Being born in a non-Christian family, I have limited opportunities to know more about Christianity. The little knowledge that I have, however, was from studying in a Christian kindergarten, reading Bible verses for a secondary school friend in hospital visits, meeting university Christian course mates, and having relatives who have become Christians.

When I was young, I used to doubt the presence of God. Then things changed when I experienced insomnia at night, alone in my bedroom. I felt insecure in total darkness and the howling stray dogs did not help. I challenged God arrogantly saying, "God, if Your presence is real, show me the light." Suddenly, light shone into my bedroom and I fell asleep abruptly. Following this incident, I realised that even though I despised God, He has never failed to show me His love. So I found my way to Him through His grace.

Before I was baptised, I was quick-tempered and an introvert. I preferred to stay in my comfort zone, doing things alone, rather than talking with people. I was very depressed when on an industrial attachment last year, where I had to face all the challenges, unfairness and problems interacting with people at my workplace while dealing with insomnia. I tensed up easily and felt uneasy, as if I was going to be completely engulfed by the darkness. However, a miracle happened – God has brought me to the Faith Methodist Church (FMC)!

I had never been to a church which made me feel at home. I was touched during the Worship Service on New Year's Eve. I felt a connection with someone who was great, someone whom I could count on. I felt safe, knowing that God was protecting me. This was when I started to think about committing myself to God.

I started reading the daily devotions. I found that I could relate the devotions with different matters happening in daily life. That inspired me every day and I looked forward to the devotions for the following days. I felt peace, became more confident and also more aware of the need to communicate with people around me. That was when I began to respond to a child's hug too. FMC was where I started to attend the Worship Services, joined a care group, listened to sermons, and finally registered for baptism and membership class.

I remembered one of the testimonies of my mentor regarding how he accepted Jesus Christ. Perhaps what struck me the most was his teaching of the difference between Christianity and other religions. I discovered that in the Christian faith, God is the "God of relationships". There are interactions between God and people, and between people.

I learnt to pray and grew spiritually. I realised that I don't have to perform good deeds to make myself acceptable to God or be closer to the door of heaven after death. Instead, I learnt to do the good works naturally and willingly, and not to get any benefits or rewards from doing so.

Things were not smooth-sailing though. I faced some difficulties before I was baptised, that is, objections from parents, lack of communication regarding religious views with siblings, and prejudices of non-Christian relatives.

However, I found the love, care and concern that my family in Christ poured on me to be the greatest encouragement that kept me going. I am truly blessed for having caring elders, dedicated pastor, fatherly mentor, helpful senior members and supportive friends alongside my path of learning. They reminded me that the road might be

GOD OF RELATIONSHIPS _____

(cont'd)

rough, the journey tough and the experience bitter, but I would not be alone. God gives His hardest battles to His strongest soldiers. He does not only take away the bitterness and give sweetness in its place – He turns the bitterness into sweetness itself.

Baptism has provided me the strength to stand firm, enriched my faith and given me a clear picture of my life goals and future direction. Without doubt, I can put all my trust in God. Baptism has also granted me indescribable fulfilment. I've finally found my refuge, not being emotional or getting depressed easily. Moreover, it motivates me to strive hard in everything I am dealing with in order to become a better person and to glorify God.

Finally, I found the Bible verses from James 1:2-4 to be encouraging: "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

Almighty God, You are my Shepherd, my Saviour, my Rock, and my Light. I pray that You keep shining Your light and let the whole world see it while we are singing for the glory of the risen King. May the lost sheep see the light of the world and find their way back to glorify our Father in Heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen!

BROKEN AND LOST, GOD CALLED ME _____

By Alice Hoo

Since young, I was clairvoyant. I could easily see spirits in my surroundings. I had the ability of perceiving things or events in the future. Basically, I had the sixth sense.

I grew up in an ancestor worship family. In 2010, I went through an experience of demonic oppression. I could not sleep, eat or think like a normal person. My parents took me to different kinds of exorcism based on Chinese religious rituals, yet none of them helped me. Each time I fell asleep, I would have some horrific nightmare. Due to lack of sleep, my work suffered.

More problems came my way. In 2011, I went through a divorce as my ex-husband was having an affair. Within two years, I lost my health, marriage and career. I was spiritually and mentally broken. I felt so down that I attempted suicide.

At that critical life-and-death moment, I heard a voice telling me, "God can help you". I recalled being told by a school friend that God would help me if I called out to Him.

When I knelt down and prayed, I saw the vision of a big cross. Somehow, I still had an old Bible on my table. I opened it and it came to Psalm 91 which was a prayer of deliverance. I read this Psalm many times which gave me much comfort. I decided to go to a Catholic church to seek help. Amazingly, my life since then underwent a major change. On Easter 2012, I was baptised in a Catholic church.

My depression was completely gone without any medication. I spent time reading and meditating on the Word of God. When I was well enough to go back to work in 2013, God blessed me with a well-paying job and my salary was more than what I expected.

BROKEN AND LOST, GOD CALLED ME _____

(cont'd)

I went to Damansara Utama Methodist Church (DUMC) on 8 March 2014. At that time, a friend of mine wanted to look for a church in Petaling Jaya. I asked my colleague (Barnabas Ung) for help. He took us to DUMC. In the same week, I joined the Cell Group led by Melvin and Emily. On my third visit to this church, God spoke to me through a sermon and I decided to join this church.

After I decided to focus my life fully on seeking God, Jeremiah 29:11 which says, "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" came true for me.

God has blessed me with His peace. I am glad that my confidence and identity have been restored. By His grace, He has blessed me with a great brother-in-Christ, Yew Yi, and together, we now share our passion for Christ.

God has been very good to me. I am truly glad to have repented from all my past deeds and I now know for sure that Jesus is my personal Saviour.

“Peace is not the absence of trouble;
it is the presence of God.”
- Author Unknown

GOD SUSTAINED ME THROUGH MY CRISES _____

By Joyce Lin

I accepted Christ as my personal Saviour almost 30 years ago, after getting married to my husband. Having been blessed with four heroes, it was not easy to cope, especially since we lived far from my parents and relatives. I am like a superwoman, busy from early morning to late night, with never-ending jobs to finish. By the end of the day, I was usually exhausted, and there was no time for God. However, God is always good – He always watches over my family.

I had a spine problem (slipped disc) more than 15 years ago. It became more serious as age caught up. In 2011, when I was 48, I could not walk due to a severe injury to my spine lumbar six. I was admitted to hospital for a week, then discharged, but I was bedridden for almost two months, and the doctor said that I would likely need a few surgeries.

While waiting for my surgery at Putrajaya Hospital, I discovered that my pain was lessening and I could slowly walk again. The doctor confirmed this and cancelled the surgery. During my time of struggle, I prayed and read the Bible, and trusted God would heal me. I never blamed God. I knew that God had a purpose for me.

After six months, I was able to exercise and returned to Persatuan Berdikari Seremban (PBS), a learning disabled training centre, to volunteer my services again. I also followed the Wesley Methodist Church (Seremban) mission trip to Myanmar, even though I was still recovering. Wearing a safety belt to support my spine, I managed to enjoy my trip. I knew God would take good care of me. I continued to serve in other church ministries ever since.

After slowly recovering from my spinal problem, another nightmare happened. My beloved younger brother succumbed to suicide. The family faced a financial crisis and failed in their migration plan to Perth.

GOD SUSTAINED ME THROUGH MY CRISES _____

(cont'd)

I fell into depression and almost committed suicide too. God rescued me a second time. My husband and family members advised me to seek help and I went for specialist care and was put under medication. During the second month, the doctor discharged me from under his care because I managed to come out of my depression. By God's strength, I later continued to do volunteer work at PBS and actively became involved in church ministries again.

A crisis cannot break the one who relies on God's strength. So whenever there is an opportunity, I am glad to share and encourage others who are going through depression.

I am thankful to God that after each crisis in my life, I have become stronger. God has transformed me from a person of low self-esteem to who I am today in God's time.



MY ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

By Paul Hor Chee Wah

It was in January 2015 when I found out that three of my arteries were about 70% to 80% blocked, my angioplasty failed and my surgeon in Institut Jantung Negara told me that I would need an open heart by-pass operation. Immediately, I turned down the surgeon's offer as I had a phobia for operation (five of my family members died in the hospital). Furthermore, I trusted God to heal me.

Several church members and friends advised me to go for the operation, including the pastors of my church, who told me that God could heal through doctors and surgeons. I prayed to God for signs that I should go for the surgery.

My first sign came on 13 March 2015 when I was visiting my grandchildren in Adelaide. Josiah, my eldest grandson, wanted to sleep with me that night. I asked him whether he had been praying nightly to God to heal me of my blocked arteries. He said he did and that night he prayed to God, "Dear God, our Father, thank You for bringing grandpa and grandma safely to Adelaide to see us. Please continue to look after my grandpa and keep him healthy and strong. I pray that grandpa's surgery will be a success. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen." I didn't tell him my angioplasty had failed nor mention that I was going for surgery.

It was around the third week of March 2015 when a friend from America sent me this verse taken from Matthew 28:20 and asked me to memorise it: Jesus told His disciples, "And surely I am with you always, till the very end of the age". I believed this was the second sign from God. There were a total of five signs but due to space constraint I have to skip the rest of them.

MY ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

(cont'd)

On 17 May 2015, as I was lying on the trolley bed, being wheeled to the operating theatre by the nurses and my family members, I was praying silently to God, "Dear Father God, I know the whole church, my small group members and my family members have been praying for a successful operation. I know You must have a purpose for me on earth, if not you wouldn't have saved me at such a late age of 69 years at the Alpha weekend-away on 1 October 2011. Please Father God, don't take me to heaven so early. Let me continue doing Your will on earth in humble services in my local church. Let me give testimony of Your faithfulness, Your healing power, Your love and the Good News."

Just then the Indian nurse told me, "Uncle, we are waiting outside the operating theatre. You have to go in alone, promise me that you will see me tomorrow morning." I said "yes" and added, "I am not alone – God is with me".

In the operating theatre, the anaesthetists were having difficulties fixing the tubes to my veins to be connected to the monitor. I asked "Father God, please guide their hands and help them to fix the monitor." Immediately, the monitor lit up and the doctor told me, "Uncle, *cepat doa, lima saat kamu tidur.*" I quickly prayed, "Father God, please be by my side always as You have promised."

Suddenly, I heard a voice calling out "Jesus", and I opened my eyes and saw a blinding white light in front of me and there was a handsome young man dressed in a purple hoodie with a white cross or checks at the end of my bed. He was fair-skinned, clean-shaven and smiling to me. I tried to call him, "Is that you, Lord?", but the tubes in my mouth were preventing me from speaking. Then I fell asleep. After some time, somebody touched me on my left arm, and

I saw Jesus dressed in the same purple hoodie, passing by the left side of my bed, moving towards the blinding light. I knew God was with me all the while during the operation.

The next I knew, I heard a female voice calling me from a distance, "Uncle, *bangun, bangun*". She was patting my cheeks very hard. I realised that I was under sedation and had to get up.

The moment I opened my eyes I saw this Malay nurse patting me on my cheeks. Immediately I gave thanks to my Saviour for keeping His promise in Matthew 28:20, showing me His love, patience and healing powers. He is indeed the true and living God. In less than a few hours, I was transferred out of the Intensive Care Unit to my ward. I too kept my promise by telling the Indian nurse then and again, and sharing with others, my encounter with Jesus. Indeed, God is gracious and merciful! Amen.

HOLD ON TO FAITH AMID UNCERTAINTIES

By Lim Muan Tee

I would like to share God's story of healing, love and faithfulness in my story.

On March 2009, when I felt breathless, I went to Universiti Hospital for a simple check-up, so I thought. It turned out to be a battery of tests to diagnose whether it was caused by tuberculosis (TB) or cancer!

The liquid sample taken from my right lung showed no sign of TB at first. So they began all the tests and scans to find out the primary source of cancer. I was recommended to go for a total hysterectomy for a biopsy. It was confirmed as 4th stage Metastatic ovarian cancer.

In the meantime, I got a call from the hospital that I had TB, and I must report to the hospital for immediate treatment. My chest doctor and I were surprised by this sudden shocking news as there were no symptoms of TB at all. My suspicion was that there could have been a contamination.

After some consultation with my chest doctor and oncologist, it was decided that as a precaution, I should take five types of TB medication for six months. This was preventive measure in case any mild TB strain were to flare up, especially when I was to begin my six cycles of intravenous chemotherapy treatment, which would take four months.

I began to take my medication faithfully before and during my chemotherapy. My journey became more complicated, taxing and tiring, having to see my chest doctor and oncologist, not to mention the anxiety of undergoing the treatment of chemotherapy (preparation during administering the drugs took five-six hours, coupled with post side-effects).

During those months of anxiety and making decisions, the first Bible passage that came to my mind was from Philippians 4:6-7: "Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God and the peace that passes all understanding will keep your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ."

A hymn that constantly encouraged me was "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine". From that point onwards, having so much free time, I began to seek His assurance.

Praise the Lord, on 9 September 2009, I was cleared of cancer and under remission. I am so grateful to God for seeing me through this first journey of faith. I even had the chance to travel to see the "Passion Play" in Oberamagau, Germany in 2010, which takes place once every 10 years. The other place that God provided for me was the visit to Jerusalem.

As a cancer survivor, the thought of recurrence is quite real. I hope that it will never recur! However, on 1 October 2015, my cancer recurred after six good years. The indication was the same as the first occurrence in 2009 – Metastatic Ovarian Carcinoma with gross pleural effusion on the right lung. Thankfully, the rest of the organs and body are clear. I was happy and thankful to know that it has not spread, but at the same time sad!

At this point of time, I happened to read from Oswald Chambers' devotional journal, *My Utmost for His Highest*. I would like to share with you his thoughts entitled "Gracious Uncertainty".

"Our natural inclination is to be precise – trying to forecast

HOLD ON TO FAITH AMID UNCERTAINTIES

(cont'd)

accurately what will happen next – that we look upon uncertainty as a bad thing.... Certainty is a mark of commonsense life – gracious uncertainty is the mark of spiritual life.... We are uncertain of the next step, but we are certain of God. As soon as we abandon ourselves to God and do the task He has placed closest to us, He begins to fill our lives with.... joyful uncertainty and expectancy.... Remain faithful to Him."

Thus began my second journey of faith, knowing my God and Master was with me as I am His child. This time, I was not as anxious as the first time when I was diagnosed with cancer. I went to the emergency and later was warded to draw out the liquid from my right lung to ease my breathing. I started my chemotherapy treatment on 12 October 2015 and completed the six cycles on 28 January 2016. Throughout this period, I could see God's hand in the medical care I received, and the people who cared for me, especially my family members, community of faith, and even cancer patients I met who supported and encouraged one another. I shared with some of them on God's mercy and love for me when I had the chance.

As I journey on, I seek God's Word for comfort and assurance, and memorise a few verses. I read other books and testimonies from which I can get some insights. I endeavour to keep myself healthy with regard to food and exercise.

I remember to count my blessings and name them one by one. The hymns are a source of encouragement and joy. The hymn written by Fanny J. Crosby, "All The Way, My Saviour Leads Me", has kept me going during this second journey of faith.

All the way, my Saviour leads me; what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy, who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in Him do dwell!
For I know what e'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well. (2x)

All the way my Saviour leads me, cheers each winding path I tread.
Gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be.
Gushing from the rock before me, lo a spring of joy I see. (2x)

I recall a quotation that reads: "Every tomorrow has two handles.
We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle
of faith." (Henry W. Beecher) I have decided to hold on to the
faith handle, knowing that my Saviour will lead me all the way!

To God be the glory.

“Faith is the gaze of a soul upon a saving God.”
- A.W. Tozer

A WALKING MIRACLE

By Cheng Lai

I first heard about the Gospel in the 1960s when I was attending the Methodist Girls School. Back then, it was compulsory for us to attend the weekly chapel services where we sang Christian songs and hymns, and listened to Bible stories.

I was 13 years old when I told my mum that I wanted to be a Christian. Her reply, which was typical of most Chinese non-Christian parents, was, "Only after my death". However, after her death which occurred several months later, I forgot all about wanting to be a Christian.

I missed my mum very much. I used to cry in front of her photograph. I remembered that somehow I was strangely comforted. On looking back, I now realised that even then, God our Heavenly Father was already looking out for me. He had seen my young broken heart and gave me His peace, which was beyond human understanding.

Life went on after that and I found myself attending the evening Worship Service in the church faithfully. I remembered joining Ms Milton's Bible classes and soon I was eager to be baptised. On 14 April 1974, I took the step of faith and have never looked back since.

The years flew by. Once, I attended a Bible study group. The speaker laid hands on me and gave me God's Word that the Lord would always bless me and reminded me to claim it for my life. I did not fully realise it then, but it was that promised Word which gave me hope and strength in the difficult days to come.

In May 2002, I went for a mission trip to Kampung Keruing which was near Kuantan. Three days after my return from this trip, I collapsed in my home. I was unconscious for three days and nights. I was sent to a private hospital. It was later that I learnt with much thankfulness

to God that my friends prayed for me when I could do nothing for myself. After I regained consciousness, I was unable to walk. Due to financial constraints, I continued my treatment in Kuala Lumpur General Hospital.

I thank God for sending Jamie and Michael Lee to my aid at such a time. In spite of their tight working schedule, they managed to take me back to Malacca every weekend. After three months, I was still unable to walk. Finally, it was decided that I stayed at a home in Petaling Jaya while waiting for further treatment.

Every morning at the home, I would get up as early as 4am and start my walking exercise. While walking I never stopped praying and crying out with tears to God to help me to walk again. How amazing is God's faithfulness! I have been walking for the past 11 years since that time. Church friends who had been with me then would readily testify that I am a "walking miracle". All glory and thanks be to God!

Another area of concern I had at that time was not getting a regular income after my retirement as I was working in a private school. As usual I would talk to God about my worries and problems. After I was discharged from the hospital in 2002, I had no job and no income. Again God sent people to help me. Mrs Helen Wong and the late Mr Wong Swee Lim helped me to apply for Perkeso. I was eligible for it because I fell sick just months before I was due to retire. Had my medical problem occurred after my retirement, I would have been disqualified. The application went through smoothly and until today, I am provided with a regular income. God's timing is indeed perfect.

I thank my family members and brothers and sisters-in-Christ who had seen me through those dark and difficult days. The apostle

A WALKING MIRACLE _____

(cont'd)

Paul says that there is a purpose for such suffering.

“ Praise be to the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ.

God is the Father who is full of mercy and all comfort.
He comforts us every time we have trouble,
so when others have trouble, we can comfort them with
the same comfort God gives us. ”
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

It is to restore us and to make us strong and steadfast in our faith.
May God help us to be faithful as we seek to boldly live a life that
honours Him.

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

By Jessie Chiew

In my formative years, I was brought up and mentored by a nyonya grandmother. Through her, I learnt that I would be all right as long as I were to do good, and that the idol would punish me severely if I were to be bad. My fear of the idol then led me to quake in fear.

As I look back, God has been a benevolent influence in my life long before I knew Him.

Although we were devout religious adherents, my parents allowed me to study in the Methodist school right from kindergarten to Form Six. As they say, plant a seed and grow a tree. I had been filled with Bible stories, acted in nativity plays and sang hymns in chapels in my most absorbent years, and everything had been stored in my data bank.

Many years later, God's nudge came through my daughter. She had fortified herself through Bible self-study from her early teens. Through God's wisdom, He led my daughter to study in Brigham Young University where she had to do 30 credits of comparative religion within her entire Accounting degree course. Within the first month in her campus, she chose to have herself baptised in a Baptist church. She then wrote us to encourage us to find our way to a church.

Later in 1996, we were baptised in Trinity Methodist Church, Petaling Jaya, together with our son, before he left to study in England.

God works His will in us in His own way and in His own time. Shortly after my retirement and with both my children studying far away from home, God literally stopped me in my tracks while I was out running. Both my knees just gave way. I was grounded for an entire year.

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

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That was when God's command in Psalm 46:10 came through to me to "be still, and know that I am God". It was this message which pushed both my husband and I into full-time Bible study – to seek and know this God who had been patiently knocking on our door for many years, and seen us through thick and thin. We have come to know that we are called to know God and to have an intimate relationship with him.

As illustrated by dried leaves swirling in a dance when blown by the wind, it has dawned on us that we are never too old to learn to grow in God. As long as He fills us with His breath and the Holy Spirit, we can stay vibrant and revitalised – ready to share His love and His light with those around us.

“Truly, God's light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.”
John 1:5



GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

By James Teh Swee Huat

God has so richly blessed me and my family in many ways. When I take stock and count His blessings one by one, I realise that things do not happen on their own, but for a reason or purpose. God has a plan not to harm us, but to prosper us, giving us a future and hope (Jeremiah 29:11), as we walk rightly with our God by praying and calling upon His name.

As I look back on an incident during my working life, I was particularly concerned regarding my retirement age. At that time, the statutory compulsory retirement age was 55 years old. My children were still in school and in tertiary education. I was worried about how to finance them through their education if I were to retire at 55 years.

The only source of funding available was my personal savings and EPF contribution. Furthermore, I had to budget for my old-age retirement. So it turned out to be a mind-boggling 'mathematical equation' for me with so many variables that are mutually exclusive to each other.

I cannot help but to identify in some ways with the Israelites' challenges as they journeyed towards the Promised Land (Israel), but they ended wandering in the wilderness for 40 years! However, God was great and merciful towards me, as I experienced the reality of the Bible verse which says: "He will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we can bear. But when we are tempted, He will also provide us a way out." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

The D-day was near and my personal anxiety and tension heightened. The company would decide whether to extend my employment service beyond 55 years of age. At one of the management meetings, the Chairman made a surprise announcement that the Board of

GOD WILL MAKE A WAY

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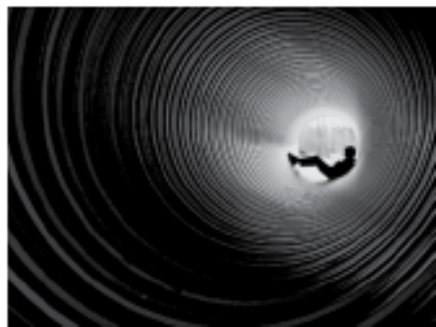
Directors had decided to extend my employment service by another five years with a further two years on an annual renewable basis. This meant that I could work until the age of 62 with no change in my terms of employment on benefits and position.

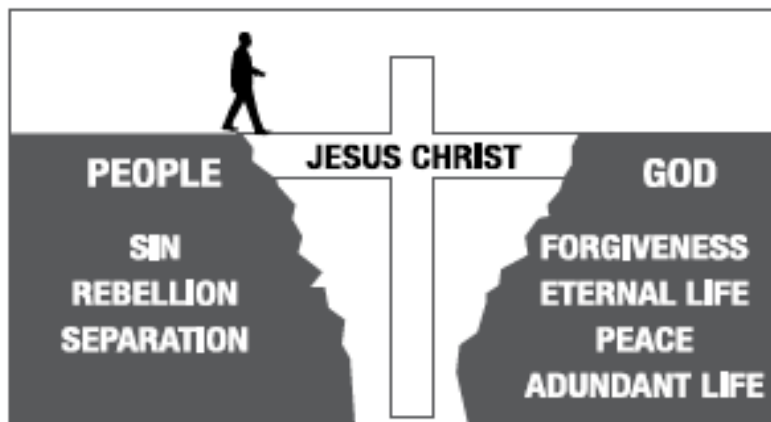
I was also pleasantly surprised when the Chairman thanked me for my contribution and loyalty to the company for over two decades of service. He rewarded me with a 'golden handshake' in the form of an ex-gratia payment. This had never happened in the history of the company before! In addition, I was invited to sit on the Board of Directors as a member.

It was the wildest of dreams that I never thought of. At one juncture, I was worried of early retirement, coupled with the financial constraint it would bring along its trek. However, as I mentioned earlier, God had a better plan not to harm me, but to prosper me with a future and hope.

A year preceding my official retirement at 62, God was marvellous by granting me an opportunity to visit the Holy Land of Israel. I had the great privilege to witness the beauty of His creation and to stand on Mount Zion, glorifying God's greatness in my life.

In short, I would like to echo what the prophet Zechariah had said, "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty (Zechariah 4:6). Praise His Holy name!





"Christ himself suffered when he died for you, and with that one death he paid for your sins. He was not guilty, but he died for people who are guilty. He did this to bring all of you to God" (1 Peter 3:18)

HOW CAN I RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST?

1. Admit your spiritual need.

(Pray => "Against You, You only, O God have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight.")

2. Be willing to repent, i.e. turn from your sins to God.

(Pray => "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!")

3. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the dead.

(Pray => "Yes, Lord Jesus, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who died to forgive my sins and rose from the dead to give eternal life.")

4. Through prayer, welcome Jesus Christ into your heart and ask Him to take charge of your life through the Holy Spirit.

(Pray => "I receive You now, Jesus, as the Lord and Saviour of my life. Thank You. In Your name Jesus, I pray. Amen.")