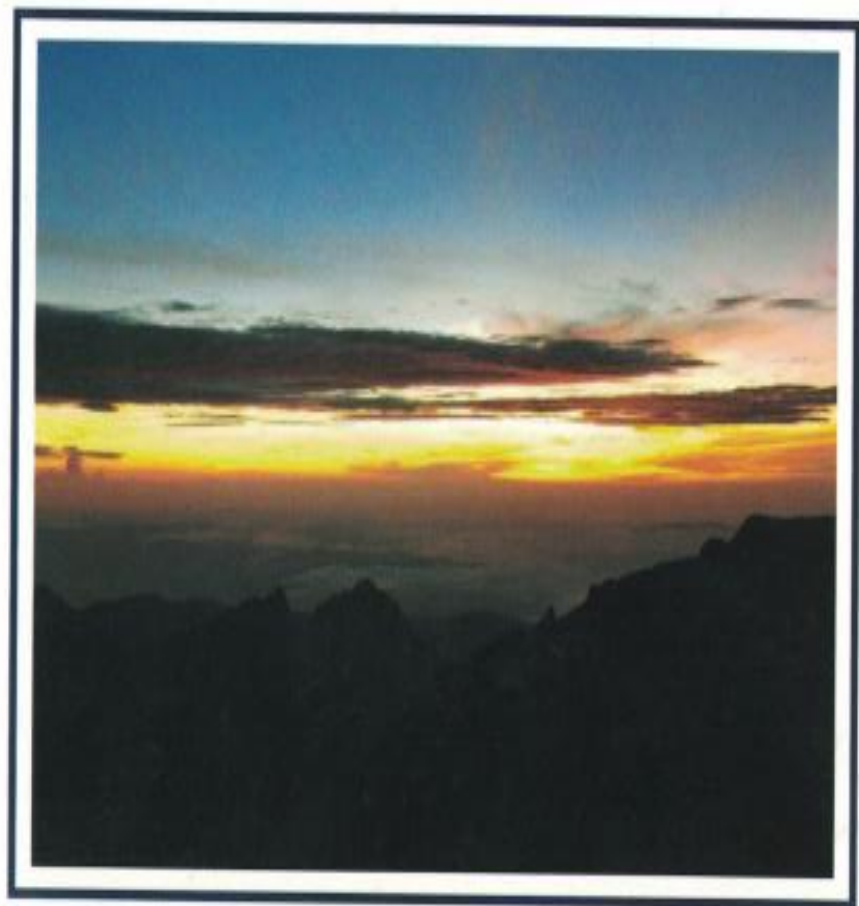


SECOND CHANCE



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FOREWORD

One of the characteristics of a growing and vibrant church is that it has many stories to tell. When Christians in the church have stories to tell about grace experienced, lives changed, miracles encountered, relationships restored and healings received, we know that God is powerfully at work in the life of that church.

I am happy to recommend this book to everyone as it contains many testimonies – testimonies that speak of the greatness, goodness and graciousness of God Almighty. It never ceases to amaze me at what God can do when we submit to Him and allow Him to work His plan in our lives! It is my prayer that this book will be a blessing to many people.

My heartfelt thanks to all the contributors who have graciously shared their testimonies and the members of the Board of Evangelism of Trinity Annual Conference who have made this publication possible.

Apart from the testimonies in this book, I hope that there will be many more sharing of testimonies in our churches and as often as possible, so that many lives will be edified and encouraged. May we, like Christ the greatest storyteller, learn to tell good stories that touch lives and build faith.

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.

GOD CHANGED ME

By Rowena Francisco

Before I received Christ, I had a bad attitude. I was often angry, answered back and focused on my own understanding.

My parents did their very best for me, but it wasn't enough for me. I could not feel their love for me. I felt they were focusing on my two brothers, and I was jealous. One of my brothers was actually very kind to me, but I often quarrelled with him. Because we could not understand each other in the family, I could not stay long in my house.

One day, I had a serious problem with my husband. He complained about my attitude, but I never listened to him. On 19 December 2012, my husband left me and my four-year old son. It was a very painful experience for me and I was very angry with my husband. My brother advised me to move on and take care of my son. But I found it hard to do so.

In November 2013, I decided to come to work in Malaysia. I have employers who are kind and are also Christians. Every Sunday, they will bring me to Subang Methodist Church. I attend the Bible study class for domestic helpers where I learned God's Word. Although I had heard the gospel before, I did not apply the Bible's teaching in my life.

The day (12 January 2014) was a special day for me. During the Bible study class, I began to understand who I really am – a sinner - and who God truly is. I received Jesus into my life as my personal Lord and Saviour that day.

Since then, I have begun to love God more. My attitude has started to change and I have become more kind and less angry. I try not to answer back to my parents, and, instead, try to understand them better. I feel happier.

Jesus is my Saviour. He leads me, protects and guards me. Now I continue to ask God to change me, strengthen me and help me to follow where He leads me. 1 John 5:11-12 is meaningful to me. "The testimony is this: God has given us eternal life, and this life has its source in his Son. Whoever has the Son has this life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life."

FROM HAIR DRESSER TO JESUS' FOLLOWER

By Lai Moy @ Wong Thai

I am 78 years old. I live in the Salvation Army Perak Home for the Aged in Jelapang, Ipoh. Before I came to Jelapang, I worked in a hair-dressing salon in Kampar. After five years at the salon, I took up employment as a voluntary medium-cum-healer in a Chinese temple in Kampar. I was the temple medium for 30 years, until I was struck down by a blood clot (stroke) on the right side of my brain in 1988.

I had to undergo an operation. After the operation my left arm and body became paralysed. I lost my temple job. I found no love and care from the people around me, even those whom I had served. This left me frustrated, bitter and depressed.

Later, I moved into an old folks' home in Westpool Park. One day, as I was taking my morning walk in the vicinity of the old folks' home, I met a Christian lady. She introduced me to the Salvation Army Home for the Aged in Jelapang. I applied for, and was accepted into, the Home in 1999.

At the Home, I joined the Bible reading class to hear what was written in the Christian Bible. That was in late February 2000.

As I listened to God's Word in the Bible, I found my life slowly changing. I became noticeably different from the time when I was a temple medium. I felt that I was accepted by God. I believed Jesus loved me and died for me. I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart and gave my life to Him on 16 June 2000.

After becoming a Christian, I find that I am less tensed up. I feel relaxed, forgiving, and peaceful. I am no longer moody, irritable or depressed. Although my left arm is still paralysed and I experience difficulty in movement, my heart is joyous because I now know who I have come to believe. I thank God that He saw me and my wretched life but never gave up on me. I thank Jesus that he transformed my old miserable life and gave me a new, wonderful, joyful and peaceful life. Praise God!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

By Sharon

9 September 2007 was the day my husband James accepted Jesus Christ and I rededicated my life to Jesus. That was also the day when things turned for the better for my family and me.

When I was young, I had no direction in life. I was a very hot-tempered person and was generally quite unhappy. In school, God sent Christians to share the gospel – good news of Jesus – with me. Although I said the sinner’s prayer, I never attended church and I would pray only occasionally.

James and I were married in 2003. However, after four years of marriage, I was horrified to discover that he was having an affair. I was heartbroken. I wanted a divorce. I believe God never abandoned me all these years. He led my sister to invite James and me to DUMC (Damansara Utama Methodist Church).

We came and we responded to the altar call. When Pastor Daniel led James to accept Jesus as His Saviour, I saw James break down and cry. At that moment, I decided to forgive James. Looking back, that was a defining moment of our marriage.

Our marriage was given a new lease of life – this time with God as the head and at the centre of our marriage. Now we have God to guard and help us each day. James has changed a lot in terms of character and attitude towards our son and me. We attended the Marriage Course on the encouragement of my sister. The Marriage Course, especially the prescribed marriage time, has improved our marriage further. I would say that we now have a beautiful marriage.

“God is more interested in your future and your relationships than you are.” – Billy Graham

KNOWING GOD PERSONALLY

By Lim Bee Lin

I was raised in an environment of idolatry. Since I was a teenager, my perception of Christianity was that it was a religion of the Westerners. I refused to believe in God. I was afraid that I would be disowned by my parents. I did not want to be called a traitor by my family.

I accepted Lord Jesus as my Saviour when my mother fell sick and my younger brother was diagnosed with nose cancer at the same time. When I worshipped idols, I could not find any peace in my heart. I did not know where to turn to. That night was a significant one for me as I prayed in my room alone and cried out for help to the Lord.

God understood me even though I prayed in Mandarin. Soon after the prayer, I felt an overwhelming peace and love, and I accepted His presence. I prayed earnestly for God's healing power, and I could see their health being restored day by day.

My family was baptised on 30 July 2006 at Trinity Methodist Church, Sungai Buloh. During the baptism service, when the holy water was sprinkled on my head, I immediately felt an electrifying sensation going through me, as if the Holy Spirit had gone through my body via my spine. I called out in my heart, "Lord, please heal me now!". The nagging back pain which I had suffered from for many years was gone. I could feel that my shoulder was lighter as if a very heavy burden had been lifted.

I have come a long way ever since I served in the Church. Initially, I was disobedient and turned away from God. But I now realise that God did not abandon or give up on me. Instead, He put me in a big family. He lovingly reached out to bring me back to Him.

God has given me inner peace for His presence into my life. I have a new purpose for living – to live in a more meaningful way. However, the greatest thing of all is that I know for certain that I have a personal relationship with God and I have eternal life.

BORN AGAIN

By Felix Thai

My journey to know Christ started when I was invited by James Wong to attend an Easter event on 4 April 2010. It was exploratory then and I wanted to know more about the small family church that he mentioned about.

Of course, I had nothing to lose. In a way, I was given a second chance in life – born again by God’s grace. I suffered a major heart attack back on 19 February 2009. It was just tragic. I never ever thought that I could suffer a heart attack, what more a major one.

I thought to myself that if it was not for God’s grace, I would not have been here today. I have quit my job since then, as I needed the time and effort to recuperate.

After my gradual recovery, I dabbled in the unit trust industry, working solely on ‘warm’ markets such as friends and neighbours. It has been difficult since.

I thought the best way out of my wilderness was to know and understand more about Christ the Lord. I wanted to find out how he could help and lead me to the right path in life.

I am still trying to find a business to venture into or a job to keep myself going, as I have a family to feed. My children are still very young and they are school-going. I just hope and pray that God Almighty will give me spiritual strength, guidance and perseverance to go through this rough period.

It had never struck me that I would have to endure such a bad patch in my life. Being in the corporate world before, things were so different. Now, business associates shy away from me when I am down and out.

So I thought the best way was to find comfort and solace from God.

Having gone through the Scriptures and, in particular, the completion of the Baptism and Membership class on 4 December 2010, I found some of the Scriptures very reassuring:

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in his Name, he gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

“Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.” (Acts 2:37-38)

This is my personal testimony which I am attesting by the grace of God. However, it is also the wish of my late father who wanted me to be with the Lord. Praise the Lord.

“Thanks be to God, there is hope today; this very hour you can choose Him and serve Him.” – D. L. Moody

DIVINE CALL ON MY LIFE

By Edwin Khoo Sek Hon

I have always been interested in religious activities. I have admired the power of, and the mystery behind, the gods that my family worshiped.

I followed my parents to seek gods and underworld spirits for various reasons such as prosperity, healing, courage and thanksgiving. I still remember taking the town bus on my own when I was in Standard 6 to offer prayers at the temple near the Methodist Girls' School.

I also prayed regularly before I slept with my amulets. Nobody actually taught me why and how I should pray. So I was doing my prayers in my own religious way. I began to realise that I had committed many wrongs, so I confessed my sins to the religious guru regularly without much confidence that my prayers would be answered.

However, things started to change when I joined the Boys Brigade (BB) in Form One. I learnt many things about Christianity – how Jesus loves me, has prepared a way for me to receive total forgiveness, and the free gift of salvation that comes from the Creator, God Himself. I was never sure if and when I could receive forgiveness from my previous religious teacher. However, it was different with Christ, who died for us while we were yet sinners. I was touched and amazed that forgiveness is certain because of His sacrifice on the cross.

Although the weekly Christian Education classes conducted by the BB officers taught me about the gospel – the good news of Jesus – I was quite sceptical. I did not accept Jesus into my life then.

In 1998, we were at the Heritage Hotel in Cameron Highlands to receive our President's Badge, the second highest award in BB. A preacher from Singapore was sharing the usual Christian message. I was not interested in listening. So I sat right at the back and hoped that I would get my award quickly and get out of the conference hall. I never expected that day to be the day that God would call me to become His child.

Halfway through the message, the preacher stopped and said to the audience (hundreds of them) that he had a deep conviction to stop preaching and pray for someone among the audience to receive Christ. He also mentioned that in his personal devotion the previous night, the Lord had impressed upon him that

there would be one person who would accept Christ at the meeting.

“What an unlucky guy to be chosen by Jesus to live a miserable life!”, I thought as I sarcastically laughed to myself as I got into the ‘Christian prayer posture’ to join the preacher in prayer. When he started praying, the conference hall became still and quiet. Everyone in the hall became blurred images. I felt like the spotlight was on me. I was shaking and fearfully maintained my composure to avoid any embarrassment. The preacher said that God had already called that person to answer His call and that person knew he was being called that day. He instructed the person to stand up and raise his right hand.

I did not fully know what happened, but I obeyed the preacher and without hesitation. I stood up and raised my right hand. It was quite weird that the boy in the last row, half asleep throughout the message, would actually receive God’s mercy on that day. That was the first call that I received from God. Although I said the sinner’s prayer in front of all the officers, I did not believe that Jesus was my Lord and Saviour. I only did it to avoid embarrassment. I was afraid they would refuse to give me my President’s award!

I did not expect what happened next. Shortly after I had said my first sinner’s prayer noncommittally, God called me again. The preacher stopped preaching again and said that the Holy Spirit indicated that I did not believe Jesus with my heart. He invited me to say the sinner’s prayer again after asking if I was sincere in receiving Jesus. I lied to them again as I was quite a hardened person due to my religious upbringing.

God finally broke my pride with a third call in my study room not long after the encounters in Cameron Highlands. I was so touched by His love and mercy that was shown to me so many times despite my rejections. I never knew a God like our Lord Jesus. Instead of finding ways to reach heaven on my own, He humbly came down and died for my sins.

I am grateful that I joined the Boys Brigade, and have come to know God personally. I have great joy in my life, peace in my heart and most importantly, an ongoing loving relationship with the Almighty God who is faithful in all His promises. I found that my purpose in life is to serve Him by encouraging, mentoring and guiding youths to know Him and make Him known in ways that He has entrusted me. I am indebted to the BB ministry and I will always support the BB in any way that I can.

TOUCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Melissa Woo

I was from a typical idol-worshipping Chinese family in Alor Setar. Although I attended church and read the Bible during my university years, I did not have a good understanding of the Christian faith. Hence, once I started working, I stopped going to church.

At work, I was very blessed. I had good bosses, high income and a jet-setting regional role with a multinational company. My focus in life was to work hard, and earn lots of money to support my family, especially pay for my mother's medical bill.

Although my life was like a roller coaster, God blessed me with Nelson, a Christian husband. Our first son, Nicholas, arrived a year after we were married and our second son, Nestor, came the following year. My parents-in-law, Michael and Betsy, were wonderful. They helped to look after our sons for three years, allowing my husband and me to focus on our careers.

However, the extensive traveling for work took a toll on my health. In 2010, I was diagnosed with hyperthyroidism. It did not help that I took on a less demanding position as consultant-cum-trainer.

I worried a lot about my mother's condition. I constantly argued with my husband. I struggled with my depression. I sought the help of monks, priests and Chinese temple deities. However, things only went from bad to worse.

In the midst of all these, we were cheated of a large sum of money by a close friend. When my mother passed away in June 2012, I was devastated. It was too much to bear. Eventually, I quit my job of 15 years to focus on caring for my two sons.

On 1 May 2013, I was rushed to the Emergency Ward at Gleneagles Medical Centre. I had severe pain in my lower right abdomen. A CT scan showed that I had a cyst, the size of an egg, in my ovarian tube. Both my ovaries were removed in a three-hour surgery. However, a few days after I was discharged, I developed high fever and had to be re-hospitalised.

My in-laws visited me a few times in the hospital. Each time when they prayed for me, I would cry. I was embarrassed and shocked with my reaction. I thought there was something wrong with me. I wept even though I did not feel sad. My mother-in-law explained that it was the touch of the Holy Spirit. I asked my visiting Christian friends about the Holy Spirit. My friend Foong said, “If you want to know, just invite Jesus into your life.”

While in hospital, I started talking to Jesus before going to sleep. I told Him about my roller coaster life and my struggles. I confessed all my wrongdoings and asked for His forgiveness. I also did as Foong suggested – I asked Jesus to come into my life and take care of me. I did not realise that I was saying the salvation prayer.

While in hospital, I started talking to Jesus before going to sleep. I told Him about my roller coaster life and my struggles.

Another CT scan revealed the cause of my fever. Both my kidneys were infected and full of abscess, a rare occurrence and potentially fatal. After I was discharged from hospital, my desire to know Jesus grew stronger and stronger.

The word “obedience” kept coming to me. I threw away all my religious paraphernalia. I attended my first celebration in DUMC on 15 June 2013. Margaret prayed for me when I stepped out to the altar for prayer. Subsequently on 15 January 2014, we had our house cleansed.

Today, our two sons are nicely settled in the Children’s Church. Nelson also has started to join me in worship celebrations. I have completed the Alpha Course and also “My New Life” class.

I have fully recovered from depression. I am less worried about finance, as I now know that everything comes from God and that I have Jesus with me. I am no longer fearful of ghosts. Many friends tell me that I am calmer in speech and in action. My relationship with my family has also improved. All glory to God!

OVERWHELMING LOVE OF GOD

By Tan Boon Hoe

I accepted Jesus Christ in 1974 when I was 14 years old. I was initially on fire for God, but then something happened. When I was 18, I totally rejected Jesus.

When I later moved to Kuala Lumpur, I joined the money-making world. I also turned to a non-theistic religion. I would regularly go to Kwan In Teng in Petaling Jaya and became very close to the chief monk. I also donated a lot of money, believing that this would give me peace, assurance and protection. I used to have a big altar in my living room and a shrine in my garden. I was also into *feng shui*.

In March 2011, when my wife, Siew Lan, and our two daughters, Katrina and Joyce, accepted Jesus, I noticed that they became more cheerful and purposeful in their lives. When I compared my life with theirs, I felt lost, empty and separated from them spiritually.

On 29 October 2011, I followed my family to a miracle healing rally. I saw a bright light that night, but I still did not believe. The next morning, I joined my family for the worship celebration in DUMC. After the celebration, my sister-in-law Siew Choo asked Pastor Daniel to pray for me. I thought it would be a prayer of blessing. Instead, he asked if I would like to accept Jesus Christ as my Saviour and I said, "Yes". As he prayed, I began to cry and cry for quite a long time. I could feel the love of God.

The very next night on 31 October 2011, I had a very severe headache. The pain was so bad that I thought I was going to die. I told my family to call 911 or send me immediately to the hospital. My daughters started to cry. My wife called her sister, Siew Choo, who sensed that it was a spiritual attack. Siew Choo alerted the cell group and also Pastor Daniel to pray for me.

Meanwhile, Siew Choo asked my family members to hold hands and over the phone, and she led us in prayer. She called on the name of Jesus again and again. My severe headache suddenly disappeared. I vomited 13 times that night. Looking back, it was deliverance for me. That night,

*As he prayed, I
began to cry and cry
for quite a long time.
I could feel the love
of God.*

I dug into the Bible and when I opened it, 2 Peter 3:14 spoke to me. It said, “So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him.”

A few weeks later, I had my house cleansed. I had so many idols that it took four hours for Jin Leong and cell group members to cleanse and bless my house. As a follower of Jesus, I now know His truth and I experience His peace. I am set free from the fears and superstitions of the idols.

I also realise that while I ran away from Jesus all these 37 years, His amazing grace always followed me. Jesus did not give up on me. I am like a lost sheep who has now returned to the Good Shepherd (Jesus). I am reminded of His mercy, His unfailing love and His grace, so free and great. My greatest joy now is to come to church, and attend cell group with my family. Praise the Lord Almighty!



“Grace means undeserved kindness. It is the gift of God to man the moment he sees he is unworthy of God’s favour.” – D. L. Moody

CASTING MY WORRIES TO GOD

By Saw Siew Lan

In March 2011, our eight-year-old daughter, Joyce, led the way to accept Jesus at a healing rally. After my elder daughter, Katrina, and I accepted Jesus a week later, we started to attend weekly worship celebrations in DUMC. We also started to pray for Tan Boon's salvation and seven months later, our prayers were answered. Tan Boon came to the Lord in October 2011.

In the past, Tan Boon would worship the idols daily with big joss sticks. The thick smoke from the burning joss sticks was very bad for Joyce, who was suffering from asthma. Whenever she had breathing difficulties, we had to frantically rush her to a clinic. God has since healed Joyce of her asthma.

I used to have very bad migraine which pain-killers could not help. After I accepted Christ, the painful migraine miraculously disappeared and I started to experience inner peace. This inner peace is experienced with the presence of God, and not the absence of trouble. People noticed a new glow on my face. I was also calmer when faced with challenges.

Jesus is now our family's Lord and Saviour. We learned to fully depend on Him. In November 2012, a day before our family was to go for the Baptism and Membership Encounter Weekend (BMEW) course, Katrina was diagnosed with H1N1 and had to be hospitalised. With prayer support from many cell group members and also Pastor Daniel, Katrina recovered quite quickly. However, just when Katrina was to be discharged, Joyce, Tan Boon and I came down with fever. We were tested positive for H1N1 and had to be hospitalised.

While Joyce and Tan Boon had to be on drips immediately, by God's grace, I managed to drive around to do errands and by the time I returned to the hospital a few hours later, my high fever had subsided. It was amazing how God had helped my family so quickly in our time of trouble.

We used to rely on mediums, fortune-telling and *feng shui* whenever we had problems. Such bondages and idolatry are now in the past. I used to worry about almost everything, but I have learned to cast all my worries upon the Lord.

Since we became Christians, God has also blessed our family in many ways. He


has blessed Katrina who says, “God has taught me many things and brought me on many journeys. I now know that no matter what happens, He will always be there for me.”

When I asked Joyce how Jesus has made a difference in her life, she said, “Every time I need help, God will be there for me. God’s words always touch my heart. I am happy to have Jesus in my life. I love God very much for He is a great, wonderful and loving God.”

My two daughters and I find great joy worshipping the Lord and serving in the Resonate choir. I am thankful to brother Gilbert for the opportunity. Very soon, we will worship and serve God together as a family when my husband joins us in the choir.

Finally, I would like to thank brother Chris for the enlightening BMEW, my sister Siew Choo for bringing God into our lives and our Bangsar cell group for their prayers and encouragement.

Praise the Lord who is now our Saviour, Lord, Shepherd and Provider.



“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

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

By Ethel Tung Ka Yin

I came from a non-Christian background. I would burn incense every day for the idols and clean the altar every week. My mother was a staunch follower of a religious sage who never missed out on any of the worship ceremonial dates.

My life took a change when I met Edwin Khoo in the university. He brought me to church once we started dating. At first I was impartial to this new God called Jesus. After a period of exposure to God's Word and worship, my heart was opened and I believed in Him as the true God.

However, I did not have the courage to publicly accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, as I was still under the control of my mother. I planned to accept Jesus publicly and get baptised once I became independent and had started to work, so as to minimise my mother's strong objections.

However, God had a different timing for me. He used a sermon to touch my heart so deeply, asking me why I doubted His power, where my faith was, and my delay in public acceptance. I accepted Jesus during the altar call that day with tears streaming down my face unceasingly. From that day on, I stopped touching the idols' altar, much less worshipped them with incense.

My mother noticed the change in me and confronted me one night. I knew the consequences of telling the truth, but God gave me the courage to admit that I had already accepted Jesus in my heart. 'World War Three' erupted in my house that night!

Persecution came afterwards. She wanted to throw me out. She scolded me. She gave me the cold shoulder and purposely served me with food offered to idols, which I refrained from eating. I prayed to God for strength and for Him to open my mother's heart to understand. Gracious heavenly Father wonderfully did all that, and more!

Gradually, my mum stopped the persecution. She put aside food for me and offered the rest to the idols, fetched me to church for Sunday Worship Service, and even let herself be persuaded to get rid of the idols and ancestral shrines at home. She follows me to church sometimes, and knows about Jesus. It is my constant prayer that one day she will say "Yes" and let Jesus into her heart as well.

God called me, strengthened me and helped me through. The war of objection was won because of Christ's love.

I thank God for His words that say,

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)



MY JOURNEY OF FAITH IN JESUS

By Ooi Kay Eng

Knowing the Lord Jesus Christ for me can be traced back to my childhood days. However, during that time, my understanding was that Jesus was just one of the historical characters who died on the cross due to his offences, nothing more.

I had limited knowledge about Christianity then. Life at that time was difficult. It did not allow me to know Him more. The priority of my family was to ensure our daily needs were met. As for me, one more important task was to study hard, have a good career and free myself from the poverty we experienced. That was the “me” who trusted no one but myself!

After completing my studies, things seemed to move smoothly. I felt grateful that my hard work paid off. My working environment allowed me to have more opportunities to join church activities. I had head knowledge about Christianity, and nothing more, until I met up with Kat.

Then I had to make a crucial decision to accept Jesus Christ as my Saviour, so that we could start our new family soon. However, my self-centred mind was still predominant. Christianity was just a religion, and I was still putting trust in myself and doing things with my own strength. The Bible that Kat bought me as a gift for accepting Christ was just another reference book, sitting on the shelf.

I was baptised in the year 2000. For the first eight years as a Christian, I have to confess that I was still worldly. I did things my own way. I seldom used the Bible. I had no prayer or quiet time, and I was unable to memorise any Bible verse. But I thank God who is patient. He never gave up on me.

In recent years, I can feel some spiritual transformation taking place in my life. Although I have not experienced any exciting miracles, nor any life-and-death revelations, God is allowing me to work through my bitterness and freeing me to build up a closer relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank God for His patience and faithfulness as He reveals the truths to me. He gives me confidence to handle challenging situations or temptations I may encounter.

I have peace in the Lord! Christianity is not merely a religion. It is a relationship with God through Christ. I know that my journey is still ongoing. I am sure that I am not alone. The Lord is by my side to lead me through. Praise God!

FINDING PURPOSE, FULFILMENT AND JOY IN LIFE

By Chua Geok Chooi

I grew up in a non-Christian home, so I was surrounded by religious practices and activities. As I was raised in such a home, there was a religious prayer altar at home. I followed through the motions of the practices that I thought was the way of life. At that point of my life, I did not know Jesus or His existence.

I came to recognise the Lord Jesus early during my high school when my younger brother introduced Jesus Christ to me. His daily question to me was this: "Have you read the Bible today?"

There were so many uncertainties regarding my faith in Jesus Christ. I did not know what I should do and where I should start with the Bible. This went on until I got married and moved to Kamunting, where Mrs Anne Hong was (and still is) my neighbour. I noticed that all her three sons, James, Samuel and Andrew, spoke good English, were well-behaved and played the piano very well too! Anne then encouraged me to send my children to Sunday School at Wesley Methodist Church, Taiping. I took her advice and sent them to church, so that they could learn something good from church and also improve their English. I had no other intentions.

Before I entered the church premises, I felt a little bit worried. I also felt small because back then my impression of churches is that they are for rich and good people. I thought I had to be well-dressed before I could enter, or my children needed to dress up well to be able to join the Sunday School.

I still remember the first Sunday when I sent my children to Sunday School and met Lay Hua and her son Shawn. He was wearing only slippers. I was immediately reassured. Thank God! All the Sunday School teachers were very friendly, especially Meng Gek and Lay Hua. They welcomed us, and even offered to baby-sit my children when I was busy with work. I felt at home.

As time passed by, God's Word came into our lives. One of those familiar ones at the beginning was this: "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)

Our family continues to serve in the church since then such as in the Sunday School, Property and Maintenance area and music ministry.

We enjoy our care group meetings where we share God's Word, and our personal and working lives. We learn to be grateful for the good things in our lives. We pray for each other for the bad things that God has allowed in our lives, which serves as a training ground to strengthen our faith in Him. Besides sharing God's Word and caring for each other, we share food too!

I am truly grateful that God has transformed my life. Because of Him, my husband and my children have placed their trust in Jesus Christ. We are always ready to serve whenever there is an opportunity, whether it is in or outside the Christian community. God has given the abundant gift to each of us, and we faithfully serve Him with our whole hearts. As the Bible says: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." (Colossians 3:23)

Since knowing God, He has shown me that being a Christian is not about just doing good work. He has made it clear that we do not have to earn our salvation for His love. He has given us purpose, fulfilment and joy. We are not perfect, but God loves us despite our flaws and imperfections. And when the things we pursue in life continually let us down, God will never leave us.

I would like to end with the Bible verse that says:

"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us." (Philippians 3:12-14)



THANK GOD FOR YOUR GOODNESS AND LOVE!

By Peter Ng

My journey began as a student in Anglo Chinese School (ACS), Ipoh, in the early 1950s. Being placed in a Christian boarding school, it was inevitable that I would be found by the Good Shepherd (Jesus) and led into the fold. Indeed, my Saviour found me in less than two years and I became one of the sheep of his flock.

After being baptised in Wesley Methodist Church, Ipoh, my life as a Christian began in the boarding school and in ACS Ipoh. When I returned to Taiping during the school break, it was a totally different experience to attend a small church (Wesley Methodist Church, Taiping) with hardly any young people. If not for a few older boarders who did not go home during the school break, I would be the only young one at the evening Worship Service. I guess it was natural for all those older ones not to give much attention to a young person like me.

Although I did not feel as welcomed, by the grace of God, it did not deter me from returning to worship in the congregation every time I was home for holiday. Over time, some of the church members began to extend their hand in friendship, at least to say welcome to the service.

I became more active in the church life when I was transferred back from Bruas, where I had been for seven years, to teach in SM Darul Ridzuan. Being more regular in the church attracted the attention of some of the church leaders. Soon I was invited to teach in Sunday School which I gladly accepted. Little did I know that I would have a long haul here before I could get out. However, looking back, I am not complaining for I truly enjoyed the challenge of teaching the children.

From that point on, I was drafted into the Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC), and to this day I remain in the LCEC, a period stretching over 35-40 years. I am not counting the years I have served God in the church. I guess I will continue to serve Him as long as He wants me to do so. Age has nothing to do with serving God for when God wants us to serve Him, He will qualify us providing all that we need – strength, energy and wisdom. As far as I am concerned, there is no retirement in God's service.

During this long journey in the church, I can say with all honesty, I have grown much deeper in my faith and I can say with boldness I have grown to love God

more. Serving under so many pastors and leaders of the church has really helped me to walk much more closer with my God.

However, one pastor, Rev Hwa Chien, has had the greatest impact in my life. As far as I could see, his commitment to God's work made him uncompromising in what he did and what he wanted of us. I could not help but be influenced to live like that too, although I know I failed many a time. My life was also greatly influenced by D. G. Jayasekara. He too was a man fully committed to God's work and uncompromising in carrying out his work. He was a simple man, but strong in his faith and love for God.

God has been good to me all these years. He has not only blessed me and my family spiritually, but also watches over me to see that I am safe from danger. Allow me to share what I mean by his loving care and protection.

Firstly, I was electrocuted when my finger touched the terminal of a table lamp. I was flung out of my chair and landed on my bed behind me. I live to tell you the story, although for several hours my body reacted so adversely to the effect of having electric current going through it.

Secondly, I was thrown out of a moving lorry when a few young people from Methodist Youth Fellowship and I (as the Property Chairman) went to take the piano from Lap Ping's house to the church. I landed on the road on all fours, bruised and badly shaken, but otherwise sustaining no serious injury and remaining alive!

Thirdly, there were two explosions in the school laboratory when I was demonstrating the synthesis of water. I was right in front of the apparatus, but not a single piece of the shattered pieces of glass from the glassware touched me or the students on the front row. Two explosions? Because I repeated the experiment and both times the hydrogen in the flask exploded.

Fourthly, while walking home from the Lake Garden after my morning exercise, a car speeding by hit my right shoulder and sent me sprawling on to the grass. I was badly shaken, but, praise God, I suffered no damage or injury to the body.

Fifthly, I have had two heart attacks within two years and am still alive and kicking!

Conclusion – God still has work for me to do, and it is not the time to go home yet.

*I live to tell you the story,
although for several
hours my body reacted so
adversely to the effect of
having electric current*

Looking back on my walk with God in the context of the church, I cannot but praise and thank Him for what he has done in my life. God took a lonely young boy in a new, strange environment to walk closely with him, so he could grow and mature to be what he is today. In the process, God has given him not only a lovely family of his own, but also a wonderful family of brothers and sisters-in-Christ.

Because I know God has been good and faithful to me in the past, I have the confidence to live for him today and even tomorrow because He never changes. Psalm 107:1 says “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” All glory and honour to God our Father.



MY SAVIOUR AND HEALER

By Hong Yung Kong

Jesus touched and healed me, and by God's grace, I am still alive today!

On 23 August 2014, I was admitted to the Taiping Hospital for "Respiratory Failure". I was in the ICU (Intensive Care Unit) for one week under the BIPAP (Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure) support. I remember one night, a nurse who was on duty in the ICU came and told me that she is a Christian too. She encouraged me to pray to our heavenly Father, so that I could recover quickly. I responded by saying that this was what I had been doing since I was admitted to the ICU.

Then, one night in the ICU, I suddenly felt breathless and my blood pressure went down so low. My nurse immediately called the doctor. For the first time, I was so very scared when the doctor came and wanted to put a tube into my mouth to help me breathe.

But I refused. He said that my situation was critical. I then started to pray. I prayed very hard for God's guidance and intervention. I told the doctor to wait for a while. In the meantime, the nurse had already called Anne (my wife) who was then on the way to the hospital.

The doctor thought I was very stubborn and that I did not realise that my life was in grave danger. God's ways are always higher than our ways. He answered my cry for help! The doctor was surprised as he saw my heart-beat on the machine slowly (and miraculously) improving and returning to normal, before he could insert the tube into my throat.

Praise God for His intervention! I did not need that procedure. I knew then that my God is a faithful God! I just needed to trust in Him. After a week in the ICU, I was better. I was transferred out to a normal ward while still having the oxygen mask on to help me breathe.

Then, on 1 September 2014, we had a family discussion about my medical condition in the General Hospital, Taiping. My family finally decided to ask G. H. Taiping to arrange for an ambulance to transfer me to Hospital Seri Manjung since my daughter-in-law, Meng Lee (Samuel's wife), is a *Pakar Perubatan* in that hospital, and she could help to treat me there.

It was a good decision because in Hospital Seri Manjung, they conducted some tests for me and discovered that I was actually having problems with my heart valve. Dr Lee (*Ketua Perubatan*) told me that my heart was functioning at only 45%! He made an appointment for me to see a heart specialist in IJN (Institut Jantung Negara) in Kuala Lumpur for further tests and management. Dr Lee was very ‘encouraging’, and even told me to be prepared for open heart surgery if required. Open heart surgery at my age?! I prayed to God for His guidance and direction. I then quietly obeyed.

On 19 November 2014, I saw Dr Pau Kiew Kong – the surgeon in IJN. He said that I needed open heart surgery to replace my damaged left valve with a tissue valve (a calf valve). The earliest slot available was on 13 March 2015. I was worried I had to wait so long – until March 2015!

Open heart surgery at my age?! I prayed to God for His guidance and direction.

But he was very kind and promised me that if there was a cancellation, he would contact me and gave me preference for an earlier surgery. Praise the Lord, on 28 December 2014, I received a call from Dr Pau. He said there was a cancellation and I could have my surgery earlier on 23 January 2015.

I was admitted into IJN on 19 January 2015 and surgery was on 23 January 2015. When I was taken into the operating theatre, surprisingly, I was not apprehensive. I had the confidence and faith that God was with me, and I just needed to trust Him.

After about seven hours, the surgery was completed. My wife (Anne) and my sons (James and Andrew) were at the waiting room. The doctor called them to the ICU where I was still sedated, and he explained that just before the surgery the doctor and his team had a final check-up on me and found out that not only did my left valve need to be replaced, but my right valve too had to be repaired. Praise God everything went well and the surgery was successful. The doctor told them to come back to the hospital the next morning when I would be awake.

But, that same night, there was another emergency. During dinner time, the nurse called Anne to come quickly to the hospital. Anne and the boys rushed back to IJN. The doctor was there to explain that this rarely happens, but it did – one of my arteries had burst and I had bled so much that the doctor needed to

provide me with a few pints of blood. The doctor also had to open my heart a second time to make sure the valves were alright. Praise the Lord! Once again, God was in control and the bleeding stopped.

The next morning, when Anne and the boys came back to see me, I was already awake and I could talk to them. Praise the Lord! God indeed had performed yet another miracle in my life. I remained in IJN for a further week and Anne was there to take care of me, staying with me until I was discharged.

Before my discharge on 30 January 2015, the surgeon came to see me in the ward with my INR (International Normalised Ratio) blood test results. My INR results were good, but I have to continue taking warfarin for life. This is to control my blood condition because I still have an irregular heart-beat. And there will be follow-up visits to IJN.

Truly our God is a faithful God. We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps. God creates the path for me and I will forever rejoice in Him. I am now well again and I have been following up with the doctor ever since. God has given me a new lease of life and I want to give thanks and praise to Him for His love, grace and mercy!

I am reminded of the Bible verse which says: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous hand." (Isaiah 41:10)

Go confidently that God is with us! Always! We just need to call upon Him and trust that He will do the needful for He is our heavenly Father who knows our needs.

Indeed, I want to declare that Jesus Christ is my mighty Saviour and Healer! I will praise Him forever.

ABC OF BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

Admit your sin against God and turn to Him for forgiveness – He won't turn away such humble people!

“Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away – all who have been called by the Lord our God.” (Acts 2:38-39)

Believe that Jesus Christ died for your sin and rose from the dead to give you the hope of eternal life!

“I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.” (John 5:24)

Call upon Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour – He gives you the right to be become God's children!

“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)