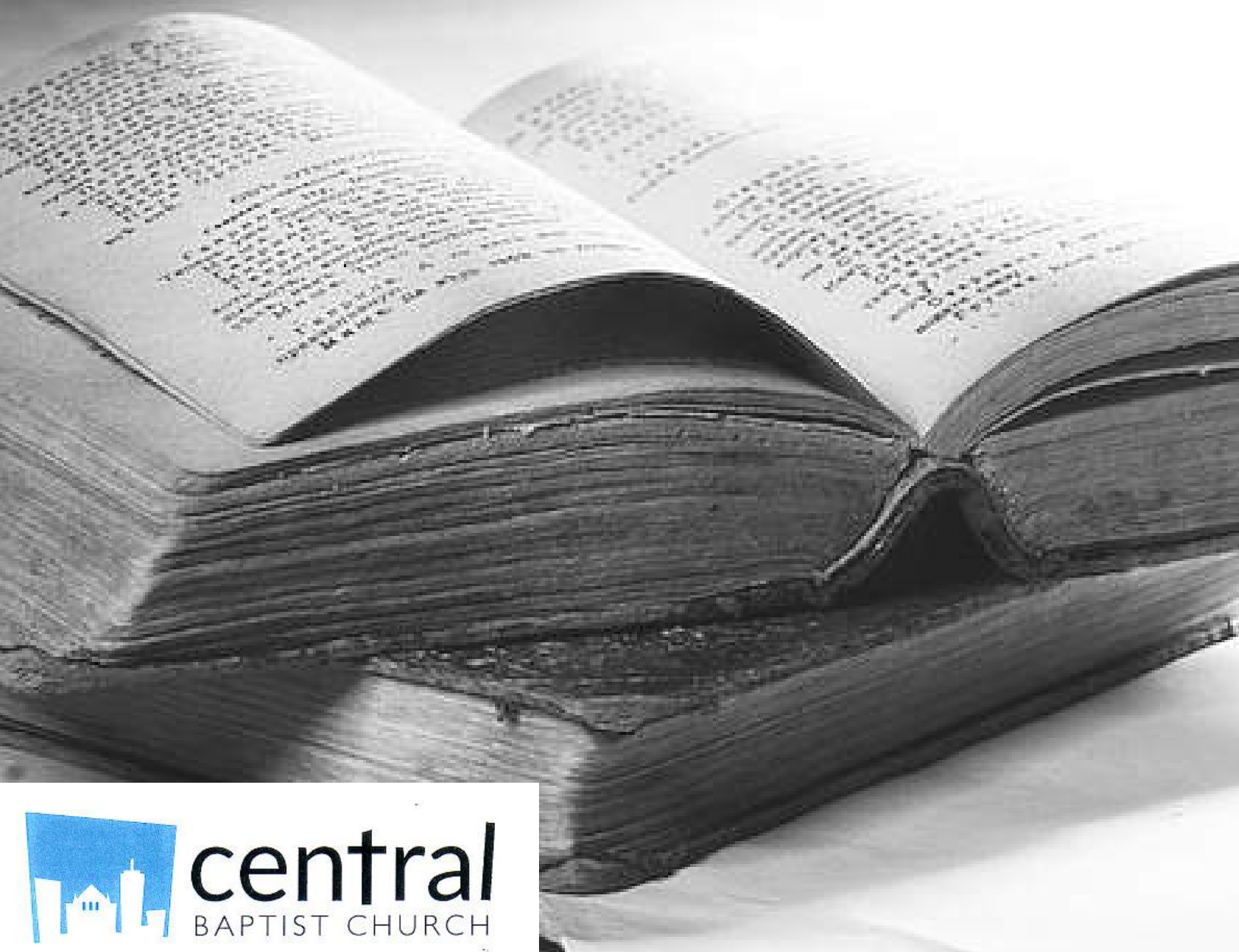


中浸園地
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God's Word

神的話語



central
BAPTIST CHURCH

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編者的話

Words from Editors

嚴冬的午夜，窗外寒風呼嘯，寒意襲人。今年的冬天格外寒冷，是十幾年來所未有的。不知為什麼，陣陣寒風使我忽然聯想到最近同性婚姻合法化的聲音甚囂塵上，咄咄逼人，令人心寒。然而，當我凝神細看燈下教會弟兄姊妹的一篇篇見證和分享，就彷彿春風拂面，寒意盡消。《中浸園地》這一期的主題是“神的話”。掩卷靜思，的確，神的話語如同“隨風潛入夜，潤物細無聲”的春雨，給我們帶來生命和希望。我願意把這些寶貴的見證和分享獻給大家，相信諸位讀後必有同感。

另外，教會去年舉辦的教會標誌設計比賽已有結果，新的標誌已被採用，若各位還沒看到我們教會的新標誌，就可從本期雜誌一睹豐采，我們還邀請了設計者介紹她的設計構思，各位不容錯過。

God's Word is precious. Not only does it warm, move and motivate us, it also enlightens and encourages us. Bible verses have changed the lives of many people who in turn change the course of history.

The Bible is our daily bread and Christians should read it every day. There are verses that may touch you in different circumstances. That is why particular verses are more personally meaningful to some than to others. In this issue of the church magazine, members from the three congregations have shared on their favourite Bible verses and why they are treasures to them. You can compare yours with these and understand how God sows His Word to bear fruit in the lives of His people.

Pick up your Bible and read it daily. Certainly you will find something that is interesting and there will be verses that stay with you for your whole life.

Also with the recent change of the CBC church logo, this issue features an article from the designer.



詩篇 116:7「我的心哪！你要回復安寧， 因為耶和華用厚恩待你」

陳婆婆

年近九旬的陳婆婆在中浸聚會已有好長一段日子，平常見到的陳婆婆總是笑口常開，一副喜樂的樣子，但回顧過往，艱辛的日子可不少，但婆婆總是那句話，我的神是一位很了不得的神，在我還未認識祂之前，祂已用厚恩待我。詩篇116:7「我的心哪！你要回復安寧，因為耶和華用厚恩待你！」正是婆婆的人生金句，每當回憶往事或面對現今的困難，她就想起聖經這一句話，讓她心情平穩，因耶和華神時刻用厚恩待她。

年少時的陳婆婆居於中國汕頭，還有機會在師範學校讀書，她有一位感情很好的姐姐，後來兩姊妹分別嫁了姓陳的兩兄弟，也一時傳為佳話。她的家翁是國民黨的高官，姐夫是中山大學畢業的醫生，自己的丈夫因年少多病，上不了大學，但家庭環境也不錯。可是後來因中國政權改變，他們的背境在中國比較危險，故匆促與姐姐一家一同遷居香港。剛到香港，一切重零開始，生活很艱難，在她四十來歲之時，丈夫更患上腸癌絕症，在痛傷將要失去丈夫的同時，她最擔憂的是如何度過以後的日子，如何照顧供養五名兒女。在丈夫去世時，她的大女兒中學畢業，剛出社會工作一年，大兒子剛考上香港大學醫學院，最少的兒子還不到十歲。當時身邊都有善心親友伸出援手，但婆婆並沒有接受他們的幫忙，因不想孩子們長大後欠下一身人情債。當時大兒子表示要放棄學業，但婆婆堅持他要繼續升學。那生活費如何籌算呢？現回想當初，神已為她準備了一切，準備了一個又一個的天使幫助她。當時丈夫的老闆答應把她丈夫原來做的工作給她做，然而婆婆不能完全掌握工作上的內容，很多時候要靠大兒子課餘為她整理，而大女兒每月把全數薪金交給婆婆作家用，自己只留下10元花費，婆婆的姐姐很疼愛她，而婆婆唯一願意接受她幫忙的是讓她們一家免費住在姐夫診所的樓上，所以姐姐只有經常以過年過節或生日為藉口送紅包給她們作幫補。其實她姐姐自己的孩子讀書並不差，但還找她大兒子為她們補習。婆婆能回報她的只是每天為他們清潔收拾診所，後來他的大兒子醫科畢業，經同學介紹來到澳洲行醫，取得澳洲的居留後，又第一時間申請婆婆及弟妹同來，當時婆婆的大女兒去了美國居住，最小的女兒及兒子未成年，可與婆婆同往澳洲，可是三女已成年，理論上不能同行，但他們向澳洲政府申請，希望可讓她同行，事情就是神蹟般，政府格外開恩讓她一同得移民的資格同行。就這樣她的這幾個兒女們都能來到澳洲，而且能接受免費的高等教育，成為專業人士，她到澳洲後又能來到中浸認識上帝，認識這位無所不能無所不知的全能上主，讓她可以明白生命的一切恩典都是來自祂，叫她的心時刻可享安寧。

詩篇 68:11 主發命令，傳好信息的婦女成了大群。

我的堂嫂

鄭雅麗

我的堂嫂顏珠霞於2015年四月22日安息主懷，享年96歲。送□的弟兄姊妹有好幾百人，大家都在緬懷這位為傳揚主的福音而做光做鹽的好姐妹。她本來是一個極其平凡的人，但在神手中，她成為一個傳揚福音的寶貴器皿。堂嫂原是目不識丁的農家婦女，但因爺爺是鄉裡唯一信主的人，每周日召集五個兒子和女兒的家人在家做禮拜。堂嫂信主之後，非常熱心。後來因家人的工作調動、遷移等原因，家裡的聚會漸漸少了，她就堅持每主日步行到（多少公里？）以外的城關教堂做禮拜。她對真理非常追求，遇到不明的經文，就去請教師母，因此兩人成為很好的靈伴。她經常陪伴師母去探訪關懷，從中學習如何禱告，如果安慰鼓勵人。在山區農村的探討工作是很艱難的，沒有什麼交通工具，她們倆人經常忍飢挨餓，翻山越嶺，風餐露宿，但她們卻滿有喜樂，邊走邊談論神的道，神的恩，神的愛。這樣與師母幾十年的相伴，幾十年的磨練，堂嫂也成了一個很能傳福音的勇士。原來目不識丁，現在把聖經讀得相當熟，她也很有為人代禱的恩賜，當地或周圍鄉村的主內弟兄姊妹有什麼困難或疾病，都來請她與他們同心禱告。上世紀八十年代，堂哥堂嫂把自家二樓的廳開放為主日崇拜的地方，讓附近的一些基督徒來這裡讀經、禱告、分享、唱歌、敬拜讚美神，因為去城關做禮拜的路太遠。他們這個聚會點就在大路邊上，交通很方便。他們蒙神大大的祝福，聚會的人越來越多，堂嫂為此盼望能有個禮拜堂來容納更多的人，使更多的人信主。他們迫切禱告，求神開路，成全此事。



八十年代末期，有一個午夜我堂嫂聽到有人敲門叫她。她開門見有三個人。進門坐定之後，一位年輕人說，他們是鄰縣安溪人，她媽媽患有癌症到省城醫院治療，醫生建議開刀。她媽媽顧慮重重，他們聽說堂嫂有禱告的恩賜，便專程從省城開車來請她代禱，所以深夜才趕到。堂嫂趕緊煮點心給他們吃，然後與他們同心禱告。禱告後，她覺得有聖靈感動她，要她隨車到省城福州。於是她隨車當夜到了省城。病人看到堂嫂十分高興，也增加對主的信心。堂嫂懇切地禱告，求主憐憫、恩待、赦免、醫治。病人感到疼痛減輕了。第二天醫生查房時，病人竟對醫生說，不想做手術了。醫生看病人的症狀確有改善，也覺得神奇。堂嫂在福州陪伴病人一個禮拜，日夜迫切禱告。她的禱告終蒙神垂聽。一周後，病人痊癒出院，榮耀歸主名。這位病人為了感謝主的醫治和堂嫂的愛心，將原本準備的手術費三萬人民幣奉獻出來。堂嫂向眾弟兄姊妹說，這錢將做為蓋教堂的基金。弟兄姊妹深受鼓舞，有錢出錢，有力出力，大家同心合意於上世紀九十年代建起了一座美麗的教堂。這一切均體現出神奇妙的作為！教會建成以後，教會大大興旺。堂嫂也搬到教堂住，擔負起看顧教堂的工作。有需要代禱的人，隨時都可以到教堂請她同心禱告。在堂嫂的身上，我們看到神的奇妙作為，堂嫂是一個極普通的人，她單憑一顆愛主的心，單單地仰望神，以神的話語為腳前的燈，路上的光，順著主指的方向朝前走，將福音傳播給人，帶人信主。正如詩篇六十八篇11節說的：“主發命令，傳好信息的婦女成了大群”。願榮耀歸主名，阿們。

約翰福音 21：15-19

三次不忠，竟被重用

譚國雄

中國人有句諺語，「一次不忠，百次不用」，使徒彼得的過去記錄，有目共睹的嚴重不忠污點，耶穌曾向門徒表示祂將被釘十字架，當時彼得曾誇口說願意為耶穌捨命，耶穌卻對他說，雞叫以先，要三次不認主（約13：37-38）。他又揚言，眾人跌倒，他卻永不跌倒（太26：33）。就是必須和耶穌同死，也不能不認祂（太26：35）。可惜，當耶穌被捉拿後，不單三次不認主，當耶穌被釘十字架時，不知跑到那裏，無影無蹤，主復活後，他竟然回到加利利海打魚（約21：3），身為耶穌門徒的領袖，顏面何存？彼得雖然網了很多魚，耶穌又已預備了早飯給他們享用（約21：6；12），這段早飯時刻，相信彼得完全沒有胃口。一旦耶穌追問過往的事，我們若是彼得，會怎樣回應呢？「你不是說過永不跌倒，願意為我捨命，為何真的三次不認我，你的承諾在那裏？不但不認我，我釘十字架時，連看我也不敢，當時你在那裏？現在你親眼看見我復活了，你竟立即回老家打魚，還帶同其他門徒一起去，以後就重操故業啦！」我們決定以下那一個回應呢？

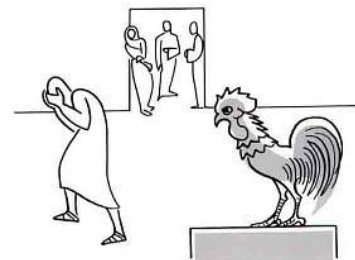
(一) 主，你是無所不知的，時到今日，無言以對，我對你不忠，也不配，故重操故業，以渡餘生，決定完全放棄。

(二) 主，我的不忠，因信心軟弱，求你赦免，我重操故業，為了重新反省及再學習，讓我回復信心那一天，主若願意，才等候差遣，決定退修再陪訓。

(三) 主，我回到加利利海重操故業，感觸良多，反思你在這裏呼召我的時候，你叫我得人如得魚一樣（太4：18-20；可1：16-18）。我的不忠，求主赦免，因信心不足，求主幫助，給予機會，再事奉主，決定再接再厲。

耶穌「再尋找」西門彼得

無論我們決定與否，時間到了，耶穌開始處理與彼得之間的問題，但卻在其他門徒面前，眾目睽睽，要命！劈頭第一句：「約翰的兒子西門」，「西門」是他原本的名字（約21：15a），「彼得」是耶穌替他起的名字（約1：42）。現在耶穌沒有稱他彼得，是否耶穌認為西門永遠是西門，不配稱彼得？是否耶穌決定與他脫離師徒關係？還是耶穌要求彼得面對他舊人的本性？無論如何，耶穌再次尋找彼得，祂並沒有追究昔日彼得所作的事，看來他像回復未跟隨主前的生活，靠自己的能力活下去。我們曾幾何時也曾經跌倒，內疚，逃避神，自我放棄。但耶穌決不放棄，仍然尋找我們，如彼得一樣。



耶穌「再建立」西門彼得

第二句：「你愛我比『這些』這些更深麼」（約21：15b），「這些」是眾數，指什麼呢？是指船和魚，即他的職業。還是指他一起工作的朋友？我們愛什麼東西比愛耶穌更深呢！在15至17節的經文中，耶穌竟問彼得三次是否愛祂，為何要問他三次呢？因彼得三次不認主的失敗經歷。耶穌讓他想清楚及肯定，不要隨便說。還是讓其他門徒也聽到，成為証人。無論什麼原因，彼得三次確認對耶穌的愛是正面的，但他在第三次的答覆有些不同，「主阿、你是無所不知的。」彼得向耶穌表明是真心，或是假意，耶穌是知道的。雖然我們會跌倒，耶穌若再問我們的心愛不愛祂，會怎樣回答呢？神再建立的人，有祂的美意，為的是要再委任他們服事祂。

耶穌「再委任」西門彼得

15節：「你 餵養 我的 小 羊」；16節：「你 牧 養 我的 羊」；17節：「你 餵 養 我的 羊。」彼得說的沒錯，耶穌是無所不知的，祂知道彼得不是敷衍其問題，他是真心的。若不，每次彼得回答後，耶穌那會再委任他，要他餵養及牧養祂的羊的使命。餵養是指屬靈的糧食，不同的屬靈程度，皆要餵養，如小羊，是小孩子們及靈命尚未成熟的基督徒們，更重要的是要他們「渴慕」那「純淨的」靈奶（彼前2：2）。按不同屬靈程度，按部就班，目的是讓每隻羊慢慢成熟與成長。牧養是指看顧、監察、引導和保護，不僅需要餵養，更需要牧養，不單小羊需要牧羊，老羊也需要。各位教會及屬靈領袖們，我們如何鼓勵每隻羊「渴慕」靈糧？如何好好供應「純正的」靈糧給他們呢！我們憑主的恩典，接受主的託付，求主親自引領。耶穌說：「『我』的小羊及『我』的羊」（約21：15-17），請勿忘記，這些羊是主的羊，不是牧羊人的羊，切忌不知不覺間，把主的羊據為己有，隨己意而行。今天神仍然用那些不完美的人，最重要是這些人是否願意重新站起來，藉自己經歷，不但更明白及更體恤那些軟弱的人，還可再建立他們。當彼得完全接受主的使命後，馬上面對這託付的代價。耶穌立即說出「實實在在」，挑戰彼得要始終堅守門徒職分，直到面臨殉道的時刻來到，彼得藉著受死來榮耀耶穌，我們藉著什麼來榮耀祂呢？面對十字架的道路，乃是「跟從」耶穌為原則。「跟從」原文是現在時態的命令語調，即必須持續跟隨主，耶穌提醒我們是否容易受其他人及環境影響。腑心自問，我們經常有意無意嘲笑彼得三次不認主，曾幾何時，我們不只三次，可能三十個三次不認主。一旦我們會向主「忠心」上失敗過，我們的決定是放棄？退修？還是求主赦免，再次站起來？無論我們信心程度有多少，最關鍵是否願意接受主的差遣，祂會賜我們信心，祂必以不同的美意，成就在我們身上。願意我們緊緊的跟從主，直至走完一生的路程。如這段經文記載，彼得雖然「三次不忠」，結果「竟被重用」，因為他被主「再尋找」，被主「再建立」，因此他被主「再委任」，約翰的兒子西門，仍然是耶穌的門徒彼得，共勉之。



Matthew Chapter 20

TY

Sometimes I hear Christians say these things: 'Really stressing out in serving', 'I am taking a break because I got burnt out in serving' and 'I have given so much and yet got no spiritual return'.

These kind of comments always imply a serious question 'why is it so hard to serve and give it all in ministry but still would feel happy (not feel like the above)?' – 為何如此辛苦自忖為主付出很多放棄很多?

Recently I read a sermon on the Parable of the workers in the Vineyard which has enlightened me on this. The scripture is from Matthew chapter 20. This passage has 2 questions and an answer as the background (they are at the end of chapter 19).

The rich young ruler asks 'What must I do to get eternal life?' Peter asks 'We have left everything to follow you what then will there be for us?' Jesus says 'But many who are first will be last and many who are last will be first'.

This parable often makes me think about fairness, it's not fair for those workers worked 12 hours and get the same pay as those called in late and only worked for 1 hour, but when I read it in the above context it seems to give a different picture.

The parable main point is there are 2 types of workers, one is counting the return the other is only grateful (not counting return). As if I'm in the picture asking the 2 questions : I am after eternal life and have already given up a lot so what's there for me but yet facing the parable as the answer , which type of worker I am

It's the last become first meaning they get the blessings but the first become last meaning those miss out on the blessings while working in the vineyard. So it is all about the motivation and drive in serving - not that I am doing a service but I am actually gaining a blessing.

As I contemplate on this passage I seem to understand the meaning and yet not understand the meaning at the same time. I supposed this is the wisdom and power of the Cross. It's completely beyond my comprehension but I can feel the assurance from God that it's all and mere grace indeed.



Verses from the English Bible Study class

Luke 13:18-19

By Daniel

Then Jesus asked, "What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches."

This verse is a reminder of how even the smallest actions in life can possibly change one's path of life. God planted his seed in us and allows us to grow in faith and we should do the same. We should plant the seed of God into others and pray that it will grow. Taking small actions will change the future; not taking these small actions will not change anything.



- Deuteronomy 31:8

By Nicky

The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

This verse reminds me that God is with me every step of the way no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in. We just need to trust in God and He will show the wonderful plan that He has in store for us.

Proverbs 3:5-6

By Sabrina

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

This verse was an encouragement to me when I didn't get a chance to do the degree that I wanted to do after high school. It reminded me that God is in control of everything and that we should continue to trust in Him and the plans that He has for us.

- Jeremiah 29:11

By Joyce

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.

This verse continually reminds me that God is the one in control. Even when situations may turn out unexpected or challenging we need to remember that God is continually working in us for the better. We are his children and He will always provide what He knows is best for us. However, we need to be patient.



- 2 Corinthians 5:16-17

By Nathaniel

So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

Being part of a street ministry over the past year has opened my eyes to see the people in need who walk by and into our church doors on a weeknight. Apart from showing Christ-like love and our hearts being renewed in His Spirit, this verse reminds me to welcome and nurture that same revival of love, hope and forgiveness in others through the good news of Jesus.



- Matthew 6:25-34

By Kat

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

These verses provide comfort to me knowing that God has taken care of everything; today, tomorrow and in the future. It reminds me that God loves us so much that in all things He knows about what troubles us, and He cares for us in ways that we don't even understand.

- John 3:30

By James T.



“He must become greater; I must become less.”

Simply putting it, the meaning of life and how it changes when God is with you and changes you to be like Him. We struggle to do our own thing for ourselves; the change is doing it for God.

John 8:31

By Cecil

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”Add a little bit of body text

Jesus sets us free from the condemnation and guilt that satan tries to put on us.



- Deuteronomy 10:18

By Ruell

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing.

Personally, this verse shows me how compassionate and loving our God is. Here we don't need exegesis and hermeneutics to see that God cares for the lowly and the needy. He is not someone that addresses only the rich and attractive. Who else opens their arms to all? And what idol shows no partiality? God is greater than anything; in power, but also in heart. God is so amazing!



God's Endless Glory !

Matthew Quach

My journey with God and how I came to know Him, acknowledge Him, worship Him and love Him is a lot like EBAY. EBAY is a website that allows you to buy and sell items on the internet.

So why is my relationship with God like eBay?

This is why my journey with God is like eBay...

When I first heard of eBay I thought it was really unusual for people to buy stuff on the internet when they could just buy it in a store. And I was almost certain that eBay was a scam, you have to give them your credit card information before you can buy it and you're not even able to physically feel it and see what kind of condition your item is in. Someone could easily say that they're selling you an apple product for \$200 and when it arrives at your doorstep you open it to see a bottle of apple juice...like I mean it's not like the juice was not an apple product, so technically the buyer wasn't lying... so what can you do right! Is that not enough to at least frighten you of the fact that eBay is dodgy?

And I don't know if you can see the relationship so far but God is a little like that. God asks that we give ourselves up before actually getting his treasures in heaven. And has anyone seen heaven before? ...is there a picture on google that's legitimate? I don't want the same situation as the apple product to occur!

So there was this one time where I needed this item. It was a cord that my brother and I desperately needed. So we went looking for the cord in various stores but could not see any shop that sold the cord. And so we started getting impatient and so I decided to look on eBay. So I was searching and found the cord and I went to buy it. And this is the first time I've ever bought something online so I was being extremely careful of what I was doing. I gave my credit card details and then I waited, until after 2 days it arrived! I was over the moon, like we finally got what we were asking for and I was celebrating and just so thrilled!

And that was exactly like my relationship with God. There was a time that I desperately needed a certain outcome and I searched many various ways to obtain it but it didn't happen. I couldn't find anything that could help me so I was desperate and I would try anything. And so I went to God and I asked Him to answer this one prayer, and the thing is that when I woke up the next morning He had already answered it!

The prayer was asking God to help me not get in trouble from my parents. I was out in the city after church having dinner and I was like 16 at the time so I was fairly young and I got home quite late like 12:30. So I was praying to God like don't make my parents yell at me or something or take my privileges away from me even though I didn't have any privileges. And He answered that.

I would say that after God answered this prayer of mine, I officially became a Christian.

So after this situation came a great time for me, it was a time of spending and joy. After I bought that item on eBay I continued to shop and I would look at the most useless items! I was looking up houses and cars... and I'm a uni student! I don't have any money but I didn't care, I just wanted to use eBay and shop around!

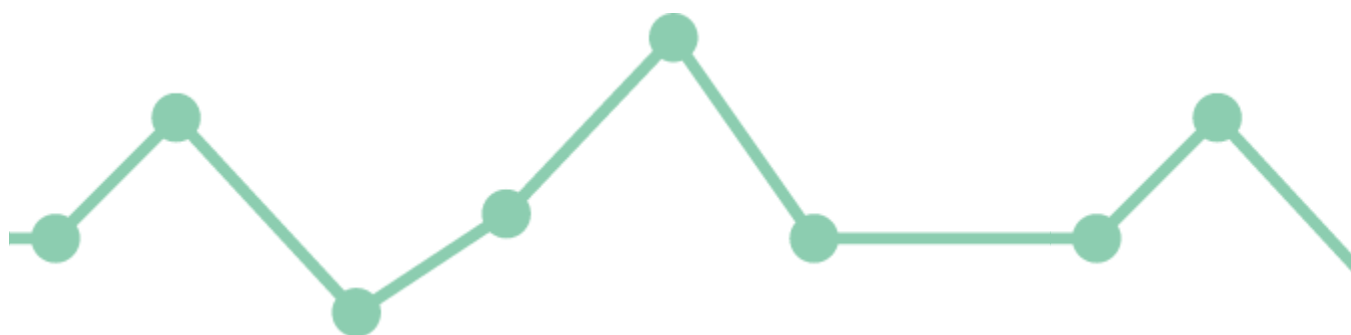
And so the same happened with God, I would constantly talk to Him to answer my prayers and do all these great things for me! I once prayed to Him and this was during dinner time where I was with a friend and I asked Him that He would give me the wisdom in choosing a good dish to order... Can't remember quite correctly but I'm pretty sure it was a good dish! But that wasn't even the pinnacle of God's power in answering our prayers! He blessed me abundantly with all these things I didn't even ask for! And the analogy I want to use again is of eBay. So for eBay, once you shop around for a bit and have bought a few...dozen items they do something special for you! So they give you these codes and what the code does is that it gives you discounts on your next purchase. I don't know about you but I like some good discounts, and so what happened was I got this discount and it said \$20 off your next purchase. So again, poor uni student here having no money, you know I invested good time in finding a good item. I made sure I bought an item costing \$20, not \$19 or \$21 but \$20! So I didn't spend all my time on finding this item, maybe like 4 days straight. Eventually I found the item and so I was preparing to check out as you do, and I typed in the code and then proceeded to my payment. And something happened...there was an error.

This was a very sad time for me, I'm quite embarrassed of how sad I actually got. The thing was, it wasn't an error with the item, or internet connection or low battery on my laptop. It was an error with the discount code. See, the thing was, the code had already expired. And the bad thing about the code expiring is this: if there was an error with the item itself, I could look for a new one, but I would still eventually get an item; if the error was with internet connection or low battery, I could just wait a bit; but if the code expired, I wouldn't be able to get my item! I would have to pay for it and it wouldn't be free!

And this is the part where my relationship with eBay goes in another direction to my relationship with God. Unlike eBay, God doesn't expire, unlike eBay, there's never an error in God and unlike eBay, GOD'S DISCOUNT CODE IS 100% OFF! You don't have to pay anything to get what God has to offer. You don't need to go on a week long journey to find that perfect item! That perfect item is God. And the best thing is that God is always available! You don't need Wi-Fi or 4G to access Him. He's always there.

My life is not perfect, I've hit low points. There was a time in my life where I was just frustrated with where God had placed me and I felt as though He had abandoned me. I was at a point where I felt that the people that I thought accepted me were actually against me, and the ones who were supposed to be the "good guys," were really not who they were. I was angry because I knew that I loved God, and I knew that God loved me, so why was He making me feel so much pain and suffering. And the thing is our eyes and minds are so limited; And the thing is our eyes and minds are

so limited; how do we expect ourselves to see the bigger picture of God's plan - when we struggle to see a sign 20m ahead of us, compared to the eyes that belong to a being that is able to create all by just speaking. There's a passage in Psalm 42 and it says: "My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, 'Where is your God?' Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my saviour and my God." During the lowest of times, the worse of scenarios and when everything begins to fall and change for the worse, there is always one thing that stays constant...and that is God! And so I will continue to praise Him, for He is able to immeasurably more than all we ask and imagine.



How God comes into my life

Chris Yip

My name is Chris Yip. I'm 16 years old, currently studying at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. I'm really excited to share with you my testimony and how God came into my life. As I hope that it'll encourage you to place your faith in God's hands and realise that it is just amazing to have God in your life.

Before I came to Central Baptist Church, I attended The Salvation Army, Hurstville. Around the ages of 6-8 years old...I don't remember exactly how old but I remember I was quite little. I was that one hyperactive kid you'd see running, screaming around the church playing hide and go seek tips. And during that time I didn't know God personally. I'd learn about him, attend Sunday school...but God wasn't part of my life yet, it was just another fairy-tale told to me. Around 2012, something happened at the Salvation Army, and my mum decided that we're going to move to a different church, the church our auntie goes to which is Central Baptist Church. And during that time...I was furious...I was frustrated because I'd never get to see my friends ever again and I feel like I wouldn't fit in with this new church. Begging, crying and arguing to my parents for me to stay at this church. My mindset was all about making friends being the centre of attention...and not on God.

Coming into CBC, I was nervous...I wasn't that outgoing and energetic guy you see now. I was really shy for the first time coming into BLAZE. I didn't know anyone. Walking into the room, I sat on the side where the chairs were stacked and saw two groups on either side of the room....a group of guys in a circle having a conversation....and a group of girls having a conversation. Then you have me...just sitting there, speechless. On that day, I had my first bible study... Back at my old church, we never had actual study books for us to write in and answer questions. It was more of a, flick to this part of the bible and think what this passage is talking about. But when doing bible studies at Blaze, I got a clearer and better understanding on who God was, and made me interested in wanting to know more.

After seeing many people get baptised, the idea of wanting to get baptised has been in my head for quite some time. But there were things which bugged me in life preventing me in making that choice due to the guilt and shame that I have for the sins I've committed in the past. I could never forgive myself or I was just frightened to ask God to forgive me because I felt really bad. There were a few major things which I felt really guilty for....and during this time I didn't blame God if He punished me. .

1) I swear a lot than usual...at church I wouldn't swear at all....but at school and at home...it's a completely different story. Every now and then, when I talk at school and at home, I manage to slip in a large amount of abusive and swearing adjectives in my everyday language. Usually it'll be like: Oh yeah I'm really excited for Jurassic World! I can't wait....but now it's like...I can't f..ing wait for Jurassic...F..ing World...I'm so...f..ing exited etc. When reflecting, I realised that swearing serves no purpose. Literally it does nothing except to create a bad character and reputation.

2) I'm a compulsive liar...on many occasions I would lie on a regular basis....it could be just me telling my mum that I did my homework saying that I've completed it or lying that I didn't eat the last Tim Tam in the fridge and didn't chuck the wrapper. But the thing is I would lie about big things to prevent myself getting into trouble. And many times I wouldn't notice myself lying until after 5 minutes later realising that I just lied, meaning I just believed what I lied about...believing it was true. But in reality...it was a lie made up by myself.

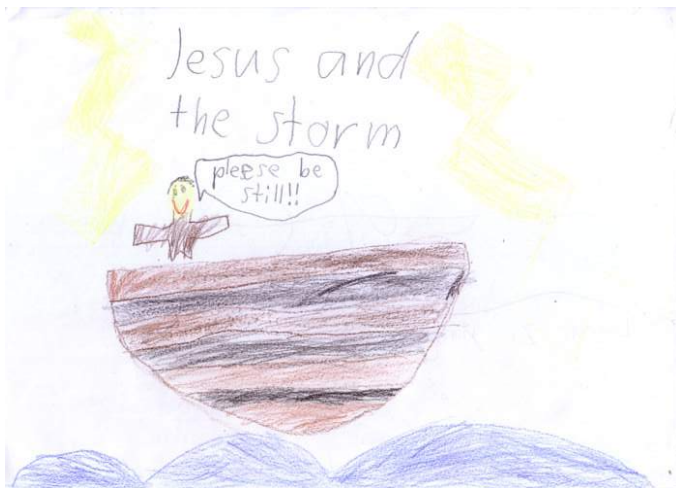
3) I'm a thief...It first started during Years 5 -6 in Primary School when I was jealous that other people had great food from the canteen... and all I had was a dull sandwich. I decided to steal change from my dad's work jeans and eventually bought like burgers that costed 5 dollars. Eventually I was caught in the act, and my dad told me not to do it again. I wasn't satisfied and I continued to steal, but not from my dad's jeans, now it's stealing from my mum's wallet....around 5 dollars a week....and yet I got still caught and they told me to stop. However, during Years 8- 9 I had a plan in which no one ever caught me stealing....not even my parents know...until today. I had an English tutor who would usually go overtime in her classes. The lessons cost 30 dollars an hour and she tends to forget to collect our fees. The first time I actually forgot, but then that's when the idea came up. The idea was to steal money through tuition fees. I knew I couldn't do it every week...so it was pay 2 weeks, take 1 week, and this process went on for many years. People would ask me, Oh Chris where do you get so much money from? So I lied saying it was Chinese New Year money saved up, birthday money saved up...or even allowance saved up. Every now and then when I look at my movie collection or objects in my house...I'd always remember which products were bought with stolen money and which weren't. So I stopped...I felt so dishonest, and guilty and I realised it was the wrong thing. I shouldn't steal in the first place and felt really guilty for cheating on my tutor and my parents.

4) This may be hilarious for some, and some may debate that this isn't a sin. I didn't know what this was until late Year 9 of high school. People in high school made fun of me as I didn't know what masturbation was and asked people and they'd laugh. I was too scared to search it up on the internet as I thought it was something really bad or inappropriate. It got to the point where people started spreading "Oh...Chris doesn't masturbate etc." And I felt really embarrassed. So I asked a friend and he told me what it was...and I did it...I just went on ahead and did it...And all the embarrassment was gone...however after that one time, I was latched onto this addiction. Many people said it's normal to get yourself attached to masturbation and pornography. Although it was rare for me to masturbate to pornography, I feel tempted to do it even when I say I want to quit. I feel really guilty about it, although the bible doesn't clearly mention about masturbation being a sin. I still feel really bad doing and feel like its disrespecting God.

What motivated me to know Christ? So at the end of the day, what made me decide to get baptised on this very morning? What motivated me to share my testimony?

At Youth Getaway 2015, our speaker Mark Costa on the third talk, shared the story of Peter and how he rejected Jesus Christ three times. And during this talk, I was thinking...yes I've heard this story over and over again. And thought I was going to get nothing new out of it...until, he told us to spend some time to think about our guilt and regretsand place our feet in Peter's shoes...how regretful he would've felt to reject Him.

And all the guilt I mentioned earlier flashed at me within a few seconds before communion. I shed a tear and wanted to spend my life with God, but I didn't want to get baptised because I felt guilty, so I talked to one of leaders in BLAZE, Gavin that night. It was around midnight and it was him and me casually talking and I shared my thoughts on the talk that Mark shared...and told him I was heavily impacted. I shared with him my struggles and how that was restricting me from wanting to get baptised. I was crying so much...not only was I crying because I felt guilty and crying for forgiveness...I cried because I felt so happy that I could finally share to someone about my guilt and struggles that bothered me. It was from that talk that made me say, I love you Jesus, You are my saviour. I believe that You died on the cross and resurrected. I want to spend the rest of my life with You. Although I still struggle with these things I mentioned earlier, I know that I can't do this alone and I need Jesus in my life.



How I am saved by God

Matthew Abdelahad

I was raised in a family of five; Dad was brought up in the Syrian Catholic Church in Cairo and Melbourne and made us do the Catholic sacraments for what seemed to be tradition's sake - he didn't take us to Church or raise us to be educated about the Bible. When asked about our family's religious identity we would either respond "Christian" or "non-religious".

Doctors and teachers had mentioned that I was a particularly intellectually gifted child so my parents were gung-ho on raising me for academic success, but as much as I liked to think I was smarter than everyone else, I really didn't like all the responsibility associated with such a status.

I usually comforted myself with the somewhat nihilistic philosophy that there's no point for effort in life, we all die in the end so if I can't be bothered doing something, then stuff it.

Instead of doing my school work, I got into fights, spent afternoons at the skate park and played with girls - I racked up six high-school suspensions and failed year ten twice. After a particularly rebellious scheme of mine which I dare not utter, my high school principal told me how hopeless my opportunities in life would be if there were an expulsion on my record so he told me to leave school or else he'll expel me.

In my mid-to-late teens our household seemed to be a minefield - my brother and I couldn't hold down a job, Dad was always home late from work, Mum was stressed and the entire family were at each others' necks. My older brother and I had a big fight, so unfortunately we still aren't talking which really sucks.

I got fired from each job I attained shortly after being recruited; I spent a few years just playing heavy metal, chasing gigs and chasing girls – not much has changed there; I was never a drinker until after I started taking drugs at 19 to try break the routine of my life. The next thing I knew my parents split up. Mum couldn't support me and I didn't want to live with Dad either because he felt like a stranger so I was temporarily homeless. I made new friends in the heavy metal scene and slept on their couches.

When I started living in a share house I began taking harder drugs, dealing drugs and dabbling in witchcraft. I was such a selfish wreck. I left the lounge room covered in empties and I couldn't do my laundry so I got kicked out and slept where ever the party led me. After this continued for a while, I cracked - God used these weaknesses of mine to show me that he was the only one worth counting on.

My helplessness in God's presence fostered my decision to commit my life to Him, seek His word, His people, follow His plan and allow Him to make a hard change to my life.

This change led me to recognise something beyond how I was a useless, direction-less leech on the family and society that didn't work out for me - but how I and the whole world had irreverently disobeyed and offended God who is perfect, holy and just. I'm kind of relieved that I was right in my original conviction that the world and its people really are stupid and wicked but now that conviction has meaning and purpose.

Although I'm still learning how to effectively fulfil my roles in society and family, I not only have a higher hope in glorifying God in these matters but also a hope that lies in His eternal grace.

All in all, I am thankful that God is who He is - that He eternally exists as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - and that the Son, Jesus Christ, suffered death by crucifixion on our behalf and defeated death, granting us peace with the Father and eternal life for those who believe and confess that He is Lord and Saviour.



主的新生命

Vicky

初信

2009.10.29 是我被拯救的日子。

那年我上大一，下课之后和同学 Alison 走在校园里，和她愉快的聊天之中，偶然之间她和我聊起了我们在天上的父，她说，他爱我们超越了我们父母对我们的爱，我便好奇的问了所有我疑问的问题，她耐心的讲解，告诉我什么是罪，主是万能的天父，耶稣为我们受死，免了我们的罪，她也告诉我她和神之间的亲密关系是通过祷告、查经等建立的，让我忍不住的对上帝充满好奇和尊敬。出于神的感动，Alison 问我要不要跟随主，我虽然不是那么明白那是什么意思，但是我说了“好”。于是我跟着她用英文默念了决志祷告，承认了我的罪，也诚心邀请主进入我的心里，来指引我，带领我。

接下来的 5 年时间，由于转学，搬家，我没有和她在一起学习，但是她却一直都有联系我。她就是上帝派给我的天使，5 年时间里，不变的是她经常邀请我去教堂，和她一起查经，她行出了主的样式，给我传了最美好的福音。

这五年内，我去过的教堂和查经班也是断断续续，对圣经的学习也没有坚持如一。但是不管遇到任何事情，我都会感恩，感恩主给我带来的一切。在人生脆弱的时候，每每祷告都会让我感动流泪，圣灵带来的感动不住的涌出来，惊叹不管我几次远离上帝，不读他的话语，不按照他的话语来行事，他都不会抛弃我，他的爱永无止境，超越世间任何一种爱。

重新看见

2014.09.07 是我决定重新回到主身边的日子。

由于很久没有固定的教会，我想是圣灵在呼唤我回到神的身边，我受同事-Isaac 之约，来到了中央浸信会，教会里弟兄姊妹的热情和爱的欢迎，让我感觉又像回到家里了一样。加上教会里规范的查经班流程，让我养成了每周来教会崇拜查经的习惯。之后慢慢经历主给我带来的感动和主赐予我的一切，都让我止不住的赞美我们伟大的阿爸父！

尊主为大

“你们若常在我里面，我的话也常在你们里面，凡你们所愿意的，祈求就给你们成就。”
--- 约翰福音 15: 7

在我重新回到神怀抱的几个月后，我面临了一次人生中极具挑战的“争分夺秒”考验。

当时，国内的家人极度思念我，过年想让我回去看望他们。但原打算不回去过年，因为正月初三接下来的后一周就是我们大学的考试周，而且需要连考 4 门。但是我还是硬着头皮买了机票，期望主可以保守我这次回家不只是单纯的探望亲人，更多是可以给家人传讲福音，也可以不耽误回来的考试。回国的时间，来来回回只有 10 天，我在来回的路上复习了一些，在家里的 10 天几乎没有学习的时间，做的反而更多的和家人分享我的信主经历。因为每当有空余时间的时候，我就和爸爸妈妈多聊天，给他们读

圣经，多和他们分享我的见证，把书本放在一边，没有过多担心我的考试。因为当我们把荣耀主的国和义放在第一位的时候，其他的困扰真的都不算什么了，因为我知道我们的天父会守护我们的。结果，你们猜，我回到澳洲，紧接着的考试成绩如何？一个 HD, 两个 D, 还有一个 C。感谢赞美主，荣耀归于主耶稣！让我这样创造了首个短期的考试冲刺，与此同时又做了最有意义的事情，帮爸爸普及了福音知识，和爸爸一起坚定了信主的信心，也让很多家人听到了主耶稣，希望在他们心里播下了种子~ 哈利路亚！感谢天父！

当我们真正学会顺服主，跟随主的时候，主了解我们的心思意念，体恤我们的软弱和需求。

疼痛与选择

事情是发生在去年回家过年的前期。

接连两个月的“报告轰炸期”，加上复习期间要在国内过年，身心多少疲惫不堪。于是“睡觉时落枕”便成了整件事情的导火索，开始了为期 4、5 天的“折磨”。眼看就要坐飞机回家了，脖子在这个时候僵硬的不便于活动，要知道收拾行李，坐飞机回国这一趟少不了搬搬挪挪，脖子僵了真的会很不方便。

起初前两天，真的觉得是自己压力太大了，休息欠佳加上大姨妈在捣乱。但是第一天凌晨，当我被肚子疼疼醒的时候，虽然面部表情很狰狞的挣扎，但我意念和话语已经开始说：感谢主，感谢主的美意！这是我受到痛苦折磨中第一次在忍痛不已的情况下还可以感恩！感谢主耶稣！

之后的三天里，脖子的疼痛让学习中的我忍不住埋怨，埋怨脖子为什么偏偏在这个关键时期不争气，不好好效力，因为连基本的扭头和点头的动作都在痛苦中挣扎着。期间还尝试过推拿和药物治疗，都不见好转，甚至有些许恶化。日常中脾气也大了起来，虽然时刻警惕自己：脾气要温和，要忍耐。平时看到可以包容的事情，那几天里便做不到。课上同学重复问一些老师 说过的答案我便焦躁不安，路人做出一些不好行为，我便摇头而且内心指责。终于在第四天，突然内心有个声音告诉我：Be yourself!

做你自己！不管是有没有病痛的折磨，有没有撒旦的试探，那是否做真实的自己是一种选择！主赐给我温顺、和善、乐观的性格就是为了彰显和荣耀主柔美的一面，而我，如今被小小病痛折磨下改变自己原本的样子和性格，破坏了主耶稣的形象，让撒旦控制住就太对不起主的美意了。要知道撒旦就习惯在人软弱或痛苦时，折磨人的耐力，消磨人的心智，也是属灵的一场交战。

学会这一课的我，在第四天之后，再面对疼痛和不便时，就顺意接受这一切，祷告求主赐给我耐心。主教导了我；不管我们身上有没有病痛，都不应该影响心灵上的呼喊和渴求！凡事感恩不只是在喜事临头的时候感谢主赐予的一切美好，更要在主考验你、教育你的时候诚心的感谢主！因为主的美意你可能暂时看不见、体会不到，并不代表主的美意不存在！他的美意，他的道一直存在，从起初直到永永远远！阿门！

信神帶來的不同

Jim

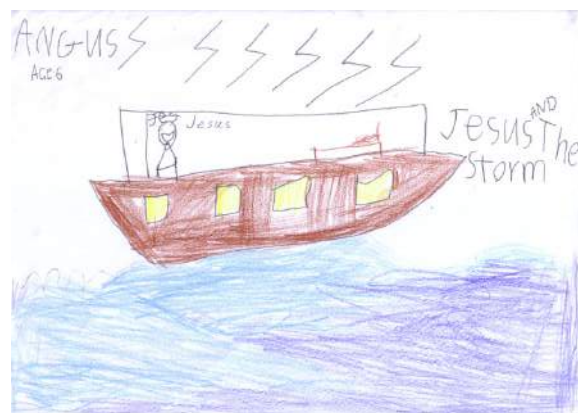
在我接觸基督教之前,我對自己的人生的看法很模糊, 從來沒想過自己的人生應該怎樣, 對很多事都態度懶散。由於在內地出生的緣故, 小時候完全沒有機會接觸基督教, 也沒有聽過福音, 直到我16歲來到澳洲才第一次從同學的口中接觸到基督教。

當時就讀的是Ashfield boys high school, 是公立學校, 學習風氣並不算太好。當時我完全是人在心不在, 每日雖然上學, 但根本學不到任何東西。但當時我認識了人生第一位弟兄Galaxy。跟他談話時認識到原來他是基督徒。當時就覺得這個人應該很難相處, 不能說髒話, 又不能動歪念。記得他當時對我說過: “我身為基督徒就要有基督徒的樣子, 要保持一個基督徒的形象”。當時心想: 這個人怎麼可以這麼假, 要抑制自己的情緒去塑造一個形象出來。那時我們都喜歡打籃球, 他就帶我到CBC的籃球隊訓練。

CBC籃球隊其實基督徒不多, 只是一群喜歡打球的人聚在一起。我也不那麼抗拒去這個“教會球隊”。期間領隊Alex一直會帶我們去一些佈道會, 傳福音活動。漸漸地就沒那麼抗拒基督徒這個群體, 但心中仍然不想決志, 心中的理性一直在告訴我耶穌是假的, 神也是假的, 直到我中學畢業。

當時我HSC的成績很差, 即使是意料之中但仍然很難接受。讀書不成的我開始找後路, 因為讀書不成就只能工作了。我想, 可能不讀大學省下一大筆錢還比較好。但是我又不想放棄, 這段期間十分掙扎, 身邊也沒有人可以給我意見。當時我叫Alex帶我回教會, 也是第一次回早堂崇拜。因為感到無助, 所以想嘗試尋求神的幫助。現在還記得當時講道的內容是罪, 我認識到原來我十幾年犯下的罪今日要自己承受後果。感謝神在我艱難的時刻扶助我, 那段期間我深刻體會到神在我的身邊。

做出決定后不久Alex叫我去Yeah Show。最後呼召的時候他不斷鼓勵我去決志。決志后我當時心裡也有點不同, 有一點點改變, 可能有點誇張, 但我真的感到我變成新造的人了。決志後我開始投入教會生活, 明白到人活著是為了榮神益人。每當艱難的時候, 神的話語總會幫助我。令我開始從凡事只考慮自己, 轉變成為神, 為人。



我的見證

李阳



关于真神，我们看不见摸不到，祂存在吗？

其实，我一直以来就认为有神的存在，大到宇宙的奥秘，小到自身经历的很多不可思议，非同常理的事情。所以，我一直在寻找，从中国文化里面的五行八字，地理勘探（风水）自然还有佛教，也包括西方星像。寻找的方式是看书，尽量看原文古文，而不看现代注解，至于西方星象学也只看名人翻译，力求体会原作者的心思意念。几年下来，书看了不少，也有许多的感悟和理解，但觉得离我要寻找的真神还有距离，它们不过是代表了一支一派，有些雕虫小技解决一些现实需求，但还不能解释太多问题。

直至来到悉尼，我认为西方还是基督教文化主导的国家，对基督教，我以前从来没有接触过，看看《圣经》了解一下西方文化也是有必要的。就这样我开始了读《圣经》，上帝造人？神话故事！造人后还规定人的饮食、行为准则，好像是个蛮负责的制造者，不过这个制造者又太严厉，惩罚太严酷，直至看到“箴言”“传道书”又感觉字字如金，如获至宝，就这样一发不可收拾，用7-8个月时间看完了全部《圣经》。最初看旧约被吓的不轻，中途回国就把供奉5-6年的一个小佛收了起来而不再供奉，这个时候对那位神有畏还不太有敬，随着参加教会的团契增多，前辈带领、指导，学会了祷告，同时《圣经》读到接近尾声，开始真心感受到这个就是我一直以来寻找的真神，祂无懈可击，祂又真又活，祂威严也充满了慈爱。

现实生活中我可以说不有什么烦心事，先生能干顾家，对我也体贴，孩子懂事听话学习也不错，父母身体健康还高工资，姐姐一家也是极好。唯一跟我父亲关系不太好，也只是性格和个人观点不同有分歧。但是，我会经常莫名感到不开心，房子越买越大，车越买越好，感觉没意思，朋友拉我去花天酒地寻刺激，去过一、两次就再也没去，感觉更乏味。跟我父亲的矛盾好像成了天大的事。

决志信主后，我感受到了前所未有的平安和喜乐，这不是物质所能满足的，我理解到人为什么需要有血肉生命还需要有灵命，其实两者互为依托，缺一不可。离开了圣灵的指引和主耶稣的救赎，任何人也自己解决不了自身血气生命里的罪和虚空，以及人性丑陋的现实存在；而圣灵对我们的救赎和改造，也需要我们真真切切的活出来，活出神的心意和荣耀，不枉费祂的一片爱心和苦心。因为有了圣灵的影响，对很多事情我也有了更多的理解和感悟。我欣喜的发现这位真神真的存在，祂无处不在，无所不知。

我知道我是幸运的，认识了主耶稣，祂就是那位实实在在存在的真神，我知道在我认识和不认识它的时候它从来都没有离开过我，我一直在寻找祂，现在找到了，我只想说感谢，这个感谢是由衷的，积压了很长时间的，我一直想说而不知道跟谁说的。只愿主耶稣坚固我的信心跟随您，叫我不要跌倒，做您衷心的仆人。



New CBC Logo

Anita Tang

What would be eye catching, yet simple?

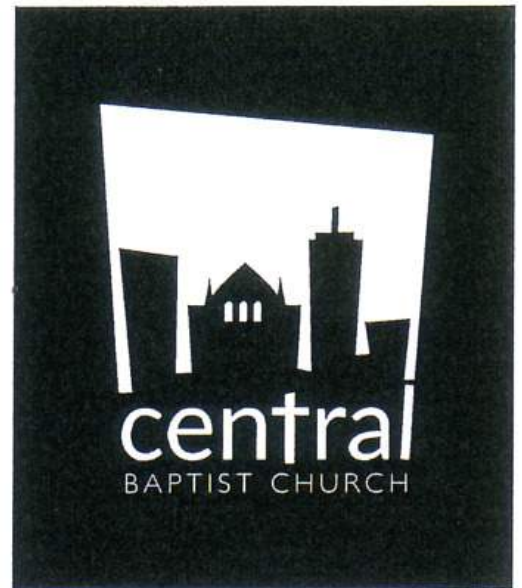
What would be memorable, yet versatile and enduring?

Most importantly, what would encompass Central Baptist's themes and vision, whilst not falling into clichés?

Central Baptist's vision statement speaks about building God's kingdom locally, branching out into the city, and the rest of the world. And, our church's prime position in the heart of the city is a characteristic that sets us apart.

Therefore, the city skyline silhouette includes our church as part of the cityscape. The flared-angled square form expresses our desire to grow upwards and outwards, while also creating a point of interest.

Then, at the heart of it all is Jesus and his sacrifice for us at the cross, represented in the letter "t" of word Central. The logo is completed with the name of our church, in two fonts that are clean, simple and friendly.



誰能使我們與基督的愛隔絕呢
難道是患難麼是困苦麼是逼迫
麼是飢餓麼是赤身露體麼是危
險麼是刀劍麼如經上所記我們為你
的缘故終日被殺人看我們如將宰
的羊然而靠着愛我們的主在這一
切的事上已經得勝有餘了因為我
深信無論是死是生是天使是掌
權的是有能的是現在的事是將來
的事是萬處的是低處的是別的愛
造之物都不能叫我們與神的愛
隔絕這愛是在我們的主基督
耶穌裏的

敬錄羅馬書八章三五至

三九節甲午年吳承士



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