

# 恩典里更加敬畏神

吳曉媛

回想我们人生走过的路，每一步都充满了神的美意和恩典，心中更加敬畏神的大能和慈爱，越是在人生的危难当中，神的荣耀就越加彰显，他的慈爱带领让我心中满有平安和喜乐，一次次度过人生的难关，一次次收获神的恩赐，也让我更加确信神的应许永不更改，他的心意是让信他的人满有平安喜乐的人生，无论我们遭遇怎样的境遇，他都与我们同行，只要我们全心全意依靠他，行走天路的人生就会是得胜的旅程。

2010年初，因为我左耳听力减退，在耳科检查中医生确诊我得了脑膜瘤，肿瘤长满了我的颅底及左侧头颈部，一直长到左耳道里。当听到这个结果，心中的震惊恐惧和无助可想而知，我只有来到神面前祷告祈求：主啊！“我知道你万事都能作、你的旨意不能拦阻（约记42：2）”，虽然我不知道为什么病痛会临到我，但我深信你为我预备的未来超乎我想象的美好，我只愿单单仰望你，求你赐平安给我和我的家人！……神的话还安慰我：“你不要害怕、因为我与你同在。不要惊惶、因为我是你的神。我必坚固你、我必帮助你、我必用我公义的右手扶持你（以赛亚书41：10）”。

于是神一步步带领我的治疗，我发现一切竟超乎想象的顺利：当地医生很快把我的病例直接转给了Vanderbilt 医学中心的耳科主任Dr. Haynes, 他是世界顶级专家，曾是国际耳科协会主席，病人预约到半年之后，可是他在不到一周时间就给我安排了门诊，当我见到他时，他告诉我，由于我的病情特殊，涉及面广，治疗复杂，需要多科协同，他们连同神经外科主任Dr. Thompson, 头颈病专家Dr. Mannion，脊柱科专家以及骨科专家已经组成了5人医疗小组，准备为我做手术，手术预计需16个小时。在相继看完几位医生之后，他们很快为我做了手术，手术经过仅10个小时就顺利结束，之前预计会出现的后遗症几乎都没发生。与此同时，我们全教会的弟兄姐妹始终在为我祷告，刚刚来到我们教会牧会的秦牧师专门陪我去医院手术，直到看我平安从手术室出来。

术后4天我顺利出院，回家后第二天就可以下地煮饭。以后的几个月由于术后恢复缓慢，加上药物副作用，我每天几乎只能坐着睡1-2个小时，身体迅速变形，而我不但没有太多痛苦的感觉，心中反而充满了平安幸福的快乐感，那本该是我最艰难最软弱的时刻，却是我最快最坚强最充实最美好的日子，我知道这是神与我同在的美妙，也只有与神的同在，才会有这样无法用言语形容的神奇，与神同行好的无比这句话，在我最软弱的时候更加彰显，在漫漫无眠的日子里，神是那样的亲近，那样的真实，让我无可推诿地感受到他无微不至的慈爱，心中更加敬畏他无以伦比的大能，我深深体会到神是我们行走天路的唯一依靠，是我们永远的盼望！在我治疗前后，教会的弟兄姐妹一直为我祷告，给我和我的家人许多帮助，让我感受到了更多的关怀和温暖，神家给予我如同家人围绕般的亲情和友情，使我心中更加充满了感恩，神也赐福我的家人，让我们一家人诸事顺遂，满有平安喜乐，心中唯有赞美主的恩典慈爱，把一切荣耀和赞美都归我主耶稣基督！在我们教会成立十周年庆典之际，我心中恳切祈求：求神保守我们的教会，按你的心意预备我们每个人的未来，今后的每一步求你与我们同在，因为我们深信你的应许永不改变！你的话语就是能力和安慰：“我的恩典够你用的。因为我的能力、是在人的软弱上显得完全（哥林多后书12：9）”。





# 感恩

王克胜  
刘秀芹

日光如梭，一眨眼来到田纳西州约翰逊市已经快七年了。虽然来到一个全新的地方，但是，感谢神，我们在他里面样样充足，没有缺乏。在这里，教会是我们属灵的家。在这里，我们也认识了很多的兄弟姐妹。感谢主，他在我们身上有丰富的恩典和奇妙的引领。让我们在主里彼此相爱，同享主恩。

在这里，神带领我们经历人生的风风雨雨。因神的慈爱和怜悯，在生命中，生活中和服事中，一直经历他信实的同在。尤其是克胜在2010年底被查出患有结肠憩室炎，在2011年春节前做了结肠切除手术，是对我们信心的考验。秦牧师和师母为克胜迫切的祷告，李传富弟兄和哈老师一直忙前忙后。在克胜住院期间，秦牧师和师母，李传富弟兄和哈老师，高理权，姚志强，和邹越弟兄以及其他的弟兄姊妹到医院去看望克胜。学生潘岳开车接克胜去医院手术，在克胜出院时，又开车把克胜送回家中。克胜在家休养期间，教会里的弟兄姊妹有的去看望克胜，有的打电话问候。特别是哈老师提出了许多的建议帮助克胜康复。

感谢神，通过教会的兄弟姐妹



传递神的爱。通过这次手术，也让克胜感触很多。人在患难期间，会感到自己很软弱。首先是手术以后生活不能自理，需要人帮助。其次是想做的事情，自己没有能力和体力去做。但是，我们感谢神，给了克胜休病假的机会。让克胜有许多的时间去聆听和思考。在这期间，克胜通过YOUTUBE听了许多赞美神的歌曲，也听了许多牧师和传道人的讲道。让克胜体会到“不但如此，就是在患难中也是欢欢喜喜的。因为知道患难生忍耐，忍耐生老练，老练生盼望；盼望不至于羞耻。因为所赐给我们的圣灵将神的爱浇灌在我们心里”（罗马书5:3-5）。感谢神，让我们知道，他就是爱的源头，“在世上你们有苦难，但你们可以放心，我已经胜了世界。”（约翰福音 16:33）。因为神就是爱，无论我们走到哪里都可以有家，有兄弟姐妹，有主里的爱。因为，在世上，我们是客旅，是寄居的，我们要时常盼望我们永恒的家——天家。

借此庆祝教会十周年之际，愿神继续保守引领这地，愿教会更加兴旺，也愿大家都成为更蒙神喜悦和祝福的人。

# Mrs. Parker与孩子们

寧順斌

Mrs. Susan Parker 是一位美国老太太，快90岁高龄。她年轻的时候是当地著名的传教师。而更让我们所熟悉和感动的，是她把她毕生的精力，无私地奉献给一群又一群来自世界各地与她素不相识的孩子，直到现在。Mrs. Parker因年事已高，行动已经很不便，走路靠器材辅助。坐和站都很吃力，随时可能摔倒。连吃饭也很费劲，把饭菜送到嘴里时手都抖得厉害。可为了照顾现在三城华人教会的孩子们，她每周五和周日风雨无阻，不管春夏秋冬，还是白天晚上，都会自己开车每次提前来到教堂。因为教会星期五晚上和星期天上午会有孩子。

每个星期在这两个时间段，大家来教堂都会见到提前到达在那里等候孩子们的Mrs. Parker。这么高年纪独自开车本来已经不是件轻易的事。而她住所离三城华人教堂开车有40分钟的路程，星期五晚上她都是9点独自开车回家。

因为这些，有人曾建议她不要再带孩



Mrs. Parker在带领孩子们为教会献唱

子了。她很不高兴，执意要来。因为来的孩子很少，最多4、5个，有时甚至没有。当她没有等到孩子的时候，她也不会表现出失望。年轻的时候，Mrs. Parker就随丈夫，以传教士的身份，不远万里去非洲，

在那贫穷的地方传教之余帮助那里贫穷的孩子。后来辗转到了韩国，继续帮助当地的教会带孩子。

Mrs. Parker自己没有孩子，但她却非常喜欢孩子。从韩国回来之后，她和丈夫一共收养了6个孩子，4个是韩国人。当时因为韩国驻美大使被害，她把他家的四个孩子收养了。而今他们都已各自成家，有时会来三城拜访 Mrs. Parker。



星期五晚上，Mrs. Parker在带领孩子们学习经文

另一个是美国人，叫 Wendy。Wendy现在已经40岁左右，是6个收养的孩子中唯一和 Mrs. Parker 现在还住得



近的一个，也是年纪最小的一个。星期天必要的时候就來教會接 Mrs. Parker。还有一个因为签证的关系，回自己国家后就再也没回过美国。

由于长年累月和孩子们打交道，Mrs. Parker 积累了一套独特的教育孩子的方式。她在孩子们面前一位非常和蔼可亲的老奶奶，脸上总是流露着对孩子的疼爱和慈祥的微笑。她从来不用严厉的方式对待孩子，孩子们却对她毕恭毕敬，在她面前非常温顺听话。

三城华人教会追溯起来已经有24年历史。创建不久后的1995年，Mrs. Parker 就开始接触这个小得不起眼的中国教会。据说当时那些在教会里不听话的中国孩子令人头痛，不知如何管教，管教的人笑着进去，哭着出来，于是就请经验丰富的 Mrs. Parker 来试试。从那时起，她就与这个小小的教会结下不解之缘，到现在已经有整整20年。20年如一日，她从未计较个人得失，兢兢业业把自己20年的年华花费在一茬又一茬的中国孩子身上，一直到现在已经快90岁的高龄仍然在坚持。算下来这个教堂当初的那些孩子现在也至少有20多岁了。

去年圣诞节前不久，Mrs. Parker 由于行动不便，不慎把脚扭伤，不得不在家休养。我们在想，她这么大年纪把脚扭伤，肯定要很长时间才能康复，很久不能来带孩子了，也许不会再来了。可是，也许是上帝的美意，她两个月不到就又回到我们中间。虽然脚踝处裹着固件，但自从返回的那天起，就没有缺过一次。

今年放暑假之前，Mrs. Parker 提前给孩子们安排了两个星期的夏令营。本来是个收费的活动，她却募捐到了足够的费用，能让孩子们免费、自由参加。Mrs. Parker 不过是一个平凡的人，却用毕生的精力，默默无闻、孜孜不倦、坚持不懈地在为别人发光发热，在平凡的日常工作中体现出无私和伟大。



Mrs. Parker 和 Katharine and Caroline

“一个人做一件好事并不难，难的是一辈子都做好事”。对于 Mrs. Parker 来说，做一辈子好事还不够。如果有来生，我相信她一定会义无反顾继续下去。

从 Mrs. Parker 身上，我们应该对自己的人生观进行重新思考和定位。一、不管在什么岗位，脚踏实地，任劳任怨，认真做好自己的工作，在平凡的岗位上一样能实现自我价值。不要这山望着那山高，成天怨天忧人，唉声叹气，抱怨命运不公。二、待人如待己，无私帮助别人，才能赢得尊重。牧师有句话说得好：当你忘掉自己的时候，你就会被别人记住了。帮助了别人也等于帮助了自己，不要指望别人先向你伸出橄榄枝，然后才被动“回报”。三、积极面对生活，正确对待人生中的挫折。人生不可能一帆风顺，一碰到挫折就垂头丧气，一蹶不振，不解决任何问题。“人生除死无大事”。遇到任何不顺与挫折，还是得笑着过。四、“春蚕到死丝方尽，蜡炬成灰泪始干”。只要身体健康，有一份光就应该发一份热。这样的生活态度才是对圣经最好的诠释，这样的基督徒才是上帝的好子民。由衷地祝愿 Mrs. Parker 寿比南山，贵体安康，能更多地把她的光与热洒在孩子们身上！



Paul and I received a phone call from Mrs. Chua Chu Chang asking us to pray about teaching the Chinese children. The pleasure was and has been ours since 1995. It has been our pleasure to teach many of your children with pleasant memories. The names of students we have taught are many, such as: Xiaodong, Xiaohong, Robert, Sophia, Alan, Diane, Erica, Lillian, Winston, Ming, Loria, Silas, Daniel, Albert, Connie, Hannah, Jason, Sarah, Elizabeth, Yang, Caroline, Katharine, Sunnuy, Iris, Helen, Sunshine, Clay, Melody, Jessie, Thomas, Andy, Zoe, Lia, Koena, Carmen, Yeleela. Most of these children have accepted Christ and been baptized. Many of them have great testimonies for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Many of them have graduated from college and are serving the Lord in their profession. We need to remember your children in prayer.

I want to thank you for the opportunity of teaching your children.

Paul & Suzy Parker





# 參加 Central Baptist Church 中文查經班

Larry Lin

1991年來到 Super Grip 上班，並於 ETSU 攻讀碩士學位，工作與學業兩忙！1992年接來了太太和兒女後，遇見許珍妮姊妹，於她帶領下參加 CBC 教會的每週日崇拜及每週六下午中文查經班，並與邵小平夫婦，高教授夫婦，李傳富夫婦，楊超翔夫婦，施文庚夫婦，范穗華姊妹以及吳宏為夫婦等在 Eastman 上班之朋友們，和部分 ETSU 同學認識，建立很好的教會生活，一起參加崇拜聚會，並在施弟兄當第一任校長的中文學校學習中文，其樂融融！

教會會友 Lee Ray 及弟兄姊妹們對我們均很照顧，除協助每週六中午做飯外，並主動教英文。每年於阿拉巴馬州舉行的中文福音營，大家結伴參加，記憶猶深！尤其梁燕城教授呼召了很多慕道友。附上1992年聚會的相片，其中有幾張是到我公司野餐及湖邊釣魚的照片以及教會合影紀念照！年輕時的高教授與我兒子宸宇(William)一起釣魚，宸宇目前於加拿大皇家騎警服務，另一位 Tiffany 是施文庚和黃慧芳夫婦的女兒，目前於明尼蘇達州任皮膚科醫師。



# 神的驿站

段政

在耶路撒冷通往耶利哥城的路上，四周都是绿色的丘陵台地和生趣盎然的橄榄树。在橄榄山东麓(路21:37)、约旦河西，有一个小小的村庄，名叫伯大尼，这里离耶路撒冷约六里之遥，前往耶路撒冷的客旅，常在此歇宿。马大、玛利亚和她们的弟弟拉撒路的家居于此，患麻疯的西门也客居此地(约11:1，太26:6)。

圣经中记载，主耶稣基督曾经九次光临伯大尼，并在此留下美好的脚踪。主耶稣为什么愿意到伯大尼呢？因为在伯大尼有一个服侍接待耶稣的家庭，那里不仅有姐姐马大的一双殷勤侍奉主的手，也有妹妹玛利亚一颗体恤爱主的心，还有弟弟拉撒路从死里复活之生命见证。虽然主耶稣在地上没有枕头的地方（太8:20），且到处都有捉拿他的声

音，然而借着—个复活的生命，借着这一对可敬可爱的姐妹的爱主之心，在伯大尼这个名不见经传的小村落，我们的主得着了一个家，是他可以坐席、安息并满足的地方。所以，在我的心里，伯大尼之家可以称之为神之驿站。

当第一次听到有学生这样称呼我的家时，我既激动又战兢！激动是因为我是一名基督徒，我极其渴慕神的同在，倘若神喜爱我的家就像喜爱伯大尼之家，那是何等荣耀之事！而且打开家门让更多的留学生通过这里认识神、找到真理，这也是我2009年在中国信主后一直渴望做的事；而实在战兢是因为如此神圣之名，我一罪人之家又如何配得？！虽说自来美国这四年中，在我的家里的的确确迎来送往了无数名留学生和访问学



者，除了每周的英文团契，平时和节假日也时常会招待一些学生，倘若一定要给个名字的话，留学生之家或许更为妥帖又怎敢妄称神之名？！

但耶稣说：“若是你们中间有两个人在地上同心合意地求什么事，我在天上的父必为他们成全。因为无论在哪里，有两三个人奉我的名聚会，那里就有我在他们中间。”（太18:19-20）看哪！这是多么美的应许！当同学们奉主的名在我的家里聚会时，神就在这里！

很多朋友对我向留学生们开放家庭感到不解，其实也是心疼我几乎用掉了自己所有的精力和时间在这些原本毫无关系的学生们身上。这四年里，我和先生几乎没有几个周末或节假日是独自在家里度过，几乎没有二人世界的生活，也没有度假或旅行。而刚到美国的时候，我还只是个信主才刚刚一年半的年轻基督徒，究竟是什么力量驱使我如此甘心乐意地委身侍奉？是什么力量竟让我如此清晰地听见了主的呼召？我想，每个人都有各自不同的见证故事，而我的故事里，实在有太多的奇妙与无法解释的巧合。随着更深地经历神，我逐渐明白：我的一生都在神的手中，一切都是祂的完美计划。

我第一次接触教会是在1989年，但我真正认识神却是在2009年，这期间整整跨越了二十年。从22岁到42岁，可以说这该是一个人的一生当中最精彩的篇章，可是，我却在这二十年里慢慢地体会到了那些精彩过后的绝望。前十年，我忙着恋爱、结婚、读书深造以及职业规划，在周围亲朋好友的赞赏羡慕的眼光中，我以为我找到了这个世界上最出色、最爱我的丈夫，而且我还拥有一份既体面、收入也颇丰的工作，当时刚满三十岁的我已是一家大型企业集团中主管董事局的财务工作了。很显然，这十年中，我在感受





着甜蜜的婚姻生活的同时，也很享受着职业蓬勃的快意。这十年，我全心地投入爱、全心地投入工作、全心地经营生活。十年前曾因找不到人生方向而困惑不已时，我站在北京街教堂的门口所听到的神在伊甸园里呼唤亚当的声音，早已被我抛在了脑后。在我年轻的意念里，把握当下、努力进取，才是年轻人应该做的。

1998年的夏天，我们盼了七年的小生命诞生了！由于公司地点远离市区，也因婆家生意的需要，我不得不暂时放弃自己的事业专心带女儿，同时也管理着生意。常端详着依偎在怀里的这个漂亮可爱的小东西，望着相爱十年的丈夫，我告诉自己：眼前的这两个人就是我生命的全部，为了他们的幸福，我愿意放弃自己的事业做一名全职妈妈。女儿在我的早期教育下，的确在各方面都超过了同龄的孩子，以致提前一年半上学。但噩梦也从此开始，面对各种频频出现的环境，我曾非常不解，也因此陷入了深深的忧郁当中。远在哈尔滨的姨妈一家都是基督徒，每次回来看我妈妈，姨妈和表妹都会跟我谈耶稣、谈上帝，还让我背下了主祷文。我非常清楚地记得表妹曾跟我说过的一句话：当你爱一个人超过了爱神，那么神就会把他们拿走！

没错！前十年，我活得很欢畅，似乎得到了一切我想要的；而在这后十年中，生活却让我一点一点饱尝着失去的痛。先是失去了自我、快乐与婚姻；后来在2008年又相继失去了最疼爱我的父亲和母亲；虽说主动放弃婚姻后再次回到工作岗位上，我的事业又有了第二次的腾飞，当时的我不仅在一家公司担任财务总监，周末还被聘到会计学校教授专业课。但恰恰是因为我那时过于投入工作，又要在业余时间照顾病中的母亲，最终又令我失去了健康；再后来由于前夫家里除了女儿没有更多子嗣，我再次失去了唯一的精神支柱--女儿的抚养权。就在母亲去世的那个平安夜里，我突然发现此时的我已经一无所有！

如约伯的惨痛经历一样，或许拿走我所看重



的一切，正是神拣选我并塑造我的方式，而事实证明，神在后来的日子里果真圆了我所有的愿望。我不敢去揣度神当初的意念，可是如我一样顽固又小信的人倘若不是走到了路的尽头，撞上

了南墙，又怎肯回头？当神安排我的三十年前的英文老师在我绝望中正准备放弃生命的那一刻打给我的那个电话起；当我因为这一个电话而遇到了现在的先生起；当我满心渴慕神的话语，每周有三天待在教会中有半年的光景，最终接受了洗礼时；当我遇到从美国前来中国带领大学生英文团契的牧师Jerry夫妇时；当我来到美国，也学着Jerry夫妇对学生们开放家庭并开办这样的英文福音团契时，神终于让我看见了他曾在我的生命里的一个又一个的预备及装备！然而，当我在美国与先生组建了新的家庭后，却又让我看到了信仰之下一个多年的老基督徒身上的致命的缺乏，此时，我才真正明白了神创造女人的目的，也逐渐懂得了婚姻的意义！二十年前的那个曾踮着脚站在教堂门口张望的年轻的姑娘，二十年后，当她经历过人生的繁华与低谷、失去与拥有后，才确实确实听到了神曾在伊甸园里对亚当、也是对她的召唤！**Amazing Grace**！多么奇妙的恩典！当我第一次用英文唱起这首歌的时候，我根本无法抑制自己的泪！就像歌中唱道：“I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see！”

尽管我在门外张望了二十年之久，但神从未放弃过，他一直在暗处观望、看顾、等待，等待我全心全意转向他的这一天！当被神拣选的幸福感还那么炙热的时候，神却又在预备着另一个在我看来根本不可能的结果给我。当初我满怀信心和盼望卖掉了国内的房产、辞掉了国内的工作、告别了两位兄长与亲朋好友，只身来到美国，只因一个愿望--我可以随时去英国见计划移民英国投靠她的无子嗣的姑姑的女儿。我怎能忘记当我去广州面签时拿着印着我和女儿的名字的通知单，可女儿却被迫放弃跟我来美国时我的锥心的痛？！我的眼泪在那几年几乎哭干了，可我怎么都无法相信，神竟然可以把木已成舟的事实完全翻转：2013年10月，女儿顺利拿到美国签证，并于2014年1月顺利获得绿卡。在我失去她四年后，神却以这样奇妙的方式把她交还给了我！如今，17岁的

女儿非常优秀，已被UCSD录取，今年九月即将进入大学。没有女儿的家怎能算是完整的家？！

可如今神彻底满足了我的心愿！在女儿第一次来美国与我团聚的日子里，分别多年后的一对母女再次躺在一个被窝里倾心畅谈一个昼夜也不肯睡去，我流着泪对神说：神啊，即使你此刻就接我回天家，我也了无遗憾了！因为你已圆了我所有的心愿！正如BRBC教会的讲台上方所倡导的：**A Heart For God, A Home For You, A Hope For All**！

如今，已从绝处逢生的我、有了完整之家的我、有了所有盼望的我，怎么可以不用心回报神如此大、又那么实实在在的恩典？！当心有所属，使命感便油然而生。无论在何时何地，只要有机会，我便会自然而然地替主作见证、传讲福音，让有缘的人可以感受到从我心底里流淌出来的满足与幸福，因为我做了神的子民！今天，主已然赐给我一位爱主又讲英文的丈夫，也赐给我积蓄了二十年即将迸发的爱心与能量，同时也赋予我们伟大的使命。尽管在很多的观念上我跟我的先生有着根本的分歧，不同的文化背景和价值观也让我们产生了很多的矛盾与不和谐，但我们俩有一个共同的目标，那就是要遵守神的两大诫命：“你要尽心、尽性、尽意爱主--你的神。这是诫命中的第一，且是最大的。其次也相仿，就是爱人如己。这两条诫命是律法和先知一切道理的总纲。”（太22:37-40）当然，在这四年多的事奉当中，我们也遇到过很多不顺意的困境：有学生的问题，有同工的问题，当然也有我们自身的属灵匮乏以及身体的有限，但是，每当我们去数算神在我们生命中的一个又一个的奇妙的恩典，我们就会从新得力，顽强地站立起来！而且，在这些年的事奉当中，我们也从未感到孤独：三城华人教会与Buffalo Ridge Baptist Church的牧师、各位长老、执事，以及那么多的弟兄姐妹都给予了我们无尽的关爱与支持。

因我常在家里招待学生，很多的弟兄姐妹们

便常为我带来蔬菜等各样的食物；先生的美国教会BRBC也为我们的团契提供车辆、教室，每个主日午后有两个美国家庭在教会招待学生用餐，还有几位优秀的美国传道人分别为学生们传讲神的道。在这些年里，我们一直跟学生们在一起，也结识了不少优秀的访问学者，我们借助英文学习这个平台，兼顾他们生活上的需要，在大爱中传递神的福音信息。截至目前为止，已有超过十五位弟兄姐妹通过这个团契而接受了福音并受洗，即使在这里尚未完全接受主的，相信福音的种子已然撒下，而收获在于神。一些弟兄姐妹回国后，也已开放家庭与更多的慕道友及弟兄姐妹分享主爱；也有一些弟兄姐妹与我个人之间也建立了深厚的友谊，我还因此得到了一个那么好那么好的干女儿张郝彩小妹妹，她关爱我的程度已然超过了我的亲生女儿。这些年里，朋友们都觉得我和我先生付出得太多、牺牲得太多，但此时此刻我想大

声地告诉大家：我们在这些年里得到的和拥有的，远比付出的与失去的要多得太多！神的恩典啊，总是超乎我们所想所求！

至此，我再次想起在橄榄山东麓、约旦河西的那个叫伯大尼的小村庄，想起那三位讨神喜悦的马大、玛利亚和拉撒路三姐弟。伯大尼之家，一个神所喜悦并常光顾的客栈，那就是神的驿站！祷告：亲爱的主啊，谢谢你！谢谢你在我生命最绝望的时候挽救了我、拣选了我！既然你把这些可爱的学生们量给了我，那就求你按你的样式继续塑造我、鞭策我，以致使我可以成为你合用的撒种的器皿！主啊，我愿意我的家也能像伯大尼之家一样蒙你的悦纳；我愿意我的家能成为三城地区的留学生之家；我也愿意用我的真心在这里安静地等候你，等候你跟学生们一起坐席、安息；我愿意你在我的家里一切都能得到满足！阿门！（2015年7月）



Elder Yu visiting CCGT 9-16-2012



# 信仰之旅的启程

陈学东

大凡通过留学出来的朋友，在申请学校上都会比我更有经验，因我来美国留学只申请过一家学校。在大学三年级的时候，见到许多要好的朋友都在为申请出国做准备，于是也随大流，碍于出国潮的压力及学友们的游劝，在这方面做了一点努力，但由于心底里根本不是太想出国，所以一直也没有太在意。当别人埋头复习托福和GRE考试的时候，我却着迷于奥运会、亚运会、及世界杯等等的体育比赛。在申请学校的时候，别人都选了不下十所，而我只选了ETSU，原因是它只收五美元的申请费。结果刚开始学校还拒绝了我的入学申请，这就更让我更心安理得去继续沉醉于体育比赛之中。谁知过了两年之后，学校却寄来了一份录取通知书，实在是丈二金刚摸不着头脑。紧接着，奇妙的事接踵而来，当时刚好是“六·四”之后不久，一般很难申请到出国护照，加上没有奖学金，几乎是没有什么可能拿到签证的。然而就在短短的一个月之内，我不但办好了护照，还取得了签证。另外值得一提的是，入学通知书上用的是我的英文名字，而护照上用的是中文拼音，根本对不上号，居然也让我“蒙混过关”了，实在是不可思议。记得去申请签证那天，兜里揣了一百元人民币，去的时候坐出租车用了二十二元，签成后缴签证费七十七元，最后剩一元钱坐公共汽车回家。在回家的路上，自己就开始琢磨，“为什么这一切都来得那么顺利？”

来到Johnson City以后才找到了答案，原来是神要我去认识祂。记得到达Johnson City是一九九〇年十二月二十六日，由于原定要乘坐的航班临时取消了，中途改换了行程，最后到达已经快半夜了。当时心里真是忐忑不安，心想在一个人生地不熟的异国他乡，第一个晚上要怎么度过？虽然请了美国朋友来接机，但自己与她素不相识，现在又已经这么晚了，加上时值圣诞节期间，她还在那里等吗？如果没有人接，是否就要在机场睡一夜呢？但一出到机场大厅，马上就见到了一直在等候的Linda Arnold，她还叫上了当时三城华人基督团契的负责

同工吴宏为和陈安夫妇，以及团契的成员黄诺瑜，这真是让我感到贵宾似的待遇，那不知所措的心也顿时平静了下来，然后他们为我安排住宿，Linda还带我结识了多位热心在华人团契服侍的美国朋友，包括Jim & June Clark、Lee Ray & Ada Robertson、Edna、及Pauline等等。他们都非常热心，主动协助我购置生活用品及办理各样的手续，还帮助我提高英语会话能力，在生活上一直处处关心，使我能很快安定下来。他们送了给我好几本不同版本的圣经，有中文的、英文的、中英对照的，可谓是琳琅满目，一应俱全。他们也把我带到了Central Baptist Church和三城华人基督团契。在与这些基督徒交往过程中，我从他们身上看到了一种特殊的品质，就是那无私的爱，是自己曾经一直努力想得到，却始终是心有余而力不足的。这迫使我不得不深思，这爱究竟是从哪里来的？自己怎样才能拥有这份爱心？由于当时离开学还有一个星期的时间，也没有太多其它的事要做，于是我就开始研读他们赠送的圣经。当读完创世记之后，就发现以前许多的问题，诸如“人从哪里来？”、“人活着有没有意义？”等等，都得到了解答。然后又开始研读马太福音，领悟到其中的教导不可能是来自人间的。随着对圣经了解的不断深入，以及不断在教会和团契里的学习，自己对周围的世界和人生都有了全新的思考和认识，对所认识的这些基督徒的生命中那种高尚品质产生了迫切的渴望。在来到ETSU三个月后，有一位美国基督徒学生来到我的宿舍，与我分享福音，我虽然当时所知甚少，但就凭着一颗渴望的心，决定邀请耶稣基督进入自己的生命，成为一个基督徒。

信主初期，当时校园里没有几个来自中国的基督徒学生，所以时常还须面对一些不解的评论，甚至是冷嘲热讽的讥诮。那时可谓是信心弱小的灵命高危时期。幸亏神安排我结识了一位良师益友—Earle Chute。他带领我参加小组查经，

并鼓励我参加在Daytona Beach举行的培训营，还为我筹集了奖学金。在这个为期十周的培训营里，我和其他六十多位美国大学生基督徒，一起学习圣经、分享见证、并到各处与人分享福音。在Earle的鼓励和帮助下，我在营会里完成了一系列的基督信仰基本教义的学习，信心因此得到大大的坚固。同时，通过在同伴中分享见证，以及向陌生人传递福音信息，自己原本极度内向的性格有了很大的改变。以前自己没有自信，从来不敢在公共场合发言。经过这一培训营的锻炼以后，意识一切力量都是出于神，依靠祂就没有什么好惧怕的，因此也就克服了心中的自卑，性格也变得开朗了起来。

不久之后，神陆续把高理权和刘维夫妇、蔡汉亮及张竺夫妇等弟兄姊妹带到了三城区，华人社区的福音事工也不断扩展。先是有了华人的主日学班，之后又成立了每周五晚上的查经班。自己在侍奉上的学习和操练，就是在这些场合开始的。记得第一次在主日学服侍，是被弟兄姊妹们赶鸭子上架，要求我带领查考以弗所书。当时实在是觉得不可能，自己都不懂，怎么可以教呢？高教授就鼓励我说：“你教了，就会懂”。当时并不大明白这话的含义，但后来发现，其中有很深刻的道理--带领查经的人，往往是学到最多，也是获益最多的人。出于依靠神而豁出去的心态，自己就这样硬着头皮，不知天高地厚地开始尝试传递圣经话语的侍奉。后来弟兄姊妹们又安排我在周五查经班上带领旧约概论的学习，那更是一个跌跌撞撞、边学边分享的经历。通过这些侍奉的实践，也承蒙众多弟兄姊妹对我的忍耐和宽容，自己对圣经有了更全备的了解，侍奉的技巧和信心也不断增加，为以后的服侍打下了良好的基础。

我的信仰之旅就是这样启航的。田纳西州三城区的华人团契、主日学和查经班，可以说是我属灵生命的摇篮。现在信主已经二十多年了，深深感受到自己生命中的巨大改变--野心少了，爱心多了，也能体会到那爱神以至于爱人的甘甜了；信主前是不知将来会如何，心中充满了忧虑，信主后是不需要顾虑未发生的事情，因为深信主必凡事看顾。当年支身来美追求更美好的物质生活，那时什么都没有，现在可以说什么都有了，但要说来美国最大的

收获，却不是任何物质上的丰富，而是认识了耶稣基督，能成为天国的一员。因此，每当回想起初信主的经历，就忍不住欢欢喜喜地感谢赞美神，同时也对那些蒙神使用，在我信主和成长中洒下了汗水的众多弟兄姊妹们深怀感恩。文中提及了他们其中几个的名字，但在属灵上于己有恩的实在还有太多，唯求神纪念和祝福他们的辛劳。

我离开三城区的时候，华人教会还未成立，现喜闻教会正在筹划十周年堂庆，实在是可喜可贺，特撰此文与弟兄姊妹数算主恩、共享喜乐。愿神祝福和兴旺祂自己的家，大大使用三城华人教会，让更多的人得蒙祝福！

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在邵弟兄家



# I Was blind, but now I see

Yali Wilson

***Amazing grace! How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!***

***I once was lost but now am found, was blind, but now I see.***

This well-known hymn titled “Amazing Grace” is one of my favorites for it always reminds me of how great God’s grace is to redeem a sinner like me from the eternal death. Recalling the first time when I received an English Bible, I was a junior in college. I opened it and read the first verse on the first page “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” without any clue what it was talking about. Continuing and finishing the first chapter, I thought I understood. I talked to myself “oh, it is just like the Greek mythology that I have studied in the literature class”. Ever since then this Bible, a gift given to every student by an American couple who taught us literature and writing, was put aside, and has never been touched again because it was not a required reading book for the class.

Just before I graduated, I was offered a teaching position in the university that I attended. That is a job that I have been so passionate about and proud of because in China there is a saying about teachers, which is “teachers are the soul engineers of human beings”. I loved my job and worked so hard that the department and students soon recognized my effort and I was awarded as “outstanding teacher”. Growing up in a loving family, studying hard all the way through graduating from one of the prestigious universities in



China, and then working at a job that I loved so much, logically I should be very content. On the contrary, an emptiness and loneliness crept into my heart after a couple of years of teaching. So I started pondering the meaning of life. What is the purpose of life? What am I here for? If life is only about the limited tens of years on earth, what’s the point because I know a lot of trees live longer than man, and the concrete buildings even last longer than the life span of man? Does the after-life exist? Are human beings really evolved from animals? Even if I have learned in high school that humans are evolved from monkeys, that answer has never convinced me because there are absolute differences in nature between man and animals. One of the examples is that man has conscience and man desires justice. So I can never accept the “fact” we learned in school that we are from animals, and then who are we? Where can I find

the truth? Another struggle and despair that I had was that I had been trying my best to abide by the ethic rules that I was taught at school and observed from my parents when I was little, but I noticed I failed sometimes even if in my heart I wanted to make things right or to do good deeds, and I just didn't have the ability or I was too weak to do so. For example, I knew that it is wrong to throw one's temper easily, but I did anyway under certain circumstances. Whenever it happened, a sense of guilt or regret would arise from within, but with the hope that I could do better next time. Then I failed, again. Life seemed like a constant battle of hoping to make things right with being unable to do so. Was there any hope to win the battle? But that was not all. What was worse was that sometimes I even didn't know or realize that I was doing something wrong because the world moral values were changing from time to time. Meanwhile looking at a bigger picture from what I learned in history class and from the news around, there are killings, murdering and war all over the world and all through history. How could man be so cruel? Was there any hope in man? Political science class seemed to bring a glimpse of hope to the darkness by stating that in the future when materials were abundantly supplied, there would be no wars; people could love each other and live in harmony; greed would be gone and people could just take what they would need. Was that true? With all the questions and confusions in mind, and frustrations of falling and failing in life, I started to seek the answers. But philosophies didn't give me an answer; discussing with friends didn't help. I felt I was just like a blind man living in a dark room, and a lost sheep wandering in a lost world.

A few years later with some changes in life, I decided to pursue more education in America. After passing all the tests, I was accepted by East Tennessee State University in Tennessee. Hearing this good news, I felt the dawn of light was shining on me. Just one month before I left for America, one

of my colleagues came to see me and started talking about "Jesus, God's love, gospel, etc." I didn't understand what she was talking about, but I thought it must be some kind of religion. So I told her that I was sorry for not having time to know more about this religion because I was leaving for America soon. Again, I put God aside. I was seeking the truth, but when God heard my cry and came to look for me, I even didn't recognize His grace; instead my life was too occupied with the worldly pursuit. However, God has never forgotten me or given up on me. He has prepared a spiritual home ahead for me where I would meet Him so that my eyes could be open and no longer had I to wander like a lost sheep.

A few months later after arriving at ETSU in August 2000, I met some Christian sisters and brothers, and then was brought to Central Baptist Church (CBC) one Sunday. Sitting at the Sanctuary I heard the very first sermon about Christ and His love in my life. Although I didn't understand what the pastor was talking about, the message struck my heart. It was so different from what I had known and learnt before. The message together with a few beautiful hymns refreshed my soul. The Sanctuary at CBC was like a magnet drawing my heart to it, and I looked forward to Sundays to be there and hear more. Not only coming to church on Sundays, I was also blessed to be brought to the Chinese Fellowship (later became Chinese Church of the Greater Tri-cities) on Fridays to have Bible studies. A lot of words in Bible were hard to believe at the beginning, and that was because I was trying to use my human understanding and knowledge to explain, but with time the more I knew about Jesus, the more I felt He is not from this earth. He speaks with power, authority, wisdom, mercy and love, which cannot be found among men and in this world. So the more I was expose to the word of God, the more I realized that I had been so ignorant trying to understand the infinite God with my limited human brain as to who God is and what He

can do. Anything that seems impossible or illogic with man is possible with God. After about two years of Bible study, I came to the epiphany --- the answers that I had been seeking for years were found in Jesus. Jesus is the living God in human flesh so that we can know God and His love. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life" (John 14:6). Jesus came to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery sight for the blind (Isaiah 61:1). That was one of the Aha moments in my life when I found Jesus. His light expelled the darkness in my life, and His Spirit opened my eyes to the truth, and His truth set me free.

**Man is created in the image of God.** Genesis 1:27 says God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. When God formed Adam--- the first man, from the dust of the ground, He breathed into his nostrils of the breath of life, and Adam became a living being. When man dies, his physical body formed of dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it (Ecclesiastes 12:7). So man is not a product of evolution, nor a living being by accident. God is the creator of life and the source of all. God gave man His own characteristics in His creation and He crowned man with glory and honor (Psalm 8:5). No wonder man is able to create, rich in emotion, enjoys freedom, has free will longs for justice, loves holiness, and so on. Moreover, God also set eternity in the hearts of men (Ecclesiastes 3:11). That eternity is God Himself, and for man being with God is the eternal life. That explains why man has tried all through history to find satisfaction in materials, education, fame, social status, power, sex and many other idols, but in the end none of these can fill their hearts for their longings. That also explains why in my early twenties I felt the emptiness in my heart. Nothing can truly satisfy the heart of man other than God Himself. He creates us in love and for fellowship with Him by giving us His own breath, or His spirit, so longing to be with Him is

the thirst from our hearts, and the love for God and the fellowship with Him is the source of satisfaction for man. God's word reveals the truth to me and gives me the answer as to who I am: I am created in the image of God. God is the Creator who gives me life and breath. He and only He can fill the empty spot in my heart. My life has a purpose here during this limited tens of years---to love my God and to glorify my God. And when this life journey comes to an end, my spirit will return to God and I'll be with my God, my Creator forever. What a joy of knowing the identity, the purpose and the destiny of life! This joy is more than that when an orphan finds his parents and knows where he belongs. This is a heavenly joy.

**The image of God in man is marred by sin.** God is good and God is love. Since man is created in the image of God, how can man fail to be good all the time? How can man be so evil and brutal in their thoughts or acts? Where is the image of God when man is committing evil?

How can evil deeds come from man whom God created for good? There is an argument whether man is good or evil by birth. Bible gives me the answer. When God created Adam, God in His own image created a perfect man with free will, so man is good by that birth. However, When God gave Adam a command with warning in Genesis 2:17, Adam and Eve didn't trust God but used their free will to disobey God. Their act of disobedience to God is sin. Sin entered the world through one man-Adam (Roman5:12), and all the man born of blood and flesh have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans3:23). In that sense, man is evil by birth due to sin. Sin mars the image of God in man; sin separates man from Holy God; sin blinds the heart's eye of man; sin makes man become his own god; sin delusions man to pursue anything else for satisfaction other than the Creator who gives life; sin entices man to follow the world and go against God's will; sin leads man to death. Sin becomes a master of our lives. This Biblical truth answered my questions as to why there is evil and war in the world. That is ,



because sin mastered the world. This is a typical picture of the world without God: man has become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, and ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them (Romans 1:29-32). I also found the answers to my struggles and frustrations in Romans 7:18, 19 "I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I can't carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do---this I keep on doing". Why can't I do things right when I desire to do good? Because I was born of being a sinner and I can't save myself from sinning. Sin is a serious matter of life and death.

**The image of God in man is restored through Jesus Christ.** God created a perfect man in His image, but sin marred the image of God in man. None is immune to sin for it is something we are born with. Since no one can save himself from sinning and no one can save others, either. Will God let go of His creation and allow man to live their evil ways? Will God allow sin to eternally separate man from Him? Where is hope for the sinful man since the just and holy God will judge sin? John 3:16-17 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. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him". Thanks be to God! God Himself has prepared a way for man to go back to Him, a way to restore the relationship with Him. The way is Jesus Christ, who is the Lamb of God, and He is the only way. God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us,

so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (The Chinese character for righteousness is written as 義, a lamb on top of me). On the cross Jesus said "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). His crucifixion satisfied the righteous wrath and judgment of God on sin. Jesus paid all our debts once for all. But His salvation didn't stop in the grave; Jesus resurrected from the grave with a glorious body. His resurrection conquered sin and death. Through Jesus the gap is bridged between the Holy God and the sinful man; through Jesus the wall is torn down that has separated the sinners from the just God; through Jesus reconciliation is brought between the righteous God and the corrupted man; through Jesus the lost man is able to come back to his heavenly Father with confidence; through Jesus all the sins are forgiven by the merciful God; through Jesus man is no longer a slave to sin; through Jesus man will have eternal life with his Creator; through Jesus the image of God in man is restored. " Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade---kept in heaven for you" (1Peter 1:3). This is the gospel from heaven; this is the salvation from our Savior; and this is the hope from our Redeemer for us hopeless sinners. All we need to do is to simply come to God, and surrender to His salvation through Jesus Christ by repenting our sins, acknowledging who He is, and believing Him.

God's love and mercy is so great that I cannot fathom with my limited understanding and perception. All I know is that by His grace I am saved through faith in Christ. Christ died for my sins so that I can be forgiven, and I can be cleansed by His precious blood; He rose again from the grave so that I can live in His victory over sin and death. This is the amazing grace from my God---an

unconditional and sacrificial love for a wicked sinner like me. This is a new life promised from my Savior---a life full of peace, joy, hope and light for a lost soul like me.

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). I thank my God, my Lord for finding me, opening my eyes, bringing me back to His way, giving me a new identity---a child of God, clothing me with His righteousness, and thus saving me from eternal destruction. "He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake" (Psalms23:3). Praise be to God, Creator of all, Redeemer of souls. All glory and honor be to Him!

Make a choice. Out of His great love God gave Adam and Eve the free will to make a choice of trusting and obeying Him, or distrusting and disobeying Him, but they failed to make the right one. In the same



way God, out of His grace, gives each of us the free will to choose to believe Him or not---that is a choice between being with Him or being without Him; a choice between loving Him or loving the world; a choice between worshiping Him or worshiping the idols; a choice between living in the light or living in the darkness; a choice between the eternal life or the eternal death, and the choice is ours to make.