



# 溪邊的樹

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## 受浸見證

從五月中旬到教會查經，到現在受洗，算來只有短短四個來月。回顧自己的信仰歷程，曾經多年堅信無神，幾年前開始相信有神，今年三月從上海回來前還拜佛。在我一向重視思考的情況下，短時間裡轉變這麼大，自己從沒想到。

我出生於一個醫生家庭，上面有哥哥姐姐。父母都曾是工作單位中的幹部，也都是無神論者。我母親在十來年前開始去當地的教會，因我那時已經到了美國，對我的影響不大。我從小好學，一直到去清華大學、Purdue University 和後來的 INSEAD 讀書，還有在不同領域做不同的工作，都是如此。在多年的學習和工作中我早已習慣了認真思考，大事上尤其如此。

在信仰上，大陸的無神論我也學得很好，因而也讓我在很長時間裡排斥宗教。小時候聽過讀過很多鬼神故事，晚上走路也會害怕，但都很容易用心理因素解釋過去了。因為從來沒有系統地讀過和宗教有關的書，斷章取義看到的點點滴滴也好像都可以用無神論來解釋，所以一直都相信宗教的確是騙人的。剛到 Purdue 時也被邀去讀聖經，但根本無法接受罪的概念或創造論；自己堂堂正正，勤奮學習工作，也愛幫助別人，為什麼非要说有罪呢？那時經常提難題，別人答不出，心裡就又覺得無神論才是真理。當時有個室友是佛教徒，她和我說過，“伏明，你一身正氣，鬼神都會敬你的。”我就更不在意了，就算是有神，佛教好像也更有道理。畢竟“善有善報”更符合我的價值觀和願望。

從鐵桿無神論者變成有神論者的轉變過程大多數都是被動和痛苦的，因為會有不得不經歷和承認有鬼神存在的歷程。我的轉變發生在 2005 年。當時因為工作上觸到了“Glass Ceiling”，就申請別組的工作。得到後，卻在老闆和大老闆勸說下留下來，結果很快被“穿小鞋”，和老闆的關係也開始緊張，有一段時間非常不順利和鬱悶。期間做過噩夢，有一週末還在家裡發現手心莫名其妙出現一滴水。在邏輯推理都失效後，病急亂投醫中試了試古老的辟邪辦法——在門上貼鏡子。奇怪的是，這些不平安的現象和緊張的感覺都消失了，雖然貼之前並不相信它真會起作用。這讓我徹底相信有靈界，而且不管自身多正，都有可能被侵襲。這經歷如此不愉快和令人害怕，以前我總努力把它忘掉。直到幾星期前和查經班同學說起自己為什麼相信有神時才又重新提起，說的時候心裡還是很不自在，有些害怕。

這個轉變把我向佛教領進一步。我的一個朋友很信佛教，也精通易經，對人的過往甚至出生前的事都測得很準，靈驗的該是真的吧。2008 年初我從 INSEAD MBA 畢業後加入英國醫藥公司 AstraZeneca，被派回上海工作兩年。期間沒能靜下心來讀點佛經，但遇見廟宇都要拜一拜。

外派任期將滿之前，公司想繼續留我在上海。由於厭倦了內部不斷的政治鬥爭和經常被人當靶子，同時也相信兩位佛家大師說我今年應該很順利的預言，所以我選擇辭職回奧蘭多。當時 Siemens 有一個我很合適也很喜歡的工作等著做面試，有兩個總監推薦，和招人經理都聯繫得不錯，看起來的確會很順利。但是三月底回來後，我長大以來最不順利的事接二連三發生了。先是 Siemens 的工作被移到德國，接着我又在車禍中受傷，當時后腰的劇痛讓我非常恐懼會癱瘓。在急診室候診時，人在劇痛中還是不能動，但恐懼卻一點一點消失了，好像有神在寬慰一般。檢查結果確認只有兩腳受傷，且是輕傷。如釋重負之下，我想如果真有神護佑的話，該不是佛教的神，可能是基督了，等自己可以開車後要去教會，去感謝祂也認識祂。

在考慮去哪個教會的過程中，真體會到神引導的奇妙。我有個至好的朋友在 Hartford，一起進 Purdue 的，信主多年，是很虔誠的姊妹。通過她我和從她們教會出去，現在在三藩市的章承紅姊妹聯繫上，因為對承紅公司的一兩個工作感興趣，希望她給我做內部推薦，但絕沒想到她會成為我認識主早期最重要的引導人。我以前無神論太堅決了，以至於好朋友可能都沒信心我會轉變。但承紅很執著，在我最想認識主時給我發了很多針對我背景的資料，分享了她和其他人的見證，對我觸動很大。她的經歷非常獨特，但絕對不能用幻覺來解釋，就如我不能用幻覺來解釋當初我的奇怪經歷一樣，所以我相信她的見證。她為我聯繫了丁老師，還千里迢迢寄聖經給我，讓我剛好趕上第一次來這裡查經。她很早就邀我參加七月底的西岸基督徒特會(WCCC)，在七月初確信自己不再猶疑耶穌是真正的救主後，我報名參加了。和她、她先生和她女兒在洛杉磯見面時，我感到無比高興和親切。

通過丁老師和 Gloria，我五月上旬開始參加查經。當時只是抱著尋求的想法，結果可能是相信，也可能是徹底否定。在 Purdue 時，我的心是否定的；當我開始用開放的心態去讀和思考時，才認識到自己以前是多麼的無知和狂妄，更意識到無知狂妄其實也是一種罪。以前深信基督教是假的時候，我連一本福音書都沒讀過。但真正開始讀聖經就越讀越喜歡，尤其是新約。除了屬靈上讓我進步飛快之外，我還覺得它堪稱一本個人和事業成功指南。裡面有不少積極成熟的做人道理，自己花了多年才參悟，但聖經裡幾千年前就寫好了。如果早讀的話，過去就會少走許多彎路。認知和行為也有了許多改變，比方說“順服”，以前我是不愿的，現在慢慢體會到為什麼在神眼里和在生活中是一個重要的美德了。這裡也要特別感謝多位弟兄姊妹，在查經時為我解疑答惑，助益很大。

但是對我來說，最大的兩個難題仍是創造論和耶穌是不是真神。以前一定要找個直截了當又讓我心服口服的答案；而對於這樣千古爭論不休的大問題，這樣的答案是沒有的。這方面，間接的論證對我起了作用。保羅和彼得在耶穌復活升天後幾十年內奔波不息傳道，最後賠上性命，建教功勳不可磨滅。尤其保羅，本來不遺餘力迫害耶穌和門徒，卻在後幾十年赴湯蹈火，甘受迫害和艱辛來為祂傳道。如果他不相信耶穌真的死而復活，如果他不相信耶穌真的是那位彌賽亞、是真神，如果他不相信他所作的會在天國裡得到極大的獎賞，他不會有這麼天翻地覆的改變。保羅非常有知識，我很喜歡新約裡他寫的十幾本書。其中有流傳千古的名句，很早就讀過，但不知道是聖經裡的，更不知道是保羅這樣一個人寫的。過去幾個月為了探尋答案，我還讀了幾本針對爭議問題的書，其中一本是否定基督教的，但並未否認保羅的存在和工作。這對於我要做出判斷就足夠了。和保羅相比，我有什麼資質、什麼理由，說他相信的、他所獻身的是立於盲目虛幻的基礎上呢？

餘下的是創造論。期間我看了兩本辯論創造論和進化論關係的書，我相信自己找到了答案，它們之間的表面矛盾不再困擾我，我也確信創造論是真實的。這時大約是七月初了。完成整個認

識上的轉變我花了大約兩個月時間。日曆上很短，但回顧其中為了解疑所付出的時間和精力，則遠超過一般兩個月正常學習所付出的努力。

現在回頭看，我不能不相信這是主的安排，祂把迷途的我從地球另一邊召回到祂身邊。如果當初選擇留在上海，為了在公司裡好好發展，我一定會做妥協，就很可能越陷越深，無法自拔。不但會離神越來越遠，而且會在無窮盡的物慾裡迷失掉。我覺得自己就像歌里的那個狂妄無知的可憐蟲，有幸得到主的奇異恩典。曾經迷失過，現在回來了。

最後還要特別感謝神把我引導到這個教會。過去十來年我也偶爾去過幾個其他教會，但心理上從沒有覺得貼近過。在這裡我看到了真心侍奉主的弟兄姊妹、為主的見證和所彰顯的真善美。你們為我樹立了很好的榜樣，也為我屬靈上的成長提供了很多動力。在主的引導下，我盼望也像你們一樣，準備好自己，跑好以後當跑的路。

感謝主把我領回家。

(伏明 9/26/2010)

## **Baptism Testimony**

From beginning to attend Bible study in May to being ready for baptism now, it took me only a short 4 months. Reflecting upon my journey of faith, I could not have imagined that I have gone through such a dramatic change in such a short time, especially as I have always valued critical thinking. For many years I had been a firm atheist. A few years ago I started to believe there was a spiritual world. And half a year ago I still worshipped Buddha in Shanghai.

Being the youngest among siblings, I was born in a doctor's family in Mainland China. My parents were both leaders in their organizations and naturally atheists. My mother started going to church more than ten years ago. However, that didn't affect me much as I was already in the States. I enjoyed learning, and this learning curiosity stayed with me wherever I went and whatever I studied; e.g. going to Tsinghua, Purdue and then to INSEAD. Decades of learning and working has trained me well to think, and think critically, especially for big decisions.

I learned atheism pretty well back in school too. And for many years it made me push religion away without giving it a second thought. Like others I heard and read stories about ghosts and Gods, and was always afraid when walking in dark at night. However, everything was easily explained away through psychological factors. I never read a complete book on religion, but atheism seemed to be able to explain everything heard too. Therefore I had always believed religion was a big lie. In my first semester at Purdue, I was invited to Bible Study. However, there was no way for me to accept the concept of sin or creation. I had always tried to walk right, work hard, be helpful to others, why am I still a sinner? With such dissent, I often raised controversial questions, then privately confirmed that atheism was the real truth. My Buddhist roommate once told me, "Ming, because of your integrity, all spiritual beings would respect

you.” So I thought even if any religion might be true, it should be Buddhism, because it fitted more with my values and hopes.

From a die-hard atheist to a theist, the change is usually forced therefor painful because of having to experience and acknowledge the existence of a spiritual world. For me it happened in 2005 after I hit a glass ceiling at Siemens. For quite some time I was depressed and distressed. I had nightmares; over one weekend at home I even found a drop of water in my palm, which couldn't be explained by logic at all. Being troubled I decided to try an old Chinese remedy to drive away evil spirits, if indeed there was any. I fixed mirrors on the front and back doors. Surprisingly all the nightmares and uneasy things were gone. This experience made me completely believe there was a spiritual world. Regardless of a person's integrity, it is always possible of being harassed. The event was so troublesome that I always tried to forget it.

However, this experience didn't lead me to Christ, it lead me to Buddha instead, by the influence of a Buddhist friend. After graduating from INSEAD, I joined AstraZeneca in early 2008 and was sent to Shanghai for 2 years. During the period, I worshipped the gods whenever I came across a Buddhist temple.

When my expatriate assignment was about to end, the company wanted to keep me in Shanghai. Tired of the endless internal politics and frequently being a target, and believing that this would be a prosperous year for me as prophesized by two well-respected Buddhists, I chose to resign and came back to Orlando. At that time there was also a job opening in Siemens, which fitted me very well. With the recommendations from two Directors and the ongoing contact with the hiring manager, everything looked promising as predicted. However, after coming back to Orlando in late March, the worst things since I grew up happened to me one after another. First the Siemens job position was moved to Germany. A few days later I was injured in a severe car accident. My lower back was so painful that I was terrified of becoming paralyzed. While waiting in the emergency room, however, my terror faded little by little, almost like some unseen power was lifting my fear away. The examinations confirmed only minor foot injuries. Greatly relieved, I thought if I were indeed blessed by God, then He shouldn't be Buddha, might be Christ instead. I decided that I should go to church to thank and seek Him after I could drive again.

I started to really realize how wonderful God's guidance was while searching for a church. One of my best friends in Hartford introduced me to Sister Chenghong Zhang in San Francisco for some other reason. Chenghong sent many materials targeting people with similar background of mine, shared testimonies of herself and some other people. Her unique testimony touched me a lot, which couldn't be dismissed as hallucinations, just as my once strange experience couldn't; therefore I believed in her experience. She contacted Brother Ting for me, and mailed me a new Bible from faraway, just in time for my first Bible study. She also invited me to attend West Coast Christian Conference. In early July after confirming with myself that I no longer had doubt about Jesus Christ, I registered to attend the conference. I was so happy when finally meeting her and her family in person.

With the help from Brother Ting and Sister Gloria, I attended Bible study in early May. My heart was open, and I started to realize how ignorant and arrogant I was before, which were sins, too. I never read through any gospel when rejecting Christianity before. But after I started, the more I read, the more I like Bible, especially books in New Testament. In addition to spiritual learning, I feel the Bible can be as helpful as a “personal and professional success guide” for daily life. If I had read earlier the many wisdoms in Bible, I could have had much less detour in

the past. The learning also changed my behavior, e.g., I agreed “obedience” as an essential virtue in life and required by God. Hereby I also would like to thank many brothers and sisters who have helped me so much with my difficult questions.

Two most difficult issues remained for me—creation and whether Jesus Christ is the only true God. Years ago only simple and straightforward answers could satisfy me; however, I now realized that such answers didn’t really exist for big questions like these. I went for indirect search and answers. Paul and Peter spent decades to preach the good news after Jesus was resurrected and ascended to heaven, going through extreme hardship and eventually sacrificing their lives to the establishment of Christianity. Paul in particular had been someone actively persecuting Jesus and his disciples, but turning into one taking great sufferings for Jesus. If he hadn’t believed that Jesus died but was resurrected, if he hadn’t believed that Jesus was the Messiah and the true God, if he hadn’t believed that what he did would bring him great reward in heaven, he wouldn’t have changed so much. Paul was a great intellect; I love the books written by him in New Testament. Some verses are timeless and known to me even back in China, however, I didn’t know they were from Bible, nor written by someone named Paul. In the past months while searching for answers, I had read some books focusing on controversial topics, one denied God and Christianity, but didn’t deny Paul’s existence and his work. This is good enough for me to draw a conclusion. Compared to Paul, what qualifications or evidence do I have to say that what he believed and devoted himself to was total illusions?

For creation, I read through two books to understand the relationship between creation and evolution. I think I found the answer, and the seeming difference between the two doesn’t bother me anymore. I believed God created the world at the beginning. It was about early July by this time, and it took me about two months to resolve the major questions. It is very short on calendar. However, the time and effort I spent were much greater than what a two-month study normally would require.

Reflecting upon the past, I have to believe that this is the arrangement by the Lord. He brought a lost me back from the other side of the earth. If I had chosen to stay in Shanghai, to thrive in the company, no doubt I would make compromises. But then I could be trapped further and no way out. I would become further and further away from God, and be completely lost in the endless pursuit of this material world. I felt that I was just like the wretch in “Amazing Grace”, God’s grace touched me. I was lost, but now am found.

Lastly I would like to extend my special thanks to this church. I had sporadically been to several churches in the past, but never felt attached. Here I have seen brothers and sisters earnestly serving the Lord, and the truth, kindness and beauty through your behavior. You are an inspiration to me and have helped me with my spiritual growth. Under the Lord’s guidance, I hope to prepare myself well, and run a good course just like you.

Thank the Lord again for bringing me home.

(Ming Fu Sept. 26, 2010)