



# 溪邊的樹 November & December 2010

中華教會 Orlando Chinese Church

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## 主定規我們的道路

耶利米 10:23 “耶和華啊！我曉得人的道路不由自己，行路的人也不能定自己的腳步。”

我一直很羨慕有些弟兄姊妹在主前的信心，他們一聽見主的呼召，就放下一切跟隨。還記得有位王弟兄曾在我們中間作他蒙召的見證：有一年他來奧蘭多出差，晚上一個人在旅館準備開會所需要的資料。神讓他看見一條通天道路的異象，同時呼召他往中國去服事民工。弟兄和他姊妹交通以後不久，就放下美國的一切，全家大小帶著兩個行李回中國服事主了。我羨慕弟兄這麼大的信心。如果今晚你們想聽這樣的見證，可能要失望了。我也羨慕 Owen 弟兄，把自己單純的交給主，免去許多不必要的掙扎，這是神無比的恩典。弟兄們要我來有點交通，我感覺自己在神面前像是個臨陣打退堂鼓的逃兵。

好幾年前，心中就常有感動，裏面有聲音：「你在這裏作什麼？為什麼浪費你的生命呢？」我就想到摩西在詩篇九十篇的話，人一生年日是七十歲，強壯的可以活到八十。公司退休年紀是六十歲，如果神允許我活到七十歲，只剩下十年時間，可以好好服事主。但信主這麼多年，神的話一直沒有下夠工夫去讀，如果扣掉好好在神前讀經的時間，就沒有多少日子可以服事神了，而這聲音一直在我裏面。最後只好到神面前去禱告、辦交涉，神啊！如果祢讓我工作到五十五歲，我就提早退休，好好服事祢。現在回想起來，原來裏面還有一個雅各的本性沒放掉。神啊！我對祢還是不夠信靠，還想要抓一些可以看見的東西。

感謝主的憐憫，讓我作到五十五歲。我應該就照著在神面前的承諾退休、去服事主了！於是去和我姊妹交通、說：我告訴主，五十五歲我要退休，好好服事主。她說：老大還在唸大學，老二今年要上大學，老三還在高中，我們沒有這麼大的信心。這下責任不在我了，所以我對神說，「我是願意服事祢，但我姊妹說不。祢說：夫妻二人要同心才能同行，如果祢要我服事祢，得先說服她才行。」

我五十五歲以前，在公司作事，基本上沒多大問題。希奇的是，五十五歲那年，神給我換了個工作。我從來沒有過任何工作、像這個工作的限期那樣緊湊，計劃如此混亂。從那時開始，工作上許多難處，使我深深感到，就像以色列百姓在埃及，法老要他們作磚，

卻不給他們草，還要按時按數交上。心中兩個感覺，一個是難，一個是苦：難是要常常加班，苦是，法老打在身上的鞭子越來越重。

記得有一次，弟兄們交通教會服事的事情，丁弟兄說：看目前教會的情況和需要，你們這些快要到退休年紀的，要好好到神面前禱告，尋求神的旨意。算算年紀，可以退休的弟兄，只有兩個，我是其中一個，好像弟兄那句話是對著我說的。希奇的呢、Owen 弟兄又跟了一句話，「自從我辭職全時服事神後，讀聖經比以前更得著亮光。」心想、這就是我在神面前所需要的。那天晚上回家以後，和我姊妹交通，好像神藉著弟兄向我說話。所以我們一起跪下來禱告，把自己再一次奉獻給神，對主說：「不論祢怎樣帶領我們前面的路，我們都願意順從、跟隨，只願神的旨意成全。」雖然這樣禱告了，但心中還是有點保留，「請等我們老二大學畢業了，再讓我退休吧！」就在我沒有工作前那個主日，Owen 弟兄問我工作的情形如何？我還說、等我們家老二大學畢業了，好稍微輕鬆一點。

是的！我們在神面前非常軟弱，常常變來變去，但神不忘記！就在那個禮拜，一天下午，經理電話叫我去他辦公室、說：現在經濟情況不好，公司正在裁員，所以你沒有工作了。我聽了非常訝異，因為那時工作正忙，我已經連續加班幾個星期，趕著在寫幾篇報告。就問經理：還有許多工作等着需要作完，你為什麼告訴我沒有工作呢！他一句話都答不出來，坐在旁邊管人事部門的人就說：其實我們是在幫你，你已經到了提早退休的年紀，可以得到按公司年資所應得的服務獎金。我一聽，心中完全明白了：這不是神答應了你自己的禱告嗎？只是沒想到答應來的這麼快！但心中很平安，當天就把離職和退休的手續辦好。回家後，把我姊妹和老三叫來，告訴他們、從明天開始，我不用上班了。突然我姊妹喊了一聲「哈利路亞」說、「你以前工作不忙的時候，公司沒讓你走；現在你最忙的時候，公司要你走，這不是神聽了你的禱告嗎？」我一聽！心裏滿了感謝，神再一次給我一個印證，讓我們夫妻有同一個看見，可以好好的一起來服事主。我們也跟孩子交通這件事情，感謝神！孩子們都非常諒解。也因為這件事，我們在孩子身上，確實看見神在開始工作，實在是神極大的恩典。

這一陣子，我常和我姊妹一起數算神的恩典。這麼多年來，我們在這裏和弟兄姊妹一起聚會，一同服事，神沒有讓我們家動一下。這並不是說我們比別人有什麼強的地方；相反的，我們比弟兄姊妹更軟弱，神知道，動不得我們。若是、神動我們一下，我們就倒了。我們都清楚、也承認，如果這件事發生在五、六年前，我們不知道我們家會發生什麼變化。也不知道，今天我們還在不在這裏和弟兄姊妹一起聚會。神知道我們承受不起，一直等到現在，這是神極大的憐憫。祂知道我們信心是如何的軟弱，所以不論是時間上、或是許多事務上，神都為我們預備。把我們心裏的一些害怕，把我們心裏的一些憂愁，替我們除去。也讓我們學了一個最寶貴的功課，就是我們這位神是可以依賴的。許多弟兄姊妹知道這件事，都來恭喜我們；我們知道這只不過是我們的開學典禮。因為前面還有很長的一段路，要和弟兄姊妹一起學習、一同配搭、一起服事我們的主。但願主在我們中間的見證更明亮、更榮美。請弟兄姊妹特別為此與我們一同禱告。

一切榮耀都歸給我們的神！

(蘇弟兄)

弟兄姊妹平安！我覺得自己實在是不配在眾人面前作見證，因為一切都是出於神的恩典與憐憫。我自己是非常軟弱和小信的，就像剛才弟兄所分享的。當弟兄有感動時，我們就為這件事禱告；但因我的小信，我求主在環境上給我一個印証，只是沒想到主成就得這麼快。當時我自己倒覺得很平安，因為知道是出於主的時間，主一定會帶領的。但另外一方面，我心裏卻又戰兢恐懼，覺得自己何等不配，但是神卻用慈愛呼召我，來事奉祂這位永生的神、愛我們的主。

再者，神的話也提醒我「丈夫是妻子的頭」，「夫妻二人要同心，才能同行。」

回想這麼多年，主在我們家的帶領，我們一一數算神的恩典，實在無法數算得清。主的看顧、主的供應，也沒有間斷過。我更感謝主，在這裡給我一個溫暖的屬靈家庭，讓我們在主的話語和主的恩典中，一起學習、成長，也和弟兄姊妹一起配搭服事。求主繼續帶領我們前面的路，讓我們行在主的旨意中，討主的喜悅。也更求主賜福給祂的教會。

請弟兄姊妹繼續為我們禱告，把一切感謝、讚美、和榮耀都歸給主。

(蘇姊妹)

## **The Lord Directs Our Steps**

Jeremiah 10:23 “I know, O Lord, that a man’s life is not his own; it is not for man to direct his steps.”

I always envy the faith of some brothers and sisters in our Lord. Once they heard His calling, they just gave up everything to follow Him. I still remember the testimony given by Brother Wang – During a trip to Orlando many years ago, one night he was preparing materials for next day’s meeting in his hotel room . Then God showed him the vision of a heavenly path, and called him to serve in China. Shortly after, Brother Wang gave up everything in the US, taking the whole family to China to serve the Lord with only few luggage with them. I truly envy his great faith. If tonight you want to hear some experience like this, you might be disappointed. I also envy Brother Owen, who simply submitted himself to the Lord completely without any struggle, which is truly grace from the Lord. As to me, I feel more like a soldier wanting to flee from the battle-field.

Several years ago I started being touched by a voice in my heart: “What are you doing here? Why waste your life?” In Psalms 90 Moses said, “The length of our days is seventy years – or eighty, if we have the strength.” Corporate retirement age is 60, if God allows me to live till 70 years old, then there will be only 10 years left to serve the Lord. Although I have been saved for

many years, I haven't spent much time in reading God's words. If deducting the time for making up the readings, then there is little time left for me to serve my Lord. This voice kept echoing in my heart, and finally I had to pray to the Lord and negotiated: "O Lord! If you allow me to work till 55 years old, I will retire early to serve you wholeheartedly." Reflecting this experience it was clear that there was still a "Jacob" in me. O God! I didn't trust you enough then, and even now still want to pursue more visible things.

Thanks to God's mercy, I was still working when turning 55. Following my promise before the Lord, I should have retired to serve Him! So I discussed it with my wife. She said: "Our first child is still attending college, the second is going to college this year, and the third is still in high school, we can't afford it." Well, now the responsibility was not mine any more. So I prayed to the Lord again: "I am willing to serve you, but my wife said no. You have told us that husband and wife should have one mind together. If you want me to serve you, she must be persuaded first."

Before turning 55, I had never had big issues in work. Surprisingly God moved me to another position after I turned 55, and I had never had any job so stressful and chaotic due to poor planning. I started to feel unprecedented difficulties at work, just like the Israelites in Egypt. From the bottom of my heart I felt both difficulty and bitterness. Difficulty was because of having to work overtime frequently; bitterness was because Pharaoh's whip had become heavier and heavier.

I recall once during a meeting of serving brothers, Brother Ting said, "Considering current church's situation and needs, those of you near retirement should pray earnestly before the Lord to seek His guidance." Looking around, I saw only two brothers who could retire, one being myself. I felt that Brother Ting's words were really meant for me. Amazingly Brother Owen followed Brother Ting a while later, saying "Ever since I resigned to serve the Lord full time, I feel seeing more light than ever when reading the Bible." So I thought, "This is what I need before the Lord." That night after going home I told my wife that it was as if the Lord was speaking to me through the brothers. So we knelt down and prayed, submitted ourselves to God again, "No matter how You will direct our steps, we are willing to obey and follow You. Just let Your will be done." Although we prayed so, there was still some reservation. "God please let me retire after our second child finishes college!" Right on the Sunday before losing the job, when Brother Owen asked how my work was going, I still told him that I would take a break after our second child finishes college.

Indeed we are weak before God. We change our minds back and forth frequently. However, God doesn't forget! One afternoon the following week, my manager called me to his office, and told me that "due to the bad economy, the company is now reducing workforce, so you don't have a job any longer." I was really shocked. My job was very demanding at that time, I had been working overtime for several weeks, and was in the middle of finishing several reports. So I asked him, "While there are so many tasks to be done, why do you tell me that I don't have a job any longer?" He couldn't answer at all. The HR staff sitting next to him then said to me, "Actually we are helping you out. You have reached early retirement age, and you are entitled to all the service bonus based on your length of service in the company." I understood right away: this is the answer God has for me, although it arrived much faster than expected! My heart was filled with peace, and I finished all the separation and retirement paperwork on that same day. After getting home, I called my wife and our third child together, telling them that I didn't need to go to work any more starting the next day. All the sudden my wife shouted "Hallelujah!" and

said: “The company kept you when there was little to do, now they asked you to leave when you are so hands full, isn’t it that God has listened to your prayers?” My heart was full of gratitude after hearing these words, God had just given me another sign that as husband and wife we now had met in one mind to serve the Lord. We also thank the Lord that the children all understood it when we told them. This showed me that God had been working on our children indeed.

Recently, my wife and I have often counted the blessings God has given us. We have been attending and serving the church for many years in the past, and God didn’t touch us even a little bit. This is not to say that we are stronger or better than others. On the contrary, we are much weaker. God knows that we couldn’t take any challenge and would have fallen if He did bring one. We both know and acknowledge that if this event had happened 5 or 6 years earlier, we wouldn’t know what to do. God knew we couldn’t take it, so He waited until now. This is His great mercy. He knows how weak our faith is, so He removed all the fears and sorrows. He taught us the most valuable lesson that He our God is always trustworthy. Many brothers and sisters congratulated us after learning the news, but we know this is really just the beginning of our school days. There is a long way to go for us to study and labor together with brothers and sisters to serve our Lord. May the testimony of our Lord become brighter and more glorious among us. We ask brothers and sisters to pray for us.

All glory be to the Lord!

(Brother Su)

Peace to you, Brothers and sisters! I feel so unworthy before so many people, because everything is by God’s grace and mercy. I myself am very weak and my faith is small, just like what my husband has shared. When he was first touched, we had prayed for this matter. However, because of my small faith I asked for a sign from the Lord. Only I didn’t expect that He would have answered so fast. But I was at peace then, since I knew it’s His arrangement and He would lead our steps. On the other hand, I was somehow fearful in my heart, knowing how unworthy I am, yet still called to serve Him, the everlasting God, the loving Lord.

Furthermore, God’s words also remind me that “The husband is the head of the wife.” and “Two shall walk together in one accord.”

Reviewing what God has led our family through in the past years, God’s blessings have been so many that we couldn’t count them all. The Lord has never failed in protecting and supplying us. I thank the Lord even more for giving me this warm spiritual family, so we can learn and grow together in His words and His grace, and serve together. May the Lord continue to lead us forward, so we can walk in His will to please Him. I also pray that the Lord will further bless His church.

Please do continue praying for us. To the Lord be all the thanks, praises and glory!

(Sister Su)