



# 溪邊的樹

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## 受洗見證

我叫韓鈞，去年八月從大陸來 UCF 念研究所，下飛機那一刻，根本沒想到我會信主。和很多大陸年輕人一樣，我從小受無神論教育，最愛看的書是《十萬個為什麼》【大陸流行的兒童科普圖書】。我念大學的時候，也參加過教會活動，可是對主沒有任何感覺。因為科學教我凡事要看資料和邏輯論證，而這些都證明不了主的存在。但因為對科學感興趣，我讀了不少書，發現基督教在人類歷史進程中有重要的作用，所以有興趣進一步瞭解基督教文化。在香港工作的時候，常參加教會的活動，當時覺得，去教堂有些尷尬。因為看到那麼多弟兄姊妹虔誠敬拜，如果我不莊重肅穆，就是不尊重這些弟兄姊妹；而我又不知為何要莊重肅穆。後來，一個港大女生向我傳福音。出於禮貌，我和她多聊了一會。我問她：香港有那麼多教會，我當選擇哪個加入呢？她說：那要看這教會中的弟兄姊妹結的果子怎麼樣了。和她聊完，我仍然對神沒有任何感覺。不過她說的這句話被我牢牢記在心裡。

後來，我來奧蘭多讀書，臨時被安排在李欽聖弟兄家裡住了幾天，因此有機會來到奧蘭多華人教會。我發現，這裡的弟兄姊妹是結好果子的。我想，雖然我不信神的存在，但常來這教會坐坐，不是件壞事。異國留學的生活並不容易，而我的困難，比別人還要多點。我外公在我出國前，被診斷出患癌症，在大洋彼岸，我除了擔憂，別無他法。我自己所在的系，因為經濟危機，經費不足，很多好的老師都走了，這情況，短期看來也無法改善。我女友也在美國念書，但是和我相距遙遠，在俄勒岡州。異地戀情，也很辛苦。各種各樣的壓力和困難讓我心情煩躁低沉，有段時間，甚至無法靜心讀書。這時候，我仍然沒有相信主的存在。直到一天，伏明姊妹受洗，李弟兄為她禱告，說：親愛的天父，讓我們謙卑的敬拜，把這位姊妹交在你手裡。我聽了很感動。在李弟兄看來，神是全能的那一位，他能給予人奇異的救恩。但李弟兄並沒有因為得著這救恩而洋洋得意。反而謙卑地祈求神在人心裡做工，讓人自願接受主。如果有這樣一位主存在，他必然是位慈愛的主。所幸，我在香港見過基督徒如何禱告。於是我也開始禱告。禱告真的有效。我聽到心裡有聖靈說話，帶給我心靈的平安。外公的症狀減輕了，我相信那既是因為我的禱告，也因為他自己常去教堂的緣故。後來有一次查經，講民數記，涉及到很多以色列人的節慶。在我看是挺繁瑣的知識，要講清楚，真不是輕鬆的任務。可是整個講解中，主講的敏培姊妹卻一直很喜樂。我感到非常羨慕。那個主日結束時，我就承認主耶穌為我的救主。

感謝主，我以前根本沒有任何屬靈的知識，但祂用巧妙的方式預備我的心，讓我能接受洗禮。我也深知，受洗只是開始。要想得到主那完全的生命，不能僅僅每主日去教會，扮演一個好的信徒。而是要把主的話記在心裡，和行動相對照，才能有長久的平安喜樂。也感謝中華教會眾弟兄姊妹，是你們的行動，向我顯明了神的存在。謝謝大家。請多為我禱告。

(韓鈞)

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我叫李場, 首先感謝大家參加我們的洗禮! 我很激動，很高興有機會分享我的經歷。

我是個喜歡對事物持懷疑態度的人，不輕易相信任何事，人也很難說服我。在中國的時候，接觸到的宗教知識僅僅局限於地理課本，只知道世界的三大宗教是基督教，佛教和伊斯蘭教，及西方國家過聖誕節和基督教有關。在中國能買到的聖經神話故事畫冊裏的基督和天使的形象、也都是白人的樣子，所以我當時對基督教的認識是：基督教是西方國家的宗教，跟我沒什麼關係。倒是感覺佛教跟中國人有些關係。但因身邊的佛教徒的言談舉止有些古怪，和其他人格格不入，說的話我又聽不懂，所以我沒有興趣去了解它。至於基督教，很遺憾我在中國 22 年中，沒有遇到過人為我傳福音，真正接觸基督教還是在我去英國留學的時候。由於我讀書的地方很小，當地的華人很少，傳教士都是只講英文的當地白人。那邊傳教查經都是一對一的，傳教士每周一天去我家傳道，有時候也會請我去他家做客。那個時候雖然對基督教有了初步認識，打消了我之前認為基督教只和西方人有關的觀點，但看到傳教士的家像天堂一樣豪華，而我和很多留學生卻擠在又小又臟又破的房子裏，讓我對基督教又產生了距離感。覺得它似乎屬於那些物質豐足而心靈空虛的有錢人，他們需要信仰作為精神寄托；而我這種窮人想想如何填飽肚子才更實際，認為基督教是奢侈品，窮人信不起，就放棄了基督教的學習。短短一年很快過去了，就在我即將完成學業，打算回國前的一個月，突然又有了去澳大利亞繼續深造的念頭。爸媽當時都大吃一驚，不過還是全力支持了我的決定，於是我又飛向了澳大利亞。在那裏我也去教會學習過一段時間，對基督教有了進一步的了解，也更正了曾對基督教的一些錯誤認識；但繁重的學習負擔和經濟壓力，讓我沒有時間繼續學習，最終還是放棄了。直到畢業，找到工作，也沒有想起再繼續回教會學習。本以為就這樣踏踏實實的在澳大利亞過平靜的日子，沒想到美國雷曼兄弟倒閉引發的金融危機、殃及了整個世界，我也成為了犧牲品 -- 不幸失業了。經濟差的大環境下，各公司都大量裁員，少有公司還在招人。很多經驗豐富的人都難找到工作，一個沒有經驗的畢業生，更是難上加難。長期失業讓我的心理壓力越來越大，感覺死了比活著更容易。絕望中繼續找工作為主，同時考慮繼續讀書深造為退路 **alternative**，對申請學校並沒有太認真。因為美國最適合學習，所以我只考慮來美國體驗一下這裏的學習環境，豐富一下自己的生活經歷，順便一睹傳說中的世界超級一流大國到底是什麼樣子。當時只申請了 UCF 的機械工程碩士科，覺得被錄取的希望不大，對結果持無所謂的態度——一個長期失業的單身青年，不和父母一起生活，沒房也沒車，即使被錄取，簽證通過的可能性也不大，因為我在美國沒有什麼很有力的關係。沒有想到，UCF 寄來錄取通知，來美國的簽證也順利拿到了。到美國那天，凌晨 5 點多閔寓剛弟兄去機場把我接到了 Eddie 弟兄家，我對基督徒們的感動就從那裏開始的。當天晚上，他又把我帶到了教會。一進來我就有種莫名的親切，好像走進了夢想中的世外桃源，心裏那樣平靜和喜

樂。這美好的感覺讓我總是很想再回來。於是我開始參加教會的查經和聚會，熱心研究聖經，試着印證神的存在。兩個月下來，明白了因為我們的始祖犯了罪，失去了榮耀，沒有人能夠見到祂，但是發現自己卻在這短短的兩個月裏發生了很大的變化：現在對一些事物的看法、和處理困難的方法跟以前大不一樣。在生活中依然要面對很多困難和麻煩，但我不再像以前那樣迷茫和煩躁，而能面對它們從容的處理。我意識到是主在我身上做了工。在此特別感謝易凡超弟兄和他的姊妹的幫助。雖然目前還沒法客觀地證明神的存在，但既然我能主觀地認識到祂對我的好，我寧願相信祂存在！仔細回想過去所發生的一切事情，真正意識到主在我身上的恩典，讓我一步步地通過祂的兒子慢慢的認識祂，並使我最終也成了祂的兒女。感謝主，也感謝在座幫助我認識祂的弟兄姊妹們。謝謝大家！（李瑒）

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很感謝大家在這裡、聽我見證神在我身上的工作，以及我的轉變。

2007年我能來美國完全是個神蹟。那一年我本科畢業，和三位同學懷著同樣的夢想，決定一起來美讀碩士。我們的父母們都比較放心，因為我們認識多年，都是同班同學，能一起來美在同一個學校，比較有照應。後來我們去上海簽證，除了我、他們都通過了；到現在我都還記得那次面簽，感覺仍像做了個噩夢。準備了厚厚幾疊資料，辛辛苦苦從南京坐火車到上海使館，不知是緊張、還是主安排考驗我的，輪到我面試的時候，發現自己竟然把最重要的文件夾落在後面的桌子上。哇，我當時整個人都傻了，手足無措。結果簽證官沖我搖了搖頭，說了個 sorry。回去的路上我一句話都沒有講，回到家整個人都崩潰了，哭了很久很久，一直問為什麼會是這樣？之後幾個月，我變得很低迷，每天躲在房內不願出門。想了很多，我父母都是工薪階層，他們傾囊而出，拿出所有積蓄要幫我實現我的出國夢。一簽被拒是不是老天爺暗示我，應該理智點放棄出國，踏踏實實在國內找份穩定的工作，待在父母身邊好好孝順他們？去美國也是我掙扎很久才決定的：一方面不想太自私花掉父母的積蓄；一方面又想出去開闊眼界。而父母一直鼓勵我，說再去試試，不要到時候抱憾終身。父親還帶我去特別有名的瞎子那裡算命，那人算得好準，說我第二次肯定簽成功，但必須兜里要放三片樹葉。我還真聽了，心想不就三片葉子嘛，那麼輕，帶就帶唄，又沒什麼損失。臨去二籤的幾天，我一個信佛好友喊我出去散心，誰知她帶我去了當地一個有名的寺廟，說為了保佑我二籤順利，得顯示一下我的虔誠。她帶我跑遍寺廟每個角落，包括一個十層的塔，拜遍了所有的佛，最後都站不起來了。第二次簽證果然順利，我如願的拿到了來美通行證。現在回想，這是我有生以來頭一次受這麼大的打擊，也是頭一次蒙神的恩。

到美國還在倒時差，我們就被帶到一個華人家裡參加家庭團契，第一次接觸了福音。回到宿舍睡不著，隨手翻起他們給我的小冊子，不過十分鐘就睡著了，當時覺得催眠的效果挺好的。日子好忙碌，我沒花太多時間去想信仰問題，所關心的就是好好過現實生活，讀完書回國，找份穩定的工作，嫁個好老公，照顧好爸媽。從來沒想到過死，誰都會嘛，重要是珍惜現在的每一天。

剛開始接觸基督徒覺得他們過分熱情，讓我特別害怕，會不會有什麼企圖。屬靈方面我很理性，喜歡尋根究底，不因人向我推銷就接受，反而想躲得遠遠的。來到中華教會，卻是神的帶領，我和我先生無意中走進來的。覺得好多人好得有點誇張，從幫我們搬家，我們的 Baby Shower, 再到我生病住院期間，弟兄姊妹對我及家人的愛，包括為我們的禱告。但同時我卻真的很感動，因為我切切實實感受到愛。也不知道什麼時候開始，不自覺地我會時不時的向主禱告，“主，你既然是神，你應該懂我的感受，懂我想說的話，你肯定什麼都知道。”其實我心裡早已有神，只是自己不知道而已。

我一直不主動接受洗，是因敏培姊妹和我們分享到主時會流淚。我蠻羨慕的，因為我很難找到那種切實的感覺，自覺離神很遙遠。我是相信神，可是信得很膚淺。每次來教會我會倍感親切和安慰，神用他的話語吸引我，也通過教會弟兄姊妹教導我，使我對主的信心一天天增強，心裡總感覺到平安和喜樂。

我所經歷的一切都是神在我身上做工，是他的帶領，現在我常體會到他那奇妙而偉大的愛。上大學時選修聖經，只是讀裡面的故事，從沒想過會來美國結婚生子，更沒想過有一天會成為信徒，願意把身心交給主。今天我能在這裡受洗，接受主耶穌做我的救主和一生的主，一切榮耀都要歸於神。主耶穌，我感謝你的大愛，我願信靠你，我願接受你引領我的生命！感謝主，阿門！  
(張瑾)

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新年將臨之際，我站在這裡跟大家分享見證，心中感慨萬千！感謝主，今天美好的經歷：我終於受洗成為了主耶穌基督的信徒。18年前曾經萌生的一個心願今天終於實現了。

18年前我剛開始工作沒多久，因著工作出差去到了廣東深圳的東莞，在那裡我第一次接觸並認識了神，第一次讀到聖經，第一次感受到神的呼召，第一次唱讚美歌曲，覺得一切都是那麼奇妙聖潔，內心被徹底地震撼了！感覺心靈徹底地被淨化了一次。儘管只有短短一個月的出差時間，現在回想起來，那是我最快樂的一段時光。

後來我回到了北方，因為種種原因，不能參加禱告聚會了。一開始、聚會的地方離我家很遠，去一趟要倒 3 次公交車。那時我們只有星期日一天的休息時間，加上我經常出差出國。於是我就沒有持之以恆。客觀上講，那時我確實很忙；主觀上講，我也是懶惰了。直到幾年後遇到我人生的低谷，我家遭了大難（因為時間原因，這裡不再贅述）。而幫我渡過難關的是神派來的人。他們和我素不相識，卻在我危難關頭在異國他鄉幫我料理了後事，並且引導我，給我關愛。現在回想，儘管我遠離了神，但神卻以他寬容的愛心一直在我身旁，在我危難時差遣弟兄姊妹來幫助我。只是那時我還沒有覺察到。

再後來，我移民來到了加拿大和美國、開始了新的生活，但很快發現並沒有我想像的那麼好。以前公派出國的那種優越感沒有了，甚至有時還受到歧視。老公又不讓我去工作，我的生活圈子一下變得非常小了，我開始變得孤單，鬱鬱寡歡。尤其到了美國，覺得

不能再這麼下去，不然要被社會拋棄了。感覺自己像漂浮在茫茫大海上的一隻小船，或是置身於一座荒島上，孤立無援，迫切需要一股力量來支撐我。感謝主，我們的神基督耶穌讓姊妹把我帶到這裡，進入他的國度裡，認識了這麼多的弟兄姊妹。今天我能受洗實在是神賜給我的恩典，讓我很快成為這個大家庭的一員。我有說不盡的感恩在心頭！真的感謝主！

站在這裡，我知道主耶穌基督就和我們同在，我要感謝主，您給了我新的生命；我要接受您為我生命中唯一的救主，一直跟隨您，聆聽您的話語，遵照您的準則行事。同時還要非常感謝各位弟兄姊妹！謝謝！  
(吳輝)

## **Baptism Testimony**

My name is Jun Han. Last August, I came here from Mainland China, to pursue my master degree. When I got off airplane, I never thought that I would be a Christian. Just as many young people in the Mainland China, during my childhood, I received education of atheism and was fond of reading Hundreds of Thousands of Questions, which is a popular science book for children. As I got in college, I joined church activities. However, I had no feeling about God then. This is because science teaches me to verify everything based on data and logic, which, of course, are not able to prove the existence of God. Yet being interested in science, I read a lot of books. I found Christianity played an important role in human history. This made me paying more attention to the knowledge of Christianity. When working in Hong Kong, I often attended church's activities. At that time I felt a little awkward. Seeing so many devout Christians praying, I followed them just to be polite. However, I didn't understand why they were respectful at all. One day, a girl from The University of Hong Kong talked to me about Gospel. Merely for the sake of being nice, I talked a little more with her. And I asked her "There are so many churches in Hong Kong. Which one should I choose?" And she replied, "You need to watch what kind of fruits the brethren of the churches bear." Though I didn't believe in God at that time, the word "fruits" was kept deep in my heart.

Afterwards, I came here to be a graduate student. My temporary accommodation was accidentally arranged at Brother Lee's home. Thus I had opportunities to visit Orlando Chinese Church. I find that brothers and sisters in this church have good fruits. So I have no doubt that it is good for me to come to this church every week in spite of being an outsider. It is not easy to studying aboard. For me, the situation may be worse. My grandfather was diagnosed with a cancer just before my leaving. In US, I could do nothing but worry. As for my department, quite a few professors left as a result of funding cutting. And this situation does not seem to get better in a short time. Besides, my girlfriend has been studying in Oregon and this long distance relationship has been with full of challenges. All these pressures made me depressed. Sometimes, I could not study calmly at all. In that situation I still didn't know God until one day I was moved by Brother Lee's prayer for Sister Ming Fu's Baptism. I heard Brother Lee said, "Heavenly father, let us worship thee humbly and commit this sister to thy care... ". I knew in Brother Lee's mind, omnipotent God gives people amazing salvation. But he never showed any superiority for having received it already. Meanwhile, he humbly begged God to work in others'

hearts, and let them accept Him willingly. If God really exists, He must be a kind God. So I began to pray. And prayer did help. I could feel Holy Spirit consoles me and encourages me. My grandfather's condition has been improving. I thought that it is a response of both my prayer and my grandfather's attending church every week. Later I took a bible study on "Numbers". It involved complicated calculation on festivals of ancient Israel. Apparently, it is tough to teach that bible lesson with rich details. However, our lecturer Anna was joyful all the way through the class. I envied her happiness. After that bible study, I admitted that God is my savior.

Thanks to God, even with my little knowledge of Gospel and Holy Spirit, He prepares my heart with amazing Grace, and grants me this opportunity of baptism. Yet I know deeply in my heart that baptism is just a beginning. If I want to get the complete life of the Lord, I cannot just go to church every week and pretend to be a good Christian. I also have to keep Lord's word in my heart as guidance of my action. Only if I behave in this way will I have His eternal joy and power within me.

I really appreciate brothers and sisters in this Church. Your action proves the existence of God to me. Thank you all and please pray for me. (Jun Han)

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My name is Li Yang. Thank you so much for attending our baptism ceremony today! I am very excited to have this opportunity to share my experience.

I am a person with a skeptical attitude. I usually don't believe in anything easily, and few people can persuade me. When I was in China, the only religious knowledge I got was from geography textbooks: I learnt that there are three main religions in the world – Christianity, Buddhism and Islam, and the celebration of Christmas Day in western countries is related to Christianity. As the pictures of the Lord Jesus Christ and angles drawn in many bible stories books sold in China showed the faces of white people, I believed then that Christianity was a western religion, and only people from the West should believe it. We Chinese people should more incline to Buddhism instead. However, most of the Buddhists around me look weird, and their conversation and behaviors are quite different from other people. So I was not interested in the Buddhism. Unfortunately, there was no Christian missionary around me during my 22 years in China. Therefore, my first contact to the Christian was when I was studying in England. Since the campus where I studied is very small, there are few Chinese living there. Most of the missionaries are local English only. Bible study there is different from here, and it is conducted with 'one-on-one' style: a specified missionary visited me once a week, and sometimes he invited me to go to his home. Gradually I gained some fundamental knowledge about Christianity, and eliminated some of my wrong ideas including the one that the Christianity was only for the western people. But after I visited my missionary's home – a luxurious big house like the heaven, and realized that I lived in a small dirty house shared with many fellow Chinese students, I felt that it was very difficult to be drawn to the Christianity, because I thought it should belong to rich people who were not worried about the material needs but lacked of spiritual needs. For poor people like me, thinking about how to survive is more materialistic. Therefore, I gave up the bible study, as Christian is luxury, and poor people cannot afford it. One year passed quickly, my study in England was about to finish soon. One month before I intended to go back to China, I suddenly had an idea – study further in Australia. When I told it to my parents, they were shocked, but they still totally supported me. Then I went to Australia, and had some experience of bible study in the church there. I learnt more about Christian, and continued to correct my wrong idea about it. However, I had very high study and financial

pressure, and didn't have time to continue attending bible study session in the church. As a result, I gave up again. Then I graduated from the university and got a job, and didn't go to the church any more. At that time, I thought I would live in Australia forever, but unexpected financial crisis in 2008 caused by the bankrupt of the Lehman Brothers affected the whole world, and I became one of its victims – my job was lost. Under that circumstance, job cut happened in most of the companies, and few of them would like to employ more people. It was difficult to get jobs for most of people with a lot of relevant work experience. As a graduate without abundant commercial experience like me, going back to work would be more difficult. Without a job, my pressure became higher and higher, and felt that to die was much easier than to survive. In despair, when I continued seeking a job positively, I considered going back to the campus to study further, only as an alternative. Since I still tended to find a new job to continue working, I didn't really pay much attention on the application for further study. As U.S. is the best place to study in the world, I only considered the universities in the U.S. to experience the study environment on a campus there, to gain more life experience, and to have a look at the super country in the world. I just applied the M.S. in Mechanical Engineering program in UCF, and felt that my application was not likely to be successful. Besides, even if I was admitted, I could hardly get the U.S. visa, as I had few strong ties out in the U.S. – I was a single young person without a job for a long time, I didn't live with my parents, and I had no real properties and cars. Well, I still have no job, but the admission letter from UCF and the U.S. visa were obtained smoothly. When I arrived at the U.S. airport early in the morning around 5.00 am, Brother Min Yu-gang picked me up and took me to Brother Eddie's home, and right there at that moment I was deeply touched by their love. In the evening of that day, I was invited to his church by Min. As I entering the church, an inexplicable friendly atmosphere attracted me, as if I had come to the Arcadia in the dream, with peace and happiness filled in my heart. This wonderful feeling always made me want to go back no matter how busy I was. From then on, I started doing some research about Christianity carefully, and tried to prove the existence of God. Meanwhile, I attended the bible study at the church. After two months, I realized that since our first ancestor have sinned and fell short of the glory of God, so no one can see God. However, I found that there was a significant change on myself in such a short period of time: my opinions about many things and my ways of solving problems are quite different from what they used to be. Although I still have to face many difficulties and problems in my daily life, I am no longer confused and frustrated, but face and deal with them properly. Then I know that God had done something good in me. Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank Brother and Sister Yi for their help. So far I still could not prove the existence of God objectively, but subjectively I know he is good to me, I would rather believe that he exists! Now when I recall what happened in the past, I do realize that God is so gracious to me. He led me to know Him through His Son, and then made me His son too. Thank you, Lord! Thank you, all the brothers and sisters who have helped me. Thank you all!

(Yang Li)

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Thank you all for being here to listen to my testimony about the work God has done on me, and the changes happened in my life so far.

The fact that I could have come to US in 2007 is completely a miracle. That year I just graduated from college. With the same dream as my three classmates, I decided to pursue further graduate study in the US. Our parents were relatively at ease, because we all knew each other for many years. If we could all come to study in the same school, we could take care of each other. Later we all went to Shanghai for visa interviews; except me, all other three passed. I still remember that interview, and it still feels like a nightmare to me. For the interview I had

prepared piles of materials, and had to take a rail train trip from Nanjing to Shanghai. Perhaps it's because I was too nervous, or may be a test from the Lord, when it's my turn for the interview, I found I had left out the most important folder behind. I completely panicked at that time, not knowing what to do at all. At the end the officer shook his head and said to me "sorry". I was quiet on my way home, and was totally knocked out when arrived at home. I cried for a long time, and asked myself why it happened this way. During the following months I was very depressed and every day was unwilling to go out. I thought a lot about going abroad. My parents are both working class people, taking out all their savings to help me realize my dream of going to the US. Was being rejected at the interview God's hint that I should be rational and give up my dream, finding a stable job in China to take care of my parents instead? On the other hand, going abroad was a decision I made after long struggles. I didn't want to be so selfish to spend all my parents' saving. But I did want to see the bigger world. My parents had always encouraged me and told me to try again, lest I should regret for the rest of my life. My father even took me to a very famous blind fortune-teller. I recall what he said was very accurate, saying I would certainly pass at the second time. However, he instructed me to bring three leaves in my pocket. I did listen to him, thinking three leaves weigh nothing, and I had nothing to lose either, so be it. A few days before the second interview, a Buddhist friend asked me to go out to relax, but she actually took me to a very famous temple, to get the blessings for the interview by all the Buddha. I even showed my devotion by climbing the ten-story tower of the temple, and couldn't even stand up at the end. The second interview indeed was very smooth, and I got the visa to USA as I hoped for. Reflecting on this experience, it was the first time I ever suffered a big blow, but also the first time I was blessed by the Lord.

While I was still dealing with jet lag after arriving in the States, together with some classmates I was taken to a family Bible study meeting. I heard the gospel for the first time there. Due to jet lag I couldn't sleep after going back to the dorm, so started to scan the little brochure given to me. In about 10 minutes I fell asleep. So I thought it's quite effective in hypnotizing. Life as a new graduate student was very busy. I didn't spend much time in thinking about faith. What I really cared for was a good life, a Master degree, a stable job back in China, a good husband who would take good care of my parents. I never thought about death; everyone would die, the most important thing is to treasure the present.

My first impression of Christians was that they were too enthusiastic, which made me wonder if they got some hidden agenda or motivation. I am a rational person. I like to ask questions. I do not believe in something just because others wanted me to. On the contrary, I most likely would run away as much as I could. Coming to the Orlando Chinese Church is something my husband and I did by accident. I felt that people were so nice to me, from helping with our moving and our baby shower, to extending lots of care and love during my hospitalization, including all the prayers for us. I truly felt the love. Not knowing when, unconsciously I would start praying to God from time to time, "My Lord, since you're the Lord, you must know my feelings and what I want to say. You must know everything." In fact, I have already accepted God into my heart for a while. It's just that I didn't know it myself.

I didn't voluntarily ask to be baptized, because I did not find the true feeling like Sister Minpei, who would be in tears when sharing her experience of God. I envy her, because it's very difficult for me to find such feelings. I felt that I did believe in God, but my belief was very shallow. However, by coming to church I would feel the cordiality and comfort every time. God draws me with His words, and leads me through others in the church. My faith increases day by day, and always there is peace and joy in my heart.

God has done His great work in me in leading me on. Now I feel His wonderful and great love. I had one elective course about the Bible in college, but only interested in the stories that time. I never thought I would come to USA, get married and have a child, not to mention that one day I would become a Christian. I am willing to submit everything, body and soul to the Lord. Today I stand here to be baptized, accepting Jesus Christ as my Savior and my Lord. All glory is to the Lord. Dear Jesus, my Lord, I thank you for your great love. I am willing to believe in you and depend on you. I am willing to let you lead my life! Thank you, my Lord, Amen!

(Jin Zhang)

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The New Year is coming and I am here to share my testimony with all of you. Thousands of thoughts are coming to me at this moment! Thanks to the Lord, what I am going through is a beautiful experience – at last I will be baptized and become a Christian. A wish I had 18 years ago finally is realized today.

18 years ago, I just started working. On a business trip to Shenzhen, Guangdong province, for the first time I came to know God, read the Bible, feel the calling of the Lord, and sing the hymns. Everything was so wonderful and pure, and my heart was totally shaken. I felt that my soul was completely purified. Although the trip lasted for only one month, nonetheless it was a period during which I was the happiest.

Later I went back to North China, and due to various reasons, I could not join the prayer meetings any more. At the beginning, the meeting place was far from my home. I had to change buses 3 times to get there. At that time we only had Sunday off. I also had to travel overseas frequently. So I was not persistent in attending the meetings. Objectively I was busy then; subjectively I was lazy, too. Several years later, I came to the lowest point in my life. A disaster happened to my family, and people who helped me through were those sent by God. They did not know me, but helped me with a funeral in a foreign country, at my most difficult times. They also guided me and cared for me. Although I had turned away from God, God has always been with me with his great love and tolerance.

Later I immigrated to Canada and USA. The new life was not as good as I had expected. Not only the prestige associated with being an expatriate was gone, but also I had to suffer discrimination sometimes. My husband did not allow me to work, so my social circle suddenly became very small. I started to feel lonely and somewhat depressed, especially after coming to the States. I felt if this continued, I would be forsaken by the society. Feeling like a small boat floating in a endless sea, or alone on a desolated island, I urgently needed a force to support me. Thanks to God, our Lord Jesus Christ let several sisters bring me here, to enter His kingdom, together with so many brothers and sisters. That I can stand here for baptism is truly by the grace of God, so that I could become a member of this big family. With much gratitude in my heart, I cannot express it all. I truly thank you, my Lord.

Standing here, I know our Lord Jesus Christ is with us. I need to thank my Lord, you gave me a new life; I accept you as my only Savior in my life, I will follow you all the time, listen to your words and obey your commandments. I also would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all the brothers and sisters! Thank you!

(Maria Wu)