

BACK TO THE SHEEPFOLD

Seven brothers and sisters were baptized in water in our Hong Kong and Vancouver Church on 27th October and 8th December 1991 respectively. They became new members of our Church and vowed before God and the congregation to follow the Lord's steps and became His sheep. The witnesses of four of them were already published in the last issue of the Church Newsletter. We now set forth as follows the witnesses of the remaining three so that the Church family can get to know and pray for them.

Hong Kong Church:

Mrs. Fong Chan Yan Cha

I have always wanted to become a Christian but due to busy house work and the extra burden of taking care of an ailing husband, I never took the move. Three years ago my husband passed away, and I began to suffer from amnesia, high blood pressure, and cramps on my right leg. In December 1990, I was introduced to the Gospel by a friend who is a member of this Church. At that time I needed to rely on a cane for walking, my appetite and digestive system were not good, and I had lost a lot of hair. Soon after becoming a Christian, I could once again walk normally, sleep well, eat well, and my blood pressure has returned to normal. My hair has also grown back too. God has also healed an old wound on my right arm. About eight years ago, I was hit by a tram and the wound on my right arm was about the size of my thumb! Because of my age, the doctor advised me to use medication instead of undergoing surgery. However, after three years, not only had the wound not healed completely, but my right shoulder became all swollen too. After I have become a

Christian, I prayed for God's healing and 6 months later, the swell subsided with only some arthritis pain left now.

God's grace for me is abundant! He takes care of me in big and small matters. Even as little a matter as forgetting where I had placed my false teeth, He answered my prayer for help!

I am over 81 years old. I have decided to follow the teachings of Jesus and I believe God will listen to my prayers. He will give me His salvation and baptize me with His Holy Spirit. He loves us so. I find it a great joy to share His blessings and guidance with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Daisy Wong

It has been over ten years since I was dedicated to the Lord in my childhood.

I always feel that it is a blessing for me to be able to grow up in the Church. The Lord grants me the opportunity to know Himself as well as to receive His precious teachings. Often, I become weak and sin against Him but again and again, He gives me the opportunity to

repent and forgives my wrongdoings. He always looks after me and guides me daily. His kindness and patience are indeed great and His grace is given to us so freely. Who are we that should be loved by Him as such! How abounding is the grace of the Lord!

The older I grow, the more important I feel the Lord is to me. Whenever I am upset or face any difficulty, the Lord reminds me of His own teachings, shows me what to do and comforts me so that I may be filled with joy and peace.

On 27th October 1991, I received water baptism and became a member of the Church family. In the presence of God and members of the Church family, I made the commitment to follow Jesus for the rest of my life. I am glad to be part of this family. I do hope that I and other brothers and sisters in Christ will grow up spiritually together and love one another in Christ so that the Truth and more love could be brought to other people through our lives.

Vancouver Church:

Mrs. Fung Chan Yuk Ling

God, Creator of the Universe, is truly all-knowing, all-present and all-powerful. He has led me to Him in a most amazing way!

I knew nothing about Christianity; but in 1986, I met a lady in a bus whose hairdo I complimented on. Later a friend of hers invited me to participate in the worship service at the Pentecostal Mission. At first, I took my son and daughter along, but we had no interest in God's Word and did not understand it. My attitude was that I could brush up my Chinese and make some friends in the Church. After all, I had nothing to lose.

Thank God, He did not forsake me, but treated me with patience and gradually enabled me to understand the Truth. I began to study the Bible and asked God to forgive my sins. However, whenever I prayed, my mind would be filled with distractions and worries. I would also remember my idol-worshipping in my young, ignorant days. I doubted if God would ever forgive my sins. I confided these worries to some Christian sisters in the Church; they all taught me to plead the blood of Jesus Christ to protect me.

I continued to confess my sins before God until I could

remember no more. However, I never felt certain of His forgiveness. Every year, the Revival Meetings would come and go, but the assurance of God's remission of my sins never came. I then decided to participate in the 1991 Summer Gospel Camp. There, I earnestly sought the remission of my sins and infilling of the Holy Spirit, but eventually came home empty-handed. Nevertheless, I learnt much in the Camp, including the hymn "Fill Me Now", which kept ringing in my ears in the days that followed.

During the Summer Revival Meetings, Miss Mary Kwok reminded me not to despair, but to focus my attention on Jesus. After these special meetings, I persevered in my seeking. However, the devil harassed me with all kinds of worries. I held firmly to the promise in Psalm 18:29, "You give me strength to attack my enemies and power to overcome their defenses", and kept resisting the devil by repeating these two phrases in Hymn 358 "My Savior helps me overcome my foes; the Holy Spirit makes me powerful."

In the evening of the second Saturday after the Revival

Meetings, I was praying at home and realized that I lacked love. I would always quarrel with my husband whenever he opposed to my going to the Church. I asked the Lord to help me remove this flaw. God answered my prayer instantly by giving me the assurance of His forgiveness and by filling me with the Holy Spirit. The following day was Sunday. I asked a Christian sister in the Church to pray with me as I wanted a confirmation. The Lord filled me with the Holy Spirit once again. I praised Him in tongues.

I have one more thing to thank God for. I moved from Alberta to British Columbia in 1981, and have been plagued by a strange ailment since 1982. At four o'clock every morning a severe pain would creep up my back muscles and keep me awake. My doctor was unable to determine the cause. As a result, I was always tired and looked pale. However, when the Lord forgave my sins and filled me with the Holy Spirit on 14th September 1991, this disease left me completely without my taking any medication. God had delivered me from my long illness! How abundant are His blessings! May all glory be onto Him! Amen.

TESTIMONIES

(1) K. W. Wan
(San Jose, California)

Thanks be to God

I was baptized over a year ago and during the past year, I have learnt about the truthfulness of the Lord in different ways. Thank God! Whenever there is difficulty, I and my wife will kneel down and pray for God's guidance. God is very righteous; for those things which are good for us, He will help us to achieve them; for those which are not, He will let us know and help us to understand why not. Praise the Lord!

Early last year, I learnt, from a fellow sister in Christ from Vancouver, that our Vancouver Church would hold their Summer Gospel Camp and also the Revival Meeting in August. I knew I needed to learn more of the Word of God, and I needed more time to be spent with Him. Thus after discussing it over with my wife, we decided to participate in the Summer Gospel Camp.

That was my first time to join a gospel camp and also the very first time when I put down everything in order to be near to God. In the Camp, I received a lot of teachings from God, and heard a lot of wonderful testimonies. Praise the Lord!

The Summer Gospel Camp lasted for only two and a half days. The first day passed quickly. On the second day, I was stricken by the sermon which pointed out one of my wrongdoings. I felt very uneasy and pondered on how to repent. During the group discussion, I overcame the feeling of uneasiness and told my group of my particular wrongdoing. At

that moment I felt very close to the Lord. I knew He would forgive me soon. Afterwards, I went to pray and felt very close to Him.

I was certain God has indeed forgiven my sins. Praise the Lord!

In the morning of the last day of the Camp, most of the people went out to play, but I decided to stay behind and pray. Even though I have not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit yet, the closeness I felt with God was most true and wonderful. Praise the Lord!

Initially I had planned to do something during my stay in Vancouver. But later I felt it was more important to spend time knowing God, so I decided not to worry about anything else during that time, and devoted my attention to God. Miraculously, when I returned to San Jose, I found that something which I originally planned to do had all been taken care of! I learnt a lesson here: with our limited wisdom, it is hard to judge what is most important for us. The only sure thing is to seek the Lord with a sincere heart.

I pray to God for more faith so that I would have the strength to become a Christian pleasing to His eyes. Praise the Lord!

(2) Anne Wong

My Weakness, my Growth

"You're so blessed - you were born in a Christian family; your Dad is a preacher and an elder of the Church; your whole family worship God together and hence you never have to face the

conflicts and difficulties brought by divergent beliefs within a family "

"Do you have the feelings that you have been brought up in a 'greenhouse' in which you were kept apart from the complicated outside world? Have you thought of a breakthrough to touch upon the latter and not to be so protected by your family ... "

"You're so obedient. You come to Church services so often and take such an active part in serving God and yet perform very well in your school work. If my daughter were as good as you, how content I would be ... "

So often do I hear these sayings that when these people utter their first few words, I can probably complete the whole sentence for them. I thank them for their appreciation but this "me" in real life was often not as good as they thought. I do have my own weaknesses, struggles, tears and situations in which nobody can really understand. Sometimes, when my spiritual life was at a low ebb, people still praised me as usual, and I could do nothing but continue to present my 'good image' to others; yet, great is my longing for their understanding of my weaknesses and for their prayers for me.

Sometimes, I think that, compared with those "newcomers" to the Church, it may not be easier for those who were brought up in the Church family to grow up to become mature Christians who can hold steadfastly to God's teachings. It can be more difficult. Year after year, those who were brought up in the Church family

come for Church services in the New Year, at Easter, at Christmas, and attend the Summer Gospel Camp and the four Revival Meetings. Week after week, they listen to seemingly "repetitive" preachings. Yet in real life situations, they still find it difficult to cope with many of their own weaknesses. There are even more weaknesses they are not willing to face. And in all these struggles, time just flies.

In front of the non-Christian relatives, friends and schoolmates, I do not really feel that my life was impressive enough to convert them. I was too timid to give testimonies about God. This "me" in their eyes may be nothing but a quiet and friendly good person who often goes to church and seldom does what they do.

There was a time when I began to think: If I had never believed in God, how free it would be for me to explore the "outside" world. I might try out new ways, make new friends, develop my "potential" to the full and live without any restrictions. But then when I thought of the problem of the salvation of my soul, I began to modify my way of thinking: Well, I must believe in God but I would only turn back

to Him in my old age so that I could still manage to get to Heaven! What a seemingly perfect but in fact nonsense plan!

Thank God! After I was saved, the Holy Spirit guides my thoughts in every aspect of my life. I have the confidence that whenever I am ready to lay down my own will and ask for God's guidance, I will not tread onto the wrong path or make the wrong decision. The Lord knows well my strong points and weaknesses. His plan will always be "tailor made" for me because He understands me more than I do. Only in His teachings can I really get the freedom from my weaknesses. Human weaknesses, selfishness and bitterness can all be immersed in His precious blood. Only in the Lord can perfection be found.

On the other hand I also learnt to ask myself constantly: why should I attend all these Church services, Sunday school, Testimony Meetings, Summer Gospel Camp, Christmas singing practices and Cell Group meetings? I want to really know what I am doing: what do I want to gain from all these activities? All these questions help to remind me not to come to Church without a clear purpose

but just to conform. Of course, I may not be successful at all times but as long as I am ready to be good, the Lord will understand and will do the rest to help me. Every Church service now becomes fresh and interesting to me because I receive His message with a new heart and a new spirit bestowed by Him in me.

Let all of us that grew up in the Church strengthen our spiritual life. It is quite natural for us to ask the question whether we should continue to come to Church services regularly because this only means that we are beginning to think independently and want to know the purpose of what we do. But in the midst of all these we must pray to God, the source of all wisdom, to guide our thoughts so that we can obtain the real "perfect" answer.

Keep up, all who were brought up in the Church! And all newcomers! Let us share frankly and sincerely our weaknesses and experiences. With the love of God, let us show concern to one another and share testimonies. Surely, the Lord's blessings and grace will descend upon us like precious gifts, bringing us warmth, comfort and encouragement.

SING PRAISES TO THE LORD

"Admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

- Colossians 3:16

The Church Choir praised God with songs and testimonies in the 1991 Christmas Eve's Testimony and Fellowship Meeting.

The followings are the testimonies given by several Choir members that night:

Alice Siu

I have joined the Church Choir for sometime now. Thank God for granting me this opportunity. Before I joined the Choir, I knew little about music; but brothers and sisters were so willing to teach me thereafter. There was even a sister who organized a music tuition one Saturday to teach us how to improve in singing hymns.

Once, Ms. Cheng Lai Shun mentioned she would like to visit my family. At the appointed night, I was busy at work and late for home. On my way home, I saw the Home Visiting Team leaving my home. They told me they had been witnessing and sharing the Word with my family and especially with my father who was on leave at home. My father even told them my behavior has improved since I believed in Christ. Though I was a bit surprised to hear this (as he used to object strongly against my sister and myself attending the Church), yet I am thankful to God for this change in his thoughts. May my father and my family all believe in Christ, repent of their sins and follow His Word.

Mrs. Chow Chik So Yin

Thank God I have the chance to serve Him in the Church Choir. Not only can I praise Him with songs in the Choir, I am always comforted and spiritually enriched by the songs' text. Moreover I have the chance to serve Him together with the whole Choir.

I would like to share the following thoughts with the congregation.

1. Choir service on the whole

In the beginning of 1991, I felt the Church Choir was in a depressed state. Any shortage numerically in one voice part would easily imbalance the whole Choir musically. However, God's grace is sufficient; there are always Choir members returning from abroad or new Choir members filling the vacancies.

Further, I notice that many times two or three conductors choose songs of similar themes over the same period of time, and the songs also match the sermons preached in the services; thus another proof of God's grace with us. It also proves the conductors are moved by the same Spirit of God.

God's ways and guidance are always better than ours. While the Choir was still in the depressed state, we had on one occasion finished a rehearsal of 15 songs in only slightly more than one hour (our rehearsal usually lasts for up to two hours). Those 15 songs included both new and old ones, and none of them was as simple as the ones from our Pentecostal Hymnal. Thank Him!

For the past year we have paid special attention to the different working groups in the Choir to ensure that every Choir member will have the chance to participate in Choir business and co-operate with each other; and most important of all, to fulfill His Will.

2. My personal experience in the Choir service

In the beginning of 1990, I was thinking of resigning from the Choir service so that I could spend more time with my two children. During this period, there were sermons/teachings preached on the Word like "be strong and courageous" from the Book of Joshua and the Letter to Timothy. Then I realized I should not focus on my own weakness all the time as they could not build up my spiritual life. Therefore subsequently when I was assigned to serve in the Choir, I had no second thoughts either about the lack of time or about my deficiency as a conductor. I simply accepted wholeheartedly the work of God by faith. Apart from faith in Him, I always pray to God, search my heart for sins and prepare everything beforehand; thus ensuring that everything will be done according to His perfect Will.

May I request brothers and sisters continue to pray for myself and the Church Choir so that each one of us will be equipped for the work of God and serve Him wholeheartedly.

I would also like to witness for His Name for the gift of preaching in our Church. Some time ago in mid-October, there was a sermon preaching on Elijah's running away from Jezebel to Horeb. I did not

realize then that this could be applied as a guidance to my own life. Actually 1991 was the worst working year I have ever had: business was bad, there were malicious gossips, staff relationship was not good. When these all added up, I really wanted to resign.

Soon after hearing the sermon, I accidentally slipped on the floor and God gently reminded me of the sermon about Elijah. God helped me to review the whole situation again and face the reality. I found that things were not as bad as I had thought and decided to rely on Him. With His guidance, my heart was filled with peace and I determined to continue working in my company.

It does not matter any more what would happen in future; more importantly is to be attentive to His Word, and He will surely guide us in all things.

May God bless His Word.

Franklin Lee

I have been back to Hong Kong for a few years now.

I first worked in a computer firm and got acquainted with some colleagues who were of my age and joined the company at more or less the same time. Every evening we went out together for a beer, dinner and karaoke. It seemed very enjoyable and I felt "lucky" to have friends like them. It lasted for a few months until I attended a friend's wedding when I began to feel differently.

I went to Christian primary and secondary schools and I used to have morning assembly, Bible-reading and hymn-singing each morning. I have never been keen in singing hymns nor have I resisted it. But when I was in that wedding, I was reluctant to sing the hymns because I felt it was somewhat old-fashioned. I was shocked at

my own response as it has never happened before. Then I realized I had changed a great deal unknowingly. On the surface, I was more matured; deep down my personal attributes have actually degraded. I really thank God for leading me to this Church where I can learn His Truth and even join the Church Choir.

One has to pass an audition to ensure that the person has reached a certain standard musically before one can join the Church Choir; thus each Choir member can be said to be musically "capable" to a certain extent. Yet I feel singing hymns by one person's own musical effort is no comparison to praising God in one spirit by the whole Choir. I really pray that each of us will put aside any worldly concept of mistrust in Christian Love and really love one another with the love of God and be built up in the power of God. May we glorify Him in our lives and witness for His Name in the world. Glory be to His Name. Amen.

Rainne Chiu

I joined the Pentecostal Church in 1986. Thank God for His salvation and His gift of this abundant New Life. I love the Lord's day (Sunday) and enjoy drawing near to God and receiving His blessings. This day spent in Church is meaningful; besides worshipping God, I can also serve God in the Choir. Before I knew Christ, I just strolled around and entertained myself with worldly pursuits every Sunday; but I never felt satisfied as I do now.

I have always served with a joyful and thankful heart as a Church pianist, yet I used to get stage-fright. Since when I was young, I often made mistakes in piano contests, examinations and concert performances. I felt unhappy each time I made a

mistake. With the blessings of God, He changed me in many ways; for instance I am no longer shy to talk before a group of people nor to witness before people. But I still got stage-fright when I played piano. In my heart, I wished I could praise God in songs together with the whole Choir with a joyful heart. Yet every Sunday when it came to my turn to accompany the Choir in piano, I still played the piano with quickened heartbeats and stiff fingers. I searched my heart for sins which could have caused this. Thank God for revealing my hidden self: I paid too much attention to people's comments. Since I was young I have been spoiled by my piano tutor and thus thought too highly of my piano playing skill. I expected to perform perfectly before others; therefore I would feel unhappy whenever I made a mistake. On the surface I was dissatisfied because I fell short of the musical standard, deep down I actually felt losing face and humiliated. After such revelation, I was willing to repent before God; but He did not immediately remove this stage-fright because He wanted me to learn to accept failure. Even though I have practised the songs for a few hours beforehand, I still made mistakes before the congregation. However, I learnt to humble myself, to do my best and serve God wholeheartedly and care less of people's comments.

Subsequently, one Choir conductor requested me to accompany a fast-beat song. I knew if I got stage-fright on this occasion and lost control, I would affect the whole Choir's performance. Thank God, He granted me a peaceful and joyful heart to accompany the Choir. After this, I got some other occasions to accompany other difficult songs and did not get stage-fright any more. May God continue to keep me as His

faithful servant to serve Him in truth and humility.

Benny Choy

I have joined the Choir for more than 3 months now.

Thank God for forgiving my sins and accepting me as a Choir member. Since joining the

Choir, I have learnt a lot both spiritually and physically. I have also learnt the following lesson.

Because Sunday afternoon is the only time for Church Choir rehearsal, I also rehearse on my own every evening because I know little about music. Then I relate this to another area: the spiritual teachings we learn

from God. Do we think of these in the Church only? Are we too busy to "chew" on His Words outside the Church? If I realize the need to rehearse hymns, similarly I should spend even more time to study His Word and to communicate with Him. I should not be a "Sunday Christian" but learn to be an "everyday Christian".

CRECHE SERVICE

Mrs. Pang Dai Man

The Creche Service has been established in the Hong Kong Church for a few years now. It has been providing a nursery service for newborn babies and children up to 6-year old; thus allowing their parents to worship God quietly at Church on Sunday afternoons. Children will be grouped according to age and taken care of by members of the Creche Service team.

They will participate in activities such as listening to Bible stories, songs and games, sloyd, enjoying tea and biscuits and

attending service in the Main Hall.

There are both well-experienced "grandmas" and inexperienced young sisters in the Creche Service team. I still remember when I was first called for this Service, I was fearful and felt myself not capable to cope with it. As time went by, I began to feel God's strength and realize God surely will provide the best for all things He permits to happen.

During these years, there were times when we were short of

manpower; but God has seen us through. When I see the babies growing up to childhood and beginning to patiently learn Bible stories, I realize such achievements do not come from us.

May God grants us all with obedient and willing hearts. Though there is much scope for improvement, but with the prayer support from brothers and sisters, may God's power removes all our deficiencies. May God's will be done to benefit man and to glorify His own Name.

CHURCH NEWS UPDATE:

(MID-OCT. 1991 - MID-JAN. 1992)

**REMISSION OF SINS/
BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**
Leung Lau Chau (Hong Kong)
Fung Chan Yuk Ling (Vancouver)

BAPTIZED IN WATER
HONG KONG - 27TH OCT., 1991
Amy Wong
Kwok Mei Yee
Wanda Kam
Raymond So
Daisy Wong

Fong Chan Yan Cha

VANCOUVER - 8TH DEC., 1991
Fong Chan Yuk Ling

DECEASED
Keung Hay Lum (Hong Kong)
Kwan Yi (Hong Kong)
Lo Shiu Ying (Hawaii)

**EMIGRATION/OVERSEAS
STUDY**
Benny Chan, Annie Chow to
England
Janice Chan to Vancouver

WEDDING
Chow Chi Kin and Chow Suk
Kuen on 24 Dec. 1991

REMINDERS:

**EASTER REVIVAL MEETINGS
(KOWLOON CHURCH)**
13th April - 18th April 1992

10:00 a.m. AND 7:00 p.m.

BIBLE MESSAGES

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, 1991
Hong Kong:- John 3:16
Vancouver:- Matt 2:1-12

NEW YEAR DAY SERVICE, 1992
Hong Kong:- Romans 12:12
Vancouver:- Matt 28:18-20