

# 愛是永不止息

## LOVE NEVER ENDS

幸福的家庭都是相似的，不幸的家庭各有各的不幸。當我提起我的家庭時，常有各種各樣的無奈。我們沒有辦法選擇自己的父母，也不能選擇生在一個什麼樣的家庭。我們父母的性格、脾氣、地位，家庭的背景和氣氛，這一切都不在我們的控制之中。

九八年初我來到美國。比許多人幸運的是，在美國我有一個家。雖說是和家人團聚，但我心裏卻並不興奮。在美國的家裏，加上我一共有四個人：我的爸爸（我從小到大可能只見過三次面），我還有一個完全不認識的繼母，以及繼母帶過來的妹妹，既不同父，也不同母。這個家對我來說太陌生了。

在國內（中國）的時候，我一直和我自己的媽媽住在一起。我小的時候，離婚還不像現在這樣普遍，但是我媽媽離婚之後帶著我又再婚了兩次。她是一個很好的人，我很愛她，她只是婚姻失敗。但這樣的家庭對一個小孩子來說，是一個很大的負擔。經過兩個繼父，我想我是比較明白這樣一個拼湊起來的家庭會是什麼樣的關係。上飛機之前，媽媽囑咐我要會察言觀色，尤其和繼母相處要有技巧，我應該利用各種條件在美國打好基礎，然後就可以再也不用理她了。我根本沒有這麼乖巧精明，我下定決心，如果爸爸和繼母對我不好，我就回國去。話雖如此，我心裏還是沒有底，因為如果回國，我就會面對我的繼父。總之，我是左右為難。我對美國的這個家沒有一點期盼，更不指望從我的繼母身上會得到愛。但是神真的很奇妙，我從我的繼母身上看到了祂的愛。

Happy families have a lot in common; unhappy families have their unique difficulties. Whenever thinking about my family, I feel powerless. I could not choose parents, or the type of family. I have no control over my parents' characteristics, tempers, or social status.

I came to the U.S. in 1998. I was slightly more fortunate than many foreigners because I have a family in the U.S. Although coming to unite with my family members, I was not too excited about it. There were four members in this family: my father whom I only saw three times since childhood, my stepmother whom I never met, and my sister who came along with my stepmother. Even it was my family, yet I was like a total stranger to it.

I had always lived with my mom in China. Divorce was not common back then, but my mom got married two more times after having divorced with my father. She was a nice person, and I love her dearly. Having experienced two stepfathers, I clearly knew how a family with parents from different marriage relationship would be like. Before departing for the U.S., I was advised by my mom to be extra cautious about the feelings of my new family members, especially my stepmother. She asked me to be tolerant and make best of the new environment. As long as I succeed in the U.S. in the future, I could care less about her afterwards. However, I made up in my mind that if I could not get along with my father or stepmother, I would immediately return to China. I had no expectation toward my new family in the U.S., neither did I expect to receive love from my stepmother. However, God is indeed marvelous for I saw His love from my stepmother.

剛來美國的時候，我有一段適應期，語言不行，學業和前途都很渺茫——因為我沒有學可上。在我惶恐不安的時候，我爸爸常常很粗心，察覺不到我情緒上的變化，繼母卻察覺得到。她常常跟我談心，給了我很多幫助。我覺得很奇怪。在國內的時候，我的繼父也不是壞人，他也想努力對我好一點，但是行不出來。因為這個親情是天然的。他會為我做一些事情，但是絕對不會跟我談很多話，因為當你跟一個人面對面談心的時候，你的感情就流露出來了。我很仔細地觀察我的繼母，因為我是一個很多疑的人，我不相信她會愛我。後來我發現，我的繼母雖然是一個很普通的中年婦人，她會為小事發脾氣，也常常很嘮叨，但是她有一點是我在我國內的繼父身上，甚至在很多親戚身上都無法看到的——那就是她真心愛護我關懷我，並不是為了她自己。

她身體不好，她是教小學三年級的小學老師，上完課回到家很累很累，但她願意解決我生活中的很多問題。現在想起來我在家裏住的那段時間，她和我度過了許多個流淚的夜晚。我除了看見了她的愛之外，還聽見了她的見證。她告訴我，她和我父親結婚以後來到了美國，他們是來求學的，他們的婚姻有很多問題。我爸爸是一個脾氣非常暴躁的人——這一點我在剛來美國的時候也有領教——所以我非常同情我的繼母。不過她告訴我，那已經比以前好多了。她跟我分享她信主的過程，跟我講我爸爸信主以後的變化，我也親眼看見了我爸爸在我來美國這三年以來的變化。要知道，對我來說，和我分享別的東西可能對我不會有什麼打動，但是跟我講破碎的家庭以及破碎的家庭關係，對我會有很大的觸動。我聽到我繼母流淚的見

In the initial period of time, I struggled to fit in the new environment. I had to learn the new language, and the future seemed to be very uncertain. My mood often swung with the uncertainty I faced. My father was not sensitive to my struggle, yet my stepmother could sense it. She often spent time talking to me and helping me. Sometimes, I really wondered about her. My experience with my stepfathers in China was that although they tried to help me, they could really love me in a natural way. They would do things for me, but never spent a lot of time talking to me. One's affection is easily revealed when talking to another person face to face. I carefully observed my stepmother, for I did not trust people easily. I did not believe she could love me. However, I discovered that she was an ordinary middle age woman who would be upset for small things, but she truly cared about me, not herself. This loving care was something I never saw from either of my stepfathers or even relatives in China.

My stepmother's physical condition was rather weak. As a third-grade teacher, she was usually exhausted when coming home from school. Nevertheless, she was still willing to accompany me in working out many problems. We spent many tearful nights together. Not only seeing her love for me, I also heard many of her testimonies. She told me that after getting married, she and my father came to the U.S. for academic advancement. They struggled a lot in their marriage, especially my father was quite ill tempered, to which I can attest. Therefore, I could sympathize with her. But she comforted me by saying that my father had greatly improved after becoming a Christian. I also witnessed his change in the past three years. I was never an emotional person, but things regarding broken family relationship always touch me in a deep and great way. Upon hearing her many tearful testimonies, I was moved. Through her, God's love really encouraged me. That was also why I invited Jesus to my heart at the second visit of my parents' church. It was a gospel

證，她跟我分享《聖經》上的話如何給她亮光，神的愛就通過她給了我很多鼓勵。所以我剛來美國跟爸媽第二次去教會就決志了。那一天是一個福音聚會，牧師在台上講話的時候我還一直想睡覺，但是當他呼召的時候，聖靈第一次臨到我，我哭得稀裏嘩啦。我的繼母和父親都很驚奇。我繼母是很希望我能認識這位神的，但是她沒有想到我會這麼快，我想這是神奇妙的帶領。祂讓我在國內經歷了太多沒有愛的家，當我從黑暗中出來一眼看見光的時候，我就願意去跟從這個光。

我是九八年底受的洗。這一路走過來，神在我生命中的改變是很奇妙的。我在國內的時候，很多人可能覺得我的身世比較可憐，但我知道，我在性格方面也有很多問題。

我曾是一個喜歡撒謊的孩子，神奇妙的工作現在讓我覺得說謊是一件很困難的事。剛來美國沒有學上的時候，我在成人學校學習。那時我在加州居住還不到一年，去社區大學一個學分要付一百多美元。我不願意給父母加上這個負擔，但我心裏非常著急，我不知道我的學業怎麼辦才好，神很奇妙地帶領了我。我家住在喜瑞都市，我去喜瑞都社區大學填了一張申請表格，果然學費是一百多美元一個學分。我又去了塞浦瑞斯社區大學。接待我的人要看我的綠卡。當時我所持有的那類綠卡在九八年就已經換成新式的，我的妹妹就有一張新的綠卡，而我卻只有一張舊綠卡。那人看了一下，也許沒有太注意我的入境日期，他給了我一般居民的費用標準。我心裏竊喜，沒有告訴他。回家以後，我告訴爸媽，以為他們會很高興，因為他們是很節儉的人。結果爸爸把我罵了一頓。繼母說：你一定要回去告訴人

meeting. I felt quite sleepy during the pastor's preaching, but when he gave out the altar call, the Holy Spirit came upon me. I wept greatly. My parents were very amazed, because they did not expect me to accept the Lord so soon. I believe it's the Lord's gracious hand that led me this way. He allowed me to go through many families without love so I would appreciate love when seeing it. Spotting light in the deep darkness, I immediately followed the light.

I was baptized in the end of 1998. God has done marvelous things in my life in my process of searching Him. Many people in China sympathized my unfortunate upbringing. Yet, I knew that I also had some personality flaws.

I used to lie quite often, but now God's marvelous work on me has made me feel very unease to lie. When first arriving in the U.S., I went to sign up for classes at a community college. Because I had not resided in California for one full year yet, I had to pay non-resident's full tuition. On one hand, I really did not want to burden my parents, but on the other hand, I also worried for my academic future. I first tried the city college of my home town, and the tuition was as high as over \$100 per unit. I then went to another college in the vicinity to see how much it would cost to study there. The one who received me asked to see my green card. Without paying attention to the length of time of my stay in the U.S., he erroneously quoted me the cheaper resident fee. I was very excited, and did not remind him of the truth. I thought my parents would rejoice with me later. However, to the contrary, they were very upset. My father scolded me, and my stepmother asked me to tell the truth to the college for we should not cheat. I was very reluctant and thought that might be my only chance to immediately resume study without

家，你不應該拿這個費。我很不情願。這可能是我唯一的機會，因為我不願意浪費一年。我掙扎了三天，爸爸也說了我三天，我沒辦法只好回去了。我告訴那個人說我應該是外國學生的費用。開始他不明白，可能因為這樣的事情從來沒有發生過。後來那人終於搞懂了。他愣了半天，看著我的表格，對我說：「你把你的綠卡拿來。」我拿給他。他沉默半天，說：「你就是居民的費用啊！」我還是只是重復說：「我在這裏沒有住滿一年。」他看著我說：「我從來沒有碰到過這樣的事情。你很誠實。你想交很多的錢，我們不讓你交這個錢！」所以我在成人學校只待了一個半月，就很順利地進入了塞浦瑞斯社區大學。神真是很奇妙一課一課地在教我，這一課是在教我：誠實是多麼重要。

我曾經也是一個很冷漠的人，我的心很剛硬。我第二個繼父有一個小女兒，比我小七歲。我和我妹妹相處的第一天，父母都去上班。我們坐在沙發上看電視，她突然站起來，指著我說：「你是誰呀，你不是我們家的人，你應該回去。」我就很生氣。我的性格很凶，我瞪著她，拿起一個杯子就朝她扔過去。杯子在地上摔碎了，她哇哇大哭起來，我更氣憤地瞪著她，說：「閉嘴！」——所以當我覺得自己受到傷害的同時，我也傷害了很多人。

我曾覺得我是一個完全沒有希望的人。學習對我來說只是一件機械的工作而已。我一直在想：這個世界上是否有一個地方是屬於我的？我覺得沒有。我那時跟著媽媽，她再婚以後也有很多的困難，尤其是又帶著一個小孩。我覺得我沒有什麼用處，跟著媽媽也只是拖累她。我媽媽當時負擔不起我的時候，也想把我送給我的舅舅或者大姨撫養，但

having to delay for another year (in order to qualify for the resident fee). I struggled for three days, and my father also nagged me for three days. Finally, I had to go back and tell them the truth.

I told the same person what happened. He was first confused and then silent for a while. Finally, he looked at me saying: "I have never encountered such kind of thing. You are very honest, and you want to pay a lot more tuition. But, we will not let you pay this amount!" Therefore, I was able to attend city college very smoothly just like that. God has taught me many marvelous lessons. That lesson was to teach me that honesty is very important.

I was also a very indifferent and hard-hearted person. My second stepfather had a little daughter, seven years younger than I. The first time we were together was after our parents were gone to work, and we were sitting on sofa watching TV together. Suddenly, she stood up and pointed her fingers at me saying: "Who are you? You are not part of our family! You should leave!" Out of great anger, I stared at her harshly and threw a cup at her. The cup was broken, and she started to cry loudly. I loudly rebuked her: "Shut up!" It was the time when I was deeply hurt, I also hurt many others.

I thought I was person without hope. Learning was just a routine responsibility in my life. I often thought: Is there any place on earth that really belongs to me?" Searching hard in my heart, my conclusion was "none". I always tagged along with my mom. I felt I was like a useless burden for her, nothing but a drag. There was a time when my mom had a tough time supporting me, she thought about giving me to my uncle or aunt. But, no body wanted me. For a long period of time, I felt pointless to live on, yet had no courage to

是他們也不要我。很長一段時間，我雖然沒有勇氣死，但覺得活著真的沒什麼意思。我媽媽當時先去了煙台，我有兩個月的時間自己呆在武漢，跟我的外公住在一起。那時我剛上初中，我外公也管不住我，我就一天到晚跟社會上的人混。晚上回到家裏真是覺得沒意思透了，常常想到要出家當尼姑，要不就是安樂死。那時學校裏教進化論，教政治，我都背得熟熟的，但是我從那裏面看不到愛。我信主以後，《聖經》裏面的東西對我來說是很自然的。即使現在我在學習科學，我覺得和《聖經》一點兒都不衝突。

我曾經也是一個很有報復心的人，我很難饒恕一個人。我小的時候，我的姨舅、姑姑這些親戚對我們曾有一些傷害，我把他們欺負我和我媽媽的細節一條條記下來，常常提醒自己不能忘記。信了神以後，很奇妙地，我心裏有了饒恕的愛。當我想起我的舅舅和舅媽，我還是記得他們對我做的那些事情，但我並不恨他們了，因為很奇妙的，神讓我看見，其實我也傷害了他們很多。

神也讓我漸漸學會了不再看重屬世的東西——金錢，名利，學業，事業，這些都比不上神，比不上神的愛，比不上神的家。

我是今年年初的時候自己找到聖迦谷基督徒聚會的，我本來是在喜瑞都參加聚會，後來我來在帕薩迪那的加州理工學院上學，每個星期五晚上我回去參加那邊的團契，但星期六早上我爸爸就會把我趕回學校。他說話很簡單，每次在送我走的時候，他都只說：——「抓緊」。他非常希望我能努力學習，但是我想參加主日崇拜。過了好幾個月，實在受不了啦，於是，我在網上查到了這

commit suicide. For about two months, my mom had to go out of town for work. She left me with her father, who had no control over me. I was in junior high, and would spend many evenings fool around with young adults. Every night when returning home, I felt a deep sense of meaningless and wanted to either die or become a nun. I was very familiar with various theories of evolution or politics taught in school, but could not find love in any of them. After becoming a Christian, Bible has enlightened me a lot, and never contradicts what I learned in science.

I was a person full of revenge. I had hard time forgiving anyone. Many of my relatives had hurt me in different ways since my childhood. I recorded in details what they did against me. I would remind myself occasionally not to forget what they did. Marvelously, after believing in Christ, I found love and forgiveness in my heart. Whenever I thought about my relatives, although remembering vividly what they did to me, I do not hate them any more. God has let me see that actually I hurt them a lot as well.

God also teaches me to let go of worldly things – money, fame, school, career, ..., none of these can compare with God, His love and His House.

I found Christian Assembly of San Gabriel Valley at the beginning of this year. I was attending a church in Cerritos, but I was later admitted into Cal Tech. Every Friday night, I would go back to Cerritos for Church fellowship, but my father would urge me to go back to school next morning. The only advise he gave was: "Be diligent." He wanted me to study diligently, but I really want to attend Sunday worship. Many months passed by, I finally could not bear it any more. I found this church through its website. Due to my shy personality, I would come and sit in the very

個教會。我每次來都偷偷地坐在後面，因為我不太會和生人說話。但是我非常喜歡來，而且我每次來都會哭。我進來聽到大家禱告的時候，唱詩的時候，我都覺得我回到了家。我第一次哭過，想第二次不會再哭了，結果還是哭。神的家就好得像這樣，不管你走到哪裏，哪怕是沒有教會的地方，你看見和你一樣信主的人，他們經歷過耶穌的愛，你就覺得他們像你的兄弟姐妹一樣。

我覺得神的家真的就像現在這個樣子，神知道我們的需要。祂知道我很需要一個有愛的家，祂給了我在地上一個很幸福的家。但是我很感激祂也給了我天上的一個家，祂讓我們這些人可以每個星期都聚在這個家裏面，更深地認識我們的主。

我很想跟大家分享幾個經節。我的繼母告訴我的第一個經節，就是「哥林多前書」講到愛的那個經節：「愛是恆久忍耐，又有恩慈；愛是不嫉妒；愛是不自誇，不張狂，不做害羞的事，不求自己的益處，不輕易發怒，不計算人的惡，不喜歡不義，只喜歡真理；凡事包容，凡事相信，凡事盼望，凡事忍耐。愛是永不止息。」我想神是通過這個愛讓我第一次遇見祂，並且一直引領我，讓我更認識祂。

第二個經節，就是「羅馬書」一章 19 節到 20 節：「神的事情，人所能知道的，原顯明在人心裏；因為神已經給他們顯明。自從造天地以來，神的永能和神性是明明可知的，雖是眼不能見，但借著所造之物，就可以曉得，叫人無可推諉。」神用這句話真是告訴我，我原來心裏的掙扎是來自哪裏。我們心裏面是有一個地方，是只能用神才能填滿的。當我看見神純正的道理和祂的光、

back. I love to come here because I would cry every time I come. I really feel at home when hearing others' prayer or singing. I thought I would only cry once, but I ended up with crying every time. The great thing about God's house is that wherever you go, with or without a church, as long as you meet with a Christian, you would feel like having met your own brother or sister.

God's house is just like here. God knows our need for a home of love. He gave me a wonderful home on earth, but I am even more grateful for the wonderful home in heaven. He has led us meet in this home every week in order to know Him more.

I would like to share with you a few passages. The first verse my stepmother shared with me was about love as written in I Corinthians: "Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecoming; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." I think through this kind of love, God met me, and continuously leads me to know Him more.

The second passage is Romans 1:19 & 20: "because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. His words explained to me the reason of struggles I suffered. Deep within each person's heart, there is a place for God and can only be filled by God. When seeing His pure words, love and light for the first time, I felt that I knew

祂的愛的時候，我覺得好像以前就知道神是在我們心裏面的，不管你信了還是沒有信，你看看自己的心裏面，你是需要神的。

第三個經節「馬太福音」十一章 27 節到 30 節：「凡勞苦擔重擔的人，可到我這裏來，我就使你們得安息。我心裏柔和謙卑，你們當負我的軛，學我的樣式，這樣，你們心裏就必得享安息。因為我的軛是容易的，我的擔子是輕省的。」信靠主以後，我還是常常願意借著自己的能力去做一些事情，當我走了彎路，明白過來的時候，我禱告，神就會跟我說：「你經歷過的那些苦我都知道，你為什麼一定要自己背自己的擔子呢？這樣很傻，就好像你上了電梯仍背著一付扁擔不肯放下一樣。」神這樣跟我說話，我就會忍不住哭。當我們經歷那些苦難時，有很多苦難是我們自己造成的。我們因為沒有人知道，我們覺得沒有人可以分擔我們心裏的苦。但是很奇妙，神，祂都知道。神的家是這樣的好，祂自己就是一位完美的父親。祂知道我們的苦難、我們的需要，祂是一位大有能力的主。

經過這兩年的生活，我走過這一路，從來沒有後悔過。這位神是這樣愛我，我本來什麼都沒有，現在我什麼都有了。這樣愛我的神，也是一樣地愛著你們。我願意我所得的這些福份，你們也能得到。當你從那黑暗裏面走出來的時候，投入那奇妙的光明，就會明白這個意思了。

毛珈姊妹見證

Him long time ago. Whether believing or not, just examine honestly in ones heart, one has to admit that we all need God.

The third passage is Matthew 11:27-30: "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son, except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father, except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light." After believing in the Lord, I still often relied on my own effort to accomplish things. Sometimes, making a wrong turn and being brought back, I would pray to God, who then spoke to me: "I fully understand your sufferings in the past. Why do you still carry the load on your own? It is as foolish as a man stands in the elevator and still insists on picking up the heavy load on his own shoulder." Upon hearing His loving advise, I could not help but cry. Many times we suffer as a result of our own work. We thought no one knows our suffering, but God always does. God is our perfect father who knows all of our needs and sufferings. He is an almighty God.

After believing Him for two years, I have had no regret. God truly loves us. I originally had nothing, now everything. This God of love also loves you. I sincerely wish you can have the same blessing I have. Once you walk out of darkness and enter into His marvelous light, you will understand what I mean.

Sister Jia Mao