

主，你的愛真是甘甜

LORD, YOUR LOVE IS SO SWEET

由於父母都是基督徒的緣故，出生我就受了嬰兒洗，直到多年後才正式受浸。從主日學的課程中得知有一位救主耶穌，為人受死於十字架上。當時主日學對我這個貪玩好動的孩子而言就如同學校裏那些社會課，國語課一般，身體是參與了，頭腦卻想著口袋裏的彈珠，隔壁的冰淇淋店。幾年下來記得的還僅於那句話「耶穌是救主」。

十二歲舉家移民美國，到了愛荷華州的一個人煙稀少，沒有中國人的小鎮定居，本以為找到了一塊樂土，沒想到卻成了夢魘之處。由於語言上的障礙，隔離了我們與教會的關係，一家六口投入餐館賴以為生，爸爸炒菜，姊姊們是女服務生，媽媽管帳，我洗碗。沒有主同在的家庭立即陷入危機，面對日益增多的客人與苦悶的生活，父親開始麻痺自己，逃避壓力，醉得每天不醒人事。當時我十三歲，與十五歲的姊姊只得輪流蹺課，成了廚房裏的大廚，供應每天二、三百位客人，每天都得撐到半夜才能休息。我常常含著淚過日子，於是我告訴自己要出人頭地，絕對不要再過這種苦日子。

神的確是一位充滿愛的神，雖然我遠離祂，祂卻時時的保守我。當時我並不知道神對我也有一個完美的計劃，我

I grew up in a Christian family; therefore I was baptized as a baby. Going to Sunday school for me as a hyperactive child was an incredibly painful experience. At church I learned that there was a Savior, Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Although I physically attended the church, I was actually thinking of the toys in my pockets and the ice cream store down the street. After a few years went by, the only thing I remembered was that phrase- "Jesus is the savior".

When I was growing up in Taiwan, I always dreamt that the United States was going to be the greatest place for children. As soon as I came to the States, I realized that this dream was just not just for everybody. My family emigrated from Taiwan to a small town in Iowa when I was twelve years of age. We started a Chinese family restaurant with my father as the chief cook, my mom as the manager and cashier, my sisters as the waitresses, and myself as the dishwasher. Because of the language barrier, my family stopped going to the church after a few times. We were in immediate trouble once we forsook the Lord. Because of the pressure from the increasing workload and boring life style, my father became an alcoholic. At that time, when I was 13 years old, my 15-year-old sister and I, we started to skip school in order to take over our father's work. Seven days a week, we had to serve 200 to 300 customers per day and we did not get to go home until 10:30 at night. Basically, we went through our teenage years working in the kitchen. I remembered telling myself that I needed to study hard so that may be some day, I would not have to do this anymore.

Our God is really a gracious and merciful God, because although I left him he was always there watching over me. In my earlier days, I did not know that God has a

天然人那個想“出人頭地”的慾望越來越大，斷絕了我追求真理的機會。我不願挪出時間去聚會，覺得神家的事與我何干，我要讀好書，將來賺大錢，我要靠自己的力量完成我的夢，想想那些去教堂的人都是閒得無事，不夠酷的社會淘汰之類。

在我上牙醫系的最後一年，經歷了父親的去世。父親在死前一年，神差遣了一位從國內來的弟兄到家中，拯救了他破碎的靈魂，把他再一次帶回神的家，在那玉米田遍地的荒野中，兩戶人家奉主名就有了規律的聚會。看著父親的轉變，我體會到人身體的軟弱與靈命復甦的需要，我知道人死後還有審判，帶著一顆不想下地獄的心回到了主的家中。但我的心仍舊被那個“出人頭地”的夢蒙蔽著。

我給自己定了一個“成功的目標”，拿到牙醫執照後，我又唸了兩個專科學位，計劃五年內還清貸款，當上美國兒童牙醫協會外交官，買大房子、好車，十年內擁有超過兩間診所，二十年後退休，在學校擔任教職，環遊世界。我從沒問過主對我有何計劃，只求主來完成我的計劃。

此時我真是成了禮拜天的基督徒，主日把自己藏在角落，聚會之後速速離開，弟兄姊妹常常有關心慰問的電話，

perfect plan for me. All I could think of was what I should to become somebody, and how could I study my way out of the kitchen. Those thoughts eventually overtook my whole body, mind and heart. I was not willing to spend any time going to church. All I wanted to do was study hard and do well in school. At that time, I was doing really well in school; however, my spiritual life was lacking. And I had this foolish thinking that the churchgoers were people who had nothing to do in their lives.

When I was finishing off my last year of dental school in 1996, my father passed away. Two years before he died, God sent a good Christian Brother from China to my family and re-strengthened my father's faith. From what my dad had experienced, I realized the frailty of the human body and the importance of a spiritual life to a person. Once again, my father's spiritual life was restored. I knew that there was everlasting life after death. With the hope that I will not go to hell after death, I went back to the church. However, that old dream of becoming successful one day never left me.

I had a plan of how to reach my goal: After graduating from dental school, in five years I will receive two more specialty degrees and become a diplomat for the American Society of Pediatric Dentistry. In ten years, I will own more than two dental health clinics and teach part time in a dental school. And on top of that, of course, I wanted to drive nice cars and live in a big, beautiful house. By the time I turned 50 years of age, I would retire and take my wife to travel around the world. During this whole time, I was planning for my own future, but I never asked if God had any plan for me. But rather, I asked God to fulfill my goals.

By this time, I had become a typical "Sunday Christian". Every Sunday, I sat at a corner in the church and as soon as the service ended I got up quickly and left.

他們的問安我都視之為麻煩，想不通為何梁弟兄常常要請吃飯？邀請我們去聚會？現今想想才知道他看到了我靈命的乾枯，不願我再沉淪，然而因沒看出他的美意，我還是全心投入在學業、事業上。

沒有主同在的日子很苦，雖然我朝著那成功的指標一步步前進，但光景很淒涼。看同學互相利用、競爭使我苦悶，看病人痛苦呻吟使我苦悶，看太太嘮叨不會做家事使我苦悶，看時時壓得我喘不過氣的課業也使我苦悶。我雖自認能吃苦，但這長久下來的苦就像蛆似的啃蝕著我的身體，慢慢腐敗，我感覺隨時都要倒下，看著日益減少的頭髮、憔悴的臉孔，我都快不認識自己了。

感謝這位慈愛又有恩典的主！祂看到了我的需要。雖然我從前不曾親近祂，甚至排斥祂，但主仍然顧念，沒有讓我承受不能承擔的試煉，也不願我在黑暗痛苦中煎熬，祂要帶我走過這一切。在一九九八年七月份的夏令會，因擔心太太一人獨自開遠程的車，於是我也陪著去，本想就坐在後排睡覺養神，沒想到主親自把我喚醒，祂在我身上的計劃開始起了效應。聽了幾千遍耶穌為罪人被釘十字架，成了代罪羔羊，救眾人得永生的故事，從無特別感覺。那天，這幕卻活生生地映在眼前——主被鞭打、吐唾沫、被嘲笑、上十字架、流寶血。那鮮血的溫度灼熱了我的心，原本鋼硬的心軟化了，眼前出現的一面大鏡子，不

Brothers and sisters in the church often called to ask how my wife and I were doing, and I always thought they were pretty troublesome. In addition, I did not understand why Brother Timothy called me all the time either to invite me to a church function or to his house for dinner. Now, I realize that he had seen my spiritual life was pretty pathetic and did not want me to keep going on like that. At that time I did not realize he was concerned for my spiritual well-being. All I cared about was my school and job; I did not care at all about anything else.

My life without the Lord continued to be a struggle and, although I was moving closer toward my goal, I was miserable. When I saw my colleagues using and competing against one another, I felt miserable; when I heard my wife nagging at me, I felt more miserable; when I saw my patients in pain, I felt even more miserable. Although, I always considered myself to be a hard worker and able to tolerate a lot, this chronic draining and exhaustion were finally taking a toll on me. I saw myself getting more irritable and more ill tempered each day; I could hardly recognize myself any longer.

I thanked the adorable and merciful Lord who saw my needs. Although I neglected him and left him, the Lord watched over me and never allowed me to bear more than what I could tolerate. He was unwilling to see me continue suffering in the darkness. During the summer conference this year, I was worried for my wife's safety from driving the long distance by herself, so I tagged along to the conference. My plan initially was to sit in the last row and take naps every now and then so I would be energized for other activities after the conference. However, something happened: The Holy Spirit touched me. It woke me up from my nap. Suddenly, from the scene when the Lord was beaten, spit on and laughed at, to the scene when he was nailed on the cross and shed his precious blood for us, played

斷反映出我醜惡的形像—自私、污穢、軟弱、被黑暗轄制。我跪下了，向主哭號懺悔：「我曾經迷失在罪途中，是你的愛從罪中釋放我，主我感謝你沒有遺棄我一人於黑暗中。」

主把渴慕放在我心中，開始了我的靈修生活，我迫切要來認識充滿慈愛的主，無論書包再怎樣重，一定有一本聖經、一本荒漠甘泉，無論到醫院的時間多早，一定有半小時的晨更，無論身體再如何疲倦，也不願放過與弟兄姊妹聚會，因為知道主是我的力量、是我患難時的避難所、是我最好的朋友。很奇妙的，主真的在我身上做工，原本很討厭的一位同學成了渴慕被關懷的對象，我向她傳講福音，為她禱告；教會的弟兄姊妹個個看去更是可愛無比，讓人想親近；在病房裏，有機會就對病人說主的事蹟，開刀前為他們禱告使他們得到平安；回到家中更是喜樂的不得了，可以與妻子一同讀經禱告分享主給的愛，沒有電視、搖滾樂，只有讚美的詩歌與福音電台。

我的生活雖然起了奇妙的變化，但我那天然人老舊的夢卻仍滯留於心，還有一個所謂“成功的目標”，主也看出我的軟弱，祂還是笑著繼續祂對我的計劃。九月一日，一個酷熱的下午，我滿身大汗地開著那台沒冷氣的車在路上，原本我出門都會帶著愛跟班的太太，那天不知怎地她怎樣不肯出門。有一個時刻，我開始與主講話，我說：「主啊，你是否時刻都與我同在呢？為什麼有時候我又像一人似地？」仇敵很輕易地把

over and over again in my mind. In the light of Jesus' grace and mercy, I saw my selfishness and weakness. I knelt down to the Lord, and cried out to him with regrets: " I am so sorry my Lord! I was once lost in the darkness and in my own sins, but your love will rescue me from my wickedness. Lord, I thank you for never having forsaken me."

After the conference, the Lord placed a yearning in my heart, and I started my spiritual walk with the Lord. I was eager to know this wonderful Lord who is full of mercy and love. No matter how heavy my backpack was, I would carry my Bible and the book *The Stream in the Desert* with me. No matter how early I had to be in the hospital, I would get up a half-hour earlier to have my morning devotion with the Lord. No matter how tired I was mentally and physically after a full day of work, I was unwilling to give up the chances of fellowship with my brothers and sisters in Christ. I knew the Lord was my strength and my shelter; the Lord is my best friend. Miraculously, the Lord started to work on me. At church, when I saw the brothers and sisters, they became very adorable and lovable to me. At school, with the colleagues that I did not like before, I was able to share about my faith and the Bible. At home, I was able to study the Bible, pray, and share the love of God with my wife. All these things I never thought that I could do or experience before.

Although, my life began to change, that old self still lingered around. Continually, my priority was not straight. The Lord saw my weakness, so he kept on his plan for me. On the hot afternoon of September 2nd, 1998, I was driving my Taurus with sweat dripping down my face (my A/C was not working at that time). Usually, My wife liked to tag along wherever I want, but strangely she was in no mood to go out with me that day. While I was driving, I was wondering to myself, why does not God answer my prayers sometimes? While I was thinking of this question,

這個大問號放在我的心裡，但我們這位得勝的主，不容許仇敵的詭計得逞，祂對我說話了，讓我經歷到祂自己，有一句話就在我腦裏鮮明透徹地顯現：「先求祂的國和祂的義，這些東西都要加給你們」這個經歷是我前所未有的，雖在超過百度的大熱天下，全身竟直打冷噠，喜樂得顧不得眾目睽睽、男人自尊，我哭得像個孩子般。但當時我並不明白主給我這話的用意，用我的頭腦想了想，把它解釋成：只要尋求祂的國和祂的義，主就要幫我完成從小的夢，我成功的目標。但主的智慧是人無法理解的，接下來的一個禮拜，主親自教導了我話中的意義。

很特別地那個禮拜我接到好多任務，學校多了好多專題要做，在教會要照顧小孩，要為我畢業前的研究作答辯，主日還要做見證。我面臨很大的壓力與困難，心裡就愁苦起來了，在每日晨更時，我就向主禱告，因我知道祂是聽禱告的神。是的，神每天都對我說話：『你們聽見角聲，眾百姓要大聲呼喊，城牆就要塌陷』，信心的呼喊不是痛苦的呻吟；『看見門徒．．．搖櫓甚苦』，不要倚靠自己，乃要有主在船上；『凡等候祂都是有福的』，神是我們的避難所，是我們的力量，是我們在患難中隨時的幫助。這些話每天都填滿我的需要，激勵我往前，主給我的那句話與我就如一面滿著霧氣的玻璃，每次我用手去擦拭玻璃，就越清楚這句話，直到我一一解決那些困難，做完論文答辯的那天，整句話清清楚楚地呈現出來。我看到的*不是什麼成功的目標，不是汽車、房子，更不是過去驕傲愚頑的自我，乃是一幕活生生屬天的景象，我看到天國的榮耀，看到神要給我在天上的那個大福份，看到神的大能與恩典，我真的完全的折服了，第一個想法是我不

suddenly, there was a sentence that spoke to me vividly out of nowhere. I heard: "Seek His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added on to you." This is an experience that I never had before; I was dumbfounded for a while. Although it was such a hot day, I was shivering. My heart felt so joyful at the moment that I cried like a baby. I did not care if people were watching me outside. Not knowing what was really meant by that, I guessed that God wanted me to seek his kingdom and righteousness first and he would help me accomplish my goals. But, God's wisdom was beyond my comprehension. The next week, the Lord personally taught me what He meant.

Coincidentally, I became extremely busy that week. Many things were happening at the same time. I had many school projects and papers due that week, my research defense was on that Tuesday, surgery cases on Wednesday, I was suppose to baby sit on Friday, and finally give my testimony on Sunday. I was in great distress, so I began to worry. But I still praised the Lord and had my daily devotion. I laid down all my burdens to Him because I knew that He is a God who cares. Praise to the Lord, He taught me and communicated with me each morning: "He saw the disciples straining at the oars;" "blessed are all who wait for him;" and "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble." All these words spoke to my heart. They filled my needs and urged me to go on everyday. The words that the Lord gave me (seek his kingdom and righteousness and everything else will be added unto you) was like it was place on the other side of a foggy window, every time I wipe the window it gets clearer. Until the day I finished my defense, I saw the words more clearly than ever before. What I saw was not my dreams, fancy cars, big houses, pride or selfishness, it was a heavenly scene. I realized that the

配得，我是個罪人。那想功成名就的舊夢一下子就被打碎，看似多采多姿的屬世生活也褪色了，我清醒地看出這些事的狹隘與短暫。我羞愧得不敢看主，但主一直笑著安慰說：「沒有關係！」突然也體會到梁弟兄老說的那句話—「主的愛真是甘甜」，甘甜地讓我不再懷念老舊的自己，願意一生一世追隨主！

主的愛是無法測度的，我曾不認主名且遠離祂，但這位寧願捨己都要完成救恩的主，豈會不憐恤我們的軟弱與無知呢？祂說：『我來了，是要叫羊得生命，並且得的更豐盛。』『我來本不是召義人，乃是召罪人。』這話就應驗在我身上，一個蒙恩的罪人，主不僅要讓我得著，還要大大加添。

在結束前，我願分享我父親死前的一段話，他說這輩子最令他遺憾的事，就是一生勞苦奔波，為了自己的事業沒有好好親近主、為主做事，要我記住絕不可效法他，要走永生的道路。我到此刻才完全明白他的意思。神很憐憫我父親，也憐憫我，在父親過逝一個禮拜，主給我一個夢，看到我父親被癌症侵蝕、殘敗不堪的身體已不在，換成一個年輕的模樣，在天家高興地跳來跳去，我知道他已被主帶回天家了。

heavenly kingdom and its glory were the things that really matter. What I should be going after are the great blessings from Heaven. I saw that God is almighty and gracious. At that moment, I was totally broken down. The first thought that came to me was that I do not deserve it, simply because I am a sinner. My old dreams of becoming successful were shattered. All of sudden, that colorful worldly living that I used to search after lost its color and I realized that all worldly things are perishable and unreliable. I was embarrassed because I was foolish before. Finally, I understood what Timothy meant when he said, "The Love of the Lord is so sweet and joyful, much so that I am unwilling to go back to my old self but willing to follow Christ for the rest of my life!"

The Lord really loves the sinners like me. Once I was unwilling to know the Lord and I forsook him. But the Lord died for my sins; how could he not understand my weakness and ignorance. He said, "For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." I am a sinner who received grace from Him, not only will He allow me to obtain life, but also He will make it more abundant.

Before closing, I would like to share something my father shared with me on his deathbed. He expressed that all his life, he regretted spending most of his time attending to his own business and not enough on what God had planned for him. Now, it was all too late. He wanted me to learn from his mistake. "Learn early to obey and walk with the Lord throughout your whole life," he said, "and surely you will be blessed." The Lord took pity on my father and on me. One week after my father passed away, I dreamt that my father's old cancerous and decayed body no longer existed. It took the new form of a perfect body and was happily running around in a beautiful place. I knew then that God took him home.

如果讀者中還有不認識這位慈愛救主的朋友，請你們相信祂的應許：『你們祈求，就給你們；尋找，就尋見；叩門，就給你們開門』，這位主是真真實實存在的，讓祂進到你生命中，祂要把永生的福份賞給你，只要此刻你點頭願意讓祂成為你的救主！祂會一路帶領你走這屬天的路！

鄭子碩弟兄見證

I urge any person who does not know this merciful Lord, please believe His promise: " Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." He is a truly living God. All you need to do is open up you heart to Him, He will become your personal savior and lead you on to the path of eternal salvation.

Joseph Cheng