

*In Loving Memory*

PASTOR SHIRLEY CHANG  
張美芳牧師追思禮拜



1964-2020

與主同在  
*Emmanuel*

日期 Date: 2020.10.10 (六 Sat.)

時間 Time: 10:00 am

地點 Place: 恩福華人浸信會 Grace Gospel Chinese Baptist Church



# 追思禮拜程序

## Order of Memorial Service



默禱	Meditation		會眾 Congregation
宣召	Call to Worship	約翰福音 John 11:25	黃秀逢 Jennie Wong
唱詩	Hymn	奇異恩典 Amazing Grace	會眾 Congregation
禱告	Invocation		陳文廣 Tony Chan
讀經	Scripture Reading	帖撒羅尼迦前書 I Thess. 4:13-18	黃秀逢 Jennie Wong
信息	Message	得勝的生命	黃英杰牧師 Pastor Ying-Kit Wong
獻詩	Music Offering	“Thank You” 謝謝你	陳文廣 Tony Chan
生平 述史	Biography		陳論聲 Alex Chan
影片 追思	Slideshow		會眾 Congregation
牧者 見證	Testimony		葉文惠 Michelle Yip
頌文	Eulogy		家人朋友 Family & Friends
唱詩	Hymn	請不要為我悲傷	會眾 Congregation
致謝 報告	Thanksgiving & Announcement		黃秀逢 Jennie Wong
祝福	Benediction		黃英杰牧師 Pastor Ying-Kit Wong



主禮:黃英杰牧師	<b>Officiate:</b> Pastor Ying-Kit Wong
公禱:陳文廣	<b>Invocation:</b> Tony Chan
主席/領詩:黃秀逢	<b>Presider/Song Leader:</b> Jennie Wong
述史/見證:陳論聲/葉文惠	<b>Biography/Testimony:</b> Alex Chan/Michelle Yip
插花/場地佈置:余美心,陳琪,梁麗儀,郭春麗,吳陳素儀	<b>Flowers/Set up:</b> Mee Sum Yu, Rose Tam, Ame Leung, Fiona Kwok, Alison Ng
招待:梁麗儀,沈招蓉,吳易芬,陳琪,沈碧舫,陳惠嫦	<b>Ushers:</b> Ame Leung, Sandy Chao, Fion Ng, Rose Tam, Bi Fang Shen, Karen Chan
分餐:陳永強,沈碧舫,李濤,關妙玲	<b>Food Serving:</b> Frankie Chan, Bi Fang Shen, Tao Li, Miao Guan
停車場:陳永強,廖劍鋒,李濤	<b>Parking Lot:</b> Frankie Chan, Fung Liu, Tao Li
影音/同步控制:黃偉華/葉文惠	<b>AV/Zoom:</b> Ivan Wong/Michelle Yip
攝影/錄影:吳尉君/Alan Ku	<b>Photos/Recording:</b> Alexandria Ng/Alan Ku

## 宣召 Call to Worship

約翰福音 John 11:25

耶穌對他說：復活在我，  
生命也在我。信我的人雖然  
死了，也必復活，

Jesus said to her, "I am the res-  
urrection and the life. The one  
who believes in me will live,



## 奇異恩典 Amazing Grace

奇異恩典，何等甘甜，我罪已得赦免；  
前我失喪，今被尋回，瞎眼今得看見。

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch; like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

如此恩典，使我敬畏，使我心得安慰；  
初信之時，即蒙恩惠，真是何等寶貴！

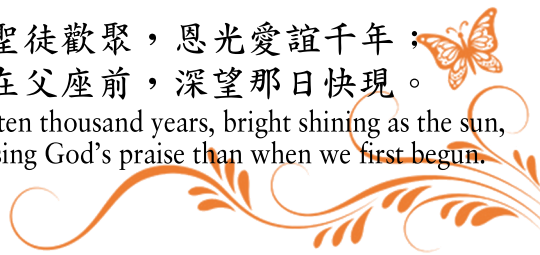
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed!

許多危險，試煉網羅，我已安然經過；  
靠主恩典，安全不怕，更引導我歸家。

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come  
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

將來禧年，聖徒歡聚，恩光愛誼千年；  
喜樂頌讚，在父座前，深望那日快現。

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.





## 讀經 Scripture Reading

### 帖撒羅尼迦前書 I Thess. 4:13-18

13 論到睡了的人，我們不願意弟兄們不知道，恐怕你們憂傷，像那些沒有指望的人一樣。14 我們若信耶穌死而復活了，那已經在耶穌裡睡了的人，神也必將他與耶穌一同帶來。15 我們現在照主的話告訴你們一件事：我們這活著還存留到主降臨的人，斷不能在那已經睡了的人之先。16 因為主必親自從天降臨，有呼叫的聲音和天使長的聲音，又有神的號吹響；那在基督裡死了的人必先復活。17 以後我們這活著還存留的人必和他們一同被提到雲裡，在空中與主相遇。這樣，我們就要和主永遠同在。18 所以，你們當用這些話彼此勸慰。

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.







獻詩 Music Offering

*Thank You* 謝謝你

I dreamed I went to heaven  
And you were there with me  
We walked upon the streets of gold  
Beside the crystal sea  
我夢見我到了天堂，而你也在那裏。  
我們沿著水晶海漫步於黃金街。

We heard the angels singing  
Then someone called your name  
You turned and saw this young man  
And he was smiling as he came  
聽著天使高歌，有人喊著你。  
轉身看見一位年輕人，面帶笑容走過來。

And he said friend you may not know me now  
And then he said but wait  
You used to teach my Sunday School  
When I was only eight  
他說：朋友，你現在不認識我。  
他又說：你其實是我八歲時的主日學老師。

And every week you would say a prayer  
Before the class would start  
And one day when you said that prayer  
I asked Jesus in my heart  
每週你在上課前會作個小小禱告，  
有一天正當你禱告時，我請耶穌進入我心。

Chorus 副歌：

Thank you for giving to the Lord  
I am a life that was changed  
Thank you for giving to the Lord  
I am so glad you gave  
謝謝你為主如此奉獻，使我的生命得以改變，  
謝謝你為主如此奉獻，深深感謝你的付出。

*Continue next page 下頁接讀...*



Then another man stood before you  
And said remember the time  
A missionary came to your church  
And his pictures made you cry  
又有一個人走到你面前，他說記得有一次，  
一位宣教士到你教會，他的敘述使你流淚。

You didn't have much money  
But you gave it anyway  
Jesus took the gift you gave  
and that's why I'm here today  
儘管你並不富有，但你依然為此奉獻，  
耶穌使用你的禮物，以至今天我能在這天堂裏。

One by one they came  
Far as the eyes could see  
Each life somehow touched, by your generosity  
更多的人一個個地來，多到看不到盡頭，  
因著您慷慨給予，每個生命被用不同方式觸摸。

Little things that you had done. Sacrifices made  
Unnoticed on the earth, in heaven now proclaimed  
每一件你做的小事，所付出的犧牲，  
它們在世上雖不受注意，但今天在天上被宣揚。

And I know that up in heaven  
You're not supposed to cry  
But I am almost sure, there were tears in your eyes  
我知道在天堂裏，你應該不需要哭，  
但我幾乎可以確定，你的眼睛泛著淚光。

As Jesus took your hand,  
And you stood before the Lord  
He said, my child look around you  
For great is your reward!  
當耶穌拉著你的手，你站在主的面前，  
祂說我的孩子，看看你的四周，  
你的獎賞是何等的大。

*Back to Chorus 返回副歌...*

## 請不要為我悲傷

耶穌說：生命價值，不在乎是否長短；  
只在乎生命豐盛，我一生已找到了。  
主應許從不落空，主為我預備地方；  
凡相信應許的人，都可以與主同在。


請您不要為我悲傷，也不要為我哭泣，  
因我已在主身旁，再沒有眼淚與痛苦。  
感謝主與我同在，感謝主賜我冠冕，  
在美麗的天國裡，享受永生福氣。

請您不要為我悲哀，喜樂油代替悲傷，  
因我已在主身旁，再沒有眼淚與痛苦。  
感謝主與我同在，感謝主賜我冠冕，  
在美麗的天國裡，享受永生福氣。

華冠代替灰塵，喜樂油代替悲傷，  
在美麗的天國裡，主與我一同得國。



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## 張美芳生平

(1964年12月8日~2020年9月28日)

張美芳生於香港，對上有四個家姐，一個哥哥，她家中排行最少，故此家人有時叫她做“美”女。父親莊炳權，在她兒時就過身，從此母親李仲就擔起撫養子女的責任，母親亦於去年以 95 高齡離世，被接回天家。

Shirley 1982 年信主，在長沙灣福音堂受造就，福音堂後來獨立，最後改名為永約浸信會；在那裡她事奉了 11 年，曾擔任教會刊物的主編，學生福音營主席，主日學老師，詩班員等等。她肄業於德雅中學，畢業後到理工學院攻讀設計，後來從事服裝設計行業，曾試過在中國大陸設計自己品牌的運動服裝。1991 年與陳論聲共諧連理，1993 年移民美國，開始她的人生下半場。

她的設計專長在佛州是無用武之地，於是她考入大學，修讀會計，大約用了五年時間，取得了學士學位和考取會計師牌。同時間，她生下一子一女：Calvin 和 Lauren。記得當她在埋首溫書，準備考會計師試時，Calvin 就在圍欄床上玩耍，而 Lauren 就在媽媽肚裡輾轉反側。畢業後，她在一間美國公司(Tyco)工作，後來才轉到會計師樓當會計師，同時，她也發展了餐館的業務。1998 年她兩個家姐和姐夫，姨甥子女，舉家移民到佛州，她要兼顧的事情就更多了，再加上在教會的事奉，真可算是百足咁多爪。

當她的事業都穩定下來，馬不停蹄的她，2014 年毅然決定去修讀神學，她就這樣邊工作，邊讀書的，本來要 6 至 7 年時間的，但她只用了 3 年半就完成了這個神學碩士課程；在神帶領之下，後來成為了恩福華人浸信會的創會牧師。

張美芳是神忠心的僕人和愛主的姊妹，她有多方面的才能和恩賜，組織能力強；她在教會的事奉是全力以赴，而且勇於創新，更消除了外間對基督教教會是古板和沉悶的看法。她傳福音的熱誠，有目共睹；在她要離去前的一個星期，當時她已是氣若游絲，但她仍然盡她最後的努力，向她家人傳講福音，希望家人也能得著福氣，她此舉感動了身旁每一個弟兄姊妹。她的考卷已經考完，功課也做足了，張美芳要先我們步出這個人生的考場。總結她的一生，四個字：“不枉此生”。

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## Biography of Shirley Chang

(December 8, 1964 ~ September 28, 2020)

Shirley was born in Hong Kong. She had four sisters and one brother; she was the youngest daughter in her family. Her father, Bing Cheung, died when she was very young, so her mother, Chung Lee, needed to take care of the whole family since then. Her mother also passed away last year when she was 95 years old and went to heaven peacefully.

In 1982, Shirley accepted Jesus as her Savior. She went to church at Cheung Sha Wan Mission. Later the Mission became independent and became Wing Yeuk Baptist Church. She attended that same church for about 11 years. She served in various areas: the church publication, the student summer camp, the Sunday school, and the choir. She studied at Tak Nga Middle School, then went to Hong Kong Polytechnic Institute to study design. Later she worked as a fashion designer. Once she went to China and developed a brand name of sportswear. In 1991 she married Alex Chan and in 1993 they both immigrated to the United States, starting the second half of her life.

Knowledge of design didn't help her earn a living in Florida, so she went to college and studied accounting. After five years, she got a bachelor's degree and earned the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) qualification. During that time, she gave birth to a son and then a daughter: Calvin and Lauren. While she was diligently studying for the CPA exam, Calvin was playing in his crib, and Lauren was moving around in her mother's belly. After graduation, she worked at the Tyco Corporation. After a few years, she worked as a CPA at her own CPA firm. She also invested in the restaurant business. In 1998, her two sisters and their families also immigrated to Florida. From then on, Shirley needed to take care of more things, on top of her heavy involvement at church.

When her career became stable, being the unstoppable person that she was, she decided to study theology in 2014. She was still working and just studied part-time, but she needed only three and a half years to finish all the courses and get a Master of Divinity Degree. With God's guidance, she later became the founding pastor of Grace Gospel Chinese Baptist Church (GGCBC).

Shirley was a faithful servant and loved God very much. She had lots of talents and gifts from God. She also had good organizational skills. She always gave her best when working in the various areas of church ministry. She was very creative and dared to do some new things. She changed outsiders' views that church is boring and strict. She also liked to share the gospel with others. About one week before she left us, when she was so weak that she could hardly speak a word, she still tried to use her remaining strength to convince her sister to get this gift of salvation from God. All the brothers and sisters in the room are so touched by Shirley's action.

Shirley just completed her Life examination paper. She finished all her assignments. Shirley has walked out of the examination hall of Life before us. Her life can be summed up in three words: "Life that Counts".



## 張美芳牧師親筆見證

相信當你見到這篇文章的時候，我已經離開世界，進到永恆了。很希望在離開世界之先，將神如何在我身上顯的恩典——跟你們分享。我要證明，信耶穌是一條蒙福之路；耶穌是真實、可信、慈愛的主，祂帶領我的一生！

我在家中排行第七，是最小的。父親在我九歲時過身，因為家貧，所以家計都是由母親及姐姐們承擔，只有我和哥哥可以讀書。但我四歲時已經需要去工廠做工，幫補家計。所以我從小便建立一份堅韌、有承擔的性格。但同時亦建立了一個憤世嫉俗的性格，不喜歡笑。在家中也找不到愛，在學校、社會中也不能建立什麼好的友誼。一直到我中五那一年，是我人生的轉捩點。

記得十二歲那年，當大家姐移民美國，我曾向母親承諾，將來我必定可以到美國讀大學。不料，一向成績很好的我，在中學會考竟名落孫山，不獲派中六學校。還記得當天在學校取成績單的時候，我的心情跌到低谷。那個時候，一位同學的姐姐，邀請我參加他們的教會聚會。雖然我在天主教學校讀書十一年，但從未想過成為天主教徒；但每次遇到困難時，總喜歡到學校小聖堂向主耶穌祈禱。當時，就在我感到無路可走的時候，這個同學的姐姐的邀請，我便毅然接受了。對於第一次參加基督教教會的聚會，有兩點令我很驚訝的：第一點，我被帶到的一間教會是尖沙咀浸信會的一個分堂；是長沙灣福音堂。這教會不像天主教，在大教堂內進行彌撒；而是在一座大廈中的一個單位內進行。而且在台的後面，竟然有一個廚房，聚會後大家會一同吃飯。這個感覺令我覺得很溫馨！第二點，就是在崇拜中講道的內容，不像天主教那些神父在台上講的道理，聽完也不明所言。但當天，牧師在崇拜中講的題目，至今我還記得清清楚楚，就是“耶穌愛你”！一直以來，我盼望在地上能夠尋找真正的愛，牧師就給了我一個清楚的答案：耶穌愛我！我全程一直在哭，什麼也記不清楚，只知道耶穌愛我，心中澎湃的充斥一份暖流。那天我好像中了獎，開心得不能言喻！蹦蹦跳跳的跑回家，就算姊姊用兇惡的言辭責罵我，我卻不像以往的反應，以牙還牙。相反，我笑了起來，問她：“我做了什麼事，竟然令你這樣兇呢？”當時我不知道是什麼原因，整天都是很開心的。從那天起，我便開始每天讀聖經。

記得有一天早上，我坐在床上讀聖經的「使徒行傳」，突然有一聲音對我說：“你來跟從我！”我頓然知道，這是耶穌的聲音；但我卻對祂說，我不想做基督徒，因為當時與我一起做暑期工的都是基督徒，他們的工作表現令我反感。我想，我不是基督徒，還比你們更好。但當時主耶穌跟我說：“你來跟從我吧！我要你做聖經中的那種基督徒。很多基督徒不能活出我要他們活出的生命，但不等於我的真理是不好的。”那時，我恍然大悟，之後我返了教會及讀經兩個多月，真正認識神是好的；他的真理也是好的。在那一刻，我在床上回應主耶穌，對他說：“我願意做一個跟隨主耶穌的基督徒，求主帶領我！”一就是不做基督徒，要做的就要做百分百的基督徒。從此，我就認定我已經信耶穌，是一個真真實實的基督徒了。但這件事沒有人知道，因為我覺得只有神知道便可以了。誰知，神卻要我公眾承認我已成為一個基督徒。在我的信主一個多月後，我獨自跑到母會—尖沙咀浸信會，參加他們的聖誕主日崇拜。還記得當天講員的題目是“聖誕的禮物”。到最後，當講員問誰願意接受這份聖誕禮物—耶穌的時候，坐在平台的我，心中強力的回應說：“這裏坐著的千多人都是基督徒，我們當然會接受這份聖誕禮物，所以我毫不猶豫地便舉起手來。誰知一份莫名的尷尬和憤怒籠罩著我，憤怒是因為周圍都沒有人舉手。心裏說：“為什麼你們基督徒都不接受耶穌？尷尬的是所有人的目光都朝著我。散會後，我被邀請入一個房間問心事，經過陪談後，我便正式接受主耶穌做我個人救主，開始人生蒙主引領的新一頁。自此之後，我心裏時常感到喜樂和平安，與家人的關係也漸漸轉好，常常開心地笑！我亦結交了很多真心朋友，生命變得積極、有目標、有倚靠。感謝神！祂引領我達成一個又一個的夢想。

1985年的一個香港夏令會是我第一次走到主台前回應神的呼召，願意將生命歸主用。對於一個二十來歲，信主只有三年的我卻不以此呼召為意。直至2009年，神再一次呼召我，“來跟從我！”我便決心報讀神學院。因我需要照顧家庭，不可能報讀外州的神學院，終於我在本地(美國佛羅里達州)找到一間長老會神學院。後來因劉廣華牧師(當時所屬教會榮譽牧師)建議我選擇一間浸信會神學院，但可惜當時附近並沒有浸信會神學院，最終我便將這件事擱置了。在2013年五月的一個家庭退修會中，神

又再一次呼召我。我重新立志要將生命獻上被神使用，但卻不知從何做起。同年十月我獨個兒飛到佐治亞州行山，這是我每年與神單獨約會的日子。第三天的路徑十分險要，走在陡峭山坡上一條若有若無的窄窄小路上。我行了半個小時之後，便想折返，但有聲音鼓勵我繼續往前行。很不容易走了一個多小時，我已經霧了滿身大汗，才發現有一個指示牌。我才知道之前所行的一段路尚算平坦，之後將要行的一段路更是崎嶇。我心想，之前的一段路已經叫我心膽俱疲，我如何能面對之後的那一段路呢？不如回頭罷了！但又有聲音這樣對我說：“No turning back, keep going. I'll be with you.”我深知道這是主的聲音，我便毅然踏上。一面唱著“恩典之路”，心裏一面跟主說：“你帶著我走，我必緊緊跟隨”。雖然這兩個小時的路程果然十分崎嶇，但奇怪的是很快便過去了。當到達山徑的終點時，我才鬆一口氣。忽然，一陣大風吹起，路的兩旁高樹被風搖動，滿山七色的彩葉從高處飄落。頓時我覺得好像天上有天使為我灑下七色的彩帶，慶祝我完成一個艱鉅的旅程。同時我感覺到這是神給我的異象，告訴我將有一個艱鉅的旅程在我前面，但我終必完成，到時天使會在終點為我歡呼喝采的，想不到這就是我幾個月後入讀紐奧良浸會神學院(New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary)的一個預告。

原來紐奧良浸會神學院幾年前在佛羅里達州剛開設了延伸學院，我便報讀它的神學碩士課程。感謝神的安排，我便可留在佛州，一面讀書，一面工作，一面事奉，一面照顧家庭。但對於一個已經長久離開學院的我來說，要重新讀一些又深奧又難明的英文神學，一本又一本厚厚的書，一份又一份難做的功課，實在是百上加斤，度日如年。很不容易捱過第一個學期之後，我很想輟學，我實在無法面對剩下來的三年半的課程。但山上的異象不斷重現腦海，一次又一次的鼓勵我：不要放棄，你終會完成的。感謝神！四年的課程奇蹟地我竟然在三年半內完成。我終於在2017年5月神學畢業了。畢業那天，不單有天使，還有很多家人兄弟為我歡呼喝采。我無法解釋我如何行過這段旅程，只可說：全是神的恩典、憐憫，讓我經歷祂的大能與同在。

在2016年，畢業的前一年，為了慶祝我和丈夫(Alex) 25週年的結婚紀念，我們飛到北歐坐郵輪旅行。在船上，我望向茫茫

大海，不其然向神禱告，說：“天父呀！我快要讀完神學，但前路茫茫，我該何去何從？”天父卻柔聲對我說：“你不用擔心！你已經在我的船上，我帶你到那裏去，你就在那裏事奉我。”我頓時淚如泉湧，對主說：“你是我的主，我是你的僕人，求主引領我！”同年秋季，還有七科我便可以畢業。當選科時，我發現有一些科目是給那些蒙召作牧師修讀的，比如教牧學和講道學。我沒想過要當牧師，但因沒有其他適合的課程開課，輔導員建議我為要達到畢業的要求，我必需修讀教牧學和講道學。想不到這就是神奇妙的安排，就在修讀完這兩課之後，2017年一月，有一位宣道會的姊妹邀請我到她的教會講道。過了幾個月之後，宣道會總會決定聘請我作傳道人帶領教會。那時我還未畢業，以為這是神為我在畢業後安排的第一個碼頭。但經過禱告及諮詢後，我感覺到這並不是神的心意。當時劉牧師鼓勵我，“你不如考慮自己為神建立一間浸信會教會，因為你是出自浸信會的。”我就膽顫心驚的禱告求問神。

在等候期間，神一直在引領著我，為我開路。他安排專家來幫助我們成立教會的所有事宜。在考慮教堂應該是租，還是買的問題上，他很快便為我們選定了堂址。當時，我和 Alex 商量如果是買教堂的話，就定下一個我們能夠負擔的捐項出來奉獻給神。雖然真的不夠，但我禱告主說：“這是我們的五餅二魚，雖是微小，但我們相信它放在主你的手中，看看神你要成就的事。”

有一天，通常很少作夢的我發了一個夢。我夢見一所教堂的講台上，兩旁都有一個小小的祈禱室，我覺得很親切。我想起我在天主教小學讀書時，後院就有一所小聖堂。我每逢遇到不開心的事情，總會跑到小聖堂裡跪下祈禱的。來了美國以後，我從未看過在夢中所看見的一個講台有兩個祈禱室。當我們繼續為新教會尋找地方的時候，Alex 偶然在銷售私人住宅的網頁上發現一間私人住宅，但內部看似教堂的建築物，我們便約了經紀看看。想不到當打開教堂門後，看見講台上的兩個房間完全與我在夢中所見的一模一樣，我就肯定知道這是神要給我們的教堂。我馬上向經紀還價，價錢就是我們在神面前承諾的捐獻。雖然這價錢跟賣家所要求的相差甚遠，連經紀都說賣家肯定不會接受的，但我深信神會成就這事。果然事就這樣成就了，信實慈愛的主對我們

說：“我要在這裡建立我的教會！”這教堂是主耶穌選定的。雖然有很多人對我們說，這區不是好區，不會吸引華人到這裡來。我想起紐奧良浸會神學院前任院長 Charles S. Kelley 提及建校歷史的一番話：一所白人的神學院，怎會在黑人區設校？就是因為神說：“那坐在黑暗裡的百姓看見了大光；坐在死蔭之地的人有光發現照著他們(太 4:16)。黑暗之處需要光，這就是神設立恩福華人浸信會的目的，讓主耶穌的光帶進這裡的華人社區。就是這光把我帶到這個碼頭，叫我在這裡忠心事奉祂。

我的離別是很捨不得身邊的家人和教會弟兄姊妹，但我相信，我只是回到天上的家鄉而已。有一天，我們都會在永恆的家鄉中見面。我一生所作的，深信在神的計劃中已經完成，我不會有任何遺憾。我更知道愛我的主耶穌，祂已為我預備好居住的地方；那裏不會再有眼淚、疾病、痛苦和死亡。我和你們的分離只是短暫，我知道終有一天，我會與我最愛的家人和弟兄姊妹再一次見面。所以我們不是永別，只是暫別。





## *Testimony Written in the Own Hand of Pastor Shirley Chang*

I believe that when you see this article, I have left this world and entered into eternity. Before leaving this world, I would like to share with you how God showed his grace in me. I would like to prove that believing in Jesus is a blessed way; Jesus is the true, trustworthy and loving Lord who has been leading my life!

I'm the seventh child in my family, the youngest. My father passed away when I was nine years old. Since my family was poor, my mother and sisters took the responsibility for the family's livelihood. Only my elder brother and I could go to school. But when I was four years old, I already had to work in a factory to support my family. That's why I built up a character of tenacity and responsibility from my childhood. But at the same time, it also made me grow a cynical character, become someone who doesn't like to smile. No love could be found at home, and no good friendship could be built in school or society, until a turning point came up in my life when I was in grade 5 of high school.

I remember when I was 12 years old, my eldest sister immigrated to the United States, I promised my mother that I would definitely be able to study in the United States in the future. Unexpectedly, I, who normally had very grades in school, failed in the high school graduation examination, and I was not assigned to grade 6 of senior high school. I still remember that day when I got my report card in school, my mood fell to the lowest point. At that time, one of my classmates' sister invited me to their church gathering. Although I had been studying in a Catholic school for 11 years, I had never thought of becoming a Catholic. However, whenever I encountered difficulties, I always liked to pray to the Lord Jesus in the school chapel. At that time, when I felt that there was no other way to go, I resolutely accepted the invitation of this classmate's sister. There were two astonishing things when I participated for the first time in a church gathering. First, I was brought to a Baptist church in Tsim Sha Tsui, it was Cheung Sha Wan Chapel. This church, unlike a Catholic church where people attend Mass in a cathedral, it does it in a unit within a building. And behind the altar, there was a kitchen. After the gathering, everyone would eat together. This made me feel so warm! The second point was that the content of preaching in worship was noth-

ing like the hows and whys preached by those Catholic priests on the podium, which you would never understand what they talk about after listening. But on that day, I still remember clearly the topic that the pastor preached in the worship, which was "Jesus loves you"! Until then, I had been looking forward to finding true love on the Earth, and the pastor gave me a clear answer: Jesus loves me! I kept crying, and I couldn't remember anything. I only knew that Jesus loved me, and my heart was full of warmth. It looked as if I won a prize that day. I was so happy that I couldn't express myself! Even when my sister scolded me with vicious words, I didn't answer blows with blows as I would usually do. Instead, I smiled and asked her, "what have I done to make you so fierce?" I was very happy all day long and I didn't know why. From that day on, I began to read the Bible every day.

I remember one morning when I was sitting in bed reading the Book of Acts in the Bible. Suddenly, a voice said to me, "follow me!" I suddenly realized that this was the voice of Jesus. But I said to him, I didn't want to be a Christian, because all the summer workers who worked with me were Christians, and their work performance disgusted me. I was thinking that I did even better without being a Christian. But then our Lord Jesus said to me, "follow me! I want you to be the kind of Christian in the Bible. Many Christians can't live the life that I want them to live, but it doesn't mean that my Truth is not good. " At that time, I was enlightened suddenly. Afterwards, I returned to the Church and started to read Scriptures for more than two months, before I realized really that God was good, and so was his Truth. At that moment, while in my bed, I responded to the Lord Jesus saying to him, "I am willing to be a Christian following the Lord Jesus, and I'm asking the Lord to lead me!" I either didn't want to be a Christian at all, or wanted to be a 100% Christian. From then on, I decided that I started to believe in Jesus and I was a true Christian. But no one knew about it, because I thought it was enough for God alone to know it. But God wanted me to publicly admit that I had become a Christian. More than a month after my faith in God, I went to my church, Tsim Sha Tsui Baptist Church, to attend their Christmas Sunday worship. I remember that the speaker's topic was "Christmas gift". In the end, when the speaker asked who was willing to accept Jesus as Christmas gift, while sitting on the platform, I responded forcefully in my heart: "there are more than a thousand Christians sitting here, we will certainly accept this Christmas gift, so I raised my hand without hesitation. However, an inexplicable embarrassment and anger enveloped me. I was angry because no one around raised their hands. I said to

myself, "why don't you Christians accept Jesus?" It's embarrassing that everyone's eyes turned on me. At the end of the service, I was invited into a room to have a private talk. After the talk, I formally accepted the Lord Jesus as my personal Savior, and started a new page of life led by the Lord. Since then, my heart felt always happy and peaceful, and my relationship with my family gradually improved, and I often smile happily. I also started to make many sincere friends, and my life became positive, purposeful and dependent. Thank God for leading me to realize one dream after another.

In 1985, while I was at summer retreat in Hong Kong, it was the first time I went to the altar to respond to God's call and was willing to give my life to him. For a person in the twenties, who had only been a believer for three years, I didn't take the call very seriously. It was until 2009 when God once again called me, "follow me!" that I decided to apply for the seminary. It was because I needed to take care of my family, and I couldn't enroll in a seminary of other states. Finally, I found a Presbyterian seminary in Florida, USA. Later, Pastor Kwong-Wah Lau (the Pastor Emeritus of my church at that time) suggested that I choose a Baptist Seminary, but I had to put the matter on hold because unfortunately there was no Baptist Seminary nearby at that time. At a family retreat in May 2013, God called me again. I was determined to offer my life for God's service, but I didn't know where to start. In October of the same year, I flew to the mountains of Georgia alone. This was the time I met with God alone every year. The third day's route was very dangerous, I was walking on a narrow road on the steep slope. I wanted to turn back after half an hour, but a voice encouraged me to move on. It was not easy to walk for more than an hour, I was sweating all over when I finally found a sign. Only then did I realize that the road I had been on was rather smooth, and the road ahead was even more rugged. I thought that the section before already made me exhausted, how could I face the next section of road? I'd rather turn back! But another voice said to me, "no turning back, keep going. I'll be with you." I knew so well it was the voice of the Lord, so I decided to carry on. While singing "the way of grace", I said to the Lord in my heart, "take me with you, and I will follow closely.". Although the two-hour journey turned out to be really rough, it was strange that it passed quickly. I was only relieved when I reached the end of the trail. Suddenly, a gust of wind blows, the big trees on both sides of the road were shaken by the wind, and the colorful leaves of the mountain fell from the height. Suddenly, I felt as if there was an angel in the sky sprinkling colorful ribbons for me to cel-

eborate the completion of my arduous journey. At the same time, I felt that this was a vision given to me by God, telling me that there would be a difficult journey ahead of me, but I would finish it eventually, and then the angels would cheer and congratulate for me at the end. It turned out that this was a prediction of my admission to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary a few months later.

It turned out that the New Orleans Baptist Seminary opened an extension of seminary in Florida a few years ago, and I enrolled in its master of theology program. Thanks to God's arrangement, I could stay in Florida to study, work, serve the God and take care of my family at the same time. But for me, who had left the college for a long time, it was quite a burden to reread some esoteric and obscure English theology, one thick book after another, and one piece of hard homework after another. It was really a burden, and it seemed to me a day was as long as a year. It was not easy to get through the first semester and I wanted to drop out of school. I really couldn't face the remaining three and a half years of the program. But the visions on the mountain constantly reappeared in my mind, encouraging me again and again: don't give up, you will complete eventually. Thank God! Miraculously, I completed the four-year course in three and a half years. I finally graduated in theology in May 2017. On graduation day, not only angels, but also many family members, brothers and sisters cheered for me. I can't explain how I made this journey. I can only say that it's all God's grace and compassion that allowed me to experience his power and presence.

In 2016, the year before graduation, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of my husband (Alex) and I, we flew to northern Europe for a cruise trip. On the ship, I looked at the vast sea, and I couldn't help praying to God and said, "Heavenly Father! I'm about to finish my theology, but there's a long way to go. Where should I go? " But the God said to me softly, "you don't have to worry! You are already in my boat. I will take you there, and you will serve me there. " I burst into tears and said to the Lord, "you are my Lord, I am your servant. Please lead me!" In the fall of the same year, I had seven subjects left before being able to graduate. When I selected the courses, I found that there were some subjects specially designed for those who were going to be priests, such as pastoral theology and sermons. I had never thought of being a pastor, but since there were no other suitable courses, the counselor suggested that in order to meet the requirements of graduation, I had to take pastoral theology and sermons. It

turned out to be a miraculous arrangement by the God. Just after studying these two subjects, in January 2017, a sister from the Alliance Church invited me to preach in her church. After a few months, the church decided to hire me as a pastor to lead the church. I didn't graduate yet at that time. I thought this was the first dock God arranged for me after graduation. But after praying and consulting, I felt that it was not God's will. At that time, Pastor Lau encouraged me, "you might as well consider setting up a Baptist Church for God by yourself, because you are from the Baptist Church." And I prayed to God for an answer in fear.

During the waiting time, God was always leading me and opening the way for me. He arranged for experts to help us on all the matters about setting up a church. In considering whether the location of the church should be rented or bought, he quickly selected the site for us. At that time, Alex and I discussed that if we were to buy a church, we would make a donation that we could afford and give it to God. Although it was not enough, I pray to the Lord, "these are our five loaves and two fish. Although they are small, we believe that they are in the Lord's hands and see what you can do."

I, who usually seldom dream, had a dream one day. I dreamed of a church podium, on each side of it was a small prayer room, and I found it very familiar. I remember when I was in a Catholic primary school, there was a chapel in the backyard. Whenever I encountered unhappy things, I always went to the chapel, knelt down to pray. Since I came to the US, I never saw a podium with two prayer rooms as I saw in my dream. When we continued to look for places for the new church, Alex happened to find a private residence on the website selling private houses. However, the interior of the building looked like a church, so we asked the agent to have a look. It turned out that when we opened the gate of the church, I saw two rooms on the podium which were exactly the same as I had seen in my dream. I knew for sure that this was the church that God wanted to give to us. I made a counter-offer to the agent immediately. The price was the donation we promised before God. Although the price was much lower than what the seller asked for, and even the agent said that the seller would never accept it, I was sure God would make this happen. And so it happened, and the trustworthy and loving Lord said to us, "here I will build my church." The church was chosen by the Lord Jesus. Although many people told us that this neighborhood was not a good one and would not attract Chinese to come. I thought of Charles S.



Kelley, the former dean of New Orleans Baptist Seminary, who said the following when he mentioned the history of the school: how can a seminary of white people set up in a neighborhood of black people? It is because God said, "the people who sat in darkness saw a great light, to those who sat in the region and shadow of death, to them light has dawned." (Matt. 4:16). Light is needed in the dark, which was the purpose of God's establishment of Grace Gospel Chinese Baptist Church, so that the light of the Lord Jesus could be brought into the Chinese community here. It is this light that brought me to this dock, where I am dedicated to serve him.

It was hard for me to bear leaving behind my family and my church's brothers and sisters, but I believe that I'm just returning to my Home in Heaven. One day, we will all meet in our eternal Home. I believe that all I have done in my life has been completed in God's plan, and I will not have any regrets. I know even better that Jesus, who loves me, has prepared a place for me to live, where there will be no more tears, no more sickness, no more pain and no more death. My separation from you is just temporary. I know that one day, I will meet my beloved family and brothers and sisters again. That's why we're not parted forever, and it's just for now.

