



Michael's Musings (November 2021) Reflections on Christian Faith, Life and Growth

Michael Welbers

People are born spiritually dead and ONLY God can redeem them. In His mercy, He has chosen to draw people to Himself—any people, not necessarily those who are “nice” and “good” and those who are less selfish and look out for their neighbour. God has chosen to save people not based on ANYTHING they have done. This is what we call GRACE!

Through the Holy Spirit, God works in a person's life, mind and heart until they understand the seriousness of their sin, realize their need for a Saviour, and call out in repentance and hope. Then God gives them a NEW heart, and the Holy Spirit comes to live within them. This is what the Bible calls “being born again of the Holy Spirit” (Jn 3).

A Christian then experiences continued changes in their life: their heart is changed (with a genuine love for God, which was non-existent beforehand); their thinking is changed (with a new attitude and desire to get to know and please God); their actions are changed (with a striving to live as a child of God).

Yet, while a believer has EVERYTHING they need to live a life that is pleasing to God (2 Pt 1:3-9), this sanctification is a slow and life-long process, and any true change has to come from God Himself, not simply from a person's willpower. This all derives from a fundamental change: a believer has received a NEW nature and is continually putting to death their OLD nature, by the power and work of the Holy Spirit, Who now lives within and produces fruit (Gal 5:22-23).

Note that the believer does not make the fruit grow; only God can do that. However, the person can ASSIST or HINDER the Holy Spirit, and we certainly don't want to hinder the Spirit (1 Thes 5:19).

So what do we DO?

We help one another get to know Christ and to love Him; in fact, that's enough. A person who truly loves Christ will grow, in time, to reflect Him in their thoughts and attitudes, words and works.

To be more specific:

We TAKE those who have a new heart and nature (and who therefore love God) and MAKE them into disciples by teaching and training them to obey God.

Want more details?

We admonish and encourage, we warn and challenge, we correct and rebuke one another ABOUT our life with God, reflected in our thoughts, attitudes, words and works.

So, together, let us

- > PRAY (because it is GOD's power, not ours, that can change people)
- > LOVE Christ (don't teach what you don't know or show)
- > SHOW Christ (WHO He is, WHAT He has done, HOW much He loves us)
- > TEACH on all levels, so people will grow in all areas (attitude, knowledge, skills, character)
- > ENCOURAGE the weak, CHALLENGE the proud, and WARN the rebellious 完



My Wedding Speech

Eddy Teng

I have always thought about this day when I can finally have my chance to try to make my mom cry publicly. But I might be the one to cry first. So we'll see...

A lot of what I know about love, I have learned from you. What you have given to us has allowed me to know what love is. When my brother and I were growing up here in Canada, you would always have this saying, and I will remember it for the rest of my life:

- "You think you're poor? There are people who are poorer than you."
- "You think you're suffering a lot? There are people who are suffering more than you."
- "You think you're rich? There are people who are richer than you."

You would usually say this to me when I asked you to buy something for me. When you say no, I would complain about why others have certain toys or games while I do not. This was a very different lifestyle compared to when we were living in Hong Kong. Money was never an issue to me. I wanted a toy? I got it the next day.

I remember one time when I wanted a gameboy, and you said no. I threw a tantrum outside of the Toys R Us at Lansdowne. To me, the gameboy was only around \$120, why can't you buy it for me? All my friends at school have it! After a while, you bought me the gameboy because I "earned" it by doing well in school, but it also counted as my birthday, Christmas, and Chinese New Year presents combined. You would always say something like that for a bigger purchase. Again, money was never an issue to me.

But what is a gameboy without its games? During that time, the most popular game was Pokemon. I asked you to buy it for me, but you once again said no. You told me that I can play the old games on the new gameboy. I thought to myself, "What? I wanted the new gameboy to play the new games! If you can buy me a \$120 game boy, why can't you buy me a \$50 game?" It made no sense to me at the time. But after a while, you bought me the newest Pokemon game to play on my

new gameboy. Again, this was my birthday, Christmas, and Chinese New Year presents combined. I have my game now, so I didn't think much of it. Again, money was never an issue to me. After all, doesn't it just grow on trees?

I could go on all night talking about everything that you have bought for me that was for my birthday, Christmas, and Chinese New Year presents combined. If I were to count them all, I wouldn't only be 29 years old! Throughout the past 29 years, I have seen how much you have struggled to provide for our family. But it wasn't until two years ago, when I truly realized the depth of your struggles. I was cleaning some of the old documents and bags around the house and I stumbled across some of the first pay stubs you received after immigrating to Canada. Money was never an issue to me, but money was an issue for you ever since we immigrated to Canada. Seeing the number on the pay stub made it all too clear. You said no to me not because you didn't want to buy it for me, but because you couldn't afford it when I wanted that toy. But after months and months of tirelessly saving up some money, you would use those savings to provide for my brother and I. Not to fulfill our basic necessities, but to fulfill our wishes to have a new toy. For the longest time, I haven't seen you buy a single item for yourself. You even have a shirt that you wear nowadays that I have seen in a photo that dates back to 1996 when we first immigrated here.

But new toys were not the only things I wanted when I was young. Around grade 1 or 2, I went to a friend's house after school to work on a project. His dad picked us up and took really good care of us. After that, I would always watch his dad pick him up every day after school, and go back home together. Seeing this made me want something else. So on the next birthday, when you asked me what I wanted for my birthday, I asked you for a father. Of course this surprised you. You can't just give me a father for my birthday! But yet, you did. Not for my birthday, but for the rest of my life. In grade 4, you

introduced me to my father. My Heavenly Father. I cannot see Him, but He still does what a normal father would do. When I need help, He gives me strength and peace. When I need advice, He will speak to me through His words. When I am lost, He would guide me through all my brothers and sisters. When I do something wrong, He will let me know, but He will also forgive me. No matter what I'm doing, He is there for me.

So your saying goes like this:

- "You think you're poor? There are people who are poorer than you."
- "You think you're suffering a lot? There are people who are suffering more than you."
- "You think you're rich? There are people who are richer than you."

You can substitute the word in the saying to create a different meaning. But this saying intends for you to compare yourself to others. I believe that's exactly what you wanted me to do since I was young. We all know it's generally not healthy to compare yourself to others, but I learned there are healthy ways to compare too. Even though you were able to provide a lot for me throughout my childhood, it wasn't everything I ever wanted. But over time, your saying taught me to be satisfied with everything that I have because it is enough. Some people don't even have enough to meet their basic needs. It also taught me to be empathetic and have a heart ready to help those who need it because we are given more than some others. At the same time, it taught me how to be humble.

I will remember this saying for the rest of my life, but right now, I want to change this saying for my mom.

- "You think you're happy? No one is happier than me."
 - "You think you're fortunate? No one is more fortunate than me."
- Because I can have you as my mom. Mom, I love you.

(Editor: Eddy did not cry, but almost all the guests could not hold their tears, including his mom.) 完



God doubling down His mercy and love on Thanksgiving!

Stanley, Joanne, Kerith and Carmel

In early August of 2021, Stanley went for a bike ride with his friend up to Grouse Mountain. On the way down, he hit a bump and fell over. He suffered serious scratches on his body, and also hit his head on the ground. The helmet was intact, and he didn't pay much attention to his head injury.

On the Sunday two weeks before Thanksgiving on Sept 26, 2021, Stanley experienced massive headaches and he started throwing up, so he had to miss in-person Sunday worship at church. For two weeks, his headaches and nausea persisted, and a few days before Thanksgiving, I noticed he limped towards his right side as he walked. On Thanksgiving Sunday, when I was getting ready to go to church, he told me to drive him to ER and said he might need head surgery!

I rushed him to the closest ER, and thankfully, since it was Thanksgiving Sunday, the ER was quiet. The ER physician came, assessed him, and ordered a CT scan. The result: Subdural Hematoma, and the pressure from the blood had shifted the brain and putting pressure towards the major nerve at the back of the brain that runs down to the spine. Stanley had to be transferred immediately to Vancouver General Hospital for a surgery to flush the blood and release the pressure that caused all the symptoms and the pain.

I was in a daze! What's happening? I didn't even have time to think and to be scared... I was in disbelief. My husband, an experienced physician, was now a patient in need of surgery.

Two paramedics came in to do the hospital transfer, and they introduced

themselves. "Hi Dr. T, my name is "Matthew" and my partner's name is also "Matthew". The repeated names immediately awakened my mind and heart!

Two "Matthews"!!! In Bible Study Fellowship (BSF), we are studying the Book of Matthew.

I prayed and asked God what He was trying to tell me. The names in the genealogy of Jesus came to me... whether they are famously known or unknown to me, God keeps the names in the scripture because they are important to Him and to us. Jesus' name means "He came to save", and Emmanuel is "God with us". The theme of the Gospel of Matthew is "Jesus is the King".

God sent two “Matthews” to remind me of **Who He is**. Jesus has all authority in Heavens and on Earth, He is sovereign over all things and circumstances. (Colossians 1:16-17)

In Matthew 4, the temptation of Jesus also flooded my mind. In Lesson 4, one of the questions asked the difference between Jesus’ and Adam and Eve’s temptations, and I answered: unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus never doubted God’s goodness. Jesus overcame all temptations knowing God is good, and therefore His will for Him is good; He also overcame Satan with the direct quoting of the Word of God (Matthew 5:1-12)

Immediately, I was comforted to know that my sovereign and good Father in Heaven had the whole situation in His Hand! He is in control. So, we went to VGH.

When we arrived at VGH, the ER was busy and full. We waited for a few hours, and then two neurosurgery residents came to tell us that the neurosurgery OR was fully booked and Stanley had to wait until the next morning.

Then, the neuro-residents introduced themselves. “Dr. T, my name is Mike, and the other resident’s name is Mike too.” Two “Mikes”????

I accompanied Stanley to the neuroscience ward, and his pain in the head had caused his BP to rise quickly. While nurses managing his pain and hook him up on IV, the two “Mikes” kept me thinking. Lord! What’s the significance of the two repeated names “Mike”? Mike is short for Michaeland the passages of Daniel, Jude and Revelations came to my mind... the archangel Michael who fights the Lord’s battles.

Two “Michaels”!!!!

Thank you, Lord! You have pre-arranged the two Matthews and two Michaels ahead of all these times to remind us --- First, of **Who You are**, and second, **What You can do!** The Almighty sovereign God is The Lord of the angel army. He is fighting the battle before us! He’s got this!

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses (surgeon’s hands/scalpels), but we trust in the Name of the Lord our God.”

Psalm 20:7

On the morning of the surgery. I was kept at home and was not able to visit during the morning hours. I spent the whole morning praying and meditating on God’s Word and His promises. My praise and thanksgiving for Him were overflowing. My Lord and Savior gave himself for me, and He has torn through the veil so that I may “...[approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that I may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.](#)” Hebrews 4:16. My God, the author of life, the source of mercy and grace, drew my whole being to His Goodness, Mercy and Love!

God alone orchestrates and paves the way for Stanley to get to the hospital, get diagnosed immediately and have the surgery done on the day when the Head of the surgery is on call. Coincident???? Absolutely not!

Stanley is recovering now at home. He passed all (Physio, Speech, OT) tests and assessments in three days. We look back at the past week and know that God has carried us through sickness, surgery and recovery with His powerful Hand. **The prayers support from all the brothers and sisters at church, BSF class, family and friends lifted us up to the Mighty Hands of God! Thank you, for all of you who fervently and faithfully prayed, and is still praying for us.**

What now? What are the lessons to remember and what is God’s will at this point for our family?

The things to remember: Although sickness is temporary, wellness is also temporary! One sad and imminent thing that is permanent and guaranteed in life is... death! Thank and praise God for while we were sinners and in darkness, God gave His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from sin, pull us out of darkness and give us eternal life!!!

“...[God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.](#)” 1 John 5:11

Remember that God is good, in times of joy, in times of sorrow... **God is good, all the time!** Jesus never doubted His Father goodness! He aligned His will with His good, good Father and never hesitated to fulfill His Father’s will on and

through Him on the Cross. To all the children of God, believe in all circumstances that God’s will is good, His timing is good, His trials and discipline for His children are good, and His Word is GOOD! I couldn’t have been calm and giving thanks this past week without His promises and word saturating me.

While pondering His goodness, Matthew 5 proclaims loudly to me the Blessedness of those who belong to Jesus. The characters of His followers are listed as the eight beatitudes, and again God repeated His message to me, TWICE! First, God loudly said to me in BSF Lesson 5 (Matthew 5:12- 16) to be the light of the world.

“[You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.](#)” Matthew 5:14,16

He repeated the message in Sunday worship this morning through His servant’s sermon. The pastor concluded his sermon with the story of how Gandhi attempted to search for the Truth and Light of life, but he was disappointed. Sadly, he died without knowing the True Light of Jesus Christ because the “followers” hid Jesus’ light from him. A great political leader spent an eternity in darkness and agony. There is always a “Gandhi” God places in our lives. Do not let him/her go into the darkness forever!

This is our praise and thanksgiving PRAYER for Thanksgiving 2021:

Praise God during joyful moments;
Seek God during difficult moments;
Worship God during the quiet moments;
Depend on God during painful moments;
Give Thanks to God in EVERY life’s moments.

We received this prayer as a Greetings from a dear Pastor’s wife before all the conundrums started on Thanksgiving Sunday morning. **God has prepared our thanksgiving prayers to Him all along!**

Praise, Thanksgiving & Glory to God!

Stanley, Joanne, Kerith and Carmel

October 17, 2021



媽媽，我們永遠懷念妳！ 黃小慧

母親黃玉儀一九三七年於香港出生，不久就因戰事舉家遷回台山。母親自小便是個聰明伶俐的女孩，讀書聰敏，喜歡唱歌。因有一把動聽的女高音歌喉，經常作個人表演，深得教會牧師、學校老師和文工團裡的人喜愛。母親在師範學校畢業後，在高中學校擔任中文和歌唱老師多年直至1979年，她帶著三個子女移民到加拿大和丈夫團聚。在加拿大，她先後在製衣廠和電子廠工作，2002年從電子廠光榮退休。

母親幾歲的時候在街邊遇上一位美國西人牧師，牧師建議外婆帶母親返教會孤兒院，讓她有飯吃、有書讀，因此，母親便在教會孤兒院讀書成長，其後外婆和母親

都信了主，母親更在河邊接受浸禮。當年母親回港探親時，外婆叮囑母親要繼續上教會，來到加拿大之後，母親得到牧者的鼓勵，繼續參加教會聚會。母親十分喜愛閱讀聖經，每日都於固定時間翻看聖經，她最喜愛崇拜當中的歌頌敬拜環節。母親每日為家人祈禱和為兒女有穩定的工作同生活感謝神。

每年節日母親必定做傳統食物給家人享用（年糕、煎堆、油角、糰子、八月十五的台山芋頭包等）。母親有一班美少女群組在網上聊天，還有一班以前教導過的學生在溫哥華經常聚會。母親退休後除了給家人做飯之外，她自己亦有很多喜好：她

很喜歡做衣服，多年來做了很多漂亮衣服給自己和家人穿著，新冠疫情下又做了很多極之美麗的口罩給自己和家人；母親很愛看電視劇集，又喜歡玩電子遊戲；她喜歡家人帶她去旅行和品嚐美食，又十分享受家人開車載著她飛馳在高速公路上；她愛看天上變化萬千的雲彩。

母親一生勤奮、愛護家人。三個子女跟孫兒女都十分幸福地在她的愛護下成長。母親深得家人的喜愛。

媽媽，我們永遠懷念妳！天家再重聚！



悼念愛妻沈婉華 朱金星

你生于公元一九四九年八月二十四日，卒于公元二零二一年九月十七日，享年七十三歲。你自一九七四年農曆二月十六日嫁給我至今已四十八年。自從嫁到我家來，你孝敬公婆無怨無悔、暄寒問暖、悉心照料周到倍至。誰人不夸你是朱家的好媳婦，朱金星的好妻子！你嘔心瀝血，含辛茹苦把一雙女兒養育大，並培養他倆

進入大學成才！你慈母般關愛深得兒孫輩的親暱和愛戴，是個人人愛的好奶奶好外婆！你為人友善謙讓禮貌，街坊鄰里人人稱贊！你對工作勤懇踏實，不怕吃苦勇挑重擔。你瘦小的身軀撐起家業的一片天！你的离世，地恻天悲！親眷賓朋，四方鄰里于二〇二一年九月十九日多達一百五十多人前來吊唁，為你送行，向你告

別！你的离世是我家的一大損失！自二零一六年感恩節在真理堂受洗信主，你虔誠信主，虛心好學！視真理堂的兄弟姐妹親如一家，和藹可親，慈祥滿懷。如今你已安息在主的懷中，在天堂獲得永生！

愛你的丈夫，朱金星二零二一年十月十日于上海



無微不至的神

梁金若蘅

看顧孫女兒

認識我的弟兄姊妹大多知道我需要看顧我的孫女。從她十個月大開始至今，一星期五天，她的父母每天上班前都會帶她來到我家，放工後才接她回去。這幾年期間她曾有半年時間交由日間托兒中心照顧，但後來亦因疫情而中斷。所以勉強可以說我是一手把她帶大的。

參加唱遊班

她是一個活潑開朗的孩子，但面對陌生環境和人的時候，就會變得非常怯生和害羞，以至一言不發，嚴重的情況下甚至會淘淘大哭。我攪盡腦汁，希望幫助她改變這些情況，因此在她大約歲半左右，我就開始帶她去參加不同的幼兒唱遊班，希望她能擴大她的生活圈子，能夠多點接觸更多同齡的小朋友和導師，以致不再怯生，可惜一直都不太成功。她雖然喜歡去參加唱遊班，但是她卻不會和其他小朋友打成一片，永遠只是靜靜地獨個兒玩，待在我身旁寸步不離。如果我離開她的視線範圍，她就會立刻驚慌流淚，繼而哭個不已。

在疫情開始後，唱遊班暫時停止了，大家都每天待在家中，除了家人和兩個堂兄弟之外，她可以說是與外人隔絕。在我帶她在家附近散步的時候，當她遠遠看到迎面而來的行人時，她就會拉我跑到對面的行人路去避開。這情況實在令我非常擔心，特別是我們都清楚知道她在今年九月要上幼稚園，屆時她一定要離開她的安舒區，脫離我們的保護罩，單獨去面對一個全新的環境，與一群素未謀面的小朋友和老師相處。

重返日托中心

感謝主，祂竟然為我的孫女作了極好的安排。為了讓她能夠有序地去適應新的環境，我的兒媳決定讓她重返托兒中心。經過多番斡旋，她從前曾短暫去過的由托兒中心竟然在暑假期間有位置可以提供，讓她踏出重新與家人以外的人相處的第一步。我不住為了她的適應祈禱，求神憐憫，幫助她克服困難。我告訴她日託中心有小朋友和她一起玩耍，導師又會講故事給小朋友聆聽，爸媽亦會在放工後接她回家。我又透過她熟識的故事人物，教她在害怕的時候可以祈禱，告訴主耶穌她很害怕，請主耶穌幫助她。

神真是滿有慈愛和憐憫。祂用祂的慈繩愛索環繞著我的小孫女，以致她重返日託中心的不安和惶恐只停留了一段很短的時間，在曾經熟悉的導師和小朋友幫助下，她一星期後亦適應下來。真正的考驗來到了，九月臨近時她竟然說不想上學！我們都知道她不能不上幼稚園呀，我只好更迫切的為她上學一事禱告。

上幼稚園了

據她爸媽說，上幼稚園第一天，她帶著千般不願的腳步出家門。到達學校時就緊捉著媽媽的手不放，不願意進入課室。正無法可施時，意想不到的情況竟出現了，一位曾在唱遊班認識的導師走過來，拉下口罩，臉上掛著一個大大的笑容，叫著她的名字，笑問著：「還認得我嗎？跟媽媽說再見吧！很多小朋友等著和你一起玩呢！」。這張熟識的面孔頓時使她安定下來，她終於半推半就，一步一回顧地跟隨導師走進教室。感謝神，我們想也沒想過祂又一次替我的

孫女作了這樣貼心的安排，幫助她減少了面對一個全新的環境帶來的不安和恐懼。作為家長的，我們可以做到的除了帶她事前去探訪新學校，在學校的小小遊樂場玩耍以便熟識環境，對她講解學校的情況，及告訴她在不安時可以祈禱，讓神知道她很害怕，求神幫助她能夠勇敢去面對等等外，實在無法在她害怕的時候陪伴在她身旁去安撫她。但愛她的主卻作了這個無微不至的安排，伴在她身旁，幫助她踏出這重要的一步。這實在是我們無法想像得到的。除了感謝神，驚嘆神的在這微不足道的事上作出超乎想像、極端窩心的安排外，我實在不知道還可說什麼。

人算甚麼

大衛曾經問說：「人算什麼，祢竟顧念他」（詩 8:4）主耶穌也說過：「就是你們的頭髮也都被數過了。不要懼怕，你們比許多麻雀還貴重。」（路 12:7）。神確實知道我們的大小事情，細微到連頭髮祂都數過，神連小小的麻雀都顧念，祂豈會不顧念我們呢？感謝讚美主，從小孫女上學這微不足道一事中，主祢再一次印證了祢是知道一切發生在我們生命當中的事情，並且會親自牽引著我們的手，讓我們心裡面可以得享平安，可以安息地活在祢裡面。感謝祢，願一切榮耀頌讚都歸與祢。

後記：

執筆之時，我的孫女已經踏上第三個星期的幼稚園生活，除了最初那幾天放學後仍會說她在學校哭了一小會兒外，現在每天都開開心心地地上學，帶著燦爛的笑容回家，細細訴說當天在學校發生的一切。❀

書籍介紹：誰掌管明天

英黃小玲



我們的粵語成人主日學正在教導靈命成長課程，其中一課是講到閱讀。我想起我們教會圖書部有很多中英文書籍，這些書籍對我們的靈命成長都有莫大益處。剛巧十月份是真理堂的宣教月，在此我想介紹一本書名叫《誰掌管明天》，作者何義思教士 Miss Ruth Hitchcock，藉此希望能引起大家閱讀的興趣，更激勵我們願意委身，惟主所用。

何義思教士是美國人，十九歲那年，她剛進入史丹福大學，神卻呼召她到中國，在那裡為祂作工。她毅然放下學業，美好舒適的加洲生活，去回應神的呼召。在1913

年，她隻身來到中國廣東省一個窮鄉僻壤——西樵官山，在那裡展開傳福音事工。

從1913年至1950年，她走遍各鄉城小鎮去傳福音，更開設孤兒院和識字班給婦孺，將福音傳給這些孤兒和鄉民。那時中國正經歷政局動盪和戰亂，何教士雖然在這樣惡劣環境下事奉神，與鄉民共渡難關，但她經歷到神的信實，保守和供應。因著神奇妙的作為，很多鄉民都信了主，當中孤兒有很多都成為基督徒，有些更是我們今天所熟悉的傳道人。

我讀這本書深受感動，我想起主耶穌說：

「一粒麥子如果不落在地裡死去，它仍然是一粒，如果死了，就能結出很多子粒來」約翰福音12:24。我在何教士身上看見這位願意為主而死的「麥子」，在她生命裡真是結出很多粒子來。我們可能會問何教士為何有此勇氣踏上宣教之路？因為她深知道是神掌管明天的。

在此我感謝所有當年來中國的西方宣教士，是他們奉獻一生，委身在中國的宣教工場，使我們中國人可以認識神，得著福音的好處。✿

早點死？晚點死？

楊揚

穿上了新人。這新人在知識上漸漸更新，正如造他主的形像。(歌羅西書3:10)

不知道你的配偶有沒有問過你以下這條問題，你希望我比你先死？還是你比我先死？你的回答會是什麼呢？如果告訴配偶，希望她先死。不知道她聽了之後，會不會馬上氣死！如果你接着又對她說，不想她孤伶伶一個人，希望可以照顧她直到她離開這個世界。聽到這個理由之後，她會不會馬上甜到入心呢？

我太太經常提醒我要照顧好自己的身體，身體好才可以照顧好她。結婚的時候，我對她許下的其中一個諾言就是照顧好她。如果我沒有照顧好自己的身體，我又如何可以照顧好她呢？所以如果要學會照顧好她，我先要學會照顧好自己。這樣才是真正的遵守諾言。太太的提醒，是真實，又是暖心。

就算配偶有多美麗的好理由，相信配偶都是希望我們先死。當然不是字面上的希望我們去死，而是希望我們的老我死去，自私的老我死去，不成熟的老我死去，討厭的老我死去，和很多不好習慣的老我死去。

相信不只配偶希望我們的老我死去，上帝也希望我們和祂一同死去。在歌羅西書3章1-10節，當我們真的願意捨棄老我和基督一同死去，然後和基督一起復活的時候，我們的淫亂，污穢，邪情，惡慾，和貪婪的老我都會被主治死。我們的思想若充滿神的話，就會活出基督的樣式。我們的新生命，就可以榮耀主，我們便是新造的人，就會有主的形象，會變成一個全新的自己。

當我和太太發生衝突的時候，我總是希望上帝治死太太的老我，然後給我一個溫柔

體貼的太太。我和太太參加夫妻營的時候，我是多麼希望上帝可以將我太太所有的壞習慣都消滅，但是上帝用了奇妙的方法，更新了我的思想。雖然上帝沒有消滅我妻子的壞習慣，但是祂確實消滅了我眼中看為妻子壞習慣的習慣。上帝消滅了我對太太的偏見，將我的自我中心拿走。如果上帝將太太變成我心目中的溫柔體貼，我相信我仍然可以在太太身上找到很多我認為的壞習慣。從我的眼目，只看見我的出路，但從神的角度來看，就能使我看見祂的榮耀。

我們都沒有能力確定自己先死，還是配偶先死，但是我們都可以選擇和上帝一起同死同活，讓上帝更新我們，成為配偶眼中的亮光。我們應該改變一下問題，我們想我們配偶的老我先死？還是想自己的老我先死？✿



主救了我

潘雪武

小時候

我生活在香港新界一個偏遠村莊。父母務農為生，我們幾兄弟姊妹都要跟着幹農活，過着日曬雨淋、蚊叮蟲咬的日子。回想是頗為辛苦的，但當時少不更事，還覺得相當有趣，特別是附近有長滿了灌木的樹林山丘，時常和村童一起爬山摘野果、射雀鳥，玩捉迷藏。不遠處有兩條溪澗匯合到一條較大的河流，盛夏時一班村童不約而同一起游泳戲水的地方。我第一次遇險就在這裡，相信當時我只是八至九歲，不會游泳。我只記得我踏到水深處，瞬間頭部淹入水中，自然反應拚命想爬回岸邊，可是被其他人阻擋了……我失去了知覺，也不知道過了多久才醒過來，我躺在草地上，其他人不見了。兒童遇溺死亡在鄉郊地方時有發生。我認識主之後，我深信這次是主救了我。

十二歲那年

父親為了要讓我早日脫離農村生活，他通過朋友聯絡到新蒲崗一間製衣廠給我去做半日工，又聯絡到潮州公學的校長，父親的鄉里，讓我免試入讀，我就開始了早上上學，下午做工的半工讀生涯。六十年代香港製衣業很是興旺，需要大量人手，而當時未有勞工法例禁止童工。就這樣我的青少年時期就在製衣廠渡過，當然，半工讀生的成績只有差強人意。中學畢業後我就全職在製衣廠工作。這時期的香港工廠區，黑社會十分活躍，各式各樣地下娛樂場所盛行，欺凌霸道打鬥十分普遍，年輕人很多加入幫派。我能夠避免誤交損友，是得到裁衣部主管師傅的關照，他知道我的半工讀學生背景，收了我做助手。有了這種關係，黑道的工友就不會招惹我。我

就跟著師傅專心工作又學到技術，這是我人生最關鍵的起點。我日後的事業就是從此發展起來。師傅是我人生導師，如有神的安排。

北上浪潮

香港的製衣業一直興旺到七十年代末期，由於工資和各樣成本上漲，經營困難，又適逢國內開始對外開放，很多業界都轉向國內發展，需要大量有經驗的專業人才北上工作。我亦在1982年趕上這趟北上浪潮，為一間採購成衣公司聘用在國內監督生產。我到一個落後地方展開工作，困難重重是意料中事，經過不懈的努力，工作總算順利。轉瞬間過了八年，服務了不少客戶亦結識了國內很多朋友。

到了1989年初，北京的學生運動逐漸激烈，後來發生六四事件。很多大公司都撤出中國，對外貿易瞬間冷卻，這時中國政府為了挽留和吸引投資，推出很多優惠政策。我就藉此機會成立了自己的中外合資企業。到了1992年鄧小平南巡講話，增強了世界對中國改革開放的信心，一時間海外訂單如雪片般飛來，創了中國經濟起飛的歷史記錄。我的生意亦興旺起來，錢也賺多了。這時期我經常要接待客戶和應酬官員，經常都穿梭於飲食和娛樂場所。風光的背後醞藏著巨大的危機。有幾次因醉酒和超速駕駛，千鈞一髮，險些喪命；又試過醉酒要送醫院急救。那時，我還未認識主，現在回想起來，是主救了我！

在溫哥華認識神

到了90年代末期，經濟政策有所改變，經營遇到了困難，我就陸續結束生意，於2001年定居溫哥華。原本是想做一點小生

意，過平靜的生活。沒料到2001年開始我就和醫院結下不解之緣。以下是我的病歷。

2001年醫生發現我有甲狀腺癌，到2002年分兩次做切除甲狀腺手術。

2003年發現我舌頭上有癌變小瘤，做了切除手術。

2008年我在一次羽毛球運動中，忽然間休克，頭部撞到牆壁上，然後在無意識下頭部直插地面，傷了頸椎，全身癱瘓，被救護車送到溫哥華醫院留醫。檢查結果是我五節頸椎患有骨質增生，壓迫中樞神經，導致休克，要做切除手術。手術是要打開後頸瘡的皮肉，用電鋸切開頸骨的後背位置，取出骨質增生部分，然後裝入金屬物料掩蓋開口處，再用螺絲固定。手術後五節頸椎成為一體不能轉動。過程用了11小時，手術成功。頸項是全身器官神經線經過的地方，稍有偏差就會令器官或四肢癱瘓，危險性極高。我能夠完美無損，實在是超乎想像。之後的康復期十分痛苦，小小身體移動都引起頸部劇痛。

期間有球友來探望，邀請我到真理堂參加一個佈道大會。我就被神的話語當頭棒喝般吸引著了。自此我每星期天參加真理堂的主日崇拜。我認識神之後，我開始反省思索我的人生，一幕幕不解的往事，就有了答案。原來神一直就在我身邊，救我脫離險境，陪伴我走過死亡的幽谷。經過三個月洗禮班，我受浸了。我認罪悔改，我相信耶穌基督為我贖罪而死，死後三天復活升天，為我預備永生天堂，我願意接受耶穌基督成為我的救主，我的主宰，我願意遵從基督的樣式行事做人，直到見主面，感謝主！