

My journey of faith----Jackie Xu

Good afternoon brothers and sisters! My name is Jackie and I am very pleased to have the opportunity today to share with you about my journey of faith.

The first time I got to know about Jesus Christ was in 2004, also in this place, when one of my friends got baptized here. I came over from Leeds to watch the ceremony, and at that time I had curiosity about Christians life and attitudes, as I felt that they always seemed very relaxed, with plenty of time going to Church to meet up with other Christians, to talk about the Bible, and they pray for whatever that happens. But because I have believed in atheism for decades in China, and was educated in the theory of evolution, I have always felt that God has nothing to do with my own life. After that I became more busy with studying, looking for jobs and then my wife gave birth, then I stopped going to Church.

It was until two years ago, when my family moved to Bradford, I then started coming to Church again. At the beginning, I usually just sit at the bottom and Passively listen to other people's stories, which will be forgotten after a while, and I didn't have a deep understanding about God's words. Moreover, I have always felt that there is a gap between my faith and the life in reality, where on one hand I often pray to God to ask him to do things for me, and on the other hand I keep on doing the things that I like or where I feel right. In reality, I rarely look for God's will in an active way. So I still felt that my life is full of sufferings, and I often questioned whether God really loves me.

Over the past year, I have gone back to China twice because of work, where I personally experience the rapid economic growth in China, but also heard and saw a lot of worrying social problem, for example, there is the lack of morality in the current society, the dominance of utilitarianism, a lot of people focus on satisfying human desires as their ultimate goal – Power, sex, money. There are even people who are willing to meet their desires by any means, even unscrupulously, therefore causing all kinds of chaos and

crimes in the society. While I was in shock of these society problems, I often reflect on my life back in the past, thinking about a couple of questions: Why are human beings like this? What is our purpose in life? Is there any hope that this society can be saved? With these questions in my mind, when I come to hear the pastors preaching, listen to the testimonies by brothers and sisters and read the Bible again, I started feeling the warmth and drawing closer to God and started believing in Him. I believe that Jesus Christ is my saviour, because if Jesus didn't die for me, there is no way that my sins can be forgiven. When my heart is filled with confessions and repentance, my life has become more meaningful, and really solved my earlier bewilderment. Like a lamp that is lit up in the dark, suddenly I felt that all of my questions can be answered by God's words, and it's because that all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory, not believing in Him, and choosing not to let our life filled by the Holy Spirit, which is giving ways to Satan's temptations, and allow those desires to grow within us and eventually will take over our life. That is in contrary to God's will, and so we commit all kinds of sins, and even get deeper and deeper.

Nevertheless, God still loves us and have never abandoned us. His Salvation is so true and the fact is that he gave his only begotten son to us, so that he was crucified for our sin on the cross, and this is the way he showed to all men what true love is. The love of God is everywhere, and he prepared everything for all of us, from my personal experience of the past few years, from the time when I first came to study in the UK, to later when I found a job, my wife giving birth to our child, applying for visa extension, my son applying for schools and so on, throughout the entire process, me and my family have been so blessed by God. The love of God is worthy for me to use my entire life to follow him, and to praise him. So today I'm getting baptized to let Jesus Christ to become the Lord of my life. I will let him guide me, change my mind and my actions, and to touch the world with true love. Not to live in sins, but to live with God and live in a new life, to glorify God and to become a person that pleases God. I know for certain that there will be frustrations and obstacles along the road to follow Jesus, but I won't be afraid and I'm not lonely, because the

brothers and sisters here will walk with me, and more importantly, God is always with us! Thank you!

我的信仰历程（徐田武）

各位弟兄姐妹午安！我叫徐田武，很高兴能有今天这样一个机会来跟大家分享我的信仰历程。要说我和耶稣基督的最早接触，应该是在 2004 年，当时恰好就在这个地方，我的一个朋友这里接受洗礼，我专程从 LEEDS 赶过来观看，那时候只是对基督徒的生活方式和心态感到好奇，总觉得他们好像比较悠闲，经常有时间到教堂跟他们那一伙信徒们聚会，谈论圣经，遇到什么事情就祷告。但是因为自己在中国接受了几十年的无神论，进化论教育，总觉得神跟我自己的生活没有丝毫的关系。再后来几年因为忙于学习和找工作以及太太生孩子，基本上没怎么再去教会。直到两年前我全家搬来 BRADFORD 以后，星期天来教会的次数才逐渐多起来。但是刚开始的时候更多的是坐在下面很被动地听别人讲故事，听完了就过去了，对神的话语并没有深入地去领会。而且我总觉得信仰与我的现实生活之间有一条无法跨越的鸿沟，常常是一面祷告神为我做事，一面又去行自己喜欢或是我认为正确的事。在现实生活中，我几乎很少有主动寻求神旨意的事。所以我依然觉得自己生活的很辛苦，心中也常有神是否真的爱我这样的疑问。

近一年来，由于工作的关系，回去中国两次，在亲身感受到中国经济快速发展的同时，也耳闻目睹了许多令人担忧的社会问题，比方说，现在的中国社会道德缺失，功利主义严重，有很大一部分人把欲望的满足 - 官，色，财视为人生的终极目标，甚至有人为达目的而不择手段，于是社会上坑蒙拐骗杀毒假乱横生 …… 在为这些社会现象感到震惊之余，我也常常在对照反省自己过去几十年的生活，我心里面也常常反思着这样一些问题：他们为什么要那么做？我们人生的意义究竟是什么？这个社会究竟还有没有希望得救？

当我带着这些问题再来听教牧人员讲道，听一些弟兄姐妹分享他们的见证或者自己重读圣经的时候，让我感到亲切温暖，渐渐地亲近主，信靠主，相信耶稣是我的救主，因为如果没有耶稣为我赎罪而单凭我个人的力量，我的罪无法得到赦免。怀有认罪和悔改的

心让我的生命变得富有意义，真正解开了我先前的迷惑。就好像黑夜里的一盏灯一下子被点亮了，突然感觉到我所有的问题，都能从神的话语中得到解答，正是因为我们亏缺了神的荣耀，不相信神，没有选择让圣灵充满我们的生命，而是对撒但的试探一再让步，让那些日益膨胀的物欲占有我们的生命，与神的旨意背道而驰，所以才犯下各种各样的罪，而且越陷越深。

尽管如此，神还是爱我们的，而且从没有抛弃过我们。他的救恩是真真切切的事实，他将独生子赐给我们，让他为我们赎罪而被钉死在十字架上，他以这种方式来向世人展示什么才是真正的爱。神的爱无处不在，他为我们预备了一切，就拿我本人这几年的经历来说，从最初来英国学习，到后来找工作，太太生孩子，签证延期，儿子申请学校等等，整个过程，神都给了我和全家人许许多多的恩典。神的大爱值得我用一生去追随他，赞美她，所以今天我受洗归入基督，让基督耶稣成为我生命之主，让他来带领我，改变我的头脑和行为，用真爱去感动世界，不再向罪活，而是向神活着，活出新的样式，活出神的荣耀，做一个神所喜悦的人。当然我也知道在这条跟随顺服耶稣的道路上，必定会有黑暗和挫折，但是我并不害怕和孤单，因为有在座的弟兄姐妹与我同行，更重要的是，上帝始终与我们同在！谢谢大家！

Mun Yin's Testimony for Baptism

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good afternoon. My name is Mun Yin. I'll be sharing my testimony with you about how I became a Christian. I believe that I am not surrendering myself to Jesus Christ on impulse. Neither do I follow Him blindly in order to receive His blessings. I have made up my mind based on my intimate contact with God over the past two years.

I came to the UK five years ago. I went to church once out of curiosity. I didn't know why, but I felt uncomfortable for a few days after I left the church. I felt as if I had done something wrong. Because of this experience, I didn't want to go to church any more. My whole family and I moved to Bradford in 2008. At that time, my daughter was just one

year old. We didn't know anyone in Bradford, and could only stay at home to kill time. My friends then suggested that we went to church. They said that while my daughter could play with other kids there, we adults could meet friends and talk together. Under this circumstance, I went to church again. Since then, going to church at the weekend has become an indispensable part of our family life.

Although I attended church services regularly, I didn't particularly feel God's love. I enjoyed the services and wanted to become God's daughter, but I could not change my mindset. When I saw people getting baptised, I felt anxious, but I didn't want to lie to myself. Then I started reading the Bible in order to know God's words. I wanted to embrace God's love through reading the Bible reading. Sadly, I didn't find it very rewarding. However, when I heard pastors explaining the Scriptures, I really felt God's grace through the stories. Then I realised that I was only READING the Bible, but not fully understanding the LIFE that it describes. With the help of the pastor, I gradually came to understand God. I now know that Jesus Christ is our saviour. We may face hardship in life and feel desperate, but as long as we kneel before Him, God will act. Our problems and sickness can be healed, and our desires can be materialised.

As mentioned in Roman 3:23, we are all sinners and disgrace God's honour. At the beginning, I questioned how come we were all sinners. Pastor Irene and Kenneth used examples to explain to me, and I realise that we human beings are too arrogant. We become God's enemies; we deliberately ignore Him, disbelieve Him, walk away from Him. As a consequence, sins emerge and we do terrible things. After understanding what are considered as sins, I wanted to know how to address the problems of sinning. Following our pastor's counselling, I confessed my sins and learnt to deal with sins by relying on God. I have decided to surrender myself to God. I have had to admit that I could not cast away my sins by the power of my own will. Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sins, and now I have become one of His family members who will never be punished. Once I became a Christian, God's love entered my life. I felt that I had changed in terms of my

lifestyle and my attitudes towards life. For example, I have made a huge improvement in my relationships with my family. God has changed my temper a lot. I don't lose my temper with my kids without reason now, but have become more patient in taking care of them. I am also able to take the initiative to pray for the health of my family and friends. In a nutshell, I now feel God's love everywhere. My family is now living together happily. This blessing comes from God.

Thanks be to our Lord! In the BCCC, I feel great care from my brothers and sisters. I really feel that God's love surrounds me and His love is inside me. Today I receive baptism. I am reborn in God. God has given me a new spiritual life. Now I have got a new anchor and I can pursue a genuine Christian life. From today on, I'll surrender myself to God, rely on Him, and follow Him. I am living for God, no longer for my sins. I ought to live in a different way in order to show God's glory. I want to lead the life that God wants me to do.

That said, I know my Christian life will not be plain sailing because of the existence of Satan. I still have a lot of queries. I sometimes make mistakes, although I know what the right things are. To be truly saved and to enter God's eternal kingdom, I need to persevere and to develop good relationships with my heavenly Father. I will learn to understand God's Word with brothers and sisters and put it into practice in my everyday life. Thank you!

门颖的信仰见证

各位弟兄姐妹午安！我叫门颖，下面将我信主的过程跟大家分享一下。将自己交给主耶稣基督，接受他的祝福，我想这不是我一时的冲动，也不是盲从，而是经过两年多来我和神的接触由我的心思做出的选择。记得五年前我刚来英国时，曾经跟着朋友去过一次教会，当时只是出于好奇去看看而已，却让我这个无神论者象做错了什么事情一样忐忑不安了好几天，从此再不提去教会之事。

直到 2008 年我们全家搬到了 Bradford, 那时我的女儿还不到一岁, 由于刚到 Bradford 人生地不熟, 我们俩只能一天到晚呆在家里。于是朋友建议我们不妨星期天去教会, 在那里有小朋友玩的地方, 大人也可以认识一些朋友, 交流一些经验, 了解一些信息, 于是我怀着这种态度再一次来到教会。从此, 周末去教堂便成为我们全家生活中不可缺少的一部分。

虽然经常来教会聚会, 可是我并没有感受到神的眷顾。我喜欢聚会的气氛, 想成为神的儿女, 可是却不能左右我的思想, 看到别人洗礼我也很着急, 但是我不能自欺欺人。于是我试着读圣经, 我知道圣经是神的话语, 借着读经, 想让神的大爱进入到我的生命, 可是收效甚微。而我在听教牧人员讲解圣经时, 却能通过里面的故事所蕴含的哲理感受到神的伟大, 这时我才意识到自己只是读经, 却没有让读的东西进入生命。后来在教牧人员的帮助指导下, 我认识了神, 知道了耶稣是我们全人类的救主, 无论我们在世上遭遇多么大的难处, 无论我们到了多么绝望的境地, 只要我们来到神的面前, 只要我们按照神的旨意去做, 我们的疾病和难处都能够得到解决, 我们所思所想的都能够得到成全。

圣经上说: “世人都犯了罪, 亏缺了神的荣耀” (罗马书 3:23), 起初我怎么也想不通我们怎么会有罪, 后来经过陈牧师和 Kenneth 举例讲解以后, 我开始明白, 由于我们世人骄傲自大, 与神为敌, 故意不认识神, 不信神, 远离神, 就生出许多的罪来, 做那些不合理的事。在明白了何谓罪以后, 接下来就是怎样去改罪的问题, 我照着教牧人员所辅导的去认罪, 学着在环境面前靠神对付罪, 我决定把自己的未来都交到全能的上帝手上, 因为我接受了这样一个事实, 就是我不可能凭我自己的力量摆脱我的罪, 因此我需要耶稣被钉死在十字架上替我赎罪, 从而使我能够成为他大家庭里的一员而免受惩罚。在信主以后, 也许是神的爱进入了我生命的缘故, 我感觉自己在罪性上悔改了一点, 自己的生活方式和生活态度发生了一些改变。比方说, 我跟我家人的关系有了很大的改善, 神似乎将我的脾气改变了不少, 我不再无端地向孩子发火, 能够耐心倾听父母的“唠叨”, 能够主动为家人和朋友的健康向神祷告。

总之, 那段时间我最能感受得到的就是神的爱无处不在。现在想来我们全家能有今天

平安喜乐的生活, 这一切都是主的恩赐, 感谢主! 在百福华人教会里, 各位弟兄姐妹无微不至的关心帮助, 使我感到神的大爱就在我的周围, 就在大家的心里。今天我受洗归入基督, 在主里得到了重生, 从此主给了我一个属灵的新生命, 使我有新的依靠和新的追求, 开始了我真正的基督徒生活。从今以后, 我要把一切都放在主的手里, 仰仗他, 依靠他, 不再向罪活, 而是向神活着。应该按着新的生命活出新的样式, 活出神的荣耀, 做一个神所喜悦的人。

但是, 我也知道, 由于撒旦的存在, 我未来追随主耶稣基督的路不会是一帆风顺的, 我仍然有很多的疑问, 有时候仍然会做错事情, 尽管也知道怎么做才是对的。要真正得救并进入那永生的国度, 还需要我在地上不断的努力, 去主动与天父建立良好的关系, 与教会的弟兄姐妹一起讨论学习领会神的话语, 并把它真正落实到我们的日常生活中去。谢谢大家!

Su Zhen's Testimony for Baptism

My name is Lin Su Zhen, I came from China. I moved to Bradford from London to run a Chinese takeaway last year.

My husband and I were very superstitious; we worshiped many idols until the death of my daughter. We decided not to believe in these idols anymore because they didn't save my daughter's life. I was suffering the heartbreak of losing my daughter; although I was living I was as good as dead; I was in great distress. I had thought of taking my life to be with my daughter, but I recalled my daughter saying when she was still with us, "Mum, Let us go to church together sometime." After my daughter's passing away, I decided not to believe in those idols, not to worship them any longer: I wanted to cut and break the connection with them. I wanted a change of heart, to change my way of thinking; I wanted to find a God who loves us to be my saviour and Lord. Then I remembered my friend Pauline who is a Christian, they are always so joyful. So I called her, telling her that I want to trust in Jesus Christ and asking her to help me to know Jesus Christ. Then

Pauline brought Pastor Irene and Connie to visit us. They prayed for us, and they also led us to renounce idol worship. That was the first time I experienced God, I felt released. I felt that Jesus Christ has forgiven my sins, all of my sins. I wanted to trust in God, and I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal saviour and Lord. I want to thank God for His grace. I want to praise God. I am grateful for God's word and Jesus' blood and giving my family peace and joy. I want to be a child of God because He has given me a new life and gives me peace and joy. Lord Jesus, I want to follow you all the days of my life.

素贞的信仰见证

我叫林素贞，来自中国，去年从伦敦来到 Bradford 开外卖店。以前，我们是很迷信的，拜很多偶像的，自从我的女儿出事后，我就决定不再迷信了，因为他们没有保住我女儿的命。我真正地感受到失去亲人的心疼，我活得行尸走肉的，我非常痛苦。

我曾想跟女儿去，但我想起之前女儿有跟我说：妈，有空我们也去教会吧。女儿死了之后，我们就决定不再迷信。不再去拜他们，我要割断和弃绝与这些偶像的关系。我要思想改变我要找一个疼爱我们的神做为个人的救主和主宰。之后，我就想到我们身边的朋友 Pauline。她们是基督徒，她们时常开心快乐。我就决定打电话找她说，我们要信靠耶稣基督，让她带领我们认识耶稣基督。然后 Pauline 带来 Irene 牧师和 Connie 姐妹来我们住处为我们祷告和做弃绝偶像祷告，让我们第一次与神接触，使我整个人轻松了很多，让我感受到耶稣基督在赦免我的罪，全部的罪。

我要信靠神，我接受耶稣基督做为个人的救主和主宰。我要感谢祂的恩典，我要赞美神，感谢神的话语与宝血保守我们一家平安与快乐。我要做神的儿女，因为祂让我重生，赐我平安与快乐。主耶稣，我愿意一生跟随你。

感恩与祷告 Thanksgiving and Prayers:

1. 请继续为薛斌和丽珠一家目前的状况祷告。Pray for Xue Bin & Le Zhu & family for their situation.
2. 请为 Kenneth Mould 手术之后能尽快康复祷告。Pray for Kenneth Mould that he will have a speedy recovery after the operation.
3. 请为 Vivian Lee 和 Pauline 的健康祷告。Vivian Lee 已经进行了手术，2-3 周后会确诊是否为癌症。请为 Vivian Lee 和 Pauline 的康复祷告。Pray for the health of Vivian Lee and Pauline. Vivian has undergone the operation and the result will come in 2-3 weeks to confirm if it is cancer. Pray for the recuperation of Vivian Lee & Pauline.
4. 请为百福教会在新生中的拓广工作祷告，并希望那些主内的弟兄姐妹能尽快适应本地的教会生活。Pray for the outreach to the new students and for those who are Christians to quickly settle into church life in Bradford.
5. 请为教会今年的退休会祷告，通过 Hope Spring Europe 牧师的带领愿主能够保守我们。Pray for the Church retreat that God will bless us through the ministry of Hope Spring Europe.
6. 请为英国目前的经济不景气和弟兄姐妹的工作有保障祷告，也为那些正在找工作的弟兄姐妹祷告。Pray for the difficult economic situation in UK & job security for brothers & sisters. Pray also for those who are looking for a job.
7. 请为海地的霍乱流行病祷告，希望能够控制病菌传播阻止更多的死亡。Pray for the cholera epidemic in Haiti that it will be brought under control to prevent further deaths.