

紐奧良華人浸信會

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Living Water

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耶穌回答說、凡喝這水的、還要再渴。人若喝我所賜的水就永遠不渴。我所賜的水、要在他裏頭成為泉源、直湧到永生。節期的末日、就是最大之日、耶穌站著高聲說、人若渴了、可以到我這裡來喝。信我的人、就如經上所說、從他腹中要流出活水的江河來。(約翰福音 4:13-14; 7:37-38)

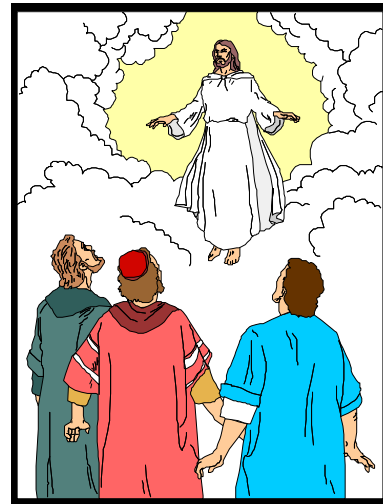


主愛無疆

— 寫在颶風“古斯塔夫”之後 —

文 = 弋歐

又是一個盛夏來臨；又是一個新學期的開始；



許多新生來到 New Orleans 大學，開始了他們留學海外的生活，他們將展開奮飛的翅膀。

在“卡翠娜”三週年之際，正當我們籌備著 2008 年 UNO 迎新會的時候，

一聲劈靨響澈新奧爾良：“古斯塔夫”來了，颶風來了；一時間整個城市為之震盪。

人們開始購物、存水、加固門窗，最要緊的是，不時地加滿自己的油箱。

原定週五的“迎新會”，變成“撤離”的準備會；人們面色凝重，腳步匆忙。

怎能忘啊，三年前的顛沛流離；大水無情地淹沒了我們的家鄉。

怎能忘啊，一位未撤離同學的見証：

破堤洪水吞嚥了整個城市，停電停水，狂風巨浪；

數日無眠，數日斷糧；四周環水，救援無望。

如今風又來了。歷史是否重演在新奧爾良？

我們不相信“人定勝天”，但我們能眾志成城，彰顯出主愛的力量。

大家緊張地商討著“撤退”路線，如何把每一個不開車的同學帶上。

牧師、師母不時地來電詢問，並把自己的一部車留給我們，

為的是不讓一人落難，為的是不讓他們在遠方的父母懼傷。

這裏沒有豪言壯語，沒有信誓旦旦、冠冕堂皇；有的是主耶穌的愛，

有的是跟隨“主”的腳步，聲聲鏗鏘。

週六，又是一個緊張又扣人心弦的日子，大家盯著颶風預報，準備著撤離的行裝。

何時開拔，撤向哪裏，這是大家最關心的。從中午起，各家的電話響得匆忙。

貝城的牧師、弟兄們來電詢問；德州的姊妹熱情相邀，

施瑞波特教會已準備好接待我們；阿拉巴馬州兩位弟兄家庭，業已熱情地向我們開放；

還有休士頓的中國教會已答應，讓我們全部人馬暫避於主的殿堂。

他們知道，我們是一支龐大的團隊，約有人四、五十位，車十四、五輛。

在哪裏呀，我們的避難所；去哪裏呀，主請指示方向。

因為祂知道，我們有老弱病殘；

祂體恤我們撤離路上人多車忙；祂會告訴我們路在何方。

週六晚上大家商定，去阿拉巴馬州一位弟兄家，一個距我們大約四小時車程的地方。

週日清晨，天還沒亮，十餘輛車已聚集在小瑀家旁，

他們夫婦忙著為大家準備早餐。

林醫生則自告奮勇，率先擠到高速公路上。

此時此刻的高速路啊，你可以想像；車行緩如慢步，一輛銜接一輛。

感謝神在關鍵時刻給我們智慧，迅速決定轉道西去，直奔貝城；

於是大家結伴而行，一路通暢。

事後得知，有人去阿州同一地方，一路上二十幾個小時，人困馬乏，如廁艱難，加油無方。

看到這裏，有人一定會說：寫著什麼狗屁文章。

詩不詩，文不文，懶婆娘的裹腳布又臭又長。

且慢！下面的經歷更加動人。

貝城華人教會眾弟兄姊妹開放家庭，為我們送上熱飯熱湯，為我們騰出空房。

有的家庭要接待二十多人，但他們卻始終如一，殷切如常。

我們四十餘人入住貝城教會，陳牧師又送來睡袋，長執們準備好煤氣灶具。

因為颶風正向貝城襲來，我們將面臨停水停電，斷炊斷糧。

中餐館陳老版是主內弟兄，從第一天起即為我們幾十人準備飯菜，

只收成本。而始終美味可口，足數足量。

更難可貴的是：

颶風經過，餐廳斷電；他們用發電機單為我們做飯；每個人都被汗水濕透衣裳。

清晨，貝城的弟兄們接我們到家中沐浴更衣；傍晚，貝城的姊妹們送來西瓜，問短問長。

在貝城教會的三晝夜啊，真是此生難忘。

試問，無此大愛，誰能如此，無此大愛，誰顧他人熱與涼。

面對危難，我也曾徬徨，設想讓大家站在大堤上，用力把颶風吹到它處。

於今想來，愧悔難當。

豈不知到處都有我的弟兄姊妹，那裏也是他們可愛的家鄉。

“古斯塔夫”已經過去，“埃克”也遠走他鄉。

我們的生活，又一如往常。但是朋友啊，你可曾知道，

明天的生活還會有風有浪，請記住：耶穌愛你。

請記住：主愛無疆。

【9/10/2008】

神向我們所要的是什麼？



申命記 10:12-13

文 = 鄔小瑋

有時神給我們的指示像晴朗天空上的太陽一樣清晰。而有時祂給我們的指示却像摘下太陽放在口袋裏一樣困難，是完全不可能完成的任務。

當以色列人在進入迦南之前，他們站在迦南地的邊緣面臨著困境。神指示他們用戰鬥奪取應許之地，但經過 40 年的曠野漂流，他們懷疑自己是否能夠取得戰鬥的勝利。

他們忘記了很重要的一點，就是他們和神的關係。申命記 10：12-13，摩西告誡說：“以色列啊，現在耶和華你的神向你所要的是什麼呢？只要你敬畏耶和華你的神，遵行祂的道，愛祂，盡心盡性事奉祂，遵行祂的誡命，律例，就是我今日所吩咐你的，為要叫你得福。”

神並沒有期待他們有一個完美無缺的作戰方案，祂僅僅要求他們愛祂。神並沒有要求他們要不惜一切代價去贏得戰鬥的勝利，而告訴他們要相信祂的帶領，完全地順服祂。

摩西明白沒有對神的順服和信心，沒有對神的愛，以色列人就不在神的保護之下。神不會讓我們去做不可能的事情，也不會將我們引向失敗。祂是愛的神，祂會在我們面臨挑戰時為我們開一條出路。我們的責任就是走在祂為我們開闢的道路上。

彌迦書 6:8 講到，“世人哪，耶和華已指示你何為善，祂向你所要的是什麼呢？只要你行公義，好憐憫，存謙卑的心，與你的神同行。”這是什麼意思呢？這是說我們要活出耶穌的樣子來，用敬畏的心接受神的指示，用愛心來服事祂。

我們要明白：神希望我們和祂有一個深入持久的關係。祂願意預備和授權我們做祂期望

我們所作的一切事情。我們越多明白祂的心意，我們就會越愛祂，順服祂。

如果你想服事神，如果你想得到祂的保護，你必須認識祂，愛祂，順服祂。無論你所面臨的挑戰有多大，神都會幫助你。在神的保護之下，你是最安全的。所以，不要懼怕，因為神與你同在。只要你相信祂，按照祂所說的去做，祂就會賜給你所需要的力量。

【譯自 Charles F. Stanley's Life Principles Daily Bible】



主耶穌引導我 回到祂的懷抱

文 = 張姊妹

感謝神！親愛的弟兄、姊妹平安！

感謝神的極大耐力，幾十年的時間慢慢地引導我回來做祂的兒女。由於神的恩典指示我道路，今天才能與各位相處一堂。

這幾天在受浸課程裏所學的“神無所不在”，使我想起小時候上小學，會經過一間很小的教堂，我常站在外面看人做禮拜、唱詩歌，心中非常羨慕。那時發現家裏有聖經，我拿來看只當看故事一樣，對書裏的章節記載很感興趣，於是一章一節的看下去，但是不瞭解書裏的深意。小小年紀也不知道我看的書是“聖經”，可見神早已揀選了我。之後又斷斷續續的看聖經，斷斷續續地到教會聽道，慢慢地領會到需要有人正正式式的指導。

感謝主，二十年前讓劉依南姊妹帶領我接受主。只是我已結婚，婆婆（丈夫的媽媽）是佛教徒，長年吃齋、拜佛。丈夫深受影響，極力反對我信主耶穌，阻止我讀聖經，禁止我參與任何教會的活動。在這環境之下，生活受於丈夫的支配與控制，忍耐強勢的反對。我軟弱，無力抵擋他。盡拿我家之費用去付給異教，惹來家庭危機；我甚至受到傷害也得忍受。以致生病、不快樂。

感謝主，神從來沒有放棄我；讓妹妹，妹夫天天為我禱告，安慰我，幫助我。

回想三十四年前，帶著兩個幼小兒女到加拿大與丈夫相聚；由於重大的生活及精神的壓力之下，我的肚子常痛得暈倒，懷中幼女嗷嗷待哺；每每徹夜難眠，夜夜站在十四樓高的公寓洋台，遙望星空，伏探雲湧飄過腳下，真想一躍而下，駕雲歸西！感謝神，差遣好友帶我找良醫，把肚子裏的血瘤除掉，恢復健康。更感謝神的鼓勵，我重拾畫筆，應聘教育局，重回教育崗位，使之能維持家庭生計，扶養兩個兒女長大成器，彩繪豐富我的人生。

細細回想起來，發現無論幫我找職業的，找醫生的，自動幫我開畫展的，照顧我生活的都是信主耶穌的人；至今我才領悟到神一直與我同在，一直愛護及照顧我。祂差遣許多不同專長的朋友協助我健康、順利的渡過重重難關。心常存感恩。今後更要牢記主的恩典。

是時候了！感謝神的召喚。此次南下紐奧良是妹夫與妹妹的愛心，開車往返休士頓機場把我接來。

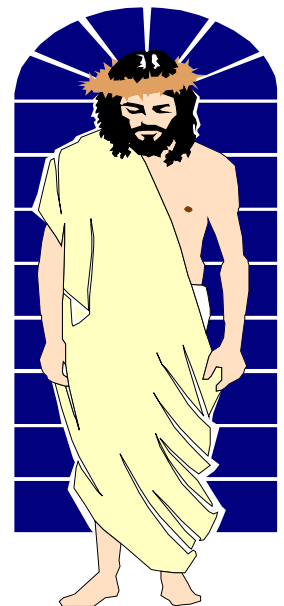
十天來住在這充滿神恩典的基督家裏，領受耶穌的大愛，指導我認識聖經；及各位弟兄姊妹為我禱告，堅定了信心，接受浸禮，成為神的兒女。現在我是神的兒女了，不再孤獨，不再徬徨。心中充滿著神賜予的喜樂與幸福感。

縱然往後的日子會有多少荊棘，但我已有神可依靠。凡事祈求神保佑，賜我力量與智慧，克服一切困難。求主使丈夫早日回頭得救，歸入主耶穌的門下，同蒙救恩。阿們！

神，是信實的

文 = 耿德貴

一直以來，總以為信神就是迷信，那是鄉下老太太們騙人的小把戲而已。小時候，村裏有個小老太太時不時跳個大神，自稱是黃鼠狼大仙，又唱又跳，很是滑稽。每當那時，村裏的孩子們都很快樂，因為有了取笑的對象。一直以來，總以為世上沒有什麼救世主，一切的事情都要靠自己努力去爭取。從小時候的讀書，上大學，接著讀博士，直到後來來到美國。一切的一切都是自己辛苦努力的結果。



來美國之前，只知道“聖經”兩個字，對它的了解來自於《聖經的故事》這本書。但我把它等同於中國的神話故事，上帝創造天地不就是盤古開天辟地嗎，上帝造人不就是女媧造人嗎，大洪水的故事不就是女媧補天嗎。故事很美，但是神話，是虛構的，現時中從來不會發生。

來到美國後，有一個星期天，一個人帶我到教堂去，同時給了我一本聖經。這是我第一次接觸到教堂和聖經，給我的感覺是，教堂就是會堂，是大家聚在一起解解悶的地方。對於聖經，我最感興趣的就是那些神話故事和曆史故事，讀完了這些，聖經也不知道丟到哪兒去了。誰又對哪些枯燥的說教感興趣呢？中國的古代智慧要比這些無聊無趣的話更引起我的共鳴。妻子的性格和我完全相反，活躍開朗，喜歡紮堆，喜歡去教堂。而我，星期天閑著也是閑著，也就跟著去教堂混口飯吃，偶爾也聽聽他們講些什麼。有一次的布道是關於“創世記”的，是神話故事，很有趣，我愛聽，就聽了一些，也沒往心裏去。過了一段時間，一天中午，我一邊吃飯一邊看窗外高高低低遠遠近近的花草樹木。忽然就有一種感覺，達爾文進化論講“物競天演”，萬物是進化而來的，那應該有很多的中間過渡類型，讓我找找看。於是，我就仔細看，再仔細看，沒有呀。那不知名的花依然是那不知名的花，那叫不出名的樹還是那叫不出名的樹，那又是不知名的花又是叫不出名的樹的植物在哪兒呢？“各從其類”，“各從其類”，忽然一個聲音在我腦海中不斷的說，讓我恍然夢醒。是呀，起初神造動物和植物，各從其類，怎麼會有四不像的東西呢。聖經的記載也許是真的吧！

後來，舉家搬遷到新奧爾良。依然跟著妻子到中國教會混飯吃，也就混到查經班裏充個數，偶爾問一兩個問題，表明自己沒有打盹。隨著來的次數增多，對聖經的了解也就漸漸的多了起來，我的態度也漸漸的開始有所改變。別看這一本小小的書，內容可真多，包羅萬象，自然、曆史、文化、軍事、道德、預言等等。有一點讓我吃驚的是，這本書跨度幾千年，曆經幾十位作者，前呼後應，沒有一點自相矛盾的地方。如果是出自人的手，這是不可能的，唯一可能的是出自神的話。再者，舊約中預言的事情在新約中一一應驗，特別是有關耶穌基督的出生、釘十字架及復活，是這麼準確真實。再後來，跟著牧師和師母查經，對聖經的理解更上了一個層次。聖經的核心是什麼？是愛，是上帝愛的彰顯。因祂愛世人，願降聖子耶穌來拯救我們。無論好人或歹人，只要願意認罪悔改，承認主耶穌基督，受洗後就必然得救，就可以進神的國。

其實，神一直很愛我，雖然我嘴上不說，可心裏知道。我是個罪人，不配上帝的愛。可上帝還是眷顧我，憐憫我，一次又一次在我和我的家人身上彰顯祂的榮耀。就拿我的第二個女兒來說吧，她出生後身體就一直不太好，需要動兩次手術治療。每個手術都是個大手術，誰也不知道結果如何。感謝上帝聆聽我們的禱告，感謝朋友的禱告，也感謝牧師和師母在整個手術的過程中一直陪伴我們，帶領我們一起禱告。奇蹟就這樣發生了，上帝將平安賜給我們，不讓我們擔心。手術的結果很好，比醫生預想的要好的多。後來的住院以及回家後的恢復，我們也一直禱告，結果是我的女兒精神狀態一直很好，身體恢復的很快。感謝主，在我女兒身上彰顯祂的榮耀。主是真實的。

我曾經害怕我死後的去處，不知希望在何處，迷茫在黑暗中。現在，我知道有上帝在愛我，洗淨我的罪，可以進祂的國。我知道我的希望在何處，我的標竿在哪裏，沒有擔憂和眼淚。神，祢是真實的，祢是慈愛的。感謝主，我叩門，祢便為我打開，讓我看到祢的容光，我的心因祢而平安喜樂。感謝主。祢是真實的。

詩歌賞析

文 = 編輯部



今年為了紀念復活節，教會詩班在指揮李懋平的指導下演唱偉大的作曲家巴哈的馬太受難曲。通過音樂來靜思主耶穌的受難，體會主的心意。

馬太受難曲 (matthauspassion)

巴哈時代的作曲家們多認為音樂是屬於教會與王室貴族的，從來不會夢想自己的作品能流傳於後世而不朽，巴哈的部分作品也在此種時代背景下遭到埋沒而被世人遺忘。巴哈共寫了五首受難曲，除了與「馬太受難曲」同為現存的「約翰受難曲」以外，尚有「馬各受難曲」、「皮康迪爾受難曲」兩首至今行蹤不明，「魯卡受難曲」則有偽作之嫌。

在巴哈所作的幾首受難曲中，以馬太受難曲及約翰受難曲最為著名。馬太受難曲 (matthauspassion) 全名為根據「馬太福音而寫的受難曲」；約翰受難曲亦即「根據約翰福音而作的受難曲」之簡稱。這兩部作品雖同樣敘述耶穌受難之史實，然而由於聖經中馬太福音的敘述加添耶穌被捉拿前的情景，使記述受難事蹟之經文長達 141 個經節 (約翰福音僅含四十二節)，又加上巴哈對於兩部受難曲之樂曲處理不同，使得馬太受難曲比約翰受難曲長了許多，前者演奏時間約為 3 個半小時，這也是巴哈最長的作品。

一、作曲時間及其首演

巴哈從 1728 年秋天（44 歲）開始寫作此曲，並計劃將於翠年的受難日演出。果然，此曲於 1729 年 4 月 15 日在所謂耶穌受難日的下午崇拜聚會中演出，由巴哈親自指揮萊比錫詩班及樂團，地點正是他所任職的德國萊比錫之聖多瑪斯教堂（StThomas church）。

經過這次的首演，在 1736 年以後，為了校訂樂譜，又在巴哈的指揮下於聖多瑪斯教堂及厄可萊教堂（St. Nicholas church）演出（巴哈先後為此作品作了三次修訂，由此可見他對此曲的重視。）儘管稱為「演出」、「首演」，但巴哈的心態均與一般作曲家的作品首演不同；一般作曲家乃基於發表作品的想法，而巴哈則是為了教堂裡的音樂崇拜；在基本理念上，一般作曲家演出作品的對象是人，巴哈則以「為神獻上馨香之祭」為主，其次才是人。因此，巴哈每個作品的「首演」，都具有著崇高且神聖的意義。而此作品第一次脫離音樂崇拜，純粹以作品發表為目的的首演，則是距離首次演出已一百年的 1829 年，此時巴哈已逝世 79 年了。音樂家孟德爾頌（Felix Mendelssohn 1809~1847）在悉心研究馬太受難曲之後，決定演出，並親自指揮，於是 1829 年 2 月開始練習。孟德爾頌須在預演時，就將這部很長的曲子全部背譜指揮；因此，當此曲於 3 月 11 日在柏林歌唱學院正式演出時，就造成了空前的盛況，巴哈的音樂與聲譽亦在埋沒了將近一世紀後，經由此曲的復甦而漸為人們所熟知，並尊稱巴哈為「音樂之父」。

二、人聲與樂器編制

巴哈在馬太受難曲中，所使用的人聲與樂器如下：二組混聲合唱團、二組管絃樂團、二架管風琴、一組兒童合唱團及數位獨唱者。曲中獨唱的角色雖多，但大部分是由六位獨唱者擔任，其中有一位男低音擔任「耶穌」角色，一位男高音擔任福音史家（敘述福音書所記載的事件），其餘四位則是女高音、女低音、男高音、男低音各一位，分別擔任多種角色。

三、作品欣賞

馬太受難曲共有 78 曲，分為兩部，第一部：1~35 曲，主要取自馬太福音 26 章 1 至 56 節，描述有人設陰謀至耶穌被捕之事蹟，第二部：36~78 曲，自耶穌被捕敘述至受死、安葬為止（太廿六 57~二十七 66）。巴哈將此曲分為兩部，乃是為便於崇拜聚會時在第一部與第二部之間進行講道，像前所述的首演即是如此，在 78 曲中，只有 37 首樂曲的歌詞取自聖經，這些經文完全依照馬丁路德所譯的德文聖經；其餘則取自當時一般萊比錫教堂裡所用的讚美詩，並以原來的旋律為主，再稍作變化，此外亦採用當代德國詩人畢康德（Picander 1700~1764）的自由詩，再加以譜曲。

這部馬太受難曲最大特色，是巴哈以音符的巧妙運用，來象徵所敘述的事物情景，猶如看見圖畫或影片一般。例如：1. 每當耶穌說話時，巴哈總是以絃樂的長和絃音，象徵著早期圖

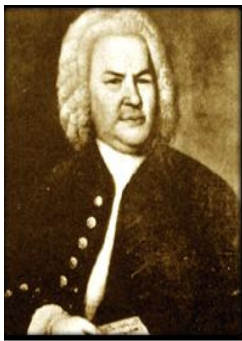
畫上所常見到的——有光輪在耶穌頭上環繞的情形。唯有一處，巴哈將絃樂刪除，那是在第 71 曲中，耶穌痛苦地喊道：「我的神！我的神！為什麼離棄我？」此時正是耶穌至陰間替世人嚐死味的時刻，為了描寫神真的暫時離開祂，取去代表榮耀、尊貴的光輪，於是巴哈取消絃樂器，配上悲戚的曲調。2. 第 8 曲中敘述至「安葬」即以下行音符描繪埋葬的情景。3. 第 9、10、12 曲的歌詞都陳述著「淚水」、「嘆息」和「哀傷」，於是巴哈以相似的動機來連貫這三曲，使人聽起來猶如淚水滴下或是嘆息聲一般。第 20 曲提及經文：「他們上橄欖山去」，巴哈使用十三個音符所串連的上行音階，表示耶穌和門徒上山的腳步聲。以上僅是略舉一、二，欲深入了解，則應從欣賞音樂及閱讀樂譜做起。而針對這種以各種音樂表現方式，來象徵歌詞與樂曲所要表達的情緒、事物或舉動，巴哈研究專家史懷哲和音樂家畢羅都將其定名為「音畫」。巴哈常用這種圖畫式的象徵方式作曲，而馬太受難曲可說是使用次數最多者。

此外，由於巴哈當時所任職的聖多瑪斯教堂裡，有兩個詩班席及兩台管風琴，並且分別在教堂的左右邊，於是巴哈以兩組合唱及兩組樂團，形成如同現代「立體音響」(stereo) 的效果；兩個合唱團就如音響的揚聲器一般，音樂時在右、時在左，有時亦兩邊同時發出，造成立體式的對話，若使用耳機或者較好的音響聆聽第一曲，可以很清楚地感受到這種效果。這以當時而言，是鮮見且特殊的音樂效果。

耶穌基督的受難，帶給全人類極大的救恩，但願身為基督徒者，更藉著此受難曲，再一次思想耶穌這超乎一切的愛！

音樂之父—巴哈 (*Johann Sebastian Bach* 1685-1750)

巴哈出生在德國的埃森納赫城。巴哈家族是音樂世家，祖父、父親、兄弟和不少親戚都是音樂家。巴哈的兒子也有幾位是音樂家，於是在兩百年間，出現了五十名音樂家。在他故鄉附近，一提「巴哈家」就是指音樂家的意思。



巴哈的父親是一位樂師，年幼時就由父親教他小提琴。可是巴哈 10 歲時，雙親不幸先後去世。於是投靠到大哥克利斯多夫家。此後，一邊接受哥哥的大鍵琴和管風琴的指導，一邊上學校，學習拉丁語。哥哥蒐集不少當時著名的樂譜，巴哈曾偷偷抄寫，當作自己的學習。不久嫂嫂生了小寶寶，生活更艱苦了，15 歲時，巴哈就離開哥哥家。由於巴哈在學校成績優異，老師就把他推薦給龍尼堡教會附設的聖米夏爾高級學校當公費生。

遷居龍尼堡後，巴哈邊學習，邊加入合唱團，即使變聲後，還留在教會拉小提琴。非常勤奮的巴哈，利用教會的樂譜不斷做研究，為了欣賞風琴大師蘭肯的演奏，徒步走 50 公里到漢堡。也前往哲列聆聽當地宮廷所演奏的法國音樂，都深受感動。

從學校畢業後，1703 年巴哈成為威瑪宮廷樂團的小提琴手。在工作三個月後，巴哈被聘為安斯達特城的教堂風琴師。這個教堂的管風琴是新的，性能很優異，薪資也很高。這時巴哈為了聽前輩巴克斯泰烏德的演奏，徒步走 360 公里，到北方的呂白克。像這樣，巴哈利用各種機會，不斷學習，到青年時代已經成為很優秀的音樂家。這時期他就寫下著名的風琴曲「D 小調觸技曲與賦格曲」。

由於巴哈過份熱衷於學習，就疏忽了教會的工作，時常和教會人士發生衝突。1707 年時，只好改任穆爾豪森的教堂風琴師，而且在這裡和大一歲的遠房堂姊瑪麗亞·芭芭拉結婚。巴哈的風琴演奏家聲譽越來越高，1708 年，5 年前工作過的威瑪宮廷，聘他擔任禮拜堂風琴師。這時的地位比以前的小提琴手高很多。威瑪的領主很喜歡音樂，不久，巴哈又升任宮廷樂長。巴哈即使已經很了不起，但從不間斷音樂的學習。這時在這宮廷內，時常演奏韋瓦第等義大利作家的協奏曲。這些充滿魅力的音樂，也牢牢吸引巴哈的心。在威瑪宮廷的時代，巴哈也寫下許多風琴曲。1717 年被聘為柯登宮廷的樂長演奏家，巴哈為這個樂團寫下很多器樂曲。

巴哈時常配合自己的工作，譜寫各類樂曲。在威瑪時代，由於擔任禮拜堂風琴師，就為教會寫很多風琴曲，到柯登擔任宮廷樂長後，為使領主快樂，寫出很多世俗音樂，其中還包含「布蘭登堡協奏曲」。

1719 年，聽說在英國活躍的韓德爾歸國，於是專程往訪韓德爾的故鄉哈勒。不料，抵達時韓德爾剛剛離開，踏上他的另一旅程。

1720 年對巴哈來說是個不幸之年，為他生育七個子女的愛妻瑪麗亞·芭芭拉，在巴哈和領主出外旅行時，卻因急病去世。不久，好不容易從悲傷中恢復的巴哈，於次年和女高音歌手安娜·瑪格達蕾娜結婚，新娘比他小十六歲。瑪格達蕾娜非常了解巴哈的工作，認真地給予協助，幫他謄清樂譜。巴哈為妻子寫了「鍵盤樂器小曲集」，也為孩子們的教育譜曲。後來瑪格達蕾娜為巴哈生了十三個子女。

巴哈在柯登工作五年後，1723 年就任萊比錫聖湯瑪斯教堂合唱長。這個合唱長的工作，除了必須不斷為萊比錫各個教會寫作教會音樂、指導禮拜時的演唱外，還要兼任教會附設學校的音樂教師，工作非常忙碌。起初的這幾年，巴哈每週都為教會寫作新曲。巴哈的教會清唱劇，大都在這時譜出，也產生了「馬太受難曲」和「聖誕神劇」等傑作。此外，巴哈還擔任大學生樂團的指揮。

從年輕時代開始馬不停蹄的學習、作曲和演奏的巴哈，年紀越大眼力就越差，到去世的前年（1749），雙眼幾乎已失明。經過兩次手術失敗後，1750年7月，在親人看護下，靜靜地結束他65歲的生涯。

【摘自：www.yies.ilc.edu.tw、www.au.org.tw、life.fhl.net/Music/bach/01.htm】

聖經人物



文 = 編輯部

亞哈斯 AHAZ

亞哈斯差遣使者去見亞述王提革拉列色，說，…現在亞蘭王和以色列王攻擊我；求你來救我…亞哈斯將耶和華殿裡和王宮府庫裡所有的金銀，都送給亞述王為禮物；亞述王應允了他，…亞哈斯王上大馬色去迎接亞述王…在大馬色看見一座壇；就照壇的規模樣式作法畫了圖樣，送到祭司烏利亞那裡。祭司烏利亞照著…圖樣，…建築一座壇。王…在壇上獻祭；…平安祭牲的血洒在壇上。又將耶和華面前的銅壇，從耶和華殿和新壇的中間搬到新壇的北邊。亞哈斯王吩咐祭司烏利亞說，…要用以求問耶和華；…亞哈斯王打掉盆座四面鑲著的心子，把盆從座上挪下來，又將銅海從馱海的銅牛上搬下來，放在鋪石地。(王下十六 7~17)

亞哈斯是個屬世的精明計畫者，他看不起像以賽亞這樣單純信心的人，他才不會想向神求神跡呢！畢竟這樣作可能使他負上一些義務。他並非沒有宗教意識，你看，他還特別照大馬色壇的樣子定作了一座祭壇呢！但他所信的是金錢，並不是神跡。以賽亞常常叫他倚靠神，他厭煩極了，他寧願照自己的計畫，用錢去買通強大的國家，以求取支援。他的計畫在當時來說似乎蠻奏效，但到了他統治的後期，再來計算一下花費時，發覺他大大的削弱了神家的庫存。將屬世的智慧用在神的工作上，結果一定會造成屬靈的貧窮。

* 得罪耶和華的君王

經文：歷代志下廿八

鑰節：這亞哈斯王在急難的時候，越發得罪耶和華。(代下廿八 22)

參考經文：王下十六 1~20

在連續幾代的好王之後，約坦之子亞哈斯「不像他祖大衛行耶和華眼中看為正的事」。他可說是猶大國有史以來最邪惡最腐敗的君王。亞哈斯作惡多端，他引進巴力的崇拜，使全國充滿偶像。甚至在欣嫩子谷，把自己的孩子獻為祭品，祈求迦南的神祇幫助他與亞蘭王的爭戰，這是上帝所憎惡的行為，也是上帝審判迦南人的罪行。而今，猶大王以此大大干犯耶和華。主的審判和懲罰來得嚴厲而迅速，猶大國敗在亞蘭王手裡，許多人被俘，也失去大片領土。以色列王比加殺了 12 萬猶大人，擄走了 20 萬人當俘虜，整個猶大國頓時成了人間地獄，何等可怕的審判。(代下廿八 1~21)

雖然如此，亞哈斯並沒有悔改轉向上帝，反而變本加厲，在急難的時候，越發得罪耶和華，當以東人、非利士人趁火打劫來攻擊猶大時，他卻轉向求助亞述，結果反被亞述所征服。因為他祭祀大馬色的神，想得保護，那知使自己和眾人都敗亡了。雖然先知以賽亞曾試圖阻止，卻是無效。(賽七 4~9) 亞哈斯甚至褻瀆聖殿，污穢了對上帝的敬拜，惹動上帝的怒氣。亞哈斯執政 16 年，把猶大國帶入悲慘的黑暗之中，死時並沒有葬在大衛王的墓園中，因為他並沒有像大衛行上帝眼中看為正的事

【摘自：人物讀經日程、Glory Press Mission-Daily Devotional Study for Bible Character】

一封母親 MOM 的信

文：佚名

親愛的女婿：我想，總有一天，你會帶著你的父母來提親，因為我的女兒是如此美麗、可愛、有才氣、貼心，簡直就像上帝派來凡間的天使。你要跟我談聘金嗎？我想你是付不起的。詩 127:3 「兒女是耶和華所賜的產業；所懷的胎，是祂所賜的賞賜。」

先來談談屬世的，從小我在女兒身上花費吧！你最愛她彈著鋼琴的優美模樣，是錢堆砌起來的。還有每一年的學費，私立高中、私立大學。更別提每天的三餐，留學的費用。至於屬靈的，每星期日她上教會，從小上主日學，學習謹記神的話語。我這做母親也做到提前 3:4 說著「好好管理自己的家，使兒女凡事端莊順服。」箴言 22:6 「教養孩童，使她走當行的道，就是到老她也不偏離。」更何況，我不要把女兒「賣」給你，所以，你是不可能用錢買到我女兒的，因為我女兒的價值，還不僅僅於此。她的一個微笑，是我生命中最美好的禮物。她貼心的按摩，是任何專業按摩師都無法取代的，因為每一個手勢，有她的愛，有我的感動。她的每一顆晶瑩淚珠，都是我與她不斷衝突下，溶解彼此的美好果實。我們在爭吵、和解、瞭解、更加緊密相愛中不斷成長。女兒與我之間的愛，是拿數億金錢也無法切斷的。就如以賽 43:4 “因我看你為寶為尊，又因我愛你。”

所以，親愛的女婿，即使你有萬貫家財，你也買不起我的女兒。所以，我的女兒不「賣」給你，也不「嫁」給你。她只是要跟你結婚，跟你一起共組一個家庭。「婚姻人人都當尊重。」（希伯來 13:4）所以，不要跟我談聘金了，你是付不起的，我的女兒，她是無價之寶。就如箴言 31:10 說著：「才德的婦人，誰能得著呢？她的價值遠勝過珍珠。」

即使你們結婚了，即使你們住在一個獨立的小房子裡面，她仍然是我的女兒，我仍然是她的母親，我們之間的愛，也永遠不會消失。既然我不是要賣女兒，而你，也不可能買得起。我跟我的女兒，仍然要像以前那樣互動，那樣相愛。

你們是立下婚約，婚約是宣示兩人要彼此相守，而不是簽訂某一方的奴隸條約。所以，我也要你承諾，用對待一個人該有的態度對待她，不是把她當成佣人或奴僕。你會難過的事情，她也會難過。你會感到疲憊的事情，她也會感到疲憊。請以體貼你自己的方式，來體貼她。彼前 3:7 「你們作丈夫的，也要按情理和妻子同住。因她比你軟弱，與你一同承受生命之恩的，所以要敬重她，這樣便叫你們的禱告沒有阻礙。」

但我仔細想了想，還是想要一樣聘金，那就是你的心。你的心願意用良善、同理心、無限的愛，來對待我女兒的心。「願主叫你們彼此相愛的心，都能增長充足，如同我們愛你們一樣。」（帖前 3:12）

謝謝你！

各位親愛的弟兄姊妹：有女兒的人，相信看到這一段話時，是否也心有戚戚焉...若我的寶貝，哪一天真的找到可以長相廝守的對象時，我想我們也會說出相同的話，希望他會當她是稀世珍寶一樣疼惜。

附註：已婚男士看完這一篇，別忘了在家的那位老婆大人，也是人家的女兒喔！

Forgiveness of Sins

by David Zhutang



Luke 3:6: "And all mankind will see the Lord's salvation."

Matthew 3:6: "Confessing their sins, they were baptized."

Good day to you all! My name is David Zhutang, a fellow Christian in this blessed house of God. Being baptized will be an important event for me, mainly because of the clearing of my sins. The sins I have committed are mild, and others harsh.

Promising something I know that cannot be kept is one example of the sin. Also sometimes I forget to pray to the Lord everyday, and forget about him. That proves me to be somewhat of a not focused spiritual human being, forgetting the glory of the Lord. The baptizing will help me remember these things, and avoid as many sins as possible. The life of the old man will be forgotten, the life of the new man remembered!

Sometimes I am doubtful that Jesus created so many miracles, and I hope that after the baptizing all doubt will be washed away. The baptizing will also help me to not worship idols, but remember that there is only one god and it is he that I will worship.

I am thankful to the pastors and priests that have taught me this, and that baptizing will not be just another small event in which you promise a duty or action but never do it. Looking forward to this event, I hope that you all will accept me as another member of this blessed house of God.



A Story of John 3:16

By an old sister

In the city of Chicago, one cold, dark night, a blizzard was setting in. A little boy was selling newspapers on the corner, the people were in and out of the cold. The little boy was so cold that he wasn't trying to sell many papers.

He walked up to a policeman and said, "Mister, you wouldn't happen to know where a poor boy could find a warm place to sleep tonight would you? You see, I sleep in a box up around the corner there and down the alley and it's awful cold in there for tonight. Sure would be nice to have a warm place to stay." The policeman looked down at the little boy and said, "you go

down the street to that big white house and you knock on the door. When they come out the door you just say John 3:16, and they will let you in."

So he did. He walked up the steps and knocked on the door, and a lady answered. He looked up and said, "John 3:16." The lady said, "Come on in, Son." She took him in and she sat him down in a split bottom rocker in front of a great big old fireplace, and she went off. The boy sat there for a while and thought to himself: John 3:16....I don't understand it, but it sure makes a cold boy warm.

Later she came back and asked him "Are you hungry?" He said, "Well, just a little. I haven't eaten in a couple of days, and I guess I could stand a little bit of food," The lady took him in the kitchen and sat him down to a table full of wonderful food. He ate and ate until he couldn't eat any more. Then he thought to himself: John 3:16... Boy, I sure don't understand it but it sure makes a hungry boy full.

She took him upstairs to a bathroom to a huge bathtub filled with warm water, and he sat there and soaked for a while. As he soaked, he thought to himself: John 3:16... I sure don't understand it, but it sure makes a dirty boy clean. You know, I've not had a bath, a real bath, in my whole life. The only bath I ever had was when I stood in front of that big old fire hydrant as they flushed it out.

The lady came in and got him. She took him to a room, tucked him into a big old feather bed, pulled the covers up around his neck, kissed him goodnight and turned out the lights. As he lay in the darkness and looked out the window at the snow coming down on that cold night, he thought to himself: John 3:16... I don't understand it but it sure makes a tired boy rested.

The next morning the lady came back up and took him down again to that same big table full of food. After he ate, she took him back to that same big old split bottom rocker in front of the fireplace and picked up a big old Bible. She sat down in front of him and looked into his young face. "Do you understand John 3:16?" she asked gently. He replied, "No, Ma'am, I don't. The first time I ever heard it was last night when the policeman told me to use it." She opened the Bible to John 3:16 and began to explain to him about Jesus. Right there, in front of that big old fireplace, he gave his heart and life to Jesus. He sat there and thought: John 3:16. ... I don't understand it, but it sure makes a lost boy feel safe.

You know, I have to confess I don't understand it either, how God was willing to send His Son to die for me, and how Jesus would agree to do such a thing. I don't understand the agony of the Father and every angel in heaven as they watched Jesus suffer and die. I don't understand the intense love for ME that kept Jesus on the cross till the end. I don't understand it, but it sure does make life worth living.

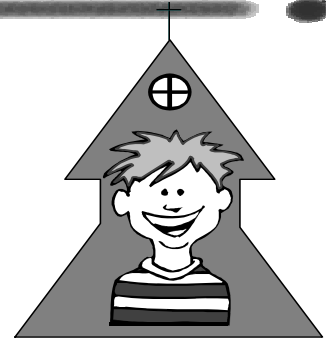
John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

If you aren't ashamed to do this, please follow the directions. Jesus said, "If you are ashamed of me, I will be ashamed of you before my Father." Pass this on only if you mean it. I do Love God. He is my source of existence. He keeps me functioning each and every day. (Phil 4:13)

If you love God and are not ashamed of all the marvelous things he has done for you, send this on. Take 60 seconds & give this a shot! Let's just see if Satan stops this one. All you do is:

- 1) Simply say a small prayer for the person who sent you this, (Father, God bless this person in whatever it is that You know he or she may be needing this day!).
- 2) Then send it on to five other people. Within hours five people have prayed for you, and you caused a multitude of people to pray to God for other people. Then sit back and watch the power of God work in your life for doing the thing that you know He loves. Remember to smile often at those that you love! Have a Super day.

Child of God



by Di Xie

Before I had lived in the truth, I was a boy who only wanted to fulfill my imperfect self. Sure, I heard the name of Jesus Christ in church, but other than on Sundays, the Name had no meaning to me. Sure, some friends had advised my parents to go to church, but the only reason I went to church was because my parents gave me no choice but to go. Going to church became more and more like an errand, ritual, and ceremony. Many people said that

I was blessed for knowing many Bible facts, but I still felt an incurable emptiness in my life. (There are several examples of emptiness in the Book of Ecclesiastes.)

However, it was not until when I lived in Metairie that I started to hunt for an answer to this emptiness problem. One day, I started to doubt whether I had really been saved. I examined my life, and noticed something: I was an angel during Sundays, but like a disciple of the Devil on other days.

When I had a large amount of free time, I would start reading the Bible, but only because I had nothing else to do. It was during last winter break that I had the most leisure time, but thanks to the grace of the Lord, I started to spend almost every day to read the Bible for at least ten minutes. One passage had inspired me: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16 - 17). Now I understood why many leaders in many churches wanted to shove the Bible down my throat. My purpose of believing in Jesus Christ was also inspired by Ephesians 2:8: For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. I figured out that sacrificing my preferences for Him would be hard, but it was the least I could ever offer Him. He went from the highest being ever, to one of the lowest, just for us.

Ever since I have trusted in Jesus Christ, everything that I work for has a purpose. Although the presence of sin is still living amongst me, it doesn't have any power over me because I have put on the "Armor of God" described in Ephesians 6:10-18. I understand fully that I have done countless wrongdoings, and that I would not have the courage to stand here in front of you today if it weren't for God's grace. The hymn "Because He Lives" says that I don't have to be afraid.

From the time I seriously followed Jesus, I have been noticing that I don't get into serious, dangerous arguments with people, particularly my parents, anymore. I clearly have more of the traits that, in Galatians 5, the Spirit wants. Also, I produce less of the bad fruits. I know that many people will oppose me because of my faith in Christ, but in the end, it is my relationship with Christ that really matters. I would also like to thank the Father for letting me come to Christ. I used to do everything for myself, but now I am a child of God. I used to have a great fear of physical death, but through Christ that powerless fear is extinguished. I used to sin without feeling guilty, but now thanks to the Spirit, I feel guilt. Everything that seems good now will eventually be gone or become boring, but there is always something new that I can learn from Jesus. My fellowship in Christ has finally been restored after all these wasted years. I laugh at the old fool I had been when I didn't have Christ. It is through His hope that I could be saved. It is through His faith that I have believed, and it is through love that he will never abandon me. My old self has died, and this new self is speaking to you now!



Guiding Angel

By Judy Wang

My name is Judy Wang. I am the daughter of Kejing Song and Guoshun Wang. And I am also a child of God. In a way, this testimony is like a commencement address. However, instead of “graduating” from a life without Christ, I am beginning a life of following Christ.

My life before knowing Jesus was probably like the lives of all of the youth in this church. My parents were Christians, and they went to church every Sunday. And obviously, I would go with them. Before moving to Louisiana, I lived in Iowa. There was a small Christian church downtown and we would be there every Sunday. Going to church every Sunday was bearable, I can't say I absolutely loved it, but I did enjoy it. I would gladly sing the songs and do the activities that the teachers made us do even though I didn't quite know what it was all

for. After I moved to Louisiana, it was pretty much the same. I knew the rules and mechanics of Christianity, but I didn't understand them.

Everything was pretty much the same, until about 2 months ago. My salvation wasn't anything dramatic or exciting. It was actually a bit strange. I came to know Jesus Christ and got saved from sin by a book. It was a library book about an inch thick. Its title was Angel. Every single page of that book seemed to repeat the same idea. Love is patient, kind, and just. Love is everlasting. Love will never forsake you. I don't know exactly how it happened, but at that moment God came flooding into my heart and mind. Thoughts came into my head about salvation and living for Jesus. The strange thing is, I could never have created those thoughts. The words that came to me weren't mine.

God is a merciful God. He is a loving God. He is the shoulder I can lean on. And he will never leave me nor forsake me. Today, I live without fear. I live knowing that Jesus will take care of everything. I live knowing that my only purpose in life is to glorify and make God known. I'm still fighting my doubts about God, but I'm learning every day to depend and trust in him a little more. I am God's child. Psalms 116:1-2, "I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live."



Happy Day

by Jennifer Tu

Jesus really did wash our sins away. Jesus is God's one and only Son. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are perfect, and even though we sin, God loves everyone. Many of you know all this already. As for me, all this information has been drilled into me ever since I was a baby. But actually, I didn't really understand God's love until very recently.

Before I truly became a Christian, I knew about Jesus, but I never took what He did to heart. I learned that He fed the five thousand, walked on water, turned water into wine, cured the sick, and raised the dead. Most amazingly of all, He gave up His life for us! But what did all this mean to me? Once a week, I'd be filled with all this truth, but on Monday through Saturday, my heart would be empty. At school, all I'd think about were my friends and my grades. At home, piano and my parents.

Perhaps last year, I began to wonder if there was more to being a Christian. Dr. Pinckard would always say that our faith was too "sugar-coated." Jesus isn't a fantasy; He's the way, the truth, and the life. He was flesh and blood - he was flogged, was nailed to a cross,

and accepted all of our sins. In becoming more informed, the “ABC’s” to Christianity began to be more to me than a variant of the alphabet. Number one, Admit. Everyone is a sinner, but that’s all the more amazing when God in all His perfection accepts me through Jesus’ blood. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9) I repent for my sins; I want to please God because He loves me and I love him. Number two, Believe. Have complete trust and confidence in something that cannot be seen. What is better to put your faith in than the eternal Savior and Lord? And finally, Confess. Tell not only God in prayer but also everyone, in public, of His Son Jesus Christ. “If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with our heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.” (Romans 10:9-10) So that’s what I want to say right now: Jesus is Lord.

Happy Day! Life isn’t pink ponies and rainbows all of a sudden, but in a way, it’s better. I know my purpose in life: to love God and love others. Everyone goes through hardships, but with God always with you, life is worth the living, and may the glory be to God. If anyone is ready to be saved, do as Acts 22:16 says, “And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.”

Faith in God

by Kathy Zhou

My name is Kathy Zhou, I'm fourteen years old in the eighth grade. I'm willing to give my whole life to Jesus Christ who is my savior and Lord. I'm baptized to testify that I am one of God's



children, and I am part of God's family now. I'm grateful to receive the Holy Spirit into my heart, and my sins have been washed away from my life because I believe Jesus died on the cross for our sins. I pray Jesus to protect me and rescue me from temptations everyday. I am thankful for God to listen to my prayer and to be with us at all times. I know God is always answering our prayer when every time we pray. And I am also thankful for my friends, teachers, and my parents to be there with me, when I needed help. I won't be afraid when God is with me because I know I would never be alone. I believe in God by faith because I have faith in God.