

Testimony

## How did I come to Jesus?

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June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 is one of the most important dates in my life. On this day I made a very important decision: to be a Christian and follow our Lord Jesus. I bent down on my knees and following our Pastor Patrick Dickson, I expressed my desire to accept Jesus as my Saviour. I realized that I am a sinner in God's sight and in need of His forgiveness. I realized that Jesus died on the cross for my sins and I asked Him for forgiveness and invited Him into my heart. 2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation.

It has been a long journey for me to approach this moment. Even now I find it hard to explain how I made this decision. How could I, a proud woman with two Ph.D. degrees in Science, stop arguing and choose to simply believe in God, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit? I think the answer is that God has touched my heart and He helped me to make up my mind.

I am originally from China. Being educated with Atheism, most of us didn't believe that there is a God who created the world. Instead, we accepted the theory of evolution which says that man has evolved from apes. However, even when I was a little girl, I used to think as to why there was no sign now that monkeys were evolving to humans?

When I moved to Montreal in 2001, I attended a Bible class taught by a couple, Margaret and Ted. They had volunteered to teach the Bible to Chinese students and immigrants for many years. From their classes I learnt the Old Testament. Although I knew some of the Old Testament stories when I was in China, this was the first time I studied the Bible systematically. At that time I took this course as a good opportunity to learn English and the western culture. I was told that we could find some coincidences in Chinese characters with the stories in the Bible such as 恶: Adam's heart, means evil or sin, 婪: two trees and a woman, means greedy, 船: a boat with eight people, means boat and 困: a tree in a garden, which means difficult. I found it to be interesting, but didn't believe and thought that they were just coincidences. However, I was impressed by the passion of Margaret and Ted. Ted once said, I believe in God because when I

look around, I find the world to be so beautiful and so well organized that it must be created by a great hand. I agreed with it since I couldn't find any other reason more logical than this.

Nevertheless, I still found it hard to accept Jesus. For a long time, Jesus to me was a hero in a western legend - dream of love, of kindness, of tolerance, but not true. When I heard the miracles about Him, I thought as to why I couldn't experience one myself? I often prayed: God, "Jesus, if You exist, please let me know". Then I waited and nothing happened, so I denied Him again and again.

One day I went to the music library of McGill University, I listened to a Christmas music CD and I was deeply touched by the beauty of the song Silent Night. I felt that it was so beautiful that it must have come from heaven. A similar thing happened again, when I was singing Mozart's Requiem in a choir. I was moved when I sang Amen. I could not explain why I loved to sing it. I felt the same even when listening to Handel's Messiah.

I am grateful to God for sending me to Oulu this year. When I was in Canada, I was usually too busy to go to church though I wanted to know more about Bible and Jesus. Sometimes I went there and often found it boring.

In the first week of my stay in Finland, I visited a church in the rock at Helsinki and the service was in English. I was told that it is a service conducted by the international church and it was there that I found the contacts for the international church in Oulu. From the beginning of my stay in Oulu, I was involved in most of the church activities. On one hand I was alone and lonely here. Yet on the other hand, attending the service at Patrick's home was like going to a friend's home, relaxing and learning. His talks are full of stories and examples and I was interested in attending the services. It's the same while attending the Bible study at Bastian's home. We are all friends, we chat and we learn and discuss. They provide a very good environment for me to study and to know Jesus.

However, I carried a heavy burden of sin. As in mathematics, I insisted on a proof of what Jesus said that whatever we ask in His name, the Father will give it to us. I prayed to God for a job, but being a non-native English speaker, I found it very hard to get a teaching job in an English university. I promised myself that I would be a Christian if I got a job. I didn't think it was a condition but a proof. God was so kind to me that when I almost lost all hope I got a message from my former Ph.D. supervisor that Concordia University would provide me a research professor's position in the next fall semester. Although this was not what I expected since all positions I applied were for tenure or longer term positions, it gave me a chance to return to

Canada, and also more time to look for a college teaching position in Quebec, where my family is.

Another amazing thing is how God showed me His love with regard to my research. In the past academic year, I was doing research on a project in harmonic analysis, a very abstract domain in mathematics. It is an advanced topic and also very difficult. Last spring semester, since I taught a graduate students' course and had to apply for jobs, I couldn't concentrate on my research and so I didn't make much progress on it. I never prayed for my research before, as I said before, I was so proud a person that I didn't think anyone could help me for my mathematics, even God, except my supervisor, but he was hundred miles away and it was hard for me to communicate with him. Recently, during the Bible study at Bastian's home, I started to pray to God for blessing my research work. Soon after, I was informed that one of my papers had been accepted by the Journal of Canadian Mathematics. Two weeks later, I made a big progress in my research. I was so happy, and then, I recalled my promise. I regretted putting a condition for my acceptance of Jesus.

James 4: 6. In fact, God treats us with even greater kindness, just as the Scriptures say, "God opposes everyone who is proud, but He is kind to everyone who is humble." Thank God for His forgiveness.

John 14: 6. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me".

As commanded in the Word of God, I desire to get baptised and thereby proclaim that I am dead to the world and will henceforth live for Christ. Please continue to pray for my spiritual growth, pray for me and my family. Amen.