



Snapshots of Faith and Life

*'We ask for the beggars,
The blind and the lame.
We ask for lepers
You know them by name.
We see them as masses,
You see one by one,
You see each person
A heart to be won.'*

This song, sung by Christians in China reminds us how mission flows from the heart and mind of 'God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth' (1 Tim 2:3,4). This month we tell of how one troubled young girl came to know that saving love of God and how her relationship with her English teacher was part of the Lord's provision and call. Other snapshots of faith and life show how the love of Christ transforms those who put their trust in him.

Teachers working in China count it a great privilege to be called to share their faith with their students and know that it is not possible in their own strength. Men and women at all stages of life have responded to God's call to China and testify that his grace is sufficient and his power made perfect in weakness. (We have changed names where necessary for reasons of security)

From the Lips of Children

George, a senior student befriended our children on the school's playing area, and our children, especially our young son, kept telling him about God and Jesus. George was open and visited our house and it wasn't long before he accepted the Lord into his heart. He is now an avid Bible reader, asking many questions. He is Spirit-filled and keen to search out more knowledge about God and his Kingdom.

Pray for George as he completes his secondary schooling and seeks a university placement.

Hearts Transformed

Harry is continuing to grow in his faith and has started a part-time job working for an American lady who reaches out to the poor in the countryside through her skills in physiotherapy. Harry is helping her with accounts but is also getting involved in some of the practical work too. Presently they have a young man who has had a stroke in their care and Harry has helped in his bathing. He told me the other day, 'Before I believed in Jesus I could never have bathed a man.'

Pray for Harry, particularly for the fellowship he attends as it has sometimes had to cancel meetings recently because they are concerned they have a spy amongst them.

*My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness
~2 Corinthians 12:9*

The Power of Praise

It is a great joy and blessing to us to know that the Lord is working in the lives of our students. Nancy has written to say she is very happy because she has found a group of Christians who love God deeply and live for Him. She has come to know the importance of prayer and praise. She says that prayer keeps you alert and prevents you falling into the Enemy's trap. Prayer is like breathing and without it we can't live. She says she always used to be asking God for things but now she wants to praise him loudly!

Pray for Nancy and her friends that they would continue to know the power and peace of the Lord.

The Grace of God

One teacher, C, currently studying Chinese tells how he always enjoys listening to his Chinese teacher MX share his life in China and all his stories. C was thankful recently when MX told him he visited a church in Australia a few years ago when he taught there. He said they were always talking about grace, but he never understood what they meant by that word. He then asked if I could explain it to him.

Pray for MX that he would ask more questions like this and his heart be softened to the Gospel.



A Passion for Christ



Psalm

23:1

When Faith was very young her parents gave her a necklace with a goddess on it. She insisted she would not wear it, ripped it from her neck and threw it to the ground. Her parents and grand-parents beat her and forced her to wear it, but again she took it off and threw it in the trash.

When Faith was a bit older she had an accident with boiling water and got a terrible burn on her arm. Her relatives called a man to do some witchcraft for her healing, but the burn got worse and the scar spread to her neck and face. Faith remembers thinking that such superstitions were not true and having a hunger to know truth. At the zoo she would observe the monkeys and say to herself, 'There is no way that we evolved from monkeys.'

Lord, Lord, Please Save Me

When Faith was a six-grader she first heard about the One True God. On the front of a book she read the words, 'Lord, Lord, please save me.' A bright beam of light flashed before her eyes. Her heart began to pound. She went to her teacher and asked, 'What do these words mean?' Her teacher told her, 'Lord is the word some foreigners use to call their God. They believe there is only one true God.' Faith immediately began to believe in this one true God. Whenever she was troubled or in a

difficult situation she would pray, 'Lord, Lord, please save me.'

As time went on Faith heard the name of Jesus and the mention of a Bible. When she had opportunity she would look in bookstores for a Bible and when she visited the city she would visit the government church hoping to find out more. One thought that plagued her was, 'How do I get rid of my sin?'

In the spring, for some reason unknown to her, Faith was suddenly transferred from her middle school to a middle school in the city. There she heard her foreign teacher talk about the One True God. When he asked the question, 'Do you consider yourself to be a good person?' her classmates all said, 'Yes', but she said, 'No'. She understood more clearly as he went on to share how we have all broken God's law.

Cleansing Received

During Easter week she saw portions of the movie, 'The Passion'. She was very broken about the suffering of Jesus and wept and wept. That day the Lord enabled her to set up a time to visit her foreign teacher as he had brought his daughter to see the movie too.

Faith had many fears and concerns. The friend that was going to accompany her to visit the foreign teacher backed out, but she was determined that not another day would go by before she found the answer to her persisting questions. As soon as she entered the house she began pouring out her heart. She then listened intently as the gospel was shared and within minutes was on her knees, receiving the cleansing she had longed for.

She stayed with her new family for a couple of hours, soaking in everything she could learn. When Faith heard about the church in China and how they sometimes must suffer for Jesus' Name, she was sober and said, 'How can I become like them? Jesus suffered so much for me. I would be willing to suffer for Him!'

Praise God for his hand on Faith's life. Because she transferred schools when she did she had the opportunity to speak with her foreign teacher, who is leaving that city this summer.

Praise God...

from whom all blessings flow ... for our long term and short term workers going into China this summer to teach English and study Mandarin. Throughout July until mid August, there will be short term teams in China using their skills and experience helping Chinese students improve their spoken English. In early August those going long term arrive for in-country orientation and training before taking up their positions.

Life and conditions in China can be very unpredictable and very demanding spiritually. Please join us in upholding all those about to go onto the field and pray for God's name to be glorified in all they do, for the fruit of the Spirit to be very evident from their lives and witness, for wisdom and protection as they share God's love and for divine appointments and open hearts.

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