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Pastor's Words

The Church's Mission in a Turbulent Age

By Pastor Daniel Zhao

The United States in 2025 is at a critical juncture of deep tension and transformation. The extent of social division is difficult to overstate. In recent years, waves of undocumented immigrants have continued to pour in, turning the southern border into a flashpoint of national governance. The rampant spread of fentanyl and other drugs has not only claimed lives but also corroded families and communities. Tensions between Muslim communities and mainstream society are increasingly amplified by the media, making cultural identity and religious freedom pawns in political battles. Meanwhile, in the realm of high technology, artificial intelligence is advancing at an unprecedented pace, intruding into the domains of labor, education, and ethics. Ambitious ventures like the “race to Mars” reflect not only the rapid progress of science and technology but also humanity’s enduring desire to explore the universe.

All of this forms the backdrop that the Church cannot afford to ignore. In such a time, the Church can no longer be content with functioning as a “spiritual greenhouse,” nor should it focus solely on its own growth and well-being. Rather, it must enter into the world’s deepest wounds and disarray, responding to the cries of this broken age.

Our recent study of the book of Romans reminds us that humanity’s ultimate problem is not systems or institutions nor the external world, but sin and corruption of the heart. The gospel is the only power that can truly transform hearts and heal society. It does not polish human nature—it brings about total rebirth. Paul lays out a clear framework for the gospel: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The problem lies in the human heart; the solution is in the gospel.

Meanwhile, our ongoing study of 1 Corinthians reveals that the Church is not heaven on earth, free of flaws, but rather a community of redeemed sinners learning to overcome the power of sin and grow into sainthood. The Church is not a utopia, but a body that faces real problems and is governed by truth. The issues faced by the Corinthian church closely resemble those in today’s society and churches: factionalism, sexual immorality,

flaunting of spiritual gifts, class tensions, confusion regarding marriage, and personal freedom.

Therefore, the Church today must rebuild its role in two key areas:

1. Tearing Down Strongholds of the Human Heart through the Gospel

● Recognize that sin is the root of all social problems

Whether it's drug abuse, technological disruption, immigration challenges, or religious conflicts, at the core of all social problems lie greed, selfishness, fear, pride, and idolatry. The Church must continually proclaim Christ's cross—it must not substitute repentance and rebirth with mere social good or cultural conservatism.

● Proclaim Jesus Christ as the only Savior and Prince of Peace

Amid cultural divisions and racial tensions, the Church is called to be a peacemaker—not through political compromise, but through the cross that “has made the two groups one” (Ephesians 2:14). Only the gospel can reconcile Jew and Gentile, Black and White, Muslim and Christian.

2. Building the Church as a Model of Mutual Love in Society

● Govern the Church with spiritual discipline and sincere love

As 1 Corinthians exhorts, the Church must uphold clear values in a confused culture—on matters of gender, marriage, worship, service, and spiritual gifts, there must be order and reverence. Truth must not be sacrificed on the altar of tolerance.

● Serve the world as a lamp to neighbors and a Good Samaritan

The Church must not only preach the gospel but also step into immigrant communities, drug-ravaged neighborhoods, and marginalized youth populations: offering counseling, education, healing, long-term companionship through discipleship and life transformation, and walking alongside them on their journeys.

● Uphold the image of God and human dignity in an age of technology

As artificial intelligence, space exploration, and other technologies advance, the Church

must not retreat, but lead people to reflect: the ultimate human purpose is not to transcend Earth and conquer the stars, but to be reconciled with God. We may use technology but we must not allow it to reshape our understanding of humanity.

The Church's mission is not merely to build a "better" society, but to proclaim a perfect Savior. In a turbulent and unstable American society, God's Church is being called—not only to be salt and light, but also to be a pillar and foundation, manifesting a divine order. As Paul declared in the chaos of Corinth: *"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified"* (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Let us build upon the foundation of the gospel, serve through governance and love, and hold fast to our faith amid the challenges of technology and culture. Only in this way can the church stand firm in this ever-changing era and become the pillar and foundation of the truth.

CCCGW News

2025 Good Friday Combined Worship Service

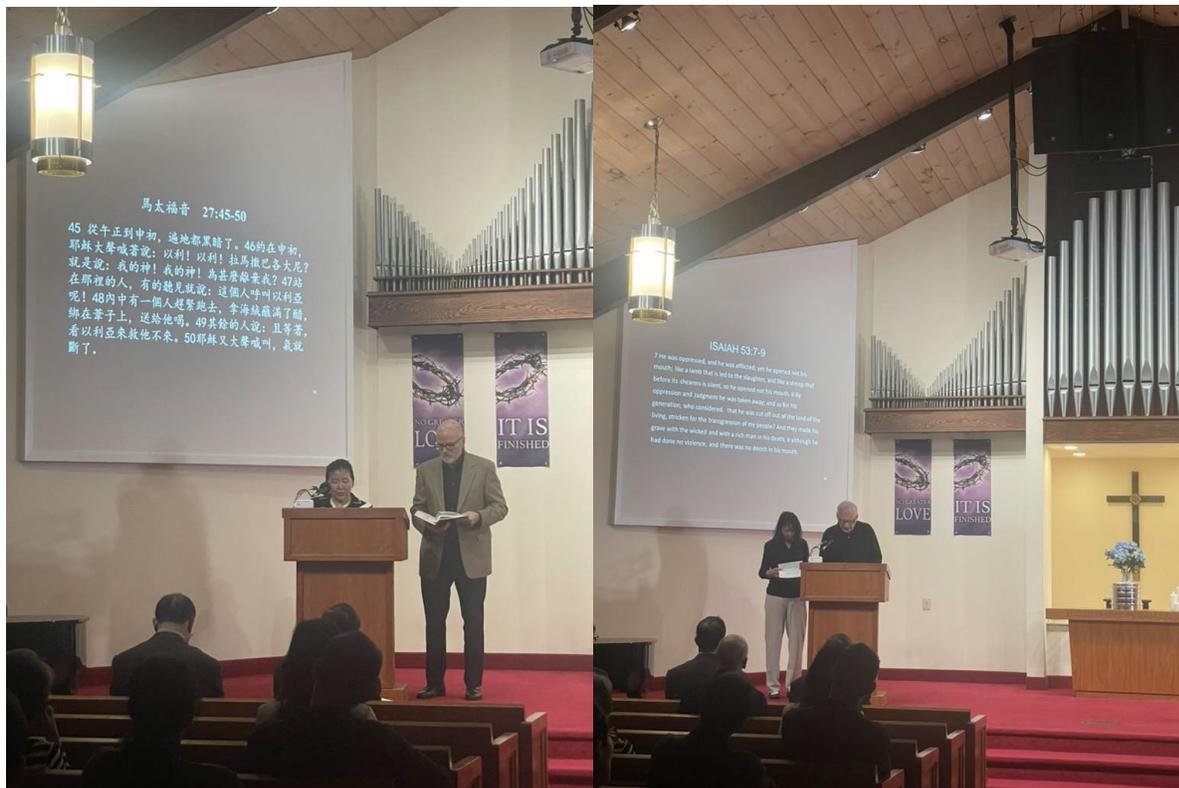
*"Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering,
yet we considered Him punished by God,
stricken by Him, and afflicted.
But He was pierced for our transgressions,
He was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on Him,
and by his wounds we are healed."
(Isaiah 53:4–5)*

Good Friday is the day we remember Jesus Christ's willing sacrifice on the cross for the redemption of the world. It is not merely a time of mourning, but a sacred moment of

deep gratitude and reverence, for through His suffering and the shedding of His blood, we have received forgiveness and new life.

On April 18, 2025, the Chinese Christian Church of Greater Washington (CCCGW) held a Good Friday combined worship service. United in spirit, brothers and sisters gathered to reflect on the Lord's suffering, renew their faith, and respond once again to His love with humility and thanksgiving.

The service began in a reverent and quiet atmosphere. Sister Hannah Zhang opened the evening with a moving violin solo, leading the congregation into a time of silent prayer. The graceful music helped quiet our hearts and prepare our spirits to contemplate Christ's suffering. As Scripture readings and worship songs followed, we retraced the path Jesus took to the cross. Through passages from *Matthew* and *Isaiah*, the congregation meditated on the innocence of Christ betrayed and arrested, the injustice of His trial, the shame and pain of the crucifixion, and the sorrow of His death.



One of the most powerful moments of the evening came when Brother Hong-Fa Chu offered a heartfelt solo performance of **“Via Dolorosa.”** The song vividly portrays Jesus carrying the cross through the streets of Jerusalem, enduring shame and agony on the way to Golgotha. It captured the solemn beauty of Christ’s willingness to suffer and die for the sins of the world—a journey of love and redemption. The emotion in the music moved many to deep reflection on the cost of our salvation.



The Martha Fellowship presented a choral and dramatic retelling of Jesus’ crucifixion. Through powerful visuals—Jesus bearing the heavy cross, being nailed to it, and the

mournful cries of the women who followed Him—the audience was drawn into the reality of Christ’s final hours. Accompanied by the moving hymn “Were You There?,” the presentation invited each of us to ask: *Where were we when Jesus walked to the cross for our sins? How do we respond to such grace?*





Following the drama and music, Pastor Daniel Zhao delivered the evening's message, titled "**The Sin of Us All**", based on Isaiah 53:3–9. He reminded us that Jesus is the Lamb of God, the one chosen by the Father to bear the sins of the world. Though He was blameless and sinless, He remained silent and willing in His suffering and death. No one else could carry the burden He bore. Only Jesus—the Son of God—through perfect obedience, boundless love, and ultimate sacrifice, could accomplish the work of redemption, giving His life on the cross for you and me.

The service concluded with a profound and powerful prayer by Pastor David Rim. He led the congregation into a moment of silent reflection, inviting us to meditate on the depth of Christ's love and sacrifice. Pastor Rim reminded us that our gathering was not one of grief, but of remembrance—a remembrance of what Jesus accomplished on the cross. The crucifixion of Christ was not the end of the story, but the beginning of a turning point. True hope dawned on Easter morning with His resurrection. Because He lives, we have new life and the promise of eternity.

That same evening, a special program was also held for the children. Sister Sheila Lee thoughtfully prepared a meaningful and engaging activity. The night began with a video of “**Hosanna**,” followed by a storytelling session using a treasured family Bible storybook. Sheila gently shared the story of Jesus’ crucifixion, carefully explaining that His suffering was not the end, but that our hope lies in His resurrection.

The children then eagerly participated in hands-on crafts, creating colorful sand art crosses and decorating smooth river stones with drawings and words that expressed their gratitude and love for Jesus.

2025 Easter Sunday Combined Worship Service and Baptism

“**He is risen!**” This powerful declaration is more than just a historical proclamation—it is the foundation upon which every Christian builds a life of faith and hope. On April 20, 2025, CCCGW held its Easter Sunday combined worship service and baptism. In a spirit of gratitude and celebration, we gathered as one body to worship and praise our risen Lord Jesus Christ, who conquered death and offers us new life.

This year, we rejoiced as we witnessed ten brothers and sisters publicly profess their faith and be baptized in the name of the Lord. Among them were siblings and a mother-and-son pair. Though each came from different life experiences, their faith was equally sincere. Those baptized were: Ryan Kuhn, Russell Kuhn, Brother Alex Zhang, Brother Eric Zhou, Brother Zhichao Li, Aaron Chan, Brother Bing Lin, Brother Zhanquan Yu, Sister Jian Liang, and Sister Jizhen Xiao, who, at over 90 years old, boldly bear faithful witness for the Lord. We give thanks to God, who calls people of every age and stage of life into His Kingdom, revealing the richness of His grace and the power of His resurrection.







In his Easter Sunday message, Pastor Daniel Zhao emphasized that the resurrection of Jesus is more than a miraculous event—it shatters humanity’s old understanding of life and death, opening our eyes to a new spiritual reality. Although Jesus foretold His resurrection three times, His disciples did not grasp it. Yet today, we are transformed by the truth of His resurrection. It is not just a past event, but a present and ongoing reality. The power of the risen Christ continues to renew and restore even the most broken lives—those once trapped in addiction or violence can be made new in Him. As Psalm 34:8 declares, “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” God’s invitation remains open—come and experience the life and power of the resurrection.

Meanwhile, four more brothers and sisters joined our church family through membership transfer: Brother Yan Gao, Sister Weiping Wang, and the couple Brother Jerry Zhang and Sister Nianju Gu. We warmly welcome them into our spiritual community and look forward to growing and walking with them in Christ.



On Easter Sunday, the Children's Sunday School prepared special activities for the kids, including egg dyeing, coloring, decorating, and an Easter egg hunt, offering them a joyful celebration while helping them understand the true meaning of Easter. The egg hunt, thoughtfully organized by Sister Sheila Lee, was conducted in age-based groups: the younger children began their hunt at noon, followed by the older ones at 12:15 p.m. The children ran and played on the lawn, eagerly searching for colorful eggs hidden in the grass and tucked away in corners—surprises abounded, and laughter filled the air.

This joyful activity not only helped the children remember the resurrection of the Lord through play but also immersed them in an atmosphere of faith from an early age,

planting seeds of spiritual life in their hearts. The entire event was filled with warmth, delight, and deep spiritual significance.



The Lord's resurrection lies at the very heart of the Christian faith. God's eternal invitation is to enter into His life, witness His victory, and reflect His glory in our daily walk. May we not only remember the resurrection during Easter but also live out its power every day of our lives.

How Great Thou Art: A 2025 Black Hill Church Picnic Reflection

On June 7, the annual picnic of the Chinese Christian Church of Greater Washington (CCCGW) once again took place at the scenic Black Hill Regional Park. More than 200 brothers, sisters, and friends gathered to enjoy a time of fellowship in the Lord, sharing delicious food, participating in fun games, and delighting in one another's company.

One of the most unpredictable aspects of the annual picnic is the weather, and this year was no exception. Leading up to the event, the forecast raised some concerns. On the morning of the picnic, as the setup team arrived at the park before 10:00 a.m., heavy rain was still pouring down. But as people began arriving from all directions, the clouds gradually lifted, the rain subsided, and by 10:30 a.m., the sky cleared and the sun broke through. Once again, God's faithfulness and mercy were on full display—He is the Lord who hears our prayers and governs the heavens! Special thanks to Brother Steve Lee,

our Official Board Chairman, who steadfastly moved forward with the event despite the uncertain forecast, and to all the brothers and sisters who united in prayer and trust in God. This weather-tested faith made this year's picnic especially precious, meaningful, and filled with thanksgiving.





The picnic was a full-church effort, with every fellowship contributing in unity and coordination to ensure the event ran smoothly. Starting from 9:00 a.m., various serving teams arrived early to prepare food and set up the area. The “BBQ Vanguard Team”—composed of Brother Jian Zhang and his son Aaron, along with Brothers Guozhang Yu, Kun Zhang, and Xuelong Wang—were among the first to arrive. They brought all the barbecue equipment and food supplies, took charge of setting up the site, and manned the grill throughout the day.

Nearly every fellowship contributed, in one way or another, to the delicious food shared at the picnic. Martha Fellowship prepared lettuce, onions, and tomatoes for burgers and fried chicken. Living Water and Mark Fellowships teamed up to provide cold noodles and tea eggs. Genesis Fellowship brought eight large watermelons and sliced them fresh on-site. The Youth Unity Fellowship prepared ice and five gallons of lemonade and helped transport bottled water. Carmel Fellowship was in charge of moving audio equipment, banners, tables, and chairs, while also assisting with food distribution. The English Women's Fellowship and Jiamei Fellowship each prepared large trays of salad and helped with serving food as well.

The picnic feast was truly abundant and satisfying: savory beef burgers and hot dogs, fresh salads, stir-fried noodles, grilled lamb skewers, crispy French fries, flavorful tea eggs, refreshing watermelon slices, cold noodles, and Brother Jian Zhang's signature fried chicken wings—all paired with icy lemonade and plenty of drinking water. There was something to delight every palate!





Additionally, there was no shortage of volunteers who helped the event run smoothly. In terms of activities, Sisters Yin Yin and Yutao Liu coordinated the games, bringing energy and fun to the day. Sister Sheila Lee thoughtfully brought water guns for the children, while Sister Shawny Yang set up a face-painting booth that was a big hit with the little ones. On the registration and ticketing front, Sisters Grace Sang and Shurong Ying managed the on-site check-in. The ticketing team, led by Brother Tong Woo, handled ticket sales and crowd flow. The raffle, organized by Sister Ada O'Donnell, Brothers Kevin Yeh and Tony Woo, and Sister Grace Sang, featured beautiful prizes generously donated by several sisters, adding an element of extra surprise and joy to the event.

Elder Stanley Chan served as the host for the event and personally delivered supplies to the park. Elder Chan and his wife Cindy arrived early at the church that morning to assist with transporting supplies, laying a strong foundation for a successful event. Brother Guozhang Yu acted as co-host, offering hands-on support throughout the day.

Throughout the day, children ran about joyfully with water guns while adults enjoyed delicious food, played shuttlecock, and took part in various fun games. Each time someone won a raffle prize, cheers erupted and faces lit up with delight. The entire park was filled with warmth and laughter, made even more enjoyable by the nearby amenities—playgrounds, volleyball courts, fishing spots, and boating areas—all of which contributed to a rich and unforgettable day.





One notable highlight was the flexibility and thoughtfulness shown by brothers and sisters in response to the uncertain weather. To ensure the freshness of the food and prevent potential waste if the event had to be canceled, they chose to delay purchasing all the ingredients. Though this made the prep work more intense and challenging, their care, love, and wisdom in service were fully evident.

The Lord truly provided for every need—from the weather to the manpower, from the food to the co-workers—His grace and love were present in every detail. May we remember this joyful, united gathering as a beautiful testimony in our spiritual journey. To our faithful and good God who hears prayers, be all the glory and praise! Just as we sang together before the picnic began—“How Great Thou Art”—our God is truly great beyond measure!

My Life Before Knowing Jesus

I was born into an ordinary family in Jiangxi Province, China, and enjoyed a wonderful childhood with loving parents and doting relatives. I got married in 1995, and our daughter was born the following year. Our marriage and family life started off well enough, but cracks soon began to surface and accumulate over time, for neither my now ex-husband nor I knew how to build and maintain a healthy marriage. He was frequently absent from home for his work and I also had a job—a situation that made it more and more difficult for us to look after our daughter. Eventually, we left her in the care of her grandparents.

During those difficult days, life increasingly felt burdensome, hopeless, and meaningless. Three questions weighed heavily on my heart:

1. Where do we come from? Where are we going? What is the ultimate purpose of human existence?
2. Why should people strive to be good? Good people eat, drink, and die; bad people also eat, drink, and die. If the end is the same for everyone, why bother being good?
3. People of different backgrounds and cultures have different moral standards, and these standards often change. Is there a supreme and unchanging standard of morality in this world?

Desperate for answers, I searched everywhere. I visited many Buddhist temples and read countless books, yet I still couldn't uncover the origin or purpose of life. I was overwhelmed by sorrow and helplessness. I often wondered: if I don't even know why I'm alive, what meaning could anything else in the world possibly hold for me? And if I can't find happiness for myself, how could I ever bring happiness to my child?

In 2000, my beloved father passed away suddenly from a brain hemorrhage. He was a good man, someone who had helped many people throughout his life—and yet, just like that, he was gone. Meanwhile, corrupt and immoral people seemed to live long and comfortable lives. I couldn't make sense of it. Why be a good person? This question deeply tormented me.

Two years later, my marriage fell apart. I resented my husband for being an absentee father and letting our daughter grow up like a fatherless child. Consumed by bitterness and pain, I insisted on a divorce. At the time, our daughter was only six years old. After the divorce, she stayed with her grandparents. Everyone was hurting and resentful. I sank deeper into despair, still unable to find the answers to life's most pressing questions.

My First Exposure to the Bible

In September 2003, while I was living in Shanghai, my friend Amanda invited me to a gathering at someone's home on a Saturday afternoon. About twenty people had come and the host had laid out a variety of snacks to welcome us. As I curiously looked around, my eyes were suddenly drawn to a stack of thick, identical books neatly arranged on the coffee table near the sofa. Instantly, my heart began pounding—I felt both nervous and excited. I wanted to get closer to the books, but for some reason, I also felt a strange fear. I didn't understand why I was reacting this way. *What kind of book is this? Why am I so drawn to it, yet afraid to touch it?*

I stood there for a long moment, then timidly approached someone and pointed to the books. "May I touch one of those?" I asked. The person immediately stood up and said, "Of course! Go ahead." He walked over with me, picked up one of the books, and handed it to me. "This is the Bible," he said. "You're welcome to read it."

That was the very first time I had ever held a Bible in my life. I carefully took it in my hands and opened it. The very first passage my eyes fell upon contains these words:

"Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.”

As I read the passage, the words washed over me like a stream of living water pouring down from above, flowing from my head to my feet. In that moment, my heart opened, and a beam of light seemed to shine into my soul. I turned to the people around me and exclaimed with joy, “I’ve found it! I’ve found it!”

They asked, “What did you find?”

I replied with excitement, “I’ve found what I’ve been searching for all this time! Look at these words—they aren’t from this earth. They must have come from heaven. No human heart could have written something like this—this has to be from above!”

Someone nearby, astonished, asked, “Wow, you really feel that way?”

I said, “Yes! Absolutely! These words must be from heaven. Can I buy a copy of this incredible book?”

Someone answered, “You don’t need to buy it—we’ll give you one.”

But I insisted, “No, no. This book is far too precious. I must pay for it.”

Still, in the end, they gave me the Bible as a gift.

That day, I went home filled with joy, clutching the Bible tightly in my arms. The whole world seemed so utterly changed—suddenly, everything around me was full of beauty and hope. It was amazing. The passage I had read was the Lord’s Prayer from Matthew

6:9–13. I loved it so much that I copied it onto little slips of paper and shared it with others, telling them how beautiful it was.

I thank God with all my heart for allowing me to receive His Word—what indescribable joy!

Repentance, Accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord, and Becoming a Child of God

From that moment on, I couldn't stop reading the Bible. I started from Genesis 1, and as I read about God's creation—how He made man and woman, and how marriage began—I finally understood the origin of life and everything in the world. It all flows from the love of our Heavenly Father. I was deeply moved by that love and often found myself reading through tears of gratitude.

When I came to the story of Noah—how human wickedness had filled the earth, how violence was everywhere, and how God's heart was grieved—I wept along with Him in sorrow.

Day by day, I experienced God's presence through His Word and felt His deep love for me. The next Saturday, I returned to the gathering at the home of Amanda's friend. Under the guidance of the group leader, I prayed along to accept Jesus as my personal Savior. Later, I found out that the group was part of the "Alpha Course," a gospel program that originated from the Anglican Church in the UK. I felt incredibly honored to have received such grace.

In the days that followed, I devoured the Bible like a starving person. I had left my job and spent nearly all my time at home, except on weekends when I went to church. I stocked up on steamed buns and rarely went out or cooked—I just spent my days immersed in Scripture and talking with my Heavenly Father about everything. I was filled with peace and joy.

When I read Exodus chapter 20, where God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, I was overwhelmed with fear. My whole body trembled, and I couldn't keep reading. I realized that I had broken every one of God's commandments. I saw how terrible my

sins were—I felt like I deserved to be stoned many times over. In terror, I turned to the New Testament and searched for Jesus. When I read how He had mercy on sinners and forgave them, I felt that He had forgiven me too.

When I read the first and second commandments—“You shall have no other gods before me” and “You shall not make for yourself an image or bow down to them”—I immediately got up and cleared my home of every idol. I threw away all books related to idol worship. If something could be burned, I burned it; if it could be smashed, I smashed it.

At the same time, I cut off all ungodly relationships.

In just three months, I had read the entire Bible from beginning to end. Through God’s Word, I came to know the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—and how wonderful and mighty they are. I learned that God created man and woman in His image, gave us the gift of marriage, and blessed us to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth and steward it. I also read about how a fallen angel, trying to exalt itself to be like God, became the devil—God’s enemy—who deceives, steals, destroys, and kills. But in the end, the devil will be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur.

Thanks be to God! Thanks be to our Lord Jesus Christ, who destroyed the one who holds the power of death—the devil! The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil. Hallelujah, praise the Lord!

I used to wonder why we should be good—why not just be bad? But through reading Scripture, I now understand: we must fear God and keep His commandments—this is our duty. As Hebrews 9:27 says, “... people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.” Death is not the end. We will all stand before the living God. Revelation 20:11–15 tell us that the dead will be judged according to what they have done, and that “Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”

I thank God for saving me. Through the precious blood of Jesus, my sins have been washed away. I’ve been made new—a child of the living God!

Later, I wrote to my daughter's father and my former in-laws. I told them I had come to believe in the Lord. I confessed that I had committed many sins—not only against God, but also against them—and I sincerely apologized, asking for their forgiveness. By God's grace, our relationships began to heal.

Just as the Bible says:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” 2 Corinthians 5:17

May God bless you as He has blessed me. Amen.

Out of Darkness Into Light: A Testimony of God's Saving Grace **By Bryce Scarbrough**

God is real. Jesus is both God and the Son of God. Spirits are real—both good and evil. And Jesus is the key to this life and our eternity.

I can confidently say that now and truly believe it, but for most of my life until about ten months ago, I couldn't take anyone seriously who believed that. I used to think I didn't need anyone to be my God. I believed I was already a good person and didn't need some imaginary being to tell me otherwise. But I now have a new perspective—that any goodness in me comes from the truth that God was and has always been good first.

Losing My Job

To reach this new understanding, I journeyed through a harrowing trial of faith. It began at the end of September 2024, when I was fired from my job at a restaurant that I had held for two and a half years. Money from the job was good and easy, and I regularly went out partying with my coworkers, drinking excessively, and using drugs we should never have touched. A year before losing my job, I was already falling deeper and deeper into a lifestyle of addiction to earthly pleasures.

I became an alcoholic, smoked marijuana daily, and occasionally used magic mushrooms. I was completely destroying my mind and body for fleeting pleasures. The worst part was the alcohol. It became my identity. I would drink before work, during work breaks, and even after work in the parking lot with coworkers. It got so bad that I started drinking wine meant to be sold to customers. Eventually, I was caught by my manager and was fired on the spot.

That was the beginning of a dark spiral. I was jobless, depressed and ashamed. Instead of turning my life around, I plunged deeper into addiction. With lots of free time on my hands, I increased my use of alcohol, weed, and other substances. I also started isolating myself from friends because I was too embarrassed to face them. After a few weeks, my depression remained, and I felt stuck and purposeless. I was lost and desperate to understand why I was even alive. I began looking for answers in different religions and spiritual beliefs—Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, eastern mysticism, energy fields, chakras, witchcraft, tarot cards—pretty much everything under the sun that I could find. Yet nothing spoke to me—until I stumbled across simulation theory.

Losing My Mind as Well

Simulation theory proposes that humans are living in a computer-generated reality controlled by powerful beings or AI, like a massive video game. For some reason, in my drug-altered mind, this theory became my absolute truth. I believed it completely, and that's when I lost touch with reality.

I spiraled into full-blown psychosis. Hallucinations and delusions convinced me I was one of the powerful creators of the simulation, trapped in the game. I thought everyone else in the world was a fake character, and I was the only real one. My mind constantly tried to make everything fit into this belief. It felt like everything around me—songs, books, people, TV—was responding directly to my thoughts.

At times I believed I was a god, and at other times I felt like a powerless pawn in the game. The worst part was the fear. I thought my instability was ruining the game, and that those in control were going to erase me from the system and kill me and everyone I

loved. I became terrified of everyone except my mom. I believed she was the only real person not being controlled.

This insanity lasted for two straight months. I isolated myself from everyone but my mom and locked myself in the house. She watched me decline and didn't know how to help. She tried to bring God into the conversation, but I rejected her efforts completely. I thought God was part of the simulation, a trick to control me. I felt disgusted by the idea.

I considered ending my life just to make it all stop. I believed sacrificing myself would protect the people I loved. Thankfully, I didn't go through with it, because a flicker of hope was about to enter my life. It came through my mom who persisted in encouraging me to make space for God in my life.

Falling Into a Spiritual Battle

I eventually agreed to attend church with her. She took me to McLean Bible Church, a large local congregation. I hadn't been around people in weeks, and the crowd triggered my paranoia. I believed everyone there was watching me, part of the simulation, trying to destroy me. I kept my eyes closed the entire time. I felt the music and message were aimed directly at me to manipulate me.

I left during worship and waited outside. My mom found me and convinced me to come back in, this time into the soundproof parent-and-baby room. It felt safer than in the sanctuary—until the hallucinations started again. I heard demonic growling noises coming from the family sitting behind us. The sounds grew louder and more threatening. I turned around multiple times but saw nothing unusual. Yet the hallucinations persisted. Eventually, I ran out again. I tried to escape to the car, but my mom had the keys.

When she found me, we left early. She was heartbroken. I was convinced I couldn't go outside anymore. Still, she didn't give up on me. She believed I was under spiritual attack and began to bring church to me at home. She invited close, prayerful friends from church who were strong in faith. They prayed over me, some speaking in tongues. Inside, I resisted, pretending to agree while internally rejecting their prayers. I thought they were witches trying to steal my powers.

But then I noticed something. Every time someone brought up God or Jesus, I became irrationally angry. I realized that something within me hated those names—something dark. That was my first real breakthrough. Maybe I really was under demonic influence. Maybe these people weren't trying to control me but save me.

It was hard to hold onto that new perspective, but my mom kept pushing. One of her friends suggested a man named Steven, a believer gifted in deliverance ministry. As soon as I heard he was coming, I felt a deep resistance. Something in me didn't want him near. I even went so far as to hide a hammer in the living room, prepared to use it if needed. Looking back, I now know without a doubt that I was under spiritual oppression.

Being Healed and Set Free by God

When Steven came over, we talked, prayed, and I wrote down sins I believed I was carrying. He anointed me with oil, placed his hands on me, and prayed powerfully in tongues. That moment was the first time I felt something new happening to my body, as if the Holy Spirit was taking control of it. I felt a hot sensation rise from my stomach to my chest and throat. I began spitting and coughing as though something was being purged from deep inside me.

For about 30 minutes, I continued to spit and cough until I finally felt a release. My body felt lighter, and my mind, clearer. That night marked the beginning of my healing. Over the following weeks and months, I dove into the Word and sought to learn about Christ and how to live as a Christian. My delusions slowly faded. It wasn't an instant fix, but with each step closer to God, I stepped further away from the darkness.

Baptism to Mark My New Life in Christ

I am deeply grateful to my mom and every believer who stood by me and fought for my soul. After months of growth, I knew it was time to be baptized and publicly become a new creation in Christ. I felt drawn to be baptized in a river, and on July 12, 2025, during a CCCGW church retreat at Messiah University, I was baptized in a ceremony attended by the same people who helped me on my journey, and by many others as witnesses.

The path that brought me to God has definitely been wild, but I don't believe it could have happened any other way. God knew exactly what I needed. As an unbeliever, I required something supernatural to finally surrender. And now, I've found peace and wholeness in Christ.

If you'd like to witness God's wonderful work in Bryce's life, feel free to click the link below to watch his heartfelt testimony and baptism:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/143yqolhj6Jb02aZoWu_nqAfMHMb7sIXR/view?usp=drive_sdk

Faith in Action: WaiKit and Jenny Man's Testimony of Serving in Vietnam

On May 4th, the CCGW's English Worship Service featured a special testimony from Jenny and WaiKit Man, a couple invited by Pastor David Rim to share about their recent journey of faith, service, and discovery. Following their retirement, the couple embarked on a unique trip—not only to explore the world, but to seek God's presence in both familiar and unfamiliar places, and to serve wherever He led them.

A Journey Begins

In late February 2023, Jenny and WaiKit retired and began what they described as an "exploratory mission trip." Their journey led them through several Southeast Asian countries, with a special focus on Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam—Jenny's birthplace and the city where she spent her early years.

From the beginning, the couple was intentional about finding a local church wherever they traveled. WaiKit shared practical tips on how to locate a church while abroad. Thanks to modern search engines—so much easier than flipping through the yellow pages as in the past—they were able to identify nearby churches with relative ease. He even introduced the congregation to several useful Vietnamese phrases related to churches, making the process more approachable and engaging.

Their search led them to attend both Vietnamese and Chinese-speaking congregations. Eventually, they found a spiritual home at the largest Chinese church in Ho Chi Minh City, where they chose to stay and serve.

A Church with Deep Roots

Jenny then introduced the church they had chosen to settle into—a church with a long history that had just celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2022. For Jenny, this church held deep personal significance: it was where she had been baptized in 1977. She joyfully shared a photo of her baptism and reflected on the church’s enduring legacy of faithful ministry.





Their time at the church was about more than simply attending services—it was about serving and building relationships. The deacon board warmly welcomed them and invited them to join the church choir. Alongside fellow members, they sang, practiced, and shared in the joyful rhythm of worship and fellowship.



Jenny and WaiKit also formed meaningful relationships with the church's young adults. Every Saturday afternoon, they led an "English Corner," helping students improve their conversational English while reading and discussing Scripture. This weekly outreach became one of the highlights of their stay. Teaching and mentoring were not only rewarding but also brought joy, mutual encouragement, and spiritual growth.



On Tuesdays, they participated in the church's visitation ministry. Together with local members, they visited those in need—the sick, the disabled, and families living in poverty. Through these visits, they learned the value of listening with compassion, praying with humility, and simply offering a ministry of presence.



Their service extended to the younger generation as well. On Sunday afternoons, they assisted with the children's choir, helping with rehearsals and singing alongside the kids, planting seeds of faith through music, joy, and shared moments.



One cultural detail that especially stood out to Jenny was the church’s practice of holding outdoor services on special occasions such as Christmas and Easter. On those days, the congregation would move their worship into the parking lot—right beside a busy street—as a way to reach out to the broader community. It was their way of “bringing the church outside” and making the gospel visible to all who passed by.

Sharing Life

During their stay, Jenny and WaiKit were fully immersed in the life of the church. They attended a joyful wedding and, not long after, a somber funeral, experiencing both the highs and lows of a faith community. As they learned a new language, adapted to a new culture, and made new friends, their hearts were deeply touched by the hospitality and warmth of fellow believers. The photos they shared captured not just moments, but memories of ministry, connection, and grace.

“Stepping out of your comfort zone to serve God can be a very frightening experience,” Jenny reflected. “But as long as we are willing, God is faithful, and He will take care of us wherever we go.” She concluded her sharing with the words of 2 Timothy 1:7: *“For God gave us a spirit, not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”*

A Global Perspective

WaiKit also shared a sobering reality: religious activity in Vietnam is closely monitored. Unauthorized evangelistic meetings—even those held in private homes—are prohibited. All churches, particularly during major holidays, are under governmental scrutiny. And yet, despite these restrictions, God is clearly at work.

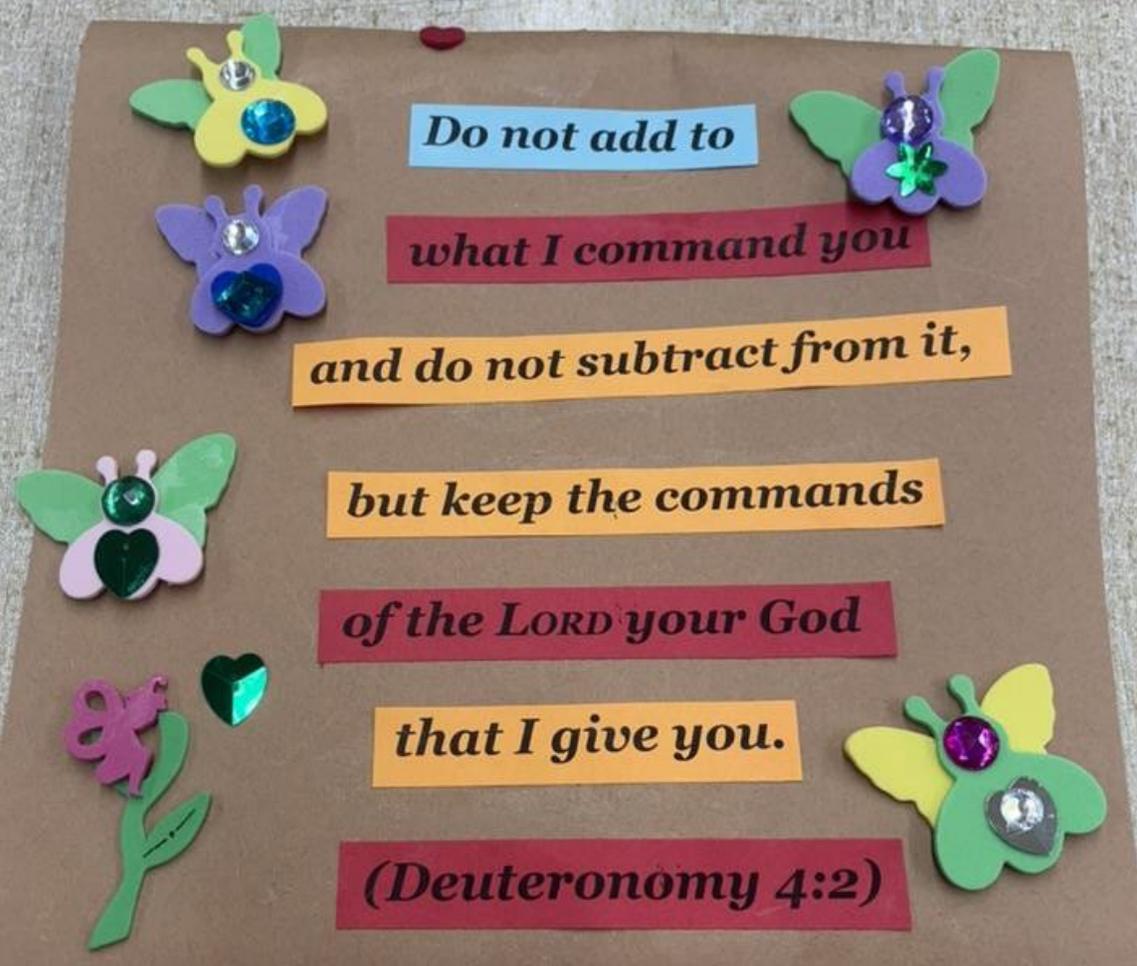
He recounted how the church celebrated Easter with special programs and performances. After the pastor's message, he gave an altar call, and many came forward to receive Christ—a powerful moment that left a lasting impression. Moments like this reflect the very purpose of Jenny and WaiKit's trip: to visit different churches and witness how God is at work all around the world.

In closing, WaiKit shared a story from a previous visit to a Chinese church in Barcelona, where he heard an announcement that 11 brothers and sisters would be baptized the following week. "It was fantastic," he said. "God isn't just working here—He's moving everywhere we go." He encouraged the congregation to take every opportunity to explore the world and witness how God is working across nations and cultures. "You'll be blown away," he added with conviction.

(Deuteronomy 4:2)

**Do not add to
what I command you
and do not subtract from it,
but keep the commands
of the LORD your God
that I give you.**





Do not add to

what I command you

and do not subtract from it,

but keep the commands

of the LORD your God

that I give you.

(Deuteronomy 4:2)

Zoe



John 3:16
*For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only Son
that whoever believes in Him
shall not perish
but have eternal life.*



"BEE"
JOYFUL



Welcome to Our Church Fellowship (none)

Upcoming Events (completed, in the mailbox)

Editor's announcement

Recruitment for "Living Spring" Digital Journal

Seeking Editorial, Artistic, and Translation Team Members

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The CCCGW Newsletter "Living Spring" Spring Issue has officially launched on our church website as of June 20, 2024. To enrich the content of our journal and fulfill our mission of glorifying God and benefiting others, we are seeking active participation from more team members.

Currently, we are looking for individuals who are passionate about writing, dedicated to serving the Lord, and interested in joining our editorial, artistic, and translation teams:

1-2 Text Editors: Responsible for selecting, editing, and proofreading articles. Basic writing and editing skills are required, with a good grasp of language. Relevant experience in writing and editing is preferred.

1-2 Art Editors: Responsible for layout design, formatting the journal, and event photography. Basic graphic design skills, familiarity with design software, and photography skills are required. Experience in design and a passion for photography are preferred.

1-2 Translators: Proficient in both Chinese and English, capable of accurate and fluent translation of texts. Excellent language skills and literary proficiency, with the ability to accurately capture the style and tone of the original text. Experience in translation or related fields is preferred.

If you are willing to serve, please contact our OB Secretary, at obsecretary@cccgw.org. We look forward to your involvement in spreading God's love and Gospel further and wider together.

"Living Spring" Journal Service Team:

Point of contact: Official Board(OB) Secretary Grace Wang

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