

<sup>1</sup>今天和大家分享的题目是：得救是神所赐的恩典。感谢神，今天我觉得自己是一个满有福气和有恩典的人。因为在我接受了耶稣基督成为我的救主之后，神一直在看顾我，圣灵一直在引领我走义路。



十年前，我父亲在六十多岁时突然生病，两个月以后过世。这是我第一次经历亲人的生离死别。我悲痛伤心，无法接受这个事实。我想不通人为什么如此脆弱，无助和生命的有限？“人死如灯灭”给了我震撼与迷茫。70年代我在中国长大。学校教导“不怕天，不怕地。排除万难。”人定胜天了，人为什么还会有死亡？从那时候开始，我带着这些疑问踏上了寻求真理的旅程。

起初，我被邀请到家附近摩门教参加聚会。经过了一年的教会学习，我的内心却没得到任何感动，更无法找到有关人生问题的答案。很快我就离开了这个教会。七年前，我家搬到了另一个城市。我去了浸信会。那时虽然我对神的认识还不完全，却知道神爱世人。信实的神怜悯我。教会的师母对我特别关心，常常和我一起祈祷，并带领我决志接受耶稣基督做我的救主。

三年前，因为我先生工作的需要，全家要搬到北京。我和孩子们都不愿意去北京。面临这个难题，几个月以来，我茶饭不思，彻夜难眠。我只有向神祷告，祈求神的带领。神的怜悯让我带着顺从与平安的心到了北京。接下来一个看似偶然的机，我遇到一位来自香港的基督徒。她向我介绍了北京国际基督教会 BICF (Beijing International Christian Fellowship)。在参加教会的各种各样聚会中，妇女查经班更吸引我的兴趣。因为圣经经文里陈述了真实的历史，高深无比的智慧。读圣经就是聆听神的话语。在一次听道中，我深深地被旧约一书撒母耳记中的撒母耳的母亲对神的信心所感动。旧约历史让我开始认识我们唯一的真神。并确信耶稣是我的救主。后来牧师所说的一句话：“信而受洗必能得救”令我决定受洗成为基督徒。

耶稣说：“人若喝我所赐的水，就永远不渴。”约翰福音4：14。有了神的话，我的生命从此得加力量。我的心意更新有盼望，不再愁烦人生的目的在哪里。我饥渴慕义，恨不得天天能听到牧师的讲道。星期天回教会敬拜赞美神我心充满喜乐。我刚强壮胆，不再惧怕死亡。学习用超越死亡的眼光看世界，看到了永恒的生命和神的荣耀。

圣经告诉我们：“你们得救是本乎恩，也因着信。这并不是出于自己。乃是神所赐的。”以弗所书2：8。我想告诉未信主的朋友，如果你对这位创造诸世界的神，耶稣基督有疑问，请不要灰心

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<sup>1</sup> Karen Zhou with Flora Chan as her interpreter shared her personal testimony at the “Back to Church” night of Gilead Bible Church on September 18, 2010. The English translation follows.

。神实实在在就在你们当中与你们同在。只要你们打开心去领受神，就会得着神所赐的恩典，过一个有盼望的人生。

My sharing tonight is on the topic: Salvation is purely God's grace.<sup>2</sup>

Praise the Lord, today I feel that I am someone who has been truly blessed and fully graced by God. Ever since I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior, God has been watching over me, and the Holy Spirit has been guiding me to walk in path of faith and righteousness.

Ten years ago, my father in his 60s, got ill unexpectedly. He passed away after 2 months. For the first time in life, I experienced a death in my family. We were separated forever! I was deeply saddened and couldn't accept the fact that he was gone forever. I could not understand why humans could be so fragile and helpless and how life could be so short. His death had a huge impact on me and made me feel totally lost. I grew up in China during the '70s; the teachings from school were that 'People are strong and fearless and they can overcome all difficulties and challenges'. Well, if that is all true, why do we still face death? From that time on, I became skeptical and started a journey to seek truth in life.

At first, I was invited to attend worship in a nearby Mormon church. After a year of church teaching, my heart was never touched and I realized they offered no answer to my questions on life & death. Soon I decided to stop going to their church. Seven years ago, our family moved and I started going to a Baptist church. Although my understanding of God was limited, I knew that God loves all people on earth. The loving God has mercy on us. The pastor's wife was especially nice and cared for me; she would always pray with me. She also led me to make a decision to accept Jesus as my personal Savior.

Three years ago, our family relocated to Beijing due to my husband's job transfer. However my daughters and I were unwilling to leave. Over the next few months while I was facing this dilemma, I lost my appetite and could not fall asleep at night. I prayed to God asking for His guidance. The merciful God comforted me and I was able to move to Beijing with a submissive and peaceful heart. Shortly afterwards, by what was thought to be coincidence, I met a Christian lady who came from Hong Kong. She introduced Beijing International Christian Fellowship (BICF) to me. Out of all activities that I joined, I enjoyed the Women's Bible Study the most. It was interesting to me because not only would the verses in Bible list the historical events, they show His divine wisdom. Reading the Bible is like listening to God's words. Once when the pastor preached on the Book of Samuel from the Old Testament, I felt deeply touched by the faith of Samuel's mother. The studying of Old Testament slowly made me truly understand that God is real and He is the only true God. This also confirmed Jesus as my savior. Later on, due to the pastor's reminder about "Blessed are those who believe in God and get baptized ", I went ahead to get baptized and became a Christian.

In John 4:14, Jesus said "but whoever drinks this water I give him will never thirst." Knowing God's Words, I feel the power of God within me. I feel like I'm reborn and have new hope in life. I have found my purpose in life and have freed myself from worries. I thirst for God's Word and love to listen to sermons on a daily basis. I am filled with joy on Sundays when I go to church to attend worships and to praise our Lord. I am stronger and am not afraid of death anymore. I've learned to look beyond life on earth. I see God's glory and know that I have eternity in Christ.

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<sup>2</sup> Karen Zhou with Flora Chan as her English interpreter shared her personal testimony at the "Back to Church" night of Gilead Bible Church on September 18, 2010.

Ephesians 2:8 says “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God”. I would like to share with those who have not accepted Jesus as their personal Savior, but are interested in God, the creator of the worlds; please do not feel discouraged. God is really in your midst and is with you. Please open your hearts to receive God, to receive His Grace and you will live a hopeful life.