神所賜出人意外的平安 THE PEACE OF GOD

感謝主為我預備這樣的機會,為祂的名作見證。正是因為準備這次見為準備這次見為地人,,也更使我認其也更使我感受語述出為其所不可等的人。而不可以,所以也說不可以也的是,所以也的之事,所以也的望大家都能積極地為主作見證。

Thank the Lord for giving me an opportunity to testify for Him. Because of this opportunity, I got to seriously looked back His work of grace and mercy in my life, and more so, His great love for me. I don't think I can ever fully describe His wonderful handy work on me. I also realize more my true condition which is not worthy of His grace.

from China. I had been a very good student, for I passed the college entrance examination and was admitted to the best university in China. My outstanding academic record in college qualified me to be sponsored by my school to study Ph.D. overseas. I don't mean to brag about my achievement, but to give you some idea how conceited I was prior to becoming a child of God. Considering the successful upbringing, I could not imagine I could become a christian one day. But God truly loves me and through one unique incidence, my whole family was saved.

Let me briefly introduce myself. I came

In May 1998, my older sister told me our mother was diagnosed to be in the terminal stage of cancer. She was only expected to live for a few months. Suddenly, my whole world caved in. As a little girl growing up in a big family, I was never anyone's favorite. However, I did not turn into someone who had emotional problems. I believed it was my mother's unconditional and abundant love that filled my heart all the time. Her love was also the source of my motivation for success. Therefore, you can image my reaction upon hearing her sickness. Just within a few hours, my roommates noticed that I have lost some

weight and appeared to be slimmer. I took off from school immediately and went home to care for my mom.

接下來的那幾個月實在是很難過, 媽媽住院,病情惡化太快,很快癌細胞 就轉移到腦部。醫生說很可能會在睡覺 的時候病情發作,誰也無法預料。所以 我和姐姐在醫院護理時,是24小時不 敢把視線離開她身上。我們也試過各種 方法要治我媽媽的病,找偏方、氣功大 師、拜菩薩,好像別人說任何有希望的 事情,我們都去做,但沒有任何作用。 就在我們全家绝望的時候,一個姐妹來 到我們家。她是我家很久沒有來往的遠 房親戚,是個基督徒。在我上高中的時 候,我還曾經跟她辯論過基督教,也不 喜歡她。可是她就在那時來到我家,得 知了我們的情況後,她就來我家探望我 媽媽,向她傳福音。當時我想,使媽媽 信個什麼,她就不會害怕死亡。所以我 很支持媽媽信基督,可是從來沒想過自 己也信祂。神的作為奇妙,有一次,那 個姐妹到我家,使我們全家一起跪下禱 告。我心裡很是不情願,總覺得這一跪 就會使自己以後的生活不一樣。但想使 媽媽病情好一些的願望實在超過一切, 掙扎之下,還是選擇跪下為媽媽禱告。 現在想來,神實在太知道我這個人,若 不是我媽媽生病,我自己實在不可能接 受祂。

The time in the following few months was very hard to bear. My mom's condition deteriorated fast, and cancer cells spread in her brain. Her doctor even thought she could die in her sleep. Therefore, both my sister and I monitored her condition 24 hours a day, especially during her sleep. We also tried to find other ways to improve her sickness. We tried virtually every thing we heard, including seeking help from idols. However, none of the suggestions worked. In the moment of despair, a distant relative, also a christian, came to see us. I did not like her for when I was in high school I debated with her about her faith. When knowing our situation, she came to preach gospel to my mom. At that time, I thought it would be good for mom to have some religious faith so that she would not be too afraid of death. Therefore, I fully supported her to believe in Jesus. That christian relative asked us all to kneel down and pray. Although reluctant, I did it for my mom's sake. Looking back, I have to say God truly knew me well and used a special way to bring me to Him.

我們接受了耶穌,但對祂的救恩還 不清楚,曾經在基督教還是天主教作為 Although having accepted Jesus, we were unclear about truth of His salvation and still

信仰中徘徊。我的三個舅媽那時都是天 主教徒,因此也使我們一起信,我們想 反正都差不多,也沒有拒绝。有一個主 日,我就去了天主教堂,還買了念珠, 畫像等。回到醫院後,正碰上表姐和幾 個姐妹來醫院探访。等她們離開後,我 們就說一定要决定到底信哪個,大家都 沒有意見。我媽媽就說,交給主了。我 們雖然說好,但背後卻笑話她,交給 主,主還能對你說話,告訴你信什麼? 第二天,媽媽一睁開眼睛,就對我們 說,該信耶和華。我們還莫名其妙,不 知道她怎麼突然說這句話。媽媽說,我 的滿腦子全是耶和華三個字,好像印在 腦門上。我說,那應該是信基督教吧。 當時我們並不知道是這就是聖靈的工 作。接下來的一周,有一個姐妹,就每 天到醫院來為我們禱告,我們很盼望她 來,媽媽的身體情況也好了很多,每次 都跪著禱告半個小時也不覺得累。

從那以後,我們開始自己讀聖經。 聖經裡詩篇的話實在是很符合我們那時 的情形,所以我總是唸詩篇,把那些話 當成是自己對神所說的。還有每次我們 給媽媽讀聖經後,她都能安穩地睡一 覺。那時每天晚上媽媽都要發燒,打針 後出汗,要換幾次衣服,她都不能好好 睡覺。我們也不會禱告,但每次媽媽發 燒得不行,沒有辦法退燒,我就向神 說:神啊,請你使我媽媽的燒退了,使 她睡覺吧。沒幾分鐘,媽媽就睡著了。 可是我那時並不認為真是神的作為,我 總找出各種藉口,例如是因為媽媽太累 了才睡的,等這樣的理由來否定祂。因 為我在理智上還不能接受神的存在。可 是我無論在作什麼之前,又喜歡在心裡 先向神禱告一下再做。順利完成後,我 也照樣用運氣好等原因來說服自己,來 tried to choose between Christianity and Catholic. Three of our aunts were catholic, so we went to their church on one Sunday and bought catholic beads, pictures, etc. When we returned to the hospital, our christian relative, along with some christians, came to visit us. After they left, we talked about making a decision as to which religion to follow. My mom said we should trust this matter to the Lord. I said in my heart: "How to trust the Lord with this? She thought the Lord would actually speak to her as to which one to choose?"

The very next day, the moment mom woke up, she said: "We should believe in the Lord Jehovah." Facing our puzzled faces, she told us for unknown reason, the Lord's name clearly appeared in her mind as if being pressed on. Therefore, I suggested we should believe in Christianity. We did not realize it was the work of the Holy Spirit. In the following week, a christian sister visited and prayed for us every day. We looked forward to her arrival, and my mom's condition seemed to improve for she could kneel for half an hour not feeling exhausted.

I started to read Bible on my own. Words in the book of Psalms were especially comforting and fit our situation. Many times after I read Bible to mom, she would sleep well. My mom would have fever every night. After receiving the fever reduction shot, she would sweat tremendously. Then we had to change her clothes. Therefore, she rarely had a good sleep. We did not know about prayer, but every time when her fever would not come down, I would ask God to reduce her fever and make her sleep. Every time within minutes of my request, my mom would fall asleep. I always tried to find an explanation for her relief and denied the work of the Lord. In my heart, I did not fully believe in God, but for some strange reason, I also liked to pray to Him before doing anything. When He answered my prayer, I always attributed it to my good luck. Even I was very stubborn, God still had patience listening to my prayer and cared for me.

否定神。就這樣的遲鈍,神還是照樣聽 我的禱告,把平安放在我心裡。

八月底,媽媽决定不再住院,她說 就靠主。我們也覺得在醫院那麼惡劣的 環境是不利於她的身體。我想那時,我 們雖然沒有對主有很深度認識,但我們 就像小孩子一樣,全心依靠祂。九月 底,我和姐姐把父母接到北京,在我學 校附近租一套房子,這樣,我們可以邊 學習、上班,邊照顧媽媽。學校附近正 好有一個教堂,那時,我們每周有四、 五天都會去那裡。媽媽說:我們要是能 住在教會就好了。一直到二月份回家以 前那四個多月裡,是許多親友以為應該 是很使人愁苦,疲乏的一段日子,可是 對我們全家而言,卻是那麼喜樂和平 安。我們一直認為那一段時間是我們全 家所度過的最美好的一段光陰。以前, 父母上班,我們在外地讀書,一年都難 得有幾天聚在一起。而那時,我們每天 都能在一起,有說有笑,鄰居根本就不 知道我們家有一個被醫生宣判死刑的病 人。

1999年2月份,我媽媽感染了病毒 感冒,她覺得情況不是很好,我們就從 北京回到了吉林。之後的一個多月,媽 媽一直臥床不起,也沒有力氣說話了, 只以眨眼睛來表達意思。我心裡一直希 望她能對我說些什麼,但好像越來越沒 有可能。有一個主日,我自己到教堂裡 為媽媽買歸天服裝,然後向主哭求,使 我能親耳聽到媽媽對我說話。因為我們 從來沒有和媽媽討論過她可能去世的情 况。媽媽從來沒有穿過好衣服,姐姐之 前曾為媽媽買了一套很好的服裝和大 衣,她也很喜歡。所以我並不知道她怎 麼想這件事,她害不害怕死亡等等。等 我回家後,我把衣服展給媽媽看,試著 問她是否喜歡。使我驚喜的是,媽媽竟

At the end of August, mom decided to solely trust the Lord and checked out of the hospital. We agreed to move her out of the poor quality hospital. We were just like little children leaning on the Lord wholeheartedly for everything. At the end of September, my sister and I brought our parents to Peking. We found a place near my school, so that we could both go to work and take care of our mom. There was a church near our school. We went to church four to five times a week. My mom even wished we could live in the church. During the following four months, we had the greatest time as a family. Many of our family and friends thought we were filled with sorrow, but we were filled with the Lord's peace and joy. When my parents were healthy and working, we were attending school out of town. We rarely had time gathering together and enjoying life like a family. During those four months, we were together every day and shared laughters with one another. Our neighbors had no idea one of us was waiting to die.

In February 1999, my mom contracted flu and started to feel weak. We then returned home from Peking. Her condition deteriorated rapidly in the subsequent month. To a point, she could not even speak, but would express her needs throgh her eyes. I wished she would speak to me clearly because there were so many things I needed to ask her, but it seemed to be more impossible as days went by. One Sunday, I bought the funeral wear for her, yet not sure if she would like it. I cried to God that He would let me hear from my mom clearly about her preferred burial arrangements. When I arrived home and showed her what I bought. To my great surprise, she told me with weak but clear voice that she liked it. Then I asked several questions I was desperate to find out all along. She also answered each one of them clearly. I

然用雖然微弱但很清楚的聲音告訴我, 她喜歡。我就一一問了我心裡一直想問 她的問題,她都清楚地回答了。我清楚 知道是主聽了我的禱告,祂知道我的內 心,所以祂沒有使我有任何的遺憾。 knew the Lord answered my prayer. He knew my sincere wish and left me no regret.

我媽媽是在3月17號,在弟兄姐 妹唱詩歌時被主接走的,沒有痛苦,真 像是睡著了一樣。我姐姐向主祈求不要 使我媽媽被病痛折磨,因為以前醫生 說,她這種病大多會大吐血而死,而且 會很疼。但是我媽媽從沒有用過一針止 痛針-杜冷丁。她曾經一個手臂很疼, 不能碰,也在弟兄姐妹的禱告和一個有 醫病恩賜牧師的按手禱告後被神醫治。 而我一直向主禱告,使祂把平安和喜樂 賜給我的家人,尤其是那些沒有信主的 家人。腓立比書4:6說:「應當一無 **罣慮**,只要凡事藉著禱告、祈求和感 謝,將你們所要的告訴神,神所賜出人 意外的平安,必在基督耶穌裡保守你們 的心懷意念。」這話是可信的。雖然我 之前不明白,可是就在我媽媽去世的一 霎那,我明白了。我很有把握地知道, 媽媽是一種形式生命的結束,而開始了 另一種更好的生命形式,所以在她剛去 世之後的那段時間,不是別人安慰我 們,反而是我們在安慰其他人。我的幾 個親戚和我的同學也是因為參加我媽媽 的葬禮而接受了主。沒有哭泣,好像是 暫時和親人分別一樣。主不但安慰了我 們,也安慰了那些沒有信靠祂的人。那 的確是一個好的見證。

My mom passed away on March 17, in the singing of a few chrisitan brothers and sisters. She left without a sign of suffering, actually it seemed that she just fell asleep. My sister prayed that the Lord would spare my mom from suffering for the doctor mentioned to us patients with her kind of cancer would die vomiting blood and in great pain. However, my mom never took a pain killer or shot. Her arm was once in severe pain and could not tolerate being touched. After the one accord prayer of a pastor with the healing gift and several christian brothers and sisters, she was relieved of her pain once for all.

During my mom's sickness, one of my constant prayer was to ask Him to give us peace and joy in the midst of sufferings, especially to my family members who did not believe in Him yet. Philippians 4:6-7 says: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." This is a trustworthy statement. Although I did not understand before, the moment my mom passed away, I suddenly understood. I had an assurance that her fleshly form of life had ended, but she continued to live in another form of life. Therefore, in the period following her death, instead of being comforted by others, we were comforting others. A few of my relatives and friends who attended her funeral service accepted the Lord for they saw the assurance we had. The Lord not only comforted us, but also those who did not know Him yet. That was indeed a good testimony we bore.

後來我回到學校後,由於過多的功 課要補習,我開始遠離主。慢慢地,我 開始願意和同學一起出去聚餐,一起吃 喝快樂。如一首詩歌所說,「我若稍微 偏離正路,我就要立刻舒服」,我開始 不願意讀經,不願意去參加聚會。雖然 總是向主認罪,但認罪後,又無力勝過 自己的肉體。心裡覺得自己是離神遠 了,覺得神不會聽我這個罪人的禱告。 後來甚至不敢向祂禱告了。這樣,我心 裡的平安也漸漸失去。我開始晚上做惡 夢,每天都能夢見我媽媽,好像她過的 很不好。我開始懷疑她是否得救,是否 是被天使接走了。然後,我就害怕睡 覺,害怕黑暗,開始傷心難過媽媽的離 開。媽媽剛去世時,我還曾責備自己沒 有良心,否則怎麼會那麼坦然地面對媽 媽的死而不傷心,現在我明白那真是主 的保守,主所賜的平安。這平安一旦失 去,我才發現,那種傷心真是椎心。

就這樣掙扎了一段時間,我終於忍 不住,給一個老牧師打電話,就是之前 為我媽媽按手禱告的那個牧師。他問 我:小姐妹,你好嗎?我剛開始回答: 我還好。他像沒有聽見一樣,又問了我 幾次,你好嗎?我坦白說我不好。然後 告訴他我那時的情形。他說會使教會的 弟兄姐妹為我禱告,也使我讀經,並且 為別人禱告,而不是為自己。很奇妙, 那天晚上,我就沒有再做夢。我也知 道,我離不開主了。主的道路真是高過 我們的道路,我又重新回到祂面前。平 安和喜樂又回到我心裡,並且我相信主 把它一直放在我心裡,沒有人可以挪 去。主說: "我不留你們在世上為孤 兒",祂真是以祂自己來代替媽媽對我 的爱, 並且遠超過於此。

Then I returned to school and focused on catching up what I left behind. Gradually, I went astray and enjoyed worldly pleasures. Just as a hymn states: "If I slightly detoured from the right path, I would enjoy things bring me fleshly comfort." I became unwilling to read Bible, or go to church meetings. Even though I would repent before the Lord, I had no strength to overcome my fleshly desires. I felt very distant from the Lord, and thought He would not listen to my prayer any more. To a point, I even dared not pray to Him. Thus, I lost the peace that was in my heart. I started having nightmares. I would dream about my mom and saw her sufferings. I started to doubt if she was indeed taken home by God's angels. I doubted if she was ever saved. Then, I became afraid of sleeping, afraid of darkness, and sorrowful over her death. The peace that guarded my heart when my mom passed away was gone, it was replaced with unbearable, heart-piercing sorrow.

I struggled for a period of time, and finally could not help but call a senior pastor. It was the pastor who laid hand on and prayed for my mom. He asked me: "Little sister, how are you doing?" I initially replied: "I am just fine." However, he seemed not to hear my reply, and repeatedly asked me the same question. Finally, I told him frankly that I was not doing well and shared my true condition. He told me church would pray for me. He encouraged me to read Bible and learned to pray for others, instead of myself. Marvelously, from that evening and on, nightmares stopped. I also knew that His love would not let me go astray forever. The Lord's way is indeed higher than ours. I was able to go back to Him and regain peace and joy in my heart. I believe since He has placed them there, no one can take them away. The Lord promised: "I will never leave you alone as orphans." He really replaces my mom's love with His own, a greater love than all.

我是在1999年8月15日受洗的。 從那以後,我願意更深地認信主,渴望 祂作我這一生的主。祂也在我學習和生 活當中一直保守我,帶領我來到這裡。 從我開始準備申請出國讀書到我今天在 這裡讀書,每一步,我都清楚地知道是 主的帶領。 I was baptized on August 15, 1999. I have been more willing to know Him, and longed to honor Him as my Lord. He also led me to the U.S. and guided me through every step of the way.

雖然我的心信的太遲鈍,雖然我總 是離開神,也以為祂和我一樣,因著我 的離開而離開我。但主總是親自就近 我,祂的保護和愛從沒有離開我。主 說:我是我所是的。的確,當我們軟弱 時, 祂就是我們的剛强; 當我們憂傷 時, 祂就是我們的喜樂; 當我們缺乏 時, 祂就是我們的富足。親愛的朋友, 如果你還沒有認信主,接受主,我真願 意把祂介紹給你們。因為祂的愛實在是 超出我們人頭腦所能想像的。這裡的每 一個基督徒,他們都會很有把握地告訴 你,只要你一接受,你就得著了。不要 像我,心裡那麼剛硬,得到主那麼多恩 典,還要經過那麼多的懷疑,走了那麼 多的彎路,才重新回到這條正路。真 的,只要你一接受祂,你就可以和我一 樣,從祂那裡汲取無限的愛和恩典。

Although my heart was slow to believe, although I strayed easily, and although I thought He would forsake me the way I did to Him, the Lord always came to seek me personally. His love and protection never left me. The Lord said: "I am that I AM." Indeed, when we are weak, HE IS our strength. When we are sorrowful, HE IS our joy.

When we are poor, HE IS our riches. My dear friend, if you have not known Him or accepted Him, it is my greatest wish to introduce Him to you. His love is beyond our comprehension. Every Christian sitting here can testify that as long as you are willing to accept Him, you will have Him. Please do be like me who took the detour and wasted a lot of time before setting foot on the right path. Truly, as long as you accept Him, you can immediately enjoy His immense love and grace.

王峰姊妹見證

Sister Feng Wang