

God is Almighty

Jacqui Liu

Once there was a man
Wise and strong
He made the whole world
He never did wrong

A big crowd was watching him
Performing many miracles
and singing a hymn

He taught children to count
and taught men how to build
God is almighty. He is.

He made the fields grow
Did you ever know ?
He gave you a choice to accept Him
God is almighty. Oh He is

It's so wonderful that God is so great
He catches our interest in many ways
God loves you and God loves me
His angels guard you like a fence

My Heart

Jason Hoang

Where can I go when hurt ?
Who can I seek when I cry ?
I go to the Lord, for he comforts me.
But where do I go when my life is worthless ?
I know that he loves me and keeps me from sinning.
But who else will ?

Those in my life mock me.
They take one cheek in hand and I have turned the other.
They have blinded my eye and I have given them the other.
They have taken my tooth and I have brought the rest of my White stallions to them.

What more can I give ?
What more can I bring ?
Why must I love them ?
My mother and father, fight while I write,
Fueling their love for each other.
The dueling creates love and hate
Which both builds and destroys.

I cry into the hands of the holy one.
My heart pours out to his.
My tears of grief fall onto his feet.
This sadness grips me and brings me to the edge,
Where I am about to break.
Help me! Somebody!

Abba I love You

Jason Hoang

Whom shall I fear ?

Whom shall I hate ?

When He moves, He moves in power.

When he comes he comes as a whisper.

When he speaks, he may roar like thunder,

Yet when he speaks he may be like a mouse.

The glory of his beauty

Is more than the flower's coat of colors.

It is more radiant than the rising sun,

And more peaceful than the setting of it.

His breath is cleaner than the midnight air,

His eyes, deeper than the starry skies.

I love you Jesus.

Jason Hoang

On August 19, 2001, our children's worship team went to serve the children at the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship meeting. The week before, we choose not to play computer, video game, watch TV, nor read anything else other than Christian books and the Bible. This action was a fasting of all worldly objects that would dirty our minds and souls for the devil to use in disrupting the serving of the children at the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship.

At the meeting, I notices that many of the children loved the songs and were actively fighting the devil and his minions. They sang the song "Shout to the Lord" especially well. While watching them, I discovered a yearning for the Lord in the children that I hadn't seen before. I learned that children can fight a glorious battle for God against the devil. Revival can start form children, and will grow if their parents and adults catch it. I quote from the Bible,

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. But set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith, and in purity" (I Timothy 4 : 12)

Jane Dong

When we were at the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship Meeting children's area, I saw a child about five or six years old kneeling down and raising her hands and praying in tongues. Suddenly I realized God was delivering a message through her. I felt that I can pray openly to God so I can be closer to Him. She helped me realize that no matter how old you are, every single child can pray openly to our Heavenly Father.

Amanda Hoang

I believe that our lives were changed when we went to serve at the Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship Meeting. The week before, we all committed not to play computer, watch TV, and a lot of other things. (I think we were not perfect in keeping the practice, but we all confessed to God.) In the meeting, I noticed that a lot of the children were really into the worship, doing the hand motions and singing in the Spirit. I was really glad to see the children participating and worshipping together. I am sure that as we went home, God was very happy with us. And we were happy too.

Henry Hwang

During the summer of 2001, at CCS's Vacation Bible School, the teacher talked about accepting Jesus as our Savior. I realized I hadn't really prayed about that yet.

So I followed the teacher and prayed to accept Jesus Christ as my Lord. In the past, I was kind of scared when I got sick or had to have a tooth pulled, but now I am not afraid anymore.

Just yesterday, my stomach felt like exploding. After I prayed to Jesus, everything was fine!

Joel Hwang

Q : When and where did you accept Christ ?

A : When I was 5, I was in Monarch Christian School. One of the teachers told me to pray to accept Jesus as my Lord and my Savior.

Q : Did anything happen that made you choose to make such a decision ?

No, nothing big happened. I had known Jesus since I was born. So when I grew up a little bit, I decided to do the prayer and invite Jesus in my life.

Q : How did you change after you accepted Jesus as your Savior ?

A : I have more faith in Jesus. Although I am still not nice to people sometimes, I want to be kinder. And I know Jesus can help me.

Robin Two Chang

During the summer of 1999, I was saved during Sunday school at the Newark Community Center when Agnes (our teacher) was teaching us about accepting Christ as our Savior. I was filled with God's peace and joy afterwards.

Benjamin Liu

Before I didn't know Jesus, I was disobedient, bossy and a little unkind. Sometimes I didn't do what I was supposed to do. But since I went to church and believed in Jesus, I received Him as my God.

On Father's Day, June 17th, 2001, in the Newark Community Center during the praise and worship service, I confessed my wrongs and accepted Jesus as Savior. After I received Jesus, I became more respectful, obedient, and kind.

Jeffery Liu

During 1994~1995, when I was about 3 to 4 years old, I got into trouble many times. I was disobedient, not patient and unwilling to do chores. I was like this for 2 years before I knew Jesus.

In 1996 ~1997, at an age of 5, things started to change. My mom took me to Cornerstone Church and there was a Vacation Bible School called "Space Mission Bible Camp." There I learned a lot about Jesus.

Later the summer I went to another VBS called "Treasure Hunt Bible Adventure" and everyday I learned even more about Jesus.

In 1998~2001, during this time, at Tree of Life Church, I grew to know Jesus and became more obedient, patient and willing to do chores. I trust God and know that Jesus loves me.

Connie Chi

I was saved when I was 9 years old. It happened on October 25, 1997 at the Billy Graham Crusade for Kids. Saulty asked everyone who wanted to be saved to come down. I asked my mom, "Do I have to?" She said "No, you don't have to, but you could if you want." Then she said, "OK, let's ask God if he wants you down there." At that time, I already knew Jesus, but I just didn't ask Him as my Savior and my Lord. So I said "OK." Then my mom started to pray for me and we both started to cry. I didn't know why we cried, but it really was the love of Christ touching me and my mom. My mom started to say, "Do you want to go down there?" I replied, still crying, "Y-Y-Ye-Yess-ss-s-s." So my mom told me, "OK, let's go." She grabbed my hand and led me. There, I asked God to come into my life and be my Lord and my Savior.

Before I asked Jesus to come into my life and be my Lord and Savior, I was always sad and lonely. After I was saved, I became happy, and sang songs (since that's what I do when I'm happy.) I was really, truly happy. I praise the Lord every day, and I never was sad or lonely again.

Jason Hoang

I became a Christian when I was 4 years old. I was at VBS (Vacation Bible School) . When I heard that Jesus died for me, I still had some questions, but when I got home and asked Mom, she led me to accept Christ into my life.

I remember one time when my family went to Disneyland for vacation. One afternoon, I had tremendous gastric pain—I rolled back and forth on the bed crying "stomachache." My family prayed for me. It was a good fight and finally I fell asleep. When I woke up I was healed and well again.

When we started the church, I wanted to be the first child baptized. I prayed about it for a long time. When the time came, I didn't remember my wish, so I argued with a friend about the seating arrangement. Before we could decide, the pastor came in and told me to come up first. Though I didn't realize it then, God had answered my prayer and let me be first. I marvel at the love God showed me.

I love worshiping Jesus and I know Jesus loves me.

Connie Chi

One day I had a fever. My mom prayed for me. The next day, I was completely well.

Amanda Hoang

One night we went walking and my brother accidentally punched me, giving me a bloody nose. My mom and brother prayed for me, and a few minutes later I didn't have a drop of blood in sight.

A True and Faithful God

By Rozanda and James Chou

BEFORE THE MATCH DATE

James:

On Saturday, March 16th, 2002, I boarded a Southwest Airline flight to visit my wife who has been working in a clinic out of town. This brief separation has been hard on us, but we knew it was only temporary. As a result, we have been seeing each other only about once every three weeks for over 6 months.

I knew the next few days would be hard. On Monday (3/18) we will find out whether Rozanda will be matched to a residency program. For any medical student looking for a residency program, matching process is a long, dreary experience. For those who are married, the process is even more difficult, and can be very demanding on their spouses. Over the past three years, I have become a living testimony of how hard this could be, especially being the head of the household with good earning potentials. Many good opportunities had been sacrificed, to compensate for our family and the commands of Christ. But, that's another story.

I did not come to this trip unprepared. A week prior the match date I had started to prepare myself before the Lord - fasting, praying, meditating and asking Him to lead our family to the "promise land" He has given us. Our daily Bible readings have given me great promises and comfort from the Lord. Deut. 6: 5-6 states,

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts."

These words encouraged me. The Lord told me through the scripture that he judges me based on whether I tried my best to love Him. It was a turning point for my attitude toward Rozanda's matching process. I realized that no matter where God places us, the goal would be the same - *to love our Lord the best we can.*

More encouraging words from Deuteronomy 8:2-5

Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. He humbled you... to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord... Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.

In the same week, I also recalled the Lord encouraged His people three times with "be strong and courageous" in the book of Joshua. Through the daily devotion, I grew in faith and became prepared to accept wherever God is going to take us. During this time, I was also very thankful for the brothers and sisters who have prayed so earnestly for us.

The plane finally touched down after a very rough approach. After waiting for about an hour for Rozanda to get off work and pick me up, we went home. She expressed how anxious she was about the match result. I comforted her and shared with her about what God has been telling me. For the next couple of days we prayed together and continued to seek guidance from the Lord.

Rozanda:

My medical career has been more eventful than most of my classmates. In fact, it started before I went to medical school (that would be another testimony). Nonetheless, I am thankful to God for everything because through all these trials,

I know it is He who is in control of my life and my career.

During the week, God showed me in Isaiah how He prepared for our salvation. In chapter 40:10-11,

"See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power and His arm rules for Him. See, His reward is with Him, and His recompense accompanies Him. He tends His flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart."

God showed me He was going to take care of James and me by carrying us. I was comforted but still wished that we would not have to go through the trouble of not being matched to a medical program.

On Sunday, I read Isaiah 40:28-31,

"The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak... those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

My God is in charge of all things, and He is willing to give strength to those who are weak. I told God that I want to be strong, but I am not. He knows how often I appear to be strong. However, He sees through all the facades and knows I need Him.

MONDAY, MATCH DAY

James:

Finally, Monday came. I got up early and started to have my devotional time. I felt positive and confident about the outlook (even if Rozanda does not match), for the Lord is with us. Unintentionally I turn the Bible to Psalm 42 for my devotion, where verses 5 really stuck in my mind:

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

I thought, "My heart is not downcast, but could this be a bad omen for the things to come?" I quickly dismissed such thought, for I know better not to read the Bible purely for speculative guesses. It needed to be confirmed. I only asked God to remain with us, no matter what happens.

The match result was going to be sent via email at 9am. Around 8:50am we started to monitor Rozanda's email account. It seemed like a never-ending wait. Finally, the email came. We nervously opened the email and it read, "**Sorry, you did not match.**"

That simple sentence welded so much power over us. We sat there motionless for a moment. Rozanda sat quietly, and I knew she was very disappointed. I comforted her, and told her that everything will be okay, although my heart sank as well. Then I remembered the Words God has shown me today, for it HAS come true. Instantly I shook off my disappointment, gathered my strength, and thanked God for the precious comforting words and encouragement.

The next few hours must have been very tough for Rozanda. We embraced and prayed, acknowledged that He is the Lord, and that there is a purpose for this to happen. We also let Him know that we will place our trust in Him. Without being matched, our next step is to go through a process called "Scramble", where

Rozanda could be placed anywhere within the nation. Students who scramble need to obtain a list of residency programs that still have available slots open. The file is to be downloaded from the Internet and won't be available until Tuesday morning at 9am. In less than a day, we had to gather all Rozanda's application files, resumes, letters of recommendations, and other relevant documents. We also had to decide on (in general) where we wanted to go.

Perhaps due to stress, anxiety, disappointment, or any combination of the above, Rozanda started to have a severe abdominal pain. I helped her lie down on the bed. She started to weep uncontrollably and apologized for the pains she has caused me. I asked her to dismiss these silly thoughts and told her that no matter where we end up, I will be there next to her. I also told her that we needed to look at this as an opportunity for God to place us in a location that He will use us most. *Just as the Lord brought the Israelites to the desert to save them, test them, and purify them (but not perish them), in the same way, God put us in this situation so that we can experience Him and learn to trust in His power.*

Rozanda:

I woke up and saw my husband reading the Bible. I knew both James and I were learning to rely on God. I read Isaiah 41:10,

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your god. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

I didn't understand why God told me not to be afraid. In fact, I was still hoping for everything to go smoothly. In retrospect, I should have known that I needed to draw strength from God's words to face my days. When James and I found out I didn't match, I was very disappointed. I felt I let James down, and he had to sacrifice because of me. My body started to react to my emotions, and I felt sick. Now, I understand why people who have illnesses are so vulnerable

because problems and hardships are magnified out of proportion.

At times like these, I thank God for giving me my wonderful and understanding husband. He gave me so much love that I did not care about what the future holds. Then I realized what I read in the morning that God already warned and encouraged me. Very soon, my spirit was lifted. I phoned my school and asked for advice. The dean told me that one of the problems with scrambling is that one may not know when to reject or accept offers. **So James and I prayed for God to open and to close doors. We also asked for the first offer to be God's choice for us.**

James:

Then we rested. After some time we prayed more, asking God for guidance. We understood that, although we did not know which residency programs would be on the list, we should come up with a plan to target on specific states. After some discussion, we came up with five states: California, Nevada, Missouri, Texas, and New York (there are reasons why these states were chosen). We were very blessed to have a DSL connection at home, and our plan was to download the file quickly and call at least twenty hospitals as soon as we were able. Rozanda would be calling these hospitals with her cell phone, informing the staff that she's interested in their programs, while I use the home phone to fax out Rozanda's over twenty-page applications. We then prayed once more for God to open doors on the ones He allows us to go, while close on the ones He does not want us to go. The verse from Psalm 42:5 continued to pop up in my mind through out the day. It became my source of strength, knowing God would not abandon us.

TUESDAY, SRAMBLE DAY

James:

Tuesday morning I got up rather early. Immediately I spent time with God. I continued my devotion with Him with Psalm 43 and 44 that day. Again, Psalm 43:5 moved me to praise the Lord and put my hope in Him (it's the same as Psalm 42:5 listed above). In Psalm 44, the Lord confirmed to me that this journey is just like the ones He went through with Israelites in verse 3:

It was not by their sword that they won the land, nor did their arm bring them victory; it was your right hand, your arm, and the light of your face, for you loved them.

At this point, we knew that God is fully in control of the situation. Unlike the Matching process, where it is done purely on a mechanical means (decided by the algorithm of the software program), the Scrambling process is purely dependent on speed and luck or probability in the eyes of an atheist. But to us, God alone controlled the entire Scramble process, and He has prepared the best place for us.

Rozanda:

I was anxious, but excited about the possible outcome of the day. Miraculously, I read Isaiah 42:16,

"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them."

I was greatly encouraged by God's promise.

James:

Words cannot describe what had happened today. Like clockwork, the list for the residency program was posted 9AM sharp. We downloaded quickly and checked out the programs we wanted to contact. Our goal was to call as many hospitals as possible and whoever calls us back first with the offer, we would take it. We still prayed that it would be in San Francisco.

Rozanda and I had never worked so hard and so fast together like this. We were able to contact St. Mary's Hospital and Kaiser (in San Francisco) quickly to ask them to consider Rozanda's application. Both hospitals agreed to call us if they liked Rozanda's application. Afterwards, we continued to call other out-of-state hospitals. Then something strange happened: while it took only one attempt to get through to the hospitals in San Francisco, it would take many attempts to reach other hospitals. And even when we did get through to someone eventually, I could never fax out Rozanda's application to these hospitals. I must have made over 50 calls that ended up either busy or disconnected. Each "failure" gave me more doubt about our progression. After 2 hours, we were exhausted. Without getting any response, I closed my eyes and asked the Lord to help us.

Then the phone rang. It was a call from St. Mary's. But before Rozanda could find out anything, the call was dropped! Our cell phone could not have chosen a better time to give us a "signal faded" treatment. After another half-an-hour of waiting in agony, we received a call from St. Mary's again. This time the call did not drop (Halleluia!). The great news: St. Mary's Hospital in San Francisco wanted to give Rozanda a resident position.

Rozanda:

Today went by like a dream. Minutes passed by like hours and hours passed like days. God worked in wonder and brought us back to the Bay Area. He brought me back to the same residency program in San Francisco.

I want to say that God's lessons are never easy, but they are not beyond us. If we trust in Him, we will reach the land He promised us.

James:

Looking back, it was clear to us that we did not traverse this course alone. God was with us. He, the wonderful counselor, comforted us, spoke to us, encouraged us, and protected us. From the heartaches of anxiety to the tears of laughter, we felt and experienced the realness of God the Father, Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Had we matched on Monday, our experience with God would not have been complete. As Christians, shouldn't we be joyful in the face of trials, and to allow God's glory to be worked in our lives? May His blessings fill with those who are faithful to Him. Amen.