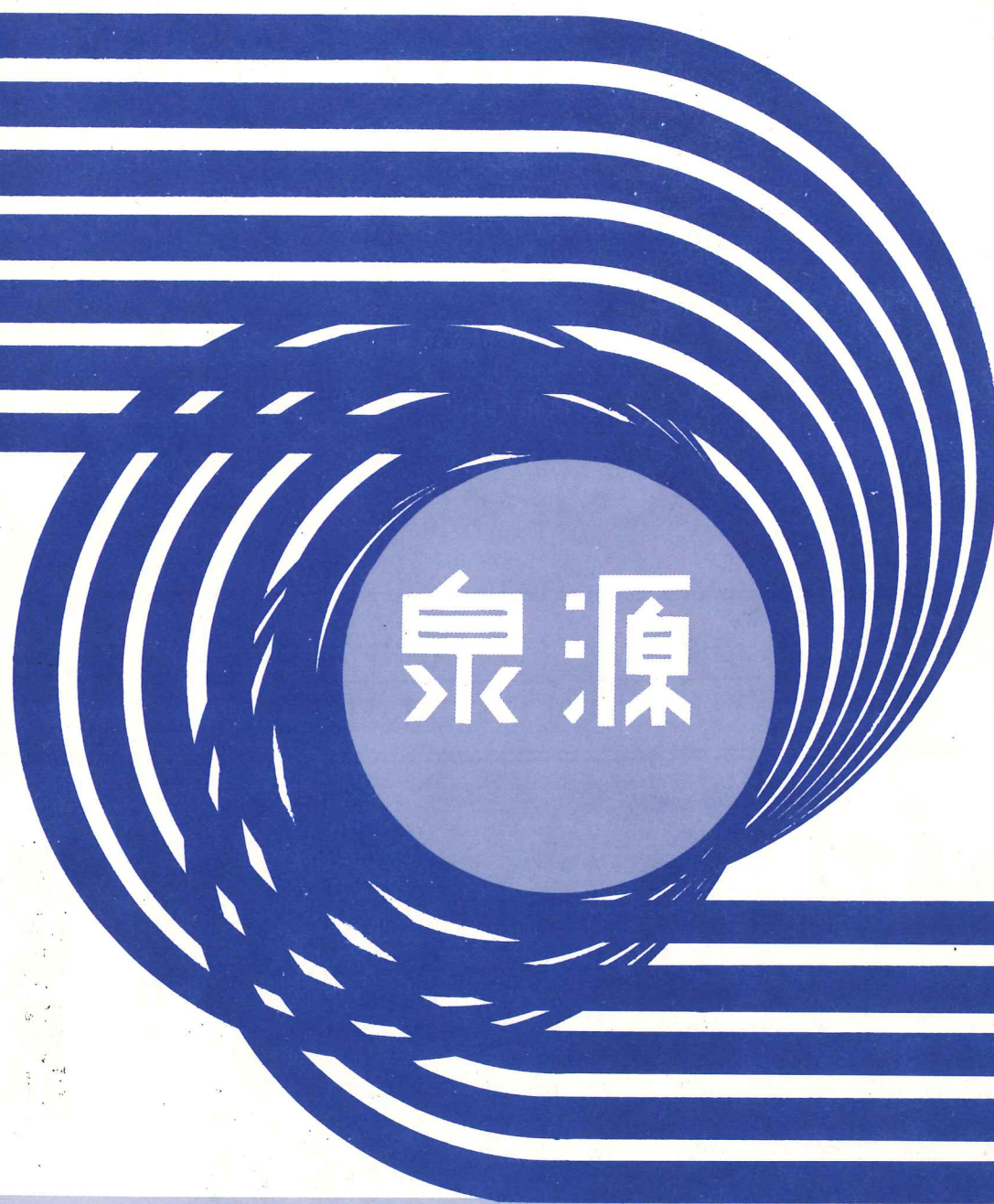


泉源



溫城中國基督徒團契出版 第 5 卷 第 8 期



「祂看見許多的人，就憐憫他們，因為他們困苦流離，如同羊沒有牧人一般。於是對門徒說：『要收的莊稼多，作工的人少。所以你們當求莊稼的主，打發工人出去收祂的莊稼。』」（馬太九：36-37）

# 我們的信仰

聖經是我們信仰的根基。我們相信全部聖經每章每節都是神所默示的。耶穌是基督，是永生神的兒子。（馬太十六：16）  
基督耶穌降世，為要拯救罪人。（提摩太前書一：15）  
除祂（耶穌）以外，別無拯救，因為在天下人間，沒有賜下別的名，我們可以靠著得救。（徒四：12）  
你們得救是本乎恩，也因著信，這並不是出於自己，乃是神所賜的，也不是出於行為，免得有人自誇。（弗二：8）

萬軍之耶和華說：『不是倚靠勢力，不是倚靠才能，乃是倚靠我的靈方能成事。』（亞四：6）

聯合信仰純正，有同一異象與負擔，弟兄姊妹，耶穌基督福音遍傳地極。

宗旨：

## 徵稿簡則：

- (一)(二) 歡迎各地信徒投稿。  
稿件包括見證、屬靈書籍介紹、短篇小說、散文、傳記、福音故事、隨筆、研經、專題研究、各地基督團契通訊、詩歌、靈修譯作、論著、劇本等。
- (三) 一切稿件，由編輯及同工以禱告心情來刪改，決定取捨，轉刊發行。單行本或用作福音單張，或譯成其他文字，本刊不設稿酬。
- (四)(五)(六) 如需退稿，請註明，並賜收件人名址，請以禱告之心情寫作，並為已信未信之讀者及本刊同工於主前代求。
- (七) 稿件最好在二千字以下。
- (八) 投稿請附真實姓名。稿件可用筆名發表，但我們不能刊全隱名的來稿。

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# Christmas

slyc

"Jingle bell, jingle bell, jingle all the way ..."

This old familiar tune from the radio, with its gay flowing tempo, announces the approach of the Christmas season. The snow-clad city of Winnipeg as with other cities throughout Canada is brightened up by the coloured lights of Christmas decorations that sparkle like the twinkling stars adorning the sky. Even the subzero temperature could not refrain the people from joining the huge crowd of faithful Christmas shoppers. Indeed if there is a festival that is almost observed by everyone, Christmas will be it for sure. It does seem to be taken for granted that Christmas is for everybody.

It is interesting to observe the different facets of the celebration of Christmas. Christmas cards, for one, are always on sale at least two months ahead of time. In a recent article in Time, the author with the following comment, "No, there is no escaping Christmas Cards, not even in these days of recessions. For better or worse, they have become one of America's unavoidable, conventional and yet curiously revelatory means of communication." Yes, they have become "unavoidable" and "conventional". It has become the thing to do. Furthermore Christmas cards have solved the problem for many who really do not have much to convey. By sending a Christmas card, one can innocently sign someone else's platitude and guiltlessly send it as his own generous greeting! Take the following as an example. How many of the well-coined phrases can you really say with all sincerity:

"Good friends rejoice  
At Christmastime  
For near, or far apart  
Fond thoughts  
And happy memories  
Unite us, heart to heart ...

So this brings season's greetings  
And it comes to tell you, too,  
What lasting happiness there is  
In being friends with you!"



Indeed, some cards even display the extent to which the celebration of Jesus' birth has become a festival for non-Christians. One this year contains a poem called "'Twas the night before Chanukah\*." This is typical of how irrelevant such poems could be from the real meaning of Christmas.

Let us look at another aspect of Christmas - the Christmas decorations. In our residence, there was a theme called "Christmas B. C." If there is anything that entails real imagination and creativity, this must be the one. A Christmas before Christ - just fancy that! But how true and representative this is of the extent that Christmas has lost its real meaning and value. Indeed, to many, Christmas has come to the stage when it is no more than a few days of vacation, a time for merriment and mad crazy dances.

Once I was holding in my hand a belated Christmas card from a friend back home. Someone noticed it and asked me in a very surprised tone, "When do you Chinese have your Christmas festival?" I didn't know how to answer her. Indeed, today Christmas has become no more than a festive day integrated into the culture of the people.

The above three are but some typical examples to show how the world looks at Christmas. We see that people are under the pressure to conform with the rest in observing Christmas. To them it may be no more than a festive day or a time for merriment. But if one really knows the true meaning of Christmas, there is indeed cause for much joy.

The first Christmas (if it can be so named) was a quiet night with no jingle bells, nor Christmas trees. But it marked the most significant event that has ever happened in the whole human history. It was on that night that Jesus Christ was born. As one hymn puts it,

"Love came down at Christmas,  
Love most lovely,  
Love divine...."

Indeed it was love itself that came down. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) Jesus was born to die. He said, "I come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly." Jesus left the glory of heaven to become a man so that he might die for our sins and raised up again victorious over death to give us assurance of life eternal. The old familiar Christmas story of Christ's birth is no fairy tale; it is a fact of history. God has provided man with a way to come back to Him. This is the joyous message and the real meaning behind Christmas.

\* \* \* \*

\* Chanukah is a Jewish festival beginning on the 25th day of the month of Kislev and lasting eight days. It commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian in 165 B.C.

# HE HEALED ME



cheung - chu

The first time I heard of Jesus Christ was in Grade four. Every week we had a few Bible lessons with a word of prayer afterwards. This is how I began to know something of prayer. The Bible lessons sounded great too. I heard of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the many miracles He performed. Gradually I became interested and longed to know more about this Jesus. But my mother thought I was too young to go to Sunday School.

The jolly primary school days were soon over and I went on to junior high. Gradually I became less naughty. I liked to sit quietly to ponder over the meaning of life. Where would I go after I die? Would it be as what people often say that the "good" goes to heaven while hell is reserved for the "evil"? I did not consider myself as a "good" person. There were a lot of evil things within me - hatred, greediness, dishonesty, selfishness, bad temper, just to name a few. If I went on like this, I must be going to hell. To make up for what I had done, I strived to be a sinless person by my own effort and will-power. But every time I failed com-



pletely. I felt just as what the Bible says in Romans, "I know that good does not live in me - that is, in my human nature. For though the desire to do good is in me, I am not able to do it. I don't do the good I want to do; instead, I do the evil that I do not want to do."

The emptiness of life and my own evil nature bothered me very much. So finally I made up my mind to go to Church, hoping to find a way out. It was at this very time that an almost fatal and yet life-changing event happened to me.

In that hot summer, right after the examination, I was taken seriously by an acute respiratory disease. By the end of the vacation, my disease reached its most critical state and I was admitted into the hospital. Had it not been for the intense medical treatment, this would have taken my life.

During those dark days when I was struggling with death, I often prayed to the only name I knew - the Lord Jesus. To my surprise, He indeed heard my prayer. I managed to survive the critical state and my condition improved. So I was even more convinced that Jesus is the true God and my desire to know Him increased.

Later on, I was transferred to a sanatorium for my long-term treatment. One day when we were having our afternoon tea, a tall, thin girl came in. Soon I found out that she was my new room-mate. The first thing that drew my attention about her was that she said grace before she ate. After chatting for a while, I began to bombard her with a series of questions concerning Jesus Christ. She told me that she was only a new convert and she didn't know much. But she could ask some of the brothers and sisters from the Church Youth Group to come to visit me. I was a bit disappointed but what could I do but wait?

The next day, the nurse-in-charge told me that I had been transferred to another ward. I was in such a great dismay. I knew I would hardly have a chance to see her again because of the strict isolation regulations of the hospital.

One evening, my physical state relapsed. I was feeling very sick. The nurse came in and told me that two young people had come to visit me. They said they were the Church friends of my former room-mate. I was so delighted to meet them. I tried to move some chairs to my bedside for them to sit down. Unfortunately the change in position aggravated my discomfort and I started to cough incessantly till I was feeling very dyspneic. I could not say a word to them nor could they converse with me. After half an hour, there wasn't any improvement. So they said a word of silent prayer, put a Gospel tract on my bedside locker and left. I felt so sorry and frustrated. I was afraid that they won't come back again.

Many weeks lapsed by. One morning, a nurse told me that I had made some progress and would be transferred to another ward. To my great surprise, I was arranged to stay with my former room-mate again. In fact, our beds were just next to each other's. We were overwhelmed with joy for the reunion.

Visiting hours in the Sanatorium was always the time we most looked forward to. One evening in March, a bunch of young people from the Church came



to visit my friend. It was the regulation of the hospital that only two visitors per patient were allowed. The rest has to wait outside. Seeing that I did not have any visitor, two of the young people sat down and chatted with me. They were so frank, warm and friendly. I asked them a lot of questions and they told me what they knew about Christ.

At the end, one of them told me a parable. He said, "Once there was a man who had a terminal disease. He had lost hope because the local doctors told him that they could not do anything for him. Then it so happened that there came a very famous specialist. This great physician had a new drug which he said could cure his disease. But it is when the patient trusted this physician and took this new medication then he could have the hope to recover."

"If you were that patient, would you accept the offer from that physician?" he asked me.

"Of course, I will."

"Just like that poor patient, we are all hopeless sinners. Nobody could solve the problem about our sin and we are destined for Hell. But Jesus Christ loves us very much. While we were yet sinners, He died on the cross for the stonement of our sins. His salvation was similar to the new medication which that physician offered. Whoever takes it would have a new life which leads to eternity. He won't be condemned anymore because Jesus Christ has died in his place. Would you like to accept this salvation?"

I had long realized the problem of my sins. So I promptly accepted this offer. He told me how to ask God for forgiveness and accept Him into my heart. That was the sixth of March, nineteen sixty and it became the most memorable day in my life.

The joy and the wonderful experience of the forgiveness of sin were beyond description. It seemed as if a very heavy burden had been lifted. Hope and happiness beamed from my face. For the first time I tasted the real meaning of life. Now I no longer live for myself but for the Lord Jesus who had died for my sins.

Time passed in its usual pace in the hospital. Gradually by reading the Bible and the teaching of the Holy Spirit, I began to see more of my sinful self. Whenever the Holy Spirit revealed any of my sin to me, I immediately went to the Lord and asked for His forgiveness. It was such a blessing. Furthermore, I also began to realize how precious my Saviour was in comparison to the things I had before. I had been clinging onto many worldly pleasures such as movies, pop music, beautiful clothes, money, popularity, outstanding academic achievement and so on. Now I counted these as nothing when compared to the Lord. I did not condemn these things, but they had no attraction to me anymore in the glory of the Lord.

Eventually, I was discharged after a major chest operation. In retrospect, other people might think my stay in the hospital was wasted. But to me it was the most precious time in my life when the Lord met me personally and healed me both physically and spiritually.

# THE DEATH OF A



"In summary, we have a fifty-year old white male, presented with a sudden onset of chest pain, fever and hemoptysis. My impression on this case is that he probable have ..." That is how my classmate "mapped up" his presentation.

Sometimes in my mind it seems that men are treated like machines. When a man becomes sick, it is just as if a machine has gone wrong. It has to be repaired. It'll either be hauled or have some parts changed and then put back to work again, till it goes wrong the next time.

But is man really a machine?

No, man is not a machine. He has a mind to think, he can love, he can hate, he can ... Yes, man is more than a machine.

What difference is there between a man and a machine, if he has no purpose and meaning in his life?



I raised my dreary head and tried to find the clock on the wall. But there was none. So I turned around and looked at my table clock. It was two in the morning. My eye-lids were drooping and I had to frown hard to keep my eyes open. I just could not concentrate on the books anymore. So I closed my eyes. It was so quiet inside the room that I could not even sense that I was there.

Then suddenly the sound of a sirene woke me up. It was an ambulance coming into the hospital. I murmured to myself, "Poor interns in the emergence department, they'll have a good night's work again." After a short empty moment, my thoughts turned to the one in the ambulance, and with concern, I said, "I hope he'll be all right."

# M A C R i n e

- V. Poon -

Today I thought of death. My training tells me that death is an irreversible process whereby the human ceases to function as man; his heart stops beating, his lungs no longer respire, and his brain begins to give a flat EGG (electroencephalogram). These are all descriptive terms of death. For years, even among the experts, people have been arguing about the exact definition of death.

But what does death really mean?

Death is abhorred by many. Nobody wants it. If there is a way to escape, I am sure a lot of people will try every means to take it.

I am thankful for there is a way which transcends death; the one and only way - Jesus died so that we may have eternal life.

The picture of a dying man comes back to my mind. The pain, agony, struggles and sufferings in his last few hours of life really scare me. But this is only physical death. The eternal death that is spoken of in the Bible is resulted from the rejection of God as manifested in Jesus. For us who are healthy, life seems to be full of pleasure and comfort. Therefore, if we are offered a choice between life and death, no one will choose death. If this is so with our physical body, what then about the spiritual body - the spiritual life and death?

What would you choose?



# WHY DO I SERVE THE

L

O

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D

- richard yen -  
(montreal)

One day I asked myself, "What should I aim at when I serve the Lord?" Then a second question came across my mind, "Why? Do you really need to know? Should you not serve the Lord without questions?" "Well," I said, talking to myself, "I need to know my direction. How can I live for the Lord if I don't know His plan for my life?"

In searching for the answer, first I ruled out a few possibilities. I was convinced that nobody should serve the Lord to acquire fame. Christians should never have such thoughts.

I would not consider just to meet a need either. It is true that very often I was asked to help in some odd hours and sometimes I have to take up many duties in the Fellowship, small and insignificant they might be. But each time, I could not help wondering afterwards, "What have I really done for the Lord?"

Then I thought, "Maybe I should aim at telling the Good News and bring people to Christ. Certainly the Lord would be pleased." A whole conglomeration of Bible verses popped up in my mind. They rang day and night in my ears 'Save the millions, save the millions!' "Yes, this is what I'll do," I said, "I will make it my sole aim to spread the Gospel." So I worked and I toiled, but I



could not understand why I felt as empty as before. The Lord still seemed miles away. "Lord, you have said that whosoever loves you obeys your Word. Surely you should be pleased with my services, shouldn't you?"

Then the Lord spoke to me, "Richard, watch out! You may have been actively involved in many services and now ones will be opened to you. But would all these lead you anywhere? Are you aware that these services have been distracting you and slowly substituting God's place? You have missed a great deal if all you gained is merely some knowledge and experience. These could at the most give you some excitement. They cannot lead you to a face to face deeper experience with the Lord or a genuine love to Him. Remember, always ask, "Have I come to love God more after doing this?"

It hit home to me!

Then I recalled these verses and they began to make sense. They shook me up.

'You should love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.'

'Not every one who says to me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and do many mighty works in your name?" And then will I declare to them, "I never knew you, depart from me, you evildoers."'

I dreamt of my future girl friend, how much she will love me and insist on doing all sorts of things for me and yet not willing to spend a little quiet time while with me. Would you think that is natural at all?

Lord, could mere human work help to extend an inch of your kingdom? I would rather spend more time alone with you day after day, believing that in loving you I please you more.



- a meditation -



In the wondrous **Christmas** story

a troubled world can find

Blessed **reassurance**

and enduring **peace** of mind -

For though we grow discouraged

in the world we're living in,

There is **comfort** just in knowing

that **God** triumphed over sin

By sending us His **Only Son**

to live among us here

So He might know and **understand**

man's loneliness and fear -

And for our soul's **salvation**

**Christ** was born and lived and died,

For life became **immortal**

when God's Son was crucified,

And the Christ Child's **resurrection**

was God's way of telling men

That in Christ we are **eternal**

and in Him we **live** again -

And to know that life is endless

puts **new** purpose in our days

And fills our heart with **joyous** songs

of **hope** and **love** and **praise** ...

-from "The Blessed Assurance of Christmas"  
by H. S. Rice.



# Your Decision

# 剪寄之頁

請在 ☐ 中劃 ☒ 但不限於一處

第五卷 第8期

Please check the appropriate box(es)

VOLUME 5

NO. 8

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Miss  
Mrs.

(Family Name) (First) (Second)

地址 ADDRESS :

(請謄寫清楚)

(Please Print)

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廿歲以下 Below 20 ☐

性別 SEX : 男 Male ☐

女 Female ☐

學歷

EDUCATION : 大學 University ☐

中學 High School ☐

其他 Other ☐

職業 OCCUPATION :

☐ 讀此刊後,心受感動,我願意信耶穌,接受他為我的主和救主,請為我禱告。  
My heart is moved after reading this magazine and I would like to receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. Please pray for me.

☐ 我已是基督徒,讀此刊後,心中受主愛的激勵,願今後作一熱心信徒,每日讀經禱告,按時聚會,熱心服事主,請為我禱告。  
I am a Christian, after reading this magazine I would like to rededicate myself to the Lord.

☐ 因基督的愛在我心中極大的感動,我願將自己完全奉獻給主,一生服事祂,願祂使用,請為我禱告。

I would like to dedicate my life to Christ

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