

FOUNTAIN

WINNIPEG CHINESE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



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Whereof He is able also to save them to the
uttermôst that come unto God by Him, seeing
He ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

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From the city, a crowd was approaching. Among them were soldiers and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees. They had torches and lanterns in their hands. They also carried weapons for fear of resistance from Jesus. When they approached Jesus, he asked them,

"Jesus of Nazareth," they answered.

Jesus made no attempt to escape. It must have been a surprise to them. They certainly remembered that Jesus had often slipped out of their hands before. But this time he came forward to meet them. A few of them dropped back, puzzled and bewildered at Jesus' approach.

After his arrest, Jesus was rushed to Annas and then to Caiaphas, the high priest. Through the night the Pharisees and chief priests busied themselves. They could prove nothing in Jesus that deserved the death penalty. Jesus made few replies to their

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interrogation, merely reaffirming his claims.

Getting very anxious and almost desperate, they sent Jesus before Pilate, the governor, first thing in the morning. They must have been exhausted after plotting against Jesus a few days prior to the arrest and that sleepless night of vigorous activity. However they pressed on. Time was against them. This Jesus could at any time be powerful again and overpower them. Who knew what would happen? At this point, they had control of Jesus. The sooner they put Jesus to death, the better would it be. They had better do away with Jesus and then they could sleep well.

Before Pilate, they tried their best to prosecute Jesus, trying every way they could think of, including using false witnesses. However, the verdict from Pilate was, "Here he is, I am bringing him out to let you know that I find no case against him." What? They could not believe their ears. Did it mean Jesus would be acquitted and set free? Their efforts, plans and money to buy Judas over to their side would be all wasted.

"If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar," they shouted. They knew Pilate would not dare to risk his political career because of a man, even an innocent man. Pilate was troubled by his own conscience however, and in an attempt to ease it, he offered a choice between Jesus and Barabbas, a well-known bandit. But at this point, the Jews were desperate to see Jesus dead.

"Crucify him! Crucify Him!" Barabbas could be arrested again when he committed another crime. This would

be in the predictable future. But once Jesus was set free, they could not tell how and when he could be caught again. The miracles Jesus had performed went through their minds. They were afraid to set him free. No, it was now or never! Jesus must die now!

On the way to Calvary, Jesus was dragging his own cross along, falling and stumbling. His body was failing him. None of his supernatural power that he had demonstrated before seemed to be there. Sweating all over and bleeding from his forehead, he appeared to be weak and helpless. Would he make it to Golgotha?

A strong man, Simon, from Cyrene, was standing in the crowd. The Jews seized him and made him carry the cross.

When they reached the place called Golgotha, they crucified him. Two criminals were executed with him, one on his right side and the other on his left.

The Jews relaxed. In front of them was the man who, despite the miracles he had done in the past, was helpless in his dying moments.

Sure this man had turned water into wine in Cana; he had healed an officer's servant from a distance in Capernaum; he had healed a man crippled for thirty-eight years at Sheep-Pool in Jerusalem; he had opened the eyes of a blind man at Bethsaida; he had fed five thousand men with five loaves and two fish by the Sea of Galilee; he had even raised his friend Lazarus from the dead at Bethany.

But now he couldn't escape from this cross to which he was nailed. If he could not come down from the cross himself, he could not save himself;

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and if he could not save himself, he could never save others as he claimed to have done. So they jeered him:

"He saved others; now let him save himself, if this is God's Messiah, His chosen."

Jesus did not come down from his cross. He was busy catching his dying breath. The soldiers joined in the mockery and came forward offering him their sour wine.

"If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself," they said.

One of the criminals who hung there with him taunted him, "Are not you the Messiah? Save yourself and us." But Jesus did not answer them.

Around midday darkness fell over the whole land, and lasted until three in the afternoon. Then Jesus gave a loud cry and said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit my spirit," and with these words he died. Right then, the curtain in the Temple ripped in two.

Now the Jews remembered vaguely that Jesus had claimed he would rise from the dead; but they doubted that. Resurrection of the body, they thought, was impossible. However, his disciples might come and steal away the body and claim that he had risen. So soldiers were sent to guard the tomb day and night.

Three days later the guards rushed in panic to the chief priests. Their lives were at stake because the body they were told to guard had disappeared. To their surprise, the chief priests after meeting with the elders offered them a substantial sum of money. This was unheard of! They had failed their assigned duty and now they were treated for it! But they were

commanded to lie that "his disciples came by the night and stole the body while we were asleep." It was a bribe but so what? They took the money and did as they were told, and did a good job too. Their story became widely known.

After Jesus was crucified, his disciples seemed to have disappeared. But then, they were only fishermen, or tax-collectors, and were uneducated. They would not and could not preach as their master had, the chief priests decided. They had even hidden themselves, those ignorant cowards! The chief priests, Pharisees and the elders were happy and relaxed. Who would dare call them hypocrites any more?

More than a month passed. Nothing much happened. News saying that Jesus had been seen with his disciples and some people reached the priests' ears. But they would not believe a thing like that! They were certain that as time went on these rumors would fade away. From now on, they would be the undisputed spiritual leaders of the Jews. The Messiah would come, but He would not be this Jesus!

Then more startling news came to their ears. His disciples were out preaching everywhere about Jesus and his resurrection. Where did they find the courage and wisdom to preach? They were known to be ignorant and had proved to be cowards. Were they not scattered at the time of Jesus' arrest, and did they not hide themselves after the crucifixion? Something must have happened to them. Was it that Jesus really resurrected from the dead? What had happened?

Why, Jesus was alive. Hallelujah!

WHAT HAS HE

The question "Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, who are you? what have you sacrificed?" asked aloud by the twentieth-century rock opera, Jesus Christ Superstar, demands an equally bold answer: Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and He sacrificed Himself.

But why would the Son of God suffer the cruel death of crucifixion? Why did He "let things get out of hand" as some may ask? Was it to demonstrate His power over life and death? Hardly. The miracle He performed in Bethany, as He brought Lazarus back to life simply by saying "Lazarus come forth," is enough proof of His power, especially as Lazarus was dead four days before Jesus Christ arrived in Bethany.

Why, then, did Jesus die? Why did He say that to drink the bitter cup was His purpose of coming to this world?

Long ago in the Garden of Eden, man made a choice. He chose to disobey God. Thus man sinned against God and lost his easy access to Him for fellowship. From then on, no matter how hard he tried, man could not free himself from the results of this separation: envy, lust, greed, deceit, hatred, jealousy, selfishness... Nor is man in any condition to restore his friendship with the holy and just God.

Knowing the helplessness and frustrations of man, God proposed a way to bridge the separation between Himself and man. He made a covenant with man. If man would obey and keep His commandments, God would bless him and stay with him in the Holy of Holies of the tabernacle. God would forgive man his sin provided that he was willing to ask for forgiveness and to offer sacrifices. Thus the sinner was forgiven through the sacrifice of an ani-

Yuen

SACRIFICED!

mal, and through obedience to the commands of God. This covenant, made by God, was sealed with the blood of animals, and the forgiveness of sin was obtained through the blood of sacrifices alone (Leviticus 17:11). However, since man according to his sinful nature could never keep His commandments, the restoration of his relationship with God was only possible through the blood of continual sacrifices.

God also chose a high priest among men to take care of this covenant. Each day the high priest would present a sacrifice for the cleansing of himself and his house before he presented sacrifices for the sins of his people. And each year the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies, to make atonement for his own sins and the sins of the people.

When Moses died, God chose Joshua to lead the people and to help them to obey His laws. Gradually, after the death of Joshua, man took advantage of God's love and mercy. Knowing that God is faithful in keeping His covenant, man turned to God only in times of trouble. The friendship with God was not respected and treasured by man any more. Later on even the priests turned against God and abused God's love and God's covenant. (I Samuel 2: 12-18) Man might still follow the law in presenting sacrifices but there was

SACRIFICE

no obedience to His commandments accompanying the sacrifices. Finally God cried out in anger and said, "To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me? Bring no more vain oblations...cease to do evil; learn to do well..." (Isaiah 1:11-17) The stubbornness of man brought sorrow to God's heart, yet He could not forgive man for He is a holy and just God. The covenant became meaningless because man broke his end of the bargain.

The failure of this covenant was brought about by the sinful nature of man. The blood of the sacrifice could not take away sin (Hebrews 10:4), and after presenting the sacrifice man was not made perfect (Heb. 9:9, 10:1).

God knew that the covenant sealed by the blood of animals would not be perfect. He merely used it to prepare man for His new covenant which was to be sealed by the blood of His very Son, Jesus Christ. This was why John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the world as the Lamb of God.

Jesus Christ was also chosen by God to be the High Priest for this new covenant. No wonder John said, "the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." (John 1:17)

Jesus Christ, the Son of God came to sacrifice Himself — the holy, sinless Lamb — on the cross for mankind.

Through a perfect obedience to God, Jesus Christ has fulfilled all the holy requirements for man to be the partaker of the new covenant (Heb. 10:9). Since God is in Christ to reconcile man unto Himself (II Corinthians 5:19), the sacrifice is a perfect one and needs no repetition (Heb. 10:10). Thus Jesus Christ by presenting Himself once on the altar has obtained the eternal salvation for those who are willing to trust on His name and obey Him (Heb. 5:9).

Since this is a better covenant, man's sin is forgiven and remembered no more through the blood of Jesus Christ (Heb. 8:12; I Jn. 1:7), and man's relationship with God is restored through Jesus Christ. (Jn. 1:12; Romans 8:15)

As the High Priest for the new covenant, Jesus is perfect. Since He took the form of a man, He is able to understand all the trials and temptation man has to face, and since He conquered death by His resurrection, He lives forever and ever.

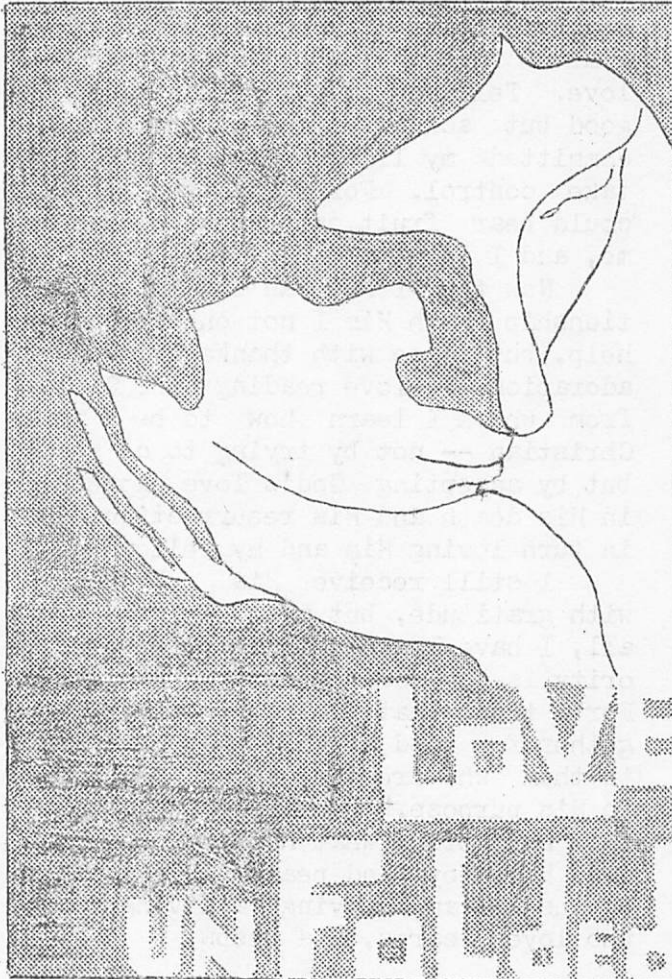
Therefore let all men come to Him; to ask for forgiveness from God through His blood, to become sons of God and to have eternal life (Jn. 3:15-16). □

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Ruby Y. S. Ng

I thought I was a Christian, but...

I was brought up in a Christian home. Naturally I went to church every Sunday with my parents. I believed what was preached but it never had any impact on me personally. Even my acceptance of Christ was done so matter-of-factly. I believed that Christ died for my sins, and I didn't want to go to hell. So I accepted His salvation. I couldn't understand His love and I had no love for Him. God seemed to be only a Problem-solver to whom I could pray in times of trouble.

Whenever my non-Christian friends ridiculed Christianity, saying that Jesus was just a man who never rose from the dead, I felt very uneasy. But I didn't know how to explain the

Biblical truth to them because I was not so sure myself. Gradually I came to the conclusion that Christ's resurrection might be just a symbol and that a Christian was only a person who tried to do good. Anyway, I was really mixed up. But praise the Lord for His tremendous love and patience! Though He had ninety-nine sheep, He still cared for the one that was lost. He used a series of events to reveal Himself to me.

Failing to get into Hong Kong University in 1969, I began to look for a job while waiting for news from the University of Manitoba. Soon I was offered a teaching position. The salary was good for a matriculation graduate and the Headmistress pressed me to sign the contract. For some unknown reasons, I felt strongly that I should wait; so I rejected the offer and prayed that God would let me go to Manitoba. After a painful period of waiting and uncertainty, I finally received the letter of acceptance. As I look back, I realize that God has already started working in my heart at that time. He had something far better for me in Canada.

I received the admission very late, but everything worked out so well that when I arrived in Canada, I was only one day late for classes. Also, I had written letters asking someone to meet me at the airport; but up until the time I left I still had not got any definite answer. However, when I got off the plane, several people came up to meet me! It is easy to imagine how relieved I was when I saw them. They helped me to find accommodation. I was desperate and rented the first place I saw. It turned out that the landlady was a Christian and she treated me as if I were her daughter. This helped a lot in alleviating my homesickness. During this first year a lot of other things happened through which God's love became more and more real to me.

I still went to church every Sunday. Somehow the Holy Spirit really talked to me through the speakers. I also began to have interest in reading

spiritual books. What I learned opened my eyes and gradually I understood more about God and the Christian faith.

What struck me most was an Easter morning sermon. It was on the authenticity of the history of Christ's resurrection. The speaker dismissed the 'wrong-tomb' theory because given time, the right tomb should have been discovered. He also showed that it could not have been mass hallucination but that people did see the resurrected Christ at different times and places mainly because they were not prepared to see Him at all. The undisturbed graveclothes added a strong evidence that Christ's resurrection was supernatural. The 'last straw' came when the speaker listed one by one the transformed lives of the disciples.

The feeling that God was living had never been so real before. Unfortunately all these appealed more to my intellect than to my heart. I started reading the Bible, though not regularly, and prayed to Him in a more personal manner. But I still had not committed my life to Him.

In an evangelistic meeting at the beginning of my third year, the speaker described in detail how Christ suffered on the cross. The physical and emotional agony was more than any man could bear. Yet He, being God, endured all these to pay the ransom for our sins, so that we could be made righteous before Him. It was the first time that I was so overwhelmed by His love. I was ashamed that I had treated God like a magic wand, using Him when I was in need. Yet He graciously answered my prayers and patiently revealed His love to me. I recalled how He had provided me with summer jobs, accommodation, and helped me with my studies and guided my every decision during the previous two years. When I was unhappy because something against my wish had happened, He comforted me and showed me later on it was for my own good that He had allowed those things to happen. Suddenly I wanted to sing "How can I help but love Him, when He loved me so?"

That night I cried before God. I

thanked Him for His provision and asked Him to forgive me for neglecting His love. Telling Him that I wanted to be good but acknowledging my failure, I committed my life to Him and let Him take control. For I realized that I could bear fruit only when He was in me, and I in Him.

Now that I have an intimate relationship with Him I not only pray for help, but also with thanksgiving and adoration. I love reading the Bible, from which I learn how to be a real Christian -- not by trying to do good, but by accepting God's love expressed in His death and His resurrection, and in turn loving Him and my fellowmen.

I still receive His blessings with gratitude, but most important of all, I have learnt that my first priority is to accept and to do His will. For I trust that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28) Therefore no matter what happens to me, I can have joy and peace in my heart because I am serving a living God, who loves, cares, and keeps. ☐

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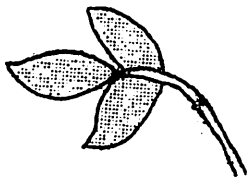
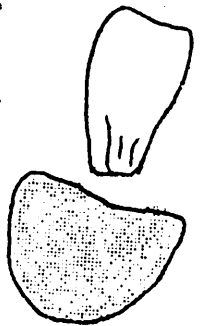
SECOND

ENCOUNTER

- Ivy Tong -

I'm quitting! ... There's no point in carrying on... Life is so futile!

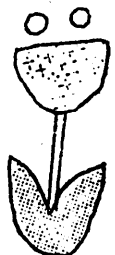
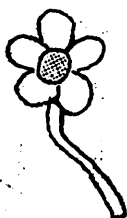
These were but a few phrases I uttered in times of depression and frustration. I strived to calm myself down but in vain. I lacked the serenity I had when I first accepted Christ. In the song, "A Living Circle," Ralph Carmichael tells exactly what I have gone through these past months. On reading it, one may think that it can only be applied to non-Christians. Oh no, I myself have experienced this as a Christian who was away from Christ.



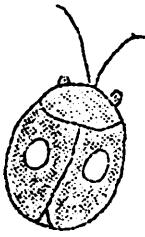
When you find life unkind
And there's nothing really left for you,
Why go on, hope is gone,
Quitting seems the only thing to do...

There were moments when sudden pangs of hopelessness gripped me and I felt like giving up. I felt that I could no longer bear the situation that enveloped me. My intellect seemed to be disintegrating and everything seemed to be cramming in on me. Then I began to ask the question, why? Why is life so unkind to such an insignificant person like me? Is there someone who cares for me? I turned to my circle of friends for guidance, but they all seemed so busy right then. So I waited and waited, and finally when I realized that they didn't understand me, it was too much for me to bear.

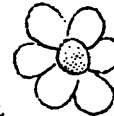
I thought about giving up and was tempted to ask, "Where is my God?" These were the times I had let go of Christ and started to drift away, silently and unknowingly, like a piece of cracked



ice in the river.



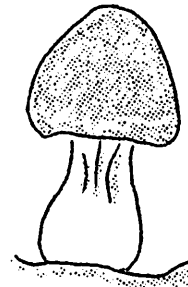
... There's a friend who can mend
Every broken vessel just like new.
Come and see, you'll agree,
Every word I tell you now is true.
First, you must ask Him to please forgive,
Then you must promise for Him you will live.
Then you'll find peace of mind
And the strength you need to see you through.
And you'll try, just like I,
To help others find the Savior too.



Having drifted from Christ, I was like a broken vessel whose fragments were so numerous that mending was beyond human ability and patience. Yet, instead of turning to Christ again, I tried other things to tie the pieces together.

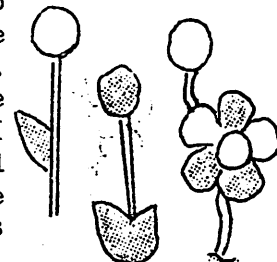
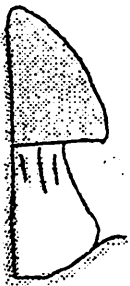
I drowned myself in novels. Many a time during the summer, I read past midnight simply because I could not put them down and then I could not sleep.

Next, I indulged myself in positive thinking and suppressed the dissatisfaction and frustration deep down in my heart. Since my group of non-Christian friends seemed to be enjoying themselves so immensely, I joined them, hoping that I could find happiness. I had very pleasant moments while I was with them, but everything was so temporary and my laugh so empty.



Then I turned to my studies. Surely I cannot forget the exciting moment when I got my computer programme running. Or when I got my results. But what did an "A", or being on the Dean's Honour List promise me? Did it promise me a good future in this world where the unemployment rate is so high? No, it only satisfied my ego. My future was still blurred. In the end, what would I gain from the things I got from this world? Simply disillusionment; a whole bunch of equations in my head; scenes of computer cards going through the reader and ever-spinning disks and tapes in my mind, and the monotonous noise of the output printer in the computer terminal.

I continued to grope in the dark. Then one day, I came across this song which, in fact, I had known for a long time. The words: "Then you'll find peace of mind, and the strength you need to see you through," attracted me because those were exactly what I had been looking for all along. A Bible verse came to my mind: "Come unto Me all ye who are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." I took up the challenge and turned to Christ. I asked Him to forgive me and I promised that I would live and stand for Him under all circumstances. Christ's

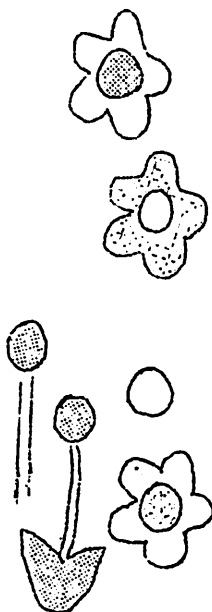


loving kindness overwhelmed me. I was so happy, tears trickled down my face. This was a moment of profound experience which I would not forsake for anything in the world.

Through this second encounter with Christ, I was a step further ahead towards Christian maturity.

No longer do I panic when I am faced with difficulty because I know that if I am willing, God will guide me through. It is not that my difficulties and problems have suddenly vanished, nor that there are no computer programmes to write or theorems to remember, but that Christ has given me strength in a new dimension to overcome them. Although my burdens are still here, they are no longer heavy, and my life is no longer aimless. I am not simply living for an idol who can satisfy my emptiness or ego, but a living Saviour who cares and loves me in spite of what I am. He has paid the price for the penalty of my sins and has given Himself to me without reservation. What can I do in response to Christ's love? I've found that there is only one way. It is to submit my all to Christ and to live for Him under all circumstances!

I have found a blessed truth: despite our failure, we, who are willing to make room for the risen Christ, will in no wise be cast out. ☐



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST ?

THE FOUNTAIN

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All workers are serving the Lord this way on voluntary basis.

THE BOOK "TO YOU"

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Offering received up to March 25, 73: \$ 4567.49

Still required: \$ 932.51

This book will be ready for distribution in early May, 73.

(All figures given are in Canadian currency.)

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Remember us in your prayers!

even so...

"Stop the world, I want to get off."

This is the cry of many earthlings today. It is not that they have any hope beyond, but that they have had enough of what this world can offer.

Before this technological age, life was relatively simple. There was work for everybody. The farmers worked hard, and they were rewarded with good harvests. They couldn't help lifting their hearts to heaven in thanksgiving, praise and adoration. Today, men serve machines other men have made. When Thanksgiving comes, it is just another long weekend. They can but sigh a deep sigh and "try" to relax. Work is nothing but boredom.

The War in Viet Nam Came to a halt on paper. But the seed of war has come to full bloom in the heart of men. Our parents' generation was teased for competing with the Joneses. This generation finds it necessary to compete with his very brother. The unemployment rate overshadows the students' future with uncertainty. The food price-hike makes it more difficult for everybody to survive. The soaring crime rate scares all who want to live. The energy crisis spells doom to the most prosperous country.

If that doesn't do it, pollution will easily annihilate her.

All that life seems to offer is meaningless, unfulfilling, and threatening. Mother Earth is doomed, and so are her inhabitants.

As Christians, we are also waiting eagerly for the chance to leave this sick planet. The saints before us had gone to their graves with this hope, a hope which is built on the very words of our Lord Jesus Christ: "I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am there ye may be also."

The Apostle Paul told the Thessalonians that when Jesus comes, the saints who are dead will be resurrected and lifted to the clouds to meet Him. In the same way, the Christians who are living at that time will be caught up with the others in the air. Like the resurrected Jesus, we will all have a transformed body, one which is not limited by time and space. It will enable us to live in the New Heaven and New Earth re-created especially for us.

Christians who embrace the reality of this hope do not despair at the hopelessness of this world. Rather, they join together saying, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."





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☐ 讀此刊後, 心受感動, 我願慕信耶穌, 接受祂為我的主及救主。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.

☐ 我是基督徒, 讀此刊後, 心中受主愛的激勵, 願將自己完全奉獻給主。
I am a Christian. I would like to dedicate my life to Christ and I trust that He has a plan for my future. Please pray for me.

☐ 我是基督徒, 但曾冷淡, 現願將自己再一次奉獻給主。請為我禱告。
I am a Christian but have turned away from God. After reading this magazine, I would like to rededicate myself to the Lord. Please pray for me.

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我對「泉源」的意見: My opinion about THE FOUNTAIN: