

FOUNTAIN

WINNIPEG CHINESE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



THE FOUNTAIN is published once every six weeks. It is supported by free-will offering from Christian friends who have the burden to see the Word of God reach as many as possible. We depend on the all sufficient grace and providence of the Lord to meet our every need. The magazine is free of charge and is sent upon request.

OUR AIM is to unite all Christian brothers and sisters who have the same burden to preach the Gospel unto all nations. We preach none other than Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

WHAT WE BELIEVE The Bible is the basis of our faith. We believe that the whole Bible, every chapter, every verse as originally given is inspired by God.

"You (Jesus) are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." (I Timothy 1:15)

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God -- not because of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8,9)

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"Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts." (Zechariah 4:6)

"When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'" (Matthew 9:36-38)

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"Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling
place in all generations. Before
the mountains were brought forth,
or ever Thou hadst formed the earth
and the world, even from everlasting
to everlasting, Thou art God."

- Psalm 90: 1,2 -

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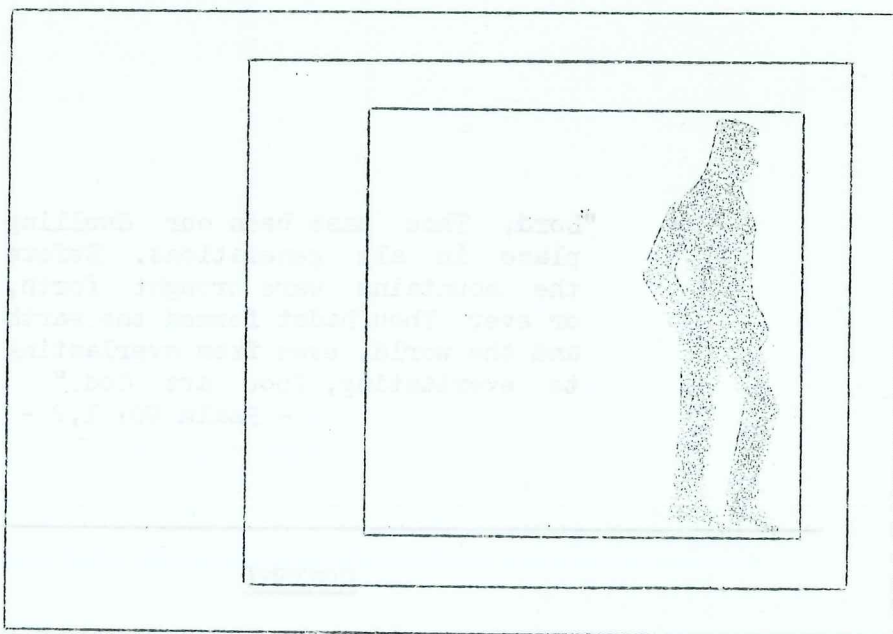
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We welcome written contributions both expository and evangelistic in nature. Articles may include testimonies, short reflective prose, stories, biographies, book reviews, Bible studies, topical discussions, poems, translated works and news of Christian groups. Please avoid adopting a didactic approach. The name and address of the author must accompany all contributions. Pseudonyms may be used, but anonymous articles will not be published.

The SEEKER Was Sought



HANZEL WANG

The following story is by no means intended to be an autobiography; I hope that it would be a manifestation of God's guidance, forgiveness and love.

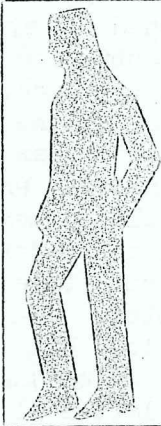
I was born in a non-religious family and I was free to worship whatever I liked. My first contact with the Gospel of Christ dated back to the time when I was having my primary education in a religious school. But I was too young to care about life and death; about righteousness and unrighteousness. I was busy exploring the unknown world, being fascinated by the things around me.

The time came when I was old enough to think about religion. I doubted very much the doctrines of the Bible. For example, why should I inherit Adam's sin? If God is a loving God, why does He allow so much suffering to exist in the world? And why should we be engaged in this dangerous game which demands us to make the crucial decision of accepting the salvation in order not to be condemned eternally? With these queries in my mind, I presumed

that God did not exist.

One day, when I was alone, I looked into the mirror and saw myself. "Well, here is my body," I thought, "I can think, I can walk, I can move and I can do whatever I like because I am physically fit and I am mentally sound. But what would happen to me when I die? No doubt, my flesh and bone would return to the soil, but is that all? Do I have a soul which is immortal? Since we all have to die someday, what is the purpose of life if everything is finished by death?" I did not believe that man existed by accident and I was sure that there must be some meaning lying behind the physical life.

I began to wander between science and philosophy, hoping that I could find the purpose of life. However, they did not give me any concrete answer. But one invaluable conclusion I arrived at, through the study of scientists and philosophers, was that the exhaustive use of reason did not assure us the attainment of all the answers to life's problems, neither did it free



The SEEKER Was Sought

us from mistakes, but, it did make us aware of questions not otherwise raised and make us detect the mistakes we had made. So all the queries and doubts that I had were only pretexts for my presumption that God did not exist because my reasoning power was limited. I found that I was making a very serious mistake in thinking that I could use my very limited human wisdom to dig into the infinite mysteries of life and of the universe. Then suddenly, the thought of God, the Creator of all things, came back from the remotest part of my mind. If God existed, He certainly would know the purpose of my life since He created me.

I worked in an accounting firm for two months during my summer vacation two years ago. I could never forget that experience because it was the first time I came into contact with the "real world". It was the first time when I saw the unimaginable ugliness of human nature. When people had a common desire for something, they all sought to destroy one another in order to possess that thing alone. I found that wickedness, covetousness, envy, pride, deceit and malignity were the characteristics of human nature. I

knew that I was too weak to survive in this environment and sooner or later, I would conform and become part of those people. When the summer holiday was over, I resumed my study. But I found that life was frustrating, restless, meaningless and hopeless. I could not imagine any beautiful picture of this world. I just lived on, but never knew where I was going.

Then there came the new page of my life when I came to Canada to further my study. Right after my arrival at Winnipeg, I came into contact with a group of Christians. They helped me a lot in arranging temporary accommodation for me and in my registration. I was impressed by their sincerity. I found that they had something in their lives which I lacked, and these were joy, peace and a purpose in life.

When I settled down, I had a chance to talk frankly with one of these Christians. He shared with me the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Initially, I felt a bit offended when he told me that I was a sinner because I still considered myself innocent of the immorality in which people in society indulged themselves. However, the words he used

to help me to realize my sinful situation rooted deeply in my mind. He said that if I could record all the things that I thought in one day in the form of movie I would surely be ashamed to show it to others. I had to confess what he said was true if I were honest with myself. I began to see that the only difference between me and those who were striving for their own interest in society was that I did not have to make my living. Therefore, my sinful nature had not yet been completely exposed. The fact that although I did not commit sin in action, I did sin in my mind substantiated that I had a sinful nature. He also told me that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was standing at the door of my heart, waiting for me to invite Him into my life, so that all my sins would be pardoned, and an abundant life given to me. It was easy for me to know that I was sinful, but to accept Christ was another matter. For I found it difficult to humble myself and admit that I had to be saved. Furthermore, I did not have such faith as entrusting my life into Jesus' hand. I finally prayed to God, asking Him to reveal Himself to me if He existed.

A group of Christians in the residence had a Bible Study and I joined them in studying the Gospel of John. I was attracted by the lovely character of Jesus Christ, and I was specially thrilled by His divine nature, His claims and His promises. When I came to the verse where Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me," I stopped to ask myself, "Isn't this what I'm looking for?" I was overwhelmed with joy for I knew that Jesus was the One I needed. He was the only One who could reveal to me the purpose of life. At that very moment, I accepted Christ as my personal Saviour and acknowledged Him as the Lord of my life. At that time I did not know how I had that faith, but I was convinced that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, who came to the world to die for our sin so that He might bring us to God. Later

as I read the Gospel, I knew that it was the Holy Spirit who had revealed to me the truth of Jesus Christ and assured me of my salvation. And in this very special way, God answered my first prayer.

Jesus Christ pardoned all my sins. My former strife, fear, doubt, and frustration were replaced by peace, joy, love and hope. The questions that used to bother me were wiped away. I am satisfied with the answers which I find in the Bible, for all answers are in Christ. As far as I can understand, God made man and gave him free will, for He did not want a robot. Man could choose to obey Him and love Him or to turn away from Him. Unfortunately, our ancestor chose the latter alternative and therefore we, as his descendants, share his sinful nature. But God's love and grace cover all our iniquities in that He sent His only Son to the earth to die for our sin. Because of one man's sin, we are all condemned; because of one man's sacrifice, we can all receive acquittal and life.

As for the problem of suffering, the immense evils and pain in the world originated from the Fall of Adam. I am also aware of the fact that Satan likes to use questions to blind us from seeing the truth, and I find that I can overcome Satan's work only by trusting God, keeping in mind that God is almighty and His wisdom is perfect. My part is to yield myself to Him and let Him work through my life to accomplish His plan for me. I am very grateful to God for He tells me that the purpose of my life is to live for Him, as recorded in the Bible in Philippians 3:10-11, "that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead." (New American Standard Version)

I did not have to find God by my own effort, or through any human ways, for God was at my door. I only had to open it, then by faith I could meet Him face to face.

HE LIFTED ME

NAME WITHHELD

The drizzle was falling like tears and the sky was a dull mask. I boarded the plane bound for Canada with Mrs. A, leaving my parents, my loved ones and my birthplace, facing a future I could not conceive.

The plane soared into the clouds and I heard and saw no more of the weeping of my parents, nor did I know how their hearts were breaking. I could only remember the fear that was in my family when we saw the riots, the Communists, the burnings, the shootings and all the news of rapes, murders and thefts, and how everyone longed to leave

the Colony. My family was not one of those that could afford to go, neither could my parents send me to a foreign land to study. It would simply cost too much. But somehow, a relative, Mr. A, who had no contact with his wife ever since the Japanese Occupation, suddenly wrote her a letter and asked her to join him in Canada. Since they were both approaching their late fifties, Mr. A asked one in my family to go with Mrs. A so as to help her in her language problem on the way as well as to alleviate her loneliness.

I felt quite proud to be the chosen one and I was expectant of what the future would offer me. I knew I would be successful in all my dealings and I dreamed of a big house, and a car to take me around. I could not wait to land in that wonderful place!

I arrived with Mrs. A at Winnipeg. An old man, dressed quite sloppily, came forth to meet us. He introduced himself as Mr. A. He then drove us to the little town where we were to reside. Along the way, we saw the harvest, the lovely gleaming golden wheat, the vibrant glow of the sunset, and I felt that surely I could make my future just as great as this land.

My dream was shattered when we arrived at town B. The houses were all very beautiful, with big courtyards in front, but the one Mr. A drove up to was the shabbiest, oldest looking brick house and I could feel my heart fall. Nevertheless, we unloaded our things and we met -- his mistress. From then on and for the next three years, I led a life of utter misery and helplessness and indeed, a page was turned in my life.

The beginning of my life in Canada was really hard for me. I had to learn to adapt to the compactness of social life in the small town in which we lived, to mix with the friendly but inquisitive people, to master the language, and most of all to endure the homesickness and the misery that was engulfing me in seeing the fightings between Mrs. A, Mr. A and the mistress. It was then that I longed to go home, to go back to the loving arms of my

parents. I felt all alone in a lonely world.

When the snow began to fall, Mr. A decided to go away with his mistress to another town, leaving Mrs. A and me by ourselves. He came back once in a while to see us, to pay for the rent and the food. I saw the pain and agony heaping on Mrs. A's face. I tried to immerse myself in my studies in order to forget the sorrow around. I took long walks at night and through deep snow; I lay under the trees and by the river, just to stamp out the loneliness and listlessness in my heart, and it was then that I began to question, "What is the meaning of life? What is this all about? Why should it be me who has to go through all these things, why?"

Mr. A, a thriftless spender, began to find it hard to support us. He moved us to a small hotel suite where there was just enough room for two beds and a bathroom. We cooked in the bathroom, suffering the heat and fearing that someone would come and kick us out. Mrs. A was getting worse. She did not have anything to do during the day. She did not have any friends because she could not speak the language. Whenever she saw me, she poured out her sorrow in torrents and this irritated me because I felt that I had too much to bear already. I could not bear two persons' burdens.

I continued to go to school, I continued to nurse Mrs. A, and I continued to hate her and her moans and groans. Then I wrote home and asked my father what the meaning of life was. He told me to wait till I grew up and not to think about it at the moment because no one knew. He did not know either. Then I asked a teacher at school and he evaded my question by saying, "You are one of those who thinks. Others just live without asking why. Why can't you do the same?"

Then I came to the conclusion that since there was no meaning in life, or at least I could not find it, why should I go on anymore, and let myself be swallowed up by misery day after day? And who knows, I might

just be insane tomorrow? So I thought of committing suicide. It would not be hard, for I had read about people killing themselves with arsenic and since I often went to the chemical room at school, I could easily steal some and finish myself. After this idea had come into my mind, I often went to the chemical room and looked at the bottles, and I was tormented so much that I was ready to cry. Inside my heart was the desperate plea, "Help me, someone", and yet I knew nobody would care. Then I envisaged myself dead, and the news reached my parents. How would they react? Could I hurt them this way? Could I waste the eighteen years of food and education that I had and return the world with nothing?

I later met an old man who had been deserted by his wife and family. Yet he told me he was not angry or unhappy, because he knew God and had God in his heart. I had heard about God. I had been in a religious school, but Christianity was then only a religion to me. Now this old man showed me how his life could be joyful and meaningful even in the midst of troubles, because God was real to him, and trusting in God was something to live by. So I thought I would give it a try anyway and it was then that I began to search for God. I started to pray and read the Bible. There were many things in the Bible that I could not understand, and some were hard for me to accept, but since inside my heart there was a vacuum and a desperate longing for love, it was easier for me to find God. I began to feel cheered up and could bear my burdens with less grudge and less sorrow. God was my crutch.

Then I came out to Winnipeg to continue my education. I came to know some Christian friends, and they led me to Church. Some of them invited me to their Bible Study group. I learned from the Bible that God loves man though man is a sinner, and has sent Jesus Christ His only Son to die for man's sin, so that whosoever accepts Christ as his Saviour will have his

sins pardoned, and have eternal life. But in accepting Christ, it would mean also to commit one's life totally to Him. Since the environment had changed and I had greater freedom to do what I liked, the pressure inside me diminished and I did not feel that I needed God so much as my crutch. The question became whether I would acknowledge Christ as the Lord of my life and commit myself totally to Him, or I would still be the master of my life. At first, more and more doubts and questions came into my mind as to whether God was so reliable that I could put my life in His hands. Gradually as I discussed my questions with my friends and as I understood more about the Bible, I came to realize my true self. I seemed to be able to watch myself in a mirror; and the more I came to know God, the more I was ashamed of myself.

The battle between my ego and God began to rage in my heart. But I finally discovered myself to be merely dirt and mud, all filthy in front of the Most Holy One. At last, I made the decision. I yielded myself to God.

When I now ponder over those three long years of hellish experiences, I feel no anger against anyone, nor do I sense the pain anymore. I only thank God that He is merciful and has shown me that He loves me. My sufferings in fact have brought me to God and I realized that God had a plan to lead me to know Him. God was a crutch to me, but He is my friend now. He is a Father who loves me, and I will follow Him no matter where He leads me. Certainly His heart was burning with agony when He saw me cry out in sorrow. And at last He delivered me.

What more do I have to say, except to cry with the psalmist: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; Who crowmeth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the

eagle's." (Psalm 103:2-5)

"I love the Lord, because He hath heard my voice and my supplications; Because He hath inclined His ear unto me, therefore will I call upon Him as long as I live." (Psalm 116:1-2)

The Lord is my strength, whom shall I fear?



Early this year there was a change in the Canadian Immigration Law. No foreigner can apply for landed immigrant status within Canada; he has to go back to his own country first. But recently, a sixty-day relaxation period was issued during which anyone who had illegally entered Canada on or before November 30, 1972 could go to apply for landed immigrant status and their applications would most probably be granted except under extreme conditions. However, once this sixty-day period is over, no person can apply anymore. And anyone found to have entered the country illegally would be deported.

Although the relaxation period was originally intended for the illegal immigrants, many students holding temporary visas had gone to apply. The reason why they went is obvious. Who can count the number of those who had been rejected for entry by the professional schools and faculties just because they were foreign students? There is not much hope for a foreign student to get a scholarship or a grant even though he may be the top student in class. Yet the foreign student cannot complain because it is only fair for a country to care for her own people. Thus when the opportunity to apply for landed immigrant status came, many foreign students made use of it.

For those who stay in their home country, with the warmth of friendship and the coziness of family surrounding them, the problems of identity, security and status may not be so pertinent. But for those who stay in a foreign land, these problems become more imminent and acute. It is small wonder that this generation of overseas Chinese has been called "the rootless generation". Where is their home? So many would like to go back to Taiwan, Hong Kong and South-east Asia, but are appalled by the unstable political sit-

uations there. Some parents tell their child: "Don't come back. This place is unsuitable for permanent residence. Go and make your dreams come true in the paradise on the other shore of the Pacific."

For those who were once tortured by the uncertainty of their future and the lack of the sense of belonging, which are the lot of the foreign students, finally the time has come when they can sigh and relax.

"What a relief! I don't have to boil with anger because my classmate who was a landed immigrant and had a B+ grade point average could enter into Medicine while I who got an A was rejected. Now that I'm an immigrant, I can show him some colours!"

"Even if I cannot get into the professional schools I can stay here and find a job. After so many years in Canada, it is surely hard for me to go back to the hot and crowded home country."

Yes, in a sense, they can settle down. Now that they have obtained landed immigrant status and are more sure of a brighter future, they can start planning. Anyway, who can plan

anything if he does not know how long he can stay in a certain place? Now they can enjoy most of the privileges of the people of this country. And in five years' time they can become citizens and maybe then they can consider to go back to serve their home countries for a while.

Yet, deep down in their hearts, they know this land is not their home. This shore of the Pacific is not really a paradise. There is still something missing. The shadow of insecurity and dissatisfaction linger on. After all, some people before them have completed degree after degree and yet cannot find a job. Others have spent days and months and years in the laboratory, but who is there to share with them their successes, their joy, their tears and their feelings of loneliness and emptiness? The luckier ones may get married and find a good job, but would this lead to happiness ever after?

And suddenly, the energy crisis in the United States and the war in the Middle East bring them to the painful realization of the state of the world that they are living in. Is man working towards his own destruction? Is

there any hope? Is there anywhere on earth where one can really settle down for life? What should be the goal of life? Is there any meaning beyond man's mere existence in this world? Who can show him the way to life?

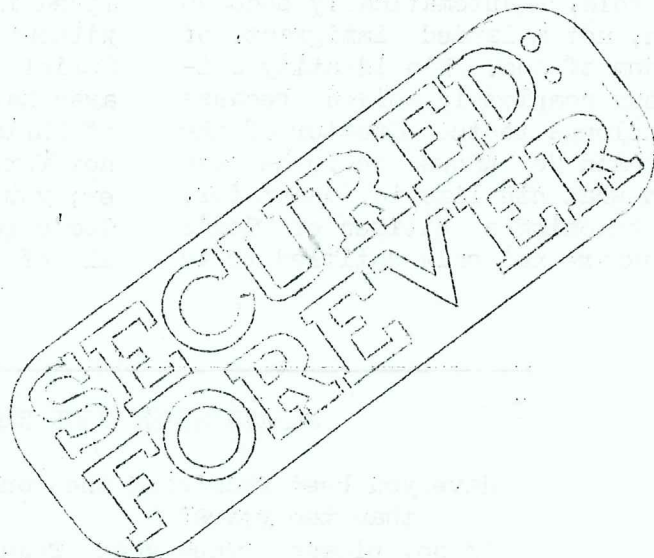
Two thousand years ago, a person had made the fantastic statement: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in the darkness." He was Jesus Christ. Through Him, God offers us a gift -- the citizenship of His eternal Kingdom.

"For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

"Some, however, did receive Him (Jesus Christ) and believed in Him; so He gave them the right to become God's children." (John 1:12)

For anyone who wishes to apply for a status in the eternal Kingdom of God, there is only one requirement. One has only to go and apply, that is, to believe in Jesus Christ.

This seems incredible. How can one obtain a citizen status so easily?



Has God also made an Adjustment of Status Programme? What is God's standard in judging whether one is qualified or not? Just as no country would allow a criminal to become her citizen, God cannot allow sinners to enter His Kingdom because He is holy and just. The wages of sin is death. Thus unless someone who is innocent is willing to suffer the punishment which man deserves, no one can ever become a citizen of God's Kingdom. In His great love for us, God sent His only Son Jesus Christ, who is sinless, to suffer the penalty for us so that if we accept what Jesus Christ has done for us, our sinful records would be wiped out and we can be counted as righteous in God's sight.

"For He (God) rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the Kingdom of His dear Son, by whom we are set free and our sins are forgiven." (Colossians 1:13-14)

To everyone who recognizes his own sins, who goes to God for help and forgiveness and accepts Jesus Christ as his Saviour, God would give him the glorious status of a saint, a righteous man, even though he is not. This is a free gift from God. No one can earn it by his own effort. Moreover, the person is allowed to become a child of God. By this, he automatically becomes a citizen, not a landed immigrant, of the Kingdom of God. His identity crisis is thus completely solved because now he belongs to the Creator of the Universe and He knows where he came from and what his life is meant for.

In becoming a citizen of God's Kingdom, we are not only entitled to an

everlasting inheritance which God has reserved for us; we do not only have the hope of a brighter future; we also have discovered a direction for our lives. Jesus Christ has died to save us so that we shall not live for ourselves but for Him who loves us and gave His life for us. And now that we know we have eternal security and what our lives are for, we are in a better position to see what things are more important. We can channel our energies toward some meaningful tasks which are of eternal value.

All the requirements and privileges of becoming a landed immigrant are listed. One party has prepared everything and it is up to us, the other party, to make our decision. Thousands of people have rushed to apply for landed immigrant status. But unless we are sure of our destiny, we can in no way plan our lives. It is tragic to see that so many people who care so much about their future fail to go and apply for the ultimate security.

"At that time you were apart from Christ. You were foreigners, and did not belong to God's chosen people... You lived in this world without hope and without God. But now, in union with Christ Jesus, you who used to be far away have been brought near by the death of Christ.... So then, you Gentiles are not foreigners or strangers any longer; you are now fellow-citizens with God's people, and members of the family of God." (Ephesians 2:12-13, 19)

- Shiu -

PLEASE RENEW YOUR REQUEST!

Have you been receiving the Fountain for more than two years?

If so, please renew your request as soon as possible, or this may be the last copy of the Fountain sent to you.

Christianity
for practice?

M.M. YAU. —

"I hate my boss! He keeps on nagging me, giving me a thousand jobs to do at the same time. Even before I can finish the first one, he'll tell me to do the next. I haven't even got time to breathe!"

"I don't like my teacher! He doesn't even know what he's talking about. He knows nothing of the subject. I can even teach better than he. What a waste of time!"

But Christian: "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned." -Luke 6:37

"No human being can tame the tongue -- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brethren, this ought not to be so." -James 3:8-10

There is only one public telephone in the whole quarters. I was desperate to make a call, but somebody was using it. So I waited patiently. Twenty minutes, forty minutes, an hour, one and a half hours passed, I was fuming inside, really mad at this person's inconsideration.

The next day while I was using the phone, she appeared behind me, waiting. I was really glad. At last

I have found an opportunity to revenge.

But Christian: "It(Love) does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people." -1 Corinthians 13:5

"Alan, could you please try to come back by eleven and save me worrying? Also take the umbrella with you, for you never know these English weathers."

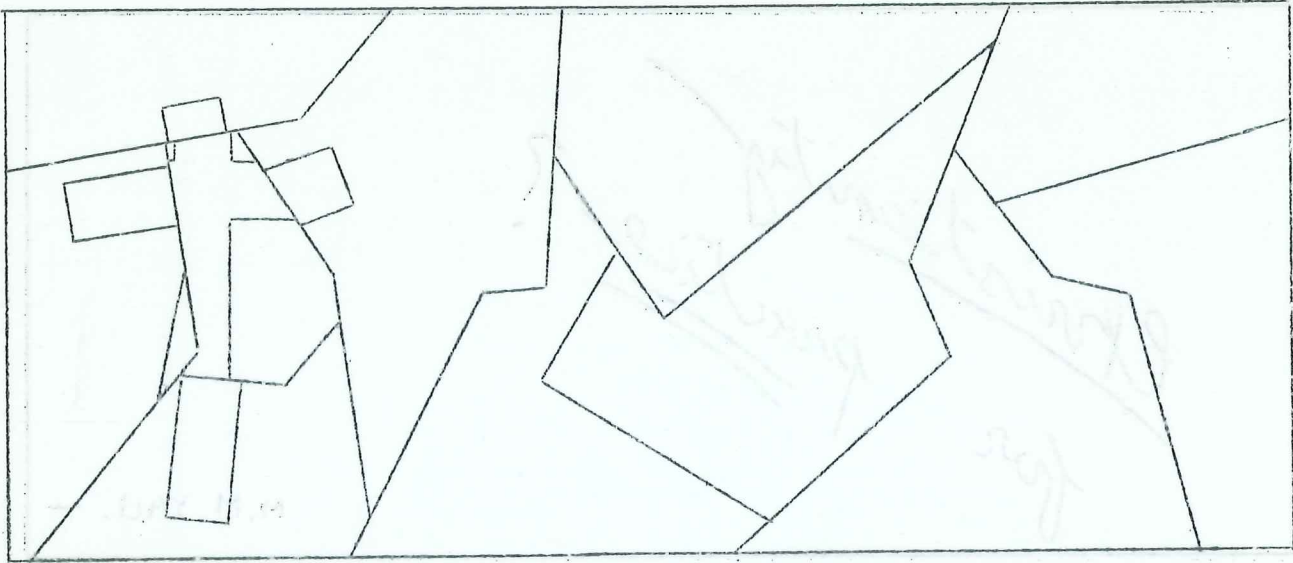
"Oh Mom, why can't you leave me alone! I'm not a kid anymore, you know. You don't have to wait for me to come back. Besides, the sun is shining right now in spite of the weather forecast. It's never worth trusting anyway, I don't think I need the umbrella and I really couldn't say what time I'll be in. Just stop worrying."

But Christian children: "Obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." -Ephesians 6:1

"Love does not insist on its own way." -1 Corinthians 13:5

Do you love your parents?

"Why should I work myself to death while the others are taking their time -- drinking coffee and chatting to each other? I might as well join them and relax."

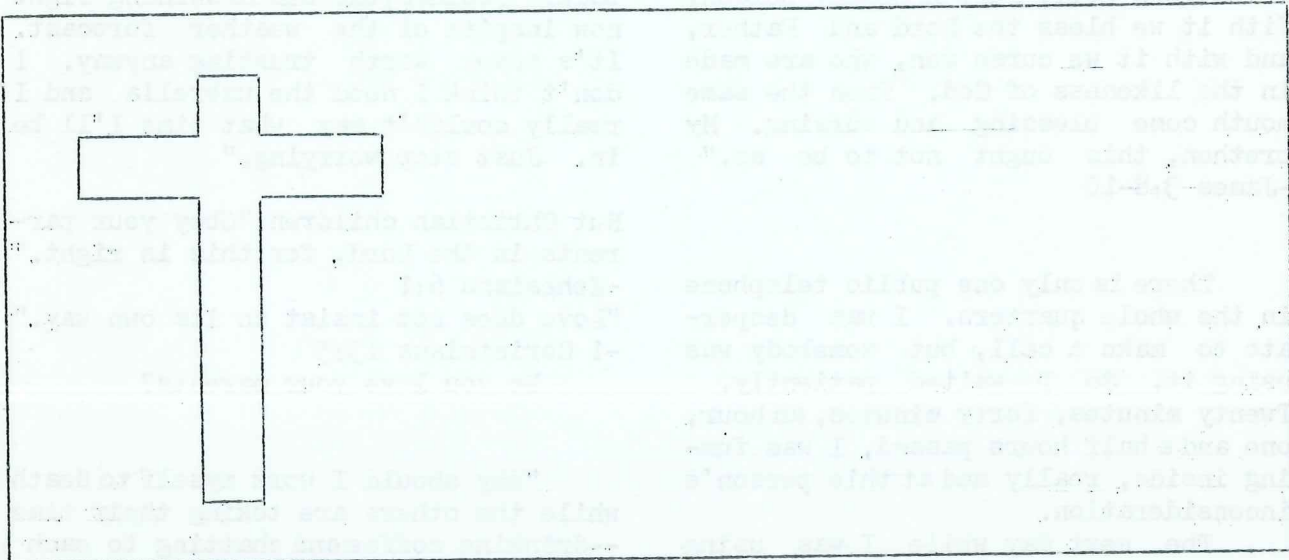


"Why should I study so hard? Since I'm not seeking after money, high position and applauses from society anymore, I might as well devote my time in the Church Fellowship and leave my study alone!"

But Christian: "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might."
-Ecclesiastes 9:10.

At this present age, people may educate you with their own different ideas about the right attitudes to

life. But remember Jesus says, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father but by me." (John 14:6) So, let us re-examine our lives fully. Let us see if we have followed the teaching of Christ in our words, in our deeds, in our attitudes to our parents and friends, and most important of all in our loyalty (in all aspects) to God. "Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak...but be doers of the word, and not hearers only." (James 1:19-22) Let us practise our faith and be living witnesses for Christ. ☐



Which is more probable ?

Chris

How did life begin?

"Science has found the answer!"

Scientists suggested that the atmosphere enveloping the earth when it was first formed was very different from the atmosphere we know today. It did not consist of nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide but was a mixture of methane, ammonia, hydrogen, water vapour and some traces of hydrogen sulphide. These gases, according to some scientists, interacted to form the complex materials of a living cell.

It is postulated that when the earth was first formed from a ball of hot gases, its surface was of a higher temperature than it is today. Solar radiation was much stronger because there was no ozone layer, formed from oxygen, to screen the earth from the sun. Furthermore, volcanic activities were much more violent and frequent. Upsurge of hot gases and liquids from the centre of the earth erupted from any weak point on the earth crust. As soon as water vapour condensed to liquid water, it was evaporated again by the hot ground. This produced a convection current in the atmosphere and an environment suitable for chemical interac-

tions. Lightnings flashed through the clouds of reactive gases, giving the required energy for reactions to take place. Look and behold, traces of organic compounds including organic acids, amino acids, monosaccharides (a type of sugar) and even nitrogenous bases, were formed.

Now the earth cooled down further. Water vapour condensed to liquid water and dwelled in the lower areas of the surface of the earth. More organic compounds were formed and dissolved in the water to give a large pool of organic soup. The earth was equipped with materials, simple as they were, to produce life.

Some pool of the organic soup was trapped by land. It became concentrated as it was being dried up by the sun and the wind. From the small molecules of amino acids, monosaccharides and nitrogenous bases, large polymers like proteins and nucleic acids were formed. After these two substances which are characteristic of cells came to exist, it was only a matter of time, some scientists believe, that the first living cell came to life.

viable cell to emerge was immensely long and the number of reactions involved in the process was innumerable. However, the "accepted" age of the earth, deduced by geologists and cosmologists, is taken to be in the region of five thousand million years. Given such a time which is almost infinitely long, the least possible event, they say, becomes probable and the least probable event becomes a certainty. The fact that all kinds of cell exist on earth, in the eyes of these scientists, is a proof that these events must have taken place.

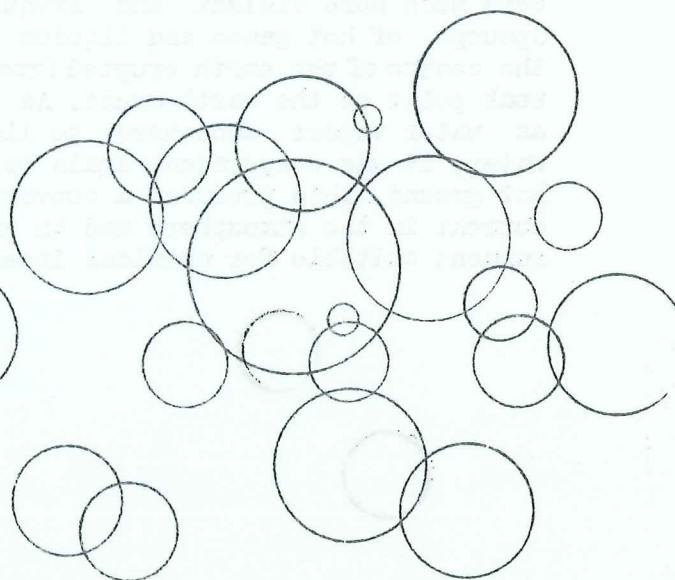
The first cell that is said to exist was very simple compared with the cells that are found today. But even then, it is hard to imagine how the first cell came to existence by the law of probability because the cell, though very much simplified by the lack of knowledge of man, is an extremely complex and orderly unit. To say that this orderly unit evolved from the random interactions of chemical substances by chance is to go directly against a universal law, the Second Law of Thermodynamics, which states, in simple terms, that entropy (randomness) in an isolated system tends to increase with time. Therefore random interactions of chemical substances could not lead to the organization of an orderly unit of which entropy is minimal.

Another weakness in the chemical evolution of life is the lack of appreciation of the actual complexity of the cell. The slightest resemblance of a long chain of molecules, which can be produced by relatively simple chemical processes, to proteins and nucleic acids is taken to mean that proteins and

nucleic acids could be produced by similar reactions, if these reactions occurred frequent enough. However, a somewhat detailed study reveals the complex structure and function of the proteins and nucleic acids. Both are heteropolymers. The proteins are made up of about twenty different amino acids. The two kinds of nucleic acid consist of five different nucleotide monomers. As we know them today these polymers consist of very long chains of monomers folded and arranged in a definite order characteristic of the organism producing them.

Many of the cellular proteins are enzymes. Their function is to promote (catalyze) the building up and breaking down of molecules. Some of these reactions might occur spontaneously in any case, but at too slow a rate to be compatible with life. The enzyme catalase speeds up the breakdown of hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen by 20,000 times, but cobalt, an inorganic element, only speeds it up by 10 times.

Enzymes are well known for their specificity in the reactions they catalyze. This can be explained by the fact that enzymes possess precise though extremely complicated structures. Each enzyme has a certain number of specific sites on which molecules are brought together and react. The chance that a functional enzyme would come to existence from random polymerization of amino acids is therefore



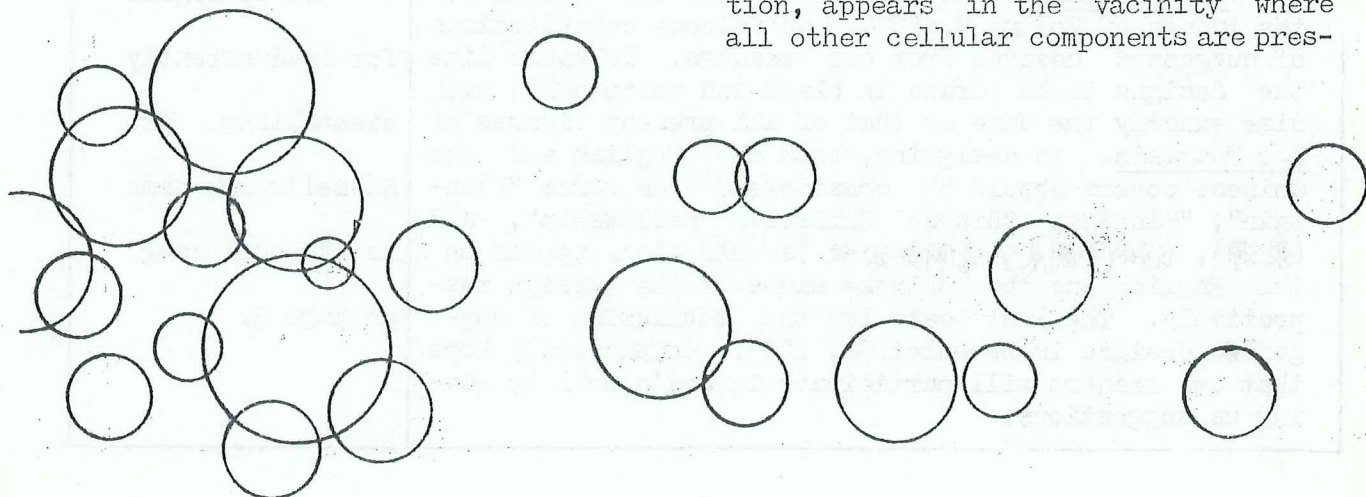
only a mathematical possibility. Moreover, enzymes are very delicate molecules and are very vulnerable to slight changes in the chemical environment. Even in living cells where the environment is optimal for their existence, they become worn out with time and have to be replaced by new molecules of enzyme. It is therefore highly questionable for them to exist for long, if they did come to being by chance, in the pool of organic soup that is said to exist.

Reactions in a living cell are well coordinated. Enzymes are working as a team in systems. For each of the major reactions of a cell, there is an enzyme involved. This then calls for the existence of several enzymes at the same time and in the right place. To further complicate the picture, enzymes are known to be oriented in bigger sub-cellular structures so that the reactions they catalyze would proceed in a smooth fashion. The probability of several independent events to occur at the same time is the product of the probability of each of the events. It is very unlikely for a single enzyme to evolve from random chemical reactions. It is almost an impossibility for several of them, all involved in a certain well coordinated chain of reactions to occur at the same time and being precisely arranged in the required positions. In a living cell, several such enzyme systems are known to exist, thus further diminishing the probability of their existence by chance.

The cellular components that are

even more complex than the proteins are the nucleic acids. In the cells we know today, the nucleic acid that is responsible for the storing of genetic information and its transfer to the next generation is DNA (Desoxyribose nucleic acid). It dictates the structure of all the proteins inside the cell, enzymes and no enzymes, thus directing all the events taking place in the cell. Since all proteins are very exact in structure, the information that codes them in the DNA must be very exact and this requires a very exact structure of the DNA molecule. Since the DNA must carry all the information for the construction of all the proteins in the cell, it must be a huge molecule.

Now for the first living cell to come to existence, all the required enzymes had to be present. As one enzyme wore out, replacement had to be accessible. This could not have come from random chemical reactions for it would take many years, even if it did eventually come about. The other enzymes would have worn out a long time before this could have happened. It may be postulated then that the replacement had been synthesized from DNA. This could only be possible if the DNA did have the right information and did exist at the same time and in the same place with these enzymes. It really takes a mathematician to calculate this probability. Some scientists claim that DNA came about by random polymerization of nucleotides. But the probability that a functional DNA, a DNA molecule with the right information, appears in the vicinity where all other cellular components are pres-



ent, is so small that it is almost impossible.

The living cell is far from being understood. However, enough is known for its complexity to be appreciated. Judging from this, one can easily arrive at the conclusion that the cell is a masterpiece created by an Intelligence which no human mind can emulate. It is well said in the Bible,

"Ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature, namely His eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

(Romans 1:20 RSV)

No one has ever suggested a television set could come about by numerous actions or interactions of a few kinds of metal, glass, plastic and other materials. When compared with the living cell, the television set is very simple and, in fact, their difference in structure and function is so great that they are incomparable. The probability for an event to happen by chance depends on the degree of complexity of the event. It is therefore much more probable for a television set than a living cell to exist by chance. It may be pointed out by some scientists that it took millions of years for the first

living cell to evolve from random chemical reactions. However, time is not a factor here because the same length of time, no matter how long, was also available for some random chemical reactions to produce a television set by chance. The basic elements that constitute a television set have also existed ever since the earth began. Conditions can very well be postulated to account for the gradual shaping of the machine. Evidences can also be cited to support the hypothesis that television set did come from chemical evolution. If it is absurd to believe or even postulate such a hypothesis, it is outrageously ridiculous to entertain the idea of chemical evolution of life.

When man chooses to use probability to account for the occurrence of life, he rejects the idea that he is created by an almighty God. He regards himself as the highest form of intelligence. He wants to be his own master. It is the pride of man that prevents him from seeking his own Creator, and from finding the meaning of life. □

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Fountain is in need of a new cover design for the issues of Volume 9, 1974. We welcome contributions of suggested designs from our readers. We would like the designs to be drawn in black and white only; with size exactly the same as that of all present issues of The Fountain. In designing, both the English and the Chinese covers should be considered. The words "Fountain", "Winnipeg Chinese Christian Fellowship", and (泉源), (溫城中國基督徒團契出版) should also appear on the English and the Chinese sides of the design respectively. The last date for the submission of suggested designs is December 31, 1973. We sincerely hope that our readers will participate in God's work by giving us suggestions.

CORRECTION

We apologize for inadvertently misspelling Mr. Hansel Wang's name as "Hanzel Wang" on page 2.

A Dialogue

- Uli -

I: Lord, I pray,
I'll humble myself,
I'll strive to know You.
But would You give me
Blessing, success and security,
Keep me unharmed amidst all turmoils,
Then I'll follow You.

The Lord: Stop paying me lip-service,
For vain is your worship,
And your heart is far from me.
Spare me the noise of your songs,
For I will not listen any.
You call me Lord, Lord,
Why don't you do what I say?
Seek ye first my Kingdom and my righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.

I: Lord, I do seek You.
Can't you remember what I've done for You,
And the time I've spent, O God,
For the work of Your Church?
Your Word I study everyday,
Thrice daily I kneel and pray,
Church meetings I never miss,
Evangelism I try hard to practise.
Lord, have You forgotten all these?

The Lord: Yes, you 'seek' me day by day,
And 'delight' to know my ways,
Yet I do not see.
For you are contaminating your sacrifices
By your selfish attitudes and your evil heart,
And not only your sacrifice,
But everything you do as a means to know me.
That's why you're ever learning,
But can never come to know my truth.

I: Lord, examine me,
Worldly entertainment I despise,
Movies I seldom see,
Television I do not watch,
Modern novels I never read,
Parties I dare not attend.
In doing so,
Even Christians say I'm too "narrow"!
No, I am not evil!

The Lord: Stop boasting, you Pharisee!
Your 'righteousness' is worse than a filthy rag,
For your 'good deeds' are but hypocrisy.
They make me worry, rather than add to my glory.
Tell me,
What do you do when no other can see?
If your friends know your heart,
How shameful you will be.
You may cheat others,
But certainly not me.
Clean first the inside of your cup,
So that the outside may become clean also.(1)

I: Lord, but still, how can you say I am selfish?
Tithe I give, the needy I help,
Benevolence is my watchword,
Love my neighbour is my proverb.
Certainly, I don't think just about myself,
Though inevitably, I do sometimes put myself first.

The Lord: Your love is not genuine.
When you tell me, "I love my neighbour,"
That's just a lie.
In your heart,
Enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dis-
sension, party spirit and envy coincide.
I need only to mention your jealousy,
When you know someone is better than you,
You feel hurt;
When someone is in trouble,
You smile to yourself, "Too bad, poor boy, but luckily,
it isn't me."

(1) Matthew 23:26 (New American Standard Version)

I: Yes, I may fail to love others,
But I do love You as my only God and Lord.
I worship no idols.
Whenever people are talking astrology,
I cover my ears;
When my friends discuss palmistry,
I close my eyes and flee.
My heart feels indignant,
When I read in the Bible
How the Israelites bowed to idols and turned against You.
Am I not standing firm,
As I guard myself from such abomination?

The Lord: Your idols are even worse than the Israelites'.
They are invisible,
And you submit yourself willingly to their control.
Materialism is your idol,
For materialistic wealth you covet,
And pierce yourself through with many sorrows.
You've fallen into a snare,
Into many senseless and hurtful desires
That plunge men into ruin and destruction.(1)
Look, look also at your pride!
Personal glory you seek,
Fame and praises you gratify
You do not seek my glory,
But turn your eyes on yourself.
And worse still, your own sins you try hard to excuse.
Anger you feel,
But indignation you call it.
You are quick to sense and brood over what from others
you have to bear,
But you do not notice how much others have to bear from
you.(2)
You, yourself, are your own idol,
Yet still you make sound plea
And maintain that you are right before me.
Or are you like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
Which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
Else it will not keep with me?(3)

(1) 1 Timothy 6:9 (Revised Standard Version)

(2) Thomas a Kempis, The Imitation of Christ, Book II.V.,
"On turning our eyes on ourselves."

(3) Psalm 32:9 (RSV)

I: Lord, I am vile,
 I cannot open my mouth to answer any further.
 I dare not speak any more.
 Your hand is so heavy,
 That the sap in me dries up as in summer drought. (1)
 I cannot but admit, I always grieve Your Spirit and
 sin against You.
 I am trembling,
 Lord, what should I do?

The Lord: The man I look to is a man down-trodden and distressed,
 One who reveres my words. (2)
 Return to me your God,
 For you have stumbled in your evil courses.
 Come with your words ready,
 Come back to your Lord. (3)
 Should I mark iniquities,
 No one could stand.
 But there is forgiveness with me;
 And I will redeem you
 From all your iniquities.

I: With sorrow I confess my disobedience.
 Forgive me my hidden faults, my presumptuous sins,
 Despise not my broken and contrite heart.
 Cleanse me, and wash me thoroughly,
 That I shall be able to sing:
 "Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
 Whose sin is covered.
 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,
 And in whose spirit there is no deceit." (4)
 Teach me your ways,
 Make your paths known to me.
 Give me strength and wisdom,
 To know You more clearly,
 To love You more dearly,
 And to follow You more nearly, (5)
 That I may present my body a living sacrifice,
 Holy, acceptable to You,
 And to take up my cross and follow You.

- Amen -

(1) Psalm 32:4 (New English Bible)

(2) Isaiah 66:2 (NEB)

(3) Hosea 14:1-2 (NEB)

(4) Psalm 32:1-2. (RSV)

(5) Richard of Chichester's prayer.

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I am not a Christian but I want to know more about Jesus Christ. Please correspond with me.

☐ 讀此刊後,心受感動。我願意信耶穌,接受祂為我的救主。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,求主帶領我一生。請為我禱告。
I am a Christian. I would like to dedicate my life to Christ and 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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