

## Michael Kwong

### My testimony on becoming a Christian

My second eldest sister was our family's first Christian. After emigrating from Hong Kong to United States, we settled in the city of Oakland. My sister began attending a church in Berkeley, Berkeley Gospel Center, under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Moses Yu.

I remember my sister invited me to a Bible study one day. Not being very good with religious terms at the time; I mistook her trying to invite me to a "tea party." I remember thinking to myself; a tea party must have food, so I gladly accepted the invitation. To my dismay, I found neither tea nor food in the "party." But something happened that night. The older folks that gathered there gave me a different impression of people. I have never come into contact with so many strangers at one time, and never have I felt such a warm environment as well. I couldn't understand anything that was said that night, but I remember having a good feeling toward this group of people and the "tea party."

With God's grace, I continued to attend the Bible study and started to go to the Sunday worship. The church started a youth group for a bunch of junior high schoolers such as me, and we had a lot of fun together. Then, the church started a youth group Bible study for us. I continued to learn more and more about the Bible and gospel message. Our youth group often went to the church office and prayed after the Sunday worship.

One Sunday afternoon in April 1993, I remember we were praying after the Sunday worship like we always did. The Holy Spirit came upon me and convicted me of my sins. I remember I was feeling ashamed of my past sins, crying and praying to Jesus to forgive me and save me. It seemed like my mind was going through a visual rewind of my life; things that I thought was okay at the time, things that were hidden from people, they all came back so vividly and forcefully, the sense of guilt was overwhelming. I knew I needed the blood of Jesus to wash me clean. At that moment, with God's grace, I committed myself to Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. And I was baptized on July 8, 1973 by Rev. Moses Yu.

Jesus Christ and His gospel saved me. I was transformed. I began a new life in Jesus Christ. Although, I must say life hasn't been easy since that day of commitment. But like the Bible says: "your strength will equal your days." (Duet. 33:25). There is never a shortage of grace and mercy. His divine providence is demonstrated on a daily basis. The real and actual life transformation takes place over time, but there is new mercy every morning! All glory be to God!