



# God's faithfulness is EVERLASTING

Sis Marie Chin

*"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." (Ps 126:3)*  
*God holds us responsible for our lives and what we do with them. The joyful reward is this: One day we will stand before our great God and hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." (Mt 5:21)*

It has been one year since I moved to Melbourne, Australia and one which I had been seeking God's purpose. 2008 has been memorable, full of joy, peace, challenges, frustrations and sadness, and one year that I would not have given up for anything.



You are probably wondering what the big deal is. I wouldn't be here if not for God making possible the impossible (Lk1:37), His promises in my life coming to pass and for my steadfast belief, faith and trust in Jesus, my King and Saviour.

## Prompting to move to Australia

2003 was the turning point in my life. Although I had been living in Singapore for many years, I have never felt at home here. I felt the need to the prompting to start anew in Australia. My first attempt in applying for permanent residency to Australia in 2004 was rejected as I did

not have sufficient points to meet the PR requirements.

I started seeking God more seriously and part of my commitment included weekly counselling/mentoring sessions with Pastor Alicia. Pastor Alicia and I committed to pray for my PR application. We did not believe that the rejection was final.

At every counselling/mentoring session, the Lord continued encouraging me to exercise faith that the PR application would be successful. My lawyer suggested I invest A\$100K in an Australian financial institution as one way to meet the required minimum points. However, I did not have A\$100K or know of anyone who has A\$100K to spare. We continued to pray trusting that God will provide. Claiming on God's Promises that He is El Shaddai, the Lord of Abundance, we persevered in praying. A few months later, an old friend whom I had not seen nor heard from for more than five years, emailed and offered to help me with the \$100K (in USD).



This miracle was beyond my comprehension. The Lord is the same miracle-performing God today. He is the

same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:8). I rejoiced with Pastor Alicia and the church for this answered prayer.

## The impossible becoming possible (Luke 1:37)

In 2006, God finally made a way where there seemed to be no way. Having spent a few years of petitioning God to change the circumstances surrounding my PR application, in every conceivable way - from influencing and changing immigration policies to a company sponsoring me for a job, God finally



made a way open for me! When Pastor Alicia prayed that God would make the way by changing the rules of the Australian Government policies, it seemed implausible! But God answered our prayer. The Australian government changed the employment status for Electrical/Mechanical Engineers from "not required" to "urgently required" in mid 2006, making me eligible for PR as I was applying under the same category! I re-lodged my application and within five months, I was informed that I was successful in my application. Hallelujah!



**From uncertainty to permanency**

There were practical matters to decide on, which city in Australia would I start my second life? Australia is such a huge country, and apart from business trips to Perth, I was unfamiliar with other parts of the country. I had started to make a five-year plan to move to my adopted country by 2012 but I discovered that God's ways are higher than my ways (Isa 55:8). Within two months of obtaining my PR, I met a manager from a global IT multi-national company, who was on transit in Singapore to Japan. The meeting was meant to be a discussion on working practices in Australia but at the end of the session, he offered me a job in his company. It totally caught me by surprise as I was unaware that he was discreetly interviewing me for a job.

Within three weeks, I was offered a permanent position in Melbourne in June 2007, just nine months after my second attempt in my permanent residency application. When Pastor Alicia prayed to double my existing salary I was doubtful that God would answer but praise God. He did so, within two weeks! Is it possible that all the events of those nine months were coincidental or simply luck? If you are a believer in Christ, you will recognise God's hand had been in every circumstance.

**Standing at the Cross Roads**

God works in mysterious ways. Faced with a challenge, I had to make the right decision. When I was offered a job in Melbourne, I was also recommended for a promotion in my company in Singapore. I found myself at a cross road in my life - do I start fresh in a new country or stay in my comfort zone? Faced with a big decision, I sought the Lord for a confirmation. Within a few days, God answered my prayers affirmatively in three ways.

**Confirmation No. 1:** One night, while I was in a taxi in Serangoon Gardens, I noticed a big orange truck in front of my taxi, with the words "United Relocations, International Movers" with a contact number, painted on its back.

**Confirmation No. 2:** When I tendered my resignation, my supervisor's reaction surprised me. She said "Actually, I don't know what you are hanging around here for. There is nothing here for you". I believe she meant that I will not be

promoted.

**Confirmation No. 3:** My company director's reaction, whom I had worked for a decade was similar to my supervisor's! It was clear that God had spoken about my emigrating to Australia.

**My second life in Australia**

My new life in Melbourne began end of August 2007. Apart from two friends, I didn't know anyone in Melbourne at all. For the first six months, I stayed in a service apartment at affordable rental rates whilst I sought Pastor Alicia to pray alongside me for an ideal apartment. Praise God! I was blessed with a beautiful spacious apartment in the city, a fully furnished one-bedroom haven with a balcony. The bonus is that the apartment is in close proximity to my office, my church, shopping amenities and public transport.

God has also shown glimpses about my ministry in Australia - to come alongside those who have lost their sense of direction. He has been sending me a few "sheep" to remind them of God's faithfulness and promises in their lives.

The Lord also arranged for me to invite my 'sheep' to an Alpha course and as a result, all of my "sheep" have changed for the better. One of them is a Muslim lady from a Middle East country who was introduced to Jesus in a street evangelism

event. At the end of the Alpha course, she testified in church how God changed her life, giving her hope, and has since started attending church. Had I not obeyed God to care for His "sheep", many would still be lost today! It dawned upon me that I am fulfilling the Great Commission in Australia (Mark 16:15-18). It confirmed the prophecy that Pastor Alicia had given to me years ago that God would send me to Australia for ministry as well as work.

Before God assigns us a task in His Kingdom, He has already put in place everything required to ensure we succeed. He would not entrust us with a responsibility without first equipping us nor give us something we have no desire for or are incapable of.

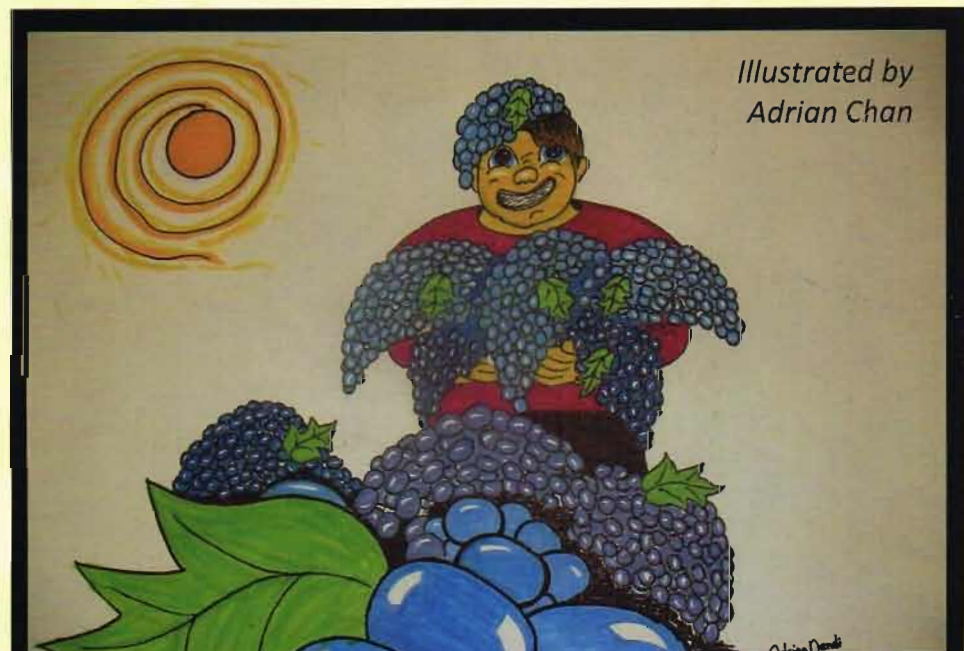
I pray that my testimony will encourage those of you facing struggles now, wondering where God is and where He fits in. Each of you will have a different experience from mine. Whatever it is, when you are obedient to His Will (*without condition*), you will succeed and bring glory to His Kingdom.

I am still undergoing weekly counselling/mentoring sessions with Pastor Alicia Teo online via skype to continuously take stock of my spiritual walk with God and to progressively mature in Christ. †

God bless

*Marie*

*Illustrated by  
Adrian Chan*



*And the LORD thy God will make thee plenteous in every work of thine hand, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land, for good: for the LORD will again rejoice over thee for good, as he rejoiced over thy fathers:*  
Deuteronomy 30:9