

Quan, Eddie Fong 關焯芳



Salvation Testimony

Eddie Quan

I was born again on August 10, 1978, during a Vacation Bible School that was hosted by First Chinese Baptist Mission in Westminster, California. I vividly recall Auntie Emily Lam taking me aside during 2nd grade class time and leading me into the sanctuary of the church. We sat down in one of the pews near the front, where she then gave me a green-colored booklet with a cartoon of a boy in a baseball cap on the cover. We went through the booklet together, and in simple terms I learned of God's deep and timeless love, the broken relationship between Him and I that my sins had caused, and the restoration of that relationship through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I needed only to confess my sins to Him and accept Christ into my heart as my Lord and Savior, and I would receive the gift of eternal life—heaven forever.

I prayed that sinner's prayer 45 years ago, but admittedly in my early Christian years I would end up praying that prayer over and over, unsure if God had heard me and if somehow I would lose my "ticket to heaven." It wasn't until the summer of 1983 at Junior High camp when Dr. Greg Owyang gave us a challenge to set the path of our lives resolutely towards God and God alone, with no turning back. In tears and with heart pounding I stood up and accepted that call there on the steps of Cedar Chapel, and from then on the doubts about my salvation were no more. Three years later, in obedience to Christ's command and in front of my church family and my non-believing parents, I was baptized at the "mother church," First Chinese Baptist Church in Chinatown.

I would later come to attend the mother church full-time when I started college, serving in various capacities even throughout my graduate and post-graduate training years. But it was also near the end of that time in 1999 that I entered into a period of spiritual disillusionment and soul-searching, and God in His all-knowing, all-loving way led me to visit another church at the invitation of a friend. It was at that church, Mosaic, that I found renewed strength and purpose, and God soon made it clear that Mosaic was exactly where He wanted me to be. I requested a transfer of membership from

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FCBC, and for the next several years God would teach me the hard but important lesson of releasing my own dreams in favor of discovering and pursuing the dreams that He has for me. Mosaic's mission statement is "to live by faith, to be known by love, and to be a voice of hope," a purpose that I have since co-opted for my own life and still strive to accomplish today. I was taught that "mission is why the church exists," and that "love is the context for all mission." It was an exciting time of seeing new perspectives and serving together in community, but God still had something more in store.

After 16 years at Mosaic, disillusionment slowly began to creep in again. It's a life lesson that the Scriptures teach us—"We put no confidence in human effort" (Phil 3:3 NLT). I had been serving sequentially at two of Mosaic's branch churches which would eventually shut down, and in my discouragement I began to wander around amongst various other churches, never really feeling at home at any of them. I spent some time attending a church that a friend of mine was pastoring, but even there I was soon disappointed to learn that his worldview and his views on Scripture clashed with my own. It was in the midst of this wandering that God in His faithfulness led me back to FCBC in September 2018. "'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope'" (Jere 29:11 NLT). It was a surreal homecoming, seeing how different things had become and yet feeling as if I had never left. In coming full-circle, I became more convicted than ever about the brief and fleeting speck of time we have on earth when compared to the weight of eternity, and because of this the passions that I choose to invest in now need to have lasting meaning and value in line with Christ's heart.

Since coming back, the changes haven't stopped. I have seen five pastoral staff members retire or move on to other callings. We have had a world-altering pandemic. We are a smaller church than what we used to be, with many of my peers no longer attending. But it is in this midst of change that God has given me a sense of optimism and excitement about where He is about to take us. Rejoining FCBC by statement is in keeping with my renewed investment and commitment to this local body. Moving together in prayer and faith with my church family, we can stand courageously as we enter into the certain future that God has already dreamed for us.