



為何祂對我寶貴

紀念CCIC-CUPERTINO成立二十週年

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你好！我叫露西亚，目前是Homestead High School的高年级学生。我已经在CCIC Cupertino待了13年了。（天哪，我现在感觉自己老了！）

第一章：AWANA 探險

我在CCIC的早期记忆，充满了在参加Awana期间的跑来跑去、在游戏时间骑迷你小车、玩拔河，以及吃零食。当我们背诵了一节经文或赢得了游戏时，我们会获得一些称为shares的模拟钱币，用来从Awana商店购买玩具。如果我们在学年结束前背完了书中的所有经文，我们还会得到一枚徽章。作为一个充满竞争心的孩子，我下决心要背诵比我朋友们更多的经文，以赢得那枚徽章！

有一天，我们的老师问我们：“我们可以在哪里向上帝祈祷？”许多手招扬起来，“教堂！我们的家！南极洲！埃及！”但老师只是微笑着，然后告诉我们：“无论在哪里，上帝到处都在！”所以，在我童年的大部分时间里，我把上帝想像成我最好的朋友。是我在学校孤独时的同伴，是我夜晚无法入睡时的陪伴。

第二章：我的选择

在六年级时，我第一次走进教会的青少年室。那是一个舒适而充满活力的空间，里面有沙发、棋盘游戏、壁画和敬拜音乐。从小灯饰到装嵌着学生照片的树形壁画，房间的每个角落都让人感受着被爱和切合我意。当大家一起唱着“唯一的道路！耶稣！你是唯一我可以为之而活者！”时，气氛充满了活力。这里是一个充满爱的地方，在每个角落都体现了出来。

但与此同时，青少年组里没有shares (代币) 或徽章，也没有需要背诵的经文。没有这些物质奖励，我开始问自己，我为什么要来教堂？我看着身边年龄较长的孩子和青少年辅导们，心想，他们为什么要来教堂？

在一次青少年的海滩之旅，我目睹了第一次洗礼。听到其他人的见证，使我意识到他们对上帝的热爱，这让我开始想知道，上帝将如何在我的生活中工作。这段时间开始在我心中更多产生共鸣，因为我在学校面临着压力和焦虑。小组时间成为了我感到能被理解的安全空间，我们的青少年辅导很有同情心，让我能够开放地谈论我的挣扎，并容我与信仰搏斗…“为什么上帝似乎不回应我们的祈祷？”，“如果上帝能做任何事，为什么不让更多人类重新变得完美？”

在我与这些问题搏斗时，我与上帝变得更加亲近了！上帝在困难的情况下向我显现，向我展示了我为什么需要他。

第三章：家庭

2020年，疫情爆发了，人们不再来教堂。在我们终于恢复实体聚会时，我们的数量减少到了一半左右，但这让我们变得更加团结。我们不再只和自己年级的同学在一起，而是开始了跨年龄的混合，成为一个大家庭，不再是分开的小组。

成为这个充满爱神之人的社区中的一员真是太棒了！我们分享了许多经历，从在墨西哥短宣旅行中一起通过TSA安检，到走出舒适区为陌生人祈祷，到在退修会的赞美之夜里放声欢呼，到在小木屋里的夜半深谈。曾经我是一个仰望高年级学长的六年级学生，我很快意识到，现在这些年轻的学生也仰视著我，期待我引导小组讨论，邀请新成员加入，和扶植一个像曾经使我爱上这个社区时，那样的充满温暖与关爱的环境。

在这一章中，教堂不再只是关于上帝，而是成为基督身体的一部分。这个教会是我的家人，我非常爱他们。

结论

虽然我从小就去教会，但我家里的所有人并不都是基督徒。我的妈妈不上教堂，我的姐姐在高中时宣布自己是无神论者。虽然是我的爸爸最初带我去教堂，但他从未强迫我去。

所以，对我来说，成为一个基督徒的旅程，全在于发现上帝在我生活中为何是重要的。如果没有人强迫我去教堂，那我为什么要去？通过CCIC Cupertino这个社区，我能够看到上帝如何运作，并看到他带给我们所有人的喜悦和盼望。



WHY HE IS PRECIOUS TO ME

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF CCIC-CUPERTINO

by Lucia Liu

Hey there! My name is Lucia, and I'm currently a senior at Homestead High School. I've been attending CCIC Cupertino for 13 years already (Oh gosh I feel old now!).

Chapter 1: AWANA Adventures

My early memories of CCIC were filled with running around during Awana, riding on the mini carts and playing tug-of-war during game time, and eating snacks. When we memorized a verse or won a game, we were awarded with shares (fake money) to purchase toys from Awana store. And if we memorized all the verses in our book by the end of the year, we received a pin. As the competitive child I was, I was determined to memorize more verses than my friends to earn the pin!

One day, our teacher asked us: "Where can we pray to God?" Hands flew up. "Church! Our home! Antarctica! Egypt!" But the teacher only smiled, and told us, "Everywhere, God is everywhere." And so, for most of my childhood, I imagined God to be my best friend. A companion when I was lonely at school, a companion laying next to me when I couldn't sleep at night.

Chapter 2: My Choice

In 6th grade, I stepped into the Youth Room for the first time. It was a cozy, vibrant space filled with sofas, board games, murals, and worship music. Every corner of the room felt loved and personal, from the fairy lights to the tree mural decorated with polaroids of students. The atmosphere buzzed with energy as everyone sang out, "One way! Jesus! You're the only one that I can live for!" This was a place built with lots of love, and it showed in every corner.

But at the same time, there were no shares or pins in youth group, no verses to memorize. Without these monetary incentives though, I began to ask myself, Why do I come to church? I looked at the older kids and youth counselors around me, and I thought, Why do they come to church?

During a youth beach trip, I witnessed my first baptism. Hearing others' testimonies made me realize how much they loved God, and it made me wonder how God would work in my own life. Around this time, the sermons started to resonate with me more as I faced stress and anxiety from school. Small group time became a safe space where I felt understood. Our youth counselors were empathetic, allowing me to be open about my struggles and wrestle with my faith. Why doesn't God seem to answer our prayers? If God can do anything, why not make all humans perfect again?

As I wrestled with these questions, I became closer to God. God revealed Himself in difficult situations, and showed me why I needed Him.

Chapter 3: Family

In 2020, the pandemic hit. People stopped coming to church, and when we finally returned to in-person gatherings, our numbers had dwindled to about half. But this brought us closer together. Instead of sticking to people in our own grades, we began to mix across all ages, becoming one big family rather than separate small groups.

Being part of a community where people loved God was incredible. We shared many experiences, from going through TSA security together on our Mexico mission trip, to stepping out of our comfort zones to pray for strangers, to screaming our hearts out during praise nights at retreats, to having deep late-night conversations in our cabins. And while I was once a 6th grader who looked up to the older students, I soon realized that these younger students look up to me as a leader now to guide small group discussions, invite newcomers to join, and foster that same warm and loving environment that first made me fall in love with our community.

During this chapter, church was no longer just about God, but being part of the Body of Christ. This church is my family, and I love them so much.

Conclusion

While I grew up going to church, not everyone in my family is Christian. My mom doesn't attend church, and my sister declared herself an atheist in high school. While my dad was the one who first took me to church, he never forced me to come.

So for me, the journey of becoming a Christian was all about discovering why God was relevant in my own life. If no one is forcing me to go to church, then why do I come? Through this community at CCIC Cupertino, I've been able to see how God moves and to see the joy and hope that he gives us all.