

Mourning into Dancing

Every one of us goes through turmoil in our lives, but where is God during these times? Sandy Lim shares with our writer, **Lye Huixian**, about how God showed up for her and turned her life around.

I'm a mother of three lovely children. Some time back, I lived the life of a contented housewife. My husband provided for the family and cared for us.

One day, I discovered that he had been having an affair for a few years. I was devastated. My heart shattered. Many thoughts ran through my mind. Why did he have an affair? What did I do wrong? What was I going to do? Should I divorce him? And if I did, how would I support my three daughters? Would I lose custody of them?

I was at a loss when crisis hit my marriage. My in-laws told me to bear with it because my children were still young. After all, he still took care of this family and bore the financial burden for the family, such as the housing wages, food for the family and salary of our domestic helper.

However, though I tried to overlook the betrayal, things could not remain the same. My husband and I quarreled frequently and our arguments got louder and louder, disturbing our neighbors with the constant noise.



My three daughters were then between the ages of two to eight and they were traumatized by our quarrels. My eldest daughter Crystal, who was old enough to know what was going on, hid in our wardrobe every time we quarreled and would not come out. I was pained by the trauma that she had to go through and this added to my frustration and helplessness. I wished I could take away the entire trauma that my daughters had to go through.

Day after day, the frustration built up, and my husband and I lived like enemies under the same roof. The turning point came when my daughters asked if I had ever considered leaving him.

Then, it struck me. This kind of living had to stop. By this time, he had kept his affair for almost 8 years. So, at the end of 2012, I filed for a divorce and by 2013, I officially severed ties with my husband.

I assumed life would be better after the divorce. But it wasn't.

I felt really down constantly and worried about the smallest matters. My relationship with my three

daughters suffered greatly. Crystal became more rebellious, frequently locking herself in her room and ignoring my phone calls. And every time she spoke to me, we would only end up quarreling.

I was at a loss of what to do.

During this time, my youngest daughter Amethyst's classmate's mother, Sue called to ask me whether Amethyst could join her daughter for Trinity's Sunday service. I allowed Amethyst to join them several times, but I did not join them as I came from a family of another religion.

I did not know much about Christianity and did not like the idea of going to church.

But Sue persevered in inviting me to church. Not long after that, she asked me and my daughters to go for Trinity's Easter presentation, The Tabernacle. I agreed as I had nothing else to do that day.

When I went for the presentation with my daughters, I came to know Jesus' sacrificial love for us. I was overwhelmed and touched. In my heart, I desired such love, so I



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Sandy with her three daughters. From left: Sapphire, Amethyst and Crystal.

responded by going to the front for prayer. But I hadn't made the decision for Christ yet.

The following week, Sue brought us to church again. My older daughters, Crystal and Sapphire attended the IGNUYE service, while Amethyst attended the Pre-teens program.

During the service, I got to know more about Jesus. I was immensely touched by God's love for me and decided to invite Jesus into my life.

Upon returning home, I wanted to tell my daughters about my decision, while they too were excited to share something with me.

We then realized that all four of us had accepted Christ on that very same day!

They shared with me that they had been attending Sunday school with their friends, but always did not dare to accept Christ for fear of my objections. But now that I had agreed to go to church with them, they finally mustered the courage to make the decision. It was amazing how God had arranged for us to make the decision on the same day!

God's blessings and care for my family did not end there. He blessed me with a supportive carecell and the love of its members greatly inspired me. Through seeing how they helped others in

difficulties, my perspectives started to change. I learnt not to worry so much and to see things in a positive light. Whenever I had problems, they would listen to me. They also would give me advice on how to get along with my daughters, which I also learnt from observing their own relationships with their children.

Furthermore, I attended a parenting course in Trinity that taught me how to better parent my children. My attitude toward my daughters started to change; I became less short-tempered with them and started nagging less at them.

Over the last year, my relationship with Crystal

improved tremendously. She, too, became less short-tempered and started sharing her life with me. We grew closer and would even go out and spend time together during the weekends. And when I felt there were things she could not share with me, I would encourage her to pray and trust God. After Crystal started attending IGNYTE, I have seen her grow to become more mature, responsible and disciplined. She also became more serious with her school work.

As for myself, God's love for me helped me see myself in a different light. When I live in His love, I no longer live in insecurities or am haunted by feelings of inadequacies, for He has surrounded me with people who support me and is the provider of all my needs. Because of His love, I am able to release forgiveness toward my ex-husband and no longer harbor any grudges against him.

Being in a community of Christian believers gave me the opportunity to receive

love from them and share this love with others who are in need. Their life of giving and sharing impacted me and changed my life.

I once lived a sheltered life and was totally defenseless when crisis struck. Now, God has transformed me and given me a new life – a life full of zest and joy. But most of all, He has given me the capacity to live life the way it should be.

With joy, hope and love.
Thank you Jesus!



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