

# SPOTLIGHT

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## Finding Hope Again

By Anonymous

Bad things were never supposed to happen to me because I was supposed to have a perfect life. I was in college about to graduate soon, find a job that paid me at least 60K coming out of school, find a husband, have kids, and live a happy, perfect life. In college, I had a part time job that paid me decently, I was getting good grades, and I met the guy of my dreams and was dating him. Life was good until one day reality hit me. I found out my boyfriend has been cheating on me, which led him to break up with me for the other girl, my brother's lungs collapsed and he was going through surgery, where he almost died, and I found out that my dad had lung cancer. To top it off, I got into an accident and then my wallet, car keys, books, cell phone, and brand new lap top got stolen. When all this happened, I thought it was all a bad dream. I didn't know how to deal with what was going on so I didn't go outside of my house because the world became a scary place to me. I would ask God why He would do this to me and what I did so wrong that my life had to be ruined. I started hating and doubting God. I felt so hopeless and empty. A year later, my dad died and this caused my faith to be shattered. After this, I stopped praying because I didn't believe that it worked since none of my prayers got answered. I started to ask myself why I even went to church and decided to stop going. I was so confused about faith and God's love. I became scared for myself because I never thought that I would find faith in God again, but I was so hurt that I thought it was better to just get away from Him than to be near Him. This fear made me become a very

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## Are We a Welcoming Church?

By Ronnie Park

Something that I think about when I enter (and exit) our sanctuary every Sunday is: are we a welcoming church? The reason I think this is because often times, I look around and see people I don't really know. Some are people I have seen many times, and some seem brand new. I've always thought of myself as a friendly person and saying "hi" and "bye" is one of my favorite activities. You might say this is my spiritual gift or perhaps a result of my personality. Maybe it's a bit of both. But I am always surprised to meet someone new at church and learn that they have been coming out for several months, when I thought it was their first day. And it makes me wonder...am I a welcoming person?

But don't we have people to be welcoming for us? Aren't people on the welcoming committee for that very reason...because they are welcoming? We see kind faces and nice smiles on people like John Pyun, Kevin Seo, etc...they're nice right? But can only certain people be welcoming? And if you're not welcoming by nature, are you off the hook? We have "Starting Point" where new comers can meet the Pastors. Doesn't that make our church welcoming? Isn't it the job of the GNC pastors to be welcoming and make everyone new feel comfortable? Isn't it?

When new people, or even "old" people who have been coming out for months or even years come every week, whose job is it to welcome them? Whose job is it to show them that we are the family of God, one body with Christ as our head, a community of believers called out to be ambassadors to the world? Paul

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## Reblogged

By Somi Ko

My old xanga entry post when I came back from the Philippines:

"Thursday, August 07, 2003

my mom sent some good emails....this totally made me smile during the trip... =)

hi somi

how are you doing? why don't you call back?

we are waiting for your test result. please call or e-mail us.

I know OUR GOD guides us to good way,so I believe in GOD that you are OK.we all pray for you, your team and your mission. WE are leavig soon to Canada for 1 week with paster Anh'family. we will be back on 7/26

I will e-mail you when I'm back. somi, our MIGHTY GOD will guide us and provide what we need.

somi, open your hands, saying' dear GOD, I don't have anything. use me for your mission'.

halleluuuuya..... praise the LORD.

somi see you soon and take rest

hold your horse and smell roses.

my friend said baby coconut juice or fluids is goodfor urinary tract infection. GOD BLESS YOU , YOUR TEAM, AND YOUR MISSION."

My mom is awesome. She pooped in her pants and lied about it. She saran wrapped parts of the kitchen and bathroom to keep them "clean". She likes to wear her black and white step ups with matching purple

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*cont. of "Finding Hope Again" by Anonymous*  
tense, bitter, and angry person and I stopped liking who I've become. I needed to change, but I didn't know where to begin.

No certain event happened for me to find hope in God again, but I think time and the people I surrounded myself with helped me find hope in God again. My mom and my brother constantly prayed for me and always showed me God's love during my hardship. My friends were there for me to lean on and were constantly reminding me of God and the sacrifice that He made for us. I realized that I'm not a Christian for my life to be perfect. I believe in God because I know He is my Savior and because Jesus died on the cross for me. Things will not go perfectly in life, but that's fine because I trust that God knows what He is doing with my life. I still don't know why the things that happened in the past happened. Although this is totally cliché, I learned to just let things go and to just let God take control. I'm still hurt by the past and I still struggle with it, but I don't pity myself or hate God for it because I realize that life is not perfect and will never be. Why should I expect a perfect life when I am not perfect? Now, rather than being such an angry, bitter person, I try to see things in a positive light and use my experiences to help others. I am so happy with where I am now and so thankful that God placed such loving people in my life that helped me out so much when I felt so hopeless. †

*cont. of "Are We a Welcoming Church?" by Ronnie Park*

sends greetings in all his letters as do many of the others New Testament letter writers. But I think Christ said it best, "And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?" I'm not saying were the most unfriendly church around, or that we can't hang out with our own friends at church...I just pray and hope that we will always push forward to be the church that God wants us to be: the type of church that will greet all those who walk through the double doors with the love of Christ no matter who they may be. †

*cont. of "Reblogged" by Somi Ko*

outfit. Her email address used to be whatisnewmom@. My mom texted me on her birthday and wrote "happy birthday to me." When I sleep over, I can only sleep on my Dads side of the bed while my Dad sleeps on the ground. My mom loves Jesus. When she first became Christian she secretly went to church because her mom would have beaten her. She beats me in arm wrestling. She's just cool and she is always making sure I know that she loves me, cares for me and that God is in control.

I want to use this to think about how I am blessed to have a mother who cares. I know some of us have lost parents, and we will always have memories of them in how they showed us that we were loved. Ultimately, it is only a taste of the love God has for us. I know Jesus never pooped in his pants and lied about it. But I'm sure He farted once in a while and laughed. All that walking only stimulates the bowels. I think with the unique love that we have with our parents; we also have a unique love with Christ. Our experiences with Him are different from one another. Some need encouragement from Christ, or a good wake up call. Whatever way it may be, we all know that He didn't hold back when He paid for our sins on the cross. †

## Outreach Announcements

### Santa Ana Homeless Outreach

Meet at GSC on Wednesdays at 6:00am or at Santa Ana Civic Center by 7:00am. We partner up with GSC to bring hot soup, coffee, breakfast sandwiches and hand out Bible verses. GNC members are encouraged to meet people, develop relationships, and pray for the homeless. Once a month a GNC pastor gives a sermon and we have praise before breakfast. Please contact Angie Oh for more information (angie.oh@gmail.com).

### Maryvale Orphanage Outreach

Every second Saturday of the month, a group of GNC members serve at this orphanage by leading crafts, games, sports, and/or songs. On Christmas, we were able to share the gospel message with them. Please contact Janet Tsuie for more information (jaietsuei@yahoo.com).

### Midnight Missions:

On March 5th, GNC will be going out to Midnight Missions to serve dinner to the homeless on skid row in Los Angeles. We will be collecting clothing and blanket donations in our community groups and at church up till that day. There is a limit in how many volunteers can help out so please contact Tina Park for more information (tuna.park@gmail.com).