

## Pastor's Ministerial Calling

by Pastor Howard Chang  
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My faith journey began in high school as a young teenager. Before that time I had never stepped foot into a church, never heard or understood the Gospel, and never read, or even knew, about the Bible. But I believe God had been working in my life little by little until Easter Sunday 1986. On that Sunday I responded to an altar call by the pastor. I heard how the emptiness in my heart was replaced with hope in Christ. I learned how God accepted and loved me even though I had sinned against Him. That day I began my new relationship with my Heavenly Father and was baptized later that year. My passion to know God and His Word began those months after my conversion as I read the Gospels each night to learn more about Jesus and what He did.

After entering university I changed majors a couple of times, confused about what to pursue in the future. I gained clarity my sophomore year. That winter I attended Urbana '90 and the following summer I joined a Campus Crusade Summer Project in San Francisco. Those events, along with many discussions and prayers with mentors and pastors, led me to believe that God was calling me into full-time ministry.

However, many close to me suggested I first work before entering seminary. After graduating from college I spent two years at an environmental engineering firm doing both field and office work. I was quite thankful for the job and the experience, but did not feel fulfilled in secular employment. When the company laid me off during a slow stretch, I saw the opportunity to pursue a seminary degree. With a baby just arrived, and little savings, we moved in with Lori's parents in San Jose. I attended Western Seminary for the Master of Divinity program the next four years.

During that time I also started attending a Chinese church in San Jose where I became involved in every aspect of the English ministry as an intern. That internship experience, along with the blessing of church leadership, helped me confirm my calling to serve God among His people. As an American Born Chinese (ABC), I felt particularly burdened to shepherd those who primarily speak English in an Asian/Chinese ministry context. My experience since serving in five English congregations in Chinese churches over the past fourteen years has only strengthened my sense of calling from God to serve Him in this capacity.

God has called me first to salvation and into His family, and second to serve Him vocationally. I often draw strength from one of my favorite verses: *But he said to me [Paul], "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"* (2 Cor. 12:9). As I look back over the years, I see God's fingerprints all over the events of my life in working through my weaknesses and limitations. God willing, I will continue to serve Him with the strength, gifts, and energy He gives me to "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19-20).

## 蒙召見證 Pastor's Ministerial Calling

張浩傑傳道  
二零零九年四月五日

我的屬靈旅程始於高中青少年時期，在那以前，我從未曾踏足教會，既沒有聽過福音，也沒有看過聖經。但我相信神一直都在我身上工作，使我一步一步地認識祂，直到1986年的一個復活節主日，在牧師的呼召下，我終於決志信主。我感到主基督以盼望填補了我空虛的心靈，並體會到縱然我犯罪得罪神，神卻愛我和接納我。從那天起，我開始了與天父的新關係，並在同年受洗。在決志後的幾個月，我每晚都閱讀福音書去了解耶穌的生平和事跡，也因此激發了我對神的熱誠和對祂話語的渴慕。

進了大學，我因為對前途的猶豫轉了幾次主修科目，直到第二年，才有清晰的決定。在那年冬天，我參加了Urbana '90的宣教研討會，並在翌年夏天，參加了一個在三藩市舉行的Campus Crusade夏令營。透過這些聚會，加上與門訓師傅和牧者不斷的討論及祈禱，引導我相信是神呼召我成為一個全職傳道人。

可是，我身邊的人都勸導我在進入神學院之前，應先在社會做事。所以，在大學畢業後，我在一間環境工程公司工作了兩年。我對這份工作所給我的知識和經驗都很感恩，但世俗的職業卻不能滿足我所想所願。後來，在一次裁員中公司解僱了我，於是我藉著這次機會去攻讀神學。當時，我的第一個孩子剛剛出生，而我們的積蓄也不多，所以決定遷往聖荷西我岳父母的家中居住，並用了四年時間在Western Seminary取得道學碩士學位。

在修讀神學期間，我加入了一所華人的教會，並以實習神學生的身份參與當中的英語事工。這些經驗加上教會領袖的祝福，幫助我更深確信神對我的呼召。作為一個在美國土生土長的中國人("ABC")，我對牧養那些參加華人教會並以英語為母語的弟兄姊妹有一份特別強烈的使命感。就是這樣，我在不同的中國教會服侍了五個英語堂會達十四年之久，這些經歷讓我越加肯定神呼召我在這個範疇裡去事奉祂。

神首先把救恩賜給我並帶我進入祂的家裡，然後讓我全職事奉祂。我常常從這段經文得著力量：「祂對我說：『我的恩典夠你用，因為我的能力是在人的軟弱上顯得完全。』」（哥林多後書12:9）。每當我回望過去，我都見到神的手在我生命的每一件事情中，透過我的軟弱和限制來作工。若神願意，我會繼續事奉祂，並使用祂給我的能力、恩賜及幹勁去「使萬民作祂的門徒」（馬太福音28:19-20）。