

The Parchment

Volume 1, Issue 12
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December 13, 2009

My Peace I Give to You

I learned of Tiffany Yeung's story from her sharing during Agape fellowship meetings. When she did not start the school year with a job I thought she would be another casualty of the economic downturn. As her testimony shows, she is instead an example of God's provision in the hard times. I pray you are uplifted by her story as much as I am.

In the midst of economic storms, what gives us peace? Is it a stable job? Is it a career? Or is it a bank account?

In June 2008, after graduating from teaching credential program, all of my classmates and I had a very difficult time finding a teaching job. Because of the economy, districts cut classes, increased class sizes, and did not replace any retirees with new teachers. I went to many interviews but kept facing rejection. I prayed and brothers and sisters in Agape were very supportive, but as the school year started, I couldn't help but felt hopeless and discouraged, thinking it would be another year of being a substitute teacher for me.

This lasted for another two months. Then one day in November, I saw a middle school teaching position opening at a local school district. I remember thinking to myself, there's no way this district would even consider a newbie like me. So I was very surprised when I received a call for an interview from them. On the day of the interview, I saw at least twenty young men and women all dressed up like me,

walking in and out of the office, fighting for the same position. The next day, I received another call for a second interview, and of the remaining two candidates, they picked me!

Needless to say, I was overjoyed. It was the perfect job—excellent school district and so close to home. I knew it was a gift from God, and I reminded myself not to take it for granted. Yet my employment didn't last very long. After 7 months, in June 2009, my district sent me a pink-slip, stating that due to further budget cuts, they had to let me go. My district union bargained a salary cut deal that saved 40 teachers, but I was not one of them. So there I was, after merely 7 months of teaching, back to square one and was looking for a job again in summer 2009. This time was worse than last summer because I did not have one single interview, even with my experience. I was nervous and anxious, but I had to trust that this was part of God's plan for my life.

It was indeed God's plan. One month after the school year started, my principal called me and told me that my colleague, who taught exactly the same grade level and same subjects as me last year, decided to take another position at another middle school. I was beyond amazed, but I knew that it was God's timing and plan. God loves me so much that He gave me the perfect job not once, but twice. Every day when I step into the classroom, I am moved and touched by God's grace and blessing in these two years.

Jesus said "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14: 27). The peace from our Lord Jesus Christ does not come from a stable job, a career, or a bank account. Our Lord promised to be with us, and told us not to be troubled and afraid, for despite the storms, we can experience peace for He will go through them with us.