

A Family for God's Glory

Genesis 24:58, "So they called Rebekah and asked her, 'Will you go with this man?' 'I will go,' she said."

My name is Cheryl Kramarczyk. I was born May 9, 1982 to very loving parents. My dad worked hard to provide for our family as a service engineer and my mom stayed at home to take care of my younger sister and me. At the age of 12, my mom went back to work. A couple of years later she met a man at her work place and divorced my dad to marry him. My parents' divorce was devastating to me. I mostly felt betrayed by my mom, whom I had trusted and depended on. I was determined not to trust anyone else again. In the middle of high school, I was thirsty for love and recognition. I tried to satisfy my thirst with Victorian romance novels and chat rooms online. But this virtual reality only made me more lonely and desperate.

I attended William Rainey Harper Community College in the year 2000. The first semester, I met Msn. Grace Koh and began Bible study. The first lesson struck my heart. I learned that God created me and he loves me so much. I was so happy and came to Bible study every week and started attending worship service.

I then transferred to Western Illinois University and continued Bible study. After failing one final exam, I could come to Jesus as I was with my sins and failures and accept his love for me personally. God gave me Romans 8:37, "We are more than conquerors through him who loved us." I then went back to Chicago for a laboratory technologist internship and to teach the Bible at Harper. Through studying the Bible, writing testimonies and some practical training, I learned more about Jesus' saving grace.

While I was preparing Genesis Bible study notes with Msn. Grace Koh, I had to study Genesis 24 three consecutive times. I had a dreamy idea that marriage would fulfill all of my hopes and desires. But marriage in God is to glorify God and serve God together. Rebekah decided to marry Isaac to fulfill God's plan and carry God's covenant to the next generation. Rebekah lived for God's glory and mission. Later, I realized that I was powerless to live a life that glorifies God. But then I remembered Jesus speaking to the woman caught in the act of adultery. He said to her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin." I received Jesus' grace that doesn't condemn me, but forgives me and by his blood shed on the cross makes me righteous and even a godly wife, by his grace alone. I could then decide to marry for God's glory and God's purpose, like Rebekah marrying Isaac. Six months later, God blessed Sh. Adam and I to establish a Christ-centered house church in May of 2006.

So far, God has blessed us abundantly to grow to know God's love and grace more personally. Three months after marriage, Adam had the privilege to attend the first summer Bible conference in Turkey. While Adam was away, our car was stolen one afternoon while I was in Bible study. Through this trial, I could trust God's sovereignty and believed that even this was for God's glory. But growing in Jesus wasn't always that simple.

I loved Jesus and had great zeal to do God's work. But in the early part of our marriage, past wounds began to reopen. Although I wanted Adam to serve God, as soon as he closed the door while leaving to serve God, the sound reminded me of my mom slamming the door when she left my dad. I felt betrayed all over again. Through almost two years of praying together and trying to resolve this conflict, Adam patiently listened and counseled me and I realized how I didn't fully trust God's love for me. I once asked Adam, "How do I know you love me?" He

answered, "It is like God's love. It is unconditional." Slowly I learned through Adam's love and gentleness for me the great love of God. Currently, I am teaching the Bible to one young woman, Mary, who was raised by guardians and also has difficulty in trusting God's love. She decided to follow Jesus and is growing in faith. She is eager to participate in the 2010 summer Bible conference. I am using my what I learned through Jesus' forgiveness and love to encourage her, as well as other broken college students at UIC. Through my testimony, there is real hope for America to become a Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation because I was once very broken and sorrowful, but now am a useful servant for his glory and world salvation purpose.

Also, through marriage I could learn to use my gifts for the glory of God. One summer conference, Adam said I should volunteer to give a presentation. I didn't think I could do it, but was encouraged by Adam's confidence in me. However, afterward I was so happy that I could be a blessing to the conference. Since then, I have been encouraged to use my gifts of creativity and warm personality in outreach activities, in our fellowship, and to encourage young families at UIC. Next week, Adam and I are inviting several house churches to our home for godly fellowship and prayer in preparation for the upcoming conference.

In marriage, I could also strengthen and encourage Adam. Two years ago, his sister tragically miscarried in her sixth month of pregnancy. The power of death hit Adam hard. I could only pray and give him God's word that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He was thankful and we could serve his parents and sister's family in their time of grief. Another time, Adam decided by faith in God to quit his low-paying job to find a job in his field. Adam was discouraged when, month after month, he wasn't getting any interviews. At first, I was upset and exhausted, but I learned slowly to be quiet, listen and pray to God. Then, miraculously, Adam was hired after a brief time as a temporary worker. It was God's provision. In God's perfect right time, God will also bless us physically with children and with growing disciples under our care.

Adam is a spiritual leader at UIC, since he is an Abraham of faith there. In that way, he is influential and is co-working with fellowship leaders and Pastor Ron Ward. Also, God called Adam to be an International Bible Messenger starting now as a Daily Bread messenger every other week and a conference messenger. He is also teaching the book of Genesis to a young college student, Ray, who is also attending worship service faithfully and will attend the summer Bible conference. Currently, we are supporting God's work at UIC and are participating in the raising up of disciples of Jesus and 100,000 missionaries to all nations of the world. Together with God, our family could be a blessing to others, to your precious ministry at COD and to all of America.

One Word: In Jesus, Adam and I are a blessing