

# **JESUS IS THE LIGHT OF MY LIFE**

Key Verse John 8:12b

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

## **Part 1. Life of darkness**

My name is Tsukasa Grondin. I was born and raised as an only child in a small city called Oita in Japan. My father was very strict and short tempered. He often drank and rebuked me in various ways and sometimes, it changed to violence. I developed fear of him in early childhood and gradually, the fear turned into hatred and my heart was full of rebelliousness. I secretly started to smoke and make boyfriends when I was in middle school. Even though I could enter one of the best high schools in my home town, I was not interested in studying. I spent most of my time reading, listening to music, dressing up, and going out with friends. After high school graduation, I got a job in a construction company as a secretary. My work was going really well and I enjoyed my single life. I often went to expensive restaurants, movies, concerts, and loved to travel and to buy fancy clothes. I started to think that I shouldn't marry because I had to sacrifice many things for marriage. I thought I was free and happy. I should have repented my sins, but instead I became a slave of sin and lived in the darkness. Nine years ago, my mother died of cancer. Because my mother granted almost all of my wishes, I became selfish and treated her like a servant. I blamed myself for not being a good daughter. Also my hatred toward my father was torturing me. I wanted to love him, but I couldn't. To comfort my agony, I started to study Buddhism.

## **Part 2. Follow the light of life**

Even though I was studying Buddhism, God worked in me and guided me to him step by step. I gradually realized that I needed God and that I should spend the rest of my life learning about Him. When I had the decision, God led me to stop making boyfriends. God also helped me to quit my bad habit of smoking. However, Buddhism didn't solve my guilty sense for my mother but made it even worse. I was full of self condemnation and cried out, "God, help me!" Soon after, I met Ray and through his influence, I started to have an interest in learning about Jesus and reading the Bible.

In 2004, God guided me to come to London, Canada and started to study the Bible with M. Rebecca Sung in English, and with Ray in Japanese. I tried to be faithful for preparing Bible study and writing testimony. However, because of my Buddhist background, it was difficult to accept that Jesus is the only way to God. I prayed to God earnestly to see the truth and have absolute faith in Jesus. In the Easter retreat in 2005, God showed me clearly what Jesus had done for me. Through studying Isaiah 53:3-5, Jesus became my Saviour. After that, Jesus changed my hatred toward my father into compassion. I started to pray for him to meet Jesus and be saved. Also Jesus practically healed me by giving me Romans 8:1, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." I was full of happiness and peace deep in my heart. Jesus said to me, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) I decided to follow Jesus based on this word. Thank God for giving me the new life.

In May 2005, by his grace, God established a Christ centered house church between Ray and me. Also God blessed us with two beautiful sons, Hikaru and Nobuto. After marriage, God gave me an opportunity to study the Bible with Esther who is M. Caleb and M. Sarah Park's daughter. She has been growing in her faith as a precious second generation missionary. God also blessed me through serving one student, Eunika. Actually, she had more Bible knowledge than me. I struggled to prayerfully prepare Bible notes. Then God opened her heart and we could build a good relationship. Now Eunika is at teachers college to be a teacher in a Christian school. I thank God for using me to help her grow as a Bible teacher.

God's vision for my family was greater than I thought. He wanted us to be not only Bible teachers but also missionaries for saving Japanese souls. God planted a strong desire, love and conviction for Japan in Ray. I also received a desire to be his suitable helper for Japanese mission as a native Japanese person. God gave us Mark 5:19, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." I accepted this verse as God's calling for us to go back to Japan as a missionary family. Japan is filled with idol worshiping, materialism, sexual immorality and so on. I understand how Japanese people are suffering under the power of sin because I was one of them before. I am the living example of Jesus' power and healing. I want to testify what my Lord Jesus has done for me and how he has had mercy on me to Japanese students so that they may also be saved from their sins.

I thank God for his calling upon me and giving me mission to preach the good news of Jesus to Japanese students. Jesus is the light of my life, the light of Japan and light of the world. May God help me to testify Jesus who is the light of the world to wandering Japanese souls so that they may also meet Jesus and receive the light in their lives.

One word: Jesus is the light of the world and my life