

## **From Evasion to Obedience**

I remember before working in William Booth Corps in 2003, I completely lost hope for life. I did not see the road ahead. I had grudges with God. During this low tide in life, I simply resented God every day without relying on Him. I complained this and that. Everything was not smooth and I was unhappy every day. I lost hope for and faith in God. All I wanted to do was hiding from this world and from Him. Every day, I prayed that God would take away my life soon.

But God did not answer my prayers. Instead, He gave me a chance to work in William Booth Corps. I started realizing I could not go on like this, because such a life was completely meaningless. It was not God's will. It meant something when He wanted me to live. He did not desert me, and had always carried the burden for me. Only that I rejected Him and did not let Him walk with me. At this time, I began thinking about the Word of God in the Bible. I asked God to make a way for me, to take away the burdens on my shoulders, and to lead my way. I prayed, "Lord, I must learn to rely on You fully. Please help me accomplish everything. With such complete dependence, I will never be scared off by any hardship. I should be strong in God and have victory through God. I will not work just to win bread, but have the courage to stand up again and serve You."

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)  
As I found refuge in my faith, I also found peace of mind. God made me know Him better, so I let Him lead me through "the darkest valley". God is with me and grants me life and peace. Thanks be to God!

Through the study tour in Inner Mongolia in 2003, God made me see flames slowly coming out from a pile of half burnt charcoal. I saw God's guidance and the great mission and promise He gave me. At that moment, I really wanted to serve God, but due to the concerns of my lack of confidence, personality, ability and family, I kept asking God to give me clear instruction and faith, and let me learn to become obedient.

God always encourages me with His words, "Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. I said to the LORD, 'You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.'" (Psalm 16:1-2)

Later, I participated in “The Salvation Army is yours in future” day camp. I sought after God’s will once again. I prayed, “Father, please accept my prayers and sympathize my weaknesses. Please accept my shortcomings with Your great kindness. Your help is readily available whenever I’m in trouble. Make me a beloved daughter who understands Your will. Thanks be to God. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.”

On that day, God kept on encouraging and guiding me through His words. When I was struggling in my prayer, He gave me His promises and guidance.

“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.’” (Mark 10:27)

During the disciple-training “Experiencing God” in 2005, I knew God’s will better, which He had revealed to me step by step. As Philippians 2:13 says, “... for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.” So I knew I must respond to His calling and the Great Commission, and to serve Him in The Salvation Army. During the past four years, I equipped myself through different learning and service, so that God could use me to accomplish His work.

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.” (Isaiah 61:1)

Lieutenant Linda Fung  
(Commissioned in 2011)