

“I Want You to Go to China for Me!”

Marie’s Testimony - VOCA July 2013 Newsletter

It all started when I, as a small child, asked the Lord Jesus to come into my heart and forgive my sins. No one wrote down the date (except God), but I believe it to be in the early 1950’s, so I was around 9 or 10 years-old.

Then, I remember being outside at my grandfather’s farm, standing in the driveway. It was evening and I was surprised when I saw in the Spirit a vision of the earth above and in front of me. That was when I heard in my spirit the nine words I believe God spoke to my heart – ***“I want you to go to China for Me!”***

In simple childlike faith, I said, “okay.” It wasn’t until I grew older that I realized there really was a “China.”

For a while I thought this call meant to become a “missionary” so I started in that direction, planning to go to Bible School, but as I neared the last years of High school, I began to have doubts and what I thought was unanswered prayers. I let go of trying to go to Bible School, but God was not done with his call.

God in His wisdom guided me and brought a wonderful Christian man into my life. He was in the Navy, and we were married right after I graduated. He was stationed in California and we flew there a day after our wedding. Little did I know at the time that this was the next step toward, “the call.”

While in California, I found , on radio, a program called, “Voice of China and Asia.” My heart still held a special place for China. The couple who were in charge at the time were Bob & Helen Hammond. Lo and behold, they were coming to a church in our area! And, yes we went to hear them and VOCA became a part of our lives and heart and finances (when we could).

Many years have gone by with much “refiner’s fire,” applied to our lives, but God is faithful! On the journey of life many times Satan tried to destroy us, but God intervened and His Word kept our hearts toward Him. Praise the Lord.

On one occasion it occurred to me that God never used the word “missionary” when He asked me to go to China. Then on another occasion, I realized that VOCA had changed their logo to exactly what I had seen in “the call” years ago – the round earth above and in front of me. That was when in my heart I began to wonder, “Lord are you doing something? Is there still a call?” That was when I remembered Romans 11:29, “The gifts and calling of God are without repentance.”

The VOCA newsletters came monthly and for fifty-plus years we kept in contact. As time passed I read of them being able to buy Bibles printed in China, and then distributing them to rural areas

to precious believers who were praying to have a Bible of their own. I wondered, do they ever let anyone other than VOCA staff do this?

Before I could call to find out, the answer came with the next newsletter! It contained a pamphlet all about touching rural China. On the last page it said, “What about you?” Whether you pray, give, or GO with us you can touch rural China with God’s love. . .

I am now 71 years-old and wondered, “Is it too late?” But then I remembered Sarah and Abraham, how God fulfilled their purpose at 90-plus, “So why not me?”

Well, in May 2013, God provided a way, through friends and relatives and many prayers, for me to be honored to go with a VOCA team of 18 wonderful Christians to rural China. Fifty-plus years and God still had a call on this little girl’s heart. He has fulfilled that call, enabling beyond my imagination or hope. All Praise to our heavenly Father.

And what a blessed trip it was. Yes, we did touch China with the Word of God, but Oh, how China touched our hearts and lives also – the body of Christ seems so much larger and sweeter now – to God be the glory!

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