

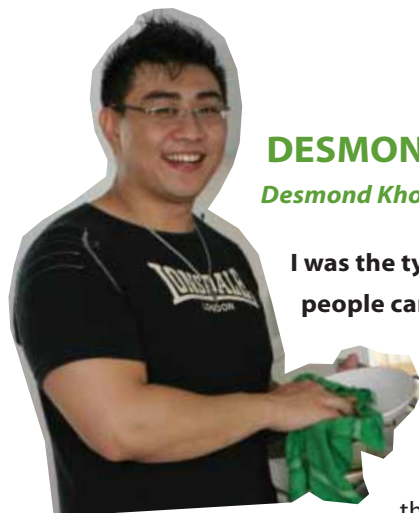


I knew God was real
when my son
started washing
the dishes!

When her elder son Desmond started washing the dishes, it simply confirmed a hunch Iris Lam had: There is a God, and His name is Jesus! Within six months, Iris and her younger son also gave their lives to Jesus, and together, they experienced a total turnaround in their family life.

It was a sight for co-ordinator Iris Lam to behold. Instead of simply dumping his plate at the kitchen sink, her 26-year-old son Desmond was washing it. She stared in amazement as he nonchalantly picked up the sponge and began washing the plate. She was tempted to pinch herself to see if it was a dream. He had never done this before. "I thought to myself, if my son can wash the dishes, then God must be real!"

It had been an eventful week; so much had happened in such a short time. Desmond had just received Jesus as Lord and Saviour at Trinity. He, a feisty objector to Christianity, had become a Christian. The turnaround was both dramatic and drastic. It was so real that Iris, her younger son Martin, and Martin's girlfriend Tammy all received Christ within six months.



DESMOND SPEAKS

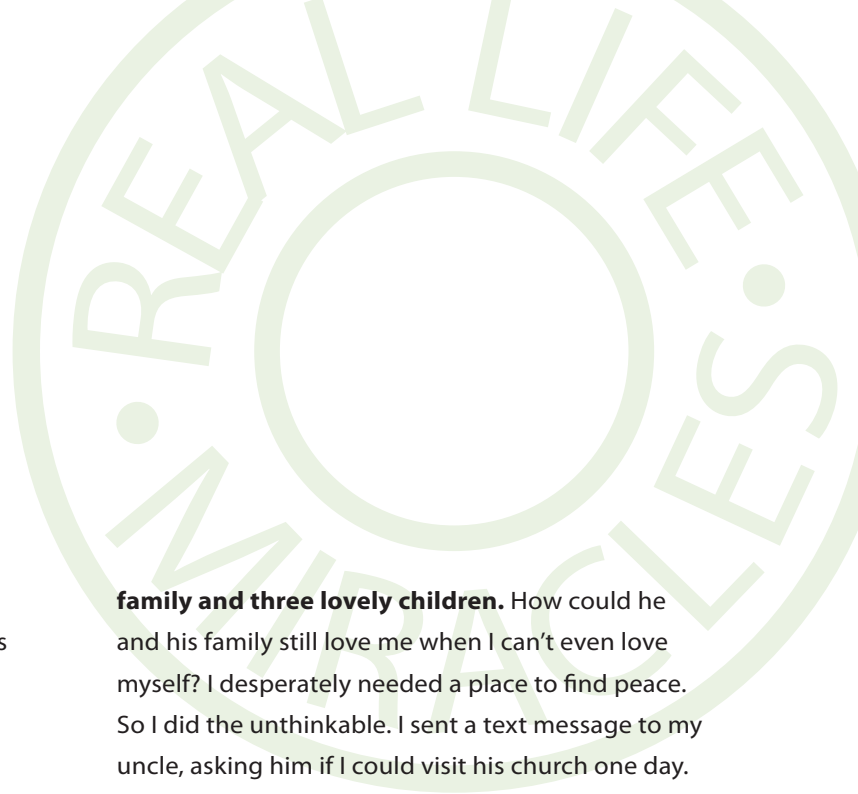
Desmond Kho, fitness trainer

I was the type of person whom people can't believe would

get saved. You know the kind; you probably know a couple of people like that. I was 'anti-Christ'. I didn't like Christians, and

I didn't hide my disdain of them. Maybe it's because of certain encounters I had with Christians. I felt that instead of being loved, I was judged by them and looked upon as someone "unclean".

There is a Navy advertisement that poses the question: "If your life were made into a movie, what would it be like?" I knew the answer. Mine would be a short film because too much would have to be censored out. That's the kind of life I led. I was very proud. I didn't think that I needed God. **Actually, I thought I was God; all things are possible for me, and nothing is too difficult for me!** Doesn't that sound like God? So for 26 years, I led a life that only God and I knew about. I was never a good son, never a good brother, never a good family member to my loved ones. All I cared about was I, me and myself. In order to achieve what I want, I would "stab" my way up the ladder of promotion. I worshipped money and power.



As a fitness trainer, I was proud that I could command an hourly rate higher than what my peers in other fields were earning. I had a real huge ego. I felt that my clients had to fit into my schedule; I wouldn't take any appointments before 10am and after 2pm. That's the kind of attitude I had. **I was earning far more than I expected, and was spending it faster than I earned it.** It was wild. My promotion was rapid. A client who trained under me won rugby competitions. **I was selected as one of the youth coaches for the national weight-lifting team.** I was featured in some newspapers and media articles. I felt successful.

Because of my self-centered behaviour, my girlfriend left me. It could not have happened at a worse time. I was in credit card debt. My career was going downhill because I couldn't push myself to strive like before. My relationship with my dad was very bad; in fact, we weren't even on talking terms. **That night when my girlfriend left me, I went home and walked to the window, but I didn't have the guts to jump.** I couldn't sleep and yet I couldn't cry.

The next morning, as I sat in front of my computer, **I thought of my uncle and wondered how he managed his life – he had a good career, a caring**

family and three lovely children. How could he and his family still love me when I can't even love myself? I desperately needed a place to find peace. So I did the unthinkable. I sent a text message to my uncle, asking him if I could visit his church one day. (My uncle had invited us to a few events before, but I was always reluctant to go.) His reply was quick. By God's plan, the pastor would be reading out a testimony about him that day. Afraid that my mum

would scold me for wanting to go to church, I lied to her that "Uncle Leslie asked me to go to his church".



We all went to church together – my mum and I, along with my uncle, his wife and his children. I didn't know the songs the people were singing, or what

the pastor was preaching. All I knew was, the moment I reached church, I felt like someone reached into my heart and just untied all those knots I had inside. Tears started to flow. I tried to stop crying because there were quite a lot of pretty ladies in Trinity, and I didn't want to look bad in front of them, but I simply couldn't!

The moment I reached church, I felt like someone reached into my heart and just untied all those knots I had inside.

There I heard
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"Leave it to Me."
I knew it was God.

your own hands and now your life is in a mess, raise your hands if you would like Jesus to help you." I did and I went to the altar. There I heard a voice that said, "Leave it to Me." I knew it was God. I had made a mess of my life, and had nothing to give Him but brokenness. My tears flowed continuously. Honestly, it felt good to cry. Crying made me feel human again. When Pastor Sabrina asked me "Where is Jesus now?" I pointed to my heart. That was the first time in my life I experienced such a true and tangible love; I knew it could only come from God.

Then I remember Pastor Sabrina, who was hosting the service, said, "For those who have been taking things into

receive Christ because I had a few altars at home and had to decide what to do with them. He respected my decision but made this one statement: **"You will be surprised by the power of God."**

One of these altars in my home was placed at the window of my HDB flat. Shortly after that visit to Trinity where Desmond received Christ, **I received a warning letter from HDB stating that I would be fined \$5000 if I did not remove the altar hanging at my window.** I took the opportunity to remove it, and saw it as a preparation for me to receive Christ.

After Desmond received Christ, I could see many changes in his actions and behaviour. He was washing dishes and picking up his own clothes! He also apologised to his father. The two of them were constantly at loggerheads, because they are both stubborn people. I knew my son had a huge ego and would never be the first to let go of his pride. **But he actually apologised to his dad for being rude to him.** I was amazed. About two months later, I myself received Christ.

I can see that Desmond has really found his direction and focus in life. I can really see the changes in his life. He is no longer a big spender. He is now careful with his money, and gives sacrificially for his faith promise. Yet, recently, he bought a watch for his brother. Despite being in a job transition, he spent his bonus on a watch for his

MUM SPEAKS

Iris Lam
senior service co-ordinator

When the altar call was given, I had a feeling that Desmond should go up. So I told him to. He was weeping all the time he was there.

At the Guest Reception, we met Pastor Edwin. He asked me, "Are you ready?" I told him that I needed to wait because my husband was not yet a Christian. Actually, I hesitated to



brother. It brought tears to my eyes because I know it cost him dearly. It gave me great joy to see him love his brother this way.



BROTHER SPEAKS

Martin Kho, payroll executive

I am thankful to my brother Desmond for sharing Christ with me. My brother played a big part in my salvation. If not for him, I would have missed out on this greatest blessing in life. He shared with me his experience with God, and wanted the same for me.

At that time, our grandmother was diagnosed with a tumour and needed to go through an operation. Undergoing surgery at her age was very risky. My uncle Leslie, my mum and Desmond were all believing for a miracle. **I told my mum, "If tomorrow the doctor says there is no need for an operation, I will give my life to Jesus!"**

The next day, just as I arrived at the hospital, the doctor walked out to where our family was, and said, **"There is no need for an operation because we cannot find the tumour anymore."** In other words, the miracle happened! I was dumbfounded and amazed at the power of God. I kept my word to my mum; that weekend, I accompanied her to



Desmond's take on...

Care & Connect

I received a lot of Care & Connect from my uncle Leslie, auntie Mary and their children, even though I did not realise it at that time. I threw a lot of rejection in my uncle's face when he tried to share Christ with me. (In fact, after I received Christ, I had to apologise to many people, especially Christian friends whom I had rejected very strongly.)

In order to Care & Connect, we must understand the true value of salvation in a person's life.

My salvation did not come easy; there was a lot of sacrifice by my loved ones – even my uncle's youngest son, who is my closest cousin. He was only 10 years old at that time, and already actively caring and connecting with me.

Each one in their family often took the chance to tell me, "We are praying for you, we are praying for your work". Now that I look back, I value all these small little efforts. **I realise that these are actually big efforts, because there are obstacles, and you have to overcome the obstacles in order to do these things.**

I believe Trinity's Care and Connect culture will go a long way in helping Christians understand the value of salvation. There was once I fasted and prayed for a friend, and at the last minute, he told me that he was not coming for the event simply because he "just didn't feel comfortable with the idea". I literally cried when I heard that, because I wanted so much for him to come. I realise that to be successful at Caring and Connecting, I have to put all the rejection I receive into a box, and place it at the foot of the cross.

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the Welcome to the Trinity Family course and **right there in the class, I got saved!**

There is a promise in the Bible that **when one is saved, the whole family will be saved. This has really happened in our family.** My mother's salvation was because of the love of my uncle Leslie and his family, and the transformation in my brother's life. It happened at Trinity's Christmas presentation, The Inn. My uncle's wife, Auntie Mary, 'popped the question' and my mum made her way down to the altar to receive Christ. My uncle was so happy to see my mother saved – after 10 years of prayer! After that, my girlfriend Tammy got saved as well. So that makes four of us!

My mum is a happier person now. We can see this inner glow in her. Others have also noticed a change in her. She really cares for people – family members, colleagues. She has a heart that just wants to help. In the past, people hesitated to come

to her for help because of her strong character. But now she has this glow, and people are just attracted to her, and come to her for advice and help.

I can see changes in Desmond too. In the past, whenever I approached him for advice, he would scold me first – and then he would advise me. But now, his attitude and approach is different. **He has become much more patient. He cares more about the family.** For example, he will remind us to visit Grandma despite our busy schedules.

But now, we love to sit around and fellowship. We talk about our walk with God, our experiences with God, our encounters with Him.

Our family life has also changed. In the past, we didn't really sit down and talk. Everybody goes to their own room, does their own thing. We didn't have much in common. But now, we love to sit around and fellowship. We talk about our walk with God, our experiences with God, our encounters with Him. There is so much to talk about, and we feel encouraged by each other's sharing!

As for myself, I have experienced God's blessings upon my life. **God has given me a lot of favour and increase in my career.** I am new in the workforce, but in just one and a half years, God has blessed

me with a few increments. Then there's my carecell. The support I have received from my carecell – especially my carecell leader Davis – is tremendous. I am now a spiritual parent in my carecell. **God has built me up, and now I want to nurture other people.** I am responsible for three spiritual babies and I want to help them grow.

MUM SPEAKS

My greatest joy is to see my sons growing in the Lord and living out their purpose in life. I pray for them, but I don't have to worry about them, because I know they are being taken care of. They are in God's hands!

I am not a vocal person, but **because I am so blessed by God, I just want to do more for Him.** Because of the relentless belief my carecell leader Pansy has in me, I am now an associate leader in the cell.

What God has done in my life and family is powerful. **Our family life is so very different now.** We used to come home and keep to ourselves. There wasn't much communication; there wasn't much to talk about. Now we can talk for hours! We love to talk and share about what God has done for us, what God is speaking to us, what is happening in church and in our carecells.



We are much closer now. We encourage each other. We share our thoughts and our feelings with each other. I guess you could say, **we are now truly a family!**

Desmond's take on...

Spiritual growth

I appreciate Trinity encouraging us to have **Time Alone with God**, a time where I can hear God for myself. I believe this is very important as we are in the last days. If and when persecution comes, we will not be able to survive spiritually unless we are able to feed on the Word of God ourselves.

I have received a lot from my **carecell**. I often call my leaders to ask them about issues I struggle with or do not understand. They always make time for me and believe in me. Being in carecell has taught me to be open, to be human. In the past, I thought I needed to put up a strong and positive image in front of others, but now, I know it takes more guts and courage to be vulnerable and to show that I am weak.

I am still learning to **serve**. Like everyone else, I struggle to serve in a joyful manner, especially on days when I am tired. But I think

to myself, if no one volunteers, there would be no church – then I would not be where I am today.

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His career in the fitness industry

I now view my career as a fitness trainer through new eyes. I see myself changing people's lives and helping them believe in themselves. I also want to help clients see that beauty is more than looking good on the outside. There are clients whose lives are turned around after they lose weight and gain a new figure.

I see myself changing people's lives and helping them believe in themselves.

Some do not know how to handle their new-found looks, and they literally go wild in their lifestyle. I try to prepare them and help them handle their new lease of life.