



PazNaz
May 2017

WELCOME



Welcome to *Transformed Under the Pepper Tree*. In this monthly magazine, you will read stories of how God is changing people's lives at PazNaz, transforming them into the image of Jesus Christ by the power of his Spirit!

Some information about specific events on campus is found within these pages, but each month *Transformed* is focused on relating stories about what PazNaz is really all about. Rather than programs or events, there are stories about changed lives, stories about people coming in contact with the Savior, and people exploring what it means to become a follower of him. It is exciting to hear what God is doing in the lives of people!

Years ago, Pastor Earl Lee and a group of staff members gathered around a pepper tree located on the northern-most point of what was to become the site for First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena. They dreamed and prayed that God would provide a place where more people could find power for living through Jesus. What began then has been going on for over thirty years as men and women, boys and girls have come into relationship with Christ in significant ways under the shade of that old pepper tree. The mission of the church hasn't changed. May it continue to flourish as people experience the transforming power of Christ.

Blessings,

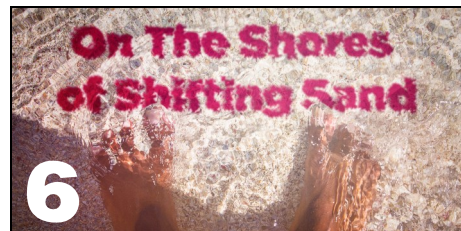
B. Scott Anderson
Executive Pastor

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Transformed is a magazine publication of First Church of the Nazarene of Pasadena (PazNaz). It is designed to highlight the Church's stories of personal transformation. For a complete overview of PazNaz, their beliefs, and ministries, please visit the website www.paznaz.org.

TRANSFORMED
Issue #72—May 2017
The Magazine of PazNaz
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We love stories. Whether it's books, movies, or Netflix binge watching; we love stories and stories move us. Stories make space for two things: our delight in the recognition of our similar experiences and the surprise in the introduction of a new reality that was not previously known. I love awkward and dorky television comedy because it normalizes my own story, and I love the surprise of deeply meaningful documentaries because they expand and challenge my perspective.

We love stories because we all have a Story; a collection of moments and experiences that shapes how we see the world, structures our viewpoint, and helps us derive meaning. Our Story is even a collection of stories; story after story strung together to make up the fabric of reality, as we know it. Story becomes the medium through which we express our reality, how we uniquely see the world; our points of transformation, the full spectrum of emotions, and what matters most to us.

Stories matter because they express what matters to us. When we share them, they give those listening a glimpse into what we have experienced, the roads we have traveled down, and the meaning that has been gleaned. Sharing stories breeds empathy between the one sharing and those listening. Empathy is the backbone of healthy, right relationships. Brene Brown says it best, "Empathy is feeling with people." Empathy is acknowledging the story of another and making space for experiences that are different from our own.

The Story of God's people is catalogued in scripture and it also points to what matters most. The story of the woman with the alabaster jar (Luke 7:36-50) illustrates empathy: Jesus is in the home of a Pharisee (the religious elite) dining, and in walks a woman whose Story could not have been more different from the experiences of the other guests. There were pieces of her Story that made her well known. The author of Luke names the Pharisees' perception of her and her Story, sinner and harlot, but Jesus shifts the narrative. She comes to Jesus in a heap of emotions, and much to the surprise of his host, Jesus meets the woman in her emotion, posturing himself in a way that honors her. Jesus sees her as more than the Story that's

been assigned to her. She gifts him with the fullest expression of her grief and joy, her commingled reality of gratitude and despair, and anoints his feet with a mixture of tears and expensive perfume, vulnerably using her hair to wash his feet.

The symbolism of the messiness of this moment is not lost. Her moment with Jesus and the experience of transformation does not wash away her Story, it reframes it; new life is breathed into it. Her painful, shameful Story now includes grace, forgiveness, freedom, and connection with Jesus. The sharing of her Story in vulnerability breeds connection and transformation, and in the reframing of it Jesus challenges the perspective of the Pharisees, pressing them to expand their capacity to value others. The intersection of her Story and Jesus' Story fuels right-relationship.

Empathy drives connection while shame drives disconnection (Brown). Jesus responds with empathy and not with shame. We are hardwired for connection, but we so often define ourselves by the stories of shame and disconnection rather than the stories of freedom and transformation. Jesus wants to connect with us and shift the narrative. The Gospel is full of Jesus connecting; it's full of Jesus seeing others as they are, all the joy and grief, and shifting the narrative, adding to their story, challenging perspectives, and embracing vulnerability.

We are called to do the same. Emboldened in Spirit, we are called to reach out in empathy and shift the narrative. We are called to connect and posture ourselves with empathy towards the most vulnerable, and to do so boldly as Jesus did. We are called to listen and share stories, to live a life of freedom in the Spirit that drives connections and right-relationship (holiness, with God, neighbor, and self) and freedom for others.

It is with this backdrop that we approach *Sunrise Book + Coffee*.

Sunrise Book + Coffee is a book and coffee shop on the PazNaz campus. Having a coffee shop is often the trendy thing to do; but it is important for us to pause for a moment and think strategically and biblically about what can happen

when space to connect is made available and when holiness and story combine with a commitment to posture ourselves towards the most vulnerable.

The story of Sunrise Bookstore started with the faithfulness of Ben and Bonnie Ramirez. They planted seeds and grew something lovely on the campus of PazNaz. It is because of their faithfulness and their Story that *Sunrise Book + Coffee* is embarking on this new chapter.

Sunrise Book + Coffee is a place to connect, to grab a cup of coffee and meet someone new, to listen to new stories and explore new perspectives. It is also a place to value others and posture yourself towards some of the most vulnerable in our world: those who are at risk of human trafficking and labor exploitation.

Did you know: *The majority of the items in the shop are fair trade or fair labor?*

Every item for sale in *Sunrise Book + Coffee* has a story. In some cases the name of the exact person who made the item can be shared.

This matters because our own personal stories and the stories of others intersect and directly impact one another. If we are all called to follow the modeling of Jesus, to posture ourselves with empathy, to live into a life that drives freedom and connection, right-relationship, and freedom for others, then everything we do and every person we interact with matters. Our story matters because it intersects with the stories of others and, with every action we take and every dollar we spend, we are telling a story about what we value.

Sunrise Book + Coffee carries a line of jewelry made by refugees, trying to write new pages of their Story in a new community, because we value restoration. *Sunrise Book + Coffee* carries a line of blocks that empowers local communities toward

sustainability, job creation, and education because we value human dignity. *Sunrise Book + Coffee* carries shirts that support local and global efforts to stop human trafficking because we value freedom from slavery. *Sunrise Book + Coffee* carries books because we value story, growth, and discipleship. It is furnished with tables and chairs so people can sit and engage with one another because we value vulnerability and connection. We have coffee beans that empower farmers globally, providing meaningful income and community development, because we value intentionality. *Sunrise Book + Coffee* exists because we value right relationship and the tangible expression of our holiness roots.

In all this, *Sunrise Book + Coffee* desires to press into the story of Jesus, embracing vulnerability and engaging with empathy, hoping to tell stories and make space for stories to be heard ...

And to make amazing coffee.

- Pastor Faith Romasco

Questions for Reflection:

- *What is your current binge-worthy book or show? What about it helps you connect to the story?*
- *What parts of your Story do you feel most vulnerable when telling?*
- *What are your favorite parts of your Story?*
- *Which parts of your Story do you feel like often get hidden away?*
- *How might God be pressing you to expand your capacity to value others?*
- *In your daily life, with whom might you more fully connect if you knew their Story?*

Her moment with Jesus and the experience of transformation does not wash away her Story, it reframes it; new life is breathed into it. Her painful, shameful Story now includes grace, forgiveness, freedom, and connection with Jesus.

simply prayer

Join the PazNaz family in a new weekly call to prayer. Find times and locations below that have been set aside for you to communally petition God for PazNaz and the community.

Sundays

7:40-7:55 am | Bride's Room, Lee Chapel

8:30-8:50 am | Valley Center Sanctuary

10:15-10:25 am | PazNaz Sanctuary

Wednesdays

Centurion Class Prayer | 12:30 pm | Room 246, Reed Hall

6:00-6:30 pm | Lee Chapel

ACOP Prayer Meeting | 6:30 pm | Room 148, Reed Hall

Thursdays

9:30-10:00 am | Lee Chapel

Fridays

Early Christians | 6:00 am | Room 247, Reed Hall

Korean Prayer Service | 6:00 am | Room 249, Reed Hall



On The Shores of Shifting Sand

An Article from Pastor Tara Beth Leach

It was one of those moments when I would have liked to be able to stop time. A 13-month-old Caleb was nestled tightly in the baby carrier on my husband Jeff's back as he and I stood hand in hand on a Hawaiian beach. The water rolled back and forth over our toes. The sun was about to fully burst across the horizon as I breathed in the fresh, salty air. I was noticeably present in that moment. Being present was rare for me in those days. I was a full-time seminary student, a brand new mother, and serving in full-time ministry. "Hurried" could have easily been my middle name. So as I stood on the Hawaiian shore, I took a deep breath, took in the greatness of the moment, and allowed it to permeate my being. I didn't want that moment to end.

There is a similar moment in John 21:1-25. The cross had come and gone, and the disciples had already encountered resurrection appearances from Jesus. The disciples were fishing when suddenly Jesus appeared to them. In a moment of passion, Peter jumped from the boat and swam to the shore where Jesus stood. And there we see moments of intimacy between Jesus and his disciples as they broke bread and ate together. After eating, Jesus and Peter took a walk along the shores.

"Peter, do you love me more than these?" asked Jesus.

"Yes, Lord, you know that I love you," replied Peter.

"Then feed my lambs," Jesus told him.

Jesus repeated this question two more times for a total of three times, to the point of causing Peter pain. Many scholars point to this incredible moment as the restoration or reinstatement of Peter. Peter is the one who denied Jesus three times – the ultimate betrayal. And so, just as we see the threefold denial in John's Gospel, we see Peter restored through his threefold announcement of love for Jesus.

In that moment, Jesus looked beyond his past choices and his present state, and reinstated Peter with a provocative and radical call to discipleship.

"Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go."

Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me."

After Peter was reinstated, Jesus gave Peter a radical call to discipleship.

"Peter, in loving me, you will follow me, and in following me, you will lay down your very life."

As they were walking the shores, it's almost a record scratch moment for Peter. This beautiful, intimate moment between Peter and Jesus just got scary. It just got real.

"Lay down my life?"

Peter's mind begins to race, and possibly even a feeling of panic set in. He looked around him to notice

another one of the disciples, John, close by.

“Well, what about him, Lord?”

In that moment, Jesus took Peter’s nervous and frantic eyes, and turned them back towards himself as if to say, “Peter, this matter is not your concern; it is mine. You have one duty: follow me.” As Jesus and Peter stood on the shores of Galilee, Peter’s mind raced to what I call the “what-abouts” and the “what-ifs.” I don’t know about you, but my mind races to the “what-abouts” and the “what-ifs” all the time. “What about this or that?”; “What if she gets all the praise when I did all of the work?”; “What if things don’t turn out OK?” We are bombarded by so many daily distractions and worries, that sometimes following Jesus is more like an afterthought.

As the world grabs for our eyes and our attention, Jesus summons our eyes back to himself.

“Follow Me.”

As Peter’s mind raced away from the present moment, Jesus turned Peter’s eyes back to himself.

What a great reminder for us in 2017. In a world that is grabbing for our attention, Jesus summons us to turn our eyes to him.

And for some of us, maybe following begins now. Maybe following Jesus has been a nice idea, but never a life for you. Following Jesus is never a stagnant call. It means we can’t stay here. It means movement, momentum, and forward motion. Following Jesus means leaving the shore and laying down our lives.

My fear is that for many of us, following Jesus is a once a week thing we do on Sunday mornings, but the radical call to discipleship placed on Peter’s life was more than that. Peter was called to lay down his very life.

Sometimes I wonder if we desire the shore moments only, and never want to leave the shores. When we return to the text, we see that the call on Peter’s life to follow Jesus is intimately connected to the future of the faith community. And when we move into the book of Acts, we see

exactly that. We see an incredibly exciting narrative filled with newness, freshness, power, and miracles. The Spirit had fallen fresh on the community and we notice an instant change.

Almost immediately after the Holy Spirit fell upon the community, Peter boldly stood up before the crowds and began to preach. I imagine that he preached in such a way that his close friends wondered, “What has happened to Peter?” Look at Acts 2:37, “When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’” And then again in verse 40-41, “With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

In Acts 3, we see Peter heal a crippled beggar and again in Acts 4 he continues boldly preaching. There was a clear change and transformation in Peter’s life. Later on in Peter’s life he was thrown into prison, but as he wrote from his cell he urged his readers to rejoice!

What Happened to Peter?

The transforming, empowering presence of the Spirit got a hold of Peter’s life and propelled him to be on mission. When Peter was infused with the Holy Spirit, there was a freshness, an empowering, and an incredible movement unrolling – the early church. It was Peter’s focus, his obsession, his passion, and his life purpose. That is what it looks like to follow Jesus. Peter didn’t forever stay on the shore that day.

Scholars have been writing prolifically on something called the post-Christian culture, or the collapse of Christian culture. There is a notable decline in church attendance, a radical drop

in vocational ministry, and a noticeable shift in values within culture. Even those who attend church embody a set of beliefs that are shaped more by the prevailing culture rather than the teachings of Jesus.

There was a time – that many call the “good ol’ days” – when the church enjoyed approval from culture, and when someone mentioned religion, most people assumed Christianity. Prayers were said in public schools and Christian ethics – to an extent – were in sync with the prevailing western culture. Most people identified with being Christian, and attending Sunday morning church was the respectable thing to do.

But the “good ol’ days” have come and gone. My heart is burdened that we, the church, want to stay on the shores of the “good ol’ days” as the sand shifts around us. That time has evaporated and is now only a mirage in a desert place.

America continues to remain the most Christian of any other country in the world; roughly seven in ten continue to identify with the Christian faith.¹ However, the percentage of adults who describe themselves as Christian has dropped eight percentage points in just seven years.² And those who consider themselves atheist or unaffiliated has risen six percent over the same period of time.³ While I don’t want to continue to bore you with statistics, I will say that most scholars agree that the church is in decline.

Some are lamenting. Some are throwing in the towel. “What’s the point,” they say? But I believe that just as Peter was reinstated and recommissioned, the church has an opportunity for renewal and revival. Lament? Fine, but we can’t stay here!

The call and the commission before us are not merely to relish

continued →

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the “good ol’ days,” but for ordinary Christians to enter into the world displaying the love of God by laying down their very lives.

Following Jesus means boldly and humbly entering into culture, displaying the love of God by serving our neighbor, loving our neighbor, listening to our neighbor, and engaging in reckless generosity and hospitality.

One Christian at a Time

Have we, the church, become too comfortable with the status quo? Are we OK with “doing church” the way we’ve always done it? Or are we ready to enter into the new normal? And that new normal is that our neighbors aren’t as receptive to Christianity as they used to be. People don’t just come to church for great programs and great music any more.

Knowing we can’t stay here, knowing the sand on the shores are shifting all around us, what does renewal look like for the church?

Ordinary Christians entering into the world displaying the love of God to their neighbors by:

1. **Linking into the creative imagination of the Triune God.** Rebirth and renewal starts with God’s imagination. Discovering God’s creative imagination takes time, prayer, discernment, and the entire community asking, “What next?”
2. **Being willing to reorient our lives for the sake of the mission.** Slow down so we can be in relationship with people around us. Being intentional with our schedules and being willing to respond to the Holy Spirit’s leading. Being discerning. Viewing our interactions with neighbors as opportunities to display the love of God. Reorienting our lives towards hospitality and generosity.
3. **Being willing to allow our neighbors to enter into our lives and entering into our neighbors’ lives.** One of the hardest things to do in our western culture is to let down our guard. We’re busy, we’re stressed, and we’re over-extended (I am the chief of sinners here). Sometimes letting down our guard seems like just another task to attend to, but it doesn’t have to be a “task.” Relational moments can be incorporated into our everyday activities: on the playground, at school pickup, at a basketball game, standing outside while our kids are playing, in the office break room, over dinner, in a meeting, in a coffee shop, and at football game. By doing this, we must let go of being exclusive and try to avoid insider language. We must be willing to open ourselves up to others and be real and authentic. When we are struggling, we need to be open about it and not afraid to talk about how we’re going to God in our struggles. And over time, as we are doing life with people, Jesus will eventually spill out of our lives.

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, the same Spirit that empowered Peter to preach and teach with boldness, is the same Spirit that will propel the church forward into the new normal.

4. **Praying for our neighbors.** I believe that we have forgotten how to pray for our neighbors, and we underestimate the power of prayer. In the New Testament, we get a glimpse of the early church as people who prayed before mission. Augustine said, “True whole prayer is nothing but love.” When we pray for our neighbors, we are loving them. We are praying that our neighbors will see, experience, and know the love of God. If we aren’t sure how to pray, we can pray the prayer that Paul prayed in Ephesians 3:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, the same Spirit that empowered Peter to preach and teach with boldness, is the same Spirit that will propel the church forward into the new normal.

So today as we stand on the shores of shifting sand, a question is before us: *Are we willing to follow Jesus and lay down our lives for his mission?*

- Pastor Tara Beth Leach

1 <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape>

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

New to PazNaz?




Sunday, May 14, at 9:30 am

Pastor Tara Beth Leach's Office, Administration Building

Are you new to PazNaz and want to find out more about this church community? Are you looking to connect and become involved in the life at PazNaz? Then *Coffee Talk with a Pastor* is for you! You are invited to come the second Sunday of the month to meet with one of the pastoral staff and have your questions answered in a small intimate setting.

Contact Pastor Julie Keith for more information at jkeith@paznaz.org or 626.351.2485.



Our Journey to Know Jesus Christ from Louie Wu and Sofia Cao Wu

As my wife and I are preparing for baptism on Easter Sunday, the fullness of our spiritual journey has come to mind. Today, some 50 years later, I can still clearly remember how my grandma shared with me the story of Jesus Christ when I was five, just before the Cultural Revolution. She shared with me how Jesus Christ was betrayed, suffered and died on the cross, and was raised from death. My grandma told me that Jesus Christ is our living Lord. In those days, we had our grandparents' Bible in our home. But when the Cultural Revolution came, the Bible became illegal and disappeared from our house. After that, no one in the family ever talked about Jesus Christ.

Many years later, I went to work in Australia. It was there that I had a chance to get to know more about Christianity from the Chinese Christians from Malaysia. The love of those Christians and their honest lifestyle impressed me deeply. When I returned to Shanghai I shared my experience with my wife and told her that my grandparents were Christians.

There was only one church in our area, and it stayed closed the whole year except for Christmas Eve and Christmas morning. Each year we attended the Christmas celebrations, but had no church to go to on Sundays. While we were in Shanghai, my wife met a Christian named Shengyun Hu, a colleague at work. Hu even gave my wife a Bible, but did not talk much about her faith. Hu impressed my wife with her patience, forgiveness, and the love she showed other people. Both of us

loved the Christians we met and the lifestyle they followed.

A couple of years ago we moved to LA and had more opportunities to go to church. We visited three churches before we were introduced to PazNaz by Brother Zhao Yong. My son, David, my wife, Sofia, and I loved PazNaz the moment we came here. David, 9, loves Sunday School at PazNaz and all the children's activities. Every Sunday morning, David is the first one to remind us to prepare for church. Initially David loved the toys and the playground at PazNaz, but now he is learning to pray to the Lord for help and encouragement in his life. One time David had an argument with me, and Sofia encouraged David to pray to the Lord asking for help. The next day I approached David and said I was sorry for what happened. David was encouraged and told his mum that his prayers were answered by the Lord. We are so happy to see that David is enjoying his life at PazNaz and is growing in Jesus Christ.

Since coming to PazNaz, we have learned much about the Bible and how to be a follower of Jesus Christ. We have committed our lives to Jesus Christ and pray that God will lead us in our lives. Now, no matter what the situation is, we seek first the Lord's will and try to discern what he is teaching us.

At PazNaz, we have the opportunity to hear the testimonies of brothers and sisters and have been encouraged by their stories. We feel that PazNaz is like a family where we have good friends and enjoy fellowship with each other. Although PazNaz is a bit far from our home, we like to come every Sunday to worship our Lord and enjoy the family life at PazNaz. We are excited to be baptized this Easter Sunday to declare to all that we are grateful for the salvation of Jesus Christ, and we are proud to be the children of our Lord.

We continue to learn about the significance of baptism from Pastor Min Xiao. Sofia said that she feels like what has happened in her life is just a dream. In the past, we always appreciated the Christians we met and the lifestyle they followed. Today we are the ones called Christians. We consider it an honor and blessing from the Lord and are grateful for

what the Lord has done in our lives. We would like to give thanks to Pastor Min for his help in Christ and Brother Zhao Yong for his introducing us to PazNaz. Last, but not least, we would like to follow the Lord all of our lives and grow in him. Praise his name!

- Louie Wu and Sofia Cao Wu


认识耶稣基督的历程

我和Sofia, 我的妻子现在在准备于今年的复活节的主日受洗。此时, 我们想起了我们认识主的经历。我现在还记得50年前我5岁的时候, 那是文化大革命前, 我的外婆给我讲耶稣的故事。外婆告诉我耶稣被人背叛、受苦、受难被钉死十字架上, 他复活了, 他是永活的主。那时我们家里还有外公和外婆的圣经, 但文化大革命来了以后, 圣经成了非法书籍, 圣经就从我们家里消失了。从那以后, 我们家里也没有人再谈论耶稣。许多年后, 我去澳大利亚工作, 在那里我有机会接触到从马来西亚来的华人基督徒并参加了他们教会的活动。他们对我们的帮助和爱, 以及他们诚实的生活方式给我留下深刻的印象。我从澳大利亚回到上海给我的妻子分享了我和基督徒交往的经历, 并告诉我妻子我的外公和外婆就是基督徒。我们的那个地区有一个100年历史的教堂, 但平时不开放, 只有在圣诞节举办圣诞节活动才对外开放。那几年, 我们每年都在圣诞节去教堂参加圣诞庆祝活动, 平时我们没有教堂可去。在上海的时候, 我妻子第一次在生活中遇到的一个基督徒, 是她工作中的同事, 她的名字叫胡声澐。胡声澐在生活和工作中表现出的忍耐、对他人的饶恕和爱给我妻子留下非常深的印象。那时我们非常欣赏我们所遇到的基督徒和他们诚实的生活方式。几年前我们来到洛杉矶, 有了更多的机会去教堂。我们到了不久, 遇到了摩门教的信徒,

他们一天打5个电话, 让我们没有平安。后来我们还去过3个教会, 有一次我们的好朋友赵勇介绍我们来第一宣圣会。来到第一宣圣会后, 我儿子、妻子和我就非常爱这里。我儿子David 9岁非常喜欢这里的儿童主日学。现在每个星期天的早上, 我的儿子就会提前提醒我们准备到教堂。刚开始的时候, David喜欢主日学的玩具和教会的活动场地, 现在David开始学会向神祷告。有一次, David和我发生争执后, 我妻子鼓励David来到主面前祷告寻求主的帮助。第二天我找到David, 就昨天发生的事向他表示道歉, David得到很大的鼓励, 他相信这是耶稣听了他的祷告。我们非常高兴地看到David非常享受教会的生活, 看到他在耶稣基督里的成长。来教会后, 我们知道了更多圣经的教导和如何成为一个主的门徒, 我们愿意并决志把自己的生命交给主耶稣并请耶稣基督来管理。现在不论做什么, 我们都愿意问主对我们的教导是什么, 我们愿意跟随主的旨意。在教会里, 我们也听到弟兄姐妹许多的见证, 并被他们的见证所感动和激励。教会离我们家比较远, 我们仍愿意来教会敬拜主并和大家一起享受在主里的团契。我们在准备在今年的复活节受洗, 肖敏牧师给我们讲解受洗的意义和信仰的基本道理。我们对将到来的受洗充满了激动, Sofia, 我的妻子甚至说她感觉好像还在梦里一样。过去我们常常谈论我们所认识所尊敬的基督徒, 现在我们自己成为了基督徒, 我们以此为荣, 并相信这是主给我们的恩典。我们要谢谢肖敏牧师在主里对我们的帮助, 谢谢赵勇弟兄把我们介绍到第一宣圣会。最后, 我们还想说, 我们愿意一辈子跟随耶稣基督并在他里面成长。赞美主在我们生命里的工作! 荣耀归给他!

吴利敏和曹征, 第一宣圣会国语团契

Since coming to PazNaz, we have learned so much about the Bible and how to be a follower of Jesus Christ. We have committed our lives to Jesus Christ and pray that God will lead us in our lives. Now, no matter what the situation is, we seek first the Lord's will and try to decipher what he is teaching us.



MEMBERSHIP — CLASS — *Breakfast*

Saturday, May 13 | 8:30 am | Room 249, Reed Hall

This free breakfast will be a great opportunity for you to learn about the history of the Church of the Nazarene and PazNaz. You are not required to join the church by taking the class.

Contact Melody Bundy to make a reservation at mbundy@paznaz.org or 626.351.2425. Childcare is also available with a reservation.