

**A Young Man's First Testimony of Gratitude as a Minister”
By Minister Brian Pan
November 29th, 2024
(5 minute read)**



I give my gratitude to God, with you dear reader, that I can serve our almighty God and His youth ministry at ACBC. Looking back, I believe that my parents, family, friends, and even myself, would never have imagined that I would be a minister today.

Growing up, my mother had aspired that I would be a lawyer (possibly still so today). In my teenage years, my mother and godmother shed their efforts to pave that path for me. I remember spending many summers interning at a law firm while my friends spent their summers abroad. In university, I recall a time I suddenly turned to my close friend to ask him a question out of the blue. For no apparent reason I said, "Can you see me as a pastor?" He turned to look me in the face, earnestly and without hesitation responded, "No." I still can't imagine what came over me to ask him. At the time, I had no pastoral intentions. It didn't occur to be a serious career choice. At most, it was to humor myself. After university, God blessed me with a job that matched my outgoing and energetic personality. I worked for a tech product company as their marketing manager and travelled across the states to meet all sorts of people and worldviews. A few years later, as I got older and possibly wiser, I began to yearn to do something more meaningful with my life. Something that could make an impact and help others. So I pursued the medical field, and by God's grace, I was accepted to medical school.

Though I was journeying down this path, I was not certain of what God wanted me to do. It was by a lot of prayer, a lot of doubt, a lot of sacrifice, and a lot of His grace, that God slowly made clear His calling for me. It was through the decision to defer medical school to enroll in seminary and the confirmation at ACBC to be their youth minister that God's wholesome plan was realized.

So you see mom (and dear reader), in some ways, I am still a lawyer today. The difference is that today I am teaching and guiding our next generation towards God's righteousness and law. God also showed me that His calling for us is contrived with the talents and personalities with which He gifted us. In some ways, I'm still a marketer today. The difference is the product I market today is the best product known to mankind. God's gospel message.

At last, though I'm not a physician today, I can still help others in a very meaningful way. As Christians, what we heal is man's spiritual life. And what we save is man's eternal life through the salvation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Arcadia Chinese Baptist Church

Our God truly has a sense of humor.

As it turns out, the road I was on was the one God had destined for me all along. The speed bumps, the detours, the signs, and even the potholes were all guiding me towards the stop that I'm at today. The journey has been full of both surprises and blessings and it stands as a testimony that when we walk with God, even if we may not expect it, His plan for us is good (Jer. 29:11).

God is great. God is almighty. God is perfect, loving, and gracious. We believe that tomorrow will be better because what we have is an eternal perspective and an eternal hope. Our path is righteous because what we have is God's way.

We love God, we serve God, and we worship God. The truth is, there is not much difference between the things of ministers and the things that Christians dedicate to God everyday. We can all testify to the glory of God, because each of us has witnessed God's grace and blessings in our lives.

I thank God. I thank God that we, together, can serve Him and His people. To serve one another. In times like these, when there are really many things to thank God for, there remains one phrase that rests within our hearts and speech.

All praise and glory be to God.

