

Testimony
by Dr. Charlotte Tan

NO LONGER A BUDDHIST

". . . all religion was superstition to me . . ."

SAYS DR. CHARLOTTE TAN, Attending Pediatrician at Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases, and Associate Member of the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, New York City.

LIKE MOST CHINESE, my family was Buddhist. I remember the times I was taken to the temple to worship the idols and gods. I was told to "do good" but I found it was hard. Even after a degree of struggling, any success I had lasted for only a short time. The gods I worshipped were far away from me — from them I found no help or satisfaction.

Later, as I went to school and learned a few things, I imagined that I knew everything and decided that there was no God. All religion was superstition to me. Therefore, I trusted and worshipped myself. I sought my own satisfaction in life. I lived gay and carefree, but how strange — each time I thought I had found the answer to life, I soon lost it and things were emptier than before.

By the time I went to medical college I realized that I could no longer trust myself; I had failed in many things.

It was during the war. I was far away from home. I was lonely and perhaps somewhat depressed, although I did not want to admit it. In medical college there was a student Christian fellowship that met every week in the dining room. I loved music, and their beautiful hymn singing broke down my pride. I decided to join their meetings and enjoy music. Week after week I was there singing with this group of Christians, but not take in a word the preacher said. However, suddenly I heard him announce his topic, "Why do we believe in God?" Among the answers he gave were: "They knew all the time that there was a God, yet they refused to acknowledge Him as such, or thank Him for what He is or does. Thus they became fatuous in their argumentations, and plunged their silly minds still further into the dark." Somehow this seemed to be a portrait of myself. I was restless. At the next meeting he said: "**All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God . . . There is none that doeth good, no, not one**" (Romans 3:23; 3:12). Jesus said: "**I am the way, the truth, and the life**" (John 14:6). The speaker also said that Jesus was the Son of God, that He alone was perfect and righteous, that there was no other way except through Him that my sins could be forgiven.

There were just two choices left open to me: either Jesus, who claimed He was the way, the truth and the life was the biggest liar in the whole world, or He was in reality the embodiment of truth and the answer to life that I had been seeking so many years. They said all I had to do was to humble myself and by simple faith accept Him into my life as my Lord and Saviour. With a hungry and thirsty heart I did just that. A great change took place in my life. I was filled with real joy and peace. I then knew where I came from, where I was going, and what the real purpose of my life in this present world was, namely, to do God's will. This was the greatest experiment I had ever attempted and I have found it the most successful and fruitful. I cannot imagine what kind of a person I would be today had I not accepted His salvation.

All this is His mighty doing. This joyous experience of being changed from serving idols and myself to serving the one true and living God, is greater than any human words can describe. It happened to me, and it has happened to many, many others. It is a change from darkness to light, from a purposeless and wandering life to a life filled with rich, purposeful living and a constant abiding in God's love and guidance; a change from death to life. I have found the answer to life. It is no secret what God can do. What He has done for me and for others, He will do for you. Jesus Christ is the answer to your life, if you only allow Him to come in and control it.

. . . . Gleaned from American Tract Society