

Finding Happiness

CYNTHIA'S STORY

Cynthia's story is one of finding God and finding happiness. She was drawn to trusting God while she was a CrossTalk English student at Riverstone, and she delights in seeing the detail of God's work in her life up to now, preparing her to receive Him.

THIS IS HER STORY:

Cynthia is now a student at CrossConnect, the discipleship training course conducted by GLO Ministries in Smithton, Tasmania. But the events leading up to Cynthia choosing to study there may surprise you.

Before coming to Australia, Cynthia lived in Anyang, a city in South Korea. South Korea is a vibrant modern country, with large cities, small villages and mountainous terrain. But, as with many developed countries, under the surface are tragedies which are often hidden from our view.

When Cynthia was 10 years old, her mother lost her life suddenly in a tragic accident. Her mother liked to go climbing, and she froze to death in the mountains. It was an unexpected accident because it's very unusual that people die from cold in this country. Her family, in deep sorrow, were severely impacted. Some years later, Cynthia's only brother died suddenly as well. Strangely, he too was found frozen to death when, after being pressed to take one drink too many, he fell down off the beaten path. Cynthia herself suffered from depression and loneliness.

To try to make life more bearable for herself and her father, and to fill the void and nagging unhap-



piness, Cynthia tried different things. She threw herself into her studies, winning prizes for high marks, but the joy of doing well was only for the moment, and stresses from study were great.

Continuing her pursuit of happiness, Cynthia began to do good things for other people. Volunteering in an orphanage, she found satisfaction in caring for new born babies, thinking, "They too don't have a mum." But returning home from the orphanage, the realities of her own life pressed in on her once again.

Finally, she decided to go overseas to study English. On the recommendation of two respected Christian professors at her university, she enrolled in CrossTalk.

An integral part of CrossTalk is daily devotions and, during these times, Cynthia learned who God is and how great Jesus is. She was saddened that Jesus had died for sinners, but excited that this could give her the prospect of Heaven. One day, one of the GLO staff remarked to her, "It's God's will that you have come here," and as she considered her current circumstances, and events leading up to this point in her life, she could see this was true. Finally, Cynthia realized her need of a Saviour. In her own words, "I realized that I'm a sinner and Jesus Christ died on the cross for us so that our sins could be taken away. Through His sacrifice I can go to Heaven."

Cynthia then began to see changes in her thinking. She was surprised that she could honestly say she was now happy every day, because she had the assurance that her Heavenly Father would prepare good things for her, so there was nothing to worry about. She was amazed that the Almighty God loved her. Prayer became a part of her life, and the example and teaching of



godly people has helped her know how to walk with God. She has personally seen God's provision for her needs, both big and small.

Cynthia would be quick to admit that life is not all wonderful and easy since giving her life to the Lord. She still struggles with English and assignments, and concerns for her family back in Korea. But she has found strength and joy in God and His mighty power. She is convinced that He listens to her, takes all her concerns and worries and fills her with His great love, keeping her happy in Him.

"When have you felt happy recently?" This is a question asked to help identify depression. Before knowing God, Cynthia couldn't answer this question because she was always unhappy. But now she can answer it with delight, "I'm always happy with God, my Saviour."

Do we know this same joy?

by Marion Beuttel

