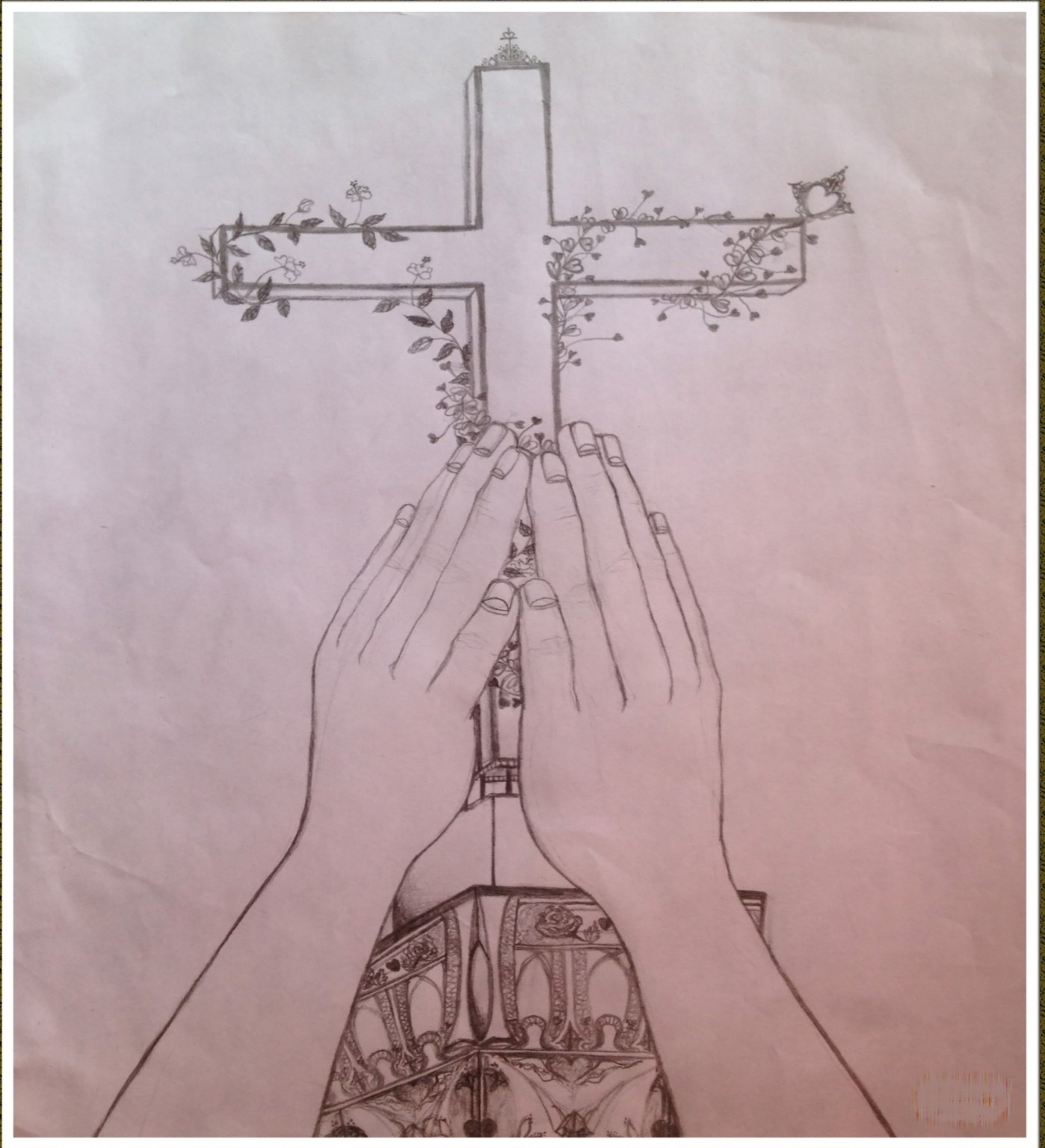


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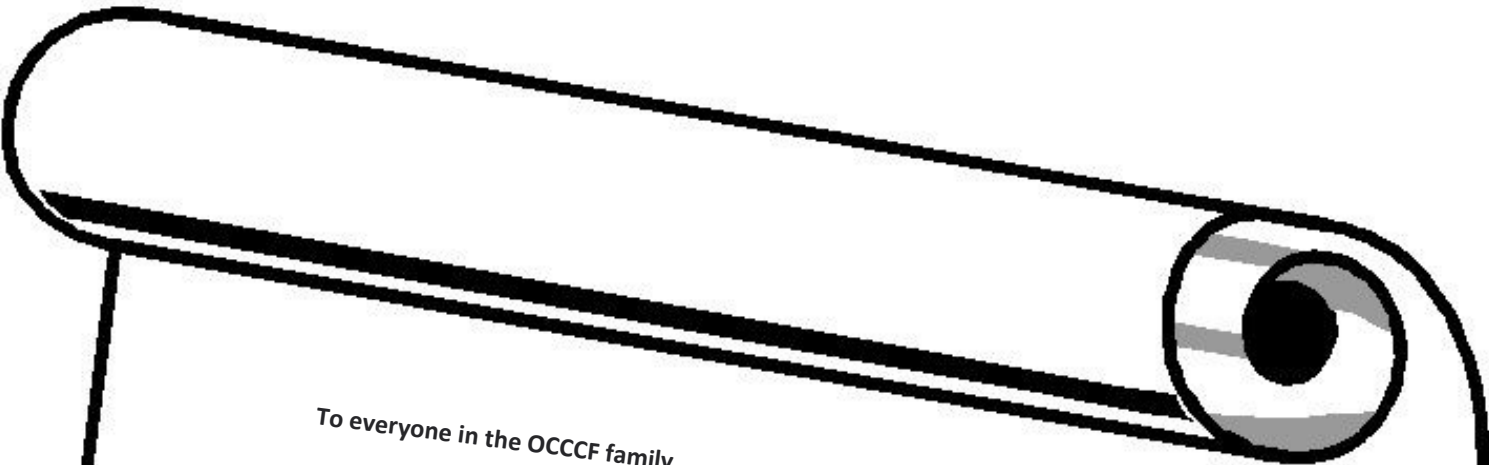
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To everyone in the OCCCF family,  
it has been a great two years knowing all of you and it is sad that some  
of us are leaving for college. I remember my first day walking through  
those doors, meeting new faces, and opening my life to Christ. I admit  
Christianity was very new and difficult for me to accept at first but you  
guys made it easier and although I did not get baptized this summer, I  
do feel that I have a closer and stronger relationship with Christ. I  
will also never forget the new friends I made in the youth group and  
the fun times we had every Sunday and other occasions like camping  
and volleyball and going on retreats. Those are awesome memories and  
maybe next summer, we'll make some more. But for now, I just wish  
all of you the best and the best of luck to those that are also going off to  
college and embarking on a new chapter in their lives.

Raymond Lu

Amy Wang

August 11, 2012



Regardless of what people say, Christianity is not just about what common belief states. In retrospect, Christianity is a way of life consisting of a beatifying relationship with God. In fact, it is essentially the most intimate relationship of one's life! At a young age, I found Christianity through going to church. From that moment onwards, I began to learn and grow as a Christian. For me, Christianity has played an integral role in my life. God has been with me through thick and thin, day and night. From the beginning of our relationship, I've constantly felt His presence with me. Through the various levels of adversity I have faced such as minute things like anxiety over an imminent exam or prominent things like sickness in the family, God has comforted not only me but also my family. During these times, God gave me courage, faith, and hope for a better tomorrow. Christianity does entail the Ten Commandments and other moral laws yet it is up to one to use these as a guide to formulate one's life into being a Christian. Christianity has shaped my life and has inevitably made me become the person who I am today. I've found a home away from home in a family at my church. I grew up with kids my age with the same beliefs and reverence for God as I do and together, we've helped each other become the subsequent people we are today. The friendly environment is always personal and relaxed amongst the members of our church, young and old. Through the various sermons and lessons taught to me, I've integrated aspects of Christianity into my life to become who I wanted to be "morally." Above all, my experience as a Christian empowers me to constantly strive to be a better person daily because I know that in God's eyes we, as humans, are not perfect but we are all loved by God. After all, we are His children and He is our Father who will care for us no matter what.



# Our Church as a Family

by: Esther Chao

I'll be the first to admit: there's not much that I know about being a Christian. I don't know all the stories of the Bible, the order of the books- all the things that people think go into being a Christian. And they're right. Being a devout Christian *does* require understanding of the Bible because it's our source of God's word, but I tend to believe that's not *all* Christianity is about. There's a statement I clearly remember our preacher at Hofstra saying one year: "Christianity is not a religion, but a **relationship**." It's based not only on our relationship with God, but with each other. The book "The Purpose Driven Life" that we received at baptism stated "when we place our faith in our Father, we become his become our brothers and becomes our spiritual **Christ includes belonging.**" We belong to the form of God's family here on Earth. And as far as I'm concerned, that's what our church has always been: **family**. It's a place of community, fellowship, and love. We have fun going to retreats or having picnics; we learn together, and therefore grow together as Christians. It's amazing to be a part of this family, because as Psalm 133:1 states: "**How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people** to live together in harmony!"



Christ, God becomes children, other believers sisters, and the church family. **Following ing, not just believ-** church. They're our

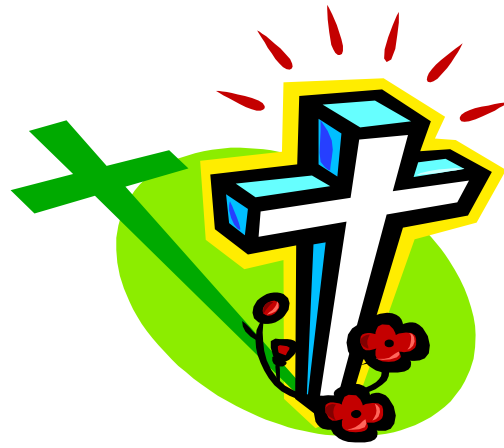
B/W Photos Contributed by Esther Chao



# *JESUS CHRIST Acrostic poem*

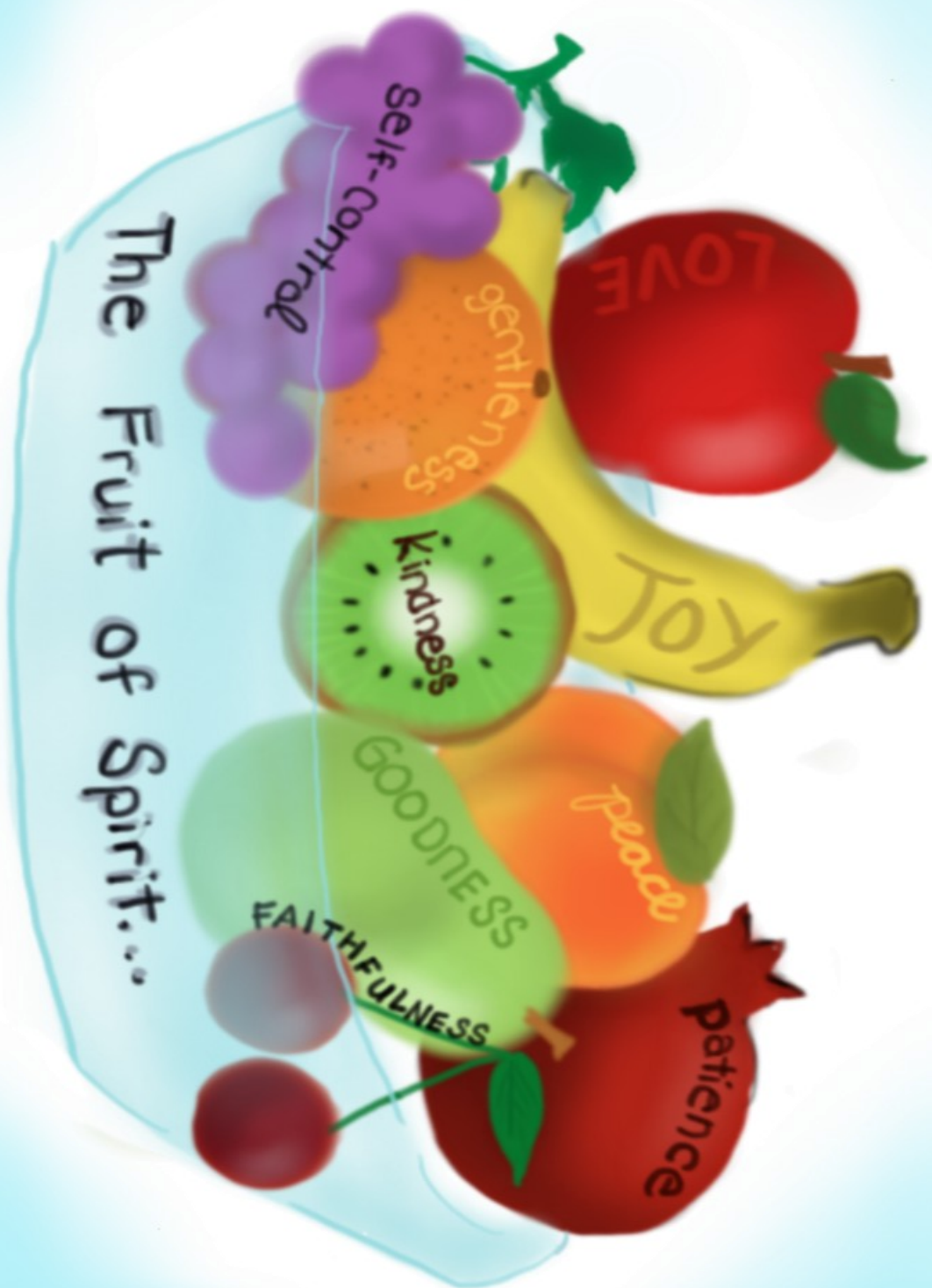
*By Jesse Shih*

J EHOVAH  
E NTERNAL LIFE  
S AVIOR  
U NDYING LOVE  
S ACRIFICED FOR OUR SINS




C ROSS  
H EAVEN  
R ESSURECTION  
I N OUR HEARTS  
S ALVATION  
T EACHER





Ref.: Galatians 5:22-23

Christy Shih



**I thank the Lord that I am living  
I thank the Lord that he is giving  
I thank the Lord for every smile and tear  
I thank the Lord, for always being here**

**Because of Him, I have never lost hope  
Because of Him, I can learn to cope  
Because of Him, my days are much brighter  
Because of Him, I'm an amateur writer ☺**

**I'm not afraid of what is ahead  
I'm not afraid; by Him, I am led  
I'm not afraid; I need not take heed  
I'm not afraid of being in need**

**I know that my God has a great plan  
I know that my God is greater than man  
I know my God is watching over me  
I know my God, my life, He'll oversee**

**I thank the Lord for who I became  
Because of the Lord, I was never the same  
I'm not afraid of anything that comes my way  
I know my God will be with me until my last day**



**Angela Ko**

## My Freshman Year Christian Walk

Josh Shih



Opening Days at Harvard was an exciting and busy start to my first year of college. On top of choosing classes and making new friends, there were numerous club meetings, social gatherings, and welcoming events. Throughout all the craziness of searching for new clubs and organizations, I do recall one particular day when a certain group seemed to find me first.

If you have ever been to Harvard College, you may know of the large, somewhat modern building called the Science Center. It was on this day that I found myself walking around the area in front of this building. There was a man handing out flyers for a local church. Interested, I decided to go talk to him. As I was about to finish with him, a random student walked up to me and asked if I was a Christian. I said I was. He then proceeded to introduce me to a Christian fellowship on campus called AACF, the Asian American Christian Fellowship. This guy, whose name turned out to be Jeremy, invited me to their first freshman small group meeting and large group session. Throughout the encounter, Jeremy had been so welcoming that it seemed like he had already known me before. Luckily for me, it was exactly what I had been thinking of joining since I got on campus. I don't remember exactly what day the first freshman small group met, but I went. And thus began my Christian walk with the AACF community.



From that very first meeting until now, I have learned and grown so much from being a part of a Christian fellowship on campus. As they say, college can be a very self-driven, self-sufficient place, and within all the distractions and stress, it can be easy to lose sight of God. Being a part of the fellowship, however, kept me close to the thing that was most important, my relationship with Christ. At the first large group worship session, I was able to see how talented some of the upper-classmen Christians were, and how they used these talents to glorify God. Every Tuesday, the weekly freshman Bible study gave me a chance to take some time out of my busy day to just sit down, calm my heart, and discuss Bible passages with my freshman peers. To be honest, these studies were also quite fun because our leaders always had great activities planned for us. On Friday evenings, everyone in the fellowship gathered together for a night of worship. Even Raymond was able to come all the way from Bentley University to join us. The energy of those nights renewed me, and many of the praise songs that we sing are now my personal favorites. Before I knew it, I had a set of friends whom I knew I could rely on, and a community surrounding me that would keep me in line with God.

Throughout the year, there were two retreats: one during the fall and the other during the winter. I must say that these are great opportunities to just have fun and learn even more with fellow Christians. While I gained so much from both of them, I especially remember our fall retreat. The speaker's topic was God's love. There is one thing that I will never forget from his sermon that evening, something so special and unique about Christianity that for some reason had not fully hit me before. It was the fact that God's love is so great, that no matter what we do or do not do, His love for us cannot be any greater or any less than it is at this very moment. There is not much on Harvard campus that can give you more peace or joy than that.



See then that you walk circumspectly,  
not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time,  
because the days are evil.  
Therefore do not be unwise, but understand  
what the will of the Lord is.  
And do not be drunk with wine, in which  
is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:15-18

