

My Life – A Short Story

Yes, I am five foot tall (short) and I will try to write my Short Story so you can know few things about me.

I was born and grew up in the Philippines. As the youngest of 13 children, my life growing was play, school, and more school. I enjoyed school. I wanted to be the best scholastically. I worked hard to get those grades and enjoyed the praises of my family and friends. I became proud of my scholastic achievements.

My parents were of different religion. As per agreement of the marriage, we were brought up in our mother's religion. We called ourselves "Christians" because we were religious, attending church regularly. My father also called himself a "Christian", active in his church. So what is different between us? I noticed my father reading his Bible every day and seemed happy and content. We were not allowed to read it. I promised myself to get a copy once I leave home.

I left home to attend the University of the Philippines in Manila. And yes, as I promised myself, I got a Bible and started a daily reading of it for a while. I attended different churches but did not find what I was looking for. Soon, I dropped out from it completely. There was no longer the eagerness and desire to read the Bible. I gave up on religion. I finished my Bachelor's degree in Chemistry.

Next move was an adventure that would take me to the USA. Why USA? It was a status and prestigious to go abroad. It was a dream came true when I got my two-year visa for a work-exchange (Traineeship) program. I thought this would be it! I was very excited for the opportunity to go to the USA. My great expectation of happiness and fulfillment turned into disappointment, loneliness, fear, insecurity, and unhappiness. I became more unhappy and miserable each passing day. I may have appeared content and happy but a deep struggle inside was going on.

One Sunday morning, seven months later, I decided to go to a church that was within a walking distance from the apartment I was sharing with four other girls. I was late. I didn't know what time church started. This was a huge church of 7,000 + memberships (I found this out later). The preacher was ending his sermon on the topic, happiness and fulfillment in life. He said that so many people were looking for happiness and fulfillment through religion, education, friends, travel, academic honors, family, etc. Was he talking to me personally? How could he? He didn't know me. He continued on to say that Jesus is the only One who can truly make a person fulfilled and happy; Jesus came to bring purpose to life. He came to forgive and give abundant life to those who ask Him to be the Lord of their lives. He ended with a prayer and invited those who wanted to ask Christ into their lives to pray with him. I prayed. I asked God to forgive me of my pride, and to make me the kind of person He wanted me to be. I didn't know the ramifications of that simple prayer, but I knew God met me that Sunday morning. I left the church with a new beginning. I was a new person.

That was the beginning of my “living” before that I was just existed. Next was spiritual growth that would last for the rest of my life. I started attending a Bible study class led by the preacher's wife. The Bible, for the first time, was making sense to me. I was trusting God for the future.

My Dad suggested that I should pursue my graduate studies in the US since I was already here. The big problem was my visa was not renewable. It was humanly impossible to renew my visa or even change it to a student visa. I just left it with God. If He wanted me to stay and continue my studies He would have to work it out. And He did. God worked it out and allowed me to finish my Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Chemistry. I finished both degrees in three and a half years. God supplied all I needed to finish my degrees. How? It is another story!

I finished my studies and was doing post-doctorate work when I met my wonderful husband, who loves God and His Word. He has been my mentor ever since. That started a whole new adventure that I can relate another time. When will all this new life end? According to the Bible, the most important book in my life, it never ends. It's eternal. When I close my eyes for the last time on planet earth, I will open them in eternity and be with Jesus and those who trusted Him as their Savior and Lord. Will you be one of those who will spend eternity with God? Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the Father but by me.” John 14:6