## ちいさな証

## 神の言葉との出会い

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My first encounter with God's word was a children's Bible story book with many colourful paintings. As I continued being exposed to the Bible as I grew up, I got to know a handful of stories, but not much more. I even remember sitting myself in from of my Bible at the age of 10, saying to myself that I would read through the Bible one chapter per day, but I didn't even make it past the second day. I never understood the whole Bible as a complete narrative, and I never really thought about those stories as events

that actually took place in the past.

But things started to change when I moved to Switzerland and started

attending the youth group here at an international church 10 years ago. I remember hearing over and over again that I should read my Bible daily and even received a one year Bible reading plan, but my knowledge of the Bible didn't grow by much.

My thinking was strongly influenced, though, by my youth leaders and youth pastor, who kept encouraging me through their words and being examples. One time, we were asked to raise our hands to show how well we knew the Bible. I knew pretty much all of the big stories, so I thought I knew the Bible pretty well (I didn't).

What really surprised me, though, was that one of my leaders who I knew has read the Bible several times said that his Bible knowledge wasn't too good. His explanation was that no matter how many times he read the Bible, he discovered something new. This was when I started thinking the Bible isn't just some old book after all, and that it is the living word of God.

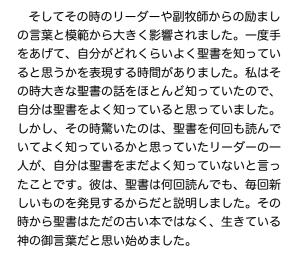
From then on, I continued growing closer to God's word as I started attending a Bible study course and even became a youth leader myself. This August, with God's help, I was able to complete reading the entire Bible, which will hopefully be the first of many times. And the more I grow closer to God's word, the more I can depend on Him and the more He transforms me into who He made me to be.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11

私が初めて聖書に触れたのは子供の頃にもらった聖書の絵本を通してでした。育ちながら聖書との出会いが続き、いくつかの聖書の話を知りましたが、その程度でした。10歳ごろの時聖書を最初から最後まで毎日一章ずつ読むって決めましたが、二日目でもう終わりました。聖書全体が一つの話って理解できず、その話が過去にあった本当の話だとよく実感できていませんでした。

しかし、スイスに引っ越して、インターナショナルの教会に通い始めてから聖書への態度が少しずつ変わり始めました。 聖書の知識は大きく変わりませんでしたが、何回も聖書は毎日 読むべきものだと聞き、一年間で聖書を全部読むプランなども もらいました。



それ以来神様の御言葉と近づきながら聖書を勉強するコースへ通い始めたり、自分もユースリーダーになったりしました。そしてこの8月に人生初めて聖書全体を読むことができました。私の望みは、これが人生で何回も聖書を読み通す第一歩になることです。神様の御言葉に近づくことを通してもっと神様に頼り、だんだん神様が計画して作ってくれた人になっていきたいです。

「わたしは、あなたたちのために立てた計画をよく心に留めている、と主は言われる。それは平和の計画であって、災いの計画ではない。将来と希望を与えるものである。」

エレミヤ書29:11



