**Silk Roads: Exploring Christianity**

**Growing up in the Durham Chinese Church**

**Transcript**

**Video running time: 3 minutes 30 seconds.**

Hello, my name is Charisse and I am a Chinese Christian living in Durham. I've been a Christian for four years now and we were baptized in 2016 or so, in Durham, and it was all the family together and it was a really happy day for us all.

We don't come from Christian families. In fact, my parents come from Hong Kong and Malaysia. In those countries, Christianity was not very historically strong and in our local culture we were surrounded as children by a lot of ideas like worshipping our ancestors and ideas that come from Buddhism.

But when we first came to the UK we came into contact with Christianity for the first time. We met people who devoted a lot of their time and own money to helping other people, things like supporting the homeless or disadvantaged people. And we felt that really impressed us.

It is easy to have good intentions, but these people really dedicated themselves to what they were doing.

**Tell us about your Church**

Well my church is a really warm, loving place. I think it's sort of as my second home.

There are lots of Chinese families and kids that are the same age as me and I always have a good time with that, I love them. There are quite a few Chinese students and I like talking to them and I think that my church is sort of a really welcoming place no matter who you are - whether you aren't Christian or you are, I think that everyone loves you and especially God loves you and it’s just amazing there.

**Why is reading the Bible important to you?**

At home, our faith is practiced in a very simple way. We don't have religious objects like paintings or other objects that we touch when we pray. Nothing like that. The most important thing is of course, the Bible. We believe it is important to take time to read this every day.

Well, my Bible is - one side of it is Chinese and then right next to it is English so that I can just sort of float from my left eyes from left to right and then I know.

Even in simple things we try to put what we read into practice. Things like forgiving other people when they wrong us, remembering God forgives us too. Or remembering to treat other people as we wish them to treat us. Things like that. It's a good way to live.

Personally lockdown was really hard for me, and praying to God and reading the Bible, distracting myself really helped and I felt really happy and it basically it just distracted me from lockdown.

**Thank you to…**​

Charisse, Sam and Alan for their help making this video.

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