

Sermon 講道信息  
 September 九月 10, 2023 Acts 使徒行傳 12:1-7, 11-17  
 Joy – Our Attitude in the Light of What God has Done  
 喜樂—活在神旨意的光中的態度

Did you know there's an annual conference dedicated to discussing boring stuff.

你知道嗎，有一個年度會議專門討論無聊的東西。

It's advertised as a one-day celebration of the ordinary, obvious, and overlooked.

它被宣傳為對平凡、明顯和被忽視的一天慶祝活動。

It's called the "Boring Conference." 它被稱為「無聊會議」。

Themes at the conference have included sneezing, toast, sounds made by vending machines, barcodes, yellow lines, inkjet printers of 1999, how to cook meals with the equipment found in hotel rooms, and the similarities between 198 of the world's national anthems.

會議的主題包括打噴嚏，烤麵包，自動售貨機發出的聲音，條形碼，黃線，1999 年的噴墨打印機，如何使用酒店房間里的設備做飯，以及 198 首世界國歌之間的相似之處。

Some of these might seem fascinating, but I think they're probably very boring.

其中一些可能看起來很吸引人，但我認為它們可能非常無聊。

When I was at high school, and someone broke a school rule, the joke was that you had to write an essay on "the inside of a ping pong ball".

當我上高中時，有人違反了校規，笑話是你必須寫一篇關於「乒乓球內部」的文章。

Boring, dull, unimaginative. 無聊，沉悶，缺乏想像力。

Now, contrast that with being the church and being here on Sundays.

現在，與教會和周日在這裡形成對比。

Nothing boring, is there? 沒什麼無聊的，是嗎？

Well... Perhaps not boring, but is it joyful? 也許。。。也許不無聊，但歡樂嗎？

Did you know that there are nearly 400 instances of the word for joy or rejoicing in the Bible?

你知道聖經中有近 400 個喜樂或歡喜這個詞的出現嗎？

Joy is one of the primary characteristics of believers in the Bible as they gathered in worship:

喜樂是聖經裡的信徒聚集敬拜的主要特徵之一：

"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." So says Psalm 100.

詩篇 100 如此說：「普天下當向耶和華歡呼！當樂意事奉耶和華，當歡唱來到他面前！當認識耶和華是 神！我們是他造的，也是屬他的；我們是他的民，是他草場的羊。當稱謝進入他的門，當讚美進入他的院。當感謝他，稱頌他的名！因為耶和華本為善；他的慈愛存到永遠，他的信實直到萬代。」

We're near the end of a short sermon series called, "Living in the Light of what God has done." 我們即將結束一個簡短的講道系列，名為「活在神旨意的光中」。

We've looked at some less-well-known Bible characters. 我們看了一些不太知名的聖經人物。 Remember Rahab, a prostitute and foreigner who believed God's purposes for the people of Israel. 還記得喇合嗎？一個妓女和外邦人，她相信神對以色列人的旨意。

What about the faithful and loyal devotion of Jonathan's armour-bearer, a man who knew nothing could hinder the Lord?

還有幫約拿單那兵器忠心耿耿的少年人，一個知道沒有任何事能阻礙神的人呢？

We followed Baruch, Jeremiah's scribe, who trusted God in tough times.

我們跟隨耶利米的抄寫員巴錄，他在艱難時期信靠神。

And today? 那今天呢？

Today, we watch as Rhoda, a young servant girl, enthusiastically reports to a praying congregation that God has preformed a miracle, only to be told she's "out of her mind."

今天，我們看到羅大，一個年輕的女僕，熱情地向一個正在祈禱的會眾報告神已經行了一個奇跡，卻被告知她是「瘋了」。

So, what's the story? 那麼，故事是如何的呢？

Acts 12 begins in the reign of King Herod – this is not the Herod at the time of Jesus' birth, but his grandson.

使徒行傳 12 章開始於希律王的統治時期—這不是耶穌出生時的希律王，而是他的孫子。

This Herod reigned from 41-44 AD. 這位希律王在西元 41-44 年在位。

Most likely the events in Acts 12 take place sometime in 43-44 AD – so about 10 years have passed since the Day of Pentecost.

使徒行傳 12 章中的事件很可能發生在西元 43-44 年的某個時候—所以自五旬節以來已經過去了大約 10 年。

Herod wanted to win favour with the Jewish leaders. 希律王想贏得猶太領袖的青睞。

Perhaps he thought that if he killed the leaders of the church, Christianity would decline.

也許他認為，如果他殺死教會的領袖，基督教就會衰落。

So, Herod executes James, the brother of John – two of the first disciples of Jesus.

因此，希律處決了約翰的兄弟雅各—耶穌最初的兩個門徒。

The Jewish leaders like this. 猶太領袖非常喜歡他這樣做。

So, Herod imprisons Peter and plans to put him on trial.

因此，希律王囚禁了彼得，並計劃對他進行審判。

Acts 12:5 says the church earnestly prayed for Peter.

使徒行傳 12：5 說教會懇切地為彼得禱告。

It's encouraging to see the early church willing to gather to pray – and to pray with focus, intention, and fervency.

看到早期教會聚集在一起禱告，並且帶著專注、用心和熱切地禱告，這是令人鼓舞的。It's less encouraging to think that perhaps they no longer prayed with expectation that God can free Peter. 想到也許他們不再期望神能釋放彼得，這就不那麼令人鼓舞了。

Maybe those 10 years since the Day of Pentecost have dulled their prayer.

也許自五旬節以來的 10 年他們的祈禱變得枯燥。

Has their prayer life become another topic for a "Boring Conference"?

他們的禱告生活是否成為「無聊會議」的另一個話題？

They need a wake-up call – and they going to get it. 他們需要被喚醒—他們會得到它。

God will do something amazing. 神會做一些奇妙的事情。

It's the night before Peter's due to go on trial. 這是彼得要接受審判的前一天晚上。

He's chained to two guards. 彼得被兩條鐵鏈鎖着，睡在兩個士兵當中。

Sentries are posted at the prison gate. 門前還有警衛看守。

Suddenly an angel appears. 突然，一個天使出現了。

The angel slaps Peter hard – yes, the word in verse 7 means exactly that.

天使狠狠地拍了彼得—是的，第 7 節中的這個詞就是這個意思。

Clearly, Peter isn't sleepless with fear. 顯然，彼得並沒有因為恐懼而失眠。

What's more, the guards are oblivious. 更重要的是，守衛們渾然不覺。

Peter wakes up, his chains fall off (doesn't that remind you of a phrase in Wesley's great hymn, "And Can It Be?").

彼得醒來，他的鎖鏈脫落了（這不讓你想起衛斯理偉大讚美詩中的一句話，「怎能如此」嗎？）。

Peter follows the angel passed the guards, through the gate, and outside – all the time thinking it's a vision. 彼得跟著天使經過守衛，穿過大門，走到外面—一直以為這是一個異象。

Only when the angel leaves him does Peter realize it's no vision – God has released him by his power. 只有當天使離開他時，彼得才意識到這不是異象—神已經以祂的大能釋放了他。

We've got to laugh, haven't we? 我們必須笑，不是嗎？

It's funny – Peter, standing in the middle of the street, shaking his head, thinking, "Wow! God is great!" 這很有趣—彼得站在街道中間，搖著頭，想著：「哇！神是偉大的！」

I wonder if sometimes each of us needs to be slapped by God and hear him say, "Wake up, I'm doing something amazing here!"

可能有時我們每個人是否需要被神拍拍我們並聽祂說：「醒醒吧，我在這裡做了一件奇妙的事情！」

Peter knows where to go next – to the house where the church has gathered to pray.

彼得知道下一步該去哪裡—去教會聚集禱告的房子。

It's the home of Mary, the mother of John Mark, the young man who in Acts 13 will accompany Paul and Barnabas on their mission trip to Cyprus.

這是馬利亞的家，馬可叫約翰的母親，使徒行傳 13 中將陪伴保羅和巴拿巴去塞浦路斯宣教。

Oh, and just as an aside, it's fascinating that the church gathers at Mary's home.

哦，順便說一句，教會聚集在馬利亞的家中真是有趣。

Not only did Mary have a home large enough, but most likely, she was a key leader in the church: women in leadership!

馬利亞不僅有一個足夠大的家，而且很可能，她是教會中的關鍵領袖：女性領導！

But it's not Mary who is at the centre of what happens; it's another woman.

但瑪利亞不是故事的主角；是另一個女人。

And this is where we really do laugh – it's a comedy.

這就是我們真正要笑的地方——這是一部喜劇。

Peter knocks on the door. 彼得敲了敲門。

Knock, knock! Rhoda, a servant, answers. 咚，咚，僕人羅大回答。

“Who's there?” 「誰在那裡？」

“Pete. Pete who?” 「彼得。那個彼得？」

“Pizza delivery.” Ok, not pizza delivery. 「披薩外賣嗎？」好吧，不是披薩外賣。

Whatever the conversation, Rhoda is so excited – full of joy, remember – she forgets to open the door, 無論談話是什麼，羅大都非常興奮——充滿了喜悅，記住——她忘記了開門， runs back to the boring prayer meeting where everyone has forgotten that God answers prayer, and exclaims: 跑回無聊的禱告會中，大家都忘記了神回應禱告，大聲說：

“Peter is at the door!” 「彼得在門口！」

And the response? 而回應呢？

Do they all cry, “Hallelujah, praise the Lord”? 他們都呼喊，「哈利路亞，讚美主」嗎？

No. They say is “Rhoda, you're nuts!” 不。他們說的是「羅大，妳瘋了！」

She keeps saying, “Peter is at the door!” 她不斷地說：「彼得在門口！」

Now, all they think is that Peter must be dead – that's what “It must be his angel” means.

當時，他們所想的只是彼得一定死了一這就是「一定是他的天使」的意思。

Can you picture the scene? 你能想像當時的情景嗎？

It's funny; it's stupid; it's glorious; it's sad – all at the same time.

這裡同時是有趣的；是愚蠢的；是光榮的；是可悲的。

Have you ever been in a prayer meeting like that?! 你有沒有參加過這樣的禱告會呢？！

Where emotions and thoughts and feelings are all over the place, and we've lost touch with God. 情緒、思想和感覺是混亂的，我們與神失去了聯繫。

Meanwhile, Peter is banging on the door: knock, knock! 與此同時，彼得正在敲門：咚，咚咚！

Finally, in verse 16, the door is opened. 最後，在第 16 節，門被打開了。

Peter is standing there. 彼得站在那裡。

And the prayer meeting is astonished! 禱告會是非常令人驚訝！

Peter tells them to be quiet. 彼得告訴他們要安靜。  
 He then tells his amazing testimony. 然後他講述了他奇妙的見證。  
 And what a testimony that was! 那是多麼驚人的見證啊！

So why look at Rhoda today in this series “Living in the light of what God has done”?  
 那麼，為什麼今天在這個系列「活在神旨意的光中」中看羅大呢？

Because she’s the first *individual* in the Book of Acts who is described as “overjoyed.”  
 因為她是使徒行傳中第一個被描述為「喜出望外」的人。

Yes, many have praised God in the Book of Acts, but the only mention of joy in Acts before this story is in Acts 8:8, when God used Philip to cast out demons and heal the sick in Samaria.

是的，許多人在使徒行傳中讚美神，但在這個故事之前，使徒行傳中唯一提到喜樂是在使徒行傳 8：8，當時神使用腓力趕鬼並醫治撒瑪利亞的病人。

There, we’re told that the whole city rejoiced. 在那裡，聖經告訴我們整個城市都大有喜樂。  
 But Rhoda is the first individual who is “overjoyed”. 但羅大是第一個「喜出望外」的人。

She takes centre stage in the early life of the church because she lived in the light of what God has done – a miracle has happened, Peter is released, and she is full of joy.

她在早期教會的生活中佔據中心位置，因為她生活在神旨意的光中—奇蹟發生了，彼得被釋放了，她充滿了喜樂。

Rhoda could never be a theme at the Boring Conference!

羅大永遠不可能成為無聊會議的主題！

What can we learn? 我們能學到什麼？

Let’s first ask what is joy – biblical joy? 讓我們先問什麼是喜樂—聖經中的喜樂？

Often joy is confused with happiness. 喜樂常常與快樂混為一談。

Happiness is a satisfying meal, a cool shopping deal, a relaxing vacation, a successful business contract, even a delightful visit with family and friends.

快樂是一頓令人滿意的飯菜，一頓很酷的購物優惠，一個輕鬆的假期，一份成功的商業合同，甚至是與家人和朋友的愉快訪問。

Happiness is a state of mind and emotion that is temporary.

快樂是一種暫時的心理和情感狀態。

It’ll pass until the next moment of happiness arrives. 它會過去，直到下一刻的快樂到來。

Joy – biblical joy – is so much more than circumstance or event or our ever-changing emotions.

喜樂—聖經中的喜樂—不僅僅是環境或事件或我們不斷變化的情緒。

Biblical joy is “in the Lord.” 聖經中的喜樂是「在主裡」的。

It is knowing God, personally, as Lord and Saviour 是個人認識神接受祂為主和救主

-because this joy knows no boundary, because God is its source, its object, its vision, its fulfilment, its endless existence.

-因為這種喜樂是無限制的，因為神是它的源頭，它的對象，它的異象，它的成就，它無窮無盡的存在。

This is profound. 這是深刻的。

The quest for joy is never an end-in-itself. 喜樂本身從來都不是追求的目的。

The richness of joy is only found “in the Lord”. 喜樂的豐富只有在「主裡」才能找到。

So we do not seek joy, we seek the Lord, and joy is the inevitable by-product.

所以我們不尋求喜樂，我們尋求主，喜樂是不可避免的副產品。

The joy of the Lord is our strength (Nehemiah 8:10).

因靠耶和華而得的喜樂是你們的力量。(尼希米記 8：10)。

Joy is found in the presence of the Lord – it’s why joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

喜樂是在主的同在中找到的一這就是為什麼喜樂是聖靈的果子(加拉太書 5：22)。

Living in the light of what God has done inevitably means living in the joy of the Lord.

活在神旨意的光中，不可避免地意味著活在主的喜樂中。

But how does this relate to Rhoda and a church at prayer?

但這與羅大和禱告中的教會有什麼關係呢？

What do we expect when we gather to worship or pray in our small groups or meet for Bible studies or share together?

當我們和我們的小組聚集在一起敬拜或禱告，或者一起學習聖經或分享時，我們期待什麼？

John Ortberg, the retired pastor and Christian author, once wrote about a time he saw the San Francisco Giants win the baseball World Series.

退休牧師和基督教作家約翰·奧特伯格(John Ortberg)曾經寫過他看到三藩市巨人隊贏得棒球世界大賽的經歷。

When they won, he says, grown men with beards jumped around like they were 9 years old, looking for someone to hug.

他說，當他們獲勝時，留著鬍子的成年男子像 9 歲一樣跳來跳去，尋找可以擁抱的人。

He then says, “Nobody scripted the celebration; they didn’t plan who would jump where or what songs they would sing or what music they would play.”

他接著說：「沒有人編寫慶祝活動的腳本;他們沒有計劃誰會跳到哪裡，他們會唱什麼歌或播放什麼音樂。」

All they did was celebrate a baseball victory. 他們所做的只是慶祝棒球的勝利。

He says, “And I thought about church worship.” 他說：「我想到了教會的敬拜。」

And then he adds, “I think our problem as Christians is that we are not really sure Jesus won; we are not really confident what a good God, God is.”

然後他補充道：「我認為我們作為基督徒的問題是，我們不確定耶穌贏了;我們並不真正相信神是多麼美好的神，神確是。」

Let me put it like this: what if we really discovered that Jesus was alive, that death was defeated, that our guilt was taken from us.

讓我這樣說吧：如果我們真的發現耶穌還活著，死亡被打敗了，我們的罪被除掉了，那會怎樣？

Do you think this world could contain our joy?你認為這個世界能容納我們的喜悅嗎？

Rhoda mirrors the response of Mary Magdalene on that first Easter morning.

羅大反映了抹大拉的馬利亞在復活節第一個早晨的反應。

Mary went to the tomb, saw it was empty, met Jesus in the garden, and then, John 20:18 says, “went to the disciples with the news, ‘I have seen the Lord!’”

馬利亞去了墳墓，看到墳墓是空的，在園子裡遇見了耶穌，然後，約翰福音 20：18 說：「去門徒那裡傳消息說：我已看見主了！」

Rhoda goes to the door, hears Peter’s voice, and is overjoyed because Peter is alive.

羅大走到門口，聽到彼得的聲音，因為彼得還活著，她喜出望外。

She can’t contain her joy. 她無法抑制自己的喜悅。

And she tells the gathered church. 她告訴正在聚集的教會。

She lives in the light of what God has done! 她活在神旨意的光中！

What would happen if, on a Sunday morning, as we gather to worship, it’s not the weather or the stress of the week or the aches and pains that are top of our agenda.

如果在星期天的早晨，當我們聚集在一起敬拜時，不是天氣或一周的壓力或疼痛是我們議程上的首要問題，那將會發生什麼？

Instead, we turn to one another and declare not “Peter is alive” but “Jesus is alive!”

相反，我們轉向彼此，不是宣佈「彼得活著」，而是「耶穌活著！」

Perhaps each of us needs to find our inner Rhoda on Sundays.

也許我們每個人都需要在星期天找到我們內心的羅大。

What else can we learn from Rhoda? 我們還能從羅大身上學到什麼？

Her joy will not be dampened by the faithlessness of others in the prayer meeting.

她的喜樂不會因為禱告會上別人的不信而受到抑制。

She doesn’t think, “Oh maybe they are right. Maybe I just imagined God’s power. Maybe Jesus doesn’t turn up in our lives. Maybe prayers are just conversations with a ceiling.”

她不認為，「哦，也許他們是對的。也許我只是想像神的能力。也許耶穌沒有出現在我們的生活中。也許禱告只是對著天花板對話。」

No. Her joy will not be dampened. 不。她的喜悅不會受到抑制。

I remember a question posed to a group of pastors at a retreat many years ago.

我記得多年前在一次牧者退修會上向一群牧師提出的一個問題。

The speaker asked us: “What is it about your faith in Jesus that would keep you up all night talking with friends?”

講員問我們：「你對耶穌的信心是如何才讓你整夜不休地與朋友分享？」

It’s a great question. 這是一個很好的問題。

Maybe it’s how God has answered prayer; 也許這就是神回應禱告的方式;

how Jesus is working in your life today; 耶穌今天如何在你的生活中工作;

what you read in the Bible this week; 你本周在聖經中讀到的;

who you’re praying for; 你在為誰禱告;

the worship songs that have brought you close to Jesus; 使你親近耶穌的敬拜詩歌;  
maybe even the sermons that God used to speak to you.

甚至可能是神曾經透過一次講道對你說話。

Rhoda has a testimony to tell and there's nothing that going to stop her.

羅大有見證要講，沒有什麼能阻止她。

As J.I. Packer, one of the great evangelical theologians of past decades and former professor at Regent College, Vancouver, once said, "Joy is like jam; it sticks to you as you spread it."

正如過去幾十年最偉大的福音派神學家之一、溫哥華維真神學院前教授 J.I. Packer 曾經說過的那樣，「喜樂就像果醬;當你塗果醬時，它會粘在你身上。」

We weep with those who weep, but let us rejoice with those who rejoice.

我們和那些哭泣的人一起哭泣，但讓我們和那些喜樂的人一同喜樂。

Sharing what the Lord is doing brings him praise, encourages others, and also blesses us.

分享主所做的事給祂帶來讚美，鼓勵他人，也祝福我們。

It's a great antidote to dulled belief, dying faith, and dreary discipleship.

這是對乏味的信仰、垂死的信心和沉悶的門徒訓練的偉大解毒劑。

Let our joy not be dampened.讓我們的喜樂不要被抑制。

But perhaps some of us today cannot relate to this.

但也許我們今天的一些人無法理解這一點。

We have lost our joy in the Lord. 我們已經失去了在主里的喜樂。

King David knew this when confronted with the sin of adultery.

大衛王在面對姦淫的罪時就知道這一點。

In Psalm 51:12, he prays to God, "Restore to me the joy of your salvation."

在詩篇 51：12 中，他向神祈求，「求你使我重得救恩之樂。」

If there is known sin in our lives, joy will be distant.

如果我們的生命中有明顯的罪，喜樂將是遙遠的。

The solution to recovering joy if there's sin in our lives is to come humbly to the cross and confess our sin.

如果我們的生命中有罪，恢復喜樂的解決方案是謙卑地來到十字架前，承認我們的罪。

There, to use the words of Psalm 30:11, the Lord will turn our wailing into dancing, remove our sackcloth (our shame), and cloth us with joy.

在那裡，用詩篇 30：11 的話來說，耶和華將我的哀哭變為跳舞，脫去我的麻衣（我們的恥辱），為我披上喜樂。

The cross is where our sin is seen, but where our joy is found.

十字架是看到我們的罪的地方，也是發現我們的喜樂的地方。

But maybe it's not our personal sin that has stripped us of our joy in the Lord.

但也許不是我們個人的罪剝奪了我們在主里的喜樂。



Maybe, it's the long years of pain, the constant criticism from family or colleagues, the stress of events in our world.

也許，這是漫長的痛苦歲月，來自家人或同事的不斷批評，是我們世界上事件的壓力。

So, this story of a young woman – Rhoda – overjoyed at God's grace doesn't connect with us.

所以，這個年輕女子羅大的故事對神的恩典感到欣喜若狂，與我們無關。

Inside, we say to ourselves, "Ok for her, but right now things are difficult, and a sermon on joy is not what I need."

在內心，我們對自己說：「對她來說是可以，但現在事情很困難，關於喜樂的講道不是我所需要的。」

Jesus knows how you feel. 耶穌知道你的感受。

Remember Gethsemane. 記得客西馬尼園。

Jesus wanted to avoid the cross: "take this cup from me", he prayed.

耶穌想避開十字架，他禱告說：「把這杯拿走」。

But he knew that the cross was the way of hope for the world.

但他知道十字架是世界盼望的道路。

And he knew that the cross would lead to resurrection.

他知道十字架會帶來復活。

Hebrews 12:2 says, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

希伯來書 12：2 說：「仰望我們信心的創始成終者耶穌，他因那擺在前面的喜樂，輕看羞辱，忍受了十字架的苦難，如今已坐在 神寶座的右邊。」

And then the next verse says, "Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

然後下一節經文說：「你們要仔細想想這位忍受了罪人如此頂撞的耶穌，你們就不致心灰意懶了。」

The place to go when the joy of the Lord seems so far away is not deeper into our sorrow, but deeper into the love of Jesus shown to you at the cross.

當主的喜樂似乎如此遙遠時，該去的地方不是更深的悲傷，而是耶穌在十字架上向你展示更深的愛。

Please hear this today and as feeble as it may feel, choose to rejoice:

今天希望你聽到的是，儘管感覺很虛弱，但選擇歡欣鼓舞：

open your mouth, lift your eyes, and tell Jesus you love him and thank Jesus for loving you.

張開你的嘴，抬頭仰望，告訴耶穌你愛他，感謝耶穌愛你。

As we do, things become just a little clearer.

當我們這樣做時，事情變得更加清晰。

The Apostle Paul, writing from prison, says in Philippians 4:4. "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

使徒保羅在獄中寫道，在腓立比書 4：4 中說：「你們要靠主常常喜樂。我再說，你們要喜樂！」

Though it is dark now, joy will come. 雖然現在天黑了，但喜悅會來的。

Hold onto Psalm 90:14: “Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.”

抓住詩篇 90：14：「求你使我們早早飽得你的慈愛，好叫我們一生一世歡呼喜樂。」

Richard Wurmbandt was a Romanian pastor. 理查·魏姆勃朗是一名羅馬尼亞牧師。

He and his wife, Sabina, were imprisoned by the Communists in the late 1940s.

他和他的妻子薩賓娜（Sabina）在 1940 年代後期被共產黨監禁。

What was worse was that their 7-year-old son, Michael, was taken from them, placed in a government school, indoctrinated in Marxism and atheism.

更糟糕的是，他們 7 歲的兒子麥可被帶走，被安置在一所公立學校，被灌輸馬克思主義和無神論。

Years passed. 歲月流逝。

Then, as a method of psychological torture for Richard and Sabina, Michael was brought to see his mom.

然後，作為對理查和薩賓娜的一種心理折磨方法，麥可被帶到他的母親面前。

The purpose of the visit was for him to denounce Christianity to her face.

這次訪問的目的是讓他當著她的面否定基督教。

The boy, now in his teens, studied the marks of suffering written across her face.

這個男孩現在十幾歲，看到她臉上寫的痛苦痕跡。

He saw the years of pain. 他看到了歲月的痛苦。

But he also saw something else. 但他也看到了別的東西。

He saw in his mom joy in her Lord Jesus. 他在他母親身上看到了她在主耶穌裏的喜樂。

Michael suddenly declared: “Mom, if Christ means this much to you, then I want him too.”

麥可突然說：「媽媽，如果基督對你意義如此之大，那麼我也想要他。」

Living in the light of what God has done. 活在神旨意的光中。

It’s pure joy! It’s pure joy in Jesus. 這是純粹的喜樂！這是在耶穌里單純的喜樂。

Rhoda saw God’s power.

羅大看到了神的大能。She was overjoyed. 她喜出望外。

Nothing could ever prevent her from announcing what God had done.

沒有什麼能阻止她宣佈神所做的一切。

Let’s be a congregation of Rhodas 讓我們成為一個像羅大的會眾

– this world will not be able to contain the joy we have because Jesus is alive.

– 這個世界將無法容納我們擁有的喜樂，因為耶穌是活著的。

For, when Christ means this much to us, many will want him too!

因為，當基督對我們如此重要時，許多人也會想要他！