



Leon Stewart (Pastor) **St. Paul's Church, Singapore**

It is a miracle that I could progress my studies from Diploma in Theology to Bachelor of Theology at TCA College. I came from a troubled background and had self-esteem issues. I did not get to complete my secondary education. The thought of studying at TCA was scary – I had this impression that people here were highly academic, and I felt small. What surprised me was the warm welcome I received from everyone I met here, even to this day. As a student at TCA, I have been greatly impacted by the acceptance by the deans, faculty, and staff. This broke my shell and helped me feel assured.

God prepared me back in 2004 to sign up for theological education. My move to study in a particular seminary was rejected, but God knew where the best place for me would be. When the time was right, God opened the door to TCA. God is never wrong. In one of courses that I took, Biblical Worship, the faculty shared a personal testimony in class, and it was as if God was talking to me to release the pain and burden of more than 10 years in my heart. It really impacted me. I gave him a hug and thanked him. The faculty understood my pain. It was remarkable how God used him to minister to me in class.

I always thought that I was a loser in school. I did not know what a research paper was, or how to write a thesis. I was in distress that even my wife noticed it and felt the need to pray for me before my class commenced later in the evening. It was a church history class by Rev Lily Lim. To my great surprise, she suddenly stopped the class halfway and asked who did not know how to write a thesis and ended up taking some time to teach us in class. I was totally amazed at how God answered my prayers and lifted my burden. At the end of the term, I scored a distinction for Church History. That was a breakthrough for me. God broke my fear of studying and gave me the strength to press on.

Prior to TCA, I had ministry experience but without theological education. TCA courses have benefited me greatly by developing my theological thinking. God has gifted me with wisdom and ability to analyse contexts to understand Scripture verses. The courses have helped me expound the Word of God deeper. It's been helpful to my ministry as the courses in TCA are very practical and ministry based.

I am thankful to God for bringing me to TCA, and the transformation He has worked in my life through TCA. Praise be to God.

