Peace be with you all. I want to take the time to thank everyone here for your time to watch my testimony. I believe that for some of you, you are probably wondering who the heck is this kid. So before I start, I would also like to formally introduce myself.

My name is Cooper. I was born and raised in Taichung Taiwan. I came to the US at the age of 15. After high school, I lived in Michigan for 6 years until two months ago I moved here to Fremont for my first full time job. It is my pleasure to meet you all.

I was baptized the week before I moved here. I've had thought about getting baptized for a long time, and the reason I did not until recently is that for a long time I thought I was not good enough. I wanted to become a better person before I can receive baptism. But after I understand Christianity more, I realized baptism is a free gift from God. Jesus wants us to humble ourselves, admit and repent our sins, and accept that Christ is here to mend the relationship between us and God.

To prepare for the testimony today, I had the opportunity to rethink of my life and why I decided to turn to God. My family is not Christian, but surprisingly, I grew up in a Christian environment. The elementary school, middle school, and high school I went to, they are all Christian schools. When I was in first grade, I got an illness called acute hepatitis. I did not know what that was. All I remember is that my stomach hurt so bad that I could not even stand up. My mom sent me to the ER that day, and the doctors told me that my liver function index is thousands times above normal. I almost died. I still remember the days living in the hospital where I had multiple shots a day. But in all honesty, I was not that afraid of needles. The greatest fear I had was waking up with no one around me. Perhaps this is a shadow in my childhood that makes me very uncomfortable taking naps even today, for I do not wish to wake up not knowing my surroundings.

After 2 weeks in the hospital, everyone thought I am all clear. But to everyone's surprise, I had the same illness a year after. Few people can survive with one acute hepatitis, but I survived twice. Later on the doctors found out that I am allergic to a certain kind of anti-biotics. My hepatitis is an allergic reaction, so don't worry this is not contagious. Joking aside, the hospital I stayed in is a Christian hospital that my grandfather owned. I still remember him visiting me everyday and singing hymns next to my bunk bed. My grandfather would always

pray next to me. I did not know who God was, but He saved me twice already. This is just one example of God's free mercy on everyone of us. Many people would probably argue that if God truly loves me, why would he give me hepatitis in the first place? But the truth is if I had not had the experience, I would not have known salvation is a free gift from God. There is a Hymn that my grandfather always sang to me. I tried to look up the song but still was not able to find it anymore. But I know one day I will reunite with him. On that day, it will be my turn to sing it to him.

I came to the US in 2009. The high school I went to is a Christian boarding school. The faculties were super devoted. We had chapel every day. Students are not allowed to watch movies or listen to songs that have cursed words in them. When I was a starting pitcher on the varsity baseball team, we had to circle around and pray before each game. The curriculum involves the history of Christianity and ancient European history. When I was a senior, there is this class called Bible 12. One day I asked my teacher what is going to be on the exam next week, he raised up the Bible. At first I thought he wanted me to pray to God for answers you know? But later I realized he meant that questions will be drawn from the bible.

In this class, we were required to write an essay called jesus paper. In this paper we need to state whether or not you believe in jesus. You don't necessarily get an A if you state that you believe. There are plenty of students who held an opposing view. I remember one of my friends said in the paper that he almost became a Christian and he's glad that he did not. I'm sure the teacher was pissed off about it, but I guess the whole point of the paper is to challenge our faith. Because after all true faith comes from back and forth critical and independent thinking. Despite having those opportunities to understand Christianity in a deeper level, I was frustrated many times by the behaviors of some students in my high school. Some of them would pretend to be Christians in order to acquire some leadership positions on campus. For a long time I thought Christians are hypocrites. One day I told my teacher about my frustrations. My teacher told me that there are only a few people who would run a marathon. Most people are just bystanders. It is easy to judge others when you are not one of the participants in the race to experience the endeavor and effort. The journey of Christian faith is also like a marathon race. Instead of pointing fingers at those who participate in the race, we should join the race ourselves and provide support to those who went astray.

I still remember on the day of graduation, our headmaster said to the student body, “I know a lot of you still do not believe in God. But I know for sure that one day you will need him. And on that day you will know how to find him.” I am grateful that my high school gave me a good foundation of the Christian faith and the opportunity to developed critical thinking skills such that today I don’t find myself at odds when I decide to walk on the journey of faith.

After graduating from high school, I arrived at university of Michigan. One day I joined a conference on campus, there was a girl who came and sat next to me. We did not know each other, and it is during an ice breaker session that we found out that we are both from Taiwan. She then introduced the Taiwanese Presbyterian church to me. I am truly grateful that this girl brought me to the Taiwanese church in ann arbor. Fun facts, I met pastor lee not at the church but at his garage in ann arbor. I am passionate about cars. I like to work on my car for fun. And thank God that pastor Lee also likes cars, so we became really close very quickly. I stayed in ann arbor for about six years to complete my bachelors and masters degrees.

A lot of you may not know, but a little more than a year also in February, I lost a very important person in my life. In all honesty I don’t really recall the details during that time, but all I remember is that everyday I would pick up my phone and start dialing numbers on my contact list. I was devastated that I just needed someone to talk to. I even went to a mental therapist. I did not know what I was going to do for the summer. I was supposed to be looking for internships but I just couldn’t. I lost all my energy and all my confidence. For me, nothing really mattered anymore. However, there is one company that kept interviewing me. I was at my lowest point in my life but this company kept giving me opportunities. At that time I was like this is so annoying could you please stop calling me? They interviewed me five six times and I advanced to the next level every time. Even when sometimes I thought I did poorly, they still advanced me. Last year on April 13th, it’s a Friday that couldn’t be more ordinary. I was just walking out of the clinic of my therapist. I received a call from the HR. The lady on the phone asked me when I can start working. Just take a minute to think of the contrast. I was walking out of a mental clinic like a psychopath, and this company was telling me that you are one of the absolute best and we really like you. I started to hear the birds chirping. I started to see the colors around me. God saved me once more. God told me tribulations don’t just go away like pain killers. Give it time, give it

patience, trusting that one day everything will become better. Give it faith, trusting that god will not give you the burden you cannot handle, trusting that god will never forsake you.

At the end of April, before I started my internship in June, I went back home to Taiwan. On the second day, I joined the military. I still remember that every day was a torture for me. After all I was still very mentally weak. Every day I would vent to the comrade next to me. He is a tattooist. he has tattoos on all his body. Perhaps the only part he didn't have tattoo on is his face. He looks like a thud in all honesty. On one night, we were watching the nigh view of Taichung. I asked him what if I never get over the pain, will my life be ruined? It's such a stupid question now as I think about it, but I still asked him anyways. He held his cigarettes and did not even bother to look at me. He said, do you believe in God? I was like what? Can you imagine, one of the gagsters out there asks you whether you believe in god. I was in shock and I was like yeah sure? Then he said, if you really believe in him, why aren't you trusting his plan for you? I was in shock you know, but indeed I was very touched by his words. You meet all kinds of people in the military, there are people who make street foods, people who do car washes. Why in the world would I meet this tattooist next to me? On the outside he may look like a thud, but indeed he is an angle sent from God. He is a Christian. I still couldn't explain this today. If it weren't God's plan, what else could it be?

After my internship, I went back to Ann arbor to complete my degree. It's my final semester, so I had been busy looking for a full time job. Back in November, I actually got an offer from a company called Kennametal. Kennametal is based in Pennsylvania. It is known for its tunnel drillers and other heavy duty tools. And I guess a lot of you may know, as a foreign student here in the US, every opportunity counts. It is not easy to find a full time job as an international student. At that time, I had no other offers at all, and I really wanted to just accept the offer and be done with it. If I did, perhaps I can visit Taiwan and celebrate new year's with my family before I start working in march. However, after I found out that kennemetal's acronym is New York stock exchange is KMT, I turned down the offer without a doubt. Just kidding. At that time, I decided to turn myself to God again. I knew he has a better plan for me. I got accepted to my current company in February, so for two months I was jobless, and every day was extremely stressful. I prayed every day. I didn't ask God to have me accepted by this company. I prayed to God asking for a heart to accept anything that he plans

for me. This type of prayer gives me peace. On the one hand, I am not giving God a hard time you know? Not that he is unable to accomplish anything but you know what I mean. On the other hand, I have faith to let him guide my future. No matter what the outcome is, I believe it is meant to be the best for me. But of course, during those two jobless months, sometimes I couldn't resist thinking if I made a mistake of rejecting kennematal. But now looking back, If I had accepted the offer in a rush, I wouldn't have been standing here today. And I wouldn't have got to know all of you. So indeed, behind the scene in everything, there is blessing from God.

Again, I want to thank everyone of you to see my testimony. For I am who I am today, I want to thank God and every one of you. It has been two months since I settle here in California. In all honestly, I am still adjusting my life here. There are multiple Saturday nights where I found myself very lonely. But I know everything in life, every encounter, every conversation has the blessings from God. It is my pleasure meeting you all. It is indeed God's grace to have me here. Thank you!