

JESUS And The Chinese Mafia

An Amazing Testimony



MARIA T. NAGEL

**Jesus and the Chinese Mafia
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by Maria T. Nagel

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Preface

One year before God gave me the assignment to share the Gospel in China, I had a dream. In this dream someone had placed two babies in front of my doorstep. When I came out, I knew I was going to take care of them. One baby was tiny and the other one was large. I said to myself: "Who will help me take care of those two babies? In the next scene I started running, because I knew that I didn't have much time. I was running to find food for the babies and bring it back to them as fast as possible. While I was racing, evil people tried to stop me so I wouldn't succeed in giving the babies their food." When I woke up, the Holy Spirit explained to me that the babies represented nations, He wanted me to work with." I understood then that the smaller baby represented the Philippines and the larger baby represented China.

I went to China in the Winter of 2015. I had only shared my testimony with a handful of people. In the meantime a lot happened in my life. By the grace of God, I got married to a wonderful man and God blessed us with a new child. Last year December 2018, the Lord laid on my heart that it was time for my Philippines and China testimonies to be shared widely.

The testimony you are about to read, clearly shows that our amazing God doesn't call the perfect and qualified. He trains and qualifies those He calls. Through faith in Jesus Christ EVERYTHING is possible.

May you be blessed by this testimony.

*Maria T. Nagel
Vienna, Austria April 2019.*

Intro: Beautiful Melody

In November 2015 I had a dream in which a beautiful voice was singing “Jesus Is My Strength” in Mandarin Chinese. The melody stayed with me the entire morning. I asked God why He had given me that song and what I was supposed to do with it. His answer came a few weeks later: I was to share the gospel with prostitutes in China.

1. Prostitutes Need Jesus Too

I must confess that this new assignment did not please me at all. Common sense told me that prostitutes had pimps and that both pimps and prostitutes worked for the Chinese mafia. Jesus responded to my fear by reminding me how He had protected me in the Philippines and reassured me that He would do the same in China.

“God, who should I go with?” I asked.

He replied simply, “I will go with you.”

2. Jesus: The Free Gift

Although my lips had agreed to go to China by myself, part of me was still rebelling. So I did what every disobeying child would do: I argued.

I found four excellent reasons that I was the wrong person for this assignment:

1. Why not take a Chinese or Taiwanese person—or anyone else fluent in Chinese?
2. As a person of color, I am super visible! There was no chance of blending in with the crowd if I had to run or hide.
3. What if one of the mafia pimps decided to kidnap me, ship me off somewhere in China, and sell me as his new exotic merchandise? The standard way of introducing me to customers would surely be “Who wants the black madame with funny hair? I make good price for you!”
4. It was strictly forbidden in China to openly sell or distribute Christian materials. I could go to a Chinese prison for that.

I especially liked points 1, 2, 3, and 4!

Of course God was not impressed. And as expected, He had the perfect answer and plan: “Record a CD with Bible verses in Mandarin. The CD cover must be neutral. You will be in China around Christmastime, so you can present the CD as a free Christmas gift. Place the CD along with some candies in a plastic bag. It will be well received.”

Wow! I thought. How brilliant!
God is full of wisdom and truly thinks of everything!

I had run out of arguments. The case was closed. I, the black exotic madame, would go undercover to China and infiltrate Jesus into the Chinese mafia.

3. Making the CD

The CD assignment awoke the desire in me to write new worship songs in Chinese. Although my basic Mandarin knowledge did not permit me to write complex lyrics, by God's grace and leading I wrote five songs. The lyrics were about pain, hope, freedom, and God. A Chinese friend looked over the lyrics and listened to my Chinese pronunciation. Apart from a few mistakes, she was happy with the overall outcome.

I wanted nothing but a violin to accompany my singing voice. A Taiwanese man from the church I attended at that time "happened" to be a violin player. He didn't want to help me at first because he said his musical skills were not that good. He changed his mind after I explained to him why I was doing those worship songs. I told him I had written the songs with the prostitutes in mind and that they wouldn't care if his violin sound wasn't perfect. What would matter was that the lyrics would go straight into their hearts.

The three first tracks on the CD were my songs. The following tracks were recited Bible verses about God's love, strength, healing, and hope. I intentionally placed the songs before the Bible verses. This way whoever listened to the first few CD tracks would think, Ah, it's just music! The Bible verses I chose were read by Chinese friends. I added classical music as background with compositions from Bach, Chopin, Bughici, Albinoni, Vivaldi, and Pachelbel. For the cover I chose one of my paintings and named it "Beautiful Sound."

I made all the recordings (songs, violin, recited Bible verses) and arrangements and did the editing on my MacBook Pro using a Yeti microphone and Logic Pro X software. Some of my work colleagues (I was working for a media institute) helped me master the CD tracks and format the CD cover. The colleague who helped me the most with this project later became my husband: Thanks, Rob! For life :)

4. Yay: Double Payday!

In Austria depending on your work contract, you can receive double your salary in the summer. It's called holiday money, or *Urlaubsgeld* in German. In the winter you can also receive double salary. It's called Christmas money, or *Weihnachtsgeld* in German. As soon as I received my Christmas money, I ordered over 250 copies of my Beautiful Sound CD. Then I booked a hotel and bought a flight ticket to Shanghai. I also bought a huge suitcase, very warm clothes, plastic bags, and tons of candies.

5. Shanghai: Here I Come

It was my first time in mainland China. Reality hit me hard when I realized that almost no one there could speak English. The people were mostly reserved but friendly. Some wanted to take selfies with me. I thought, Why not? So I smiled cheek to cheek or shoulder to shoulder with them. But how would I make it there with my basic Chinese? I didn't even know how to formulate a sentence to explain that I was looking for prostitutes.

The hotel I was staying in was the Ladoll Service Apartment located in the Jing'an District. A short walking distance from it were large luxury malls, like the Hisamitsu and the Rui Ou department store. I decided to leave some of my bags in those malls. I would go to each floor, look for the ladies' restroom, and hang one bag behind every door. Rich Chinese folks need Jesus too, I reasoned. That was day one.

On day two I walked around my neighborhood and gave some bags to people I met in the street. I also entered small shops and gave bags to the employees. This was an opportunity to practice short conversations about my “free Christmas gifts.”

At the end of day two I still I had no idea how to find prostitutes in Shanghai. I was starting to panic. Then God spoke to me: “Find an international Christian church and seek help there.”

That’s what I did. I went online and found an international church. Their next service was taking place the very next evening. I went there with a bag full of CDs because I planned to hand them out to prostitutes that same night. The service took place in a nice big hotel. After the service I approached some people from the congregation and explained to them the reason for my coming. Judging from their faces, I realized that they thought I was crazy. One after the other said they couldn’t help me. I became desperate.

God, why did you send me here? No one wants to help. God pointed out a tall black man and said, “Ask him.”

I went over to the gentleman, introduced myself, and briefly explained why I had come to the service. He too gave me the girl-you’re-crazy look and said no one wanted to help me for fear of getting arrested.

“Do you know where I can find prostitutes?” I asked him.

“Everyone knows.”

“Please,” I begged him. “Please take me there tonight.”

“Tonight? No way! We could get arrested!”

“I know, but I came all the way from Austria just for this. Look—I even brought some of the CDs with me.” I opened my big sports bag to show him the CDs and offered him one.

The man (let’s call him Mike) was not moved. He offered to show me on my map where to find prostitutes, but I didn’t want to go there by myself. Mike was a tall, well-built black man. The perfect bodyguard, I thought. Unfortunately, he still said no even after I insisted several times.

I was sad. Why couldn’t God supernaturally intervene and make the man say yes? I knew the answer. God would never do that because God is a gentleman who doesn’t impose His divine and perfect will. So if God didn’t want to convince Mike, I would try one last time.

I was desperate, so I put Mike under pressure. “Where is your faith? You come here to pray and sing and yet you refuse to help me? God brought me all the way to China to share the gospel with prostitutes. I know it’s dangerous. I would rather be at home spending Christmas with my family, but I’m here. God didn’t bring me to China to get arrested, and if you come with me, you won’t get arrested either. No one from this church wants to help me. You are the last person I’m asking for help. If you still refuse, I will go by myself. But I want you to know one last thing. At this very moment angels are standing next to us, writing down our conversation. The day will come when you will stand before God and He will ask you why you refused to help me. What will you say? Should these angels write that you helped me tonight—or that you refused like everyone else? You decide.”

Mike was convinced.

6. Thank You, Mister Mike

I was grateful to God for everything He was doing for me, and I was thankful to Mike for making a conscious decision to help me. You see, our lives and destinies are linked to the destinies of people we know and people we call strangers. By helping me Mike had placed himself in the center of God's perfect will for that moment.

Mike and I left the fancy hotel and headed toward places where prostitutes could be found. After distributing a few bags, I decided to call it a night. It was quite late and I didn't want to miss the last transportation to my hotel. Mike and I parted company and never saw each other again. I knew I would no longer need a bodyguard to feel safe. God had sharpened my eyesight so I could recognize prostitutes and which buildings were prostitution houses. The following three nights I handed out the bags by myself.

7. Gospel for the Chinese Mafia

When I would approach a prostitute or enter one of the prostitution houses, I would say my well-rehearsed greeting in Mandarin: "Hello. Merry Christmas. I have a present for you." The ladies and men working there would look at me, very surprised. So I would smile, repeat my greeting, and hand a bag to each of them.

The reaction I received was generally positive. They would usually ask, "It's a gift? How much?"

I would answer, "It's free."

"A free gift? Why?"

"It's Christmas, so I want to give you a free gift."

Others were so happy that they asked for a second bag. "For my friend," they would say. So I would give them a second one. Some started eating the candies right away. One even played the CD before I left and asked me, "Is it you singing?"

One of the establishments I went to had two receptionists. One lady was so furious about my presence that she tried to chase me away, shouting in broken English, "Nothing is for free in the world! You want money! I don't give you no money! Go! Go now!"

I replied in vain, "I don't want any money from you. I want to give you a gift because it's Christmas!"

"You go away now!" she shouted.

I looked at her colleague, whose eyes revealed that she wanted a bag. I went up to her and said, "Let me give you two bags. Maybe you can give the second one to her when I am gone. They are free."

As I left the building, I turned around one last time and saw the angry lady holding the second bag, inspecting what was inside.

I must admit that every time I had to go inside one of those houses, I was afraid and ashamed. What will people think when they see me going in there? I also envisioned getting arrested or kidnapped and sold by one of those mafia guys.

One particular prostitution house gave me goose bumps. There were almost no street lights in that area. Through one of the windows I could see about five women and four men standing around. "Sorry, God—I can't go in there. Look how suspicious these men look—especially that one smoking a cigarette. I'm afraid. What if they rape me? Kidnap me? Or kill me? I don't want to go in there. Sorry. Besides, I already gave a lot of CDs away. That should be enough."

I had made up my mind that I would not enter that house. God was silent. He didn't force me or try to convince me. As I walked farther and farther away from that prostitution house, I felt remorse. What if God had sent me to China *particularly* for these people inside? Can I return to Vienna and say to myself, "Mission accomplished"?

I decided to put my faith into action and said to God, "Okay—I'm going inside." With my heart pounding, I walked back to the building. I was so afraid when I placed my hand on the door handle that I thought I wouldn't be able to speak. The door opened. Everyone stared at me. The large room had several doors in the back. More men came out of them. At that point I wanted to run out. Instead, my mind went on autopilot. My lips smiled, and my mouth said with a joyous voice, "Hello, everyone! Merry Christmas! I have gifts for all of you!"

I still wanted to run away, but my feet went to every single person present. One after another stretched out his or her arm to receive a bag. I could hear them ask, "It's a gift?"

My lips answered behind my big smile, "Yes, a gift for you—because it's Christmas!" When ever single person had received a gift, I said in English, "Bye, bye!"

They all replied together in English, "Bye, bye!"

And I left.

When I was back outside I felt so happy that I had made it out of there alive. My mind was picturing a thousand scenarios of what could have taken place. I hurried away. When I was far enough, I tried to scream, but no sound came out. I had never been that afraid in my entire life. I thanked God for His protection. A few CDs were left in my bag. I decided to hand them out the next day to random people.

I made it back to Vienna in one piece. I will always have a special place for China and Chinese-speaking individual in my heart. I love them and I love God.

All glory be to God!

Conclusion

My trip to China was a seed sowing assignment. I may only know the fruits of this mission in a few years, decades or in heaven. God is not obliged to reveal every facets of his plans to us. Our job is to be obedient when he entrusts us with an assignment, vision or idea.

The apostle Paul said it best in 1 Corinthians 3:6,7: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow".

When God gives you a vision, an idea or a plan, He will confirm to you in many ways that the idea came from him and help you all the way. My trip to China is not only my testimony, but a demonstration of how amazing God is and an invitation for you to renew your faith in Him.

When you say "yes" to something God has placed in your heart, God will:

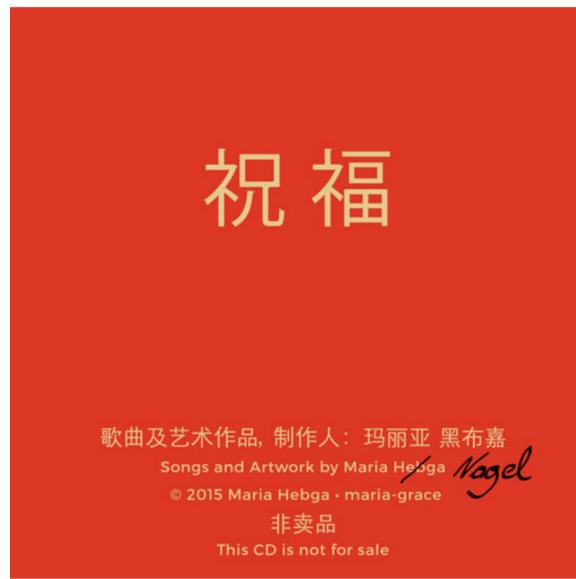
- fight for you.
- do the impossible for you.
- train you.
- give you fresh ideas.
- teach you to see things from His perspective.
- connect you to the right people.
- supernaturally protect you.
- take care of your needs.
- reward your faith and obedience.

Through your faith and obedience to do what God placed in your heart, you will witness:

- how wonderful and powerful our God is.
- how lives are being transformed and impacted.

...and much more!

God is waiting.



Maria's T. Nagel's front & back CD cover



Gift content on Maria's hotel floor in Shanghai



Gifts on Maria's hotel bed in Shanghai



gift close-up on Maria's hotel bed in Shanghai

The following is the Text Maria T. Nagel wrote and which was spoken on the "Beautiful Sound" CD.

INTRODUCTION

Dear brother, dear sister having a personal relationship with God is the most beautiful and powerful thing you could have. He is the one who made you. Every single part of you. And before you spent 9 months in your mother's womb, he already had a plan for your life. He loves you and wants you to walk hand in hand with him.

Many do not know God. Some have heard of God and some want to know God. This CD is for all those who are seeking to get closer to the one true God. The Creator of heaven, earth and the entire universe.

Listen to the following prayers and verses. And make them as personal as possible. May God bless you.

THANKSGIVING - Prayer

God I thank you for my life. I thank you for the air I breathe. I thank you for making my heart beat and giving me food to eat and something to drink everyday.

God I thank you for my family. I thank you for my parents, my husband, my children and my friends.

God I thank you for my job and the money you provide for me. I thank you God for the roof over my head.

God I thank you for my health. May my life bring you glory. Use me as a light for this world. Help me to be a blessing for my generation. Anoint my tongue so I can speak words of wisdom to bring hope to others. Anoint my eyes, so I can see right from wrong. Anoint my hands so I can do the right things. Anoint my feet so you can walk on the right path.

God I thank you for the good plan you have for my life. I thank you for giving me Jesus Christ. He is my Saviour and my strength. In Jesus name I prayed Amen.

STRENGTH WHEN YOU ARE WEAK - Prayer

Dear brother, dear sister, this prayer is a guideline, you can make it as personal as you want. For example, instead of saying "I" you can say the name of the person you want to pray for. God bless you.

O God, hear my prayer. I do not come before you in my own name, but I come to you in the name of your beloved Son Jesus Christ.

Please forgive me if I have wronged you with my thoughts, my words and my actions. Have mercy on me O Lord. My heart is heavy and my spirit is broken.

Help me to overcome this situation. Give me clarity so I can know what to do next. Help me to be humble to recognise what I have done wrong. Help me Jesus. You are the God who guides his people, guide me. You are the God who makes the blind see. Heal me. You are the God for whom nothing is impossible, intervene in my life. Help me to win this battle. Help me to overcome. You are my God, my Saviour and my Father. I come to you to seek refuge and guidance.

I need you Lord. I need you now. I need your peace. I need your joy. I need your wisdom. I need your clarity. I need your strength. I need your courage. Help me God. Thank you, because I know you have already done it in Jesus name. Amen.

WORDS OF LIFE

What are words of life? They are the written words of God, which is the Bible. Throughout the centuries, many tried to destroy the Bible, but didn't succeed. Because God appointed men, women and children to

Make it Personal

protect the Bible, share it distribute it and even translate the Bible so you could one day hold it in your hands and read it in your own language.

Psalm 119:105 says that *the word of God is a lamp at our feet and a light on our path*. It also says in Hebrews 4:12 that *the word of God is alive and active*.

In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 it is written: " *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*"

The Bible is a manual God left for you. It has solutions for every problem or situation you might encounter in your lifetime. Reading the Bible and meditating on its words, is the key to a fulfilled life on earth.

There are two ways to read Bible verses. The first way is to read it just as it is written and the second way is to make it personal. Why don't we try it together?

Encouragement 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

Normal way:

我们四面受敌，却不被困住。心里作难，却不至失望。遭逼迫，却不被丢弃。打倒了，却不至死亡。

Personal way:

I am hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Encouragement 2 Tim 1:7

Normal way: 因为神赐给我们，不是胆怯的心，乃是刚强，仁爱，谨守的心。

Personal way: *For God has not given me a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.*

Encouragement Deuteronomy 31:6

Normal way:

你们当刚强壮胆，不要害怕，也不要畏惧他们，因为耶和华你的神和你同去。他必不撇下你，也不丢弃你。

Personal way:

I am strong and courageous. *I am* not afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD *my* God goes with *me*; he will never leave *me* nor forsake *me*.

Encouragement Isaiah 41:10

Normal way:

你不要害怕，因为我与你同在。不要惊惶，因为我是你的神。我必坚固你，我必帮助你，我必用我公义的右手扶持你。

Personal way:

I am not afraid, for *you are with me*.
I am not discouraged, for *you are my* God.
You will strengthen *me* and help *me*.
You will hold *me* up with *your* victorious right hand.

Make it Personal

Strength Matthew 11: 28-29

Normal way:

凡劳苦担重担的人，可以到我这里来，我就使你们得安息。
我心里柔和谦卑，你们当负我的轭，学我的样式，这样，你们心里就必得享安息。

Personal way:

Jesus I come to you because I am weary and carry heavy burdens.

Give me rest.

Give me your yoke.

Teach *me* because *you are* humble and gentle at heart.

With you I will find rest for *my* soul.

Wisdom Psalm 49:3

Normal way: 我口要说智慧的言语。我心要想通达的道理。

Personal way:

You can also replace “ my ” by the name of a person. For example you can say:

My husband's (or wife) mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of *his* heart shall be understanding.

Repeat it as much as you feel or want.

The Armour of God Ephesians 6: 10-18

Normal way:

我还有未了的话，你们要靠着主，倚赖他的大能大力，作刚强的人。
要穿戴神所赐的全副军装，就能抵挡魔鬼的诡计。
因我们并不是与属血气的争战，乃是与那些执政的，掌权的，管辖这幽暗世界的，以及天空属灵气的恶魔争战。
(两争战原文都作摔跤)
所以要拿起神所赐的全副军装，好在磨难的日子，抵挡仇敌，并且成就了一切，还能站立得住。
所以要站稳了，用真理当作带子束腰，用公义当作护心镜遮胸。
又用平安的福音，当作预备走路的鞋穿在脚上，
此外又拿着信德当作藤牌，可以灭尽那恶者一切的火箭。
并戴上救恩的头盔，拿着圣灵的宝剑，就是神的道。
靠着圣灵，随时多方祷告祈求，并要在此儆醒不倦，为众圣徒祈求，

Personal way:

I am strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

I put on the full armour of God, so that *I* can take *my* stand against the devil's schemes. For *my* struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore *I* put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, *I* may be able to stand *my* ground, and after *I* have done everything, to stand.

I stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around *my* waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

and with *my* feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

In addition to all this, *I* take up the shield of faith, with which *I* can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

I take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

May God bless you my dear brother and my dear sister and make your relationship with him, personal. In Jesus name: Amen.