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From the “Ouachitonian”: Melissa Lee

By Houstin Kirkpatrick

June 07, 2021

For more information, contact OBU's news bureau at newsbureau@obu.edu or (870) 245-5208.

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. – A year and a half ago, Melissa's life changed forever, all by a coincidence. Through her faith, the Lord guided her here to Ouachita where she uprooted her entire life.

Melissa Lee, junior music major, is from Singapore. Singapore is an island city off the coast of Malaysia. The journey to Arkadelphia is 9,746 miles. Her dream was to study music, but her home of Singapore had limited options. She decided to go into the work field for four years.

As she worked, she started to attend an International Baptist Church where she began to serve in the church's ministry through choir and orchestra. The pastor of the church was an alumnus of Ouachita. At the time, Melissa didn't think Ouachita was in her plans so, she began looking at other schools.

Melissa said, "It seems coincidental on how I got to Ouachita." She started an application to Ouachita and other schools. As she started this process, her church sent her over to get trained for children's choir. She was able to stop at Ouachita and tour it.

"I went by Speer pavilion and prayed that if God wanted me here it would take a miracle that only he could make happen," Melissa said. She would not have the means to support herself financially when moving across the world if it wasn't for God's provision.

"This might be the very reason why I could attend Ouachita," Melissa said. She knew that it would take a miracle, and a miracle is what she got. Melissa earned the President's scholarship which encouraged her to cement her plans at attending Ouachita.

Today, Melissa is passionate about worship arts and plans on pursuing a career in worship ministry.

Photo by Hannah Smith