

MY FATHER SHANG QING-MEI'S TESTIMONY

By

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MY FATHER SHANG QING MEI'S TESTIMONY OF BELIEVING IN JESUS

Shang Zhi Rong

In Acts 10:34-35, Peter said, "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right."

My grandfather, Shang Xi Zhen, was born in the North San Hu village of Cheng An county in Hebei province. When he was young, his family was very poor and his father died early, Xi Zhen had to live with his widow mother. Even though their financial situation was very tight, and they had no money to pay for the school, Xi Zhen's mother still expected him to be able to read. Therefore, Xi Zhen's mother sent Xi Zhen to one of their relatives, Mr. Liu (a private school teacher), as a cleaning worker so that he could work and study at the same time. Shang Xi Zhen lived in the guard house alone at that time.

One night, when Shang Xi Zhen was going to go to bed, suddenly he saw a young lady stood next to his pillow. Xi Zhen shouted to her, "Shame on you! Who are you? Why you come to my room in the night?" While he was yelling at the lady, he grabbed a stick and was going to beat her, but the woman went through the door and run away. Because the door was closed, Xi Zhen hit his head on the door and got wounded, then he realized that the woman was not a human. The next morning, Xi Zhen told Mr. Liu his story, and fear to live alone in that room, so he went home to live with his mother again. That night when Xi Zhen was going to sleep, he heard some noise from the closet. He thought that the lady came again, so he lighted the candle but did not see anybody there. The next morning, he found a pair of gold bracelet on the top of his closet. Xi Zhen and his mother both were honest people and did not desire for

treasure that did not belong to them, so they gave the bracelet to Mr. Liu and told him that this bracelet were not theirs, and asked him to find the owner for them. Mr. Liu searched many villages for the owner but still could not find the person, so finally he sold the bracelet and bought three acres of soil. From that time, Xi Zhen and his mother had some land to plant things.

After Xi Zhen stop working for the private school, he went to Shuang Ji village (in Wei County) and became a student of silver craft store. Later on Xi Zhen had his own silver craft store, and he hired a cousin whose name is Jian as his assistant. Jian's daily work was to string the copper coins (ancient Chinese money). But there were several strange things happened: First, the copper coins were endless; Second, the case where Jian put the copper coins always overflowed with the coins, and even turned the person over who slept on top of the case to the ground during the night; Third, the oil in the oil lamp would overflow when Jian was going to fill it up; Fourth, Jian could not finish string the copper coins that Xi Zhen made during the day because they came out endless. Jian was so tired and asked Xi Zhen to allow him to sleep. Xi Zhen allowed Jian to go to bed, but Jian was turned over on the floor by the overflowing copper coins from the case while he was sleeping.

My Grandfather Shang Xi Zhen Talked to Ghost, and Ghost Was Afraid of Him

Once a time, Liu's Village invited a theatrical troupe to perform in that area. Xi Zhen went there to watch the theatre in the evening, but he did not finish the whole play because he wanted to go back home earlier. While Xi Zhen was on his way home, he saw a person whose stature was huge stood at the corner of the road. Xi Zhen asked him, "Who are you? Who are you waiting for?" That person answered, "I am waiting for such such person who is from Xi Ma Ti village, and he is discussing the land business in Shang Jian's house." My grandfather Shang Xi Zhen said, "Could you come to my house and rest a little while, so you can go with him later?" While Xi Zhen was talking to that person, he tried to hold his hand and bring him to his house but he did not catch anything. From that moment, Xi Zhen realized that that person was not a human but a ghost. So Xi Zhen went to Shang Jian's house and told the person who was from Xi Ma Ti village the story. Xi Zhen said, "There is a man outside said that he is looking for you. I found out that he is not a human but a ghost because he became wind when I tried to grab his hand and bring him to Shang Jian's house. So, please do not go now, he is outside and he wants to hurt you." But the business man said to Xi Zhen, "I always walk in the late night and I am not afraid of ghost!" This business man could have gone later, but when he heard that the one who is looking for him is a ghost, he was offended and decided to go home right away. My grandfather and Jian accompanied with him till the West side of the village, but he said to them, "please go back home." My grandfather and Jian insisted to go with him a little bit further, but he said to them again that he was not afraid of ghost because he always walked alone during late night. So my grandfather and Jian had to stop and went back home. Before they entering their house door, the business man was

already at the side of Tu Di Temple (the temple of local land/ village god). Xi Zhen and Jian heard the ghost roared loudly and hit the business man. The business man was thrown away about fifty steps far by the ghost, and hit the ground heavily. My grandfather and Jian immediately went back to look for the business man according to the direction of the noise. When they found him, he was lying down on the ground and could not speak at all. My grandfather asked Jian to carry this business man back to his home. When they enter the business man's house, the fire of the oil lamp in his house turned green. The business man did not die but was very ill for about three months. This is true story, and all the people who lived in that village during that time knew it very well.

Shang Xi Zhen had a very good business in the next twenty years in Shuangji village, and he made a lot of money. He became a rich man in North Sanhu village. He has nine acres land and six servants to plant the land.

During the fourth year of Guang Xu Emperor in Qing Dynasty, there was a terrible draught in Lin County Henan province for four years. Because of the draught, all the crops were destroyed and countless people suffered from starving. During that time, there was slavery business in the market. Because Shang Xi Zhen's family was rich at that time, some people suggested him to go there and buy several slaves so that he can make a little bit money and at the same time he can save their lives. Shang Xi Zhen went to the market and bought a woman and her daughter. The woman was about fifty years old, and the daughter was fourteen years old. The woman's husband and her children all died in the famine. Shang Xi Zhen brought them to Feng Shou county in Shang Xi province to sell. While they were on the way to Shang Xi province, the woman cried out to Xi Zhen, "Master, when you sell us, please do not sell us too far from each other so that we can meet each other sometimes in the future."

The famine was too heavy in Lin County, half of the population died in hunger. Xi Zhen met an old man while he was selling the daughter in the market of Feng Shou county. This old man has nineteen years old boy. This boy's mother died when he was five years old. The old man lived in a very simple life and saved all he could to raise up this boy till nineteen years old, and wanted to buy a wife for this boy. Because the woman that Xi Zhen bought in the market cried out to him everyday, and asking him not to sell her and her daughter too far from each other, Xi Zhen discussed with the old man about this business. He said, "Sir, you only have your boy in your family, and you do not have a partner either. Why don't you buy this woman and her daughter so that you can become one family? Isn't that great?" But the old man answered, "When my wife died, the boy was only five years old. I saved all I could is because I want to buy a wife for my boy. Now, where I can get money for myself to buy a wife?" So, Shang Xi Zhen decided to give this woman to the old man for free so that they can become one family. Therefore, Shang Xi Zhen did not make any money but lost his money in this business.

Because Shang Xi Zhen was a rich man who had nine acres lands, even though he lost money in this business, it did not effect his family's financial situation. One day, while he was taking a nap under a big tree in his own land, he dreamed about three old men who were walking towards him. In his dream, Shang Xi Zhen prepared some tea for them. While they were drinking the tea, one of them said to Shang Xi Zhen, "It is very good to do good deeds; it is very good to do good deeds, because when you do so, God will not forget them!"

At this moment, Shang Xi Zhen sighed and said, "I have done many good things in my life so far, but I did not even have a son." Later, Xi Zhen told these three old men his experience of selling the woman and her daughter in Lin County. After they listened to the story, one of the three old men said to Xi

Zhen, "Next year, God will give you a son." As expected, my father Shang Qing Mei was born in the next year.

I. Against Christianity, Insults Missionaries.

Before 1917, my family was deeply involved in worshiping idols and practicing superstition. Three of the best rooms in our house were used for worshipping idols. During that time, my father was a 25 year old young man who was deeply influenced by the Boxers group. He excluded foreigners very much. On 15, February 1917 (Chinese lunar calendar), my father went to the southern side of his village to attend the Temple Fair. This Temple Fair always held once a year and it lasted for ten days. Everyday there will have more than ten thousands people to come to worship idols, and do all kinds of businesses as well. It was a very large and lively festival.

During that time, Christianity just finished building up a church in my village, so there were only a few believers. During this Temple Fair time, a Chinese missionary built up a tent and started to preach the gospel. My father Shang Qing Mei was very curious about it when he saw so many people surrounded the tent. He thought it was acrobatics show or someone was telling stories, but what he saw was a man who was preaching. The preacher said, "There is only one true God, He is Lao Tian Ye (an old title that Chinese people refer to Heavens or God), He gives me food and clothes, He loves me always; there is only one Savior who can forgive my sins, I listen to him and depend on him, my Lord Jesus." When my father heard the name Jesus, his heart was full of anger. He yelled at the preacher, "It is because the river dried up, the turtle is speaking here. (It is a kind of insulting words in Chinese) You, betrayer, I will kill all of you if I have the power." Because my father looked like he was going to fight with the preacher, the preacher thought he was drunk. The

preacher whose name is Miao Zi Geng calmed my father down and invited him to sit down and offered some nice tea to him. Other people who saw my father's behavior were unhappy with him, they rebuked him, "If you do not like to listen to his words, you can leave; but you should not yell at him and say bad words to him." My father was afraid of being against by other people, so he felt shamed and left.

II. Tear Up the Bible, But Was Touched By God's Words

In June 1917, my uncle found out that he had esophagus cancer. Those local doctors could not heal him. My uncle was a rich business man, so my father suggested him to go to the missionary hospital in Shun De city to see the foreign doctors. When they were at the waiting room of the hospital, there were some missionaries were preaching the gospel to the patients. My father Shang Qing Mei was disgusted with what they were doing, but because he was in the foreign hospital, he had to be patient with their preaching. While my uncle was meeting the doctor, a missionary gave my father a copy of the Book of Matthew, and asked him to read it if he knew how to read. My father had no choice, so he accepted it unwillingly and put it in his pocket. After the check up, doctor told my father that they do not have medicine for this illness, so please go home and rest.

On the way home, my father remembered the experience of meeting missionaries in the hospital and the little book that he gave to him. He took the book out of his pocket, tear it up page by page with abusive words. He even smelled at the book because he suspected that the foreign missionary might put some drugs in this book in order to make him sick. While my father was tearing the fifteen chapter of the book of Matthew, his eyes focused on verse 13-14; "Jesus replied, 'Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be

pulled up by the roots. Leave them, they are blind guides. If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit.' Because the words in the Bible are the words of God, just like in Luke 1:37, "For nothing is impossible with God", my father was caught by this verse "If a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit". "Wow", he thought, "There are some points in this Christian book. If it is truth, I should research more! I insulted a preacher in February in the Temple Fair, and today tear up their Bible. I am not doing the right thing." At this moment, my father felt guilty in his heart. This was how the Holy Spirit changed my father's heart by using the word of God, and also guided him to examine himself. In John 16:8, Jesus said, "When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment" From that time, the seed of the gospel was planted in my father's heart, and three months later, he repented and believed in Jesus Christ.

III. Got Rid of Idols, Accepted Jesus Wholeheartedly

The same year in September, my grandma had a malignant furuncle at the corners of her mouth. The famous local doctor, Wang Zhong, a good friend of my father, told him that there was no hope for my grandma to be healed because the malignant furuncle has expanded. Then my father heard that there was a witchcraft that lived in Da Zhai village was very good at healing patient with her power. So my father invited her to our house, and set an altar for her to burn the incense and paper money in order to get rid of the bad luck. This witchcraft told my father that my grandma would be healed if he went to the Hu Guan Temple in Wei village to worship the idols. My father spent a lot of money in preparing everything in that temple according to what the witchcraft said, and also offered nice meals and money to the witchcraft everyday. But after he went back home, my grandma's condition was getting worse. She re-

mained unconscious and could not eat anything for eight days. My father had to ask the witchcraft to help. The witchcraft was very crafty, when she saw that my grandma was near death, she changed her words and said to my father, "This disaster is from a Buddha who lives in your house. He will surely take away your mother's life. He said that your mother put her foot-binding cloth on the altar one day when she was washing her feet, so he was very angry with her. Therefore, he will punish your mother and take away her life." After hearing those words, my father knelt down before the altar and held the burning incense to pray to the idols. He prayed, "Buddha, Buddha, my family has been worshipping you generations by generations. Every beginning day and the fifteenth day of the month we offered sacrifices. It is said that powerful people will not be bothered by the mistakes of common poor people, and you are a generous god; so, please forgive my mother!" But even my father prayed so hard to those gods, my grandma's illness was still not healed. My father was a short-temper man during that time; he stood up and shouted at those idols with a great fury, "From now on, I will never serve you anymore!" While my father was saying that, he tear down all the paper idols and broke the altar. He also cut down all the wood idols and stone idols. When he was breaking a copper idol with an axe, my father's aunt heard the noise and went upstairs to see what happened. When she saw that my father was breaking down all the idols, she yelled at my father, "You are such a disobedient son! Your mother is going to die, and you are committing such a big sin! How dare you are that you destroyed all the idols!" My father replied with a great anger, "From now on, I will not worship those false gods!" This was from the message that the missionary who was preaching during the Temple Fair time. He said, "There is only one true God, He is Lao Tian Ye. All the idols which were made of mud and wood are false gods." Through this story, it proved the words in the New Testament 2 Timothy 4:2, "Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke

and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction". Even though my father was an unbeliever and against Christianity during that time, the seed of the truth still sprouted in his heart half year later. While my father was breaking down all the idols, my oldest aunt came in the room and take away the silver idol. That is because my grandfather was a silversmith and he made that silver idol. And another silver Buddha was taken away by my father's aunt.

IV. Suddenly Awaken, Seek and Accept Jesus as Personal Savior

After my father destroyed all the idols, he went back to his room. However he could not sleep and started to have fears, he was afraid that what if the Buddha appears to him and wants to take away his life. While my father was thinking, he heard a voice told him that he can be able to against the false gods if he believes in true God. Immediately, my father remembered the experience that he insulted the preacher in the Temple Fair in February. The preacher said that there is a true God, and He is Lao Tian Ye. My father said to himself, "Christianity does not believe in false gods but true God, so now I will believe in Christianity." The church was in the downtown, so my father did not sleep during that night and went to downtown. But the gate of the downtown was closed; my father could not enter it so he waited at the gate outside of the town. When it was just before the dawn, the gate bolt was loosed, but the lock was still on. My father had to try very hard to move his body to enter the gate. The church was located at the east side of the street; my father sat down outside of the church but did not knock on the door. He waited till daybreak. When he heard the voice of business men who were canvassing business, then he knocked on their door. The guard asked my father who he was, he replied him that he came to look for Jesus. Then the guard knew that my father was an un-

believer, so he opened the door and let him in. It was almost the end of September (lunar calendar), so the weather was very cold during the night. My father's voice was shaking because of the cold weather, so the guard turned the stove on and helped my father to warm up. My father asked the preacher what kind of procedures he needs if he wants to believe in Jesus, and the preacher replied that he needs to know where human being comes from first. The preacher told my father things as below:

God (Lao Tian Ye) created human being with dust according to His image (Genesis 1:27). And God created man and woman according to His image. The first human being who was created was Adam, and he was a man; and the second one was a woman whose name was Eve. The reason why God loves us was because we have the image of God and His spirit (life). In Genesis 1-3, it records that God gave the authority to Adam to enjoy and also manage all the creations, such as sky, earth, air, sun, moon, stars, animals and plants, etc. God also created a woman, Eve, to be Adam's partner and help him. God put them in the Garden of Eden, and asked them to take care of the garden and all the creatures. During that time, all the animals, birds and insects obeyed human being, and also the creatures in the seas and rivers followed human's instruction. All the plants, fruits and flowers belonged to human to enjoy them. There was a wonderful and close relationship between God and human beings. God commanded human, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." (Genesis 2:17)

But what a mistake! Our forefather did not listen to God's commandments but the lies of Satan, the serpent. Satan lied to Eve, and she believed its words and she ate the fruits from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. She also gave it to her husband, and he ate it as well. Therefore these two persons disobeyed God. Before they were human beings with no sins, and they were

spirit body and were able to communicate with God without problem. But this sin made them decreased from the spirit bodies to flesh bodies, and they were cursed and driven out of the Garden of Eden by God. They were also separated from God and lost their authority in managing all the creatures. Therefore, oldness, illness, suffering and death came to this world. It just like what Romans said in 5:12, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned". Also "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), "just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment," (Hebrew 9:27). So human being will be punished because we have sinned, and we can not run away from the future judgment of God, "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). The end is to perish forever and go to the hell to suffer from the fire because in there the worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched. The suffering will be everlasting. (Mark 9:44)

Therefore, human being needs God to send His son Jesus Christ to die for all human beings if they want to be saved from the suffering of the hell (1John 2:2). By the power of the Holy Spirit, Virgin Mary was pregnant. Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judah (Israel). Jesus lived thirty-three years in this world. Before thirty years old, he worked as a carpenter with his father Joseph. At the age of thirty, Jesus started to preach the gospel of heaven, proclaim the love of God and persuade people to repent. He taught people about the God Father, and how to be saved from the hell and have eternal life. Jesus preached the gospel for three years, and he preformed a lot of miracles, such as heal the sick, cast out demons, and raise up the dead, etc. Because Jesus hates sins, and he rebuked the spiritual leaders of Jews, the priests were against him and sentenced him to death. They crucified Jesus on the cross, and he was buried in a tomb. After three days, God used His power to raise Jesus up from death. Jesus also appeared to His disciples and lived with them for forty days. Finally, He

was descendent in front of his disciples while He was talking to them. Now He is at Father's right side and prays for all the believers everyday. Jesus also promised His disciples that He will come to this world again and bring all the believers back to the heaven to enjoy the happiness in heaven with Father God forever.

The Picture of Heaven and the Hell

Heaven is where true God Jesus lives in. There is a bright, holy and glorious happy place. There is no suffering, illness, tears and death. There is also no sins and darkness. In Revelation 21:4-5, the Bible says, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away". In verse 11-27, it also tells us that Heaven is a place that has pure gold street, pearl doors. There has the river of life that overflows the water of life. We will see the tree of life that bears the fruits of life. Lord Jesus is the King that rules that place, and gives the everlasting blessings and happiness to all the believers to enjoy.

The Hell is where Satan and his followers live in, and they will be punished there forever. In that place, it has Fire Lake, and the worm in there does not die, and the fire is not quenched. (Rev. 20:10, 21:8; Luke 16:19-24)

Dear friends, the Bible recorded the Ten Commandments that God reveals to human beings.

1. You should have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.
4. On the Sabbath day you shall not do any work.

5. Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.—Chinese has two famous sayings: Among all the sins, adultery is the first; among all the virtues, honoring parents is the first.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house, his wife, his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Have you done anything against these Ten Commandments? Do you have sin? After listening to those words, my father Shang Qing Mei confessed immediately that he has committed all the sins that were mentioned in these Ten Commandments. He said, "I am a bad sinner, and I am willing to repent to God. I want Jesus to be my Savior!" So the preacher guided him to say the confession prayer, "I am a big sinner! I did all the things that I should not do, and I did not do the things that I should do. This is my sin." The preacher also told my father God's promises in the Bible, "'if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1:9), and 'Yet to all who received him (Jesus), to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God' (John 1:12). So whoever believes in the Son will have eternal life (Believing in the Son means believing in Jesus; have eternal life means we do not have to go to the hell, and we will go to heaven to enjoy the happiness there forever). Now you have confessed to Jesus and repented, all of your sins are forgiven. You have no more sins now, and you become God's child. After you die, you will not go to the hell but heaven." After knowing all these, my father was extremely happy.

When the preacher finished talking to my father, it was almost lunch time. My father felt that he should go back home as well. But just right after he went out of the church, he went back to the preacher again. He asked the preacher, "Now I will not go to the hell and have eternal life because I believe in Jesus, but can Jesus heal my mother's illness? If Jesus is true God and Savior, my mother now is dying, I know that false gods can not save her, now I can only ask Jesus to save her!" The preacher's name is Miao Zi Geng, he replied, "Jesus is almighty God, living God. If you have faith and pray for your mother, ask Jesus to use His great power to heal her and save her soul, Jesus can do anything, even though your mother is dying, unconscious and could not eat anything. Because Jesus opened the eyes of the blind, the mouth of the mute, He also made the cripple to walk, the dead came back to life, for Him, nothing is impossible. The Bible says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrew 13:8)

Then my father continued to ask the preacher how to pray. The preacher taught my father the Lord's Prayer in the book of Matthew 6:9-13: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." My father immediately bought a copy of New Testament, and memorized the Lord's Prayer well on the way home. The joy was full of his heart. When my father entered the door of our house, he shouted loudly, "Mom! Mom! I invited the son of the true God, Lao Tian Ye to our house, He is Savior. If you believe in Him, He will heal you! Mom, do you believe in Him?" My grandma had remained unconsciously for about eight days, and her heartbeat was very weak too. But at this moment, she started to have her conscious back, and she nodded her head a little bit to show my father that she was willing to

believe in Jesus. Then my father held my grandma, because of lacking of knowledge, he brought a scoop of water, recited the Lord's Prayer, and then told my grandma, "Mom, this is the medicine that Jesus gave to you. You will be healed if you drink it. (Actually that was cold water)" The loving and merciful God listened to my father's prayer, and my grandma opened her eyes and was able to talk now. She said, "I am very hungry now; please give me something to eat as soon as possible." My father was so happy that he shouted to my mother, "Dong Zhi's mother! Dong Zhi's mother! (Dong Zhi is my older sister, this was the old way that farmers call their wives) come to here! Come to here! Our mother is healed! Our mother is healed!" But my mother did not come to grandma's room; she did not believe my father's words. She yelled at my father, "Are you crazy? You destroyed all the idols last night, and now you say our mother is healed!" Of course my mother could not believe what had happened. How can a person who was dying just get healed one minute ago? But my father kept shouting that grandma was healed and brings something for her to eat. Even my mother yelled at him, he still kept repeating those words. At this moment, my mother changed her mind and came to my grandma's room. She saw that my grandma who remained unconsciously for eight day now opened her eyes and could talk to them. My mother was astonished and asked my father, "What kind of medicine have you given to mom? She is really healed and able to ask for food!"

My father was also astonished by the miracle, and he told my mother the whole experience. He said, "I destroyed all the idols last night, then I was also scared that those gods will come to take away my life. So I went to the downtown at midnight, and found the church there. I believed in Jesus, and Jesus is true living God. I read the Lord's Prayer for mom, 'Our Father in heaven ...for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.' And mom opened her eyes and asked for food. This is a real big miracle that God

raise up the dead!” Because my grandma have been sick for a long time and could not eat anything, all the gifts (food) from our friends and relatives were eaten by those kids. My grandma wanted to eat badly, so my mother offered her a small bowl of soupy rice that was cooked in the morning, and she ate it. My father was so willing to offer some thanksgiving gifts to the church for the sake of the healing of my grandma. He went to downtown and bought several packs of candy and traditional desert, and hired a carriage to bring my grandma to the church. My father wanted to offer those gifts as a sacrifice to God, but the pastor and preacher appreciate my father’s thanksgiving gift but did not accept them. They told my father what he should do was to tell other Christians the miracle that Jesus healed my dying grandma so that they can give glory to God all together. Amen.

God listened to my father’s prayer, and healed my grandma. My grandma became a very devoted Christian after she was healed. She received the eternal life and became a child of God. This was my father’s true eye witness and his personal experience of the power of prayer. He also experienced the truth that Lord Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever. Jesus is also Omnipotence, Omnipresence and Omniscience living God, and the Savior of human being. There is peace and eternal life in believing in Jesus. My father read through the New Testament in one week, and then he bought a whole Bible to read. He was so eager to know the truth of the Bible, and also followed what the Bible teaches in his life in order to bring glory to the name of the Lord.

Before because my father did not believe in true God, he was cheated by the witchcraft and spent a lot of money to heal my grandma, but the witchcraft did not bring him any benefit. However, now he believed in Jesus, and what he needed to do was just confess his sins and repent to God, accept the salvation that Jesus has done on the cross. And immediately he received the peace of forgiveness of the sins, and he also saw the glory of God and had the

eternal life. Comparing these two experiences to each other, how can my father not willing to offer his whole body and soul as living sacrifices to the true God and live for Him? So, my father first offered two bolts of blue cloth and made a tent that was used for preaching. This was used for preaching the gospel of Jesus. From 1917 September to 1960 May, my father kept sharing the gospel with people for more than forty years. Even though now he had passed away for over twenty years, the effect of his work still influenced the churches in our place. Hallelujah! May the glory, praise all belong to the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, our Trinity God, forever and ever more, amen! (This was written in Chong Qin city on 6 July, 1980)

My Father Shang Qing Mei's Testimony of Believing in Jesus

(Continued)

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (Matthew 5:10-12)

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." (Matthew 7:13-14)

"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." (Acts 14:22)

I. Walking on the Righteous Path, Bearing with Persecution

Before the end of September in 1917, my father has not believed in Jesus, he was a one of the richest person in our village. He was also a young man who had received old style private school education. He liked playing instruments, telling stories and performing drama, so he had a very good relationship with other people. But after my father believed in Jesus, he turned the passion for all those old habits into the passion for sharing the love of Jesus with other people. Because of this, those good friends and relatives who were very close to my father now turned their back to him, some of them even hated him and against him. For example, they did not allow him to get water from the well in our village. We had servants during that time, and the water that we used everyday was carried from the well by our servant. Since my father believed in Jesus, people started to against him and forbad him to drink the water in our village.

That was because the local people thought that Christianity was a western religion, from other country. Our servants could not get the water from the well, so they went back to my father and told him the reason. Then my father Shang Qing Mei went to the well and tried to get some water by himself, the owner of the well kicked his buckets away, so my father had to buy water from another village.

My grandma became a Christian after she was healed. She went to church to attend the service every Sunday. Eight months later, my grandma was sick again and passed away quickly. Because my father believed in Jesus, his own relatives and the people who lived in the same village refused to come to help him to bury my grandma. Finally, my father had no choice; he had to hire some people from other villages to help him to bury grandma.

II. Overcome the Difficulties through Prayers

My grandma died in May, 1918. My grandma's family (local people called it Hou Dai Jia) was planning to send more than one hundred people to my father's house to fight with him on the day that my father planned to bury my grandma. The reason was because my father became a Christian and he did not plan to hold the funeral ceremony according to the old customs, such as burning paper money, hiring Taoists to call my grandma's soul back, etc. During that time, my father worried that the troubles on my grandma's funeral day would be more difficult to deal with than the troubles of asking people from other village to bury my grandma. He knew that grandma's family would force him to follow all the old customs, besides; they would beat him very bad as well. The night before the funeral, my father prayed wholeheartedly a whole night before God. Thanks God for listening to his prayer, it started to rain at the

midnight, and the rain was getting heavier and heavier. After daybreak, the heavy rain kept coming down till noon. My grandma's family was planning to send over a hundred people to come, but finally they only sent one person to come to inform my father that he could start the ceremony now because the rain was too heavy, carriages and horses could not walk on the road and the flood was as high as people's waist. The ten tables' dishes all left. At this moment, my father's heart was full of thanksgiving to God that He heard his prayer and removed the difficulties for him. Because the Bible promised us, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7) That afternoon at 1 o'clock, the rain stopped and the sun came out while my father started to bring my grandma's coffin to the grave yard. Later on, my father always testified that he was so thankful to God for listening to his pray so that he was able to show filial obedience to his mother, and also was able to be in charge of everything thing at the same time. From that time, my father's faith was strengthened. Glory and praise to the Holy name of the Lord forever!

III. A Gentle Answer Turns Away Wrath (Proverbs 15:1)

In the summer of 1918, my grandma passed away. And because my father believed in Jesus, my aunt was very hostile to him. So she requested to separate the family property and live separately from my father (My father has one brother). My family spent a lot of money during the time when my grandma was sick, and also the day of her funeral, so we had to sell some of the lands to pay the bill. Besides, my father's brother wanted to separate the family property, so we had to fire some of the family servants for a sensible reason. There was a

servant whose name was Li Shang Chun, he was also our neighbor. He was extremely hostile to my father while my father was abandoned by his friends and relatives because he believed in Jesus. Li always insulted my father whenever he could find a chance. One time, he made an excuse that one of his chicken run into our house and he needed to come to our house to find his chicken. Because the kids were playing around, so they closed the door for fun. When Li saw our door was closed, he shouted, "Opened the door!" My second oldest sister who was only six years old during that time heard someone was knocking on door, so she came to the door and started to move the bolt. Li kicked the door very hard, and my sister was hit badly on the ground by the door. The blood came down from her nose and mouth, and she cried very loud. How can a six year-old child bear with this kind of pain? Immediately, my father got extremely angry. He has been persecuted by Li many times, at this moment; he stood up and was going to fight with Li. Suddenly, a thought came to his mind (This must be the guidance from the Holy Spirit), "I just read the James 1:2-4, it says, 'the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything...' verse 19 also says, 'Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...' Verse 22 says, 'Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.'" This was the work of the Holy Spirit in my father's heart, and He gave my father patience. Immediately, the anger in my father's heart disappeared, so my father was able to speak to Li in a gentle voice, "My third oldest brother", Li had a nickname was Li San, "my child heard you were knocking on the door, and I asked them to open the door for you immediately. You heard the sound that my daughter was moving the bolt, why did you still use such a big strength to kick on the door?" At this moment, Li saw my sister's face was full of blood, and heard my father's gentle voice, he felt guilty and shamed. So Li apologized to my father, "I did not hear

the sound of the bolt, it was my fault.” He held my sister and started to look for something to clean my sister’s face. Later on my father recalled the experience and said, “If it was not the Holy Spirit spoke to me through the words in the Bible and gave me patience, I will surly cause a big disaster. If I listened to Satan, and repaid evil with evil, I would fight with Li seriously. And we were both young men who were just a little bit over twenty years old; we might kill each other if we fought. And we will not be able to see Li and his family became Christians later on as well.” This experience proved the power of Lord’s word, “A Gentle Answer Turns Away Wrath”, “a gentle tongue can break a bone.” (Proverbs 15:1, 25:15)

IV. Bearing with Persecution, Overcome the Trail

In 1919 autumn, my family had 16 are crops that was going to be harvested. But Li Shang Chun came to our field and threw a torch to the crops, so all the crops were destroyed by the fire. While my father was watching the crops in the field that night, my uncle run to him and shouted, “Brother, bad thing happened! The 16 are crops that we gathered in the field were burned by bad man!” After hearing that, my father was in a hurry to go to the field. But after he arrived there, all the crops were burned already. After appreciating all the neighbors who came to help my family to save the crops, my father went back to the field and looked at those crops. At this moment, he thought that the one year labor and the food for the whole family just destroyed by wicked people, what he could do for the seven people in his family? While he was feeling sad, suddenly the Holy Spirit reminded him the story of Job that Satan attacked Job. And in one day, Job’s seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred pairs of ox were robbed, and his ten children were killed by the typhoon. But because Job feared the Lord, even though he was in a big trail, he still could say, “The

LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.” At this time, my father’s heart was full of peace and comfort, and he experienced the peace from heaven which Jesus promised to all believers. For Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (John 14:27). So my father was filled with peace and joy from the Lord. And from that moment, my father started to sing the song that was written by Pastor Xi Sheng Mo, God Gives Me Peace, all day long. The song is like this, “Lord gives me peace, Lord gives me peace, the peace that Lord gives to me is different from the pleasure of this world. Men can not take it away, this peace is from heaven.” By singing that, my father stopped worrying and sighing.

The next day, most of the neighbors told my father that the fire was caused by Li Shang Chun. The neighbors said, “Last night Li Shang Chun came to your field, and after he left, the fire started. Also your brother hired him, so he hated you in his heart.” Many of the neighbors suggested my father to accuse Li Shang Chun in the court, and put him into prison for what he has done. But my father was guided by the Word in the Bible when he was praying. It says, “Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.” Li Shang Chun’s family has three children, and all of them depended on him to make money to support the family. If my father told the thing that Li has done to the government, Li surely would be thrown into the prison. So his wife and children would suffer a lot. Jesus gave my father a loving heart and patience, so he did not put Li to the court.

V. The Vision Guided My Father To Love His Enemy, Li Shang Chun's Whole Family Believed In Jesus

In 1920, our place has not rained for a long time. All the crops died, and every family has not food. During that time, my family has eight people. Because I was born in that year, and the sixteen are crops of last year were burned, my family financial situation became serious difficult. So my family had to borrow usury from some landlords to support our life. During that time, the interest of one silver coin was twenty copper coins a day (Now it equivalent to one big copper coin). Therefore, after two months, the interest and the money that we borrowed were the same. A whole year interest was six times higher than the money we actually borrowed. So after one year, my father sold his fields, and two thirds of the land belonged to the landlord. From that time, my family became tenants.

During the time that between winter and spring in 1921, the famine in my place was very serious. Many families went to other provinces and became beggars, some even sold their children. People had nothing to eat, even wild vegetables, the roots and skins of the tree could not be easily found. I was born on September 17, 1920, because of the famine, my mother was too thin to have enough milk; she could only feed me with some kind of soupy Chinese sorghum, and put a little bit brown sugar to maintain my life.

During this time, the life situation of Li Shang Chun's family was even worse. They thought about going to another province, but the eldest daughter was 9 years old, older son was 7 years old, younger daughter was 4 years old, these three kids were too weak to walk because of the famine. Finally, they thought about letting Li Shang Chun carry his oldest daughter to three hundreds miles away, Feng Shou city in Shan Xi province, to sell. But Li's wife could

not bear with the pain of selling her daughter, so she thought if they had to die, it would be better they all die together. Later on, they had a plan; they asked Xiao Xiang and another neighbor to help them to borrow usury from the landlord Jia Lao Shou who lived in Nan San Lake village. Li's family hoped that they could borrow two dollars from him if they promised to pay thirty copper coins interest a day. But the landlord was afraid that Li Shang Chun would not return the money to him in the future, so he did not want to lend the money to Li's family. At this moment that Li Shang Chun's family was near death, the salvation of Jesus came to this family.

One morning, my father was reading the Bible at the table; suddenly he saw Li Shang Chun's wife came to our house with a bowl of green beans balls. "Even though she is my family's enemy and had not visit us during New Year for two years", my father thought, "Now she is bringing gift to our family, I still should greet her". But when my father was going to stand up and invite her to sit down, everything disappeared. It was a vision. So my father closed his eyes and prayed to God, "Lord, what does this mean? I never thought about this kind of thing, and I know it is not a dream in the night, why could this happen?" At this moment, the Holy Spirit spoke softly in my father's heart, "You bring two dollars to save Li Shang Chun's family because they are dying for lacking of food. They are trying to survive, so Li Shang Chun planned to sell their oldest daughter to Feng Shou city, but his wife disagreed with him. Now they asked Xiao Xiang to help them to borrow two dollars usury. Their interest is thirty copper coins a day. They planed to use those two dollars to buy one dou green bean (a Chinese unit of dry measure for grain, one dou = one decalitre) and two jins (Chinese measure, 1 jin=1/2 kilo) vegetable oil so that they can do green bean ball business. If they can turn a millstone together, they can have green bean flour to make balls to sell on the street; and have the bean's skin to mix with wild vegetable and tree skin to make their daily food. In that

way, they can maintain their lives till the harvest season of wheat. If they can make that far, they will not die. They asked somebody to borrow the usury but still could not get the money.” At this time, the Holy Spirit touched my father’s heart and asked him to bring two dollars to give to Li Shang Chun as their funds to do the business so that his whole family could be saved. But my father discussed with the Holy Spirit, “He is the enemy of my family. Last year he insulted me several times, and set on fire in my field and destroyed all of my crops. If he has not done that, my family has not needed to experience such a suffering from the financial difficulties. We do not have enough food as well. I also borrowed usury that twenty copper coins for one dollar each day to buy a little bit food. My family is eating chaff and wild vegetable to maintain their lives. My three month’s old little son has no milk to eat because the mother has no milk. He has to depend on the soupy sorghum to survive. I have to plan well in using that money if I want my family can maintain their lives till the harvest season of wheat.” The Holy Spirit spoke to my father in his heart, “Do not repay anyone evil for evil, ..., If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:17-21) The Holy Spirit also said, “He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.” (Proverbs 19:17) Therefore, my father obeyed the Holy Spirit, got two dollars and put them into his pocket secretly, and went to Li’s family. When he entered Li’s house, Li’s wife greeted my father, “Qing Mei brother, it is so seldom to see you come to our house. Now why you are willing to visit our family? Please sit down.” My father said to her, “I have not visited your family for two years. Now the famine is so bad, how do you guys live?” Li’s wife started to cry when she heard that. She pointed to the two kids who were sleeping in bed and said, “They are so hungry and even are not able to walk. We wanted to sell our oldest daughter to

Shan Xi province so that we can get some money to maintain the lives of the two adults and two little ones. But I can not bear with the pain of selling my own daughter, so I expected to borrow two dollars usury, pay the usurer thirty copper coins interest a day, so that I can buy one dou green bean and two jins vegetable oil to do fried green bean ball business. I asked Xiao Xiang and another person as our witnesses to borrow the usury, but several days past, the landlord told us that he will not lend the money to us. We can not go to another province because now the two little kids can not walk at all. Now what we can do is just wait to die.” She cried very loud after she told my father those words.

After my father listened to her story, he realized that what the Holy Spirit has told him was right. He took two dollars out of his pocket immediately and said to them, “Here has two dollars, the Spirit of Jesus asked me to give this to you. I will not charge you any interest, and you do not need to pay me back as well. You can use this money to start your green bean business.” At this moment, Li’s wife saw the two dollars and heard that this was a gift, no interest charge, no need to return, where she can expect such a good thing to come to her family? She was so moved and even started to cry louder. Li’s wife pointed to Li Shang Chun who was covered by a ragged cotton blanket, and shouted, “Qing Mei brother, last year autumn, it was this wicked person, Li Shang Chun, who set on the fire in your field and destroyed all of your crops. You did not put him to the court and punish him to be in the prison, and now you give money to save our lives. How can this happen in the world? How can we appreciate you, our savior?” At this moment, Li Shang Chun also got up from the bed and did not know what to say because he was so moved. He kept confessing his sin and apologizing to my father. My father answered them, “It is not because I am a good person. It is because Jesus is good. If Jesus did not save me, touch me in my heart and gives me love, how can I have such a loving heart? So, I hope that you will also repent and believe in Jesus.” Therefore,

very soon, the Li couple and their whole family believed in Jesus. Li's wife passed away in 1977. Till now, Li's grandchildren still believe in Jesus. May glory and praise belong to the Holy name of the Trinity God! (This part was written in Chong Qin in July, 1980)

VI. Recommended as a Teacher in Gospel Organization in Da Ming City of Zhi Li Province

In 1921 autumn, Shang Qing Mei was recommended as a teacher in the Gospel Organization that was located in Lao Ti Tou, Da Ming City of Zhi Li province. That was because after my father repented, he experienced that Jesus is the True Living God, he devoted himself deeply in believing in Jesus. And wherever he went, he always testified Jesus with a warm heart. During that time, the church in Lin Ming Guan of Han Dan area had a long history already, there had some foreign missionaries who were working there; they all knew that there was a devoted Christian whose name was Shang Qing Mei in Cheng An City. So they recommended my father to be a teacher in the Orphanage of the Lao Ti Gospel Organization in Da Ming City. Every time when my father gave his lecture, his topic would always change from the lecture to the truth of Jesus came down to the world to save people. After one semester, all his colleagues said the same thing that Shang Qing Mei was a genius of evangelizing people. Therefore, Rev. Hou, the leader of the Gospel Organization sent my father back to Cheng An city to work as a missionary.

Pretty soon after my father worked as a missionary in Cheng An Church, Cheng An Gospel Organization became a part of the Church of the Nazarene. The assembly of the Nazarene church was located in the northern side of Da Ming City, and it has a seminary there. Even though my father was a missionary of Cheng An church, for the sake of working for God more effectively, Pe-

ter Kong and Rev. Lan Wang De of the Nazarene church both suggested my father to study in Da Ming Seminary to study theology.

Before Shang Qing Mei finished his first year study in the seminary, my mother Mrs. Shang was possessed by demons. She cried and shouted, and run around everyday. She was mentally deranged. My oldest sister asked a young man whose name was Shang Jin Xiang in our village to tell my father the news and ask my father to go home. After my father went home, he tried to cast out demon in the name of Jesus. The devil shouted to my father recklessly through my mother's mouth, "I will not go out! I am God!" My father saw that he was not able to cast out the demon, so he brought my mother to Cheng An church to live in there, and asked brothers and sisters to pray for her.

One Sunday morning, Rev. Lan Wan De who was the president of Da Ming Seminary, lived in Cheng An church, he asked Shang Qing Mei to preach on that day. My father tried to refuse, he said, "My wife now is demon possessed, I watched her day and night and could not sleep at all, so please ask another person to preach." Rev. Lan replied to him, "You have been a preacher for many years already. You can not refuse our request. But as a preacher who is going to speak for God, you could not preach until you have a quiet prayer, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the word of God." Because my father could not refuse the invitation, after the worship leader finished leading the congregation to sing, he said, "Today, we will have Mr. Shang Qing Mei to share the message with us."

At that moment, my father went up to the pulpit and asked the congregation to stand up and pray. After the prayer, my father still did not have any guidance from the Holy Spirit in his heart. So he opened the Bible according to his faith, the verse in Matthew 17:21 caught his attention, "But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Immediately the testimony of Xi Sheng Mo came into my father's heart. Xi Sheng Mo was the pastor in Ping

Yang city of Shan Xi province. Xi Sheng Mo's original name was Xi Zi Zhi who was a scholar in Qing Dynasty. Later on he believed in Jesus and became a pastor. Pastor Xi had a very good ability in preaching. One year, Rev. Xi's wife was demon possessed. He wanted to cast the demon out by prayer, but it did not work. One day, after he read Matthew 17:21, he and his family fasted for three days, even the animals in his house were not allowed to eat anything. Then the devil was cast out. This devil later on possessed on another woman's body who lived about fifty kilometers far from Rev. Xi's village. So the woman run around and shouted everyday, "I am not afraid of heaven, I am not afraid of the earth, but I am only afraid of Xi Zi Zhi." Because the woman shouted like this everyday, so her husband wondered what kind of thing is this Xi Zi Zhi. Later on, some Christians told the man that Xi Zi Zhi was a pastor in Ping Yan city. So her husband came to Ping Yan city and invited Rev. Xi to go to his house. Even before Rev. Xi enter that man's house, the devil left the woman. From that moment, Rev. Xi Zi Zhi changed his name into Xi Sheng Mo (which means overcome the devil), and he was greatly used by God in Shan Xi province during the late Qing Dynasty. (Reference reading *The Biography of Xi Sheng Mo*)

On that day service, my father shared the testimony of Xi Sheng Mo with the congregation, all the believers were happy for hearing that story. They all felt that they have been helped in their spiritual life. After my father finished his sermon, he appreciated the brothers and sisters in that church, and told them, "I appreciate every brother and sister's prayer for my wife during this month. But today I will bring my wife back home and fasting for her for three days." In the afternoon of the second day when my father was praying for my mother, her breath suddenly stopped. My six brothers and sisters all cried for my mother. But several hours later, she came back to life and started to cry to confess her sins. The reason was because angels brought her to Heaven to visit. In there she

saw the gold street, pearl gates, the tree of life and the fruits of life. Angles also led her to the door of the Hell, and let her saw countless sinners who were crying inside of the Fire Lake. She also saw the image of Jesus when He was crucified on the Cross for saving human souls.

My mother was demon possessed, and later on the devil was cast out by my father's three days fasting prayer. After the devil left, she was led by the angels to the Heaven to see the scene of both Heaven and the Hell. This testimony was published in the magazine of the Church of Nazarene in United States. My mother's picture was also published with the story in that magazine.

VII. Pentecost Revival

Place: North San Hu village, Cheng An city.

The records as below:

The first Sunday after the Spring Festival in 1927, my father was in charge of the Sunday service in Dong Guan church of Cheng An city. He met the professor Lu Yu Cheng who was from Da Ming seminary. Professor Lu told my father that they held several days' spiritual retreat by the end of the semester in the seminary, and all the faculties and students experienced being filled with the Holy Spirit. During that time, my father had believed in Jesus for nine years, and preached for seven years. He knew that after a sinner truly believed in Jesus and repented, the first step of his life was to be born again, saved and has an eternal new life. But about the second experience step that God will give to the believers, my father was not very used to. The second step is Christian perfection; to be filled with the Holy Spirit and have the power to witness for Jesus. So my father desired to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and he prayed with professor Lu everyday in the morning devotion time in Dong Guan

Church. Every morning when the city gate was opened, professor Lu would go to Dong Guan Church, and my father would walk about three and half kilometers from North Sanhu village to Do Guan Church to pray with him. Several days later, Wang Guo Tang (the father of Wang Yu Zhang) also joined us in this prayer. Because of the work of the Holy Spirit, the believers who lived in city gate heard about this prayer, and they all came to join us in the morning. They had dozens and dozens (the phrase in Chinese is vague. It means tens or several tens, which in Chinese means it can be from 20 up to 99) of people in that prayer time. Shang Qing Mei experienced being filled with the Holy Spirit, he had power when he spoke to others. His speech made the believers who attended this meeting cried and confessed their sins. This was fulfilled the word in John 16:8, "When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment." While my father was leading over ten believers to attend the Morning Prayer meeting, they all touched by the Holy Spirit. They cried and confessed their sins. During this time, my mother, Mrs. Shang, who was demon possessed two years ago, and later on was healed by my father's fasting for three days, also eager to be filled with the Holy Spirit. She was very clear about her salvation, and heard that the Holy Spirit was doing a great work in Dong Guan Church, she was touched by this event and wanted to experience being filled with the Holy Spirit. My mother started to seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit from February 25 (Lunar calendar). She prayed wholeheartedly everyday and fasting as well. In our family devotion time on March 5, the Holy Sprit touched my eldest brother Shang Zhi Ping and asked him to confess his sins. But because he tried to ignore the voice of the Holy Spirit and refused to do the confession, he could not sleep the whole night. The next morning, all of us gave the thanksgiving prayer before we ate our breakfast, but only my older brother Shang Zhi Ping did not want to eat with a sad face. My father asked him, "Zhi Ping, are you going to join the fasting

prayer with your mothers too?" My brother Zhi Ping answered, "I am not fasting. I have no peace in my heart. Last night the Holy Spirit touched my heart and asked me to confess my sins, but I ignored His voice and did not confess my sins, so I could not sleep a whole night, now I even can not eat my breakfast." My father said to him, "You should be obedient to Holy Spirit and confess your sins to God." Then, my brother cried out loud and started to confess his sins to God. At that moment, all of us (the other five siblings) put down our breakfast and started to cry and confess our sins to God. The loud noise of our cry drew our neighbor who were eating their breakfast hurry up and came to my house; they asked us, "Who died? Why all the children are crying so loud?" My father answered them, "Nobody died. It is because my children realized that they had against the true God, and now they are confessing their sins before God and asking forgiveness from God." Then, suddenly, all of the visitors spoke to my father in one voice, "I also feel that I sinned." My father said, "So you also should confess to God and repent." Therefore, all of the neighbors put down their breakfast bowls and knelt down and confessed their sins. When our house was filled with people who came and confess their sins, some had to go out to the yard to do confession, and asked Jesus to forgive their sins. The Holy Spirit also guided those people who were confessing their sins to apologize to other people.

In the evening of March 7, during our family devotion time, my father talked to my uncle Shang Qing Huai, "Qing Huai, you should confess your sin to God and repent." He answered my father, "I do not have sin." My father said to him, "You play Majiang (a traditional Chinese game, but most people use it as a way to gambling) day and night. Our mother even broke her legs when she was looking for you, is that not your sin?" Immediately my uncle knelt down and cried very loud to confess his sin. On the third day of Holy Spirit great movement, my parents were moved by the Holy Spirit and said, "These couple

of days Holy Spirit has touched so many neighbors to repent and believe in Jesus. Today, we can share the gospel with the people who live in other villages." So, they went together to the South Sanhu village, and they came to Zhang Jing Liang's home. In that village, Zhang was the only Christian. As soon as my parents entered their home, devil cried and shouted through Zhang's mother, Mrs. Zhang, "You come to our house to rob us!" Devil shouted, "We are couple since we were little, and we have plenty children, now you come to destroy us and do not allow us to live in here anymore. You want to drive us away. Well, there is a big elm tree in our yard, please let us to live in that tree!" My father said to it, "You have no power on anything of this Zhang family, even one grass and one tree, now in the name of Jesus, I command you to leave Zhang's family." Devil shouted out loud and left Zhang's mother. Then, Mrs. Zhang started to cry and said, "I am a sinner, Lord Jesus, please saves me this sinner. I have worshipped idols, gambling, insulted other people and lied. All of those are my sins." Immediately, Zhang family got rid of all the idols, and the whole family repented and believed in Jesus. After Zhang's mother, Mrs. Zhang converted to the Lord, she devoted to the Lord till the day she left this world.

On that day, after my parents left Zhang's family, they went to a big landlord, Jia Jin Ming's home. Jia Jin Ming was the top rich landlord in Hebei Province. He had about ninety acres land and many gardens. There were about hundreds servants in his house. But Jia jin Ming had the problem of paralysis for more than two years already. My father came to his house and shared the gospel with him, asked him to accept Jesus as his personal Savior and confess to God that he had sinned. My father also guided him to ask Jesus to forgive his sins, such as worshipping idols and did not believe in the true God. My father prayed for Jia Jin Ming with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, then God performed His almighty power, immediately Jia Jin Ming's paralysis was healed

and he was able to get out of the bed right away. He run to the street back and forth two times and shouted, "All the neighbors, come and believe in Jesus! He is the true living God! I had paralysis and stayed in bed for two years, and now I believe in Jesus, Mr. Shang Qing Mei prayed for me. I am healed! Please, my neighbors and village members come to believe in Jesus!"

After Jia Jin Ming was healed, he wanted to give thanksgiving for the sake of God has healed him. He was willing to offer one tenth of his land, about nine acres field, to build a big church in the south side of North Sanhu village. And he also used a large apartment that was located in the Dong Guan South Street of downtown as a downtown church. He established Zi Li Christian Organization of the Republic of China, and entrusted Shang Qing Mei as the leader and principle of that organization. Jia Jin Ming also hired Zhang Jing Liang and He Ji Ran as missionaries, Hu Zhen Guo as the guard. Shang Qing Mei's monthly salary was fifteen Silver coins (about the same salary as the missionaries in the Nazarene Church), Mr. Zhang and Mr. He were twelve Silver coins, and Hu Zhen Guo was eight Silver coins. But after one month, through vision, the Lord guided my father Shang Qing Mei to cancel this salary system, and to be a voluntary preacher and live by faith.

VIII. The Dream

One night when my father was sleeping, he dreamed about a splendor palace. As soon as my father entered the door, the door was closed. He leaned against the closed door and could not move forward because it was a very deep valley ahead. And he could not move backward as well because the door was closed. At this moment, my father cried out, "Lord, save me! When I entered here, here was a palace, why now I can not move forward?" Then, there was a voice came from above said to him, "There is no way ahead of you, but there is

a way above you.” At that moment, a rope was coming down from above, and a voice talked to my father again, “Hold this rope tightly, I will pull you up; you must hold it very tight, otherwise, you will fall to that deep valley.” After my father was pulled up, the above was a large plain, and the one who pulled my father up was Lord Jesus. Lord Jesus commanded him to kneel down, and He rode on my father’s neck. He commanded my father to walk back and forth from East to the West. When my father was walking, he woke up. Then he realized that was a dream. My father got up immediately and started to pray. While he was praying, Lord gave him guidance, “You should quit from Zi Li organization, and go to Jia Jin Ming to resign the leader position. You should not receive any salary but be a voluntary preacher for the Lord. Mr. Zhang and Mr. He also should be voluntary preachers. Hu Zhen Guo can be a hired worker in Jia’s family. Tonight, Jia’s family is having a fight for the future of Zi Li Organization.” Even though that was midnight, my father did not sleep anymore, he run to the downtown. Because during that time, Jia Jin Ming was afraid of living in the village, my father went to downtown to knock on his door in the morning. Jia was taking a walk in his yard in that morning. When he opened the door and saw my father, he asked him immediately, “Mr. Shang, why you come to downtown so early? Do you have any important things need to do?” Then he invited my father to sit down in his house. As soon as my father entered his room, he said to Jia, “I came to here is to stop you fighting with your wife.” Mrs. Jia sat up immediately and asked my father, “Who told you that we were fighting?” My father answered her, “Lord Jesus told me this when I was sleeping.” Then, Mrs. Jia told my father that Jia Jin Ming changed his mind and wanted to take back the offering. Jia Jin Ming wanted to rent the yard of the downtown church to Heng Zheng and some stores to do business, and use the money that he can get from renting the yard to pay the three preachers and the guard’s salary. Besides, Jia also wanted to take back the nine acres land and the

large apartment on the Dong Guan South Street. Mrs. Jia disagreed with his plan, so they were fighting.

At this moment, my father shared with them his dream from the Lord and the guidance of dealing this problem. Jia accepted my father’s advice, and gave Zhang Jing Liang and He Ji Ran each person three times _____ every month. They did not work as the paid preachers in Zi Li organization, but voluntary preachers. My father before was a preacher who was paid by the Church of the Nazarene, but he resigned his job from the Church of the Nazarene when he was establishing Zi Li Organization. So now he started as a voluntary preacher, and was taking care of Lord’s sheep in several areas of Han Dan city.

Even though Jia Jin Ming took back his offering, Zi Li Organization was still established in South Sanhu village till now. Before in South Sanhu village there was only Zhang Jing Liang believed in Jesus, but since Zhang Jing Liang’s mother repented and believed in Jesus on March 6, 1927, they started a Sunday service in Jia Jin Ming’s home. Zhang Jing Liang was in charge of the service. In that service, there were Zhang’s whole family, Jia Cen’s family, Jia Xin’s family, Bo Tong Tang’s family, Wang Hong En who later on changed his name into Wang Xuan Dao(Xuan Dao means preaching), and Bo Zhan Liang, etc. The church in South Sanhu village has been prosperous from that time till now.

There was a testimony that was worth of being remembered. After my father believed in Jesus, he was so zealous in preaching God’s word and giving witnesses. One time in Cheng An Church Sunday service, my father preached very well, and the congregation was moved deeply. But when my father was going to finish the sermon, he was attacked by Satan and said a dirty word carelessly. He was so regret and felt guilty about it, so he knelt down in our haystack of our yard for three days and three nights to fasting and pray. Later on my mother worried about him, so she asked my older brother and older sister to

look for my father in other villages and churches, but they could not find him. Finally, they found out that my father was doing his confessing prayer in the haystack in our house.

IX. My Father Was Called to Work for God

Lord called my father to pastor the churches that were located in more than ten different counties, such as Han Dan district, Han Dan county, Cheng An county, Wei county, Da Ming county, Lin Zhang county, Ci county, Yong Nian county, Fei Xiang county, Guang Ping county, and Qu Zhou county, etc. On March 6, 1927, the Holy Spirit came down to Cheng An North Sanhu village Shang Qing Mei's family, Shang Qing Mei was filled with the Holy Spirit and worked for Lord powerfully and wholeheartedly. He often prayed with tears for the ministry of the gospel. One time when it was my father Shang Qing Mei's birthday, my mother prepared a nice meal for him. Before we started to eat, my mother asked all of us, six children, to bow before my father and celebrate his birthday. When my father looked at us, he started to cry out loud and said to us, "I just really care for our China in my heart, because we still have 450,000,000 Chinese have not been saved yet, and some of them have not even heard the gospel of Jesus. I can not relax my heart, so I prayed very hard to the Lord and asked Him to choose one out of your six children to continue to spread Lord's gospel after me. If so, that will be a great comfort to me." At this moment, Lord touched my heart, and I held my father's clothes and comforted him, "Father, do not cry! After I grow up, I will succeed you to spread the gospel." It comforted my father greatly. Later on he even mentioned about this event in the service of Cheng An Li Jia Ding Church.

In 1936 autumn, my father sent me to the Nazarene Bright Star Bible School to study. It was located in Da Ming county in He Bei province. After I

graduated in 1940 summer, I went back to Cheng An church with American pastor Peter Kiehn to work together. During winter time, brother Yuan Xiang Cheng also came to Cheng An church to join us. Three of us started to hold revival meetings, bible study and preaching movement in Cheng An, Han Dan, Yong Nian, Ji Ze and Da Ming five counties. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor the Japanese army closed the churches in enemy-occupied areas.

Before Yuan Xiang Cheng and his wife lived in Cheng An Dong Guan church, but because the church was closed by Japanese army, my father brought them and their son Yuan Fu Yin to live in our house in North Sanhu village for about two years. They had a daughter in our house, whose name was Yuan An Hu. It was for remembrance of her birth in Cheng An North Sanhu village.

Mr. Wang Yu Zhang was the missionary of Beifu Church in Wei county. Because Wang Yu Zhang went to Da Ming Bible School to teach, Beifu Church needed a preacher. Later Yuan Xiang Chen went to that church and became a preacher there. He stayed and preached there till his father was sick in 1945 summer. He went back to Beijing from Beifu. I was the one that accompanied with Yuan's family, five people to go back to Beijing. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 8, 1941, the battle between United States and Japan started. The Japanese army closed all the churches in enemy-occupied areas, and also frozen capital of U.S. and British. All the foreign missionaries were driven out of China, so the churches in China lost their financial support. Those Chinese missionaries who depended on the financial support from Western mission organizations could not survive now. Some of them changed their job into being a doctor, some went back to do business, and some became farmers again. During that time, the finance of Chinese churches broke down. Because of lacking of the financial support from Western churches, most of the preachers in every county gave up the ministry and chose other jobs for the

sake of supporting their families' needs. So, suddenly, no one can take care of the preaching ministry in many counties and cities. During that time, my father was not affected by this situation because he had been a voluntary preacher for more than ten years. Not only he still could preach, but also he took care of those churches that no longer have their pastors. My father also encouraged Chinese believers to take care of the Chinese churches' finance. Not only self-governing, but also self-support and self-propagation. The situation that Chinese churches depended on Western churches' support lasted about a hundred years, now it started to change. Chinese churches should practice self-supporting. Chinese believers should be responsible for their pastors and preachers' family financial needs. The local Christians should take this responsibility of supporting their pastors and missionaries financial needs no matter in county or in city. During that time, the pastors and preachers of each area needed someone to share this self-supporting biblical truth with their congregations. So, God used Shang Qing Mei to start the Three-self church work by advocating this self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagation truth to the Chinese churches in Handan, Daming areas.

X. The Fulfillment of the Promises

God promised Abraham that his descendents will be as many as the stars in the sky, and as much as the sands of the beach. He also gave my father Shang Qing Mei the same promise.

I have three brothers. In 1936, my eldest brother was twenty three years old but had not got married yet. The same as my second eldest brother, he was twenty years old, because my family was very poor, even the girls who grew up in Christians' families did not want to engage to my family. During that time, the local young men would get married when they were teenagers. I (Zhi Rong)

married Jia Xiu Rong when I was sixteen years old. That was because Jia Xiu Rong's father, Jia Ling Yun was a preacher in Handan Church, and was my father's classmate in Seminary. So, it was a very disgraceful thing in my place that my eldest brother and second eldest brother who were already over twenty years old still could not find someone to marry. Every night my parents worried and talked about my brothers' marriage. One night in my father's dream, the Holy Spirit spoke to him through the promise that God has given to Abraham. The Holy Spirit said to my father, "Shang Qing Mei, do not worry about your sons' marriage, but do your best to share my gospel with the people. I have prepared marriages for your sons. I will give you your descendents as many as the stars in the sky and as much as the sands of the beach. No one can count them." Not too long, both of my eldest brother and second eldest brother got married.

God talked to my father in his dream and gave him the promise of Abraham that my father's descendents would be as many as the stars of the sky and as much as the sands of the beach. He also gave names to the eighth generation of my father's offspring: Cheng, Guang, Pu, Zhao, Hou, Zhu, Zai, Lai. [These eight words in Chinese means "The morning light is showing up everywhere, let's wait for Lord's second coming."] I have three brothers, and my son was the eldest among all of their children. So my father gave him a name that starts from the character "Chen": Xi Chen, Shu Chen, Ci Chen, Ji Chen, Lan Chen, Ji Chen, Hui Chen, Yu Chen, Bao Chen, Shu Chen. The generation starts from the character "Guang": Xi Chen's son was named Guang Yong; Ji Chen's son was named Guang Hui and Guang Yao; Shu Chen's son was named Guang Yuan. They were all born in Chong Qin city of Si Chuan province. My eldest brother Zhi Ping's son, Shu Chen had three sons, each of their name is Guang Ming, Guang Hua, Guang Xin; Ci Chen's sons was named Guang Liang; Lan Chen's son was named Guang Min; Ji Chen's son was named Guang Liang; Hui

Chen's son was named Guang Can; Bao Chen's sons were named Guang Lin, Guang Tao, Guang Quan. The next generation will start with the character "Pu". They are Pu Zan, Pu Jian, Pu Qing, Pu Chuan, Pu Yang and Pu Wei.

XI. The Gifts from God

During the time when my father was preaching, God gave him the gift of preaching, especially the gift of preaching to the unbelievers. When he faced the new unbeliever audiences, the Holy Spirit worked with him, so he often composed a song to assist his sermon, such as *Persuading You During the Night*.

1. I bowed my head and asked myself at six o'clock in the evening, what kind of person I was before. I have done things that were against the way of heaven, I ignore the voice of my conscious. After I die, how can I face the true God.

2. I could not fall to sleep at nine o'clock. I lie in bed and think a lot. If I still harden my heart and refuse to repent, how can I escape the wrath and punishment of the Lord.

3. I still could not sleep even now is 12 o'clock, I kept thinking again and again; it was in vain to worship idols and Confucius. And even I can speak incantation, it is still meaningless.

4. I do not have peace in my heart at 3 o'clock, now I believe in Jesus and separate from devil. In a hurry I got up from bed and cleaned up all the false gods idols. I do not care how accurate you are.

5. Now the daybreak comes at 6 o'clock. The sun shows up. My heart now is full of peace and joy after I accept Jesus. I knelt down in bed and pray to God to give me His Holy Spirit so that I can move from the darkness to the light.

Another song is *The Little Daughter Persuades Her Mother*

1. Mother is above me, and I honor you. I am your daughter, and please listen to my persuasion. You should eat more but do not get angry too often, and you should believe in God. Do not play Majiang because God may punish you. Go to Sunday service to listen to the sermon, you will gain a lot of good knowledge. Mother, please be patient with me and do not get angry with my words.
2. After I persuaded my mother, I also come to my father and asked him to worship true God. Learning the truth and be a good man. You should go to church on Sunday and listen to the sermons. And please always keep a patient heart. There are grandma and grandpa above you, and also your children and grandchildren below you. The whole family is depending on you, how can you not to work hard. I suggest you to be patient and be a living vessel. If you do so, you are spiritual person.
3. Brothers, come and listen to me. Do not play gambling, do not smoking. You should listen to the sermons on Sunday, and your parents will be happy with you too. You should get up early in the morning, and go to bed on time in the evening. If you want to go to church, please tell your parents first, so that they will not worry about you. Because the first thing of all is to honor your parents.
4. Sisters, you should also believe in Jesus. You can avoid the suffering in the Hell if you accept Jesus while you are still alive. You can go to heaven and enjoy the everlasting countless blessings. Angels will come and welcome you. You will see the gold street and hear the beautiful hymns that were sang by the saints. You will see our Heavenly Father with them together, and you will live in the gold house in heaven forever.

5. Grandpa, grandma, please listen to me. You should also worship true God. God loves human, and sent Jesus to this world to save all the people. The believers will be saved, and they will not die anymore. If you are willing to believe and repent, you will receive the salvation from God. Angels will come to bring you to the heaven. Welcome to join us, our elders.

There is another one that is about the self-governing, self-propagation and self-supporting.

Church is like carriage and horse. Church members sit down in the carriage and the pastor tries to drag the carriage, but no matter how hard he tries, the carriage still does not move. Talk is useless as well. But who wants to go down and give a hand to push that carriage? Some can push, some can drag, we all work together and bring the church to our heavenly home.

Another one is *Love Your Enemies*

Tell the Lord all your injustice. It is better for you to be patient when your enemies are like tigers. This will be a wonderful experience for you to let the Lord be the judge, you will have a compassionate heart for the enemies and your fury will disappear soon.

There also have a bible story, such as *The Biggest Ten Injustice*. The meaning as below:

It was probably written by a person who suffered injustice. The content is like this: Long time ago there was a private school teacher. He was teaching a rich person's family. One morning, when he picked up his brush pen and was going to correct his student's paper, he got too much ink on his brush pen. So he swing his pen to the window and tried to get rid of the ink,

but he did not know that the daughter of the rich person was peeking outside of the window. She was watching her younger brother study. So she was shamed and cried out loud and went home. Her parents asked her what happened, and they suspected the teacher took liberties with their daughter. Therefore they tried to find an excuse to fire the teacher. But the teacher had a very strong relationship with his student, so he asked him, "Why does your father want to fire me?" The student did not want the teacher leave him as well, so he told the teacher the reason. After knowing the reason, the teacher wrote down the poem and left it on the table. The content is as below:

Zilu suspected his wife's loyalty,

The two business men went to Jiang nan as guests.

Long time ago LiuYuan used his money to replace the contribution of the peasants,

Chenlin bought the watermelon but he was accused that he stole the melon.

Yanhui was a beggar and eat ash as his rice.

Chunhong did not sew Chinese flowering crabapple.

The mute wife does not want her husband to eat the food.

The two oxen were beaten while they were working on the field,

I did not have other purpose when I tried to clean my brush, but who knows that the lady was outside of my window.

There is countless injustice in this world, but none of them can compare to the injustice that has done to Jesus Christ on the Cross.

Each of these ten great injustices has its own original story, now let me explain briefly as below:

1. **Zilu suspected his wife's loyalty.** In ancient Chinese legend, there was a student of Confucius whose name was Zilu. He traveled with his

teacher Confucius all over the nations and preached the word of wisdom. He had not get a chance to go home for a long time. His mother missed him so much that her eyes were blind and could not eat anything. Zilu's wife honored her mother-in-law very much and wanted to comfort her mother-in-law. One day, she put her husband's clothes on and pretended to be Zilu. She imitated Zilu's voice and talked to her mother-in-law that Zilu went home to see her. Because Zilu's mother was very old and could not see very clearly, she could only use her hands to touch the clothes. When she touched the clothes, she thought that was her son Zilu. So she was happy and comforted, and started to eat the food. That night Zilu's wife did not take off her husband's clothes and fell to sleep. Zilu heard that his mother was very ill, so he went back home at midnight. He did not want to wake his family up at that time, so he opened the door quietly and entered his room. But when he entered the room, he saw a man was sleeping in his bed. Zilu suspected that his wife was having an affair, so he got very angry and wanted to use his sword to kill both of them. Then suddenly he changed his mind and thought, "I can kill him later after I asked him what is going on in my family." So Zilu shouted to that man, "Who are you?" Zilu's wife was frightened and woke up by him, and she saw her husband with a sword in his hand. She answered him immediately, "It is me, your wife!" Zilu asked her why she was wearing his clothes. She answered, "Because your mother could not eat anything because of missing you, so I wore your clothes to pretend that you are at home, so she will eat some food." Then Zilu understood the whole story and appreciated his wife greatly. He also apologized to her and said, "I almost kill you."

2. **The two business men went to Jiang nan as guests.** It is a story about two business men who were traveling to the Southern side of Yangzi River. One night, they went to a hotel to find a place to rest. During the midnight, businessman A was sick, so businessman B made a cup of strong tea for him and hoped that A could be healed by drinking that tea. But A suspected B's motivation and thought that B wanted to murder him so that he could get all his money. So A said to himself, "I will wait till daybreak, and I will go to the judge and accuse B that he wants to murder me for my money." The next day, when the judge called B to the court and asked him why he wanted to kill A, B realized that A accused him. B drank the strong tea in front of everybody to prove that tea had no poison inside. So the judge rebuked A for his actions and sentenced him false witness.
3. **Long time ago LiuYuan used his money to replace the contribution of the peasants.** It is a story about a rich ancient Chinese governor whose name was Liuyuan. One year, Liuyuan was appointed to be the governor of a county. But during that year, there was no rain the whole time, so the farmers could not contribute any crops to the emperor. Liuyuan has compassion on them, so he sold all of his possessions and contributed them to the emperor for the peasants. It was about 70% of the emperor's storage. And he also reported to the emperor the difficult situation of those peasants and requested the emperor to cancel the 30% contribution in that year. But there was a wicked minister who accused Liuyuan falsely. He said that Liuyuan received bribe and stole the government's money for himself. Later on because of that false witness, Liuyuan was taken away from his position. The second year, there was another new governor came to that county to work, and he could not contribute the crops and money to

the emperor, so the emperor sent some governors to investigate the situation of that county. Then the emperor knew that Liuyuan contribute his own possessions to the emperor for those peasants, but because Liuyuan was falsely accused by wicked minister so he was taken away from his position. Therefore the whole case was clarified.

4. **Chenlin bought the watermelon but he was accused that he stole the melon.** This is the story about the One Thousand Years Old, Chenlin. [a honorable title for the person who serves the emperor. In Chinese context, the emperors were always called Ten Thousand Years Old, so under him, some ministers may be called Nine Thousand Years Old down to One Thousand Years Old]. It was told that one time when Chenlin was on the way to a battle, he was very thirsty. When he was passing a melon field, he wanted to buy a watermelon to eat from the land owner, but he could not find him. Chenlin was in a hurry to go to the frontline, so he got a watermelon and ate it. He put a small ingot of silver next to the melon peel and got on the horse to move on. The owner of the field saw Chenlin ate his melon and then left, he run after Chenlin and shouted to him, "You ate my melon and left without even appreciate me, your action is stealing." Chenlin waved his hand and went away. Later on, the owner saw there was a small ingot of silver next the melon peel, so he realized that he was wrong to accuse Chenlin stealing his melon because the price of that piece of silver was ten times higher than his melon.
5. **Yanhui was a beggar and eat ash as his rice.** Yanhui was the outstanding student of Confucius. One time when Confucius brought all of his students to travel around different nations, they arrived at Yanhui's house. Yanhui was very poor and lived in a small straw house with a very bad condition. Every time when the group arrived at other

classmates' house, they always provide nice meal for the group. Yanhui said to them, "Today, my master and classmates came to my house, no matter what, even just drink a cup of boiled water in my house; I will feel that I have done what I should do. And that is my heart for everybody here." So, Yanhui cooked the soupy rice with the last bowl of rice in his house. When he was stirring the soup, the wind blew some ash into the rice pot. Yanhui ladled out the ash soup and put it into a bowl. Yanhui was very frugal, and he did not want to waste the soup, so he drank the ash soup. But when he was drinking the soup, Zilu was walking next to the window. Zilu saw Yanhui drank the soup so he suspected Yanhui ate the rice and only provided the thin soup to the teacher and other classmates. Then Zilu accused Yanhui before Confucius that Yanhui did not really want to provide food for us because he ate the rice first and only give us the soup. Confucius called Yanhui to come before him and asked him, "I always compliment you that 'one scoop of rice, and one spoon of water, other people could not bear with this kind of worry, but you never removed your joy, how holy Yanhui is!' But I did not know that you will do such shameful thing!" Yanhui asked, "Who said that I ate the rice and give the soup to all of you?" Confucius said, "Zilu is the witness." Yanhui answered, "Please look at my bowl, everybody, what is inside of my bowl, rice, or something else?" So the whole group looked at Yanhui's bowl and realized that was not rice but ash. They all accused Yanhui falsely.

6. **Chunhong did not sew Chinese flowering crabapple.** There was a man who loves to keep chatterer birds. He liked to cover his bird cage with his wife, Chunhong's beautiful sewing. Chunhong sewed one hundred different kind of flowers on that cover, so her husband could compete not only the birds with others but also the sewing of the cover.

He boasted that his cover has one hundred different kinds of flowers, and his wife's sewing skill was the best among all of them. But one person found out that there were only ninety-nine flowers on the cover. It was lacking Chinese flowering crabapple. So they laughed at him and proved that his statement was not true. This man counted carefully again and found out it was true that there was no Chinese flowering crabapple on the cover, so he got very angry because his wife made him lost face. After he went back home, he beat his wife very bad. His wife explained to him, "I did not sew Chinese flowering crabapple on purpose because your mother had a nickname 'Chinese flowering crabapple' when she was young [that title always means some women have a immoral private life]." After listening to the explanation of his wife, the husband realized that he treated his wife wrongly. His wife had a good will to save his face, but he beat her and insulted her instead of appreciating her. That was his fault.

7. **The mute wife does not want her husband to eat the food.** There was a married couple. The wife became mute after she took some medicine when she was sick. Her husband was not satisfied with her, so he married another woman. This concubine had an affair and always met her lover. One day, the concubine and her lover planed secretly to poison her husband so she made a nice meal for him. While the concubine was putting the poison in the food, the mute wife saw it. When the concubine pretended to be nice to bring the food to her husband after he finished his work in the field, the mute wife used gestures to warn her husband not to eat the food. But her husband did not understand, so the mute wife run to him, grabbed the bowl and poured the food on the floor. The husband was angry with his wife's action, so he beat her very bad. Later on when their dog ate the food, the dog

died quickly. So the husband realized that his wife was trying to save his life. He should not beat her.

8. **The two oxen were beaten while they were working on the field.** There was a farmer who was working on the field one day, he fall to sleep in his field. Later on a tiger came from the mountain and saw the farmer, so the tiger was running to the farmer and trying to eat him. The two oxen saw the tiger and knew that it was going to eat their master, so they fought with the tiger and drove it away. The farmer woke up by the noise, and saw the two oxen made a mess in the field, so he got angry with the two oxen and he beat them very bad. At this moment, another carpenter who was in another mountain saw the two oxen fought with the tiger came down from the mountain. The carpenter told the farmer, "If your oxen did not save you, you were already eaten by the tiger." Then the farmer realized that he should beat his oxen.
9. **I did not have other purpose when I tried to clean my brush, but who knows that the lady was outside of my window.** [see the story in the beginning.]
10. **There is countless injustice in this world, but none of them can compare to the injustice that has done to Jesus Christ on the Cross.** From ancient time till now, there are so many injustice cases, but all of them can not compare to the injustice that Jesus had experienced. Jesus is the only one beloved son of true God. He incarnated through Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, and came to this world to save human being from sins so that we will be forgiven and have peace and eternal life. Jesus lived in this world thirty-three years. The first thirty years He was living as a carpenter and helped His physical parents, brothers and sister's life. The last three years He started to preach the truth of

Heaven, and asked people to repent and to know the true God. He healed people's illness, cast out demons; He took away the suffering from the outcast. Finally, because of the jealousy of the Roman government and Jewish religious leaders, He was crucified on the Cross. Jesus was buried in a tomb for three days, and He rose up after three days. He appeared himself to His disciples more than ten times, and forty days later He was _____ from the earth. Before He left the world, He commanded His disciples to share the gospel to the people all over the world. Now two thousand years already passed, the gospel was already spread all over the world. The population of Christians are about one third of the total population of the whole world. Jesus also promised his disciples that He will come again to bring them to be with Him forever. Hallelujah, Amen!

A Letter from Brother Cheng Qiu Lin

Brother Zhi Rong,

May peace be upon you in the Lord!

I have received your letter. I was thinking about to write a letter to you because the March Sixth Pentecost Revival is coming soon. I was thinking about how to hold this revival well. And also because you asked me to tell you the situation when Da Ye [a common Chinese respectful title for old men, here means Shang Qing Mei, the father of Shang Zhi Rong] was arrested. I have met an old God's servant, Brother Luo Guang Ren, in a small family meeting that was located in Yonghe Town of Yongnian County. That night when I was talking to him, he asked me if I knew a person whose name is Shang Qing Mei. I told him that I knew this person and he lived with me in the North Sanhu village in my county. Later on brother Luo told me about the experience when Shang Qing Mei was arrested. Brother Luo said, "Shang Qing Mei was arrested in Shijiazhuang. I was an eyewitness there. I saw the work of Satan. Those people who accused brother Shang are Pharisees. Outside they look like they are Christians, but inside they are like Judah who betrayed his master and brothers. Brother Shang was handcuffed and the blood came out immediately." Brother Luo was also persecuted on that day. He said to those false believers, "You are not afraid of God! You will not be able to stand before our God in the future." Let me tell you more about the situation that Shang Qing Mei had in prison. During the time when Shang Qing Mei was arrested, Chen'an County, Linzhang County and Ci County were combined together. Their prisons were also combined. Shang Qing Mei was in Ci prison. When he was reformed through labor, he took off his shoes and shirt and turned millstone by himself. All the people in the prison, including the guards and the leader of Security

Bureau knew that Shang Qing Mei worked very hard, and he was the best worker in turning millstone. Finally, when Shang Qing Mei knew that he was going to die for Christ, he cried for three days and fasted for three days. The leader of Security Bureau called him and asked him, "Why don't you eat your food? You can tell me if you have any problem. I am the leader and I can help you to settle your problems." Shang Qing Mei kept silent. Why? Because he knew God's will. He was over sixty years old already during that time. This time he was arrested with the title of against government. It was about twenty years that he would stay in prison, so he knew that he might die in the prison. But there were several hundreds thousand people in this county, and so many meeting points need to be taken care. Who can go and take care of them? Whom can he entrust the God's family to? Who will be his successors? Shang Qing Mei was thinking about God's family, so he could not give the leader an answer. After he cried and fasting for three days, God took him away. God had already prepared the glorious crown for him. Now he is waiting for both of us in heaven. Now you are eighty-two years old, and I am seventy-three. Even though according to my flesh, my surname is Cheng, according to spiritual life, I am also the successor of Shang Qing Mei, and I should take his work and continue to move on. Today I recalled the life of Shang Qing Mei and wrote down this letter to you, my heart is in a great grief for his death. I wrote this letter with my tears. Brother Zhi Rong, even though now we are apart from each other about thousand miles, I hope that you will read this letter to Shu Chen, Ai Yu, Guang Ming, Guang Xin and their families, and tell them how Shang Qing Mei served God faithfully. The church in Chen'an came out from the great persecution. There were so many God's faithful servants gave their lives in prison so that the church can have a future today. Not only you and I, but also all the brothers and sisters in our county are the successors of Shang Qing Mei. Today I speak those words in the name of the Lord, I hope that you will read this to all

the brothers and sisters in our county, and please make photocopies for each meeting point. I hope that this letter can inspire some people who are like Shang Qing Mei to devote themselves to God's family. March Sixth Pentecost Revival is coming soon. If we want to revive the church, we must have some people who are faithful to God. Whoever is afraid of serving God, he/she is not worth of working in God's family, and he/she can not serve God effectively either. This is a battle; God and Satan are fighting in this battle. It is not a game. Another thing Shang Qing Mei talked about while he was alive, I would like to repeat it. That is: "When you read the Bible, do not ask for understanding right away; when you preach, do not request for the effects right away; when you pray, do not ask for answering right away. But when the time comes, surely you will understand the word of God; surely you will see the effects of your preaching; and surely God will listen to your prayers."

Another thing here is about the Revelation that was written by God's old servant Wang Li Jie. It was copying by some people. After they finish copying the book, they will make a photocopy. You asked me how many words it has, I am afraid that it has many many words. Now I have *The Teaching In Olive Mountian* [the study guidance of Revelation], it has several suggestions about reading Revelation.

Recently I called Rong He village, Wang Li Jie's son-in-law is building their house, so they do not have time to finish copying the book. When they are done, they will make a photocopy for me and they will call me. I will go to their place to get one copy.

I am still not sure about Wang Li Jie's son's (Rong Mian) mailing address. I know his telephone number and local code: 0910-2521116. Cui Bai Ling is his daughter-in-law. This phone is not theirs but their next door neighbor's. You can just call his neighbor.

Emmanuel.

May God give a good health to you and your family will full of peace.

Your younger brother,

Qing Lin