

My Last Confession

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Dedication

To my very dear grand daughters, Enna and Ennyn,

Sometime ago your mother asked me to write something regarding how I became a Christian and how I chose my profession as a pediatrician. She wanted you to know more about your grand father, the cultural and spiritual heritage that you have.

She wanted me to write in my usual style of writing which is very factual. We decided to not let grandma know about this until I finished as she would pick up a red-ink pen to correct my mistakes and embellish it to be reader friendly and more presentable as she was a literature teacher. I accepted your mother's request right away and I started writing it in an email. After writing about half and hour I realized that it is not going to work in an email as there are too many issues to be included in order for you to understand how things were in Hong Kong in the 1960s.

Every time when I had a free moment I would try to think how I should convey this bit of history to you being born and raised in California. Finally I chose the format of a short history book with five chapters. I name it as *My Last Confession*. These are the titles of these chapters.

1. Grace Alone
2. Angel Wings
3. Faith Alone
4. Jehovah-Jireh
5. In the Potter's hand

To my loving grand daughters: Enna and Ennyn. You are my favorites.

Your Gong-Gong,

Sze K. Ho
November 2008

Yen-Yen, thanks for your ideas, editing these chapters and correcting my mistakes.

Chapter One

GRACE ALONE

I

A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. Ps. 68:5

I do not have much memory of my early childhood. I vaguely remember what my father looked like. He was lying in bed most of the time. When I was older, my mother told me that he got sick with Nasal Pharyngeal Cancer when I was three and Brenda my younger sister was one. He went through a very brutal radiation treatment for months to no avail. He passed away six months later. I have an older sister, Spring who was two years older and my oldest brother Edward was seven and was 4 years older. My mom together with grandma (her adopted mother) raised all four kids from 1 ½ to 6 years-old. Life was very difficult for the family.

It was 1946 when our family moved to Hong Kong after Japan surrendered. My dad found a job in a piano store as a pianist. After working for one or two years, he got sick and was unable to continue. On his death-bed, my father asked grandma to promise him not to leave us and told my mother that she should stay in Hong Kong as the communists were taking over province after province in the remote parts of China. He foresaw the problems the communists would bring to the country. He also asked mom to promise him to let the children learn to play the piano. On later years I found that my uncles and aunts were very musical. My dad foresaw the musical genes in his children.

We used up all our savings for my dad's treatment; and when he passed away, we were penniless. Grasping onto the promise of Psalm 68:5, *A Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling*, my mom brought us all to church. She found a teaching position in the Anglican Church school, St. Stephen's elementary. Thus, we all attended St. Stephen's church. (Anglican Church in the British Commonwealth is the same as Episcopalian church in the USA.) We attended church, Sunday school, choir, and other church and musical activities. For my Junior High and Senior High years I attended St. Paul's Co-Ed. College, an elite prep school within the Anglican Diocese. I did not need to pay for tuition because we were too poor.

II

“In later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and taught by demons.” I Tim 4:1

We were taught to be good people, attend church service, worship God, be baptized, follow all the sacraments, follow the Sermon on the Mount, and love one another. I vividly remember that our Scripture teacher at school explained the miraculous events to us in a very logical way. These are some of the explanations we learned about the Bible.

Moses spent forty years in the Sinai Peninsula raising livestock. He knew all the landscape, terrain, weather, high tide and low tide etc. He knew which route he should lead the Hebrews out of Egypt safely. He planned to lead the Israelites to walk across the Red Sea when it was in a very low tide season. I was taught that is not really a sea, it was called the sea of reeds. For some reason the English Bible made a wrong translation. As soon as the Israelites crossed the Red Sea, the high tide came in and the Egyptians were drowned.

In those days when Jesus was preaching in Galilee, lots of people followed him around. It was their custom that people always carried food and water when they went out as there was no restaurant or grocery store. When Jesus asked the crowd about food no one wanted to give Jesus their brown bags. However, when the child gave Jesus his brown bag with 5 loafs and 2 fishes, the people felt ashamed that the little kid offered all he had and they all hoarded the food they brought for themselves. It was a miracle that Jesus used the child to move the conscience of the adults and everyone.

“To all who received Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God --- children born not of natural descent ... but born of God.” John 1:12-13.

We were taught at school: “Every person is a child of God. God created mankind. One can not and should not say that he is saved. How arrogant are you that you are God’s children and others are not! How dare you say that you are saved? Only God can say that. We just need to strive to do the best we can and in the end God would accept us. You were very haughty if you claimed that you were saved and will go to heaven.”

The Bible is a fantastic book. We should not accept every thing literally. We need to learn the moral of the stories and the implications of what was spoken.”

“The Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.” Luke 19:10

We were also taught that Jesus came to live an exemplary life for us to learn from. He taught us the Beatitudes, Sermon on the Mount, heal the sick, help the poor, befriended the tax collectors and prostitutes. He led a humble life with minimal earthly materials.

The teachers never showed us the verse in Luke 19:10.

III

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith --- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God --- not by works, so that no one can boast. Eph. 2:8-9

My school life was in the 1950s. I graduated from high school in 1960. Since Hong Kong was a British colony the government was run by the British and all the head of departments were sent from England. Miss Kotewall, the principal of St. Paul’s, was sent from London as well. We had a class called “Civics” in the high school curriculum where we were taught about the British government in Hong Kong and all the major decisions were made by the British government in London. There was no bill of rights or constitution for the Hong Kong residents and we were neither citizens of China nor Brittan. The British were quite arrogant and they look down upon the Chinese. As a matter of fact, there were signs in the elite residential areas saying “Chinese and dogs are not allowed.” We were quite intimidated by the “foreigners.”

In the British system we have to study two years of matriculation after graduating from high school in order to go into the University, Colleges or Technology Institute. In the beginning of the first year of Matriculation, I was very impressed by one of my classmates. His name was Daniel Lam and he was a very bad student and a bad kid. He disrupted the classes, talked a lot when he was not supposed to talk, did not do his assignments, etc. He was held back in his first year in junior high and another year in senior high. He was infamous. I was classmates with him in my junior year in high school and he truly was a bad student.

In the beginning of my senior year, Daniel Lam got my attention. I was very impressed by him. He was totally changed in his behavior in school and out of school. I found out

that he was in a church summer camp and he became a Christian. After a month or two into our senior year, we chatted for a while after lunch one day. He asked me if I were to die in an accident, would I know what my soul would go. I told him that there was no way I would know about it, but I was trying to do the best I could.

He took out his small pocket Bible and showed me these verses:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
Romans 3:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23

“For God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8

“If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord.” And believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and we are saved.” Romans 10:9, 10.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith --- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God --- not by works, so that no one can boast.” Eph. 2:8.

Instead of hearing the lectures by the teachers and ministers at the Anglican Church at school, Daniel led me to learn Christianity directly from the Bible. It was only when I studied the Bible with Daniel that I learned the real Gospel of Jesus Christ. For seventeen years, I had been in church and had not heard the Gospel directly from the Bible. What I learned from the Anglican Church and school was the “social gospel”.

The more I read the Bible the more discrepancies I found in what I was taught by them.

Several of us who has learnt the real Gospel started a lunch hour Bible Study group. During my senior year in high school, I studied the Bible in a different light. I still attended the Anglican Church, but I was much more serious in learning the Bible on my own. During summer after our graduation we started to plan how we could spread the real gospel to other students in school. We met the pastor of the English Baptist church which was just next to our school, and he let us use his facilities for us to hold lunch hour Bible study groups for the younger students.

IV

***“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
Matthew 28:20***

The British system is different than our system in the U.S. We had a city-wide exam for all high school graduates, and the results were posted in the newspaper for the public to see. The grades were pass, credit, or distinction, which was the highest. The students would be distributed to the Matriculation classes according to the subjects they scored with Distinction and Credit. Everyone in our Bible study group scored quite a number of Distinctions and Credits and we all were accepted to the two-year Matriculation program.

We continued to hold Bible studies during the summer holidays. Daniel and three others attended a Baptist church, the only girl student leader attended Evangelical Free Church and I continued to attend St. Stephen’s. With weekly Bible study during the school year and more in depth study of the Bible during summer holiday I learned about the Bible more than all

the past years attending St. Stephen's and at school even though we have to study "Scripture" as a subject every year.

Before school started again, we planned on holding Bible study groups for the lower grade students. Each one of us would lead one group of students. We gathered around fifty students altogether for our lunch time Bible study. Things went smoothly in the first semester. One day in February the principal, Miss Kotewall, summoned all six of us to her office. Somehow she found out about our lunch time Bible study groups for the younger students. She knew that we were preaching "our" version of the gospel and asked us to stop holding the Bible studies. She chastised us in giving the students incorrect interpretation of the Bible. She wanted us to disband all lunch time Bible study groups. She threatened us that if we continued to hold these Bible studies, we would be expelled from the college. She gave us one week to consider her ruling.

V

"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in Heaven." Matthew 10:32,33.

"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say." Luke 12:11-12.

Well, we had never thought of that holding lunch time Bible study groups outside of the college's campus were a problem. She was very serious when she told us that we would be expelled if we do not stop the Bible studies. In three months it would be the first part of our matriculation exam. How were we

going to learn and study for the exam if we were not attending school? How were we going to do if we were expelled?! How were we going to tell our parents? We thought that we might just not hold these Bible study groups any more. We could do it during summer and the principal could not stop us. But how could we contact the other students in the summer? This was long before computers and emails or text messaging on cell phones!

I was thinking to myself that if Daniel had not shown me the passages about the gospel in the Bible I would never know about it. The biggest tragedy was that I thought I was a Christian since I attended church faithfully, participated in all the sacraments, knew so much about the prayer book, and served in so many ways at church; and yet, I had never heard or read about the gospel directly from the Bible. I thought that it was imperative for other students to truly read the Bible and know the true gospel.

Miss Kotewall only summoned six of us. Another classmate K.K.Lo wanted to join us in our second meeting with her. We tried to negotiate with her. We emphasized to her that we held the Bible studies during lunch hour outside of the school campus should not be controlled by the school. We were not in any way hindering any school activities. The students came to us on their own will. She adamantly told us that we could not "preach our gospel" to other students in school. She said that we were spreading heresy as we did not follow the school's theology.

We then asked her if a certain student wanted to ask our opinion of certain passage in the Bible, could we answer them. She said that we could not tell others about your opinion; we needed to refer them to our Bible teachers at school. With a stern face, she said that even if other students asked our own interpretation of such passage in the Bible we did NOT have the privilege to answer him. "You are a bunch of heretics," she said

uncompromisingly. Instantly this verse came right into everyone's mind; *"Whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angles of God."* Luke 12:-8-9

We thought that if we did not even have the privilege to answer questions others asked us, it meant that we were not acknowledging God before others. If we accepted the principal's conditions we were denying our God and Savior. Without further consideration, all seven of us unanimously told her immediately that we could not accept her conditions for us to stay as her students. It was dead silent. Her countenance dropped. She had never thought that we would want to be expelled for these reasons!

Miss Kotewall said, "K.K.Lo, why are you here with them? I did not call you to come to the meeting." K.K.Lo replied, "I believe the same gospel like them. If they are being expelled, I would like to be expelled also." She was stunned. Her expression was aghast! She could not believe what she has heard. "Are you sure that is what you want to do?" She asked. "Yes," we said - all seven of us.

We were very quiet when we left her office. No one said anything. We did not plan that Miss Kotewall would truly expel us for the issue. We were ready to close our study groups. However, when we heard her saying that we did not have the privilege to express our thoughts and answer other students' questions about our idea of certain passage of the Bible, we all knew it. Accepting this is just like disowning our Lord. We all felt peace in our minds. No one felt worrisome. We had no choice. We could not disown our Savior and Lord. We all thought of this verse: *"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit*

will teach you at that time what you should say." Luke 12:11-12.

Everyone was calm and quiet. We knew that it was the Holy Spirit that moved us what to say. We were only given one week to think about what we would do. We talked about it a couple of times and have decided to stop the Bible studies till summer holidays. We did not consult any one as we did not have any counselor, adviser, or any adult from church to help us in the Bible studies. In those days, there was no Campus Crusade, Youth for Christ, etc. in Hong Kong. It was only in the second meeting with the principal that we were given more conditions and the Holy Spirit led all seven of us with a unanimous decision right there. We did not ask her for a moment to discuss this among ourselves before we answered her demand.

Chapter Two

ANGEL WINGS

I

He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. Psalm 91:4

The Lord not only provided me with the best mother and grand mother I would have ever asked for, He also provided me with Judy, my cousin. Judy was the daughter of my third aunt, who was my father's 3rd older sister. Judy's parents died during the Japanese occupation. During those turbulent times Judy and her brother got separated and she fled to Hong Kong where she later found us. She was about twelve or thirteen years old, two or three years older than my older brother.

In this family my mother had taken the "father's" role to earn money to support all of us. She found a teaching position in the St. Stephen's Anglican Church's elementary school. The salary of a private school teacher was quite low so after school mother had to earn more money by tutoring in order to support the family. Grandmother took the role of the mother of all four of us and Judy being the oldest among the children took on the role of grandmother's helper. In those days we did not have a refrigerator so either grandmother or Judy would go to the market every afternoon to buy vegetables and meat. Grandma would do the cooking and Judy would help out with the laundry and other house work in between her home work. After she graduated from high school, she went to nursing school and moved to the dormitory. I then took on her duties at home. Everyday after school I would go to the market and buy

groceries for dinner and help out whatever grandma needed. We only saw mom late in the evening after she finished her tutoring. She worked very hard to provide for the family and she hardly had any time to rest! Every evening she would emphasize that we needed to study and do our homework in order that we could get into the university and have a good job.

Mother saved up enough money to buy an old upright piano from the piano store where my father worked before he passed away. Even though we were very poor, mother still followed my dad's last words: teach the children piano! Mother found a piano teacher for my brother Eddie and sister Spring. Every week, they had to take the bus to the ferry to go to the Kowloon side and then take another bus to the teacher's home. Eddie was about ten-years-old and Spring was about eight. Both of them took lessons until they attained the highest level of musicianship of the Royal School of Music.

II

Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you. Psalm 40:5.

I never had the chance of taking piano lessons. I had to go to the market every day after school and help grandma fix dinner among other household chores. I did not feel left out because I did not have piano lesson. I understood that we did not have any extra money and I hardly had extra time after doing homework. I learned the piano by watching my brother and sister practice and tried to mimic what they did. Once in a while I would ask my brother how to play and asked him to explain certain things about the musical scores. Once in a while when my sixth aunt visited us she would teach me as she was a piano teacher. She told me that my father (he was number 5 among the 8 siblings) was a good pianist and their fourth

brother was a composer and conductor for a high school band and orchestra in Canton China. About twenty years ago, one of Fourth uncle's sons immigrated to California and was selected to play in the violin section in the Sacramento Symphony. Unfortunately the symphony disbanded a few years ago because of financial reasons. At present he is still teaching violin in Sacramento CA.

When I was in sixth grade, my uncle gave me his violin as he was moving abroad. I asked mom if she could let me take violin lessons. At that time, my brother (10th grade in high school) was already a famous pianist in the musical realm in Hong Kong. His piano teacher transferred some of her junior students to my brother. Thus, he was able to support himself and mom was able to let me take violin lessons. When I signed up for Royal School of Music's violin examinations I needed to learn music theory. I studied by myself and with Eddie's help. Finally I reached the top level in violin performance when I was a junior in High school.

From my experience, the piano and violin teachers play very well with great technique, but they do not like to teach music theory. It was the same for Eddie's piano teacher. She was packed with piano students and had no time to teach theory so she sent all of them to Eddie. Eddie could only take so much as he was still going to school, and so he asked me to teach them! Well, I have never had a single formal lesson in piano and music theory but I was teaching theory!

Before God called me to His service He helped and prepared me beyond anyone's expectations. I do not deserve His grace and His goodness. Jesus came and seeks me out from the lost souls in Hong Kong. God gave me this musical talent that I was able to partially support myself during my high school and college years. Without this skill I would not have any pocket money for anything!

III

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. II Corinthians 12:9-10.

In Hong Kong then we had two tracts of education but the majority of the children attended the Chinese Tract. In the “Chinese language system” all the classes (history, geography, science, literature, etc.) were taught in Cantonese with one class of Mandarin and another class of English. This applied to K through 12th grades. Afterwards, the high school graduates would enter one of several Chinese University, colleges, or technical institutes. In the “English language system” every thing was taught in English from K through 12th grades with one class in Chinese language taught in the Cantonese dialect.

When my mother found a teaching job at St. Stephen's primary school, an Anglican Church school, I attended the school also as I did not need to pay school fees. The school was in the Chinese Tract and I was there from K through 6th grade. Because of mother's connection with the church, I was able to transfer to the Anglican Church run St. Paul's Co-ed college. The school gave me financial aid because of my mother's job in the primary school and I again did not need to pay school fees. I went in as a 7th grade student, first year in Junior High level. St. Paul's Co-ed started from K through the 2nd year of Matriculation. Every student was educated in the English language since Kindergarten and I was the only student educated in the Chinese language since the start. All of a sudden, I had to attend classes in history, science, geography, math, English literature and even Scripture in the English language. There was no such help like today's ESL classes or scaffolded assignments, just full immersion. I was so frustrated and scared of failing my classes.

I had never been a good student academically because of my family background. I just did my home work every evening after doing family chores, and I did not have any adult supervision or help since mom did not get home till eight or nine o'clock at night. With such disadvantage, I was on the verge of failing. I struggled for two or three years until I attained reasonable English language skills before my grades became acceptable. My weakest subjects were mathematics and physics while my chemistry and biology were satisfactory. God was watching over me even though I was not a Christian yet; he had a plan for me.

The English tract was copied from England and the principals and some teachers were sent from Great Briton. The students did not apply to the University of Hong Kong until they have already finished the two years of matriculation. In the first year, the students would take six subjects and it was called the "Ordinary Level." If they passed all the six subjects they could choose any of the three subjects at the Advanced Level. With the results of the examination the students would apply to the various departments in the university.

For instance, if someone earned very high scores in the advanced levels of physics, math, and chemistry and passed any other three Ordinary levels he or she would be accepted to any of the following departments: engineering, physics, mathematics, or chemistry. If someone scored pretty high in chemistry and biology, and just passed advanced physics with other three Ordinary levels, the departments of Biology, Chemistry, and also the Medical school would ask you to choose whatever you want to get into.

If a student's scores were not satisfactory, Hong Kong University would reject his or her application immediately and that student would have to apply to other colleges, technical institute, or teacher training college for elementary school

teachers. If a person could not get into any of the above, he could either go into one of the trade-schools or find a job in the bank, or similar businesses.

Most of my classmates' plan A was to be accepted to any department of H.K.U. Quite a number of them had applied to other colleges and technical institutes as Plan B. Since they were not on the English tract, they would accept their high school or matriculation report cards. For those students that only had plan A, they might not get in anywhere if they could not be accepted to H.K.U. as the other colleges might be full already.

IV

You led men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance. Psalm 66:12.

In the 1950s and 1960s in Hong Kong, a lot of Chinese were refugees from WWII or from the Communist Chinese government. They suffered through the Japanese occupation for six years and they also felt a large sense of dread with the Communists. They knew that Hong Kong being a British colony was not panacea, but they were not being suppressed by the Communist regime. Most of the families used Hong Kong as a stepping stone to spring board to another countries. Those who could afford to pay the high price of English Education for their children would do so. Most of the children attending the English tract of education planned on working for the British government since England had a higher salary and better benefits, or furthering their education abroad. Academic achievement was the top priority for the students since it was the only means to ensure personal and professional security. Students were very compliant, especially in St. Paul's Co-ed

and there was never any student being expelled from the school. Any failing student would be detained until he passed the failed classes. It was an enormous shock and unheard of occurrence for the school and in the educational community at large when St. Paul's expelled seven students in their first matriculation year.

As we left Miss Kotewall's office, we were not afraid, worried, or apprehensive. We had all made our own decision independently. We could have asked her for a few minutes for us to discuss the issue among ourselves, but we did not but we knew that we did the only thing we had to do: we could not and would not deny our Savior and Lord. As we left, we felt that the Lord would lead us for the rest of our lives from that moment on, as we gave Him our lives, our future, and our all.

Chapter Three

FAITH ALONE

I

“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.” Mark 8:34-35.

What are we going to do now that we are expelled from college? How are we to break the bad news to our families, classmates, and friends? How are we going to learn the chapters of the various subjects that we need to learn and be tested for?

“Are you insane? You got expelled from such prestigious prep school just because you do not agree with their interpretation of the Bible? How are you going to learn the subjects when the exam is only three months away? Who is going to teach you? Your friends can afford to hire tutors to teach them but I do not have any money to do that! You!” Mom said.

I tried to put myself in her shoes. She sacrificed her live to raise us, provide for us, and give the best she could and now I totally gave it all away. Her hope for me being successful was gone! Her toil and suffering for me was wasted. Compared to my brother and sister I was a loser. Eddie would graduate from the University of Hong Kong that summer and my sister has just been accepted to University of Hong Kong as well. It was almost unheard of that two of the four children from a widow's family got accepted to the most prestigious University in China! How proud and how satisfied! I being kicked out of college had made her lose her face and pride among her friends, especially in church. I tried to explain to her my position but she would

never comprehend it. I just prayed that one day she would understand.

My mother was crying incessantly as she expressed her opinion. She could not comprehend that how ridiculous we were. She understood that as long as we accepted the principal's request that we would not hold lunch time Bible studies then we could be back to school.

"You have been going to church for all these years. What on earth that you have decided that they have not been teaching you the Bible correctly? Are you telling me that the Reverends and the Bishops are wrong?" These questions were repeated numerous times from my mother and our close family friends that had deep concern for us. These verbal bombardments were the most difficult for me. I loved them very much and I could not make them understand the reasons of our leaving school. To them, we were just "teenagers" doing their thing --- which we want to be different from the others; and that, we were being lead astray by some fanatics.

Mom was very much concerned about my future --- finding a job, or going towards further education. How would my resume look like when the transcript would show that I was being expelled from school in the middle of the second semester? The most difficult aspect for me was to not heed my mother's plea to go back to school. She did not understand that if I did, I would be denying my Savior and Lord. Even though I was only a very young Christian, I knew that my life had changed since I truly accepted Christ in my heart and that I needed to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. I told my mother that God would not forsake us and He would take care of my future.

II

"The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs --- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory."
Romans 8:16 – 17.

These are the "St. Paul's Seven." We were from four different churches. Initially there were only six students being expelled: Daniel Lam, Philip Shek, David Hsu, Lee Ngar Ping from Baptist church, Ellen Ho (the only girl) from Evangelical Free church, Sze K. Ho (myself) Anglican Church. In our last meeting with the Principal one of our classmates K.K.Lo, from a local church in Hong Kong, joined with us. He told the principal that his belief was the same as ours and he wanted to be expelled with us. The principal was totally shocked and dumbfounded. K.K.Lo wanted to share our (and Christ's) sufferings in order that he may also share in His glory. What faith! What trust! We were between seventeen and nineteen years old.

Our parents tried to separate us as much as possible so that if one would break, then the others might change their mind. We tried to call each other on the phone to pray very short prayers and gave each other a few words of encouragement. Every one of us steadfastly held our faith. We all felt the peace and joy that we were suffering with our Lord Jesus Christ.

III

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." Is.55:8-9

The Communist Party took over the entire China in 1949. Many foreign missionaries were being jailed and some left

China. One of the missionaries from OMF (Overseas Missions Fellowship) Rev. David Adeney left China and stayed in Hong Kong. Rev. Adeney had a huge burden towards students. He started the FES (Fellowship of Evangelical Students) which encompassed IVCF (Intervarsity Christians Fellowship) and GCF (Graduate Christians Fellowship.) The IVCF in the University of Hong Kong was called H.K.U.C.A. which stands for Hong Kong University Christian Association. HKUCA, the only Christian-students' group, was a registered student association on campus. Other post-secondary colleges had their own Christian Association. All of them were loosely linked with IVCF.

There was a huge revival in the college campuses during the 1950s. HKUCA and GCF in particular were big and influential in the community as they were all intellectuals. They rented flats in both Hong Kong and Kowloon to set up "Evangelical Reading Rooms," keeping lots of Biblical commentaries and spiritual formation books, both in English and Chinese. Everyone was welcome to go in to borrow books for free, and they welcomed small group meetings for Bible study and prayer.

Before they call I will answer, while they are still speaking I will hear. Isaiah 65:24

FES was the one who first gave us the name "The St. Paul's Seven" which was borrowed from the "Cambridge Seven." As soon as they knew about the news of our predicament, a couple of GCF members offered to teach us free of charge in the reading room so that we could take the exams. We prayed before and after each session. Learning and studying became a "ministry" and we knew that our failure would be a very poor witness and we could become a laughing stock for many. We knew that we had to pass our tests otherwise Satan would laugh his head off. The sessions included Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. We studied language arts on our own. We also had Bible study once a week. We were in the prayer

lists of every Christian group in Hong Kong. God gave us faith in these uncertainty times. God gave us peace in this trial.

God is faithful; God did not abandon us. All of us passed our first year Ordinary level's matriculation examinations. With the help of a teacher of a good public prep college, a biology teacher Ms. Ruth Wong, we got into the Queen Elizabeth College for our second year of matriculation class. Ruth was a member of the HKUCA and was also a member of GCF. At this time we were very young Christians and did not know much about the Bible. God also provided the best Bible teacher for us.

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fixed our eyes not on what is seen, but on that is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2Cor. 4:17-18.

The China Theological Seminary was closed down by the Communist regime. The founding professors escaped to Hong Kong but when they heard about us they offered to teach us the Bible. For the entire school year, our second matriculation year, we went to the bible teacher's home every lunch hour for Bible study. They taught us as if we were in the seminary! His home was only walking distance from our school so we brought our brown bags and ate lunch while we walked to Bible study. We were blessed with such good teaching and God's provision for us was just amazing.

Not by might nor by power, but my Spirit, says the Lord almighty. Zech 4:6

The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust him. Nahum 1:7-8

The second year of preparation for matriculation was winding down. I was very nervous and really afraid in taking the

examination and I think all seven of us were somewhat apprehensive about the possibility of failure. What happened if we failed? Every body would laugh at us and taunt God. I was the most nervous as my grades were the lowest among all seven of us. We prayed every time we studied that we would be witnesses for God and that our decision a year ago was God's will and God's guidance.

May is the month for the city-wide Matriculation examination. When I looked at the Physics exam questions, I was petrified! The questions were very difficult and I did not even know what the last question meant! How on earth could I even answer it? I knew for a fact that I would fail physics. I could only pray, "Thy will be done in my life, Lord. I have offered my life and my future for you, please lead me one step at a time in my life's journey with you being my guide."

IV

Not by might nor by power, but my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty. Zech 4:6.

A month later, the results of the exam were published in the Newspaper, a tradition done every year for everyone to see. Everyone was looking at the results to see how we fared. With fear and trembling, I opened the paper. Wow! I passed all three subjects in Advanced level: Biology, Chemistry, and even Physics. All seven of us passed all the tests we entered. We phoned each other, overjoyed! Alleluia!

To this date, I know for a fact that God intervened on my behalf in passing all the subjects. God would not let Satan mock Him. We were God's ambassadors and we were His witnesses. I knew then that God would certainly guide me for the rest of my life provided I follow His leading. The Physics exam was a confirmation to me from the Almighty! In the past many years

when I was in trouble, this incidence would come to my mind vividly that God would intervene for me.

Every student planned to further their education and career while they studied for the matriculation exam. Lots of them planned on going to H.K.U. as plan A. As long as they passed three Advance Level subjects and three Ordinary Level subjects they would be accepted to H.K.U. They could only apply to whatever department after the results of the matriculation exam was out.

Well, for no reason, I did not make any plans at all. I thought I should go to H.K.U. for further education because both my brother and sister were students at H.K.U. My brother had already graduated B.A. from H.K.U. and went on to England for further studies. My sister was in the Fine Arts department with the major of English Literature. I thought the Lord would guide me to whatever department He wanted me to enter. Because I scored pretty high in chemistry and biology and average in physics and math. I was accepted to medical school with the Lord's blessing. I had never thought or planned on being a medical doctor when I was a student but since I have given my life to God, He has taken over my life and led me to become a medical doctor.

These are the outcome of the matriculation results of the St. Paul's Seven.

- Daniel Lam was accepted to a university in California, U.S.A. in engineering.
- Ellen Ho was accepted to the Chinese University in the New Territory of Hong Kong.
- Lee Ngar Ping was accepted to H.K.U. in the Fine Arts Department.
- David Shek was accepted in the engineering department in H.K.U.

- The remaining three of us, David Hsu, K.K.Lo, and me were accepted to the School of Medicine of H.K.U.

The above outcome shocked many people, especially people in the Anglican Church and the principal and teachers of St. Paul's Co-ed. No one ever thought of all of us getting into the university and three of us got into the medical school. There were only eighty-four freshmen positions in the first year medical school class for the entire city of Hong Kong. Twelve students from Queen Elizabeth (including us) were admitted to the medical school. St. Paul's Co-ed always had the most students admitted to the medical school. This time, there were only eight students admitted to the medical school. If we were still in St. Paul's there would be eleven admitted to medical school. Again, it was not because of our effort, it was totally the Grace and Mercy of God.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserved my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose, for me: your love, O Lord, endures forever. Psalm 138:6-8.

Chapter Four

Jehovah-Jireh

I

And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh. As it is said to this day In the mount of Jehovah it shall be provided. Genesis 22:14 (Am. Standard Version)

My brother Eddie graduated from HKU with a B.A. degree that year. Everyone in the family was very excited that finally Eddie, the oldest son, could get a job and help mom support the family. However, because of his love of music, his skill in composing and arranging music for the church choir, his role as the church organist and conductor since he was in high school through his university years, the Anglican Diocese rewarded him a one year scholarship to the Royal School of Church Music in London. Well, this was once in a life time opportunity. A full scholarship including airfare, room and board! He would be famous when he came back after the year and anyone coming back from London after further study would have a great job. We sent him off with mom teary eyed as this was the first time one of her children left home to a far away place!

Eddie had received a full financial aid from the government for all those years in H.K.U. because of our very disadvantaged financial situation. He made extra money by teaching piano and played in the rich people's restaurants in the evenings. My sister Spring was a year ahead of me and she also got a full scholarship to the University because of her scholastic achievement and poor financial situation. Like Eddie she also taught piano to make extra money.

When I was accepted to Medical School, I tried to apply for financial aid but I was denied. The board told me that they have already supported two of my siblings and my brother should be supporting me since he had already graduated and should have a good job. They told me that our family's financial situation was much better off at that time compared to the years prior when Eddie and Spring applied. My scholastic scores were not high enough to earn an academic scholarship like Spring. I was very frustrated and sad.

“Why do you want to go to medical school? The school fees, books, and other supplies are so much more expensive. Medical school takes five years and I only need to study for three years for my B.A.” Eddie said before he left for London.

II

“My Grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. II Cor. 12:9

I knew that my life had been changed forever since I took a stand against Miss Kotewall to be on the side of my Savior and Lord. Passing my advanced physics was another confirmation that God would take care of me and my future

One of my mom's church friends, Dr. Wu, had always shown concern to our family. After he heard about my plight, he offered to lend me the tuition for all the five years of school fees without interest. Through the H.K.U. Christian Association, the more senior classmates gave their used books to me. I did not have money to get into the residential halls so I was a commuter student all those years until I was in clinical clerkship in obstetrics, psychiatry, and surgery and had to stay in the

hospitals for on call duties. I earned my pocket money by teaching music theory and tutoring. This was how the Lord provided me for those training years.

Passing my final exam in medical school is another miraculous act of God. As I started to apply for my internship, I was surprised that almost everyone in my class had already prearranged their positions. Most of them either had some relatives or friends in the various departments of the training hospitals. Every where I went I was told that all the positions were filled. Everyone wanted to have the major departments like internal medicine, general surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, and pediatrics. The ones no one wanted were psychiatry, emergency medicine, and tuberculosis sanitarium. I did not have any pull from anyone that might give me a position. With no openings there was nothing I could do but go home. I was very disheartened and worried as I took the elevator down at the end of the day.

As I was walking out of the elevator of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, some one in a white gown waved at me.

“Are you Sze K.?” He asked.

“Yes.” I answered.

“Have you found a position yet?”

“No.” was my reply.

He was Dr. Ng Yik. I met him a few times in the last couple of years when I attended I.V.C.F. meetings. He was a member of the GCF (Graduate Christian Fellowship.) I was very surprised that recognized me as I did not even know him at all.

Dr. Ng had just graduated when I went into the medical school. During those five years he had finished his pediatric internship, residence, and fellowship in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. He was awarded a scholarship to London to take the prestigious exam and was just packing up his belongings, getting ready to go to London in a couple of weeks.

“Sze, come with me to see my boss. He is the head of the department of Pediatrics of Q.E.Hospital. I worked under him for the past five years.” Dr. Ng said. He escorted me to Dr. Wu’s office. After a brief interview of less than five minutes, he accepted me to be in this department. Over the next four years I went through a rotating internship of Pediatrics and Surgery, pediatric residency, neonatology, and pediatric cardiology. I became a pediatrician. I did not even have any choice at all; this was not my choice, but God’s choice for me. I did not even know if I liked children or not but it did not matter. God only opened one door for me.

III

For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose. Philippians 2:13

God picked me among thousands of students at St. Paul’s to become one of His children. He let me know the real Gospel and provided for me with Seminary Professors to teach me the Bible. He guided me through the years of matriculation, study and exam and led me to medical school. He provided me with the necessary funds for those five years. He even guided me to my life-long career. What love! What grace! What guidance! What privilege!

Dr. Ng was awarded the title of F.R.C.P. (Fellow of the Royal College of Pediatricians) after two years. He came back to be on staff in the department of Pediatrics at Queen Elizabeth Hospital. I was able to work under him for the last two years in training and it was an honor to work under such a God-loving and God-fearing man.

Over the years people asked me these questions: “Why do you become a medical doctor? Why do you choose pediatrics?

Why do you go into Neonatology?” I just make up a two-sentence answer. It is too simplified if I would just tell them that “This is what the Lord led me to do.”

God only opened one door and one path for me to walk on. I did not even have a chance to choose and could only trust and obey. God gave only one option so that I would not be confused and gone down the wrong way.

Chapter Five

In the Potter's hand

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter, and we are all the work of your hand. Isaiah 64:8

I

The St. Paul's Seven:

- **Ellen Ho (Sam)** graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and came over to the States. She became an attorney and focused on helping the Chinese Americans in the Los Angeles area.
- **Phillip Shek** graduated from Hong Kong University with an engineering degree and went to Canada for post graduate study, eventually working in Toronto as an engineer. Later, he resigned his job and went to seminary to become a minister. At present he is a pastor in a Chinese church in Toronto.
- **Daniel Lam** came over to California to study after matriculation and became an engineer. He worked for an oil company in Arabia and saved a lot of money. He came back to do real estate in Denver, Colorado and became very rich. He used his money to help the Christian churches in Vietnam, Cambodia, and other countries throughout Southeast Asia. After several years he branched out to help the local churches in Russia. On March 22, 1994, on his way back from Moscow, the Aeroflot jet he was in disappeared from the radar over Siberia. The Lord took him home.
- **David Hsu** graduated from Medical School of H.K.U. and came over to the States for graduate training. At

present he is an orthopedic surgeon practicing in Queens, New York City.

- **Lee Ngar Ping** graduated from H.K.U. with a degree of Sociology and worked in the government department as a social worker. After working many years she migrated to Canada and worked in the Real Estate business. She has recently retired and committed her time in Christian ministries.
- **Ka Keung Lo** also graduated from the H.K.U. Medical School and continued to do graduate studies. He was my best man in my wedding and is currently still practicing in Hong Kong as a chest surgeon.
- As for me, after my training in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, the Lord brought me to Texas and I did my residency in pediatrics and then relocated to Los Angeles to L.A.County-University of Southern California medical center for fellowship training in Neonatology.

The Lord rewarded all of us with higher education and good professions. One became an attorney, another one in Social work, two became engineers, and three became medical doctors. All of us have served the Lord in various ways over all these years.

II

It was in the 1960's and several riots and uprisings made everyone worried in Hong Kong. They wanted the British government to provide more welfare support to the very poor families. Being a British Colony, the British were the bosses of every department and sector of all disciplines. Those signs saying "Chinese and dogs are not allowed" were still posted in the elite foreigners' neighborhood. There was no Bill of Rights for the Chinese and we were not really citizens of any country. The government gave us an Identification Card to prove that we were residents of Hong Kong and only those having the I.D.

card could be employed. We had no right to vote or run for offices. We had no say in any matter: “taxation without representation” was the most appropriate phrase to describe the situation. The government spent a bare minimum of money to keep the infrastructure in order and sent huge amounts of money back to London every year. The Hong Kong government knew that we had no other means or alternatives because the British knew that we did not want to live under the communist China’s rule either. Therefore most families, if they had the means, would send their children to the English Tract of education, thereby equipping them to jump out of the society to a foreign land and start their lives again.

In May 1967, the year of our graduation from medical school, a massive riot broke out and this made many residents worry of their future. The Cultural Revolution and the creation of the Red Army Guard had turned the entire mainland China up side down in 1967. Some communist agents had come down to Hong Kong and stirred up a huge riot in the New Territories of Kowloon with fire bombs and demonstration. The British government was very astute and stamped down the rioters in a very short time. Lots of residents in Hong Kong were shaken and worried that the communists would invade Hong Kong and force the British to relinquish the colony. Many intellectuals left Hong Kong to the U.S. and Canada the following years. More than half of my medical school classmates eventually left Hong Kong to U.S.A., Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Thus, six of the St. Paul’s seven finally left Hong Kong for further education and started new lives elsewhere.

III

I met my first girl friend Chiuyee in one of the H.K.U. Christian Association functions. Both of us were very much involved in the association. She graduated with a B.A. in English Literature and taught high school for three years before getting married. I

married her two years after graduating from medical school and we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary in 2009. Again, God only let me date one girl and she became my wife. She has been my faithful partner, supporter, and confidant over all these years, taking care of me when I was going through cancer treatment for most of 2007. Over the years, we served the Lord together in our practice, student ministry, and in church.

My elder sister Spring was one year ahead of me. She entered H.K.U. when I was in the second year of Matriculation and became a Christian in H.K.U.C.A. After she graduated and taught high school geography for three years she dedicated her life to the Lord in full time ministry. She went to a seminary in Singapore called “Discipleship Training Center” for two years and joined the Overseas Mission Fellowship (OMF) and she was sent to Indonesia as a missionary. On her fourth year of service her plane crashed onto a mountain in the big Island of Sumatra. She was going there from Java to lead a gospel outreach meeting and the Lord took her to be with Him. It was 1974.

My younger sister Brenda was two years behind me. She was admitted to H.K.U. and she also became a Christian in H.K.U.C.A. Just like Spring and myself, Brenda’s faith and Christian walk grew during her years in the Christian Association. After she graduated from H.K.U. with a B.A. in English Literature she served in the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students’ (IFES) Asia office for a year and left for graduate studies. She was admitted to Wheaton College in Illinois and got her M.A. degree. She worked for the Intervarsity Press (IVP) in Downers Grove, Illinois for a few years and then dedicated her whole life to various Christian ministries ever since.

My older brother Eddie did not come back to Hong Kong after his one year of music scholarship. He went on to get his B.A. in music and then a Ph.D. in music in London. He became a

professor in music in Kingston University and later became the Chair of the department of music till his retirement. Unfortunately, he is not in a relationship with God.

IV

I was trained again in the U.S. system for two years as a pediatric resident in Baylor Medical School at the Texas Medical Center in Houston. Afterwards the Lord led me to California at the L.A.County-U.S.C. Medical Center for a fellowship in Neonatology for two years. Towards the end of my training, my professor gave me a letter from Kern Medical Center regarding recruiting a neonatologist. They wanted a trained and board certified neonatologist to establish and build a brand new N-ICU. The professor told me that if I accepted the position they would give me all the support I needed. It was a big challenge since I had to create a brand new N-ICU from nothing. I came up for an interview and KMC accepted my application. This was the only offer I received and the Lord just opened one door for me and closed all other doors in order that I would not go into somewhere that He did not want me to go.

*All the way my Savior leads me; what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy, who through life has been my
guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in Him to dwell,
For I know, what-e'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.*

V

How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me?
Things so undeserved, yet You gave to prove Your love for me;
The voices of a million angels could not express my gratitude.
All that I am, and ever hope to be; I owe it all to Thee.

To God be the glory, To God be the glory,
To God be the glory for the things He has done,
With His blood He has saved me; with His power He has raised
me;
To God be the glory for things He has done.
Just let me live my life, let it be pleasing, Lord, to Thee,
And if I gain any praise, let it go to Calvary.
With His blood He has saved me; with His power He has raised
me;
To God be the glory for the things He has done. Amen.

From My Tribute