

1 September 121, 2014, the 92nd Birthday of Timothy Chung

2 Dear Readers,

3 Timothy Chung, a Chinese Christian, was falsely charged, branded a counter-revolutionary, and
4 sentenced to re-education in a labor camp for three and a half years. But it would be twenty-one
5 long years before he was freed for refusing to deny the name of Jesus.

6 Though we originally set out to publish a book to honor the life of our friend, Timothy Chung, he
7 was not pleased to see our focus on him, his family's pictures or even the testimonies of those
8 who love and have been blessed by him. Therefore, Timothy worked very hard to write what he
9 calls, not a book, but "an article"—his "re-organized testimony" for you to glorify God alone.
10 Hopefully, we can talk him into letting us officially publish both books sometime in the future.

11 So, for now, we are honored to present to you the personal testimony, written and titled by our
12 dear Timothy Chung, "*God's Mercy on Timothy*."

13 Jane Joseph
14 Joseph Company Imprint

15

16 **GOD'S MERCY ON TIMOTHY**
17 An Article by Timothy Chung

18 **My Confession of God's Goodness**

19 I confess to God and to you, brothers and sisters, that I am a poor sinner. I sin greatly in my
20 thoughts, in my words, and in my actions. I need God's mercy and forgiveness every day.

21 Lord God Almighty, You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the true and living God. I praise
22 You for Your great glory.

23 **Knowing Christ Jesus**

24

25 On June 25th 1933, forty children were baptized at the Alliance Church in Shanghai. I was
26 among them. All of us had bubbling love for Jesus, and found great delight in singing hymns and
27 reading the Bible. We read through the Bible in a year by reading four chapters of the Old
28 Testament and one chapter of the New Testament each day.

29

30 I felt that I was growing in God in these ways, and this pleased me. But about eighteen months
31 later, as I entered the Baptist junior high school, my zeal began to fade. Although I continued to
32 attend church regularly, I seldom read the Bible anymore.

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God Has Carried Me through Difficult Years

“I have upheld you since you were conceived; I have carried you since you were born, until your grey hairs and old age.” (Isa. 46:3–4)

In 1937, when I was fifteen years old, the Second Sino-Japanese War broke out in full force in Shanghai, where I was living with my family. Life became very difficult and I suffered hardships under Japanese occupation.

For decades Japan had been set on controlling China both politically and militarily, and in 1937 Japan launched a major assault on Shanghai.

Shanghai was one of the first five treaty ports in China, established in 1842 as a result of the Treaty of Nanking between China and the United Kingdom, following China’s defeat in the first Opium War. Under this agreement, the port was opened to foreign trade and settlement, and Westerners lived in a separate enclave.

By 1937, an area of Shanghai known as the International Settlement, housed approximately two million foreigners, mainly from Europe and America, enjoying the comforts of their own culture on the eastern shore of the Asian continent. When the Japanese attacked Shanghai, they initially left the International Settlement alone; thus it became a temporary haven for hundreds of thousands of Chinese refugees.

Finding ourselves living in a war zone in the Chinese part of the city, my family joined the throng of refugees and fled to the International Settlement. I lived with my brother James who was five years older than I. After this season, I began to experience many challenges in life, but the Lord was always with me, and He carried me through all these difficulties.

Here is a brief account of my life under Japanese oppression:

- 1937–1938 - While living with my brother James, I worked as an apprentice for the Chinese government telegram office for three months until it retreated to the interior of China. My brother James died of acute pneumonia in 1938, when I was 16 years old.
- 1938–1941 - I taught half days at a neighborhood school and studied half days at a war-time high school. In 1941, my father passed away.
- 1941–1942 - I was admitted to a free Japanese language school for one year.
- 1942–1944 - I worked for a Japanese trading company for two years.
- 1944–1945 - I worked for a Chinese trading company, which closed down in August 1945.

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- 78 • During seven of these difficult years, 1938–1945, I was provided with free lodging and
79 food by the neighborhood school, language school, and the trading companies. So when
80 the Chinese trading company closed down in August 1945, I had to live with a close
81 friend's family, and prayed that God would let me have a place of my own to live.
82
- 83 • I never considered buying a house of my own; it was too expensive for someone in my
84 position.
85

God's Answers Far Surpassed My Requests

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88 As I considered my need for housing, it occurred to me that my family's pre-war home was now
89 located in the Japanese residential area. As the Japanese would soon be repatriated to Japan, why
90 not go back and talk to the current Japanese resident? Maybe I could make a deal with him. So in
91 September 1945, I knocked at the door of our old house. I spoke in Japanese with the
92 businessman who answered the door, and he invited me in. After a few words of polite
93 conversation, we began our friendly discussion. I told him that I had lived in that house for many
94 years, but because of the war my family had been living in the International Settlement since
95 1937, and that I would like to move back into that house when the repatriation process began. I
96 asked if he would help me, and he said he would. Then we said goodbye.
97

98 One month later, a Chinese man came to me with a message from the Japanese man. "Mr.
99 Chung," he urged, "come quickly! The Chinese soldiers are forcing the Japanese out of their
100 homes."
101

102 The next day I went to my new Japanese friend's home. He was worried that Chinese soldiers
103 would soon occupy his house, and suggested that I move in right away. He offered me a large
104 room measuring 28 square meters. He said that he would let me have the entire house when he
105 was sent back to Japan. Of course, I was delighted with his offer and immediately accepted,
106 thanking the Lord for His goodness and faithfulness to me.
107

108 I moved into the house in October and bought many gifts for my Japanese friend and his family;
109 to my surprise, two months later he and his family moved to another home in the neighborhood,
110 releasing the entire house to me. By then, I had met and married my dear wife, Jane. The house
111 was too big for the two of us, so we invited our relatives to live with us.
112

God's Blessing on Our Marriage

113
114
115 Jane, who was a sister of my sister-in-law, was introduced to me in August 1945, and we soon
116 fell in love. I suggested that we should have a simple wedding, and Jane agreed to my proposal
117 without hesitation. So in November, after knowing each other only three months, we were
118 married! Our marriage lasted 57 years, until Jane went to be with the Lord in 2002.
119

120 Our wedding was organized in a very specific, simple, private, and solemn way. No distant
121 relatives or friends were invited. In traditional Chinese weddings, the bride and groom kneel
122 before their seated parents as a sign of honor and respect. As part of our ceremony, Jane and I

123 gladly agreed to kneel before my divorced mother to honor her as a symbol of God's command
124 to "honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12).

125
126 God really blessed our marriage. We did not have much money, but we lived a very happy life.
127 We were greatly loved by my mother-in-law, Brother Roy and his wife, and my divorced mother.
128 Jane took very good care of me, and we enjoyed a sweetness in our home.

129
130 **After World War II**

131
132 After the war I began to work for CNRRA (Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation
133 Administration) in 1945, and continued in their employment until the end of their mission in
134 Shanghai. Then in early 1950 I joined a Texas oil company. About one and a half years later, in
135 the summer of 1951, it was taken over by the Communist government. I received a handsome
136 severance payment, and was able to start a used motorcycle business. I would purchase a used
137 motorcycle, have it carefully repaired, and, after giving it a face-lift, would sell it to the
138 Transportation Materials Supply Center of the Chinese government for use in the Korean War. It
139 was a lucrative business.

140
141 **Wake-Up Call**

142
143 Since starting work for the Japanese trading company, I had begun smoking, playing Mah-Jong,
144 and occasionally drinking wine. I was avoiding the Lord.

145
146 In December of 1951, I had a tragic motorcycle accident in which a pedestrian died and I was
147 hospitalized for a brain concussion. Before appearing in court, I was detained by the police for
148 one month. The judge ordered me to pay the bereaved family for the funeral costs and for
149 compensation of loss of life, but he let the rest of the sentence go. It took all the money from my
150 motorcycle business to pay the hefty fine.

151
152 I knew this was a serious wake-up call, and it brought me back to the Lord. I was shocked,
153 horrified, broken in spirit, and financially ruined. Of course, I experienced great sadness and
154 remorse as I repented and confessed my sin before the Lord, and asked for His mercy and
155 forgiveness.

156
157 After this traumatic experience, I quit smoking, playing Mah-Jong, and drinking, and returned to
158 the Lord in regular prayer and reading His Word.

159
160 **Communism and the Anti-Rightist Movement**

161
162 When the Communists took over in China in 1949, Chairman Mao Zedong declared unilaterally
163 that 3 to 5 percent of the population were enemies of Socialism. To prove that he was correct, 3
164 to 5 percent of the members of every organization—whether a government department,
165 university, factory, school, or hospital—had to be found guilty either of political crimes or
166 heresy against Socialism or Mao Zedong Thought. Therefore, various political movements were
167 launched periodically, in which citizens were falsely accused and found guilty of non-existent
168 crimes. Of the guilty, some were executed, and a number were sent to labor camps or to prison.

169 During the Mao Zedong era, going to prison did not mean the same thing as it did in democratic
170 countries.

171
172 In 1952, I began to work for the Shanghai Gospel Hospital, which specialized in chest surgery.
173 They tried to reach the patients with the gospel and helped the poor by reducing or exempting
174 their medical fees. I was in charge of settling accounts with the patients.

175
176 One day a union member asked me to display a portrait of Chairman Mao on my office cabinet. I
177 replied, "No, I don't want to display it. If the portrait were broken or torn, I would be put in jail."

178
179 I was dismayed to discover that my refusal to keep Chairman Mao's portrait on show was
180 considered a political crime in the Anti-Rightist movement. Furthermore, I was framed with false
181 charges, in which I was accused of attempting to go to South Korea to be an interpreter for the
182 UN armies during the Korean War. I was branded as a counter-revolutionary, and sentenced to
183 re-education in a labor camp for three and a half years. But it would be twenty-one long years
184 until I was freed.

185 186 **Re-education in the Labor Camp**

187
188 I was first sent to the Center of Re-education Through Labor in Shanghai on October 28, 1958.
189 Two or three weeks later, we prisoners were loaded into cattle cars on a train, and shipped to a
190 labor camp in Anhui Province, 1,200 miles from my wife and young sons in Shanghai.

191
192 There were many types of hard labor in the camps, such as building dams, constructing railways,
193 repairing reservoirs, mining, laboring in truck plants, iron foundries, printing houses, fertilizer
194 factories, sewing-work factories, quarries, farms, and so on.

195
196 After being sent to the labor camp in Anhui Province, I was constantly moved from one place to
197 another. I first labored in a primitive plant converting coal into coke, but also worked in a brick
198 kiln, a rock quarry, at the construction site for a dam, and finally on a farm.

199 200 **No Place to Lay My Head**

201
202 When I worked at the rock quarry, I was carrying slabs of slate from the top of the hill to the
203 bottom all day long. I became utterly exhausted. Once, during a 10-minute break, I hurriedly
204 tried to find a place to lie down for a short rest. Immediately, I was faced with the reality that the
205 ground was strewn with sharp, jagged rocks; I could find no place to lay my head.

206
207 In a small way I experienced this verse about Jesus: "*The foxes have holes, and the birds of the*
208 *air have nests, but the Son of man hath nowhere to lay His head.*" (Matt. 8:20). Our Jesus, the
209 creator of the world, who came to earth to save us sinners, was whipped, mocked, spit upon, and
210 crucified on the cross for our sins! How great and wonderful is His love!

211 212 **Life in the Labor Farm**

213

214 After working at the rock quarry for a period of time, I was sent to the Jianxing Farm in Anhui
215 Province, which consisted of five branch farms, each with ten production teams of between 300
216 and 400 laborers. I was one of about 16,000 laborers at Jianxing Farm, and I was there for many
217 years. Beginning after half a year or so, I was periodically moved from one team to another, or
218 from one branch farm to another branch farm.

219

220 Our work on the farm was to plant and harvest cotton, rice, wheat, carrots, and other crops.
221 During the winters, often at subfreezing temperatures, we worked on converting marsh land into
222 rice fields. While planting rice in summer, we had to labor in the blazing heat of 110°F.
223 Mosquitoes, leeches, and stinging flies tormented us continually.

224

225 We had to rise before dawn at the ringing of a bell, wash our faces, and eat breakfast by kerosene
226 lamplight. At noontime we had one hour to eat. After lunch, we were sent back to work until
227 dark. After supper, we had to attend political indoctrination sessions called “re-education
228 classes” for one hour. As inmates in the camp, we labored 10–16 hours a day, six days a week.
229 Life in the camp was very hard. We had a heavy workload, and we were not allowed to eat if our
230 task was not completed. Surviving the harsh conditions of the labor camp was a daily struggle.
231 Bathing was done in the irrigation ditches. Disorderly conduct was punished by whipping or
232 handcuffing. Serious cases were thrown in a tiny solitary confinement cell where prisoners were
233 starved to death.

234

235 Besides being physically exhausted, we had to fight to stay alive on our meager food rations. The
236 rice we ate was not produced at the farm—we were allotted only the lowest grade of rice. Our
237 meals at the production team were supplied by a canteen where about ten inmates worked.

238

239 **Living Quarters in the Camp**

240

241 Our main living quarters were two long thatched-roofed houses, each of which was about fifty
242 yards in length and six to seven yards wide. The walls were made of mud and reeds, with
243 bamboo poles as their support at intervals of about three to four meters. Several rectangular holes
244 were cut into each long wall, about 18 inches by two feet, to let in the light. Plastic sheets
245 covered these holes to serve as windows. In winter, we filled the holes with twigs wrapped in
246 straw rolls pasted with clay in an attempt to keep the building warm.

247

248 We slept on long, raised platforms built with dried mud-bricks and spread with straw, which was
249 infested with bed bugs, lice, and fleas. The prisoners were assigned to sleep along one side of the
250 two long walls with an aisle in between. We slept across the raised platform, each of us
251 occupying a space of about two feet. Each platform accommodated 70 to 80 people. Personal
252 belongings were put on racks hung by ropes around the beams.

253

254 In the thatched houses, we had only dirt floors. The rice straw thatch on the roof rotted easily,
255 causing leaks on rainy days. When this happened, those whose beds were under leaking roofs
256 had to temporarily move to a dry place in the aisle to protect themselves from the rain.

257

258 **Unprecedented Historic Famine**

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260 Nine months after my arrival at the camp, a famine broke out in China lasting three years, 1959-
261 1962. The severity of this famine was unprecedented in Chinese history. During this period, a
262 rationing system was strictly practiced throughout China. Daily necessities such as rice, edible
263 oil, cotton cloth, coal briquettes, sugar, etc. were strictly rationed by the government. Especially
264 the amount of rice was far below the people's minimum needs. As a result, millions of Chinese
265 people died from starvation. According to conservative government statistics there were 15
266 million excess deaths in this period. But it is now widely acknowledged that experts have
267 estimated the actual number of famine victims is between 30 and 43 million.

268
269 After the famine started, my family worried about me and tried their best to help me. From time
270 to time, they put aside a little bit of their rice rations from their extremely insufficient portions
271 until they could gather enough for cooking a pot of rice to be brought to me.

272
273 In the autumn of 1960, for the first time my wife and our second son came to visit me in the
274 labor camp. Her purpose was to bless me with a pot of cooked rice. The camp was 1,200 miles
275 away from my home which took 1½ days by train. When we met, we had much to talk about, but
276 my wife did not mention the pot of rice which I had been expectantly craving, so I asked her with
277 great anxiety, "Where is the rice?!" With tears in her eyes, she softly replied, "It was spoiled, so I
278 threw it away." I was devastated and confessed to her that I was so famished that even the
279 spoiled rice would have greatly helped me! Ten minutes later, a guard interrupted our interview
280 and we were separated. The visit was over.

281
282 During the first year of the famine, prisoners in the camp were fed with a small portion of coarse
283 cereals. The next year we were given only one bowl of watery sweet potato paste for each meal.
284 In the last two weeks of the third year of famine, no human food could be found in the camp. We
285 were fed with chaff of wheat and waste from oil extraction. In order to relieve our hunger pangs,
286 we looked for whatever we could eat. We dug deeply into the ground to look for the roots of
287 grass for our food.

288
289 About one-half of the inmates died. The survivors were only living skeletons and suffered from
290 edema (abnormal swelling). We were so weak that we were not able to climb up a small mound
291 in the countryside.

292
293 We would willingly give nearly anything in exchange for eating rice to our heart's content even
294 once.

295 296 **Life-Saving Package Arrives From Malaysia**

297
298 After witnessing the death of so many inmates every day, when I thought I would be the next one
299 to die, I was surprised by my wife's un-announced second visit. Elated, she told me that she had
300 brought me lard, milk powder, and other items of good food not accessible in Shanghai as a gift
301 from my sister Beatrice in Malaysia who left China in 1930, and lost contact with us after 1939.

302
303 Since our last correspondence with Beatrice was between 1937 and 1938, we have changed our
304 address several times. Nevertheless, by the sure intervention of God, after 24 years of absolutely

305 no contact, she sent the package to our new address! It was truly a miracle that God had
306 orchestrated for me and my family.

307
308 With the help of this food, my life was maintained for another few weeks until we were able to
309 harvest carrots in the farm. God saved my life at this critical moment by the hand of my long-lost
310 sister! Praise the Lord!

311
312 *"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not." (Lam.*
313 *3:22)*

314 315 **Temptation in Time of Famine**

316
317 One morning during the famine years, I was suddenly attacked with severe arthritis so that I
318 could not walk. After being treated with acupuncture for some time, I was able to walk with a
319 limp. So I was temporarily transferred to work as a doorkeeper at the supply center for the
320 Communist officers. Besides guarding the door, I had to clean both the Chief Officer's office and
321 a storage room in the back. One day, while cleaning the storage room, I saw stacks of bulk candy
322 in boxes on the racks. I was tempted to steal. I pondered, "No one is around. It's a good
323 opportunity for me to steal some candy to ease my hunger." The desire to ease my hunger
324 seemed irresistible, but the Bible forbids stealing. A very difficult fight arose inside of me as to
325 whether or not to steal. After a long struggle, I thought to myself: "What if I be caught stealing,
326 not only I would be beaten and put to shame, but people would proclaim that a Christian steals,
327 and Jesus' Name would be dishonored." As a result, I surrendered to God, and did not touch the
328 candy.

329 330 **Notification of My Release**

331
332 One night in the summer of 1965, a cadre (Communist officer) came to my shed to talk to me.
333 He notified me that I would be released on condition that I abandon my faith in God. I frankly
334 told him I could not deny Jesus. After the cadre left, some inmates in my shed rebuked me and
335 said how foolish I had been. Why not deny with my mouth but believe in my heart? Wasn't this a
336 golden opportunity too precious not to take?

337
338 A few days later, a senior cadre sent for me. At the team office, he rebuked me for being
339 obstinate in my religious superstition. He declared that he would set me free if only I would deny
340 my faith verbally and that it would be nothing to him if I would resume my faith when I went
341 home. Finally, he asked me to take into consideration the well-being of my family. At this point,
342 I blurted out politely saying, "We Christians have to believe in our hearts and confess with our
343 mouths that Jesus is Lord. I choose to remain in the farm rather than be released." At hearing my
344 words, he flew into a rage beating the table and screaming at me with a quote from "Quotations
345 from the Work of Chairman Mao Zedong" — "Your granite-like mind will never be changed
346 until you go and see your God!"

347
348 After this incident, I was kept in the camp indefinitely.

349 350 **Launching of the Cultural Revolution**

351
352 One day in 1966, all inmates were rounded up and told to bring all our belongings out of our
353 sheds to be searched for anything that is against Socialism or Mao Zedong thought, or considered
354 to be foreign or imported from abroad—whether it be clothing, shoes, house necessities, or
355 written material. As a result, my *"New Testament"* and *"Streams in the Desert"* were taken
356 away! Later, we realized that this treatment began at the start of the Cultural Revolution which
357 was launched by Chairman Mao to consolidate his power. It lasted for ten years, 1966-1976.

358 359 **Chaos of the Cultural Revolution**

360
361 During the Cultural Revolution, Chairman Mao called millions of young Chinese men and
362 women to join the Red Guards which swept across China spreading Maoist propaganda,
363 destroying valuable cultural heritage and closing down all schools. Unfortunately, nearly all
364 China's historical reserves, artifacts, and sites of interest suffered devastating damage as they
365 were considered to be the root of "old ways of thinking" which Mao wanted to destroy.
366 Unfortunately, much of China's thousands-year-old historical treasures were destroyed during
367 the short ten year period of the Cultural Revolution.

368
369 The Red Guards were authorized to physically torture the intellectuals and academic authorities
370 and to ransack the homes of the wealthy. As a result of the cruelties of the Red Guards, millions
371 of Chinese people died during the Cultural Revolution, either being beaten to death, or
372 committing suicide, or mysteriously disappearing. As a result, China was in great chaos, and
373 terror prevailed.

374 375 **Unexpected Safe Haven in the Cultural Revolution**

376
377 It was true but unthinkable that the life in the labor camp was tranquil compared with the rest of
378 China during the Cultural Revolution. We inmates had only to work longer hours and our food
379 allotment was cut, but no terror, torture or atrocities by the Red Guards ever occurred in the
380 camp. Because the prisoners already existed at the bottom of society, they had no interest in
381 taking violent action against us. Strangely, the labor camp seemed to be a safe haven during the
382 Culture Revolution.

383 384 **Fate of Released Prisoners**

385
386 Several years later, word came that those prisoners who had been released suffered tremendously
387 during the Cultural Revolution. Not only were they severely beaten by the Red Guards (some of
388 them were beaten to death), but were also forced to march from street to street wearing tall dunce
389 caps, with heads bowed down and hands bound behind their backs, and large signs hung around
390 their necks bearing the words: "Counter-revolutionary + Name." "Enemy of the people."
391 "Deserves to be executed." Moreover, they must continually cry out: "I am a counter-
392 revolutionary, I am a counter-revolutionary." They were utterly humiliated.

393
394 Though I was kept in the camp indefinitely, because I was not among those who were released, I
395 did not suffer torture and humiliation in the Cultural Revolution. Remaining in the camp turned
396 out to be a blessing in disguise!

397

398 **Reading the Bible**

399

400 My sister Beatrice mailed a package of books to my family from the United States in 1972. It
401 contained a New Testament entitled "Good News for a New Age," along with five or six other
402 books, such as, "First Aid," and "The Autobiography of Helen Keller". Since all mail was
403 censored, and no Bible was allowed to be mailed to China, it was impossible for us to receive a
404 Bible, but God blinded the censor's eyes, and my family received all of the books safely. Praise
405 the Lord!

406

407 During my annual ten day leave, I was able to bring a copy of the New Testament back to the
408 labor camp. It was a handy, very small paper back covered in brown paper. During the Cultural
409 Revolution, all Bibles were seized, but I enjoyed a New Testament even in the labor camp! I
410 knew it was God's special favor toward me.

411

412 While I worked in the cotton fields in 1973, the cotton crops flourished extraordinarily and grew
413 up to a great height. During the two week harvest, each worker was assigned to pick five mounds
414 (or ten rows) of cotton; each mound was 90 to 100 meters in length. The prickly cotton bushes
415 have a tendency to grow together and intertwine making it difficult for one to pass through. We
416 dressed in rags in order to protect ourselves from being scratched as we passed sideways through
417 the furrows.

418

419 As we were spaced out many rows away from each other and because of the great height of the
420 cotton bushes, we were not visible to one another. I found that time perfect for reading the Word.
421 I would squat down between the cotton bushes and read my New Testament which I had hidden
422 in my clothes. So, for about 10-15 minutes each day, I was encouraged by God's living Word. In
423 order to make up for the time spent in taking my spiritual food, I had to work harder and faster to
424 produce the required daily harvest.

425

426 However, this period only lasted for two weeks while the cotton was in maturity so I had to find
427 other times to read. Opportunities did not present themselves often. There were times that we
428 would have a "Rain Holiday," when we could not labor due to inclement weather so I would
429 spend the time reading more about my Lord and Savior. Even when I had to take sick leave for
430 running a fever, I would read! Those times were the quietest times I could ever get for reading
431 because my roommates would be out in the field all day. The solitude was such a blessing to me!

432

433 By and large, I could read the Word only as the occasion warranted, where it was as unnoticeable
434 as possible. When we had a day off, many of the others would use that time to rest, play cards, or
435 shop, but I preferred to use the opportunity to read my Bible. Usually people would think I was
436 either reading a newspaper or a magazine, not knowing that my Bible was hidden inside. Only a
437 few times, my little book was discovered by someone who asked me what it was. I merely told
438 them it was an English book, and they would go away, being unable to read a foreign language.

439

440 Often, when I did not have an opportunity to read the Bible, I would hum hymns to offer my
441 praise and worship to God. God was faithful to carry me through many difficult times, either
442 through the feeling of His presence, or by the reading of His Holy Word. Praise the Lord!

443

444 **Evangelist Inmate**

445

446 One day as I was laboring at the threshing ground, I was joyfully humming a hymn. A man
447 working beside me asked me in a soft voice, "Are you a Christian worker?"

448

449 "No, I am only a lay Christian," I replied. Through our brief talk, I found out that this inmate was
450 an evangelist sent to be re-educated through labor because of his firm refusal to join the
451 government controlled Three Self Church. His name was Li Tien-en.

452

453 Thereafter, whenever we met, we quietly greeted each other. On our day off, I would go to see
454 him where we would secretly enjoy Christian fellowship together. When other people were
455 present we tried to talk about mundane affairs.

456

457 One day Brother Li told me about a miracle God had performed for him. While working in a
458 copper mine, he was pulling a cart loaded with copper ores over a narrow passage beside a steep
459 cliff. While pulling back the cart and making a turn, he missed one step and fell backward over
460 the steep cliff. Everyone at the site was sure that he must have been killed. To the amazement of
461 all, he had landed between two giant rocks, and only received a few bruises! The cart, with its
462 load of ores, should have fallen on top of him. Miraculously, it was stopped by one tiny stone
463 that blocked its wheels. At this, the people were stunned. One Muslim inmate went to him and
464 said, "The Jesus you believe in is truer than the Allah in whom I believe."

465

466 Brother Li was a gentle, kind, and meek brother from whom I received a lot of help, comfort and
467 spiritual encouragement.

468

469 In one bitterly cold winter, as the north wind blew hard, we were building the dam along the
470 Yangtze River. Beginning at dawn, we had to carry mud up and down the dam incessantly. One
471 afternoon I was greatly distressed from being totally exhausted yet I had to keep on carrying the
472 mud. At that moment, Brother Li passed by me, without looking at my face, he soliloquized:
473 "The Lord is my strength!" Just by these words, my spirit was refreshed and strengthened, so that
474 I could persist in my burdensome task. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

475

476 **A Life of Honor**

477

478 On one of our free days I went to see Brother Li, and I found him lying in bed. His teammates
479 told me that he was so sick that he could not eat. I approached him and asked what was wrong.
480 He replied with a smile, "There is nothing wrong with me. I am fasting and praying."

481

482 **Worshipping the Lord in the Camp**

483

484 In the 1970's for about 3 or 4 months, four Christians happened to be in the same labor farm but
485 different branches. Brother Li and I were in a production team of one branch farm and the two
486 other brothers were in a production team of the other branch. For two or three times on our day
487 off, Brother Li and I, by walking about one hour, visited the other two brothers—Brother John
488 Tseng, a former pastor at the Shanghai Spiritual Food Church, and another Christian brother.

489
490 Brother Tseng, like Brother Li, was sent to the camp because of his refusal to join the
491 government sponsored Three Self Church. Both Brother Li and Pastor Tseng had been in and out
492 of prison or labor camps several times. Once released, they continued to preach the gospel.
493

494 After we met, we would go to the rice paddy field where no one was working and have
495 fellowship, pray, and then worship together. We gathered together in the name of Jesus with
496 Jesus as our HEAD, and each of us a part of His body. Thus we were a unique house church in
497 the labor camp though it might be broken up any moment if something happened. However, this
498 sort of church was so precious because it brought us into God's presence. Hallelujah! Praise the
499 Lord!

500
501 **Struggle Meeting Against Me**

502
503 One day I was challenged in the camp for my Christian belief. A Communist officer was
504 provoked at hearing a report about my saying grace before meals. He decided to discipline me
505 before the whole camp as a warning to all the other prisoners. A "struggle-meeting" was called
506 that night in which I was the target. The Communists were using these "struggle-meetings" in the
507 camp as a powerful means not only to educate the prisoners but also to create fear in spirit and
508 mind. Usually, the target in the "struggle-meeting" would be forced to stand in front of a large
509 crowd of inmates to be condemned, denounced, questioned, mocked, jeered, pushed, pulled,
510 punched, kicked, or even hung by a rope from a beam or tree.

511
512 The officer first summoned to his office those who had studied in mission schools. He instructed
513 them how to struggle against me for my faith. The meeting was called that night in which I was
514 the target. Brother Li was also called to attend.

515
516 Brother Li and I anticipated what would happen, so we prayed silently that God would increase
517 both my faith and strength so that His name would not be dishonored.

518
519 A group of inmates, one after another, who wanted to curry favor with the Communist officer,
520 maliciously attacked Christianity as the spiritual narcotic employed by the Imperialists to poison
521 the Chinese peoples' minds, and denounced me as a lackey of the Imperialists! But no one laid
522 his hand to strike me which was unusual. After that, I was given a chance to make confession.
523 The officer assumed that I would be fearful and make confession of my wrong doing as most
524 inmates had. Beyond his expectation, in the presence of them all I professed that I was a
525 Christian, and I proclaimed that religious belief was protected by the Chinese constitution. The
526 Communist officer was furious at my speech and immediately announced that the meeting would
527 be continued the following night. When a meeting like that was to be continued, escalated
528 violence, as a rule, would be the result. Brother Li and I cried out to God more earnestly that He
529 would sustain me through the imminent torture and brutality so that His name would not be
530 dishonored. The next evening, when the time came, to my amazement the officer announced that
531 the meeting would be canceled without giving any explanation.

532
533 It was the Lord's doing. God is the defender of the weak and the feeble! Praise His Name!
534

535 **Saints Fast and Pray For My Release**

536

537 Even though my original sentence had been served a very long time before, my release from the
538 camp was withheld by the authorities. There seemed to be no hope for me to leave the camp and
539 be reunited with my family. However, as God had done miracles for me so many times in the
540 past, He came to my rescue again.

541

542 During 1979, my sister Beatrice, who was in the United States, asked many brothers and sisters
543 to plead for God's mercy on my behalf. In June of 1979, at the request of my sister, Robert
544 Ewing, Pastor of the Grace Gospel Campgrounds Church in Waco, Texas, began to ask the saints
545 at his fellowship to fast and pray for my release. God heard their prayers and softened the hearts
546 of the authorities in the camp. As a result, one month later I was miraculously released ending
547 my 21-year internment in the camp.

548

549 I was amazed that the saints at the church in Waco would display such love for a brother whom
550 they had never met by fasting and praying for his release! Evidently, it was because they love
551 God and God's love was in them! May God reward them abundantly!

552

553 *"Whoever shall give a drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of*
554 *a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."* (Matt. 10: 42)

555

556 **Returning To Shanghai**

557

558 After my release, I returned to my home in Shanghai. The policeman in charge of the Household
559 Registration in my area notified me that I was not allowed to make any of these three requests:

560

- 561 1. Request for job assignment
- 562 2. Request for housing
- 563 3. Request for subsidy for living expenses

564

565 During my 21-year incarceration, it had been hard on my wife to single-handedly support a
566 family of five. After my release, my oldest son An Lin told me that during the years I was in the
567 camp, Jane wore worn-out shoes to work and did not eat breakfast at home. Her breakfast was
568 simply the big flat bread or fried dough sticks bought from the vendors which she ate on the tram
569 or bus. All her wages were spent on the children or for family expenses.

570

571 Due to my release, my wife's financial situation was in dire straits for it was beyond her means
572 to support another person in the home. We were in a desperate position.

573

574 **God Never Forgets Me**

575

576 *"Can a woman forget her suckling child that she should not have compassion on the son of her*
577 *womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee."* (Isa. 49:1)

578

579 I thank God that He never forgets me—one of His little ones. When my family was in
580 desperation, He supernaturally provided for our needs. A church in Montana sent money to the

581 persecuted Christians in China through my sister Beatrice, and I was the distributor as well as a
582 beneficiary! God provided for my needs in marvelous ways! Hallelujah! Jehovah-Jirah!

583

584 **Jane's Suffering**

585

586 God gave me a good wife. Jane was my supportive partner through years of tough and
587 challenging situations. She suffered a lot for being my spouse. I won't go into the details, but
588 will mention a few points in the following remarks:

589

- 590 • Supporting a family of five single-handedly for 21 years.
- 591 • Being discriminated against and isolated by her colleagues.
- 592 • Confined at her employment hospital for one month.
- 593 • During her confinement, she got lifelong kidney problems.
- 594 • Was pressured by police to divorce me.
- 595 • Authorities threatened that she would lose her job if she refused to put her signature to
596 "Abandoning Religious Belief" box in the "House Registration Book."

597

598 **Desperate Need of Bibles in China**

599

600 After my release, I visited Brother Li, and he told me Christians in China were in desperate need
601 of the Bible. He talked about three farmer brothers who came to Shanghai from Henan Province
602 with their six months savings — 90 yuans (approximately \$40 in American money) expecting to
603 buy some Bibles. They stayed at Brother Li's home for three days but could not find any Bibles
604 to purchase. However, right before they were about to leave, another brother visited Brother Li's
605 home. When he was told the three brothers' story, he said that he would go to his friend who had
606 reserved some Bibles for the house churches, and get the Bibles for them. One hour later, he
607 returned with seven copies of the Bible and ten copies of the New Testament. The brothers from
608 Henan were overjoyed and gave thanks and praise to God for this miracle. Then Brother Li said
609 to them, "You have already fasted for five days for the Bibles, now that God has given you the
610 Bibles, you can discontinue your fasting." But, they insisted on fasting until they arrived home
611 safely with the Bibles.

612

613 **My Desire to Leave China**

614

615 Since I was despised, discriminated against, rejected by society, and deprived of the right to
616 work, I greatly desired to get out of China.

617

618 In October of 1980, I submitted an application for a passport to the Exit Permit Department of
619 the Public Security Bureau.

620

621 While my passport was pending, I went to visit a sister in Christ in Shanghai. She showed me a
622 Bible that had been torn into sections so as to allow hundreds of Christians to pass them around
623 and read. Chinese Christians treasured the Bible and made full use of it! As the Bible was strictly
624 banned in China, people must hide it secretly in a safe place. The Christian community was

625 hiding them at the risk of their lives. When I heard of these stories, my heart was broken. I then
626 began to pray that God would open the door for the Bibles to be brought into China.

627

628 **Far East Broadcasting Company**

629

630 One night in October of 1980, five young brothers and sisters from the Far East Broadcasting
631 Company in Hong Kong visited me at my home. We fellowshiped and prayed together. The
632 next morning, they brought me Bibles, hymnals, cassette tapes, and gospel tracts. This was the
633 beginning of the answer to my prayers for Bibles which continued to be supplied from time to
634 time.

635

636 **Missionaries from the Alliance Church**

637

638 One night, when I went out to take a walk, I saw four English speaking foreigners surrounded by
639 a large crowd on the street. So I asked if I could help them. They told me that they had been
640 searching for two hours for the Alliance Church where they had stayed for one month thirty
641 years before. To my joy, I told them that it was the church where I had been baptized and that I
642 would take them there.

643

644 When we reached the former church, they said they had walked back and forth in front of the
645 building several times, but could not recognize it. I told them the building had been vandalized in
646 the Cultural Revolution, and had since been turned into a factory. Part of the wall was damaged,
647 and several boards were nailed to the wooden gate. They took pictures of the outside of the
648 building then they came to my home and fellowshiped with me. At this meeting, they gave me
649 five or six copies of the Bible.

650

651 Hallelujah! God opened another channel for me to get more Bibles!

652

653 **Summoned By the Public Security Bureau**

654

655 In February of 1981, I received a letter from the Far East Broadcasting Company saying that 100
656 copies of the Bible would be delivered to me soon. Because of strict censorship in China, the
657 Public Security Bureau discovered through this correspondence that I was involved in Bible
658 smuggling. I was summoned for interrogation the next day. The interrogation lasted for ten days,
659 and each session was eight hours a day.

660

661 During the interrogation, I was told that the Bible smuggling was the infiltration activity of the
662 Imperialists, and that I was acting as their tool. My actions violated the law, and I should be put
663 in jail, but they gave me a chance to redeem myself by collaborating with them. I was to allure
664 those smugglers from Hong Kong and report them to the Public Security Bureau immediately. If
665 I agreed to this, I knew it would help me get permission for my passport. Yet I was not being
666 compliant, so during the interrogation, the team leader shouted at me arrogantly, "No one can
667 deliver you! Not even the Jesus you believe in!"

668

669 However, I was worrying about the safety of the brothers and sisters in Hong Kong, and wanted
670 to do whatever I could to help them. So first I covertly took a bus, then changed to tram and then

GOD'S MERCY ON TIMOTHY

An Article By Timothy Chung

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671 a trolley bus. In every move, I made sure that I had no suspicious followers. Then I posted an
672 anonymous letter into a mail box in the remote area in Shanghai alerting people in Hong Kong to
673 neither communicate with me nor come to my home. As a result, they stopped contacting me.
674

675 After the interrogation, the officer from the Public Security Bureau visited me weekly for several
676 weeks but was unsuccessful at getting any information from me. I was aware that I was under the
677 strict monitor of the Neighborhood Committee organized by the Public Security Bureau. Yet
678 they could not find any suspicious stranger coming to my home either. As a result, the plot of the
679 Public Security Bureau was totally thwarted so they became extremely infuriated at me. They
680 retaliated by suspending my passport application which could be made only once per year.
681

682 My first passport application was in October of 1980. It was denied. Then in 1981, 1982, and
683 1983, my applications were all denied. In October of 1984, unbeknown to me, a group of saints
684 at the Kansas City Fellowship in America were fasting and praying for the release of my
685 passport. Right at that time, I delivered another annual application to the Public Security Bureau.
686 After entering the office of the Exit Permit Department, I was stunned to see that the chief of the
687 department turned out to be the team leader of the interrogation team who had interrogated me
688 four years earlier regarding Bible smuggling. He was the one who shouted at me that no one
689 could deliver me, even the Jesus I believed in!
690

691 As I went home, I knelt down to pray that if God would grant me a passport, let me receive it
692 from the very man who had arrogantly boasted and defied His holy name.
693

694 **Miraculous Happening**

695
696 One day in December when I went home, my wife excitedly told me that she had learned I would
697 receive my passport the next day. I responded in disbelief, "Really?!" Though I had been
698 earnestly praying for it for five years, I could hardly believe it actually happened. I was like
699 those who were praying for Peter's release from prison, and who, after Peter was released and
700 knocked at their door, could not believe it was the real Peter.
701

702 The next day, when I went to the Exit Permit Department of the Public Security Bureau, the very
703 chief who I had prayed would be the one to hand the passport to me in person, threatened, "Now
704 we give you the passport. When you are in the United States, don't make trouble for us.
705 Remember that your family is all here."
706

707 Praise Jesus! He did not deal with me according to my faithlessness, but graciously granted me
708 my passport! Hallelujah!
709

710 **Arrival in the United States**

711
712 After writing to my sister, Beatrice, of my miraculous passport out of China, I received an
713 airplane ticket from her. In February of 1985, I set out for the US. After my arrival, I stayed with
714 her in Boston for a time.
715

716 When I expressed my wish to remain in the United States, my sister told me that there were two
717 disadvantages for political asylum. One, I would be separated from my wife permanently. I
718 would not be able to go back to China, and my wife could not come to the United States. In
719 addition, the only work opportunity that would most likely be available to me would be in a
720 restaurant where I would have to work on Sundays, making it impossible to attend church to
721 worship God.

722

723 I was puzzled, and did not know what to do.

724

725 In April, Brother Gary Kroeze, a missionary to South Africa and a friend of my sister, called her
726 from Kansas City. When he was told that I had come to the U.S., he invited both of us to visit
727 him in Kansas City for one week. During our visit, he introduced us to the leadership of Kansas
728 City Fellowship. Again, in late May, Gary called me to fly to Kansas City again. Upon my
729 arrival, he introduced me to someone where I was employed working in a private garden for
730 about one week.

731

732 **Serving as a Janitor**

733

734 On June 1, 1985, Kansas City Fellowship moved to a newly purchased building on Grandview
735 Road in Kansas City, Missouri, and at this time I became employed as their janitor. This church
736 had prayer meetings three times a day, diligently seeking after God. I was happy to have a part in
737 serving the Lord in this place. Psalm 84:10 says, "*For a day in thy courts is better than a*
738 *thousand elsewhere. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the*
739 *tents of wickedness.*" Hallelujah! God had granted me my heart's desire!

740

741 **Surrounded By Love**

742

743 When I began to work as a janitor, I was provided lodging at the Troost Duplexes. Seven
744 families in the neighborhood took turns bringing me a meal each day for seven days. One day,
745 after finishing my meal, I returned Fran Golden's nice porcelain dishes. The screen door at her
746 porch sprang back and knocked me down causing all of the dishes to break. I thought to myself,
747 "How can I afford to repay her for these fine dishes?" Seeing me fall, Fran hurriedly ran to help
748 me up, softly saying, "Brother Timothy, are you okay? It is fine with the dishes." Her kind words
749 not only relieved me of my burden but also gave me much love and comfort!

750

751 **God's Wonderful Arrangement for My Asylum**

752

753 The first day of my employment at Kansas City Fellowship, I was invited to a sister's wedding.
754 During the reception, a couple of strangers, Bill and Maydelle Herwig, approached me and said,
755 "Brother Timothy, we will help you seek asylum in the United States." They brought me back
756 and forth to a lawyer's office many times as well as to the homes of several gentlemen who
757 kindly translated legal documents from Chinese into English providing proof that I had been
758 persecuted for my religious beliefs. It was incredible that these acts of kindness, which are
759 beyond anything I have ever heard, seen, or thought of, would have happened to me, a former
760 downtrodden counter-revolutionary from China! Through their continuous effort, I was granted
761 asylum in the United States on May 2, 1986. I am proud to be called a United States citizen.

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Two Wonderful Experiences

I underwent two wonderful experiences which I could never have even imagined would happen in my life that I want to tell. They are recounted below for you to praise the Lord with me for His goodness and love.

Invited to the Headquarters of the Alliance Church

On May 27, 1985, I received a letter from Dr, Maurice Irvin, editor of “The Alliance Witness” magazine, who invited me to join them in New York City to share my testimony at the Alliance Church headquarters. He would be responsible for the plane ticket as well as my lodging and meals. I was overjoyed!

When I shared this letter with Brother Bob Scott at Kansas City Fellowship, he suggested that I should have the senior pastor Mike Bickle, verify the arrangements, and take care of the details of the trip. Subsequently, I received the airplane tickets for my trip to New York from June 27 to July 1.

On June 27, I arrived in New York City. Though I was the least among all, yet I was treated like a man of honor. I had a sense that I had been lifted up from the dust to be set among princes. No reason can be given except that God says, *“I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy” (Ex. 33:19).*

I was shown around every department of the headquarters of the Alliance Church; visited several of its affiliated colleges in Nyack; introduced to Dr. Window Price, President of the Alliance Seminary, enjoying pleasant fellowship with him for one hour.

I also had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Louis King, President of the Alliance, at whose home I was invited to have an excellent supper. Moreover, I was asked to testify to the greatness of God both at Simpson Memorial Church in Nyack, and at the First Alliance Church in New York City. I had never dreamed that I could visit one of the most prominent missionaries' homes in the United States which has 17,000 churches in the world! What a great honor it was! Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

End-Time Handmaidens 10th World Convention

When I shared the good news of being invited to speak at the Alliance Church headquarters in New York City, my friend, Brother Randy Rott, expressed joy for my wonderful opportunity, and suggested that after my return from New York, I should attend the End-Time Handmaidens 10th World Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. Randy offered to make arrangements for my lodging and meals at a friend's home. How gracious and good is the Lord toward me! Praise the Lord!

I arrived back in Kansas City on July 1st, 1985. On July 3rd, Brother Randy drove me to St. Louis to attend the End-Time Handmaidens 10th World Convention. The End-Time

808 Handmaidens is a worldwide missionary organization of which each member is required to have
809 sought the Lord in fasting and prayer for 21 days.

810
811 I was overjoyed at being able to attend that significant convention through which I was greatly
812 blessed. To my astonishment, I was unexpectedly asked by Sister Gwen Shaw, the founder of the
813 organization, to share my testimony at one of the meetings on July 3rd! I was so excited and
814 nervous to speak to such a large gathering—more than 2,000 people! I could only say in my
815 heart, “Lord, I thank You for the multitude of mercies You have showered upon me, of which I
816 am completely undeserving.

817
818 **Naturalized As a Citizen of the USA**

819
820 On December 2, 1992, I became a naturalized citizen of the United States of America. Later I
821 applied for my second and third generation descendants in China to immigrate to the United
822 States. By 1996, all my four sons and their wives, and five grandchildren immigrated to the U.S.,
823 enjoying the freedom we had long dreamed of. To date, six great-grandchildren have been born
824 here in America.

825 .
826 **In Recollection**

827
828 For me to come to the United States, two requirements were needed. First, I must be released
829 from the labor camp; second, I must get a passport from the Public Security Bureau. Though,
830 theoretically, I should have no problem to meet them, yet in reality, neither of them could be
831 accessed. Nevertheless, by means of fasting and prayer God broke in, turning the situation
832 around and making the impossible possible. As a result, not only was I miraculously released
833 from the labor camp, but a passport was also miraculously given to me by the Public Security
834 Bureau!

835
836 May all glory, praise, and thanksgiving be to God forever and forever!

837
838 **My Dear Wife, Jane, Arrives**

839
840 Although my sister, Beatrice, had purchased the airline ticket to America for me, I needed money
841 to bring with me to the USA, so I borrowed \$200 from an older classmate. My dear Jane, again,
842 from her meager wages, paid it back to her little by little for me.

843
844 My great desire was to bring my wife to America to be with me. We corresponded through
845 letters since we had no phone in China. I made application to the US Immigration Service in
846 August 1986 for Jane to immigrate here. In only 2 months she was approved to come!

847
848 As the news spread, the entire church rejoiced with me. My excitement was beyond words.
849 Nevertheless, I could not afford the airfare. A couple of days later, a brother, on his own
850 initiative, purchased an airplane ticket for Jane from Shanghai to Kansas City, and another two-
851 way ticket to San Francisco for me to escort her back to Kansas City. God's mercy on us, yet
852 again! Praise the Lord!

853

854 Jane didn't become an American citizen because she had not learned English which was
855 required. In California, she could have easily received her citizenship speaking Chinese, but not
856 in the Midwest at that time. She obtained her green card instead, but we just thanked God that we
857 were together again!

858

859 **Celebration of Our 50th Wedding Anniversary**

860

861 In November of 1995, our church hosted a grand party to celebrate our 50th wedding
862 anniversary. About 200 people attended including 20 from a local Chinese church. Both my
863 pastor, Mike Bickle, and Pastor Feng gave congratulatory speeches. The beautiful performances
864 of several classes of Dominion Christian School pleased the audience. When the we all saw Bob
865 Hartley acting as a large funny figure slowly swaggering out from the back of the stage with lots
866 of empty Nutty Bar boxes hung on his neck and tied to his arms and legs we all laughed heartily,
867 for I was famous for giving Nutty Bars to the students of Dominion Christian School.

868

869 Jane and I received about 60 greeting cards, including one from the White House from President
870 and Mrs. Bill Clinton.

871

872 After the celebration, the church generously paid for our amazing vacation. We visited our two
873 sons in California, and toured the Grand Canyon and Universal Studios in California, London
874 Bridge in Arizona, and then on to Honolulu, Pearl Harbor on Maui Island, and Big Island in
875 Hawaii.

876

877 **Surgery at Research Hospital**

878

879 In 2007, I had a minor surgery to remove a bleeding spot on my prostate. My surgeon told me
880 that it would only take fifteen minutes. My son Andrew was waiting outside the operating
881 theater, ready to take me home after the surgery. He waited and waited, but still I did not come
882 out of the room. In fact, my heart had stopped beating as a result of a medical malpractice.

883

884 The doctors, anesthesiologist, and nurses worked to resuscitate me for six hours. Instead of being
885 sent home as we had expected, I had to stay in hospital. The staff rushed me to the X-ray room to
886 examine my heart by EKG and X-ray. The next morning a cardiologist came to my bed and told
887 me that my heart was fine.

888

889 Later, when I went to see the surgeon for a follow-up visit and asked him what had caused my
890 heart to stop beating, he told me that it was an overdose of anesthesia.

891

892 Thank you, God, for keeping me alive. All glory to Your name!

893

894 **Prayer Request for Safe Surgery and Rehabilitation Center**

895

896 Later in life, I developed multiple tumors in a delicate area. A surgeon removed them three
897 times, but each time, within three months of the surgery, they reappeared. So the doctor referred
898 me to a specialist.

899 After examining me, the specialist explained that two surgeries would be needed, and that each
900 surgery would take three hours.

901 Since I had experienced side effects such as bleeding, pain, retention of urine, and constipation
902 from the previous three minor surgeries, I anticipated that the side effects of the major surgery
903 would be much worse. So I sent a prayer request to many friends asking them to pray for me. I
904 made three specific requests:

- 905 1. That the surgery would go smoothly
- 906 2. That the side effects would be minimal
- 907 3. That I could stay at a rehab center for at least two or three days after the surgery

908 **God Heard Our Prayers**

909 On June 26th, 2012, I was operated on. I had been told that the procedure would take three hours,
910 but it was completed in only one hour and forty minutes! Then the doctor informed me that I
911 would not need to have the second surgery, because he had already taken care of the entire
912 problem. It was such good news. Two sisters who were there with me asked the doctor on my
913 behalf if he could send me to a rehabilitation center for two or three days after my release, as I
914 was 90 years old and living by myself. The doctor's reply was no. He told my friends, "He had a
915 successful surgery. He can go home."

916
917 I remained in the hospital for six days. When I was released, the doctor issued a discharge order
918 to send me home.

919
920 In the afternoon, I was about to go home. A social worker attached to the hospital walked in and
921 asked what she could do for me. I told her that I needed to be sent to the rehabilitation center for
922 at least the first two or three days after my release because I was elderly and living alone, but that
923 the doctor would not allow it. She told me that the government's policy allowed patients who
924 had stayed in hospital for at least three days to either go to a rehabilitation center or to a nursing
925 home, and that Medicare would cover the expenses for up to 20 days. She offered to speak to the
926 doctor for me. By that time, the doctor had left the hospital for the day, but when the social
927 worker called him, he issued another discharge order, authorizing me to be sent to a
928 rehabilitation center where I stayed for 18 days!

929 As a direct result of people's prayers and the hand of the Lord, not only was the surgery
930 extraordinarily successful, with no side effects, but the doctor changed his decision when the
931 social worker intervened, and let me go to the rehabilitation center. I had asked for two or three
932 days, but God arranged for me to stay there for more than two weeks. Hallelujah!

933 **Closing Thoughts**

934 Now in my 90s, I look back with great gratitude in my heart for all the Lord has done for me, for
935 the many times He had mercy on me and my family and how He led me in His kindness. I have
936 seen the Lord's goodness again and again, and I testify that He is "*the LORD, the Lord GOD,*
937 *merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for*
938 *thousands.*" (Ex. 34:6-7)

939