



Pray for China

**MINISTRY
SNAPSHOT**

Church with an Impact

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According to the latest China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC), China recorded 338 million Internet users in June 2009, representing a penetration rate of 25.5%.¹ We can anticipate the 1 in 4 ratio to continue to grow rapidly. What kinds of impacts will the internet have on the Christian communities in China? Or vice versa, can the Christian church be healthy and creative enough to bear witness via the internet, apart from merely disseminating news and information about church or Christian events on-line? Before responding to these two questions, we may need to examine another vital issue: what qualities and phenomenal faith development tracks should be cultivated by churches? Jesus says in His parable: "Even so, every good tree gives good fruit; but the bad tree gives evil fruit. It is not possible for a good tree to give bad fruit, and a bad tree will not give good fruit. Every tree which does not give good fruit is cut down and put in the fire. So by their fruits you will get knowledge of them." (Matthew 7:17-20, BBE) Recently I discovered an interesting and touching example on the internet. Let me share it with you in trying to trace a positive fruit bearing process.

On February 13 this year, the official China Buddhist website FJ-Online reproduced a report from Gospel Herald,² about the evangelism activity of a Tianjin

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October — November 2009

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Pray For China is published by
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Christian church. The activity was part of the traditional Chinese New Year celebration carnival. But interestingly enough, the carnival was held in a big square outside a famous Buddhist Temple. The church occupied three stalls, and the church pastor and leaders put a red banner in a front table, carrying the eye-catching words "Joy to the World" and "Hallelujah" coloured in white. Bibles, gospel tracts and booklets, hymnals and other titles on Christianity were displayed. The church leaders were able to share their faith openly and freely with the passers-by, some of whom listened very attentively. Tracts and Bibles were distributed to a large number of potential seekers.

It is no surprise for me to read this news on the Buddhist website as the Chinese government has been constantly promoting the spirit of harmony. The carnival showcased the harmony between two of the five major religions in the country. The prominent faith and courage shown by the pastor and church leaders attracted much of my attention. Their presence and their work (the fruit borne out of their faith) before the crowd and the Buddhist believers had definitely created a note-worthy impact on the society and indeed the entire virtual world. Strong and healthy disciples can make a difference in the spiritual environment of a city filled with constraints .

The leaders involved were properly equipped and transformed spiritually. I was told that the Lord had revived and blessed the life of the pastor and the church over the past few years. The pastor was committed to identifying and nurturing a new generation of leaders using a very simple leadership development: return to the Bible and live out its teachings, together with small group fellowship where everyone in the group can share genuinely and be cared for lovingly. The members root their lives in Jesus by attending regular and systematic Bible study.

It is an honor to be accepted as a member of the Bible study group as they have to observe full participation and get prepared beforehand each time. They started some ministry areas at the conclusion of their study and after some serious spiritual reflection. The church also offers practical, transformational and recurrent discipleship training courses putting much emphasis on prayer, Bible study, devotion and personal evangelism. The leaders team that the pastor hand-picked to participate in the carnival had all attended the discipleship training and Bible study groups. A prosperous fruit bearing process requires quality training that can produce disciples with accountable relationships. Another indispensable factor is that the pastor must have a close relationship with God, vision and faith.

Did the church put herself on the internet world on purpose? For sure the answer is "No". There can be a whole bunch of menus, strategies or studies that we can adopt to reap a great harvest. But the fundamental lessons we can learn from this Tianjin church are clear and basic: recurrent Bible-based discipleship training and nurturing by a God-fearing pastor can help a congregation become mature enough to impact on their society. I would surely say it is the sovereign Christ, the head of the Church, who put His church on the spot, and He keeps on challenging us to get prepared to impact others via the internet.

1. <http://www.cnnic.net.cn/html/Dir/2009/07/28/5644.htm>
2. http://big5.fjnet.com/gdb/200902/t20090213_108783.htm

What is Life for? In Commemoration of Dr Fischbacher and Mr Mather

By Otto Lui

Rationally we know that our life is in God's hands, while longevity is commonly seen as a sign of blessing. Often we find it hard to understand, not to mention accept, cases of stillbirths or people who die young.

During a trip to Xinjiang many years ago, a pastor told me about two missionaries who died there not long after their arrival. In commemoration of them, church workers there sweep their graves every year during the Ching Ming Festival. I was told that although the two missionaries did not build any church, nor did they bring many people to Christ, they had come a long way to serve in remote Xinjiang in the 1930s, when China was caught in domestic turmoil. They bore good witnesses with their deep love for China and the Chinese people. Elderly pastors there use their examples to remind younger co-workers to be humble and submissive to God.

But after so many years, a question still bothers me: What does God expect to get in return from calling and sending a servant to a ministry, who ends up dying early with little achievement despite all the resources and investments that have been put in? What is God's purpose of selecting and using someone to fulfill his calling? Is it enough just to say "the process matters more than the outcome"? What is the purpose of life and mission? How can we live out the meaning behind them?

Recently I had a chance to read about the stories of two China Inland Mission missionaries who died only two years after they landed in China: Emil Fischbacher (1903-

1933), and his co-worker Percy Mather (1882-1933). They died within three days of each other's death.

Dr Fischbacher's Life

In his 16 months of living in China, Dr Fischbacher spent 10 months learning about and helping with the medical work in Shanghai. It took him two months to reach Xinjiang, so in effect he only stayed there for six months. What value is there of his short ministry in Xinjiang? He was only 29 when he died. He had yet to establish a church there. So what is God's purpose of calling him to be a missionary?

Dr Fischbacher was born to a Christian family, the sixth of 10 children. His sisters had been engaged in evangelical ministry in China but as he wrote in a letter to his family three months before his death, he had never expected to go to China although he had been praying to God since 1926 to find out about His calling for him. As a doctor, he could make a dream salary of 3,000 pounds each year in Britain, prior to going to China.

Dr Fischbacher's father could afford to support his ministry, with no need for any assistance from any missions board. But sticking to its principle of operating by faith, China Inland Mission never solicited funding support. This helped nurture Dr Fischbacher's total reliance on God. On the one hand he learned to resolve problems through prayer, relying entirely on Him throughout his life journey, even at times of grave adversity. On the other, he managed to weather all kinds

of storms with faith. He kept on praising God with thanksgiving even when a war was raging around him. He remained faithful in whatever position God put him, determined to obey and follow God's will in his life. His missionary sister also wrote in her letter how his brother's faith had grown since joining the China Inland Mission.

China and Xinjiang in the 1930s

China in the 1930s was caught in a civil war and under the shadow of the Japanese invasion. When Dr Fischbacher and 200 other missionaries arrived in Shanghai, the city was exposed to bombing by the Japanese. As a doctor, his first mission then was to help the injured civilians in Shanghai hospitals.



While in the city, he received God's calling to go to Xinjiang, a remote piece of land beyond the imagination of many missionaries. Many did not even know how to reach there. The Mission decided to buy a truck to take missionaries and the necessary supplies there from Beijing, via Inner Mongolia and the Gobi Desert. Not all passageways along the trip were passable by vehicles. It took Dr Fischbacher's team of five a month to reach Hami, Xinjiang, then to Urumqi a month later. They departed from Beijing on September 8, 1931, and reached Urumqi, called Dihua then, on November 9, in a journey spanning 3,200 kilometres.

There was actually scant information on

Mr Mather. All is known is that he arrived in Xinjiang more than a decade before Dr Fischbacher. Having learned the local language, he was involved in evangelical and nurturing work. Xinjiang was in a chaotic state in the early 20s, subject to the influences of the warlords from inland China, and Uygur and Russian forces. Mr Mather was not the first China Inland Mission missionary in Xinjiang; back in 1876, Dr Landsdell and George Parker began preaching to the Buddhists and Muslims in central Asia. In 1905, China Inland Mission's George Hunter set up the first missionary base in Urumqi, which was later joined by Mr Mather and Dr Fischbacher.



Dr Fischbacher's Ministry

Dr Fischbacher was constantly filled with excitement about spreading the Gospel among the Chinese. In a letter written to his family, he wrote about his feelings while passing through Inner Mongolia:

"I'd like you to note a startling fact: I have only seen one evangelical base throughout my journey of 2,900 km. Why is there no preacher among the people living in the villages, the vast Mongolian plain or urban areas? Isn't this a challenge of prayer to all of you?"

After two months he reached Dihua (the Mongolian name for Urumqi), where he found

that there was no water drainage system for the population of 70,000. The people had to walk 45 days to get to the nearest hospital or clinic. Xinjiang then was called the Chinese Turkestan owing to the serious lack of order then. Dr Fischbacher's group arrived there in early November 1932; by the end of January 1933, a Muslim-led rebellion erupted, while the Russian army invaded Dihua on the ground of maintaining order. Since the Han Chinese governor then failed to mend relationships with the Russians, the number of casualties from the fighting kept increasing.



What could Dr Fischbacher do as the only doctor there? From 1933 onwards he worked endlessly on healing the injured and was responsible for the treatment of at least 300 patients. Seriously lacking medical equipment and staff, the outstanding surgeon kept treating the numerous numbers of injured people together with Mr Mather every day. The hygiene condition there was really bad; some patients had not washed their bodies for three months. One can imagine the serious infection these patients had in their wounds. Looking after the patients without an adequate supply of water and food, Dr Fischbacher was physically and mentally strained. He said: "It is impossible for me to look after the needs of the entire population in Dihua. Maybe you'd ask: "Why do you carry on doing your work?" When you see the situation these people are in, you will be compelled to work for them!"

The above was taken from Dr Fischbacher's last open letter. In fact, as the correspondence to outside China was censored then, not much was known about the real situation there. For sure, Dr Fischbacher was busy day and night treating the war victims. Both he and Mr Mather, who helped him look after the patients, died from exhaustion.

What is Life For?

From the perspectives of investment and return, it is hard for us to understand what Dr Fischbacher and Mr Mather got in return from their services. But investments and returns in life are a mystery. Dr Fischbacher's missionary sister recalled:

"We prayed for God's blessing for his ministry so it would bear fruits, and bring glory and praise to His name. But we were willing to let go and accept whatever way God chose to answer our prayer."

Such are not self-comforting words. In fact, Dr Fischbacher's brother committed himself to missionary work because of him. The family did not complain to God about Dr Fischbacher's death. Rather they became much more involved in missionary work. And isn't that a far better testimony?

It is difficult to just say "The process of ministry is more important than the outcome". What is certain is that our God is sovereign. He let us fulfill his mission for us in His perfect time. The wonder of life lies in being able to live for the Lord at the present. It is a life worth living for to be able to exemplify His wonderful deeds in every circumstance.

Information for this article is taken from To What Purpose by Marshall Broomhall (Edinburgh: & R Clark Ltd. 1933) and "To What Purpose?" The life & death of Emil Fischbacher by Tony Lambert (OMF International, China Insight, Mar-Apr 2009)

LIFT UP OUR HOLY HANDS



Love and Marriages among the New Generation of Believers

Editorial office

Everyone experiences love and marriage. In an increasingly open social environment, Chinese people are having changing views about romantic love and marriage. Traditional concepts are being replaced by open-minded thinking, which has had a negative effect on youngsters. Under the influences of their peers and the media, which promotes such novel concepts as personal autonomy, romanticism, self-satisfaction, avant-garde ideas, etc., mainland youngsters have got hurt emotionally. What about the new generation of mainland believers? How do they view love and marriage?

CHRISTIAN DATING WEB SITES

Due to the imbalance between sisters and brothers in mainland churches, many young sisters, including well-qualified ones, are unable to find a right marriage partner. Some married Christians set them up with single brothers, while a host of dating web sites, forums have also sprung up offering Biblical teachings on the issue of love and marriage - to fill the gaps in church teachings. Christians discussed various marriage -related issues on the Net, as others shared their successful experiences or failures with others, encouraging and teaching them the relevant Biblical principles. Some openly publicize their spousal requirements and personal contact information. The Net is a useful channel for broadening one's social circle, but one should also be careful about God's guidance in the process to avoid unnecessary problems.

YOUNG BELIEVERS' MARRIAGE

Undoubtedly the new generation of believers is more prone to the influences of post-modernism, being more concerned with personal feelings, and hence with reduced commitment and sense of responsibility for love and marriage.

Young believers lacking experience in handling emotional issues and Biblical teachings can easily commit wrongs, displeasing God and hurting others. Some Christians have set no boundaries for physical intimacy, or have followed the secular trend of committing the sin of pre-marital sex. Some pastors wrongly assume all believers to know the importance of chastity. Yet pre-marital sex among believers is becoming more and more common.

Some brothers studying at university away from their hometown have developed good relationships with Christian sisters who are also away from their home, through the Net, and fallen in love with each other. But due to their limited time spent together, and the lack of support and counseling from spiritual mentors, they often cannot maintain their relationships for long. Coupled with the pressure from their parents to find a spouse, such young believers end up being hurt or troubled.

On the other hand, falling in love with a non-believer poses danger. In line with the trend of “quick marriage”, a sister married a non-believer whom she had known for only a few months. Yet seriously traumatized by husband’s beating her up later on, she sought a divorce. Quite a number of Christians have married non-believers, out of reasons like ignorance or prevailing social atmosphere. This is an issue that churches must not overlook.

HELPING ESTABLISH A CORRECT ATTITUDE TOWARDS MARRIAGE

Churches should inculcate among believers the proper concepts and attitudes towards marriage, eg. the relationship between love and marriage, the meaning of love, the behaviour among people dating others, the importance of chastity, etc. In recent years, some churches have held useful talk series featuring counseling experts, covering various topics from the Biblical concept of marriage, finding the right mate according to God’s will, to the impact of personal qualities on love and marriage, etc. Such talks are becoming more and more important; some young women in a city in eastern China have organized themselves to appeal for self-love and self-respect among female university students, calling on them to wait for true love. Churches should not be lagging behind. There is urgent need for them to organize more marriage-related talks to help believers find God-pleasing love and marriage!

Actually, even after marriage, brothers and sisters still need God’s grace and guidance to help them live amicably with their spouse. Following the worldly criteria of improved living standards, satisfying personal feelings, changing partner, etc., is no guarantee for a happy marriage. It is only by putting God in the centre of a marriage, with reverence to his Word as the ultimate principles for daily living, that a happy marriage can be maintained. There is an acute need for mainland churches to run more Bible study classes, thematic talks for Christian couples in a morally-decaying environment!

* *Our organization has Christian books and multi-media information on love and marriage available for distribution to mainland churches. For enquiry, please ring 27258558 (ext.152)*

PRAYER ITEMS:

1. *Pray for the moral decay in the mainland society. May the churches there be a beacon of light.*
2. *For mainland believers who are at marriage age and yet still single. May the Lord provide marriages for them and that they may come to know deeply His power.*
3. *For young believers’ love and marriage. May the Lord keep them from going astray, and help them resolve the problems they face.*
4. *May the Lord use mainland Christian dating web sites to fulfill his purpose for Christian marriages.*
5. *May the Lord use regular Church teachings and various special talks to help believers understand the meaning of marriages, guide the believers in love to walk in His will, and may He also guide Christian couples to develop blissful relationships in honor of His name.*

Additional Prayer Request

The Infiltration of Eastern Lightning

“The Eastern Lightning cult has recently been very active in our district. They have infiltrated urban churches, targeting at some lay leaders, some of whom have been deceived into turning their backs on their own churches. But some eventually broke away from the cult’s control, rescued by their churches with God’s help. Some Eastern Lightning members also called up preachers’ children, trying to lure them away.” (sharing by a church worker in an urban church in the East)

May the Lord stop the interferences of Eastern Lightning and other cults upon mainland churches, and keep His servants and their families from being deceived and cheated, so they can enjoy the peace in Him!

A Blessed Brother

*Narrated by Brother Chen;
compiled by Duoja*

“You are my Lord, apart from you I have no good thing.” (Psalm 16: 2)

“When I act, who can reverse it?” (Isaiah 43: 13)

God’s love for me is well-reflected from His uncountable grace.

1. Marriage

I started praying for my marriage at the age of 25, determined to leave it all to God. I was born into a poor family, and my father died when I was young. Since then I had lived together with my mother. No girl would want to marry someone like me. My mother had always prayed earnestly for my marriage. Then through the medium of a hymn book at a youth revival meeting, I met my present wife Xiu Chun. Happily, we fell into love.

As Christians, we respected our parents’ views on our marriage. Xiu Chun’s mother once rejected it as she could not communicate with us in Putonghua and the need for her to take a ferry to visit my home displeased her as such trip made her seasick.

By the end of 1992, Xiu Chun joined her cousin in Tianjin to do business. I wrote to her but she seldom replied. My family handed over my marriage to God and prayed for it for three years. God put me in such a situation in order to test me. He also revealed to me through the Bible: “Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.” (Proverbs 19:14). God’s time arrived after our three years of prayer and relying on Him. When I was 28 in 1995, Xiu Chun returned from Tianjin. The Holy Spirit moved her parents to agree with our marriage.

No one can block God’s will. Our faithful Lord answered our prayer. God knows our love for and trust in Him. We kept knocking on the door and He opened it for us – making our marriage possible. Thank God, in 1995 I and Xiu Chun were married. Since then I have been responsible for a youth Bible study class, while she became a Sunday school teacher. Together we served God. His grace is sufficient for us.

2. The Child’s Resurrection

In 1997, God gave us twins. The elder one, weighed 5.7 kg, while the younger one, weighed 3.6 kg. Many villagers commented: “Why did God not give them a son and a daughter? “Yet deeply satisfied, I praised the Lord every day. After the birth of the twin sisters, my whole family visited the hospital every day while I was busy leading the Bible study class at church. My mother-in-law complained: “Why do you keep going to the church, leaving your wife and children alone in the hospital...”

One day, I went to the hospital after the Bible study, and found that the younger child was not crying as usual. Underweight and undernourished, she died only three days after her birth. The adults around her thought she was only sleeping. My brother, who was a Chinese medicine practitioner, called the doctor, however. The doctor said they would not treat dead people and asked me to give up on the child. The spectators around us said repeatedly: “What a pity!” Holding the baby in my arm, I prayed. My whole family prayed. I said: “My God is a God who make dead people come back to life!” My tears kept streaming down my face as I held on to God’s promise.



God's wonder is beyond human comprehension. As I prayed, my child regained breath. I could hear her crying. Thank God for His grace; the two sisters are His inheritance for me. There is countless grace in them. Now they are both 11 and in primary five. Each Sunday they worship God in Sunday school, of which the teacher is their mother.

3. Home Building

In the 11 years since our marriage, we lived in a rented flat. All along we had wanted to have our own flat where we could pray alone to God. Three of my mother's six children have their own houses. She owned an old house; following her conversion, her ailing body was often healed by God. She wanted to sell the flat when we were faced with financial difficulty. But God would not allow it. The Holy Spirit moved a relative to borrow our family's property permit. Initially he said he would only need it for three days but he did not return to us till more than a decade later. Miraculously, when I and my siblings had grown up and saved enough money to build a house, our relative returned the permit to us.

In 2006, God prepared our own house for us. If it were a year later, we would not have got the approval for the building of private property. Thank God, His timing is always perfect. God also performed other wonders during the process of our home-building. His grace is indeed uncountable.

4. Blessed Brother

My brother graduated from Chinese medicine college in 1996. He then worked in a village, making \$500 a month. Knowing my own experience in God, he also handed over his work to Him, trusting in His guidance. He loved and trusted in the Lord, when everyone else thought it was impossible for him to work in a town. He bore in mind the Biblical

teaching: "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the Lord Almighty. (Zechariah 4:6) For four years he prayed, read the Bible and looked to God for guidance. Charles E. Cowman's *Streams in the Desert* was of much help to him too.

God's timing arrived in 2000, when my brother turned 28. One day a township cadre visited the village and was him work. Pleased with his performance, he assigned him to a township social security bureau. My brother was particularly blessed as many other people were laid off then. That same year, God prepared a marriage for him. The bride was a theology student. So he had double good news in one year. He was promoted two months after his transferal and is now a village chief.

How wonderful it has all been! Words cannot fully describe God's love. My brother's family is also blessed. His cute daughter attends a small Sunday school class. Our testimonies bear witness to God's presence. They are not about how much faith we have but about God's power on weak people like us. May all glories go to our Omnipotent God! Amen.



God Loves Us Brothers

*Narrated by Pan Deming;
compiled by Duojia*

*“A bruised reed he will not break and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.”
(Matthew 12:20)*

“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12)

*“He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.”
(Job 5:9)*

My younger brother and I live on fishing in Zhejiang. Here the churches are blessed, so are the fishermen. On the boats of Christians are the flags of “Emmanuel”. God’s peace is with us everyday. The Reformation has brought to us many advantages and we fishermen become rich, but with a busy life, our times of prayer and gatherings are reduced. I thought, “My wife is still earnest. Isn’t that enough already?” Gradually, God’s word disappeared from my heart.

My dad died of liver cancer when he was middle-aged, leaving us three children. We got hepatitis successively. Now my younger sister’s liver has hardened and she has to take medication all year long. Seven years ago, I was treated in a Shanghai hospital. Afterwards I was tested for many times. The results were positive. In the recent three years, I haven’t been examined nor taken any medicines.

After the last Chinese New Year, my 46-year-old brother had his left stomach plunged accidentally while he was mending some machines on the boat. He went to the hospital for examination. The doctor said, “From the X-ray, you are not hurt, but we

need to further examine your liver.” After a series of tests, he was diagnosed with ‘liver cancer’.

Everyone in the family was anxious and all church-mates prayed for him.

The deacons in the church phoned up all the Christians they knew.

My sister-in-law and I escorted my brother to the liver section of a specialized hospital in Shanghai. The CT scan confirmed that it was ‘liver cancer’. An operation was needed at once.

My little brother’s operation was successful. Since it was discovered at an early stage, no radiotherapy was necessary. He only had to rest for two months. While he was in the hospital, a sister from Shanghai came to visit him. She led us to pray at the bed-side. We didn’t know her, but felt the warmth of God’s love. We were physically weak, but through prayers, we gained strength from God.

Before coming to Shanghai, I felt I should have a re-examination to see the present condition of my liver. I brought with me the medical documents. Previously, scanning was quick. This time, it had to be repeated. The doctor also asked about my medical history and my home phone number. At last, he told me, “Your liver has a lump. It has to be confirmed in a bigger hospital.”

I came to Zhongshan Hospital. The exam results were the same as with my little brother.

My lump was even bigger than my brother's. (His lump was 2.4 cm, mine was 3.5 cm) I asked my doctor, "Can it be treated . . . if not, I won't tell my family." The doctor said, "Yes, it can be treated." Thus I went through the operation successfully and lived in the same ward as my brother in the hospital; he in bed no.29, I in no.30. Two brothers having the same sickness; the lumps in the same places; living in the same ward in the hospital - this has never happened in the hospital before.

The doctor said, after the operation, normally within three days the patient would fart, if not, he cannot have meals and can only be supplied with liquid. This would affect recovery. On the fourth day, still nothing happened. My belly was bulging. I wanted to ask my wife to pray for me. She said, "In this ward, most patients worship idols. Their friends and families come and they all murmur words of the idols. I do not have the strength to pray with you openly. I will pray for you in my heart." Then she said, "You are also a Christian. Pray for yourself." At that time, I was especially weak, confused and hot-tempered. I quarreled with my wife on the spot. I blamed her for being so inconsiderate and scolding me so loudly, leaving me with no face. I also said to her, "And I thought you attend church. You are a healthy person. You are my wife. You can always pray in church. Can't you help me in this way?" She replied, "I don't speak Putonghua and I can't find a church..." With these words, she ran away. I lay there feebly and fell asleep.

In my dream, I was in the graveyard of my family and I saw many dead people running to-and-fro. One man emerged from a hole and pushed me to go to his home to have a rest. I followed him along a lane to a hole but I thought, "It was so small that it was impossible to go through. Besides, was this couple already dead and buried in the same graveyard?" At this time, the man's wife cried

from inside the hole. I was so scared. They were demons. So I cried out, "Jesus help me. Help me to cast away the demons." Suddenly I awoke. I was sweating all through and I looked terrible. I couldn't even stand. When I opened my eyes, I saw the doctor standing next to my bed testing my blood pressure, blood sugar level and listening to my heart. They were all fine. My wife said, "It's terrible. You were gasping and sweating. Then you lost consciousness." I told her, "Just now I had a bad dream. Some dead people took me to where they lived...it was so scary. Jesus helped me to cast them away...Quick. Phone up our old church and ask the people here to pray for me. Quick." My wife stayed at my side all the while after she made the phone call.

When we were arguing and grumbling with each other, a gap opened in our lives. Satan was laughing. His plan had worked. The enemies' army would march in to destroy and snatch away our souls. I thanked God. It is His power that cast the demons out. I have to worship Him and rely on Him because He is the king who reigns.

Five days after the operation, I still didn't fart. I was feeling increasing pain. I held my wife's hands and said, "Shall we pray together and ask God to help me?" We sang hymns and prayed. The three patients in the neighboring beds said, "What songs are you singing at 2 a.m.? Are you sick mentally?" "This is Christian praying." God gave us courage to win amidst the force of darkness. I wasn't afraid of the enemies anymore. My wife sang, "Save me, Jesus." And then she prayed out loud and within two minutes after we finished praying, I started to fart. It was so amazing. Thank God for loving me this much. The doctor knew my problem was solved and I could start eating. God's mercy is abundant. My body recovered quickly. Two days later I could even be discharged. Such a big

operation and I stayed in the hospital for only eight days.

The day when I was discharged, I lived in a guest-house nearby the hospital. At around 7 p.m., I heard a knock. I thought, "How come we have guest? It's raining outside." When we opened the door, we found it was the sister from Shanghai. Though we'd met only once, we were like old friends. I told her all about what had happened to me. We shared and thanked God, giving glory to Him. We prayed together, everyone knelt on the ground before she left. I was so excited. My soul was rejoicing. Our prayers had reached the heavens. Hallelujah!

If not for His mercy and compassion, my brother and I wouldn't have received such grace. God not only healed my body; He also awakened my soul, to let me know how much I owed Him. Today, after receiving much grace, I must pray more and testify His amazing work. When I feel disheartened and desperate, God gives me hope. When I find that my life is short and meaningless, God's mercy and His perfect love lead me out from depression into light. My life has changed. I have come closer to Him. For the rest of my days, I would do whatever pleases Him. My brother and I have been healed. We are willing to live with love for God and for people, to attract those who have strayed back into the family of God. Glory be to God the highest.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

"What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs." (Matthew 10:27)

"Therefore, my dear brother, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1Corinthians 15:58)