



More Beyond
More Beyond
More Beyond

加上更多

女性如何在家庭和世界中成功
How a Woman Succeeds in Her Home
and in the World

閻張梅 著 Author: May Yen
閻昱星 英譯 English Translator: Blessing Yen

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在基督裡，你能為自己的生活再抹一層璀璨的色彩、再添一筆鏤金的歲月。祝福你，「加上更多」！

In Christ, the events of our daily lives are adorned with a coat of sparkling radiance, and are gilded with golden years and days. Bless you, and even “more beyond.”

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開場白

嗨！用這樣的方式和你相會，還真是特別，謝謝你在百忙之中，選擇聽我說故事。我已倒上一杯香醇濃郁的咖啡，你呢？茶還是咖啡？有時口耳並用，對位的話，還真是享受哩。對了，這裡還有一位貴賓與我們一同坐席，別忘了打招呼喇，雖然看不見祂。

「我的口如快手筆」¹，說故事，還不簡單嗎？然而，故事一旦要文字化，才驚覺這不是一本容易完成的書；因為書寫的內容，都環繞著我們家發生的故事，是家裡的事、是心裡的事、是私人的事、是真實的事。就像剝洋蔥皮，難免令人流淚，要攤開自己，也同樣令人難受，這是一難。

Preface

Hi there! Greeting you in this casual manner might be a bit extraordinary, I suppose. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my stories despite the thousands of tasks that, I'm sure, keep you busy every day. I've already poured myself a nice mug of coffee – it's strong, piping hot, and wonderfully aromatic. What about you? Do you take tea or coffee? Sometimes, we're lucky enough to get the satisfaction of treating our ears and mouth at the same time. Oh, that's right – there's also an honored guest sitting with us, so don't forget to say hello (even though you can't see Him)!

*“My tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.”*¹ Telling stories seems pretty easy, doesn't it? It wasn't until I attempted to put those stories down into writing that I came to the astonishing realization that this would not be an easy book to complete. The content of these stories revolves around matters of our home – matters of our home and of our hearts, matters both personal and

生命的故事，若沒有時間來驗證，是很難過關的。這本書的時間跨度有多長？長到第一篇文章中那個小主角，如今已長大成人，正是這本書的譯者。不讓時間在糊塗中磨蹭殆盡，而能時時有目的地孵豆芽，這種韜光養晦的能耐，又是一難。

別誤會，我不是要和你說洋蔥和豆芽的事，我要說的，是希望藉由這本書，引發你為自己做出最好的生涯規劃，並激勵你認真地生活，使每一個日子在永恆中都算數。所以，請你讀完每一篇文章後，都能安靜片刻，進入「祝福等你拿」的那一頁，那是真正要送給你的禮物。記得我提到的那位貴賓嗎？祂帶來許多的禮物，預備了許多的祝福，就等著你來拿喲！如果你的家裡有只會英文的孩子，也許你會發現這本書是一個很好的媒介，為成長於不同文化中的兩代人，搭起彼此之間思想的橋樑，「了解」總是建立「好關係」的基石，不是嗎？

true. Just as peeling open the layers of an onion inevitably causes tears, baring open these layers of the self inevitably causes pain. This has been the first difficulty for me.

Our life stories and the lessons we learn are hard to validate without passing through the test of time. How great a span of time have these stories waited? So great that the key character in my opening article – then just a child – has already grown into a mature adult and is the English translator of this book. Please know that all this time has not simply wasted away as I've dragged my feet to dawdle here and there or watch the grass grow; it's been carefully spent on the incubation and maturation of my own garden, until my seeds grew ready for harvest. This kind of patience and the ongoing refinement of myself and of my work in secret have not been easy – this has been another difficulty.

Don't misunderstand me; I'm not here to tell you about onions and gardens. My hope is that, through this book, I can impel you to live your life earnestly and make every day count in an eternal light. Accordingly, please make sure to linger a few moments on the page of "Blessings for the Taking" after each article, for that's the greatest gift that I leave with you. Do you remember that honorable guest I mentioned? He's brought many gifts and many blessings that are ready for your taking. If

我們家有首歌，歌詞提到「彩虹的顏色」。小時候常在雨停了之後，衝到屋外找彩虹，找著後就非常興奮地瞪著眼看，驚訝它怎麼會長得這麼漂亮；大了才知道，它不但漂亮，還特別有意義，因為它是上帝和人立約的記號。住在雨水稀少的南加州，往往只有在草坪澆水的時候尋一尋它的蹤跡，這樣的彩虹雖小，然而顏色的層次一點都不少，一樣美得令人讚嘆。人生的階段，就如同彩虹的顏色，每一層都有它獨特的美麗。所以，不論你現在的年齡在哪一層，都是最好的年齡，都能擁有那獨一無二的光鮮色彩。

完整的彩虹，組合的顏色是缺一不可的。開始這本書的時候，我還年輕，完成這本書的時候，我是幾歲？嗯……假裝忘記吧！但是，有一點我可以確信，那就是當我專注天上色彩的同時，也經歷了地上的繽紛色彩，因為我對上帝認真，上帝也就對我認真。可曾注意到，聖經說，上帝以彩色安置你我的石頭：

you happen to have children who speak only English, you might discover that this book makes a great medium for building up a bridge of shared thinking between your differing generations and cultures. Mutual understanding always sets the foundation for good relations.

In our family song, there is a lyric about “the colors of the rainbow.” When I was little, I would rush outside every time the rain stopped, so that I could hunt for rainbows. When I found them, I would stare at them with elation and wonder in awe at how beautiful they were. It was only after I grew up that I learned rainbows have not just beauty, but also special significance, because they’re symbols of the covenant between God and all living creatures. Living as I do in sunny, dry Southern California these days, it’s usually only in the shower of lawn sprinklers that I can find the imprint of rainbows. These rainbows might be smaller, but they’re not missing a single layer from their array of colors, and they still hold the same breathtaking splendor. The stages of a person’s life are just like the colors of a rainbow – every layer has its own distinct beauty. No matter what age you are, you are right now in your greatest life stage.

A perfect rainbow is not complete without all of its colors. When I started this book, I was still young; how old am I now at its completion? Mmm... Well, let’s just pretend

……必以彩色安置你的石頭，以藍寶石立定你的根基；又以紅寶石造你的女牆，以紅玉造你的城門，以寶石造你四圍的邊界。你的兒女都要受耶和華的教訓；你的兒女必大享平安。²

享受了這杯咖啡，就開始閱讀吧！輕輕地提醒你，每讀一篇，重新思想一下你的「價值」、「地位」和「成就」吧。彩虹盡頭，正是上帝為你預備的彩石，在大地上無限地延伸。

that I've forgotten! Of one thing I can be certain: while I was contemplating the rainbows up in the sky all those years, I was also experiencing the myriad colors and brilliance of rainbows in my own life. Because I treated God earnestly, He's also treated me earnestly. Do you know that the Bible says God will build you and me with precious stones of many colors?

*"I will build you with stones of turquoise, your foundations with sapphires. I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of sparkling jewels, and all your walls of precious stones. All your sons will be taught by the Lord, and great will be your children's peace."*²

So enjoy that cup of coffee and begin reading! I'd like to gently remind you to think back after every article, and take some time to consider your value, your position, and your achievements. The far end of the rainbow is leading us to a sweeping field that's overflowing with the precious colors that God's prepared for us. It extends farther than our eyes can see or our minds can imagine... and more beyond.

第一章 寫給星星

親愛的小星星：

望著妳牽著妹妹，登上即將開往沙法瑞露營區的巴士，想著妳下個月才要過10歲生日，卻儼然小大人的模樣。外出露營幾天，不僅要照管自己，還要負妹妹的全責，媽媽的眼淚時不時就上了眼眶，心中也滿是捨不得的情緒。這一個星期將是不容易度過的，對妳們是一項考驗，對媽媽更是一項挑戰。因為要在什麼時機，將我呵護的手暫時適度地鬆開，讓妳自己走，是一項嚴肅的功課，需要極大的勇氣和智慧。自從妳來到這個家中，媽媽就常常抱著妳，向賜人智慧又不斥責人的主耶穌禱告，祈求媽媽能靠著祂的恩典作一個稱職的母親。

1. To My Little Blessing

Dear Blessing :

I watch from afar as you hold your sister's hand while waiting to board the bus for Safari Camp. I marvel at the fact that you won't be ten years old until next month – you already carry yourself with the composure of a little grown-up. You'll be out at camp on your own for many days, not only taking care of yourself but also assuming responsibility for your little sister. My eyes well up with tears of their own accord, and my heart is overcome with reluctance at the thought of letting you go. This is a difficult time for both of us – it's a time of challenge for you, and a time of trial for me. When should I let you venture from the nurturing, protective cup of my hand and let you try walking on your own? It's a hard thing to know, and it requires both courage and wisdom. Ever since the first day you arrived, I've often held you and prayed to the God who gives grace and wisdom without qualification, asking Him to help me fulfill all my motherly duties.

在妳1歲多的時候，有一天妳重重地摔了一跤，還撞著了頭，一同玩耍的孩子都楞了一下。媽媽遠遠地看著妳，讓妳自己處理。一旁有位阿姨對媽媽這樣的反應非常訝異，但等她看到妳自己站起來，自己拍拍揉揉，不哭不鬧，一會兒就無所謂地加入其他的孩子們繼續玩，她顯得更為驚訝。

這是源於媽媽體認到，一個孩子最會運用判斷來做選擇。往往一個孩子跌倒了，他會先觀察有誰在旁邊，然後決定要不要哭；哭聲的大小，時間的長短，也常由受到的關懷來做決定。所以當妳仍在襁褓中，媽媽和爸爸就很仔細地安排一些「二選一」的環境，讓妳學習用妳的判斷能力來做選擇，因為我們要在我們能影響妳的時候，就將妳放置在某種必須獨立的環境當中。從其中經煉、成長、學習，以致當妳將來面對問題時，能有從裡面出來的能力，做那最最智慧的選擇。

Once, when you were about one year old, you took a hard fall at the nursery and hit your head. All of the children who were playing around you were stunned by the fall and stared at you; I stayed where I was and let you handle the situation yourself. The woman sitting next to me was quite surprised when she saw my reaction, but she was far more surprised when she watched you serenely pick yourself up off the ground, pat yourself down, check for dirt, and then resume playing with the other children as if nothing had happened.

The root of this story is that your mom believes children are capable of best using their own judgment to make choices about themselves. Often, when a child falls, he or she will first observe who's around before deciding whether to cry or not; the volume and length of the tears are then determined by the degree of attention paid to them and the amount of coddling received. When you were still a baby, your dad and I would arrange simple decision-making scenarios for you with great care, so that you could learn early on to exercise your discernment and make good choices. We wanted to start while we still had a strong influence on you – we put you in situations of forced independence and self-reliance, training you to refine yourself by growth and learning so that when you faced problems on your own someday, you could depend on your abilities to make the wisest decisions.

這個世代，聰明的孩子很多，但有智慧的不多。媽媽期望妳是聰明的，更是有智慧的。媽媽也努力將妳帶往這個方向。聖經教導媽媽：「耶和華賜人智慧；知識和聰明都由祂口而出。」¹「敬畏耶和華是智慧的開端；認識至聖者便是聰明。」²

聖經不但給了我們原則也給了我們行動的方法。在我們家裡，認識上帝不僅是早餐前爸爸帶領的讀經時間，也靠媽媽殷勤地教訓妳，因為「無論你坐在家裡，行在路上，躺下，起來，都要談論」³，直到祂成為妳選擇的依據。或者說，祂成為妳唯一的選擇。

明尼蘇達大學的艾瑞克·克林爾博士做過一項研究。他發現我們每人每天要做300至1萬7千個決定。也就是說我們每人每天要面對300至1萬7千個選擇。選擇可以很小、很輕微，小到此時要先彈琴還是先游泳，輕微到午餐是吃披薩還是涼麵；選擇可以很大、很重要，大到進什麼學校讀什麼科系，重要到一生是敬畏上帝還是遠離上帝。

In this day and age, there are many children with smarts but few with wisdom. My hope for you is that you'll be both smart and wise. I always strive industriously to lead you in this direction. The Bible has taught me "...the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding,"¹ and also that "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*"²

Scripture gives us not only the principle, but also the means of action. In our house, "knowing God" has never been constrained to the time of devotion you share with your dad before breakfast – it's also included the rain of Bible verses that I impress upon you every day, so that you may "...talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."³ We do this so that knowing God may become the foundation of all your choices, or perhaps I should say your *only* choice.

There's a professor from the University of Minnesota named Dr. Erich Klinger who performed a study and discovered that each person makes, on average, between 300 and 17,000 decisions daily. In other words, each of us faces between 300 and 17,000 choices every day. The choices might be small and trivial – as small as "Should I practice piano first, or should I take a swim first?" or as trivial as "Should I have pizza for lunch, or

一連串的選擇鋪成了生命的路，親愛的小星星，妳說媽媽怎麼能不積極培養妳的選擇能力呢。媽媽的上帝要成為妳的上帝，媽媽的信心要成為妳的信心，必須經由妳自己的選擇。所以媽媽雖然希望妳能選擇「愛耶和華——你的上帝，聽從祂的話，專靠祂；因為祂是你的生命」⁴，但也惟有妳自己揀選生命，妳才能得著祂。

再不多久，妳就要進入青少年期，面對著「世界」強大的攻擊：幫派、毒品、色情、交友、流行、新潮的服飾、荒誕的思想、錯誤的價值觀……，媽媽沒有什麼地方可以將妳藏起來免受傷害，縱或有，那也不會是最好的方法，最好的是那「在妳裡面的」比在世界上的更大。正如油和水不會混同，妳是被聖靈恩膏，從無盡的黑暗之海中，被提升出來的孩子。與妳走過近十年的路，媽媽對妳有極大的信心——妳是一個會選擇的孩子。

should I have cold peanut noodles?” But the choices might also be big and important – as big as what college to attend and what to major in, and as important as whether you will fear God or leave God.

Your chain of decisions paves your whole life's path. My dear little Blessing, how could I do anything else but fervently nurture your wisdom and discernment? For my God to become your God, for my faith to become your faith, you must make the decision yourself. Even though I hope that “...*you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life...*”⁴, you can only attain Him through personally choosing Him.

Soon, you'll be in the age of adolescence. You'll face an onslaught of attacks from the world: gangs, drugs, pornography, bad friends, wild trends, fashions, absurd philosophies, mistaken values... I have nowhere to hide you to protect you from harm – even if I did, it would not be the best way to protect you. The greatest protection is having the Spirit within you be greater than the spirit of this world. Just as oil separates from water, you who have been anointed with the oil of the Holy Spirit will rise up out of that endless ocean of darkness. Having walked with you for nearly ten years, I have the utmost faith in you – I know you are a child who knows how to make choices.

提幾件過去兩、三年中妳做的事，看看妳是不是挺可愛的：

- 前年妳7歲時，去外婆家玩，面對外婆削好的水果，妳堅持不吃還要妹妹也別吃，只因那是祭拜過偶像的。雖然知道，妳若禱告求潔淨，水果就潔淨了，但妳將自己分別為聖，免得外婆說妳身體健康，是因吃了拜過的食物。妳愛外婆，但妳更愛上帝。這是選擇。
- 去年（1995年）迪斯尼樂園推出最新的雲霄飛車，對遊樂器材越刺激感覺越過癮的妳，竟然產生不了吸引力，因為妳不喜歡他們用廟宇和偶像所做的裝飾。這是選擇。

A few things you've done over the past years that show you're a wise and lovable child:

- The year before last, when you were seven, you went to your grandmother's house for a visit. When your grandmother offered you some fruit that she had peeled and prepared for you, you vehemently refused to have any and insisted that your sister not eat any either, because the fruit had been offered up to your grandmother's idols and gods first. You knew that if you prayed and asked God to cleanse the fruit, it would be clean to eat, but you wanted to sanctify yourself and hold yourself apart so that your grandmother wouldn't have any chance to attribute your health to the fruit of this idol offering. You loved your grandmother, but you loved God more – this was a choice you made.
- Last year (1995), Disneyland revealed their newest roller coaster. You're my little daredevil who wants to be the first to test out every new thrill and adventure, yet the ride strangely held no attraction for you. It turned out to be because you didn't like the temples and the

- 今年（1996年）復活節，爸爸媽媽晚上禁食，妳有樣學樣，也要記念主耶穌為了妳釘死在十字架上，而禁食那些妳喜歡的糖果、點心。這是選擇。

許多事妳自然地行出來，沒有強迫，沒有要求，使媽媽再一次確定上帝的話何等真實，「凡被上帝的靈引導的，都是上帝的兒子」⁵。

善於做選擇並不代表凡事較順利。不如己願的狀況經常發生，在我們淺薄的認知裡，「遺憾」的感覺可能有時會出現，但對一個立志遵行上帝的話語，照祂定規的方式來生活的人，確信是不會有「疑惑」的。而這也是媽媽希望妳一生能經歷的，那麼，終其一生，妳必定會從心裡發出讚嘆：「上帝的路最美善！」

idols that were woven into the ride's theme and decorations. This was a choice you made.

- On Easter of this year (1996), your papa and I had a fast. You decided to copy us, and in remembrance of what Jesus Christ had done for you on the cross, you gave up all those candies and snacks that you like so much – this was a choice you made.

You often do such things of your own volition without coercion or requirement, and time and time again you reinforce the realness of God's Word to me: "*...those who are led by Spirit of God are sons of God.*"⁵

Being good at making decisions doesn't guarantee that things in life will go more easily. The necessity of making decisions against one's own desires is a usual occurrence. In our shallow pool of understanding, we may sometimes suffer feelings of regret, but to those who have made up their minds to obey God's Word and live according to His instruction, there are never feelings of doubt. This is something that I hope you experience all your life – I promise that you will, after a lifetime, praise from the bottom of your heart, "The Lord's way is the most beautiful and perfect way."

有兩段聖經經文，妳需要銘記在心，日後當妳佇立在十字路口，徬徨猶疑的時候，願上帝的話提醒妳如何選擇：「耶和華如此說：看哪，我將生命的路和死亡的路擺在你們面前。」⁶「我今日呼天喚地向你作見證；我將生死禍福陳明在你面前，所以你要揀選生命，使你和你的後裔都得存活。」⁷親愛的小星星，讓媽媽和妳都能揀選生命，愛祂、順祂、揀選祂，一生蒙祂祝福。

最後，媽媽要謝謝妳為妹妹立了好榜樣，媽媽也從妳的身上學了許多寶貴的功課。謝謝妳使媽媽的心得滿足，能夠成為妳的母親真是上帝何等的恩典，能夠教養妳走當行的道路真是何等的權利，能夠愛妳又是何等的甜蜜。

謝謝妳，小星星，媽媽愛妳。

媽媽字（1996年7月8日）

There are two verses that you need to engrave upon your heart. In later days, when you find yourself divided at a crossroads – wondering and wavering on how to continue – may God’s Word remind you how to choose. First: “*This is what the Lord says: See, I am setting before you the way of life and the way of death.*”⁶ Second: “*This day I call heaven and earth as witness against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.*”⁷ My dear little Blessing, may you and I both choose life – may we choose to love God, obey God, seek God, and receive God’s blessings.

Finally, I want to thank you for always being such a good example for your little sister. I, too, have learned many precious lessons from you. Thank you for fulfilling your mama’s heart. Becoming your mother was a testament to God’s incredible grace. Leading you everyday along the right path is an incredible right, and loving you is an incredible sweetness.

Thank you, little Blessing. Your mom loves you.

Mom (July 8, 1996)



祝福等你拿



Blessings for the Taking

1. 作者如何利用生活環境中發生的事情，從旁觀察、引導，讓孩子從小學習做智慧的選擇？你要如何自孩子小時候，就開始預備他，將來能面對「世界」的挑戰？
2. 作者說，這世代聰明的孩子很多，但有智慧的不多。讓我們思考：我們對孩子，是重視知識的學習，還是重視認識上帝的智慧？並請分享心得。
3. 作者教導孩子做「選擇」的依據是什麼？
4. 為什麼是「選擇」決定孩子的一生，而非命運決定孩子的一生？
5. 有什麼力量可以確保孩子，不被世界的價值觀同化，反而有能力改變世界？
6. 選擇「遵行上帝的話」，往往要付代價，但卻是絕對值得的代價。為什麼？

1. How does the author utilize the everyday circumstances and situations in her daughter's life as a chance to observe her, guide her, and train her to make wise decisions from the early days of childhood? How will you prepare your own children in their youth to face the challenges of the world?
2. The author says, "In this day and age, there are many children with smarts but few with wisdom." Please think: do we place more value upon the attainment of knowledge through learning, or the attainment of wisdom through knowing God? Please share your insights.
3. What does the author base her teachings of wisdom and discernment upon?
4. Why is it "choice" that determines a child's whole life, rather than "fate"?
5. What power is there that can, without a doubt, ensure that your children do not assimilate into the values of the world, but instead have the strength to affect change upon the world?
6. Choosing to obey God's Word often comes with a price, but it is absolutely a price worth paying. Why?

第二章 巨人

「爸爸在哪裡？仔仔，爸爸在哪裡？」朋友揚著高八度的嗓音，同時以鼓勵的眼光望著兒子。只見1歲多的仔仔，搖搖擺擺地移向書桌，伸出小手一指。朋友洋洋得意地看我一眼，衝去抱起兒子，一面親他粉嫩的小臉蛋兒，一面拉開抽屜，取出一張她先生剛從國外寄來的照片遞給我。

這怵目驚心的一幕，帶給我的悚然之感，絕不亞於驚駭的恐怖電影所帶出的震撼，而上演的正是這個時代的趨勢，一齣「父親缺席」的熱門戲碼——「爸爸，不過是抽屜裡的一張相片。」不過，當時未婚的我，幾場好覺也就睡過了影像的殘餘，但在褪色的畫面中，心底常不自覺地默禱，希望自己不要陷入同樣的情況。

2. Giant

“Where’s papa? Baby, show me where papa is!” With her voice raised an octave higher, my friend nodded encouragingly at her son. Her baby boy, just over a year old, tottered unsteadily over towards the desk and pointed at it with a chubby finger. She cheered and with a quick, pleased glance over her shoulder at me, she rushed over to pick him up. As she planted kisses on his rosy cheeks, she pulled open the desk drawer; she took out the most recent photo that her husband had sent from overseas and handed it to me.

The terror of this scene for me was no less than the terror inspired by the most frightening of horror films. It was another episode of the trendy new show that seemed far too popular – “The Father Who Lives in A Desk Drawer.” Horrified as I was by the concept of the show, I was, at the time, both unmarried and unfettered by children or drawers. The memory of the scene quickly faded away with a few nights of blissful sleep. Still, as I left behind the final flickering colors of the fading scene,

你的出現，是我生命中最大的祝福，但一切都從彼此的調整與配合開始。婚姻建築家庭，家庭少不了孩子，而你，或許是小時候因父親常遠航在外，長子身上背負了過多過重的責任吧！認定孩子只是重擔是累贅，你不喜歡孩子的程度，嚴重到只要婚姻不要孩子，而我這名愛情的擁護者雖覺得稍有遺憾，但還不致本末倒置，畢竟，孩子是兩人相愛的結晶。既然認定你是我的白馬王子，那麼，就算是你的白馬只騎得下兩個人，我也選擇伴隨你千山萬水地行遍山嶽、航過洋海，直到地老天荒。

somewhere deep in the recesses of my heart, my subconscious prayed silently that I wouldn't someday sink into the same mire.

Your appearance in my life was my greatest blessing. The heart of the blessing truly began when we started learning how to accommodate one another and compromise. Marriage only forms the foundation of a family, and a family isn't complete without children. You felt differently about it, though. Maybe it was because you grew up with a father who was always absent and far from home, or maybe it was because you had already suffered in childhood all the responsibilities of being head of a household; in any case, you viewed children as an excess and a burden. Your distaste was strong enough that you wanted a marriage without children at all. Well, I was an advocate of love first and foremost. With only a small degree of regret, I decided put your desires regarding children above my own. After all, one doesn't put the cart before the horse (or, in this case, value the cart over the horse) and children are the fruit of love – the love between you and I comes first. Since I had already pegged you as my Prince Charming on a white stallion, I decided that even if your stallion could only seat two, I would still choose to ride anywhere with you – through a thousand lands and ten thousand seas, over mountain passes and ocean voyages – forever until the land becomes old and the skies desolate.

禮物仍散置新家各處，生活還未就緒，「懷孕」這突如其來的消息，就攻進了你的長年故步自封的城堡，衝擊之勢如驚濤拍岸。最後，你選擇尊重上帝是生命的主宰，重新將「孩子」這名詞放回你的辭典，附帶的還有「生育」、「養育」、「教育」、「撫育」。我不知道你選擇順服上帝，是經過多少次自我調適與割捨的結果，但這美好的果實，香甜無比；在往後的日子裡漸次品嚐，才更體認到其沁入人靈、暢快人心的效用。

看到大女兒的乖順，你說：「這麼聰明可愛的孩子可以再生一個……。」其實你是不希望孩子的成長過程過於孤獨。倘若我們不在，孩子也不會陷入無倚無靠的孤單。於是我們有了「哈利」、「路亞」兩個女兒，當我一手一個牽著她們的時候，心中真有說不出的感恩。你不知道你為我創造了一個怎麼樣的世界，你、我和她們，成了幸福的定義。我心滿意足地沉醉其中。然而，隨著你事業的變動，長駐國外，「行行重行行，與君生別離……」。一霎時，多年前那令人驚懼的一幕正慢慢降下，籠罩我們。問題總在夜深人靜時浮上心頭，一遍遍，你，會成為「抽屜裡的爸爸」嗎？

The wedding gifts were still scattered everywhere in our new home, and the aspects of our new life were still in disorder, when the sudden and unexpected news of pregnancy rushed in upon us, coming down with the power of a tidal wave and crashing through the long-guarded and unyielding castle walls to your heart. In the end, you chose to honor God as the sole master of life, and added the word “child” anew to your dictionary. You also added the words “birth,” “raise,” “educate,” and “shepherd.” I don’t know what it took to break you and compel your obedience to God, but the result was a good and beautiful fruit that was sweet beyond all comparison. Little by little and day by day, you tasted the fruit and gradually came to realize that its sweetness was one that saturated your spirit and made your heart glad.

After seeing your daughter’s pleasant temperament and obedience, you said to me, “Well, if our children are going to be this lovable, we can have another one.” The truth of it was that you didn’t want your child’s upbringing to be lonely; if she had a sibling, your daughter wouldn’t have to experience the bitter taste of loneliness when the two of us depart from this world. Thus, we had two daughters: “Halle” (“Blessing”) and “Luia.” When I held their little hands in each of mine, an unspeakable gratitude would well up in me – you don’t know what a beautiful world you created for me. You and I and they together became the definition of “blessed,” and I floated in the midst of it,

上帝的話如浮水印記顯在心的深處，「這道離你不遠，正在你口裡，在你心裡……」¹。是啊！難做的決定，使淺明的道理遠得好像難以捉摸，其實心中的尺，早已記上了數。兩人既是為了長相廝守才結為連理，哪有進入婚姻後卻人為的各居一方之理。我堅定地告訴自己「人在哪裡，家就在哪裡」，決定一旦有了，太平洋的距離成了不存在的因素，它再也阻擋不了我和孩子奔向你的行程。沒想到的是，你捷足先登，竟輕裝簡從地出現在我們面前。理由很簡單，你重排生活的優先順序：「上帝第一，家庭第二，事業第三。」於是你將金錢權力的誘惑留下，義無反顧地飛回我們的身邊；回來的時候，還不知要做什麼，又能做什麼。失了工作，沒了頭銜的你，為愛放這、放那，最後放掉自我的你，卻是我心目中的巨人。

intoxicated with happiness until, one day, it all changed. The tempestuous currents of your changing industry carried you away, and you became stationed for long periods of time outside the country for work. “Wandering again, and then still again, my prince and I both yet live in this world and stay worlds apart” (ancient Chinese poem). In the blink of an eye, that terrifying scene I had watched so many years ago draped down and covered our family portrait. We’re always haunted by our darkest questions in the stillness of the night, and often I lay awake in bed and asked myself again and again – would you become the father in the drawer?

God’s Word is like a watermark – it appears with the light of reflection in one’s heart – “*The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart...*”¹ Yes! In the face of a difficult decision, even the simplest logic and the clearest answers sometimes seem to recede into the distance, their amorphous shapes difficult to grasp. The truth is we already know the answers – the ruler in our heart has already measured and marked exactly what needs to be done. Two people willingly entwine their roots in marriage so that they can spend their lives together; what reason is there in entering a marriage and deciding to live apart? I firmly told myself, “Home is where one’s heart is.” Since you were my heart, I would follow you to make my home. Once I made my decision, even the Pacific Ocean no longer seemed a serious factor – it would never again prove an obstacle in my

而巨人在孩子眼中又有多高多大呢？

兩個女兒穿著包手包腳的連身衣，像好奇的小羊般滿地爬行，每次奮力爬了半天，不想前面就出現一隻大的，擋住了去路，女兒仰起小臉，和你額頭抵著額頭，咯咯的笑聲中，決定了你的高度：一個和她一樣的高度，一個平行的高度，一個朋友的高度。你俯就她，用她的視野角度看她所看到的世界。因此，她爬在地上的時候，你是朋友，她成長到青少年時你仍然是朋友。當我們周邊許多家庭吹起青少年的叛逆風暴，而我們家卻連個風影子也沒有。你，正是那強而有力的避風港灣。

journey to you. Then the unexpected happened: you suddenly returned home, with little baggage and no fanfare. The reason you gave was simple enough – you had reprioritized your life and put God first, family second, and career third. Once you made your decision, you left all the temptations of money and power behind and flew back to our daughters and me without a backwards glance. You didn't know what you were planning to do after your return, or even what you would be able to do. Suddenly without a job or a title, you had for the sake of love laid down one thing after another until you finally laid down yourself, but you were raised up as a giant in my eyes.

In the eyes of children, how big and how great is a giant?

Both daughters are stuffed into onesies with paws and they're crawling all about the room like curious little lambs. Every time, after having crawled with great persistence for a while towards some undefined goal, a much bigger lamb would block the way. The girls would raise their little lamb faces up, and bleating with their foreheads pressed against your forehead, they would judge the height of their fellow lamb – was it a height like their own? Was it a parallel height, a friend's height? You would scrunch down to match their height, and use their perspective to see the world as they saw it. When they were still crawling on all fours, you were their friend; as they became adolescents, you

身為孩子的母親，最佩服你這作父親的，是你在她們靈性教育上所花的功夫。孩子小小的時候，每天就寢時間一到，你就會關電視、停電腦、闔上書或攔下任何手中正進行的事，為的是陪她們一起禱告，將她們送上床，蓋好被子，親吻她們的額頭。當然有時你得費一番力氣，當馬、當大象、當飛機……，才能哄她們上床睡覺，但是更多的時候，她們是在你的禱告聲中，帶著嘴角的笑痕篤定地進入夢鄉。或者我該這麼說，女兒是在你充滿愛意的期盼和祝福中，在睡夢裡長大成熟的。

were still their friend. When the families around us eventually suffered through their personal storms of teenage rebellion, not the shadow of a single storm cloud passed over our home. Instead, you were the stronghold and the harbor that protected us from all the other storms buffeting against us from outside.

As the mother of our children, the thing that I've always most admired about you as a father is the labor that you spend on our daughters' spiritual education. Back when the girls were still small, I would announce their bedtime each night, and you would always immediately turn off the television, close the book, shut down the computer, or stop anything else that you were doing in order to pray with them and then tuck them in with a kiss. Of course, you would sometimes have to expend a little extra energy acting as the horsie or the elephant or the airplane to coax them into bed. More often, though, it was the comfort of your prayer, not your antics, which would send them off with smiles still lingering on their faces as they floated away to their dreams. It was in the midst of your loving hopes and blessings spoken over them that our daughters fell asleep each night and grew up each day.

孩子上小學一年級，你堅持將兒童聖經換成正式的英文聖經，好讓讀經與識字雙管齊下，我驚訝她們怎能如此輕鬆地琅琅上口，才察覺原來你是背後隱藏的動力，女兒稚嫩的聲音說出：「我讀的聖經和爸爸的一模一樣。」「我和爸爸一樣！」許多時候，她們真的想和你一樣，並且她們誇口說她們像你一樣，得意嗎？你是她們的榜樣。有一次，我要解釋“perseverance”（毅力）給小路亞明白，她突然叫道：「是『爸爸』！」然後她自己解釋給自己聽：爸爸每天都做伏地挺身，從不間斷，那就叫作毅力。那一刻我真是見識了身教重於言教的威力。她中學的第一學期，才剛開學，孩子回家就報告了體育老師的要求是，想要拿“A”的學生，必須在學期結束前能做15個伏地挺身，而那時她連半個也做不到。你二話不說幫她訂了時間，每天按時練習，並言明肌肉需靠鍛鍊才能強健。然後你這個教練提醒加陪伴，終於在學期結束時，女兒高高興興地抱著她的“A”回家。

By the time each of our girls entered first grade, you insisted that their children's Bibles be switched out for standard Bibles, so that they would be able to simultaneously read the Bible and learn English. I was amazed at how they were able to read line after line aloud so effortlessly – only later did I find out that you were the momentum pushing their progress and teaching them from behind-the-scenes. Our daughters would proudly say, “My Bible is the exact same one as daddy's. I'm just like daddy.” They always did want to be just like you, and often staked the claim out loud. Doesn't that just make your heart sing? You were always their role model. Once, I tried to explain the meaning of the word “perseverance” to our little one. She piped up suddenly and said with grave certainty, “It means daddy.” She continued explaining aloud to no one in particular, “Daddy does push-ups every day. He never ever skips it. That means he's perseverance.” In that moment, I had an insight into the deep value of one's actions over words. When that same little girl first started junior high, she came home the first day to report that her gym teacher required all students who wanted an A in the class to do fifteen full push-ups by the end of the semester. She couldn't even do half a push-up. Without a second word, you designed a daily workout time for the two of you, telling her that muscles take time and training to build up. You coached her and trained by her side, and at the end of the semester, our girl came home beaming from ear-to-ear with that well-deserved A.

似乎任何狀況，只要有你參與，就能解決問題，對孩子們而言，有你就好像有個阿拉丁神燈一樣棒。任何時候，她們有需要，只要擦擦神燈就能使喚你，而只要你出現了，必定帶給她們一個神奇的世界。還記得嗎？你開著你那輛小跑車戴著我們從聖地牙哥參加退修會回來，冷氣壞了再加上驟升的氣溫，在幾個小時嚴重阻塞的車程裡，熱得人昏頭轉向。你不但要抵抗高溫專心駕車，還要用興奮的聲音為她們畫出一個美麗的場景：椰子樹下的涼風，冰涼飲料的可口，一級乾淨的游泳池，好玩的水中遊戲……，一步一步引她們想像回家之後，跳下水的那一刻，將有多麼令人欣喜若狂的快樂。「閩凱毅國家度假別墅」的名稱就這樣產生了。你成功地將環境中的困難轉換成神奇的動力，帶著孩子一起經歷美夢成真的快樂，而女兒承接了這化腐朽為神奇的能力，將來必定能點石成金，為她們自己的生活帶來多彩多姿的風華。

It seems that no matter the situation, as long as you're there, we can solve any problems that arise. To our daughters, having you around is better than having Aladdin's genie. Anytime they have needs, they can just rub the side of that magic lamp and summon your help; when you appear, you bring with you a whole world of magic. Do you remember that time we were all driving back home from a retreat in San Diego, and the air-conditioning broke during the middle of a heat wave? We were all dizzy and faint with heat exhaustion after sitting in endless hours of heavy traffic. You had to resist your own exhaustion and focus on getting us home safely, but you also distracted the girls from their misery by painting them a beautiful picture of the paradise that awaited them: swaying palm trees, icy cold sweet drinks to quench their thirst, a great big pool sparkling in the sun, fun water games that they would play... step-by-step, you led them to picture that wonderful moment when they would get home and jump into the water, and you had them think about the wild happiness that they would feel. "The Kai Yen National Resort" was established that day. You successfully turned our suffering into fuel for inventiveness and magic, and created happiness for our daughters in a dream world. They've inherited your ability to find the silver lining and create something new with it; someday, they will use this magic wand to turn stone to gold, and replace the humdrum of an ordinary life with rainbows of endless possibility.

女兒出落得亭亭玉立了，帶著尊重，你民主地讓她們獨立自由地發展，孩子們卻主動要求忙碌的你分些時間給她們，陪她們讀聖經。這樣的舉動會讓人覺得不可思議，青年人正是目空一切的年齡，誰喜歡跟大人在一起，還要聽些大道理的教訓？這是孩子的孺慕之情，也是她們真想藉由父親的智慧帶著她們進入真理，建築人生。

你沒讓聖經中牧羊人放下九十九隻羊，特去尋找一隻的故事專美於前，就著孩子發出的懇求，重新分配時間；星期六給了還在家住的小女兒，星期天則給了住校的大女兒，帶著她們研讀聖經，述說上帝的恩典。有時你需要放棄對眾人傳講的機會，奔馳在通往UCLA（加州大學洛杉磯分校）的高速路上。Denny's（丹尼斯餐廳）、Urth Caffè（俄斯咖啡廳）成為臨時的講台，你帶著面對千萬人講道的熱切，全神灌注地對著女兒；她聚精會神地振筆疾書，領受生命的傳承。一個牧人一隻羊。我靜靜地注視你們，腦中想著那句名言：「生命的意義在創造宇宙繼起的生命。」好大的句子，著手處卻是如此簡單。看著你、看著她，星期天的早晨，我的眼角總是濕的。

The girls blossomed into beautiful young women and, respectfully, you gave them the freedom and independence to develop on their own. They, however, came right back to you and asked that you take some time out of your busy schedule to study the Bible with them. It seemed unthinkable: teenagers usually think that they already know everything there is to know, and they have the egos to prove it – which of them would want to spend more time learning from grown-ups or waxing philosophical on topics of morality and spirituality? This was in part admiration and loyalty from our children, but it was also their honest desire to take from their father's wisdom so that they could know truth and rightly construct their lives.

To you, the parable of the shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep to rescue one is not a singular example; just as the children had requested, you rearranged your time to spend Saturdays with one daughter and Sundays with the other. You spent the time studying the Bible together and discussing the grace of God. Occasionally, you would have to forego the opportunity to speak before whole congregations on Sundays just so you could traverse the myriad of freeways en route to UCLA, where you kept your appointment every week with your daughter. Tables at Denny's, Urth Caffè, and other restaurants became your impromptu podiums. You carried the same zeal and passion in speaking to your daughter that you would in speaking to millions. She would listen, rapt with attention, and take notes

親愛的，巨人有多高？我想我明白女兒眼中的你正像天梯一樣，向著天際無限伸展。在她們心中，你正是父神形像的代表。攀沿在天梯上，她們體驗到天父的慈愛；在你懷抱的雙臂中，看不見的上帝是這樣真實地存在。

「父親的心轉向兒女」²，你趴在地上與她們面對著面，主動搭起兩代之間的橋樑，願意陪伴她們成長。在她們眼中出現的世界，不論多麼新奇，多麼有挑戰性，我深信每一個變幻莫測的畫面裡，有你不變的面孔，傳達的鼓勵、支持、安慰、讚賞，足以使她們跨著信心的步伐，行走人生。巨人有多大？你的笑臉總是比她們面對的世界大一點點，而這一點點就恰恰地足了、夠了。

fervently as a wealth of knowledge and wisdom was imparted from one generation to the next. One shepherd and one lamb – I watched the two of you quietly, and recalled that popular saying, “The purpose of life, for all the universe, lies in shaping the life to come.” What an intimidating phrase. Yet once you begin the process, you find that it’s quite simple. Whether I was watching you or watching her on those Sunday mornings, my eyes never stayed dry for long.

My beloved, how tall is a giant? I think that you are like a stairway to heaven in the eyes of our daughters, expanding up to the sky without limit. In their hearts, you truly are the visage and the representative of the Heavenly Father; as they climb up that stairway, they experience the love of the Father with each step. The love of an invisible God becomes real and tangible by your embrace.

*“He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children.”*² You crawled on the ground with them, face to face. You built the bridge between our generation and theirs. You accompanied them in their journey to adulthood. No matter how new and curious the world is in their eyes today, and no matter how challenging it becomes, I deeply believe that your unchanging presence is seen and felt in every changing façade, giving our daughters your encouragement, support, consolation, and praise, and enabling

一個人不能給出他所沒有的東西。你從小缺少父愛，使你惶恐成為一個沒有愛的父親，因此不要孩子臨在你的生命裡，是最徹底的因應之道。二十年前，你改變態度接納孩子時，對上帝所允諾的不僅是理性的降服、意志的決定，更是情感的投入。日復一日，你連結於上帝，祂是恩典與愛的源頭。年復一年，你所缺乏的，祂信實地補足了一切，因為「上帝就是愛」³。

回首你成為父親的過程，在時間的堆砌下，使原本可能放在抽屜裡的那張相片，演變為家中書架上成冊成冊的相本，那是你送給女兒們最珍貴的嫁妝，也是我豐富的回憶之庫。你、我和她們，幸福就從這裡延伸。

them to stride confidently and faithfully through their lives. How big is a giant? Your smiling face will always be just a bit bigger than the world that faces them, and that little bit is enough.

A person cannot give out what they do not have – you never had your father's love, and always feared that you would become a father without love to give. Not having children in your life was both a matter of self-preservation and a method of protecting the unborn. Yet twenty years ago, you changed your attitude and received your children willingly; you fully embraced God's promise of a family to you, and plunged in with your whole being. You submitted your rational will, swore your commitment, and gave yourself over emotionally. Day after day, you've connected more with God, the wellspring of love and grace. Year after year, He has faithfully made up for what you thought you lacked. "*God is love.*"³

The single wedding photograph we began with has since become album after album of family photos that track the passing of time. Together, these are a priceless dowry that you've given your daughters, and an overflowing vault of memories that you've given me. You and I and they together will continue to extend our blessedness without end.

親愛的，我知道孩子們已無數次用言語訴說又用行動表示，她們有多愛你，而你又是多麼好、多麼棒的父親。但是，今天容我告訴你一次這個不是祕密的祕密吧！親愛的，你真是個了不起的好父親，同時，我要說：「謝謝你！謝謝你沒有成為抽屜裡的爸爸。」

My beloved, I know that our children have expressed their love for you countless times through their words and their actions, and I know that they've told you what a great and wonderful father you are. But today, I'd like to tell you once myself this secret that's not so secret: Beloved, you are truly a good father. Thank you – thank you for not being the father in the desk drawer.



祝福等你拿



Blessings for the Taking

1. 作者的丈夫重新安排生活的優先順序，並且付諸行動，付出的代價是什麼？你願意為家庭付出這樣的代價嗎？
2. 本文讓我們看見：作孩子尊敬的父親，和作孩子信任的朋友一樣重要。你怎樣讓孩子尊敬你？你怎樣讓孩子成為你的好朋友？
3. 本文裡的父親如何為孩子（從小時候直到上大學）的靈性教育做長期的規劃？你怎樣為孩子做靈性教育？
4. 本文裡的父親給孩子的生活教育，讓孩子渴望「和父親一樣」。你的生活、言行在你的孩子身上，會造成怎樣的影響？

1. The author's husband rearranged the priorities in his life and then acted upon his new commitments. What was the cost of this change in his life? Are you willing to bear this kind of cost for the sake of your own family?
2. This article demonstrates that it is equally important to be a parent that your children respect and a friend that your children trust. How do get your children to respect you? How do you get your children to trust you?
3. How does the father in this article plan for and labor over the spiritual education of his daughters throughout the various stages of their lives? How do you work at the spiritual education of your own children?
4. The father in this article teaches his children through his actions rather than his words in their everyday life. In turn, his children desire to emulate him ("I'm just like daddy"). What kind of example do your daily actions and choices provide for your own children, and what kind of influence does it have on them?

第三章 她懂我的心

這輛海豚色的小跑車，綻放著嶄新耀眼的光澤，散發著新車特有的氣味，就這麼大刺刺地停在我的車旁。這是女兒的爸，在她16歲生日當天，親自帶著去選購回來的生日禮物。雖然當時它的小主人還不能開車，但它似乎知道自己的特殊地位，不僅傲然地佔據了原本只屬於我的車庫，也強佔了我的心房。

「甜蜜的16歲」（Sweet sixteen）對一個作母親的來說，除了甜蜜，還摻和了許多其他的滋味。16歲生日在美國是件大事，每個年輕人都巴望著這個屬於自己的大日子；到了這一天，就進入了合法開車的年齡。似乎雙手握住了駕駛盤，就掌握了駕馭生命的權利。脫開了長輩們的牽制，彷彿

3. She Knows My Heart

The brand-new, dolphin-grey sports car sparkled boldly in my driveway. You could almost smell the perfume of new car wafting through the air as it sat there, casually daring others to marvel at its glory. This was the car that had been painstakingly picked out by father and daughter on my daughter's sixteenth birthday. Despite the fact that its young owner couldn't drive it yet, it seemed to already be aware of its special position – not only had it resolutely staked its place in my garage, it had already forced its way into my heart as well.

Sweet sixteen – to a mother, it's a sweetness laced with many other essences. A child's sixteenth birthday is a big deal in America; every kid eagerly awaits his or her big day: the day they become of legal driving age. With their hands on the steering wheel, they hold for the first time the authority to take control of their lives. The leave to venture beyond the parental

就是長大的表徵。駛出了父母的視線，就是自由的定義。女兒對開車的期待，早早就寫在她臉上。女兒可以拿駕照了，這是吾家有女初長成的標示，怎麼昨天才呱呱墜地、牙牙學語的小丫頭，今天已成亭亭玉立、秀外慧中的大小姐了！十六年的光陰，就這麼從指縫中漏掉了。說來好笑，年復一年，無怨無悔地付出，不就盼望著孩子們長大嗎？但女兒天天十萬火急地催我去拿考照申請單，我卻天天千方百計地拖延，似乎多拖延一天，就多擁有女兒一天。誰說成長總是令人興奮的事？「唉！女兒，其實妳不懂媽媽的心！」

restrictions that they're accustomed to is a symbol that they're growing up. The car that drives them out of their parents' sight becomes the definition of freedom and independence. Our daughter's excitement about driving was written all over her face long before she turned sixteen. The fact that she could legally get a license seemed like the sign of a young girl truly coming-of-age. It seems like just yesterday she was newly born – crying as babies do, toddling about, and mixing her words up – and now suddenly she had blossomed into a young woman as upright as a cypress tree and as beautiful as jade. Her external beauty served only to enhance the intelligence and quick-wittedness that radiated from within. The sixteen years' time had slipped like sand through my fingers. It's ironic isn't it? We labor over our children, year after year, dedicating ourselves to the very purpose of raising them, yet we can't seem to actually accept the idea of them growing up. Every day, my daughter insisted more urgently on getting her new license, and I found myself continuously dragging my feet and deflecting in a thousand tiny ways, thinking that every day she didn't have her license was a day more that she would be by my side, and a day more that she might not grow up. Who says that growth is always an exciting prospect? Oh, my dear daughter, you don't know a mother's heart.

女兒的學校遠，本來每天送女兒上下學的路程，是專屬我們母女二人的親子時間；女兒在車上吃飯、睡覺、報告學校生活、閒聊趣味雜事、討論國際新聞，更好的是探究上帝的話語，為她奠定靈性的基礎。在這段時間裡，我歡喜地作一個「母親」。兩年快樂的時間轉眼即逝。自從女兒拿到學習開車的執照後，這段培養親子關係的時間就成了考驗親子關係的時刻。自己人教開車，很少有不爭執的，於是我和丈夫彼此提醒，要有耐性、有方法，在愛中體念初學者的心境，多多給予鼓勵，遇到狀況，絕不動氣，以免女兒喪失志氣不想學了。我們決定先由孩子的爸每天清晨在路上車輛較少的時候來教她。一個人教，有一貫性，孩子不會模稜兩可，等到基礎打好了，我再利用每日上下學的時間，陪著練車。初學開車的人，緊張自不在話下，為了減緩女兒的緊張狀態，我陪在她身邊。不光只是「教師」，也努力營造出一種易於學習的氣氛，以致能帶給她冷靜、自然、穩定的力量。縱使我的牙總是咬得緊緊的，似乎一鬆口，心就要跳出去了，腳也不由自主地猛出力，似乎在幫她踩緊煞車，這些感覺迫使我承認，女兒的成長中，注定也有母親的成長。我應該學會是一個「母親」，是一個「教師」，也是一個「乘客」。

My daughter's high school was quite a distance from home. The time we spent driving to and from her school was once precious mother-daughter time that we had together. She would spend the time eating, sleeping, reporting on her life at school, telling me tidbits of the daily gossip, rattling off random information she found interesting, discussing the news, and best of all, reflecting on the Word of God and how it was forming the spiritual foundation in her life. In those days, I rejoiced at being a mother. Alas, those two happy years were gone before I knew it. Once my daughter received her learner's permit, the period of mother-daughter happiness became a period of mother-daughter tension. Rarely does a driving lesson take place amongst any family without resulting in a fight. My husband and I would constantly remind each other that we needed to approach the matter with patience and with innovative methods. We reminded each other to empathize with the fears and frustrations of a new driver, and to offer encouragement often. When difficult situations arose, we never got angry, to ensure that our daughter never lost faith in herself or quit. We decided that early in the morning when traffic was the lightest, my husband would take our daughter out on the streets and teach her how to drive. A single teacher meant consistency, so our daughter wouldn't have a muddled understanding of driving. Once the foundation was in place, I would utilize the drive to and from her school to continue practicing with her. A new driver is unavoidably anxious – in order to temper my daughter's anxiety while I sat in the passenger seat, I would construct an atmosphere where

有一天，碰到張牧師，順口問了聲「師母好嗎？」，沒想到引出一則新聞，就是牧師16歲的二兒子剛剛發生車禍，被另一輛搶左轉的車撞上駕駛座，師母正趕往醫院途中。接著牧師又道出了他大兒子曾經出車禍的情形，結尾時他感嘆地說他還有個老三也是兒子，不知是否兒子都比較難教，一定要經歷某些事才能學會？我回答牧師說，不分男孩女孩，只要是年輕人都一樣，因為我們家的女兒五個月出了三次車禍，一旁家有青少年的父母都笑了起來。看來，大家的經驗都差不多，家中都有個無情的小東西，常將我們的心掛在兩個前輪飛馳而去，轉眼不見人，叮嚀的語音怎麼也追不上他們的後輪。

she could learn comfortably, relax her muscles, and focus her mind with the coolness of a more seasoned driver. My own teeth were clenched together tightly the whole time, for fear that my heart would leap right out though my mouth if I loosened my jaw, and my right foot stamped uncontrollably on the invisible brake pedal of the passenger seat, but these reactions taught me that the growth of a daughter also mandates the growth of the mother. I needed to learn how to be a mother, a teacher, and also a passenger.

One day, I ran into Pastor Zhang and asked after his wife in passing. I hadn't planned on entering into an in-depth conversation, but the pastor reported that his second eldest son, sixteen years old, had just been in a car accident – he had been hit by an oncoming car trying to steal a last-minute left turn. The pastor's wife was rushing to the hospital that very minute. The pastor continued by saying that his eldest son had also been in a car accident before, and retold the entirety of that circumstance as well. At the end of his story, he sighed and said that he had a third child, also a son. He wondered aloud if it was simply that sons are harder to teach because they require something bad to happen before they learn their lessons. I answered the pastor and told him that it makes no difference if they're sons or daughters – it's young people alike; our daughter had been in three car accidents in the last five months. Those standing around the pastor and I with teenagers of their own all began to laugh.

想到女兒拿駕照的那天，一大早還不到九點鐘，孩子的爸就來電話報喜訊，這結果在他們父女倆萬全的準備下，是理所當然的。想他們每天在曙光初現的時候就出去練車，各種資料看了又看，所有證件一應俱全，考場如何進出瞭如指掌，考試的路線試開了無數回。數個月的努力，女兒就等這個時刻，終於擁有一張堂堂皇皇的證件了。她得意地說，她的朋友都是考兩次以上才拿到駕照，而她一次就過關，似乎這樣的結果，使她對自己開車深具信心。而我的擔心，卻不因她對自己的信心而稍減。女兒狐疑地看著我，以為我對她沒信心，我真不知如何對她說明。她有信心好好開車，我卻沒信心認為在萬車奔馳的馬路上，人人都會好好開車。與其說我不信任她，也許該說我不信任這個世界；開車這件事不過是個代表，母親的掛慮可是一輩子的事！想到明天她就不再需要我的接送，莫名的失落感使我的心情一下就降到了冰點。面對女兒極興奮的沸點，只覺母女間的距離遙如萬里長城，無法拉近。

It looks like everyone has the same experience, more or less – every home's got an ungrateful little devil driving around like lightning, with their parents' hearts mounted between their front wheels, and going so quickly that our voiced concerns are too slow to catch up to their back wheels.

The day that my daughter finally got her license, her father called home bright and early in the morning to report the good news. The success had already been in the bag, of course, considering the months of effort the father-daughter team had spent in preparation. I pictured the two of them up at the crack of dawn each morning to practice, the hours they spent studying the handbook again and again, the application documents perfectly compiled and organized without a single typo... the ins and outs of the entire testing facility were as familiar to each of them as the backs of their hands, and they had driven the test route innumerable times – all those months of hard work had been building up to this very moment. Finally, that long-awaited and prized form of identification had arrived. My daughter gleefully told us that all her friends had tested at least twice to pass their driver's tests, and she managed to pass it the first time. The result boosted her confidence in her own driving abilities, but her sense of confidence did nothing to reduce my worries. My daughter looked at me skeptically, wondering why I had no faith in her – I didn't know what to tell her. She had confidence in her own ability to drive well, but I had no confidence in the

我還未來得及將那失落的心情找回來，女兒就出了第一次車禍。那是她停在紅燈前，後面來了也是新手開車的年輕人，煞車距離沒算好，碰撞上來。她下車看到只是掉了一點漆，就掉以輕心地忘了將她爸爸為她預備的「車禍提示卡」（放在車上的小卡片，上面寫了車禍後要問對方的每一個問題）拿出來照辦，只隨便問了幾個問題就讓事情過去了。回家之後，我們安慰了她出車禍的驚懼，也趁機調整她的態度和處理方式。

ability of every other driver on the road. I suppose rather than saying that I didn't trust her, I'd say that I didn't trust the world. Driving was just one instance of the worries and concerns that plague a mother for a lifetime. When I thought about the fact that, tomorrow, she would no longer need me to go with her on her drive to school, an indescribable feeling of loss came over me and my mood dropped below freezing. As I watched my daughter's excitement heat up and bubble over, I felt the distance between us was longer than the thousand miles of the Great Wall, and that nothing could bridge the gap.

Before I had time to crawl out from my pit of desolation, my daughter got into her first car accident. She was stopped at a red light when another young girl, equally new to driving, misgauged the distance between their cars and, having stepped on her brakes too late, rear-ended my daughter's shiny new car with a loud crash. My daughter got out of her car to check the damage, and seeing that it was just a bit of paint that had come off, she lost the sense of gravity she felt initially. She forgot to pull out the "in case of" card that her father had stowed in her glove compartment, which listed all the questions she was to ask the other party "in case of" an accident. Briefly, my daughter asked a couple of broad and scatterbrained questions and let the whole thing pass. When she arrived home, we placated the delayed fright she felt from being in an accident, but we also took the opportunity to better her attitude and approach to handling such a matter.

沒想到，一個星期後，女兒又出了第二次車禍，這一次是她在停車場迴轉時沒算好距離，刮到停在路旁的車，而正在銀行辦事的車主見狀衝出，要記下她的資料。女兒一方面要和成年人打交道，一方面對自己連續兩次車禍心生恐懼，就打電話要我幫忙處理。我發現經過兩次車禍後，她剛剛拿到駕照的興奮之情，已迅速下降到接近冰點。我感到女兒心中的恐懼，甚至使她討厭開車，我這失落的母親馬上撿回職責，變成保護的母親。雖然不是像女兒小時候那樣，跟前跟後、隨時隨地注意她的安危，但這卻是更深的保護，因為我努力使她的靈不受傷。想到我如果大發脾氣地責罰她一頓，自己沒智慧不說，驚恐若進入孩子的靈裡就糟了，我認識的人裡面，就有人出了車禍後，再也不敢再開車的例子。當下我找了孩子的爸一起安慰女兒，帶著她一起禱告，也讓她明白開車不過是個工具，是她生活中必須有的，所以不用太興奮，也不用太害怕。我們盡上自己的責任，小心駕駛，注意安全，其他的，有天父上帝的應許：「你出、你入，耶和華要保護你，從今時直到永遠。」¹父母總有說不完的教訓，但只有最適當的時機才能得著那雙該聽的耳朵，女兒的態度已顯明她的受教，我們就更積極地引導她。孩子的爸說得好，在女兒真正離家上大學之前，開車這件事，是訓練她對父母也對自己負責的機會。

She got into another accident one week later. This time, my daughter had attempted to turn her car around in a parking lot, measured the space in the front of her car incorrectly, and scratched a parked car when she made the turn. The owner of the other car happened to be stepping out of the bank at that exact moment, and seeing the occurrence, he rushed over to take down her information. My daughter, overwhelmed by the fact that she needed to deal with an adult this time and also by the panic of back-to-back accidents, called me and asked for my help. I found that the two consecutive car accidents had caused my daughter's newfound confidence to drop rapidly, almost below freezing. I could feel that her fear and mistrust of herself had caused her to hate driving. I immediately ceased to be the lost mother, and picked up my duty as a protective mother. Even though I no longer played the same mother I had when she was little – when I had walked in front of her and followed behind her, walked beside her wherever she went – this was a new sort of protection that went deeper. I was protecting her spirit from injury. If I had even considered reprimanding her in anger, I would have both failed to display any personal wisdom and crushed her spirit. There are people who are afraid to drive ever again after being in just one car accident. At once, I went and found her father, and we consoled our daughter together and prayed with her. We let her know that driving is but one of life's tools necessary in our day-to-day, so there's no reason to be too excited over it, nor is there any reason to fear it. So long as we meet our own responsibilities, drive with care, and watch our personal safety,

女兒拿駕照之後的第五個月，她出了第三次車禍，是三次車禍中最嚴重的。對方是一位比女兒年長的小姐，車禍後驚惶失措；但是，女兒卻能冷靜處理，不但根據爸爸寫的「車禍提示卡」問明對方所有的資料，並且安慰對方，協助對方辦妥一切車禍後必要的手續。我們感謝上帝，雙方都平安，從事故現場一直到雙方車子修好，在在顯示出女兒成熟、理性、沉穩的一面。而經過這次事件，女兒表現出的冷靜、機智和愛心，得著我完全的信任，想到她明年離家上大學，獨自在外的日子，我釋懷了。

the rest is God's promise: "*The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.*"¹ Parents are endless fountains of instruction, but only the proper opportunity earns a pair of listening ears. My daughter's contrite and vulnerable manner indicated that she was ready to listen, so we fervently gave her all the guidance that we could. My husband put it well – he said that driving was a chance for our daughter to demonstrate responsibility to herself and to us before she left home for college.

The fifth month after my daughter received her license, she got into her third car accident. This accident was by far the most serious of the three. The other party was a woman older than my daughter; after the accident, she was panicked and seemed to have lost control of herself. My daughter, however, calmly and collectedly took care of business. Not only did she remember to gather all the information on the "in case of" card, she also comforted the other woman and helped her complete all of her necessary paperwork and procedures after the accident. Thanks be to God, both parties escaped safe and unharmed. During the entirety of the process – all the way until both parties' cars were fixed – every aspect of the situation demonstrated that my daughter was growing up. She was always mature, rational, and steadfast. Through this incident, her calm, her wits, and her compassion fully earned my trust. Now, when I imagine her going off to college next year and forging her independence, I'm no longer worried.

「經驗」是事務的好老師，「愛」卻是情感的好老師，女兒從來就知道她在父母心中的地位，經由數次的車禍事件，女兒在過程中一再看到我們把親情放在第一，任何財物的損失，都不會改變我們對她的態度，她在不如意的車禍事件中，得到的卻是饒恕、寬待、安慰、扶持和教導。女兒終於明白她是如何被愛的，於是她對我們發出的愛的訊號有所回應了。女兒開始體諒我們的心，當她意識到我會為她開車極擔心之後，她會主動打電話告訴我她的行蹤。每次出門後，若臨時需要變動原先的計畫行程，總會先打電話徵得我的同意；有時她去買東西，也會打電話來問我要不要她順便帶什麼回家；甚至她在接送妹妹的事上，成為我的最佳幫手。然而讓我最窩心的是，有時她打電話給我僅僅只是說聲「嗨！」我們之間的電話來往，已不再是我單方面的叮嚀，而是雙方互動的情感交流。有時她眨著她的大眼睛，嘴角含笑地看著我，像是在對我說：「媽咪，誰說我不懂妳的心？」沒想到，女兒的學車過程，帶出這麼多的成長，她學會體諒父母，我們學會尊重兒女。她曾經迫不及待地想飛，我們學會放手讓她飛，她卻飛回家了。

Experience is the instructor of capability, and love is the instructor of emotion. Our daughter has always known her position in the hearts of her parents. In going through each of these events, she saw that her father and I always put family matters above everything else. Any loss of material things will never alter how we feel about her or how we treat her. Through each unfortunate car accident, what she took away was forgiveness, generosity, comfort, support, and learning – my daughter finally understood how much she is loved. Our signal of love towards her had always sounded faithfully, even in the dark, and now she responded and echoed in kind with a new understanding and consideration of our hearts. When she sensed that my dread or fears over her driving might become too great, she would always call me to soothe my concerns. Whenever there would be last minute changes to her day's itinerary, she would always call first to ask for my approval. Sometimes, when she went out shopping, she would check in and see if there was anything she could pick up and bring home for me. She became my great little helper in her routine of picking her sister up and dropping her off at school every day. Above all else, the thing that warmed my heart the most was her occasional call just to say hi. Our phone conversations were no longer a one-sided list of unheard parental advice, but rather open and loving two-sided exchanges. Sometimes, she would look at me with her big eyes open wide and a small smile playing on her face, as if she were saying to me, "Mom, who says I don't know your heart?" I would never have guessed that this phase of driver's education

坐在這部海豚色的小跑車裡，暗自笑自己曾經嫉妒它拿走了我的親子時間，如今我穩穩地坐在車裡，笑它搶不走我的母女深情。

「媽咪，醒醒，我們到購物中心了，嘿！居然我開車，妳還能睡著？」「當然囉！我是個好乘客嘛！」

正預備下車，收音機正好播放我們家的「家歌」，那是路易斯·阿姆斯壯的〈多麼美好的世界〉，我和女兒對看一眼，兩人笑著跟著又哼又唱——

……彩虹的顏色在天空和走過的人們臉上
是這麼美麗

我看到朋友們握手，互相問安
其實他們在說「我愛你」

would have so much education in store for all of us. She learned to consider the hearts of her parents; we in turn learned to respect our children. Once, she could hardly wait to fly. When we learned to let go and let her fly, she flew right back home to us.

As I sit in this dolphin-grey colored little sports car, I smile to myself as I remember that I once felt jealous because it had taken from the time meant for my daughter and me. Now, I sit here satisfied and secure, knowing that it could never take away from the connection between us.

“Mom, wake up, we’re at the mall. Hey, I can’t believe you can fall asleep while I’m driving.” “Of course I can! I’m a good passenger.”

Just as we’re about to exit the car, the radio plays our family’s song, Louis Armstrong’s “What A Wonderful World.” My daughter and I look at each other and, smiling, begin to sing and hum along:

“...The colors of the rainbow so pretty in the sky
Also in the faces of people going by

I see friends shaking hands, saying how do you do

我聽到孩子的哭聲，我看著他們成長
他們所學的遠超過我所知的
我暗自想：這真是個美好世界……

摸摸女兒的頭，真的是「她所學的遠超過我所知的」，
挽著女兒的手臂走進購物中心，我暗自想：這真是個美好世界！

They're really saying I love you

I hear babies cry, I watch them grow
They'll learn much more than I'll ever know
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world."

I pat my daughter's head. Truly, she'll learn much more than I'll ever know. I put my arm through hers, and we walk to the mall side-by-side. I think to myself, "What a wonderful world."



祝福等你拿



Blessings for the Taking

1. 「唉！其實妳不懂媽媽的心！」作者為何這樣說？你是否也有這樣的失落感？
2. 本文告訴我們，母親最重要的成長之一是：作一個「好乘客」。在妳兒女成長的過程中，妳要如何扮演一個「好乘客」的角色？
3. 經歷了三次車禍，作者的女兒有什麼成長？你是否曾藉著環境中發生的事件，幫助孩子成長，也幫助自己成長？請分享。

1. “Oh, my dear daughter, you don’t know a mother’s heart.” Why does the author say this? Have you also suffered this sense of loss?
2. This article tells us that one of the most important aspects of the author’s growth as a mother is learning to become a passenger. In raising your children, how do you play the role of a good passenger?
3. After experiencing three car accidents, what kind of growth and learning process did the author’s daughter undergo? Have you ever used unfortunate situational circumstances to help your own children mature, and help yourself mature in turn? Please share with the group.

第四章 第二個母親

么女加上獨生女，這個身分在我們家可特別了。在我兩個哥哥的眼裡，我可是集父母寵愛於一身。因為，他們不是聽到父親說：「妹妹小你們這麼多，讓她點。」就是聽到母親說：「別欺侮妹妹，多愛愛她，不知她將來進到怎麼樣的婆家？」言下隱含著擔心我將來沒好日子過。這份掛慮是母親愛的負擔？還是久遠以來流傳著太多惡婆婆、壞媳婦的傳說影響人心？時至今日，讓人扼腕的事實卻是：在華人社會裡，造成離婚最可怕的殺手之一，乃是——婆媳問題。

4. The Second Mother

Being both the only daughter and the youngest child in my family earned me a special position. To my brothers, I received far too much pampering and attention. If they weren't hearing "Your sister is so much younger than you, just let her win a little bit," from my father, then they were hearing "Don't abuse your sister. You should show her more love, you don't know what kind of in-laws she'll marry into someday," from my mother. The words implied a certain fear that I had dark days ahead; these worries were a mother's instinctive burden, but they were also deepened by a long tradition of battles between horrid mothers-in-law and vindictive daughters-in-law. Even today, it remains a truth that's a terrible shame: in Chinese societies, the number one killer of marriages is discord between mothers-and daughters-in-law.

這個問題臨到我是在1992年，我的丈夫凱毅決定接他的父母來美國同住。我們這個成立了七年的小家庭，就開始做各樣的預備。房間、家具倒是容易張羅，但心理誠惶誠恐的感覺，就得花點功夫了。我的緊張，是因為家中要住進兩位相當陌生的老人家。我與公婆只有過一面之緣，如今要住在一起，在無所遁形的相處之下，會有「火花」，還是「冰花」在等我嗎？

一天，凱毅慎重地對我說，我需要有心理準備，以後這個家裡，我會變成惟一的外人。丈夫理性的話語，聽在我的耳中，著實讓我暗自情傷了一陣。然而，凱毅的提醒是對的，就公婆而言，兒子孫女都是他們的血親後裔，而我，雖是媳婦，卻仍陌生，不免擔心：我們是否能彼此接納？是否能相處融洽？想到我當初接受這個「婚姻包裹」時，接受的是整個的凱毅及他所有的周邊關係，我不能只要某些、退回某些。於是我暗自立志，不論是寵愛有加，還是嫌棄在外，我還是我。媳婦這個角色，我定意全力以赴，以愛贏得婆婆的心，讓她以得著一個女兒為樂。究竟我們是一家人，我們同有一個「愛的對象」——她的兒子，我的丈夫。

This problem was one that finally came to my doorstep in 1992, when my husband Kai-i decided to bring his parents over to America to live with us. Our little home, which we had built up over the past seven years, began to make all sorts of preparations. The rooms and the furniture were easy enough to arrange, but the apprehensive and uneasy feelings in my heart took a little more effort. My anxiety was caused by the idea of two almost complete strangers moving into my home – I had only met my father- and mother-in-law once before, and now we were required to live together. In a situation where we would be constantly together under the same roof, with nowhere to go and nowhere to hide, would I be met with flares of friction or icy cold treatment?

Shortly before their arrival, Kai-i said to me with solemnity that I would need to prepare myself, because I would become the only outsider in the house. His words echoed in my head, and though they were spoken rationally, they became a secret source of pain for a long time. His warning reminder was rightly given though – in the eyes of my parents-in-law, their son and their granddaughters were their own flesh and blood; I, despite being their daughter-in-law, was a complete stranger. I couldn't stop worrying: could we ever really accept each other? I reminded myself that when I accepted marriage, I accepted the whole package – not just Kai-i, but all of his connections as well; I couldn't accept certain connections and return the others. I

沒想到的是，我的婆婆以同樣的心意先我一步，扮演起好婆婆的角色，引著我尋跡而行，使我更能勝任媳婦的角色。

愛是贏得的

凱毅和我曾計畫，不論男女，都只生兩個孩子。因此當我開刀生第二個孩子時，就請醫師順便替我做結紮的手術。醫師一看又是個女孩子，就猶豫著不敢進行，跑出手術房徵詢家屬意見。我的母親也因為我沒有替閻家生個男孩，而不贊成我做結紮手術，生怕我和凱毅將來會後悔。但是，婆婆卻不加干涉，她完全尊重我和凱毅的決定，並且連連地說，母女平安就好，要感謝上帝，孩子健康地出生，不論男孩女孩都是上帝的恩典。於是多少年來，在許多家庭中造成傷害的重男輕女觀念，就在婆婆一聲聲感謝上帝中消失了。我也因此事更深刻地認識我的婆婆，敬重她並且愛她。

made a decision right then: regardless of whether I was warmly accepted and cherished, or coolly rejected as an outsider, I would be myself. I made up my mind to whole-heartedly perform my role as a good daughter-in-law; I would win over my mother-in-law through love, so she would rejoice in her gain of a daughter. We were, after all, a single family that shared the same object of love: my husband, her son.

What I didn't predict was that my mother-in-law would be of the exact same heart. Moreover, she was a step ahead of me. She fully played out the role of a good mother-in-law, and as I docilely followed in her footsteps, I learned better the duties of a good daughter-in-law and how to execute them.

Love is Something to Be Won

Kai-i and I once agreed that we would only have two children, regardless of whether they were boys or girls, so when I went into the hospital for my second C-section, I asked the doctor to tie my tubes as well during surgery. Upon seeing that my second child was again a girl, the doctor hesitated and ran out of the hospital room to ascertain that he should continue with the procedure. My mother, considering the fact that I had not yet given birth to a male heir for Yen family line, did not support

只有一方的愛，如同只搭了一半的橋，我還需要贏得婆婆的愛。在未裝淨水機之前，我們家一直是買水喝。一天，我看到水壺空了，也顧不得外面下雨，就把十個空水壺都放上車，出去買水。沒想到回家時，聽到公公婆婆正在對話，嘀咕著我下雨天還往外跑。我悄悄地走回車房，委屈的眼淚應和著屋簷的雨水往下淌。這時上帝的話在心中浮現，祂說：「愛是恆久忍耐，又有恩慈。」¹又有恩慈，又有恩慈……是了！我快地抹乾眼淚，提起兩壺水，輕快地走出車房，並大聲叫道：「爸爸，媽媽，我回來了！」婆婆問我到哪兒去了，我晃晃手中的水壺答道：「你們喜歡喝茶，我去買水，好水才能泡好茶呀！」我不知道需要多少的努力，才能贏得婆婆接納我的心。但是我知道這件事在我和我的婆婆之間，是個美好的轉捩點。

the procedure; she was afraid that somewhere down the road, Kai-i and I would regret our decision. However, my mother-in-law did not attempt to influence us at all; she fully supported Kai-i and me in our decision, and repeatedly said, “What’s most important is that the mother and child are both okay. We should give thanks to God! Healthily born children, whether boy or girl, are blessings from God.” The longstanding Chinese ideology of valuing males over females – one that had caused disastrous trouble in so many households over the years – was toppled by the sound of my mother-in-law’s grateful prayers to God. Through this incident, I came to know my mother-in-law more deeply, and to respect her and love her.

A one-sided love is like building only one half of a bridge – I also needed to win my mother-in-law’s love for me. Before we installed a water filtration system in our house, we always bought our water from the water vending machines outside the local store. One day, I noticed that all of the water containers were empty, and so I disregarded the rain pouring outside, piled all ten jugs into the car, and went out to purchase more water. Upon returning home, I overheard my mother- and father-in-law talking in low voices about me in the other room – they were muttering about how I had the nerve to go out still on a rainy day. I walked quietly back to the car, woeful tears at the unmerited persecution streaming down my face like rainwater from the eaves of the garage door overhead. At that moment,

愛是彼此尊重

平安的「安」，從字形看，彷彿在強調「一個屋簷下只能有一個女人」。若是有兩個女人都想出頭的話，必定沒有平安。和婆婆同住的數年裡，我們的關係是平和安詳的，因為我們彼此尊重。一次，我要責罰犯錯的孩子，婆婆卻在一旁替她們求情。我和凱毅礙於婆婆的情面，就放過了孩子。但是事後，我請凱毅去向婆婆溝通，管教孩子是父母的天職，為了不讓孩子仗著有爺爺奶奶護航，養成投機取巧鑽漏洞的習性，請婆婆在我管教孩子的時候不要插手。這項請求獲得了婆婆的尊重。從此在我管教孩子的時候，她不再介入。我明白這樣的克制，對疼愛孫輩的奶奶來說，有多困難。我也儘量避免在老人家面前管教孩子。「尊重」，多好的禮物啊！我由衷地謝謝婆婆，同時我也回了一個婆婆喜歡的禮，那就是：除非被徵詢意見，我不介入婆婆家的事。婆家的事，當然會影響到我們，但是凱毅這個長子，本就是原生家庭的一分子，也是我們這個小家庭的頭。他的雙重身分，使他有雙重的責任。任何一邊多加的意見，只會給他增加壓力難做人。因此，我讓他全權做主，無條件地支持他，相信他在每件事情上都會考慮周全，做最好的決定。若說我真有什麼意見，那就是提醒他多顧念他父母親的需求，因為

God's word rose up in my heart: "*Love is patient. Love is kind.*"¹ Love is kind. Love is kind... that's right... I quickly dried my tears, picked up two giant jugs of water, and walked lightly back into the house announcing, "Mom! Dad! I'm back!" My mother-in-law asked me where I had gone. I brandished the two jugs full of water noisily sloshing around and said, "Well, you two like to drink tea, so I went to buy water! You have to have good water to brew good tea, after all!" I didn't know how much effort it would take to win acceptance from my mother-in-law, but I knew that exchange between my mother-in-law and me was a beautiful turning point to start.

Love is Mutual Respect

The symbol for the word "peace" in Chinese is made up of a single woman underneath a roof – if there are two women who both want the spotlight beneath one roof, there can be no peace. During all of the years that I lived with my mother-in-law, our relationship was always perfectly peaceful and harmonious because we always mutually respected one another. One time, I was on the verge of disciplining my daughters for a wrongdoing, and my mother-in-law stepped in to entreat on their behalf. For her sake, Kai-i and I agreed to refrain from any punishments; afterwards though, I asked Kai-i to have a private conversation with his mother. The care of children is a parent's heavenly duty – we didn't want our daughters to learn insolence by using their

這邊有我撐著。我想這是我能敬重婆婆最好的方式了。

愛是彼此體貼

每星期我們家都有數次的聚會，這情況是在公婆來與我們同住之前就有的。起初，我和凱毅都沒有留意到，每次聚會都意味著公婆得幾小時關在房中不出來，因為他們怕走動時會干擾我們，帶給我們不便。婆婆總在聚會前幫助我預備茶點，聚會後又為我整理乾淨。諸如此類的體貼，在我們共同生活中，是我經常能享受到的。婆婆的體貼，減少了我作媳婦的緊張與壓力；婆婆的作為，也為我留下了榜樣——愛是為別人的益處著想。

grandparents as convoys that would allow them free reign, and we didn't want them developing bad habits of using loopholes, lies, and excuses, so I asked that my mother-in-law not interfere with the discipline of the children. My mother-in-law honored my plea, and from that time on, she never got involved in any case of discipline. I understood how difficult this restraint was for my softhearted and sensitive mother-in-law, and I did my best to avoid punishing the children in front of her. How great a gift respect is! I was deeply grateful to my mother-in-law, and in return, I also gave her a gift: unless I was expressly asked for my opinions, I did my best to stay out of my mother-in-law's family matters. Her family matters would of course influence our own family, but my husband – as the eldest son in his old family and as the household leader in his new – would always be deeply and inescapably involved with both. His twofold identity meant a twofold responsibility, and any additional opinions from either side would only increase his pressure and make it harder on him. Therefore, on my end, I let him be the full authority of our house and I supported him unconditionally; I trusted that he would always contemplate every detail and make the best decision in all things. If I voiced any opinion at all, it was only to remind him to consider his parents' needs a little more, because I was there to maintain our own family's needs. This was how I felt I could best show respect to my mother-in-law.

及至婆婆生病住院，長期臥病在床，最大的喜樂就是兒孫去看她。但是到後期，因身體虛弱，有時連親人看她，她都沒有太明顯的情緒反應了。一次，我推她的輪椅散步（婆婆需要新鮮空氣，同時她也喜歡微風從她臉上拂過的感覺），走了不少時間，婆婆體貼我說：「累了吧？回房好了。」我看看牆上掛的鐘，可以再過十分鐘才去接孩子，就回答說：「不累，媽媽喜歡，就再走一下。」此時，婆婆臉上浮上一抹難得的笑意。我頓時明白前面的數十分鐘，我不過體貼了她的身體，而後面的十分鐘，我卻體貼到她的心靈了。而此時此刻，也只有被滋潤的心靈，才能減輕她的病痛。噢！我為何沒早點學會「體貼」的精髓呢？

Love is Mutual Thoughtfulness

Every week, there are multiple fellowship meetings at our house; this was a routine put into place long before my parents-in-law came to live with us. At first, Kai-i and I didn't even notice that every meeting meant that my mother- and father-in-law confined themselves to their room for hours at a time because they feared the sound of their hushed footsteps in the hallways would disturb us. Before each meeting, my mother-in-law would help me prepare the tea and refreshments for our guests, and after each meeting she would help me clean and tidy up. Such episodes of thoughtfulness were something that I frequently benefited from during our lives together. My mother-in-law's thoughtfulness relieved my anxiety and pressure as a daughter-in-law, and her actions were an example for me: love always considers the benefit of others.

When my mother-in-law first got sick and moved into the hospital, her greatest joy would be receiving a visit from Kai-i or one of her grandchildren. As her sickness progressed and her body weakened, even the visits of her closest relatives ceased to draw any reaction from her, and her smiles became difficult and infrequent. On one of those days, I was taking my mother-in-law out for a walk in her wheelchair – she needed the fresh air and liked the feel of a soft breeze blowing against her face. We walked for a fairly long time. My mother-in-law, considerate

我的母親於2000年過世，她離世前已經確知她的寶貝女兒進了一個好婆家。我的婆婆於2002年過世，她離世前已經確知她的媳婦會紀念她，如同她的親生女兒一樣。走了一個母親，又走了另一個「母親」，我多麼懷念她們啊！我想到我的兩個女兒，有一天她們會成為別人的媳婦，但願我這個作母親的，在身為人媳的角色上給她們做了好榜樣。

as ever, turned to me and said, “You must be tired. Why don’t we return to the room?” I took a quick look at the time – I had another ten minutes before I had to leave to pick the girls up from school, so I replied, “I’m not tired at all! If you’re enjoying this, then why don’t we walk a little bit longer?” My mother-in-law’s face slowly lifted into an exceptionally rare smile. I suddenly realized that all of the time that we had spent walking up until that point had been an act of thoughtfulness to her body – it was that final ten minutes that was an act of thoughtfulness to her spirit. In that moment, it was only the nourishment of her spirit that could alleviate the suffering of her body. Oh, why hadn’t I sooner learned the true meaning of thoughtfulness!

My own mother passed away in the year 2000; before she passed, she knew for certain that her daughter had entered into a wonderful family-in-law. My mother-in-law passed away in the year 2002; before she passed, she knew for certain that her daughter-in-law would remember her as dearly as she remembered her own mother. I lost one mother and then a second mother – how much I miss them both. I think of how my two daughters will become daughter-in-laws someday... I hope deeply that I’ve been a good example for them.

關於婚姻中的各種關係，書刊中有許多的技巧可以學習，學問中有許多方法可以使用，但是人際關係只有用心經營才會圓滿。沒有兩個一樣的人，所以不會有兩個一樣的關係。只有愛，是一切的答案。

There's a lot of information to be found on the topic of "good relationships" in books – there're even insights to glean and methods to execute. It is only through the experience of committing one's whole heart to a relationship, though, that it can become perfect and complete. There are no two people the same, so there are no two relationships the same, but it always remains that love is the one and only answer to all of them.



祝福等你拿

1. 「愛是贏得的」，哪一件事情是作者贏得婆婆接納的轉捩點？請思想，要「贏得愛」，有哪些事你可以去做？
2. 「愛是彼此尊重」，本文中，婆媳雙方分別採取了什麼彼此尊重的具體行動？請思想，要「彼此尊重」，有哪些事你可以去做？
3. 「愛是彼此體貼」，本文中，婆媳雙方分別採取了什麼彼此體貼的具體行動？請思想，要「彼此體貼」，有哪些事你可以去做？



Blessings for the Taking

1. “Love is something that is won.” What occurrence was the turning point for the author (when did she win the love of her mother-in-law)? Please think for a moment: what are some things that you can do to win over love?
2. “Love is mutual respect.” In this article, how did both the author and mother-in-law show each other their mutual respect with concrete actions? Please think for a moment: what are some things that you can do to demonstrate mutual respect to your loved ones?
3. “Love is mutual thoughtfulness.” In this article, how did the author and the mother-in-law show each other signs of mutual thoughtfulness in their actions? Please think for a moment: what are some things that you can do to show mutual thoughtfulness to your loved ones?

第五章 現代版拿俄米

「你往哪裡去，我也往那裡去；你在哪裡住宿，我也在那裡住宿；你的國就是我的國，你的上帝就是我的上帝。」¹ 這句名言出於兩個女人的故事，這個故事記錄在聖經的《路得記》。大意是一個名叫拿俄米的女人在外地死了丈夫，又死了兩個兒子。於是她預備打發走兩個媳婦後，就回到她自己的故鄉。大媳婦看看這家，重點人物都死了，又貧又困，不如回到娘家再做打算。而小媳婦路得，就講了上述的名言，然後跟著婆婆，回到她丈夫的故鄉伯利恆。

5. A Modern-Day Naomi

“*Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.*”¹ This famous line is from the story of two women recorded in the Biblical book of Ruth. In short form, it’s about a woman named Naomi who loses her husband to death while in the foreign land of Moab, as well as both of her sons. She prepares to send her two daughters-in-law away and return to her homeland, Bethlehem. The first daughter-in-law looks around her and weighs her options – all the men of the house were dead, the family was poor, and the situation looked dire. She decided to first return to her own homeland before making plans about her future. However, the second daughter-in-law, Ruth, chooses a different way by speaking that famous line written above, and she follows her mother-in-law back to Bethlehem.

故事的高潮就在這婆媳二人回到伯利恆後展開。先是路得的賢孝被鄰里認識，後是拿俄米愛媳心切，要為她找個安身之處，使她享福。經由拿俄米的策劃、安排、指引，路得終於得了一個好歸宿。不但如此，她也成了以色列國有名的國王大衛的曾祖母。

路得至死都要跟隨拿俄米，不禁讓人想問，拿俄米究竟有什麼魅力，使路得這樣愛慕她。尤其是當路得說：「你的國就是我的國，你的上帝就是我的上帝。」更是令人詫異，拿俄米一家遷往外地，不正是因為那個國鬧饑荒嗎？她滿滿地出去，空空地回來，不表明了耶和華降禍與她，全能者使她受苦嗎？這樣的上帝誰敢要呢？但這兩位奇女子，不但要這樣的上帝，並用她們的一生，見證了這位上帝的奇妙作為。路得的奇，在於她看得見婆婆裡面的真實信心，所倚靠的那位真實者；拿俄米的奇，在於她不是在家道豐富、安居樂業中來見證上帝的榮美，她乃是在一窮二白、貧困交加中，顯明那位至高者擁有天上地下一切的權柄，更是萬福的源頭。

The real heart of the story begins after Ruth and Naomi return to Naomi's hometown of Bethlehem. Ruth's noble character, her hard-working nature, and her filial piety are soon recognized by all of her neighbors. Naomi, who loves her daughter-in-law earnestly, desires to find Ruth a good home and a sturdy provider. Through Naomi's careful planning and guidance, Ruth finds herself a good arrangement with a new husband, and she secures somewhere to truly belong. Ruth blessedly eventually becomes the great-grandmother of King David.

The dedication between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law is evident in this story. Ruth would have followed Naomi until death – one can't help but wonder, what was it about Naomi that had entranced Ruth so and inspired such love and admiration? It's particularly astounding that Ruth says, "*Your people will be my people and your God my God.*" Hadn't Naomi and her whole family moved away to foreign lands because her homeland was suffering from famine? That she had gone away full, and returned home empty – didn't that demonstrate that Naomi's God had brought misfortune upon her and caused her bitterness? Who would want to claim such a God? But this pair of extraordinary women not only chose such a God, they used their whole lives as a testimony to the wonderful works of this God. Ruth's extraordinariness lies in her ability to see the true God within Naomi, through Naomi's deep and devoted faith. Naomi's

我看我的婆婆，正是現代版本的拿俄米。早年，我的公公當商船船長時，常遠航在外。我的婆婆一人照顧三個稚齡的孩子，還要作叔叔（我公公的親弟弟）的特別看護。叔叔未成家，跟著軍旅到臺灣。中風後行動不便，只能倚靠惟一的親哥哥，哥哥不在家，自是嫂嫂承擔一切。我的婆婆就這樣照顧他二十多年，直到叔叔離世。

extraordinariness is that she doesn't measure the glory of God through measuring the abundance or wealth of her family, or her own well-being; rather, it's throughout the trying times – the times of poverty and loss and emptiness – that Naomi glorifies God, making it known to all that the Most High has all authority in heaven and on earth and that He is the source of all blessings.

My mother-in-law is a modern-day Naomi. Many years ago, my father-in-law was the captain of a commercial ship, and he spent most of his time voyaging far across the seas. My mother-in-law had to raise three young children on her own and also serve as the dedicated nurse of her husband's brother. Her husband's brother had no family. He had never been married, having followed the National Army to Taiwan in his youth. After suffering an early stroke, he was no longer able to walk and was discharged from the army. He had to rely on his only brother, and since his brother was never present, it was his sister-in-law (my mother-in-law) who bore the burden. My mother-in-law took care of her brother-in-law for more than twenty years, until the day he left this world.

家中有一個病人，已經夠瞧了，未料，婆婆惟一的女兒（我的姑姑）受到刺激，精神異常，無疑是雪上加霜。我的姑姑往往連洗澡、更衣這種小事，都要經過一番搏鬥才能貫徹。我的婆婆天天無怨尤地照顧姑姑，直到我和我的先生凱毅成家後，因凱毅堅持把姊姊送入療養院，才使得我的婆婆有喘息的機會。此後的十六年，每到中國農曆年，凱毅一定趕回臺灣，在除夕之前把姊姊從空蕩蕩的療養院接出來過年，不僅是盡他一家之主的責任，也表明他對媽媽的愛和對姊姊的情。

Caring for a single debilitated person in one's house is already difficult enough; it seems too much that my mother-in-law's only daughter then developed a mental disorder. This undoubtedly felt like the heavens were adding insult to injury; it was like a hailstorm piling down on top of a snowstorm in my mother-in-law's dark winter. Getting her daughter (my sister-in-law) to do ordinary tasks like put on clothes or take a bath became a daily struggle that physically exhausted my mother-in-law's petite frame. Still, without a word of complaint, my mother-in-law devotedly took care of her daughter every day – she took care of her until some time after my husband Kai-i and I started our own family, when Kai-i insisted that his sister have hospital care instead. That was the first time my mother-in-law was finally able to take a breath. For the last sixteen years, Kai-i has always hurried back to Taiwan for Chinese New Year so that he can take his sister out of the empty hospital to celebrate New Year's Eve and ring in the New Year with her. Kai-i strives to help his mother by taking on more responsibilities as the head of his parents' household, and he demonstrates by his actions the dedication and love he has for both his mother and his sister.

叔叔是身體生病了，小姑是魂生病了，而我的小叔則是靈生病了。小叔長得像我的公公，相當的俊美，但他從小就不喜歡念書。長大後，因缺乏定見，深受朋友影響，以致常常不務正業，多次進出看守所和管訓單位。小叔成為家中的陰影，和婆婆心中的痛。

我的公公退休後，原以為他為家打拚多年定有豐厚的成果，未料到一生積蓄不是與人合作生意賠光，就是被人騙走。由於經濟相當困頓，連凱毅出國留學也要告貸才成行。我公公的氣只有一個出口，我的婆婆自是當選人選。

Back to my mother-in-law though: her brother-in-law had an illness in his physical being, her daughter had an illness in her mental being. Her second son, Kai-i's younger brother, had an illness in his spiritual being. He was handsome like his father, but he had always been troublesome. He'd never liked to study, even at a young age, and because he lacked a sense of discernment, he was heavily influenced by his friends. He refused to engage in proper dealings or conduct clean business, so he spent much of his time going in and out of penitentiaries. My brother-in-law became both his family's shadow and my mother-in-law's heartache.

When my father-in-law retired, he thought that the years of hard labor and the savings he had fought for would now provide for his family in abundance. He found out instead that the money he had garnered over a lifetime of effort had been either lost in poor business dealings or simply stolen by deception through "friends." His family faced such serious financial hardship that Kai-i had to take multiple loans so that he could leave to study in America. My father-in-law's rage at their circumstances had only one outlet: my mother-in-law.

前面的這些描述，可知我的婆婆大半輩子的歲月都被嘆息所曠廢，被眼淚所淹沒了。然而，自從我的婆婆認識耶穌基督後，她的故事就有另一條線在發展著，就是上帝要藉著我的婆婆使全家都得到救恩。我的婆婆像拿俄米一樣，在坎坷的際遇中，仍然緊緊抓住上帝。她的上帝是那樣真實，她真知道祂是山寨、是磐石、是泉源、是幫助、是喜樂、是平安、是她隨時的避難所，更是她最知心的朋友，擔當她所有的憂慮愁煩，背負她的一切勞苦重擔。

初識我婆婆的人，肯定都不會相信她的生活這樣辛苦，因為她臉上總是帶有發自內心的笑容。她最愛問人：「你信耶穌了沒有？」（住院期間，她還帶護士做決志禱告。）我的婆婆講話溫和柔軟，凱毅也說，他從未聽過媽媽大聲說話。她的苦、她的怨都到哪兒去了？我婆婆的基督徒生命深如海洋，表面上波濤洶湧，就如她的環境，但海的深處仍平穩安靜，就如她的內心。就是這股力量，使她在大小事務上都能交託，都能等候主行事。

These descriptions show that most of my mother-in-law's life has been wasted with sighs and inundated by tears. However, the day my mother-in-law met Jesus Christ, her life story developed a second trajectory: it was through my mother-in-law that the whole family came to salvation. My mother-in-law is just like Naomi: in the turmoil of her life's experiences, she grasped more tightly onto God. Her God was so real to her that she knew He could be her fortress, her rock, her wellspring, her help, her joy, her peace, her shelter at any time, and the friend who knew her heart. When she was weighed down by all of her worries and cares, He was there to bear the burden of the weary.

People who meet my mother-in-law for the first time never believe that her life has been so bitter, because her face is always lit up with a smile that shows the happiness she feels inside. She loves to ask people if they've found Jesus yet – even when she was later in the hospital, she prayed with her nurses and helped them accept Jesus as their personal Savior! My mother-in-law speaks only with gentleness and softness; Kai-i says he's never once in his life heard his mother raise her voice. Where is all her bitterness and resentment? My mother-in-law's Christian life is deep like the ocean – there's a wild storm swelling all around her on the surface of the water, but her spirit is calm and steady like the stillness at the bottom of the ocean. It's that steadiness that allows her to give up all things great and small to God, and wait for God to work in His ways.

1998年7月25日，她一生敬虔愛慕的主，終於為她行了大事。那一天，她的丈夫——那位被教會同伴稱為「掃羅」的逼迫者，受洗歸入主的名下。至此，包括她的孫輩，我的婆婆一家全都進入了救恩的門。如今我的婆婆去見主耶穌了，我想我的婆婆一定非常喜樂地告訴主：「雖然世人認為我愚拙，連家務都管不好，向我挑戰：『妳的上帝在哪兒？為何不來解決解決、醫治醫治妳家的問題？』然而主啊，祢知道我是如何依靠祢，凡祢所交付我的，我一個都不失落，全數都帶來了。」而主耶穌也會這樣回答她：「世人把會朽壞的當成了不朽壞的，所以他們才是愚拙的。惟有靈魂是存到永遠的，而妳所擁有的正是人的靈魂。孩子，妳是富足的。」

我的婆婆送給我三件禮物，都棒的不得了。

第一件禮物：1992年，我和凱毅預備接兩老到美國來，雖然主給了經文印證：「人若不看顧親屬，……比不信的人還不好，不看顧自己家裡的人，更是如此。」²但我心中仍因家中要住進兩位相當陌生的人而七上八下。我的婆婆抵達

On July 25, 1998, the God that my mother-in-law so piously worshipped finally worked a huge miracle for her. On that day, her husband – the same one that had once been labeled “Saul the Persecutor” by her fellow churchgoers – was baptized in the Lord’s name. As of that day, her whole family – down to her grandchildren – were saved in the Lord. Today, my mother-in-law is in heaven with Jesus. I think she’s probably told the Lord joyously, “People on earth thought I was foolish and unable to take care of my own family matters. They challenged me, ‘Where is your God? Why doesn’t He fix one or two of your family’s problems and sicknesses?’ But, Lord, You know how well I relied on You. Every person You gave to me, I brought back to You. I didn’t lose a single one of them.” And the Lord answers her, “The people of the earth think that the perishable things are the imperishable, so they are the ones who are foolish. Only the spirit is eternal, and you’ve rescued all the spirits entrusted to you. Child, you have a true abundance of riches.”

The three gifts that my mother-in-law has given to me are wonderful beyond compare.

The first gift: in 1992, my husband Kai-i and I prepared to receive his parents to our home in America. God has expressly given us His will through His Word: “*If anyone does not provide for his relatives ...,and especially for his immediate family, he has*

的當晚，她遞給我一個小盒，一看就知道是首飾。我聽凱毅說過我的婆婆從不買首飾，因此我狐疑怎會有此一舉，及至打開，我不禁眼眶濕潤，心中俯伏敬拜主。那是一條與我曾失去的一模一樣的十架項鍊。只不過原有的K金做的，新的是純金打造，比舊有的更好。沒想到我在美國各商店找了幾年的東西，主居然在臺灣鄉下（楊梅鎮）惟一金飾店裡替我找來。我不能不對主愛的細膩發出讚嘆，也深知接待公婆乃是主所喜悅的事。此後，每有難處，我就會用手摸著項上十架，想著主細膩的愛，勇氣就油然而生；也會再一次鼓勵自己，不經過千百次自我的破碎，怎能算是為主背十字架。

denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.”² However, my heart was anxious at the thought of receiving these two strangers into our house and home. The night of their arrival, my mother-in-law handed me a small box. I could tell immediately that it was jewelry; Kai-i told me once that his mother never buys jewelry, so I wondered skeptically why the gesture had been given. When I opened the box, my eyes filled with tears and my heart fell prostrate before the Lord and worshipped Him. It was a cross necklace that was exactly the same as one I had lost long ago. The only difference was that the necklace I’d lost was 14-carat gold; this new one I held was formed from pure gold. I’d searched shops for years in my attempt to replace that necklace, but God had decided that it was going to be in the sole jewelry shop in the rural town of Yang-Mei that my necklace would be found. I cannot give enough praise for the detail and attention found in the Lord’s love; I also knew in that moment that our reception of Kai-i’s parents was in accordance with the Lord’s desire. Whenever I’ve faced hardships since that day, I always reach up and lightly touch my cross necklace. I think of the detail in God’s love, and the courage I need grows inside me. The shape of the cross also encourages me – I ask myself: without a thousand trials and tribulations to batter and break me, how could I be worthy to bear Christ’s cross?

第二件禮物：與我的婆婆同住的時候，偶有靈修分享。有一次我的婆婆口中出了一句如同大槌的話語，打入我的心中。她說：「基督復活生命的大能，在我們裡面就吞滅了那死亡、黑暗的權勢。」觀看我的婆婆，一生歲月波折不斷，但她的感謝不曾終止，她的讚美也不住聲，不正是這句話最真實的註釋！我決定不只是擁有我婆婆的屬靈資產，更將其投資使效益倍增，如今，這句話已成為我禱告中的最愛。身處在一個以成功為導向的世界，連上帝的家都難免吹起成功神學的風向，我感謝上帝賜給我這樣的屬靈長輩。我也願意學習我的婆婆，用生命事奉主、用生活見證主的榜樣。因此，我說：「媽媽，妳的國就是我的國，妳的上帝就是我的上帝。」

The second gift: while my mother-in-law was living with us, we would occasionally have a time of devotions and sharing together. One time, my mother-in-law said something that fell like a massive hammer upon my heart. She said, “There is an immeasurable power in the resurrected life in Christ, which devours the power of death and darkness within us.” I stared intently at my mother-in-law. All her life, the waves of turmoil had never stopped battering against her, yet her gratitude to God never ceased and her praise never quieted. She was the truest paragon of her own words. I decided that not only did I want to gain my mother-in-law’s spiritual assets, I wanted to invest them so that the return would grow many times over. Her words have now become the most beloved and often used lines in my prayers. In a world that is driven by success and achievement, even the church often finds it difficult to meditate on suffering – it often gets caught up in blowing hollow gusts of a triumph-driven theology. I thank God that He’s given me a spiritual elder like my mother-in-law. I’m willing to learn how to use my life to serve the Lord and model his example, just as my mother-in-law has. I say, “Mother, your people will be my people and your God my God.”

第三件禮物：除了主耶穌之外，我的婆婆將她一生最寶貴的精華，也是她的榮耀，送給了我，那就是我的丈夫凱毅。我和凱毅自成立小家庭以來，我的婆婆從不介入我們的家居生活，更不左右兒子，使媳婦為難。就算與我們同住一個屋簷下，也是百般配合，以我們為主。媽咪（我自己的母親）曾對我說：「妳真是要好好感謝上帝，像這樣的婆家哪裡找。有人好一代已經不錯了，有人好兩代算是難得的，妳呀，三代都好！妳是父母好、公婆好、丈夫好、孩子好，妳說要不要感恩！」媽咪說得對，我要將榮耀歸給上帝，將感謝歸給我的婆婆。因為我們有今天，全是婆婆的禱告、代求和指引。正如拿俄米指引路得的路，使路得安享後福一樣，婆婆也指引我們家一條生命的路；當主耶穌進入我們的生命，我們就不再一樣了。凱毅的變化尤其大，前後判若二人。我常戲稱自己嫁了兩個丈夫，前一個是呆“man”（「人」），後一個是“Diamond”（「鑽石」）。而這個“Diamond”還會越來越大，越來越亮呢！

The third gift: my mother-in-law has also given me her most precious treasure and her glory, aside from the Lord Jesus – my husband and her son, Kai-i. In all of the time that Kai-i and I have been together, my mother-in-law has never meddled in our family matters or put strain on Kai-i by attempting to manipulate his behavior. Even though we all lived under the same roof, she did everything in her power to be helpful and obliging, and she always put us first. Mom (my own mother) once said: “You had better give extra thanks to God for the in-laws He’s given you. Who’s ever heard of in-laws like this? You know, a single good generation in a family is pretty fortunate; two generations is exceptionally rare. You have three generations! You have good parents and good parents-in-law, a good husband, and good kids. You couldn’t possibly give enough thanks!” My mom was right. I give glory to God, and thanks to my mother-in-law. The intercession and direction that she’s given us have brought us to where we are today. Just as Naomi guided Ruth so that Ruth could peacefully live out the blessed days of her life, my mother-in-law has guided us in our way of life – once Jesus Christ had entered into our lives, we were never again the same. The change in Kai-i has been especially evident; he’s a different and better man than the one I married. I sometimes laugh to myself that I’ve married two husbands: the first was a “Dia-mond” (this is a Chinese pun, where a phonetically similar pair of words for “dia-mond” also mean “silly man”), and the second is a true “Diamond” – one that continues to grow larger and brighter each day!

我的婆婆在最後的日子，有數次與凱毅深刻的談話。一天，她對凱毅說：「今早，我再一次把你奉獻給主了。」我的婆婆把她所擁有最好的獻給上帝，只是她不知道這一次的奉獻，不僅是凱毅，還有凡屬於他的——他的妻子、他的孩子和他的一切都放在祭壇上了。我們也都俯首說：「阿們！阿們！」『至於我和我家，我們必定事奉耶和華』」³

《路得記》最後說到，他們的後人必提起拿俄米的精神，因此我也在此提說我的婆婆（王敬穎女士）的精神，在於她以看似軟弱的生命，見證了那位偉大奇妙的上帝——是滿有慈愛又有豐盛的恩典，祂的憐憫也永不斷絕。如今，我的婆婆息了世上的勞苦，回到天家，留給我們後輩子孫的，是無限懷念及豐厚的屬靈資產。

In my mother-in-law's last days on earth, she had some deep and earnest conversations with Kai-i. One day, she told Kai-i, "I give you up again as an offering to God." My mother-in-law gave God the best of everything she had. This particular offering also meant that she gave up the best of everything Kai-i had. His wife, his children, his everything were all placed upon the altar, and we all lift our hands up and agree Amen! Amen! "*As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*"³

At the end of the book of Ruth, it says that the generations to come will renew Naomi's life and continue to speak of her spirit. I, too, here speak of my mother-in-law's (Lady Wong Jing-Ying's) spirit. Her seemingly fragile and tired life was only a stage set to play out the marvelous works of a great and almighty God – a God full of love and abundant grace, whose mercy flows forth without end. My mother-in-law is now at rest from the heavy burdens of this world and has returned to her heavenly home, but she's left behind for her descendents both the immense memory of who she was and the legacy of her spiritual assets.



祝福等你拿

1. 作者的婆婆在坎坷的際遇中，能走上蒙恩之途的祕訣是什麼？你是否有類似的經歷？請分享。
2. 基督徒生命的深度，在作者的婆婆身上，有怎樣的外顯？你如何在生活中彰顯基督徒應有的生命？
3. 從永恆的角度看，對作者的婆婆而言，什麼是愚拙？什麼是智慧？你是否從永恆的角度看周遭的事物？
4. 本文中，作者的婆婆的屬靈資產，可以傳承給後代。思想你有哪些屬靈資產可以傳承給子女？
5. 作者說：「我的婆婆把她所擁有最好的，獻給上帝。」你是否願意將自己最好的獻給上帝？



Blessings for the Taking

1. Even during her life's most tumultuous times, the author's mother-in-law was able to find her way to grace. What was her secret? Have you had similar experiences? Please share with the group.
2. How were the depths of the Christian life evident in the behavior of the author's mother-in-law? How can you demonstrate the life of a Christian in your own daily circumstances?
3. In this article, the mother-in-law's perspective is constructed around what is and isn't eternal. From her perspective, what is foolishness? What is wisdom? Do you view your surroundings with a mind toward their eternal value?
4. In this article, the author speaks of her mother-in-law's spiritual assets, which will be passed on from generation to generation. Please think: what spiritual assets can you pass on to your children?
5. The author says, "My mother-in-law gave God the best of everything she had." Are you willing to give God the best of everything you have?

第六章 平凡中的不平凡

坐在等待啟航的飛機裡，閉上雙眼，整理一下情緒，大事小事、做不完的事，此時都已放下，我正等著打開先生送我的深情禮物：一份可以享受八天，回味一生的禮物。

不平凡的序曲

想到自己行前站在穿衣鏡前，確定要以桃紅、粉紅相間的洋裝，粉紅色的薄毛衣，配上桃、粉相間的平底鞋，粉紅色的旅行手袋出遊。雖不明白這是種怎麼樣的心情，卻覺得自己的決定很「酷」，我決定不僅要“travel”（旅遊），而且還要“travel with style”（有風格地旅遊）。雖然捨棄了T恤、牛仔褲、球鞋等美國遊客的標準服飾，會讓不知情

6. The Extraordinary Amidst the Ordinary

I sat with my eyes closed as I waited for the plane to take off. While waiting, I tidied up my emotions; my mental to-do list, filled with things big, small, and unfinished, I tucked away for another day. I was going to fully immerse myself in the loving gift that my husband had given me – eight days of carefree enjoyment and a lifetime of fond memories.

An Extraordinary Prelude

I stood in front of my closet mirror, and finally settled on a dress in fuchsia and pink. I paired it with some matching flats, a light pink sweater and shawl, and a pink traveling case. I wasn't quite sure of my mood, but I was sure that I was feeling pretty cool – and if I was going to travel, I was going to travel with style. I knew that my departure from the standard American travel uniform of a T-shirt, jeans, and sneakers would make me

的人以為我從未出過門，但今天可是個不一樣的日子，今天是教師節、是中秋節、是真愛家庭協會第三次舉辦「全人深度旅遊」出發的日子，也是我和先生結婚二十週年紀念日。

先生以為我睡著了，順手將粉紅色披肩蓋在我身上，隨著先生的動作，我睜開了雙眼，映入眼簾的是一團粉紅。真不知是二十年不平凡的婚姻生活，為我築了一個羅曼蒂克的城堡，還是二十年平凡的婚姻生活，仍無法磨滅那與生俱來的少女情懷？看看身旁的人，都是他的功勞吧！想到結婚二十年，卻仍擁有這樣的情感，是屬少女的、是粉紅色的……我不禁啞然失笑。拉了拉披肩，我將下巴埋了進去，企圖掩蓋嘴角的笑意。哪知一團粉紅卻只是一個序曲，拉開了一個不平凡的旅遊簾幕。

不平凡的團體

在鹽湖城的旅館集會廳裡，九十五個人齊聚一堂，像一個大家庭，好不熱鬧。雖然來自東南西北不同的地方，彼此並不都相識，但因為都是天父上帝的小孩，在唱詩敬拜天父

seem like a complete neophyte to traveling, but today wasn't an ordinary day – it was Teacher's Day, the day of the Mid-Autumn Festival, the departure day of the third Family Keepers International "In-Depth Self-Betterment Travel Program," and my twentieth wedding anniversary.

My husband thought that I had fallen asleep, and pulled my pink shawl higher to cover me up. I opened my eyes to a blurry view of rosy pink – I don't know if twenty years of extraordinary marriage have built up a romantic castle in the air for me, or if twenty years of ordinary marriage have caused me to keep living in the dreamy fantasies of a young girl. I look at the man sitting next to me – in any case, it's all because of him. After twenty years together, I still have the feelings of a young girl and a girl's rosy view... I couldn't help but smile. I tugged at the shawl around me and buried my face in it as I attempted to hide the smile. Who knew that my curtain of pink was only a prelude about to reveal an extraordinary trip!

An Extraordinary Group

There were ninety-five of us gathered boisterously in the conference room of our hotel in Salt Lake City. The attendees had traveled in from north, south, east, and west; none of us had ever met before, but we already felt like a family because we

的過程裡，我們是一家人的情愫正悄然滋長。為了方便管理，大家庭中又應運產生小家庭，每一個小組有八個人，彼此看顧。不論是集合、分房、收費、表演、爬山、尋人、等人、上廁所，凡事都經由小組長負責，使得整個旅程非常有效率，可以算的上是科學旅遊吧！當然科學指的是方法，人情味卻是家庭的特色。我的小家庭成員中，有位好姊妹露西，跟我說了兩次商店在哪兒，我都找不到，她乾脆犧牲了吃中飯的時間，親自陪我去買雨衣雨帽。這一來一回可得要四十分鐘，她竟然還說她需要走路，這是她每天的運動。有情的人使我的謝意深深地加上感動，更將我本來一路責怪自己出什麼新招，規定先生帶長柄雨傘當拐杖，果真從不帶傘的人，第一站就將它留在機艙裡了。如今我想這把傘真是掉得好、掉得妙，如果真能以傘換情，我可真想天天掉把傘哩！

were all children of God. The feeling of familial unity grew as we lifted our voices together to sing praise hymns. For the sake of organization, our giant family was split into smaller families, each with eight members to look after one another. In every single activity – whether it was gathering together, assigning rooms, collecting fees, performing, hiking, finding people, waiting for people, or trekking to the bathroom – there was a family leader to take charge. The format was highly efficient – we could have called it a trip of scientific study! Of course, the scientific nature of the trip only went as far as the methods; the defining characteristic of the trip was the warm camaraderie of each family. Amongst the members of my little family, there was a sweet sister named Lucy who had told me twice where to find the local store upon my asking. Since I was still unable to locate the store on my own, Lucy volunteered to sacrifice her lunchtime so that she could personally take the trip with me to purchase a raincoat. The trip to and from the store took forty minutes in total, but Lucy simply said that she needed the walk anyhow for her daily exercise. I was grateful and touched by her generous gesture. I had been kicking myself for having my husband carry the umbrella – I told him that he could simply use it as a walking stick, but of course the man, having never carried an umbrella, left it behind immediately in the airplane's overhead compartment. Now though, I thought to myself that if umbrellas could be exchanged for such displays of fellowship, I would gladly lose an umbrella every day!

不平凡的友誼

一陣熱鬧中，聽到有人叫我，抬眼望去，只見專教情緒智商的洛城名人雷洛美老師正努力地撥開人群向我走來。

「嗨！要不要去吃飯，我先生在猶他州住過四年，知道一家全美排名第五的牛排館，請你們去嚐嚐。」「好啊！」我隨即拉著先生急步跟著她衝出陣去。先生找著機會偷偷問我，男主人的名字怎麼稱呼，我答說，「不知道。」先生張著口、瞪著眼，對我這冒昧的行徑大感意外。結婚二十年，他明白我做人處事的周到，這種意外是少有的。但今天心情不同呀！哪有人拒收結婚週年禮物的嘛！先生張開的口終於被八盎司的牛排給填滿了，瞪著我的眼也隨席間的笑談而散出柔和的光彩，男主人最後知道他請的這頓飯這麼有名堂，還特別安排了甜滋滋的起司蛋糕來慶祝。透過燭光，看見洛美漂亮的臉正生動地在為她講的東西做註腳，她是EQ的好老師，我是EQ的好學生；有人慷慨請客，有人大方接受。一份牛排將「新友」推進成為「好友」，而我知道每年的結婚紀念日，我將回憶這對夫婦做在我生命中的故事，一年年，是「老友」，也是「摯友」。

An Extraordinary Friendship

Someone called my name loudly above the hubbub; I looked up to see Becky, a new friend and a renowned teacher of EQ-i (emotional intelligence quotient) classes back in Los Angeles, shoving her way through the crowd towards me. She invited my husband and me to dinner to celebrate our anniversary; her husband knew his way around Utah very well, having lived there for four and a half years, and he could take us to one of the top five steakhouses in America. "Sure!" I immediately grabbed my husband and dragged him along as we rushed out. When he got the opportunity, my husband leaned over to me and discreetly asked what Becky's husband's name was, to which I replied, "I have no idea." Mouth agape, he looked aghast at my impetuous decision – after twenty years, he knew that I was very careful in all my relations; such rashness was wholly unexpected. My mood was different that day though; after all, who turns down an anniversary gift? His alarm didn't last too long – his open mouth was soon filled with eight ounces of delicious filet mignon, and his appalled expression softened into something much more congenial as we chattered lively around the table. Becky's husband, upon learning the special occasion behind our dinner, ordered us all a sweet and scrumptious cheesecake to celebrate. I looked at Becky's pretty face lit up by the candlelight; she was the best proof of her own EQ-i teachings. She was a good teacher of high EQ, I was a good student of high EQ; she generously gave a gift that I generously accepted. A single steak dinner had

不平凡的際遇

天天天藍，成了文人有名的詩句，天天天陰，卻是上帝賜給旅遊人的好禮物。陰天照相，是最好的自然光，不但人不會皺眉皺鼻，眼睛眯成一條線，臉上暗一塊、亮一塊，還可以在最美、最柔、最真實的原色裡，綻放最燦爛的笑容。秋季中的陰天，有許多的詩意，不僅我喜歡，許多的小動物也探出洞穴，證明牠們也喜歡，或覓食、或遷移、或玩耍。我詫異這次旅遊能遇見這麼多動物朋友來請安。隨處可見的鹿和麋鹿不說，林中獨自沉思的小狼、路邊追逐玩耍的黑熊寶寶、體積碩大的北美野牛、嬌小玲瓏的花栗鼠、天上飛的紅尾鷹、水中游的鱒魚，統統不缺席，難得的是美國的國鳥白頭鷹，也毫不吝嗇地展現英姿。水利建築專家海狸悠哉地來回游泳，還游到我們的橡皮艇下，用力撞擊以示抗議我們這些參加「白水泛舟」的遊客，為了一探激流泛舟的刺激，卻擾了牠們的清夢。這種奇特的際遇，令我覺得自己足以和亞當稱兄道弟，因為我經歷了與他相同的經歷——上帝將祂所造的野地各樣走獸和空中各樣飛鳥，都帶到我的面前。近距離地欣賞野生動物，無疑是為這一次的黃石公園之旅，添上一筆不平凡的色彩。

transformed a new friend into a good friend, and I knew that hereafter, I would always remember this couple's kindness on the day of my anniversary. Year after year, they would be both our old friends and our good friends.

An Extraordinary Encounter

“Blue skies every day...” might be God's inspiration for poets and writers, but “grey skies every day...” is God's gift to travelers. Those grey skies provide the best natural light for photographs. Not only do they prevent the scrunched faces, squinty eyes, and ugly patches of light and darkness that disease skin on brighter days – they also allow everything to shine forth in natural colors, and smiles to bloom fully and candidly. Those grey days of autumn seemed to have a poetic grace to them, and I wasn't the only one who liked them – all around me, little animal critters popped out of their homes to have a look. They came out to forage for food, or scamper about, or play with each other... I was amazed at how many animal friends came to say hello! There were deer and elk everywhere; I saw a coyote standing alone against the trees, and black bear cubs tumbling together by the side of the road. Giant bison were paired with tiny little chipmunks on land, red-tailed hawks filled the sky, and trout streamed through the rivers. In a rare sighting, a bald eagle – the national bird of the United States – put on a lavish show above us as it soared back and forth through the sky. During

不平凡的領悟

提頓山邊我們落腳的小鎮，有家叫Nikai的日本餐廳，在應該以野牛牛排為特色的地方，Nikai顯然是異類。我做了些心理準備，絕不將它和我所住的羅蘭崗任何一家餐館做比較，只要端出的不是擁有日本名字的薯條和炸雞，我都能好好地享受一番，誰知這是最意外的一次晚餐。中國人、韓國人經營日本餐館的大有人在，所以美國人開日本餐館也沒什麼希奇，老闆出錢不一定要出面，但是一家東方餐廳若是帶位、收銀、酒吧、壽司吧、服務、廚房、洗碗、打雜，裡外沒有一個東方面孔，這可是大大的希奇了。眼前，漂亮的金髮服務員生怕我們不會用筷子，送上菜後，馬上問我們五位東方面孔的客人需不需要用叉子，並且晃了晃手上的叉子，我們除了將頭搖得像波浪鼓，也只有當它是笑話一則，拌著兩美元一碗的白飯吞下肚了。原來，此餐館不懂亞洲人進餐，米飯是主食，他們將米飯當成配菜，每人需另花兩元買白飯配主食，若將這點改進，這家披著西式外衣的日本餐廳尚稱道地。

our thrilling white water rafting trip, we saw beavers – the little aquatic architects – swim around us and even ram against our raft in protest of our fun disturbing their sleep. These extraordinary encounters made me feel like Adam; I had shared his experience: God had brought all his creation – the wild beasts of the earth, air, and water – right before me. Without a doubt, Yellowstone National Park had added an extraordinary color to our trip.

An Extraordinary Realization

We stopped in a small town next to the Teton mountain range in Wyoming and found a Japanese restaurant called Nikai. In an area where most restaurants boasted bison as their menu specialty, I was very surprised to see Japanese food. We decided to give the restaurant a try, and I prepared myself for Japanese cuisine that would surely be inferior to what I could find back home in Rowland Heights; as long as they weren't serving up French fries and fried chicken and calling it "Japanese," though, I would gladly welcome an Asian meal. My preparation left me completely unprepared for what I saw inside. Many Japanese restaurants are actually run by Chinese or Koreans, so a Japanese restaurant with an American owner is nothing exceptional; after all, the owner isn't the face of a restaurant. But when there's not a single Asian face in the positions of host, cashier, bartender, sushi bar chef, server, kitchen staff, dishwasher, or busser at a presumably Asian restaurant – well, that's something I've never

世界的變化是常態，但這一百年的變化速度之快，真讓人目不暇給，大有跟不上時代之感。也許有一天，滿臉落腮鬍、頭上頂塊布的中東人，卻是滿口「之乎者也」的中文教師，大概也不足為奇了。走出這間我所進過最不平凡的日本餐廳，我更確定先生和我為人生下半場所做的準備是對的。方向決定對錯，與其跟著善變的世界走，我們不如乖乖跟著天父上帝走，因為「在祂並沒有改變，也沒有轉動的影兒」¹，祂——永不改變。

seen before! Our pretty blonde-haired waitress was concerned that we didn't know how to use chopsticks, and asked our table of five Asian patrons if we needed forks instead. She waved her fistful of shiny silver utensils in indication. Dumbfounded, we could only shake our heads "no" and assume that it was a joke; we swallowed the joke right along with our two-dollar bowls of white rice. Apparently, this place did not know that Asians eat rice as a staple, and they charged money for it as an additional dish; if they would only change that policy at least, this American restaurant masquerading "Japanese" might have been passable.

Change is a normal part of this world, but the change of the last hundred years has happened so quickly that the world seems to be a blur – we start to feel like we're always behind. Someday soon, it might be completely ordinary for teachers of ancient Chinese lore to be bearded, turbaned Middle Easterners. As I walked out of that extraordinary Japanese restaurant, I was reassured in my conviction that my husband and I planned rightly for the second half of our lives. Direction determines right and wrong – we could have decided to walk unsteadily alongside the ever-changing world, but I would much rather walk obediently at the side of the Heavenly Father. "*Who does not change like shifting shadows?*"¹ Only Him – He never changes.

不平凡的人才

誰都知道在美國的華人中臥虎藏龍，但是一個旅行團擁有高密度的醫生、學者、專家、專業人士，我還是第一次遇上。起初，我以為像我這樣平凡的人，置身在這些人物中，會沒有呼吸的空間。沒想到這些身懷絕技的人，每個都謙卑地將自身專長貢獻出來，我儼然進入了一間活動教室；課程可說是琳琅滿目、豐富到家，知性的、實用的，應有盡有。除了對主題地理景觀的介紹與解釋外，還加上人際關係、餐桌禮儀、皮膚保養、理財規劃、世界財經分析、古典聖樂欣賞、特殊兒童教育、如何吃維他命、更年期婦女保健、數位相機的使用、華裔築路工人血淚史，外加看電影學親子關係，終於徹底明白「全人深度旅遊」的深度是什麼意思。正如蓬生麻中，不扶自直，在一群有學問的人包圍下，忽然覺得自己也有點學問了。得意之餘，我不禁要向這群不平凡的人鼓掌，不論是臺上的講員，還是幕後的功臣，因著每個人都將自己的「才」帶來當「柴」燒，火才能燒得久、燒得旺，也燒出了行萬里路與讀萬卷書同步的藝術傑作。

An Extraordinary Talent

Everyone knows that the overall Chinese population in America hides many crouching tigers and hidden dragons, but such an incredibly high density of doctors, scholars, specialists, and professionals within our traveling group was surprising and abnormal. At first, I was afraid that the pressure of being among such skilled masters might crush an ordinary person like me, but all of them were exceedingly humble and contributed their abilities to the group. The trip was like an ongoing classroom with a plethora of courses in all types of disciplines, theoretical and practical. Aside from learning about the geographical elements of each new place we visited, we also learned about relationships, table etiquette, skin care, financial planning, global economic analysis, the appreciation of classical music, how to care for children in special education, vitamins, health and preventive care during menopause, how to use a digital camera, the history of Chinese railroad workers, and family-oriented film criticism (how to gain insights into family relationships from films). I came to thoroughly understand the degree of depth meant by “In-Depth Self-Betterment Travel Program.” Just as a vine grows straight and tall when held up against a good stake, I grew prouder and more knowledgeable because of those that surrounded me. I couldn’t help but silently applaud all these extraordinary talents. From the speaker on stage to the team working behind-the-scenes, each person brought their own kindling to the fire so that our fire could burn long and

不平凡的愛情

記下了「全人深度旅遊」，最後總該冠上「真愛」才算完整。林媽媽進入我的題材，不是因為他們一家四個人出遊，四位全是醫生的傲人成就，而是她將夫妻牽手一生、真愛一世，在我的眼前演活了。各人剛在橡皮筏中坐定，還未開始一個半小時的激流探險，天上就飄下雨絲，林媽媽臉上的愁容也隨著越來越大的雨點逐漸加深。先生解下我為他戴上的雨帽，遞給林媽媽，沒想到林媽媽接過雨帽，不是快快地戴在自己頭上，而是急急地要戴在林伯伯的頭上，嘴裡還不好意思地解釋，她不是擔心自己，而是擔心丈夫，因為林伯伯一感冒就很容易轉成肺炎。風雨中戴帽子的舉動，肯定不會是優美的，冷得打顫的聲音，也不會是動人的，然而林媽媽對林伯伯的款款深情是這樣明白。隔著雨簾，我望向先生，暗自期許自己到了林媽媽的年紀，仍然可以做到「眼裡盡都是你，心底忘了自己」。先生的口令喊得響亮又規律，大夥努力配合他的口令划槳，共同完成了這趟有驚無險的白水泛舟。下船前，我深深地環視每一位船友，企圖將眾人的身影印入腦海，這可是與我「風雨同舟」又「同舟共濟」的一群人呢！

bright; it was as if we were simultaneously walking and reading the ten thousand (there is a Chinese idiom that says you gain more knowledge by walking ten thousand miles than you do by reading ten thousand books; we got to do both).

An Extraordinary Love

I've chosen to talk about Mother Lin not because her whole family of four attended our travel program, and not because her whole family is impressively comprised of doctors, but because on our trip, I witnessed the lifelong love and togetherness that she and her husband share. On the day that we went white water rafting, we had barely all settled onto our plastic raft when it began to drizzle. We had a full hour and a half of exploration on the rapids still ahead of us. As the rain fell harder, the lines of worry on Mother Lin's face deepened. My husband took off his rain hat and gave it to Mother Lin; rather than put it on herself, she hurriedly plopped it upon the head of her husband. She explained apologetically that she wasn't so much concerned for herself but for her husband, because his colds could easily turn into pneumonia. Struggling with a sodden rain hat isn't a graceful sight, and teeth chattering in the cold isn't a pleasant sound, but the mindful love that Mother Lin had for her husband was beautiful to witness in every respect. I peered at my husband through the curtain of rain and made up my mind to still be like Mother Lin when I reached her age – with eyes that were so full

不平凡的使命

「『真愛』有沒有Endowment Fund？」（特指：有人捐贈一大筆的資產，作為基金的基礎，每年所產生的利息或報酬，可供非營利機構運用，例如「諾貝爾獎基金會」。）突如其來的問題，將我的耳朵拉得又高又長，只聽見蘇文安副會長不急不徐地回答：「將來可能會有，只是目前暫時還沒有，『真愛』自成立以來，每年經費所需都低空掠過……。」一個行做公益事務的基督教非營利機構，生存的空間可以說是狹窄中的狹窄，「真愛」每年得以低空掠過，而不是背負赤字，是一個積沙成塔的奇蹟，其中蘊含著四個不可少的因素——上帝綿延不盡的恩典、同工拚命三郎式的付出、散於人群中默默支持的弟兄姊妹，以及一群隨傳隨到又不計回報的義工。然而一個致力推廣幸福家庭的基督教非營利機構，承擔的使命可以說是廣大中的廣大，於是沙礫中能否尋得金塊，成為我所期待的下一個奇蹟，頻頻地，我翹首仰盼——「富人，你在哪裡？！」

of her beloved that she completely forgot herself. My husband's clear and authoritative voice cut through the rain as he called out the rhythmic commands: "One, two. One, two." Every soul on our raft followed his command as they churned their oars through the water, and together we safely got through the exhilarating experience of white water rafting. After we disembarked, I looked intently into the faces of all the people that had been on that raft with me, burning their images in my mind. These were my comrades – we had weathered the storm together and saved one another.

An Extraordinary Mission

“Does Family Keepers have an endowment fund?” (Endowment funds are investment funds set up when a large sum of money or property has been gifted to a non-profit institution, in which the dividends, interest, or investment returns of the fund are used for specified purposes, e.g., the prize money funds set up by Nobel Foundation.) Someone asked the question out of the blue, and my ears pricked up. Vice-president Andrew Su answered calmly, “There might be someday, but as of right now there isn't one. Family Keepers is only just managing to stay afloat each year.” A Christian non-profit organization focused on public benefits has very little breathing room and an extremely low rate of survival; Family Keepers International's ability to stay afloat at all, without sinking into deficit, was as

不平凡的生命

依依離情似乎充滿著鹽湖城旅館集會廳的每一個角落，也籠罩著眾人的心。在這最後的一個夜晚，我祈禱天父給我一個機會，做一件有意義的事。

冰光姊是我的小家庭成員之一，不知是她人緣好，還是我的人緣好，打從第一眼看到她，就喜歡她，也可能是她的名字有文藝氣息吧（我猜她也喜歡我，雖然我的名字很通俗）。只要見到她，定是紙筆不離手，勤寫勤記。她對此的解釋是，年紀大了，腦筋不管用，若是不寫下來，則什麼都記不得。看著冰光姊振筆疾書的樣子，我忽然靈光乍現地說：「冰光姊，妳若是個作家，寫文章不需要筆名呢，因為冰光就是個很像筆名的名字。」沒想到她回答說：「我有時是用冰光的名字投稿，有時用別的筆名，我有好幾個筆名……。」哇！還真是個作家呢。

much of a miracle as building a tower out of sand. There were four factors that contributed to its continued survival: God's unending grace, the lifeblood of its coworkers, the financial donations of anonymous supporters, and the giving spirit of willing volunteers. Family Keepers was clearly a very beloved organization, but its mission of creating more felicitous families and households was a large one, and it needed funding. Finding gold in the sand was the next miracle we needed; I repeatedly looked up to the heavens and asked "Rich one, where are you?"

An Extraordinary Life

The program was ending and we all dreaded the idea of leaving one another. A pervasive atmosphere of reluctance filled every corner of our Salt Lake City conference room and also loomed over our hearts. On the final night, I asked God to give me the opportunity to do something meaningful.

Sister Bing Guang ("Shining Ice") was one of my program family members. I don't know which of us had the stronger draw: I had liked her right from the get-go – it might have had something to do with the lovely and aesthetic quality of her name – but I think she instinctively liked me too (even though my name is nothing out of the ordinary). Every time I saw her, she had her notebook and pen in hand and she would be diligently

冰光姊是贏得我欽佩的作家（有趣的是此時我尚未看過她的作品）。作家呈現的生命勝於他呈現的作品，夏志清教授說：「任何作家自己對人生毫無感受，對人生沒有獨特的看法，是不值得重視的。」這正是我看冰光姊的角度，一個沒有老伴的祖母級人物，什麼力量將她從安適的沙發椅中拉出？在文字的工場作一名老學生，就此不但認定自己是文字人，更披掛上陣成為一名文字尖兵。三年多的筆耕，造就冰光姊成為一位多產婆婆，文章刊登於許多刊物。冰光姊說，從前受了許多的苦難，現在更該看得開了，無牽無掛地專心用寫作事奉上帝。若說苦難是傳道人事奉的本錢，那麼苦難也必定是作家豐富作品的文源。冰光姊不但是有使命的作者，更是一位有超然生命的作者，她將各處寄來的稿費，全數捐進了「真愛」的庫房。當我聽說她的作為時，我明白自己欽佩她的原因了。一位作家孤獨面對自己的書桌，是自己選擇的路，而當一位作家不為自己留下一樣好處，卻是自己活出的生命。能夠請到冰光姊吃飯，是我的榮幸。能夠向一位不平凡的生命致敬，是一件有意義的事。再說一次：「冰光姊，我向妳致敬。」

writing down notes. Her explanation was that she was getting old and couldn't rely on just her brain anymore; if she didn't write things down, she would forget them. I watched Bing Guang as she scribbled furiously, and a thought suddenly occurred to me. I said to her, "Sister Bing Guang, with a name like Bing Guang (Shining Ice), you wouldn't need to use a pseudonym as an author! Bing Guang would be a perfect pseudonym!" She told me that she in fact sometimes did submit articles for publication under her own name "Bing Guang", but she also used many other pseudonyms as well. I was taken aback; she was actually an author!

Bing Guang was already an author that I greatly admired – the funny thing is, I hadn't read any of her work yet! A writer's life says more than his or her work. Professor C.T. Hsia said, "Any author without deep passions for life and a unique perspective is not worth looking up to." This was exactly how I viewed Sister Bing Guang. I wondered what power would pull such a woman, at a grandmother's age and without a husband, out of the easy comfort of an armchair and into the battlefield of writing. Not only did Bing Guang see herself as a person of letters, she participated as an active soldier in the field. After three years of plowing industriously with her pen, Bing Guang had become a very prolific grandmother and harvested many articles in various publications. Sister Bing Guang said that she had her share of suffering in life, but the suffering had only helped to make

不平凡的遊記

先生笑著說：「妳的遊記怎麼不記景物，記的全是吃飯，我看應該改名為『飯局大全』。」我一把搶回我的寶貝文章，「不給你看了。」一面將我堂堂皇皇的理由推出：第一，山川景物是上帝的傑作，縱使我有生花妙筆，也難再添一分姿色；第二，文章是寫給人看的，至少是寫給自己看的，所以跟人、跟我有關係的，才能引起我的興趣；第三，這次旅遊的主題是「平凡中的不平凡」，吃飯，人人要吃、天天要吃、餐餐要吃，還有什麼比吃飯更平凡的嗎？「說得好，輸妳。」「當然是你輸囉！」「這點我在娶妳那天就知道了，不然妳以為我那句在教會中流行的話是怎麼來的？」想到那句被我收集在「閻凱毅名言錄」裡的句子，不由得笑了起來。有次與教會一位弟兄不期而遇，他興奮地告訴我，前一晚當他剛開始與太太有些不對勁，就想到先生的那句話，馬上鳴金收兵，因而免去了一場無謂的爭執。

everything seem easy to her now. She felt no strain and no worry, and used her writing to serve God. If tribulations are the capital upon which missionaries trade, then tribulations must also be the wellspring of an author's words. Bing Guang was not only an author with a mission, she was a singular and exceptional author with a mission – she dedicated all her writer's revenues to the vault of Family Keepers International. When I learned of her actions, I understood the reason that I was immediately drawn to her. To sit in front of a lonesome desk and commit to the act of writing demonstrates a powerful will; to give up every good that comes from that writing demonstrates a powerful life. Treating Sister Bing Guang to dinner was my honor; saluting her extraordinary life was my “meaningful something.” I want to say again, very clearly: Sister Bing Guang, I salute you.

An Extraordinary Journal

My husband asked me why my journal of our travel program had so little mention of the trip, and was dedicated almost entirely to the food we ate; he suggested that I change the title of it to “A Complete Working Collection On Vacation Foods.” I snatched my precious writings back and sniffed, “You're not allowed to read any further!” I addressed him imperiously with my argument: “First of all, the scenery is God's masterpiece. I could never write about it beautifully enough to capture the beauty of a single flower. Second of all, my writing

先生的名言是如此說的：「寧可讓太太得勝，也不可讓魔鬼得勝。」我想若是每一位作丈夫的都擁有此言，家裡的爭吵肯定減半；若是妻子也能做到「寧可讓丈夫得勝，也不讓魔鬼得勝」，可能就會像我們家一樣，西線無戰事，時時享平安。

is meant to be read by me, so I only write about what interests me. Third, the thesis of this program was ‘The Extraordinary Amidst the Ordinary’ – eating food is something that everyone faces at every meal, every day. Is there anything more ordinary than that?” “Well-said. I forfeit,” replied my husband. I said, “Well, of course. You have to forfeit to me!” He answered, “That’s something I knew the day I married you. How else do you think I coined my popular saying at the church that day?” I recalled the words that I had bookmarked in my mental collection of “Kai-i’s Famous Sayings” and started to laugh. It truly was famous – one time, I had even been approached by a brother in the church who told me very excitedly that he had been on the cusp of a quarrel with his wife the night before, but when he used Kai-i’s “famous saying,” the battle quickly dissipated and everything worked out just fine...

My husband’s famous saying: “I’d rather let my wife win than let the devil win.” I think that if all husbands kept these words in their hearts, troubles at home would surely fall by at least fifty percent. If wives could also follow the words, “I’d rather let my husband win than the devil win,” then maybe all families would be like ours, with no war at the front lines and peace all the time.

「還是我讓你得勝的多些。」不甘心地向先生追了一句。先生站起來，擁著我向外走，「對對對，妳說得都對，走吧，我們去『真愛』拿東西。」是真心、是哄我，總之，我得勝了二十年。但是，真正的贏家卻是他，先生成功地讓我樂於作他的妻子，並且認定自己是個幸福的女人。無庸置疑地，這是我最好的結婚禮物。

不平凡的人生觀

走出「真愛」的辦公室，先生一手牽著我，一手拿著黃色的文件袋，那是出遊前，拜託葉高芳會長保管的遺囑。多年來，只要我們夫妻同時坐飛機、出遠門，先生一定花時間，將我們所擁有的資產重新清點，做好分配，寫在遺囑裡，然後預備幾份，分置在不同的地方。如此做是預防萬一發生意外，在我們自己榮歸天家的同時，孩子能得著妥善的照顧，而我們所愛的教會和福音機構，也能得著我們最後一筆的捐款。這一次天父照常與我們同遊後又領我們平安地回家，我們就繼續好好生活，努力工作，忠心服事，盡心享受每一個太陽底下的日子。先生是個普通人，我是個平凡人，在普通又平凡裡，天父卻賦予我們不平凡的人生態度——「……活著就是基督，……死了就有益處」²。

“I still let you win more often than you let me!” I said playfully to get the last word. My husband stood up, put his arm around me, and walked with me outside saying, “Right, right, right you are. Everything you said is right. Now let’s go pick up our things.” Maybe he meant it, or maybe he was just indulging me; in any case, I had been “winning” for twenty years. The true winner, though, is my husband. He’s successfully made me feel blissfully lucky to be his wife – this is undoubtedly my greatest anniversary gift year after year.

An Exceptional Perspective

As we walked out of the Family Keepers office, my husband held my hand with one of his, and with his other hand he held the brown manila envelope containing our will, which had been entrusted to Pastor Joshua Yeh in our absence. For many years now, my husband has had a habit of carrying out a particular routine each time the two of us get on a plane together or travel far from home together. He takes time to go over all of the family assets – recalculating them, assigning them, and updating them in our will – and then he prepares a few copies of the will to be kept safely in different places. He does this to ensure that, if misfortune should befall us and we leave this world, our daughters will be taken care of and our beloved organizations will receive our final donations. On this trip, God traveled with us and led us safely home again, so we would continue to live

不平凡的約定

先生為我打開車門，正預備上車時，不期然地瞥見腳上桃紅、粉紅相間的鞋子，於是我撒嬌地跟先生說：「下一個二十年的結婚紀念日，我還是用粉紅色來打扮好不好？」先生聰明地答道：「好啊！妳怎麼打扮都好看！」「好看？」我似乎看見雞皮鶴髮卻簇擁一團粉紅的自己，嗯……我又啞然失笑了。還能說什麼呢？就當它是個不平凡的約定吧！

well, work hard, serve faithfully, and fully enjoy every new day we had under the sun. My husband is a common man and I'm a common woman, but for all our ordinariness, God's given us an extraordinary perspective: "...to live is Christ and to die is gain."²

An Extraordinary Appointment

As my husband opened the car door for me, I happened to glance down at my pink and fuchsia shoes. Teasingly, I told him, "I'm going to dress in pink again on our next twentieth anniversary." My husband wisely answered, "Sure, you'll look good however you dress!" "Good?" I echoed. I tried to imagine myself in another twenty years, with wrinkled skin and hair as white as a crane, clutching a giant pile of pink. Hmm... I smiled secretly to myself again. What else could I say? I'll just look forward to our extraordinary appointment!



祝福等你拿



Blessings for the Taking

1. 本文讓我們看見，夫妻二人輕鬆、有趣，培養愛情的一次旅遊。你是否願意排除萬難，安排這樣一段美好的時光？你是否有類似的經驗？請分享。
2. 本文特別提到「身後規劃」的必要性。你是否同意：盡責的父母，應該預先做好財產規劃——包括（給上帝的和給他人的）身後規劃？
3. 不論是山川景物、飛鳥游魚、人際互動，甚至日常飲食……，透過感恩的態度和用心的觀察，作者都看見其中不平凡的內涵。在你平常的生活中，是否也看見不平凡的一面？請分享。
4. 請分享你曾有何「巧思」與「創意」，為生活增添了不平凡的色彩。

1. This article describes the lighthearted, interesting, and nourishing travels of the author and her husband. Are you willing to push past all difficulties to arrange a special time like this? Have you had a similar experience? Please share with the group.
2. The article specifically mentions the necessity of estate planning and preparing a will. Do you agree that responsible parents should arrange their assets early on – including estate planning for God and for their loved ones?
3. Whether in observing the scenery or the surroundings, the birds of the air or the beasts of the ground, the relationships between people, or even the food that they ate, the author used a grateful heart and a keen eye to see the extraordinary nature in everything. In your ordinary life, do you also see the extraordinary? Please share with the group.
4. Have you ever used any clever or creative thinking to add a tint of “extraordinary” color to your life? Please share with the group.

第七章 銀星徽章

“Let go and let God……”（「放手，讓上帝做……」）曉玫站在臺上，正娓娓細訴著，創作這首歌是因為有一天她和女兒發生爭執，兩相不讓的情況下，有人離家出走，但出走的人不是女兒而是母親。她漫無目的開了許久的車，終於停在路邊，禱告祈求天父的幫助，慈愛的天父及時賜下了安慰，也賜下了一首美妙的歌。

臺下的觀眾聚精會神地聽著，在這數百人中的我，是觀眾、是捧場者、也是她的老朋友。想我們相識時，都還是大腹便便才要初為人母的少婦，如今孩子們都已十幾、二十了。老朋友評好，主要是出於兩種原因，一種是沒理由的「好就是好」，誰叫她是我的朋友哩！另一種是因為認識的

7. A Silver Star Badge

“Let go and let God...” Amy stood on stage and explained to the audience why she had written this song. She had been quarreling with her daughter. Neither side was willing to compromise and, eventually, Amy was so furious that she was the one who ran away from home. She drove aimlessly for long time before she finally pulled over on the side of the road and began to pray, asking the Heavenly Father for help. The loving Lord was there right when she needed Him, and He had provided both consolation and this beautiful song for her.

The audience below listened to Amy with their full attention. In the crowd of hundreds, I stood there not only as an audience member, but also as Amy's cheerleader and one of her oldest friends. When Amy and I first met, we were both still waddling around with bellies the size of watermelons, waiting for our unborn children to join us in this world; the time had

時日長，相知甚深，對底子裡的斤兩看得中肯——我可是兩種情結都有哦！

這是一場與眾不同的演唱會，曉玫以柔美的歌聲唱出一首首她自己譜寫的歌曲，中間不時插入創作的原由，將背景帶到現場。有些引發她創作的主角，更上臺親口說出自己的故事。

淳悅勇敢地見證如何力挽狂瀾拯救自己的家，為了三個孩子，在賭城的街道上中，穿街過巷，尋尋覓覓，為要找回沉迷其中的丈夫。往事歷歷，主恩綿綿，現在他們的家成為許多人的祝福。

flown by and our daughters were now in their late teens, almost ready for adulthood. Old friends speak well of each other for two reasons. For one, all friends see each other the best light possible. Old friends, though, have also seen each other in much dimmer light and even in darkness over their years together, and they can weigh each other's characters with an impartial eye. I deeply felt both of these bonds with Amy.

Amy's concert was unlike most other concerts. She sweetly sang song after song that she had written herself, and often interjected with stories explaining the origin of each song and bringing the background to light. Sometimes, when her songs had been inspired by the stories of others, she would have her sources of inspiration come on stage to share their own stories.

I watched as Catherine bravely went on stage and shared how she had defended her family when – for the sake of her three children – she had searched the streets of Las Vegas for her lost husband, looking in casino after casino, for the man who couldn't save himself from the mire of his addiction. The memories played out before us as Catherine recounted her past. The grace of God never ceased to rescue them again and again, and their family's story was now a blessing that helped countless others.

載衡在淚水中述說失去獨生愛子的傷慟，在死蔭幽谷中，從天父來的安慰帶領她走過流淚谷，如今她已能泰然地以上帝所賜的安慰，去安慰與她有相同經歷的人。

小慧真誠地陳述，從「無語問蒼天」到「完全依靠上帝」，是一條天父用恩典鋪展的道路，引領她帶大了兩個出色的孩子，完成丈夫的遺願，也活出了自己。

真實的見證最能感動人心，何況她們都是我所熟識的好姊妹，更易牽動我心深處的情懷。

Florence, through her tears, told the audience of the pain she felt when she lost her only son. In the valley of the shadow of death, the Lord's comfort helped her walk past the deepest vale of tears. Today, she openly used that same comfort the Lord had given her to help others in like suffering.

Natalie sincerely told us all about her journey after her husband passed away, from asking the heavens "Why?" in despair to fully leaning on God; it was a road paved by the grace of the Heavenly Father. Along the road, she had raised two exceptional children and fulfilled her husband's last wishes, and she had also lived her own life abundantly.

A genuine testimony inevitably tugs at one's heartstrings. These testimonies were not only genuine, they were the testimonies of women who were all my sisters in Christ, and whom I'd long known; my heart was completely captured and hauled away by each of their stories.

是誰說的呢？「上帝就是愛，祂的愛太多，所以就造了母親來成為祂的愛的代言人。」可不是嗎！母親的雙眼盯著自己的寶貝，從滿地爬行、蹣跚學步，直到舉步艱困，扶杖而行，母親的眼不曾移開，是因母親的心不曾移開。孩子不需要以傑出和成就才能得著母親的心，在母親與孩子這個相對的關係中，孩子就是以「孩子」的地位，來佔據母親的心；不論長到多大、活到多老，在母親的眼裡永遠都是孩子，是她掛念一生的對象。甚至在母親彌留的眼光中，那渙散的眼神至終仍會落在孩子的身上，母親那愛到底的愛，是那樣專注、那樣絕對。

在好友費雯的身上，我還看到愛是那樣忘我。費雯是個高挑、美麗又能幹的單親媽媽，大兒子正值叛逆的青春期的，常常放學後在外遊蕩不回家，費雯就拖拉著小兒子滿街尋人。她也真神通廣大，在偌大的城裡就是能找到她的兒子。她常對我說，這個時代作母親已經不容易了，她既要作母親，又要作父親，真是太難了。

It's been said that God is love and His love is so great that He had to create mothers to be the representatives of His love. Isn't it so? A mother's eyes are concentrated solely on her children from when they start crawling about the house until they're taking their first steps on wobbly legs, and even until their footsteps are slowed by age. A mother's eyes never stray from her children because her heart never strays from her children. Children don't need to win their mother's hearts through achievement; in the relationship between mother and child, the child has already won their mother's heart by simply occupying the position of "child." No matter how big they grow or how old they become, children are eternally children in their mother's eyes. They're the subject of a lifetime of fretting and worrying – even in a mother's final days, she will still focus all of her fading sight upon her children. A mother's love – a love made to last until the very end – is focused and absolute.

In my friend Alice, I also see that a mother's love is a self-forgetting love. Alice is a tall, beautiful, and highly competent single mom. When her older son went through his rebellious teenager phase, he would often wander the streets after school and refuse to go home. With her younger son in tow, Alice would zealously search the streets for him. She really is very capable – in a sprawling city, she always managed to find her son and bring him home. She often said to me that being a mother in this day and age is already hard enough – being both a mother and a father was too much.

費雯的胸頸之間長了腫瘤，住院切除。出院時，我去接她，才扶她上車坐好，虛弱的費雯就問，可不可以先送她去她大兒子的學校。

「妳回家休息吧！我去就好了！」

「不行，妳堵不住他的！」

堅定的語音透著堅定的決心。我將車停在學校正門口的對街處，車頭正對著學校大門。此時的費雯哪像個病人，簡直就像叢林裡最兇猛的老虎，全神貫注地注視獵物，對於我說的話，她恍恍惚惚地應著，其實是聽而不聞。突然，她跳起來推門飛奔而去，我從驚嚇中回過神來，才想她是看到她的寶貝兒子了。遠遠望著費雯領著那個令她牽腸掛肚的少年人走來，新包紮的傷口那麼明顯，像是在宣告費雯身上的每一個細胞都是為救愛子而活的。費雯的胸頸之間那個明顯的疤痕，是一個美麗的疤痕，它的美麗是因為它是一個記號，一個「忘我」的記號，一個刻在天地之間不能磨滅的記號。

At some point, Alice developed a tumor on her chest and was hospitalized for surgery. I picked her up from the hospital the day she was released. She was still very feeble and fragile in her recovery, but we had barely gotten her into the car when she asked if, instead of taking her home, I might take her to her son's school.

“You really need to go home and rest. I will gladly go pick him up on my own.”

“No! You won't be able to handle him.”

Her insistent tone showed her resolution. Finally, I relented and, upon reaching the school, I parked the car across the street with the front of the car facing the main gate. The Alice sitting next to me was no fragile hospital release. She was like some wild and fierce jungle cat, her gaze alert and unwavering as she waited to pounce upon her prey. She seemed to hear almost nothing of our conversation, and only occasionally made some half-hearted attempts at passable responses. Suddenly, she leapt up, threw the door open forcefully, and flew out of the car. Only after I recovered from my initial shock did I realize that she must have seen her son. I watched Alice in the distance, walking towards the car alongside that young man she treasured with her whole heart. That newly bandaged surgery wound was

想到「忘我」的費雯，不能不想「無我」的碧雲。

碧雲是她的名字。看到碧雲，總是引起心裡一陣疼，疼她的遭遇、疼她的無奈、也疼她的好。

「我是天空裡的一片雲，偶爾投影在你的波心……」

unmistakable upon her chest; it seemed to declare that every single cell in Alice's body lived for the sake of saving her son. The scar upon Alice's chest, still visible now, is a beautiful scar. It's beautiful because it's a mark of self-forgetfulness – a mark that nothing between heaven and earth can erase.

I can't think of self-forgetting Alice without thinking also of self-sacrificing Bi-Yung.

Bi-Yung ("Jade Cloud") – seeing her strikes such empathy in me. I feel so much distress on her behalf: distress for the events that have happened in her life, for her long-suffering forbearance, and for her simple heart.

"I'm only a cloud floating through the sky, passingly casting my shadow upon the lake of your heart." (Chinese poem)

碧雲的先生像詩句的描述一樣，投影在碧雲的波心，他走的時候，也像詩句描述的一樣，「我揮一揮衣袖，不帶走一片雲彩」。

詩文的藝術性放在真實的生活裡卻是這麼苦澀難嚥，碧雲的先生在外有了他認為更好的際遇，輕輕易易地走出了她的生命之外，往昔的美滿家庭不復存在。碧雲成了一個人，分租人家一間房居住，自己打工養活自己。除了逢年過節暫作教會某家弟兄姊妹的家人外，「孤意在眉，深情在睫」的碧雲，總是孤孤單單地來去，安安靜靜地度日。「孤意」我能明白，但「深情」呢？在她密睫下的眼眸裡，究竟望到了什麼？

Bi-Yung's husband was just like the cloud in the poem: He was a cloud that had indifferently cast his shadow upon Bi-Yung's heart. When he left, he also stayed true to the poem's cloud: "With a shake of my sleeve, I leave behind all of the cloud's sunset colors."

Poetry might have a sweet lull to its music, but sometimes its music is harsh when applied to real life. Bi-Yung's husband had found someone that he fancied was a better option, and he had walked out of Bi-Yung's life without a second thought. The life and the home that they once shared ceased to exist. Bi-Yung rented a single room in someone else's house, and worked hard to sustain herself. Aside from the New Year holidays, when certain members of the church would adopt her temporarily as family in their festivities, Bi-Yung – with "hardship written on her brow, yet affection written in her eyes" – came and went as a lonely unit of one, living out her days in quiet solitude. Hardship, I could understand, but where did this affection come from? What did she see through those eyes?

直到那天我從她的口裡聽出了端倪：「孩子的爸，還算不錯，肯花錢、花時間，送孩子學些額外的才藝……孩子會的東西多，將來多點出頭的機會。」她雲淡風輕地說著，我卻為之語塞。忽然間，為她的義憤、不平、同情、嘆息，甚至陪她流的眼淚都顯得俗了。這個母親深情的眼裡望著，是孩子明天的成就。

她使我想起聖經裡的一個故事：有兩個同住在一起的婦人各生了一個孩子，夜裡有一個孩子死了，於是兩個婦人都爭那一個活的是自己的孩子。事情告到所羅門王那裡，智慧的王立即吩咐僕人將嬰兒劈為兩半，一個婦人得一半。假母親不在乎孩子的死活，真母親卻為孩子心裡焦急，連忙阻止，只要能讓孩子好好活著，即使要和自己分離歸於別人，她也能承受椎心之痛而忍氣吞聲。藉此，所羅門王辨認出誰是真正的母親。真母親就是真母親，為了孩子的益處，總是無怨尤地犧牲自己，所羅門王沒有錯判，天上的父神當然更不會錯判。浮雲飄去後，留下的不是詩一樣的惆悵而是撤不去的青天呀！青天上鑄刻著天父永恆的話：「婦人焉能忘記她吃奶的嬰孩，不憐恤她所生的兒子？即或有忘記的，我卻不忘記你。」¹碧雲，妳聽到了嗎？

And then one day, I had a revelation through what she said to me. She said, “The children’s father is a pretty good father. He’s willing to spend his time and his money on sending them to extracurricular classes and activities...the more the children learn, the better their chances are at getting ahead in life.” She spoke the words so lightly, yet I fell speechless. All of sudden, the righteous anger I felt on her behalf, the sympathy, the sighs, even the tears I had shed with her – they all seemed so base. In the affectionate eyes of a mother, the only thing that Bi-Yung saw was the achievement written in her children’s future.

Bi-Yung reminds me of a story from the Bible. Two women who lived in the same house each gave birth to a child within days of one another. In the night, one of the children died, and when morning came, the women fought over the living child. Each woman claimed that the child was her own, and the dilemma was brought before King Solomon. The king, in his wisdom, ordered that a sword be brought to him, and that the child be cut in half so that each woman could keep half of the child. The false mother cared not about whether the child lived or died; the true mother of the child, however, was panic-stricken with fear for the child and stopped the king. As long as the child would be able to live and live well, the mother would be able to bear the knife in her heart of giving him up and swallow her pain. Through this, King Solomon was able to recognize which mother was the true mother. A true mother will always shine through as

音樂會圓滿結束了，而我卻像是參加了一場心靈的盛宴，想到這些為女雖弱，為母則強的好姊妹們，想到天下人間那些堅守崗位辛勤持家的母親們，真想頒一個舉世超大的獎給她們，嗯！若是能……。

今夜，我將借上帝的慷慨，將滿天的繁星一一寫上名字，別在每一位母親的衣襟，像一枚「銀星徽章」，皎潔銀亮的星光正配得上自古吟唱的母愛。

true: for the benefit of her child, she can wholly sacrifice herself without complaint. King Solomon made no error in judgment – how much more right is God in His judgment? The floating cloud leaves behind not the apprehension and disappointment of the poem, but rather an endless and irremovable blue sky. Upon this sky is engraved the eternal Word of the Heavenly Father: “*Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!*”¹ Bi-Yung, mark these words.

Amy’s concert went off splendidly without a hitch, and I left feeling like I had attended a wonderful spiritual banquet. When I think of these sisters of mine – a bit fragile as women, yet fearsomely powerful as mothers – and when I think of all the mothers championing their positions and laboring in love over their families, I want to award them all the world’s biggest badge of honor. If only I could...

Tonight, I’m going to borrow God’s generosity and write a name upon each star in the night sky. I’ll pin one of those stars to every mother’s collar – this badge is a silver star badge. Only the clear bright starlight, as shiny as new silver, is worthy of lauding a mother’s love.

母愛是沒有絕對標準，沒有一定模範可評價的，有的只是在一個相對的關係中絕對的愛，而這個特質，天父早就給了我，我想我也應該得到一枚徽章。抬頭看看星斗，「嗯！就是它，對我眨眼的這顆。」低下頭瞧著自己的胸口，用目光將星星掛上。「嗯，挺美的。」當然，也挺得意的，誰叫我是個母親呢！

上帝的慷慨實在太豐富了，我還想頒獎，怎麼辦？……讓我告訴你後來又繼續上演的故事吧：

回家的路上，我和先生談論作父母的擔子，人人所擔的重量不同，箇中滋味只有當事人知道。我們雖然來不及回到從前去減輕我們父母所擔的重量，但對我們來得及做的，我們是否該做些什麼呢？衡量自己的擔子好像特別輕省，絕不是我們有什麼超人一等的智慧，或是特殊的教育方法，實在是孩子自己好，使我們作父母的路容易走，於是我們決定回家後，要做一件我們有生以來從未做過的事。

There's no absolute standard or norm for a mother's love. The only absolute in the relationship between a mother and her child is the love itself, which is an absolute love. This is a unique essence to a mother's love. It's an essence that I myself have experienced a long time; in fact, I think I deserve a badge myself! I raise my head up and take a look at the sky. Yes, I think I'll take that one – that one right there twinkling at me. Lowering my head, I look down at my chest. I use my imagination and pin that twinkling star upon my jacket. I think I look rather beautiful with it shining there. Of course, I probably look rather gleeful too. I can't help but be delighted with myself – I'm a mother, after all!

God's generosity is just too plentiful; I still want to give out more awards! What should I do? Well, let me tell you how the story continues.

On the way home from the concert, my husband and I discussed the weighty load of being a parent. Every parent's burdens are different; only those who are in the storm know what the storm feels like. We were already too late to return to the past and reduce the burdens we had placed upon our own parents, but what could we do to affect the future? Weighed against the experiences of others, our own journey through parenthood seemed to be fairly easy and uncomplicated. It wasn't that we held some secret wisdom over other parents, or used special

兩個女兒也參加了演唱會，只是她們隨著曉玫的女兒坐在臺前，搖著霓虹棒吆喝吶喊，給阿姨造勢。兩姊妹先我們一步到家，正在廚房裡鏗鏘鏘鏘舞鍋弄鏟地做宵夜呢。我和先生照著先前的約定，手牽手來到孩子面前，我一隻手扳過女兒的肩，一面要她們暫停手中的事物。兩姊妹滿臉狐疑地並肩站立，只見我們滿面笑容，向她們深深一鞠躬，由衷謝謝她們，謝謝她們是這樣聽話順服的孩子，謝謝她們把自己管得這麼好，更謝謝她們成為我們的喜樂。然後將她們擁入懷中，又親又吻她們甜美的臉頰。女兒笑了，笑得像盛開的花一般，在如此燦爛的笑容裡，我的心被融化了，我知道今晚我在她們「愛的帳戶」裡，又存了一筆大存款。比起美味的宵夜，應該更令人飽足吧！

techniques in educating our children; we simply had very good daughters who had made the journey of parenting an easier walk. We decided that, once we returned home, we would do something we had never in our lives done before.

Our two daughters had also attended the concert, but had stationed themselves with Amy's daughter right in front of the stage, waving neon glow sticks and starting up rousing cheers. The two girls must have left a step ahead of us, because we arrived home to find them banging around in the kitchen, pots and pans flying about as they attempted to prepare a midnight snack. My husband and I, in accordance with our new agreement, came before our daughters hand-in-hand. I placed a hand on the shoulder of my older daughter and turned her around. Both girls looked at us, and we bid them stop what they were doing and listen to what we had to say with their full attention. The two girls stood side by side and looked at us hesitantly, unsure what to expect. They were met with our huge smiles as my husband and I, still holding hands, bowed deeply before them and wholeheartedly thanked them – we thanked them for being such obedient and respectful daughters, for taking such good care of themselves, and for being our joy. As I pulled the girls into my embrace, I kissed their sweet faces again and again. The girls smiled at us, their smiles blooming like vibrant flowers. My heart melted in the glow of those bright smiles. I knew that their father and I had just made another big deposit in their account of love.

上樓時，大女兒帶笑的聲音追了一句什麼，沒聽清楚，我站在樓梯的轉折處等她再說一次。這次，兩個女兒以既甜蜜又頑皮的聲音齊聲喊著說：「媽咪，謝謝妳沒有離家出走。」我楞了半响，回頭看看送我上來的樓梯，又抬頭看看我將拾階而上的樓梯；一時層層疊疊，幻化成隨步揚音的「響躡樓」，為世世代代生命的傳承作樂，頌唱：「母親，謝謝妳，沒有離家出走。」

親愛的母親們，今夜不妨仰頭看看群星，為自己別上一枚「銀星徽章」吧！

The feeling I got was more filling and more satisfying than any delicious midnight snack could be.

As my husband and I climbed the stairs up to bed later that night, my older daughter's laughter and her voice trailed after us. She said something that I didn't quite catch, so I stood on the landing and waited for her to repeat her words. This time, both daughters sweetly and playfully yelled out in unison, "Mom, thank you for not running away from home!" I was surprised for a second. I looked back down at the stairs below me that I had already climbed, and then up at the stairs that stretched out before me. One layer stacked upon another, the stairs seemed to transform before my eyes into the Stairway of Xiang Xie; each step rang out with never-ending music that transposed wisdom, life, and learning from one generation to the next. The music tonight played out, "Mom, thank you for not running away from home."

Dear mothers, why not lift all your faces up to the sky tonight and take a look at the stars? You should find your very own well-deserved silver star badge.



祝福等你拿

1. 為什麼作者說：「……將滿天的繁星一一寫上名字，別在每一位母親的衣襟，像一枚銀星徽章……。」？妳是否看見自己身為母親的價值？更看見自己在上帝眼中的價值？請分享。
2. 為了謝謝兩個女兒，作者和丈夫採取什麼令女兒驚訝的行動？想想看，你對自己的兒女和親人，有哪些可以採取的行動，表示你對他們的謝意？請分享。
3. 身為兒女，你是否願意盡快去和父母說聲「謝謝你」和「我愛你」？



Blessings for the Taking

1. The author says in the article that she wishes to “write a name upon each star in the night sky. I’ll pin one of these stars to every mother’s collar – this badge is a silver star badge.” Why does she say this? What is your value as a mother in your own eyes? What about your value as a mother in God’s eyes? Please share with the group.
2. What surprising action did the author and her husband take to thank (and unintentionally shock) their daughters? Think about your own children and your loved ones – what actions could you take to demonstrate your appreciation for them? Please share with the group.
3. As a child, are you willing to go to your parents as soon as possible and tell them both “thank you” and “I love you”?



我剛到新家的時候。

第八章 愛的禮物

我來到新家時才兩個月大，那天新爹地帶著我認識環境，在一片綠意盎然的草地上，我忙著辨識各種氣味。乍見旁邊一湖藍藍的波動，其上似乎有千萬條金光閃閃的小魚在穿梭踴躍；又像是成群結隊，頭戴金絲，身穿彩衣的蝴蝶在婆娑起舞。究竟是什麼呢？好奇心一起，頭腦馬上不管用了，想也沒想，我就以疾箭飛馳的方式穿過四圍的障地，炸彈開花似地撲了進去，隨著高高四濺的水花，「哇！是水！」我隨著自然的本能，將已沉入水底的身體浮上水面。但是，「咚」的一聲，一個更大的炸彈投入水裡，激起了更高更大的水花。待一切都沉寂後，只見我的新爹地雙手叉腰，怒目瞪著我，新媽咪則在旁邊忙著處理濕答答的眼鏡、手錶、領帶、襯衫、西褲、皮夾……。而我的好日子，我的磨難，一切就從此開始。



When I first arrived at my new home.

8.A Gift of Love

When I arrived at my new home, I was only two months old. My first day, my new dad took me around to make me comfortable with my new surroundings. By the time we reached the first expanse of lush green grass, I found myself terribly busy picking up all the nuances of the various smells around me. Next to me, there was another giant expanse of some sort, with waves of blue rolling back and forth. On its surface, there seemed to be thousands of tiny silver fish that caught the light as they darted back and forth, up and down, moving as the blue moved. Oh, the blue expanse had so many colors too – it looked as if there were schools and schools of butterflies, wearing their silver antennae upon their heads and their rainbow-colored coats, dancing softly upon the blue. What could it possibly be? My curiosity aroused, I stopped thinking and made a mad dash towards it, as if I were flying through enemy fire on a battlefield, and propelled myself into it like a cannonball. A giant splash of water exploded up around me (oh, it's water!). Being a dog, I just relied on my

有人奮不顧身地救我，預告了這是一個有愛的家庭，吃香喝辣的好日子，當然少不了我的份。至於磨難呢？其實怪不得別人，只能說我自己愛「現」。事情是這樣的，自從我表演過標準的狗爬式泳技後，就很榮譽地被選入了閻氏游泳隊，我的教練就是那個怒目瞪我的人——我的新爹地。對我第一天進家門就給他一個下馬威，他還以顏色地以奧林匹克運動員的方式訓練我，隨著他的手「這邊」、「那邊」地指，我也奮力「這邊」、「那邊」地游；男子100公尺、男子200公尺、男子400公尺……，就這麼訓練出來了。接著，我的教練又發現我有跳水的天分，於是在平常的訓練外又加入了平臺跳水、低臺跳水、高臺跳水。最近的訓練是「花式跳水」，只不過不是我跳水的姿態花式，而是我跳水的高臺是花式的。我無意中發現，只要我好好地游，等到游得差不多的時候，主動登上那美輪美奐的瀑布頂端，然後縱身一躍，游回岸邊，這主動又出色的表現，往往能使教練貴手高抬，不再出難題，而讓我梳洗乾淨，躺在涼椅上享受南加州的陽光。當然每次都有好吃的零食作為我的獎品。另一項額外的獎賞則是頒給我“Starter”（「先發者」）的榮銜。Starter是比賽時最先派上場的選手，需要有威震四方的大將之風。我和小姊姊暗中較勁，看是她先成為學校網球隊的Starter，還是我先得著游泳隊的Starter資格。這一份共同努

natural abilities to float up to the surface of the water, but right as I got there, I heard a PLUNK! And there was a second cannonball falling into the water beside me and causing an even bigger splash than my own. Once all the commotion settled down, I found myself sitting across from my new dad, who stood with his hands on his hips and stared down at me crossly with displeasure. My new mom was fluttering about, hurriedly attempting to dry a sodden pair of trousers and a soaked dress shirt, along with a pair of eyeglasses, a watch, a tie, and a wallet. And that, my friends, was the beginning of both my golden days and my days of trial.

I now knew that I had a family where someone would instantaneously jump to my rescue – that day was a forecast of the good days ahead, and I certainly did have a big ol’ share of merriment and the good life. As for my “days of trial,” well, I really don’t have anyone to blame but myself and my penchant for showing off. It’s like this: since I’d so eagerly displayed my perfect doggy-paddle technique, I was given the great honor of invitation to the family swim team. My trainer was none other than that scowling old man – my new pop. Since I’d bullied him that first day I arrived, he decided to return the favor and train me with a regimen that should be reserved for Olympic athletes. When he pointed here, I valiantly swam here; when he pointed there, I valiantly swam there. The 100-meter race, the 200-meter, the 400-meter – with all that pointing, I trained until I excelled

力的目標，成為我和她之間最好的默契。

小姊姊也是全家最不會拒絕我撒嬌的人，家裡的禁區，只要有她護航，我都可堂而皇之地進入；她的房間我當成臨時行宮，她的床鋪是我表演賴驢打滾的舞臺，她的懷中我可以賴上半天不動，睡個大大的午覺，而她享受的任何美味，我都是見者有份。小姊姊也是取名字高手，她總喜歡用手指按著我頭頂正中的一個鑽石形狀的點，喊我「一個點點」，而這個點點正是我這種狗的特色。我之所以名貴就在這個點上。除了「一個點點」之外，我還有個正式的可愛名字“Chip”（音：奇普）。講到這個名字可大有學問哩！

at them all. Additionally, my trainer discovered that I had some natural talent for diving, and expanded my training schedule to include exercises in poolside diving, low board diving, and high board diving. The newest addition to the schedule has been fancy diving: my dives haven't gotten any fancier, but my diving platform has! I've discovered that, so long as I put on a show of swimming my daily routine diligently, I can end practice prematurely by climbing onto the pool's beautiful rock waterfall (of my own initiative) and making one grand, showy dive into the swimming pool. My trainer often becomes pleased and distracted by my stunning performance, and I get to sneak out of the pool unnoticed and flatten myself on a cushy lounge chair, where I can bask in the warmth of the California sunshine. There are always delicious snacks awaiting me as my prize. I also always win the prized position of "starter." A starter is the first one of the team chosen to come out in a competition; he or she needs to be as impressive and commanding as a five-star general. I have a hidden rivalry going on with my little Big Sister – we're always competing to see if she first gets to be a starter on her tennis team, or if I first get to be a starter on my swim team. This shared goal between us has become our secret little understanding.

My little Big Sister has always been the family member most willing to coddle me. There are usually lots of forbidden areas around the house, but when she's around, she's like my protective convoy and I get to strut freely wherever I please. Her

第一，你如果聯想到potato chip（洋芋片）那就對了，chip正是家家有、人人愛，這代表了我人見人愛的親和力。最近因我公關做得好，已正式被任命為我們家的外交使節，只要家中來了客人，一定由我迎賓。如果客人是說中文的朋友，我就對他「汪汪！」如果是說英文的，我就對他“Ruff! Ruff!” 怎麼樣，有兩把刷子吧！

room is my summer palace, where I get to vacation for as long as I want, and she lets me use her bed as the stage for my frolicking and my antics. I can crawl into her lap or her arms for hours at a time and take a great, big afternoon nap. Oh! And if she's ever eating anything yummy, I know she won't resist my puppy-dog eyes. My little Big Sister is also the master of picking names. There's a diamond-shaped spot upon the top of my head; she always likes to press down on it and call out in a singsong voice, "Spottie Dottie!" That dot that inspired the name is unique to my breed; it's the reason I'm so valuable. Besides "Spottie Dottie" though, I also have a very cute proper name: "Chip." That name requires a lot more illumination.

First: If you made the connection to "potato chip," you're right. Every home has them, and everyone loves them. It represents my charm and mass appeal with just about everyone. Recently, I've done an especially good job in public relations, so I've been authorized to be the family ambassador. Any time there are guests at the house, I'm the one who receives them. If they're Chinese-speaking guests, I welcome them with "Wong! Wong!" if they're English-speaking guests, I welcome them with "Ruff! Ruff!" That's right, I've got such dazzling talents hidden in both paws. Pretty impressive, right?

第二，我的出生紙上註明我的血統是「查理國王騎士狗」。古代的武士不就是現代的警察嗎？曾經有個電視影集“California Highway Patrol”簡稱“CHIPs”。演兩名加州公路警察，騎著摩托車四處辦案，又酷又帥，堪稱現代騎士。而我的名字就是古代的騎士現代的“CHIP”，很威風吧！

第三，e世代裡人人一臺電腦，電腦中最小最昂貴也最重要的就是「晶片」，而晶片的英文就是chip，這個chip 表明了 my 的特性，很小、很貴、很重要。當然我不能虛有其名，只有全力運作，聯絡每一個人的感情，使這個家不「當機」才好。

聽聽我取名字的典故，就可想而知我有多被寵愛了吧！但是如果你叫我Chip我可能不會理你，因為我的新媽咪認為，「超」可愛的東西一定要加長尾音才夠味。所以，你如果來看我，一定要叫我Chipee（音：奇皮），尾音拉得越長越好，我一定會興奮地向你衝來，熱烈歡迎你。

Second: My birth certificate announces my pedigree – a King Charles Cavalier Spaniel. See that word “cavalier”? I’m the equivalent of a medieval knight, or a modern-day police officer. There was a late seventies sitcom about a couple members of the California Highway Patrol; the show title was abbreviated as “CHIPs.” It followed two motorcycle patrolmen as they went on their daily beats and patrolled the state highway. Cool and good-looking, they’re exactly how I imagine a pair of contemporary cavaliers. My name, in ye olden days, might have been “Cavalier,” but since it’s modern times, my name’s “Chip”! I think the name’s a bit awe-inspiring.

Third: In this generation, every person has a computer. The smallest, most expensive, and most important thing inside a computer is called a “chip.” That chip sums up my uniqueness pretty well: small, expensive, and important. Of course, there’s no meaning in holding an empty title. I work at full capacity every day to live up to my name; I send signals between every part of the family, keep those emotional connections open, and ensure that the system doesn’t shut down.

After hearing all about the origin of my name, you can probably imagine how well-loved I am. If you do come up to me and address me as “Chip” though, there’s a possibility that I might not respond; my new mom thinks that the best way to

作為e世代的狗，難處之一是，每當電話響起，總是幾番掙扎要不要接聽，為了避免以後都是我的事，至今我還未表明有此能力。倒是電視一關，在命令下達之前，我已回房，對於我懂話的程度，大家總投來懷疑的眼光，豈不知這深藏不露又恰到好處的配合，正是我的聰明。

e世代的狗總要跟得上時代，我和大姊姊是最時髦的族群，光以我們打招呼的方式來說吧！真是有夠「炫」。大姊姊是大學生，在家時間比在學校少，除了將我的照片貼在宿舍裡，引來許多豔羨的讚嘆聲外，她難得有機會和我玩。每次回家，她總是高聲又長聲地喊Chipee，然後就像個世界小姐，一面走臺步一面儀態萬千地遠遠招招手，接著就風度優雅地「閃人」了。我的回應之道就是腳踏正步，發出踢踢踏踏的聲響，配上喔喔的嗥鳴，表示歡迎回家。禮畢後，我轉身「閃狗」。她閃人，我閃狗，我們是時髦的「快閃族」。

elevate something from “cute” to “super cute” is to drag out the ending of the word, so you should probably call me “Chipee” when you come to see me. The longer the ending, the better! I would most certainly rush over to you as quick as I could, and welcome you to our home with great gusto.

One of the more harrowing difficulties of being an e-generation dog is dealing with the phone. Every time it rings, I struggle with whether or not I should answer it. I’m afraid that once I pick it up, it’ll always be my responsibility, so I’ve yet to reveal my ability to take calls. On the other hand, I do sometimes let on a little bit about my abilities; when the family turns the TV off each night, I always saunter back to my bed before anyone has a chance to tell me to do so. My language comprehension always leaves my family looking at each other in bewildered astonishment. I’m no braggart, but I do let on just enough to keep them all amazed – it just goes to show how smart I am.

An e-generation dog has to keep up with the times. My big Big Sister and I are part of the progressive crowd – even the way that we greet each other is super hip. My big Big Sister’s in college, so she’s at school more often than she’s at home. Aside from a photo of me that’s taped up in her dorm room to incite the envy of her friends and roommates, she rarely gets to see me. Every time she comes home, she always shouts at the top

識時務者為俊傑，新爹地總是說我搞得清楚是誰的狗，不管新媽咪在哪裡，我就在那裡。這是當然的嘛，雖然一家人我各個都親，但總要搞清楚誰才是主角呀，何況新媽咪總是誇我表現得好，讓她更明白主耶穌說：「我在哪裡，服事我的人也要在那裡。」¹的道理。每當我用那寶石般的大眼睛盯著新媽咪繞，新媽咪就會溫柔地說：「Chipee呀！你這麼專注地仰望，使人想起詩人的話說：『看哪，僕人的眼睛怎樣望主人的手，使女的眼睛怎樣望主母的手，我們的眼睛也照樣望耶和華——我們的神，直到祂憐憫我們。』²」

of her lungs, “Chipppppeeeeeeeee!!” and like she’s walking on a catwalk, she strikes a variety of poses as she waves at me. Gracefully, she’ll disappear in a flash, as quickly as she appeared. I always respond to her greeting by cantering in place excitedly, beating out a salute with the “tip tap tip tap” of my feet as I yowl along to welcome her home. Once my salute’s complete, I turn and scamper off in a flash as well. She disappears and I disappear; we greet each other like we’re part of a cool, secret flash mob.

I’ve been cunning in measuring my surroundings though – I know who’s boss. My new dad always says that I’ve cleverly figured out whose dog I really am. No matter where my new mom is, I always follow right alongside her. I mean, of course, I’m very close with all my family, but I know she’s the main player. My mom always tells me that I’m doing a great job, because my behavior helps her understand God’s Word better: “*Where I am, my servant also will be.*”¹ Whenever I look up at my new mom with my big gemstone eyes, my mom always tenderly says to me, “Oh Chipee, the way you look up so attentively reminds me of what the poets have written: ‘*As the eyes of slaves look to the hand of their master; as the eyes of a maid look to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till he shows us his mercy.*’²”

新媽咪的手比她的聲音更溫柔，每星期四或節日，她都會親手替我洗澡、刷毛、修指甲、清耳朵。房間有新換的床單、新鮮的水，還有一大塊香蜜蛋糕等著我，狗生如此，夫復何求！我的朋友暹羅貓就不懂這個道理，常「神氣活現地」要人伺候牠，殊不知寵物的「寵」字，其妙無窮呀！

我和新媽咪之間共同守著一份祕密，就是我需要盡其所能地完成我的任務。「寵物也能有任務嗎？」當然囉！寵物的任務就是要被寵，但可不是一般性的寵哦，是寵你寵到他打破自己的規則。「喔！失寵的時候怎麼辦？」失寵的時候，就用聖經的話提醒他：「義人顧惜他牲畜的命。」³ 這樣就算不得寵，也不至於被虐待囉！

My new mom's hand is even gentler than her voice. Every Thursday, and every holiday, she gives me a bath with her own hands, trims my fur, cuts my nails, and cleans my ears; when I return to my room, there's always clean bedding, fresh water, and a big piece of cake for me. If this is a dog's life, what more could I ask for? My friend the Siamese cat doesn't understand this philosophy at all; she requires with haughtiness and a cold disposition that people attend to her needs, but she doesn't understand the best part of being a pet is the pampering.

My new mom and I share a secret: we both know it's imperative that I try my absolute hardest to accomplish my missions. You might be wondering, "Do pets really have missions?" Well, of course. The mission that a pet gives himself is to get as much pampering as possible! Not just any ordinary pampering either – pampering to the point that your owners' rules are softened or overturned. Oh! And what if you lose favor with your owners? Then you use Scripture, "*A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal...*"³ You might lose a little favor, but you won't ever be mistreated.

新媽咪給我的任務既不是牧羊狩獵，也不是導盲緝毒，我的任務是讓新爹地每天開心，情繫Chipee。早先新媽咪有個朋友送女兒去東部讀書，抵達後打電話到先生辦公室報平安，卻找不到人，原來他思女情切激動到無法上班。男人的情感，有時比女人更脆弱，有鑑於此，新媽咪拜託我必須先做好替換的動作，等到小姊姊也進大學時，家中才不會因空巢期的來臨而走樣。

人生在世，總會碰到些令人鬱悶氣結之事。有擔當的男人更是不動聲色地一肩扛起，像把大傘籠罩全家成為一家人的保護。不知是否同為男性，我特別能了解新爹地的難處，也更能替他分憂解勞。無論是多大的壓抑，只要我纏住新爹地和我玩官兵捉強盜，或是鬥牛，在一陣狂吠叫囂中，往往築出了最好的抒發管道，自從我進了家門後，新爹地的身體就越來越健康了。他是將相之材，卻常嘆連伍長都作不到，伍長還帶兩個兵，可是他連兩個女兒都使喚不動，直等到我這名精兵出現，一個命令一個動作，絕不馬虎，可讓他指揮的得心應手。有些人看到我在固定的地方上完廁所，還會在另一固定的地方，乖乖坐好等著，佩服地要把自己的狗狗送來集訓，可是……可是……我的新爹地只喜歡領導我耶！

And then there's also the mission that my new mom's given me. My mission isn't to be a herding or a hunting dog, nor is it to be a seeing-eye dog or a sniffer dog. My mission is to make sure that my new dad is happy every day and that he grows more and more attached to Chipee. Some time ago, my new mom had a friend whose daughter went off to the East Coast for college. The friend took the trip with her daughter to help her get settled in before school; when she called her husband's office to report their safe arrival, she discovered that her husband was nowhere to be found. He had been so overwhelmed by how much he missed his daughter that he couldn't go to work. The emotional state of a man can sometimes be more fragile than that of a woman. After she heard about that incident, my new mom told me fervently that I had to accomplish my mission before my little Big Sister left for college, so that our home wouldn't be shaken by empty nest syndrome.

In life, people will always have to deal with situations that cause suppressed feelings of anger or frustration. A man who's able to bear the load will stoically hoist it upon his shoulder without a word of complaint, and like a big umbrella sheltering his family, he acts as his family's protection. I don't know if it's because we're both males, but I commiserate with my new dad's difficulties and I always do my best to share his burden and dissolve his tiredness. No matter how much he's holding inside, I can always manage to entangle him in a game of Cops

我不知離達成任務的目標還有多遠，但我知道新爹地為了我總是改變他的規則。他主張只餵狗食，不餵其他，但我的第一口香蜜蛋糕是他餵的。他說絕不能讓我吃肉，會慣壞我，但他又說這塊肉掉在桌上，不給Chipee吃太可惜了。他規定一天只能給一次零食，但只要他在家，我總可以得到十次、八次零食。他堅持狗狗不能上樓，但他卻在樓上樓下和我追逐玩耍。我是個寵物嗎？我想，我是吧！回想那天在寵物店，新媽咪要求，我是她的生日禮物，兩個姊姊也加入要求，說我也算是她們的生日禮物，一份禮物送給三個心愛的人，新爹地一口答應，其實，三個智慧的女人知道：

Chipee，我，一份愛的禮物，
是她們送給他的。

and Robbers or a round of bullfighting with me; the lively proceedings, with all the yelling and barking and energy exerted, are a great channel of release for him. Ever since I arrived at my new home, my new dad has become more and more fit. He's always been cut from the cloth of a general, but he used to often sigh that he felt less than a corporal – a corporal at least commands two soldiers, but he couldn't even reign in his two daughters. When I appeared – a first-class private who followed every order to a T and never attempted any task half-heartedly – he adeptly resumed his ability to command. People have witnessed how I will obediently use the toilet in one designated spot, and then quietly sit waiting for my dad in a second designated spot. They've been so impressed that they want to send their own dogs to my new dad for group training but – too bad for them – my new dad only likes to lead me!

I don't know how far I am from accomplishing my mission, but I do know that, for my sake, my new dad always changes his rules. He asserted firmly that dogs should only be fed dog food and not human food, but he fed me my first bite of delicious cake. He said that feeding me meat would spoil me and absolutely forbade it, but eventually the family started hearing, "Well, since this piece of meat already fell on the table, it would really be such a shame if we didn't feed it to Chip." He regulated that I was only to be fed an extra snack once a day, but any time he was home, I always ended up with eight or ten snacks a day

instead. He insisted that the dog should not be allowed upstairs, but then we'd chase each other upstairs and downstairs all over the house while playing. Am I a pampered pet? I guess I must be. I remember that day back at the pet store when my new mom requested that I be her birthday present. My new sisters also entreated that I could double as their birthday presents as well. One gift to give to all three of his beloveds – how could he resist? My new dad agreed without hesitation. In reality, those three wise women all knew...

I, Chipee, a gift of love,
was really a gift that they had given him.





祝福等你拿

1. 連結家人的情感，你有什麼妙招？
2. 你會如何預備空巢期的來臨？
3. 你送過（或打算送）什麼「愛的禮物」給家人？
4. 上帝的愛是有「延伸性」的，對我們所處的世界，基督徒是否更應該做到「民胞物與」？



Blessings for the Taking

1. What kind of ingenious methods do you have for making the emotional connections amongst your own family members?
2. How would you prepare for the coming of empty nest syndrome?
3. Have you ever given your family a gift of love? If not, do you plan to?
4. God's love is a love that flows through many extensions. In our world today, do Christians extend their love for others to include all living creatures?

第九章 逆風飛舞

大女兒高中還未畢業，駕照也還沒考取，我們就給她買了新車，不但可以由她任選車型、顏色，並且我們將車款一次付清。丈夫遭事業風暴後，小女兒已經上大學三年了，我們卻還沒有替她買輛車，因此，她去哪兒，都仍然需要有人接送。這是風暴前後，我們生活情況的對比。然而事業風暴非但沒有損害我們全家的感情，反而把我們一家四口，更緊密凝聚在一起！因為上帝許可風暴，自然有祂的目的。當我們真實地信靠上帝時，所有的風暴，都不再是風暴；逆風飛舞——如老鷹展翅上騰，如風箏高飛舞動，反而見證上帝的恩典！

9. Rising Against the Wind

My older daughter had not yet graduated from high school or even gotten her license when we took her to purchase a new car. Not only did she get to pick out the make, model, and color of her car, we paid the car off in full on the day we purchased it. Some time later, my husband suffered a storm of misfortunes and trials in his business. By my younger daughter's third year in college, we still hadn't gotten her a car; she had to be dropped off and picked up everywhere she went. You can see the difference between our living situations before and after the storm. The storm, however, did not wear away at our family's relationships; rather, it drew the four of us much more tightly together. Because God had permitted the storm, we knew that God had His purpose. When we honestly trust and rely on God, all storms are storms no more; the act of rising against the wind – just as the eagle spreads his wings and soars, or as the kite rises on the currents and dances in the sky – becomes instead a testimony to God.

離SAT考試（美國進入大學的評鑑考試）只剩下100天了，姊姊說：「妹妹好好用功，不要怕，不必補習，姊姊有經驗，我替你買參考書！」

爸爸說：「我幫忙做“Timeline”（時間表）——倒數100天。貼在你的書桌前，隨時提醒你！」

我對女兒說：「最後100天是『打仗』的時候，媽媽能做的事，就是每天準時到學校接你下課，為你準備點心，讓你專心讀書，作你的啦啦隊！」

這是四年前，小女兒準備SAT考試，我們全家每個人都「動起來」，奉獻時間、提供幫助，與小女兒一起全力備戰。為的是她想省下約4千美元的SAT保證班補習費，還有妹妹想和姊姊一樣，爭取好成績，申請大學獎學金，減輕爸爸的經濟壓力！

The SAT (America's standardized test for college admissions) was less than a hundred days away. My older daughter told my younger daughter to study diligently, but not to worry too much about the test or attend a prep course; she (the older one) already had experience taking the test, and she would purchase one of those practice books for her sister.

My husband told my younger daughter that he would help her create a timeline scheduled for a 100-day countdown, so that she could keep it by her desk as a constant reminder.

I told my younger daughter that the final hundred days is the time for battle, and that I would do the most I could for her – I would pick her up promptly from school each day and have snacks ready for her, so that she could concentrate on studying, and I would be her biggest cheerleader.

This was four years ago that my younger daughter geared up to take her SATs – our whole family mobilized as a single unit to whole-heartedly support her as she prepared for the war. It was a serious cause – my younger daughter wanted, on the one hand, to spare us the four thousand dollar prep course fee, and on the other, to test well like her older sister had, get into a good college with scholarships, and lessen the financial burden on our family.

Let's rewind back to the autumn of 2002: my husband was fifty-one years old, and his career had just reached its highest

回顧2002年夏天，51歲的丈夫，事業正達到高峰，然而一場金融風暴，我們從擁有千萬美元的股票資產，到最後股票形同廢紙……。此外，丈夫多年來建立的財務管理事業，也危在旦夕。

當時，大女兒就讀高中，小女兒才剛上初中。「要不要把這件事，這麼早就讓兩個女兒知道？」丈夫一向尊重我的想法。我仍清楚記得，當時他臉上鎮靜、認真的表情。其實在討論這個議題之前，我們夫妻倆已經達成下列共識：

1、孩子是家中的一分子，應早點讓她們知道，不要小看她們的能耐。這個擔子不應是爸爸一個人承擔，而是全家人一起來分擔。

peak. Suddenly, after a financial tempest of epic proportions, our millions of dollars worth of stocks plummeted in value until they were utterly worthless. Simultaneously, the financial planning business that my husband had so painstakingly built up over the years fell into a precarious position, in danger of completely collapsing any moment day or night.

At the time, our older daughter was in high school, and our younger daughter had just started junior high. “Should we let our daughters know of these troubles so soon?” My husband valued my opinion on the matter. I very clearly recall the calm yet solemn expression upon his face as he asked me. Before ever discussing the current crisis at hand, the two of us had long had a consensus on certain beliefs when dealing with such matters:

1. Children are a valued part of the family, and we should always let them know what’s going on earlier rather than later. We shouldn’t look down upon their capacity for perseverance or their fortitude. A family’s burden shouldn’t be carried by the man alone, but shared by the whole family.

2. We shouldn’t deprive our children of the opportunity to experience God. We believe that weathering a storm helps

2、不要剝奪孩子經歷上帝的機會，相信透過風暴，會幫助孩子成長，讓孩子自己經歷上帝的供應。

3、夫妻同心，討論最壞的打算，但盡量不影響孩子現有的生活，家仍是她們穩妥的避風港。

緊接著丈夫召開家庭會議，全家一起討論，一起禱告。懂事的大女兒在禱告中說：「相信上帝讓風暴發生，是為了讓爸爸作一個“True Leader”（真正的領導者）！」可愛的小女兒也用中文禱告，向上帝祈求：「讓爸爸處理風暴的時候，還能夠笑！」聽著聽著，我們全家人也跟著笑了起來！

聖經《創世記》裡，約瑟的故事告訴我們，七個豐年，是為了七個荒年準備。感謝上帝，風暴之前，我們不但夠用並且有餘，花錢的原則，雖不像老一代的人儉省持家，但也不像新世代的人奢華過日；我們所實行的是「當省則省，當用則用」，樣樣量力而行。在上帝的恩典中，我們除了少數房貸，幾乎沒有其他負債。手中的積蓄，成為我們日後生活

children grow more mature, and also allows them to personally come to know God as a provider.

3. We, as parents, would always prepare for the worst-case scenario, but we would try not to affect the children's current lifestyles. Our family and our home should feel like their safest haven in a storm.

Right after we talked, my husband called a family meeting, so that we could all discuss the matter and pray together. My older daughter prayed in Chinese and said wisely that she believed God had allowed the storm to happen so that her father could prove himself to be a true leader. My younger daughter, also praying in Chinese, supplicated cutely that she hoped her father, while “solving the storm,” would still be able to laugh... her prayer brought us all to laughter right then.

In the book of Genesis, Joseph's story shows us that seven years of abundance is the time to prepare for seven years of famine. Thanks be to God that before the storm, our family had enough money to live on and enough surplus to save. We were not as severe in our frugality as the generation that came before us, nor had we been as indulgent in our spending as the new generations. Spend what should be spent, save what should be

的支撐。藉著家庭會議，我們開始讓孩子參與做家庭預算。每個人省察，看看如何盡上自己的責任，幫助節省家中的開銷。

七年來，兩個貼心的女兒處處為爸爸考量，生活一切從簡，降低物質欲望，自己工作賺錢參加教會短宣，並且努力用功，以優異的成績，連獲四年大學全額獎學金。這場大風暴不但沒有摧毀我們全家，反而讓親子及夫妻關係更親密，兩個女兒也親自經歷了上帝奇妙的供應。

孩子如何面對風暴，靠的是母親良好的引導，但風暴中妻子的角色又如何呢？讓我把時間拉到二十三年前，當時大女兒才6個月大，我面臨婚後的第一個風暴——產後憂鬱症。當時的我，找不到自己的價值，認為生了孩子就被困在家裡。那段日子裡，白天我如困獸之鬥，黑夜我如枯乾骸骨。

saved – that became our unofficial motto in monetary matters. We measured our ability in all things, and we only did what was within our reach to do. By the grace of God, aside from some very minor mortgage loans, we had almost no debts to speak of, and the assets we had on hand became a bolster that supported us through the years of famine. Through our family meetings, we also let the children become more involved in the family budgeting. Each person reviewed their own responsibilities, and took a look at their own expenditures to see where they could cut down on excess and frivolities.

In these last seven years, these two devoted daughters of ours have considered their father in everything that they do. They've lived their lives simply, diminished their material desires and expectations, taken jobs to earn their own money for short-term mission trips, and worked hard to achieve excellent grades for college scholarships. This period of stormy trials did not destroy our family; rather, it created a greater sense of intimacy, and allowed our two daughters to experience firsthand God's wonderful provision for our family!

Children require the good guidance of their mother to find their way through the storm, but what was my role as a wife through the storm? Let me pull the scene back to twenty-three years ago. When my daughter was only six months old, I faced

最終是上帝的靈感動我，讓我看到生命受造何等奇妙可畏；讓我知道，如果沒有在靈裡真正認識自己為妻、為母的角色，若只從外面的生活認識自己，就會不自覺陷在困境裡面，無法自拔。

我開始真正了解上帝創造女人，是要作另一半的「幫助者」。但幫助者不是以外來高高在上的姿態出現，而是從內在緩緩溫和地產生，於是，我用了一個很妙的方法來實行。我告訴自己，我願意順服上帝，接受上帝給女人的定位，同時，我開始和丈夫約會。從那時起，我和丈夫維持「每週約會」的習慣，直到現在，二十多年來從未改變。有一次，上了小學的女兒，好像發現新大陸一般地對我說：「原來爸爸、媽媽把我們送到才藝班，是為了去約會！」在「約會」當中，我們了解彼此的想法和個性，為我們日後婚姻關係，打下穩固的溝通渠道與信任的根基。

the first storm in my married life – postpartum depression. I felt that I had lost my self-worth after giving birth, and that I was being confined within the walls of our house. During the day, I felt like a caged animal; at night, I was like a lifeless, dried-up bag of bones.

In the end, the Spirit of the Lord touched me. It helped me realize that life and the miracle of creation are truly wonderful and awesome. I learned that if I did not recognize my purpose as a wife and a mother through the Spirit, and instead relied on external tasks and life events for “purpose”, I would become involuntarily trapped in the bindings of my surroundings and never find my way free.

I started to really understand that God created woman to be the helper of her other half – not a helper that barges in and attempts to command from on high, but one who appears gradually from inside and helps with subtlety and gentleness. I told myself that I was willing to obey God and accept His chosen position for womankind, and from then on, I used a very clever method to exercise my role. My husband and I began to maintain a custom of going on weekly dates with each other. In these twenty-some-odd years, we’ve never changed our habit. One time, my daughter, when she was still in elementary school, had a “Eureka!” moment and said to me, “You and dad only sent us

我們家一向是「男主外，女主內」，但因為每天溝通及定期約會，丈夫的事業狀況，我都很清楚。遇到重大的決策性問題，丈夫都會和我商量，形成共識，兩個人一起做最後決定。因此，面臨這次巨大的經濟風暴，我的心中有平安，丈夫也很冷靜。他知道他不孤單，我們將站在一起同心面對。

夫妻是一體的，妻子的態度，常會影響丈夫的心情和取向。若沒有良好溝通，有時妻子帶給丈夫的壓力，反而可能大過風暴本身。如果，我只能給作妻子的一個建議，那就是風暴來臨時，為妻者應該像「颱風眼」（其中，無風無雨）一樣，心靈最裡面保持平靜、安穩。

off to dance class to get rid of us so that you could go on dates!” (It was true.) In dating, my husband and I came to better know each other’s ways of thinking and personalities. We built a stable foundation of trust and communication for our later relationship in marriage.

Our family has always been structured around the idea that “the man faces what’s outside, the woman faces what’s within.” Because of our open communication and our set weekly dates, though, I knew all about the outside. I was fully informed on my husband’s trials and tribulations in business. Whenever he was met with especially critical matters that had decisive consequences, he would always mull things over with me first, and we would make decisions of one accord. Thus, when we faced this particularly fearsome financial storm this time, my heart was at peace. My husband was calm and collected as well; he knew that he did not have to bear the burden alone, because we would face the storm together.

A husband and wife are of one body and soul – a wife’s attitude often influences her husband’s mood and his direction in a storm. Without good, clear communication, the pressure that a wife places upon her husband might be even greater than the strain of the storm itself. If I could give only one suggestion to those who are wives, I would say to you: when the typhoon comes, you should be like the eye of the typhoon, which is

曾經輔導過一些姊妹，我發現很多時候，我們都是為還沒有發生的事而憂慮。如果能和配偶坐下來好好討論，把可能發生的最壞情況想清楚，並預先做好應對方法。這樣，有了決定，人就能平靜面對。那麼，最壞的狀況沒有發生時，反而會更珍惜、更感恩。

遭遇經濟風暴，對男人而言，最大的掙扎和心理障礙恐怕是——「放不下」和「不甘心」。「放不下」，因為自己不能滿足全家的經濟供應；「不甘心」，因為過去這麼多年辛苦打拚的成果，就這樣付諸流水。

disturbed by neither wind nor rain. Have a spirit that stays quiet, tranquil and stable.

Once, during a time of sharing with some sisters in Christ, I discovered that the worries they held in their hearts were mostly worries for things that had not yet occurred. If they would only sit down with their husbands and thoroughly discuss the problems at hand, including what to do in a worst-case scenario, they would be able to serenely face whatever situation came their way. Moreover, if the situation turned out better than the worst-case, as it often does, they would cherish the grace and goodness of the outcome even more.

In encountering business storms in particular, there are two especially difficult obstacles for men. The first obstacle is letting go of the storm: a man does not feel like he can let go of his role as a provider for his family, and he cannot bear the failure of meeting his family's economic and material needs. The second obstacle is letting go of the business: a man cannot bear to abandon that which he's built up with his own blood, sweat, and tears over so many years of arduous hard-work, and watch it drift away like meaningless debris in the water.

丈夫一直是顧家、愛家、負責任的好丈夫、好爸爸。風暴來臨時，他內心深處最擔心的可能是會失去房子，而不能替妻子、孩子保住一個「家」（對丈夫而言，房子是全家居住之所，在某種程度上，也代表了家），因此「有可能要賣房子」這件事，成為他另一個無形的壓力。當我看出他的心思，就安慰他：「上帝所賜的產業，祂會為我們持守。我們不必勞心勞力地設法要抓住。這個房子，上帝給我們，我們就感恩接受；上帝若要我們捨去，我們就賣掉房子，不要捨不得！」心結一旦解開，隱藏在他內心的負擔，也就消失於無形。

作妻子的要試著幫助丈夫說出心中的重擔，幫助丈夫除去內心障礙，鼓勵丈夫不要去看已經不存在的。有衣有食，全家平安，就當知足！不把「物」，看得比「人」重要。幫助丈夫找到信仰的核心價值，是妻子能夠給丈夫一項無價的禮物。

長期以來，我和丈夫兩個人一致同意：「眼光要看得更遠，事業不是一個人生命的全部，金錢不是萬能，更不是一

My husband is a man who protects our home, loves our family, and takes responsibility; he's a good husband and a good father. When our financial storm came, the greatest concern buried deep in his heart was perhaps the fear that we would lose our house, and he wouldn't be able to save the home of his wife and his children. The possibility that we might need to sell the house became an invisible weight that lay upon him. I read his mind and his countenance, and I comforted him by saying, "The assets that the Lord has given us, He will secure and keep for us. We don't need to obstinately hold on to them tightly. God gave us this house, and we accepted it with gratefulness. If God wants us to let it go, we'll sell it without regret." The concern buried deep in my husband's heart and the weight upon his shoulder thus dissolved.

Being a wife means trying to understand the heaviness in a husband's heart, overcoming the obstacles he struggles with inside, and encouraging him to let go of the things that no longer exist. We have clothes, we have food, we have peace and safety – we should be satisfied and not value material things over people. The best gift that a wife can give to her husband is helping him find the core value of faith.

For a long time, my husband and I have agreed: we must set our sights far. A career is not the whole of a person's life.

個家庭幸福的主因。」

丈夫一直是敬虔的基督徒，但風暴之後，他和天父上帝的關係更加親密了。他知道，天父正藉由風暴，來加添他屬靈生命的深度和廣度。而當我看到他每天清晨第一件事，就是到上帝面前，向祂傾心吐意，我的心就充滿喜悅。我真是感恩，因為風暴，得到一個生命越來越成熟的丈夫。

聖經說：「人生在世必遇患難，如同火星飛騰。至於我，我必仰望神，把我的事情託付祂。」¹ 當風暴來臨時，態度決定勝負，若能立定心志，不要懼怕，勇敢面對，風暴之後，我們會發現，原來自己比想像的堅強許多。不管是事業風暴、中年失業、家庭不和、或者身體病痛……，很多時候，真正的危機是在心裡面，而不是外面的衝擊，是腦子裡面的恐懼，挾制了一個人。

Money is not the whole of power, nor is it the main reason for a fortunate or blessed family.

My husband has always been a pious man, but after weathering this great storm, he grew much closer and more intimate with God the Heavenly Father. He knows that God gave him this trial to mature his spiritual life and to make the vessel of his spirit more deep and expansive. Every morning, when I see my husband speaking to God from the bottom of his heart and soul – the words pouring out in candid conversation – my heart rejoices. I deeply give thanks; because of the storm, I received a husband whose spiritual life continues to become more and more mature.

The Bible says, “*Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward. But if it were I, I would appeal to God; I would lay my cause before Him.*”¹ When the storm comes, our attitude decides whether we win or lose. If we make up our minds to stand firm, fear not, and bravely confront the storm, we will find after the storm that we’re much more stalwart than we thought. Whether it’s a financial storm, joblessness in one’s middle-age, discord within the family, sickness or infirmity... oftentimes, the real crisis is what’s happening within our hearts, rather than damage caused by any external impact – the fears in our minds are what seize and control us.

我相信，出考題的是上帝，給答案的也是上帝。我們能做的就是謙卑地來到上帝的面前，堅持信仰，相信上帝在一切事上仍然掌權，倚靠祂必得幫助，尋求祂必得引導。聽起來有點像基督徒的老生常談，但卻是真真實實，可以擁有的經歷。關鍵在於，我們願不願意和上帝合作，讓祂幫助我們度過風暴，讓上帝的手扶持我們，逆風飛舞，經歷祂奇妙的作為。

I believe that the One who gives us tests is also the One who provides the test answers. All we can do is come humbly before the Lord's presence, hold onto our faith, and believe that God holds authority and power in all things. Those who rely on Him will surely receive help. Those who seek Him will always find guidance. It may sound a bit like the same old maxims too often repeated by Christians, but it's a reality that we can experience for ourselves. The key is whether or not we're willing to cooperate with God. If we let Him guide us through the storm and let His hand lift us up, we will rise up against the wind and experience His wonderful and miraculous ways.



祝福等你拿



Blessings for the Taking

1. 在本文中，處理家庭危機之前，作者夫妻早有基本的共識。請說出全文中，有多少地方告訴你，夫妻形成共識的方法？你和配偶是否對家中重要的事情，已有共識？
2. 本文中「家庭理財」的原則和做法是什麼？你是否需要重新檢視你的「家庭理財」的原則和做法？
3. 本文中說出，妻子的角色、方法和態度，對丈夫處理家庭危機，有決定性的影響。有哪些地方，妳可以作為借鏡？
4. 面對危機，妻子幫助丈夫首要之事，是找出丈夫的壓力，並消除丈夫的壓力。妳是否真知道丈夫的內心有哪些壓力？
5. 作者相信，出考題的是上帝，給答案的也是上帝。請分享在困境中，因著依靠上帝，你得到幫助，經歷祂奇妙作為的見證。

1. Before attempting to resolve the family conflicts described in this article, the author and her husband already had a consensus on many basic tenets for their family. Please go through the article and point out the various methods through which the husband and wife team came to be “of one accord.” Do you and your spouse already have a mind “of one accord” in facing the important matters of your family?
2. What are the principles of the author’s “family financial planning” in this article, and how are they carried out? Do you need to examine your own “family financial planning” principles and actions?
3. The article describes how the author’s role, methods, and attitude as a wife have a decisive influence in how her husband resolves family crises. What can you borrow and mirror in your own behavior?
4. In facing a crisis, the most important help that the wife provides is finding the invisible pressure weighing down upon her husband, and dissolving that pressure. Do you truly know what pressures your husband hides in his heart?
5. The author believes that the Lord both gives the tests and provides the test answers. Please share the testimony of a time when you have relied on the Lord through hardship, and thereby experienced His wonderful and miraculous ways.

第十章 加上更多

「在文字當中，最骯髒的字眼，就是——退休」。

先生閻凱毅正引述著名作家的話，對著眾人談他的退休計畫，說他第一個黃金十年的起始……。看著他侃侃而談的模樣，我享受著「美夢成真」的感覺，曼曼妙妙、恍恍惚惚，這夢是從何時織起的呢……？

西班牙的全盛時期，擁有地中海的兩岸，堪稱世界強權，從當時所鑄造的錢幣可看出她自視已坐擁了整個世界。古錢上鐫刻著代表直布羅陀海峽峽角的圖示，並題上「到此為止」的字樣，自滿之意不在話下。但哥倫布這個改變歷史

10. More Beyond

“Retirement is the ugliest word in the language.”

My husband Kai-i Yen was in the middle of quoting the famous author's words to his audience as he described the retirement plans of his first golden decade. As I watched his self-assured and confident manner, I felt like I was watching a dream come true. I floated lightly in an almost trancelike state, in and out of touch with my surroundings, as I wondered when the fabric of this sweet dream had first been woven...

Spain, in the era of its greatest wealth and command, extended its rule to both sides of the Mediterranean Sea and established itself as the leading world superpower. The coinage that they forged and molded was a testament to how highly they viewed themselves, and the belief that they already held

的人物出現了，他以冒險犯難的精神跨出了既有的地界；憑藉著探尋新事物的熱情，海峽以外，他發現了許多以前未知的地方。「到此為止」的題字不得被改變，於是，西班牙的錢幣上，峽角的圖示仍在，只是圍繞的刻字，從「到此為止」改成了「加上更多」。這個故事可以隱喻我們的人生歷程，在無可迴避的中年之後，有人是「到此為止」，有人是「加上更多」。

在知道這個錢幣故事之前，我曾兩次到訪西班牙。1998年公司選在那開會，我和先生一同前往參加，同時有機會經英屬直布羅陀，乘船過到對岸，踏上隸屬北非摩洛哥的土地。短短一小時的工夫就轉換了三個國家，代表的宗教也由天主教、英國國教，換到了伊斯蘭教。走在異國的街道上，異國文化的風情帶著神祕的氛圍籠罩著我。搜尋記憶，浪漫情懷怕只源自經典名片「北非諜影」（Casablanca）吧！曾經著迷男主角亨佛萊鮑嘉，當然日後，聰明的我早就從他的身上轉迷曾任北非主教的奧古斯丁（哈！我是奧氏粉絲）。「北非諜影」不得滿足的愛情故事，加上膾炙人口的主題曲“*As time goes by*”（「當時光流逝」），淒淒迷迷的讓人蕩氣迴腸，難怪這部1942年拍攝的黑白電影片，

domain over the whole world. The ancient currency depicted the Pillars of Hercules, which represented the Strait of Gibraltar, the boundary of the known world. The coinage was also engraved with the phrase “*Ne Plus Ultra*”, which means “*Nothing More Beyond*”; it symbolized their self-satisfaction and pride in Spanish dominion. All that changed with Columbus’ intrepid expeditions and the discovery of the New World, which expanded the boundaries of both the known world and the Spanish empire. The newly minted coins of the Spanish colonies were engraved with a new phrase: “*Plus Ultra*”, which means “*More Beyond*”, and became a symbol of new ownership, sovereignty, and exploration. This history lesson serves as a metaphor for our own lives, and what comes after we reach the zenith of our years. When we reach our inevitable middle-age years, there are some who say that there is nothing more beyond, and then there are those who say that there *is* more beyond.

Before ever hearing of this history lesson, I had the opportunity to visit Spain on two separate occasions. I visited Spain in 1998 during a business convention with my husband. While we were there, we went on a variety of daytrips and excursions. On one of our excursions, we embarked from Spain, passed through the British overseas territory of Gibraltar, and stopped upon the shores of North Africa in Morocco. We’d traveled so breezily through three different countries within an hour’s time, and simultaneously traveled through three different

早在我出生之前就已名揚四海了。對我而言，只有另一首歌的一句歌詞屬實——“I guess there are many broken hearts in Casablanca.”（「我猜想，在卡薩布蘭嘉有許多破碎的心。」）。然而，垂淚的又豈只在卡薩布蘭嘉而已，世上空氣浮動之處，又有哪個地方，沒有暗自哭泣的傷心人呢。避開靠觀光客生活的小販，貼近當地的人群，換個打扮，穿上一般的服裝，他們與我在美洲、歐洲、亞洲看到的許多人真沒什麼不同；一樣在生存中掙扎，一樣無奈地在嘆息中消耗生命，活著只為活著，望著他們缺少生命之光的眼睛，想起一首少年時唱的詩歌內容：「人們需要主，人們需要主，到何時我們才知，人們需要主……。」

religions, from Catholicism to Anglicanism to Islam. As I walked upon the strange and foreign streets of Morocco, I felt intoxicated by the heady scent of the exotic unknown and the air of mystery shrouding everything around me. I searched my memory for the reason behind this romanticized perception of my surroundings – perhaps it had arisen out of the classic film Casablanca. I had once been enamored with, and heaped my admiration upon, the movie’s leading man, Humphrey Bogart, as he adventured through North Africa; of course, I had long ago transferred those affections and admirations to the great theologian St. Augustine of North Africa instead. (Ha! I’m in the Augustine fan club.) Casablanca, an unfulfilled love story, with its famous and sad song “As Time Goes By,” fills one with a satisfying gloom of sweet melancholia not easily dispelled. That is, perhaps, why Casablanca, a black-and-white film from 1942, has been famous around the world since before I was born and is still generally considered one of the greatest films of all time. To me, the Bertie Higgins song about Casablanca resonates more deeply than the film itself: “I guess there are many broken hearts in Casablanca.” I know there must be; after all, it’s not only in Casablanca that tears run. There is no place between the four corners of the world untouched by the silent tears of the broken-hearted. I avoided the tourist-haggling peddlers that roamed the Moroccan streets, and lost myself amongst the ordinary people living out their everyday routines. With a change of attire, these people would be indistinguishable from the people of America, Europe, or Asia. They were all people who were just surviving,

時間往前推一點，1996年底，我也曾站在遙對北非的西班牙土地上，在迎面拂來的海風中，凝視那被稱為「海克力斯（Hercules）的柱子」的直布羅陀峽角。想著使徒保羅，他切切地想去羅馬以西的地方（西班牙）傳福音，而今在這當年被視為世界的地極之處，接待我的，卻是遠從中國來的弟兄。站在接待弟兄開設的餐館門口，約三、五百公尺遠的地方，有一個像火車軌道前的柵欄，隔著的就是英國的屬地直布羅陀。

弟兄一家人和樂融融，在異國同心經營生意，但他們的真工夫直到我們深夜聚會時才顯出來。西班牙當地的人作息時間晚，平均晚上九點以後才吃晚餐，因此餐館打烊晚，我們聚會也都在深夜了。他們經過一整天的工作，不但不顯勞累，禱告還要跪上個把鐘頭，多數人沒有軟墊得直接跪在硬石地上，相較下，我這種在軟墊上也難以持久的軟膝蓋，只能甘拜下風。從此，我再不會說：「韓國人到哪都蓋教堂，中國人到哪都開餐館。」我會說：「親愛的弟兄啊！祝福你生意的觸角無限延伸，所到之處也都能播下福音的種子。」

consuming life amidst their sighs, and living simply for the sake of staying alive. When I looked in their eyes, all devoid of life's spark, I recalled a hymn I learned in my youth: "People need the Lord, people need the Lord, when will we realize, people need the Lord."

I travel further back in my mind to the year 1996 – it was the first time I set my eyes on the shores of North Africa, but I had looked from afar, off the coast of Spain. With the sea breeze against my face, I stared out at the Strait of Gibraltar once known as the "Pillars of Hercules" and thought of how the Apostle Paul had passionately wanted to go all the way to lands west of Rome (Spain) to preach the gospel. I had been received in Spain by church brothers originally from China. A few hundred meters from the place where I stood was a rail guard like the kind posted at train crossings, and it was all that separated Gibraltar from Spain. I stood at what was once the outer boundary of Paul's world – the world had grown.

The church brothers lived and worked in happy harmony with their families in Spain, operating restaurants more often than not, but their real skill and ability was revealed each night after midnight. In Spain, the habit is to supper late, and most people eat dinner after nine, so restaurants didn't close until late into the night. Despite the hard work and long hours of the

這是我初始的宣教經驗，在那年的聖誕節期，我和教會中的好姊妹淳悅結伴，如不畏老虎的初生之犢，大膽地回應了大使命中心高牧師的邀約，走訪了西班牙七個城市，服事七間沒有牧者的教會。至今仍清晰記得，我們緊抓著行李，外帶吉他、音效器，依在火車的門邊，不敢坐下。疲累的雙眼，盯緊每一個站名，深怕火車到站，若沒什麼人上下車，在車門稍縱即逝的開闔之間，我們失去了下車的機會；那將會落在聽不懂、看不懂、又不知身在何處的窘境裡。也依然記得，半夜三點鐘走下巴士，我們姊妹倆是偌大的車站裡惟一有呼吸的，寂靜的夜晚，聽得到鞋跟的聲音是誰敲響的。當時心中深深地被「有伴真好」的感覺溫暖，難怪主差門徒們要「兩個、兩個」地出去。

day, the sisters and brothers had their religious services each night after work was over (which meant a start time of midnight or later), and they never appeared tired. In fact, they would kneel to pray for more than an hour at a time, their bones and kneecaps upon the hard ground without any cushions or padding to make themselves more comfortable. I, with my soft knees used to comfort, had to cede immediately to their dedication and abilities. I will never again echo the popular saying that the Koreans build churches wherever they go, but the Chinese build restaurants. Instead, I will only say, “Dear brothers, bless you. I pray that your business extends its branches without limit, so that wherever you go, you will sow the seeds of the Gospel.”

That was my first evangelical experience. Some time around the Christmas season of that year, my good sister Catherine from my home church and I had decided to respond together to an invitation from Pastor Gao of the Great Commission Center, and accompany each other on a missions trip to seven separate cities in Spain to serve in churches without pastors. We were like newborn calves that didn't know yet what to fear about the tiger – we boldly, despite our inexperience, faced the unknown. I still remember when we first arrived, clutching tightly to all our luggage, guitars, and sound equipment. We were utterly exhausted, yet we stood anxiously by the doors of the train, refusing to sit, and fixed our tired eyes with intensity on each station's name that we passed. We feared that the

結束了西班牙之行，回到洛杉磯，發現先生把孩子們看得好好的，冰箱中還塞滿了弟兄姊妹送來的食物。哇！真的是上陣的與看守的應該同工同酬哩！嚴格地說，此行稍感美中不足的，就是兩個姊妹在對弟兄個別的服事上難以稱職，於是我想有朝一日若能夫妻一同宣教，那該有多好，這就是我宣教美夢的起始。

與此同時，我聽到世界華福中心總幹事李秀全牧師和林靜芝師母，在55歲成為宣教士的見證：當他們還在波士頓牧會之時，一面說服自己的教會差派他們出去，一面勤練身體。在白雪皚皚的冬季，每早晨離開溫暖的被窩，驅車前往室內泳池運動，若不是有個更高的使命在策動，那可不是一件簡單的事。難怪靜芝師母說，在泳池裡每一次隨著臂膀划水的動作，就會默唸：「游向宣教、游向宣教。」

rapidly opening and closing doors of a midnight train with few passengers would cause us to miss our stop, and then we would be lost in a wilderness where we couldn't understand or read anything, or make sense of our surroundings in any way. I also remember getting off our bus in the middle of the night, at three o'clock AM; we were the only things with the breath of life in the entirety of that huge station. The sound of our steps rang out against the silence of that great emptiness. My heart was deeply gladdened then by the presence of my companion; no wonder Jesus commissioned His disciples to go out two-by-two.

When we completed our evangelical trip through Spain, I returned to Los Angeles and found that my husband had dutifully taken wonderful care of our two young daughters, and that the refrigerator was stuffed to capacity with delicious foods that our brothers and sisters in the church had sent over in concern and kindness. Truly, those who fight the battles on the front lines and those who support from behind deserve the same accolades of recognition. The only shortcoming of our mission, if I had to name one, was the difficulty of fully ministering to men as solitarily two women; how much more fulfilling and effective it would be to set out on such missions as a husband-and-wife team! Thus, my dream of missionary work began.

About the same time, I heard the testimony of Pastor

先生是個游泳高手，但為了配合我這個旱鴨子，於是我們選擇了「走」向宣教。住家附近的山坡路成了我們鍛鍊身體的場所，就是雨天，也可看到兩把晃動的傘，傘下有兩個人，邊走邊唸著：「走向宣教、走向宣教。」

我們將身體的預備放在第一位，因為沒有好的身體，一切也就談不上了。除了身體外，其他需要預備的，還有靈命、知識、技巧和財務。「預備自己」是服事熱忱最真實的表明。

Morley Lee, the General Secretary of the Chinese Coordination Centre of World Evangelism, and his wife Jin-Zhi Lin. The two of them had decided to become missionaries at the age of fifty-five. While they pastored at their church in Boston, they had the two-pronged difficulty of, first, convincing their congregation to let them go and, second, training their bodies for the hardship of missions work. In the bitterly cold and snowy winters of the East Coast, it is a hard thing to leave the cozy warmth of one's blankets each morning and drive to an indoor pool for training. Without a higher impetus, it would be impossible. No wonder Pastor Lee's wife Jin-Zhi says that while she was in that pool, she had to tell herself with each stroke, "Swim towards the mission, swim towards the mission."

My husband is a master swimmer, but I'm terrified of the water; in order to accommodate the land-loving duck that I am, our goal became to "walk" towards the mission. There are many hilly walks that surround our home; these became our training ground. Even on rainy days, you would see a pair of yellow umbrellas bobbing about in the rain, with an undeterred pair below them marching along and chanting, "Walk towards the mission, walk towards the mission!"

We made our physical preparation our highest priority – without that, nothing else would matter. Aside from the physical

先生自己擬定的計畫是在55歲以前退休，進入全時間事奉，沒想到他卻因事業遇到了大風暴，而跌跌撞撞地進入人生下半場。但如同使徒保羅所說的，我們是奔跑有定向的人，就算人生中有時風浪來襲，拖延我們的行程，卻不能阻止我們邁向終點的決心。事奉的崗位也許有變動，卻不會改變我們事奉的核心內容。轉眼之間，先生60歲的生日已翩然來臨，對這件（我認為的）大事，先生選擇在巡迴培訓的路程上度過。他說，這是我們「黃金十年」的正式起跑點，在我們的智慧、經驗、體能、財力、技術、靈命交會的最高點，完全奉獻給主。我想，服事主是要「向著標竿直跑」罷。

though, there were many other areas that required our attention and preparation: our spiritual maturity, knowledge, skill, and finances. Our “preparation” was a demonstration of our passionate intention to serve.

My husband’s plan was to retire when he turned fifty-five and begin serving the Lord full-time then. We were taken by surprise by the industry failure and parent company bankruptcy that forced his early retirement, and we blundered haltingly into the second half of our lives. Just as the Apostle Paul said though, we are not like the man running aimlessly; even when we’re attacked by the wind and the waves, they can only delay us – they cannot cause us to lose sight of our destined goal. The manner and position of serving may change, but the content at the center of it does not alter. In the blink of an eye, my husband’s sixtieth birthday appeared. Even though I considered it to be an important celebration, my husband decided to spend the day on his teaching and serving circuit. He said that this was officially the starting line of our golden decade: it was when all the lines of our wisdom, experience, physical strength, financial situation, skill, and spiritual life crossed at their apex, and it was time for us to offer ourselves completely to the Lord. When I see my husband, I think that we must serve the Lord by running towards our goal with purpose.

十多年前，選修神學課程時，認識了張媽媽。今年5月，她從職場退休。她興奮地期待5月以後的日子，因為排滿了宣教的行程。65歲的她常感謝主，賜她強健的身體可以服事。在我寫本文之際，她正預備到國內集訓後，報考某種諮詢師的執照，盼望能更多方位的服事主、服事人。看她的見證，我想，服事主是「需要多走一哩路」的罷。

認識亞當和蘇珊已有二十年了，亞當是我在北美「中華福音神學院」的同學，蘇珊是女兒的鋼琴老師。亞當十多年前，就每年都把公司的假期累積起來，用在短宣上。早年的短宣，是人到了香港之後，就會有一段音訊全無的真空期，蘇珊的掛記也只有禱告中交託給主。過去幾年，蘇珊也加入了短宣的行列，與丈夫同心同行。去年他們的女兒出嫁，兒子也進了研究所念書，亞當索性早早退休，帶著蘇珊搬到了宣教的工場，盼望能更有果效的服事主、服事人。看他們的見證，我想，服事主是「要單有一個心志地跟從主」罷。

More than ten years ago, I was taking some courses at seminary and I met Mother Zhang. This coming May, Mother Zhang will be retiring from her career. She's looking ahead excitedly to her future after May – her schedule is already fully packed with serving opportunities and her new evangelical itinerary. She's sixty-five years old and grateful for her sound body and her health, because it means that she has the strength to better serve the Lord. As of the writing of this article, she's preparing to travel to China to take a group training and exam for a counselor license, in hopes of opening additional channels for serving the Lord and serving others. When I see Mother Zhang, I think that we must serve the Lord by walking the extra mile.

I've known Adam and Susan about twenty years. Adam was a fellow student at China Evangelical Seminary N.A.; Susan was my daughter's piano teacher. Starting more than ten years ago, Adam would save up all of his vacation time each year and use it on short-term missions trips to China. In the early years, once Adam traveled beyond Hong Kong and into the borders of China, all news of him would disappear into a vacuum. Susan's worries could only be passed along to God through her prayers. In the last few years, Susan has also joined the team and begun to participate in short-term missions trips. She shares the same heart and deeds of her husband. Last year, their daughter got married and their son started graduate school. Adam decided that he might as well retire early, and he and Susan both moved to

一個基督徒，不論是適時退休，還是有計畫地提早退休，都意味著某些責任的結束，更意味著專職事奉的起始。前者令人輕鬆，後者令人興奮，因為處處充滿新機、充滿盼望，走在這條路上的人，往往越走越有活力。人有活力，也就越發顯得年輕。正應了西方的諺語：「盼望」與「青春」原是孿生兄弟。

初到美國，常在醫院或圖書館看到白髮皤然的人在那兒工作，心想，美國老人真可憐，在這種頤享天年的年齡，還不得休息。生活久了，才逐漸明白，這個文化裡一些優良的傳統，諸如：兒女離家之後，將住處縮小，節省各種能源，也節省打掃的時間和體力。退休後，更多地把自主時間拿出來作義工，服務社群，回饋鄉里。離世時將產財捐出，造福社會，遺愛人間。這些美德，不知與基督教立國的精神是否有關，但這種積極的生活態度，值得學習。畢竟「積極」是基督徒生命的基本元素，積極的動力來自「盼望」，盼望的終極目標來自「上帝的應許」，正像聖經希伯來書所記許多信心偉人一樣，他們對所盼望的應許是「遠處望見，歡喜迎接」。

their dedicated mission field, in the hopes that they would more effectively and fruitfully serve the Lord. When I see Adam and Susan, I think that we must serve the Lord by following him with one mind.

Retirement, whether by a natural timeline or by an intentionally early exit, means the end of certain responsibilities in one's life. For a Christian, it can also mean the beginning of a new full-time job in serving the Lord. The former implication causes relief, but the latter causes excitement, for everything becomes a new opportunity and a new hope. Those who walk this road become livelier with each passing step, and their liveliness makes them younger also. I think it affirms the Western saying: "Hope and youth are twin brothers."

When I first came to America, I often saw white-haired folks working in the hospitals and the libraries. I remember pitying them and thinking that the elderly in America had it rough – they were supposed to be enjoying the luxury and ease of their old age, with nothing to do and their children to wait on them, yet these men and women still had no rest. After spending much more of my life in America, I gradually came to understand some of the valuable traditions of aging in my adopted culture. For example, when your children grow up and leave the nest, you find a smaller nest and reduce the cost upon

我們夫婦也以「歡喜迎接」的心情，迎向我們的第一個「黃金十年」。2010年11月，結束了初試水溫的培訓工作，回到洛杉磯，等著與女兒們共度感恩節。小女兒路亞上完假期前的最後一堂課，才走出教室，就接到一個令她興奮莫名的電話，接著她一面走回宿舍，一面打電話給我，只是她講得又急又快又喘，再加上手機的收訊有一搭、沒一搭的，我只能就聽到的一、兩個字做回應，一旁的先生只聽到我八十分貝的高音也是又急又快地說：「工作？妳還在念書，怎麼去工作？念書要緊……家裡不缺錢，妳好好念書！」先生一見這苗頭，就打手勢安撫我，同時接過電話要路亞回到家再講。

your resources, and the energy and time required by upkeep and chores. After retirement, you have at your disposal an increased amount of personal time, during which you might do volunteer work, join a social chair, or give back to your local community. When you leave this world, you can donate your estate and your wealth to those who need it, and leave an imprint of your love in this world. I don't know if these traditions are cultural remnants of the Christian foundation of this country, but it's a positive attitude of life worth learning. After all, positivity is a basic element of the Christian life. Our momentum of positivity is driven by hope, and that hope is driven by God's promises to us. Just like the giants of faith recorded in the Book of Hebrews, we hope still when we do not receive all the things promised in this life, because we can see the promises to come and we welcome them from a distance.

My husband and I welcomed our golden decade from a distance. In November 2010, we had just completed our first time teaching; we had tested out the waters of missionary work and were returning to Los Angeles to spend the Thanksgiving holiday with our two daughters. My younger daughter Luia had just completed her last lecture before the holiday and walked out of her classroom when she received a call that excited her beyond words. She called me as she was walking to report the news immediately, but she spoke breathlessly and rapidly, and with the reception on her cell phone cutting in and out, I could only make

原來，有許多企業，都到大學裡去招募應屆畢業的優秀學生，有的甚至額外付出簽約金來鎖住優秀人才，路亞就是得到了一份高於一般薪資幾乎加倍的工作，外加1萬美元的簽約金，確定她畢業之後會如約上任。她回家和我們商量後，於感恩節的前一天簽字，定下她生平的第一份正式工作。

我瞠目結舌的模樣一定很可笑，但面對我從未聽過的這種事，這大概是惟一可用的表情。想著我們在著手安排「黃金十年」的預算時，還為她多預留了一份，以備不時之需，因為美國居高不下的失業率，正諷刺著每年暑期各學府那隆重盛大的畢業典禮，許多的青年學子在那樣的典禮中，被送入了失業人群。在感恩節的早晨，我也有了和路亞一樣興奮莫名的心情，來到主前深深下拜，為著祂體貼入微的愛，也為著祂讓我們沒有後顧之憂地邁入、走進宣教之途。

my replies to the few words I was able to pick up. “Work? You’re still in school, how can you go work! School is important... we don’t want for money, you focus on your studies!” My volume was probably near 80 decibels, and my voice strained as I spoke to her high and fast; my husband, seated next to me, gathered that something was wrong. With a sideways glance at me and a motion for me to calm down, he took the phone from my hand and told Luia to call us back after she returned to her dorm.

It turns out that many of the large corporations in America recruit graduating seniors from top schools, and some even offer large signing bonuses to entice and tie down those that they feel have great potential. Luia had been offered a salary almost double that of most new graduates, and a signing bonus of \$10,000 to ensure that she would take the agreed upon position once she graduated. She returned home to discuss the matter with us and, on the day before Thanksgiving, she signed her offer and thus nailed down the first official job in her life.

My shocked expression and jaw-drop when she told us about the job must have been an amusing sight, but in the face of something unimaginable like this, it was the only response I had at my disposal. In our planning and budgeting for our golden decade, my husband and I had set aside an emergency fund for her, in case she was unable to find work for some time

母親的角色，使我對孩子的「掛慮」與「叨唸」總是焦不離孟，孟不離焦。左邊才因路亞有了工作可以獨立自處，安心地把「掛慮」收進左邊的口袋，不想右邊口袋的「叨唸」卻迫不及待地鑽出頭來，盯著預備出門選購聖誕禮物的小女兒追上幾句：「妳長大獨立了，有了工作要盡心盡力地做好，賺來的錢不要亂花，也不要賺多少、花多少，一定要會儲蓄，……還有，該給主耶穌的，要早早預備好，……永恆的投資最萬無一失……。對了，妳要不要支持一對宣教士夫婦，妳很認識他們喲，對於他們的所做所為，妳都可以放心……。 」不等我說完，捉狹的眼神閃在路亞的眼眸裡，揚起嘴角，笑著「yeahhhh」了一聲，哈哈，作夢也沒想到，「美夢成真」還有外一章，支持我們出去服事的宣教夥伴，竟然產生於自己的家中。當然，在用財力支持我們宣教之前，孩子們是用心支持我們，所以每當我們出發之際，孩子們總是主動地為我們禱告，差我們出去。

after school. The unemployment rate in America is at an all-time high and refuses to fall; it scorns each new flock of fresh-faced graduates that, after their congratulatory ceremonies of pomp and circumstance every summer, are lost within a few months' time to the wilderness of unemployment. On Thanksgiving morning, I had the same inexpressible degree of happiness and excitement as Luia, and I bowed down and worshipped the Lord for His considerate and thoughtful love, and for allowing us to walk forward into our new work without any of our own troubles biting at our heels.

The role of a mother means that your concerns and nagging always follow your children side by side. I had only just settled the concerns – Luia had a job and could sustain herself independently – and put those into my left pocket, when the nagging immediately arose out my right pocket. I chased after her with words of advice as she tried to leave the house to do her Christmas shopping: “You’re grown up and independent now! You have a job and you must work hard at it with all your heart and strength. Don’t go spending your money unwisely. Don’t go spending everything you make. Make sure you have savings. Also, don’t forget to put aside what you should give to God. An eternal investment is the surest investment... Oh, that’s right! Do you want to support a missionary couple? You know them very well! You can put faith in everything that they do...” Before I had even finished talking, Luia had guessed at my meaning

想起過去所聽，將兒女獻上作傳道人的信息，這倒是一個值得逆向思考的題材。相較於人生道上初試啼聲的孩子們，成熟的父母應該更能放得下、放得開吧！畢竟，事奉主是心甘樂意的回應呼召，是自由意志的選擇順從。獻上孩子之前，作父母的先獻上自己，相信，這樣的榜樣會產生最好的連鎖效應，實現「至於我和我家，我們必定事奉耶和華」的心願。

故事講到這，似乎該結束了。尾聲，我想對你說：

你若是單身，「恭喜你，在基督裡，你能更自由自在，更機動彈性地事奉主。」

你們若是夫妻檔，「恭喜你，在基督裡，二人同心，其利斷金。」

你若是還帶著一群小鴨，「恭喜你，在基督裡，『你們五個人要追趕一百人，一百人要追趕一萬人』¹。」

and, popping her head out of her room with a knowing look, she drew up the corners of mouth in a sly smile and drawled out a long “Yeahhhh...” Ha-ha! This was an unexpected chapter in my dream come true – our missionary support and our financial partner turned out to live in our own home. Of course, before there was the possibility of financial support for our missionary work, there was always emotional and spiritual support from our daughters: before we leave for every trip, our girls always pray for us and send us out to our work.

When I think of the sermons that promote parents offering up their children as missionaries, I find the thinking backwards: children are still making their debut into the world around them, whereas parents are mature and should be able to let them go. Serving God is a calling that requires a willing and joyful response, and obedience to that calling should be a matter of free will. Before you offer up your children, you should offer up yourself. An example may cause a chain reaction, and perhaps someday you can honestly say, “*As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*”

The story should end here. In conclusion, I want to say something to you, dear reader.

If you are single, I say, “Congratulations! In Christ, you have greater freedom of independence, will, and mobility to

你問：「真的恭喜我嗎？」

「真的恭喜你！」

請眯眯眼睛，想像一下這樣的畫面——「原來那為萬物所屬、為萬物所本的，要領許多的兒子進榮耀裡去。」²所以，「真的恭喜你！」因為在基督裡，你能為自己的生活再抹一層璀璨的色彩，你能為自己的生命再添一筆鏤金的歲月。

祝福你，「加上更多」！

serve God.”

If you are a pair, I say, “Congratulations! In Christ, two of the same heart have the power to cut through metal.”

If you have a brood of ducklings following behind you, or are active amongst the crowds, I say, “Congratulations! In Christ, *‘Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand.’*”¹

You ask me: “Do you really congratulate me?”

Yes, I truly congratulate you!

Close your eyes and picture this in your mind: “*God, for whom and through whom everything exists, bringing many sons to glory.*”² Yes, I truly congratulate you! In Christ, the events of our daily lives are adorned with a coat of sparkling radiance, and our lifetimes are gilded with golden years and days.

Bless you, and even “more beyond.”



祝福等你拿

1. 在決定走向宣教的前幾年，作者夫婦已開始有計畫地「預備自己」。你有宣教（或服事上帝）的異象嗎？你打算如何預備自己？
2. 作者指出，退休是人生中一個令人期待的新階段，是一個黃金十年的起始點。你是否已有（或將要計畫）類似的生涯規劃？請分享。



Blessings for the Taking

1. Before they set out on their path of missionary work, the author and her husband spent a few years of time in preparation. Do you have visions of missionary work or other plans to serve the Lord? How do you intend to prepare yourself?
2. The author points out that retirement is a new life stage that's laden with expectation, and the starting line of a golden decade. Do you already have, or do you intend to make, any lifetime planning? Please share with the group.

第十一章 真實的幸福

5歲的人，能抗拒誘惑嗎？

5歲的人，能決定命運嗎？

5歲的人，能明白幸福嗎？

「能」？「不能」？能與不能之間又有多少空間？

5歲的我，開始了一個「能」與「不能」的旅程。

我5歲時，自己走進我家巷口的一間教堂，因為他們送的亮晶晶的卡片非常美麗。在一個物質缺乏的時代，一張使用過的舊卡片，上面還寫了一堆不認識的英文字，卻因著美麗的圖畫，就能滿足我小小的心靈。小小心靈裡，也有一個模糊的期待，似乎走進教堂，拿到卡片，就能如此走進圖畫中的美麗世界。

11. True Felicity

Can a five-year-old resist temptation?

Can a five-year-old decide her own destiny?

Can a five-year-old understand felicity?

Can she? Or can't she? How much space for control is there between "can" and "can't"?

As a five-year-old, I started my own journey of can and can't.

When I was five, I decided to walk into the church at the mouth of my alley because I was enticed by the pretty, sparkly Christmas cards that they were handing out at the door. I lived in a world of meager material possessions. The Christmas cards were used cards sent by the charity of American churches, and they were all covered with scribbles of English words that I couldn't read. Still, the masses of pretty pictures printed on them were very enchanting to me and my young heart. My young heart

亮晶晶的卡片持續了好幾年的魅力，直到我長大了一點。但這時，教堂裡有了乒乓球桌，活動、競賽、歡笑、耍寶，都是交朋友的內容，「朋友」是少年人的整個世界，所以我還是持續去教堂。又過了一些時候，我進入青年，活動也進升為智力較勁的靜態形式，「詩班練唱」是「橋牌比賽」的另一個代名詞，就這樣，我進出教堂十二年。終於，在17歲時，因著牧師的人情，耶穌的顏面和對自我的交待，我受洗成為基督徒了。這種情形下的決定，當然在信仰上沒什麼穩固的基礎。接下來的十二年，世界逐漸取代上帝，世界的價值觀充滿我的心，不知不覺中，我漸漸連口頭上，都不再承認自己是一個基督徒了。

also wondered if the simple act of walking into a church and taking those cards was enough to bring to life all the wonderful images that the cards displayed.

Those pretty, sparkly cards continued to charm me for a few years, until I was a bit older. By that time, the church had inherited a ping-pong table, and was bustling with exciting activities, fun group games, fits of laughter, and crazy antics to interest me. These were all the basis of making new friends, and since there is nothing more important in the whole wide world than friends to a pre-teen, I continued to dedicatedly attend church. As I moved up into my teenage years, I also upgraded to less active but more intellectual pursuits – choir practice became a pretext for bridge games. In this manner, I spent twelve years in and out of the church. Finally, at the age of seventeen – in part to save my pastor from further supplication and Jesus from embarrassment, and in part to make some sort of justification to myself – I was baptized. A decision made for these reasons did not, of course, provide any strong foundation for faith. Over the next twelve years of my life, the things of this world gradually replaced the things of God. Bit by bit, the perspective and values of “the world” filled my heart, until eventually I stopped calling myself a Christian altogether.

照著長期對婚姻的憧憬所訂的計畫，我28歲結婚，29歲懷孕，30歲大女兒就來到我的生命中，家就這樣成形了。然而，計畫可以設計得絕妙，也可以實行得精準，但它卻無法締造出一個美滿的婚姻。在婚前，我和丈夫都屬於相當獨立自主的人；婚後，還來不及適應對方，有效地建立一個相處之道，女兒就來攪局。生活和內心，只有一個辭能形容，就是「混亂」，我似乎得了所謂的產後憂鬱症，陷入極度的沮喪。感覺自我的成就、價值、地位、理想……都從生命中消失了。我像一隻被關在玻璃瓶裡的螢火蟲，衝撞得頭破血流，到處尋找失落的亮光，卻不知我的螢火掉在哪兒了。

我是否值得存在？疑惑。

這時，上帝不計較我失約背信了十二年，以慈繩愛索緩緩牽引，再次攬我入懷。正如聖經所記：「我們縱然失信，祂仍是可信的，因為祂不能背乎自己。」¹

According to the fairytale life I had envisioned and planned for myself, I was married at twenty-eight, pregnant at twenty-nine, and had my first daughter at the age of thirty. Thus, my family was formed. However, even though my vision was carefully designed and accurately executed, it fell far short of creating the fairytale marriage I had wanted. Before marriage, my husband and I were each independent and autonomous; we scarcely had time to learn about how to operate with one another in our marriage before my daughter arrived and totally disrupted the process. There was only one word to describe my life and my internal workings at that point: chaos. I became affected by postpartum depression, and fell into a deep pit of despair. I felt that my achievements, value, position, and expectations had all been extinguished. I was like a firefly caught in a glass jar, colliding against my invisible walls again and again until I was broken and bloody. I tried desperately to find the light, but even my own ball of light seemed to have flickered out.

Did my existence even matter?

And then one day, God – rather than faulting me for avoiding Him for the last twelve years – led me gently back to him with a cord of love and embraced me in His arms. As Scripture says: “If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.”¹

由於上帝的憐憫，女兒生病成了我回轉的新契機。小小的嬰兒生病，上吐與下瀉輪番上陣，我團團轉著；一遍又一遍忙於把自己和孩子打理乾淨，外加抹桌擦地，清洗衣服床單，再用最後一份力氣，搶時間把晚飯準備好，等著晚上與丈夫同享。哪知，丈夫上了十幾個小時的班，回到家還因公事煩惱，疲累加上煩憂，自然沒什麼好臉色。吃晚飯時，我的菜尚未完全端出，他已吃完下桌了，委屈的我雖沒燒「委屈」這道菜，卻裝滿了一肚子。

在低氣壓中，我一面收拾餐桌上兩人都未動的菜餚，一面想女傭也會強過我的處境吧，至少她還能快快樂樂地吃飯。這時女兒又哭鬧起來，我連忙大氣也不敢吭一聲，抱起女兒就躲進另一個房間，免的惹丈夫發脾氣，後果不堪設想。我抱著女兒在房裡來回踱步，她哭我也哭，似乎哭成了我們惟一的安慰。不知過了多久，終於女兒在我懷裡睡著了，我端詳著她可愛的模樣，想著她未出生時，我總是恐懼，她會不會不健全，會不會……？如今眼睛、鼻子、耳朵……樣樣俱全。她的形體在暗中被連結，生出來卻一樣也不少，各有各的功用；眼睛能看、耳朵能聽、鼻子能聞……，靈能認識上帝。

By the mercy of God, my daughter's brief illness became a way for me to turn back. One day, my baby was violently sick and expelled everything that she ate, first from one end and then from the other. I was a distressed flurry of activity: I was constantly cleaning the two of us off, and also scrubbing the floors, washing the sheets, and fighting for time to use the last traces of my energy to prepare a nice dinner that my husband and I could enjoy. My husband, however, often worked fourteen-hour days and returned home that day with his mind full of business worries; tired and frustrated, his face broadcasted his sour mood. When it was time for dinner, I had not even finished bringing out all the dishes before he had finished eating and left the table. I felt unjustly wronged, and though I had not served up a dish of woefulness, I certainly felt like my stomach was full of it.

The atmosphere was heavy as I cleared the table of the untouched and unwanted dishes. I thought about how even housemaids were better off than I; they, at least, could happily and nonchalantly eat their dinners once their work was done. My baby, sick and uncomfortable, started crying and fussing again. Not even daring to breathe an audible sigh, I scooped her up and disappeared into another room so that my husband would not overhear and explode into a rage. I cradled my daughter in my arms and paced about the room; I cried as she cried, and it seemed our tears were our only consolation. I don't know how much time passed, but my daughter finally fell asleep in my arms.

「靈能認識上帝！」

「靈能認識上帝！」

上帝在我心裡悄悄地說：妳從未用靈來認識我，所以妳並不真認識我；妳從未用我的話來建立妳的生命，所以妳的生命失去意義；妳從未用我的準則來經營妳的生活，所以妳的生活混亂不堪。重新來過吧！孩子，我已等妳很久了。

上帝的呼喚，如晨曦穿霧，照入內心的深處，使我昏沉迷失的靈終於甦醒。然而，重新來過必須有一個基礎，就是我對上帝究竟有多認真。我告訴自己，如果真的有一位統管萬有的上帝，渺小的我不論信或不信，都不會影響祂的存在。但祂若真的存在，而祂是又真又活、又美又善的好上帝，我卻不認識祂，這錯失交臂的遺憾，將是我人生中最嚴重的損失。

As I looked down into her adorable face, I remembered how I used to fear that she would be born deformed, or incomplete, or... I don't know what. Now I looked at her little eyes, her nose, her ears... every part of her was perfect and whole. Her body was formed in secret, and not a part was missing. Every part had its function: she had eyes to see, a nose to smell, ears to hear, and a spirit to know God.

A spirit to know God!

A spirit to know God!

God said softly in my heart: You've never used your spirit to know me, so you don't truly know me. You've never used my Word to build up your life, so your life has lost its meaning. You've never used my statutes to manage your life, so your life is in a state of disorder and chaos. Start over again. My child, I've waited for you a long time.

God's calling is like a ray of light penetrating through the fog in the dark recesses of one's heart. At long last, it resuscitated my dazed and mislaid heart. Starting over again required a foundation – I had to decide, first of all, how serious I was about God. I told myself that if there was truly an omniscient, omnipotent God, then my belief in Him – or my lack thereof –

我找著塵封已久的聖經，對它有說不出的愧疚，想著過去什麼樣的書都讀，就是沒時間讀聖經，而它卻可能改變我的一生。過去在教堂進進出出，除了跟上帝打聲招呼，祂仍是祂，我還是我，這種不負責任的信仰，就跟不信或迷信沒什麼兩樣。幾乎所有世上的事務，都是靠學習來達到成果的，然而有關今生與永生的事，我豈不更應該全力以赴地去學習嗎？自此，我不再視二十四小時照顧女兒為吞吃我時間的黑洞，而是上帝給我最好的時段來研讀聖經。書桌上始終攤著聖經，嬰兒床邊總有可背誦的金句卡。我像個職業婦女，每天殷勤上班，只不過這一次我賺的不是老闆的薪水，而是上帝永恆的祝福。

was but a drop in the bucket and certainly wouldn't stop Him from existing. On the other hand, if He truly existed – a living and a true God, a kind and a good God – and I forfeited the opportunity to know Him, then I would regret it as my life's greatest loss. I anchored my mind in this sea of thoughts.

I searched through my things and pulled out a long-forgotten, dust-covered Bible. I felt great shame and sorrow; I had spent my time reading all kinds of other books instead, how could I have overlooked the Book of Life? During all my time in and out of the church, besides sending a cursory “hello” in passing, I had let God stay Himself while I stayed myself. This type of negligent faith was no better than vague superstitions or having no faith at all. Almost everything in this worldly life requires learning and study to bear results; how much more earnestly we should strive for things regarding eternal life! From that day forward, I no longer thought of the twenty-four hours a day of baby-watching as a black hole of time and energy; instead, I thought of it as a wonderful period of time that God had given me so that I could read and learn His Word. My Bible always lay open on my desk, and there was always a pile of index cards with Bible verses for memorization that sat by the baby crib. I was like a working woman industriously going to work each day, except instead of collecting a monetary salary from the boss, I was collecting the eternal blessings of God.

在一遍又一遍的速讀、詳讀聖經中，我努力將主耶穌基督讀出來，將自己讀進去，在這樣的互動中，不知不覺，我發現生活不再混亂了，祂成了我生活的重心，祂的秩序也成了我的秩序。過去混亂的中心原因就是自我的失落，如今我重新透過上帝的眼光來認識自己。由認識祂，認識自己而重建我的「價值」、「地位」和「成就」。

一. 價值

世界的價值觀是看一個人有沒有用。一個有貢獻的人就是有價值的，貢獻的大小就決定了價值的大小，而完全沒有價值的就可撇棄的世界渣滓。這個觀念根植在人的腦海裡，以致人怎麼看我就成了我的價值所在。所以當我一下從繁華的世界進入平淡的家庭生活，整天面對一個軟綿綿的嬰孩時，我就感覺不到自我有形的價值。但是上帝怎麼看我，跟人怎麼看我，是迥然不同的。對上帝，我不但沒什麼用，甚至還有負面作用時，就是不信祂、抵擋祂、破壞祂、謗瀆祂，甚至與祂為敵的情況下，祂仍然不改其志地愛我。這樣無條件的愛，正顯明了我的價值所在。我想，我真的是祂眼中的瞳人，為尊為寶。我的價值是超級貴重的，因為我的主

In reading the Bible over and over, at times speedily for content and at times meditatively for detail, I diligently immersed myself in the text and extracted Jesus Christ out of the text. In the course of this ongoing cycle, my life gradually climbed out of chaos, without my even noticing it, because Jesus had become my new center of balance – His order became my order. The reason I had been in chaos was because I had lost my sense of self; in finding myself again through the eyes of Christ, I came to know myself as He knows me, and I rebuilt my value, position, and my achievements.

First: Value

This world's value scale weighs a person's level of usefulness. The ability to contribute is what's valuable, and the size of the contribution is directly proportional to a person's degree of value. Those who don't seem to contribute are shunned and discounted as the rubbish of society. These ideas of "value" are rooted in most people's minds, and I had come to depend on the perceptions of others to judge my self-worth. When I transitioned suddenly from a thriving social world into the bland world of a housewife whose only companion was an infant, I felt like I had lost all apparent value. How God saw me, though, and how people saw me were two completely different things. My relation to God in that time actually went beyond uselessness – I was a negative contribution. Despite my disbelief, my resistance,

耶穌基督竟肯為我死。

二. 地位

世界裡，地位是身分的表徵，有時更與名利、權勢結合在一起。在群體中，至少代表了尊卑、大小之分。以前的東方婦女是沒什麼地位的，現在有些婦女爭取地位又過了頭。究竟如何行才合宜呢？結婚之初，我在這方面也是嚴重失落的，婚前我自立自主、獨當一面，婚後是否該以丈夫馬首是瞻，惟命是從呢？我一再地問自己，如果真的這樣行，而丈夫還是不看重我，那豈不更是顏面掃地，地位卑下了嗎？

my sabotage, my blasphemy, and my best efforts to treat Him as an enemy, He still loved me the same. That unconditional love made clear to me my value and my worth. I came to realize that I must truly be highly treasured and regarded as the apple of His eye; I know my value is extremely precious, because my Lord Jesus Christ would even die for me.

Second: Position

In this world, one's position is a symbol of their identity; sometimes, it's attached to your name, wealth, and power. In any given group, positions are what differentiate between the esteemed and the lowly, the great and the unnoticed. Once upon a time, Eastern women had very lowly positions; these days, some women go overboard in fighting for high positions. What is the proper position? When I first got married, I was seriously lost on the matter. Before marriage, I was completely independent – I handled everything I faced with competence and sovereignty. Did marriage mean that I was hereafter supposed to look up to my husband as some sort of master, and meekly acquiesce to everything he said? I asked myself what would happen if I actually did this, and my husband did not respect and honor me in return. It would be like sweeping the floor with my face; the humiliation would make my position more inferior than a slave's position.

上帝的話如準繩一般定準一切，勝過我的思想、環境、教育、文化、傳統，祂說，我和丈夫是一同承受生命之恩的，所以我知道，我和丈夫的地位是完全平等的。我們都是君尊的祭司、聖潔的國度、屬上帝的子民。上帝設立丈夫作頭，不是地位的大小，而是屬靈權柄的交付；上帝設立男女不同，不是強弱之分，而是職分不同。明白了上帝的心意後，我找到自己的定位，努力扮演夏娃幫助亞當的角色，並宣告夏娃失敗的經歷，不會在我身上歷史重演。所以，不論裡外，我都輔助丈夫作主。我的改變，帶出家中更和樂的氣氛，而上帝也以祂的話語，將我那原本就很棒的丈夫，改變成更棒的丈夫。如今，我和丈夫是同奔天路的最佳夥伴。我常對他開玩笑地說：「我是你骨中的骨、肉中的肉，將來你在天國走紅地毯時，不要忘記把我帶進去喔！」其實我們深深地明白，我們都是上帝的兒子，也都是羔羊的新婦。而人所能得的地位，再沒有比這個更崇高的了。

God's Word is like a measuring tape that's already set out the standards of truth. It takes precedence over all I've learned through my thinking, environment, education, culture, and tradition. The Word says that my husband and I are both heirs of the gracious gift of life from God, so I know that our positions are entirely equal. We are all part of a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and a people belonging to God. God designated man as the head of the household not as a matter of position great or small, but so that He could assign spiritual authority. God designated that man and women would be different not as a matter of strength and weakness, but so that they could address different ministries and work. After understanding God's will, I knew how to position myself and I zealously applied myself to the role of Adam's helper, Eve. I also declared that I would not repeat the history of Eve's failure or cause the downfall of my Adam. Whether in our home or in the world, I did my best to complement my husband and let him be the head. The change in me engendered a happier and more harmonious atmosphere in our family. God also used His Word to make my good husband into an even better husband. Today, my husband and I are the best partners for each other in our race towards heaven. I often say to him jokingly, "I'm bone of your bones, and flesh of your flesh. You better not forget me when you're walking along the red carpet into the heavenly kingdom!" In truth though, we both understand that we're all sons of God and brides of the Lamb, and that there is no position on earth that any man or woman can achieve that's higher than that.

三. 成就

世界用外在的現象，來衡量一個人的成就——擁有的越多，成就也越大。以致，人很習慣看你開什麼牌子的車、住什麼樣的房子、擁有什麼頭銜、做什麼職位……等等。簡單地說，世界看你，是“what you are”（「你是什麼」）？但上帝看你，是“who you are”（「你是誰」）？世界看，你成就了什麼；上帝看，你是否是祂所喜悅的人。

自我生了大女兒之後，手忙腳亂的日子裡，成就感被連連的挫折感取代，衣櫥裡的衣服，沒有一件沒有孩子吐奶的痕跡；名牌的皮包、高跟鞋，早已束之高閣。終日面對只會啼哭的嬰孩，她不會說一句感謝的話，也不會給我一個讚美的掌聲，更不會有一個肯定的眼光。上帝在這樣的光景裡，推翻我對功成名就的觀念，取而代之的是聖經裡的教導。兒女是上帝所賜的產業，我是否用上帝的方式照管她們，引導她們到老都走當行的道路，是我必定要向上帝交帳的項目。於是我決定，以一張在世界裡追逐成功的名片，向上帝換一張一百分的成績單。我以詩篇的話「我們的女兒如同殿角石，是按建宮的樣式鑿成的」² 作為目標。靜下心來，全心

Third: Achievement

This world uses outward appearances to weigh a person's achievement. The more that one owns, the greater one's achievements have been. People are used to looking at the kind of car you drive, the size of the house you live in, your title and your job position, and so on... to put it plainly, the world sees you as what you are, but God sees you as who you are. The world asks, what have you achieved? God asks, are you the one with whom He's pleased?

The birth of my first daughter meant a non-stop whirlwind of tasks and errands – one that replaced all my past feelings of achievement with feelings of frustration instead. There wasn't a single article of clothing in my closet without traces of baby spittle, and the brand-name purses and shoes had long ago been tucked away into dusty top shelves and forgotten. Every day, all day, I faced a crying baby who would never utter a word of thanks, or applaud me with praise, or even look at me with approval. God overturned my ideas of fame and success with my everyday situation, and replaced them with the Bible's teachings instead. The Bible says that our sons and daughters are our spiritual heritage – was I using God's way to care for my children, and was I teaching them to walk the path of righteousness into their old age? These were the things for which I would be held accountable with God. I decided to trade in all of

全意進入我的婚姻生涯，好好照顧我的家人，期望全家一起攜手，努力建立合乎上帝心意的家庭。

感謝主，在祂的恩典下，我的女兒在成長的過程中，完全沒有所謂的叛逆期，與父母之間也沒有代溝。前些時，我更在女兒的身上學到寶貴的功課：SAT考試是申請大學前非常重要的一件事，成績會影響進入哪一所大學。因為考試時間是星期六一大早，所以我建議她星期五不要參加小組聚會，早點睡覺，第二天才会有好的精神去參加考試。但女兒表明，屬於上帝的時間，若隨意更改，那會有太多插入的事情來取代上帝的事，究竟上帝在我們心中排第幾位呢？為了安慰我，她答應會早點回家。果真，她在十點鐘準時回家。第二天的考試，也有極高的分數。一個尊重上帝的孩子，上帝也必尊重她；因為主的話說：「凡敬畏耶和華的，無論大小，主必賜福給他。」³

my success-seeking business cards for a single scorecard with an A+ from God. I used Psalms as my inspiration and my goal: “... our daughters will be like pillars carved to adorn a palace.”² I quieted my heart, and then I unreservedly entered once again into my married life with my new mindset. I would take even better care of my family and hope that we would all together build a family after God’s heart.

I thank the Lord that my daughters never hit a so-called “rebellious phase” in the process of growing up, and that there was never an unbridgeable generational gap. I recently learned a precious lesson from my older daughter. The SAT is a very important test that takes place before the college application process; the resulting test score determines, essentially, the kind of college that a student is able to attend. Because my daughter’s SAT exam was scheduled for early Saturday morning, I advised her to skip her cell group fellowship on Friday night so that she could be well rested and alert for the exam. She told me in response that God’s time is meant for God – if it were so easily exchangeable with the other things in our day-to-day, what place did God really have in our hearts? In order to ease my concern, she promised that she would come home early that night. True to her word, she arrived home at ten o’clock on the dot, and tested terrifically the following day. God will surely honor a child who honors Him. His Word says, “*He will bless those who fear the Lord – small and great alike.*”³

無獨有偶，小女兒也做了一件令人稱讚的事。她從初中畢業時，所有的好朋友都在另一間學校，但照著住家所分的學區，她要去念那間學校，就要用一些人為的方法，例如，借別人的地址去註冊。上帝要我們「是，就說是；不是，就說不是」⁴，連說話都如此，何況是做人做事呢？真實是基督徒生命的本質，因為主耶穌就是真實。小女兒聽完我的訓誨，當下放掉心中的渴望，決定就讀自己學區的高中。一個心中有上帝、尊主為大的孩子，自然有能力抵擋這世界的誘惑。昔日當我懷抱著baby時，我看不到什麼成就，但上帝的話說：「管教你的兒子，他就使你得安息，也必使你心裡喜樂。」⁵ 隨著時間的推移，孩子們一年年長大，上帝也將恩典一點一點加上。成就——有什麼比在永恆中，影響一個人的靈魂更有成就的呢。

In another instance of a mother's lessons learned from her children, my younger daughter also made a notable and praiseworthy decision that amazed me. When she graduated junior high, she ended up in a different school district than all of her good friends – this meant that the rest of them would all be attending one high school and she would be at another. If she wanted to continue on in the same school district as her friends, she would have to borrow someone else's address and pretend to live in the right district. The Bible says, “*Simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’*”⁴ If this is true for how we should speak, how much more true is it for how we act? Truth is the essence of a Christian's life, because Jesus Christ is truth. After my younger daughter listened to my teaching, she immediately put down the yearning in her heart and decided to attend the other school district on her own. A child who puts God first, and holds Him in her heart, intrinsically has the ability to resist the temptations of this world. Back when I was still cradling my first newborn babe in my arms, I failed to see what true achievement is. God's Word says, “*Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.*”⁵ As time pushes forward, my children grow up year after year and God continues to show us His grace bit by bit. Achievement – what could be a greater achievement than shaping a person's eternal soul?

有一次，一個朋友對我說：「每次看到妳，都覺得妳好有福氣，妳好像畫報裡看到的人，給人的印象總是美好。」我仔細地思想，畫報裡的圖片是做廣告用的，廣告拍完，工作人員七手八腳地一拆，四處空蕩蕩，原來，都是佈景與道具的效果。表面的現象，不一定有生命，但是有生命的，一定有外面可看的現象。一個基督徒，不論知道不知道、願意不願意，都是一個活動的廣告看板，問題是別人在我們身上看到了什麼。主耶穌既然吩咐我們要到地極作祂的見證，我們就當好好預備自己，隨時隨地都能成為祂榮耀的見證人。主耶穌的門徒，在兩千年前，能被人看出「他們是跟過耶穌的」⁶，今天我們也能如此。

四十多年前，5歲的我，想走入聖誕卡片中的理想世界，擁有美善的人生，但依著人的方法，我是完全失敗了。十八年前，我在極度的沮喪與失落中，遇見主耶穌，一切重新來過，將人生的目標奠基於主的話語上，更在人生的路途上，以主的話作為我「……腳前的燈，……路上的光」⁷。今天，我仔細檢驗我這個實驗的成果，我肯定地說，真的有一份藍圖，是上帝為我量身設計的。我喜樂地想完成祂在我身上至高的旨意，這也是我人生最大的豐富與滿足。聖經

A friend once told me that every time she saw me, she was struck by my felicity. She said that I gave off the impression of someone who had walked straight out of a lifestyle magazine, bringing vivacity and inspiration to others. I thought carefully about her words. The pictures in a magazine are only advertisements; once those advertisements are shot, the production team goes right to work tearing down the set of that fantasy world until nothing is left – it's all smoke and mirrors. Outward appearance doesn't signify life within, but those who have life within will inevitably reflect that life in their outward appearance. A Christian, knowingly or not, willingly or not, is a roaming billboard; the question is, what is the advertisement that others see? Jesus Christ has commanded us to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth, so we ought to prepare ourselves well and be ready to testify to His glory in any time and place. More than two thousand years ago, people were able to look at Jesus Christ's disciples and recognize that "*these men had been with Jesus.*"⁶ We can be the same way.

More than forty years ago, the five-year-old version of me wanted to walk into the ideal world displayed upon those Christmas cards and start my idyllic and beautiful life. Using my own methods, I was completely defeated. Eighteen years ago, I found Jesus Christ when I was lost and frustrated, and started over once again with my objectives rooted in the Word of God. On my life's journey, I've used God's Word as "*a lamp to my feet*

說：「惟有詳細察看那全備、使人自由之律法的，並且時常如此，這人既不是聽了就忘，乃是實在行出來，就在他所行的事上必然得福。」⁸

親愛的朋友，上帝的話是「活的」，上帝的話是有功效的，上帝的話是信實的，上帝的話是可經歷的。深願你能藉著研讀聖經的話語，上帝能完全得著你。也藉著實踐上帝的話，你能完全得著祂。願上帝祝福你。

and a light for my path.”⁷ Today, I examine the outcome of my experiment, and can state with conviction that God tailor-made a blueprint for my life. I joyfully look forward to accomplishing God’s most high will for my life – aiming for that achievement is what gives life’s greatest sense of abundance and fulfillment. Scripture says: “...*the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does.*”⁸

Dear friend, the Word of God is living. The Word of God is active. The Word of God is faithful. The Word of God can be experienced. My deepest desire for you is that through your study of God’s Word, God will fully gain you, and that through the practice of His Word, you will fully gain Him. May God bless you.



祝福等你拿



Blessings for the Taking

1. 作者認為，人生中最重要的事是什麼？在每天生活中你可以怎樣分配時間、善用時間，學習上帝的話？
2. 作者看見的「價值」是什麼？你看見自己的「價值」是什麼？
3. 作者所說的「地位」是什麼？你看見自己的「地位」是什麼？
4. 作者所說的「成就」是什麼？你看見自己的「成就」是什麼？
5. 上帝特別為你的一生設計的藍圖是什麼？你是否知道？你如何行在其中？

1. What does the author believe is the most important thing in a person's life? In your daily life, how can you make time to study the Word of God? How can you make the most of that time?
2. What does the author see as her own "value"? What do you see as your "value"?
3. What does the author say is her "position"? What do you see as your "position"?
4. What does the author say is her "achievement"? What do you see as your own "achievement"?
5. What is the tailor-made blueprint that God has designed for your life? Do you know it? How do you plan to follow it?

第十二章 風暴中的航行

文／閻凱毅

再加一篇

我的丈夫閻凱毅是我最崇敬的人。他是上帝的好幫手，幫助上帝在我身上進行雕塑——使原石成為精品。在我的文章中有許多關於他的故事，但他筆下的自己又呈現什麼風貌呢？

第十二章特別收錄他〈風暴中的航行〉一文，節錄他帶領全家，安穩度過經濟風暴的故事（請對照第九章〈逆風飛舞〉一文。這兩章各從丈夫和妻子的角度，敘述如何「全家攜手，迎戰風暴」），相信能對正遭受風暴衝擊的人有所幫助。另外還有幾篇他的文章雖未收在本書裡，但錄製在隨書附贈的MP3裡，不要忘了收聽喲！相信你一定會喜歡的。

2008年9月，美國發生的金融海嘯，沖垮了全球金融市場的堤防，形成全球性的經濟風暴。許多人蒙受重大的財產損失，許多人面臨經營危機，許多人失去工作……生活飽受威脅，前景一片黯淡。在這樣的環境中，我身為理財公司的經營者，當然也無法倖免於難。

但是，與絕大多數人不同的地方在於：我置身在經濟風暴已經有一段歷史。2008年的金融海嘯對我而言，不過是另一波巨浪而已。事實上，早在2002年，我就在風暴中的航行了。

2002年，我51歲。如果人生以50歲做分野，51歲正是人生下半場的開始，並且是最美好的開始。因為這個時候，我的歷練和體力找到最高的交會點，加上安定的家庭以及成功的事業做後盾，我的人生下半場將會精彩可期，可以做想做的事——做有意義的事、有永恆價值的事。但是，沒有想到，2002年，我卻是跌跌撞撞地進入人生下半場。

2000年以來，美國經濟持續不景氣，許多人面臨事業危機。沒想到，在2002年，這件事居然會發生在我身上！

我在亞洲代理的美國公司「康西科」（Conseco Inc.），是一家大型金融服務公司工作。它是名列「財星500」（Fortune 500）的美國500大公司之一，也是名列「標準普爾」（Standard & Poor's）指數的500大公司之一。它曾是華爾街公認的明星公司，1986到1998的十二年期間，股票漲幅與「微軟」（Microsoft）不相上下。

我創立的公司「Unicom財務規劃公司」，全權代理康西科的一家子公司，負責亞洲市場的開發。從1998到2002年，連續五年，我公司的業績都為國際市場的第一名，因此我獲得很多康西科的「股票選擇權」。這是我暗自得意的退休規劃；我心想，若是公司的股票表現一如從前，我的股票選擇權，加上我自己購買的公司股票，再過幾年，就應有兩千萬美元的價值。我可以隨時提前退休，做我想做的事。但是，在2002年8月，美國各大新聞媒體報導，康西科可能破產，這個新聞在投資市場投下一顆炸彈。康西科股價暴跌至幾分錢，我的股票選擇權形同廢紙。

第一顆炸彈硝煙未散，康西科自己又投下第二顆炸彈：2002年9月終止國際部的業務。康西科在不到一個月內結束國際市場的業務，我一時找不到知名公司接替，也沒有適合

國際市場的投資理財商品，我在亞洲多年辛苦建立的專業團隊（包括會計師、律師、私人銀行家以及財務規劃專家）瀕臨瓦解，我的事業危在旦夕。接著，三個月後，在2002年12月康西科正式宣告破產，使它成為當時（2002年）美國歷史上第三大破產公司。第一名是通訊業的WorldCom，第二名是能源業的Enron，第三名就是金融服務業的康西科。

身為基督徒，我的信仰帶給我安定的力量。但是，重建事業需要時間，等待的日子，實在不容易過。我自認無懈可擊的新計畫，一個一個失敗，更令我難以置信。因為根據我的專業、能力、經驗和「重疊的計策」（上策、中策、下策、保命計策），2003年我進行的幾個案子沒有一個成功，實在令我難以置信！

在驚濤駭浪之中，我知道，這是上帝特別量給我的考驗；上帝要我在生命中做一些結束的工作，要我學習真正地相信祂、依靠祂、經歷祂。我相信，祂為我結束，也必給我一個新的開始。

上帝提醒我，在我自己的熱鬧喧囂中，上帝的聲音相對的微弱；在我自己的燈火輝煌中，上帝的榮耀相對的黯淡。因著愛我的緣故，上帝在一夕之間拔掉插頭，切斷電源，讓我置身在黑暗、寂靜之中，讓我安靜等候，然後，我才能清楚聽見祂的聲音，才能明白祂在我生命中更高的旨意。

從2002年到今年（2011年），我已經在風暴中航行了八年之久，可以算是「老船長」了。過去八年，是非常艱困的一段時日，但也是我生命中最有意義、最有建樹的黃金歲月；過去八年，我經歷了從危機、而轉機、而新機的祝福。今天，我要以感恩的心和大家分享，我和我一家同心對抗經濟風暴的一些心得。

1. 對壓力的重新認識

困境或挑戰（例如，經濟風暴）一定帶來壓力。壓力是一種「力」，而「力」就是「能量」。因此壓力越大，能量越大，重點在我如何導引這股巨大的能量。我看見，許多人面對壓力，習慣性地用一己之力承受壓力，結果——輕則心力交瘁，重則被壓垮、被輾碎。壓力之為禍或為福，取決於我對它的認識。我發現，對壓力有正確的認識，可以將它轉換成推動我前進的助力；面對「難以承受之重」，我可以「因勢利導」，將它的能量轉化為動能，變成我站在一個新的起點，邁向一個新的目標的推動力。更重要的是，要從信仰的角度看壓力：壓力的能量，可以把我「推離上帝」也可以把我「推向上帝」。因此，身為基督徒，一定要預先設定方向（並且這是「惟一」的方向）

就是——「面向上帝的方向」。不論壓力大小，壓力一來，只會把我推到上帝面前，使我依靠上帝，讓我經歷上帝賜給我的平安、能力、恩典和祝福。因此每一個壓力——每一個困境、每一個挑戰、每一個風暴，都成為我蒙福的根源。

聖經說：「……我們只管坦然無懼地來到施恩的寶座前，為要得憐恤，蒙恩惠，作隨時的幫助。」¹ 在這節經文中，我們看見上帝「施恩的寶座」，這裡告訴我們寶座的性質——施恩，又告訴我們施恩的內容——給我們憐恤、恩惠，並且作我們隨時的幫助。「隨時的幫助」指的是：不論任何時間，不論任何事情，不論任何困難，上帝都樂意幫助我們，事實上，上帝都等著要幫助我們。沒有一個困難是大到上帝不能解決，沒有一件事情是小到上帝不願理會。在最大和最小之間，包含了我們「一切」的問題。不要猶豫、不要等待、不要懷疑。壓力和絕望，使我們奮力抓住上帝，經歷上帝的真實，這才是最大的祝福！

我們一定要有屬靈的敏銳，在我們生命中遭遇的每一個困境、每一個風暴，都是上帝提醒我們注意，祂正在我們身上做工，並且祂會持續不斷地做，「直到」祂的美意成就。因此，我們要知道“God is trying to get our attention”（「上帝在提醒我們注意」），在我們的生命中有蒙恩的瓶頸，有蒙福的破口。我們應該問上帝：「天父啊，這次祢要我學什

麼功課？」並且要以行動回應。如此，才能縮短操練的時間，讓上帝在我們身上做成祂美好的工作，讓我們成為祂聖潔和蒙福的器皿。

2. 全家人「缺一不可」的共識

面對經濟風暴，我知道，妻子的支持是扭轉乾坤的關鍵。惟有夫妻同心，才能形成整個家庭的共識。就共識而言，夫妻之間不是「有共識」，就是「沒有共識」，沒有中間地帶。我知道，惟有夫妻同心，才能形成全家人的共識，才能動員家中每一個人，認真以對、全力以赴。

我告訴妻子，她對我的重要，以及我遭遇的財務困難，我請求她的支持與幫助。妻子（閻張梅）回答我說：「我知道你對家的責任感，但是，你的平安，才是我看為最重要的。」她安慰我說：「你一點也不要擔心，我和兩個孩子一定會全力支持你，和你同心努力。」果然，當我們一起和孩子分享我的困境之後，兩個孩子毫無驚慌、毫無害怕，她們分別給我愛的鼓勵，告訴我，她們會和我同心努力。她們說：「Daddy，不論情況如何，我們一樣尊敬你，一樣愛你！」妻子和孩子的話，帶給我無比的安慰和鼓勵。面對風暴，整個家都動員起來了，整個家都凝聚力量了，整個家都

變得不同了。

我相信，身為「一家之主」，對「領袖」身分的正確認識應該是：家庭中的領袖不要只強調 protector（保護者）和 provider（供應者），以致變成「英雄不低頭」、「好漢打脫牙和血吞」……，自己默默承受壓力，結果卻是全家人和他一同苦苦受罪。家庭中的領袖應該是一個坦誠的人，他願意尋求幫助，他能夠凝聚共識、設定目標，並激勵每一個家人，同心達成目標。

3. 共同計畫，分頭執行

共同計畫，才能「榮辱與共」；分頭執行，才能「各盡其責」。

a. 共同計畫

首先，我和妻子做出兩份非常簡單的報表：

(1) 第一份，是不到一頁的「淨值表」，包括兩個項目：資產和負債。

資產-負債 = 淨值。簡簡單單的淨值表，讓家裡的每一個人知道，家中「存糧有多少」。

(2) 第二份，是「收入支出表」：基本上，是過去一年（指過去十二個月）全家收入支出的記錄。簡簡單單的收入

支出表，主要的是：讓家裡的每一個人知道，全家「過去十二個月用了多少錢」。

一家四口，每人拿到兩份報表，經過我解釋之後，我才請兩個孩子和妻子各做自己未來一年的「支出表」。為什麼我可以不做？因為我不花錢，吃的、穿的、用的，一向都由妻子張羅。在結婚時，我和妻子就說好，我們要分工合作：「我負責賺錢，她負責花錢；我認真工作，她認真玩耍。」雖然像是玩笑的話，但是，婚後的情況也果真是這樣。在這裡，我必須聲明，我說妻子「負責花錢」和「認真玩耍」其實都是很正面的意思。言歸正傳，我提供未來一年每個月的收入預估，加上家中三位女士提供未來一年的支出預估，合在一起，就做出未來一年的家庭收支表。有了這樣一份數字清楚的報表，我們才各就各位，進行「數字管理」的遊戲。

b. 分頭執行

惟有「數字管理」，才能使每一個數字變化，都產生意義！每個人手中都有一份自己的「支出表」作為基準，因此每個人減少的支出，都會反映在數字上。換言之，每減少一分錢的花費，都會在自己的支出表（的數字中）顯示出來。因此，每一個節省，每一個在花費上的自我節制，都有意義。例如，小女兒告訴我，本來要買一小桶冰淇淋，但想到昨天才吃過，就不買了，省5塊錢也不錯。尤其，任何減少

的花費，都反映在數字上，成為對家庭的貢獻。兩個女兒最大的貢獻是進大學都獲得獎學金，並且求學期間，都有兼做校外工作，這兩種進帳，使她們的支出表上，增列了「收入」欄；這兩種進帳，造成的數字變化，非常驚人！更重要的是，兩個孩子經過校外工作的操練，變得更獨立、更成熟，也更懂得體貼父母。

4. 風險管理

a. 要設定明確的「底線」，並預做因應計畫

不要「在恐懼中，期望事情不發生」，要預先設想最壞的情況，並擬妥因應的計畫（例如，最壞的情況要賣房子，或會失去房子，到時候要如何因應）。因此，即使最壞的情況發生，也已有因應的方法；假如最壞的情況沒有發生，則心懷感恩，繼續努力改善家庭財務狀況。總之，絕對不要「在恐懼中，期望事情不發生」。惟有確定底線，全家人才有平安；惟有確定底線，才能保存根基，等待機會，重新建立。事實上，當我們毫不迴避地面對問題，往往發現，情況沒那麼糟，或最糟的情況，也沒那麼可怕。更何況，全家人同心協力，並肩作戰，更有勝算。

b. 預先設定停損點

風暴中，容易使人喪失判斷力，也容易被騙，想要翻身，卻連全部老本都投入，陷家人於險境。因此不論做任何投資，都必須設定停損點，絕對不可盲目冒險。讓我進一步說明，為什麼在風暴中，人容易喪失判斷力，也容易被騙：在無路可走之時，人心「寧可信其有，不願信其無」。人心的期待，必須找到依託——懸浮在空中的期待，急切地想抓住東西，如同伸出的手，想抓住任何一個出現的機會，並且，將它歸之於「從上帝來的機會」。甚至在「急速發財」²的引誘中，仍以無根的信心，做空洞的宣告。此外，再度提醒，即使是經過冷靜判斷、縝密規劃，做任何投資都必須設定「停損點」，寧可認賠出場，也絕不盲目冒險，以致血本無歸。

5. 持續學習，突破創新

學習新東西並不一定要從頭學起，建議，最好是在原有的基礎上，突破創新。這樣，才能應用一個很好的原則：

“I only do what I understand and can do well.” (我只做我懂的，並且做得好的。)儘量朝自己有興趣的領域發揮，這樣才可能在工作中得到樂趣。「樂趣」是底線，即使沒有賺什麼錢，卻有成就感，而且樂趣是「創新」的祕訣。

6. 一切問題的終極答案

基督教信仰，為我提供人生一切問題的終極答案。聖經告訴我們，生命中各樣的經歷，不論順逆，都有神的美意。聖經說：「上帝啊，祢曾試驗我們，熬煉我們，如熬煉銀子一樣。祢使我們進入網羅，把重擔放在我們的身上。祢使人坐車軋我們的頭；我們經過水火，祢卻使我們到豐富之地。」³

聖經清楚告訴我們，是上帝熬煉我們，是上帝叫我們經過水火，這一切遭遇，也是上帝帶我們到豐富之地的必要過程。這一切遭遇，乃是上帝在我們身上「兩面」的工作：一方面操練我們的經驗、能力，更重要的一方面，是操練我們的品格——在我們身上形成堅毅、忍耐、謙卑、感恩的品格。然後，上帝至終的目的，是使我們到豐富之地。

回顧過去八年，我看見，在我的風暴中，有時，上帝平靜狂風暴雨；有時，上帝任憑雨暴風狂，而平靜我的心。我看見，過去八年，上帝不斷地改變我的內在生命，祂也不斷地改變我的外在環境，我深信，至終，必帶我到豐富之地。我深信，上帝也必將這樣的恩典，賜給每一位相信祂和依靠祂的人。

最後，我要分享一節聖經的經文：「不要作糊塗人，要明白主的旨意如何。」⁴ 這節經文告訴我們一種對照的關係：若想不作糊塗人，一定要明白主的旨意如何；惟有明白主的旨意如何，才不會作糊塗人。風暴的衝擊，讓我重新思想「生命價值」的問題，和「人生終極目標」的問題，讓我更明白主的旨意，促使我重新設定人生目標（包括個人、家庭、事業、事奉……）。對我而言，身為基督徒最重要的是「屬靈的生涯規劃」。在此，我謹以「屬靈的生涯規劃」這一項為例，說明重新設定人生目標的重要（我要特別強調，它與「工作的生涯規劃」的原則也是相同的。因此，事實上，在這裡我所談的，是適用於兩種生涯規劃的原則）。

風暴的衝擊，將我放在一個新的起點，促使我重新設定「更有挑戰性的」屬靈生涯規劃——在未來幾年，要加強「窄化」、「深化」的事奉。因此，我必須思考的是：上帝給我的恩賜是什麼？在「未來幾年」我應該怎樣更有效地運用？尤其在恩賜方面有更「窄化」和「深化」的操練。

首先，讓我進一步說明「未來幾年」的意思。當我截取一段時間（可以是一年、或三年、或五年、或更長的時間。在這個例子裡，是五年：2005 至2010），思想要做的事的時候，很自然地，我必須知道：「我現在在何處」（起點）、「我往何處去」（目標），以及「如何到達」（方

法）。因此，我就必須做出計畫。而一個計畫，最重要而最容易被忽略的是：設定「時間的管制點」——確定從起點到目標之間，每一個階段達成的時間（時間越短越準！最終的目標，乃是累積「管制點」的成果而達成。不論「屬靈的規劃」或「工作的規劃」都是如此）。

為什麼說「越短越準」？舉例而言，我今天要在後院，為（我正在施工中的）擋土牆加砌十塊磚頭，時間的管制點是一天，而我最終的目標是，在我的後院築成美奐美輪的花園。因此，以「一天」的時間管制點來看，我可以準確地（在預定的時間內）完成目標，但是它卻是我達成終極目標的一步路。千萬要記得，有目標（尤其是長期的目標），而無仔細設計的「時間的管制點」，是很難達成目標，也很難保持「動力」——惟有（在不同的「時間的管制點」）不斷地驗收成果，才能保持繼續前進的「動力」，甚至超前達成目標。

因此，當我和妻子截取一段時間（2005至2010），思想要做的事——「走入宣教工場，全時間服事神」，可以讓我們更清楚、明確地設定「時間的管制點」，達成目標。比如說，妻子要如何五年內，完成神學教育（設定「季」管制點。結果：妻子已超前完成，取得學位）；我如何在五年內完成事業交接，退居幕後（設定「年」管制點。結果：

我已準時完成)。同時裝備自己——包括知識學習、靈命操練、體力操練(設定「週」管制點。今天仍在持續進行中……)。

其次，讓我進一步說明「窄化」和「深化」的意思。「窄化」指的是凝聚焦點，「深化」指的是更有果效。以光為例：陽光是光，它可以是暖洋洋的、它可以是照明之光，但是，當光經過極度凝聚，可以成為雷射光束，它的能量可以切割鋼板！這就是窄化(凝聚焦點)和深化(利可斷金)的意思。我們在各樣的事奉中，自然會發掘出自己的一些恩賜。隨著時間推移，事奉越成熟，恩賜越顯明。此時，我們就應該「聚焦」在上帝給我們的最大恩賜(窄化)，做更多的操練，達到大有能力、大有果效、利可斷金的事奉(深化)。

最後，我必須思考的是：我一生的終極目標是什麼？假如將我的一生，濃縮成十到二十個字，寫成我的墓誌銘，我希望會寫上什麼？

我們必須思考人生的終極目標(這一點，真正觸及了「價值」的議題。我們這一生所做的，什麼是真正有價值的，是美善的，並且是「永存的」……)。一個人離世以後，寥寥數語的墓誌銘，紀錄的不是他一生的過程，而是一生的結論。我們需要思考，對上帝、對人、對己，我一生被

記念的是什麼？是好父親(母親)？好兒子(女兒)？好丈夫(妻子)？上帝的好僕人(「……你這又良善又忠心的僕人……」⁵)？

通常，一個人離世之後，最被人記念，不是「事蹟」，而是「關係」，這一點實在很值得我們深思。惟有清楚的終極目標，我們的生命才有定向，才有不偏離的階段目標。

回顧過去八年，我看見：「風暴的衝擊」使我重設「屬靈生涯規劃」，使我行向「人生終極目標」。我和妻子美夢成真的經歷，見證了上帝的奇妙。「上帝的意思原是好的」⁶，我深信，每一位屬上帝的兒女，一生的經歷，不論順逆，都有上帝的美意。讓我們真明白主在我們身上的旨意，並行在祂的旨意中；讓我們一同在信心中，經歷祂的恩典、慈愛和信實！



祝福等你拿

1. 你是否重新認識壓力？你目前有哪些壓力？你要用什麼方法將壓力轉換成助力？
2. 本文告訴我們，要形成家中「每一個人」的共識，應該從哪裡開始。你要用什麼方法凝聚家庭共識？
3. 你是否使用「數字管理」的方法，落實家庭的收支計畫？
4. 你對家庭財務是否有做風險管理？你是否有設定底線並預做因應計畫？在每一項投資之前，你是否已評估過，你「能夠」承受投資失敗的風險？
5. 你是否明白上帝對你一生的旨意？你的人生目標（包括個人、家庭、工作、事奉……）是否明確？是否有達成的計畫，和每個階段的「時間管制點」？

An Extra Article

My husband Kai-i Yen is the person that I most admire. He's been God's best helper in the ongoing process of shaping me from an unformed stone into a work of art. There are many stories that involve him throughout my articles, but what can we learn about him through his own writing?

I've included an excerpt of Kai-i's article "Voyaging through the Storm" in this collection, which is a record of his experience guiding our family through an especially rough financial storm and the lessons that he learned. Please compare this article with my own article, "Rising against the Wind"; these two articles describe how our whole family overcame the storm hand-in-hand, from the perspective of both husband and the wife. I believe the articles can be of much help to those who are currently suffering through such storms of their own. There are many of Kai-i's other articles not included in this collection, but they are recorded on the accompanying MP3 – don't forget to give it a listen! I think you'll enjoy it.

12. Voyaging through the Storm

Kai-i Yen

In September of 2008, America experienced a nationwide financial tsunami that destroyed the protective dykes of the international markets and created a massive storm in the global economy. Many suffered grave losses of their personal assets, many faced crises of business management, many lost their jobs... old lifestyle habits were endangered, and future prospects seemed to grow dimmer and darker every day. In this kind of environment, even the manager of a financial services company like myself was unable to avoid the onslaught of the storm. The principal difference between myself and others was that I had already been in the throes of the storm for a much longer time; the crisis in 2008 was but another large tide in a storm I had been weathering since 2002...

...From the year 2002 until today (year 2011), I've spent eight years voyaging through the storm – I could be considered a veteran ship captain. The last eight years have been a very trying time, but they have also been a golden time of great meaning, growth, and building. During these eight years, I have undergone the crisis point, the turning point, and moved forward to the point of new opportunity. Today, I'd like to share with a grateful heart some of the things that I've learned in weathering the storm together with my family.

1. A New Understanding of Pressure

Hardships or challenge (such as a financial storm) will inevitably bring pressure. Pressure is a sort of force, and force is energy; therefore, the greater the pressure, the greater the energy. The big question is how one channels that charge of energy. I've seen many who, when faced with pressure, instinctively use their own strength to bear its burden alone – if the pressure is mild, their hearts and spirits are exhausted when it's all over; if the pressure is great, they're entirely crushed and obliterated in the wake of the storm. Is pressure a woe or a blessing? The answer to this question is determined by one's understanding of pressure. I found that if I approached pressure with the right understanding, I could turn it into a force that motivated me and propelled me forward. Rather than resisting the force of an unbearably heavy weight, I could guide the force in the right direction and transform the negative energy into positive momentum – momentum that would give me a new starting point and propel me towards new goals. More importantly, pressure needs to be considered from the perspective of faith. The force of pressure can either push me away from God or push me towards God; therefore, as a Christian, I must predetermine and set my direction before the storm comes. There is only one direction – the direction facing God. Whether the pressure is great or small when it comes, it can only force me nearer to God so that I can

rely on Him and experience the peace, strength, grace, and blessing that He has in store for me. Thus, every pressure – every difficulty, challenge, and storm – can become a source of blessing. Scripture says, *“Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*¹ In this verse, we can see the essence of God's throne is the giving of grace, and the content of that grace is both mercy and help anytime we need it. “Help in our time of need” means that at any time, in anything, and with any difficulty, God is happy and willing to help us - in fact, God is waiting to help us. There is no hardship so big that God cannot fix it, or any burden so small that God will not bother with it. Between the biggest and the smallest, all of our troubles are covered; do not hesitate, do not disbelieve, do not doubt. Pressure and despair teach us to hold onto God with all of our strength, so that we experience Him as a true and living God – this is the great blessing of stormy weather.

We must maintain an acute sense of spiritual awareness. In our lives, every crisis and storm that we pass through is a reminder from God that He is working on us and that He will continuously work on us until His good will is fully accomplished. When trials come, we need to recognize that God is trying to get our attention, so that we will examine our lives and find the obstructions to grace and the cracks to blessing. We should ask God, “Heavenly Father, what lesson do you want me to learn this time?” and respond with action; only then can we

stop the cycle of hardships meant to train us, and allow God to work His good and beautiful ways in our lives to form us into His holy vessels.

2. A Whole Family Consensus

During our financial storm, the support of my wife was the key upon which success and failure hinged. Only a husband and wife of one heart can form a whole family consensus. There can only be “full consensus” and “no consensus” – there is no in between. I knew that it was only through a shared heart with my wife that our family would reach full consensus, and only through full consensus that we would be able to mobilize every member of our family to tackle the storm with all their strength. I told my wife May how important she was to me, and I also shared with her my financial difficulties; I asked for her help and support. She answered, “I know your sense of responsibility to your family, but your peace is what’s most important to me.” She comforted me and said, “You don’t need to worry a bit. The girls and I will support you with all our strength, and we’ll all work together with one heart.” As it turned out, when we sat down with our daughters to discuss our financial difficulties, they displayed neither panic nor fear, and instead offered up their encouragement in love and told me that they would strive right alongside me. They said to me, “Dad, no matter what the outcome is, we will still respect and love you just the same.” The words of my wife and children brought me an incomparable

comfort and sense of encouragement. By the time we faced the heart of the storm, the whole family had already gathered together, condensed into a tightly knit core, and changed for the better.

I believe that the head of the household must recognize the fact that a leadership position does not mean thinking of yourself as an invincible protector and provider. Such thought only leads to foolish attempts to prove oneself a hero – you imagine that you suffer the burden silently and alone, but your whole family suffers the same punishment. The leader of a family should be a candid person; he should be willing to seek help, able to draw forth agreement, ready to set a goal, and always encouraging the whole family to work together towards that goal.

3. A Plan Formed Together and Executed Separately

A. The Plan Formed Together

First of all, my wife and I drafted up two very simple reports.

(1) A brief net worth statement

Less than a page in length, our statement covered two aspects: assets and liabilities (assets – liabilities = net worth). A simple net worth statement such as this lets everyone in the family know how much is stored up in the family vault.

(2) An income statement

Basically, this is a record of the income and expenditures

of each family member over the previous year. A simple income statement such as this lets everyone in the family know how much he or she has used over those twelve months.

With our four individual sets of reports, I explained to the family what each of these signified, and instructed my wife and daughters to each draft up their estimated expenditures over the next year. Why didn't I need to make one? Because I don't spend money. Everything I eat, wear, and use is prepared by my wife. When the two of us got married, we agreed that we would work together with a division of labor: I would be in charge of earning money, and she would be in charge of spending it; I would be in charge of work, and she would be in charge of play. Even though it sounds like a joke, our marriage situation really did evolve into something of the sort. (It should be noted that when I say my wife diligently spends money and plays, I mean it very positively.) Back to the reports though – we combined my monthly estimated income with the monthly estimated expenditures of the three ladies, and drew up our family income statement. Having a clear, calculated report with real numbers allowed us to intelligently man our respective stations in this game of numbers management.

B. The Plan Executed Separately

It is only through the constant management of numbers that the little changes in shifting numbers maintain significance. If every family has an expenditure report to reference as the norm, then every cutback or savings is noticeable and measurable

against that report. In other words, every single cent not spent is evident, so every instance of saving and every case of self-control has perceptible purpose. For example, my younger daughter reported that she had intended to buy a pint of ice cream, but she reconsidered it in light of the fact that, one, she had already had ice cream the day before and, two, she would be able to save five dollars. The five dollars mattered because it would have an effect on her expenditure report and demonstrate her contribution to the family effort.

Ultimately, my daughters' greatest contribution to the family effort was the fact that they both received scholarships to college, and also both held jobs during their four years of school. These two channels formed a new income column on their expenditure reports that had an astonishing impact on the numbers. More importantly, though, the two girls also matured through the experience of working, and they both became more independent and considerate of their parents.

4. Risk Management

A. Set up a Bottom Line and Alternate Actions

Don't sit there frozen with fear and hope that misfortune doesn't befall you – be aware of the worst-case scenario, and create alternate plans of action accordingly. (For example: if the worst-case scenario is that you need to sell your house or lose your house, what is your plan of action?) This way, even when the worst situation possible becomes the reality, there is already

a solution in the works. If the worst situation does not become the reality, then you will be all the more grateful and you can continue to diligently better the family's financial situation. In summary, don't avoid facing your fears: only by planning for the worst will your whole family have peace, and only by planning for the worst will you be able to maintain your basic foundation and bide your time to start rebuilding again. In fact, when we face our troubles head-on, we often find that the situation is not as bad as we thought or as formidable as we feared. What's more, when the whole family unites all their heart and strength and fights the battle shoulder-to-shoulder, there's an even greater chance of winning.

B. Set a Stop-Loss Policy

In the midst of a storm, it's easy to become less discerning and more easily swindled; in the attempt to turn your fortunes around, you might wildly throw away all of your savings and inadvertently bring a crisis upon the whole family. No matter what the investment, everything should have a stop-loss point – there should be absolutely no blind risk-taking. Let me explain a bit more closely how one becomes less discerning and more easily swindled: when people feel like they're at the end of the line, they are much more likely to believe that any opportunity is at least a little bit possible and neglect all probability that says otherwise. Their sense of expectation demands some sort of lifeboat, and they'll reach out and grab any opportunity as their saving grace, oftentimes even attributing the opportunity

to God as a form of justification. When they're "*eager to get rich*,"² people will make empty declarations according to their groundless faith. I want to remind the reader once again that even with cool-headed reasoning and detailed planning, every investment should have a stop-loss point. It's better to walk away with some loss than blindly risk all of your remaining savings that are the lifeblood of your family.

5. Learning, Break-Through, and New Creation

Learning does not mean you must start over from the beginning; rather, I suggest that you build upon the foundation of what you've learned before in order to reach new breakthroughs, and build again from there. This way, you can apply a very useful principle to your life: "I only do what I understand and can do well." Do your best to develop in a direction of personal interest – it's the only way that you'll find enjoyment in your work. In the end, enjoyment is the bottom-line; even if there's not much money to be made, you'll gain a sense of achievement. Moreover, enjoyment is the key to creativity.

6. The Ultimate Answer

The Christian faith has provided for me the ultimate answer to all of life's questions. The Bible tells us that all life's experiences, whether fortunate or unfortunate, have God's good

and perfect purpose behind them. Scripture says, *“For you, O God, rested us, you refined us like silver. You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.”*³

The Bible clearly tells us that God is the one who refines us, God is the one who puts us through fire and water, and that, through this necessary process, God is also the one who brings us to a place of abundance. All that we encounter allows God to work on us at two distinct levels: on one level, God trains experience and capability; on a far more important level, God trains character – character that is persevering, patient, humble, and thankful. God’s final purpose and our final destination is a place of abundance.

When I look back upon my own storm of the last eight years, I see that sometimes God calms the raging wind and waves around me, but sometimes he lets them rage and calms my heart instead. Over the last eight years, God has continually altered both my inner life and my outer circumstances. I deeply believe that, in the end, He will bring me to a place of abundance, and I believe equally deeply that He has extended this kind of grace to all who believe in Him and depend upon Him.



Blessings for the Taking

1. Have you come to a new understanding of pressure? What pressures are currently set out before you? What methods will you use to convert the force of your negative pressure into the force of a positive momentum?
2. The article has already told us what (or who) the starting point is for forming a whole family’s consensus. What methods will you use to draw forth a consensus from your own family?
3. Do you use numbers management to wholly execute income and expenditure planning for your family?
4. Have you done risk management for your family’s assets? Have you clearly identified your bottom line and set out your different plans of action? Before every investment, do you make a cool-headed evaluation and ascertain whether or not you can withstand the potential investment failure?

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作者 / 閻張梅

英譯 / 閻昱星

編審 / 蘇文安

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【美國聯絡處】

20672 Carrey Road, Walnut, CA 91789

電話：(909) 595-6777

傳真：(909) 595-6778

網址：<http://www.familykeepers.org>

E-mail：office@familykeepers.org



天恩出版社

10455臺北市中山區松江路23號10樓

郵撥帳號：10162377天恩出版社

電話：(886-2) 2515-3551

傳真：(886-2) 2503-5978

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