

CHRISTIANA TSAI'S THANKS AND LONGINGS

After 19 years in bed.

A faithful missionary friend sent me the following lines:-

"Direct, control, suggest this day
All that I think, and do, and say."

This has become my opening prayer when my Master and I meet together almost daily between three and six in the morning. It has been a most restful, and precious time.

Last Sunday a Christian friend asked me whether I am lonely and tired spending my days looking at the solid wall and in a darkened room all the time. "Oh, no", was my answer. As the Lord is my real and constant companion, I have no chance to be lonely. The solid wall becomes an attractive pavilion, and the darkened room a spot of sunshine and blue sky, because the Lord is with me.

This New Year morning, my Master and I met a little earlier than usual. He listened patiently to some of my heartfelt thanks for the past years, and some of my longings for the coming year.

1. I thanked Him for sending Mr. and Mrs. Charles Leaman to be the first missionaries to give a life-time of missionary service to my native city, Nanking, China, and for using Miss Mary Leaman to lead me, an idol worshipper, later my mother, and then fifty-five members of my family and relatives to know Jesus and follow Him.
2. I thanked Him for giving me the opportunity to come to this country twenty some years ago, and stay a while with Miss Leaman's uncle, Dr. Henry Leaman, who was then blind, and over eighty. His faith in the Lord permeated my inner life and has been my help all the rest of the years.
3. I thanked Him for my many praying friends in America and other countries who have been of untold help to me in my spiritual journey, and supplied many of my needs.
4. I thanked Him for the time when I was so sick in 1932. Six doctors of different nationalities were called in consultation. Then all announced that the case was hopeless. A most famous Chinese doctor was asked to come to see me. A big sum of money had to be paid, in case he was kidnapped between his home and ours. He held my hand and said, "You are like a lamp without oil. The longest you will have to live is three more days." Truly "Man's extremity is God's opportunity." Later, when the Lord had made me much better, this doctor came again to see me, and wrote, "Only the living and mighty God brought her back."
5. I thanked Him for saving my old "gateman", the head one of those who used to guard the big entrance to our home, and court yards and gardens during the many years of my father's official life. This gateman was with our family thirty-five years. When he heard of my hopeless condition he went hurriedly to the pastor and said, "I want to be where my 'Miss Seven' goes." (I am the seventh of the thirteen girls in our family and so was called "Miss Seven"). Thus he was baptized a few months before he went to be with the Lord.
6. I thanked Him for the three Philadelphia ladies (only one of them heard me speak once in a meeting in Philadelphia). Each one willed me one thousand dollars and their lawyers found me when I was in desparate need,

7. I thanked Him for saving the one of my eleven brothers who was especially and very, very bitterly opposed to Christianity. It was in the year 1946 - not long after the close of world war two. He announced to the family, "It was only Jesus who could give my sister the strength to bear this terrible suffering - suffering much more severe than any I have seen or heard of, therefore I have decided to walk the road she has walked."

8. I thanked Him for opening the eyes of my doctor. Two Chinese doctors and one Jewish doctor said to Miss Leaman and my family one day in 1946, "If you get all the doctors in Shanghai to come, she could not be saved." Again, "Man's extremity is God's opportunity." On Christmas Eve of that year, my doctor publicly told her large atheistic family, "I have watched Miss Tsai's case so long, that now I know there is a God, so my son and I have decided to believe in Jesus as our personal Saviour."

9. I thanked Him for suggesting to Mrs. Will Stewart, sister of Dr. White, of White's Bible School, New York (Now the Biblical Seminary) to will to me \$500.00. It came to me while I was walking through the valley of the shadow of death, and was very much in need.

10. I thanked Him that for the last thirty years I had looked to Him for support. He never failed me once.

11. I thanked Him for the way He led me here, and for the three Misses Leaman, who not only opened their home to shelter me, but also have showered their kindness and sympathy upon me in the most wonderful Christ-like way.

12. I thanked Him for using Miss Leaman to put the whole of the Chinese Bible into the simple phonetic system which makes it possible for the Chinese illiterates to read His Word.

In the Book of Philemon, Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ, told Philemon in verse 12 that Onesimus is "mine own bowels". The Chinese translation is especially beautiful. It says "sin shan dy ren." This means the "the one upon or after my heart." Oh, my Master, and Saviour, help me to so live that my life may be a

LIVING WITNESS

and that I may be used as a

HUNTING DOG

to lead others to know Him better and love Him more. Above all and all, my Jesus, that I may be found

A CHILD AFTER THY OWN HEART

not only in the year 1950, but also in the remaining days of my life until I see Thee face to face.

"Dear Master, as the old year dieth soon
Take Thou my harp
And prove if any string be out of tune,
Or flat or sharp.
Correct Thou, Lord, for me
What singeth harsh to Thee,
That heart and life may sing, the new year long
Thy perfect song."

(Written New Year Morning 1950)
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