

## A Debt to Repay



God places different people, opportunities, and road signs in our lives to mold us and lead us to what we do and what we love to do.

By Pastor Paul Choy

**W**hen I was still in my mother's womb, God had chosen me to participate in the global missions ministry. All through my life, He has provided me the opportunities to be built up and develop my passion for missions and prepare me to lead our church in the area of missions.

I consider myself blessed to be born in a Christian family of four generations of believers. The Lord had long eyed my great grandmother to be the target of the first Western missionaries, who presented the gospel to this vision-impaired, illiterate old lady in China. Praise God, she was the first

fruit of the Gospel in the region. This fruit of the Gospel eventually spilled over to me. For this, I am in debt to the early missionaries.

Growing up in a Christian family does not mean I automatically belong to Christ; it only means that I had more opportunity to be exposed to Christ than others. Coincidentally, the neighborhood church I attended in my childhood was a Missionary Alliance Church, planted in Hong Kong from Guangxi as a result of political changes in the Chinese government. Those missionaries told touching and animated Gospel stories in Cantonese with a thick,

foreign accent. The early messages I heard impacted my life, encouraging me to grow, seek faith personally and receive Christ for eternal life. I am grateful to the missionaries who planted these early churches, so that I could have the opportunity to know the true God.

After immigrating to Canada, I had chosen Vancouver Chinese Alliance Church to be my spiritual home. To trace the "genealogy" of this church, it was first facilitated by Western missionaries, funded by the missionary foundation from the Filipino Chinese Church and fueled by the missionary spirit of the late Rev. Augustus Chao. Thus, the early Chinese Alliance missionary direction was formed. I was privileged to have served in a Christian organization in the United States because of the financial support from my home church (VCAC). Because of the love of VCAC, my three years of theological training was well supported. Later, God led me back to serve at VCAC - a church with a vision for missions and full of potential and resources. Thirty years ago, I was a benefactor of the missions fund; today, I am still a debtor working hard to repay the grace bestowed on me.

The Christian organization that I had served at for seven years had taken up the role of a missionary sending agency. The head of that organization was a pastor who had many years of practical experience in missions. I had learned much from him. During that time, God had already given me a passion for Latin America.

“ Matthew 28:19-20: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

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When my training in that Christian organization was deemed complete, God led me back to Canada to attend a Bible school, which is a missionary training institute. The founder of the seminary was deeply inspired by his former theology teacher, whose emphasis in missions work had become the main focus of that Bible school. In fact, his theology teacher was trained directly by Dr. A. B. Simpson, the founder of the Missionary Alliance. In that sense, I always wondered if I could be called a disciple of Dr. A. B. Simpson. In the seminary, every activity such as classes, after-school time, prayer meetings, morning assemblies, Friday fellowship nights, etc., was related to missions. Sometimes, missionaries in their furlough would be invited to the seminary to share their missions experiences or encouraging potential candidates to consider possible

mission fields. After three years' immersion in this “missions-focused environment”, I was living and breathing missions. So it became a natural path for me to serve in missionary work back in my home church. Moreover, it was pleasurable too to find some kindred spirits to co-plan and develop the missions ministry. It is a joy to be promoting the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

Looking back, I realize God has always prepared the right people or circumstances to influence me in every stage of my life. Even though, He has not yet sent me out as a career missionary, He had prepared me to humbly assist in emphasizing the importance of missions in our local church. With a grateful heart, I have therefore tried my best to lead our church in missions education and resource support, cultivating

tomorrow's missionaries and participating in annual short-term missions trips. As God leads and in His timing, I would be willing to retire early to commit to the Second-Mile Missionary work when that time comes. I think my life song would be complete if I were to end the last few bars of that song in the tune of missions. ■

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**Rev. Paul Choy** is our VCAC Missions Pastor, he has been leading annual short-term missions teams to different missions fields since year 2000. If you have any questions about missions opportunities or missions in general, you may contact him through the Fraser Lands Office (604) 451-5449 or [paul\\_choy@vcac.bc.ca](mailto:paul_choy@vcac.bc.ca)



## Baptism Celebration

Sunday December 6, 2009 @ Fraser Lands

English Baptism Celebration 3:00 pm

Cantonese & Mandarin Celebration 7:30 pm

Come and join us in celebrating together as a church family as our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ will be getting baptized this December. All are welcome to this joyous special event.

