

# TOH BIN LIM

**Dr. Lin, How are you?**

Very well, thank you.

**This opportunity to visit with you was hard to come by; you are so busy. Elder Victor Yuan suggested that I come to your church and interview you before the Love feast.**

Yes, it's true. The tyranny of time is always upon us. When Elder Yuan told me that you were going to interview me. I felt unworthy of being the subject of your interview.

**I understand that you and your church joined a medical missionary group in Mexico. You, as a surgeon, must have been rather busy when you were down there helping the patients.**

Yes, indeed. It was a really great and humble experience for me to serve the Lord in the mission field. I would like to do more, but time is so limited. Maybe we should make it a habit of going down there or to some other place where medical services are in want. We could probably represent the heart and hands of Jesus to touch people in need and to mend the hurts and wounds of His flocks out there.

**Our mutual friend, ninety-year old Elder Yuan told me of your love for M.D. SURGEON Christ and for brothers and sisters in Christ and also mentioned that your surgical skills are famous. I wanted to meet you and interview you. Would you tell us about yourself?**

I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior when I was young. I was born in Amoy, Fujian. My father, Reverend Lim Si Sin was the pastor of the Chinese Christian church there. My mother was a teacher in a middle school. I am the first born of seven brothers and sisters. In 1949 my father was invited to Rangoon, Burma to pastor a Methodist church. Thank God for leading the whole family safely to Rangoon. Over ten years, the Burmese Chinese church was blessed by God,. Many joined the church. By the power of the Holy Spirit many new churches were built, souls were saved, and God's kingdom was expanded. My father was elected to the position of bishop. After his retirement, he and my mother moved to the States to live with their

children. My parents lived their lives by faith, full of loyalty to God and love for Jesus. They set a good example for their children and were a wonderful testimony for our Lord. I came to America in 1954 and studied at the University of Michigan. After graduation I entered medical school at Northwestern University. After four years I finished my medical education. I specialized in general surgery at both northwestern university and the University of Toronto in Canada.

### **In Canada? Why?**

I came to the States from Burma. I was in Burma for a rather short period of time and did not qualify for Burmese citizenship. At that time the Burmese government recognized the Chinese Communists, so I could no longer use the Chinese Nationalist passport. It was a difficult situation, but God opened a way. He listened to my prayers and arranged my study abroad as a person without a country. Once I arrived in the State, I was a stranger in a strange land. I had to take part-time jobs to support myself at school. Life was hard, but I made up my mind to study medicine; I had to keep my grades up too. After I finished medical school, the American immigration office informed me that I could not stay on with a student visa. I had to leave the country. The medical school and the chairman of my department made great efforts to allow me to stay for my surgical training, but to no avail. Finally the chairman arranged for me to finish my surgical training in Canada. Thank God for His great mercy, which kept me going in my struggle to complete my education.

### **How did you come to California?**

In April 1970, God provided me with the opportunity to deliver a paper at the UCLA Medical School. I met many schoolmates and friends. They all encouraged me to move to southern California. At that time snow still covered the ground in Canada. Here flowers and grass were everywhere. I prayed for God's guidance. The next spring we moved to San Fernando Valley. Now my son Michael is working at the Department of Public Health; my daughter Andrea is a physician of internal medicine, and her husband is a surgeon. Thank the Lord for His grace and blessing.

### **How did you meet your wife?**

I met my wife, Dr. Margaret To, at the medical school hospital. She is a Christian physician of internal medicine. We married in Chicago. That was 32 years ago. Praise the Lord!

**I understand that there are quite a few doctors in your family – perhaps enough to staff a hospital.**

Presently our extended family has twelve medical practitioners, including three dentists. None of us is especially talented, but God's grace is sufficient. We ought to serve Him with the gifts He has bestowed upon us. However, it is not a simple matter to open a hospital.

**Are you active in your church?**

I joined the Christian Alliance Church over twenty years ago. I have participated in missionary medical work. This past July I was in Mexico as a short term medical missionary. Earlier I served as a medical missionary at a Christian hospital in Taiwan. When the opportunity presents itself, I also serve Him in the church choir. In the early days, I was more involved in the church choir, but too many emergency calls interrupted my choir service. Although I was called to save lives, I felt guilty.

**This type of guilt is felt by many sincere Christians who serve the church on a voluntary basis. This may be why some decide to serve God in full-time ministry. Of course, in a broad sense, all professions, including medicine, are rendering service of God, if done in the name of Jesus.**

Yes, no matter what our profession, we should witness for our Lord with the love, wisdom, and strength He gives us. The love of our Lord will teach our co-workers and patients. Let the Holy Spirit fill our hearts, empowering our thoughts, words, and actions to lead people to Christ. Give glory to our Lord. Of course, it is best to serve our Lord with all our hearts, minds, and strength.

**Just joking. If all Christians are pastors, who will attend services? Of the twelve Israelite tribes, only the Levites were kept holy for serving the spiritual welfare of the tabernacle or temple. The other eleven tribes had their responsibilities.**

Your explanation has resolved a knot in my heart. My father was a minister. As a son, many times I wish to follow in his footsteps.

**On the other hand, the Lord Jesus said the field is white, the laborers are few. Pray that God will send more workers to the field to harvest. That's why some Christian doctors, including quite a few Chinese Christian doctors, have gone abroad as medical missionaries. They organized a medical missionary society and take turns serving in Taiwan and other Asian countries.**

Yes, I would like to do more medical missionary work. Presently, many in our church also need my service.

**By the way, Elder Yuan mentioned that you are a skillful surgeon. As a patient of**

**yours, he admires you a lot. It is a great achievement to be a physician who has the praise of his patients. It's much better and effective than advertisements. Have you gained any spiritual insight from your surgical work?**

My patients are mainly Americans, including whites, blacks, Hispanics; the remainder are Asians, including Chinese. In an operation, once you pass beneath the skin color, you will find all the tissues, muscles, organs, blood vessels, nerve systems, tendons, bones are all the same. They were all designed and created by God. We doctors can only remove the diseased part or do repairs or transplants; it is up to the patients to recover. The rejuvenating energy of life is from God. My observation is that the faith of patient is very important. Those patients with no faith, no hope often do not recover as speedily as those believers with faith and hope. Moreover, prayer has a direct effect on a patient's recovery.

**In a recent news report in the Los Angeles Times, I read about a physician who gave up his practice in order to devote more time to research the effect of prayer on patients. Now he does experiments and gives lectures on his favorite subjects. He has concluded that prayers cause seeds to germinate faster, plants to grow faster, patients to recover faster.**

That is exactly what I feel. That is what the Bible teaches. To believers all things are possible. Jesus said, your faith has saved you!

**Dr. Lim, may I ask you, as a physician, what are your opinions about the supposed conflicts between religion and science?**

The vastness and the wonder of the universe prove the Creator, our great and wonderful God. Only God could have the power and wisdom to create such a beautiful world and all things in it. No other can do it. The intricacy of the human body is beyond description.

**Dr. Lim, would you tell our readers about a period or single event in which you felt that God was really close to you?**

Of course. God has been gracious to me all my life. He has always led me. He is a kind, righteous, unchanging God. The most precious thing in my life is that I accepted Christ Jesus as my personal Savior.

**In the recent L.A. earthquake, did you experience the salvation of God?**

We just built a brand new church. The earthquake epicenter was right in our town, Northridge; it was said to be several miles directly underneath our town. Our church building only sustained some two inches of cracks on the cement floors. Nothing else

was damaged. Some church members who live nearby had a little damage, but no one was hurt. This I call God's protection in danger. We believers can fully trust in Him for His mercy. Because of this earthquake, we realize the great tribulation is near; our Lord will return soon. An evangelist came to our area to conduct a mass meeting. Tens of thousands came forward to accept Jesus as their personal Savior. The Lord of souls has harvested abundantly beyond our expectation. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

**Hallelujah, praise the Lord. Dr. Lim, thank you for taking the time out of your tight schedule to be interviewed and for giving us your testimony. May God bless you and make you a blessing to many more!**

Thank you and Elder Yuan for giving me this opportunity to speak for my Lord to your O.K. readers. I hope that every reader could realize the salvation of God, and believe in Jesus as Savior and Lord. Put yourself in His hand; let Him use you. He will give you an unexpected achievement in your life and give all the glory to our Heavenly Father. Amen!

**Amen.**