

Michael Kwong

My calling to serve in God's ministry

I received the initial call to serve God when I was a senior in high school; it was during a Bay Area Revival Meeting. The speaker that night was Dr. Steven Tong, who preached a powerful message deeply moved me. I felt a burning desire to commit myself to God's work when I grew up. At the end of his sermon, Dr. Tong issued an altar call for all those who wanted to commit themselves to God's work. I answered the call and went to the front of the stage and received a benediction and prayer from Dr. Tong. Frankly, I didn't know much about missionary work or pastoral work at the time; all I remember was that I wanted to serve God.

In the years following that event, God began to impress upon me the mission field for my future place of ministry—China. This was the time before China opened its door to the western world. I knew very little about China, its culture and language, so I began to prepare myself in this capacity of ministry.

Regrettably, I put aside the calling after I got married. For many years, I just concentrated on building my family. Although I did not forget the call, the reality of life was too hard to overcome. However, our merciful God did not forget my prayer and commitment made that night at the Revival Meeting. Around the year 2000, God's call began to resurface again. There were several occasions that I felt God was moving in my heart strongly. Linda and I had talked about this call many times, and we decided that I would quit my job and go into fulltime ministry at the age 50.

I thank God for preparing me throughout the years in terms of biblical knowledge and teaching skills. I am especially thankful for the opportunity to have worked and lived in Shanghai, China for three and a half years. During this period of time, I learned to speak the language and got to know the people and culture. In March of 2008, Linda and I felt it was time to fulfill our promise to God, so we moved back to the States from Shanghai. I quit my job in June the same year and began my fulltime ministry with Chinese Christian Mission. Since then, I have been serving primarily in China, providing training and Christian education to the local churches. The fulfillment of the call was the greatest thing that has happened to Linda and me. It was all of God's grace. He called me; He prepared me; He directed me every step of the way. He did not let go of me. He brought me back to Him from those wandering years. He has blessed me richly ever since. May God be all the glory.