

Pastor Wen's Story

I was called by God when I graduated from high school. I had a very serious illness, and my mother went to church and prayed for me. Through God's grace, I experienced not only healing but new life. God's intervention in my life started a spiritual journey. Called by God's grace I rejected an opportunity to attend a university in China. Instead, I dedicated myself to biblical training. From 1988 to 1989, I attended a biblical training center in Quanzhou city, located in the Fujian Province. After graduating from the Bible training center, I learned much from being involved in many kinds of church activities. My early experiences included preaching, pastoral care, conducting prayer meeting, directing the choir and leading many different bible studies.

In 1990, I was enrolled in Nanjing Theological Seminary (NTS) for my theological education and graduated with a Bachelor of Theology. While at NTS, I met and married my wife, Jiayang Alice Zhang. I graduated from NTS in 1994.. Ministry began for us in serving a small local church in Quanzhou. At that time, there were only 300 people attending Sunday service. The first year, 1994, was a fruitful year for the Savior as the congregation increased to 300 to 700.

In 1995 we moved to Zhengzhou city, Henan Province. This location is has the largest populous of Christians in China. Our son, Moxi (Moses), was born in Fuzhou in 1995. Most of the Christians in Zhengzhou were senior citizens. It was difficult to reach young people in any of the churches. In addition there was virtually no musical opportunities. My wife and I took advantage of our music background and began to train choir members in the three churches. Two years later, the chor grew to 100 members. By the time we left to for America in 2005, there were 400 members in various choirs in the Zhengzhou churches.

In 1997, I became the senior pastor of a new church, Zhutun Church. I learned important administrative skills as well as grew in the ability to pastor a growing church. The church had 700 believers. Through the preaching of God's word and the equipping of the saints we organized Sunday school for children, began several new choirs and help many different services. Through God's faithfulness the church grew to 3,000. We also grew to include 15 different ministry points

The focus of ministry for me is to create a culture that values the lost and to help the church love them. This is my mission, my vision, my calling, my joy! My heart rejoices in watching people experience and then

live out God's forgiving love. There are times my family has experienced hardship—but not discouragement. God is faithful and trustworthy.

In 2005, through God's divine providence, I was given an opportunity to attend Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO. It was here that I earned my Master of Theological Studies. While studying in Denver, my wife and I began a Bible study at the University of Denver (DU) with Chinese students in September 2006. It has been a wonderful place to experience God's grace. With an average attendance of 20 students we feel blessed to minister to half of the Chinese population of the Denver University campus. Since September, six students have been baptized and five have professed faith in Christ.

As of March 2008, I graduated from Iliff, and was given the opportunity by St. John's Lutheran Church to use their facility to connect people with Jesus. The Denver University Chinese Christian Church (DUCCC) began its first Chinese worship at St. Johns in June 2008.

I echo Paul in saying, "I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven." (Acts 26:19). Please pray for our future ministry!

Shuifan (Philip) Wen