

A Pearl Necklace
Ladies Book Club
August 8, 2015

Good Afternoon Ladies:

My dear wife asked me if would write an introduction on how I came to know Lee and Miltinnie Yih (pen names: Liu and Mi Xue). I met Lee Yih (Miltinnie's husband) at a Christian men's conference in the mountains of Colorado almost 10 years ago. From the start, I was truly intrigued by this "ABC" (American Born Chinese) as Lee calls himself. Not only had Lee been in the business world, but understood all the joys, pressures and heartbreaks that we are faced with and more importantly, attempting to balance that with our commitment to our wives, children, church, activities, etc. Lee would attempt to answer each of these, often overwhelming issues, by showing us how to live out our life through the grid of the Bible.

Lee's style of teaching is unique to say the least. He makes men uncomfortable! Not by what he says, but by what "HE" says! Some men are quite content in listening to a message once a week and maybe a short Bible study and all is good. Lee was one of those guys that helped open my eyes to the reality each of us can develop our own unique "lay ministry." Remember, most of Jesus' disciples were just a bunch of stinky fisherman and after Jesus ascended, where did they go and what did they do?

As you know from reading the book, Lee and Miltinnie live in Cambridge, MA. I have spent time with both Lee and Miltinnie at their home on several occasions, staying several days. At first, I thought it might be boarding house, as there were so many people coming and going. Then I quickly realized the reality of their lay ministry. It was driven in three areas: Evangelism, Discipleship and Mentoring. Living in Cambridge, their outreach is to the Chinese graduate students (scholars) at MIT and Harvard. Here is just one example of what takes place: Lee might park himself on a bench in the Quad at Harvard. He lights up a cigar and waits. God sends him a Chinese scholar and Lee gives him a cigar. They talk and Lee invites him to dinner the following week. At dinner, there might be 12 other Chinese scholars (men and woman). They ask if they might be interested in studying what the Bible has to say, because many of the Founding Fathers based their lives on this Book. As they are prompted by the Holy Spirit, some agree and Lee takes the men and Miltinnie takes the women. God then touches a few of them, they meet the "Lover of their souls" and then Miltinnie and Lee disciple and mentor them for the next several years. They go back to China as new creations. Many of these students are children from High Party Communist Leaders. By their faithfulness and perseverance, they now have a network of believers throughout most of the major cities in China and Hong Kong who are now evangelizing and discipling others. Both Lee and Miltinnie recently returned from China and I believe Miltinnie had over 30+ pre-planned teachings in both China and Hong Kong and numerous individual discussions to encourage and mentor her sisters-in-Christ.

Here is a comment from Miltinnie of several years ago from one of her Year End Letters:

On the home front: Just recently a Western visitor to Lee's Bible Studies asked me, "What do you do during the week?" I told him that I manage a complex ministry household that hosts a bi-weekly Bible Study for 25-30 who stay for lunch, and numerous other gatherings, fireside chats, outreach and counseling over meals, plus long and short-term house guests and visitors. (Besides our regular live-in house guests, this year we had 160+ nights with additional house guests, including three sets that stayed more than a month.) This visitor then asked, "So it is like a B&B (Bed and Breakfast)?" I thought for a second, and said, "Actually, it is more like a B,B & B ... Bed, Bible, and Beyond."

I am only touching the surface on what Lee and Miltinnie are involved with, in addition to taking care of Miltinnie's 95 year old mother and their autistic mentally disabled son, David. I have spent time with David sitting on the front porch watching the cars drive by. David has 52 words in his vocabulary. He is a daily challenge, but so sweet. By the way, this coming Monday, both Lee and Miltinnie celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary!

The stories coming out of China are jaw-dropping after Miltinnie had her first Chinese edition printed in Mandarin. Of course she had great opposition. Miltinnie used 5 translators, it was rejected 3 times by the Chinese government, and she had to remove over 275+ footnotes to Bible references which took an additional 2 years! Many in China are coming to faith as a result of reading it – both wives and husbands! Here is just one example of the numerous letters they receive:

Miltinnie's book continues to amaze us. Tonight we got a call from Australia from a mother of a graduate student at Harvard, who has read the book and is now giving it to all her friends. Most people cannot put it down and read it in one sitting. A young man we met in China, now at Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia, told us over the Labor Day weekend that he bought a copy in Shanghai, and that it especially helps desperate housewives in China looking for reality in the Christian faith. Perhaps the second edition should be renamed: Thoughts from the Diary of a Desperate Housewife.

In closing, I mentioned to both Miltinnie and Lee that there is a gathering of ladies coming today to discuss the book. Miltinnie is "totally blown away" and actually offered to stop in Las Vegas on one of their West Coast trips. She would be willing to participate in a woman's retreat and consider it a privilege to teach on one of her favorite subjects like, "Mary and Martha," "Reversing the Curse," or "Being a Woman of Faith, Hope, and Love.

As Jane reminded me, we both continue to be astounded at what God can do in each of our lives when you actually "take Him at His Word!"

Have a most blessed afternoon as you discuss "A Pearl Necklace."

Much Love in Christ,
Dan

Dan with the Yih Family in Cambridge 2012: Miltinnie, her mother, David, Lee, Dan and Jansen (Miltinnie's brother)

