

## traSaying goodbye to my 'Spiritual giants'

By C.S. Stanley and Susie Rain

A five-year journey of emotional ups and downs comes to an end for a Christian worker in China. Diana Huang\* watched as those she grew to care for were shunned or beaten for their faith.

When Huang tells her friends she's returning to America, they ask her to do one thing ... leave them her voice. One friend, who was beaten by her parents for being a Christian, explains that when times are hard, she listens to Huang's praise and worship songs she has recorded on her cell phone.

Huang admits she was surprised by this request, but found a studio and recorded some of their favorites. She adds her own special, "goodbye" flare to the recording project — sharing testimonies about her friends and their unique walks of faith.

Join Huang as she sings for her friends and introduces you to some people who have become "spiritual giants" in her eyes.

[Audio File: Introduction]

[Huang] It's funny how quickly five years goes by. I remember when this journey first started I was sitting in a room. It was January 4th, 2006. There were 82 people in the room sitting with me.

Of the 82, I was the only one that spoke Chinese. And I remember thinking to myself, you know, "I'm ethnically Chinese. Everyone expects me to go to China." But really, of the 82 here, I was the only one that spoke Mandarin Chinese.

And I was reading through the book of Esther at the time, and I had gotten to Esther chapter four. At the very end ... in the middle, when Mordecai asks Esther, "Do you not imagine that you in the King's palace can escape any more than all the Jews? For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise from the Jews from another place, and you and you're father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this."

I remember thinking to myself, "You know, my Chinese is not that good. I have survival at most." But deliverance will come upon the Chinese with or without me.

But maybe I was just chosen for such a time as this.

This little project I've put together is really a journey of the lives and the people who have made an impact on my life during my five years here. As I share these stories, as I share these songs, I thank you for being a part of my journey, and I thank you for praying for the people of Gcity.

[Song]

## **Songs of Bloodshed**

When God called Huang to China, she thought it was the end of serving Him through music, a love since childhood. Never in her wildest dreams did he imagine that God would use His music to grow her love for the Chinese.

Learning to sing in the “heart language” of her friends and neighbors bonds her heart to theirs. It is through learning some of the old “Songs of Bloodshed” that Huang learned the testimony her friend Cynthia.

[Audio File: Cynthia]

[Huang] There’s a really famous hymn writer, a Chinese hymn writer. She’s pretty well known in China. She has a junior high education. She’s written over a thousand songs. Her songs are called, “Songs of Bloodshed.” She wrote it during a period of time where to believe, you would be faced with extreme persecution, leading to blood shed.

One of the girls I met, her name is Cynthia. She’s a fellow teacher at my university. I met her and the very thing she said to me was, “I have no ideas why I’m here. I don’t have my masters and my English isn’t very good. Even the school told me that this is the first time they’ve hired somebody who doesn’t have the qualifications to be a teacher here. If God brought me to Gcity, I know that I’m here to serve him.”

She was 23 at the time and teaching English to college students. As I got to know her, she shared her testimony with me. She became a believer when she was 19. At the time, her parents were the ones that persecuted her. Her parents found out and confiscated her Bible, confiscated all literature. And told her, you have a choice — you either denounce or we’ll disown you. When she didn’t, they said, “ok – you leave us no choice.” They started to beat her. For an entire 12-hour period, they beat her severely. She fainted and they’d wake her up and beat her. She told me during that time, the only thing she could think of was, “God forgive them for they know not what they do.” She fainted, I suppose. The next morning she woke up and her parents basically acted as if nothing happened. That summer, she said, it was the summer she felt the nearest to God because she had His Word in her heart.

Cynthia is the one that first taught me these songs, the “Songs of Bloodshed.” She’s the one that challenged me to record the CD. She said, I just have one thing I want to ask of you before you leave Gcity. Please leave us something behind. Leave us something that only you have, which is your music.

This next song talks about that. It talks about seeing China reached. Seeing people of China having heard the Gospel whether it is through the rain ... the storm ... the hail ... that through the bloodshed they will continue to see China reached.

[Song]

### **Motherhood: Stay home or work?**

Mothers throughout the world all want what's best for their child. Huang shares about her friend, Penny, deciding to be a "stay-at-home" Mom. While this is not always the norm in the United States, it is definitely not normal in China. Penny went against societal pressures to work, gain honor and make money so she could raise her son in a Godly manner.

[Audio File: Penny]

So my friend Penny, I met her the very first day I got to Gcity, she was nine-months pregnant and she was about to have her first baby shower. It was the very first baby shower anyone had ever hosted. I got there and I met her for the very first time and she ended up being my best friend. We lived in the same community for four and a half years. She always had a tendency to tell people

"I always know how long Anna's lived in Gcity because she's been here as long as my son's been here."

One of the things I've really learned from her is what it means to sacrifice for your faith. She's chosen to be a stay at home Mom, which is really foreign in our context. She was a teacher at a university. People question her all the time ...

"Why have you given up your life? Why have you given up your career to be able to do something you can hire someone to do?"

Truly, her conviction to be a mom has turned out to be one of her biggest testimonies. It's the cross she carries.

This song that I am about to sing is one she taught me. And it was not one of my favorites when I first came. To be honest with you, it's in a five-note scale, which is most of the songs here. I remember hearing it for the first time and thinking, "What in the world is this song?"

It's minor cord and it's just not very pretty. But whenever she sang it, she just had so much joy. One of the things is that it talks about the burden and the cloud overhead and really the burden in our heart, that really the love of God will wash that away. Whenever she sings it, it comes with hand motions. I've just grown to love this song because every single time I sing it, I think of Penny. All five-foot of her doing the hand motions, overhead, in your heart and the love of God that just flows in your heart.

This song is called the River of Life.

[Song]

AsiaStories went to Gcity to talk to Penny and hear more of her story. She explains what it means in China to be a “stay-at-home” mother and the cultural pressures with choosing this route. Most mothers in Gcity work long hours to build a career, while their children are raised by grandmothers at home.

Because there were no role models for this chosen profession, Penny turned to the Bible for her guidebook.

[Audio File: AsiaStories Penny]

[Penny Singing in Mandarin Chinese]

[Penny] When I sing that song, I feel peaceful and joyful.

[C.S. Stanley] This is Penny singing, Penny is Diana's friend. Our team here at AsiaStories went to Gcity in China to talk with Penny. She reflects on her relationship with Diana.

[Penny:] She's a special friend to me. When I have some problems in marriage, and in raising a child, I just go to her. Even though she's not married, I just want to share with her.

[C.S. Stanley] And so Penny went on to explain how she and her husband faced a decision not often faced by wives in China.

[Penny] We had a lot of plans at that time so I decided to quit from the college. And suddenly I found I was pregnant. It was a surprise. During the pregnancy, I read a lot about how to raise a child according to the Bible. I know of some stories about a Godly mother raise a child and later the child became a very Godly person. And I said, “Oh maybe I can do it, too.”

I talked to my husband said I want to be a full-time mother at home, is it possible? He said, “Yes ... sure ... I can work and afford the whole family.” But when I talk about it with my other friends who are not believers. They said are you crazy. Why do you want to waste your experience of work and your education just at home. They couldn't understand. They also think if a wife stays at home and doesn't go out to work she will be looked down upon and have no say at home.

[C.S. Stanley] What do you mean have “no say” at home?

[Penny] She will be lower than her husband. They are not equal. She doesn't make any money. I think it's a very popular opinion in China. And also many women don't feel secure if they do not make money. Marriage in modern time in our society is not stable. Divorce rate is higher and higher. Most women worry about that.

[C.S. Stanley] So tell me about your journey as a mother. Because you say there's not many models you are learning.

[Penny] Nearly every mother around me is working out and leave the baby to the grandparents, it is very common. At the beginning I bought lots of books from the internet and the book store. And finally I found, well, the best book is the Bible. I learned a lot from the Bible about disciple. Hebrews 12 "for the Lord disciplines the one He loves and chastens every son whom He received."

My struggle is, well people expect a lot from me because I am a full-time mother and I stay with my child. They expect to see good results from my child. But my boy, well he's just five and he's not very polite in front of people. People will question me, "How do you teach your child, he should be better than other child." So when I heard about this kind of comments I was very sad and struggled in my heart. And I think, am I doing something wrong? I think I need more prayer about my child, my patience and love every minute. I need...

[C.S. Stanley] As you've listened to her story, please pray for Penny and other mothers who are committed to raising their children in Christian homes in China.

This segment was produced by C.S.Stanley. For more audio features please visit [Asiastories.com](http://Asiastories.com)

### **Through the Pain of Death**

Sharing moments of joy as well as times of pain is what true friendships are all about. Huang shares how her friend, Jane, used her life to share about God's mercies and how He answers prayers — right up to the day she died.

[Audio File: Jane]

[Huang] One of the women, one of the friends here that really made a powerful impact on my life, her name was Jane. She was a devout Buddhist. And when I met her, she had already become a believer. One of the things she shared with me was, prior to the days of being a believer, her and her husband wanted to live this "yuppy" lifestyle. They had chosen to not have kids. Like many of the women here, she really saw abortion as her way of contraceptive. So she had previous abortions prior to becoming a believer. When I met her, she was already in her 30s and she was praying that God would allow for them to have a child.

Within my first year of being here, she became pregnant. We had a baby shower for her. She gave birth to her little son. Within two months of having her son she was diagnosed with cancer. Went through chemotherapy. After the first round of chemo, she was clear from cancer for about four months. Then the cancer came back. During that time, her husband was one of the leaders in the church here. It really

devastated the church. They were just a beautiful family and they loved the Lord. People really just grieved with her. Her son was maybe a year old at the time.

I remember, it was Christmas of 2008, her cancer had come back for the third time. I was with the Christmas In China at the time and we got a chance to sing Christmas carols to her on Christmas morning. During that time, they asked if maybe we could sing a Chinese praise song. This was really one of the few ones that I knew at the time. I remember sitting there, singing this to her and this talking about, the name of the song is "For I Know That My Redeemer Lives." It talks about knowing that when the trumpet sounds that I will know that my Redeemer lives and I will be with Him on that day.

When we finished singing, her and her husband both just turned to us and looked at us and they said...

"God is so faithful. This has been the best year of our lives."

About a month after that, it was January 2009, Jane went home to be with the Lord. When I think about knowing who her Redeemer was at the time, Jane had such great peace in knowing that God was the one who is faithful. As a result, doctors and nurses at the hospital received Christ to be their Lord and Savior, as a part of her testimony.

This song is truly to give glory to God for being Lord of her life.

[Song]

Jane's husband, Matthew, recounts the couple's journey for AsiaStories. The young father shares of dealing with his wife's cancer. Despite being angry with God, Matthew said his Savoir sustained him and his son through the roughest times of his life.

[Audio File: Matthew (Jane's husband)]

[Matthew] We were surprised, she was the daughter of my teacher. And eventually we fell in love with each other.

[C.S. Stanley] This is Matthew, his wife is Jane who Diana Huang had previously shared about. Matthew continues the story. Describing the early days of his marriage with Jane.

[Matthew] At that time we were both Buddhist. In the Buddhist religion people believe living in this world is a kind of suffering. No matter if you are rich or you are poor you are healthy or unhealthy you are strong or weak. All the lives are suffering in this world. At that time we did not want to have any children. We did not want to bring children into this world to suffer. Before we become believers, she had

abortion twice. Later from 2005 we begin to try to find answer from God whether he wants us to have child or not.

When Jane was pregnant we tried to find a proper name for our baby. In Chinese it means overflowing grace. During her pregnancy, Jane found a sesame size tumor in one of her breast. Small sesame became an X size tumor. After Jane passed away I was really sad and lonely and also angry at God. Sometimes when I drove, I was easily irritated by other cars. I would pat at the car and sometimes even curse the other people. Deep in my heart I know I was very angry at God. Why You did not listen to our prayers? Why You did not save Jane's life? Why You leave us in such pain?

Only way for me to go to sleep is to listen to mp3 of audio Bible. His words comforted me in many ways. On 2008 Christmas when Jane was so sick in the hospital, she could not move around, we were a bit sad and lonely in the hospital.

[C.S. Stanley] And so it was just the two of them spending Christmas eve in a hospital room. But they woke to a big surprise. The following morning, guitar in hand, Diana and her friends came and began to sing praise songs with them.

[Matthew] The praise song is a big comfort and encouragement to us. Also the doctors, nurses, and patients in the hospital, they were deeply moved by the praise songs. And also they envied us because they never saw any other patients have people come with guitar to sing songs. And also they see the true love between us between believers and between me and Jane. This is also good way to show people how great God is, how much love He has for us.

[C.S. Stanley] Since his wife passed away two years ago, this is the first time Matthew said he was able to recount her passing. He has since remarried and has a second child and continues to help lead a fellowship of local believers in Gcity China.

This story was produced by C.S. Stanley. For more audio features please visit [Asiastories.com](http://Asiastories.com)

## **Saying Goodbye**

On Huang's last night in Gcity, she gives a "farewell" concert. Friends and leaders from church mingle with her non-believing friends. The entire scene seems surreal to Huang as she shares her testimony and songs with the people who made her time in Gcity special.

"Never would I have imagined all those I have shared the Gospel with over the years who have not received yet, sitting next to members of the house church," Huang says. "As I looked across the crowd of audience one last time, I knew God would carry on with the work here, though He's calling me to leave."

"I know my season in Gcity is coming to a close," Huang says. "But, I know the relationships I've built with the church and friends here are lifelong. My prayer as I leave is that those I've disciplined and trained will now follow up, engage and love those who have yet to know Christ."

[Audio File: Today's Blessings]

[Huang] So I started the time with the song that I shared with, probably the song that they sing for me when we go to the airport and they send me off. And as I'm getting ready to close this chapter of my life, these five years in Gcity, one of the questions people keep asking me is, "When are you coming back?" Or, "Are you coming back?"

And, I have to say that the hardest goodbye's have been those who have not received Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. The people that I've shared my life with, and that I see on a daily basis, whether it be the little vegetable lady down the street, or my egg lady that always asks if I'm pregnant, or when I'm going to get married. Or the lady who works at the post office who always smiles every time I see her, and asks about life in America.

I think about these people who, I've just had the privilege to share with, but have not made decisions. And will I or will I not see them again?

And, though, I think God is bringing about a time of closure for me here in Gcity, my prayer is that they will recognize and will have a reconciled relationship with God. And that one day, maybe not here, but, one day my prayer and my hope is that I will see them again.

And I thought it would be appropriate to end our time together with the same song that we started ... my hope is that regardless of coming or going, that I will bless them, and that you will continue to pray for them. That though it's not our own desires to part, but truly we are obedient to God who brings us apart during this season.

And so it has been an amazing five years. It has really been a time of joy, of sorrow. But truly, a time of victory and triumph. And I thank you for journeying with me. I thank you for being my faithful warriors. I thank you for the love that you've had for the people of Gcity. And I thank you for your love for me. For supporting me all these years.

And my prayer is that you will not forget, that you'll continue to pray, and that you'll continue to see, see those that God has really blessed. Those who are continuing to do the work here, even though I may leave.

And so...I leave you with the same song. And I hope that when you hear this CD, and think of all these different people that you've prayed for over the years, that you will give glory to God for allowing us to be a part of his journey.

[Song]