

A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN A FOREIGN LAND

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In the stillness of the evening she is sitting on her porch completely enamoured with GOD's Creation. She can hear the rhythmic wind whispering through the trees and in the far distance, the river echoing through the valley. She sighs and leans back into her chair, clinging to her bosom her precious bundle.

As she looks down into the face of innocence, not yet touched by the cynicism of the world, she wonders, "What will his future be?" As if reading her thoughts, a deep, warm, yet authoritative voice answers her question: "He will travel to a foreign land and attend a Christian school." She turns to the direction of the voice and looks into the face of her beloved father. Here stands a man whom she has always revered and has never questioned. So with the obedience of a child, she nods in agreement; her father's wishes will be adhered to.



She migrates to Canada while her son is still young in hope of creating a better life for him, one full of promise and happiness. She does not realize or anticipate the many challenges waiting to devour her.

Suddenly being thrust into single parenthood is something she cannot understand. "A son needs his father. Who is going to play sports with him? Who is going to show him how to shave or tie a tie? Who is going to teach him how to become a man?" She laments these words to her Heavenly Father one night as her son lies secretly sobbing, wishing he could erase her pain. Then in the darkness of his room he can hear her voice speaking, as if speaking to him, "HE will *not* give me *more* than I can bear."

Her trials do not end there; the furniture, the appliances and then the house...all gone. She is now homeless with a child to protect and provide for. With the aid of a friend, she is able to obtain assistance through Social Services and a new home from Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association.

Something is still terribly wrong. Why is her son asking about Zeus and other Greek gods? Why does he doubt that there is only one GOD and that GOD is JEHOVAH? Instantly the words of her father echo in her mind. Her son needs to be in a Christian school.

With faith as her guide she enrolls her son in Kingsway College. The tearful goodbye tears at her heart and his, but the realization that this is the place for him offers a welcoming peace.

Her son is in a place where he can fulfill his destiny. So without a job and on government assistance, she consummates the wishes of her father and herself and establishes the foundation for her son...one that will take him through life.

GOD later grants her a job that she is thankful for. She uses the meager wages to not only clothe him but to pay for his tuition as well. Nothing is going to deter her from ensuring that her son is able to acquire the best possible education.

When speaking to her son, she reminds him that a Christian Education is an investment, which offers a far greater return than he could possibly imagine. She tells him that it is incumbent on her to do all that is conceivable, to prepare the road that will afford him the tools necessary to combat evil and to enable him to strive for the Kingdom of Heaven.

As I reflected on my life while preparing this article, I became cognizant of the many sacrifices my mother made for me, in order to give me one of her greatest and most treasured gifts ... a Christian Education. She loved me so much that she denied herself and struggled through incredulous hardships so that I can now stand well grounded in the fundamentals of Christian Education.

I continued the journey she started me on. After attending Kingsway College, I graduated from Andrews University and La Sierra University.

As I sit here, I ponder those few prophetic words of my grandfather: "A Christian School in a Foreign Land." How true.