



SAMUEL LAMB

PERSECUTED PASTOR OF DAMAZHAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Christian Biographies
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Second Presbyterian Church

A VISIT TO 35 DA MA ZHAN

A narrow street in Canton, with
songs of singing as you draw near.

Crowds lining every stairwell to the
apartment, with 100 people
packed into a room that holds 50.

Hordes of students, inviting
newcomers with joy.

An small, aged man preaching
from God's Word.





EARLY LIFE

Born in Macao Oct. 4, 1924 to Christian parents.
Father a Baptist pastor.

Named “Lam Hin Gao” – Hin means dedicated to; Gao means Lamb of God.

Grew up under strong influence from American missionaries. Developed excellent English and was a concert pianist.

Because his father was often required to be absent, his mother's great faith guided his early life.

Formative experiences in faith:

Diphtheria left him near death as a child; saved by a prayer meeting.

Teenage years in Hong Kong tempted him toward worldliness

Trapped in Hong Kong during Japanese attack at 17



PREPARING TO PREACH

Questioned whether to preach or be church musician.

Was attending a Methodist church whose pastor was replaced by a liberal. Lamb confronted the new pastor and left the church. Soon he was asked to preach.

Based on his early preaching on extensive Bible memory work.

Learned that preaching relies not on eloquence but earnest proclamation.

A HOUSE CHURCH UNDER PERSECUTION

In 1951, Samuel turned down a well-paid piano job in Singapore to focus on his new house church. Persecution was being unleashed under the Communist regime.

Was immediately pressured to join the Three Self Patriotic Movement, the liberal state-sanctioned Christian church. Refused.

Meanwhile, his house church grew to over 100 members by 1955.

Realized he was at risk for arrest, he kept a bag packed. On Sunday, preached on Hebrews 11:32-40. On Wednesday night after prayer meeting and Bible study, Lamb was arrested.





SAMUEL LAMB'S FIRST ARREST

Charged with Anti-Revolutionary Activities

First night in jail – the sound of singing

Subjected to long interrogations, in which he once read a statement of his “crimes” for recording.

The Three Self Church held an accusation hearing at which false witnesses accused him.

Relied on Bible memory verses and hymns. Through prayer discovered “the Presence” in his afflictions.

Learned to witness with discretion

After 18 months, with no hearing, was released.



GROWTH TO THE HOUSE CHURCH

During his arrest, the house church continued to meet without a preacher.

Lamb resumed his preaching, with a growing attendance and a new authority.

Authored pamphlets to aid in discipleship: "The True God," "The Lord Is Coming Soon," "The Holy Spirit and Christians," "Is the Bible True?"

For several years, comparative freedom was experienced throughout China.

Pressured to join the TSPM, and promised liberty to preach if he did, Lamb agreed and led his church into the state denomination.

Denounced by liberals in the TSPM, Lamb arrested again in 158



LAMB'S SENTENCE TO HARD LABOR

Charge: "You were granted freedom, but you persisted in disobeying the law.... You are charged with being an anti-revolutionary and a pro-imperialist."

- Detailed charges were made from twisted references from Lamb's sermons.

Refusing to confess his guilt to false charges, Lamb was convicted and sentenced to 20 years of hard labor.

Arrived at an agricultural camp in 1959. With a frail body, Lamb found the work back-breaking. But he committed to giving his all every day out of reverence for the Lord.

Submitted to nightly re-education on Communism, evolution, and atheism. Refused to yield his faith.

Forced to recant his faith publicly, Lamb recounted the errors of liberal Christians and denounced them for refusing to honor God's Word. This denunciation was accepted.



CHRISTIAN WITNESS IN HARD LABOR

Greatest wish was for a Bible – relied on Bible memory and discovered that God's Word flooded back to him.

Only witnessed after his joyful demeanor brought questions about his faith. Prayed for opportunities to witness.

Appointed camp barber. Used these opportunities both for evangelism and discipleship

Through a fellow Christian, received a New Testament. Spent his night copying its pages.

Caught by a guard, his Bible and notes were confiscated and Lamb was sent to harder labor at a coal mine.



FAITH IN THE DARK PIT

Lamb spent the last 15 years of his sentence in the dark depths of a coal mine in northern China

Re-education intensified, but Lamb would not renounce Christ.

He continued to earn respect through his dutiful work and cheering, peaceful demeanor.

Found that in the depths he had more freedom to witness; led many to Christ.

Because of their respect, the guards assigned Lamb to a rail car coupling station, increasing his opportunities to share the gospel.

BACK HOME TO GUANGZHOU

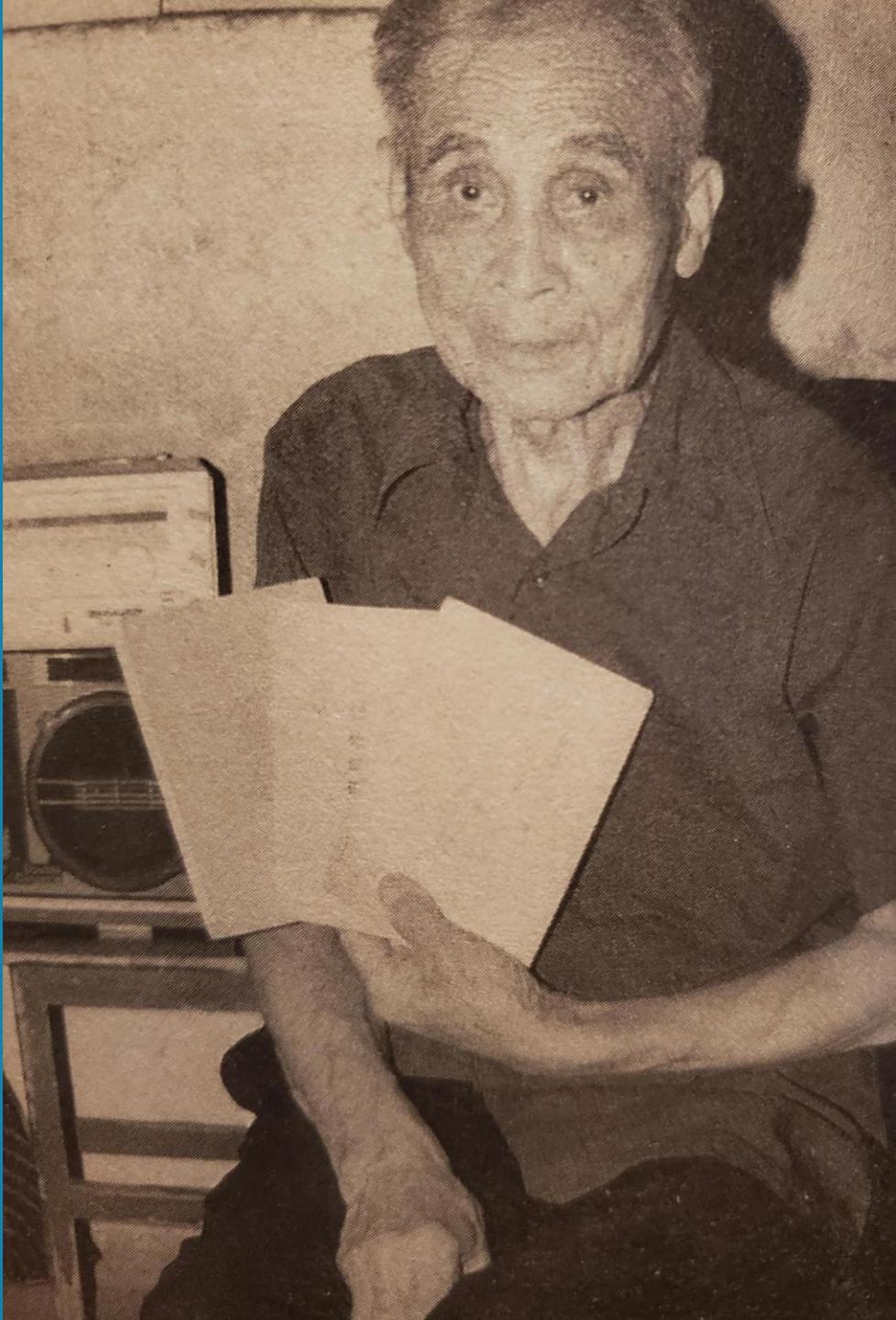
After 20 years, was told that he would be released for Shanghai, but not Canton, because of his danger to the state.

- A kind prison doctor intervened and (apparently) arranged a change to Guangzhou.

Returned home just in time to be with his dying mother; his wife had died a year earlier.

For 6 months, Lamb quietly made a living teaching English. But soon demands for him to preach began to increase.

His sister: "Do you dare preach again?" Lamb: "The people are also showing courage. I will go because I must."





PREACHING WITH DEFIANT COURAGE

House church grew to 1500 members, attending 5 services in his home.

Became a major distributor of Christian reading materials from American missionary agencies.

Fearlessly proclaimed Christ against threat of arrest:

- Police: "This is illegal. This is an unregistered church. You must immediately close it to the public."
- Lamb: "I can't. This is God's work. I wish to be a law-abiding citizen. I urge my people to do the same. But I can't stop this work, for it is the work of God."
- Police: "Then you will bear the consequences."
- Lamb: "I spent over twenty years in prison for preaching the gospel of my Lord Jesus. I'm prepared to return to prison again."

Lamb died in 2013. 30,000 Christians attended his funeral.

The Chinese government shut down his church in 2018.

SOME SAYINGS FROM SAMUEL LAMB

“Suffering taught me that grumbling does not help.”

“We must be prepared to suffer. We must be prepared for the fact that we may be arrested. Before I was sent to prison, I already prepared a bag with some clothes, shoes and a toothbrush. When I had to go to the police station, I could just pick it up. I was ready”

“More persecution, more growth.”

“Christian faith is most precious when we experience it under testing. The primary purpose of prayer is not for gaining wealth or comfort and earthly security. Faith and prayer are to make us true followers of our Lord who suffered as the greatest example of purpose in life.”

FOR FURTHER READING

