

Chapter 6 This Life and Eternity

(Ages 86 to ?; Years 2025–?; A Period of Spiritual Deepening)

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever." (Psalm 23:6)

I. Goodness and Mercy Follow Me All My Life

Celebrating Our 60th Wedding Anniversary

April 6, 2026, marked our 60th wedding anniversary (Diamond Jubilee). There was no banquet, no fanfare involving children or grandchildren, and no formal congratulations from fellow believers; we spent the day quietly at home, just the two of us. While it might have appeared lonely on the surface, it was entirely in keeping with our lifelong principles: never to trouble others for our own sake, but to willingly serve others; and to prefer being wronged by others rather than wronging them ourselves. Looking back on sixty years of marriage, my heart is filled with gratitude for the Lord's grace. Approaching the age of ninety, I am still able to manage my own daily life—shopping, attending meetings, and visiting friends and relatives—driving freely in my aging Toyota Corona (over twenty years old). What more could I ask for?

Anna Zhou's Team Assists with the Three Major Prophets

Sister Zhou comes from a family of renowned pastors. In her early years, she was associated with the Assembly halls in Kuliang (Fuzhou), Nanyang Road (Shanghai), and Kuanjie (Beijing), where she became acquainted with many fellow workers in the movement. A graduate of Peking Union Medical College, she practiced as a surgeon for many years. After immigrating to the United States, she earned a doctorate in biochemistry/chemistry and led the R&D of over a dozen disease-screening and diagnostic products for a major biochemical company—all of which were successfully brought to market—while also serving as a technical advisor for the marketing department. Despite battling a serious illness, her love for the Lord never wavered; she fought her disease while remaining dedicated to evangelism, even leading a Muslim family to faith in Jesus. An opportunity arose for her to demonstrate her profound biblical knowledge, and she accepted my request to help annotate the Three Major Prophets. Her husband, Mr. Shao, also provided invaluable assistance, carefully reviewing the annotations for every chapter. In May 2026, my wife and I made a special trip to Boston to visit the Shao family; we were received with great hospitality, and a wonderful time was shared by all.

II. Enjoying the Harmony of God's House

Warmly Welcomed by the Chinese Baptist Church

After voluntarily stepping back from my ministry at the Irvine Chinese United Church, I began attending the Chinese Baptist Church—located just 1,500 steps from my home—where I was welcomed wholeheartedly by everyone. The pastor of the Chinese-speaking congregation soon visited our home, and the pastor of the Cantonese-speaking congregation presented us with name tags on behalf of the church. Although we did not formally join the Baptist membership, we were permitted to partake in the breaking of bread and the cup without any sense of alienation. I could not help but reflect on how the "Witness Lee Assembly"—which claims to stand on the ground of church unity—was actually narrow-minded and far inferior to the saints in the "denominational churches." Our experience confirmed that the testimony of church unity lies not in outward labels, but in spiritual reality—just as the Apostle Paul said: "of the Spirit, not of the letter" (Romans 2:29).

A Change in Attitude Among the Westminster Church Elders

Over a year ago, when I left Irvine to return to the Westminster church for meetings, four elders asked to speak with me and warned me not to stir up trouble; I denied their accusations to their faces. Because my second older brother, Huang Gongming, attends that church, I still return there once a month for a service. Now, however, those same four elders—upon seeing me—actually come over to shake hands and exchange pleasantries; some even engage in cheerful conversation with me for ten minutes or more. I have done nothing extraordinary over the past year; I believe the Lord Himself is vindicating me and clearing my name.

Enjoying the Harmonious Atmosphere of God's House

As I write this, it may seem that my "memoirs" focus heavily on the actions of the "elders and co-workers" while saying little about the ordinary believers. In truth, my heart is entirely with the brothers and sisters in God's house; all my struggles and efforts have been aimed at building up the church and seeking the good of God's family. Therefore, I dare not look down on anyone, nor do I wish to exalt one person above another. My steadfast insistence on what is right stems solely from a desire to build a church of perfect unity. I am also deeply grateful to the Lord that the brothers and sisters generally harbor no divisive or partial attitudes; the vast majority of the saints accept me with open hearts. Consequently, I experience the wonderful blessing of "dwelling in the house of the Lord." May the gracious Lord grant me the grace, in these twilight years of my life, to fully enjoy the harmony and joy of God's family.

III. Longing for the Lord's Soon Return

Hoping to meet the Lord face-to-face upon His return

I thank the Lord for His preservation. As I write this in August 2026, I am eighty-seven years and eight months old, yet both my body and mind remain healthy. I do not look like someone over eighty; although my wife is only a year younger than I am, her appearance and complexion make her look no older than seventy. We face the future with optimism each day, hoping that the years

described in this chapter might extend to 2037 (eleven years from now) or even 2049 (twenty-three years from now)—lasting until we meet the Lord face-to-face. Should that happen, I would be ninety-eight or one hundred and ten years old; this is a cherished hope of mine. We still long for the gracious Lord to come soon, so that we do not live to be excessively old. "He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.' Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!" (Revelation 22:20).