PART 3 40 STORIES OF FAITH

INTRODUCTION TO PART 3

The heading for Part 3 is not "40 Stories of Miracles". It is "40 Stories of Faith". Wendell encourages you "to consider where the signs of miracles are pointing more than focusing on the miracles themselves....I had to first clearly establish the spiritual environment in which the events in this book occurred and what these miracle stories are pointing toward.....I have given you a picture of God as I have experienced Him through a lifetime of encounters with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I have gone to great detail to give you an inside picture of how He has shaped and directed my life in such a wonderful and meaningful way that reveals His love....Let me be clear: Miracles point to the fact that Jesus is God, the perfect image and expression of God, who is the loving Father of all, above all, through all, and in all!" Part 3 is a "record of miraculous signs pointing to a good and loving Father."

Sometimes what looks like miracles, signs, and wonders draws more attention to people than they do to Jesus. As you read the stories of faith, discern whether the stories draw more attention to people or Jesus, and why. Take time and effort to note spiritual keys and lessons that established the spiritual environment (spiritual understanding and keys to doors unlocked, then walked through) for these faith

stories to occur. If necessary, review the pages of Go Now! See how the stories in Part 3 exemplify that, "Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:38 NLT). (pp. 289-290)

CHAPTER 01 - MIRACULOUS PROTECTION! 1997 (Study Questions)

- (1) Drawing from what you've read in Go Now! so far, what stands out to you as actively critical to the spiritual environment of Daisy being able to hear so clearly from God, even though it seemed illogical? (pp. 291-294)
- (2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 02 - THE STORY OF SISTER LU 1992 (Study Questions)

- 1) Under what spiritual condition and progression was the little seed the Christian woman sowed into the ill woman, Sister Lu, able to finally multiply and bear the fruit of many thousands of people coming to follow Jesus? (pp. 295-296)
- 2) In Hebrews 10:32-34 (NLT), we read, "Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever."

What was active in the spiritual environment that Sister Lu had already committed herself to? What seems to accompany seeds blossoming into trees, sturdy enough to bear fruit? (pp. 297-299)

(3) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 03 - GOD'S INVISIBLE SERVANTS 2003 (Study Questions)

- 1) Wendell writes, "Lessons are learned in the Customs buildings that could probably never be learned in a lifetime of Sunday school classes!"? What safety nets did Wendell have to release for the spiritual environment necessary for this story to occur? (pp. 300-301)
- 2) What events/stories from the Bible come to mind, underscoring how God made a way even when there seemed to be no logical way?
- 3) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 04 - STORY FROM A SHORT-TERM BIBLE COURIER 2008 (Study Questions)

- 1) The short-term Bible courier felt very humbled, reminded of how risky it is for many people to deliver or have a Bible. He asked God to forgive his complacency and thanked God for a new perspective on the value of God's Word. How much Scripture (Words of God) have you committed to memory, especially if having a physical Bible were ever to become criminalized where you are? (pp. 302-303)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 05 - ANOTHER STORY FROM A SHORT-TERM BIBLE COURIER 2004

- 1) In the two stories in this chapter, getting Bibles through luggage scanners felt like "close calls". There were almost split-second directives that proved they were not "close calls" in the logical sense. What within the spiritual environment was necessary for that lesson to be learned? (pp. 304-306)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 06 - A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT 1990 (Study Questions)

1) Daisy and the team from Taiwan knew they were on God's mission, but the risks were great, and they felt concern and fear nonetheless. What lessons are learned in this story, and in what ways does this story point to Jesus? (**pp. 307-308**)

CHAPTER 07 - FIFTY-TWO HOURS ON A HARD SEAT 1995 (Study Questions)

- 1) Poignantly, after describing the hardship and discomfort of riding on an overcrowded train for 52 hours, Wendell ends the chapter in appreciation of how temporary these discomforts are in comparison to what so many live with regularly. (pp. 309-310)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 08 - <u>A SPECIAL TRIP TO BEIJING</u> 1992 (Study Questions)

- 1) The "Grandma" in this story lost her house and everything in it. She lost her occupation as a respected and wealthy medical doctor, forced instead to clean toilets. She shared the most valuable lesson she had learned. (p. 312)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 9 - JIAO MA MEETS JESUS ON THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA 2002 (Study Questions)

- 1) Jiao Ma discovered God at the Great Wall of China. What spiritual environment was already being created within Jiao that caused him to yearn for something more meaningful in his life? (pp. 314-315)
- 2) How did Wendell initially approach the interaction with Jiao Ma, and what was active in the spiritual environment within Wendell that proved conducive to eventually sharing the Good News of Jesus with Jiao Ma? (p. 315)
- 3) How was Jiao Ma introduced to Jesus, and what may have prepared him to take a further step? (p. 316)
- 4) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 10 - CHRISTIAN BEGGARS 2005 (Study Questions)

- 1) The presence of the beggars created a conflict of guilt and compassion within Wendell. Because of the immediate heart response from Don, a courier team member, a whole world unexpectedly opened up, revealing who these beggars were. Wendell learned valuable lessons in this story. (pp. 317-320)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 11 - THE DEAD RAISED THROUGH PRAYERS 2003

- 1) What preceded the man being pronounced dead, then being brought back to both physical and spiritual life? What was active in the spiritual environment at work in this miracle? (p. 322)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 12 - FAITH OF A CHILD 1991

(Study Questions)

1) What spiritual environment led Lee to pray and believe that, if it was God's will, he would get a passport to join the family in going into China? What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus? (pp. 323-324)

CHAPTER 13 - ANOTHER MIRACULOUS BORDER CROSSING! 1993

(Study Questions)

- 1) What early reassurance did God provide (that Wendell may have needed) that he was doing the right thing with this particular courier trip? (p. 326)
- 2) With the miracle of getting nearly 1,000 pounds of Bibles through customs several times, and the issue of weight overage, what spiritual environment had already been established to allow the couriers to flow with what the Holy Spirit was orchestrating? What else does Wendell state is critical for success in what he is called to do? (pp. 326-327)
- 3) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 14 - SHARING THE GOSPEL WITH A FALUN GONG MASTER 1999

- 1) This story illustrates how similar a false gospel can be alongside the true gospel. Wendell explained the differences between the true God and the false god to the Falun Gong's translator. What had already matured in Wendell's spiritual environment to allow him to speak about these differentiations with great confidence? (pp. 328-329)
- 2) What did Wendell suddenly discover as he spoke to the Falun Gong master? (p. 330)

3) What many lessons (including the value of silence) are learned from this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 15 - <u>A HEART DOCTOR MEETS THE HEART HEALER</u> 1988

(Study Questions)

- 1) Wendell learned how to sensitively tap into situations he found himself in. He was culturally, spiritually, and empathically attuned to the emptiness created by the government of China and its effect on citizens. This enabled him to connect empathically with the emptiness of the heart doctor, eventually speaking to the spiritual conditions of the heart and the ever-present nearness of an invisible Jesus. (pp. 334-339)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 16 - A NIGHT STRANGER 1975 (Study Questions)

- 1) A spiritual environment in Wendell's life prompted him to leave the last potpie for David. What ensued was a miracle. (pp. 340-343)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 17 - HIDDEN TREASURES: PART 1 1995 (Study Questions)

- 1) Wendell explained to Ellie the spiritual environment she was being raised, which was preparing and inviting her to understand God at work in their lives. What keys and lessons had Wendell already learned to be able to say what he did to Ellie? How did God tangibly reinforce this? (pp. 342-347)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 18 - HIDDEN TREASURES: PART 2 2009 (Study Questions)

- 1) Jesus wants us to know our true value as children of God, as demonstrated through Jesus. Wendell writes that his means "freedom, power, authority, love, purpose", etc.. Wendell was given a silver ring that served as a symbolic reminder of his value to God. He learned numerous valuable lessons when the physical ring was lost. (pp. 348-352)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 19 - THE GOLD COIN 2011 (Study Questions)

- 1) Filing a tax exemption went against Wendell's principles. Why was this the case, and how had his spiritual environment already prepared him for what happened next? (pp. 353-354)
- 2) Wendell wrestled with the comparison between the 12 disciples trusting in a Jesus they could visibly see, and him trusting in a Jesus he could not visibly see. God tangibly showed Wendell how He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Visible or invisible. (p. 354-356)
- 3) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 20 - <u>UNDERSTANDING COMES THROUGH A</u> <u>DREAM</u> 1992

1) Being culturally sensitive, Wendell and the team knew how Westerners were often given advantages that local Chinese were not. This is an incredible story of risk, being in a part of China not used to the deference given to Westerners. Wendell speaks of the spirit of fear and oppression that hung over the city and his dark bedroom, almost like death, until he was able to access an important lesson he had learned years before. This lesson led to new understandings that God revealed to him. (pp. 357-364)

2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 21 - THE TEST 1983

- 1) This is an emotional story of how God intervened "in the nick of time". Wendell was left to question why God would take him and Daisy to the very edge of the cliff with such a critical issue. Once again, Wendell was taught numerous lessons because he had already experienced committing himself to going up to the very edge of the cliff to follow Jesus.
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 22 - THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS 2006 (Study Questions)

- 1) Mark 10:29-31 (NLT), 'Yes, "Jesus replied," and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life. But many who are the greatest now will be least important then, and those who seem least important now will be the greatest then.'
- 2) We gain a glimpse of how the written law of a country can be little more than a façade concealing destruction, lack of freedom, and severe persecution. For many people living around the world, who know the cost of following Jesus, this is an expected part of life. (pp. 372-374)

What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 23 - THE HEALING OF ANH DUONG 1993 (Study Questions)

- 1) The hell bank note in Anh Duong's possession was not only symbolic of the clash between good and evil, but it was also used by many as a literal payoff to the underworld of death to aid Buddhist ancestors. It was so common that Anh Duong did not understand the spiritual seriousness of having it in his possession. (pp. 375-377)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 24 - <u>DEATH DEFEATED</u> 1995 (Study Questions)

- 1) One of two Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong who were granted asylum, Hao, ended up in the hospital, deathly ill. Out of anger, Wendell rebuked the spirit of death, and Hao was immediately healed. (pp. 378-380)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 25 - <u>CAGED WOMAN SET FREE</u> 2010 (Study Questions)

- 1) A pastor, along with other Christians, went to pray for a demon-possessed and mentally ill woman locked up in a cage for 12 years. After persistent prayer lasting several days, she was set free spiritually, mentally, and physically. What was active in the spiritual environment that prompted this persistent prayer? (pp. 381-382)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 26 - LEARNING THROUGH SUFFERING ON PEACE ROAD 1996: VIETNAM (Study Questions)

- 1) Three Vietnamese ("boat people") Christian refugees returned to Vietnam from Hong Kong and relayed the story of being severely beaten at night in Vietnam because of their Christian faith. One of the stand-outs of the story was Tuan's gratitude for not feeling any pain, emphatically noting that suffering for Jesus is different from other kinds of suffering. What was active in the spiritual environment that led to the three men crying, singing praises, and praying for Jesus to heal them, receive healing, and learn valuable lessons through the experience? What was unique about the peace they experienced? (pp. 383-385)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 27 - <u>ALL I WANT TO DO...</u> 1996: VIETNAM (Study Questions)

- 1) "Privilege" is redefined in this story! What surface privilege was Huu willing to sacrifice in exchange for deeper privilege? What was active in Huu's spiritual environment that would cause him to give up everything for this deep privilege? (pp. 386-388)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 28 - DREAM OF A WHITE SHIRT 2021: VIETNAM (Study Questions)

- 1) Imagine being a player in this amazing story, first-hand! (pp. 389-390)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 29 - <u>A VISION OF BURIED BONES</u> 2010: VIETNAM (Study Questions)

1) A pastor had a vision, helping to discern why a woman with severe mental illness had not been able to be cured. Even without complete human

understanding, once the vision was acted upon, the woman gained complete healing. (pp. 391-392)

2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 30 - A MIRACLE IN THE MOUNTAINS 2009: VIETNAM (Study Questions)

- 1) Ephesians 3:20 (NLT), "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." This amazing story clearly illustrates how the Word of God is alive and active, even without the ability to read words on a page. God multiplied the little that this minority tribal pastor had to offer God. What was active in the spiritual environment that enabled this pastor's faith to become the substance of things hoped for? (pp. 393-394)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 31 - NOT DEAD YET! 2011: VIETNAM (Study Questions)

- 1) Brother Da Troi's spiritual environment was already attuned to the Holy Spirit's leading and revelation. (pp. 395-396)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 32 - NGUYEN'S HEALING! 1996: VIETNAM (Study Questions)

1) Dang and Huynh were models of boldness and lack of self-consciousness as they prayed publicly for Nguyen's healing. God revealed Himself in a way that provided immediate healing for him, as well as six others. It reinforced their faith and served as a testament to the power of a God who is still alive, still hears, and still answers. (pp. 397-398)

2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 33 - PERSISTENT PRAYER 1996: VIETNAM (Study Questions)

- 1) This chapter illustrates how God is building His kingdom over all the earth! It is not built by going to church or having our name on a cradle roll. It is not a violently forced theocratic kingdom favoring one nation over another. (**pp. 399-400**).
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 34 - <u>A QUICK ANSWER</u> 1993: INSIDE THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CAMP IN HONG KONG (Study Questions)

- 1) Matthew 6:8 (NLT), "...for your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him!" God used Wendell and Daisy even when they were distracted and in a hurry. Their spiritual environment, however, was already primed to be part of this story and its amazing ending. (pp.402-403)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 35 - <u>DISAPPEARING TUMORS</u> 1993: INSIDE THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CAMP IN HONG KONG (Study Questions)

1) Wendell shares that God continued to use a man, Barnabas, who had been "instantly and supernaturally gifted with the ability to translate the English language when Daisy and I first began ministering in the camps". This was a case where leadership and Bible study materials were being translated for new

Christians in the refugee camp and those being repatriated back to Vietnam. God saw the suffering that Barnabas was experiencing as he kept working hard on the task of translation. Through many prayers, God responded marvelously. (pp. 404-405)

2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 36 - OVERCOMING NIGHTMARES 1991: INSIDE THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE CAMP IN HONG KONG (Study Questions)

- 1) This is a dramatic story about deliverance from terror and idol worship, through the name of Jesus. What spiritual environment was drawn upon to overcome evil spirits through the power of Jesus? (pp. 406-407)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 37 - THE POWER OF THE BLOOD 2006: VIETNAM (Study Questions)

- 1) John 14:12 (NLT), "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father." Demonic powers are very real and very powerful. In this story of faith, the blood of Jesus was proven more powerful, defeating Satan through the power of the Holy Spirit. What was active in the spiritual environment of those praying for the man who was fleeing Satanic high priesthood, to enable the blood of Jesus to bring such full deliverance and victory into a nation steeped in Godlessness, idolatry, superstition, and great persecution of Christian believers? (pp. 408-410)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 38 - THE \$300 MIRACLE 2004 (Study Questions)

- 1) God works His purposes out in miraculous ways. How might we miss God's plans because we slip into old, broken narratives about ourselves and stop the process, assuming our humanness is the be-all, end-all? (pp. 411-413)
- 2) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 39 - STORIES FROM THREE VIETNAMESE PASTORS 2009 (Study Questions)

- 1) What things stand out most to you from these stories of deliverance, salvation, and healing that these three pastors shared? Is there anything that surprises you? (pp. 414-416)
- 2) What lessons are learned in these stories, and how do they point to Jesus?

CHAPTER 40 - THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH 2019: WHILE VISITING OUR DAUGHTER AND FAMILY IN KAUAI, HAWAII

- 1) When life or death hits home, the truth of our lives and our faith can be tested in ways we never imagined. Sometimes a mustard seed of faith in the spiritual environment is all we have to offer Jesus. Mark 2:1-12 (NLT) likely would have filled Wendell with faith and purpose at one time. Now, it was being intensely challenged with Daisy's life hanging in the balance. What was eventually primed into new awareness within Wendell's spiritual environment, reminding him that the unfolding destiny of their lives was in God's hands? (pp. 417-420)
- 2) How were the spiritual environments of Wendell and his children being shaped into a new awareness of God's faithfulness and power? (pp. 421-422)

3) What lessons are learned in this story, and how does this story point to Jesus?

A FINAL WORD

If Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, it means that if we submit to love God, step out into whatever we are challenged to do as co-builders of God's kingdom, then, as Wendell writes, "WE'RE IT!"

Even if everything around us appears hopeless and threatens to drown us. Even if everything around us appears normal and comfortable. When we choose to step up to the edge of the cliff, not knowing what is next, in full dependence on the Holy Spirit, and in exchange for letting go of the things that bind us here on Earth, then we can truly be salt and light in a dark world.

The choice is ours.