

## **“Living to Make a Difference” Dr. Taylor, August 12th 1929 – March 20th 2009**

Dear Colleagues and Friends of MSI

Dr. James Hudson Taylor III is the great grandson of Hudson Taylor, founder of China Inland Mission.

### **A sense of history and legacy**

Dr. Taylor’s stature reaches international scope. Westerners hold him in profound respect—and perhaps Chinese worldwide pay him even deeper respect. Throughout his career, his sense of history and legacy brought a distinctive fervor to every role. I recommend that you read the deeply moving story of his life in the document released by the organization Dr. Taylor served prior to MSI.

Dr. Taylor blessed all MSI colleagues by spending his final lap of life with us. He co-founded MSI in 1994 and led as president for 10 years. The people of China honored him with many commendations. They even made him a citizen of a mountain city in Sichuan.

### **Active emeritus**

Some expected him as President Emeritus to adopt a sedentary life style, perhaps writing and advising from the sidelines. Instead, he focused his passion on needy people in China. He also kept contact with many of us personally as pastor, teacher, and mentor. He became a real friend of many, counseling us in our walk on the narrow road with the Lord.

A month after he handed over leadership of MSI, doctors discovered cancer in his liver. But Dr. Taylor battled it and outlived many doctors’ expectations as God gave him five more good years of service!

### **Press on**

Dr. Taylor is truly a man of God who faithfully persevered in his calling. Soon after surgery for liver cancer in 2005, he wrote while in the hospital:

“Leone and I together with many inpatients in our recovery deeply appreciate all of you; family, colleagues and friends for your prayers. We have truly experienced the power of prayer, and know that we are indeed lifted up and surrounded by the love of Christian community.

“One night, as I was meditating on the word from apostle Paul’s testimony when he speaks of ‘Press on,’ I wondered, ‘What could Paul press on to while he was captive in prison?’ Then it dawned on me what Paul urged us on to:

1. Press on to know him more deeply
2. Press on to testify of Jesus’ love
3. Press on till He returns, the hope of glory

“Paul leaves behind for us a precious example to follow!”



**‘As I left the banquet hall, I thought of the words, “To Serve the People.” The words of the Lord came back to me again, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”**

**With such an example of total commitment, can I, can we, his followers, give less? But how? In and through the Spirit of Christ, with His love that never fails, we can and will Serve the People.’**



**If I had a thousand lives, without reserve I would live them all for Jesus.**

as meetings in Hong Kong and Singapore. He also completed writing the biography of Samuel Dyer and delivered it to his publisher!

### **Wasting away, yet renewed**

In Dr. Taylor's year-end letter of 2008, he wrote:

*"We praise God for His grace, sustaining and renewing power, and blessing in ministry over the past six months. We can truly say with the Apostle Paul: Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*

### **Precious example**

He has joined the great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, including forerunners in China such as his great grandfather and Robert Morrison. From that other shore they cheer us on. From another age, the Apostle Paul urges us on toward the goal — to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus. Here on our own shore, in our own time, Dr. Taylor's perseverance in pressing on stands as our own precious example to follow.

A memorial service will be held in Hong Kong on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2009, 10am, at Kowloon City Baptist Church, 206 Argyle Street, Kowloon, Hong Kong. As requested by Dr. Taylor, a "Tai-le Educational Fund" will be established ('Tai-le' is the anglicized version of Dr. Taylor's name while he served as MSI's President). Contribution to this fund in his memory will support continuing education of Christian professionals in long term service.

A book "Alive Inside Out" has been published in commemoration of Dr Taylor's life, proceeds from the book will also go to "Tai-le Educational Fund".

A separate memorial service will be held in Taiwan and Singapore.

MSI Professional Services  
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