



A STORM OF THE CENTURY

Dorothy Yang

Since I live in an apartment I usually do not know the temperature outside. In the winter we are always kept warm because there are elderly residents like me in the building. When my young friends come for meetings they have to open the windows. In the summer, thanks to the air-conditioners, it is cool and pleasant. I used to take everything for granted and then I visited China and Taiwan in the summer of 1978 and 1983. I saw people sitting on the roadside early in the morning to keep cool. The weather was also very humid. I was so glad to get home to be in the cool apartment even though it could be 90 degrees outside. I remembered that more than 60 years ago in China I had to wear heavily padded pants and Chinese jackets in school. Our feet and hands were so cold that we had chilblains on our hands and toes. They were quite painful. I now realize how blessed we are in America.

Since I usually have no idea what the weather is like outside I always get the weather report from the telephone. Sometimes I do not even look out of the window to see if it is raining.

Then recently one morning my grand-daughter Elizabeth called me. "Grandma, it is snowing very hard." When I looked out the window, the snow was pouring down from the sky. The roads were covered with snow. There were no cars and no pedestrians. Of course, there were no trucks to remove the snow on the road because the snow was piling up so fast. When I turned on the TV, the news was all about the snow. The airport was

closed because there were no snowless runways.

All communications had to be stopped. Children everywhere were happy to have a holiday. Many people were snowed in from work. The staff in the hospital had to keep on working overtime because the relieving staff on call were snowed in at home. A number of people were reported to have died due to the storm. The snow piled up to at least 6 to 8 inches. We were informed that we had the storm of the century.

Having lived over half a century in America I have lived through the weather, but this is quite an experience to see the storm of the century. It reminded me of the Bible that during Noah's time God opened the floodgates of heaven to pour down rain. This time God opened the snowgates of heaven and dumped down tons and tons of snow. Many cars were buried in the snow. With the snow came rain and freezing temperatures and the piles of snow were frozen like rocks.

It was impossible to remove the snow and unbury the cars. The pedestrians had to be very very careful in walking. Then a few days later the temperature rose up to above fifties. You could see the piles of ice rocks melting and disappearing. This is God's humor. He seems to tell the sophisticated human beings that He is still the sovereign God who controls the universe. There is nothing that the human being can do to control the weather. God shows not only his power but also his mercy. He elevated the temperature to remove the snowy rocks for the human beings.

What amazes me is that most people are blind to see the sovereignty, power and mercy of God. God is trying to warn this generation with His humor. It reminds me of the verse.

"He said, "Go and tell this people:
Be ever hearing, but never understanding"
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.
Make the heart of this people calloused.
Make their ears dull and close their ears.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes
hear with their ears
understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed." Isa 6:9

My heart becomes heavy because our generation today is no different than Isaiah's time. I hope and pray that God in his mercy may open some ears, eyes and hearts to see Him through this storm of the Century. 

I WANT TO KNOW YOU BETTER

CLEMENT YEUNG

Dear Caleb,

Congratulations that you are turning seven! You are now a big boy. If you ask me what I wish to say to you on your birthday, my answer may sound strange: I really want to know you better.

Congratulations that you now wear adult size one shoes! Children sizes 12 or 13 no longer fit you. Welcome to the adult shoe world. Your feet have grown.

I am glad that you told me the other day that you no longer enjoy Sesame Street as you did before. Your favorite TV program is now Shining Time Station. I think I know why. One reason, of course, is because you like trains. But I think there is another reason. Shining Time Station does not only teach you numbers, alphabets and names of things but it actually tells you a story. There is usually a lesson behind the story so that, after watching the program, you really feel that you had learnt something useful. Your ability to understand has grown.

I have also noticed that you are paying

more attention to the science programs on TV. Science can be a lot of fun. When we were watching the science experiment on TV with balloons expanding in a vacuum jar, your eyes were so big. You stared at the scientist for a long time and didn't even blink. Your interest in the world around us had grown.

When your teacher at school asked what you wanted to achieve in grade one, "I want to be helpful to the other children in the class" was your reply. Other students wanted to learn how to write, all about computers and so on. Mom and I were most impressed by your unexpected answer. Your concern for the people around you has grown.

I still haven't figured out how you can distinguish the 1996 model of Ford Explorer from the previous models. Your ability to notice subtle differences is quite impressive.

When I realize how fast you are growing, I must say that I really want to know you better. I hope we can grow together.

Lots of love,

Dad. 