

The Persistence of One Man

Hsiao Ching

They called him persistent. I call him stubborn with a positive attitude.

He refused to relent. He continued in the face of opposition, and interference.

You see, it all started when he was born into poverty.

His brother James died as a baby.

Mom died when he was only 9 years old.

In his entire life, he had less than one year of formal schooling.

Now don't you kids get any ideas. He couldn't go to school.

You see, his family was so poor, he had to work to help feed them.

When he was 19 years old, his sister died.

A few years later, his girlfriend died.

After one marriage proposal refusal, one break up of engagement, he finally wedded Mary at age 33. The marriage, however, was full of much grief. After many attempts to start a family, only three sons survived infancy.

Worse yet, out of these three, just one would survive to adulthood. His son William died at age 11 and Tad at 18.

In his professional life, for many years he searched for a career. It seemed as though he couldn't make ends meet no matter how hard he tried.

He had not one, but two businesses which ended in bankruptcy.

During this time, he continued to do the best he could to educate himself.

He also did the best he could to fight for his beliefs. He was passionate about human rights.

Later in his life although he was threatened because of this, he not only stood his ground, but pushed ahead to pave the way to freedom for all.

His life seemed nothing but a failure. Personal and professional.

But he persisted. Life was tough, but he never took No as an answer.

In the end, he fought and lived for what he believed and they say he died because of it.

He was persistent. You may say a persistent fool.

But this fool was one of the greatest men of all time.

This fool was the 16th president of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln.

How persistent are you?