

Lawrence Lim Shang Chan (陳廉生)

Born: November 20, 1918

Died: April 28, 2001

Parentage: Pastor Chan Chuk Ping
Ng Wai Chun

Siblings: Pastor Wallace Woo Shang Chan
Ying Shang Chan
Yung Shang Chan
Stanley Chum Shang Chan
Ping Shang Chan
Man Ying Chan

Spouse: Dolores Yuk Kie Choi

Children: Sharon Sun Duen Chan Sung
Letitia Wai Lok Chan Casebeer
Terence Tat Yin Chan
Clement Kar Man Chan

Summary of Service: LS devoted his life to the service of our church for more than forty years- he worked at the SDA Mission Office, SDA school, and GC Transportation Bureau, as Treasurer, Accountant, Secretary, Pastor, and Vice President.



Lim Shang Chan, 1993



Lim Shang Chan as a student, 1934

Pastor Chan Lim Shang (LS) was born on November 20, 1918, in Limzhou (廉州), Guangxi (廣西). He was the eldest son of Chan Chuk Ping (陳竹平). His father was the first Chinese national ordained minister of the Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) Church in the Guangxi Province, South China, which at that time, was a “mission field”. His mother, Madam Ng Wai Chun (吳慰珍), was a Bible worker. Following their marriage, the couple gave birth to a child every year. Since his father was spreading the gospel and was traveling all over Guangxi Province, the new couple named each newborn son after the town where the child

was born. Thus, the Chan brothers and sister were named:

- First son – Lim Shang (廉生), Lawrence
- Second son – Woo Shang (湖生), Wallace
- Third son – Ying Shang (瀛生)
- Fourth son – Yung Shang (邕生)
- Fifth son – Chum Shang (潯生), Stanley
- Sixth son – Ping Shang (平生)
- Seventh daughter – Man Ying (文英)

When LS was thirteen years old, his father passed away suddenly from a stroke, following a long day of visiting church members and giving Bible studies. His widow was left with seven young children. And so LS's world was changed in an instant. Being the oldest child, he felt it was his responsibility to help to provide for his family. He decided to pursue accounting, which enabled him to study and work at the same time. In addition to paying his own tuition through a work-study program offered by the church school, he was able to help his younger siblings and lessen the financial burden on his mother.

LS attended the Guangzhou Dongshan Sam Yuk Training Institute (廣州東山三育研究社) and graduated in 1937. In the ensuing five years, LS worked under the guidance of Dr. Joseph Hwang (黃如愚), Mr. Stamford Wong (黃慎修), and Pastor Williams for the South China Guangzhou Mission as a treasurer, located in the city of Guangzhou (Canton). When the Pacific War broke out in early 1942, he moved with the Mission Office to Laolung (老隆), Guangdong.

In the summer of 1943, LS was traveling in Qujiang (曲江), Northern Guangdong. At about 10 o'clock in the morning, an air raid siren suddenly sounded. LS, along with everyone else, rushed into an air raid shelter. A bomber promptly appeared and circled overhead. People in the shelter cried out to their gods and LS was no



Lim Shang Chan (back right) with his brothers: Woo Shang (back left), Ying Shang (middle), Chum Shang (front left), Ping Shang (front right)



Lim Shang Chan (left), with his mother (front middle), Sister Man Ying (front right), Chum Shang (back left), Ying Shang (back right)



The graduating class of 1937
Guangzhou Dongshan Sam Yuk Training Institute
Lim Shang Chan (second row, third from the right)



LS (back right) with graduating classmates
China Training Institute, Shatin, 1939



1946 Colporteur scholarship recipients
LS (front middle), Dolores Choi (back right third)

different. He was so grateful that God spared his life. It was during this life changing experience that he rededicated his life to serving God.

In November, 1946, the war ended. LS married Miss Choi Yuk Kie (蔡玉姬), Dolores, in Dongshan (東山), Guangzhou (廣州). In 1949, the young family relocated with the Mission Office to Hong Kong. He became Treasurer of the South China Hong Kong-Macau Mission, which was located in Happy Valley, on the Hong Kong Island. After a few years, he was invited to become the treasurer for the Clear Water Bay Sam Yuk Secondary School in the New Territories in Kowloon, Hong Kong. He remained there in Clear Water Bay for approximately eight years. Following his tenure at Clear Water Bay, he was again invited to serve as Treasurer of the South China Hong Kong-Macau Mission in Happy Valley, where his wife assisted him as a bookkeeper in the accounting office. A few years following the move to Happy Valley, he had the honor of being ordained as a minister.

It was during this period from the late 1940's to near the end of the 1960's that the church in Hong Kong experienced rapid growth. In addition to the Sam Yuk schools in Clear Water Bay, Hong Kong, and Kowloon, an annex was added in Aberdeen, and Taipo Sam Yuk was established. The number of churches was also expanding, from the original three churches: the Pioneer Memorial Church on the Hong Kong Island, the Kowloon Church at Boundary Street and the Clear Water Bay Church, to additional churches in Tsim Sha Tsui, North Point, Hong Hum, Tsuen Wan and Yuen Long, to name just a few. Church membership grew steadily. During the same period, two Adventist hospitals were built, first in Tsuen Wan, then a few years later on the Hong Kong Island. Later, LS became the Vice President of the Southeast Asia Union Conference, a post which he held until the spring of 1968,



Marriage of Lawrence Lim Shang Chan to Dolores Yuk Kie Choi, November 14, 1946



LS (back right), his wife, Dolores (front right) with daughter Sharon, his mother (front middle), Wallace (back second right), Wallace's wife, Minnie & daughter Alice (front left), Ying Shang (back second left), Chum Shang (back left)



LS with wife Dolores and their four children Sharon, Letitia, Terence, and Clement Clear Water Bay, 1956



LS, with family and teachers at Letitia's Sixth Grade Graduation, Happy Valley, 1962

when he left Hong Kong to join his two younger brothers, Wallace & Stanley, in California.

On the day following his arrival in San Francisco, LS reported for duty at the West Coast Transportation Bureau of the General Conference of SDA in San Francisco, which was responsible for the visa and transportation needs of the SDA missionaries serving overseas. The Lord truly guided him and blessed him. He worked there as an accountant-bookkeeper for the next ten years, until his retirement on September 30, 1979. LS remained faithful to the service of his church for over forty years. Auditors from the General Conference frequently commended him for his diligence, accuracy, and attention to detail. Coworkers often expressed their appreciation for his integrity.

A few months after his arrival in America, LS was saddened by the news of his mother's passing in Hong Kong following a terminal illness. While it broke his heart, his family's financial situation was such that he was unable to travel back to Hong Kong to care for her in her final years, or even to attend her memorial service.

In 1978, LS and Dolores sustained serious injuries in a major car accident in San Francisco that required extensive surgeries and subsequent lengthy physical rehabilitation. Through this life-threatening experience, however, their faith in God was again strengthened, for they praised Him for sparing their lives and restoring their health.

After many years of hard work and devotion, LS retired in 1979. He and his wife moved from San Francisco to Loma Linda, California, where they could be closer to some of their children and also to the growing number of their friends and former classmates from China and the Far East who chose Loma Linda as home. He was able to spend a lot of quality time with his



LS & Dolores with their sons, Terence and Clement
Hong Kong Sam Yuk Secondary School, 1965



LS bidding farewell to church members
departing Hong Kong for America, 1968



LS, with Dolores, Terence, and Clement
bidding farewell to relatives, 1968



LS and Dolores, with Terence
Yosemite, 1969

family. He also became very involved with the Loma Linda Chinese SDA Church, his extended family. Soon after their move, his fifth brother, Stanley, moved from Upland to Loma Linda. Then, his second brother, Pastor Wallace Chan, also moved from San Francisco to Loma Linda after his retirement. And so the three brothers were once again reunited. They all belonged to the Loma Linda Chinese SDA Church Senior Citizens Club, and went on many field trips and overseas travels together.

All his life, LS took his work seriously. He often worked long hours without any breaks. During his tenure at the Hong Kong-Macau Mission, at one point, he held four posts simultaneously: Secretary of the Mission, Treasurer of the Mission, Pastor, and a member of the school board. He dedicated his entire life to the Lord's work. Physically, he had suffered from chronic atrial fibrillation for a number of years, most likely as a result of rheumatic fever caught during his childhood in China, prior to the availability of antibiotics. Although his chronic atrial fibrillation was under control by medication, in the summer of 1994, he suffered a mild stroke. This left him with weakness and tremor in his legs. He was hospitalized for approximately four weeks at the Loma Linda University Medical Center, where he received excellent care, and he was visited daily by many friends and relatives. He was subsequently diagnosed with a Parkinson-related illness.

Upon release from the hospital, LS received very attentive care at home by his wife, with the assistance of private care providers for almost two years. When it was no longer possible to care for him at home, he was admitted to a private board and care facility, where he received attentive 24-hour care. His wife was there by his side, helping with his care daily. Family and friends visited him frequently.



LS, Dolores and Clement with graduates Sharon and Terence, Loma Linda, May 1979



Lim Shang Chan and Dolores
Loma Linda, 1993



LS family portrait, Loma Linda, 1995



LS with wife Dolores and their four children
Golden Anniversary, November 1996

In November of 1996 LS and Dolores celebrated their golden anniversary with family and friends. It was a happy occasion to reminisce with old classmates and friends.

During the subsequent years, his physical condition gradually deteriorated, and he was mostly confined to bed. In 1999, more advanced care was required. He was transferred to a skilled nursing care facility. On April 28, 2001, LS passed away peacefully in his sleep.

Pastor Lim Shang Chan's memorial service took place at the Loma Linda Chinese SDA Church on May 5, 2001. The church was filled with family and friends. Amongst those who attended, many were his close childhood friends, schoolmates and coworkers from China and Hong Kong.

Lim Shang is survived by the following family members:

His wife, Dolores Yuk Kie Choi (蔡玉姬), of Loma Linda, California

His oldest child, Sharon Chan Sung (宋陳信端), an anesthesiologist, and her husband Shiu Chung Sung (宋紹聰), a physicist, of Diamond Bar, California

His second child, Letitia Chan Casebeer (紀陳懷樂), a certified public accountant, and her husband Craig Casebeer (紀懷德), an attorney, of Piedmont, California

His third child, Terence Chan (陳達賢), a radiologist, and his wife Angela Chan (皆川泉), an internist, of Centralia, Washington

His fourth child, Clement Chan (陳嘉民), a vitreoretinal ophthalmologist, and his wife Aileen Chan (新垣愛), a dentist, of Palm Springs, California

His nine grandchildren: Anthony Cheng (鄭明德), Belinda Cheng (鄭曉欣), Jeffrey Sung (宋傳輝), Lily Sung (宋麗玲),



Dolores with her nine grandchildren
May 5, 2001



Paying respects
Montecito Memorial Park
November 20, 2002



Dolores with her grandchildren
October, 2011
Loma Linda Chinese SDA Church



Dolores with grandchildren
Jennifer & Christopher, 2011

Christopher Casebeer (紀豪德), Jennifer Casebeer (紀珍妮), Kimberly Chan (陳美), Christian Chan (陳俊麟), and Kathryn Chan (陳文君).

Many years have passed since the passing of LS. His family still miss his warm smile, infectious laughter and his congenial disposition. His friends often characterized his strengths as: his faith in God, devotion to his church and family, his humility and his frugal and honest nature; all traits that are highly desirable as a custodian of the financial welfare of the church. A memorial scholarship fund was established in his honor at the North American San Yu Alumni Association for the support of worthy students in SDA schools. A room at the Loma Linda University Centennial Complex was named in honor of the two brothers, LS and Stanley. Our lives are truly blessed by having had LS as a husband, father, and friend. As LS stated in his autobiography: "My earnest wish is that all of you will treasure this last period of time before probation closes. We must all be diligent in preparing our bodies and hearts, so that we may joyously welcome our Savior in glory. Let us keep praying for each other. Amen."



Lawrence Lim Shang Chan

Written in collaboration by his four children, in loving memory