


*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
who have long departed from College Station,  
but never far from our thoughts:*

*I*t seems that we only write once a decade or so, and only on special occasions. Perhaps that is as it should be, so that when we do write, we can write with a heart made fond by distance and an affection deepened by the years. We no longer see you, yet we cannot help but love you, because we have not forgotten what burdens, what trials, we shared when you were here. May your lives be unfolding as God intended, fill with moments of challenge, of love, of beauty and of grace, and wherever you may be, we pray that you are still running the race, fighting the good fight, and keeping the faith, just as you did when you were with us, encouraging and sustaining us to do the same.

*T*imes flies too swiftly for those with long memories, and despite our denials, your and our children are unsentimental markers of time. Depending on when you were here, you may remember Sister Carol's daughter Irena. Well, Irena graduated from A&M, finished graduate school from Rice and got married two years ago. If you don't recall seeing Irena, you may remember Brother Siu Chin's daughter Kimberly. Even that little girl will be going to college this year! Of the "old timers", Sister Carol doesn't look a year older than a decade ago, but Brother "Jim Pak", after years of vigorous good health, is advancing in years. Please remember him in your prayers. Sister Emmy is still working at A&M's MSC and keeping fit by walking with Carol every day. Brother Wing-Chan, Oscar, Fann, Steve, and Kuo Lih's family are all growing as they should, but by now, some have hair with touches of gray. Of course, there are many more families and students like you, who came, stayed a few years and then moved away.

*We* are a church of change, an ever flowing stream that never looks the same twice. For the past five years, we have seen a rapid growth of ABC's in our church, including our own children. We are also grateful for an influx of Indonesian and Singaporean students, who, together with the ABC's, have revitalized our music ministry. The Church now has, as with many other churches, a drum-set near the podium. But we are also troubled by the diminishing size of our Mandarin and Cantonese Fellowship, as well as the lack of growth of our core families. Pastor Seo, whose family has served us for the past seven



*We your  
people, the sheep  
of your pasture, will  
praise you forever  
from generation to  
generation we will  
recount your praise  
Ps. 79:13*

years, left in March this year to serve in a Korean church in Fairfax, Va. The Church is once again without a pastor. We are grateful however, that God has provided us with Pastor Hsiao Chang-Ding, a brother whom we have supported through seminary school decades ago, came back from Missouri to help us. He has served as our interim pastor from April to June this year. Please remember us in your prayers that God will provide a servant of His heart to shepherd our church.

*A*mid this uncertainty, but with a faith abiding, confident of God's providence in this Church and in our lives, we are planning to celebrate the Church's 25th Anniversary this coming October. A wonderful idea we have is that we should take this occasion to beautify our church and to replace all the chairs in the sanctuary. Nearly all of them are worn and torn after decades of use. The estimated budget of \$12,000 is not a major financial burden. The church building fund is adequate to cover that, but we would like to use this occasion to remember all the former brothers and sisters of our church. The idea is that each brother and sister can give a chair to the church as an anniversary gift. If you send us your name and year you left our church, we will engrave it to the back of the chair. In this way, we will remember all the brothers and sisters who have left us. When we worship, we will then be surrounded by, not just the present, but also the past, by faces we no longer see, but whose names still evoke our smiles. And you will know, no matter where you are, there is a place, in a small church, in a small town, in a place far away, where your heart once belonged, now etches your name.

*I*f you wish to participate in this celebration, please send your name (English and/or Chinese), the year you left our church (and optionally \$60 per chair, payable to "College Station Chinese Church", memo, "Sanctuary Chair Fund") to the church 's treasurer,

Mrs. Carol Chen  
Treasurer  
College Station Chinese Church  
708 Eisenhower St.  
College Station, TX 77840  
USA

*P*lease forward this letter to other former brothers and sisters of our church whom you know, but may have escaped our mailing list.

*M*ay the love of God bind us and give us peace. And may His grace be sufficient and His name glorified in all of our lives.

