

Believe and Be Blessed

In 1789, Ah Fatt [prosperity] was born to a poor family in a village near Canton. Without formal education, he went to Canton to earn a living as a young man. He learned to crave printing press. However, he was hot tempered and poor in social skills. He often got drunk and gambled too much. People did not think he would be able to live up to his name.

In 1807, missionary Robert Morrison went to China. He tried to translate and publish the Bible for the Chinese. Meanwhile the Ching Government outlawed the preaching of the gospel. Any Chinese who were baptized would be beheaded. Secretly, Morrison hired Ah Fatt to crave the printing press for the Bible. Soon the government was trying to arrest him.

In 1815 Ah Fatt followed another missionary William Milne to Malacca, Malaya. Before long, Ah Fatt was baptized and got rid of his bad habits. In 1819, Ah Fatt went home quietly to get married. He wrote a booklet to evangelize his villagers but was arrested, beaten up, and put in jail. He bailed himself out and was forced to go back to Malacca. A year later, he went home secretly again because his wife bore him a son. He convinced his wife to believe in Jesus. His heart for evangelism was growing by the day. In 1823, Ah Fatt was anointed as the first Chinese evangelist.

In 1832, he authored a book called “The Good Words” to give to thousands of students who would come to Canton for the countrywide exam. He was arrested. On the way to jail, he broke free and left the country again. One of the students named Hung Sau Chuan took the book and was converted. He established the “Worship the Lord Association” and in 1850 launched the Tai Ping Revolution. The movement lasted for 14 years. Ah Fatt would have never dreamed that his book had such a huge effect.

In 1939, Lim Juk Chu was appointed by the emperor to stop the opium trade in Canton. Ah Fatt’s son was hired by Lim to be his translator. Robert Morrison had been teaching his son English since he was a little boy.

After the Opium War, missionaries were allowed to evangelize freely. Two hospitals were built. Ah Fatt became the chaplain of the hospitals and his work became more effective without the threat of beheading and jail time. God also blessed him with a daughter and he was able to build a big house for his family. Leung Ah Fatt finally lived up to his name. The truth is:

Believe in Christ, my soul is restored and my heart peaceful.

Worship God and obey the commandments, my family will be blessed.

因信得福

1789 年在廣州城外的一小村落，一窮苦人家生了一男嬰取名梁阿發。他自小失學，年方十五，便離家到廣州謀生。他性情暴躁，不善交際，加上嗜酒如命，又沉迷賭博，大家都認為他是發不起來的了。

1807 年 馬禮遜來華傳道，努力翻譯聖經，當時清政府明令禁基督教，華人信教受洗者斬無赦。馬禮遜暗中聘阿發彫版印聖經，未幾即被通緝，只好隨傳教士米憐到馬來亞的麻六甲工作，未幾受米憐夫婦感召，竟戒絕飲酒及賭博，受洗成爲基督徒。

1819 年阿發回鄉娶妻，他印了一小冊子向鄉親傳道，慘被官兵逮捕，毒打及收監。贖身出獄後被逐出境，只好回麻六甲去。一年後他又潛回家中，因他的妻子爲他生了一男嬰，他也藉此機會向妻子傳福音，並爲她洗禮。他傳道的熱心與日俱增。1823 年馬禮遜按立他爲中國第一位宣教師。

1832 年，阿發寫了一本「勸世良言」，送給來廣州會考的各地學子。送了四天便被逮捕，幸而在押往衙門時逃脫。這本書後來竟落在洪秀全的手中，使他信奉基督，組織「拜上帝會」，並在 1850 年起革命，建立「太平天國」。

1839 年，林則徐到廣州禁煙。阿發的兒子因自小得馬禮遜教英文，竟受聘爲林則徐的翻譯官，鴉片戰爭後，基督教不再被禁，西教士在廣州建了兩所醫院，阿發便在醫院當院牧傳福音。

神又爲阿發添了一女兒，使他家庭美滿，最後阿發回鄉建屋，客廳可容百餘人，以便主日崇拜之用。阿發終於因信主而「發了」。

正是：

- 信耶穌靈魂甦醒享平安。
- 敬真神遵主誠命福滿門。