name

Walters

World History

May 16, 2014

From Hostage to Healer

Each member of the Chung family had one thing in common; the desire to make their mark on the world. Every mark they left influenced and shaped their family through the generations. In the midst of the generations, there stands from the rest, a man with an indescribable amount of desire to push forward, allowing nothing to stop him. From escaping pirates to assisting in the development of fetal electrocardiography, this man is, without question, a hero.

Franklyn Royden Anthony Chung-Lun was born on May 14, 1925 in Sydney, Australia to Elizabeth Howe Chung-Lun and Charles Chung-Lun. Charles had two children in his first marriage. After his wife died in childbirth, he married Elizabeth Howe. Together they had twelve children, the youngest being Franklyn. Frank was born into a life of ease and luxury due to Charles being a wealthy clothing manufacturer and retail outlet owner. The roaring twenties were in full scale during Frank’s childhood. His older siblings partied away the extensive wealth of the family, leaving them dirt broke as the Great Depression rolled in in 1929.

In 1932, after Charles had passed away, Frank, along with his mother, Elizabeth, and two sisters, moved to Hong Kong because living prices were too expensive in Australia due to the Great Depression. Their family’s finances began to improve. Frank was then enrolled in Chinese/English school to learn the languages.

During the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong in 1941, Japanese were ordering young Chinese men off the streets, using their blood to transfuse their wounded soldiers. Frank was urged by his mother and sisters to flee from Hong Kong to free China with his school group. Around sixty students and teachers, including Frank, boarded junks to escape to free China. They had hired smugglers to lead them to safety. Along their journey, they came across Chinese pirates who forced them to dock. They were led to shore, stripped of any valuable belongings, on them and in the junks, and locked in a house. During the night, they heard gunshots outside. They awoke to the hired smugglers releasing them from their captivity and learned of them chasing the pirates away in the night. The group continued on, walking and riding boxcars until they reached a small city in the outskirts of free China. They finally were out of the grip of the pirates, but their journey to their final destination was still fifteen hundred miles away.

After arriving in free China, the rest of the journey to Chungking went smoothly. Frank later enrolled in 12th grade and moved back to Hong Kong after the war ended. He worked with his sister until his departure to San Francisco. When he got to the United States, he enrolled at Pacific Union College as a pre-medical student. Throughout his life, he had always kept the goal of becoming a doctor in the back of his mind and now it was to come true.

Pearl, his older sister, had moved from Australia to Walla Walla University. He transferred to Walla Walla University his junior year to get closer to her. That year, Pearl was diagnosed with leukemia. Frank took Pearl to Portland Adventist Hospital for transfusions biweekly. During one of their many trips there, she died en route. Being the only family member in the United States, Frank was forced to bury her alone.

Only a few months later, misfortune came again into Frank’s life. Being an avid tennis player, he would often compete in tennis matches against his friends. While playing tennis, he was hit in his left eye with such force that his eye was damaged beyond repair and had to be removed. He was hospitalized for several weeks until recovery and was given a prosthesis. After going back to school, he was fearful of the upcoming medical school acceptances. He was sure that he would not get in after missing a month of school and becoming monocular. To his surprise and delight, he was accepted!

The series of unfortunate events that had occurred, changed his personality. He became somber and serious. His happy and carefree self was a part of the past.

Frank finished four years of medical school plus internship and residency to become an obstetrician/gynecologist, or Ob-Gyn. During his third year of residency, he helped Dr. Edward Hon in the development and research of fetal electrocardiography(, which is still used to this day). That same year, 1957, after being set up by her parents, Frank married Helen Dorothy Chen.

Frank and Helen moved to Ventura County, CA to continue his busy driven life. Frank spearheaded the organization of Camarillo SDA Church and was on the building committee for it as well. He participated on two school boards and the Southern California Conference Seventh-Day Adventist Education Board multiple times. Frank introduced fetal electrocardiography and laparoscopy to St. John’s Hospital. He delivered thirty babies a month on average plus doing gynecologic surgeries. Along with a few others, Frank built a medical office building and a hospital. Later, he also journeyed to China with the Chinese Adventist Physicians Association to discuss further training for the physicians in China. He actively helped in this organization for eighteen years.

The life of Frank Chung was full of ups, downs, twists, and turns. His strong will and determination allowed him to push through the impossible. Though he became broke, was captured by pirates, buried his sister alone, lost an eye, along with many other trials, he pushed through to become one of the most prosperous, benevolent, and courteous man I know. He is the most fitting of the title “Hero”. Every aspect of his life was done with the consideration for others. His desire to make a mark on the world left a mark in my world.

Elizabeth Howe Chung-Lun

Born 1886

Died Jun 12, 1940

Deborah Chung Carritte

Born November 22, 1959

Franklyn Chung-Lun

Born May 14, 1925

Madeline Carritte

Born April 20, 1998

Philip Chen

Born Aug 17, 1903

Died July 1978

Helen Chen Chung

Born December 30, 1934

James Carritte

Born May 22, 1956

Charles Chung-Lun

Born 1868

Died 1940

Helen Feng Chen

Born Apr 2, 1902

Died Apr 16, 1979