Deng Jiyi ( )

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Deng Jiyi, *Chinese Seventh-day Adventist History.*

Editors's note: *This article is taken from* Chinese Seventh-day Adventist History*, originally written in Chinese and published by the China Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists (CHUM) and now published in the ESDA with permission from CHUM. The English version has been reviewed and edited by Christie Chui-Shan Chow (Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary). Most of these materials were not previously available in English and are presented here to broaden access to this important historical record.*

I (Deng Jiyi [ ])was born in 1925 in Hankou City, Hubei Province. At the age of four, due to my father's serious illness, our family returned to our hometown of Shashi Town in Jiangling County. Not long afterward, my father passed away, and the family survived by selling off property and antiques.

When the Sino-Japanese War broke out and Japanese forces advanced, my mother, following the advice of my elder uncle, who had once served in Hankou's municipal administration, sent me to the wartime "Child Care Association" founded by Madame Chiang Kai-shek. I was later transferred to Sichuan, where I studied concurrently at the middle school in Kwang Hua University (Chengdu Campus) and at National No. 17 Middle School. I eventually graduated from Chongqing Dagong Vocational School. There, I completed a secondary-level mechanical technology program commissioned by the Ministry of Education, after which I was assigned to serve at the "First Aviation Equipment General Depot" under the Aviation Committee. The depot was later reorganized as the "Sixth Air Force Supply Division."

When the civil war between the Nationalists and Communists intensified, I was transferred to the "Shanghai General Supply Office" and subsequently came to Taiwan with the unit responsible for transporting aviation materials.

In Taiwan, I continued to serve in the Air Force logistics supply unit. Because I was in charge of warehouse management, I often had spare time to read, which led me to develop a love for literature and music. I also taught myself English and the violin. Soon after, the Korean War broke out. With the implementation of U.S.–Taiwan mutual defense arrangement and military rearmament, a large number of American military advisers were stationed in Taiwan. The government urgently needed interpreters, and I was selected to attend the first class of the Ministry of National Defense Officers' Foreign Language School for translator training. After graduation, I was assigned to anti-aircraft unit, where I served as an interpreter between the unit and the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group.

Looking back, I can see clearly God's wonderful guidance. Not only did I have the opportunity to hear the last-day gospel through Sergeant Morgan, a devout believer from our church among the American advisers. My military training and work experience also prepared me for future service in the church's publishing ministry. During that time, I attended the Bible study classes led by Sergeant Morgan at the Tainan Church and was baptized. Despite of the challenges of keeping the Sabbath observance in the military, my faith was strengthened, and I gained valuable spiritual experience. I not only came to understand God's truth but also experienced His faithfulness firsthand. By faithfully keeping the Sabbath while in the army, I strengthened my own faith and bore witness for God. Brother Peng Hanmin, director of the Maintenance Department at Taiwan Adventist Hospital at that time, was then my military colleague. He later joined me in attending the Tainan Church, where he participated in youth activities and accepted the faith.

Later, the military offered civilian personnel the opportunity to apply for voluntary discharge, and my application was approved. I first worked at the training factory of Hualien Industrial Vocational School. At the same time, I organized English tutoring classes at the Hualien Church, formed a youth group, and engaged in lay evangelistic work. Director Cai Menxing, who was then serving at the Taiwan Mission, and Brother Feng Jinxiang, now retired from Taiwan Adventist Hospital, were among the students in those English class.

Following the advice of senior members, I resigned from Hualien Industrial Vocational School and enrolled in Taiwan Missionary College to study theology. Unexpectedly, after completing only one year of theological studies, I was called by the South China Island Union Mission to serve in the Sabbath School Department as a lesson translator. After several years of work, I returned to school and, in 1968, completed the theological program.

In mid-1969, when the South China Union Mission took over from the Malayan Signs Press the responsibility for editing and publishing the Shizhao yuebao (Signs of the Times) magazine, I was appointed editor of the magazine.

That same year, God also established a family for me, after my many years of wandering. He gave me, as my wife, Sister Mo Ruling, who had come from a Chinese church in Vietnam to Taiwan to engage in church work. In 1975, we were blessed with a lovely daughter, Shuén.

Before 1970, although the "Taiwan Signs of the Times Publishing House" existed in name, it did not function as an independent administrative entity. At that time, it was only an editorial department, led by Pastor Cao Junkai and Mr. Li Hanyin.

After 1970, when the Shizhao yuebao began to be edited and published by the Taiwan church, the "Taiwan Signs of the Times Publishing House" began to have its independent administrative structure, initially operating from rented premises. After the completion of the new Songshan Church building, it moved to the former meeting site of the Songshan Church. Later, when the Union Mission office was moved to Hong Kong, a printing house was also set up on the ground floor of the former Union Mission office.

At the end of 1982, during the union mission session, I was elected president of the Taiwan Mission. As I had no formal pastoral experience, aside from lay evangelism and a brief period serving as Songshan Church's acting pastor, I wondered how I could lead the mission's pastoral work with such limited knowledge and experience. I could only remain humble and prayerful, wholly reliant on the Lord. In obedience, I surrendered myself completely in His leading. During my eight years of service, I am sure I made many mistakes, but I always remembered the encouragement of Pastor Luo Wei (E. L. Longway), "Never turn back, for God can turn our mistakes into His success." I believe this reflects the abundant grace God has bestowed upon me.

In 1990, I applied for and was granted retirement. After retiring, I continued to assist the East Asia Committee in literature ministry. Looking back my life, I can only give thanks and glory to my loving Lord Jesus. No one can ever repay His immeasurable love. Even when one desires to present a thank offering, one ultimately discovers that what has been received from God's love is far greater still.

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