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Introduction

*In My Father's house are many mansions;
if it were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.*

—JOHN 14:2 (EMPHASIS ADDED)

THROUGH A PROPHETIC utterance given by a pastor named Larry Randolph, God spoke directly to me on December 3, 1995. Pastor Randolph prophesied:

I saw the blessing of the Lord in the realm of prophetic ministry and the Lord opening your spirit in a great way to prophetic ministry, dreams and words of knowledge . . . I saw the Lord speaking to you in the night seasons, between 11 P.M. and 3 A.M. . . . [He will] begin to awaken you and visit you, give you dreams, visions and insight . . . God told me that you're one of the daughters that He's put His Spirit upon to prophesy.

Pastor Randolph spoke these words over me during a special Sunday service at Puget Sound Christian Center in Tacoma, Washington. As he did, the familiar anointing of the Holy Spirit welled up deep in my spirit, and my body began to shiver and quake under the power of God.

I began to weep tears of joy and gratitude as I realized that God had chosen me to be one of His servants in these last days. The Lord flooded me with His loving warmth, and the heat of His presence made the experience seem as if I were resting on a feather bed on a summer day.

HEAVEN IS SO REAL!

I was reminded of the words of the prophet Joel:

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth.

—JOEL 2:28-30

Could it be, I wondered, that these prophetic words were being fulfilled here and now? Was I to be one of the Lord's special maidservants who would see wonders in heaven and earth?

What an honor to be selected as a vessel of the Lord's love, grace and power in these last days. Certainly this prophetic calling of God was not something I would have chosen for myself, because I am ordinarily a very shy person. I soon learned that all the shyness and bashfulness vanishes when I am experiencing the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

I recalled another scripture:

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

—JOHN 15:16

Clearly, God was choosing me to go forth in His name in order to bear lasting fruit—fruit that would remain. He was showing me the power of prayer and the importance of getting close to Him.

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

—JOHN 15:4-5

The overwhelming excitement and burning anointing of the Holy Spirit continued to intensify as the pastor went on with his prophetic utterance. I literally felt as if I were on fire for God. Pastor Randolph continued:

There's been a misunderstanding at times in the way you respond to God or the way you connect with God. The Lord says He's going to remove the misunderstanding... they won't say, "She's an enigma." They'll say, "She's just different." ...It's a godly difference... God

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has given you a uniqueness. He's going to minister to you in a unique way. He's going to speak to you things that only friends would tell friends. He's going to give you secrets in the night seasons.

To be a close, personal friend of God's, as Abraham was, has been my heart's desire since I became a Christian. I treasure moments alone with the Lord. I know His voice, and when my heart is quiet before Him, He is able to speak to me: "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27).

Through this compelling message from God, I knew the Father was answering the cry of my heart—to get to know Him better by building an intimate personal relationship with Jesus. My heart was soaring like an eagle while I listened to Him speaking to me through Pastor Randolph:

It's not showing off what God gives you; it's keeping secrets. God's going to tell you things about people that you'll never tell people. You'll pray for and intercede [for them], and hold them up in prayer because you're going to be a friend of God—and that's a true prophet. It's just a friend of God. A friend of God.

He's going to tell you secrets about other people's lives and about things He's doing in the earth. So, get ready in 1996 for a fresh anointing of the prophetic to come upon your life. And in the new year, as you wait before the Lord, God's going to put a fresh Spirit upon you, an anointing of prophecy is going to come upon you.

I knew the words were beautiful and deeply meaningful even though I did not understand all they implied. I felt as if I were clay in the hands of the divine Potter, and He was shaping me, molding me and forming me in preparation for a special ministry that would begin in the very near future. As I spun on the Potter's wheel, under a mighty anointing of the Spirit of God, I sensed that major changes were already taking place deep in my spirit.

A tinge of fear was soon extinguished by the oil of the Spirit that seemed to drip over every part of my being. My mind tried to find its way into the old channel of questioning, because I felt so unworthy to receive such a wonderful personal message and calling.

How can God use me? I thought. I am a Korean-American, and my use of the English language is not as proficient as it should be. Why would God pick me to be His friend? Why me?

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It was all so surprising, but even though I was a young Christian I had already learned the truth of Jesus' words, "Without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). I decided right then and there to accept the Lord's message by faith, and in my heart I prayed: *Father, thank You for giving me this word. I will always say yes to You.*

This was my commitment even though I did not fully understand everything the Lord was saying. One thing I did realize, however, was that He would have to prepare me for the ministry He was leading me into.

I remembered the words of one of my favorite verses: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Prov. 3:5-6).

Little did I realize where those paths would lead me, but I was firm in my resolve to trust the Lord without leaning on my own understanding. After all, isn't this the essence of the spiritual life? We're spiritual beings on a human journey. Our true essence is our spirits. Heaven is our true home, and as I've discovered, *heaven is so real.*

Since the moment God called me to a prophetic ministry I have learned that many believers don't truly believe. Some are not sure that heaven even exists. Others don't seem to care. Too many go through life as if this world is all there is.

God has shown me an entirely different picture. He has taken me to heaven seventeen different times, and He wants me to let everyone know that *heaven is so real!* When we truly understand this, it changes everything about us—our motives, attitudes, values, relationships, dreams, plans and perspective. My prayer for you is, you will catch more than a glimpse of heaven as you read and that you will be changed—as I was—and experience the security of knowing Jesus has already prepared a place for you and your loved ones.

—CHOO THOMAS
TACOMA, WASHINGTON
FEBRUARY, 1997

Chapter 1

On Heaven's Road

*I press toward the goal
for the prize of the upward call of
God in Christ Jesus.*

—PHILIPPIANS 3:14

MY NAME IS Choo Nam Thomas, and I am Korean-American. I am the only daughter of my parents, who are deceased, and I have two brothers: one younger and one older. I am married and have two children, a son and a daughter, both of whom are married. I also have two grandsons and two granddaughters.

In Korea, my family was not religious in any way. I never heard about Jesus until I went to church. I had only heard about church and God.

I became a Christian in February 1992. I literally fell in love with Jesus after I attended church a couple of times. When I found out what He did for me, I made up my mind that I wanted to give all of my being to Him for the rest of my life.

God responded by answering my prayers, and this enabled my faith to grow stronger day by day. I began to lose my old desires each day, very quickly. I could think only about Jesus every waking moment. I was so much in fear of God that I couldn't knowingly do anything against His will. I wanted only to please Him, and I wanted to know everything about Him so I could tell others.

HEAVEN IS SO REAL! A VISION AND THE FIRE OF GOD

I RECEIVED THE fire of the Holy Spirit while I was praying at home in January 1994. About a month later, I saw the Lord's presence while I was worshipping at the Neighborhood Assembly of God in Tacoma, Washington. He was sitting by the pulpit. His legs were crossed, and I could see Him as clearly as a real person, except I couldn't see His face.

As I perceived Him, He had silky white hair and was wearing a pure white robe. His person was visible to me for almost five minutes. After seeing Him my body was on fire with unspeakable joy, and I became wholeheartedly committed to Jesus. Soon after this life-changing experience, my family and I began attending Puget Sound Christian Center in Tacoma, Washington.

I had another profound spiritual experience on Easter Sunday 1995. While attending services with my family at Puget Sound Christian Center, my body began to shake violently, and we had to stay for second service. I was experiencing the same phenomenon known among Quakers, Shakers and early Pentecostals.

Since then, my body never stops shaking in church or during my prayer time at home. Two weeks after this Easter Sunday experience, I received the gift of tongues while at home and began to sing in the Spirit. While watching a Benny Hinn crusade on television, I stood up and lifted my hands in prayer. Then I fell on the floor for almost three hours. The anointing of God's Holy Spirit was so strong that I couldn't get up, and all I could do was sing and talk in tongues and laugh.

During every worship service after that, I could see the presence of the Lord Jesus in church. The visions I continue to receive of Him are not quite as vivid as the first one, but they are just as real.

A WILLING VESSEL

I BELIEVE THESE exciting and unusual experiences are preparation for the work God has called me to. I have a strong desire to receive healing and soul-winning gifts, but I don't know how to serve Him, except by telling everyone who Jesus is.

At first, some family members and friends rejected my message and disliked me for always talking about Jesus. Now, however, things are different. No matter who I am with, I only want to talk about the Lord, and

On Heaven's Road

He has given me the privilege of leading many people to Him, including my relatives and friends. All of my loved ones are saved now.

Jesus is always in my thoughts and on my tongue. When difficult times come, I think about what Jesus did for us. When I remember all that He has done, I realize nothing is too hard for me. When someone hurts me, I simply meditate on all Jesus did for me at Calvary, and peace comes instantly.

Preceding the Lord's first visit with me, I had some very special dreams about clouds. These dreams reminded me of something my father had once shared with me.

He told me that my mother had had a very special dream about clouds. He often mentioned that my mother also had had a special dream about me before she became pregnant with me. He said she never forgot that dream about a clear day that suddenly became very cloudy. The clouds came toward the front of the house. One of them came into the room where she was sleeping and filled the room with a white glow.

My mother had been sick most of her life, and she died when she was only forty. She never shared these dreams and visions with me, but my father told me many times about them, especially about the clouds. I never thought seriously about them until I had my own experience with dreams and visions.

My father's interpretation of the dream about the clouds was that I could have become very successful if I had been a boy, because in those days many Oriental men believed that only boys could attain success in life. I believe, however, that the dream was a sign from the Lord. As you read this book, you will see that clouds have played an important part in the preparatory work the Lord had done and continues to do in my life.

Since meeting Jesus, I have had a strong desire to pray for others. I have become a true prayer warrior. Intercessory prayer has become a way of life for me. I regularly attended a Bible study at a Korean-American church for about a year before my husband, Roger, was saved.

I didn't do any full-time church work or know many of God's words, but He chose me for His special work anyway. According to my Lord Jesus, He wanted me to first get to know Him and to learn to obey Him and focus only on Him. By showing me heaven and all the other visions I

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have been privileged to experience, He began to prepare me for the ministry He has called me to. Now I'm learning about Him through prayer and the study of His Word.

REVELATION OF HEAVEN

THE REMAINING CHAPTERS of this book, as you will soon discover, record some remarkable journeys that God has taken me on since I turned my life over to Him. He has asked me to record these experiences in this book so that others will see and understand. Why He chose me for this important work remains a mystery to me, but I do understand that He wants me to warn people in the world and in the church that we don't have much time left in which to complete the work He has called us to do.

The Father in heaven wants everyone to know how much He loves them and desires to bless them, if they will trust Him and obey His Word. He has shown me that many believers are, in reality, functional atheists—they don't really believe there is a heaven. I can say with all the certainty that it is possible for us—on this side of eternity—to know that *heaven is so real*. Furthermore, I now know that our God is able, as His Word says, to do “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Eph. 3:20).

The purpose of this book is to give Him glory: “To Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen” (Eph. 3:21).

Please read these pages with an open mind and heart, and let the Lord speak to you. He has a wonderful plan and purpose for your life. He has prepared a home for you in heaven. Like me, you can discover the thrill of knowing that you are bound for the Promised Land.