

**Patterns of the Faith**

**Let no one despise your youth, but be a pattern to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 1 Tim. 4:12**

Howard Higashi

A lover of God and a lover of man

***From the time I was out of my mother's womb, everything that happened, every situation, environment, all our past, has been washed over by the Lord. So, not only in eternity He chose us, but in time He set us apart, and then He called us, called us through His grace to reveal His Son in me.***

How could a country girl like me  
become like You, Your bride to be?

You're holy and You are divine  
but im fallen and human.

Without you Lord I have no chance  
to be like You in this romance  
but you chose me ere the world began  
nothing could change Your plan.

This divine romance, is My heart's deep plan  
I became a lowly man, to court my country girl.

Nothing could deter, Nothing can alter  
My eternal love for her, I'll gain my country girl.

No man or angel never knew  
This secret hidden deep in You  
That You desired to be one with man

Before the world began...

To You my heart was drawn

It was'nt on my own

Your beauty made me turn

And caused my heart to burn...

***I never knew why I was created for. Although, as a young boy, although being a buddist, I lived in a very beautiful place in Hawaii, good weather, and I went fishing, hunting, and I think I went bare footed into school up to eleventh grade. And I was forced to wear shoes one day because my friends elected me to be the president of the class. And as a president I had to wear shoes when they had a meeting I guess.***

Tosh Higasi (Howard's older brother) Because We grew up on the villages and small camps closer to the rain forest maybe 2 miles, we spent I think most of our growing up either up on the hills or down on the ocean. My dad kept us busy working on the farm during the summer and even after the school, working and coming back in the evenings. So our life was very very simple.

Lily Higashi (Howard's wife) We hardly had to go to the market to buy food because they want sea food they just go to the ocean, and if they wanted meat they just go up the mountain and killed the wild animals, and the farm had all the vegetable they raised all kind of vegetables.

***Everything seems ok, the weather was fine, good family, but I didnt know we were going down, then my father got sick, he died at 52, and I remember of course I at that time in his sickness I came to California.***

Lily: I'm from Hawai a diferent island i was from the big island he is a southerner and i am a northerner, but we both came unknowingly, you know we didnt know each other in Hawaii of course, but we both came for the purpose of going to college in Los Angeles, so we met at Los Angeles City College.

Oh those years when I was void of You

Lord You rescue me when I was through.

When I reminence those other years

Emptiness, heartaches and many tears...

*I just had tried to be good and the more i tried to be good my temper wich came up not that often but when it did it was very explosive. My language at that point changed to curse, basically cursing Christ, anyway I got married and i said well maybe she would help to make me happy and my temper would be mellow down, right?. Isnt that just what every one is looking for? An answer apart from Christ? Probably it didn't change anything. I loved her yet I hit the walls, then the only way a times I controlled it is i had a punching bag which I would reach and hit that, or dive in the ocean and go kill some something and call it sports, you know.*

All that thirst that gnawed me deep within

Drove me seeking satisfaction

All that many things that I have tried

Left me thirsty and dissatisfied

Lily: Oh sports! He loved sports, all. I would go with him to all this games, baseball, boxing, and he loves people he would be involved in everything, he had all kinds of friends, and he would invite all kinds of peolpe to our house.

***And I had all the time people over, have parties. I had a musical group and had this diving group, sports and all this things, teaching dancing with the youg people.***

Is part of the entertainment group they had hula dancing, they had japanese songs, they had hawaian songs, American songs, they had guitar steel players it was a vareity enterntaimet group they just entertained for enjoyment.

In this endless search for something new,

All the time this cry was just for You.

I was blind in trying many things

Til I drank You as my living Spring.

The 1960 were a time of social upheaval. Political movements, personal expressions, aimless wanderings-- these characterized the era. But of grater significance was the undercurrent of seeking that pervaded the generation. A seeking for answers, for meaning-- for God.

Lily: Is the third of the campus burden, brother Lee had had a strong burden that the saints should move the campuses and Wayne Jhonsen who already had a degree he went back to school even for this purpose to preach the gospel. Of course they had the hardest time getting any contacts but Howard was the first fruit.

***So I walked and met them in the cafeteria there in the corner, and usually most of the Christians I had all the answers when they preach the gospel to me, I said why do you have more divorces in Christianity than I what I am in Buddhism? It shuts everybody's mouth.***

***I went there and that brother that was in that class who sat next to me was sitting down, inside I went "oh oh". And he didn't say anything, and then he opened his mouth and said first go to the New Testament, go to John chapter 1 verse 11 and 12. He said this: you got to your room and read the Bible. And I said "why would he say that?" I drove on the freeway thinking "go to your room". I went to my room and again the Lord's presence was there, this time I had the Word, and I read this Word: "He came to his own and his own did not receive Him.... but as many as receive Him" . I thought to be a Christian like you it would take 20 years, I thought it was human labor. Here it says: "as many as received"... right there I just stopped, Who could say as many, Who?! And what IS there that can say as many?! And as many as are good? As many as are strong? As many as receive! This is the love of God, I just wept. And I knew the outer Presence came inside. I just was confounded. Wow! My wife came home she looked at me, what happened? She didn't say anything, she looked strange. I didn't know what to say, I didn't know how to explain.***

From death You rose and entered me

I now possess Your divinity

In life and nature we're the same

Both human and divine.

Lily: February 28 the day he was born is the day he got saved, his whole life changed so much, so that was why I got saved, because I said only God can do this to a man, and I can never, any wife tries to change her husband, I could not change him but when God came to his life, wow!

***I knew where they met; they met in a cafeteria, so I tried my best not to go. I want to meet in another place, not in a cafeteria; I told the Lord of all Christians why did You bring me to the noisy ones. You talk about and right there I confess, weeping before God, forgive me for being ashamed of You, then I open my mouth: "you are the bread of life", AMEN! ... My friends heard... What's wrong with AMEN? We need more Amen on these campuses. I used to curse God no one stopped me, why didn't you say anything when I cursed God? Now I praise Him and you look like: "this is not the right place". I said "sorry, I have cursed Him in the universe now I will praise HIM. Praise the Lord!***

***By praising Him since 1968 my mouth cannot curse God. He changed my mouth, He gave us a new heart, He gave us a new spirit, and I believe He gave us a new mouth, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!***

Lily: The first meeting we came to Elden Hall, of course, the Lord arranged it, it was a gospel meeting, and we didn't even have the address but the Lord led us to the meeting hall, because we recognize some of the cars, but the whole meeting I felt like we were in a trance, it was so strong and he said he couldn't help stand up, something was just lifting, he couldn't hold himself back, and he went and got the mic, and just spoke. And he was just suddenly out of himself, and I was sitting there not knowing what was going on, and then the Lord touched him to get baptized, so in our first meeting we both got baptized.

When we first came, our first meeting brother Lee wasn't there, he wasn't there for a couple of months, but the first meeting brother Lee came and spoke, he was speaking and he just pointed to Howard, and he taught about the verse that Howard got saved of, John 1:12. And he just pointed to Howard: "Do you know?" The Lord just touched Howard that this is the man, brother Lee didn't realize that this is the verse that Howard got saved on. So that was a confirmation and of course he just absolutely followed the ministry. When there was this opposition period of time, and people would say: "How do you follow Brother Lee blindly?" And he says: "No I follow Brother Lee because I see"...

The full ministry of Christ is carried out in three stages

For the fulfillment of God's eternal economy.

Dick Taylor (Long-time companion): I was really touched with Howard as a pattern of somebody who absolutely followed the ministry. And that means he is not following a thing he is really following Christ as life and with the Body of Christ as the goal. And especially I would notice Howard during times of struggles or times of problems or times of rebellion in the Recovery, Howard would all the more dive into the ministry, and just get lost in the ministry.

Dennis Higashi (Nephew): I remember a few times arguing with Howard very much, because I thought I was right, anyway he at the end we always would pray together and he would always say: "but anyways you still have to be in the Life-studies, you still had to be in the ministry, just has to be in whatever is coming up and occurring just have to be in again and again".

***As soon I got saved I begin to sing the songs on the blood, because I got so many junky songs in me from the world, I had to begin to sing to wash away all the other things.***

Lily: When he got saved my brother in law told me that his ukulele instrument his favorite one, he gave it to my brother in law, so for a while he didn't had any ukulele, but than the Lord touched him and brought the guitar into his life, so with the guitar he started singing the Lord's songs.

Lord keep my heart, always true to You  
Never backsliding, always viewing You  
A heart that is pure, that sees only You  
A heart that loves You, And treasures only You  
Your love constrains me...

He did have a grate burden to recover the young people with the songs. And one time he said that if I just speak to you, it would go into one ear and come out the other, but if I put something right in the song you would sing it again and again and again, and I know that the ministry would get into you.

Oh, what a privilege, I give myself to You  
I love You Lord, dearest Lord  
I Love You, I just love You.

Lily: He knew that the way to the young people is music, beacuse you know how the enemy uses music to capture the young people, he realize how crucial it is for the young people to have songs of the Lord for singing and enjoying the Lord's songs. And so this is actually part of the reason why this songs came up, because he firsr he was so burden, they were even really meeting, so he prayed and he got them together to meet and in their meetings. His burden first was that they would love the Lord again, and they would consecrate themselves to the Lord and when that was gradually recovered, then the burden for the gospel, he wanted them to have burden for their fellow students and friends, and so many of this songs actually came out from his burden for the young people to be recovered back to their first love to preach the gospel and bring the increase.

Jesus my first love  
O Jesus my best love  
I now return to You.  
Jesus, my first love  
O Jesus my best love  
I love You, I just Love You.

Your love has conquered me

Even Your enemy

In love dear Lord

You came to me.

Nothing could change me

But love and mercy.

Your love dear Lord

Has conquered me.

***I can't think of anything higher than to bring the Triune God to another human being. The gospel is marvelous because it deals with man, as you go on with the Lord you realize His whole burden is just mankind, and what a privilege it is to bring God to another human being. You taste this, the food which no one else knows. It ruins you, you know why you are created. Surely going on with the Lord is touching His burden for man, from the time he's saved, shepherding, and entering into the church life.***

Lily: When he got saved, Wayne would purposely park his car down the street, and Howard found out later that he reserved the parking space for Howard, so Howard could park in their drive thru every morning before school so that would give him a time to come to the house, and they would take care of him every day. So from the beginning of his church life he came into our home. So he said "if we get a home it has to be by the campus." And all our homes have been by the campuses.

Concerning to the campus, Howard just loved the young people so much. To him the campus work was not a work; it was just the enjoyment of Christ. And I would say Howard saw himself and enjoyed at least being in reality not just a vessel, but a channel-vessel, a vessel that got two ends and two openings, just like drinking and flowing like a hose.

Lily: After Elden Hall we moved to the valley after the earthquake. There was a whole migration to the valley, and that's where we had a brother's house, that was the first house we bought and his whole burden was for the campus work in Northridge campus, but we had five brothers and then they started expanding, so we expanded and found a house right across the campus, and then those brothers expanded, so we had to buy another house, and that expanded and the church had to buy another house, and those five years there in the valley, the increase especially with the brothers was amazing.

I remember when we first moved to Long beach, and Howard's burden was to get a house right next to Long Beach City College, and we were not sure what house. Howard and I were just praying, and just kind of walking thru the neighborhood, we just went to the door of this one house, and knocked on the door and that night we went back and bought the house. And through that house, like Lily say, no only we had many people lived ther, but so much traffic has come thru there, many who have been constituted with the Lord are now very useful in the Lord's recovery.

***I remember after i got saved I saw my friends and not one of them that I thought was good material I said, and averyone I almost never even attempt to preach are saved. From that day I gave up my discernment, otherwise you go on the campus, you look around: "this one is not saved, he will never get saved", no, no, no. You don't know until you speak, and than even if you speak them they reject you...***

One time I got a call about 4:30 in the morning I think, from Howard, he said: "brother Dick, while we were sleeping there was a guy who walked into our house and his sleeping on the sofa, I'm not sure what to do, you think you can come over and toghether we can see what we could do with this person?". So we just called on the Lord a little bit on the phone, and I went over. And most people would just call the police, but Howard loved people, and I was kind of thinking as I was driving: "Oh, Howard why don't we dont just get this guy rejected." But Howard and I were opening to the Lord, and we just begin speaking the gospel to him, Howard would share something and I will share something, anyway Howard said "well how about if we fix you brakefast", and I felt wow. So here we are loving a complete stranger, and we gave him some brakefast and after the brakefatst we preached the gospel more, and than we baptized him on Howards bath tub, and send him off with a big smile on his face.

***The Spirit's sweeping carefully until she finds it, until? How long is that? The Sheperd went out for the one lost sheep, again the word "until"; He finds it, that "until" we don't know how long...***

As I'm loving You and enjoying You Lord

You become in me the rhema word.

Here I'll pray in You as You pray in me

You'll bear fruit in me Lord, abundantly.

Lily: He planted this vine tree, grate vine. He loved John 15, about the vine and about the branches, "abide in me and bear much fruit." He just loves to see the Lord's Body in the vine tree to

spread out, his whole being is just consumed with the Lord's life flowing in his members for the increase and spread toward God's economy. He just loved the Lord and the Lord's economy.

***And we see this also in Luke chapter 15, the picture of this wonderful Triune God that indwells us today, as the Son sheperding, to find the one lost that one lost one is you and I. The very woman sweeping to find the lost coin and this is the sweeping Spirit. Then of course you have the receiving father full of compasion. The very Triune God that's the picture of Him. So we as His duplication, we the very god-men, need to be filled with the very Triune God will have the same burden , as we fill with Him, we become like Him, the more we go on with Him , the more this burden will grow and grow.***

Shepherd recieve man, Come near and eat with man

Publicans and sinners go out to carry them home

On Your sholders, rejoicing. Lord, carry them home.

After we got married, a short time we missed the prayer meeting, and we just got married and bought a new house, we both working. And our heart was getting a little cool down. All of the sudden after prayer meeting, Howard showed up at our door with two tacos in His hand. He knocked on our door, he came in, sat down and he just begins to fellowship on his burden for the the young people, surely after that I went full time to serve the Lord...

Lily: When any couple would get married, I remember hearing him sharing that you can easily make your own kingdom once you get married... In the beginning you need to get to know each other, and you need the adjustment period, but don't make your marriage life a kingdom. So even when we bought our house we made sure first we gave up owning the house, and then the Lord burden us. The house we had was absolutly for the Lord. Why own a house if the Lord is not going to use it, he had that kind of view.

I need You Jesus, more and more each day.

I can't live without You, Most wonderful One!

Howard was a real pattern to me as a lover of Christ and an enjoyer of Christ. One reason I believe that we were so close in the Lord, is beacuse it was so easy to touch the Lord with him. I would call him or I would see him, is very easy to call on the Lord's name, very easy to pray-read the Word, very easy to fellowship, very easy to pray and in this way we would allow the Lord to have the fist place.

Sue Higashi (Howard's sister in law): When Jim passed away he just shepherded me, he just nourished me every way. And he knew when, he new that I had come with a problem, and he would just care for me right there on this spot, he just like he can see within me. He says "sit down Sue," I know you have a problem, he's really my brother in law but he's my spiritual brother, and yet everything he did and everything he said, after Jim was gone, everything was just not in a natural way.

Lily: I know he had a very deep prayer life. Sometimes I opened his door and he was kneeling down, praying, he prays a lot, before he contacts people. He really has a burden for all the saints. It's amazing he just knows where they are at, and he just knows what to say to them, but it's beacuse of his prayer life behind all that, that's a strong prayer life.

I can't live without You, I need Your sweet taste.

Come quickly Lord, Amen.

***A man who has nothing who is negative maybe, who is not seeking for God, but I speaking and my burden for them could put faith the Word will be in their heart and in their mouth, and that person will receive the Triune God. Everything else that's happening on this erath is temporary. You consider, every thing that's going on is just vanity, and I'm so glad that the gospel has come to me, I belive this maybe the first requirement to be one who shares the Word, you apreciate your salvation.***

Lord, I just love You,

And there's no One like You.

In the whole universe.

***I'm full of praise! I'm full of praise! Hallelujah! There are many more wounded ones all over going down, you have the oil and the wine, may you be faithful to take care of them, when He returns he will repay us, that is the kingdom reward...***

Howard higashi "i will most gladly spend and be utterly spent on behalf of your souls" 2 Cor. 12:15

Our beloved brother Howard

Faithful worker, stedfast persuer, fervent lover of Christ

Unwavering In following the New Testament ministry, untiring in sheperding and caring

Unyielding in his fight for God's New Testament economy

A gift to the Body and an overcomer in the present age.

For I am already being poured out and the time of my departure is at hand, I have fought the good fight I have finished the course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness" 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

Final:

Brother Howard Higashi 1937 – 1998

Brother Howard Higashi went to be with the Lord in November, 1998.

He wrote all the songs used in this story, and they, as much as the spoken words, are his testimony.

He was a lover of God and a lover of man.

Taken from Open Windows, Living Stream Ministry