

I TRUST IN YOU O YHWH

My Life Hanging in the Balance

Crossing Into 2023



*I trust in you, O YHWH. I say, "You are my God."
My times are in your hands. Psalm 31:14-15*

Rosablanca Suen

Note

This pdf file is a sample of the book, "I Trust in You O YHWH: My Life Hanging in the Balance, Crossing into 2023," by Pastor Rosablanca Suen (2023, ISBN 979-8391432128).

This excerpt includes the Foreword, the Dear Reader, and the Epilogue, but excludes the 17 chapters of the book. See the Table of Contents for more details.

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Foreword

Part One

Right now, as I am typing this sentence, Rosablanca is waiting in a hospital room in Hong Kong on the other side of the globe. She had just sent me a WhatsApp message at 10:28 am: *“I am in the hospital all dressed for the surgery. Still waiting as there are two others before me, so my surgery will most likely be in the afternoon.”*

Rosa added two emoticons: praying hands and a smiley with a halo. I wrote back, *“Okay, Rosa, I’m glad that God is with you.”*

I now pause my Foreword, not knowing how to proceed because I don’t know how Rosa’s story will unfold, or even if she will live for long.

Part Two

Part One was written two months ago, February 22, 2023. It is now April 26th, and I have resumed my work on this Foreword which Rosa had invited me to write. The Epilogue, on the other hand, was written by Raymond, her beloved husband. My wife and I have been good friends with them for decades, and all four of us had Bible and ministry training together.

Let me get straight to the point: I won’t do you the disservice of summarizing in this Foreword all the things that have happened to Rosa in the past few months, for it would be better for you to read her account for yourself. Instead, I would like to explain why her story is valuable, in six points.

First, Rosa's story is a gripping unfolding of events in "real time," written in a style that is honest and unpretentious. Second, this story is God-centered, not human-centered. Third, this book draws much inspiration from the Scriptures, notably the Psalms. Fourth, this book will show you how God works in the lives of real people in real situations. Fifth, this book will draw you into a closer connection with God. Sixth, you will finish reading the book with a fresh outlook into life and death.

I will stop here so that you may proceed to Rosa's story, for which I give much thanks and praise to Yahweh our God. And thank-you, Rosa, for your courage to share.

Bentley C.F. Chan

April 26, 2023

Montreal

Dear Reader

Rosablanca Suen

Dear Reader,

This book is a testimony of how I experienced God's mercy and grace during my illness. When I was diagnosed with a 10-cm tumor in my body, my life was hanging in the balance. Life became a shadow of uncertainty as I crossed into 2023.

Is the tumor malignant? Will I die from the tumor soon? I had never anticipated that my life would take such a dramatic and unexpected turn. Is this the beginning of the end for me? Death suddenly seems very near. My time is up. Perhaps God is calling me home, and I can go to be with the Lord soon. How much time do I have left to finish the work that God has entrusted to me?

Our health will fail completely one day which will lead to our inevitable death. We need not fear death, but we do need to prepare ourselves for death. What should be our priority in the final phase of life? Death is not the end, for it only signals the end of this physical life. Have you ever contemplated what awaits you after you die? God is the Creator who gives eternal life, therefore we need to get ready to meet God when we die.

I started writing this book at the end of December 2022 without knowing how my health crisis would turn out. A disease does not manifest itself all at once and is subject to change in different directions. Each medical test can potentially result in a life-altering diagnosis. As I continue to battle with my health, God says, "*Trust me.*" O Yahweh, I *trust* in you!

Each chapter proceeds like a real-time journal as events unfold. I share with you how I *trust* God in this journey of faith: to gain courage in times of fear, peace in times of uncertainty, strength in times of weakness, thankfulness in times of trouble, godly fear in times of struggle, and most of all, to fix my hope solely in God that His loving purpose will be done in my health crisis.

Trusting God does not mean that bad things will never happen to us. Much more crucial is how we respond to bad news. In moments of crisis, do we dare to trust God to carry out His will in our lives? Our struggles always come back to the bedrock of faith in God. Sadly, many Christians have lost faith in God. They may still go to church but in their hearts, they are disappointed with God.

Hebrews 11 defines *faith* by highlighting how men of God, under extreme trials, put their complete trust in Yahweh. Their faith in God conquered fear and distress, yet not without suffering. The world despised them, but was not worthy of them. They not only trusted in the promises of God, but even more, they trusted in God Himself. Yahweh is good, trustworthy, gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Yahweh, the one true God, is the object of faith.

My health crisis has become a golden opportunity for me to experience the goodness of God. The One who cares for the sparrows overwhelms me with His overflowing compassion. As I continue to trust God to carry out His will in my life, I am drawn closer to the heart of my Father. Yahweh is good and His mercy is everlasting. "Have mercy upon me O Yahweh; for I am weak: O Yahweh, heal me" (Psalm 6:2). Yahweh takes me under His wings and grants me His great favor. "Great is Yahweh who delights in the welfare (*shalom*) of his servant!" (Psalm 35:27)

These months have been the weakest moments of my life. Every morning, I come into *the Presence* of my loving heavenly Father to experience new mercy and grace. "Let us therefore draw near with

confidence to *the throne of grace*, that we may receive *mercy* and find *grace* to help in time of need” (Heb 4:16).

Central to the ark of the covenant is *the mercy seat* with two cherubim, one at each end, symbolizing *the Presence* of God. Yahweh God met with His people at *the mercy seat*. The voice of God was heard here when He spoke to Moses. In Old Testament times, only the high priest, once a year on the Day of Atonement, was permitted to enter into the Holy of Holies to make atoning sacrifices behind the veil. This veil was torn on the day Jesus died on the cross as a perfect sacrifice to make atonement for our sins. Our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, opened a new and living way for *everyone* to have *direct access* to God Yahweh. To our shame, we often take this great privilege for granted.

During this time of illness, God often drew me to His mercy seat. Deep prayer was exercised in *the Presence of the One*. God revealed Himself to me through His Name. Here, intimacy with Yahweh grew. In this book, I share with you what Yahweh has taught me about Himself, and how I should prepare myself to meet God when I die.

I invite you to come to *the mercy seat* to meet with God and experience His *shekinah* glory every day. God lavishes you with abundant grace and mercy as you abandon yourself to Him. You will never be the same after you have been to *the mercy seat*.

In my testimony, I also share how faith grows when we obey God. I recount my experiences of how God started training me to stand up for my faith in my early teens. During my university years when pivotal life decisions were being made, God showed me how to walk in obedience to do His will. Witnessing to strangers, then and now, strengthens my faith to “go” and make disciples. *Be strong and of a good courage. Do not fear or be dismayed.* Without the courage from God, I would not have been able to write this book, which was done entirely by faith and in obedience to Yahweh God.

Let me never forget God's mercies as I continue to proclaim the Name of the one true God to the next generation.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, trust Yahweh completely for He is good and merciful. Great is His faithfulness!

Totally by God's mercy and grace,

Rosablanca Suen

April, 2023, Hong Kong

YahwehDeHua@gmail.com

Epilogue

Raymond Suen

Rosa and I have known each other for 42 years. Our friendship blossomed when we met in Calgary where I had just moved to from Montreal for my first job as an architect in 1981. In that same year, Rosa moved from Vancouver to Calgary for a teaching post. Before this time, we did not know each other at all, so it was in *Calgary*, which we like to call *Calvary*, that at the foot of the cross, we made our pledge to God to love one another for the rest of our lives. We got married in 1984 with the vision of bringing the Gospel to the ends of the earth. We put our careers behind us, left the good life of Canada, and set off on our new journey to serve God full-time since 1989.

As mentioned in the book, Rosa faced a most difficult time of her life when her health began to falter at the end of 2022. I was with her every step of the way, offering support and encouragement to love God and do His will. Together, we prayed every day for God's mercy and grace to help us face all the challenges before us. In the midst of uncertainties, we remained steadfast in our faith, trusting in God's divine will for our lives.



*So Samuel took a single stone
and put it between Mizpah and Shen,
and he named it Ebenezer and said,
“Up to here Yahweh has helped us”*

1 Samuel 7:12 (LEB)

In a similar manner, this book is an Ebenezer that *Yahweh has helped us*.

It has been 5 months since Rosa's first doctor's visit in December 2022. So much has happened since then that I felt as if I had woken up from a long and unbelievable dream. The major part of the ordeal is now behind us. We are grateful to God and to the many brethren who supported us in prayer.

One of the most difficult elements for us is facing the uncertainty of an illness. For many months, we were hanging in the air, unsure of what the outcome would be. The issue was beyond our control. Nor could we wish it one way or the other. Wishful thinking has no impact on the outcome at all. It may not be God's will to eradicate all diseases from our body. We could only pray for God's grace and mercy to overcome the challenges ahead.

Rosa went through many examinations, each of which presented a point for change. Any one of the results could lead in a different direction. Waiting for the results was heart-wrenching as the reports could go either way. Nowadays, doctors rely on the reports of blood tests, ultrasounds, PET and CT scans in the prognosis. Do reports have all the say? God is the one who has the final say.

So many doctors were involved during this time. The doctors in the public hospital say they work in a team, so in each visit, a different doctor would show up to give the prognosis by staring at the reports in the computer. The doctors didn't even look at Rosa but glued their eyes onto the computer screen. Gone are the days when

doctors would talk to the patient eye to eye and listen with their stethoscope. With medical advancement, we notice that there is now a distinct detachment between doctors and patients. How can trust and understanding get built in this manner? We were not even told who the main surgeon would be for Rosa's big operation. The risks were many, for Rosa was just a patient by a file number, to be scheduled and operated on the examination table. Our assurance and confidence came from God, the One to hide Rosa under the shelter of His wings for protection.



Venturing into the unknown, we didn't know what the outcome would be for Rosa's health crisis as tomorrow is not in our grips. We pray. We focus on God, and our part is to submit to His will.

In our mind, we know that that this body is getting older and weaker by the year. We will have to face death one day. There is a time for everything. If it is our time to go, then we go. But if we do not have to go yet, we stay and continue to do God's work. Fear of death is not in the picture. Our primary motive is not to save our own skin, but that our lives can be a blessing to others.

Through the opportunities of the ministry that we still have, our desire is to make the word of God available to others so that people can be nourished spiritually. The warning of the days of famine of the word of Yahweh is already in fulfillment. Jesus' words spoken to Peter three times burn in our hearts: "Feed my sheep" (John 21:15, 16, 17)

God hears our prayers. God gives us messages. We tune-in and listen. We may not understand everything all at once, but like Mary, we treasure all the things God reveals to us and ponder them in our hearts. (Luke 2:19) We discover new depths in our trust in Yahweh God.



Hindsight is much easier to deal with because all the facts are laid out on the table. All the dots are straight forward in propelling us through the uncertainties. However, this book is not written with the benefit of hindsight at all. Rosa started writing this book at the onset of her health crisis without knowing how things would turn out. The book documents our journey of faith in real time. Walking through these trying months of uncertainty in God's mercy is what we both cherish for the rest of our lives.

Rosa sent the draft manuscript to me the night before she went for surgery. The whole book was already written except for the antepenultimate chapter which she titled "new lease of life," left blank, as she could only write it after surgery. But with that title given already, it was as if Rosa had received a partial answer from God regarding her health crisis.

She invited me to write the epilogue to which I gladly agreed. Reading this book was like having her by my side, just that she was fighting a new battle far away in the hospital. Her honesty and vivid expressions in her writing took my breath away. To God be all the glory and thanks. Anyone reading this book would be deeply moved and captivated to read to the end. You will find yourself totally absorbed into her words, so that you too will learn to fully trust God in your own life.

Throughout the book, Rosa takes you through our journey of faith so that you can also witness how "Yahweh has helped us." Like a lighthouse in a stormy sea, that in the darkness of the unknown, God's loving kindness lighted our paths, moved us forward each step of the way with His steadfast love and mercy.



As Christians, we have the same share of humanity as any non-believers. Servants of God do not have the privilege of being exempted from the common perils. Even Elijah, the man of God, is of the same nature like ours (James 5:17). We all share the same human perils; we are mortals made of dust and to dust we shall return. As Rosa mentions in the book, we all must face our mortality to prepare for our death, and get ourselves ready to meet with the living God.

All along, Rosa and I seem to be in relatively good health, nothing more than an annoying cough or a nasty cold. We let go of the safety net of health care and health insurance ever since we left our secular jobs to serve God. We left the good life of Canada, our car, and career behind us. This was the first step of faith to move out of our comfort zone. With our big fat salary, we could have enjoyed an easy life of comfort and enjoyment.

When we came back to Hong Kong to serve in the 90s, we did not even have a TV for more than 5 years. We kept up with the local news through the radio and occasional newspaper. During our full-time training, we lived in a small room of 70 square feet with all our personal belongings in there which we quietly called home.

For the next 30 years, we moved from one room to another, yet we lacked nothing. To this day, we don't even have a sofa in our home apartment. Jesus says that we must work while it is day, for night is coming when no one can work, so who has the time to laze around on the sofa? God has always been faithful in looking after us, just as He did for the Israelites, that for 40 years through the wilderness, their clothes and sandals did not wear out. (Deut 29:5) Neither did ours.



Now, it seems that our health is the next comfort zone that is fleeing. Life is constantly changing and nothing stands still. We simply cannot retain the strength of our youth. While Rosa is sick and recovering, we are more aware that life is not stagnant. We are more aware that our time is fast vanishing. Time is life. To be alive is to have time. When death arrives, time ceases for the person. He is deceased. When we are sick, we endure the disease, a time of discomfort, a time of unease. Everyone will end in discomfort. But most people would rather spend all their money and hope to build up their comfort zone. Sadly, this is just inflating a bubble that will burst.

When we move out of our comfort zones, the path is not mapped out for us, and so we have to walk by faith. In obedience to God's call, we move into the unknown, trusting God to provide us with all our needs to do His work. There's always uncertainty ahead. Faith is the only solid foundation in times of uncertainty. To learn to become comfortable with ongoing uncertainties is a spiritual discipline, not in knowledge but in living a godly life to God's glory.

Faith is responding to God's calling which requires us to move out of our comfort zones. Moving out into the unknown is a choice of faith, far from being caught in a predicament.



The faith of Abraham sets a great example for us. Abraham is called the father of faith. He is indeed the father of the Abrahamic monotheistic faith, a common root shared by the Jews, the Christians, and the Muslims. Abraham is our prime example of a man of faith. Faith is built upon a personal relationship with God.

When God called Abraham, he responded and "went out, not knowing where he was going" (Heb 11:8). By faith, Abraham obeyed God and ventured into the unknown, a life of uncertainties.

Abraham was originally from the city of Ur. He moved out of the comfort zone as an urban dweller to being a nomad. This was an act of faith. All the possessions of his livelihood were completely mobile as he was constantly on the move. He went forth in faith as a response to God's calling, not knowing what tomorrow would bring. He was no longer in control of his livelihood.

Faith is living out the decision in obeying God. Faith is a definite relationship with God.

Abraham trusted God, responded to the voice of God, such that his relationship with God grew to the extent that God calls Abraham his friend. (Isa 41:8)

However, God's promises to Abraham were not fulfilled in his life time. Abraham did not venture out to conquer the land, but waited patiently for God's timing. We do not have an accurate way of counting the years from Abraham to Joshua. Some scholars give the figure of around 500 to 600 years until the Israelites took possession of the Promised Land.

Faith is trusting in God's words that He will fulfill the promises in His time. Faith is living with expectation, seeing beyond what the physical eyes cannot yet see. Abraham died in faith without receiving the promises, but seeing them from a distance and welcoming them. All the men of faith in Hebrews 11 were strangers, temporary residents on the earth.

We, too, as disciples of Christ, are given a promise to inherit the Kingdom of God. The present form of this world is passing away, including our physical mortal bodies. We are just making a temporary habitat here. This world is not our home, not our actual essence of existence.

Do you know that we are not to live for this age, but for the age to come?

One day the Messiah of God will come and bring in the Kingdom of God.

Maranatha!

“Your Kingdom come”
Matthew 6:10



