

1st November, 2006

In 2005, after the HKCEE we discussed with our daughter Laura her future study plan. She revealed to a safe and quiet country abroad might be favored to concentrate study. Laura does not have any experience to live away from home. She is used to depend on her grandmother to take care of her daily living. Could she be able to take care of herself to live and study abroad without relatives or friends' support? Where to go seemed crucial? In deed, it was not easy for Laura to make the decision.

One day, God gave us an initial answer when "New Zealand Connections Ltd. since 1990" caught my sight on a study guide book. I felt familiar and positive about New Zealand. I recalled two warm faces, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Walls, my secondary school principal and geography teacher, a very nice Christian couple came from New Zealand. Their teaching and Christian life influenced many students in those days.

Then I approached the company to acquire more information about studying in New Zealand. Mr. Leo Chung a nice young man of New Zealand Connections Ltd shared the information and gave me "A Guide to New Zealand Study" published at their 15th Anniversary. I studied carefully all information and detail about studying in New Zealand as well the company. I was quite amazed and attracted by their Director Mrs. Linda Cheng her Christian love and professional business to undertake the students solely to studying in New Zealand. Linda is an expert with 15 years of professional experience. So, I requested an appointment to meet Linda.

The decision to study abroad seemed difficult not only for Laura, but her parents and grand-parents too. Laura was quite fluctuated and hesitated about it for some time. There was a silent period of us. One morning, Laura told me that she had made up her mind to study abroad when Linda called me to offer an interview with us. Thus, the journey of Laura was begun. Among the schools recommended by Linda, Wanganui High School seemed the best choice. Since Mr. Leo Chung was graduated from this school, his sharing and information was helpful. Beside, Mr. Lakeland Director of International Students of Wanganui High School came to Hong Kong at the next day. Linda suggested Laura to meet him and consider the option. So we decided if Laura was offered admission, we would not consider other school choices. Mr. Lakeland was a kind gentleman. In the interview, Laura shared openly and honestly with him. He gave his view and encouraged Laura to work hard with this valuable opportunity to study abroad with genuine concern. Laura was very happy to be offered admission. We thanked our Lord for everything was happened so

smoothly and straight forward!

I feel grateful to Linda's help. I am also impressed by her Christian faith. She is more than I expected, genuine and humble. She works efficiently and effectively to match her students with the best choice of school. These recommended schools were carefully selected through onsite visits and deliberately conference studies with school by Linda and her staff. Each year, Linda or her staff goes to these schools and visit her students there. They work closely with these schools and built up trustful relationship each other. It is not only a business for Linda but her mission and Christian faith to devote and contribute herself for her students.

Laura reported to Wanganui High School early August, 2005 when the 3rd term started. With the help of Mr. Lakeland and other teachers, Laura seemed adjust well with her school study as well as her home-stay there. Formerly, we expected Laura have half year to adjust abroad and then two consecutive years 2006 & 2007 for year 12 and 13. But she started the academic study of year 12 soon after abroad. She worked very hard with help of school and teachers to aiming to study year 13 in 2006. But we felt worry that it might be too rush for her to finish two years study in one and half year. After careful discussion and consideration by three parties: school, student and parents, Laura was arranged to study a mixed of year 12&13 in 2006. During last summer vacation, her teachers lent Laura some course papers to read in Hong Kong. Therefore, Laura can save much time to concentrate year 13 this year. I must thank with heart to Wanganui High School teachers and staff your considerable help to make Laura success with her high school study in New Zealand.

Laura is going to leave Wanganui High School by end of this month. She will go to tertiary study early next year. She will miss Wanganui very much the teachers, host families and all people she has met and stayed with in these two years. Here we would like to express our heartily gratitude to all of you. May our Lord's blessing be with you and family always!

Mr. & Mrs. P.L. Yuen
Student parents

二〇〇五年，當女兒曉華完成中學會考，她表示很想出國求學，並希望找一個安全和寧靜的地方讓她能專心讀書。由於女兒自小沒有離開過家庭獨立生活，日常生活習慣了倚賴祖母的照顧。在外國沒有親友支援下，她能自我照顧嗎？那裡升學較適合她呢？

感謝神，有一天我在學友社一本升學指導看見「新西蘭升學顧問有限公司」的地址及聯絡電話。新西蘭這個國家，使我想起一位中學校長 Mr. J.K.Walls 和地理科老師 Mrs. Walls。他們夫婦二人是虔誠基督徒，由新西蘭來到這個小島教學，他們的身教與學養，成為許多學生的榜樣，深深影響著每一個學生！就是這份熟識和親切感，我們便開始探討女兒往新西蘭升學的可能性。

我到過香港新西蘭貿易發展局，並新西蘭升學顧問有限公司了解和搜集有關的資料。顧問公司的職員鍾生友善地為我詳細介紹，並送給我該公司印刷的「新西蘭升學必讀手冊」。回家後，我由頭到尾仔細讀了一遍，知道該公司的老闆鄭太是一位基督徒。在她的文章分享中，看見她將基督的信仰融入這門生意，並將（工作成就）榮耀歸神。我很想去認識這位擁有十五年豐富專業經驗的老闆，我相信她可以為我們提供寶貴意見和協助。於是鍾生為我們約見鄭太。

出國升學對曉華和家人都很不容易。我們有一段「寂靜」期。女兒由很想出國，到完全打消出國念頭；接著是舉棋不定的心情。直至有一天早上，女兒告訴我她決定出國升學，鄭太的電話終於來了。之後，一切進行得比我們想像中快和順利。鄭太看過曉華的學校成績後，為我們提供了三間學校選擇，其中一間是 Wanganui High School。我們參考過該校的資料，鍾生也曾在該校就讀，他的體驗和分享對我們幫助很大。於是，我們決定了若女兒獲收取入學，我們便不再考量其他選擇。鄭太便安排我們第二天早上面試，負責面試的是該校國際學生總監 Mr. Lakeland。過程中我們彼此坦誠交談，女兒亦坦誠分享自己過往的讀書態度，表示今次有機會去新西蘭可讓她專心讀書。他亦鼓勵曉華珍惜這個難得機會，也提醒她求學必須靠自己，其他人幫不上甚麼。談話中，Mr. Lakeland 予人一種平和、誠懇和親切態度，他那種專注聆聽，並尊重學生表達意見，與我們中國人傳統慣常的家長式作風很大出入。感謝神！曉華終於被收取入學！

女兒能夠去到新西蘭升學，我必須多謝鄭太。我很高興能認識這位朋友。當我第一次見到鄭太，她給我的印象和藹友善，不像一般事業型女性。談到她對這個事業的理念，我感受到她對每一位學生那份關愛和情誼，並非一般的「工作」。或者大家都是基督徒的緣故，我深深被她那『非以役人、乃役於人』謙虛的服侍態度打動。她的工作效率很高，打從她接見學生及家長一刻開始，就能給學生配對合適的學校。可想而知，她對每一間推薦的學校是非常認識，皆

因這些學校都是經過她精挑細選，實地考察了解，和多年合作的成果。此外，她和同事每年起碼兩次親身到當地探訪學生，並與校方和學生接觸，聽取意見改善服務。這不是一般升學顧問公司肯這樣投放時間、金錢和精神；就是少一分魄力也不可。鄭太就是這樣身體力行，她的榜樣也贏得屬下對她的尊敬和學習。怪不得他們都是一夫當關，魄力過人的大將呢！

女兒入讀的學校座落於新西蘭一個小鎮，環境十分寧靜，人民生活簡樸。女兒最初很不習慣。但簡樸寧靜的生活卻讓她能專心讀書，成績更突飛猛進。除了讀書的環境清靜外，學校老師的鼓勵和輔導，以及實行「因材施教」，按照學生的程度和能力，提供不同的課堂和導修課，給予學生很大的發展空間和彈性。女兒在這裡的學習得到充分發揮機會。最初，我們原定利用去年暑假，讓女兒先到當地了解和適應一下，以便今年正式開學讀十二班，但她很快便已投入當時十二班下學期的課程。後來更計劃今年修讀十三班的課程。由於女兒的意向跟我們原先與校方訂定的計劃有改變，大家都擔心縮短一年時間學習會令她讀得很辛苦，且會讀得不好，影響升讀大學。經過學校、家長和學生三方討論，校方最終同意讓女兒今學年修讀(十二及十三)混合班。去年聖誕(當地暑期)，女兒回港度假，學校老師還將十二班上學期的課本借給她在假期自修，讓她今學年有充足時間，集中應付十三班的課程和公開試。

每一個留學生在外地生活絕不容易。除了要應付學校的功課和考試外，或多或少都曾經歷其他大大小小，不同的際遇和挑戰，例如：不同的語言文化、個人的需要，如生病、受傷、意外、金錢、交友、情緒、住宿等等。身為家長，當兒女有困難而又未能在他們身邊支援照顧，那種遠不能及的無能感和歉疚最惱人！若不是當地學校和寄宿家庭的幫忙，女兒在這說短不短的年半裡，真難想像日子怎樣過。我藉機衷心感謝每一位曾為曉華付出過的師長朋友，願上帝親自報答各位！

女兒預科畢業在即，明年將會進入大學。我盼望她珍惜學業，繼續努力以赴，回饋老師們的悉心栽培和教導。我更藉此機會向學校的老師們，國際學生總監 **Mr. Lakeland** 致以衷心謝忱，多謝您們給予曉華許多教導與機會！還有新西蘭升學顧問有限公司負責人鄭太，以及她一班精銳的同事，您們的關心、支持和代禱，願榮耀頌讚歸於上帝！

學生家長

袁柏林、王秋蓮

2006年11月1日