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#### HAND OF GOD

I first want to thank God for loving me and never giving up on me.

My whole life I felt broken without any sense of purposes and it only lead me down a path of destruction. Not knowing where I fit in nor what my life purposes is, I became a clear victim for the Chinese Triads to prey on. They didn't just give me a purpose but they also gave me a sense of belonging. I proudly lived the life of a Triads, eagerly committing unimaginable crimes in the name of our brotherhood. Never once considering the pain and destruction I'm leaving behind because I'm in this lifestyle forever.

Even after getting a life sentence for murder in the state of Michigan, I proudly walked into prison as a Triads making our presence known. I accepted this life for myself and all the pain that comes with it, but what I don't accept is for my son to succumb to this life, too. In order to save his life, I first must save my own life. Therefore, I reflected on all the things I done and realized all the destruction I left behind. Overwhelmed by guilt for what I have done, I completely fell apart--- not knowing how to mend myself back together. I was broken and lost once again, but this time God came into my life and not the Triads.

God placed me in the hands of the Calvin CPI because that is God's hands at work. God used His children here on earth to remind me that my life is precious to Him and I am redeemable. Through Calvin I'm slowly learning the word of God and finding my humanity. With this newly-found humanity, I am applying it to save my own son. Now you know a little of my backstory, let me tell you about this painting.

I painted this painting to share with the world how Calvin CPI is saving my life. The broken heart you see represents me because I'm a broken man that is still trying to put myself back together. It is a slow and long processes, but with God's love for me it shall be done.

The first piece of my heart on the left has my Professor Epp in it, because she gave me a sense of humanity that was lost to me for 20 years in prison. When I'm in her class, she sees me as Quang and not inmate #459634. I'm not supposed to be singing in a choir while I'm in prison, because that's too much humanity being shown to a convicted criminal. She's showing me the power of God's love for me by just letting me know that she sees me. I am a child of God that deserves to be loved and not treated like a caged-up animal left for dead by world.

The second piece of my heart in the middle has the Director of CPI, Dr. Cioffi, in it. Dr. Cioffi has his foot on my neck from the moment I started the program and he has never let up. The toughness that he shown me comes from a place of love and not hatred for me. He is pushing me so hard because he wants me to live up to my fullest potential that God intended for me. It doesn't matter if I think I deserve such love or not, because he's telling me that it is God's Grace for me and all I have to do is accept it. All I have to do is accept God's love for me and have faith.

The third and last piece of my heart on the right is Dr. Cooper. He was one of the toughest professors I had and I cried every step of the way through his class. He overwhelmed me with so much information! I did not understand why I needed it, but then I grew a little more mature as I gradually realized the value of it. I felt like a child not understanding why the parents do what they do; until the child is mature enough to understand, as it is the case with my Professor Cooper. I was so bad that I even fell asleep in his class, therefore you see all the zzzz coming from the heart. You see him waking me up, loudly, which did happen--- and he is one of the kindest, most patient of people, so that was a rare moment for both of us!

With all that said, I would never have been saved and enabled to save my own son if it wasn't for God's hands through Calvin University. I also want to express my thanks to Prof. Denherder, Prof. Heins, Prof. Rose, Prof. Conren, Prof. Mason, Prof. Bruce, Prof. Zwart, Prof. Thompson, Prof. Meerman, Ms. Bosma, and Ms. Haven for help shaping me into the man God intended me to be. I am also looking forward to meeting all the other Professors that will take part in helping me continue my journey.

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