

**"THAT COULD HAVE BEEN ME DOWN THERE!"** (Spring 2006)

Several years ago we organized a medical team to China. On the last day of a two-week trip of lecturing at hospitals and medical schools, we went sightseeing. Our hosts took us to the beautiful Lotus Mountain near Guangzhou. From its peak, we could see miles of rice paddies beneath us. Peasants working in the fields looked like tiny ants from where we stood.



Suddenly, Dennis, a second generation Chinese American, who was a radiology professor at a prestigious medical school exclaimed, "Look, that could have been *me* down there!" Sure enough, if his grandfather had not left the old country for the U.S., Dennis could have been that farmer in the field, squatting to break for lunch, spitting chicken bones on the dirt floor. In humility, we realize that what we have are truly gifts.