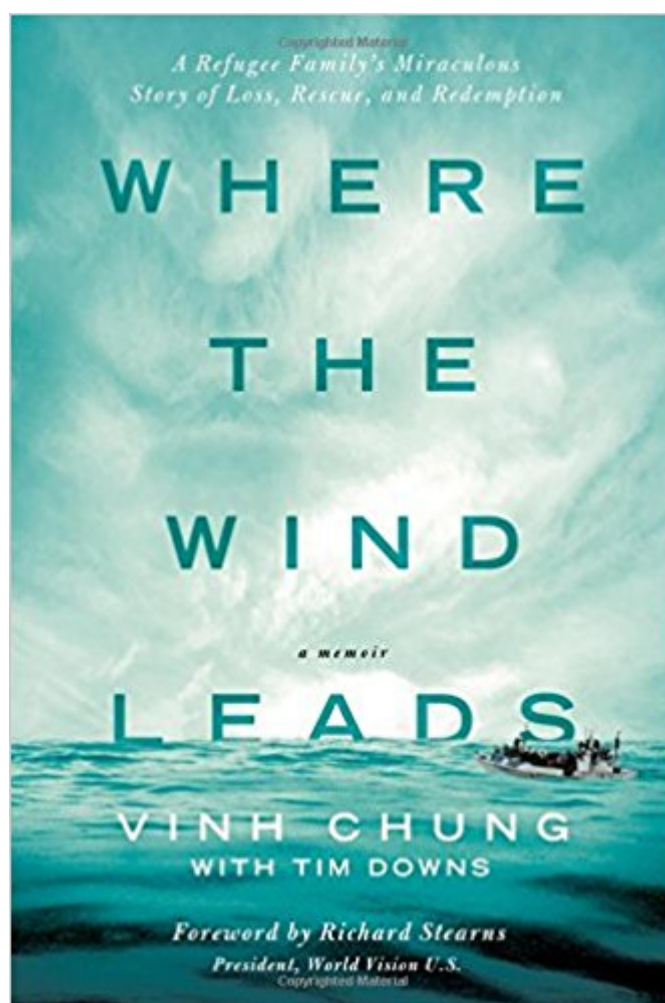


The book was found

# Where The Wind Leads: A Refugee Family's Miraculous Story Of Loss, Rescue, And Redemption



## Synopsis

Back Cover: "The account of Dr. Chung and his family will inspire you to believe in second chances and miracles and the God who gives them both." —Max Lucado, New York Times best-selling author

My name is Vinh Chung. This is a story that spans two continents, ten decades, and eleven thousand miles. When I was three and a half years old, my family was forced to flee Vietnam in June 1979, a place we had never heard of somewhere in the heartland of America. Several weeks later my family lay half-dead from dehydration in a derelict fishing boat jammed with ninety-three refugees lost in the middle of the South China Sea. We arrived in the United States with nothing but the clothes on our backs and unable to speak a single word of English. Today my family holds twenty-one university degrees. How we got from there to here is quite a story.

*Where the Wind Leads* is the remarkable account of Vinh Chung and his refugee family's daring escape from communist oppression for the chance of a better life in America. It's a story of personal sacrifice, redemption, endurance against almost insurmountable odds, and what it truly means to be American. All author royalties from the sale of this book will go to benefit World Vision.

Flap Copy: Vinh Chung was born in South Vietnam, just eight months after it fell to the communists in 1975. His family was wealthy, controlling a rice-milling empire worth millions; but within months of the communist takeover, the Chungs lost everything and were reduced to abject poverty. Knowing that their children would have no future under the new government, the Chungs decided to flee the country. In 1979, they joined the legendary "boat people" and sailed into the South China Sea, despite knowing that an estimated two hundred thousand of their countrymen had already perished at the hands of brutal pirates and violent seas.

*Where the Wind Leads* follows Vinh Chung and his family on their desperate journey from pre-war Vietnam, through pirate attacks on a lawless sea, to a miraculous rescue and a new home in the unlikely town of Fort Smith, Arkansas. There Vinh struggled against poverty, discrimination, and a bewildering language barrier yet still managed to graduate from Harvard Medical School. *Where the Wind Leads* is Vinh's tribute to the courage and sacrifice of his parents, a testimony to his family's faith, and a reminder to people everywhere that the American dream, while still possible, carries with it a greater responsibility.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 368 pages

Publisher: Thomas Nelson (April 29, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0849947561

ISBN-13: 978-0849947568

Product Dimensions: 6.4 x 1.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 503 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #418,828 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #155 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Chinese #3511 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Living > Inspirational #11621 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Memoirs

## Customer Reviews

Vinh Chung graduated Harvard magna cum laude with a BA in biology and attended Harvard Medical School for his MD. Dr. Chung also studied at the University of Sydney as a Fulbright Scholar and completed a masters of pharmaceutical sciences. He completed his dermatology residency at Emory University, where he served as chief resident. He currently serves on World Vision's National Leadership Council. Dr. Chung and his wife Leisle have three children and run a successful private practice. Tim Downs is the author of nine novels including the Christy Award-winning PlagueMaker and the highly acclaimed series of Bug Man novels. Tim lives in North Carolina with his wife Joy. They have three grown children.

Review Where the Wind Leads, by Vinh Chung with Tim Downs. Most of the reviews of this book, at and elsewhere, seem to be addressed to a religious audience. The book deserves a wider audience -- among those more inclined toward the secular, toward humanism, toward science, and especially those with an interest in sociology. There is nothing in the book that should put such readers off. On the first page of the Forward, written by Richard Stearns, the President of World Vision U. S., Stearns writes: "All along the way good people, and many good Christians, intervened with a helping hand." A father is frantically running, carrying his ten-year old son, who is near death, to a hospital in a strange land. A woman stops him -- a stranger. She speaks French, which he can't understand. She hands him a few bills and he is able to take a cab to the hospital. Leaving the hospital, again carrying his weak son, another stranger hands him \$5, and he is able to take a cab back to the refugee camp. A stranger tucks a \$100 bill into the shirt pocket of a three-and-a-half year old refugee boy who is rushing through the San Francisco airport with his family, and that \$100 enables the Chung family to buy food in their new home in America. We know nothing about the religious perspectives of these strangers. We do know that they were good, decent, humane. And there is no

religious test that people must pass before they may pay taxes to support programs such as food stamps, subsidized housing, and free school lunches -- programs that helped to save the Chung family. Anyone who has an interest in "the boat people" who fled Vietnam after South Vietnam fell to the communists in 1975 will find this book enlightening. Who were they? Why did they leave Vietnam? How did they get to the United States? And how did things go for them here in America? The Chung family is Chinese, with roots in Vietnam going back several generations. They owned one of the largest businesses in the Mekong Delta -- a multi-million dollar enterprise. When the communists took over in 1975, they confiscated the Chung business, and the Chung home. Over the course of the next few years the Chung's reached the conclusion that, if they remained in Vietnam, they would spend the remainder of their lives in poverty. They made meticulous plans to escape, and departed their community of Soc Trang a few at a time, so as not to attract attention. They went to Ca Mau, where they boarded a boat that the Chung's had bought -- a boat large enough for their extended family, and 16 other families -- a total of 290. They left in June, 1979, just as the typhoon season was beginning, intent on crossing the pirate-infested South China Sea, with food and fuel for only a few days. On the second day at sea, pirates boarded their ship. After robbing them the pirates rammed their ship, hoping to sink it and drown them all. On the third day they reached Malaysia. They beached their boat and scuttled it in hopes of not being turned away. When they jumped from the ship into the sea on the Malaysian coast they left behind almost everything, including their shoes. Malay military took them into custody, and marched them for five days from one sandy beach to another. Vinh describes how his nine-year-old sister Yen's tender feet were scorched by the hot sand. During this march their mother (her eight children ranged in age from 12 to twin boys 18 months old) had a miscarriage and was hospitalized for nine days. The family did not know where she was, and she did not know where her family was. She was almost shipped off to France without her family; her family was almost shipped "to an island refugee camp" without her. She was reunited with her family less than an hour before they were removed from Malaysia. The way they were removed from Malaysia is one of the most awful parts of their experience. The 290 of them were divided and put in four small boats, and were told that they would be towed to a refugee island, a couple hours away. Instead, they were towed out to the middle of the South China Sea -- 20 hours -- and cut loose; abandoned to die. Within hours each boat had drifted out of sight of the others. On the fourth day of being adrift, they had their second encounter with pirates. This time the pirates didn't try to rob them -- perhaps the pirates knew that they had already been totally stripped of anything of value. The pirates simply tried to overturn the boat and drown them. Two boats were working in tandem, with a rope stretched between them. The rope broke, and the engine on one of

the boats stalled. That is all that saved them. They drifted in the South China Sea for six days, under an unrelenting sun, without food or water, and had essentially given up and were waiting to die, when they were rescued by the Seasweep, a ship sponsored by World Vision. After 100 days in a refugee camp in Singapore, they at last learned that they had a sponsor -- a small Lutheran Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Without knowing a word of English, and facing ethnic hostility, they began to make a new life in Fort Smith, with the help of local churches and government programs designed to assist impoverished families. For a while four of the brothers had no assigned place to sleep -- it was first come, first served. After the laundry was done, pants went into one hopper, shirts into another, and again it was first come, first served, as the eight sons looked not for what was theirs, but for what fit. Vinh, the author, tells us that none of them ever said, "That belongs to me." When their father, Thanh, decided that they should open a restaurant, the older children dropped out of college for five years and all of the family worked in the restaurant without pay. This family, working together, was able to achieve "the American dream." The children hold 21 degrees, including five master degrees and five doctorates. Vinh, the author of *Where the Wind Leads*, is a dermatologist. Yen, the nine-year old girl who had a knife held to her throat by a pirate in the South China Sea, is an ultrasonographer. Another is in science management; another a senior systems engineer; the twin boys, who at 18 months old had been dropped, kicking and screaming, into pillow cases so they could be hoisted aboard the Seasweep, are both optometrists; another is a family physician; another a dentist. As other reviewers had said, this is a compelling read. Vinh has a great sense of humor, the book is very well written, and while the family's faith is evident, there is no attempt to impose it on others.

I loved this book. *Where the Wind Leads* is the story of a family forced out of Vietnam in the aftermath of the Vietnam war. The first part of the book chronicles the life they abandoned when they fled and their harrowing journey as unwanted "boat people" in desperate search of a place to land. Then the story shifts. They are welcomed to a small town in Arkansas, and face the challenge of learning an entirely new culture. This is an especially strong section, as the author does a great job of detailing small cultural differences and how they add up to make communication and integration unexpectedly difficult. Then my favorite part is where he shares about being a nerdy high school kid trying to connect with a girl he's attracted to. These scenes are just so sweet and hapless, and they had me cheering for him and laughing at the same time. Also, they provide a nice balance to the intensity of the first part of the book. It was nice to see a child who almost didn't survive wrestling with everyday questions about what to say to a girl. The back cover of this book

calls it "a story of personal sacrifice, redemption, endurance against almost insurmountable odds, and what it truly means to be American." Often, cover copy is hyperbole, but in this case the book more than delivers. I'm still thinking about this story days after turning the last page. Highly recommend. Disclosure: I received this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

This is a strong and moving book. It is well written and has earned its 5 stars. It is the story of family---more so than any book I have ever read. Vinh has 10 siblings and is blessed with a mom and dad who always put the children first. After the Americans pulled out of South Vietnam the communist from the North occupied. 95 members of one family fled the brutality of their enemy. They endured inhumane conditions as they searched for a country that would allow them to enter. This is a vivid account of what can happen to refugees who try to escape to safety. They were picked up and saved from the South China Sea ---when all were near death from lack of water and food. Even in America the family suffered from ill treatment, discrimination, poverty and lack of language skills, but they made it. America did not make it easy for them but only here could they have accomplish the same degree of success. This book is a tribute to hard work, family and American freedom. The author remembers little of the brutal escape to freedom because he was only three years old. However, as an adult I am compelled to point out his life achievements. Vinh Chung graduated Harvard magna cum lauds and graduated from Harvard Medical School, He studied at University of Sydney as a Fulbright Scholar and completed a master of pharmaceutical science. He also holds a master of theology from the University of Edinburg. Wow. Give a guy a little freedom and see him fly!!!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Where the Wind Leads: A Refugee Family's Miraculous Story of Loss, Rescue, and Redemption  
Hair Loss: Hair Loss Solutions for Beginners - Hair Loss Basic Guide - Hair Loss Cure (Hair Loss Protocol - Hair Loss Black Book - Hair Loss for Dummies 1) Hair Loss Prevention: #1 Hair Loss Prevention And Reversal Techniques, Methods, Treatments And Remedies (Hair Loss, Hair Loss Cure, Hair Loss In Women, ... Protocol, Hair Loss Black book, Baldness) Pope Francis: Why He Leads the Way He Leads Miraculous: Adventures of Ladybug and Cat Noir #2 (Miraculous: Adventures of Ladybug and Cat Noir.) Hair Loss Cure & Treatment: Prevention & Effective Natural Regrowth Methods (Hair Loss Prevention, Hair Loss Treatment, Hair Loss Cure, Hair Loss For Men, Hair Regrowth, Self Help) Cash in the Wind: How to Build a Wind Farm Using Skystream and 442SR Wind Turbines for Home Power Energy Net-Metering and Sell Electricity Back to the Grid Cash In The Wind: How to Build a Wind Farm with Skystream and 442SR Wind Turbines for Home

Power Energy Net Metering and Sell Electricity Back to the Grid Wind Power Basics: The Ultimate Guide to Wind Energy Systems and Wind Generators for Homes 33 Men: Inside the Miraculous Survival and Dramatic Rescue of the Chilean Miners Weight Loss: Lose Weight and Body Fat: 3 Simple and Easy Methods to Improve: Health, Fitness and Nutrition (Weight Loss Strategies, Proven Weight Loss, ... Habits, Belly Fat, Weight Loss Tips) ATKINS DIET: Weight Loss Secrets and a Quick Start Guide For a New and Permanent You: Rapid Weight Loss Guide For Beginners, Rapid Weight Loss Guide, Atkins Rapid Weight Loss Hair Loss Cure: Everything You Need to Know About Hair Loss, Hair Loss Prevention, Hair Re-growth and Hair Loss Treatments (Hairloss treatment) Karen Kingsbury Redemption Series Collection: Redemption, Remember, Return, Rejoice, Reunion Hair Loss Solutions for Men: How to Cheat Hair Loss for Life (Hair Loss Solutions: How to Cheat Hair Loss for Life Book 1) A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea: One Refugee's Incredible Story of Love, Loss, and Survival A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea: The Journey of Doaa Al Zamel: One Refugee's Incredible Story of Love, Loss, and Survival Pararescue: The Skill and Courage of the Elite 106th Rescue Wing--The True Story of an Incredible Rescue at Sea and the Heroes Who Pulled It Off The Lost Dogs: Michael Vick's Dogs and Their Tale of Rescue and Redemption Unlikely Brothers: Our Story of Adventure, Loss, and Redemption

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)