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It's been four years since my conversion experience at San Diego State University under the "educator evangelist" Randy Phillip. After viewing several video clips (IMAP Project) of children solving problems and performing arithmetic in nonstandard creative ways, I decided to become involved in the training of prospective elementary teachers. I had much to learn, and arrogance was soon replaced by humility. Everyone in elementary mathematics education knows of Liping Ma's book, *Knowing and Teaching Elementary Mathematics*. However, I think few teachers, and teachers of teachers, realize the meaning of her "Profound Understanding of Fundamental Mathematics" (PUFM). I think most elementary teachers do not see themselves as integral links in a continuous chain-like development of mathematics that includes arithmetic and problem solving. I would like to share a few things I have learned that might help prospective elementary teachers overcome anxieties, build confidence, and become empowered teachers capable of creating exciting learning environments for their students. (Received August 22, 2005)