

Katy Light 凯地之光，凯地中国教会季刊 第五十五期，2020 年 6 月



凯地之光

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编者按：

在参与《凯地之光》编辑事工的这些年里，2020 年 6 月的这一期是特别的。

在我的记忆中，从来没有像这次一样，在没有特别努力约稿的情形下，就不断有稿件寄达同工们的邮箱。作者中有夫妻档，有小朋友；有刚搬来 Katy 两年的新会友，也有早已搬离这里的老同工；有的来自兄弟教会，更多的是凯地教会的弟兄姐妹们……

在这一个月里，似乎有一条无形的纽带，把大家的心连接在一起。那条无形的纽带，是怀念，是不舍，是因为在疫情中目睹、经历着种种失去的我们，在无可预期的情形下，又失去了一位宽厚的好兄长，一位忠心的好弟兄。

不仅如此，年初开始的 COVID-19 疫情，把生命这个课题，以前所未有的份量带到了每个人的生活当中。在短短几个月的时间里，这肉眼看不见的病毒无视国界、不分种族、不管你的年龄、身份、地位、职业如何，以难以想象的规模和速度，把疾病和死亡带到世界各地。在肆虐的病毒面前，人类只能被动地防守，至今没有制胜的把握。而这病毒带来的损害，又何止是身体上的？经济发展的停滞、多种行业的衰退、社会秩序的动荡、人心的恐慌焦虑……人们失去的不仅仅是健康、亲友、工作的机会、行动的自由，更是正常的生活秩序和心中的安全感。无形中，每个人都面对着一个改变了的世界，还有一个需要重新定位的自己。

死亡，并不是一个新鲜的话题。就像医者出身的钟马田牧师所说的那样：“当我们进入这世界，在其中生存的第一刻开始，我们已经开始步向死亡。你呼吸的第一口空气，就是你死前要呼吸的几口气之一……我们每个人的里面，都有毁坏而至死亡的原则”。虽然如此，2020 年的新冠疫情，却让更多的人直接或者间接地接近了死亡。教会弟兄和家中亲人的离世，就是发生在我们身边的经历。感谢神，在这段特殊的日子感动弟兄姐妹，让他们愿意把自己的感受写下

来与大家分享。无论是居家隔离还是在外上班，无论是在学区中服务还是在一线做医护，疫情给人带来了新的挑战，也让人再思生命的价值，信仰的意义。在人的难处中，神的恩典也通过不同的渠道彰显出来。大家用爱心彼此激励，把珍贵的口罩捐赠给更需要的人；有人在风暴中经历神的看顾和保守，有的弟兄姐妹则把思念和回忆诉诸于文字，借以送别家人，告别亲爱的弟兄……

这期刊物中，纪念林宗智弟兄的文字占了很大的篇幅。在这些文字中，林弟兄的音容笑貌历历如见，他爱神爱人、忠心服事的身影也栩栩如生。虽然癌症把他从我们身边带走了，在神的国度里，在大家的记忆中，他却仍然活着。编辑这些文字，让我想起歌罗西书 3 章中的话：“不要只在眼前事奉，像是讨人喜欢的，总要存心诚实敬畏主。无论作什么，都要从心里作，像是给主作的，不是给人作的；因你们知道从主那里必得着基业为赏赐；你们所事奉的乃是主基督”（22-25 节）。林弟兄的生命，为这段经文做出了生动具体的注释。他的离去再次提醒我们生命何等宝贵，又是何等短暂。值得欣慰的是，林弟兄已经跑了那当跑的路，打了那美好的仗。而那肉身的消逝，也并非故事的终结。

就像慕勒主教所写到的：“这个圣经独有的深奥特点：为身体而设的福音，是何等的奇妙！在基督里的身体，非但绝非灵魂的障碍、牢笼、蛹茧，更是神为它所命定的器具；期待着荣耀生命的前景，它可说是意气飞扬”。

是啊，死亡虽然狂傲，却何以夸胜？在属于天父、归于圣子、合于圣灵的信徒生命里，那弹着吉他全心歌咏的身影，口唱心和尽情赞美的音容，那从一切的软弱、疾病、痛苦、败坏、死亡当中得到释放的生命，是何等的鲜活生动，意气飞扬！

（责任编辑：马越）

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父親節專文

父親的榜樣

楊皓峰牧師

六月廿一日是美國的父親節，首先在這裡恭祝每一位弟兄和朋友父親節快樂！我會用父親這一個英文字「F. A. T. H. E. R」來分享我們做父親的與我們孩子間的關係。我認為一個基督徒父親應該在下列六個方面成為孩子的榜樣。這樣，他的生命就必會成為孩子一生的祝福。

1. Faith (信仰或信心)
2. Acceptance (接納)
3. Time together (在一起的時間)
4. Help (幫助)
5. Encouragement (鼓勵)
6. Responsibility (責任)

(一) Faith (傳遞信仰或信心)

身為一個基督徒，一個接受了耶穌基督為他個人救主的人，你最重要的責任是將自己的信仰傳遞給你的孩子。我們作父母的常常認為，我們幫助孩子找到人生的方向，去走他當行的道，讓他們有一個美好的生活，就是盡了父母的責任了。但是要知道，父親對孩子的教導不單是在知識上，也不單在道德行為上，更要在神的話語上。不錯，我們都知道如何在專業知識上去裝備自己的兒女。但更重要的是，你有沒有思考過孩子永生的問題呢？在聖經以

弗所書六章四節，使徒保羅勸告我們說：

“你們作父親的，不要惹兒女的氣，只要照著主的教訓和警戒養育他們”。我們做父母最重要的是要“照著主的教訓和警戒養育他們”，將我們自己的信仰傳遞給孩子，引領孩子去認識神，去接受主耶穌的救恩，而獲得永生。

我們如何去傳遞自己的信仰呢？首先，我們要將神的話語教導他們，與他們一起禱告、一起敬拜仰望神。但最重要的是我們要在自己生活行為上活出自己的信仰。我們自己在行事為人上要按聖經的教導去做。孩子們關注的不是我們說的是什麼，說得何等漂亮，而是看我們是否言行一致，是否能在生活上行出我們所教導的。這樣，我們才會成為他們的榜樣，他們才會聽我們所教導的，才會將神的道行在他們的生活中。

(二) Acceptance (接納和信任)

父親與孩子的關係應該建立在雙方彼此的信任和忠誠上。很多時候孩子不聽從父親的教導，或是漠視父親的意見，甚至反對和反抗父親所說的話，這樣的行為主要出於父親沒有與孩子建立起彼此信任的關係。其實，信任是人際關係的靈魂。父親對孩子的接納，孩子對父親的信任，是父親與孩子建立關係的唯一橋樑。經過一個長期努力的過程，雙方才能夠彼此接納和信任。要明白父親與孩子的思維和想法不同。父親要接納孩子獨特的思想、做事的方法和處理事情的程序。這樣，你才能給孩子空間去發揮神所賜給他的智慧和能力。



父親要接納自己的孩子，就必需嘗試去找出孩子的優點和長處。但是很多時候父親發掘到的只是孩子的錯處。因此，他們的談話內容就只是指責、批評和懲罰。這樣，父子的關係又怎會好呢？不錯，我們作父親的有責任去幫助孩子免犯錯誤，幫助孩子去改正，去行在聖經的教導上。但是我們也需要常常去鼓勵他們，正面地肯定他們。

其實孩子們心中是渴望得到父親的接納和寵愛。有時候，他們甚至蓄意去做一些錯事去取得父母的關注。這時候，父親要有智慧地去指出孩子的錯誤，幫助孩子去明白對錯。舊約箴言廿二章六節吩咐父親說：“教養孩童，使他走當行的道，就是到老他也不偏離”。當父親按著聖經去教導孩子，將他們當走的路指示他們的時候，才是孩子們一生的祝福。

(三) Time together (在一起的時間)

父親能給孩子最好的禮物就是他自己的時間。一位青少年導師問他班上的青少年一個問題：“在你與父親相處的時日中，你最懷念的是什麼”？這一班青少年的答復不是父親買給他的第一輛自行車，也不是生日時父親送給她的漂亮的 Barbie Doll；不是一台昂貴的蘋果電腦，或是最新型的蘋果手機等等，這些都不是他們最懷念的。他們最懷念的是：

- 父親帶他們一家去新墨西哥州「白沙公園」渡假的那一個星期……
- 他們一家人在「Brazos Bend 國家公園」露營和看星星的晚上……

- 她和父親一同參加「父女之夜」的周末……
- 小時候，在一個雷電的晚上，她跑到父母床上的時候，父親給她的擁抱和安慰……

他們懷念的是父親給他們的親情和時間。這些「時間」會一生留在孩子的腦海中。

很多父親將注意力放在事業上，努力加班，甚至下班回家後也在網上工作。他們為的是要供給家庭一個更舒適的居住環境，為的是能送孩子去一間名校讀書，為的是讓他們將來有一份好的收入和一份穩定的工作。但是，從上面孩子們的心聲來看，他們最渴望的是多一點兒父親與他們相處的時間。父親們，你們要珍惜孩子這十多年與你們生活在一起的時光，給他們一生最好的禮物——你自己的時間，與他們建立一份不會磨滅的親情。

(四) Help (從神而來的幫助)

我在上面的篇幅中已多次提到父親給兒女的幫助，但在這裡我要請父親們特別告訴孩子們去何處尋找及時的幫助。我們做父母的，不能一生跟著我們的孩子。當他們年幼的時候，父母是他們隨時的幫助。但他們長大成人後呢？我們不能一生都看顧著他們，他們又向誰去尋找幫助呢？

因此，如何面對和解決困難，是我們能教給他們的一個重要功課。在我們自己的生活中，當我們遇到困難時，我們會如何解決？我們的行動將會成為他們面對困



難時的榜樣。在詩篇一百廿一篇一至二節詩人說：“我要向山舉目；我的幫助從何而來？我的幫助從造天地的耶和華而來”。我們自己在困難中是否依靠神的幫助？是否能專心仰望神的帶領？是否完全地交託給神？當孩子們面對困難或面臨困境的時候，你要他們知道，耶和華他們的神是他們隨時的幫助。他們要親身經歷神，才會知道他們的神是無所不能的，在祂沒有難成的事。在我們自己的生命，我們要幫助孩子明白體會這一點。

(五) Encouragement (鼓勵)

做為一個華裔父親，我們在這方面要加倍地留意和警惕。我們很多時候關注的是孩子的失敗，而忽視了他們的成就。我們都聽過多次這樣的例子：如果你的孩子放學回家後很高興地告訴你他的數學測驗成績得了 95 分，父親不單沒有給他獎賞，反而問為什麼沒能考 100 分。我們要學習去鼓勵孩子的努力，而不是去指責他的不足。父親需要成為鼓勵孩子的源頭，因為鼓勵才會產生和加增孩子對你的信任。在父親看來，孩子的 95 分可能代表他有能力做得更好。但是孩子更需要父親的鼓勵和肯定。這樣他會更盡力去做得更好。父親要看重孩子對鼓勵的需要，這樣才能成為孩子主動自發的推動力。

在孩子遇到困難時，父親不單只是幫助他度過難關。這時候，父親更要把握機會去鼓勵他。在他覺得不知如何處理困難的時候，父親自己失敗的經驗會成為孩子的借鏡，幫助孩子勇敢地向前行。當父親把自己的經驗（無論成功或失敗）和從中學習的功課和智慧傳授給孩子的時候，更能

幫助孩子以後處理困難。要知道對孩子來說，父親的鼓勵永遠都不會嫌多。父親是兒女最好的、最持續的、發自內心呼喊加油的啦啦隊隊員。父親不斷的鼓勵是他對兒女之愛最大的流露和彰顯。

(六) Responsibility (責任)

今天的青少年最需要的是一個負責任的榜樣。我們作父親的不容易直接告訴他們責任是什麼，且「責任」不是說願意去負就負得起的，而是需要慢慢增加的。

父親要在孩子年幼的時候就將責任感放在他們身上。幼年的時候，孩子要負責的是自動起床、梳洗、按時上學。年齡再長大一些的時候，孩子要自動自覺地完成每天老師給他們的功課，在睡前將一切都收拾好預備明天上學。慢慢地，便要他們開始負責一些家務，如洗碗、清理等等。

父親在這方面要以身作則，自己不單是工作養家，更要在家庭中分擔部份家務。特別是夫婦都工作的家庭，父親更要在家庭中與妻子一同主理家務。這樣，你給孩子的形像是你們夫婦兩人是同心地營造這個家庭。孩子長大後組織自己的家庭的時候，他就能像你們一樣負起家中的責任。

結語：

要做好一個基督徒父親不是一件容易的事。能夠在孩子前活出「F. A. T. H. E. R」的形象更不容易。我願在這個父親節與各位弟兄和朋友們共勉，在下列六個方面能成為孩子們的榜樣，讓他們一生得到父親的祝福。



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更重要的是，我們與孩子的關係要效仿主耶穌與父神的親密關係。在新約聖經的四卷福音書中，耶穌稱呼他天上的父親為“阿爸！父！”。在希伯來文中這是一個非常個人性的、也是非常親密的稱呼，主耶穌在世上的生命完全地、親密地與父神聯在一起。

保羅在羅馬書八章十五至十六節論到基督徒與父神的關係時也說：“你們所受的不是奴僕的心，仍舊害怕；所受的乃是兒子的心，因此我們呼叫：‘阿爸！父！’聖靈與我們的心同證我們是神的兒女。”

作為神的兒女，我們與父神的關係也應該像耶穌與父神的關係，我們也應稱天上的父親“阿爸！父！”當我們的生命中彰顯出主耶穌和父的生命的時候，我們與孩子的關係會更密切。阿們！

专题一：谈疫录

恩典之路不能没有春天

张华

无论什么
也不能关住春天的脚步
德克萨斯的田野上
小蓝帽潇洒地奔跑着
我只有一路追赶
唯恐恩典之路少了这段花香
唯恐 2020 的年轮里
少了我在春的痕迹

一，爱惜春天

本想老老实实在休斯顿家中宅着的，可还是忍不住挪了挪窝儿。这边也是家，开车过来需要一个半小时，就当是度假吧！在这个时期还能这样，真是感恩上帝的赏赐。附近有德州第二大湖利文斯顿湖（Lake Livingston），水域开阔，波光荡漾。这里的春天实在有唤人入画的气息，让人心旷神怡，无法抗拒。

春天里，开满蓝草帽花儿的原野，每年都等着我来，今年也不例外。我就如被关了一个世纪的小姑娘，随着春风在原野上飞快地跑，那迷人的大自然是人类最好的医生，不管你得了什么病，在这里你的血脉通畅，生命得到氧分，心灵也得着了医治！



这片开满蓝草帽花的地方，就在离我家不远的后山坡路边。附近农庄的主人喜欢收藏废旧拖拉机，坡上散落停放着好几辆不同型号的老式拖拉机，这倒是个景儿了。花草的柔美和机械的粗犷构成了具有年代感的油画，像是存放了多年的艺术珍品。



二、爱惜生命

空下来，在岸边用网打上两条鱼，一条是鲤鱼，一条是猫鱼，都有四五斤重。借着春风，也让鲤鱼翻跳打了打挺儿，那顽强生命显出的威慑力，让人不得不尊重，使它的生命得以长久。

鱼儿欢跳一会儿后，我赶紧把它送回湖水里，也愿它的心情和我今天的心情一样，有冲破牢笼、重获新生的感觉。看着鱼儿游走了，我的身体顿感轻盈，心情也舒畅起来。

在原先，如果收获这样的两条大鱼，我们一定兴奋得不行，很快就拿回厨房处

理干净下油锅了。可是这次网到了大鱼，却没有谁太激动，也没有谁反对我给它们放生。每个人的内心都因这次疫情的残酷而变得柔软了，更加珍惜那鲜活的生命，更容易生出怜悯之心。鲤鱼在下水之前表演了一下跳龙门的特技，真的是在草地上倒立了一秒钟，神奇哈！

女儿问我：“妈妈，大鱼不能吃，小鱼不能要，今天晚上我们还能吃上晚饭吗？”我望着游走的大鱼说：“能，一定能，天边火烧云来了，鱼一定是去红烧了。”女儿一脸茫然，我忍不住用手拍了拍她长满秀发的头。



有谁不为将来忧虑呢？但是忧虑没有任何用处。看着满地的野花，我想起圣经中的话：“然而我告诉你们：就是所罗门极荣华的时候，他所穿戴的还不如这花一朵呢！你们这小信的人哪！野地里的草今天还在，明天就丢在炉里，神还给它这样的妆饰，何况你们呢！……你们要先求他的国和他的义，这些东西都要加给你们了。所以，不要为明天忧虑，因为明天自有明天的忧虑；一天的难处一天当就够了。”（马太福音 6 章 29-34 节）

是啊，一天的忧虑一天当就好了，正如上帝安慰我们的那样。在这一刻，我紧



绷的神经，似乎从那些疫情报表数字中挣脱了出来，不再为逝者悲伤，不再为患者难受，不再为地球流泪。这一刻，我只想随着风云起舞，为这年春天里逝去的人们献上祭奠，愿一切都安好，在这暖暖的春风里！

三、珍惜恩典

小学的语文课本上有一幅画，我还记忆犹新。一个小顽童从春风习习杨柳飘飘的树下跑过来，嘴里还哼着小曲儿：

“春天不是读书天，夏日炎炎正好眠。秋有蚊子冬有雪，要想读书待来年。”

不知为什么想起了这首打油诗，可能是从年初开始，大家的时间表就乱了。多少该聚的餐没有聚，该拜的年没有拜，该走的亲戚没有走，该拜访的朋友没有访，该上的班没有上，该念的书没有念，是不是还有人该接的吻没有接？

生命在于什么？你可以说是在于运动，那是在没有被禁足之前；你可以说在于明天，那是在今天的意外来临之前。如果生命可以再来一次，你我准备好了吗？可以拥抱新的开始了吗？心中千万次问的不公都给了你公平，你准备好了吗？

生命在于上帝的恩典！知此之后我便应声说：我知道谁掌管我们的明天。你说：人就是赚得全世界，赔上自己的生命，有什么益处呢？是的，生命在于你！

上帝啊，你可否倒转年轮，纪念全世界人民对抗新冠病毒？等待着上帝重新把时针拨回到 2020 新年钟声开响的时刻，那时，人们一定会为新的生命一起欢呼，为能从死里复活而感恩，为知道时间掌握在上帝手里而敬畏祂！也会更加珍惜生命、尊重他人、爱惜时光、注意身体、享受春光、爱护花草、追赶春风！

多么希望上帝的怜悯能把时光倒转，恩典的路上不能没有春天！

疫境心情

黄宜洲

2/9/2020（星期天）

最近一段时间以来，因为新冠肺炎的事件，我们和身边及远方的家人朋友都受到了不同程度的影响。微信和网上的消息更是铺天盖地，汹涌而来。看到这么多人受到感染、与人隔离，甚至失去生命，的确令人焦虑担忧，心生疑问，甚至愤怒恐慌。

让我们这些信主的儿女们，再一次将我们的眼光注视在为我们信心创始成终的耶稣基督身上。不论外面的环境如何动荡不安，求主赐我们那出人意料的属天平安。让我们能保持清醒克制、互相忍耐、彼此包容。也请弟兄姐妹们注意安全、爱惜自己，因为神说“岂不知你们的身子就是圣灵的殿么”？



在这个时候，也求主的爱更多充满我们每一个人的心，让我们恳切地为受疫情影响的人群祷告，愿意伸出援手去帮助他们。“与喜乐的人要同乐；与哀哭的人要同哭。”求主的医治和宽恕再一次临到，让更多的人回转信靠祂，得到永恒的生命。让我们一起来为主做工，一起来荣耀主名！

3/11/2020（星期三）

又是一个清晨。醒来，看看外面，天色灰蒙蒙的，有点儿像我们的心情。如果说一个多月前对新冠病毒的疫情虽然关切，但仍觉得离我们很远，如今疫情的扩散已是无可争议的事实，就在我们的身边了。我们不禁要问：下一步我们应该怎样做呢？戴口罩、戴手套、多洗手、勤消毒，这样就够了吗？如果疫情进一步扩大，学校停课、社区封闭、甚至社会局部或整体停摆，我们将会如何呢？

上个星期，我们母堂的主任牧师发了一个视频，强调大家在做好准备的同时，平静应对。他特别提到有的地方出现了抢购某些物资的情况，呼吁会众不要加入抢购的行列，因为这不是爱邻舍的行为。我们教会的教牧同工也一直在商议，做相应的准备，很快会有更进一步明确的建议。

在这个时候，求主保护我们免受病毒的侵害，赐给我们更多的爱心和智慧，彼此关怀，互相帮助，一起面对疫情的挑战。求主赐给我们更多的信心，用我们每一个基督徒为祂做光做盐，为主作见证。约翰福音 16 章 33 节说：“我将这些事告

诉你们，是要叫你们在我里面有平安。在世上你们有苦难；但你们可以放心，我已经胜了世界”。

3/25/2020（星期三）

感染和死亡病例的数字每天在变化着，仍然触动着每一条敏感却又似乎不那么警醒的神经。人们忙碌地团购口罩、团购食物，似乎总是忙不过来。但学校已经停课，公司尽量关门，民众被命令居家隔离。我们尽一切可能做了准备，也做了最好或最坏的打算，下一步我们该做些什么呢？

这次疫情终究会过去，但要看到，不是人战胜了病毒，人起到的作用是传播病毒还是抑制、消灭了病毒呢？是小小病毒把人都关起来了，几乎让整个世界停顿了下来。

在民数记十六章记载着，当瘟疫在以色列人中间发作的时候，“不料，瘟疫在百姓中间已经发作了。他就加上香，为百姓赎罪。他站在死人活人中间，瘟疫就止住了”。

让我们一起转向神，在神面前谦卑、悔改、祷告，求神赦免我们的罪，带领我们走过疫情的风暴。弟兄姐妹们，相信不久以后，我们将会在教会重聚，因为神与我们同在！

4/3/2020（星期五）

清明时节不徐不急地如期而至了，首次申领失业救济金的人数这两个星期就接近千万，疫情还丝毫没有缓解的迹象，经



济更是急剧地下滑，也许人们不禁心生疑问：这真的是人间的四月天吗？

德州的蓝帽子依然漫山遍野地灿烂绽放，似乎丝毫没有受到疫情的影响，只是人们忙着打一场未知结果的仗，没有了去欣赏野花的兴致。希望在我们焦灼地应对病毒的时候，也能感受周围的丝丝温暖和美好。这个星期，知道我们家鸡蛋快没了，一天晚上十点多的时候，邻居送来了鸡蛋和鹅蛋。在不知道我们的青菜消耗完了的情况下，他们又送来了自家种的蔬菜，真是令人惊喜。祂对我说：“我的恩典够你用的，因为我的能力是在人的软弱上显得完全”。

相信我们每家都贮备了一定数量的口罩、手套等防护用品。让我们也行动起来，愿意主动去关心熟悉或不熟悉的亲友、同事和邻居。他们需要口罩吗？他们需要手套吗？让我们一起为你为我祷告吧！马太福音第五章这样说：“你们是世上的盐……你们是世上的光。城造在山上是不能隐藏的”。

4/25/2020（星期六）

最近五个星期，美国申请失业救济金的人数超过了二千六百万，这是比经济大萧条时更严重的情况了吧？就整体而言，经济冲击对人们的影响比新冠病毒的威胁更大，但落到每个个体和家庭的头上也许就不一样了。所以上到联邦政府，下到州郡市，似乎都在这两难的抉择上挣扎着。我们到底要如何去面对这个不再一样的“正常世界”呢？

不管疫情有多严重，前院的桅子花、百合花如往年一样地盛开了。花儿仍然是那么白，那么纯，像是对病毒发起了无言的宣战。这让我想起了马太福音里的话：

“何必为衣裳忧虑呢？你想野地里的百合花怎么长起来……你们要先求他的国和他的义，这些东西都要加给你们了。所以，不要为明天忧虑，因为明天自有明天的忧虑；一天的难处一天当就够了”。

如今微信上出现最多的是各家自制的美食、各种各样的团购、各处的防毒健身攻略、各地防疫的得失对错讨论，当然更有医护人员的无畏工作、一线工人的辛勤劳动、普通民众的踊跃捐献，这些我们或多或少都身在其中。昨天上了一个网课，课程的最后，授课老师让大家问自己一个问题：当疫情结束的日子到来的时候，我希望我做了……（When this is over, I wish I had……）。还是让我们回到马太福音吧：“主人说：‘好，你这又良善又忠心的仆人，你在不多的事上有忠心，我要把许多事派你管理；可以进来享受你主人的快乐’”。这，也会是你我的答案吗？

看了看今天的天气预报，在凯地，太阳出来的时间是早上 6 点 46 分，让我们一起去看看升起的太阳吧！



疫情中的反思

鄧瑞蘭

在疫情蔓延期間，你的靈命光景如何？你跟上帝的關係如何？當市政府下令居家令後，我們開始有很多時間呆在家裡，也有更多時間與配偶、孩子們在一起。我們是否有花更多時間修復與上帝的關係？有沒有計劃改變人生的下半場？有沒有思考在這末世時代，把更多的時間精力投資在有永恆價值的事上？還是整天上網看電視，追蹤有關疫情和經濟危機的新聞報道，心中充滿著焦慮和不安？

在過去病毒未襲擊美國時，我們在美國過著物質豐富、社會繁榮安定的生活。但這富足安逸的享樂生活往往使我們陷入各種屬世的試探引誘，使我們忽視自己靈命上的需要，與主的關係時冷時熱，更對主所托付的大使命心志不強，也不重視將來在天國里的榮耀賞賜。這種靈命光景，就如聖經中所提到的老底嘉教會一樣：“我知道你的行為，你也不冷也不熱；我巴不得你或冷或熱。你既如溫水，也不冷也不熱，所以我必從我口中 把你吐出去”（啟示錄 3 章 15-16 節）。

據說老底嘉這個地方以溫泉著名，而這溫泉熱水是用來治病的。只有冷水適合那裡的居民飲用，溫水是難以入口的。所以這裡“不冷不熱”的意思，是指老底嘉教會落入毫無用處的屬靈光景里，因為他們的生命被今生的富足享受捆綁住了。他們以擁有的豐富物質生活為榮為樂，屬靈生命卻是貧窮，經歷主的信心又膚淺，所

以神責備這樣的信徒：“你說：我是富足的，已經發了財，毫無缺乏。卻不知你是困苦的、可憐的、貧窮的、瞎眼的、赤身的。我勸你向我買精煉的金子，使你富足；又買白衣穿上，使你赤身的羞恥不會顯露出來；也買眼藥膏抹你的眼睛，使你可以看見。凡是我所愛的，我就責備管教；所以你要熱心，也要悔改”（啟示錄 3 章 17-19 節）。

為什麼他們要向主買這些東西呢？“火煉的金子”就是能經得起試煉的信心。自我們悔改信主時，我們的信心必須經過火的試煉，才能成為精金。“叫你們的信心既被試驗，就比那被火試驗仍然能壞的金子更顯寶貴，可以在耶穌基督顯現的時候，得著稱贊、榮耀、尊貴”（彼前 1 章 7 節）。主許可我們經歷各種困難和患難，讓我們學習依靠主的功課。就如這次百年一遇的疫情，雖然打亂了我們安逸的生活，但這是預言中末世所會發生的事。所以當依靠主來渡過這次災難，就能為主活出美好見證，叫世人看到我們的好行為，歸榮耀與神。“白衣”代表信徒光明聖潔的行為，“就蒙恩得穿光明潔白的細麻衣。這細麻衣就是聖徒所行的義”（啟 19:8）。我們因信主被神稱為義，但我們不能只停留在稱義，也要行出神的義。雅各書里說我們不但要有信心，也要有行為，就是發自內心裡對主的信心而產生的好行為。讓我們這信心的行為能發出基督的馨香之氣，使別人知道我們相信的是又真又活的神。“眼藥”是用來治療我們盲目的屬靈眼睛。所以我們需要常有聖靈的光照，使我們能看清楚自己靈性真實的情況，知道自己在哪裡得罪了神。有時我們會不知不覺陷入自欺狀態，認為自己今生



的名利、地位、知識、成就是等於自己屬靈生命光景。或者常靠自己的聰明血氣來事奉主，把自己落入驕傲自誇的地步。我們需要聖靈的幫助，使我們多認識祂、認識自己、認識這末世的危險，常以警醒禱告預備自己、等候主的再來。

聖經中每次提到瘟疫是與神的審判有關。相信這次疫情災難是神對世界的審判，也是神向所有基督徒發出的警告，提醒我們主來的日子近了。記得半年前，我曾求神復興教會和美國，但禱告中卻有點懷疑神是否會復興美國這富足安逸、道德敗壞的國家。這次神許可這疫情發生，讓我完全相信在神凡事都能。所以懇求神能藉著這次疫情的發生復興教會，更新靈命，拯救美國這片土地。

願神的美意成就在愛祂的人身上！阿們！

Reflections on COVID-19

Selina Lin

When I was a 3rd year medical student in 1987, we faced a new ominous virus called HIV. During that time, we were gripped with a contagion that killed young healthy men. The hospital was filled with patients dying from this and we knew little on how to best treat these patients. As students, we were anxious about getting an accidental needle stick or getting splashed with blood because we knew that was how we would catch

the virus. We were fearful of touching and treating a patient with HIV. We treated every patient as though they could have HIV and practiced universal precautions to minimize exposure to skin contact to blood products. As an obstetrician-gynecologist, though I practiced universal precautions, I am always exposed to blood and the risk of catching HIV. Thankfully, thirty plus years later, I am still here doing my work despite the exposure risk.

Now we face another new virus, COVID-19. Though not as deadly as HIV, the unknown is what is gripping many with anxiety and fear of catching the virus. We are instructed to practice social distancing to help decrease our chances of getting and spreading the virus. We are instructed to wash or sanitize our hands. We are asked to wear a face mask. The healthcare professionals are trying to minimize contacts by seeing patients via Zoom or the telephone.

In the Bible, leprosy was the scourge of that time. Lepers were ostracized and made to live outside of communities and separated from their families. They were abused and mistreated and labelled "UNCLEAN". No one wanted to go near or touch them in fear that they would catch leprosy.

However, in Matthew 8:1-3 it says, *"When Jesus came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. And then a leper approached, did him homage, and said, 'Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean.' He stretched out his hand, touched him,*



*and said, "I will do it. Be made clean."
His leprosy was cleansed immediately."*

The amazing thing about this story is Jesus did not practice social distancing. He did not use Purell hand sanitizer. He did not Zoom chat with the leper. Jesus went right up to the leper and TOUCHED him to heal him.

As a healthcare professional, I am obligated to heed the recommendations of the medical experts and follow the guidelines that are given to me to protect my patients. However, like Jesus, rather than recoiling from those who have contagions, I need to draw close to them.

So, I should wear my face mask. I should practice good hand hygiene. I should use zoom calls when possible. But I can also confidently see patients face to face. I can touch my patients. I can embrace my patients to give them assurance that I care and am not afraid of them.

So what advice do I give the anxious patient? My advice to the patient is to use the necessary precautions, but not to allow their fears to debilitate their judgment. As the apostle Paul says in the Scripture, "*Imitate me, as I imitate Christ*" (1 Corinthians 11:1). I would like to ask the patients and readers of this article to follow my example and the examples of my colleagues. We are cautious, but we are not afraid.

One Mask

Nina Tang

In April this year, a retired farmer from Kansas sent an N95 respirator to the governor of New York, asking him to give it to a doctor or a nurse. The governor was so touched by his letter and thoughtfulness that he publicly acknowledged the farmer during his daily coronavirus briefing. A single respirator may not seem like much, but it is the thought that counts. In times of widespread panic-buying and hoarding, we are blessed by people who selflessly share their resources with others. As we are reminded in Philippians 2:4, "not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemics, there has been a severe shortage of N95 respirators in hospitals nationwide. I felt burdened to help the hospital where I work. Knowing that I could do little by myself, I decided to mobilize more people to donate N95 respirators by sharing with our Esther Sisters fellowship group about my hospital's needs. To my amazement, I received a total of 220 respirators in less than two weeks. I can't say thank you enough to all the donors! God is good!

I am grateful to the sisters who shared about my "mask drive" with others. Because of their word-of-mouth



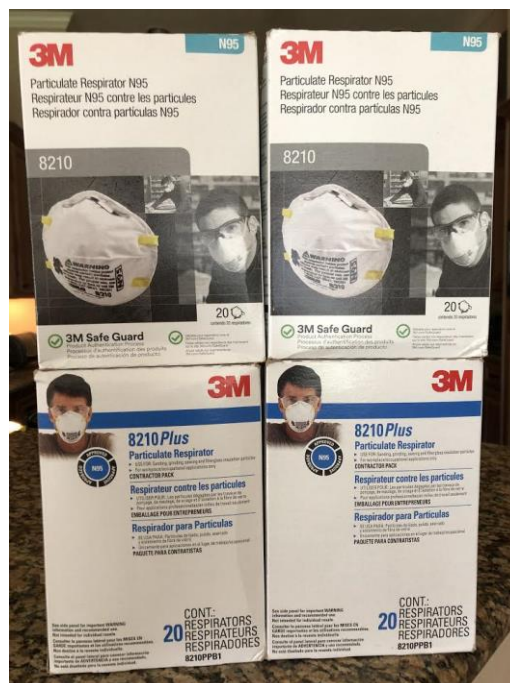
referrals, I received respirators from brothers and sisters, some I didn't even know previously. Others informed me of the various organizations that were donating medical supplies to local hospitals. I immediately referred them to my hospital for follow-up. One of the organizations was Ocean University of China Texas Alumni group. I would like to give them a big shout-out for donating 150 respirators!

A special note of gratitude to Pastor Keh-Shiun Tan too for his donation. Our hospital's supply chain director was ecstatic to receive the small-size respirators that Pastor Tan had bought during his road trip to Dallas. These were nearly impossible to find. Praise God for His timely provision through Pastor Tan!

Lastly, let us encourage one another to press on with good works, be it the giving of time, money or masks:

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

May God bless His people!



访谈：疫情下的思考

宋玉秀

(编辑整理：杜秀香)

2020 年的春天，人类经历了一场空前绝后的磨难。没有人可以置身事外，也无人能够无动于衷。一个小小的新冠病毒犹如吼叫的狮子，遍地游走，寻找一切可吞吃的人。自恃强大、傲然于世的人们在病毒面前惊慌失措，丢盔卸甲。面对肆虐的病毒，现代高科技和雄厚国力显得无能为力，束手无策。可以说，自以为是目空一切的人类在这看不见的敌人面前，彻彻底底地打了一场败仗。而平日里被人忽视的、微小而又不起眼的口罩、洗手液和防护服取代了尖端科技，堂而皇之一跃成为今年春天的主流。就在大部分人退守一隅



居家隔离之际，作为逆行者的医护人员被推到了人类与病毒抗争的最前沿阵地。

《凯地之光》编委会决定在今年六月份的刊物中，邀请凯地教会的医护人员分享他们在疫情前线的所见所闻、所思所想。关于生命的思考，以及生命的见证。为了节省他们原本就很宝贵的时间，此期主编马越姐妹拟定了几个问题，以问答的访谈方式，搜集答案，再由编辑们整理成文。与弟兄姐妹们分享共勉。

我与宋玉秀姐妹相识于 2014 年的春天，当时玉秀和他的丈夫赵文盛弟兄是青草地小组的副组长。与他们同在一个小组一起事奉几年，算是比较熟悉，便自告奋勇接受访谈玉秀的任务。一开始还担心忙碌的玉秀是否愿意百忙之中抽时间回答问题。没有想到，她却出乎意料爽快地答应了。并于当天下午就在微信里回答了四个问题。

在过去的这几个月里，面对疫情的发展和变化，你个人有什么特别的经历和感受？

疫情刚来时，医院就开始培训使用脸部面罩。一开始是有一些恐慌的感觉，知道一场不可预测的战争要打响了。因孩子春假我休息一周，春假后去上班，同事们大都沉静做事，各忙各的，彼此心照不宣地等待更严重的状况来临。医院也做了应对安排，病人分疑似确诊新冠病人或非新冠病人，分住在不同病区，因之医护人员的防护级别亦有所不同。普通病房就是一个口罩从早用到晚，勤洗手、戴手套、不摸脸。到目前为止，还没有病区护士有感染新冠的报导。我前几天发冷，做了新冠

测试。医院还要求无症状 72 小时才能回去上班，这也是为了病人和所有医护人员的安全。

【感谢主保守、看顾玉秀姐妹。祂曾应许：“耶和华要保护你，免受一切的灾害，祂要保护你的性命。你出你入，耶和华要保护你，从今时直到永远”。（诗篇 121：7-8）】

在医院工作的这段时间，你所面临的最大挑战是什么？有什么收获？

最大挑战是担心感染新冠病毒。护士群里大家买个人防护用品，我自己要了防护镜，其实也一直没戴。防护镜是一个华人护士送的，硬是不收钱，很感动。教会、葡萄园群里的姐妹们和朋友也送我很多口罩。我把大部分口罩都带到了医院，同事们很感谢。医院每天两、三次有院长、院牧、院主任的鼓励讲话。大家同心合一，共防疫情，在疲累中得安慰。在医院我们也有午餐，是一些餐饮业老板为了给我们补充营养，免费提供给我们的。

【感谢主！病毒肆虐中，爱和分享却依旧在人间流淌。玉秀姐妹把接受的大部分口罩带到她所工作的医院，不仅是与同事们分享防护用品，更是彰显神的大爱、把爱传递出去、以生命影响生命的美好见证。“我们晓得万事都互相效力，叫爱神的人得益处，就是按祂旨意被召的人”。（罗马书 8：28）】



你的所见所闻亲身经历，让你对信仰有什么思考吗？

病毒带来死亡，死亡带来恐慌。人都想好好活着，不想被病毒夺去生命。因为做护士的原因，我与很多的癌症病人、老年孤独病人都有接触，感叹人的一生如烟花，灿烂一时之后就坠落。我自己也不断思索人的生和死。自己大学毕业后经历极大生活落差，差点被闲言碎语击垮。后来认识主后，主用爱和智慧的言语建立我，自己的价值不再被周围人来定义，而是由造我、爱我的主而定。在主里，我找到了真理里的平安和自由。面对疫情，我不怕死，就如同保罗，与主同在美好无比；若时候未到，继续存留在世上，我就要尽自己在世上的义务，包括上班、照顾孩子、做家务、陪伴家人，与周围人分享福音，见证从主来的喜乐、自由与盼望，引领更多人进到主里面去。

【面对苦难和疫情，玉秀姐妹拥有信仰带来的平安和自由。生与死的思考中，领悟神的话语，活出爱神爱人的生命见证。“那美好的仗我已经打过了，当跑的路我已经跑尽了，所信的道我已经守住了”。（提摩太后书 4：6）】

大家如何能够支持和帮助像你这样的医护人员？你有什么特别的需要，大家可以为你代祷吗？

愿世人的心被疫情震撼，苏醒昏迷的灵，明白神的话语，走在不偏左右的正路上，抛弃自以为的聪明和福气，饮用主的话语所赐的生命活水，洗净心版上的厚厚灰尘，过爱神爱人、行公义、好怜悯，谦

卑与主同行的每一天。大路千万条，唯有在主里的路引向光明荣耀的目的地！大家要看明白了！谢谢大家对医护的代祷，感谢从主而来的这份爱。当大家同心谦卑在主前，爱神爱人，离病毒过去的日子就近了。

访者感言：玉秀人如其名，温润如玉，秀外慧中。平日里轻言慢语，温顺随和，却喜欢读书，善于思考，看问题犀利透彻，敏锐智慧。她经常在微信朋友圈里，转发文章时，写一些简短的句子，或以问句形式引人深思，或以自身经历传扬福音。有时只是寥寥数语，却引发无限的思考余地和空间。少有空洞说教式的大话，真实展示自身的软弱、思考，以及对神话语、对世界和人际关系的理解。是一个真情真性、外表柔顺内力坚定、充满智慧的女子。以下是我摘录的玉秀姐妹在疫情期间发在微信朋友圈的只言片语。

3/14/2020

圣经上讲 - 教我们仔细数算在世上的日子，以得慧心。在恐惧的时刻，祈求上帝赐予我们智慧，在所知道的一切事上不致动摇。让那些不认识上帝的人意识到生命是何等的脆弱，真正的永恒是什么，让他们看到需要而心转向上帝。

3/16/2020

我已经被他人隔离有 2 周，深有同感。被排斥和孤立并不是一件舒服的事，因为我们自从被造以来就是活在关系里的。但如今许多人需要处理被孤立的局面。耶稣时代的麻风群体对这种经历非常了解，他们被迫独居生活，在家乡的街道上大喊“不洁净了！不洁净了”！



3/17/2020

给国内关心我的人。大家都在防范迎战。如果有口罩，优先医护人员，其次是老人和免疫差的人。我们是活在一个有信仰、有爱的群体中，我们是客旅寄居的，我们有更美更超越的盼望！

4/3/2020

坏消息与好消息，人心随之沉重或雀跃。我们的生命体就这样在信息的漩涡中产生各种反应。世上的信息冲击我们的头脑，天上的信息有没有成为三维探照灯指引我们前行的路呢？

4/6/2020

是演义还是真实？人类在世间痛苦流离，神子到人间，要把光照进黑暗里，让世人有所盼望。打开心，仔细思索，愿信望爱与大家同在！

4/9/2020

看了其中一大半，从生活故事和圣经中体会信仰对生命的影响，不断学习，真理赐人自由！转发 20 部经典福音电影

4/10/2020

疫情猖狂，感染人数达百万。两千年历史上的今天，你被捕、被审、被打、被定罪，替我们先尝苦的滋味，经历死亡。许许多多的人在疫情中也失去生命，但你没有永睡在坟墓中，三天后你复活了。你曾说，不是他们拿走你的生命，是你自己愿意舍得，你怎样舍了，还怎样取回来。感谢你话语的力量在历史长河中流淌。现在这生命之水涌流在我心里，虽有困苦，却总是甜蜜。

4/15/2020

你我可听懂这呐喊？有限的人啊，当静听，当从管教中清醒，你本有美好的天家，为何要被世界的物欲蒙蔽呢？转发美国传道人要世人悔改的呐喊。

4/17/2020

人自己是什么？研究透了身体结构，但人的思想是什么？我们吃什么就成什么；我们读什么也成为什么样的人。吃健康的食物，读有益的东西，健康有所盼望。

【感谢玉秀姐妹在忙碌紧张的生活节奏里接受《凯地之光》编委会的问答式访谈，也愿神保守祝福疫情期间逆行的医护人员。疫情仍在泛滥，医护人员依旧在忘我地工作。但是我们深信主的应许从不落空：“在世上你们有苦难，但你们可以放心，我已经胜了世界”。（约翰福音 16: 33）】

疫情中的感悟

章玲

一月底，我们看着中国疫情的发生，还在到处打听哪里有什么卖，想给在中国的家人寄去。三月中旬，疫情就来到了我们面前，孩子们停课，大人们在家里工作，大家都有措手不及的感觉。

以前你打喷嚏，有人会送来关切的问候：“God Bless You”！现在你打个喷嚏或咳嗽一声，会遭到周边人的躲避。“保持社交距离”成了到处可见的口号，也成



了朋友间最温暖的提醒！疫情改变了经济，也改变了人们的价值观和生活方式。

面对前所未有的突发变局，人们处在忧虑和恐惧之中。面对未知的未来，没有人不怀念新冠病毒爆发之前的日子：周末可以小组聚会，主日大家相聚在教堂。那，似乎是很久很久以前的岁月了……

在这样的情况下，孩子们是最天真无邪而毫无防疫手段的人群。感谢政府，在第一时间要求给 18 岁以下的孩子免费提供早餐和午餐，以保证孩子们的饮食营养，同时给在家工作的父母减轻一点压力。

我和我的同事一起来到学校厨房，为发放给孩子的食物做准备。我们的发放点每天都要准备一千多份早午餐。如果不是亲眼所见，我真的不敢相信眼前的事实。因为从小长大，我只知道小孩子是家长的责任，而不知道政府会有如此承担。

我们每个人都是提心吊胆地在一起工作，戴着医用口罩埋头苦干，带着多说一句话都要被传染新冠病毒的担心，也还是兢兢业业地按照规程干活。而且不断地相互提醒：“保持社交距离”！就是在休息的时候，我们也一样保持着远远的距离。



有一天在我们分派食物的时候，一位母亲送来了一个漂亮的包，里面放着十几块手工香料，感谢我们为孩子的所作所为。正如总统在复活节的讲话：“在有特殊挑战时，我们转向神，寻求祂的指引、安慰和希望。在这段困难时期，我们见证了美国人民所展现出来的基督精神和信仰宗旨：关爱、同情和善良，从美国人民的行动中看到了勇气、慷慨和关怀。圣经中的话根植于美国人的内心。每个人都有天赋的才能，都应以此服务他人，以各种形式展现神的恩典”。这位母亲用她的才能，以特有的形式展现了神的恩典。我挑选了一块心形香块，挂在我的画板上，时时感受着疫情中来自神的爱。



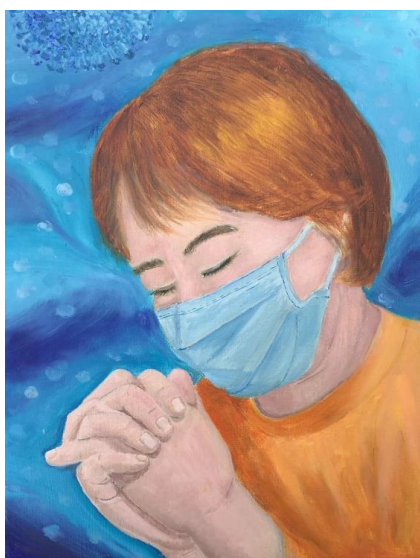
在闻名世界的伦敦威斯敏斯特大教堂地下室的墓碑林中，有一块名扬世界的墓碑，我愿以这墓碑上的一段话作为结语：

“当我年轻的时候，我的想象力从没有受到过限制，我梦想改变这个世界。当我成熟以后，我发现我不能改变这个世界，我将目光缩短了些，决定只改变我的国家。当我进入暮年后，我发现我不能改变我的国家，我的最后愿望仅仅是改变一下我的家庭。但是，这也不可能。当我躺在床上，行将就木时，我突然意识到：如果一开始我仅仅去改变我自己，然后作为一个



榜样，我可能改变我的家庭；在家人的帮助和鼓励下，我可能为国家做一些事情。然后谁知道呢？我甚至可能改变这个世界”。

让我们用神的话语改变自己，弘扬基督的精神和信仰的宗旨：关爱、同情和善良，一起战胜疫情，以自己的方式，展现神的恩典！（5/16/2020）



彩铅作品：祈祷

作者：章玲姐妹

清明哀悼文

刘幼华

今年的清明节，来得猝不及防，就像窗外淅淅沥沥的阴雨，浇在心头，寒意不消。我们跟世界上所有的人一样，忍受这世纪瘟疫的肆虐，或早或迟，禁足在家。看着伤亡人数的节节攀升，无计可施，徒唤奈何。那不是一个个简简单单的数字，而是一个个活生生的人，一个个原本和和

美美的家庭，因为那细小、无迹的病毒，因为官僚的失职、隐瞒，因为人类罪性的贪婪、放任、恶毒，顷刻间消亡、瓦解。

更还有那不少因为疫情冻结了社会的正常功能，摧垮了医疗系统的正常运转而引起的“次生灾难”，它们的受害者可能根本不在统计数据内，正所谓死于非命者。很可悲哀的是，我的岳母就是这样的一位受害者。

自从岳父在 2016 年底在睡眠中过世，岳母就独居于他们共同生活了三十几年的老公寓房里。过年前听说岳母在楼道间摔跤，就感觉情况不妙（她以前照顾老岳父心急火燎，曾经在那里摔倒过以致尾骨骨裂，照理现在应该更加小心）。在春节过后疫情汹汹的一两个月里，平常爱动、每天都要上街买菜的老太太被关在家里受不了了，常常在电话里跟她女儿诉苦，抱怨睡眠不好。后来她长期咳嗽，让大舅子去药店买了一些消炎祛咳的药服用，没有效果。还不敢大声咳，怕别人以为是疫病。好在没有被人举报，总算没有被抓去检查、隔离。后来疫情减轻，她的咳嗽不见好转，而且不能进食，又加上呕吐，才在两周前住进了县医院。

各种治疗没有明显效果，各样检查也没有确诊。从 CT 影像怀疑一侧肺底有癌症，从呕吐和验血结果、黄疸怀疑癌症已经转移到胰胆及肝脏。曾经有市第一人民医院的医生认为可能是肺脓肿，唤起了我们的希望，准备转院治疗。但岳母的各项指标和体征急转直下，于四月一日下午终于不治，享年八十六岁。

如果没有这次的疫情，岳母或者可以正常地诊治，不至于拖延到多症并发，那



么她还可能活很多年。太太说没想到这么一个充满活力、精力充沛的老太太，说没就没了。而且目前的这种情况，我们没法回国奔丧，只能拜托在老家的大舅子和大嫂一家操劳了。不过不幸中的大幸，是家乡疫情已经缓和，还能允许家人操办一个像样的葬礼。

岳母是苦出身，从小与她大姐在一个流浪戏班里讨生活。五〇年前后社会动荡，他们在靖州县城长久驻扎，她也成了祁剧团的花旦台柱子。那时我岳父在县城一中教书，他们通过别人介绍，成就了一段才子佳人的姻缘。岳父成分不好，但天资聪颖、刻苦，硬是在恶劣的政治环境和高压下，通过自学获得了大学数学专业的同等学历，成为远近闻名的业务尖子。岳父是我的恩师，文革中被下放到县里一个偏僻的乡里教中学。受我父亲托付，我因此得到岳父的特别关照和栽培。改革开放后全县第一年统考，我考进重点班，岳父也落实政策调回一中，成为我们重点班的数学老师。我还记得父亲带我第一次去他们家，岳母做饭招待我们，做的红烧肉很特别，味重却货真价实（太太说她妈妈以前不会做饭，是剧团解散后半路出家学的，因此调味有些不知轻重），但我喜欢（平常吃肉少）。

岳父过世后，太太曾经说，今后要多回去看望老母亲。为此办了十年长签，但人算不如天算，她也只三年前回去看过她一次，如今天人两隔，留下长久的遗憾。我一年前回过老家，岳母张罗了一桌菜，还是熟悉的味道。

“亲戚或余悲，他人亦已歌。死去何所道，托体同山阿”（陶渊明《挽歌》）。最近几次回老家，落实岳父母的

坟地事宜，跑前跑后，他们的坟地位置，我很熟悉。岳父、岳母，愿你们安息，那地方居高临下，眺望着故乡新通的高速公路和渠江壮丽的山水，美不胜收。来日我们一定来访，为你们的坟地除去杂草，培一锹新土。我也知道，人的肉体终归尘土，而灵魂，却要与上帝同在，愿我们在那里重逢！

写于 2020 年清明，是为纪念、祭悼、志哀。



岳父母订婚照



一年前最后一次拜访岳母



这样走过的一段生命路

邓红

2020 年初，因着 COVID-19 疫情的突然来临，加上病毒的传播性和致死性，给我们平静的生活带来了不安和焦虑。我整天都为在医院工作的孩子担心。因为没有口罩，想去超市买菜也不敢去。赶快花 80 块美金购买了医用口罩，结果却受了骗，收到的仅是普通口罩。更艰难的是我的肾结石病发作，痛了足足 5 个小时，又不敢去医院就诊。然后又遇到网路问题，整整三个星期无法上网……

虽然经历了太多的难处，但是感谢上帝，在这看似黑暗笼罩的生命路程中，祂赐下平安、智慧和爱，一路伴随着我们同行。那天看到一篇文章的标题——《在眼前全球正在经历的苦难中，耶稣的门徒应该怎样做光做盐？》——这写在纸上的问题，于我却是亲身的经历。感恩在主爱里的弟兄姐妹们，大家一起恒切祈祷，特别是为我在医院抗疫前线工作的儿子祷告，使孩子倍感关爱，心里充满由神而来的平安。针对疫情，我们也开始了新的查经，重点是“在危机四伏的日子里，如何看见希望，活出盼望、平安和喜乐”。学习神的话语，将我们的眼目从关注感染和死亡的人数上，转移到了对永恒喜乐的盼望。姐妹们还主动帮我买菜，解决了我因为没有口罩不能出门的困难。更有多个家庭捐赠口罩给我在医院工作的儿子，有的分享 3 个 5 个，数量多至超过 300 个。想到整个市场口罩的欠缺，每家的口罩都来之不易。但在主爱里，大家给予了无私的援助，还有人送来了防护面罩。那时我才知

道有姐妹加入关怀医务人员的行列，在家自制防护面罩给社区的医务工作者，真是爱心满溢！

感谢上帝的恩典，在这特殊的时期，让我的孩子们心里充满了关爱。疫情造成的居家隔离，使我与孩子们碰面的机会减少了很多，但他们决定用视频来保持联络，表达对我的关心。我们一周几次视频会面，大家在一起分享、鼓励、扶持和祷告，真是好得无比。母亲节那天，孩子们还安排了一个不寻常的野餐。两个孩子分别开车几小时来到我这里，妹妹拖着一辆小车，里面装满了她自做的美味食物：牛肉葱油饼，寿司，泡菜，还有我喜爱的小吃。在一片美丽无人的大草坪上，哥哥摆放了移动桌椅，我们保持着一定的距离边吃边分享，然后戴上口罩，保持着一定的距离，一起散步游戏。三个小时很快就过去了，虽然我们的身体保持着距离，心却靠得那么近，每个人都感受到了爱的温暖，留下了美好的回忆。

圣经告诉我们：“神就是爱”（约翰一书 4 章 8 节）。是主的爱温暖我们，伴随着我们的生命路。经历了疫情的冲击，我的信心更加坚定。深知“耶和华是我的牧者，我必不至缺乏”（诗篇 23 篇 1 节）。主说：“在世上你们有苦难，但你们可以放心，我已经胜了世界”（约翰福音 16 章 33 节），“我赐给你们一条新命令，乃是叫你们彼此相爱，我怎样爱你们，你们也要怎样相爱。你们若有彼此相爱的心，众人因此就认出你们是我的门徒了”（约翰福音 13 章 34-35 节）。愿主的爱激励你我，共同走过这难忘的抗疫之路！



奇妙的翅膀荫下

陈苓

正值疫情禁足期间，从小体弱多病的我本以为足不出户是最安全的，但事实证明呆在家里也不一定安全，因为我们可能会被卷入意想不到的风暴。经历了龙卷风袭击后院之事，我愿用文字记下主的恩典，与弟兄姊妹共享，感谢主！

5 月 27 日的早上阳光明媚，下午却突然狂风暴雨。一时间雨点密集地敲打在窗玻璃上，风声雨声哗哗作响。老大零零先发现了院子里的异常，让爸爸和我们向窗外观看。我们一看，竟然有一只巨大的蹦蹦床砸在了我家院子里的蹦蹦床上，着实将我们吓着了。在我们眼前惊现的这个庞然大物，把我们家蹦蹦床的一侧压得变了形，4 年的大枇杷树被从中间劈开，院子里一片农作物被压毁。



（图 1：院子农作物的遭遇）

感谢神！洪飞弟兄带领我们一起向主祷告，小组的弟兄姐妹们也为我们代祷。之后我们得以看见神的恩典，并经历了祂奇妙的保守。这铺天盖地的大号蹦蹦床来得迅猛，去得也闪速。简单总结了一下，竟然至少有 9 件事情需要感恩：

1. 人和房子毫无损伤：这从天而降的蹦蹦床正好砸在我家的蹦蹦床上，好像飞毛腿导弹正好被拦截，否则，它就会撞到我们房子主卧正面的窗户上，而我家洪飞弟兄正坐在窗前工作，弟兄和玻璃之间是两个显示器。而这个起到拦截作用的蹦蹦床，竟是当天早上割草工人（随上帝心意）移到这个最佳位置的。



（图 2：窗前后院惊现“天外”来客）

2. 我们知道这个蹦蹦床的主人是我家后院隔壁的邻居。2017 年 8 月刮龙卷风时，曾有教会的好姐妹家碰到类似的情形，院子里飞来一个蹦蹦床，但是没办法找到主人，只好自己想办法拆卸（这次他们家弟兄还打算赶过来帮我们拆蹦蹦床）。而我们自己根本不会对付这个大家伙，记得当年安装时，还是一位好弟兄悄悄来帮我们装好的。



3. 感恩主人在家。当时风雨很大，我们眼睁睁地看着后院状况严重，却不能做什么，因为即使我们冒着风雨去敲门，想必主人也不方便出来在暴风雨中帮忙。感恩的是祷告之后，风雨很快就停了，洪飞弟兄可以前去寻找主人，并且主人也在家。

4. 洪飞弟兄解释得清楚，主人同意解决。主人本来让我们自己把蹦蹦床搬出去，或是她过来搭把手搬一下。我家弟兄告诉她，这个又大又重的蹦蹦床必须先被拆卸才可以拿走，并且需要很多人的帮助。

5. 主人和工人同时来到我们家。因为有好姐妹打电话提醒，所以我们发短信要求主人来我们后院亲眼查看情况。感恩我们两家得以彼此认识，知道对方也是主内姐妹。

6. 工人神速拆卸蹦蹦床。感谢上帝给蹦蹦床主人智慧，让她及时联络了割草的工人。他们很有经验，当天下午来我们家之前刚为另一家拆了蹦蹦床，可见这蹦蹦床满天飞的事也不少。

7. 工人拆蹦蹦床时，发现底面有一个大马蜂窝，里面有许多马蜂。如果这个蹦蹦床没有被大风吹来我家，这个隐藏的马蜂窝就有可能伤害到这家的孩子们。

8. 蹦蹦床主人帮助我们迅速地解决了问题，并且亲自来我家向我们道歉，还三次主动提出愿意赔偿（来我家之前、离开我家时、回她自己家之后），这实在好过我们所求所想。

9. 洪飞弟兄决定不需要对方赔偿，双方皆大欢喜。感谢上帝奇妙的保守，让我们全家身体和房子都平安，甚至院子里的木栅栏也没有损坏，蹦蹦床仍然可以使用，植物也可以再种。并且如果主允许，树也可以存活下来。

这次经历让我感受到无论在任何地方，我们都有可能被突然卷入意想不到的大风暴当中。我们真的需要祷告仰望主，求祂帮助我们走过死荫的幽谷也不怕遭害，因为主将我们救拔，并藏在祂的翅膀荫下。

记得多年前，在一个周三晚上的祷告会上，滕牧师说到祷告会为我们打开天国祝福的管道，并且开我们的眼睛，让我们能看到神的恩典，经历神的保守。的确，祷告不仅让我们亲历的这个大麻烦以有效并且友善的方式被迅速解决，更让我们看到神早已为我们预备了祂最周全的保护。

感谢赞美天上的阿爸父，哈利路亚！



专题二：纪念林宗智弟兄

丛林男孩和妈妈的祷告

林宗智

（刘幼华译）

我的祖父大约一百年前离开中国福建省莆田。当他踏上到马来西亚婆罗洲岛的冒险之旅时，还只是一个十多岁的少年。最后，他在沙捞越州的一个小村庄安顿下来，有了一个家，养育了五子三女八个孩子，我父亲是他的长子。一家人居住在婆罗洲丛林自建的一幢简陋的木板房里。祖父离开中国时已经是基督徒，在沙捞越仍然保持着基督信仰。后来，他将自家土地临近的一块地捐献出来，帮助建立了当地的第一间教会，教会建好以后，一家八口参加了第一次崇拜。当著名传教士宋尚节博士来婆罗洲传教时，我祖父参加了宋博士的团队，挨村传讲福音。我父亲当年就是由宋博士施洗的。

我的妈妈也出生在莆田，她在中国成为了基督徒。我清楚地记得一张 80 年前在中国拍摄的全家福照片中，妈妈抱着一本圣经的情景。因为媒妁之言，妈妈来到婆罗洲嫁给了我父亲。16 岁的她离亲别友，离开在中国熟悉的一切，来到了陌生的婆罗洲热带丛林，嫁给了陌生的我父亲。我父母生育了五子一女六个孩子，我是第五个孩子。我们家在丛林中过活，虽然生活贫穷，但一家齐心齐力、努力打拼。

丛林中的生活十分不易。食物很少，我们所得的仅够果腹；基本的生活物资（如

食品、衣服、鞋子等等）十分匮乏，也缺少饮用水（井水是唯一的来源），没有电（我们用煤油灯照明），有时吃饭有上顿没下顿。生活本已很困难，但灾难又降临——我父亲得了重病，随后去世，留下我妈妈和六个嗷嗷待哺的孩子。那年我四岁，小弟弟两岁。一个沉默寡言，接受了包办婚姻的年轻寡妇，没有任何学位和技术，不得已在婆罗洲的危险丛林里必须独自抚养六个孩子。

倚靠她对上帝的坚强信心，我妈妈没有再婚，全身心在教会事奉。她总是让六个孩子主日到村里的教会崇拜，风雨无阻，有时周六也去。上主日学时，我们查经、唱诗、听讲道，幸福快乐。从小到大，教会就是我们的第二个家。每周六和主日是我们最快乐的日子，因为周一到周五我们必须清早起床，去橡胶林地割树收汁，或者干一些采摘胡椒等等的体力活，以补贴家用。虽然已不记得我是何时因何事信耶稣的，但妈妈以身示范、念兹在兹对主的爱是贯穿我们家和我一生当中的。我记得我是在小学受洗的，并决志从此信靠主耶稣基督。

在丛林的小村庄里长大，我们的记忆中有许多蒙上帝保护、供应的故事，在此我愿与大家分享三件事：

一. 婆罗洲的猎头族

在婆罗洲丛林里生活，我们经常听说原住民杀人猎头的冷血故事。在岛上有几个原住民部落（如伊班这样的部落）会猎头，就是在杀人之后把头盖骨留下并保存起来。有些部落以此做为成人仪式和宗教/庆祝礼节。直到今天，这些部落在婆罗洲丛林中依然存在，在有些原住民长屋的屋檐上还能看到悬挂的人头骷髅。



在我七、八岁的时候，有天晚上晚饭后大约八点，在孤零零的吊楼木板房里，我们听到不远处有喧嚣的喊叫声。透过墙壁的孔眼和缝隙，我们看见大约十五到二十个猎头族的人，举着火把，擎着砍刀，朝我们房子的方向不怀好意地瞅着。他们离我们大概五十码远。那天只有妈妈、我还有弟弟在家，其他哥哥们和姐姐都出村上学或做工去了。弟弟和我都吓坏了，不敢哭，大气也不敢出。我们无从躲避，妈妈镇定地转向她的全能保护者，紧紧抱着我们开始祷告，而那些猎头族的喊叫声越来越大。我们知道如果那些人决定进攻房子的话，我们都会被活活烧死或者被杀掉，但是妈妈一直不停地祷告。这样持续了大约半个小时，但我们觉得时间似乎长得没完没了。突然喧嚣声停止了，我们从墙缝里一看，发现猎头族的人都调头走远了，才终于松了一口气。

我们都相信在那个吓人的夜晚，是神听了妈妈的的祷告，从天上降下天使保护我们，使猎头族离开，让我们不至遭害。



（图一：30 年前的旧照，坐在老木房前门的楼梯上）

二. 共产党叛乱分子的进犯

在 1960 年代的婆罗洲岛丛林里长大，我们都知道有许多共产党叛乱分子为了不被政府抓到，藏身在小村庄或丛林里。这些叛乱分子都很出名，他们处死或杀害那些支持政府或反对他们政治立场的人。在很多夜晚，我们可以听到丛林中躲藏的叛乱分子发射的枪声，以及在丛林外沿的政府军反击的炮声。我们经常看到这些叛乱分子携带攻击步枪在我们房屋前面的道路上走动，特别是在清早。有些晚上，叛乱分子就在我们房子下面躲藏或者搜寻什么吃的东西（我们的房子是吊脚楼）。不管多害怕，我们总是能够从妈妈向神的祷告、寻求神的保护中得到安慰和勇气。我们知道这些叛乱分子可能会杀死或者俘虏我们，但我们更知道，因为妈妈的祷告，上帝会保护我们。

三. 祖父的愿望

父亲去世几年后，我大概八岁左右的时候，我们在村里的生活变得更加困难。在一个傍晚，如晴天霹雳，我祖父告诉妈妈说，他要带弟弟和我离开她去中国。他相信在中国我们的生活会好过些（这是大约五十年前）。他应该是出于好意，让妈妈不用照顾弟弟和我，似乎可以减轻她的负担。但是妈妈拒绝了，她满有上帝的智慧和勇气，不管生活多么困难，坚持一家不分离。她看似的不顺服和对祖父愿望的忤逆大大激怒了祖父，使得他们此后多年关系紧张。后来我才知道，祖父原来打算把弟弟和我送去给中国的一个家庭收养。

2018 年 4 月回中国的寻祖之旅解开了许多心结。我去看了祖父的坟墓，也造访了他的老教会，以及就在教会旁边的我们的祖居。我们还见到了从未谋面的八十三



岁的婶婶（我最小叔叔的妻子）。我无法想象如果被一家陌生人收养，我的生活将会怎样，在文革中将会受多少苦，但我深深感激我妈妈的决定，还有神赐给她的智慧和决断力。

按世界的标准我妈妈是穷人，但因着对上帝的信仰，她富足而拥有一切。我妈妈为人简单，没受过什么教育，但因着对上帝的倚靠，她充满智慧。我从没听妈妈抱怨过什么，但经常听到她祷告。直到去年九十六岁归主，她仍然保持着对上帝的信仰；我永远不会忘记她长时间跪着祷告，为她的孩子们代求。她的祷告和信心不仅帮助她度过婆罗洲寡居的贫困生活，也为她的孩子、孙辈们树立了一个美好的榜样。

从小在婆罗洲丛林的小村里生活，我们虽然贫困，却拥有远大理想，也从妈妈那里学到信靠上帝的引领和尊重祂的主权。每天遇到的困难和挑战，所走的每一步、每一个旅程，耶稣总是引导我们安然度过，并让我们做好下一步的准备。祂供应我们所需、保护我们，因为祂是良善而信实的。由于神的恩典，我们兄弟几个和姐姐都在婆罗洲受洗，成为基督徒。我们也都受到了良好的教育并出国留学，成年后拥有牢固、稳定的家庭。

作为在丛林里生活的寡妇，下面这些圣经经文鼓励我妈妈度过了最缺乏、最艰难的日子：

诗篇 121:1-2 “我要向山举目。我的帮助从何而来。我的帮助从造天地的耶和华而来”。

马太福音 6:33 “你们要先求祂的国和祂的义。这些东西都要加给你们了”。



（图二：30 年前旧照，到木房子的道路）

我妻子黛瑜也同样被我妈妈坚强的信心所感动。身为父母，我们希望和祈祷能够把我们的信仰传承给我们的两个儿子，扬胜和扬帆。希望他们经历祷告的大能，在充满上帝大爱的国度里生活，就像他们的祖母一样。

——原文发表于 2019 年 12 月，《凯地之光》季刊第 53 期

（译者寄语：

以前对林宗智弟兄不太熟悉，基本上是在远处仰视，虽然他在教会事奉那么多，从音乐事奉、各项服事到长执会，几乎到处看到他的身影，特别是植堂、新堂建筑的设计、施工监理等等，Alfred 弟兄是出力最多的同工之一。直到五年前有幸加入长执会事奉，我才与林弟兄有近距离的接触。当时，是 he 和陈文士弟兄一同面试我。在一起同工的几年中，我发现他的领导力和带动能力都毋庸置疑。在长执会服事期间，他作为教会财务部执事和几个专业委员会的主席或者成员，尤其为是教会扩展计划所作的大量工作，让我见识了林



弟兄做事的仔细、缜密，以及为主做工的耐心与执着。

2019 年年底，林弟兄给《凯地之光》所赐的英文稿中，描述了他童年的艰苦生活，回忆了母亲的信仰带给他的影响。相信他的那篇文章，让教会不少的弟兄姊妹都受到感动。本来，同工们还想继续听 Alfred 弟兄讲述他在马来西亚丛林里的故事，可是现在这已经不可能，只能在将来见主面时再聊了。现将此文翻译成中文，与更多的弟兄姐妹分享。愿林弟兄安息！——刘幼华）

The Jungle Boy and His Mother's Prayers

Alfred Ling

(This article first appeared in Katy Light Magazine Issue 53, December 2019)

My grandfather left Putian, Fujian province, China about a hundred years ago when he was just a teenager and began his adventurous life on a giant island called Borneo. He settled down in a very small village in Sarawak, Malaysia and started a family with eight children, five sons and three daughters, and my father was his firstborn. They lived in a humble wooden house built by the family in the jungle of Borneo. My grandfather was a Christian when he left China and he kept his faith living in Sarawak. Later, he donated a piece of land adjacent to his own property and helped with building the first church, and started the first Sunday worship with his own family of eight after the church was built. When Dr. John Sung

(宋尚节博士), the legendary missionary from Putian visited Borneo for evangelical events, my grandfather joined Dr. Sung's team and went out to the villages to spread the gospel. My own father was converted to Christianity by Dr. Sung.

My mother was born in Putian, China too and became a Christian when she was in China. One vivid image I have of my mother is her holding the Bible in a family portrait taken back in China when she was a young girl, about eighty years ago. My mother moved to Borneo as part of an arranged marriage to my father. At the age of 16, she left her family, friends and everything that was familiar to her in China to start a new life with a stranger, i.e. my father in a strange new place in the jungle on the island of Borneo. My parents had six children, five boys and a girl, I am their fifth child. Together, my family carved out a life in the jungle, poor by any standards, a hard-working and tight-knit unit.

Life in the jungle was extremely challenging. Food was scarce, what we had was barely enough to feed the entire family; we were lacking the basic necessities such as food, clothing, shoes, clean water (only well water is available) and electricity (we used kerosene lamps). There were times when we were not sure where our next meal would come from. Life was already difficult for my family in the jungle and then tragedy struck—my father fell very ill and passed away when I was 4 years old and my younger brother was only 2, leaving my mother, a widow with six hungry children to feed and to provide for. This quiet young widow of an



arranged marriage was now forced to provide for six children all on her own without any college degree or skills, living in the treacherous jungle of Borneo.

Rooted by her strong faith in God, my mother never re-married and she was actively involved in church. She always made sure all her six kids go to church in the village every Sunday, rain or shine, and sometimes Saturday. We studied the Bible, sang praise songs and listened to the messages during Sunday schools; we were happy and content. Growing up, church was literally a home away from home. Our happiest days of the week were Saturdays and Sundays because Monday to Friday we had to rise before dawn to go to the field to tap and collect the tree saps from the rubber trees or hand-pick the peppercorns, and etc. to supplement the income. Although I do not remember the exact moment or a specific event related to my conversion but the love for Christ was something my mother has modeled and emphasized for my family all of my life. I remember I was baptized when I was in grade-school and decided to follow and trust Jesus the rest of my life.

Growing up in the small village in the jungle, we have many memories of how God protected and provided for us, and I want to share three of them:

1. The Head-hunters of Borneo

Living in the jungle of Borneo, we heard of bloodcurdling stories of head-hunting by the natives. There are several indigenous tribes living in the island and some tribes, like the Iban, hunted human heads ie keeping and preserving the skulls after

killing the victims. Some tribes did it for rite of passage reason, others for ceremonial purpose. To this day they still exist in the jungles of Borneo and some of the skulls can still be found hanging on the roof-rafters in the long houses where they live.

When I was around 7 or 8 years old, one evening after dinner, around 8pm, we heard loud chanting not too far away from our lone primitive wooden house on stilts. As we peeked through the holes or gaps along the walls of our house, we saw about 15 to 20 head-hunters chanting with torches and machetes in their hands, gazing maliciously toward our house. They were about fifty yards away from our house. During that period, all my older siblings had gone into the neighboring town for school and/or work and it was just my mother, my youngest brother and me at home. My brother and I were very frightened but we didn't dare to cry or make a sound. Defenseless, my mom turned to her Defender, calmly, she held us closely and started praying, while all the time the chanting of the head-hunters grew louder and louder. We knew we would be burned alive or killed if these head-hunters decided to approach the house, but my mother kept praying to our God; and this went on for about half an hour though it felt like eternity to us. Suddenly the chanting stopped. As we peeped through the gaps again, to our great relief, we saw the head-hunters had turned and walked away!

We truly believe God listened to my mother's prayers that particular terrifying night and sent His angels from heaven to



protect us from great harm and deliver us from the hands of the head-hunters.

2. The Communist Insurgents Invading the Village

Growing up on the island of Borneo in the 1960's era, we have many communist insurgents hiding in small villages or in the jungle to avoid being captured by the government armies. These insurgents were famous for executing or killing those who supported the government or opposed their political beliefs. Many nights we could hear gunshots from the insurgents hiding in the jungle and then the loud cannon-shots made by the government armies in retaliation on the outskirts of the jungle. We often see these insurgents carrying assault rifles walking along the road in front of our house, especially during the early mornings. There were nights when some of the insurgents were literally hiding or ransacking directly below our house (our house was built on wooden stilts); possibly looking for something to eat. No matter how frightened we were, we always find comfort and courage when my mother would turn to God and plead for His protection. We knew these insurgents could kill or capture us if they chose to; but even more so, I know that through my mother's prayers, God would protect us.

3. The Desire of My Grandfather

A few years after my father passed away, when I was around 8 years old, the conditions of our life in the village grew increasingly harsh. One afternoon out of the blue, my grandfather told my mother that he is taking my younger brother and

me away from her, to bring us back to China. He believed China can provide a better life for us (and this was about fifty years ago). The idea arose out of his supposed good intention of lessening my mother's burden, not having to take care of my brother and me. However my mother refused, full of God's wisdom and courage, she insisted on keeping the family together, no matter how tough it is. Her perceived insubordination, going against my grandfather's will, angered him and created severe friction between them for years. Later I learned that my grandfather had planned for my brother and I to be adopted by a family in China.

The visit to my ancestral home in China this past April brought many closures, as I visited my grandfather's grave, his old church and our ancestral home standing right next to the church. We also met our 83 years-old auntie (the wife of my youngest uncle) whom I had never met. I do not know how my life would turn out to be, being adopted by a stranger in China or how we would suffer in the midst of the Cultural Revolution, but I am deeply thankful for my mom's decision, her God-given wisdom and her resolve.

My mother was poor in a worldly sense, but because of her faith in God, she was rich and possessed everything. My mother was simple with little education, but because of her dependence on God, she was wise. I never heard my mother complained but I often heard her praying to God. She kept her faith till she went to be with the Lord last year at the age of 96 and I will always remember those long hours my mother spent on her knees



praying, mostly interceding for her children. Her prayers and her faith not only helped her endure the hardscrabble life as a widow in Borneo but they have significantly impacted her children and her grandchildren as well.

Growing up in a small village in the jungle of Borne, we did not have much but we still dreamed big dreams, yet we learned from my mother to trust in God's leading and sovereignty. The difficulties and challenges we faced each day, every step we took, every journey we embarked, Jesus is always there to lead us through and at the same time, preparing us for the next one. He provides and He protects for He is good and faithful. By God's grace, all my brothers and sister were baptized and became followers of Christ while we were in Borneo, all of us received good education abroad and all were blessed with strong and stable family as adults.

As a widow living in the jungle, these verses always encouraged my mom in her moments of need and on her most difficult days:

- Psalm 121: 1-2 "I will lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."
- Matthew 6:33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

My wife, Debra had also been touched by my mother's unwavering faith. Together as parents, we hope and pray that we had

passed this legacy of faith onto our two sons, Josh and Jeremiah. May they experience the power of prayers and the reality of living a kingdom life filled with God's love, just like their grandmother.

叢林到樂園的信心之旅

林楊黛瑜



我和宗智自 2019 年 7 月正式退休。我們期待着去各地旅遊，追求我們的興趣愛好，最重要的是在未來的日子一起繼續在教會服事。退休後的幾個月裡，我們專注學習聖經、參與短宣、享受一起騎自行車，保持積極有力的生活方式。我們也繼續在教會和其它機構服事，參與敬拜、兒童和外展事工，同時不斷尋求上帝對我們人生下一個階段的帶領。

就在我們開始慢慢適應退休生涯時，宗智在 2020 年 3 月下旬開始發燒。接下來的幾週，我們從擔心他感染新冠病毒（後經檢測，排除了這種可能）、到進行 CT 掃描，直至四月下旬他被確診患有第四期膽管癌。經過和癌症短暫的搏鬥，宗智於 5 月 16 日辭世。



自從癌症確診後，我們的整個世界似乎都被被翻轉過來了，我們所知道和所珍視的事物瞬間被击得粉碎。宗智從一個健康、活躍的人（連他的家庭醫生都常開玩笑，說他很羨慕宗智的健康程度），變成身體狀況每況愈下。另一個暗藏的危機是我們不久前才轉換了醫療保險計劃，在過渡期間有可能沒有醫療保險，這對癌症治療是個巨大的風險。

在這段時間裡，恐懼和焦慮深深地困擾著我們，但信實的神與我們同在，神的話語堅固並鼓勵了我們：

“神所賜、出人意外的平安，必在基督耶穌裡保守你們的心懷意念”。（腓立比書 4 章 7 節）

“神是我們的避難所，是我們的力量，是我們在患難中隨時的幫助。所以，地雖改變，山雖搖動到海心，其中的水雖翻騰，山雖因海漲而戰抖，我們也不害怕”。（詩篇 46 章 1 到 3 節）

當我們依靠並緊緊抓住神的話語和祂的應許，我們不僅能夠繼續前進，而且開始看到神不僅在影響全世界的疫情中，也在我們家庭的風暴裏做工。

——宗智病情的迅速惡化確實令人沮喪，加上疫情的限制，尋找合適的醫生和醫院似乎都加倍地困難與緩慢。然而也因為疫情的關係，政府發布了居家令，孩子們在整個過程中都在家，使我們在這段時間裏相互依靠安慰，並有機會在宗智的身邊照顧和陪伴他。宗智去世後，我們也能夠在悲傷中彼此扶持，一起學習適應新的常態。

——宗智原定於 5 月 12 日開始化療，但化療前幾天血液檢查結果非常不理想，必

需送急診就醫，之後就被送入重症監護室。接下來的 3 個晚上，因為疫情的限制，他必須獨自住在醫院裡。由於他的病情不斷惡化，我們都擔心再也見不到他。感謝上帝的憐憫，宗智得以出院回家，與家人共度他在世上的最後幾天。

——從癌症確診到宗智去世，整個過程不到一個月，快得令人難以置信。儘管如此突然和令人震驚，我們仍然看到上帝的恩典。我們不單不必目睹他遭受化療的折磨，全家人也可以有機會一起度過親密的時光。

——在這段時間裡，上帝信實的供應也透過其他方式得到體現。感謝神，保險最終通過了，雖然保險公司不是那麼容易打交道，但神藉著有愛心的醫生、熱心的朋友和親戚多方的協助來彌補缺口，安排了最佳的治療方法。

——主內的弟兄姊妹和我們的親戚對我們無條件的關懷，教導了我們如何去愛人和被愛。許多人在禱告中扶持我們，在食品和物質上供應我們的需要，他們的愛心和支持，真正體現了在主裡的恩典和供應。

宗智在這段時間裡從未流淚。他相信上帝的主權——“賞賜的是耶和華，收取的也是耶和華”。他完全有信心自己要回到天父那裡，這確認使我們在主裡有盼望與平安。宗智的遺言之一是：“我們很快會再見面”！是的，宗智現在已與神同在樂園里等待著我們——不是因為他是一個完全的人，也不是因為他擁有通向天堂的通道——僅僅是因為宗智**接受**了耶穌為他個人的救主，**信靠**那位完全公義、聖潔、慈愛、智慧、良善和滿有能力的上帝。“耶和華是永恆的上帝，是滿有憐憫和恩典的神，祂不輕易發怒，並有豐盛的慈愛和信



實，為千萬人存留慈愛，赦免罪孽和過犯”（出埃及記 34 章 6-7 節）。

神帶走我此生的摯愛，以後的日子我一个人怎麼走？我仍然相信上帝是良善的，可是內心的悲哀傷痛也是如此的真實。就在这么短的一段时间内，宗智已經被接走了，很多時候，我發現自己仍然難以相信這樣的事實。我曾上千次地求神不要把他從我們身邊奪走，我也跟神哀求過上萬次說“我還沒有準備好”。但上帝有祂不同的計劃。我只能持守一個事實，那就是：

祂是神，祂的計劃和意念比我們所能理解的更深、更高、更廣泛。

上帝的旨意正在進行，我不能阻止。

上帝的計劃是不可思議的，我不能理解。

上帝的責備是可靠的，我不敢忽視。

上帝的安排是最好的，我必不能拒絕。

（引自 *Great Days with the Great Lives* by Charles R. Swindoll. Copyright © 2005 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc.）

“耶和華說：我的意念非同你們的意念；我的道路非同你們的道路。天怎樣高過地，照樣，我的道路高過你們的道路；我的意念高過你們的意念。”（以賽亞書 55 章 8-9 節）

雖然絕望、憤怒，甚至舉手向上帝抗議，但我深信上帝會負責到底，也許不是今天，但有一天，祂的目的和計劃必會顯明。

上帝對宗智在世上的計劃已經完成，並呼召他回天家，他真的是從這個世界的勞苦和患難中“退休”了。即使他不與我們

同在，我盼望宗智對上帝的信心能夠繼續觸動那些認識他的人，並傳承給我們的下一代。而我呢，不論神指定給我的時間是一天、一個月、一年或是更長，我會繼續尋求祂在我生命中的帶領。寡居的婆婆傳遞給宗智的對神的愛和信心已深藏在我心裡。雖不知將來會如何，我要學習從這些曾經幫助我婆婆渡過最缺乏、最艱難的日子的經文中得力量和安慰。

“我要向山舉目。我的幫助從何而來。我的幫助從造天地的耶和華而來”。（詩篇 121 章 1-2 節）

“你們要先求祂的國和祂的義。這些東西都要加給你們了”。（馬太福音 6 章 33 節）

“一宿雖然有哭泣，早晨便必歡呼”。（詩篇 30 章 5 節）

“Babi, love you, and I will see you soon!”



From Jungle to Paradise – Journey of Faith

Debra Ling



Alfred and I retired in July 2019. We dreamed of traveling the world, pursuing hobbies, and, most of all, serving the church together in years to come. In the months following our retirement, we spent our time learning through Bible studies, going on short term missions, and enjoying biking and staying active together. We also served in various ministries, including worship, children, and outreach ministries at our church and other organizations, all while seeking God's leading in this next chapter of our lives.

Just as we were beginning to enjoy this new routine, Alfred came down with a fever in March of 2020. For several stressful weeks, we went from being concerned that he had COVID-19 (which he tested negative for) to undergoing CT scans that led to a cancer diagnosis in late April. On May 16, he passed away after a brief struggle with stage IV bile duct cancer.

Since the diagnosis, our entire world seems to have been turned upside down and the things we knew and held dear were shattered to pieces. Alfred went from being a healthy and active person (even his physician often joked about being envious of Alfred's health) to a person deteriorating by the day. On top of this, due to a recent switch of our medical insurance provider, we ran into the potential of not having medical coverage, which is a daunting risk in cancer treatment. Fear and anxiety gripped our hearts intensely during this time, yet God's presence steadied us and His words strengthened and encouraged us:

"and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:7

"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging."
Psalms 46:1-3

By depending on Him and resting in His words and His promises, not only were we able to press on, we began to see God working, even in the midst of a global pandemic and a personal storm brewing at home.

At times, circumstances were frustrating, as the pandemic seemed to slow the process of getting Alfred proper care and treatment for his advanced cancer. However, because of the pandemic, the boys were home throughout the entire



ordeal due to the “stay home, work safe” county ordinance. As a family, we were able to lean on one another during this time and stay by Alfred’s side to care and spend time with him. Even after Alfred’s passing, we are able to grieve and adjust to the new normal together as a family.

Alfred was scheduled to begin chemotherapy on May 12, but instead went to the ER the day before due to alarming bloodwork results he had done in preparation for chemo. He was later admitted to the ICU. For the next three nights, he was alone in the hospital due to COVID-19 restrictions. With his weakened condition, we feared that we would not see him again. In God’s mercy and blessing, Alfred was able to be discharged from the hospital, spending his last nights on Earth at home with the family.

From his diagnosis to his passing, the entire ordeal was so incredibly short. Yet, as sudden and shocking as it was, it was by God’s grace that we did not have to witness him suffer the side effects of chemo and that we got to spend intimate moments together as a family.

During this time, God’s faithfulness in His provision and protection became evident through other ways as well. We give thanks to God that the insurance company did come through at the end. Even though the insurance provider was not the easiest to work with, God filled that gap through physicians, friends, extended families, etc. that stood with us to provide information, guidance, and love as we tried to find the best treatment for Alfred’s cancer.

The overwhelming support of our extended families, our brothers and sisters at KCCC, WHCC, and others, and our Agape+ small group, taught us how to love and to be loved. Many covered and carried us in prayers, provided food and supplies, and truly embodied Christ’s grace and provision through their love and support.

Alfred never shed a tear during this time. He trusted in God’s sovereignty – that He is the God who gives and who takes away. He had full confidence that he was going home to his Heavenly Father. This assurance gave us hope and peace. One of his last words was “I’ll see you soon”! Indeed, Alfred is now in paradise with God waiting for us – neither because he was a perfect man nor because he earned his passage into heaven – but simply because Alfred ACCEPTED Jesus as his Lord and Savior and BELIEVED in God who is perfect in His righteousness, holiness, love, wisdom, goodness, strength and power, and *“The LORD is the everlasting God, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...”* (Exodus 34:6-7)

Today, I am left alone without the love of my life. So now what do I do? I know in my heart that God is still good, but the grief is so real and many days I find myself still in shock that Alfred was taken from us in such a short time span. Even though I prayed to God thousands of times not to take Alfred from us, pleaded with Him that “I am not ready,” God had



different plans. Yet I hold on to the truth that:

**[The] Lord is God, and His plans and reasons are deeper and higher and broader than we can comprehend.*

God's purpose is unfolding, and I cannot hinder it.

God's plan is incredible, and I will not comprehend it.

God's reproof is reliable, and I dare not ignore it.

God's way is best, and I must not resist it.

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." **Isaiah 55:8-9***

In my despair and anger, even when I raise my fists to God, I know that I can hold God accountable and that He will make all things clear with His purpose and His plan – maybe not today, but one day for sure.

God has certainly made clear His plan for Alfred and has received my husband home. He is truly "retired" from the labor and suffering of this world. Even though he is not physically with us, we pray that his faith in God would continue to touch those who knew him and to live on in our children. Me on the other hand... I will continue to seek God's leading for the next chapter of my life, whether it is one day, one month, one year or more. As a widow, the love and legacy that my mother-in-law passed on to Alfred lives in me now. I do not know what lies ahead, but I will learn to find strength and comfort

in the verses that encouraged my mother-in-law in her moments of need:

*"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains, from where shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." **Psalms 121: 1-2***

*"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." **Matthew 6:33***

Weeping may last through the night, but joy comes with the morning. ~ "Babi, love you and I will see you soon!"

* Taken from "Great Days with the Great Lives" by Charles R. Swindoll. Copyright © 2005 by Charles R. Swindoll, Inc

Our Jungle Boy has joined the Heavenly Choir

- In Memory of Brother Alfred

Jen Kai Chen Chee Siew Loo

"Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, forever and ever!" (Revelation 5:13, NIV)

Many years down the road, when we look back, we will remember 2020 as the year of the COVID -19 pandemic, which had ravaged the lives of millions and forever



altered the landscape of our existence. Etched in our memory as well, will be the last image of our dear brother Alfred worshipping, with such joy, as always, on his guitar, in one of Katy Christian Community Church's first live-streaming Sunday services¹, implemented in line with the stay-at-home order issued throughout the country. In a remarkably short span of two months, the news came - so abruptly and unbelievably - that our brother Alfred had succumbed to end-stage cancer. We were shocked, and deeply saddened. Yet we were comforted and filled with assurance, knowing that he was freed of his frail, decaying earthly form; that he had entered into the glorious presence of our God and King and found eternal peace at last. At the same time however, we were left with a void- not having said our last goodbye, or being able to hug our beloved sister Debra and the boys; only watching the Memorial Service online, from afar. Sad that such was the state of affair due to social distancing and restriction on gathering, guidelines issued by government officials in response to the pandemic.

In last year's December issue of Katy Light², Alfred had titled his article "The Jungle Boy and His Mother's Prayers." It all began with the faith, love and prayers of his great mother that brought his family through many hardships and adversities when he was young. That same faith and example had taught Alfred to love God and people, and also to serve God and people throughout his life.

We came to know brother Alfred better after we moved from West Houston

Chinese Church when we co-labored in planting Katy Church in 2006. He had a quiet and calm personality but you could see his fun-loving side through his smile and bursts of laughter. We remembered his specialty potluck dish -Texas brisket - in those days. We were impressed with the care and meticulous planning he put into the church building project. We were forever grateful that for the benefit of us badminton enthusiasts, besides the usual basketball and volleyball courts, he integrated badminton courts in the blueprint of the multipurpose hall.

Music was, without question, brother Alfred's greatest passion; and worship, his outstanding spiritual gift. You would find him many-a-times in the worship team, leading during bilingual services, playing the guitar, or singing in harmony. It was good to see him and Debra serving together in this area; a special loving bond between this beautiful couple. Participating in a short-term mission last year, involving praise and worship, must have been a highlight for him.

Brother Alfred's retirement for the last two years was a Christ-centered model for us who are nearing retirement age. He expanded his ministry in church and engaged in social works in the city. Service was his other passion - be it reaching out to the homeless in inner city Houston; volunteering in Light and Salt Association (光盐社); participating in donation relief efforts for the families affected by the recent pandemic; involving Agape, his small group, in Katy Christian Ministries; or teaching conversational English to recent immigrants. It was



wonderful that he did some traveling too, including an opportunity to visit his old ancestral home in China. It would be good for us to pick up cycling too, like him, as a form of exercise, but definitely not the MS 150!

Lastly, brother Alfred's love and kindness towards people shone through when we saw him patiently attending to his elderly mom when she was with us, or sitting with senior brother Cheng (程大哥) Sunday after Sunday at church service. Bless your soul, brother Alfred!

We love you and miss you, dear brother Alfred. As we sang 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)³ for Sunday worship, the day after brother Alfred passed away, the third verse brought a picture of him in his last days, or any one of us when we are near to finally meet our Maker and Lord.



*And on that day
When my strength is failing
The end draws near
And my time has come
Still my soul will*

*Sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years
And then forevermore*

As Joshua, brother Alfred's elder son, shared with confidence at his Memorial Service, "We haven't lost our dad. We know exactly where he is." Yes, dear brother Alfred, keep on singing. Keep up the praise and worship above! We will see you again.

May 24, 2020

1. KCCC Sunday service 3/22/20
<https://youtu.be/OSg3IWEIFHA>
2. Katy Light 2019 December issue
<http://chinese.katycck.org/katy-light/>
3. 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)
https://youtu.be/DXDGE_IRIOE

缅怀林宗智弟兄

张清

今天传来林宗智弟兄去世的消息，我完全惊呆了。我不能相信，一个多月前还在台上弹吉他唱诗歌带领敬拜的 Alfred，突然就离开我们了。想到 Debra，想到他们就要结婚的儿子，心里一阵阵的痛，就像一块大石头坠着、压着，太沉重了。有一种幻想，觉得他没有离开，他还会回来，我们几个好姐妹们还等着疫灾结束后一起去看花呢.....Alfred 这么快，也没有说一声就走了，我们的希望也成了泡沫，眼泪不由得在眼眶里打转。



认识 Alfred 是在教会长执会，具体说，是从 2017 年的 Harvey 飓风慈惠委员会开始的。当时我刚刚开始 KCCC 服事，休斯顿遇到 800 年不遇的飓风，教会有 60 多家被水淹了。我这个小菜鸟要带领慈惠委员会负责募捐和分配捐款。Alfred 当时是教会负责财务的执事，我有许多的问题要请教他。因为事情紧急，捐款还没有征集上来，我们慈惠委员会建议先借用教会的储备基金给受灾家庭送去温暖。负责财务的 Alfred 给了我们极大的支持，使我们能及时拿到钱去安慰受灾的家庭。赈灾感恩节晚会上，我代表慈惠委员会上台总结发言，这是我头一次在 KCCC 的讲台上讲话。下台后，Alfred 给我一个非常大的表扬，这对于我这个初出茅庐的小执事真是莫大的鼓励。

2018 年的家庭营让我有很多的机会跟 Debra 一起服侍。每个周日，我们几个姐妹都一起开会筹备，有时候会开得很长，Alfred、景洲还有许招添弟兄几位家属就在大厅里聊天等着我们。Alfred 平易近人，脸上永远带着微笑，让人感觉温暖，容易亲近。也因此，Alfred 跟寡言少语的景洲成了好朋友。

2019 年春节联欢会的头一天，我们需要一个人去取租用的舞台投影灯并负责安装调试。景洲为了支持我的服事，就揽下了这个任务。但他心里有些发怵，因为完全不懂怎么做。Alfred 得知后主动提出陪景洲一起去，这真是雪中送炭。他们两个人搭伴儿，顺利地取回投影灯并一起安装好，两个人也因此越来越熟悉，成了好弟兄。有几个周日，景洲回国没有去教会，Alfred 没有见到景洲，就担心地问我：“他好不好？怎么没有见到他？”一

个不爱出头露面的小弟兄能有这样一个大哥关心他，心里感到多么的温暖！

我特别喜欢看 Alfred 和 Debra 夫妻俩在台上一同带领敬拜。Debra 流利的中英文翻译，Alfred 洒脱喜乐的吉他弹唱，彼此配合默契，和谐又完美。我夸他们是全能金牌搭档，Alfred 非常低调，不接受我的称赞，他真是一位谦卑的弟兄

我们喜乐小组每次服侍教会午餐，Alfred 都和我们在一起，嘴里不停地称赞表扬我们小组干得又快又好，给大家极大的鼓励和服务的热情。他就像一个快乐的小火炉，在哪儿都能给周围的人带来温暖和快乐，与他同工，真是轻松又快乐。

Alfred 和 Debra 夫妇俩谦卑默契的搭配服事，是我非常羡慕的好榜样。Alfred 给我们留下的，是永远温暖的微笑。他忠心地爱主、服侍主，走完人生的旅程，回到天家。

人生短暂，我们的生命真的不在自己手里。愿我们珍惜在地上的每一天，快乐地和亲人们在一起忠心服事，完成上帝给我们的托付。将来在天家，我们还会在一起，在天父上帝的宝座前，愿我们能一起领受祂给我们“忠心良善的仆人”的荣耀冠冕。

再见了，Alfred！来日在天家，我们再相会。



怀念宗智

王台妹

宗智弟兄，

至今仍不敢接受你已離開我們的现实！最後見到你時真的好心疼、好捨不得。

與你在主裡同工有二十多年了，我們過往在西區教會的詩班里同敬拜、同服事（那時你和 Debra 還沒老二呢）！我們幾個有負擔的班員更是組成雅歌隊去僑界、長輩公寓以詩歌見證去佈道，多少甜美的畫面至今猶在眼前！

后来一同來到凱地值堂與建堂，我們各司其職，參與無數的禱告與會議，你所擺上的心力和時間，相信主都會記念，天上有冠冕為你存留！

這些年你常找我在主裡交通，我們也常懷念數算過往同工的歲月，你還與我約好等我退休，再一起去詩歌見證佈道呢！眼看這時期快來到，你卻先離開……我再也吃不到你做的馬來特別風味的炒米粉了！前一陣子白天你還常與惠民去探訪休養中的陳伯伯，我們會替你繼續關懷他老人家的。

親愛的弟兄，美好的仗你打過了，當跑的路你已跑盡了！主在你身上必有美意的帶領，你安息吧！再也沒有病痛了，你可在樂園裡與你所思念的老母、弟弟見面了。

你所愛的 Debra 與孩子們主必眷顧，我們在主裡也會時常關懷和代禱！

安息吧！親愛的老同工，我們將在天家再相會！

在主裡思念你的

台妹

我的禱文

何壽仁

親愛的天父：

從宗智離世至今，整整 5 天。主啊，好漫長的日子！想起他，我們總是淚眼婆娑，萬般不捨。那種錐心之痛，主啊，你是明白的，是嗎？從來沒有想過會離開我們的人，卻在一瞬間消逝，原來生命脆弱得這麼沉重，沉重到一個地步，我們幾乎承受不起！

日子一天一天地過，我們每一個人卻過得不一樣：有的鬱結難舒，終日愁苦；有的豁達大度，處變不驚；有的大而化之，盡情盡興；有的憤世嫉俗，怨天尤人；有的帶著對生命的疑團，苦苦追尋答案……

原來無論我們多麼堅強，心裡總有一處脆弱不堪的角落需要被溫柔地撫摸、被明白和了解。天父，你就是那位能進入我們內心深處去了解和幫助我們的神。你在我們脆弱之處扶持我們，在害怕退縮之時使我們剛強壯胆，在我們茫然困惑處讓我們看見出路。因著你，我們人生有多少次的跌宕，就有多少次的拯救，因為你是叫我



們多經歷重大急難，必使我們復活，把我們從地的深處救上來的神。

每一次的考驗，或許旁人會因為我們堅持信靠你而嘲笑我們，認為我們愚昧至極，信神竟遭遇禍患，嗤笑我們的神無能，沒有能力保我們平安。但是，主啊！人生若只有順風順水，大吉大利的日子，我們還需要神嗎？我們的神若因我們遭遇一些挫折就被否定，這個神就是假的。若我們信的是假神，我們活該被嘲笑，也不值得我們花上一生去委身，否則，我們必須用生命去見證祂的真實。

我們所相信的主阿，你又真又活！真實到一個地步，不會讓任何一個禍患就輕易否定你的存在，又永活到一個地步，就是在任何的處境，你都在！青草地溪水旁，你在；敵人面前，你在；死蔭幽谷，你更在！！所以我們縱然經歷宗智離世的陰霾下，因而困苦憂傷，還是可以處處見到恩典的彰顯。求天父賜我們信心的眼睛，看見世人所看不見的。我們的神不會被困難困住，“洪水泛濫之時，耶和華坐着為王；耶和華坐着為王，直到永遠。耶和華必賜力量給他的百姓，耶和華必賜平安的福給他的百姓”（詩篇 29 章 10-11 節）。

父啊！現今這紛擾的世界，叫我們愁苦驚懼的事情總比叫我們喜樂的事情多，今天這個患癌，那天有人痛失至親；原來美好的家庭突然破碎，家庭經濟崩潰，人際關係破裂等等，面對重重變幻，我們當如何喜樂地過日子？原來，靠自己真的過不了！若沒有一位更超越我們的力量，誰在我們困苦時作我們的依靠和安慰？若沒有超越今世桎梏的終極結局，我們何來勇氣能坦然面對死亡？

是的，原來真正豐盛的人生不是終日嬉笑亨通，而是在面對人生的風暴時有一種沉穩踏實的安全感，無論我們遭遇何事，心中安然，相信這位賜我們生命的主，祂帶我們到世上來，也必帶我們回家。祂是始，祂也是終！死亡的路雖孤單，唯有主，也獨有主，一路引領我們歸家。是的，父啊！人生雖有痛卻不苦，求你教我們處卑賤時亦不會消沉，每一天好好地過，因為靠你而得的喜樂就是我們的力量！

求你指教我們如何數算日子，好叫我們得著智慧的心！

禱告奉主名求，阿們！

2020年初夏悼宗智弟兄

严乃荣

前日兄猝失，近期影常至，
谆谆嘱同工，殷殷鼓志气。
传下慈爱情，歇尽人间事，
弹瑟九霄间，颂神天堂里。

给Debra的信

（一）

Debra,

5月16日星期六的晚上，我有點遲上網參加恩惠一的小組聚會，當時聽到有人提到宗智走了，我以為聽錯了。再仔細



聽，心就沉了下去，為什麼？為什麼？為什麼神要把這個高大、活潑、愛主的人這麼快地接去？一直到小組結束，我沒有提出心中一串串的疑問，我知道沒有人能回答我。

深夜裏，滿腦浮現的都是宗智在教會走廊上的背影，找出他去年 12 月在英文班結業時與大家拍的相片，看著他穿著紅襯衫笑臉盈盈的獨照，我熱淚盈眶，還是不敢相信宗智真的走了。

我們家也是由西區教會植堂出來到凱地教會的，起初與你們只是點頭之交。我退休後加入教會午餐財務的服事，開始與 Debra 熟了起來，才真正認識了宗智。我發現教會中大多數的事工都有宗智的名字。他做過不同職份的執事，參與過不同的事工，但從沒聽過他發怨言。在與同工開會有意見相左時，他也會說大家回去禱告，看神如何帶領。當初剛搬到凱地教會時，聽到有人對凱地建堂有些批評和不滿，他有點感嘆，可也不曾灰心放棄，仍是全心全意地投入服事教會，他實在是主的忠心僕人。

宗智對教會中的兄弟姐妹也非常有愛心。在崇拜時，我常看他與一位 90 多歲的陳老先生坐在一起，崇拜後，他還會花時間與老先生說說話。去年我先生有恙時，每次他在教會看到我們，一定會過來問候一下，短短的几句關懷問候，真是溫暖了我們的心。宗智退休後，我問他在忙什麼，他說他在找事做；後來才知道他到 United Way 去做義工，而後又去了光鹽社。他是多麼有愛心的弟兄啊！寫到這裏，我不再問主為何把宗智這麼快地接走，我領悟到宗智已打完了在世上美好的

仗，神要他放下肉體的痛苦與重擔，把他接到一個更美好的地方去了。

Debra，我知道宗智在你心中一定是個好丈夫，在兒子心中他一定是個好父親。而在他的心裏，你們也是他最愛的人。每次和他談起你，我可從他的眼中看到濃濃的寵愛。而從他和兒子的互動中，我可看出他是多麼以兒子們為榮。我知道你們的不捨，但宗智已安息在神準備的青草地。神必擦乾我們的眼淚，祂給了我們永生的盼望，請耐心等待耶和華的應許。有一天，你們一定會在天上再相見。

耶和華的恩典乃是一生之久。一宿雖然有哭泣，早晨便必歡呼。

Helen 韩务新

(二)

亲爱的 Debra:

我们整个教会和诗班的兄弟姐妹们无一不悲痛万分，为我们失去了一位好兄弟，你失去了一位好丈夫。我们相信有永生有天堂的人，也相信林弟兄已经到了无比美好的神的怀抱里了！是神亲自接他而去，我们也都亲眼见证了。那天的云是那样的绵延悠然，盘旋在整个的天空！光我听说的就有好几位兄弟姐妹表示，要在自己仅存的年间好好地为主打那美好的仗！看到林弟兄在教会中的影响，就知道他是当真属神的！

我编辑了一个小视频，以此献给咱们的林宗智弟兄、你和教会。在视频里，我用了忠玫发过来的 Silent Love 的钢琴演奏，用了我们几位兄弟姐妹和林弟兄一起敬拜时唱的《赐自由的灵》这首诗歌，还

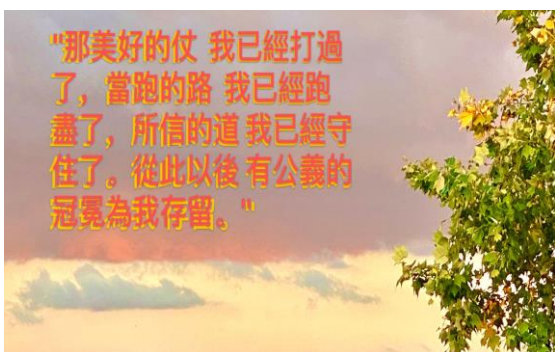


用了几乎是在不知不觉中，在林弟兄离开世间的同时所拍下的让我惊叹的众云彩！愿以此视频，一同悼念林宗智弟兄。

亲爱的 Debra 姐妹，我们知道你一定会会有很多见证将来要与我们分享，求神亲自与你同在，擦干你的眼泪，神的爱和怜悯会让我们胜过一切！

Love in Him,

张华 Erica 姐妹



雅歌的日子

（一）期待天堂再同唱

官芷伶

上週收到 Vikki 姊妹給我的消息，要為宗智弟兄的病情禱告，不想才一個星期的時間他就回天家了。他與我和鳳美師母三人同年，號稱三隻猴子，在雅歌小組草創之前我們就常一起服事。當時的晚晴長輩公寓沒有任何音樂器材，靠著他和鳳美師母一人一把吉他，我們開始了休士頓長輩公寓的詩歌福音事工，又在敬拜小組及

詩班一起服事多年。宗智弟兄非常喜歡唱歌，他的歌聲很溫暖，非常有感情，可以說是整個人完全投入去唱。以前我們還調侃他是痛苦歌王，所以和他一起唱歌是非常享受的。他到凱地教會後每次看到我、焦紅、或其他雅歌團員，總是問我們什麼時候還可以一起唱歌……2018 金色年華在凱地教會舉辦時，我們還相約下次一定要一同歡唱詩歌。親愛的宗智弟兄，留待將來，我們在天堂再同唱永恆的讚美詩！

5-19-2020

（二）爱、喜乐、生命 ——纪念林宗智弟兄

焦红

当我惊闻林宗智弟兄安息主怀的消息时，第一个在我心里发出的声音是《爱、喜乐、生命》这首林弟兄和我曾经一起唱过的诗歌。敬爱的林弟兄生前给我留下的最深印象，就像这首诗歌中唱到的一样，他对神对人活出的是那样充满爱、喜乐、诚实、忠厚且丰富的生命：

时空不能隔绝祂的爱，
因祂爱我直到万代，
世界不能阻挡祂的爱，
因祂爱我永不更改，
祂的爱胜过死亡阴霾，
祂的爱驱走忧愁悲哀。
让主爱浇灌我们的心，
喜乐泉源涌自心底，



忧愁不再，我们有喜乐的生命；
让主爱充满我们的心，
生命火花扬自心底，
泪水不再，我们有永恒的生命。

林弟兄是这样唱的，也是这样把美好丰盛的生命活出来的。在我的生命中经历苦难时，每次见到他或他的妻子，他们都会用充满爱、喜乐和信心的话语来问候、安慰、鼓励我。他们孝敬老母亲以及他们谦和爱戴长辈的见证，也给我很大的鼓励和榜样。

林弟兄在凯地金色年华长辈聚会时，见到我们雅歌小组的几位组员时，曾高兴地一直说要再在一起唱诗歌去传福音。林弟兄，你被主先招入天堂诗班，与众天使一起在神的宝座前敬拜赞美，我们虽然还在地上，但无论在哪里，时空都不能阻挡你和众天使与我们一起敬拜赞美上帝。我们将来都会到天国诗班再相会，再在一起唱诗敬拜，直到永远。

林宗智弟兄，我们天堂再相会！

（三）相約在天堂

楊采燕

我無言面對宗智的離開，那些雅歌的日子，我們是如此喜樂，享受在主裡單純的敬拜與讚美，和樂與美好，那是歡笑不斷的美好經驗。看你手拿吉他，嘴裡唱著柔和的歌曲、那輕快的表情，讓人羨慕萬分。在 2018 年凱地教會金色年華長輩團契聚會見面時，我們都約好要一起使雅歌重新再組合起來發聲，重唱昔日的美好。提醒你，我們沒有忘記，天家見囉！



（雅歌小组重聚于金色年华长辈聚会）

A Complete Satisfaction in Jesus

Pastor John M. Chen

“As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.” (Psalm 17:15, ESV)

I will never forget Mr. Alfred whose complete satisfaction was in Jesus. “Mr. Alfred” was how his 3rd grade Sunday school students affectionately called him.

God’s providence has always come together at their appointed time. For a while, I’ve been evaluating to change the Sunday school curriculum for the upper elementary. They need better systematic learning to be prepared and released into Junior High School. The 5th grade class started apologetics and biblical worldview two years ago, and in the 2019-20 school year the target was the 3rd graders. They can acquire the



basic Bible study method, so they may study God's Word in depth and develop discernment.

In the summer of 2019, Catherine and I prayerfully invited Alfred and Debra to co-labor in the Children Ministry as Sunday school teachers. They prayed, and confirmed with an exciting yes! We were just as thrilled or even more because they affirmed the vision of long-term commitment in teaching the Word of God, and valued laying a good foundation for children. Debra taught 2nd graders, and Alfred taught 3rd graders; both committed to teach for three quarters, one whole school year. I introduced Alfred the "Inductive Bible Study for Kids" written by Kay Arthur. He excitedly adopted the new curriculum, and took the challenge to teach a very active class of fifteen students. Enthusiastically, our daughter Agape told us every week about what she learned from the Bible passages, hymn singing, and the enjoyment of the orderly class atmosphere.

On February 29, 2020, we held a training and fellowship for the upcoming Spring Quarter teachers. There were a total of 18 teachers/TAs in attendance, most of them new co-laborers. Alfred was invited to speak on how he managed the classroom, especially with a few very hyperactive boys. Alfred spoke with a smile of joy as he recounted and reminisced about his class. He said (paraphrased), "I just want to share Jesus with them. They are eager to learn. Just be patient with

them; a lot of patience. As a teacher, you need to prepare the lesson ahead of time. Meditate on the Bible, and think how you are going to teach it. I spend a lot of time preparing and thinking throughout the weeks. My wife Debra and I pray for the kids by name each week...." His words revealed true fulfillment in teaching children. All attendees were deeply moved, encouraged and uplifted to love the children, and teach them the Word of God.

Alfred did not complain or show his frustration of his challenging class. Instead, he looked beyond the barriers. He simply trusted that the Holy Spirit could work in the children's hearts to truly love Jesus and know God. His message manifested his complete satisfaction in Jesus. I will always remember Alfred's remark, a resonance of the glory and the presence of the living and loving God.

Alfred was a friend, Sunday school teacher, co-laborer for the souls of our kids, and a brother in Jesus Christ whom God has ushered verily into His heavenly glory. Until we meet again in the Celestial City, I shall miss him dearly.



The Eternal Impact of Mr. Alfred My Sunday School Teacher

Agape Chen (Age 9)

1 Corinthians 11:1, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” (ESV)

Mr. Alfred showed me how to earnestly love Jesus.

Since Sept 2019, Mr. Alfred ventured to teach our third grade Sunday School. We were as wild as a zoo! This was the structure of my class. First, he began with prayer. Next, we sang hymns. We did a little bit of Inductive Bible Study, then we went to the playground. When we came back to class, we prayed and continued the rest of the Inductive Bible Study, and finished with prayer.

Joyfully, Mr. Alfred always carried his guitar. He taught us “Seek Ye First”, “Amazing Grace”, “Jesus Paid it All”, and “All the Way My Savior Leads Me”. He introduced to us the background stories of the hymns, the meaning of the words, and the authors. For new hymns, he asked us to repeat the lyrics after him. Mr. Alfred shared that he grew up with hymns and the lyrics had stayed with him. As he played with his guitar, we sang, we smiled, and we remembered the songs.

Mr. Alfred was a teacher who was always excited and diligent when teaching the Inductive Bible Study. To avoid distractions, he asked us to

remove pencils and papers, except the Bibles on the tables. When reading the Bible passages of the characters who were speaking, he would dramatize the voices. It was funny! After that, he taught us to use signs or symbols to circle the keywords. We studied the book of Titus, and some passages of Ephesians and Revelation. He assigned homework for us to memorize: 2 Timothy 3:16-17, John 3:16-17, and the armor of God passage in Ephesians 6:13-18. Not only knowing what the Bible said, he wanted us to do good deeds to show our faith. One kid washed the car, while other kids washed dishes, did the laundry, and cleaned up the house. I tried to practice self-control and be nice to my mom.

Mr. Alfred shared, “I also taught my sons Josh and Jeremiah to understand and obey the Bible.”

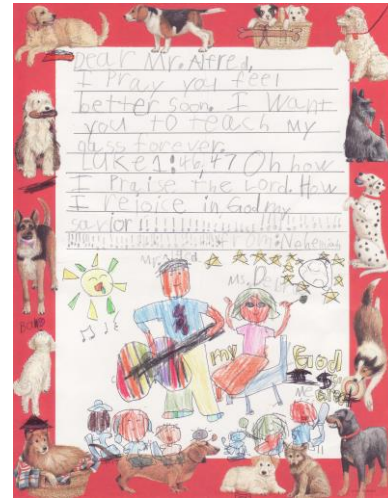
He told us that the Apostle Paul did not want God’s people to be idle, but to work faithfully and to share the Gospel to all nations.

He managed the class with wisdom and rules. He arranged our tables to a semi-circle so he could see every student’s face. He assigned girls’ side and boys’ side. We could not slump in our chairs. When the kids were acting up, he told them to sit down and gave them a stern look. If continuing to disobey, they sat in the corner with the TA. If they still did not behave, they sat out in the hallway to reflect what they did wrong. Because



he disciplined students with firmness, the class was orderly and interesting. It helped me to learn God's Word and understand it better. His has made an eternal impact in our lives. The whole class loves him.

Mr. Alfred inspired me to love God and love others.



Nehemiah's card to Mr. Alfred

A Fitting Tribute to a Man of God and Brother-in-Christ

Simon Lin

My family and I were so shocked by the news of Alfred's passing. It seems like yesterday that Alfred and I were working together with the team in planning and launching the Chinese church in Katy which was more than 15 years ago. Indeed, how time has flown by.

First, our prayers, sympathies and condolences go to Debra, Josh, and Jeremiah. Truly, Alfred was a family man. He cared deeply for his wife and two sons. I had the privilege of teaching his son, Josh along with others at Sunday School during their junior high years. I could tell that Alfred and Debra had instilled deep spiritual values within



Agape's card to Mr. Alfred



their children. Alfred should be very proud of the fine young men he raised.

Second, Alfred was a man who displayed a high level of professionalism, passion, and determination. While working with Alfred during the Katy church-planting project and serving together at church council, I found him to be a leader whom would not let any obstacles get in the way. He was focused and determined to see that we moved forward. Alfred was also well-balanced and showed his sensitivity and concern to the people he worked with. The project to plant Katy church was important, but so were the people. He kept us unified and focused on the task at hand with firmness and yet gentleness.

Finally, Alfred was a true man of faith. He loved the Lord and showed his love and faith by his many services to the church and to his family and to others. Alfred would serve on church council, sing and lead worship, teach, and perform "menial" tasks as needed. He was a multi-faceted person who utilized his gifts. And, he was never idle. He enjoyed serving others and loved seeing others be blessed.

We are very saddened to hear of Alfred's passing. But we know that he is finally home with the Lord. He is in the company of all the saints and the many others who preceded, they are now singing in chorus to the glory of God.

We are reminded and encouraged by the words from the Apostle Paul:

"I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'"

*"O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?"*

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

(1 Corinthians 15:50-56)

Alfred, you will be sorely missed. But we will see you soon, my brother. We love you and your family.



林弟兄印象

王丽华

第一次在我们恩慈小组的祷告事项里看到为教会的林宗智弟兄（Alfred）身体祷告时，我也默默地献上祷告，但不知道这位林弟兄究竟是哪一位，身体状况又是怎样，因为我们教会比较大，我们来教会的时间不算长，了解的人也不多。

直到第二周（5 月 13 日）看到组长通知“请大家为林宗智弟兄迫切祷告，听说他在 ICU，要做手术，情况不太好，求神怜悯，亲自医治”，我忍不住问了小组里的弟兄姐妹们，这林弟兄是哪一位？大家纷纷告诉我说：就是主日崇拜时，常常在台上弹吉他带领敬拜的那位很有音乐恩赐的林弟兄；是去年有段时间小组在教会午餐服事时，指导我们分饭的那位和蔼的林弟兄；是为英语口语班上课的林老师.....原来是这位好弟兄啊！我真是太震惊了，一直想着不可能、不可能是他.....在教会的社区英文会话班因为疫情而暂停之前，林老师还在为我们上课的啊！林弟兄的身体看上去一直很好啊！这以后，组里的（应该是我们教会里的）每个弟兄姐妹每天都在为林弟兄迫切祷告，恳求慈爱的上帝亲自医治林弟兄.....

但 5 月 16 日下午 7 点，还是传来了林弟兄已经安息主怀的消息。弟兄姐妹们都非常非常难过，我茫然地想：怎么会这么快啊.....但在神的计划面前，我们只能为林弟兄的家人祷告，为 Debra 和他们的孩子们祷告.....因为疫情的缘故，23 日大家也

不能去现场参加林弟兄的葬礼，更是非常遗憾！唉，历历往事在目.....

每次带领主日敬拜时，每次教会有活动时，每次上课前.....林弟兄总是激情地弹唱，带领大家一起敬拜赞美；

我们是新来教会的，认识的人不多，林弟兄每次遇到我们时，都会热情地问候、打招呼，讲他自己的故事，让我们知道了他出生在马来西亚，先祖是福建人等；

指导我们分饭时，虽然我们都是中年人，林弟兄还是细心地吩咐、热心地指点，而且会非常风趣地跟我们说说笑话；

上英语会话课时，总是老师们先到，学生们踏着点儿进来，甚至还会迟到。但老师们总是很友善地欢迎大家来教会上课。林老师先是弹吉他带大家唱英语歌，再按照教材让我们练习对话，最后结束前带大家学一句圣经金句。印象最深的，是林老师一遍一遍不厌其烦地纠正我们不正确的发音，如 work、work.....

这许多，都见证了林弟兄是如何为主做盐做光。现在因着上帝的计划，一切都停止了.....也许是上帝太喜欢林弟兄了，让他早早卸下在地上的劳作，接他去天家休息了吧.....想起《天国再相见》里说：“我知道，你与主一同在天”，我相信将来在天上，你还会弹着吉他，跟我们弟兄姐妹一起歌唱.....

为 Debra 一家祷告，恳求上帝与他们同在，亲自安慰他们受伤的心，不舍的思念！阿们！



盼望的，確信在將來，可以再次相聚，一起在天國崇拜讚美主。



(林老师和英文班的同学们在一起)

懷念Alfred

唐小媛

認識 Alfred 時間並不長，但從座位望著臺上領詩、彈吉他的他，倒是有一段時日。直到一年多前有機會成為崇拜團隊的一員，我和他才有些“近距離”的接觸。

只要 Alfred 在，崇拜團隊都不用擔心，因為他早在團隊成員到達教會之前，就把所有的東西如麥克風、音響、譜架等等準備得妥妥當當。平日練習時，雖然只是短暫地寒暄一下，但從心裏就是很喜歡 Alfred 和 Debra 這一對夫妻，他們所發出的基督馨香之氣，讓凡是跟他們相處的人都有如沐春風的感覺。

Alfred 突然的離開，使人心裏很是難過，有很多的不捨。但我們在基督裡是有

对Alfred的思念

活水生命小组全体弟兄姊妹

Alfred 弟兄葬礼的前一天（5 月 22 日）晚上，我们活水小组在团契活动之后，弟兄姊妹们带着沉痛的心情，回忆起与 Alfred 弟兄在一起服事的时刻。大家在表达无限痛惜的同时，不断地向神求告，求神安慰保守带领 Debra 和他们的儿子们。

我们大家都没有忘记 Alfred 弟兄在教堂和扩建时的巨大贡献。那么的一座建筑要设计建造，那么多的单位（官方机构、设计公司、承建商、供应商等等）要协调，那么多的会议要开，那么多的文件要阅览，不知他曾经历了多少个不眠之夜？有过多少次废寝忘食？愁白了多少根头发？磨破了多少层嘴唇？

尽管如此，大家在教会里看到的仍然是一位和蔼、幽默、富有爱心的好弟兄。几乎是每个主日的早上，他都是早早地来到教会，帮着调音响、摆设备。有时，他会跟带敬拜的弟兄姊妹们打招呼、提建议，感觉他就是一位啦啦队长。

Alfred 特别尊老爱幼。每次主日聚会开始前，你经常会看到他坐在一位年过 90 的老弟兄身边话家常。我们组美如姊妹的父母，虞老牧师夫妇健在的时候，常来教会。每次只要 Alfred 见到他们，总会走上前亲切热情地问候他们。有人最近一次看



见他，是他自己亲自带着孩子们唱赞美神的歌。他多才多艺，谈笑风生，不自觉地就把孩子们带进神的世界里。

大家回忆最多的是跟他一起打饭、服事午餐的经历。他平时的服事已经够多的了，却还要关心这样的琐事。

其实，这些仅仅是我们能够看到的。在我们看不到的时候，不知道他为了神的家，为了我们能够在教会里安心地聆听主的教导，做出乐多少努力，付出乐多少心血。记得有一年，教会的财务执事实在无人担当，到了最后的关头，还是他自告奋勇地顶上了，尽管他还有其他几个教会职务在身。

讨论中有人提出，是不是我们不该让这些忠心爱主的弟兄姊妹们负担太重啊？是的，他确实为了神的国鞠躬尽瘁了。其实，即使是当下，我们教会的长执团队中，也不乏 Alfred 这样的弟兄。他们不是一定要自己做完所有这些工作，而是没有找到愿意挺身而出的人。弟兄姊妹们，我们是不是该问问自己：“我能做什么”？

是啊！Alfred 弟兄被主接回了天家。在那里神为他免除了辛劳，在那里他不需操心费力，在那里他定会快乐地为主弹琴抚瑟、引吭高歌！在那里他希望我们做些什么呢？仅仅是到 Debra 和他儿子们跟前说几句安慰的话吗？他用自己敬虔的一生为我们树立了一个甘为仆人的好榜样。我们有百般的不舍，万分的悲痛。而在这不舍与悲痛之余，我们该为他做些什么呢？他最希望我们做些什么呢？

我们觉得，他最希望我们把教会当成自己的家，把教会的事当成自己的事，把教

会的弟兄姊妹当成自己的兄弟姐妹。“……要全心、全性、全意、全力，爱主你的神。其次是：要爱人如己”（马可福音 12:30-31）。这是主耶稣的教诲，也是林弟兄的希望。愿我们共勉之！

纪念林宗智弟兄

宋玉秀

我家与林宗智夫妇相识是从西区教会的喜乐小组开始。当时他分享了一个故事，一个富人给了一个穷人一些面包，因为穷人向神祷告要面包。富人说，是我帮了你，而穷人说，是神感动了你帮助我。这是大约 15 年前的事。

后来小组有分有合，宗智做组长，我们有过几次短暂的聚会。他们家搬新房子时，还邀请我们一家去享受从餐馆订来的大餐。又有一次我们被请去，坐在他们家舒适的翘腿沙发上观看福音电影《耶稣受难记》（The Passion of the Christ）。记得当时因为耶稣基督被打的场景太残忍，我们没有看完。电影的内容并没有打动我，但这个家庭对我们的接待，让我们初识不一般的友情。

后来在凯地教会聚会经常见到宗智弟兄，尤其是中英文联合崇拜的时候。宗智弹吉他，他的妻子 Debra 做翻译，在主内同工，何等佳美！最后这个学期，我先生还给林宗智作助教，两人一起教三年级的主日学。我先生从宗智的教课中受益良多。宗智弟兄一直看上去高大又健壮，疫



情期间，只有短短两个月的时间，却是我从此再不能相见！

生命中的变故实在太突然，一位和蔼可亲的弟兄就这样走了。你留给伴你同行的人何等的虚空！你与爱妻婚姻中的誓约竟这样了结！当然这也不是你所愿的，如果能自己设计人生，我们愿意在相亲相爱中永远活着。感谢主耶稣基督死里复活的历史与大能，因着信，我们盼望在天上重聚！

暂别了，主内亲爱的弟兄！你美好的仗已经打过了，我们这还活着的要继续完成主所交托的大工。让我们一起等候那日，共享主里的盛宴！再见，再会！阿们！

缅怀林宗智弟兄

邹秀林

4 月 15 日，我年迈的父亲过世，疫情期间家里不能举办葬礼，我也不能回国奔丧，心情是何等的焦灼与悲痛。5 月 16 日又听闻林弟兄离世的噩耗，震惊之余，真是难以接受！

林宗智弟兄和太太 Debra 在教会的服事与摆上是弟兄姐妹们有目共睹的，可以说教会就是他们的家。Debra 姐妹虽说在教会是半职工作，但给我的印象就像是全职人员。林弟兄虽是工程师，也是把工作以外的所有时间都奉献给了教会。教会的很多服事岗位，因为很花时间精力，或者候选人自觉不能胜任等等原因都缺人，林弟兄很多时候却都是身兼数职。我曾在教会两个部门与他共事过，我太太周瑛也曾在长执会与他一起服事。我们光是被动地参与服事都感觉时间精力跟不上，林弟兄

却在这些事工上起到了举足轻重的作用。大多数弟兄姐妹可能看不到他在这些“高大上”岗位上的无私奉献，但一定都看到过他带领的诗歌敬拜，还有他在厨房、在场地清扫等各方面劳碌的身影。在凯地教会建堂的漫长过程中，他更是投入了无数的心血，包括与政府部门沟通、与教会的那家无端找茬的邻居沟通、落实很多法律条文及文件事项等等。有两次，我中午有事打电话到教会，发现林弟兄午饭时间还去教会和牧师交流教会事宜。想到这些，我禁不住伤心祷告：“神啊，您为什么这么早把林弟兄接去呢？我们这里比您更需要他啊”！

林弟兄除了吉他弹得好，还很喜欢打篮球。他知道我也喜欢打篮球，就和我聊起篮球。我说曾与福遍教会的林牧师打过球。林牧师篮球打得很好，并且裁判做得也有专业水平。林弟兄说他和林牧师在休大读书时就一起打篮球，我才知道他们在休大是同学。有一年我参加 MS-150，骑车从凯地到奥斯汀，林弟兄也参加了这个活动。我本以为他年龄比我大，会很费劲，结果他比我先骑到目的地。

他们的两个儿子 Joshua 和 Jeremiah 也教育得很好。老大 Joshua 跟我老大 Alan 是朋友，在大学校园团契里一直交往。Alan 很佩服他，说他有照相机式的记忆力（photographic memory），弹吉他只要看过一遍谱就能弹出来，不需要照着谱子弹。我和周瑛在西区教会儿童主日学曾教过他们老二 Jeremiah。他很成熟懂事，圣经知识很扎实。兄弟两人还住在家时，都参与了教会青少年事工的服事。林弟兄，神托付给你的产业和责任，你已圆满地保守和完成了。虽有万般



不舍，愿你安息主怀！求主亲自安慰 Debra, Joshua 和 Jeremiah！

逝者安息，生者如斯。庚子年是个灾难与困难重重之年，也借此与众弟兄姊妹共勉：1. 我们不能把握明天，但要坚信一切皆在神的掌管之下，无论当下我们的处境如何，无论明天将发生什么，放下焦虑、不要惊恐，神会看顾我们。2. 爱我们的主，爱护我们的教牧同工，特别不要让他们负担太重。3. 鼓励弟兄姐妹们按自己的能力、精力和时间来参与教会的服事。要调整心态，认识到我们没有花在教会事工上的时间，很多其实也是于己于人于家无用的。如何找到一个平衡点，是每个人自己需要向神祷告寻求的。

林宗智弟兄的一生活出了我们常人两倍的生命。他总是轻松、稳重、面带微笑地出现在我们面前。他的离世是我们教会的损失，愿他的生命激励我们众人，成为我们追随主耶稣脚踪路上的一盏灯。

有感于二零二零年五月二十三日

從讚美之泉到生命河邊

古素月

那是一個一如往常的禮拜六傍晚，我正在廚房忙著收拾，Steve 則在客廳準備七點即將開始的小組網上聚會，突然間，小兒子的 IPAD 上跳出了這樣的字：“My dad went home...”我急忙呼叫他打開信息，我則衝到房間找出我的手機查看，不願意看到的消息，終於映入眼簾.....

不管小組聚會仍在進行中，我們按捺不住，趕去見了你最後一面。看到你安詳的臉龐，知道你已去了無比美好的地方。我目送你的軀體被覆蓋著，離開了你最心愛的家，耳邊是林牧師的禱告，卻想不起他說了些什麼，腦子一片空白.....

1997 年 8 月，我們到了西區中國教會。看到 Steve，你彷彿見到了老友。忘了是哪一年，大休士頓區的華人教會一起辦了一個聯合詩班的演出，當時你們兩位“剛好”彼此為鄰。很快地，你邀請他進入詩班，唱詩歌一向是 Steve 的最愛，藉著這樣的服事，挑旺了他的熱情，像是一股清泉注入在乾旱的沙漠；而我則是在隔年的 3 月，有一回詩班正好缺司琴，你就將我帶入服事。記得第一次彈的曲子是《主賜福如春雨》，當時因為這首詩歌的曲調簡單優美，深深地吸引了我。後來才得知你當時擔任詩班班長，有許多好聽的詩歌都是你去搜尋來的。

是你，將讚美之泉的詩歌介紹給教會的敬拜團隊；是你，改變了教會敬拜讚美的模式，從教會主日敬拜只選唱傳統詩歌，到加進了華人教會的音樂愛好者自創的詩歌。這個轉變引起了不少衝擊。當我第一次從你手中接到《讚美之泉》和《讓讚美飛揚》的歌譜時，我的心是悸動的，那是只有右手主旋律加上和弦的歌譜，對我而言，那是最熟悉不過的了。未出國前，不務正業，專喜歡彈些流行音樂，早將古典音樂的基礎丟到腦後，怎知在出國多年，信了主，經歷了不少世事變遷後，我仍然可以重新拾起樂譜，坐在教會司琴的位子彈起敬拜的詩歌。回想這一切都是神奇妙的帶領，而在這個過程中，你就是那位牽引、催化的人。



沒遇見過比你還愛唱詩歌的人，無論是傳統詩歌，還是新創的現代敬拜詩歌，不管是中文的還是英文的，你都喜歡。每逢遇到要練詩，你一定提早到，抱著你的吉他，渾然望我地唱著，有人封你為“痛苦歌王”，你不以為忤，自得歌中樂。

不但如此，無論你擔當什麼職位，你總是忠心、竭盡所能地擺上。記得還在西區教會時，你做了四年的崇拜部執事，早上九點半的崇拜，你大概在八點左右就到教會開始打點一切。我們經常看著你穿著詩袍穿梭其間，當練完了詩歌，你已是滿頭大汗。只見你手裡拿著主日週報拼命地扇著，卻扇不開那股唱詩的熱，那情景到現在都不會忘.....

2013 年 5 月，我們來到凱地教會，開始了我們敬拜的服事。說到唱詩，你只要一有機會就要唱，不管別人怎麼看、怎麼說。而 Steve 也總是在他領詩時為你預留一個位置，這成了我們之間的默契。每回輪到我們帶領詩歌敬拜的主日清晨，說好 8 點 15 分聚集，等我們到時，你已經將所有的設備，包括麥克風、音響、譜架等都擺設好了。去年復活節的主日，原先安排是你領詩，結果因你們出國日期臨時變動，而改為由我們的團隊帶領。當天我們特別趕早去到教會，走到台上，怎麼六枝麥克風和譜架都已整齊地擺設好了？你就是這樣的一個人，貼心、誠懇、默默地、不求任何回報地為教會、為朋友、為你所愛的家人至死忠心，願意全心付出。

別了，我們親愛的弟兄！你留下給我們的是無比美好的回憶和思念。那天，看著你埋入地下，我們出於塵土，也終歸於塵土；埋下的是必朽壞的軀體，而你的靈

已經在彼岸高唱你所愛的那首詩歌：“上主座前生命河邊，聖潔天使都來臨；水流不息明亮如晶，我羨慕在彼歌吟；我們聚集生命河邊，在極美麗在極美麗的河邊，和眾聖徒歡聚主座前，歡聚在上主座前”。

有一天，我們都要聚集在生命河邊，一起高唱凱歌！

A Life of Wonder and Faith *- Remembering Brother Alfred*

Dian Tan

In the year 1998, our family moved from the dense, vibrant city of Singapore to the sprawling quiet suburb of Houston. It was a time of challenging transition and adjustment. Alfred was one of the first few friends we made at West Houston Chinese Church. Imagine our delight at finding a fellow Malaysian in a foreign land! However, initially we didn't know him well as our only context was serving in Children's Ministry together. He gave the impression of being a man of few words, rather stern-looking, serious and reticent. As a matter of fact, my son Daniel said he was rather afraid of Uncle Alfred! Even so, he showed great hospitality to my mom and mom-in-laws when they visited Houston, treating us to a sumptuous dinner at Crystal Jade Restaurant. We had the good fortune of getting to know the real Alfred at our Agape small group, years later, after KCCC was planted.



He was a true follower of Christ, a Man among all men, a faithful servant with great resolve. I always thought the church gave the hardest job to him, the most arduous task nobody wants to or is able to do and he would do it just because he's Alfred - you can always count on him. Chairman to Church-Planting Steering Team and Building Committee, Sunday-school teacher to the most difficult class, Chair to the Senior-Pastor Search Team, Church Council, Personnel Committee, and so on. And he stayed on course, no matter how hard and tedious the task, until it was accomplished. There's no one in church we admired more purely for this resolve alone.

But what I love most about Alfred was his heart for worship. Given a choice, I think he would wish only to serve on the worship team where he could sing praises and worship the Lord that he so dearly loved. He would bring his guitar and lead our worship, singing hymns and telling the story behind the song we sang. His beautiful music and voice, filled with awe and love for his Father God, would transport us into that kind of worship our Lord seeks.

Another huge blessing of having him in our small group was the privilege of being treated to his home-cooked meals. Alfred was such a great cook; he could make a whole array of authentic Asian dishes as well as the best Western food (his braised short-ribs was simply scrumptious)! Debra, his equally-able sous-chef, would complement his dishes with assortment of mouthwatering cakes and desserts. He was generous too - when he was occupied with ministry the entire day and couldn't make a dish for the

evening potluck, he would bring tiramisu from La Madeleine or a big tray of Vietnamese spring rolls. Once, he even ordered the show-stopping Cajun turducken, the three-bird roast, for our Christmas celebration. He pretended that he made it when I asked, but at my utter amazement and the collective admiration from the floor, he laughed and righted the sweet misunderstanding!

His was a totally surrendered life, an offering on God's altar. It had this richness of simplicity and joy that came from his deep-rooted faith. He truly practiced "a long obedience in the same direction," in the words of Eugene Peterson*. For years he served faithfully in whichever ministry the Lord called him to do. So many of us had been blessed by serving alongside him or under his leadership. When we got to know him better in the small group, apart from serious ministry works, we saw humor and light-heartedness, a humble and endearing man that laughed easily.

To him, his religion was his vocation, his focus and center, working seamlessly and easily into the entirety of his life. At our fellowships, he would often share something he learned at Ironmen on Friday mornings at Second Baptist Church, which he attended faithfully for years. When asked about his online seminary study, he would encourage us to listen to the sermons which he found inspiring but never boasted about the biblical knowledge he gained.

Alfred and Debra were the perfect couple; they modeled the kind of marriage God designed and desires for all His children. The tender love and



deep respect they had for each other permeated every conversation and interaction. I love to hear their love story, how it all began, when Alfred courted Debra in their college days and serenaded her with “恰似你的温柔”! Only a woman like Debra deserved a man like Alfred and vice versa.

He was proud of Josh and Jeremiah, of their faith, their ministry, their academic achievements and musical talents. He was all-smiles and affectionate whenever he talked about them: what they are doing now, how different they are and how special each was to him. When Jeremiah joined the 4000-miles-plus charity ride and was cycling from Austin to Anchorage, Alaska, he was very concerned and kept daily tabs on his grueling journey, but also so proud of what his once little boy, now all grown, determined and courageous, set out to do.

I always felt a kindred spirit towards Alfred as both of us lost our father at age 4-5 and our extraordinary mothers had to raise 5-6 kids single-handedly in the most difficult of conditions. At our fellowships last year, we took turns sharing our life story and got to know each other in a deeper way. His story in Katy Light, “The Jungle Boy and His Mother’s Prayers,” recounts a truly remarkable childhood. He definitely possessed the rich and honest faith of his mother and passed this legacy of faith onto his sons.

Our small group travelled together last November, 2019, aboard the Enchantment of the Seas to Cozumel. It was an “Ichigo Ichie” (一期一会*) moment and experience, unrepeatable and so precious, that we now cherish all

the more. We attended nightly shows, played table-tennis, learned the Cupid Shuffle dance, joined the games and deck exercise, and enjoyed fine-dining every night. He loved the shrimp cocktail appetizer and faithfully ordered it every time! We talked and joked about many things. He would tease and laugh apologetically after, flashing his signature sheepish grin! It was the single most enjoyable time we had and we saw how fun, humorous and playful he can be.



(On the cruise ship)

Alfred lived out what he believed, showing his faith by his works. He tried to galvanize us to volunteer as a small group. This year we were planning to serve in various charities: Katy Christian Ministries (KCM), Star of Hope, Church Under The Bridge and more. The first on our calendar was KCM, where we served together on March 7, before the pandemic lockdown. We helped sort out the clothes and shoes, organize the displays, move boxes and picture frames and so on. After the fulfilling work, we had an enjoyable lunch at Tasty Ko Restaurant, feeling so blessed and thankful. We never expected that would be the last time we would be with him.





(Serving at KCM together)

These verses describe him well:

“But you, man of God: Run for your life from all this. Pursue a righteous life - a life of wonder, faith, love, steadiness, courtesy. Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life, the life you were called to, the life you so fervently embraced in the presence of so many witnesses.” (1 Timothy 6:11-12, MSG)

He is our hero of faith in real-time, a true friend and beloved brother, and in losing him, KCCC will never be the same again. I can't bear to imagine our future fellowships without him and his worship. He left us too soon; we don't know how to say goodbye except by hanging on to the hope of seeing him again, in the field of light across the River, some day...

* the title and theme of Eugene Peterson's book is based upon this quote, “*The essential thing “in heaven and earth” is.... that there should be a long obedience in the same direction; there thereby results, and has always resulted in the long run, something which has made life worth living*”. - Beyond Good and Evil, Friedrich Nietzsche.

* 恰似你的温柔： *Soft As Your Tenderness*

* 一期一会： “*One time - one meeting*”

Jesus Led Him All The Way

Boon Tan

In my faith journey, I am grateful to God for placing Christian brothers who are role models to help and guide me along the way. Alfred was one of these men. I have known Alfred for nearly 22 years. I first met him when I visited WHCC after our relocation from Singapore to Houston. We got to know each other quickly - being fellow Malaysians with our eldest son of the same age and participating in similar church activities. He was a very mature Christian and I was immediately drawn to him as my big brother-in-Christ. Throughout the years, we had served together in many ministries and I saw his utter commitment to church and unflinching devotion to God. He said often that he grew up practically in church and owed his life to church; it was his way of giving back by being fully devoted to service, faithful in everything the Lord gave him to do.

Alfred served in more ministries than anyone I know in KCCC. His ministry spanned across many areas: Church-Planting Steering Team (CPST), Board of Trustee, Church Council, Personnel, Building, Pastoral Search, Finance, General Affair, Worship, Children, Youth, and so on. I had the privilege of serving with him in the CPST in 2005. Alfred's experience as a project manager was used by God to handle the challenging task of planning, scheduling, and leading a team



comprised of rather headstrong individuals with diverse background. For eighteen months the teams met regularly to work through all sorts of issues from land acquisition, various ministries plans and the nuts and bolts of planting a new church. My task of leading the Children's Ministry was tough but nothing compared to Alfred's challenges. Such was his servant's heart that as soon as Katy church started and CPST transitioned to Katy Leadership Team (KLT), Alfred headed the KLT as well and immediately shouldered the responsibility of building a new church in Katy.

Despite the demands of all these ministry works, Alfred recognized the importance of family. He was instrumental in setting up the Father & Son retreats, first in 2004, the second in 2005. It was designed for dads to spend time in the outdoor and bond with their sons (6th-8th graders). Alfred wanted to carve out a special experience and memory with Josh and wanted others to have that too. I am grateful for those times, in the woods away from distractions (and comfort too!), that I spent with my son, Daniel, for it seems like in a twinkling, the boy has become a man.

Another great father-son event I had with Alfred was the time we served as chaperone to a team of youth, including Daniel and Josh, to City Service Mission (CSM). We served meals and packed lunch bags at various charities serving the poor and homeless in the inner city.

We visited a mobile children ministry, attended a Black church service and even enjoyed some spicy Jamaican food! I was paired with Alfred to lead a small group session and it was an eye-opener for me, learning from him how to facilitate sharing and discussion effectively.

Alfred, as many can attest, loved to and excelled at worship. I enjoy worship and love to sing praise songs, but I don't have musical talent like Alfred. So, he was the "rockstar" I looked up to! The part I loved most in our fellowship was when Alfred led the worship with his guitar and his mellow voice, singing those beautiful hymns and songs: "All the way my Savior leads me", "All I have is Christ" and so on. Many-a-times after he had finished, I would request for more so as to prolong the worship since I enjoyed it so much. He was more than happy to oblige!

Alfred cared for his ministry coworkers and the pastors. On many occasions, he would look me in the eye and ask sincerely: "How are you doing, Boon?", "Is everything okay?", "How is your work?", "How is your ministry going?" or "How is your family doing?". Not as a casual conversation-starter but as a display of genuine care and concern. He was a man of few words but he sincerely wanted to make sure I was coping well with work, family and ministry.

Another thing that amazed me about Alfred was his willingness to serve in any capacity, not only as a leader but



also as a ‘foot soldier’ such as teaching the difficult 5th graders, preparing food in the kitchen, cleaning up the fellowship hall and so on. In addition, he would not shrink back from any tough role when approached to serve. One year in church council nomination, we had difficulty finding someone to serve as Treasury deacon. I was surprised when he stepped in and took the position. But then again, it shouldn’t have - whom do you ask when you have a tough task with no volunteers? Mr. Alfred Ling, of course! I learned from him that sometimes you need to step out of your comfort zone, stretch your faith and be willing to serve even in difficult roles.

Alfred attended the IronMen Bible study/prayer at Second Baptist Church on Friday morning for years. Finding it beneficial and uplifting, he encouraged me on multiple occasions to join him. After his retirement, he joined online Bible study as well. He always pursued God to know Him better so he could serve Him more effectively.

Last year our small group, Agape, grew closer as we started sharing our life stories after a well-prepared meal by the host. We had such good times, too, during potlucks or special celebrations, and I especially enjoyed the time we spent together on a short cruise to the Caribbean. We played table tennis as double players with Vincent and Isaac. I was the least-able player among them, but Alfred played to make me look good by giving me high balls to smash. After many tries, I finally landed a beautiful

smash! It was truly an exhilarating time of gaiety and leisure.

In looking back, it dawned on me that Alfred has been a great influence in my life and a strong motivator, encourager and supporter of me. There was no formal discipleship training; nonetheless, he discipled me through his love and care for me and led by his exemplary life, a life dedicated to glorifying God and building His Kingdom.

Alfred was my big brother (大哥) for so many years; it’s painful to lose him so suddenly. I’m going to miss him terribly: miss seeing him at church, his worship, his sharing, his prayers, his playfulness and laughter... Farewell, my friend. You are in perfect rest now, with our Lord Jesus who led you all the way. We grieve with hope because we know we will see you again. In that glorious place, with no more CPST or KLT or SPC or PC or PSC to busy us, we’ll be fully and joyfully worshipping our Lord and Savior!



Agape Fellowship Time





Father and Son retreat

Alfred Ling, The Faithful Church Planter

Pastor David Yeung

Alfred Ling was a devoted church leader, an encourager in ministry, and most of all, a dear brother-in-Christ. He was a great blessing to everyone that he met. But what I will remember Alfred best was his unstoppable passion to bring the gospel to mainland Chinese and Asian immigrants settling in the Katy area. He was a faithful church planter to the end.

In 2000, West Houston Chinese Church (WHCC) began church planting efforts in the Katy area. The goal was “Three Years to Build, Six years to Plant”. A special committee was formed nearing the completion of this conceptual plan. Named the Church Plant Steering Team (CPST), it was charged with leading the new church plant in Katy. At that time Alfred and Debra had moved to Katy only for a few years, but they were

called by the Lord to join the CPST. Because of his strong church background, excellent leadership ability, and passion to bring the gospel to the Katy immigrants, Alfred was chosen to be our committee leader. Over the next year Alfred led the CPST members in praying and planning the launch of the new Katy church.

One of the first tasks that faced our CPST team was to find a site to host our Sunday worship services and Sunday school classes. Alfred and I visited many Katy area Christian churches not only looking for a church facility to rent, but also looking for a church who shared our calling to reach out to the lost in Katy area. One of the churches that we visited was Living Word Lutheran Church. After hearing our vision and plan, Living Word agreed to partner with us in our church planting efforts. Praise the Lord! With a verbal agreement reached, Alfred diligently worked with the leaders of Living Word to iron out all logistical details. Because of the Lord’s greatness and his faithful leader, Alfred, Katy Christian Community Church (KCCC) held our inaugural worship service on the first Sunday of December 2006 at Living Word Lutheran Church.

After we secured a physical location to meet as a church, the CPST began to draft the KCCC church constitution. As members of the CPST, we desired to have a document that would serve our church and our members. Alfred once again stepped up to lead the efforts to



draft such a constitution. Using the WHCC constitution and bylaws as a template, the Church Constitution committee spent many hours debating, writing, and polishing each word in our church's constitution. Alfred prayerfully presided over all of the discussions to ensure the committee would produce a document that would honor the Lord and His new church in Katy. I praise the Lord for Alfred and his constitution team.

But Alfred's faithful service to God's church did not end when WHCC planted KCCC in 2006. When the time came for KCCC to design our own church building, Alfred once again stepped up to serve. With his project management background, Alfred oversaw the building project from initial conceptual design through the construction till its completion. Alfred and his team spent many tireless hours designing an economical and efficient multi-purpose church facility. They worked closely with the building contractor throughout the entire building project and the church was completed on schedule and under budget! Praise God! Even after our building was completed, Alfred became our de facto "Building Consultant" for all church facility improvements to ensure the church building continues to meet the ministry needs of KCCC.

Alfred was not only a strong ministry leader, he was also a big supporter and partner in ministry to his wife, Debra. Debra had served as our church administrator for many years. A couple of years ago, KCCC was without a

General Affairs deacon. With this position vacant, the responsibilities of the General Affairs deacon fell on Debra. Seeing his wife pulling double duty as church administrator and General Affairs deacon, Alfred stood by Debra's side to help and support her ministry. Together as a couple they served the Lord in their home and in both of their ministries. After his retirement from engineering works, Alfred was looking forward to serving the Lord together with Debra.

Alfred's life is a shining example of a life focused on Christ, on service, on giving and dedication to others. We are constantly reminded of Alfred's love and the blessings he brought to our lives. We thank God for the fifteen precious years that Alfred and Debra partnered with us to plant and serve KCCC. I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for knowing and serving alongside His faithful servant Alfred.

The news of Alfred's sickness and passing were a great shock to my wife, Fiona and I. We will miss him greatly. At the same time, we are greatly comforted because we know that the Lord's faithful servant is at home with his Savior.



怀念林宗智弟兄

叶良苗

林宗智弟兄突然过世的消息，一下子堵住我们众弟兄姐妹的心。虽然知道他已经回到主的怀抱，但对我们这些依然活在地上的人，多少吃惊、难过、怀念，真的难以用文字来表达。

我与宗智弟兄在教会相处近二十年，彼此之间交流不少，有过很多默契的合作，也有过不同观点的碰撞。这些天，有关他的历历往事不停地在我脑子里转悠。我真心感谢主将宗智这样的弟兄带到我们教会中，来到我的生命里，也因此更加痛惜他的过早离去。

他对大家的爱心，他长久以来在教会多项事工上的高度投入，他做为教会早期同工在教会植堂、建堂及教牧团队的建立过程中所做的大量工作，他带领全家侍奉的榜样，还有他在教会一些关键节点上所展示出的责任心与决断力……所有这一切，相信弟兄姐妹都看在眼里，记在心上。

除了这些以外，宗智弟兄还有两个特点，给我留下了深刻的印象，是我学习的榜样。

一是他坚持原则，又满有恩典。与宗智弟兄一起侍奉过的，哪怕是时间不长，都很容易感受到他很注重按规定或者预定的程序法则行事与做决定。如果没有原则与规矩可循，他就会建议先定规矩再做事。很明显，他这是为了把教会的管理建立在一个有秩序又公平的基础上。可是在谈到一些比较敏感、具体的人事话题时，

在考虑了各方面因素及弟兄姐妹们的回馈与建议之后，宗智弟兄最常用的两个字是“爱”与“恩典”。他告诉我们不仅要有原则，更要用爱与恩典来包容他人的不足之处。以爱与恩典为出发点来引导大家做出讨主喜悦的决定，是基督品质在他身上的彰显。

二是他勇于担当，敢讲真话。宗智弟兄是一个很有担当的人。他不怕麻烦，敢挑重担。他担任了教会里很多重要而且繁杂的角色，比如第一任植堂团队主席、教会注册法人代表、建堂委员会主席、建堂设计与施工甲方总负责人、教会外来诉讼案件总代表、总务执事、财务执事、教牧团队过渡委员会主席、诗班与敬拜团队同工等等。这些都是他有担当、敢负责的最好见证。与此同时，敢讲真话是宗智弟兄的另一个特点。记得在 2013 年夏天，教会里有一部分会友在私下责备教会人事部对个别牧者对待不公，这在一定范围内成为影响教会合一的一个重要因素。宗智弟兄知道以后很不舒服，认为必须弄清真相。他在长执会表达了自己的担忧，并且毛遂自荐要成为人事部成员之一。在进入人事部之后，他仔细观察、了解前因后果，与其他人事部同工正常互动。大约过了一年左右的时间，大家早已忘记了他原来进到人事部的目的，但他自己没有忘记。在又一次人事部的会议上，宗智弟兄公开正式向人事部两位主要负责同工表示道歉，承认自己过去的怀疑是不对的，并肯定与称赞人事部多年来的工作。这个事情给我留下了很深刻的因象。说实话，在教会里，象宗智弟兄这样心胸坦白、直接了当、愿意认错的做法不是很常见，但我非常欣赏。我认为这个特质在教会的环境里尤其宝贵，弟兄姐妹之间有什么嫌隙的



时候，如果可以象宗智弟兄一样开诚布公、坦诚相见，教会就会更合一、兴旺。

仅以此短文纪念亲爱的林宗智弟兄。我知道弟兄已经安息在主的怀抱里，也相信主必保守他的家人和他所传递给我们的爱主的信心、品质与行动！

2020.5.27



宋志東

記得宗智兄曾對我說，《我的心你要稱頌耶和華》是他最喜愛的詩歌之一，所以我們經常聽到他在帶領崇拜時唱這首詩歌。這也成為我和他多次同工，近些年來在復活節及感恩節崇拜時必定保留的一首詩歌。因著多次的搭檔，大家彼此早已配合默契，所有的小節、聲調、節奏、段落重複及轉接處理等等都已諳熟於心，往往只需排練一遍就可通過。但宗智兄仍堅持再多練幾遍，力求精益求精，提醒我們敬拜時要將對這位偉大創造主的愛和感謝，用最嫻熟的技巧、最真誠的態度口唱心和，將最美好的歌聲獻給神！記憶中宗智兄容易出汗，在排練的間隙，常見他用樂譜權當扇子來降溫。但他內心的喜樂卻無以言表，透過他那特有的微笑和執著，激勵著每一位同工！在每次敬拜結束，最後一個音符落下時，我們都會彼此四目相視，緊緊握手，那種淋漓盡致的喜樂和感恩，盡在不言中！

初識宗智兄是在我們家剛搬來休士頓不久。我們一家抵休后的第二天就去了西

區中國教會。在詩班和敬拜團隊中，有一位身材魁梧的弟兄十分引人注目。他在敬拜時常常雙眼微閉，虔誠專注，有時眉毛有點“誇張”地上下跳動著。他的聲音洪亮，低音尤其渾厚，吉他技巧嫻熟，給我留下了極深的印象。後來經張希皓弟兄介紹，我認識了這位大名鼎鼎的宗智兄，開始了我們近二十年的親密同工和友誼。當他得知我也喜歡唱歌，就非常熱情地邀請我參加敬拜的事奉，隨後我們又同時在西區中國教會的長執會同工。尤其是在西區教會籌備凱地植堂時期，我加入了由他領銜的植堂事工團隊 CPST（Church Plant Steering Team）以及植堂後的凱地教會領導團隊 KLT（KCCC Leading Team），有了更多的時間在一起恆切禱告、密集開會、反復籌劃等等，與眾弟兄姊妹經歷了神的恩典和大能，走過那一段雖然艱辛卻充滿感恩和喜樂的日子。

最讓我感恩和難忘的是近五年多來的事情。感謝神的憐憫，在經過了近兩年時間的關係修復之後，教會開始走出低谷，因此長執會決定恢復聘牧工作。受長執會的委托和弟兄姊妹的信任，宗智兄和我分別承擔帶領人事委員會和聘牧委員會，開始了招聘主任牧師的艱巨工作。從內心來說，起初我真的不願意來接這件棘手的事，但宗智兄不斷地鼓勵我，我們彼此之間建立了高度的信任和相互支持的關係，並與聘牧團隊、人事委員會、長執會成員以及教牧之間也保持坦誠、透明和合一。加上弟兄姊妹們的迫切禱告和大力支持，終使聘牧工作順利完成。感謝神奇妙的帶領和豐富的預備，差派了祂的僕人陳克迅牧師來到 KCCC 擔任我們的主任牧師。



宗智兄夫妻恩愛，教子有方。他們伉儷一直為教會的事工竭誠擺上，大大超出了常人的付出！當 Debra 姊妹提出退休請求時，我曾力勸他們能否重新考慮，懇請 Debra 繼續留任教會的辦公室主任且轉為全職。但宗智兄堅持說不願給教會增加更多的經濟負擔，況且他已經退休了，也希望妻子能隨時陪伴他。從此以後，教會的不少弟兄姊妹，包括我的姊妹 Julia 經常在不同的場合看到他們相依相伴，相親相愛的身影，令人十分羨慕！他也常關心我的兒子，曾經是 Kevin 多年的主日學老師，他們甚至成為忘年之交。當我兒子聽到宗智兄安息主懷的消息時，不禁放聲痛哭，吃不下飯！他忘不掉這位昔日的良師益友！

宗智兄也是我的良師益友。他在敬拜、教會運作、人事管理等各方面都為我樹立了榜樣，給了我許多的幫助、支持和鼓勵，使我獲益匪淺！我為曾有這樣一位屬靈的兄長和摯友感謝主。如今他已回歸天家，但我永遠忘不掉他的音容笑貌，他的歌聲琴聲！尤其是他最喜愛的這首詩歌：“我的心哪，你要稱頌耶和華，不可忘記他的恩惠”（詩篇 103：2）！

我所熟悉的林宗智弟兄

张文忠

我来凯地教会只有短短 7 年的时间，但似乎已经认识 Alfred 很久很久了。不知为啥，起初几年我就是记不住他的中文名字，只记得他的英文名字。若与我谈话的另一位弟兄或姐妹不知道他的英文名，我

只好说他是 Debra 的老公，似乎 Debra 比他在教会里更有名，让我以为这又是教会中的一位默默先生。但我错了，有位教会弟兄特地给我纠错，说 Alfred 可是咱们教会的元老，是我们教会在凯地选地建堂、筹划督工的大内总管，我说：“原来是真人不露相啊”！

后来又看到 Alfred 带领中英文崇拜，又弹吉他又唱歌，对于我这样一个五音不全、唱歌老跑调的人来说，Alfred 就是一位多才多艺的文艺才俊。心想，他可真是恩赐多多呀！

再后来，Alfred 又回到教会的长执会负责教会的财务部。每次开长执会，他都精心准备每月的财务报表，将那些枯燥的数字变成清楚易懂，有 Power 又有 Point 的 PPT。心想，他得花多少精力呀！

我真正认识 Alfred，还是与他在教会人事委员会一起服事的时候。那时正是教会聘牧的艰难时刻，为了理清头绪纷繁的聘牧过程，做为人事委员会主席的他构划出一个有 20 个步骤的详细聘牧程序，然后与教会的牧师长执们沟通，有时一周开三、四次会，甚至开到晚上 11 点多。在这些会议上，我看到的是头绪清晰的分析、合理的劝说、战略明确的目标。正是在他的精心领导下，我们教会的聘牧才走出了困境，弟兄姐妹们有了共同的看见。心想，他可是个将才啊！

5 月 16 日下午，惊闻我的好弟兄安息主怀，我怎么也不敢相信这是真的。本来想等疫情结束后请弟兄去吃他爱吃的 Kobe 牛肉，但弟兄竟离我们而去，让我们好不伤痛！但做为主的儿女，我们又为弟兄高兴，因为弟兄已卸下了世间的劳苦与病痛，去了那更美好的地方，我们有一天还



会再相见。心想，我们的主一定会夸 Alfred 是忠心良善的仆人，因那美好的仗你已经打过了，当跑的路你已经跑尽了，所信的道你已经守住了！弟兄，你好好休息！

落地的麦粒—纪念主内好兄长林宗智弟兄

曹泓波

2020 年春末夏初，因着疫情和“居家令”的影响，我们开始在家上班，在网上进行教会崇拜和小组聚会。5 月 16 日，我们小组在晚上 6 点 45 分开始线上的查经聚会，刚打开电脑，突然看见 Vikki 姐妹带着伤痛的表情说刚刚接到消息，Alfred 弟兄已经回了天家。顿时，我们小组在线的弟兄姐妹们哭泣成一片，悲伤、震惊、不解、不舍……大家一时间没法接受，也不愿意接受这个消息！是呀，才刚刚知道他生病了，才刚刚为他的手术祷告，一个多月前还看到他们夫妻同台在敬拜中领诗，他那抱着吉他弹唱的音容笑貌还历历在目……他就这么匆匆地走了，走得那么快；他就这么熟睡了，安息在主的怀中。我们守着全世界最先进的癌症中心，他却没能用上，让人觉得多么的遗憾、可惜。

那夜我无眠，脑中一遍遍回响的都是那首《归家》的曲子。半夜时分，我找来《归家》的钢琴曲放在微信朋友圈中，以慰这位好兄长好弟兄的归家之路。哪知那晚凯地教会和西区教会的很多弟兄姐妹们和我一样无法平静，下半夜还收到很多回应的跟贴。后来听牧师说，那天下午三点多钟，Alfred 已经知道神要接走他了。他

跟家人们说再见，告诉他们，他要回家了。他走了，留下了爱他的家人和弟兄姐妹们，更留下了安慰和盼望。我们都清楚地知道他去了哪里，他自己和家人也知道，但是大家还是那么的不舍！神爱他，我们大家也爱这个在神面前敬虔度日、全心摆上的弟兄。神接他先我们而去，他如同那粒落到地里的麦子，用平凡而丰盛的生命激励着身边的弟兄姐妹。

回顾从西区到凯地的十多年间，我与林弟兄最多的相处竟然是在教会的各种会议中，其中包括凯地植堂带动团队、植堂建堂初期的长执会、教会人事部、教牧支持团队的一次次会议，更有主任牧师聘牧团队每周的会议……在这些由 Alfred 带队的事工团队中，我曾经跟他及同工们一起在祷告中相互扶持，经历神的恩典与供应，看见神的计划成就，也见证到 Alfred 弟兄对神、对教会的爱落实在教会事工的每个细节中。我曾经抱怨过我们教会的会议太多，现在，我却好想能有机会再跟 Alfred 一起开会，他那亦师亦友兄长式的关爱让我难舍难忘。Alfred，如果你再召集开会，我一定不会抱怨了！

回想当年，我们从西区被差派出来到凯地植堂建堂，事工千头万绪，特别是建堂的任务十分繁重。Alfred 在那些日日夜夜里承担了从选择建筑商、修改图纸到监工等项重大责任，带着使命感完全地摆上和付出。2017 年 8 月，休斯顿遭遇 Harvey 飓风的冲击，Katy 很多地方都被洪水淹没，我们教堂却得以幸免，这也是得益于 Alfred 当年坚持要求建筑商返工重新加高教堂地基的结果。每每看着我们的教堂，总似看到 Alfred 忙碌的身影。还有一件值得纪念的事，是我能有机会参与由



Alfred 带领的凯地教会主任牧师的聘牧事工。凯地植堂 10 年后，主任牧师杨牧师退休，教会聘牧成为大事。那是一段十分不易的日子。在那十几个月中，Alfred 和同工们身上都压着很重的担子。为了神家的合一，本着对神、对教会、对弟兄姐妹们负责的态度，针对当时教会的现状，由 Alfred 主导的同工团队拟定了一个有 21 个步骤的聘牧方案，力求每一步的完成都无愧于神，也不辜负弟兄姐妹们的信托。为此，我们每周一起祷告、讨论，与教牧长执、小组长和会众们交通，广泛征求各方的意见，有时一周要开好几次会。这段时间是我与 Alfred 接触最多的日子，时时感受到他对神、对教会的责任感和挚爱。

再见了，好兄长，好弟兄！我深信神一定会对你说：“你这又良善又忠心的仆人，.....可以进来享受你主人的快乐”！感恩能有机会在主里与你同工，得以见证和学习你的事奉。希望再见面的日子里，我们还能听到你的歌声和吉他声。

黑暗總會过去

封面作品：陈莲凤姐妹

在流泪的幽谷中
在如夜的黑暗里；
神的话，基督的爱，
如晨曦 —
在每个金色的黎明，
普及大地的真光灿烂升起 —
恩典和怜悯伴随左右。

黑暗總會过去。

The Darkness Shall Pass

Cover page: Dian Tan

In the vale of tears,
In the darkness black as night;
God's Word, Christ's Love,
Like new dawn
Each golden morn,
His world-filling Light breaks forth -
Grace and mercy attend us.

The darkness shall pass

征稿启事：

本刊的宗旨是启发人们对生活的思考，围绕圣经，以神的话语为中心，以日常生活为题材，鼓励信徒活出真实而有意义的生命。欢迎教会弟兄姊妹赐稿，请将稿件电邮给曹泓波姊妹（hollycao@yahoo.com）。若您需要电子版，请上凯地中国教会网站（<http://katyccc.wixsite.com/chinese/untitled-cdue>）阅读或下载。

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