

緬懷黃鄭繼慈師母

梁德舜牧師

我於一九六零年十月廿五日，悔改信主受浸於馬來西亞芙蓉浸信教會，一九六一年，香港浸信教會會牧黃日強牧師，應星加坡-馬來西亞浸信會聯會邀請，前往馬來西亞各地浸信會擔任佈道講道事奉。我有幸在黃道心牧師引薦，在吉隆坡浸信會認識黃日強牧師。

一九六二年蒙召獻生事奉主，翌年得蒙盧約翰牧師推薦前往香港浸信會神學院接受裝備。猶憶當抵達香港翌日中午，在九龍彌敦道龍鳳大酒樓，盧約翰牧師與黃鐘牧師和黃日強牧師等牧師午餐團聚，我再次與黃牧師相見。

在神學院得黃日強牧師教導「歌羅西書專讀」科目，獲益匪淺。七零年神學畢業應聘在香港大埔浸信教會擔任傳道，在女傳道會聚會認識黃日強師母即黃鄭繼慈師母。

今天下午應邀主持黃師母的追思禮拜，心中充滿回憶與感恩，師母蒙上帝的眷顧，體驗詩 90: 10 所言：「我們一生的年日是七十歲，若是強壯可到八十歲。」師母更享受上帝額外的恩典，讓她活至九十四歲，何等的美！

黃師母的英文名字是 Frances，源自拉丁文，意思是正直、誠信和不善變，在近半世紀與黃師母相處，確實在主裡見證她的正直、誠信和忠心耿耿地與黃牧師同心、同行同事奉我們的主耶穌。

黃師母在一生中讓我看見她的：

F - First Things First! 在她的生命中，正如太 6: 33 所言，「你們要先求祂的國和祂的義；這些東西都要加給你們了。」黃師母年青的時候就悔改信靠主，接受救恩，一生遵行主的道，值得我們學習的。

R - Relying on God 箴 3: 5-6 「你要專心仰賴耶和華，不可倚靠自己的聰明；在你一切所行的事上，都要認定祂，祂必指引你的路。」與黃師母相處中，從她口中聽到她的分享，尤其在一九五六年與黃牧師結婚，從此踏上牧養教會的召命，經歷種種的挑戰和危機，因著仰賴耶和華，使我豎信仰賴主的人，在一切所行的事上，主必指引，也必蒙福。

A - Appreciating Everything She Had 腓 4: 11-13 「我無論在甚麼景況，都可以知足，這是我已經學會了；我知道怎樣處卑賤，也知道怎樣處豐富，或飽足，或飢餓，或有餘，或缺乏，隨事隨在，我都得了秘訣。我靠著那加給我力量的，凡事都能作。」

黃師母在她事奉生涯中，無論在香港牧會、當黃牧師那些年間在南方神學院唸博士時期、在文化市牧養中、黃牧師義務推動、執行美加華人浸信會聯會事務時，更在她們退休時，所遇見的各種景況中，黃師母均能靠主渡過，毫無怨言，默默地承擔主託付的責任，絕不作逃兵，令我敬佩！

N - Nurturing God's Servants 培育神的工人 讓我想起保羅對提摩太的勸勉，提後 2: 1 「我兒阿！你要在基督耶穌的恩典上剛強起來。」八五年應聘至美國休士頓牧會，當年十二月生日當日，突接黃師母的電話祝賀我的生日，並說「若有什麼事情需要幫忙，請記得與我們聯絡，我們會盡力幫忙的，主必與同在且賜福你和你的家庭」。這是可等的寶貴！她不單給我生日祝福，並且是給每一位的教牧同工祝賀，關懷、支持和代禱呀！這令我在牧養中，也切實地為我的羊群的生日祝福禱告。黃師母謝謝妳！

C - Christ-Centeredness and Following in His Steps 加 1: 4 「基督照我們父神的旨意為我們的罪捨己，要救我們脫離這罪惡的世代。」腓 2: 5 「你們當以基督的心為心。」每次有機會與黃師母交通談話，她必鼓勵我，做人做事都必須以主為中心，以主的心為依據，事情才能榮耀主，造就信徒、建立教會和影響朋友歸向主。

E - Eagerness to Serve 提後 4: 2 「務要傳道，無論得時不得時，總要專心。」當我在美加華人浸信會聯會服侍時，經常要到加州，多次到 Milpitas 探望黃師母，她必定安排我，在她居住的長者宿舍的團契講道，她和羅恩光師母就負責領詩和司琴，她事奉的熱誠令我敬佩和羨慕矣！

S - Singing is Her Favorite Hobby 詩 89: 1 「我要歌唱耶和華的慈愛，直到永遠；我要用口將祢的信實傳與萬代。」黃師母有不少的嗜好，頌唱聖詩是她最熱情的，在香港或北美，甚至有一次聖地遊，在參觀耶穌的墓園時，即場唱奇異恩典和十字架，令我們整個旅遊團的團員動容，更深刻地體會主的捨命和犧牲！

今天我們在此追思緬想黃師母，主息了她的勞苦，
來 11: 4 說：「他雖然死了，卻因這信仍舊說話。」
黃師母，我們愛妳，但妳的生命見證，我以妳為榮、永誌不忘！

* 梁德舜牧師是美加華人浸信會聯會的顧問

In Loving Memory of Mrs. Frances Wong

Rev. Peter Leong

I repented of my sins, became a believer and was baptized into the fellowship of the Seremban Baptist Church in Malaysia on October 25, 1960. In 1961, I met the Rev. Paul Wong through the introduction of Rev. James Wong in 1961 at the Kuala Lumpur Baptist Church. Rev. Paul Wong was invited by the Malaysia-Singapore Baptist Convention as a speaker in their Revival Meetings.

In 1962, I responded to the call of God on my life. The following year, through the recommendation of Rev. John Lo, I became a student at the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary. I remembered vividly the day I arrived in Hong Kong when I was invited to lunch with Rev. James Wong, Rev. John Lo, Rev. Chung Wong and Rev. Paul Wong at the Dragon Phoenix Restaurant on Nathan Road in Kowloon. It was there that I renewed my acquaintance with the Rev. Paul Wong.

At the Seminary, Rev. Paul Wong was my instructor on the "Book of Colossians". I benefited much from his teaching. In 1970, when I graduated from the Seminary, I was called to serve as a minister at the Taipo Baptist Church. It was at the Women's Missionary Union there that I got to know Mrs. Frances Wong, his wife.

This afternoon, as the minister in charge of her Memorial Service, my heart is filled with fond memories and thanksgiving. The Lord really took good care of Mrs. Frances Wong as the Psalmist in 90:10 relates: "Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away." Mrs. Frances Wong lived to be 94. What graciousness and goodness, indeed!

Her name, "Frances" comes from the Latin which means 'uprightness', "trustworthiness" and "faithfulness". In the 50 years I have known her, I can attest that she is all that and more as she serves shoulder to shoulder with her husband in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Using her name as the acronym, let me describe her:

F—First Things First! Matthew 6:33 is her life verse: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Frances repented of her sins, trusted the Lord as her Savior, received the gift of salvation and followed the Lord from her youth—a worthy example for all of us to emulate.

R—Relying on God. Proverbs 3:5-6 looms large in her life. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." In my association with her and from her sharing, I came to know that ever since she and Rev. Paul Wong married in 1956, she stepped up into the role of co-shepherding the flock with him and went through many challenges and crises together. She helped me see that as a servant of God, if I would trust the Lord completely, He would lead and He would bless.

A—Appreciating Everything She Had. Philippians 4:11-13 "I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every

situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

Serving together with Rev. Paul Wong, whether it was the church in Hong Kong; the time when Rev. Wong was studying for the Ph.D. at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY; the church at Memphis, TN., or promoting the ministry and serving as the first Executive Director of the Chinese Baptist Fellowship of the US and Canada and even after retirement, encountering all sorts of situations, Frances was always by his side remaining steadfast in faith and serving together without complaining or murmuring. For these, I take my hat off to her!

N—Nurturing God’s Servants. I recalled the encouragement the Apostle Paul gave to young Timothy in II Timothy 2:1 “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.” In 1985, I was called to serve at a church in Houston. One fine day in December of that year, I received a call from Frances. She had called to wish me “Happy Birthday!” She even said that if I ever needed anything, I could let her know and she would do whatever she could to help. And she concluded by saying, “May the Lord be with you and bless you and your family.” How precious! I found out that she not wished me “Happy Birthday!” on my birthday, she would do the same for all the Baptist co-workers in the US and Canada, caring for them, supporting them and praying for them. Her gesture reminded me to care for my flock and to pray for them on their birthdays. Thank you Frances!

C—Christ-Centeredness and Following in His Steps. Galatians 1:4 “(Jesus Christ) who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,..” Philippians 2:5 “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:” Whenever I have the opportunity to chill with her, she would encourage me by reminding me to have Christ as my center and the heart of Christ in everything I do. Only then would God be glorified, believers edified, the church built up and those around me come to know the Lord.

E—Eagerness to Serve. II Timothy 4:2 “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.” When I was serving at the Chinese Baptist Fellowship of the US and Canada, I would make frequent trips to Milpitas, California and visit Frances. Without fail, she would arrange for me to preach at the Christian Fellowship at her Senior Housing facility. She and another minister’s wife, Mrs. Loh. were responsible for leading the music and providing the piano accompaniment. How I wish I could have such passion and zeal for the Lord at her age?

S—Singing is Her Favorite Hobby. Psalm 89:1 “I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.” Frances had many interests, but singing hymns is her passion whether in Hong Kong or in the United States. Once, when she was on a tour of the holy land, and we were visiting the tomb where Jesus had laid. She burst out singing, “Amazing Grace” and “At the Cross, At the Cross”. We were amazed and greatly moved. She helped us reflect more deeply the sacrifice of our Lord had made for us.

We are here to remember Mrs. Frances Wong. She had rested from her labor. The Book of Hebrews 11:4 says: “...by faith ... (he) ... still speaks, even though he is dead.” Mrs. Francis Wong, We love you. We will always remember your life as a powerful witness for our Lord and we are honored to have known you!

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