「禱告」是信徒最自然的一個動作,然而卻也是最缺乏的。許多信徒在信主之前已會「禱告」,但在信主之後竟仍停留在原地踏步,無甚長進。「禱告」是信徒,是神的兒女最神聖的權柄;將來在主基督面前交帳時,「禱告」恐怕會是信徒最羞愧的一件事!我們需要謹慎!

如今,主耶穌基督二次再來乃是愈來愈近。祂在客西馬尼園對門徒們的吩咐,特別震動我們的心:「總要警醒禱告,免得入了迷惑。你們心靈固然願意,內體卻軟弱了。」(太26:41)因此近幾年來,教會提出「40天禱告禁食行動」,鼓勵大家一同實踐主的吩

咐,在末世的紛亂中站立穩固。 2022年8月23日到10月1日, 是本年度「40天禱告禁食行動」 的日期。

《祷告與禁食的挑戰》呼籲 弟兄姊妹在這40天裡,學習順 服聖靈感動,向神許願,克服 聖靈感動,在「禱告與禁食」 有所突破!憑信心,至少實該 一件你從未作,但卻是應該作 的事!以下是實作建議:

- 1. 學習恆切禱告:在這 40 天,每天為自己定出一段時間,按「禱告日程」的進度向神禱告,不要間斷。
- 2. 學習開口出聲祈禱:從無聲默禱,學習出聲祈禱,好像與天父面對面說話一樣。不是要說得好聽動人,乃要學習真心敬虔在神面前傾心吐意。開口出聲祈禱,可幫助自己更加專心,不至思想渙散。
- 3. 學習與禱告夥伴一同禱告:從原先自己一人單獨禱告,開始學習與其他肢體建立「禱告夥伴」(弟兄與弟兄,姊妹與姊妹)。每天(或每週)固定時間一起禱告,操練同心向主祈求,互相督促鼓勵。彼此可以相約用電話,或在群組裡,用禱告文或語音禱告進行都可以,務要持續,也要努力克服困難。
- 4. 學習將禱告夥伴延伸:原來已是禱告 夥伴的,要學習去邀約別人組成新的禱告夥伴。

如此延伸擴大,以至有更多主內肢體藉著禱告能緊緊與主相連。禱告夥伴小組只要兩三人就好,不宜太大。以「弟兄約弟兄,姊妹約姊妹」為原則。若有兩人以上,則可跨性別。若超過四人以上,最好自動再分小組。

5. 學習寫「禱告日記」:將禱告內容用 文字紀錄下來,不是要作文章,乃是要留意 上帝的回應。因為若沒有日記,就會遺忘自 己的祈求。以至當神回應時,我們就沒有察覺, 也沒有感恩,真是非常虧欠。

6. 學習合乎上帝心意的禁食:實行禁食, 一定要按照神旨意,逐步進行。務必閱讀許

7. 學習建立恆切禱告 的生活習慣:在40天操練裡, 一邊持守向神許下的心願,克

服困難,恆切禱告,警醒感恩;一邊也要在神面前立下心志,將禱告與禁食的操練延續成為平日生活的一部份。禱告不是教條,禁食也不是律法,乃是最寶貴的屬靈特權,也是親近神的偉大恩典。務要珍惜,也要認真下工夫,不要辜負上帝的厚恩與大愛。

「禱告的對象是天父,內容是祈求感謝,但禱告的動機絕對不是要藉禱告來改變神,而是禱告的人要在禱告時完全降服於神,接受神的感動、操練與改變,願神的旨意成就。」因此,禱告不只是祈求神成就「代禱項目」,乃是謙卑求神在我們自己身上作工:我應該如何順服神?如何接受神的改變,並遵行動何順服神?如何接受神的改變,並遵行動行意?在今年的禱告禁食行動裡,讓我們從每一個「代禱項目」,看見神要我做什麼,而將自己獻上!

2022年度主题

## 活出盼望

八月份經文

至於我,我要仰望耶和華, 要等候那救我的神; 我的神必應允我。

(彌迦書 7:7)

許中生牧師謹禱

### 神路歷程 (二)

朱錦雲

### (接上期)

許牧師彬彬有禮,更有宰相肚裏可撐船的 氣度,是耶魯大學的碩士 (現在應已有了博 士學位),我們教會能持續40年不衰不是沒 有原因的。教會的詩班,雖沒有太陽谷 (Sun Valley)Grace Community Church 達百人以上 浩大磅礴的陣容、震撼心弦的大詩班之氣勢 (我和瑞丹每年參加他們的聖誕音樂會,16年 來從未間斷),但以我們教會的規模來說, 又經科班專業訓練出來的許師母的調教之下, 算是相當不錯。只可惜將近十年左右,由於 英文部的牧師不太穩定,加上我兩個兒子上 大學以及畢業後的工作變動,他們有好幾年 沒有來我們教會。至於我先生瑞丹,他出生 在基督教家庭,從小上主日學,宗教之基礎 及對聖經的瞭解程度比我高了好幾層。但他 自己也說,那段時間他也像迷失了的浪子羔 羊那樣,好幾年都心神不定。如路加福音中 所說:「只是你這個兄弟,是死而復活,失 而又得的,所以我們理當歡喜快樂。」(路 15:32) 他終於在15年前快快樂樂地每禮拜天 上 Grace Community 教堂。他非常喜歡那兒 的約翰·麥克阿瑟牧師。我也一個月騰出一個 禮拜天,陪他一起去那裏聚會。至於我們全 家重新同時再聚集於谷區國語浸信會,得拜 賜於十一年前英文部的余瑞祺牧師之坐鎮了。

參加主日崇拜的15年裏,我都在中文部 聚會。遠離家鄉這麼久,在家和先生只能講 英文, 連做夢也都說英文。能來中文堂說說 母語,真是不亦樂乎!我最高興的事就是我 和陳吳靜娟 (陳媽媽)、岳顧明明、孫聶莊 三位較年長的伯母、姊姊們成為忘年之交。 陳媽媽是30年代上海的聞名歌星歐陽飛鶯, 唱紅了那首人人皆曉的「香格里拉」。對於 愛音樂的我著實崇拜得很。顧大姊花了幾年 編撰《古今聖詩漫談》及《荒漠甘泉樂侶》, 也令人敬佩。我對她家的高級音響設備,羨 慕到極點。我們教會的第一個螢光屏幕就是 她和她先生岳弟兄奉獻的。聶莊和我的緣分 一直持續至今。她和先生孫弟兄是我們教會七 對創始人夫婦之一。她大概全世界都遊遍了 吧?她的每本旅遊後記都讓我讀得愛不釋手。 我告訴她,不把這些遊記送到報館去刊登實 在是罪過。對我這個也周遊了半個地球的旅 遊愛好者來說,她的遊記是我很好的導遊指南, 助益颇大。我們四人有時到中餐館品嚐中國 佳餚,偶爾也一起喝個咖啡。但最快樂的時 候是在教堂同桌用午餐,有時加上史久檉伯伯, 大家天花亂墜,談笑風生,無所不聊。真是

蒙主的恩典,那是段非常值得回味的時光!

八年前,我大兒子嘉明回到了教會的英文 部。余牧師的到來為教會英文部帶來了十年 的穩定,猶如雪中送炭。嘉明在黎雙進弟兄 的樂團帶領下,還打了木箱鼓,為許師母伴 唱英文聖歌 。瑞丹看到太太在此教堂的中文部, 兒子在英文部,他說他也要轉回到我們的教 堂,這樣一家人可以團聚在同一個教會。既 然兒子和先生都又回到了英文部,我自己也 覺得有必要轉到英文部和他們一起聚會崇拜。 余師母 Pat 是位很令人喜爱的人,和靄似姊, 慈祥如母。我上她的英文聖經班將近六、七年。 她接受我的意見,在課堂上教了約瑟及摩西 這兩位我喜歡的人物長達許久。我也經常幫 她招呼 CSUN 來學習的一些英文還不太熟練 的學生及交换學者。我們的「國際夫婦團契」 ICF (現改名為「國際文化團契」ICF),共 同分享經驗,禱告、同樂,並一起晚餐,是 我最盼望参加的團契。此團契的先生們大多 只講英文,而太太們都是講中文的姊妹們。 平常能以這樣的結合相聚的地方不多,但到了 我們的團契就如魚得水,個個舒暢,開懷暢聊。 我們如同一家人,又更像是好朋友。瑞丹和 我也曾當過國際團契的主持人。

五年前有位女士在我的電話錄音裏留了話。 她口齒不太清楚,我只聽到好像是「Lisa」這 個名字,其它的話和電話號碼我都無法辨認。 直到某天在中文部的程序單上看到為「李麗莎」 禱告的字樣,我才猛然聯想到那位在我電話 上留話的「Lisa」可能就是李麗莎。李麗莎是 我在芝加哥唸書時的室友。她純樸天真又善良, 很快地有了個在愛荷華州念博士的男朋友叫 章廣建,讓我們幾位禮拜六只能關在寢室裏 包包餃子、吃吃牛肉麵的室友們羨慕得不得 了。我搬到洛城之後,他們結了婚,但我們從 此失去了聯絡。沒想到我們教會幫我聯繫上了 幾十年失去音訊的同寢室友!在上英文聖經 班的時候,在角落裏常常看到一位坐在輪椅 上的弟兄,但萬萬沒想到那位竟是麗莎的先 生章廣建!當時廣建得了胰臟癌,又得每週 洗腎三次。麗莎患了將近15年的帕金森病, 背已經駝了,說話不清楚。我至為遺憾的是,

2022年8月 毎月通訊

在廣建去世前,雖然遠在天邊、近在眼前的 英文聖經班幾個月的時間裏,我卻沒認出他 而和他多多敘舊往事。所幸在我按期拜訪麗 莎之際,我曾有過兩次機會和廣建聊過一下。 他在四年前去世了。

我曾為兩個兒子的姻緣禱告了十年,毫無 進展。四年前,兩個兒子卻相繼成婚了!當 時讓我風光了好一陣。在教堂洗手間,有位 我不認識的姊妹,要求我教她怎麼禱告。我 笑著說,沒什麼特別訣竅。我們的天父有祂 的時間表,時機未到,我們見不到成果,但 主說到時候了,妳推都推不了。我永遠相信 任何感情都是雙行道的。我是個遵從聖經上 強調的以家庭為最重要的人。從一開始我就 不准中國幾千年的惡習——婆媳不合的情況 發生在我家裏。從她們結婚起,我就伸出雙 手,不偏不袒,無條件地愛護兩位媳婦。我 兩個媳婦都信天主教。大媳婦目前在初創業 的百忙之際,仍會抽空帶兩歲的小孫女到教 會來。小寶寶在一個多小時的牧師講道時間, 竟然也能安安靜靜地聆聽。有次大媳婦告訴我, 我和瑞丹是一對她至為崇拜的夫婦。我聽了 之後,真是心花兒朵朵開。我二媳婦和兒子 在聖地牙哥買了房子定居了下來,時常到當 地天主教堂去禱告敬拜。他們也常常回來探 望我倆老。有如此的媳婦們,夫復何求?

2015年,我和許牧師、師母,及一些弟兄姊妹們到台灣東埔和花蓮作短宣。其中的許多經歷是我從未有過的。和台灣極為鄉間的原住民老師和學生們共處、共唱、共樂了兩個禮拜,好令人難忘。期間和我同住的郭美秀姊妹曾經歷了奇蹟,找回了她至為珍貴的聖經。回來後我曾錄了一段小影帶做見證。我又再度增強了對主的信念。

一次主日聚會後,《溪邊的樹》同工王佐 治弟兄和我同桌用午餐。他好奇地詢問我可 否為月刊寫一篇文章。我告訴他,除了夢境 般的大學時代及窮苦潦倒初到美國的日子, 

## 王敬長老生平

孝婿蘇孝德敬筆

王敬長老於2022年7月4日,在加州Tarzana AvantGarde Senior Living 安祥離世,蒙主接回天家,享壽105歲。

王長老於1916年10月30日(農曆8月15日)出生在中國河南省開封。兒時喜歡音樂,因聲音嘹亮,記憶力好,又有表演天賦,但凡學校排演歌舞劇,他常是劇中的男主角。也因此常被軍中邀請,參加勞軍的演出。

高中畢業後,從軍報國,經歷打倒軍閥, 抗日救國的戰爭。1936年12月參加西安事變 營救領袖的工作,並於同年加入中國國民黨。 之後投身民族戰爭的大洪爐,抵抗日軍侵華, 得到抗戰勝利。

戰後 1946 年,在瀋陽與孫淑君姊妹結婚。 愛妻崇信基督,虔誠愛主。兩人相愛相知相 守70 多年,育有一女王希珠(已安息)。

1949 年共產黨接管中國大陸,王長老跟隨國民政府全家先後遷往台灣。繼續軍中生涯,參與高級軍事機關和國家安全會議等重要工作,頗有绩效。1964 年從軍職轉任文職,擔位交通部交通研究所主任,領導交通八業與相關軍事部門的研究工作。直到1984 年自公職退休,結束公務員的生活。

王長老童年時,星期天隨大姐到教會敬拜神,參加兒童詩班,福音的種子已深入心田。後來接受軍事訓練,離開了神將近40年。雖然如此,神一直保守帶領王長老。1949年1月28日,原準備搭乘太平輪遠赴台灣,當晚由於參加朋友的餐會,誤了船期,是主的攔阻,也是主的恩典。太平輪於當夜在舟山海域失

事沉沒。事後想來,這竟是上帝的安排和恩待,否則早已不在人世了。

1962年4月20日在新竹信義會勝利堂, 經由已是神兒女的妻子引領,王長老在復活 節的浸禮中受洗,正式成為基督徒。兩年後, 由執事而被按立為長老。

退休後,王長老全心全意投入基督教工作,1985年在台北附近建立了老人教會(翠柏基督教會)。1989年1月29日,蒙台北基督之家寇世遠監督按立為榮譽長老。1990年與愛妻移民美國依親,住在San Diego 女兒家附近。1994年搬到 Valencia,積極參與當地的教會活動與事奉,勤研經訓。2009年編成"十二籃零碎",奉献給教會。

2016年因年紀老邁,遷入 Arcadia 的退休養老村,得到老人需要的照顧。愛妻 2018年4月蒙主寵召後,王長老於 2018年5月轉到 AvantGarde。此後單身住在老人院,蒙主恩佑,深受谷區國語浸信會教牧團隊與弟兄姊妹熱心的關懷與愛護,直到壽終就寢,安息主懷。

惜別世上兩位外孫蘇裕安和蘇裕恩博士, 應赴與愛妻相約的猶大門重逢,並尋回愛女, 盼望在天家團圓。

王長老一生,為國、為家、為主,不辭勞苦,全力以赴,留下豐功偉績和美好的回憶。 無疑是個愛國救國的鬥士,忠實可靠的良伴, 偉大慈愛的父親與外公,和盡心盡性的神僕。 在世上的人生已經完滿謝幕,從此享受天國 的甘甜與喜樂。

## 懷念王敬長老

叢抒凡

王長老生前是我們津津樂道的不老神話, 他的長壽是神賜給我們教會的祝福,也是神 救恩的美好見證。

記得王長老和王師母還住在 Valencia 自己家裏的時候,我常有機會過去探望,有時候是從華人區回來,帶給他們喜愛的牛肉捲

王師母歸囘天家之後,長老從 Arcadia 的安養院搬囘谷區的安養院, 可以回到教會學會, 弟兄姐妹也方便探望。開始的時候還喜以帶長老到餐館打牙祭, 到華人超市買管制了安養院禁止探訪, 我去替長老辦理公證簽門,我去替長老辦理公證簽門,我去替長老辦理公證簽門,所上紙條, 問候長老。2021年來傳遞文件, 附上紙條, 問候長老。2021年縣禁之後, 院裏容許外人進去探訪, 也可以帶去麵點, 滿足長老的中國胃。

今年二月底去探訪長老時,長老諄諄囑咐,要我傳達對許牧師與弟兄姐妹的思念,報告教會之後,教會組成"王敬長老關懷團隊"群組,二十多位弟兄姐妹輪流去看望關懷長老親組,二十多位弟兄姐妹輪流去看望關懷長老,仿佛把教會帶到了長老面前,是他老人,在我後半年生活中最大的安慰。5月14日,在我為佳齡會所拍攝的視頻中,留下了姐妹們表為佳齡傳來單、整理房間,以及臨別時長老為大家禱告的珍貴鏡頭。



## 谷區國語浸信會

Mandarin Baptist Church of San Fernando Valley

9124 Zelzah Ave. Northridge, CA 91325

Tel: (818) 280-5271

Website: www.mbcsfv.org

「禱告」是信徒最自然的一個動作,然而卻也是最缺乏的。許多信徒在信主之前已會「禱告」,但在信主之後竟仍停留在原地踏步,無甚長進。「禱告」是信徒,是神的兒女最神聖的權柄;將來在主基督面前交帳時,「禱告」恐怕會是信徒最羞愧的一件事!我們需要謹慎!

如今,主耶穌基督二次再來乃是愈來愈近。祂在客西馬尼園對門徒們的吩咐,特別震動我們的心:「總要警醒禱告,免得入了迷惑。你們心靈固然願意,內體卻軟弱了。」(太 26:41)因此近幾年來,教會提出「40天禱告禁食行動」,鼓勵大家一同實踐主的吩咐,在末世的紛亂中站立穩固。

2022 年 8 **月 23 日到 10 月 1 日**, 是本年度「**40 天禱告禁食行動**」 的日期。

《祷告與禁食的挑戰》呼籲 弟兄姊妹在這 40 天裡,學習順 服聖靈感動,向神許願,克服 聖靈感動,在「禱告與禁食」 有所突破!憑信心,至少實該 一件你從未作,但卻是應該作 的事!以下是實作建議:

1. 學習恆切禱告:在這 40 天,每天為自己定出一段時間,按「禱告日程」 的進度向神禱告,不要間斷。

2. 學習開口出聲祈禱:從無聲默禱,學習出聲祈禱,好像與天父面對面說話一樣。不是要說得好聽動人,乃要學習真心敬虔在神面前傾心吐意。開口出聲祈禱,可幫助自己更加專心,不至思想渙散。

3. 學習與禱告夥伴一同禱告:從原先自己一人單獨禱告,開始學習與其他肢體建立「禱告夥伴」(弟兄與弟兄,姊妹與姊妹)。每天(或每週)固定時間一起禱告,操練同心向主祈求,互相督促鼓勵。彼此可以相約用電話,或在群組裡,用禱告文或語音禱告進行都可以,務要持續,也要努力克服困難。

4. 學習將禱告夥伴延伸:原來已是禱告 夥伴的,要學習去邀約別人組成新的禱告夥伴。 如此延伸擴大,以至有更多主內肢體藉著禱告能緊緊與主相連。禱告夥伴小組只要兩三人就好,不宜太大。以「弟兄約弟兄,姊妹約姊妹」為原則。若有兩人以上,則可跨性別。若超過四人以上,最好自動再分小組。

5. 學習寫「禱告日記」:將禱告內容用 文字紀錄下來,不是要作文章,乃是要留意 上帝的回應。因為若沒有日記,就會遺忘自 己的祈求。以至當神回應時,我們就沒有察覺, 也沒有感恩,真是非常虧欠。

6. 學習合乎上帝心意的禁食:實行禁食, 一定要按照神旨意,逐步進行。務必閱讀許 牧師的文稿「合乎上帝心意的禁食」,根據

聖經的教導,明白禁食的真義,明白禁食的真義,明白禁食的真義,明白禁食的真義,明白禁食的真義,何天頓開始,每星期選定期間,每星期,每星期,如須要有「刻苦已心」的禱必,如須要有「刻苦已心」,務必義,如須要有「刻苦之心」,務必義,亦有屬靈意義。

7. 學習建立恆切禱告 的生活習慣:在40天操練裡, 一邊持守向神許下的心願,克 服困難,恆切禱告,警醒感恩; 一邊也要在神面前立下心志,

將禱告與禁食的操練延續成為平日生活的一部份。禱告不是教條,禁食也不是律法,乃 是最寶貴的屬靈特權,也是親近神的偉大恩典。 務要珍惜,也要認真下工夫,不要辜負上帝 的厚恩與大愛。

「禱告的對象是天父,內容是祈求感謝,但禱告的動機絕對不是要藉禱告來改變神,而是禱告的人要在禱告時完全降服於神,接受神的感動、操練與改變,願神的旨意成就。」因此,禱告不只是祈求神成就「代禱項目」,乃是謙卑求神在我們自己身上作工:我應知何順服神?如何接受神的改變,並遵行神的旨意?在今年的禱告禁食行動裡,讓我們的旨意?在今年的禱告禁食行動裡,做什麼,而將自己獻上!

2022年度主题

# 活出盼望

八月份經文

至於我,我要仰望耶和華,要 等候那救我的神; 我的神必應允我。

(彌迦書 7:7)

許中生牧師謹禱

### My Road to God (2)

### Silda Chu Arkangel

(continued from last issue)

Pastor Hsu is quite a gentleman with a big heart. He got his master's degree from Yale University (by now he should have had a doctorate degree). We have to credit him for our church's stability and longevity for 40 long years. Our church choir, although not as grand as that of Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, which has over 100 members and a full orchestra, is pretty good considering the size of the church and the professional leadership of Mrs. Hsu who majored in music. By the way, Ridam and I have been attending the annual magnificent Christmas concerts of Grace Community Church for straight sixteen years. One thing I regret to say is that there was ten years of unstable situation among the English section of our church in terms of attendance. That together with my two sons' college education and their work, they stopped coming to our church and were not back until many years later. Ridam came from a Christian family and grew up attending worship services every Sunday. His understanding of Christianity and Bible is much better than mine. Yet, he was like a lost sheep for several years and felt something was missing. "But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." (Luke 15:32) About fifteen years ago, Ridam started going to Grace Community Church for Sunday worship. He found meaning in Pastor John McArthur's teachings. I also went along with him once a month. Regarding our whole family coming together to MBCSFV again, it did not happen until Pastor Ken Yee joined MBCSFV as the English pastor around eleven years ago.

My first fifteen years of attending this church was devoted to its Chinese section. I left my hometown so long ago. I only could communicate with Ridam in English... As a matter of fact, I even speak English in my dreams. Being able to converse in my mother language Mandarin here is a godsend. My great memory is forming a strong friendship with sisters Chen, Yue, and Sun despite our age differences. Sister Chen was a well-known singer in Shanghai in the 1930s. Her signature song "Shangri-La" became super popular then. As a music lover, I adored her so much. Sister Yue compiled Ancient and Modern Hymns and Streams in the Desert, which was very admirable accomplishment too. I was fascinated by the great sound system in her home. The first fluorescent screen in our church was dedicated by her and her husband. Sister Juliet Sun and I are still contacting each other often. She and her husband were one of the original seven couples of our church. Juliet must have traveled almost the whole world. I loved her trip journals and told her it would be a big shame if she did not send those articles to a newspaper for publishing. As a person who also traveled about half the globe, I used her journals as valuable travel guides. Four of us would sometimes go to Chinese

restaurants or Starbucks for "food fellowship." Yet, the happiest time was at lunch together in our church. Sometimes Brother Paul Shih would join us. We talked freely and discussed almost everything. I really miss that period of our life.

Eight years ago, my older son Jaming returned to our church. Pastor Ken Yee's coming to our English section with ten years of stability was a big bonus. Under Brother Michael Li's praise band, Jaming was the percussionist (cajon) and he also accompanied Mrs. Hsu singing English hymns. When Ridam saw that Jaming and I both were attending our church, he joined us. As for me, seeing my husband and son both in the English section, I realized that there was a need for me to switch to the English section, too, so our whole family could worship together. Mrs. Yee, Pat, was a well-liked person. Her kindness could be anyone's sister and her sweetness could be a mother. I participated in her English Bible study for six to seven years. She took my suggestions to teach my two favorite Bible characters, Joseph and Moses, for a long period of time. I also helped her with CSUN Chinese overseas scholars and students who still had some difficulties with the English language. Our ICF, "International Couples Fellowship" (now renamed to "International Cultural Fellowship"), is a group that share experiences, prayers, fun, and dinner. That is the gathering I eagerly look forward to each month. This fellowship is consisted of English-speaking husbands and Chinese-speaking wives. There are usually not too many occasions suitable for this kind of union. Yet, when in this fellowship, everyone is just like the fish being thrown into the water and we all become very alive among ourselves. We are like a family or good friends. Ridam and I hosted this fellowship for some time.

About four or five years ago, Mrs. Hsu asked me to be with her on stage leading the English praise songs. I love to sing, yet I had no vocal training. Knowing I had to put more effort into it, I practiced everyday diligently. After two years, although I did not improve much, I found out I could pick a new song much easier and quicker. I also love to hum to myself time and again. (My two-year-old granddaughter needs my singing to slip into her afternoon nap now.) One Sunday morning Pastor Ken introduced to a visiting pastor the three of us on stage as from one family: Ridam the moderator, Jaming and I the praise leaders. It was a glorious moment.

One day five years ago, I got a phone message from a lady. Besides a name of "Lisa", I could not figure out what she was saying and who she was until one day, on the church bulletin, I saw a prayer request for "Lisa Lee". It suddenly hit my mind that the "Lisa" in my phone message might be the same person as "Lisa Lee" in the bulletin. Lisa Lee was my roommate in Chicago. She was a very simple and sweet girl. Very quickly she had a boyfriend who was working on his PhD in Iowa University named Kuang-jian Chang. We roommates, who could do nothing more than wrapping some dumplings or eating beef noodle soup on weekends, were pretty envious of Lisa. They were married

after I moved to Los Angeles and we lost contact. I was very happy that our church helped us find each other! During the several months of our English Bible study, there was a brother in a wheelchair always sitting in the corner of the classroom listening. I never imagined he was Lisa's husband Kuang-Jian! At that time, Kuang-Jian already had stage-four pancreatic cancer. He was also under three weekly treatments of kidney dialysis. Lisa herself was battling Parkinson's disease for fifteen years. Her back was already hunched and had a speech problem. One thing I felt so sad and regretful was that I did not recognize Kuang-Jian even though he was sitting so close to me in the same classroom during those months' English Bible study. I could have recognized him and had had some good conversations to reminisce! Fortunately before he passed away four years ago, during my regular visits with Lisa, I got to talk with him twice. It was still a very great misfortune.

I had been praying for the marriage of my two sons for ten years without any result. Then, four years ago both got married! I was glorious for a while. One time in the church lady's room, a sister whom I didn't know asked me how I prayed. I smiled and told her there was nothing special about my prayer. Our Lord has His own time table. If it is not the time yet, it will not happen. If it is, it will just be bestowed onto us. I will forever believe any relationship is a two-way street. I go strictly by our Bible's doctrines of the importance of family. From the beginning, I would not allow the horrible relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, which exists in the thousand year history of China, to happen among us. From day one, I welcomed my two daughters-in-law with an impartial heart and loving gestures. Both of them are Catholics. Even during her busy period as a new business entrepreneur, Jaming's wife Dee tries her best to bring her two-year-old to church on Sundays. The little Justine could stay through more than an hour's sermon without making too much noise. Once Dee told me that she admired Ridam and me as a couple very much. I felt so touched and pleased. Jaway and Su bought a house in San Diego and settled down there. They go to Mass in the nearby cathedral and drive up L.A. often to visit us. With such wonderful daughters-in-law, we feel very blessed.

In 2015, I went with Pastor Hsu, Mrs. Hsu, and some other brothers and sisters on a mission to Dong Pu and Hua Lian in Taiwan. The experience was eye-opening for me. We spent two weeks in the very countryside with native teachers and students sharing gospels, hymns, and teachings. We had many unforgettable memories. My roommate, Sister Amy Chang, witnessed a miracle. She was heartbroken when she lost her favorite Bible and was tremendously grateful when she miraculously found it. After the mission, I recorded a short video about it as a testimony. This incident reinforced my belief in God.

I have a free spirit and dislike too many restrictions. These past 24 years I cannot say I contributed a lot to the church. I just try my

best to play a small part. I would like to bring up something that has been in my mind for a while. We all agree spreading the gospel is a great noble deed. However, sometimes we need to be wise. For example, once I brought a non-Christian friend to our church. That was the very first time this friend ever stepped into a Christian church. A sister, a veteran and senior member of our church, enthusiastically welcomed my friend. Within one minute this sister told my friend that she was born a sinner and that, if she did not believe in God, she would go to the miserable hell. I was not surprised that this potential Christian sister never showed up in a church again. In my opinion, the effectiveness of preaching the Gospel depends on who to preach, the occasion, as well as an appropriate time if we want to keep the communication open and going. I am also somewhat offended by nagging and forceful methods, which will many times result in a backlash reaction. I beg for all the sisters and brothers' opinions regarding my view.

One Sunday after sermons, Brother George Wang, the editor of our church monthly publication, Trees by the Creeks, and I were sitting next to each other in the lunch room. He curiously asked whether I was able to write an article for him. I said I did have a few articles published in the Chinese newspapers during my dreaming college years and melancholy early stage of migrating to the U.S. However, since then, I have not written anything in Chinese. For now I only pray that I will not misuse the Chinese words. The following Sunday he formally asked me to start writing and gave me two weeks to finish it. I bargained into three weeks. It turned out I completed my first draft in three days. In the middle of writing, I needed to call him and let him know I could not stop writing as soon as I started it, just like the torrents of the Niagara Falls. I worried that the article could be too long. He assured me it would be okay and even encouraged me to re-write it in English for future use. Thus, I felt comfortable to continue writing this long article. I have been in MBCSFV for so long and have so many stories to tell and share. It is part of my duty of serving our dear Lord. May God grant my wishes.

## 王敬長老生平

孝婿蘇孝德敬筆

王敬長老於 2022 年 7 月 4 日,在加州 Tarzana AvantGarde Senior Living 安祥離世,蒙主接回天家, 享壽 105 歲。

王長老於 1916年10月30日(農曆8月15日) 出生在中國河南省開封。兒時喜歡音樂,因聲音嘹亮,記憶力好,又有表演天賦,但凡學校排演歌舞劇, 他常是劇中的男主角。也因此常被軍中邀請,參加 勞軍的演出。 高中畢業後,從軍報國,經歷打倒軍閥,抗日 救國的戰爭。1936年12月參加西安事變營救領袖 的工作,並於同年加入中國國民黨。之後投身民族 戰爭的大洪爐,抵抗日軍侵華,得到抗戰勝利。

戰後 1946 年,在瀋陽與孫淑君姊妹結婚。愛妻崇信基督,虔誠愛主。兩人相愛相知相守 70 多年, 育有一女王希珠(已安息)。

1949 年共產黨接管中國大陸,王長老跟隨國民政府全家先後遷往台灣。繼續軍中生涯,參與高級軍事機關和國家安全會議等重要工作,頗有绩效。1964 年從軍職轉任文職,擔位交通部交通研究所主任,領導交通八業與相關軍事部門的研究工作。直到1984 年自公職退休,結束公務員的生活。

王長老童年時,星期天隨大姐到教會敬拜神, 參加兒童詩班,福音的種子已深入心田。後來接受 軍事訓練,離開了神將近40年。雖然如此,神 直保守帶領王長老。1949年1月28日,原準備搭 乘太平輪遠赴台灣,當晚由於參加朋友的餐會,誤 了船期,是主的攔阻,也是主的恩典。太平輪於當 夜在舟山海域失事沉沒。事後想來,這竟是上帝的 安排和恩待,否則早已不在人世了。

1962年4月20日在新竹信義會勝利堂,經由已是神兒女的妻子引領,王長老在復活節的浸禮中受洗,正式成為基督徒。兩年後,由執事而被按立為長老。

退休後,王長老全心全意投入基督教工作,1985年在台北附近建立了老人教會(翠柏基督教會)。1989年1月29日,蒙台北基督之家寇世遠監督按立為榮譽長老。1990年與愛妻移民美國依親,住在San Diego 女兒家附近。1994年搬到 Valencia,積極參與當地的教會活動與事奉,勤研經訓。2009年編成"十二籃零碎",奉献給教會。

2016年因年紀老邁,遷入Arcadia的退休養老村,得到老人需要的照顧。愛妻2018年4月蒙主寵召後,王長老於2018年5月轉到AvantGarde。此後單身住在老人院,蒙主恩佑,深受谷區國語浸信會教牧團隊與弟兄姊妹熱心的關懷與愛護,直到壽終就寢,安息主懷。

惜別世上兩位外孫蘇裕安和蘇裕恩博士,應赴 與愛妻相約的猶大門重逢,並尋回愛女,盼望在天 家團圓。

王長老一生,為國、為家、為主,不辭勞苦, 全力以赴,留下豐功偉績和美好的回憶。無疑是個 愛國救國的鬥士,忠實可靠的良伴,偉大慈愛的父 親與外公,和盡心盡性的神僕。在世上的人生已經 完滿謝幕,從此享受天國的甘甜與喜樂。

## 懷念王敬長老

叢抒凡

王長老生前是我們津津樂道的不老神話,他的 長壽是神賜給我們教會的祝福,也是神救恩的美好 見證。

王師母歸囘天家之後,長老從 Arcadia 的安養院搬囘谷區的安養院,可以回到教會聚會,弟兄姐妹也方便探望。開始的時候還可以帶長老到餐館打牙祭,到華人超市買他喜歡吃的椰子糖。2020 年受到新冠疫情的管制,安養院禁止探訪,我去替長老辦理公證簽名的時候,只能隔著玻璃門,請院裏的護理人員出來傳遞文件,附上紙條,問候長老。2021 年解禁之後,院裏容許外人進去探訪,也可以帶去麵點,滿足長老的中國胃。

今年二月底去探訪長老時,長老諄諄囑咐,要 我傳達對許牧師與弟兄姐妹的思念,報告教會之後, 教會組成"王敬長老關懷團隊"群組,二十多位弟 兄姐妹輪流去看望關懷長老,仿佛把教會帶到了長 老面前,是他老人家最後半年生活中最大的安慰。 5月14日,在我為佳齡會所拍攝的視頻中,留下了 姐妹們為長老更換床單、整理房間,以及臨別時長 老為大家禱告的珍貴鏡頭。



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