



# 溪邊的樹

2023年6月

谷區國語浸信會

每月通訊

已經是6月份了，我們正式進入夏天了！

夏季是休息的季節，對於在校學生而言，意味著學校放假，享受假期；夏季也是忙碌的季節，對於家長們來說，意味著要策劃、並完成外出旅遊的安排。同時，兒女放假是一個機會，讓家長有更多的時間陪伴孩子，並在這個過程中經營和享受家庭生活。

加州的6月本該早是炎熱至極，但今年不一樣，即使已到中旬，天氣仍然涼爽得不像在加州。教會的暑期聖經學校VBS就是在這樣涼爽舒適的天氣中開始，但顯然，老師和同學們的熱情不減。

我相信，在如此有趣、充滿啟發的聖經學校裡，小朋友們在老師和小助教們的帶領和幫助下，透過聖經故事、手工藝、遊戲和音樂，可更多了解關於神的真理，並能領受神特別的愛。

我們更當為他們禱告，求神藉著這一個星期的VBS，神將復興的種子植入兒童和青少年的心田，期待能夠發芽、成長，並讓他們一生跟從主……

我們教會六月份的信息主題仍然是「家庭」。六月的第三週主日是父親節，和五月份的母親節一樣，父親節也是主日。如果尋找歷史，我們會知道這兩個節日最早的記念（或慶祝）都發生在教會裡。因此對基督徒而言，過母親節和父親節可具體地提醒我們「孝敬父母」的誠命。

父親節是一個機會，讓我們表達對自己父親的感謝、尊敬，或思念。但同時，父親節可讓我們想起在天上的阿爸

父，以及祂對我們無盡的愛和恩典，讓我們一同感恩，並向祂獻上我們的讚美和敬拜。

說到父親節，我想起了《路得記》的男主角——波阿斯，他不僅承擔了作為至親親屬的責任，第四章中的他也成為了路得的丈夫，不僅如此，波阿斯更是俄備得的父親，而這俄備得是耶西的父、耶西是大衛的父。

六月份仍然按著《路得記》進行最後一章的釋經講道。《路得記》實在是希伯來文學中一顆無價的珍珠。它記述一些小人物在最黑暗的士師時代所經歷的蒙福故事，沒有大故事，沒有神跡奇事。但卻以含蓄的方式指出一個的重要信息：神在普通人的家庭中不斷工作。

同時，《路得記》中的各個人物都願意為其他家庭成員負責任，當他們彼此負責，為家庭各人盡上自己的本份時，最終也就成就了神的計劃，彰顯出祂奇妙的恩典。讓我們從《路得記》中不僅學習神的救贖歷史，也學習為家庭和眾人盡本份。

親愛的弟兄姐妹，最後我想說，夏天是一個放鬆和休閒的時刻，但我們不能忘記神是我們生命的中心。無論我們是渡假、旅行還是享受休閒時光，都要記得禱告、閱讀聖經和尋求神的旨意。讓我們把每一天都獻給神，把祂的話語放在心中。

2023年度主題

**激發愛心  
勉勵行善**

六月份經文  
**要向耶和華歌唱，  
稱頌祂的名！  
天天傳揚祂的救恩！**  
(詩篇96: 2)

陳道德牧師

## 阿爸、父阿

樓鎧牧師

不論古今中外，小孩牙牙學語時，往往最先學會的就是叫爸媽，在好些語言及方言中，叫父親為爸爸的，彼彼皆是，在中國、美國、法國等國都有叫「爸」的。就筆者而言，我母親是蘇州人，父親是杭州人，常言道「上有天堂，下有蘇杭。」我這樣的產品，小時候就叫父親為爸爸。北京人叫「爸爸」，四川人叫「爸爸」，廣東人叫「阿爸」，台灣人也叫「阿爸」。

其實早在二千年前，拿撒勒人耶穌也用「阿爸」來稱呼祂的父，在客西馬尼園中，耶穌面臨十字架的苦杯時，他說：「阿爸，父阿，你在凡事都能，求你將這杯撤去，然而不要從我的意思，只要從你的意思。」（馬可福音：14:36）

「阿爸」（Abba）是主耶穌時代當地流行的亞蘭語文稱父親的親密稱呼，是父子真情流露時的用語。

新約中保羅曾兩次應用同樣的稱呼。在給羅馬的信徒的書信中，他寫道：「你們所受的，不是奴僕的心，仍舊害怕；所受的，乃兒子的心，因此我們呼叫：阿爸！父！」（羅馬書：8:15）。在給加拉太的信徒信中，他又寫道：「你們既為兒子，神就差他兒子的靈，進入你們的心，呼叫阿爸，父。」（加拉太書：4:6）。「阿爸」既是對父親的深愛之稱，又是靈在信徒心中的感動的至誠吐露，在禱告中就自然脫口而出了。主耶穌這樣呼求，信徒們也應該如此呼求。

主在世時教導祂的門徒禱告，也在今天教導我們禱告，向天父的禱告是這樣的：

「我們在天上的父，願人都尊的名為聖。願你的國降臨；願你的旨意行在地上，如同行在天上。我們日用的飲食，今日賜給我們。免我們的債，如同我們免了人的債。不叫我們遇見試探；救我們脫離兇惡。因為國度、權柄、榮耀，全是你的。直到永遠。阿們！」（馬太福音：6:9-13）

聖經描寫我們的神是「孤兒的父」（詩篇：68:5），「我的父」（詩篇：89:26），「永生的父」（以賽亞書：9:6），「榮耀的父」（以弗所書：1:17）。愛我們的天父差遣了愛子耶穌為我們的罪釘死在十字架上，叫我們相信的，不至滅亡，反得永生！

我仍記得我的父親對我的期望之一是為他安置一個花園，可以讓他能在其中安享晚年。可惜天不假年，我以沒有能盡到孝道為憾。今天，

我惟一的祈望是在我有生之年為天父盡一份傳福音的棉力，讓我天上的「阿爸」開心。

【編者註】此文為樓鎧牧師 1995 年登於《黎明書信》

## 懷念我的恩師、貴人、義父

——梁在平教授

朱錦雲

最近不知怎地，時時想起了我這一生永遠令我感激不盡的義父——梁在平教授。我七歲時失去父親，但梁老師在我年輕時期給與我的安慰及幫助，不亞於親生父親。

梁在平教授是台灣的古箏及古琴權威。他一生致力於發揚這兩樣中國古樂器，直至 90 歲高齡去世，從未懈怠。1944 年他曾到耶魯大學進修音樂，把東方的音樂融入了西方的領域。梁教授從大陸撤退來台灣時，發現只有 2,000 人學古箏，但經過他的苦心經營、創作新曲、到各院校開班教授古箏、親自接收學生數百人、以及到世界各國演出發揚國粹，二十年後台灣的古箏學習者已達到 200,000 人，功不可沒。

我一生崇拜梁老師的豐功偉業，但最讓我懷念的是他對我的照顧之點點滴滴。大一那年，他到我們台中靜宜女子文理學院表演古箏。當時我從未見過這個樂器。但一個小時的演奏會，我全然陶醉在那高山流水般的美妙箏聲及淒涼顫抖勾人心弦的拂音。這箏聲繞樑三日，不絕於耳，我內心澎湃不已，終於決定把溢滿胸中的情懷訴諸於筆墨，以致寫了一篇「聽箏記」被刊載於中央日報上。事後梁教授在我們靜宜成立了「古箏社」。屆時他問我們的社長，為何我那麼喜歡箏聲，卻沒來報名？在得知我沒錢買古箏及交會費時，他就送了我一台古箏，且學費全免。這是他首次賜給我的恩典。他及師母二人都是非常虔誠的基督徒。使徒行傳 20:35「施比受更為有福。」雖然梁老師從未如此說過，但我知道他和師母心中常存此心，這也是他們以後一而再、再而三地照顧我的原因吧。大四那年，我有幸在學校歡迎于斌主教的節目中表演了一首古箏曲子，極感光榮也！

大學時我有近視。有天梁老師得知此事，問我為何不配眼鏡？我父母早逝，唸個私立大學已經令我力不從心。他馬上拿三百元台幣要我去買眼鏡。我覺得很不好意思，但在他堅持之下，我就得了一副免費眼鏡。寒暑假期間，梁老師把他的初期古箏學生全讓我教，



所有的教授費他全部作為幫忙我下學期的靜宜學費之用。我能順利大學畢業，梁老師的功勞不可少。

除了我幫他教學生，他也時時在百忙之際抽空繼續免費教授我新的困難箏曲。記憶猶新的一幕也是常讓我暖心的一個午後，我們在彈「蕉窗夜雨」，窗外冬雨滴滴答答，有個賣蕃薯的小販在外面叫喝著，他趕緊拿個銅錢叫我出去買熱蕃薯。我們一面聊著天、一面一同吃蕃薯，全身覺得熱呼呼、口甜甜的，溫暖極了！這個鏡頭我永生不忘！

大學畢業後，梁老師要我到他自辦的國際公共關係公司去幫他整理無數的珍貴環遊世界的演奏照片以及古今中外的音樂和他的音樂家朋友們的資料。四個月之後整理得差不多了，他認為不能讓我大才小用，就介紹我去應徵剛在台灣成立的荷蘭飛利浦電子公司當英文秘書。還記得9月28日孔子誕辰紀念日，孔廟有祭孔，他邀請了飛利浦公司董事長和夫人來參觀，請我當翻譯及解釋祭孔的形式及意義。我有點像是被趕鴨子上架，但也磨練了我用英文迎接貴賓的能力。

當時情實正開，我很認真地交上了第一個男朋友。交往一年後，有次他犯了一個不能彌補的錯誤，我毅然決然地在一個冬天的晚上當場和他絕交。屆時烈風苦雨，我自己覺得淒慘無比。我麻木地上了公車，渾渾噩噩地到梁老師家，看到他及師母，我倒頭就哭。他倆安慰了我一個晚上。事隔好幾個月我才恢復平靜。有次日本的 Seiko 鐘錶公司派來一位代理人到台灣來做推銷工作，梁教授以國際公共關係理事長的身分為此人開了一個盛會，請我幫忙招待。此代理為了感謝我熱誠的招待，送了我一枚很精緻的手錶。梁教授在台上看在眼裡，放在心裡。他把我叫到旁邊說：「錦雲，我知道妳在感情上剛受創不久，但一切得須小心，尤其和商人打交道，要好好保護自己。」這慈愛且細心的關切，怎能不說有如慈父呢？

我要出國到芝加哥造就之前，他幫我寫了一封不僅可作於學業，且能幫助我事業的介紹信。我在芝城時，梁教授曾到加拿大和他在溫哥華大學教授中國音樂的二兒子同開演奏會。完畢後，他又來美國做好幾場的環美古箏演奏。我曾伴他到西北大學彈奏了兩首曲子。1976年我在洛杉磯的時候，也陪他在 UCLA 奏了幾曲。真是好大的榮幸！

他每次到洛杉磯時，都住在我家。他帶來了一把極為珍貴美麗的古箏送給我，上面有鑲著非常燦爛奪目的貝殼。古箏底用我的名字

篆刻了一首詩。他說這可作為我在家教古箏學生之用。我家目前有八樣他送的古箏、字畫、及明朝古董花瓶做擺設。每每看到這些珍品，心中就生起了無比的思念。

我結婚生子後，有次梁老師在我家說想收我做乾女兒。我很感動也頗為激動。多年來承蒙他的照應，他足足有餘當我的義父。這些日子我在家閱讀梁教授所有送給我的書籍及信件，才發覺他的母親也是在他17歲時逝世的，就像我一樣。我想義父看到我，也許就想到他自己失去母愛的悲痛。以弗所書5:1,2「你們該效法上帝，好像是蒙慈愛的兒女一樣，也要憑愛心行事，……」想來義父就是秉著聖經上這點來如此照顧晚輩的吧？

我這輩子受梁老師的恩惠如此多，也就想想如何回饋他人。常聽先生瑞丹提到他在越南服役打仗的那年，他親身體驗的同袍們歷經生死、斷臂失腿等不幸的事情常讓我動容不已。所以我所有的捐贈都給了殘障軍人機構，四十年來從不間斷。馬太福音7:12「所以無論何事，你們願意人怎樣待你們，你們也要怎樣待人，……」在此六月父親節之際，同時紀念義父梁在平教授逝世23年紀念月，謹以此文悼念與天父同在的義父，以聊我永恆感激之愛心。

## 懷念我的父親李國生

李家陽

2018年7月我父母及二姐一家來美國探望我。來美國之前的一個月，父親去醫院做了身體檢查。他已經有兩年沒做體檢。這次體檢的結果，發現他的前列腺特異性抗原 (prostate-specific antigen, 簡稱 PSA) 指數為13 (4 ng/ml 以下為正常值)，這是嚴重超標了。父親開始不能接受這個結果，要求再做一次 PSA 檢測，但結果出來不但沒有比之前的低，反而更高，第二次的檢測結果是15。醫生說父親的前列腺癌和一般的不太一樣，屬於活躍性很強的癌症。由於啓程來美國的日期已經很靠近，醫生安排給父親注射 Lucrin，那是一種通過減低體內睪丸激素來達到療效的藥物。

這一切發生得太突然，不僅爸爸本人無法接受，就連媽媽和我們四個兄弟姐妹也極度傷心，失望到極點。考慮到父親的健康狀況，原先已安排好來美國的很多行程，包括二姐一家要帶父母去“優勝美地”的行程，都一一取消了。父親一直很希望去紐約，去看看自由女神像，我清楚知道這個行程絕對不能取消。



感謝神我帶了父母到美國東岸一週，終於圓了父親的夢。父親身體雖然時常會感到疲累，可是每到一個景點他都很興奮。我記得我們坐船近距離觀賞自由女神像時，父親還第一次學會了用他自己的手機照相。

回到馬來西亞，父親去做了一次CT掃描。不出意外，CT報告的結果並不樂觀，癌細胞已經有擴散的跡象，而且已經轉移到他的頸椎。醫生認為父親無法接受前列腺切除手術，因為癌細胞已經擴散。父親在2019年繼續接受注射Lucrin的治療，每三個月注射一次。父親在這期間雖然有病在身，卻仍然繼續仰望神，不住禱告。除了要定時去醫院復診，他的日常生活都還算正常，母親也不辭勞苦地為爸爸做飯，為的是讓他去醫院時體重可以維持正常。在疫情期間上帝特別恩待父親，讓他免受新冠病毒的感染。

一年過去了，Lucrin注射的療效不理想，PSA指數並沒有下降。醫生決定用chemo(化療)，父親沒有拒絕醫生的提議，而是積極配合新的治療方案。不像藥物注射治療只需三個月去一次醫院，化療要求父親幾乎每二至三週就必須去醫院。在醫院需要抽血，服用化療藥劑。疫情期間，醫院還要求病人做核酸檢測，這些佔據了大部分時間。父親的抗癌之旅充滿了挑戰和艱辛，他經歷了漫長而艱苦的治療過程，但他從未放棄。無論是面對副作用、疼痛還是身體虛弱，他總是以積極的心態配合治療。在他與癌病博弈期間，我們全家團結一心，盡全力為父親提供精神支持和健康照顧，讓他感到溫暖和愛。我們一起度過了許多珍貴的時刻，分享笑聲和淚水。

父親前後總共經歷了三個療程的化療，每個療程需要注射10次chemo藥物，這期間醫生用盡了所有的藥物。醫生親自對父親說他的奮鬥精神就像在戰場上的勇士，奮鬥到底，毅力驚人，很少人能辦得到。的確，父親到最後仍詢問醫生還有什麼藥可以使用，可是醫生提議父親暫停化療，以紓緩治療，在家臨終，也就是我們知道的臨終關懷。這是2022年的9月。從那時候開始，父親的身體一天一天的虛弱，無法進食，只能靠少量的Ensure奶粉來維持，大多數時間都臥牀。

感謝神疫情接近尾聲，我有機會分別在2022年7月和10月回家探望父親兩次。由於路途遙遠，每次回去都儘量多花一些時間陪伴父親，也給母親精神上支持和鼓勵。父親的身體雖一天不如一天，可是他的頭腦卻非常清醒。後期他雖然行動不便，可是他完全沒有退出一家之主的寶座，家裏大大小小的所有事情他都一清二楚，明白無誤地交代我

們一一去處理，當然也包括交代他身後的事情。2023年2月21日，美西時間清晨3時15分，父親解脫了地上的痛苦，蒙主恩召，被主接回天家。我和妻兒我們一家大小帶着沉重又不捨的心情返鄉，參加父親的追思禮拜。

父親離開了我們，但我對他的回憶將永遠留存在心中。父親非常顧家，和母親一起撫養我們四個兄弟姐妹。我是老么，上面有兩個姐姐和一個哥哥。父親後期雖然臥牀，卻很關心我母親，經常問她錢夠不夠用。還說，如果他身體好一些，他很想和母親去外面吃一餐。父親非常重視孩子們的教育，省吃儉用投資在子女們的教育上。我大學本科畢業後，靠自力讀研究所。畢業後，父母還寄錢來獎勵我。找到工作上班後，我邊工作邊考艱難的加州註冊土木工程師執照，前後失敗過好幾次。每次考試失敗，父親總說，“陽，辛苦了。你工作之外，還要照顧家庭，準備考試，真不容易。”父親的一番話對於我來說就是最大的鼓勵，讓我有力量繼續努力，父親抗癌的精神也就是我最大的推動力。看到他的拼力堅持，我告訴自己也一定要努力。我們互相鼓勵對方。最終我順利通過考試，獲取了執照。父親是無比的欣慰和開心，他要求我把證書掃描給他，他把證書打印後收藏起來。

感謝神父親是一位基督徒，主耶穌早已為他預備了天上永遠的家，並親自來接他回天家。我的心裏雖然極為不捨，可是我確信我們將來還會在天堂相見。對於父親在抗癌期間的奮鬥和勇氣，我永遠懷有感激之情。爸爸，您是我永遠的英雄，您的精神將一直在我的記憶中閃耀，激勵我在生活中勇往直前。您的勇氣將永遠激勵我成為一個更好、更堅強的人。爸，您是我永遠的榜樣和指引，我將努力成為一個讓您驕傲的人。

愛您的兒子  
家陽

## 懷念施伯伯

楊惠民

九十六歲高齡的施伯伯，今天在愛的環繞中安祥地被主接走，安息主懷，榮歸天家，好得無比！我們都深情地懷念他！作為加入教會比較晚的我，雖然對施伯伯長期服事教會的感人事蹟了解不多，但近幾年來我親眼見到的些許往事，卻給我留下了極為深刻的印象：

一. 精神矍鑠神采奕奕的高齡信徒

我剛開始參加教會的主日崇拜活動時，經常看到一位長者早早來到教堂，高高興興地參加教會活動，熱情地向大家招手致意。我猜年齡像是七十歲左右的樣子，但常常是西裝革履，精神飽滿，行動敏捷，笑容可掬。他得體的穿著及良好的精神狀態，彰顯他對主的忠誠及對教會的熱愛。經一弟兄介紹我們相識，才知道是施敏功伯伯。我說我是剛從大陸來的，請施伯伯今後多指教。施伯伯非常謙虛，說我們共同學習，感謝讚美主。令我驚奇的是當我冒昧問他年齡時，他說他已經八十好幾，快九十歲了！我問他有什麼養身之道？他告訴我，要堅持運動，要心態平和。更主要的是信靠主，就有身心健康，讚美主，就有平安喜樂。他言簡意賅的幾句話，蘊含著豐富的道理，讓我記憶猶新。

## 二. 與教會共享九十歲生日的喜樂

記得有一次主日崇拜活動結束後，大家在一起用餐時，許牧師向大家介紹，說今年施伯伯就九十歲了。今天施伯伯特意帶來了碩大的生日蛋糕，與大家分享他的喜悅。接著施伯伯發表了熱情洋溢的講話，大廳響起了祝你生日快樂的歌聲。這是弟兄姐妹們對施伯伯的真誠的祝福，也是教會對施伯伯長期服事主的充分肯定和讚賞。

## 三. 心心繫念著教會的弟兄姐妹們

施伯伯手術後，住進了康復中心，得到了醫生護士的精心照顧，玲羽和牟憶兩姐妹極盡孝心，經常守護在施伯伯的身邊，許多弟兄姐妹前往康復中心看望施伯伯，送去溫暖和關愛。施伯伯也特別想見到教會的弟兄姐妹們。經過充分準備和周到安排，去年教會舉行感恩節聚會時，施伯伯坐著輪椅來到了教堂，見到了眾多弟兄姐妹們，實現了他的夙願。大家與施伯伯熱情交流，攝影留念，留下了美好的記憶。我當時拍了一個視頻，內有施伯伯與大家共享感恩盛宴的鏡頭，將轉發至西區微信群，以茲懷念。

## 四. 堅持禱告至生命的最後時光

施伯伯和致遠弟兄及我在同一個禱告小組，一年多來，我們幾乎每個星期三早上九點多鐘，由致遠弟兄用電話將我們匯集在一起向上帝潛心禱告。我們也利用這個機會互相通報近況，我們最關心的是施伯伯身體的恢復。據玲羽介紹，施伯伯非常期盼星期三上午與我們一起禱告的時間，讓玲羽事先將當天的《活出美好》等內容發給施伯伯。一直到今年的五月份，施伯伯都

堅持與我們一起向上帝獻上禱告，而且狀態很好，說話聲音宏亮，頭腦清醒，還能背誦主禱文。沒想到施伯伯今天卻忽忽地離我們而去，實有不捨！

親愛的施伯伯：我曾經拜讀過你寫的自傳，深受感動，我知道你是一個閱歷非常豐富的人，是一個勇敢奮鬥直面人生的人，是一個善良正直樂於助人的人，是一個心胸開闊充滿愛心的人，是一個偉大的成功的父親，更是一個虔誠的基督信徒！今天你圓滿地完成了在人間的大使命，卸下了人間的重擔，回到主的身旁，永住耶和華的殿中。願你在天堂永享安寧！

【編者註】施敏功弟兄六月十三日上午被主接回天家

## 苦難與命運

施敏功

上了袁牧師有關“苦難”的課程，開啟了我有歡樂、有風雨的顛簸人生。如今靠著主的恩典，無怨無悔，一切盼望超過我所想所求，滿心歡喜度過豐富的一生。

一生中難免有遇到苦難，包括天災人禍，病痛和意想不到的難處，有大有小，只是輕微與嚴重之別。

我自18歲那年因政治迫害，離家出走至沖繩，服務接收美軍剩餘物資的物資供應局至上海淪共，大陸變色，物資改運台灣。

1949年4月乘接收二次大戰的登陸艇風平浪靜地抵台灣高雄，服務經濟部重機械廠，吃住在廠內，生活安定。當時年青力壯，意氣風發，下班忙著約會，喝酒熬夜，為要展示肌肉，每天下班後，勤做伏地挺身，單雙槓下工夫。在少眠，少營養，休息，透支情況下，某日，分派在日據時代的高雄半屏山洞內工作，空氣污濁，充滿疝氣潮濕，水滴不斷，不經意突吐出一口鮮血。當時年青無知，理應停止一切活動，躺下休息。下午和朋友相約在廠後海灘游艇上潑水嬉戲後，回宿舍沖涼時，一陣惡心，滿口鮮血噴出，一口接一口，盛積在臉盆，驚惶失措。醫師診斷鑑定為運動過量，以致造成急性肺結核，立即住院。廠長看到這情形，驚訝之餘，立即交待醫師給最新研發上市的肺結核特效藥。住院期間，持續使用。

那年代，人們談到T. B.，噤若寒蟬，死亡率很高。

公司用心良苦，怕傳染到別人，特地把我



安置在郊區一所儲存物資的倉庫，那裏足可安放一張床和一張桌子。搭伙在警衛，那裏大部是北方人，每天啃大餅，吃大饅頭，生活過得很好。

偶有公司來提貨，只要清點一下，工作輕微，等於帶職療養，把清靜的時間和心靈專注在養身。薪水大部用於各種補品，克寧奶粉（代鮮奶）必不可少，牛油、魚肝油、維他命等。

在一片空曠綠地，和寧靜的環境下，拈花惹草，養雞養鴨，平時自修英文，讀報，時間就這樣打發。也常活殺自養的雞，煮湯進補。

住所周圍一片荒地雜草叢生，某日深夜，被一陣雞舍尖叫吵醒。起來，手電筒一照，嚇得我兩腳發軟。只見一條烏青長蛇正盤住母雞，作生死爭扎。即喚警衛求助，馬上趕來，不慌不忙，一手抓住蛇頸，拎起三兩下不斷摔丟，直至斷氣。動作俐落，令我印象深刻。

果然，公司提供如此優越環境給我靜養二年後，病情來得快，去得也快。經X光檢查，醫師診斷已鈣化，聽了讓我開心無比。所幸年青，強壯的生命力使我恢復痊癒，讓我逃過一場九死一生T. B. 劫難。

逃過這場惡運，五年過後，一種罕見的眼疾（pterygium）形同一片浮雲向黑烏珠慢慢推移，直到烏珠全墨，就成了瞎眼。為此困擾許久。很巧有位剛從美國受訓回台的陸軍醫院眼科醫師對我說：手術成功率50%。再三考慮，別無選擇，只有冒險一博。感謝這位技術精湛的醫師，借著上帝的手，治癒了我的眼疾。50年過去了，相安無事。後來聽說這位醫師因放高利貸被騙，上吊自殺，令我不勝懷念。

1960年韓戰爆發，C. A. T.（亞航）招兵買馬，待遇優厚，經過嚴苛層層篩檢通過被錄用。1967年被調往越南，直至1975年四月淪共。

隨著歲月流逝，對經歷一場驚心動魄的越南撤退，終生難忘。

1975年4月，越南局勢淪亡前夕，因有美國人道援助計劃，接收數萬難民，全國軍人百姓都爭相逃亡，亂成一片，西貢新山一機場人山人海，人們驚慌失措，只求逃亡一命。

經過一夜猛烈的火箭攻擊，跑道已被炸毀，飛機改由滑行道起飛。起飛不久，引擎前晚被火箭彈片擊中發生漏油故障，我靠窗看見只有一只引擎在轉。隨即分發救生衣，心中忐忑不安，萬一另一引擎出了毛病，一頭栽下，不是怒海葬身，就是魂歸西天。

老美駕駛員沉著地把飛機迫降崑崙小島。一降落，見有大批軍人佩戴槍枝，攜家帶眷，

個個氣急敗壞，殺氣騰騰，局勢嚴峻複雜，危機四伏。傳言萬一要挾，堅持同搭我們飛機，必然老命一條，同歸於盡。真是險象環生。留下修護人員搶修外，接長官指示，其餘可以走人。瞬息萬變，在分秒必爭之際，直升機下來，一個轉身躍上天空，直飛美運輸艦SARATOGA，慶幸平安脫離凶險。後面一架越南空軍直升機接踵降下，Marine對飛行員搜身，槍支丟入海中，接著把直升飛機推下，濺起一片浪花。難得一見的場景。

最後輾轉到一艘二萬噸的Greenport商船上。來自漁船，以及海空各管道的男女老幼、軍警、婦女、孩童、妓女、扒手、流氓等，估計約5000人如沙丁魚般擠在這條船上。同仁合成一組，首要任務是找個安身立命之處。大家紛紛將各人隨身行李中的被單毯子拿出來，在滾燙似烤箱的艙底用舊紙板和報紙墊在艙底一角，二個TaTa米大小的角落，算是我們暫時的吃住居所。

在美國航艦“中途號”保駕下，有護航艦及難民船數十條，泊在酷熱的太平洋上，只等待五角大廈的命令，方可啟航。

人們把甲板 and 艙內擠得水洩不通，船沿走廊拉起繩索，用電線蓋以被單毛巾等搭建防風避雨的臨時居所。熱浪滾滾的太平洋，高溫達到華氏140多度，食物分配以家庭或小組為單位，每日二次分配米飯、麵包及雜糧、水果等。兩手捧著刷牙杯，花瓶，頭盔，空罐等，只要能裝水的盛器，排隊苦等二、三小時才輪到從美海軍陸戰隊上配得一瓢水。汗流不止，衣服剝到赤膊。人可沒有食物活命，但不能沒有水。沒有經過這樣的經歷，不能體味何謂滴水如金。

苦等煎熬一星期後，終於啟航，大家歡聲雷動，目的地菲律賓。次日，停泊蘇比克灣外海。消息傳來，如無越南家屬的美籍和服務美政府的T.C.N.（第三國籍）可以搭乘小艇上岸，我們一夥同仁即刻登記批准登岸。大家以羨慕祝福與患難朋友揮手道別。上岸後，受到美軍婦女會以貴賓式熱誠招待，送上熱毛巾，咖啡，飲料，噓寒問暖。真是受寵若驚，一如由地獄進入天堂。經過軍方妥善安排，當晚直飛關島，入住供吃供住的難民營。

命運跟著苦難走，在看不見的一雙天父的手引領下，逃過萬難，脫離凶險，進入安祥之地，驚險刺激的逃亡之旅至此告一段落。

最後祝福那些留在越南多年的同事，當年兵臨城下，江山丟失，大勢已去，到最後，看到他們個個愁眉深鎖，憂傷無奈的眼神，與他們含淚告別，不禁黯然。

【編者註】本文為施敏功弟兄2021年3月所作

## 從外孫女高中畢業談起

施敏功

女兒對我說：爸，因為畢業典禮費時太久，恐怕您忍受不了，所以沒有邀請您。短短幾句話，打開了我心中無限的追憶。

從外孫女哇哇落地開始，我與太太推著嬰兒車隨著女兒家的搬移，漫步走遍不同地區的林蔭大道，兩旁盛花怒放的美麗景色，懷念不已。

後來進了學校，從幼兒班開始，中學一路跟著她的興趣參加社區的足球比賽，馳聘球場上的拼搏。我們在場為她加油打氣，作拉拉隊，直至每晚勤練小提琴，我們安坐在旁，靜聽演奏，鼓勵欣賞，後來考進社區著名交響樂團。這一路走來，她在學校功課的重重壓力下，每晚用功到深夜，不禁令人心疼。她努力不懈，功課不落人後，看著她婷婷玉立，轉瞬間，高中畢業，八月將入讀大學，步入成年人的里程碑，怎能不為她高興歡喜。

60年代，我服務於亞洲航空公司。當時越戰局勢緊張，公司業務倍增，我被緊急調派去越南。當時我結婚二年後剛生下女兒，為慶祝週歲，邀請了一桌親友。宴席分散後，滿懷即將與妻女分離難捨的心情，漫步公園，抱著不懂事的一歲女兒，千思萬縷，憂心如焚，離別前留下一張珍貴難忘的合家照！

婚後育有二女，妻一面工作，一面全心照顧女兒，讓我在外放心，無後顧之憂。經常面臨生死攸關時，始終從容以對，以書信電話得安慰，確保我在外一切平安。

原想調去越南，有優厚的海外津貼，工作幾年，存些錢，回來買幢房子，讓下一代過好日子。那知一去，(1967-1975)直到越南淪共前後竟8年。

公司要化一大筆錢調派一人去外站。調至外站後，不是要想回來就能回來，要看各人的工作表現。如果工作得不到上級認同，考績不合格，要想多留一分鐘也不行。記得一位同事調來西貢不到半年，恰逢公司業務不景氣，加上平時考績平平，接到通知，手裏拎了裝有髒內衣的塑膠袋，被警衛押上飛機的狼狽情形。

另一案例恰恰相反，有位受到上司賞識的同事，因時局緊張，家內堅持要他回台，公司嚴格規定，在公司需要的當口離職，將永不錄用。調回台灣後，找到遠東航空公司，由高雄北上報到第一天，飛機失事殉難。生命操在上帝手中，一切後悔晚矣！

人的一生活，都為了下一代的教育與追求

美好的生活打拼，付出辛勞各異。越戰期間，多少驚險刺激的經歷，使我的人生多彩多姿，但也遭受與家人分離及失卻親情的愁腸苦斷的情懷。隨著歲月的流逝，一去不返，終生遺憾。

結婚後，聚少離多，女兒長年見不到爸爸的縱影。每逢佳節倍思親，逢過年和佳節，妻必叮嚀女兒要記得遠方的父親。於是妹妹負責美工設計，姐姐作文字，二人用手工合作製作了卡片。當我在隆隆炮聲中，一張精緻的卡片拿到我手上時，帶給我的是多少的溫暖和思念。

公司對員工的福利照顧無微不至，每年可以全家免費遍遊世界各地。某年暑假，妻帶了四歲與六歲兩個女兒來越南芽莊，我工作的所在地。這個城市以銀色沙灘景色秀麗聞名，那裏設有美國領事館。星期日，一早，司機拿了剛從油鍋炸出爐的熱騰騰甜甜圈，直接送到家來，女兒最喜歡吃。令人印象深刻。我帶了她們去俱樂部品嚐漢堡，熱狗，pizza等，又去海灘戲水玩樂，歡度了假期。無奈假期告終，她們匆匆離去，給我留下無限傷感。

為了方便員工旅遊，各主要航空公司派有專員常駐人事部，處理我千餘員工和家屬繁復的旅行事誼，熱心服務週到，從護照，海關安全檢查等一直送上飛機。我隨機送她們到香港後，她們轉機回台灣，我便折返回西貢。抱著沉重的心情走回家門，見到玩家家酒的杯盤碗筷等玩具和拖鞋散落一地，不禁失聲痛哭。為了下一代必需付出的代價。

妻於三年前突感視力模糊，急送醫院，經各種嚴密檢查，找不出病因，某晚，突然全身癱瘓，疑是腦部被細菌感染，從此昏迷沈睡不起，三星期後在無傷痛折磨下，安然離去，留下家人悲痛欲絕。

時光荏苒，從當年滿懷雄心斗志，意氣風發的年青人，轉眼已是白髮蒼蒼。一生經歷多少艱險風浪，在危機四伏、險象環生時總是化險為夷，進入平安。如今雖已高齡，身體尚健。每星期二次的高爾夫，參加教會活動，以及寫作，這些是我生活的全部。短程開車，起居一切自理，滿心感謝上帝的引領祝福！

這種在歲月的傷痕裡來回穿梭於我記憶的深處，是如此的綿長而刻骨銘心。藉著外孫女高中畢業之際，略略抒發洶湧的思緒。

【編者註】本文為施敏功弟兄2019年8月所作



## 投稿的苦與樂

施敏功

我最早嘗試寫作投稿是1980年間。當文章被登出，除了充滿信心與喜悅外，激勵自己要繼續多讀多寫，在寫作上培養出興趣。

1967-1975被公司調去越南，在越戰八年期間發生的許多驚心動魄的故事，常是我寫作的題材。

由於那個年代為生活打拼，忙於工作，除了偶而投下一篇，無暇安心寫作。世報是我數十年每日必讀的精神食糧，也是我投稿的園地。

寫作生涯中，文章的主題大綱決定後，收集資料，靜下心來，用盡心思，把文章需加添，刪除，修了改，改了修，上上下下，來回重復閱讀，力求文章融會貫通。有次，稿子投出後不到24小時，就傳來了得到採用的好消息，高興萬分。但也有稿子投出後，石沉大海，訊息全無。沉寂多時，文章突然在某日的某篇幅中冒出來，驚艷無比。

常時遇到退稿時，心情鬱卒，於是責怪自己文學根底淺薄，閱讀的書籍太少。只得摸摸鼻子，辛酸失望下，信心備受打擊。但回過頭來想想，世報一定有專業文藝學養兼優、強大的審核團隊小組，拒登或因體裁不適，或因字數篇幅的限制等種種原因，婉拒登載，也是合情合理的。

1995年四月下旬，為要趕在越戰二十週年紀念前刊出，用心詳細描述西貢撤退經歷。為了爭取時間，犯了公司上班時不及私事的規定，利用公司時間，快馬加鞭疾書，終於完成稿件，並即刻寄出。不到一星期的某晚，我渡假在Miami時，接到女兒的電話告訴說，我的文章已被登出，興奮得一夜沒有好睡。登出時，世報以特大標題“終戰二十週年，難忘逃亡之旅，撤離越南，驚心動魄”標出。

2014年世報為鼓勵大家寫作，舉辦了首次“大家來寫書”的活動，打動了我的心。開始覺得自己才疏學淺，後來想到我一生中有經歷二戰和越戰的豐富歷練，尤其有越南撤退驚心動魄的經歷，於是下了決心，起而行，收集了些老照片和曾經被世報登過的文章共

累積了六萬多字，化了一年的時間，整理寫下首卷回憶錄《晚霞無限好》，獲世報“大家來寫書”出版。我一生服務職場的二十大公司，一為亞航（美航），共18年，另一為半導體公司Micom System, 13年，佔了我一生最珍貴的黃金歲月。我於1997年4月退休，在安排退休規劃中，寫回憶錄是我預定的目標之一。感謝世界日報給我這個機會，達成我的願望。

最近的一次屢投屢退的重挫經歷，分析退稿原因，可能是內容不適合世報的各種分類系列的胃口，或由於篇幅內容和字數的種種限制，報社建議轉投某類欄目。最近有篇文章初投世界週刊被拒，再投世副“家園”欄目也被退。我善不罷休，再接再勵，勇而不退。再次投稿時被“上下古今”欄目接受，讓我肯定自己的努力沒有白費，也增加了我的信心，給我一次寶貴的經驗。

上述的寫作投稿苦樂經驗願與同好分享。

我在越南工作長達八年期間，與家人聚少離多。為下一代的教育和追求美好生活打拼，失去與家人團聚的愁腸苦斷的情懷，隨著歲月的流逝，一去不返，終生遺憾！

許多在越戰期間發生的驚險故事，逐一記錄下來，不論有否見報，至少可以留給下一代知道當年老爸的經歷。

【編者註】本文為施敏功弟兄2021年3月所作

## 施敏功弟兄剪影

楊惠民

施伯原玩高爾夫，  
恕我有眼卻無珠。  
藍天白雲芳草地，  
高雅休閒勝讀書。  
勁手揮桿銀球落，  
兩杆入洞不服輸。  
待等疫情風雨過，  
再展英姿競自由。

活出盼望

谷區國語浸信會

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# 溪邊的樹

2023年6月

谷區國語浸信會

每月通訊

It is already June and we are officially in summer!

Summer is a season of rest. For school students, it means that the school is closed for vacation and students enjoy months of break. Summer is also a busy season. For parents, it means planning and carrying out travel arrangements. At the same time, the children's summer vacation is an opportunity for parents to spend more time with their children where they manage and enjoy family life.

June in California should have been extremely hot, but this year it is different. Even in the mid of the month, the weather is still cool unlike in California. The church's Vacation Bible School (VBS) started in such a cool and comfortable weather, but obviously, the enthusiasm of the teachers and students has not diminished.

I believe that in such an interesting and inspiring Bible school, under the guidance and help of the teachers and the young teaching assistants, children can learn more about the truth of God through Bible stories, handcrafts, games and music, and can learn more about God as well as God's special love.

We need to pray for them all the more, asking God to plant the seeds of revival in the hearts of the children and the teenagers through this one-week VBS, expecting them to germinate, grow, and allowing them to follow Lord's steps all their lives...

The theme of our church for June is still "Family". The third Sunday of June is Father's Day, and like Mother's Day in May, Father's Day also falls on Sunday. If we look into history, we know that the earliest commemoration (or celebration) of both festivals took place in the church. Therefore, for Christians, celebrating Mother's Day and Father's Day can be a concrete reminder of the commandment to "honor your parents".

Father's Day is an opportunity for us to express our gratitude, respect, or thoughts to

our father. But at the same time, Father's Day can remind us of our Father in Heaven and His endless love and grace to us. Let us give thanks together and offer Him our praise and worship.

Speaking of Father's Day, I think of the character in "The Book of Ruth"—Boaz. He not only assumed the responsibility of being a close relative, but he also became Ruth's husband in Chapter 4. Not only that, Boaz was also the father of Obed, and this Obed was the father of Jesse, and Jesse was the father of David.

In June, we will continue to preach through the last chapter of the book of Ruth. The Book of Ruth is truly a priceless pearl in Hebrew literature. It tells the blessed stories of some unimportant figures in the darkest period of the judges. There are no big stories, no miracles; however, implicitly it points to an important message: God is at work in the ordinary man's family.

At the same time, each character in the book of Ruth is willing to shoulder responsibilities for other family members. When they are responsible for each other and perform their own duties for each family member, they will finally fulfill God's plan and demonstrate His wonders of grace. Let us learn not only the history of God's redemption from the book of Ruth, but also learn to do our duty for the family and the people.

Dear brothers and sisters, in closing I would like to say that summer is a time of relaxation and leisure, but we must not forget that God is the center of our lives. Whether we're on vacation, traveling, or enjoying our leisure time, remember to pray, read the Bible, and seek God's will. Let us dedicate each day to God, keeping His Word in our hearts.

2023年度主題

**激發愛心  
勉勵行善**

六月份經文  
**要向耶和華歌唱，  
稱頌祂的名！  
天天傳揚祂的救恩！**  
(詩篇96: 2)

Rev. Daode Chen

## In Memory of Professor Tsai-ping Liang —An Instructor, a Benefactor and a Godfather

Silda Chu Arkangel

For whatever reason, recently I have been thinking a lot of my beloved godfather, Professor Tsai-ping Liang. I lost my own father at 7 years old. Yet, the way Professor Liang took care of me when I was a young adult could not be denied as wonderful as a biological father.

Professor Liang certainly was a leader in two Chinese musical instruments, Gu-zheng and Gu-chin, both of which are traditional Chinese instruments of the zither family. He devoted his whole life tirelessly promoting these two instruments until his passing away at the age of 90. He studied music at Yale University in 1944 focusing on fusing Eastern and Western music. When he relocated to Taiwan from Mainland China in 1949, only 2,000 people were learning Gu-zheng at the time. However with his painstaking efforts in writing new compositions, Gu-zheng class openings at schools, hands-on training of students at home, as well as performing tours in Europe, America, and Asia, the Gu-zheng players have reached 200,000 twenty years later in Taiwan. Professor Liang surely deserved all the credit.

I do admire Professor Liang's successes and achievements. Yet, the thing I remember the most is all the good deeds and acts he bestowed on me. When I was a freshman in Providence College (it is a university now), he came to perform Gu-zheng in my school. I had never seen this instrument before. During that hour-long performance, I was completely fascinated by the beauty of this heavenly music. My ears were enchanted with the sounds and my heart was intoxicated in the rhythms. I was captivated for days that I decided to relate my feelings to writing. As a result, I wrote an article named "Enchanting Music of Gu-zheng" which was published in Central Daily News. Later on, Professor Liang opened a "Gu-zheng Club" in our college and asked the president why I did not enroll since I loved this music so much. After hearing that I could not afford a Gu-zheng as well as the tuition, he gave me one Gu-zheng with free lessons as well. This was the very first time he showed me kindness. He and Mrs. Liang both were devoted Christians. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35) Although Professor Liang never said so, I believe he and his wife always had this thought in their heart. This was the reason both of them had taken care of me throughout the years. In my senior year, I performed one Gu-zheng piece welcoming the visiting Cardinal Yu-pin. I consider it a great honor.

I was near sighted during college years. Professor Liang found out and asked me why I was not wearing glasses. My parents passed away early and so attending a private college was already almost out of my reach. After hearing this, he quickly put NTD\$300 in my hand and urged me to get a pair. I was embarrassed, but he insisted on it. So, I got a free pair of spectacles. During summer and winter vacations, Professor Liang asked me to teach all his entry level Gu-zheng students and gave me all the learning fees to help with my college tuition. I should say I graduated from Providence College on time because of his help.

Besides allowing me to teach his junior students, Professor Liang continually instructed me with some more difficult Gu-zheng pieces for free. There was one scene implanted in my mind forever. It was one chilly afternoon and the rain was pouring outside while we were

playing "Night Rain by the Banana-Shadowed Window". One peddler was calling "potato, hot potato" on the street. Professor Liang took out some coins and urged me to buy two. We were enjoying our chit-chat and eating the sweet hot potatoes together. I felt the whole body and mind filled with warmth and sweetness. I will not forget this beautiful touching moment the rest of my life.

After I graduated from college with an English degree, Professor Liang asked me to join his "International Public Relationship Company" to help him sort out his many valuable photos of concert documents and precious musician friends around the world. After I completed the task four months later, in order that he did not waste my "talent" doing trifles, he ushered me into the newly established Dutch "Philip Electronics Industries Ltd." to be an English secretary. On 9/28 Confucius' birthday, there was a big celebration in Confucius Temple. Professor Liang invited the Philip Electronics Company's president and his wife to attend the ceremony. He called on me to be the president's guide and translator during the whole grand ceremony worshipping Confucius. It was like driving a duck onto a perch, a very difficult task for me. Yet, I learned how to entertain a VIP in English, a very valuable experience.

I was dating my very first boyfriend seriously then. A year afterward, he committed an unforgivable mistake. I adamantly made a life changing decision to cut off the relationship completely. On that bone-chilling cold winter night, I felt so miserable. I numbly with a broken heart climbed on a bus heading to Professor Liang's home. As soon as I saw him and Mrs. Liang, I could not but burst into tears. They comforted me for the whole evening. It took me many months to recover. One time a Japanese Seiko Watch Company representative came to Taiwan promoting a business. As the chairman of International Public Relationship Company, Professor Liang gave him a grand welcoming party. And of course, I was asked to entertain this representative. In appreciation of my efforts, this rep gave me a nice watch as a gift. Professor Liang saw this on the stage and pulled me aside later giving me some advice: "Gin-yun (my Chinese name), I know you have just experienced an unfortunate breakup. Yet, be careful, especially when dealing with a businessman. Please know how to protect yourself." With such tender heart and care, can one deny this as not a fatherly love?

Before I left for Chicago in 1973, Professor Liang wrote a recommendation letter for me. This precious letter was not only for enrolling in an advanced university, but also good for job seeking. When I was studying in Chicago, he went to Vancouver to perform with his son who was teaching Chinese music in Vancouver University. After that, he came to America for several concert performances around U.S. I accompanied him performing two Gu-zheng pieces in Northwestern University. In 1976 when I was in Los Angeles, I also played a few pieces with him in UCLA. What glorious experiences!

Each time he visited L.A., he stayed with our family. He brought an exquisite Gu-zheng for me. There were colorful shiny seashells imbedded on the top of the instrument. At the bottom of the Gu-zheng he composed and engraved a nice poem with my Chinese name on it. He said this would be the one for me to teach students with. I have 8 items from Professor Liang that I displayed all over my home: Gu-zheng, his calligraphies, paintings, and two Ming Dynasty antique flower vases. Every day when I pass these memorable treasures, they make me nostalgic.

After I got married with two sons, once Professor Liang came to visit and told me he would like me to be his goddaughter. I was very touched and emotional.



After so many years of his looking after me, he was way qualified to be my godfather. Recently as I have been reviewing all our correspondence and his music books, I discovered that his mother went to Lord when he was 17, the same year as my mother did! I suddenly realized that he must have had the same sentimental sad feelings toward me when he heard about my mother. "Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love as Christ loved us..." (Ephesians 5:1,2) I believe my godfather adhered to this doctrine to nurture the younger generations.

My life has benefited by Professor Liang profoundly. Thus, I must give back something to our society. Often, I hear from my hubby Ridam reminiscing his yearlong service in Vietnam. It touches my soul hearing those brave soldiers sacrificing their lives or losing their arms or legs. I have decided to contribute all my donations to Disabled American Veterans for 40 years so far. "Therefore, all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you: do ye even so to them ..." (Mathew 7:12) This June is the month of Father's Day as well as my godfather's 23rd death anniversary. I want to express my gratitude and love to commemorate a great Christian who is in heaven with our dear Father now.

## In Memory of My Father, Kuok Seng Lee

Charles Lee

In July 2018, my parents and my second sister's family came to the US to visit me. One month before coming to the States, my father went to the hospital for a physical examination. He had not had a medical examination for two years. As a result of this physical examination, it was found that his prostate-specific antigen (PSA) index was 13 (normal value is below 4 ng/ml), which was seriously beyond the threshold. My father initially could not accept the result and asked for another PSA test. Nevertheless, the second test result, which was 15, was even worse than the first one. The doctor stated that my father's prostate cancer was very aggressive and turned out different from the typical prostate cancer. As the departure date for the US trip was approaching, the doctor arranged Lucrin injection for my father, a drug that works by suppressing certain hormones, including testosterone in the body.

Things happened so unexpectedly that not only my father, but also my mother, my siblings, and myself were devastated and disappointed. Considering my father's health condition, we had to cancel many of the planned trips in the US, including the Yosemite trip that my sister had originally planned. My father had always wanted to visit New York and see the Statue of Liberty. I was certain we had to keep that trip. I thank God that I was able to bring my parents to the east coast for a week, and fulfilled his dream. Although my father often felt physically tired, he was still excited whenever he visited a scenic spot. When we took a boat excursion to get a close-up look at the Statue of Liberty, I recall when my father learned how to take photos with his own phone for the first time.

Back in Malaysia, my father had a CT scan. The CT report findings were not encouraging as expected. The cancer cells showed signs of spreading and had already spread to his cervical spine. The doctors determined that my father's prostate cancer had spread and that surgery

to remove it was not an option. Therefore, my father continued to receive Lucrin injections every three months in 2019. Even though he was ill at the time, my father never stopped praying and looking up to God. His daily life was generally normal, except for periodic visits to the hospital for check-out. In order for my father to maintain a healthy weight since he would need to be weighed every time he visited the hospital, my mother worked incredibly hard to prepare meals for him daily. During the pandemic, God was especially gracious to my father and protected him from contracting the Corona virus.

One year later, the curative effect of Lucrin injection was not satisfactory, and the PSA index did not drop. The doctor decided to use chemotherapy as the next phase. My father did not refuse the doctor's proposal; instead, he actively cooperated with the new treatment plan. My father now had to visit the hospital about every two to three weeks for chemotherapy, as opposed to just once every three months for the Lucrin injection treatment. In addition, he had to get blood draws and take chemotherapy supplements. The hospital also mandated COVID testing for patients during the pandemic, which took up the majority of his time. His cancer journey was full of challenges and hardships. He went through a long and arduous treatment process, but he never gave up. Whether facing side effects, pain, or frailty, he always cooperated in the treatment with a positive attitude. During his battle with cancer, our family united as one and tried our best to provide spiritual support and health care for my father, making him feel warm and loved. We shared many precious moments together, sharing laughter and tears.

My father underwent a total of three cycles of chemotherapy, each of which required 10 injections of chemo drugs. At the conclusion of the last cycle, all medications had been exhausted. The doctor personally told my father that his fighting spirit was like that of a warrior on the battlefield. He fought to the end with astonishing perseverance, which only few people can achieve. My father did continue to inquire the doctor about what alternative medications he could receive, but the doctor urged my father to suspend the chemotherapy because it would only do more harm than good. The doctor advised using pain management at home, or hospice care as it is more generally known. This took place in September 2022. Since then, my father had become gradually weaker, unable to eat, and relied mostly on a tiny amount of Ensure milk powder for sustaining while spending most of his time in bed.

I am grateful that the pandemic was ending and that I had a chance to visit my father twice in 2022 - in July and in October respectively. Because of the travel distance, every time I returned home in Malaysia, I made an effort to spend as much time as I could with my father, and I also encouraged and supported my mother. Although my father's physical condition was deteriorating daily, his mental clarity was unimpaired. Despite having mobility issues in the later years, he made no attempt to abdicate his position as the family's head. He was extremely clear about everything in the family, no matter how big or small, and he made sure to explain to us how to handle each issue one at a time, including the funeral arrangements. On February 21, 2023 at 3:15 a.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST), my father was freed from his suffering on earth, called by the Lord, and was taken back to his heavenly home. My wife and I with our kids flew to Malaysia the same day with heavy hearts to attend my father's memorial service.

Even though my father is no longer with us, I will always cherish the memories I have of him. My father was very family-oriented and raised our four siblings with

my mother. I am the youngest, with two older sisters and an older brother. Although my father was bedridden later in the year, he still cared deeply about my mother, and often asked her if she had enough money. He added that he would love dining out with my mother if he felt better, nonetheless that never happened. My father attached great importance to the education of our siblings, and saved up money to invest in our education. After graduating from university, I went to graduate school by paying on my own. After graduation, my parents sent me some money as a reward. After I landed my first job and started working, I attempted multiple times to get my California Registered Professional Civil Engineer License but failed multiple times. Every time I failed an exam, my father would tell me, "Yang, you have worked hard. It is not easy for you to take care of your family and prepare for the exam outside of work." His words were the greatest encouragement to me, and gave me hope. My main source of motivation is my father's attitude of perseverance in his battle against cancer. Observing his tenacity, I reminded myself that I needed to put in extra effort. We support one another, and I eventually succeeded on the exam and received my license. My father was overjoyed and pleased. I scanned the certificate for him at his request, and he printed it off and kept it.

Thank God that my Father is a believer, Jesus has already prepared for him an eternal home in heaven, and personally came to take him back to his heavenly home. Although I am heartbroken and missed him, I am confident that we will meet again in heaven. Dear father, you valiantly battled the cancer to the very end, and for that I will always be grateful. Dad, you are my hero, and your spirit will always shine in my memory and inspire me to move forward in my life. Your courage will always inspire me to be a better and stronger person. Dad, you are my role model and mentor, and I will strive to be a person who makes you proud.

I love you, Dad!

Charles

## Abba, Father

Pastor Lou Kai

No matter ancient or modern, Chinese or foreign, when children are babbling, calling their parents is often the first thing they learn. In many languages and dialects, they call their fathers "Dad". As far as the author is concerned, my mother is from Suzhou province and my father from the city of Hangzhou. As the saying goes, "there is heaven above, and Su-Hang below," referring to the heavenly sceneries in those places. When I was a child, I called my father Dad. The Beijingers call theirs "Papa", the Sichuanese "Papa", the Cantonese "Aba",

and the Taiwanese also call theirs "Abba".

In fact, as early as 2,000 years ago, Jesus of Nazareth also used "Abba" to address His Father. In the Garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus faced the bitter cup of the cross, he said: "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." (Mark 14:36)

"Abba" is an intimate term for father in the Aramaic language that was popular in the time of the Lord Jesus, and it is a term used when father and son reveal their true feelings.

Paul uses the same call twice in the New Testament. In his epistle to the Roman believers, he wrote: "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'" (Romans 8:15). In his letter to the believers in Galatia, he wrote: "Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir." (Galatians 4:6). "Abba" is not only a call of deep love for the father, but also a sincere expression of the spirit's moving in the hearts of the believers, and it is naturally blurted out in prayer. The Lord Jesus cried out in this way, and the believers should also cry out in this way.

The Lord taught His disciples to pray when He was on earth, and He also teaches us to pray today. The prayer to the Father is as follows:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil. For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen!" (Matthew: 6:9-13)

The Bible describes our God as "Father of Orphans" (Psalm: 68:5), "My Father" (Psalm: 89:26), "Eternal Father" (Isaiah: 9:6), "Father of Glory" (Ephesians 1:17). Our heavenly Father who loves us sent His beloved Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins, so that those who believe in Him will not perish, but will have eternal life!

I still remember one of my father's wishes for me was to have a garden for him where he could spend his later years in peace. It is a pity that he did not live long enough, and I regret not being able to fulfill my filial piety. Today, my only hope is to do my part in preaching the Gospel of my heavenly Father in my lifetime and to make my heavenly "Abba" happy.

Editor's Note: This article was published by Pastor Lou Kai in "Letter of Dawn" in 1995

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