

感恩与代祷 Praise & Prayer

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Beautiful Footprint In Remembrance of Rev David Soo (1916 -1990)

By Rev Paul Chang



In the autumn of 1975, I visited the Golden Triangle located in Northern Thailand. This place was ruled by the opium warlords. There I met Rev David Soo who was 59 years old. He brought me to many mountainous areas with uneven land. I saw his passion and selflessness as a missionary, and his determination to spread the gospel to the lost and hopeless. Thank God for His grace and granting me the opportunity to work together with him for 15 years. We had each other's company and witnessed the great work of the Lord!

"Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."
(John 12:24)

Sharing the Gospel

Rev David Soo used to be a soldier in his early years. In 1942, he was stricken with a terminal disease, and his fellow soldiers brought him into an empty house, where they solemnly waited for death to arrive as his days are numbered. During this despairing period, he witnessed an angel appearing before him and spoke to him. He recovered shortly after. Many years has passed, he had totally forgotten his encounter with the angel. However, God did not

forget. In 1968, David heard about the gospel for the very first time at an evangelical rally, which was led by a missionary from Hong Kong. The missionary told David to "return to His flock as a lost sheep" which triggered the latter's memory of his spiritual encounter with the angel during those difficult years. He accepted Jesus and his life was changed for the better.

David became a child of God at the age of 52. He became a soldier for God and was pioneer to share the gospel in the Golden Triangle area. Each day, he carried a small bag with him which held his Bible and gospel tracts. He hiked from one mountain to another, and one house to another, visiting the people at their homes for the purpose of sharing gospel and distributing the tracts at their doorsteps. Many people received Christ and were converted to Christians due to his passion to spread the gospel.

Building many Churches

After David accepted Jesus, he studied the words of God and read the Bible diligently. Within the next year, he built a church for the first time in the territory of the opium's warlord - The True Light Church at Chang Kan (昌堪). Subsequently,

he built more churches. One of the churches was even built on land that was initially planned for a temple. This truly testified the wonder and sheer power of God! His wife, Yu Lan, supported him wholeheartedly as she knew and understood his vision of sharing the gospel and his love for the people. They would patiently listen to the visitors who came knocking at their doors even into the wee hours. David Soo learnt



to preach, evangelize, and train the disciples by himself. He attended a short-term Bible training course at Bethel Bible Institute in Bangkok. During his stay in Bangkok, he learnt acupuncture too. Thereafter, he utilized his freshly acquired skills to help the patients, and at the same time using this avenue to share the gospel. God expanded His kingdom through David who was equipped with basic knowledge of faith and biblical knowledge.

In the years when Rev Soo served in the Northern Thailand, many poor Chinese refugees came to the Golden Triangle and did not have any education opportunities. Rev Soo was extremely concerned about their children needs. He came forward to build schools for them. He started by giving them hour-long kindergarten tuition classes and taught them how to read using the Bible as a coaching tool. These were provided free of charge. The students were very fond of the course and keen to learn from their well-respected mentor, despite his strict nature. In 1976, David Soo and CNEC developed a knit partnership by implementing the SAC program in the Golden Triangle. Through this program, people learnt more about God through its religious education model.

Similar to the Chinese characters in his name "MuYang" (牧羊), he did not care only about the Chinese, but also the tribal groups like the Karens, Yaos, Lahus, Akas, Hmongs and Lisus, etc. They speak in a variety of dialects, practice different religious and customs, worship their ancestors and are spirits' worshippers; and most of them are addicted to opium. They live in a patriarchal society, where women are not respected and men simply slacken in their relaxed lifestyles. Rev Soo's persistency and determination to share the gospel with these people who were societally isolated and lived in the dark, and wished to nurture their souls with exceptional love and guidance.

Winning more people

Rev Soo was a teacher who took his profession seriously and passionately. Throughout his life, he raised many young Christians under his care, who followed his devout ways and eventually ventured into the same line of work. In order to share the gospel and build churches within these stranded areas, he built a Bible school there to train more God-serving individuals. In 1984, Rev Soo and CNEC established the three-storey Hui Hai Gospel Bible School. It is located right beside the Hui Hai Grace Church. The school trained many pastors, who later became involved in the gospel team. Rev Soo was renowned as "Yi Bei Cha De Soo Lao Shi" (一杯茶的苏老师); he often placed a small table strewn with a teapot and tea cups atop, and served them to passersby heading to the marketplace to help cool them down in the scorching weather while he shared the gospel with them.

One of the most vivid memories was when Rev Soo was 69 years old; he continuously walked for 7 hours, covering a long distance before arriving at a village called Hui Mei Village. He was excited to find many Yao, Aka and Lahu people there. After meeting them, he shared with them



scripture from **1 Timothy 2:5-6** and it read, **"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time."** Many were brought to Christ when Rev Soo shared the good news. He also aided them in improving their living conditions in the village; hence the village was named "Jesus Village" after most of the villagers converted to Christianity.

Rev David Soo lived his life for God. Whenever he faced spiritual difficulties, he would proclaim loudly "We are the soldiers of Christ. When we share the gospel, we spread it by the grace and power of God! Thus we should never move backwards!" In Rev Soo's life, God is the rock and shelter. In order to accomplish the Great Commission, he devoted himself to bring lost sheep back to His flock. He helped many turn to Christ. They included illiterates, illegal migrants, soldiers, opium addicts as well as captured soldiers and villagers. When he was 71 years old, he discovered two new villages of Yao people who had not been reached. He cared about their spiritual needs despite old age, and continued to work until he could no longer walk. On 25th March 1990, the Lord took him home to His kingdom. He was 74 years old. His life paved a beautiful pathway for many generations to follow.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:7-8)



Her Everlasting Love In Remembrance of Nien-Chang Liu Chang (1934 -2014)

Mrs Esther Fan

The first time I met Mrs Chang was when Rev Paul Chang held his concert at The Lutheran Church in Hong Kong. She was Rev Chang's pianist. I was a co-worker at CNEC in Hong Kong then. The concert hall was overwhelmingly packed with audience. I could only catch a glimpse of Mrs Chang as she came up to the stage. Her entrance was not the traditional backstage entrance, but rather, she came forth from the front. She was seated on the first row with her children (Mark and Ruth) amidst the audience. Ruth was seated on her lap and at the same time she held on to Mark's little hand who was seated next to her. She gently let go of Mark's hand, and placed Ruth down onto her seat before approaching the stage. Thereafter, she dove into the performance, leaving a notable impression on me. She was talented yet modest, a loving mother and an extremely supportive wife.

The second time I met Mrs Chang was during a welcome party organized by CNEC, Hong Kong. Rev Paul Chang was invited to fly in from the States to assume the position of the Assistant Director. I recalled Mrs Chang wore a blue checkered silk cheongsam, with her two children clinging on to her. Despite this, she carried a welcoming smile towards co-workers. Amongst other women who held the same social status that is as a wife of a Pastor, her demeanor was one of the rarest. I only found out subsequently that she was the daughter of the



Republic of China's Ambassador to Thailand!

When Rev Paul Chang was appointed as the Assistant Director with CNEC HK, he also started The Kowloon Church at the same time. It is now known as The CNEC Fellowship Church. In the initial startup, there were no teenagers in the church. Rev Chang partnered with Simon Fan, who was in charge of the student center, to integrate schooling teenagers into their program via basketball. After each basketball session, they would go over to Rev Chang's house for dinner and fellowship. This was how the youth ministry was established. Today, the group of teenagers who used to play basketball still maintains close contact with the Chang family. Whenever they went over to Rev Chang's house, Mrs Chang would always say, "Welcome! Welcome! Good to see you!" Thereafter, she would head straight to the kitchen. Within a short while, everybody would enjoy the delicious meal she prepared before participating in the bible study. The simple welcome phase from Mrs Chang still echoes in my head to this very day. The former Simon Fan was ordained as Rev Simon Fan, is now my husband. He used the same method to engage the youngsters that was through basketball and dinner.

Mrs Chang was selfless in contributing and supporting God's ministry, giving her everything. Apart from developing the youth ministry, the church wanted to expand to include children ministry and Sunday school. Then Mrs Chang and Mrs Florence Lin worked together to begin the children ministry.

Mrs Chang was especially compassionate towards the children from the poor and less fortunate families. The church was located on York Road, Kowloontong which was considered an upper-class residential area. Between this area and Kowloon City, there was a place called The Kowloon Chai Park. Every Sunday morning, Mrs Chang without fail, would drive her car to pick up children playing in the park or streets. These were children who had no plan over the weekend. She would bring them to church to participate in church activities. Despite the fact that some were against this idea as it would affect the church's status, these criticisms did not affect Mrs Chang's passion for these children and their families. Mrs Chang continued to show her love to these children. I will always remember her special love to the children.

Among the Sunday school children, one of them came from a broken family. This impacted his socialization with others. Rev and Mrs Chang took him under their wing for two years. Mrs Chang did things discreetly and never boasted about her good deeds. She always possessed a big and warm heart for children in need. In fact, every soul was apparent how much she cared for the children.

During her stay in Hong Kong, when her children were at school, she would drop by Rev Chang's office (not as his secretary), but to assist in the translation of letters written by the SAC children to sponsors. She did this with much diligence and commitment; her emotions were often triggered while poring over these letters.



In 1973, the Chang family returned to America for three months to share about CNEC ministry with others for fundraising purposes. Rev and Mrs Chang brought me with them. Before we left for the States, I visited them everyday to practice singing hymns while Mrs Chang earnestly played the piano. She left me a deep impression on the way she joyously enacted a piano piece, like whistling along as her slim fingers glided over the black and white keys. Unfortunately, I perpetually failed at whistling and deeply admired the uplifting fashion in which she trilled; demonstrating the contentment

and peace she harbored in her heart.

We began our journey in California, and then travelled through the central and East Coast regions of the United States, before returning to California. The trip totaled up to three months. Most of the time, church members welcomed us into their homes. There were nights we put up in Motel 6 and Mrs Chang would head out for grocery shops to purchase lettuce and minced beef. Mrs Chang would marinate the beef in sauces and flour before transferring it atop the rice which was already in the cooking pot. She would scald the lettuces in boiling water and thereafter dinner would be served.

We were often invited to the church members' houses. Mrs Chang would take this opportunity and suggested for their friends to be invited at the same time and she would whip up the meal for them. After dinner, Rev Chang would share about CNEC ministry, while I shared my testimonials. Those present were pleasantly surprised at Mrs Chang's ability to whip up such a sumptuous meal. She graduated with a master degree in Dietary Science in Cornell University; hence her dishes were unfailingly appetizing and healthy. I used the

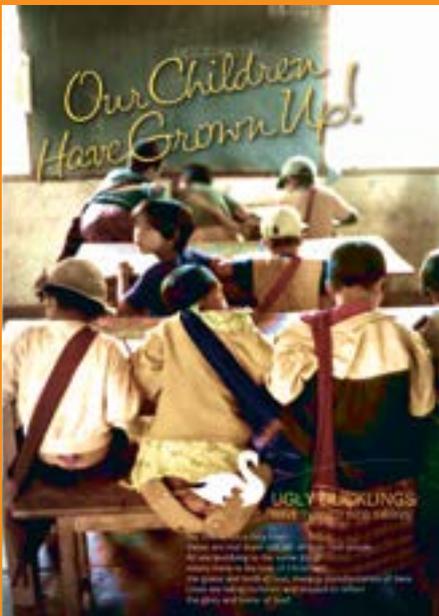


same strategy to engage others when I represented the Partners International, USA to conduct fundraisings, and received a heartening response.

Mrs Chang was born and raised in a wealthy and reputable family, yet she never gloated about her upbringing. During an occasion when we were observing a Chinese calligraphy together, and I started to scour the artwork for the author's name, and Mrs Chang simply said that it was illustrated by "Qi Baishi" (齐白石). I was so impressed and intrigued at how she could decipher at a glance. "When I was young, I saw this at Uncle Hu Shi's (胡适) house," she explained. Mrs Chang was a modest and serene woman, and only under such situation, then her enriched family background would be revealed to us.

On an occasion, Rev Chang hoped to give Mrs Chang a blouse. She responded "Please don't buy any more, I have more than enough." However, Rev Chang was determined and proceeded to purchase one for her which she accepted with much grace, by praising his good taste and expressing her satisfaction in his selection.

Mrs Chang had completed her fulfilling journey on earth now. The wholehearted manner in which she loved and supported Rev Chang, to bring to fruition his role as a missionary, had indeed proven to all of us that she was a faithful servant of God! Up until the moment she reunited with our Heavenly Father, she always cared for the poor and needy children. Her moving yet powerful influence had affected the lives and mindsets of many; her compassion and love had impacted many generations to come.



Our New Book:

Our Children have Grown Up



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