

Profound Gratitude

By Deborah Maak

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This is an English translation of a video entitled
無盡感恩 | 麥希真牧師 | 事奉65週年 by C3 productions,
which may be found and viewed from YouTube.

Translated content is primarily based on the English subtitling
of an early version in DVD format.

*Be a person pleasing to God;
Then do the work pleasing to Him.*

Rev. Dr. Maak Hay Chun

Most people address my father as “Rev. Maak,” “Maak Hay Chun,” “Hay Chun,” or “Brother Hay Chun.” My father is very special, preferring that my sister and I call him “Baba” and my mother “Mama”.

The following are the highlights of the sixty years since my Baba’s call to Christian ministry.

When Baba heard about this (DVD) project, he immediately gave me a stack of photos.

He also wanted to say a few words to the audience (*Italicised and in olive green*). On such an occasion of thanksgiving, we welcome our beloved Baba’s participation.

Baba, please share your thoughts with us!



1

1949 - 1953

Called to Ministry & Equipped to Serve

In 1949, Wing Huen and I were called by the Lord to serve Him. With profound gratitude, we look back to these sixty years.

Feeling bored at home one day, sixty years ago, Baba picked up a copy of the “Biography of Hudson Taylor” and read through it.

If I had a thousand English pounds, China should have it.

If I had a thousand lives, China should have them all.

Even an Englishman like Rev. Taylor loved the Chinese people so dearly! As a Chinese, why can't I love my fellow-countrymen more? With a passionate heart and tears in my eyes, I knelt down beside my bed. I obeyed God's calling and re-dedicated my life to serve Him. I decided to enrol in a seminary and learn to become His faithful servant.

In September 1949, I began my studies at Bethel Bible Seminary in Hong Kong, and embarked on my long journey of service to the Lord.

When Baba was about to graduate from Bethel Bible Seminary, he had four options: the fourth one concerned ministry in Singapore which had been introduced to him in a letter from Mr. Woo Yan-Tak, who wrote to tell him that the Cantonese-speaking people in Singapore were like orphans. No one cared to tell them the gospel.

Baba decided to serve in Singapore to pioneer the ministry of evangelism and church planting. It was 1953, and Baba believed that he had made a wise decision. Once the decision was made, Baba had to tell his parents and future in-laws. Mama's father was a graduate of the medical school of Hong Kong University. Having visited Singapore as the medical officer of a ship, he knew the country was undeveloped, backward and full of diseases. However, after dwelling on the idea and discussing it for two weeks, Mama's parents both decided to encourage the young couple to get married and move to Singapore.

Baba's mother would not object to the idea. Being an adventurous person herself, she encouraged risk-taking and doing the extraordinary. Baba's father, however, was a man of caution. He never fought an uncertain battle. When Baba took the courage to tell his father, "I have decided to serve as a missionary in Singapore," Grandpa remained silent for a long time, and then asked if he would reconsider his decision.

“I’m afraid not, father. I’ve decided,” Baba replied.

Grandpa thought for a while, stood up and walked into his bedroom. He never uttered a word.

As Baba served in Singapore, he wrote to Grandpa to tell him about the conversion and life story of each new believer. Two years later, Grandpa wrote to Baba, “I have a son who is a missionary overseas and he is my pride and joy.”

Fifteen years later, Baba returned to Hong Kong to care for his ailing father in the hospital. Grandpa told him, “Ever since you left for Singapore, I have been praying for you every night. To this day, I have never stopped praying for you.”

On August 2nd 1953, my parents set sail for Singapore in a ship owned by Royal InterOcean Lines. In those days, young missionaries had no training, no guidelines, no farewell send-offs, no gifts, no benefits, no vacation and no pension plans. But as Baba said, “Christ’s presence is sufficient for us!”

2

1953 - 1961

Pioneering Work & Church Planting

*I*n May 1953, we got married. We left Hong Kong in August and began our 29 years of overseas missions.

Back then my parents had to start everything from scratch. There were no church members or church building. Everyday they went out to meet people. Be it morning, noon or afternoon, my parents grasped every opportunity to spread the love of Christ. In the beginning, the small meeting place was known as Kampong Silat Baptist Gospel Chapel.

In 1955, they started to meet in a new site in Serangoon Garden. With no church members, we could not invite many people to our evangelistic meetings. So we decided to start our own Vacation Bible School. We managed to recruit over 40 children. Through visits to their parents, relatives and neighbours, we shared the gospel, bringing them to Christ.

One Sunday during the Vacation Bible School, we started our Children Sunday School, followed by our Teens' Fellowship, Youth Fellowship, Women's Fellowship and Men's Fellowship. Soon we made plans to establish our own church.

On June 29 1958, we held the inaugural service of Cherith Baptist Church in the new sanctuary. On that occasion, Baba was ordained as a minister. In 1961, we started another church in the Whampoa District. It was Eternal Life Baptist Church. Seeing the wonderful opportunities that our Heavenly Father had given us, we wanted to be greatly used by Him and saw the need for further training.

3

1961 - 1965

Advanced Education in Hong Kong

To support my theological studies, Wing Huen took up the position of the Principal of NCE Alumni Association School.

It was a long and difficult journey for Baba to pursue his Doctor of Ministry degree. In order to qualify for his masters and doctoral degrees, he had to first obtain his B.A. degree by completing two years of study at the Hong Kong Baptist College.

Mama volunteered to support the family by finding a job in teaching. She wrote to the newly established NCE Alumni Association School and soon got a reply from the School Board inviting her to be their Principal. The financial problem was solved. In order to save time, Baba decided to cram his six to seven years of studies into four years. When Baba was about to graduate from H.K. Baptist College, Dr. Lam Chi Fung of Pui Ching Middle School offered him the position of Director of Religious Life.

Sometime later, Baba was touched by the singing of the Alliance Bible Seminary choir “Let the Earth Hear His Voice”. He decided to give up the comfortable life in Hong Kong to the ministry in S.E. Asia.

In 1965, our family once again headed without hesitation for S.E. Asia.

4

1965 - 1969

Malaysia Baptist Seminary

*O*ur daughters Deborah and Melanie grew up. They lived a wondering life with us for 20 years.

Our family lived four years in Penang, an island in Northern Malaysia. Besides teaching, Baba had to prepare the Chinese curriculum, student handbook, brochures and bimonthly newsletter. He also looked after student registration, counselling and internship. He was also the pastor of the newly established Zion Baptist Church. And for the first time, Baba went on a preaching tour visiting the Indonesian cities of Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, and Surabaya.

In July 1969, Baba was invited to speak at the Youth Summer Camp of Hong Kong Baptist Church. Dr. Lam Chi Fung, President of Hong Kong Baptist Church, paid him a special visit and invited him to be the College Chaplain.

5

1969 - 1973

Hong Kong Baptist College

Wing Huen served as Principal and I as Chaplain - the most comfortable four years of our life.

H.K. Baptist College was established by the Baptist Convention of Hong Kong. It had over 200 professors and lecturers, and 3,500 students. Nothing grand and spectacular happened in the Christian Fellowship of H.K. Baptist College, but it left a good testimony among the large student body.

The Christians' sacrificial love and passion to spread the gospel deeply impressed them. Among the students who had served in the Fellowship, over 10 committed their lives to be God's servants. Many still serve diligently in churches today.

6

1973 - 1975

Further Educational Pursuit in USA

*I was happy to complete my doctoral studies.
Our visits to 24 cities in North America
brought us much joy.*

In June 1973, Baba began his doctoral studies at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary - the largest theological seminary in the world. Before his graduation, Mama visited him in the States and stayed for 40 days. They visited friends, relatives and colleagues in 24 cities.

During the time of Baba's doctoral studies, Rev. Yap Un Han of Singapore Bible College sent him a Christmas card with an invitation to join his team. After three days of fasting and praying, Baba felt peace in his heart and knew that it was God's calling.

My parents returned to Hong Kong in November 1974 and made their third trip to S.E. Asia in February 1975.

7

1975 - 1992

Singapore Bible College

S*eventeen years of laughter and difficulties brought great fulfilment to our lives.*

Located strategically in S.E. Asia, Singapore was an important mission field. Singapore's advantage in diversity of language and culture meant that my parents' ministry could be extended to S.E. Asia and the world at large.

In his sermons, Baba often preached that he could establish at least 10 local churches in his lifetime. He could train 10 young workers who would each plant 10 churches. In this way, 100 churches would be established. If he could build up 100 young workers, then 1,000 churches could be established. If he could build up 1,000 young workers, then 10,000 churches could be established.

Baba's original plan was to retire early at the age of 60. When he turned 59 however, Singapore Bible College was

in need of raising funds for their Phase 5 building. Baba couldn't shrink from the need, though his plan to retire would be dashed. By the time the needed S\$3 million was raised, Baba was already 61 years old. But God answered Baba's prayers. By 1992, there were over 1,000 graduates of Singapore Bible College.

When his vision and dream came true, Baba decided to retire. In order to give the new Principal a free hand to lead the College, Baba and Mama left Singapore in 1992. They took up residence in Toronto, Canada and devoted their time to writing.

8

1992 - 1996

Devoted to Writing

Writing in our warm and comfortable home for four years, we felt Toronto wasn't cold at all!

In August 1991, Baba was invited to speak at the H.K. Bible Conference. The publishing team of H.K. Christian Communications Ltd (CCL) told Baba that there were hardly any books written by Chinese authors on pastoral ministries.

Later Baba signed a contract with CCL. They hoped that Baba could write a 100,000-word book in four months. Then he could write 10 books (one million words) for the *Christian Servants Series* in three and a half years.

So in June 1992, Baba and Mama emigrated to Toronto and began their writing ministry.

9

1996 - 2001

Chinese Coordination Centre of World Evangelism (CCCOWE)

They will soar on wings like eagles.
They will run and not grow weary.
They will walk and not be faint.

When Baba turned 67 in 1996, he took up the position of General Secretary of CCCOW, accepting the challenge to expand his horizons. He welcomed more opportunities to serve the Lord and churches all over the world.

With the cooperation and support of pastors, leaders and believers, CCCOWE organised many worldwide meetings, including:

- The Worldwide Chinese Men Mission Conference in Toronto
- The Worldwide Chinese Women Mission Conference in Kuala Lumpur
- The Worldwide Chinese Youth Mission Conference in Singapore

- The Worldwide Consultation on Chinese Theological Education in Hong Kong
- The Worldwide Consultation on Chinese Cross-cultural Mission in Pretoria, South Africa
- The Worldwide Consultation on Internet Ministry in Hong Kong
- The Chinese Congress on World Evangelisation in Kuala Lumpur

Over 1,900 people from 35 countries and an additional 400 volunteers participated in the meeting in Kuala Lumpur. The last meeting was attended by 12,000 people, with 150 believers committing their lives to serve God in full-time ministry.

In his five years serving as the General Secretary, Baba and Mama went all over the world. These travels broadened their outlook and their sharing enriched the lives of many pastors, leaders and believers.

10

2001 - 2014

Preaching & Listening

Aged workers can preach. They can also listen to fellow workers, brothers and sisters to offer words of comfort and encouragement. These are wonderful ways for aged workers to serve!

At the age of 75, Baba resigned from all appointments and positions. He devoted all his time to preaching and listening. Where?

First of all, every two months, he preaches twice in the Sunday worship services of the Richmond Christian Community Church, Markham Chinese Community Church, and Markham Chinese Baptist Church.

He also shares God's Word in Sunday worship services, revival meetings, evangelistic meetings, retreats and pastoral meetings in North America and other countries.

Additionally, he recorded 94 sermons over three months and broadcasted them on his personal website.

Secondly, he listens to people. Sometimes he has appointments with pastors or church members. Sometimes they chatted over lunch or “dim sum”.

Lastly, Baba insisted that I share these words with you:

“Listen more; opine less.”

As this video draws to a close, Baba, would you say a few words?

Most people would say, 60 years is neither long nor short. But to me, 60 years of ministry is very, very long.. Time flies, and 60 years of ministry go by very fast.

I am truly thankful for the 60 years of God's calling and wonderful blessings.



A Song Dedication

I have walked the path of great blessings
A path of following you, Lord
With your hand guiding every step of my way

I have walked the path of great joy
A path of trusting You
I commit each day to Your care
Giving up my own interests

I have my horizon broadened
Letting go of my desires,
I experience security in Christ
Living an abundant life that is beyond my imagination
I have walked this path with You (x2)

Living an abundant life that is beyond my imagination
I have walked this path with You





Celebrating the life of Rev. Dr. Maak Hay Chun,
born on 7th June 1930 and returned to the Lord
on 26th January 2021, at the age of 90.

He is now safe in the arms of our Lord Jesus, whom he
loved and served so faithfully all these years.

