

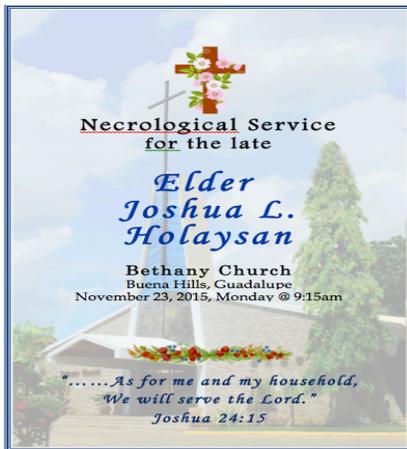


Wilkinson Dot Com 11 26 2015

Dear Ministry Partners,

On Monday I attended a “necrological service” at Bethany Church, one of the local churches where I speak a few times a year. The church’s most senior elder, Joshua, had passed away more than a week earlier.

During that week, each evening there was small Christian service in the funeral home—with singing, prayers and a message from the Bible. Visitors came to pay their respects to the departed and to condole with Joshua’s family. Many stayed to participate in the service, which made it an occasion to witness for the truth of the gospel.



The “necrological service” was the consummation of a week not only of mourning for this brother who had passed into glory but a week of celebration of the fruit of his long life, 86 years. Over the decades Joshua was involved in starting five churches. The largest of them is Bethany and it has a Christian school attached to it. One of the other four churches is Buena Hills Christian Fellowship, which is pastored by Chris Toriales, a graduate of Baptist Theological College, and my student back in the 1980s. Pastor Chris gave a heartfelt eulogy expressing how Joshua had helped him at key points in his two-decade-long ministry.

One more thing about the life of Joshua – and this is the main reason I am sharing this story with you. His was a family begun by Chinese immigrants. In his eulogy, Joshua’s son disclosed that Joshua’s immigrant grandparents were converts of missionary Hudson Taylor before they departed from China. The grandparents were instrumental in bring Joshua to faith. Little did Hudson Taylor know that there would be fruit from his ministry that would occur three generations later, in another south-east Asian country.

As missionary partners, we look for confirmation that God is working in our time and through our efforts. This story reminds us to believe that there will be fruit that we will never observe in our lifetimes. But God is always at work, at work over the generations! Thanks for being part of something that reaches far beyond our view!

We have one simple prayer request for you today. Our household has been stricken with a virus and we’re fighting off cold symptoms. I’ve had to cancel one class and don’t want to cancel more next week. Thanks for your prayers!

Warmest regards in Christ,

Steve Wilkinson, for Barbara, Paul and Tim
Converge Worldwide
Philippines

Donations for Steve and Barbara Wilkinson (using Donation ID #101181) can be sent to:
Converge Worldwide -- 2002 South Arlington Heights Road -- Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Donations can also be made online at <http://www.convergeworldwide.org/give/101181>