

EULOGY

At a seminar I attended a few years ago, a speaker asked the weirdest question I had ever heard.

"Is there anyone here who remembers your great grandmother or great-great-grandmother?"



The thoughts that went through my mind were nobody would be able to answer such a question. The current generation is so far removed from the past generations that there can't be any memories being passed down. Imagine my surprise when someone answered. He was able to recall something from the older generation because his great grandmother impressed upon her daughter-in-law so much that she was able to share with the younger generations the good qualities of her mother-in-law.

I guess that's what legacies are about. Just like what Psalm 145:4-6 says, *"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They tell of the power of your awesome works and I will proclaim your great deeds."*

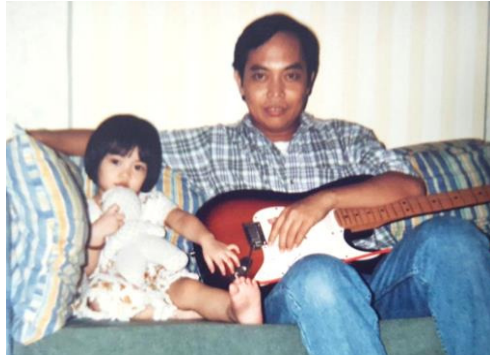
Looking at the heading of my article, you must be thinking, "Who has died recently?" Well, nobody recent. However, I wrote an eulogy of him in my blog in 2013 and recently, memories of him resurfaced. One may have thought that with the passing of time, our memories will fade. However, we have memories to keep specific people in our thoughts and our emotions like love, loyalty, gratitude... bind those memories to us. The stronger the emotion, the more vivid and influential the memory. I thought I would honour this man today by writing about him.

My husband and I first knew Harry Jee through our serving in the Music Ministry, which was the first ministry we served in after we moved into Jurong Christian Church. Harry played the bass guitar, the guitar and also backup as a vocalist, I did not have as much direct contact with him as compared to my husband, who worked alongside him as a drummer. What I know of him came from my husband. From my husband, I got to know that Harry was not in the best of health. Whenever his health permitted, he would serve. The few times I had seen him, he struck me as a jovial, humor-



ous and gifted musician who embraced technology. He would purchase certain musical apps from his phone and use them to add another dimension to the worship. At times he would share about his past as a musician in a band during his younger days.

All these information helped me know him better but what impressed us the most was not his musical talent. It was the effort he made in coming to church even when he was wrecked with pain, especially in the latter part of his life. During that period of time, we lived a few blocks away from church so there were times we met him on our way to church. It broke our hearts seeing him pause every few steps before continuing on. Respecting his privacy, my husband and I would say a silent prayer to ask God to ease his pain as he shouldered on. His grit touched us. Walking, a simple act that we do every day, was difficult for him. Yet, he served our God when he could. I did not have to ask him why he went to church despite his physical difficulties.



Certainly his actions spoke louder than words. At times, it may seem what we are doing in our lives is mundane, seemingly unimportant. However, know that God lives in us and through us, in big ways and small, regardless of our current situation or age (yes, no retirement age for the living!). Even when one has passed, he or she can still be fondly remembered in ways that are personal to us and also, glorify God.

Harry Jee, you are fondly remembered.

Alicia Wong



Photos provided by Ellesse, Harry's wife