

Passing the baton

Rose Folts

Dear friends: Peace unto you!

On the first day of the Lunar “New” Year, let me share with you something “new”: today, a weight that has lingered in my heart for many years has finally been lifted!

A most valuable life

I came to Taiwan from Hong Kong in 1970, and since then, has taken up the role of “mother” in our Children’s Home. In the last 50 years, I and my team have nurtured over a thousand kids. I cannot say that everyone of them has achieved outstanding accomplishments, or that all of them have done well in their respective professions; but at least, we have given them a peaceful and loving home, have helped them to escape from difficult predicaments, and have provided them with a safe and stable environment in which to grow up. They have now found their place in society, have their own career, as well as their own home. Every time I think about them — how they went from an early stage that was rife with hiccups and struggles, to a later stage where they could stand on their own two feet and can stride forward

– fearless and confident - my heart is filled with gratitude.

The amazing metamorphosis that these children (more than a thousand) went through has given my life profound meaning and tremendous value.

Seeking out a successor: a most difficult task

Time passed quickly as I was engrossed in a myriad number of “family affairs”. I was so busy that sometimes, days and months flew by without my being aware of it. Yet, from time to time, an inner voice within me would say: this work that we do – picking up the young and weak, and nurturing them into someone mature and strong – needs to be taken over by someone with conviction and capability. Yes, it is not easy to find this successor – he/she has to be selfless and caring, he/she has to have support from his/her family; otherwise, it would be difficult to shoulder the responsibility of being a round-the-clock parent. Furthermore, the children and youth from disadvantaged backgrounds today are very different from those a few decades ago. Those in the past were either completely alone (no family at all), or extremely poor; today, most of the kids we care for are from complicated family backgrounds; and where they came from have caused them to be entwined in an intricate web of physical and psychological problems. In order to help them, different kinds of interventions - both medical and psychological – are needed.

For years, I have been praying for, and actively looking for the right successor. I am thankful to God because in January this year, we found Reverend Xu Hua Qiang. Rev. Xu was brought up by me in the Children's Home. He was identified through an open recruitment process. Subsequently, he was

interviewed and received unanimous support from the Board of Directors. On February 1, 2021, he was officially appointed the new CEO of the Holy Word Foundation!

In the past, Rev. Xu had worked with me in the Children's Home where he served as Director of Education. After that, he went to the U.S. to study theology, and then served as a pastor for 18 years. For more than 10 years, he ran an after-class service and took care of children and youth in the community where he lived. I am amazed at the meticulous care God took to prepare His servant: First, He allowed Rev. Xu to grow up in our Children's Home, and so he was able to understand the mentality of these kids and their predicaments; He then allowed him to spend many years abroad, where, through trials and tribulations, he became even more humble and mature. God also enabled Rev. Xu to acquire practical experiences in pastoring adults and in nurturing the youth. Finally, God brought him back to Taiwan through a clear calling: "When you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

And thus, the prayer I have prayed for many years has finally been answered!

Please support the team, and continue to tell the story of love.

Although I have now stepped down from the frontline, I will continue to pray and care for the kids. Every Sunday, I spend time with them, and enjoy a love feast with them. My heart is always filled with gratitude when I see these children, both big and small. I would like to invite you to join me in praying

for the new team: Rev Xu, the new CEO, as well as four of the directors who grew up in our Children's Home: the Chairman (medical) Dr Zhang Chan-xiong, Rev Wu Chuan-ji (pastor), Dr Li Zhun-sheng (geologist) and Mr Lin Zuo-yi (teacher). I'm sure we will see more children from disadvantaged backgrounds growing up here, from being loved by others to learning to love others. Please continue to support this big family that will continue to tell the story of love.

Prayer items

Good news! The children's outstanding achievements are to be applauded. Please continue to pray for our Foundation's new developments in the coming year.

A Qiao, who graduated from the Department of Animation, has been offered admission by Tamu; currently, she is still waiting for notification from other schools. Xiao Jun won fourth place in hammer throw in the Keelong inter-elementary school athletic meet; Xiao Zhun was the first runner-up (individual) in the karate competition; Xiao En won fifth place in the snooker competition; Xiao Lei was awarded a merit prize in the aboriginal speech competition! Efforts the children made paid off, and their confidence was boosted!

At present, the Foundation supports 19 youth who are financially dependent; whereas the Lord's Grace Home accommodates 19 children.

It is estimated that in 2021, the number of youth and children the Foundation will serve will exceed 45 (a total of 8,000 person-times over the year). We would like to invite you to join us in supporting, protecting, and nurturing these youngsters.

**Please pray for the replacement of our old van.
The new van will cost NT\$ 850,000 – 1,200,000.**

The 9-seater we have been using for official business has now reached the age of 26. Besides being used for visits to other organizations, for the delivery of goods, it is also used for transporting the kids in Lord's Grace Home whenever they need to commute between Taipei and Keelung. Yet, recently, there has been many problems with the vehicle, and expenses for repair are high. For the safety of everyone who rides in the van, we decided, after careful consideration, to replace it with a newer model. Currently, all 9-seaters in the market are luxurious business vehicles, and the price is NT \$ 1,500,000. As our Foundation will not be able to afford this price, we hope to purchase a new 7 or 8- seater, or a second-hand 9-seater (about three to five years old). The estimated price is NT\$ 850,000 to 1,200,000. Dear friends, please consider making a contribution to this need.

Launching the 2021 Confidence-rescue Mission (Part 2). NT \$ 250,000 is needed.

On October 31 last year, a ceremony that celebrates the end of the "Confidence-rescue mission" project was held. When the results were announced, teachers, social workers, and volunteers, as well as the guests of honor who came to the event – all responded by lifting up their thumb; they congratulated the children for what they had accomplished. In turn, the confidence of the kids was boosted as their performance caught the eyes of the audience. Furthermore, when they were showered with encouragement and positive feedback, they have become more aware of their talents; they

came to realize that, as long as they try their best, their efforts will bear fruit. They have also gained a better understanding of the importance of, and the virtue of “diligence”.

This year, we will run this program one more time, and will offer more courses. These courses will allow the children to explore their inner selves, they will also provide an outlet into which the children can pour their time and energy. We are looking forward to yet another abundant harvest. We covet your concern and support for this endeavor.

The Garden of Sunflowers welcome you! Please join us by becoming a gardener and a seed-planting angel.

During the Lunar New Year holidays, the children wrote “thank you” notes to their sponsors. It always warms the children's hearts when they receive gifts from their sponsors, as they know that there is someone out there who cares for them. Also, when they know that someone has expectations for them, they feel more motivated to make progress. We would therefore like to thank every one of our sponsors. However, several of our children who have just come to our Home do not have sponsors yet. We would like to invite you to become a gardener and join the league of seed-planting angels.

Please contact Ms Xiao for more information: 02-2518-1333

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