

## 個人蒙召事奉主的見證

王其昌牧師

(提摩太後書 4:6) 我現在被澆奠，我離世的時候到了。

(提摩太後書 4:7) 那美好的仗我已經打過了，當跑的路我已經跑盡了，所信的道我已經守住了。

(提摩太後書 4:8) 從此以後，有公義的冠冕為我存留，就是按著公義審判的主到了那日要賜給我的；不但賜給我，也賜給凡愛慕他顯現的人。

當人進入八十歲高齡的時候，腦海中浮出這個意念，對自己說：「我離世的時候不遠了」，這不是一件奇怪或不正常的事；相反的，這是一個很肯定去面對現實的思路。使徒保羅蒙召時年約三十；為主殉道時他已經是六十歲了。他知道自己離世的時候不遠了，在人及神的面前作一個評估和交賬，向提摩太說了上列經文中幾句的話。

本人生於一九三三年，已是一個八十五歲的老翁了！我蒙召獻身事主是在一九五三年的夏季，至今共有六十五載。按立牧師的那年我是三十歲，已是五十五年前的事了。現在回顧蒙召事主的經歷，這全是神的恩典所造成的。

背景：我來自一個傳統，中上階層的家庭，沒有任何篤信的宗教信仰，只是隨著大眾過年過節及過聖誕。若祖國不遇內戰，我的可能是一個小富平凡之人生。上海優良的私校，以教會學校居多，例如：聖約翰大學 St. John 's University(聖公會), 中西女校(Wesleyan College for Women(循道會)，聖芳濟中學 St. Francis High School(天主教), 滬江大學 University of Shanghai(浸信會)等。一九四九年因中國內戰避難香港時我進入了一間基督教的伯特利中學 Bethel High School。聖芳濟，滬江大學附中，及伯特利中學是我最早接觸到西方宗教的地方。

蒙召：我是家中第一代的基督徒。家庭歷史中並沒有產生過宗教服務的人士。我的蒙召及獻身不是受旁人的影響，也沒有經過任何私人的考慮及籌算，只是在 1953 年初夏的一個禱告會向神祈禱中間神要我做什麼時，神向我說祂要我終身去事奉祂。我回應神說我願意，這就開始了我走上奉獻的第一步。我的母親開始時完全沒辦法瞭解我的決定去做「外國人的和尚」（這是她當時對我所作之決定的回應），直到她也信了基督，她才明白獻身事主是神在我生命中喜悅的旨意，我是她心目中引以為傲的兒子！

當跑的路：人常用「苦傳道」，「窮傳道」來形容終身傳道的苦和窮；這條路是不易走；這條路也不是財路！但是回頭看過去數十年所走的獻身之路，我不會用「苦」及「窮」，倒是用「難」及「緊」去作真實和感恩的描寫！神的力量和恩典在我獻身的路上使我和家人夠力及夠用！

不久當我跑盡了在世上作傳道的路程時，我將如何向神交賬？ 我尚未走到人生的盡頭，但是我將盡我所能不膽怯、不息足，不動搖的去打屬靈的仗，跑靈命的路，並堅信聖經的真道，直等到那與主面對面的時刻。我將克意去注意生命事奉中的質而不是量；這也是保羅採用「盡」字的意思。 在各事上的忠心是神在祂僕人身上所看重的生命質素！

我們蒙召獻身事奉的對象是主耶穌基督，冀望得到的獎賞是由祂而來的；因為我們事奉的是神，也必從祂手中領取將來的獎賞。 那名稱為誠實的耶穌在祂僕人們的呼召，分派，議定工價，及頒獎上都是公義無誤的。 不要貪圖人的稱讚和酬勞！

凡是清楚個人的呼召是由父神而來，終生事奉的對象是救主耶穌，作工的力量是源於聖靈，工作的賞賜是那存在天上不能被奪去且永存的冠冕，這樣作工的人少，但是莊稼已熟，主快要顯現，請趕快求神在人心裏顯明祂要選召的人來加入事奉！

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## My Call to the Ministry Rev. Johnny Wang

*“<sup>6</sup> For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. <sup>7</sup> I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup> 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.”* II Timothy 4:6-8

When a person enters his eighties, a thought invariably comes to mind: “My day of departure will come soon.” This is neither strange nor abnormal. On the contrary, it is an affirmation that this is a reality that had to be faced head on. The apostle Paul was about 30 years old when he was called, was 60 when he was martyred. He realized that the day of his departure was drawing nearer and he penned those words above, both as a self-examination and being accountable to God as well.

I was born in 1933 and that means I am an 85-year-old oldie! I felt called of the Lord to serve him in the summer of 1953 and that adds up to 65 years of ministry! I was 30 when I was ordained to the Gospel ministry. And that was 55 years ago! As I look back on those years, I know that it was all accomplished by the grace of God.

**My background:** I come from a traditional upper middle-class family that has no religious background. We just followed the “crowd” in celebrating all the traditional Chinese feast days and even celebrated Christmas. Had it not been for the civil war in the motherland, I would have been an ordinarily wealthy person. I attended many of Shanghai’s elitist private schools, most of which were Christian, like St. John’s University (Anglican/Episcopal); Wesleyan College for Women (Wesleyan/Methodist); St. Francis High School (Catholic); University of Shanghai (Baptist). In 1949, because of the civil war, I had to leave China for Hong Kong where I enrolled at the Bethel High School. Therefore, St. Francis High School, Shanghai University Preparatory High School and Bethel High School were places where I first encountered western religious thoughts.

**The Call:** I am a first-generation Christian. Looking back at my family history, there was no one who could be considered as having served any religion. My calling from the Lord was not the result of any outside influence nor was it anything conjured up or planned. In the summer of 1953, as I was praying, I asked the Lord what he wanted me to do. The Lord spoke and I heard that he wanted me to dedicate myself fully and completely to serve him for the rest of my life. I said, “Yes Lord! I am willing.” From that moment on, I took the first step on to the path of a lifetime of service to the Lord. Initially, my mother could not fully comprehend my decision to be a “Foreigner’s Monk” (this was her way of describing what had happened to me!). But when she became a believer of Jesus Christ, she then came to realize that my commitment to serve the Lord for the rest of my life was what pleased God and that in her eyes, I was her child that she could be proud of!

**Running the race:** People usually use the terms, “suffering ministers” and “poor ministers” to describe the lot of ministers. No doubt about it. Ministry is not a bed of roses nor is it a path to riches and wealth. But as I reflected upon the decades of ministry in the Lord, I would not want to use those words to describe my journey. I would rather use the words, “challenging” and “tight” to paint a more accurate view of ministry and ministers. God’s grace and strength are more than sufficient in providing for what I and my family needed for the journey.

In the very near future when I would have completed my journey in ministry, how would I give an account to the Lord of what I had done? Until then, I would continue to do my best to be bold and unshakeable in fighting the spiritual battles and running the race set before me, and, resolved in affirming the truth of God's Word. I will focus on the quality of my ministry rather than its quantity. This is what the apostle Paul meant when he said that he had "finished the race" in that he was faithful qualitatively in everything that was entrusted to him.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the one we serve. Our reward for service comes from him. As it is God whom we serve, our rewards are from him. Jesus, the Faithful and Just One is the One who calls, sends, recompenses and rewards justly. Never are we to seek the vain praises and rewards of people.

Those who clearly sense the call of God know that they are serving their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for life. The empowerment for ministry is from the Holy Spirit, the eternal reward reserved for his servants in heaven can never be taken away from them. The workers are few but the harvest is plentiful and the Lord's coming is near. Let us pray to the Lord of the Harvest that he will reveal his calling to the hearts of his chosen children so that they may be willing to be sent into the harvest field.

*Rev. Johnny Wang serves as an Advisor of the Chinese Baptist Fellowship. A retired minister, he continues faithfully serving the Lord through short term missions locally and internationally and supply preach. He was formerly the Senior Pastor of the Chinese Independent Baptist Church San Francisco and the Sunset Church in San Francisco. He had also served as the Executive Secretary of the Chinese Christian Mission (CCM) from 1997 to 2004.*

