

SHE DIED PEACEFULLY IN HER SLEEP

SHE DIED PEACEFULLY IN HER SLEEP EARLY ON WEDNESDAY MORNING. THAT IS HOW WE ALL PROBABLY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE OUR LAST HOURS DESCRIBED. BUT THAT IS NOT THE WAY SHE SHOULD BE REMEMBERED. ALL OF YOU WHO ARE HERE KNOW THAT IN YOUR HEARTS. BECAUSE IF YOU KNEW HER, THEN YOU KNOW THAT PEACE AND TRANQUILITY ARE NOT PROPER WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE WAY SHE LIVED HER LIFE. IF THERE WAS A NOUN THAT FIT HER, IT WAS ENERGY AND IF THERE WAS AN ADJECTIVE, IT WAS BOUNDLESS.

THAT IS THE WAY SHE LIVED HER LIFE. BOUNDLESS ENERGY. THAT IS THE WAY SHE APPROACHED HER JOB. THAT IS THE WAY SHE WAS A PARENT. THAT IS THE WAY SHE WAS YOUR FRIEND. AND MOST IMPORTANT TO HER, THAT IS THE WAY SHE GRASPED HER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

SHE WAS A PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGIST. SHE OBTAINED HER MEDICAL DEGREE IN SHANGHAI. SHE TRAINED RIGHT HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. HER ENERGETIC ENTHUSIASM FOR HER JOB WAS EVIDENT

EVEN AT THAT POINT AS SHE BECAME A CHIEF RESIDENT FOR HER PROGRAM.

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I WATCHED HER WORK WITH HER PATIENTS. MANY WERE LEARNING DISABLED OR HAD ATTENTION DEFICIT PROBLEMS. THEY HAD UNCONTROLLED ENERGY. AND I THINK THAT IN HER WAY, SHE IDENTIFIED WITH THEM. SO MUCH ENERGY, SO MUCH DRIVE, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, SO UNCONTROLLED. AND SHE SAW IN THEM THE POTENTIAL OF WHAT THEY COULD BE AND DO IF THAT ENERGY COULD BE HARNESSSED.

SHE LOVED HER JOB. SHE LOVED IT SO MUCH, SHE WAS WILLING TO LIVE IN PHILADELPHIA AND COMMUTE TO NEW YORK CITY EVERY OTHER DAY. SHE ROSE AT 5 A.M. ON MONDAY TO CATCH A 6 A.M. AMTRAK TRAIN FROM 30TH STREET STATION TO PENN STATION IN NEW YORK. SHE WOULD RETURN ON TUESDAY NIGHT AND LEAVE AGAIN ON WEDNESDAY MORNING TO COME BACK ON THURSDAY. ON FRIDAY SHE WOULD GO AND RETURN ON THE SAME DAY. SHE DID THIS FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS. IMAGINE

THE LOVE YOU HAVE FOR A JOB THAT YOU ARE WILLING TO PUT THAT MUCH ENERGY INTO JUST GETTING THERE. THAT WAS THE WOMAN, IF YOU KNEW HER IN HER PROFESSIONAL CAPACITY AS A PHYSICIAN, THAT I INVITE YOU TO SIT HERE AND REMEMBER.

BUT HER WILLINGNESS TO TRAVEL SAYS MORE ABOUT THE ENERGY AND LOVE SHE BROUGHT IN HER ROLE AS A PARENT. SHE WAS A PIONEER IN THE SENSE THAT WHEN WE WERE GROWING UP, DIVORCE AND SINGLE PARENTHOOD WERE STILL RARE. SHE FACED WORKING AND RAISING A FAMILY ALONE WHEN THERE WERE NO SOCIAL OR LEGAL PROVISIONS OR ALLOWANCES MADE FOR HER. WHEN SHE WAS OFFERED HER POSITION IN NEW YORK, WE AS A FAMILY WERE FIRMLY ESTABLISHED IN PHILADELPHIA. SHE HAD ALREADY UPROOTED US TO BRING US TO PHILADELPHIA FOR HER MEDICAL TRAINING. INSTEAD OF MOVING US AGAIN, SHE MOVED HERSELF. SHE WORE HER HAT AS A MEDICAL DOCTOR. SHE WORE HER HAT AS A SINGLE PARENT. AND SHE PUT IN ALL THE EFFORT AND ENERGY AND SACRIFICE THAT WAS NEEDED TO BE SUCCESSFUL AT BOTH.

I WILL GIVE YOU ONE OTHER EXAMPLE WHICH EXEMPLIFIED HER
ENERGETIC SPIRIT WHICH SHE BROUGHT TO HER ROLE AS OUR MOTHER.
EVERY YEAR, OUR HIGHSCHOOL, FRIENDS SELECT, HAD A SCHOOL FAIR. THE
SCHOOL CLOSED DOWN FOR THE DAY AND BOOTHS AND RIDES WERE SET
UP ON CAMPUS. IT WAS ESSENTIALLY A FUND-RAISING EVENT THAT WAS
PARENT DRIVEN AND STAFFED. WHEN WE STARTED GOING TO THE
SCHOOL, WE WERE ESSENTIALLY THE ONLY FEW CHINESE PEOPLE THERE.
SO MY MOTHER GOT THIS IDEA THAT ONE FOOD BOOTH THAT THEY DID NOT
HAVE WAS AN EGG ROLL BOOTH. SHE DECIDED THAT SHE WOULD MAKE
AND SELL EGG ROLLS DURING THE FAIR. SHE BOUGHT THE INGREDIENTS,
WENT TO THE SCHOOL ON THE WEEK END BEFORE THE EVENT TO SIT IN THE
CAFETERIA AND FILL AND ROLL THE EGG ROLLS. SHE TOOK OFF TIME FROM
WORK ON FAIR DAY TO MAN, OR WOMAN IN HER CASE, THE BOOTH AND FRY
THE EGG ROLLS IN BIG WOKS. EACH YEAR THE BOOTH WAS MORE AND
MORE SUCCESSFUL. BY THE END, SHE WAS MAKING AND SELLING
THOUSANDS OF EGG ROLLS EACH FAIR. IMAGINE THE TIME AND EFFORT IT

TOOK TO MAKE THOSE EGG ROLLS. THOUSANDS OF THEM. MANY YEARS IT WAS THE HIGHEST GROSSING FOOD BOOTH BEATING OUT MY PERSONAL FAVORITE, THE ITALIAN HOAGIE. SHE LOVED RUTH AND I. OF THAT WE HAVE NO DOUBT.

SHE WAS YOUR FRIEND AND SHE BROUGHT HER ENERGY TO EACH FRIENDSHIP SHE HAD. IN HER LAST YEARS, SHE WAS THE DEFACTO SOCIAL CHAIRWOMAN AT PENN CENTER HOUSE WHERE SHE LIVED. SHE GAVE OF HER TIME TO BRING HER AGING FRIENDS TOGETHER. I KNOW SHE BROUGHT HER FULL ENERGY TO THIS BECAUSE I SAW A PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION THAT NOW HANGS ON A WALL IN THEIR SOCIAL HALL. SHE ALSO DID THINGS FOR THE CITY, SHE DID THINGS FOR THE STATE. SHE DID THINGS FOR CULTURAL AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. I NAME NONE BECAUSE SHE DID ALL WITHOUT THE DESIRE OF PERSONAL PRAISE. IN WHATEVER CAPACITY YOU CAME INTO CONTACT WITH HER THAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY, THIS IS THE FRIEND, VIBRANT AND FULL OF ENERGY, THAT I HOPE YOU REMEMBER - NOT FOR WHAT SHE DID, BUT FOR HOW SHE DID IT.

YOU KNOW, SHE HELPED TO START A CAMP. THIS IS NOT THE TYPE OF CAMP OF WHICH MANY OF YOU MIGHT BE FAMILIAR. IT WAS NOT A CAMP WHERE PARENTS SEND THEIR CHILDREN FOR WEEKS AT A TIME SO THAT THEY CAN SET SAIL FOR THE CARRIBEAN. THIS WAS A FAMILY CAMP. WHAT MADE IT MORE UNIQUE, WAS THAT IT WAS A CHINESE FAMILY CAMP. IT WAS STARTED IN 1959 OR 1960 WITH THE IDEA OF GATHERING FAMILIES OF CHINESE AMERICANS TOGETHER TO EXPLORE WHAT IT IS TO BE CHINESE IN AMERICA. - TO HOLD ON TO WHAT WAS IMPORTANT OF OUR CULTURAL PAST AND FIND A PATH FOR FITTING IN AND SUCCEEDING . SO EACH YEAR, MY FAMILY WOULD TRAVEL TO A SMALL TOWN IN INDIANA ON LAKE WAWASEE TO GATHER AND LEARN FROM EACH OTHER AND SHARE THE JOYS AND DIFFICULTIES OF BEING DIFFERENT IN THE SOCIETY IN WHICH WE LIVE. SHE LED THIS CAMP A NUMBER OF YEARS AS ITS DIRECTOR. THE CAMP STILL EXISTS TODAY AND WHEN THEY LAST HELD SESSION EARLIER LAST MONTH, THEY HONORED HER IN ABSTENTIA FOR THE LOVE AND COMMITMENT AND GUIDANCE SHE PROVIDED. IMAGINE, A DOCTOR, SINGLE PARENT, SOCIAL

AND COMMUNITY LEADER, CAMP DEVELOPER AND DIRECTOR. SHE SIMPLY
COULD NOT SIT STILL.

IMAGINE A WOMAN WHO AFTER RETIRING AS A DOCTOR, THEN
WENT ON TO PURSUE A MASTERS IN THEOLOGY AND ACTUALLY OBTAINING
HER DEGREE AT THE AGE OF 75. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP UP WITH HER.
SHE WAS THE PROTOTYPICAL "ENERGIZER BUNNY." SHE JUST KEPT ON
TICKING.

SHE SO LOVED ALL HER GRANDCHILDREN. SHE WAS PROUD OF
THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THEY IN RETURN LOVED HER SO. BUT TYPICAL
OF CHILDREN, ONE TRIED TO PUT HER ON THE SPOT BY ASKING HER WHICH
GRANDCHILD SHE LOVED THE BEST. BUT THAT WAS THE WRONG QUESTION.
THEY SHOULD ALL ASK, HOW COULD SHE HAVE LOVED THEM ANY MORE.

BUT IN HER MIND AND IN HER HEART, SHE GAVE HER FULLEST
ENERGY AND HER DEEPEST COMMITMENT TO HER RELATIONSHIP WITH HER
GOD, HER FATHER. I THINK THAT IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS THAT GOD
BLESSED HER BACK WITH EVEN MORE ENERGY. FOR IT IS HE WHO GAVE HER

THAT LIGHT -THAT SPIRIT. YOU THAT SIT HERE TODAY KNOW THIS TO BE
TRUE. YOU THAT SIT HERE TODAY AND ARE A PART OF THE BIBLE STUDY
THAT SHE BEGAN IN THE 1960'S FOR CHINESE STUDENTS IN THE
PHILADELPHIA AREA, KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE. YOU THAT SIT HERE AND
WERE A PART OF EITHER THE CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR OR THE CHINESE
GOSPEL CHURCH WHERE SHE WAS ONCE A MEMBER, KNOW THIS TO BE
TRUE. YOU THAT SIT HERE TODAY AND ARE A PART OF THE WEST
PHILADELPHIA CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH THAT SHE HELPED YOU FOUND
IN THE LAST YEARS OF HER LIFE, KNOW THIS TO BE TRUE. SHE GAVE HER
HEART TO THE LORD AND HE BLESSED HER TENFOLD FOR IT. THIS IS YOUR
FELLOW SISTER IN CHRIST WHOSE ENERGY ON HIS BEHALF I PRAY THAT YOU
REMEMBER. SHE NEVER ASKED US TO LIVE BY HER EXAMPLE. BUT WE
WOULD ALL HONOR HER BY DOING SO.

IN THE CHURCH THAT MY FAMILY ATTENDS IN HAWAII, THERE IS A
BIG SIGN ABOVE THE DOORS IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY WHICH
SAYS "BEYOND THESE DOORS, YOUR SERVICE BEGINS." THAT IS HOW
SHE LIVED HER LIFE. AND MY SISTER AND I WOULD LIKE TO
PERPETUATE HER SERVICE TO GOD. WE HAVE ASKED THAT INSTEAD
OF FLOWERS OR GIFTS, IF YOU ARE SO MOVED, THAT YOU MAKE A
DONATION TO HER NEW CHURCH WITH A NOTATION ON YOUR CHECK
THAT IT BE DESIGNATED FOR USE IN "THE DOROTHY C. YANG
MEMORIAL FUND." THE PURPOSE OF THIS FUND IS TO PROVIDE
ASSISTANCE TO NEW CHINESE STUDENT FROM THE FAR EAST. SHE
ALWAYS SAW THE NEED OF THESE STUDENTS, WHO COME TO
PHILADELPHIA WITH LITTLE OR NO ASSISTANCE AND LITTLE
UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IT TAKES TO LIVE IN A MAJOR CITY, AND
WHOSE FINANCIAL NEEDS MIGHT NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET THESE
DEMANDS. WE WOULD LIKE THE MEMBERS OF THE WEST
PHILADELPHIA CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH TO UNDERSTAND AND

ACCEPT THE IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF CARRYING ON THIS
MISSION.

SHE DIED PEACEFULLY IN HER SLEEP ON WEDNESDAY
MORNING. ALAS, HER SOME OF HER FINAL WORDS WERE “NO MORE
ENERGY.” BUT REMEMBER HOW SHE LIVED WITH US IN THE DAYS
BEFORE.

ON BEHALF OF MY SISTER AND OUR FAMILIES, WE THANK
YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO BE HERE TODAY. FOR TOUCHING HER
LIFE AS SHE HAS TOUCHED OURS.