這十天來,心靈沉重,我所知道、認識、敬重的神僕林獻羔弟兄、斳靈涵牧師 (Dr. Milton Cunningham) 和鮑會園牧師分別於八月三日在中國、美國和香港安息主懷,主息了他們的勞苦,回到天家。

中國的家庭教會老前輩林獻羔弟兄,於八月三日下午二時在廣州安息主懷,享年八十九歲。

林獻羔弟兄是中國家庭教會上一代的重要領袖之一。上個世紀,在信仰環境十分困難中出現了王明道、袁相忱、以巴弗、謝默善、楊心斐等一代上帝忠心的僕人,他們都曾為主坐監牢多年。這些老僕人們先後安息主懷,林獻羔弟兄的榮歸天家,代表著一個時代的結束。

林獻羔弟兄生於一九二四年十月四日,廣東台山縣人,出生於澳門。他的父親林保羅擔任澳門白馬行浸信會的牧師,父親給兒子起名為獻羔,意為獻給羔羊基督。他的英文名為 Samuel Lamb,名為 Samuel (撒母耳),取自於聖經舊約還未出生,就被母親獻上給耶和華上帝的先知撒母耳,姓為 Lamb (羔羊),羔羊基督的意思。

一九三六年,他在香港長州受浸,一九四二年進入到梧州建道聖經學院就讀,一九四五年起開始在廣州傳道,一九五零年在廣州市中心大馬路卅五號的家中開始聚會,稱為「大馬站福音會堂」。後來由於不願意加入三自愛國運動,於一九五五年九月開始坐監,有廿多年的時間都在為主坐監,直到一九七八年最終出獄。

出獄第二年一九七九年,林獻羔就恢復了在廣州大馬路卅五號家中的聚會,之後教會一直增長,後來搬遷至廣州的榮桂里十五號,牧養了許多信徒,各地牧者在與他的交流中也得到許多餵養和勸慰。

林弟兄的一生寫書無數,作曲作詞,彈琴,演奏貝多芬的音樂、他翻譯了許多著作。他是多才多藝、也為主坐牢,為主盡忠,直到離開世界。一生為主所用,真是人如其名,獻羔就是:將生命獻與羔羊!

一位弟兄也懷念地說:「林伯忠心向 神一生!仍記得受浸那天,他的禱告,每次聚會完的握手!求主保守教會,繼續按主的道牧養群羊。堅固我們的信心,向著主的標杆直跑,直到主來,永不反悔。」

林獻羔弟兄去世的消息,各地基督徒與牧者也都透過各種方式表示紀念與感恩。弟兄姐妹們紛紛見證,「他的腳縱何等佳美」,「林弟兄,為主做了美好的見證,打了美好的仗。安息天家」。現在我們的長輩「息了地上的勞苦,做工的果效也隨著他們。(啓示錄 14:13)」

我敬愛的牧者、近卅年的導師,斳靈涵博士 Dr. Milton Cunningham 於八月三日在偉高 (Waco) 市安息主懷。師母與我在八月六日驅車前往 Wilkerson Hatch-Bailey 殯儀館向他致敬意和慰問其家屬,七日下午二時出席在 Columbus Avenue Baptist Church 參加追思禮拜。由認識斳博士四十年的前衛斯伯利浸信會的同工史迪牧師 (Rev. Dick Stafford) 專誠從凰凰城來主禮這追思禮拜,按程序表追述其生平如下:

Milton Emery Cunningham of Waco, Texas, died on August 3, 2013 of complications following a stroke, having lived his life to the praise of the glorious grace of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was eighty-four. He is survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, Barbara Schultz Cunningham; two sons: Milton Brasher-Cunningham (and his wife, Ginger Brasher-Cunningham) from Durham, North Carolina and Miller (and his wife, Ginger Cunningham) from Dallas, Texas; two grandsons: Ben from New Orleans, Louisiana and Scott (and his wife Marissa Cunningham from Wheaton, Illinois.

Milton was born in Victoria, Texas on September 13, 1928 to Milton and Bertha Cunningham. His mother died a month after he was born. His father was an itinerant preacher and church planter, so they moved a great deal. He graduated from Austin High School and enrolled in Baylor when he was just sixteen years old. While at Baylor, he served as manager of the football team, earned the nickname "Squirrel," gave his life to Christ, and answered the call to ministry.

He treasured his relationship with Dr. W. R. White, whom he credited with bringing him to faith. He graduated from Baylor University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; he also received honorary degrees from the University of Corpus Christi and Baylor.

He and Barbara were missionaries in Africa for fifteen years, serving in Southern Rhodesia, Zambia, Kenya, and Ghana. He was Senior Pastor at Westbury Baptist Church in Houston for seventeen years before moving to Baylor where he served as Chaplain and then as Sports Chaplain. In recent years, he was interim pastor at First Baptist churches in San Antonio, Athens, Corsicana, and Woodville. He loved his connection to the Cowboy Church at White Mound near Gatesville. He has also founded Heart and Hands, a mission foundation that sent students all over the world.

He served as President of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and as President of the Board of Trustees at Baylor. He was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of Baylor and also received the Huckins Award. He leaves behind a legacy of family, faith, love, laughter, and old hymns.

八月七日接獲從事神學教育數十年如一日,我敬重的釋經學者鮑會園博士於八月六日晚上九時十五分在播道醫院安詳離世歸天家,在世生活及事奉逾

九十載。播道會總會曾描述鮑牧師一生「事主忠心,在世九十有餘,留下佳 美腳蹤」。

鮑牧師晚年身體抱病,曾四次中風,最後一次在二零零八年二月間在家中,被送入院後一直在播道醫院長期臥床接受治療。其後漸漸失去正常的溝通能力,但會以睜眼、微笑表達心情。鮑牧師師母及女兒探望他時他會顯得高興。

鮑會園牧師在一九六一年年至一九八五年任播道神學院院長,一九八五年至今任播道神學院榮譽院長。後更於一九九四年應美國基督工人神學院的需要獲差任院長,於二零零零年「再度榮休」。他分別在香港、北美從事神學教育四十多年。

鮑會園牧師對神學教育作出的貢獻備受肯定和尊重。播道神學院八十周年院慶時設立了「鮑會園牧師教席」,記念鮑牧師對華人神學教育所作出的貢獻。此外基督教基機協會在二零零五年向他頒發終身事奉獎表揚其對神學教育的貢獻。

頒獎禮上他透過影片說,終身事奉是蒙召的人應該的表現,是蒙召事奉神的人應做的份內事。他說:「主的僕人應該盡所有的能力去做僕人應該做的事。」他亦以生命證明活出此話,成了信徒的榜樣。

鮑牧師曾擔任多屆港九培靈研經會講員,為廣大信徒講解過彌迦書、羅馬書、哥林多前書、以弗所書等多卷聖經,其子鮑維均牧師亦為著名新約學者,並於二零一一年港九培靈研經會任晚堂講員。

讓我再想到傳道書:「凡事都有定期,天下萬務都有定時:生有時、死有時。裁種有時,拔出所裁種的也有時。哭有時,笑有時,哀慟有時,跳舞有時。我知道 神一切所作的,都必永存,無所增添,無所減少。神這樣行,是要人在祂面前存敬畏的心。(傳道書 3:1-2, 4, 14)」