



# AUNTIE MARY



*Dorothy Yang*

Auntie Mary was born in 1906 in China during the last five years of the Manchurian Dynasty from an aristocratic family. Her granduncle was an high official serving Empress Dowager as the chief examiner for government officials. She was married to her cousin at the age of 19. Her dowery consisted of 20,000 ounces of silver, six trunks of elegant furs, embroidered beddings, jewelries, etc. She bore one son and her husband died when she was twenty-nine.

Women were not educated during that time. However, Auntie Mary was tutored at home in her maiden days in literature and painting. Her mother-in-law loved to play Mah Jong and Auntie Mary had to run the household for her. Every day there were 40 to 50 family members for lunch and dinner and there were about 100 to 150 servants. As a widowed daughter-in-law in such a large complicated traditional family, life was not easy for her to maintain peace and harmony in the family and

among the servants. She had to deal with malicious gossips, and jealous cutting remarks but she maintained her fairness and dignity. She was a wise, patient, and honorable lady. For the sake of the peace of the family, she could endure all.

When Shanghai was controlled by the Communist Government Auntie Mary was the one to negotiate with the officials. At that time her son was already in America. Auntie Mary took both her in-laws to Hong Kong and she nursed her mother-in-law until she died. Then she lived with her sister-in-law for five years. Her sister-in-law led her to Christ and she was baptized. While she was planning to imigrate to America, She prayed that God would find her a Christian family to work even though her son was more than well of. She was in her early fifties when she came to America. She lived a year and a half with her son's family. She was lonesome and isolated because she could not understand the English language.

God heard her prayer and led her to me while I was desperately in need of someone to take care of my two children, age 10 and 7 while I worked. Her family was dead against her working because the family would lose face. Auntie Mary could care less. She knew that she could get social security if she worked. During the 10 years she was in my family, we never had one word of conflict. She became a second mother to my children. It was amazing how she learned English. Once, she was able to exchange merchandise in a department store all by herself.

Auntie Mary and I served the Lord together at the Chinese Gospel Church for over 30 years. Auntie Mary was one of the most faithful, responsible, and caring person in the church. She knew who was in the hospital and who had problems. She would inform the pastor and visit with the pastor. She would encourage members to go to Bible study meeting and she would try to arrange transportation for them. There was no need that was too small for her not to care about. She was kind and gentle to both young and old. Her sleepless nights and tears were all for her church. She loved the Lord and His church.

In her early seventies, she was found to have breast cancer. It was under control for 15 years. but in the past 5 years she began to have recurrences. During the last 5 months, her condition became steadily worse until she was unable to feed herself. God took her home on Nov. 3rd, 1992.

Many came to her memorial service because they loved her. They remembered her loving kindness, her caring, her patience, and her genuine Christian love. She never thought of herself. She never vindicated herself. All her life she gave herself as Christ gave himself to us.

Auntie Mary was truly a great lady. She said that she couldn't evangelize to people and couldn't even carry a tune to sing a hymn. But she had touched the hearts and lives of many who have experienced her love of Christ through her. She was indeed a faithful servant of the our Master. The Lord would reward His faithful servant in heaven.

She was also a very very rich lady because she had made many friends who truly love her and miss her. May she rest in Jesus with no more suffering and pain.

