

The Lord's Perfect Timing

by Harvey Chien

I recently had the honor of celebrating Mimi Chu's 80th birthday with our pastors and many brothers and sisters from our church. I have known Mimi for more than 48 years. As a matter of fact, Mimi and I were the first 2 people baptized at our church. We were baptized by our founding Pastor, Chi-Chong Chang, on Sunday, July 6, 1975, at our mother church MBCLA (Mandarin Baptist Church Los Angeles). I have never forgotten our baptism date, because our baptism year "75" plus 1 becomes our baptism month "7" and baptism date "6". We had to borrow MBCLA's sanctuary for our baptism since the sanctuary building that our church bought in April 1975 on Del Mar Blvd., Pasadena, did not have a baptism facility.

After we were baptized, I found out that Mimi and I are actually distant relatives. My father told me at one time about how Mimi and I were related. Mimi's father and my uncle (husband of my father's sister) have the same paternal grandfather. I also found out that Mimi's parents and my parents knew each other very well for a long time.

After we were baptized, not only did we become brother and sister at the same church, but my wife and I became such close friends with Mimi and her husband, Brother Steve. When we decided to get married in our church in 1976, Brother Steve automatically became our wedding coordinator. Our Pastor Chang, who was supposed to officiate our wedding, became sick right before our wedding day. It was Mimi who cooked many nutritious dishes with Chinese medicine to nurture Pastor Chang back to health so that he was well enough to officiate our wedding.

Over the years, Mimi has done so many things for our church. She single-handedly took care of the pulpit flower arrangement for our church's Sunday Worship Service for many, many years. In the early lean years, our church did not have any budget to buy Christmas presents for our pastors. Mimi always came up with many creative ways to gather materials to make Christmas presents for our pastors without costing our church anything. Mimi has cooked so many meals and desserts for various church activities and countless church council meetings. Mimi's list of contributions to our church just goes on and on.

Isn't our Lord wonderful? After 48 years, Mimi and I are still worshiping our Lord at the same church where we were baptized 48 years ago. Mimi's son Pastor Eugene preached to our English Congregation on September 3, 2023. Pastor Eugene said in his sermon that God's timing is always perfect. Yes, indeed. Our Lord's timing is always perfect. I thank our Lord for our baptism on July 6, 1975 and our fellowship in Christ since July 6, 1975. I give all my praise to our Lord.