



*Dr. Sharon shares tribute at Ada's 100 birthday.*

Ada, I want to thank your family, because for so many decades, they shared you with the world. You should have been home mixing jelly and jams and picking guavas, but you left that to them and, you came and served us.

I've heard you thank God for your family countless times. They were the ones who prepared you for the rigors of overseas work and kept you grounded when you brought home armloads of international accolades.

You were raised by a father from a Confucius background and a mother who was an ancestor worshiper. But when you were in fourth grade, a Christian family moved next door and invited you and all the neighborhood kids to Kalihi Union Church. There, you fell in love with Jesus. You grew in knowledge of Him, and wisdom and stature, and favor with God and man. (Well actually, maybe you didn't grow so much in stature.) By the time you reached high school, you wanted everyone to know about Jesus — EVERYONE in the whole wide world!

Loving God's Word as you do and feeling the need to be trained as a missionary, off you went to Wheaton College. Upon graduation, you felt ready to go into all the world.

You applied to China Inland Mission. They responded, "I'm sorry, Miss Lum, we don't take those of Chinese ethnicity." Just think about that. Their founder, Hudson Taylor was criticized for closely identifying with the Chinese way of life, dress, and appearance. But his successors blocked your service with them.

So next you applied to mainline mission organizations, and they replied, "I'm sorry, we don't want singles."

Lastly, you applied to Fuller Seminary, thinking more training might make you a better candidate. But Fuller said, "No, thank you. We don't teach women."

But none of this could stop you. You simply made an about face, returned to Wheaton, and earned your Master's degree. Your thesis focused on Evangelistic Bible Studies.

With that degree, you came back to Hawaii to train others. Soon Barbara Ching was one of the many that learned how to study the Bible from you. Then at 29 years of age, you made your move to serve the nations with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. 29 years later, you returned home.

Who here is happy that Ada came home? Yes, Ada, we are your groupies. I was just one of many who signed up for every Bible Institute of Hawaii class you taught. For 29 years you were the full-time BIH

Faculty for New Testament and Inductive Bible Study but between school terms, you continued your overseas ministry with InterVarsity. Together, we started the Missions Interest Group. We, University of Hawaii students, would gather at your house on Friday evenings and you'd excite and encourage us with your many ministry stories.

Just like you, I never expected or planned to become an itinerant missionary. And everywhere I go, it's amazing. People don't ask if I know Steve McGarrett, President Obama, or Don Ho. They stop and want to know if I know their mentor and friend, Ada Lum.

The first time it happened, I was in the humongous Singapore Airport. When the woman in front of me at the United Airlines counter heard I was returning home to Hawaii, she asked, "Do you happen to know my mentor and friend, Ada Lum?" I replied, "You mean MY mentor and friend?" Turns out it was the international author and speaker, Becky Manley Pippert. In Hong Kong, in Indonesia, in the Middle East,

basically everywhere I go, I've discovered our dear Ada is beloved. Lois Pannabecker is the second witness who says she's had the same thing happen to her.

In the Philippines, you and Gwen Wong helped build a strong InterVarsity national movement. After spending time training student leaders, you went to the General Secretary and said, 'The students are ready to lead their own national chapter,' but were told, "Oh Ada, Filipinos are very sweet, but they'll never be leaders."

Gwen and Ada, thank you for taking those as fighting words and standing behind seas of Asian students and showing that yes, they can lead their own nations.

You broke stained glass ceilings for many of us - women, minorities, and singles. I stand on your shoulders with great pride. Where would we be without Ada Lum? Where would InterVarsity be without evangelistic Bible studies, where would BIH and Kalihi Union be without you?

We would not be in this better place, but we are because of you.

Decades later, Fuller Seminary came and asked, "Miss Lum, would you please serve on our Board?" With a twinkle in her eye Ada laughs, every time, and says, "I told them no".

When she was well into her 80's, I had the privilege to travel with Ada to Indonesia. The first time, I had to drag her over. "Please, please," I begged her, "These people need to know about Evangelistic Bible Studies". And Ada finally agreed. Our time was so fruitful, while we were there, I overheard her telling them, "Next time when we come." When we returned that second time, the local InterVarsity leaders asked her to please come a third time to record a video series on Evangelistic Bible Studies. And she did.

Lum family, I want you to know every day, when we were in Indonesia, Auntie Ada thought of you. She deliberately picked up all sorts of little curios to bring home for you to enjoy. Her heart was overflowed with love for each of you. I realized then, how much Ada sacrificed to leave you to become God's light and bring His love to 115 countries.

Thank you, Ada, you are a champion. And thank you Lum family for sharing your aunt, your sister, with all of us. We all love Jesus more because of Ada Lum.