



A NEVER-ENDING LEGACY - MS. LILIAN MAY LING LAW

What becomes of the legacies left behind? Living in a time of countless significant people, it appears to be harder to make a name for oneself by giving back to society. However, for certain individuals, the aim of their contributions is to bring joy to others, rather than themselves.

Having proudly graduated in 1970 (Form 5), Ms. Lilian May Ling Law relished studying at Bishop Hall Jubilee School and cached her fond moments of BHJS in her heart long after graduation. Sadly, this alumnus passed away from cancer in Australia in 2019. Imparted by her brother Raymond and her husband Laurence, Lilian has left a large fortune of her legacy to her alma mater. Her legacy means much more than a donation.

Lilian first displayed her benevolent and giving qualities at a young age. Raymond reminisced with the school about some of his cherished childhood memories with his sister, which included a time when they were in primary school. Even at an early age, Lilian was a model student who dove into her homework the second she arrived home, causing her siblings' playtime to be cut short because their mother would ask them to follow suit. As a countermeasure, Lilian's brothers, Sidney, Gary and Raymond would block the doors of their home in So Uk Estate, Kowloon, so as to delay her return. However, instead of protesting against her cheeky siblings, she utilised her backpack and created a makeshift study desk. "I realised that this was part of her tenacious and persistent personality from start to finish," mentioned Raymond, "regardless of the obstacles along the way."





Adversity always comes along in our lives, as it did in Lilian's. The 1970s stock market crash brought financial hardship to a multitude of families in Hong Kong. Lilian, albeit exceptional in her studies and accepted to one of the top universities in Toronto, willingly took on the responsibility to look after her family and decided not to pursue higher education. During these difficult times, she stepped up for her family and sacrificed her own opportunities, which were not given to all women at that time. Such selfless deeds allowed her brother, Raymond, to have a better education. He recalled something she said before leaving to study in the USA, "Ray, when you're young, time is your only asset. Don't waste your youth."

Her undying belief in kindness continued, even when she had descended into the final stages of her life. To resolve the worries of her family, she explained her pain in a different way by saying that her cancer cells were so hungry that they had eaten all her body's nutrients. She also mentioned to them her ability to sleep through the night, which already was a blessing from God, instead of telling them that her cancer had spread. Even in her solitude of suffering, Lilian put others before herself.

"If it wasn't for Lilian, I would not have matured into the person I am today," Raymond said. One of her classmates in the past also conveyed, "She was one of my role models – someone who was diligent, gentle and kind. I never saw her lose her temper." Friends and family have all expressed their fondness and admiration for Lilian, indicating her love and consideration for them. One of Lilian's best friends chanted her praise after she had passed away, "Let's salute a strong, caring and loving lady! She will always remain in our hearts!"

Keeping a low profile among the BHJS alumni, this self-sacrificing, caring and loving former student of ours has demonstrated that vibrant spirit embodied in the school motto, "I am not born for myself alone." Her modesty shown by her silent tribute to our school, where she was shaped and groomed to truly be herself, is to be commemorated through our gratitude of the Covered Playground's renovation. Many more Jubileans will continue to benefit from Lilian's legacy when they learn, study and mingle in the new space. Perhaps the story she left behind will be a humble reminder to our students to always put others before themselves and be of service to others.

Written by 5D Hagios Wong (2021-22)

