

True to his calling – Angie Yen

“It is not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing. It is not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving” -Mother Teresa.

A TEACHER'S PRAYER

I want to teach my students how
to live life on earth
To face it's struggles and its strife
And to improve their worth...
For if I help the world to grow
In wisdom and in grace
Then I shall feel that I have won
And I have filled my place
And so I ask your guidance,
O God
That I may do my part
For character and confidence
And happiness of heart.

TO SIR WITH LOVE CELEBRATION OF 50 YEARS DEDICATION



David Madhavan started off his career as a teacher in Alor Gajah School in 1961 and realised his true calling then. What had kept him doing something he loved for the last 50 years was his sense of purpose as a teacher? How many would have persisted doing something for 50 years? Teaching is a labour of love, you must have the grit and passion and at the same time enjoying the children or rascals who cross your path.

After his preliminary 3 years as a teacher, he pursued a teaching course at the Kirby Teachers' College in England. Upon graduation, he continued his teaching career in public schools which ended at his official retirement in 1994. While many would have settled down as a pensioner, David went on to render his teaching experiences with private institutions of higher learning and currently still full time with Nilai University College.

Our paths with David Madhavan crossed in 1972 when he taught in ACS, Seremban. He was assigned as the Class Teacher of the most insolent class as the students were not academically inclined (though many excelled in sports) and deemed underperformers. There had been discipline issues as quite often the boys were caught having a smoke in the school toilets or swearing, chastised by prefects for not having their shirts properly tucked in or their canvas shoes not sparkling white.

David believed that even the most awkward students can change for the better; and deep inside they want to make something of themselves and be useful members of society. They just need a firm yet gentle hand and some guidance. David was a cool character and made English and Geography come alive in his classes. He invested time and money to help weaker students develop their talent and his priority was not examination grades but nurturing us to the best of our respective abilities. Not all students can be high achievers but we were important to him. We knew that he cared for us genuinely. From humble backgrounds, some have become professionals and business leaders.

David came from a generation of teachers who set a firm foundation and played a pivotal role in our character building. The fact that many ex-students still keep in touch with him confirmed that he is much loved, esteemed and respected.

After his retirement in 1994, David had a little more time on his hands and the same held true for his former students who had earlier gone on their own separate ways to carve out their respective career paths. The ACS class of 71 gatherings during the last 15 years saw David gracing their functions regularly. He rejoiced along with other guests when his students' children got married, just as proud when they moved into their new homes or went overseas. He was equally saddened at funerals when receiving news that his former students had passed on.

On Sat 23 June, a dinner was held to celebrate David's 50 years as a teacher. The atmosphere that evening and the students' heartfelt embraces with the teacher struck just a right note of love and respect for one who had given 50 years of his life to his students. Different students were given opportunity to say something. A power point prepared by his ex-students journaling his career as a teacher, his moments as a husband, a father and a friend was rendered that evening.

The messages from some of his overseas students and the lyrics of the song sung that night by Peter Lingam said it all. You raised us up -

When in school, you were such a blessing
When problems arose, you were there for us
A friend indeed, a teacher of affection
You saw us through our golden days at school

You raised us up so we can stand on mountains
You raised us up to face the storms of life
We are strong when you are there beside us
You raised us up to what we are today

You raised us up so we can stand on mountains
You raised us up to face the storms of life
We are strong when you are there beside us
We thank you Sir for who you are to us

*Warmest Greetings
from Singapore*

*The values and teachings
you imparted have
strengthened us when
facing challenges.*

*Thank you, Sir. You have
been a blessing. A toast
to your good health and
well being.*

Paul Kit



From Melbourne, Australia



*You are not only our teacher
You are our friend,
philosopher and guide
All moulded into one person*

- We will always be grateful
for your support*
- Happy 50th Anniversary in
your teaching career.*
- With best wishes from
Khaw Hock Lye (Form 5B), the
webmaster, Melbourne , Australia*

From Hong Kong with Love

**Mr Madhavan, a teacher who
had a special gift of caring and
encouraging. Wish I could be
there personally to join in this
joyous celebration . Best
Wishes & Regards to all
sharing the joy.
Yin Chan**



Greetings from Melbourne..

**Please convey my warmest regards and best
wishes to Mr Madhavan. Hopefully if time permit,
will try to see him on the next trip i.e. this year
end.
Till then, all the very best and most important
good health!**

Thank you!

Kit Siew



*Hallo from Salzburg,
Austria to everyone
who are attending this
celebration, here is a
short note about a
wonderful teacher and
person !*



Mr.Madhavan was my geography teacher in 1971 and also my class teacher in 1972 and in these two years I have never seen him really lose his temper(he was always cool and laid back)and this for us those days was a great relief as we were used to the Gestapo method of the teachers .

I remember at times when we were not paying attention to his lessons, he would not get angry but instead he knows exactly how to get our attention back...he would tell us a joke. I still remember one of my favourite till today..... The Yazoo River joke !

He was also the first teacher who brought cricket to our school, travelled with us to cricket matches against schools in Tampin,Kuala Pilah and KGV...where we get trashed most of the time but it didn't really matter then cos we were more interested in the tea time before the game!

Thank You Mr.Madhavan, you are a great teacher !
Sincerely, Lee Chee Kin .

▣ From San Clemente,
California, US

Good evening Mr Madhavan

I heard you are having a celebration to commemorate your 50th years as a teacher. I wish I could be there to share this wonderful time and can only send this greeting from California, US where I am based. I pray that God will bless you in a special way. You have been such a blessing to so many of us and I can only ask God to return that favour in ways that He only can. I hope we have the opportunity to meet in the not too distant future.

God Bless you with Joy, Peace and his protection be upon you and your family, Yoke Heng

