

Ms Chiang Lai-ping, Agnes

Honorary Fellow

Citation

Many people envy the winners in life - people who always seem to have it all, from the very moment they were born. But what does it actually mean to have it all?

Imagine a daughter of a father who was an able businessman and skilled designer, a self-made man who became one of the first philanthropic industrialists in Mainland China. In true patriotic spirit, the father trained over 60,000 professionals in industrial technology and management for his country, served as chairman of a publicly listed company in Hong Kong, and generously donated billions in shares to society. For his remarkable contributions, he was honoured with the Grand Bauhinia Medal, the highest accolade awarded by the Hong Kong SAR Government.

Imagine besides having such an outstanding father, this daughter also graduated from a university in the US and was discovered as a teenaged talent in a TV singing contest. In just a few years, she achieved what many artists spend their entire lives striving for - she became a triple star, skilled in singing, acting in movies and on television. She even performed for millions of viewers at the CMG New Year's Gala, CCTV's Lunar New Year show in Beijing.

Imagine then she went into business and, within a decade, made a fortune. She also found the love of her life and raised a happy family of bright children.

Wouldn't such a person be considered a winner in life, enjoying a fulfilling and joyful life?

But the reality is beyond expectations. Despite achieving fame and fortune, even beyond her wildest dreams, she wasn't truly content, and only found fulfilment by taking a different path for a "life with a mission".

Ms Chiang Lai-ping, Agnes from Heze City in Shandong Province is the third daughter of the late Dr Chiang Chen, patriotic philanthropist, industrialist, and recipient of the Grand Bauhinia Medal. After graduating from The California State University with a degree in Business Administration in the 1980s, Ms Chiang returned to Hong Kong. In pursuit of her dream of singing, she entered the entertainment industry after competing in the 1981 Asian Amateur Singing Contest and became a well-known artist. In 1988, she was invited to represent Hong Kong to perform at the CMG New Year's Gala in Beijing, gaining wide recognition and admiration from audiences across Mainland China. At the height of her career, Ms Chiang made the unexpected decision to leave the entertainment industry and to marry her long-time partner Mr Simon Luk Chi-ming, beginning a new chapter in her life.

Ms Chiang then ventured into real estate, and made her fortune in just a few years. However, the 1998-99 Asian financial crisis disrupted her business, teaching her that worldly wealth can be

fleeting. As her children became rebellious teenagers, Ms Chiang began to reflect on the deeper meaning of life. This eventually led her to Christianity, and, determined to live by Christian values, she has committed herself to spreading messages of love and hope. Over the past decade, she has spoken at events in Mainland China, Hong Kong, and overseas, sharing the gospel with hundreds of thousands of people.

Ms Chiang was inspired by her father's dedication to benevolence and patriotism, and thus strives to manifest his noble spirit. In 2013, concerned by the lack of proper education and care for left-behind children in rural China, Ms Chiang founded the charity Love Foundation, which helps rural communities provide different social services for these children, and supports their healthy development. Over the years, the Foundation has donated more than 6,500 computers and projectors, trained over 10,000 volunteers, and supported more than 6,000 grassroots organisations in rural areas, enabling them to provide valuable social care services.

Ms Chiang is a firm believer in the power of education to transform lives. To support underprivileged students, she has established bursaries at more than 10 universities and many high schools across China since 2018, and helped more than a thousand students to complete their education. She has also set up Love Learning Centres in over a hundred rural elementary schools to encourage diverse learning interests. The initiatives "Project Torch" and "Girls to University" have been implemented in 15 universities in Yunnan, Guizhou, Jiangsu, Anhui, Chongqing, and other regions, where nearly a thousand university students have benefited from an annual subsidy of RMB6,000 each. More importantly, the Foundation's training workshops allow students to build up confidence, develop positive values, plan their careers, and learn the importance of giving back to society, preparing them to become the future leaders of their country.

Ms Chiang has not only helped tens of thousands of people in Mainland China, but also set up the "Campus Life Campaign" in more than 30 secondary schools in Hong Kong in early 2019. The mentoring programme has trained over 400 volunteers, who now serve as mentors in Hong Kong schools, supporting the development and personal growth of thousands of secondary school students. These volunteer mentors, many of whom have recently retired from their professions, come from different walks of life, and have valuable experience to impart. Having recruited and inspired these senior volunteers, Ms Chiang encourages them to stay active under Love Foundation's comprehensive trainings, use their communication skills with teenagers and patients, and continue to foster talents for society and contribute to the nation.

The social unrest in Hong Kong in 2019, followed by the pandemic, highlighted the importance of Love Foundation's work in schools, as the mentors played a crucial role in addressing students' emotional and developmental needs during the suspension of physical classes. In 2023, a three-year elite scholarship programme to shape future leaders of society was launched with the support of 25 secondary schools, benefiting more than 400 students. The programme aims to nurture future leaders through lessons and practical activities promoting character education, civic responsibility, and national and global perspectives, preparing students to become quality, wise, responsible and far-sighted pillars of society. This academic year, Ms Chiang and the Love Foundation team partnered with Lingnan University, launching campus initiatives, which included an elite scholarship and leadership programme to empower Lingnan students to become social leaders of tomorrow.

Besides, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms Chiang enthusiastically responded to the needs of Mainland China and Hong Kong, and the Love Foundation raised and donated millions of renminbi's worth of medical supplies and aid funds to Hubei Province to support frontline healthcare workers in their fight against the virus. At the same time, a relief initiative was launched in Hong Kong, providing emergency financial assistance of over HK\$5 million to more than 1,600 underprivileged students' families, along with a series of activities to promote the well-being of both students and parents.

Ms Chiang's charitable work is widely recognised and supported, and in 2022 she was given the 17th Compassion Award by the Hong Kong & Macau Taiwanese Charity Fund, whose co-organisers include Phoenix Television and the Beijing East-West Philanthropy Forum. Since then, Ms Chiang has continued to receive awards from organisations and media outlets in Hong Kong and Mainland China, in recognition of her contributions to society.

Ms Chiang has devoted herself tirelessly to charitable work, and through her active and selfless efforts, she has discovered no greater peace and joy in life than when she gives and serves. She has found great fulfilment in her faith, and believes that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Mr Chairman, in recognition of Ms Chiang Lai-ping, Agnes' outstanding contributions to both the motherland and Hong Kong, I respectfully present her for the conferment of an honorary fellow of Lingnan University.

Citation written and delivered by Dr Kent Lai Wan-lung

蔣麗萍女士

榮譽院士

贊辭

很多人都羨慕贏在起跑線的人生勝利組，那其實是甚麼概念呢？

假如某人的父親是有營商和設計天分、白手興家的廠商，是首批進駐內地的愛國慈善工業家，為祖國培訓逾60,000名工業科技及管理人員，也是香港主板上市公司主席，更慷慨把價值數以10億計的股分全數捐出回饋社會，並榮獲香港特區政府頒授最高榮譽大紫荊勳章……

假如除了有這樣了不起的父親外，她自己也是留學美國的海歸，並於少年時參加歌唱比賽被發掘，幾年間已達到一些藝人畢生夢寐以求的成就，成為歌、影、視三棲紅人，更在北京央視春晚向數以億計觀眾表演……

假如她之後轉跑道從商，十年間一帆風順，財富像潮水般湧來，更找到人生最愛，一起組織美滿家庭，子女也聰明伶俐，成績優異……

這樣的人應算是人生勝利組，會過著滿足愉快的生活吧？

但現實並非如此！這主人翁竟然在名成利就後仍再轉跑道，活出她要活的豐盛及滿有恩典的「使命人生」！

蔣麗萍女士祖籍山東省荷澤市，是已故愛國慈善工業家、大紫荊勳賢蔣震博士的三女兒。她在八十年代於美國加州州立大學工商管理系畢業後回港，為圓其歌唱夢想於1981年參加「亞洲歌唱大賽」後加入演藝界成為知名藝人。1988年更獲邀代表香港於北京春節聯歡晚會獻唱，因而廣被國家人民認識和欣賞。當她的演藝事業如日方中之時，蔣女士竟急流勇退，離開娛樂圈和相戀多年的陸志明先生組織家庭，展開人生新一頁。

蔣女士婚後開始經營地產生意，短短數年間累積大量物業財富。但1998-99年遇上亞洲金融風暴，事業受到衝擊，令她明白世間財富可以瞬間來去，難以持久。加上當時孩子進入青春反叛期，令她反思生命的意義，從而認識主耶穌基督，其後更立志本著基督精神，傳揚愛與生命盼望的信息。在過去十多年，無論於內地、香港乃至海外皆被邀請出席大小不同場合的講座，向數以十萬計的群眾分享生命的真諦。

蔣女士受父親的積極為善及愛國情懷影響，並以秉承父親的高尚情操為目標，於2013年蔣女士有感內地大量留守兒童缺乏適當教育和照顧，創辦了愛基金慈善機構，

目標是幫助農村單位為留守兒童提供各項社會服務，助其健康成長；多年來基金會捐贈超過6,500套電腦和投影機，也為過萬名義工提供系統培訓，協助了6,000多個農村單位進行有質素的社會關懷服務。

蔣女士相信知識能改變命運，自2018年開始為國內十多間大學及中學貧苦學生成立助學金，幫助過千名學生完成學業。其中為過百間農村小學建立「愛學坊」，栽培孩子多元化學習興趣。大學則設有「薪火工程」及「女子升大」助學計劃，涵蓋雲南、貴州、江蘇、安徽、重慶等省市的15所大學，近千名受惠大學生每人每年可獲6,000元人民幣資助。更重要的是，學生可藉基金會的培訓工作坊提升自信，建立正向價值觀，開展生涯規劃，學習承傳愛心、回饋社會，成為國家未來棟樑。

蔣女士不僅在內地穿州過省服務數以萬計同胞，而且受感召於2019年初在香港與30多間中學合作開展「校園生命工程」，裝備了400多位熱心的義工，成為生命導師進入校園，支援數以千計中學生品格生命成長。這些義工來自各行各業，多是剛退休人士，擁有豐富的人生閱歷，蔣女士招募並激勵這批金齡人士，退而不休成為國家寶貴資源並接受愛基金提供適切的培訓，掌握與青少年和家長溝通的技巧，為社會培育下一代棟樑。

2019年香港發生社會事件及隨後的世紀疫情，更是愛基金服務校園的重要時刻，因為「校園生命工程」的義工們在過程中發揮了重要功能，大大補足了學生不能實體上課時在關顧和成長上的需要。其後蔣女士更在2023年開展為期三年的「英才培育獎學金計劃」，得到25間中學全力支持，受惠學生超過400名。計劃旨在透過優質品格教育、社會公民責任、國家及世界觀三個範疇的教導和各項實踐活動，培育學生成為具有質素、有智慧、肯承擔及有視野的未來棟樑。今個學年，蔣女士更帶領愛基金團隊與嶺南大學合作，開展各項校園工作，包括「英才領袖培育獎學金計劃」，賦能嶺大學生成為明日的社會領袖。

此外，在新冠疫情年間，蔣女士積極回應祖國及香港社會的需要，帶領愛基金團隊籌募資金，並捐贈了超過數百萬元人民幣的抗疫醫療設備及援助金到湖北省，全力支持前線醫護人員抗疫。同期於香港推出「疫有祝福·全人關懷計劃」，資助了1,600多戶基層學生家庭，合共500多萬港元的緊急支援金和提供一系列有益身心靈的活動給學生和家長。

蔣女士的慈善工作深受社會各界人士肯定和支持，於2022年榮獲由港澳台灣慈善基金會愛心獎主辦，鳳凰衛視及北京東西方慈善論壇等單位協辦之第17屆愛心獎；及後蔣女士每年皆獲得中國內地或香港不同單位和媒體頒發不同獎項以表揚她對社會作出的貢獻。

蔣女士為各項慈善服務出錢出力，馬不停蹄，在別人看來好像自討苦吃，但她卻在忙碌、無私付出中得到無比喜樂和滿足，深深經歷與所信的上帝同行的充實，體會到「施比受更為有福」的人生道理。

主席先生，為表揚蔣麗萍女士對祖國和香港社會的貢獻，本人謹恭請 閣下頒授榮譽院士銜予蔣麗萍女士。

贊辭由黎雲龍博士撰寫及宣讀