

## **Eulogy by Tan Tarn How, Mingwei's father**

Dearest friends and family,

When Mingwei was in secondary school, she taught English to underprivileged children in Taiwan. In junior college, she taught handicapped archers. But it was her internships during her university vacations that were transformative for her. Last year, she went for a medical attachment as a volunteer at an HIV and AIDS clinic in Botswana, working under a German doctor who had spent nearly two decades there. This July, she volunteered under the Cambridge Mountain Trust charity with mobile and neurosurgery clinics, for a while assisting an Indian neurosurgeon she couldn't stop gushing about.

After these trips, she came back with a changed idea of the uses that medicine could be put to. She was inspired. Mingwei, like all of us, wanted enjoyment. But besides having, as she once said, a good time, she was in the last two, three years also was beginning to seek for something higher.

For the Botswana and Nepal trips, she was given grants to cover part of her cost of travel. In memory of her we have together with the National University of Singapore, set up a Tan Mingwei Global Community Service Grant as an endowment to enable students to do meaningful community work in developing countries. We hope the trips, perhaps like those for Mingwei, inspire some of them to new ways of thinking about what they can do with their lives. The endowment will be managed by NUS, and will fund both students from NUS and Cambridge University. You can pick up leaflets for individual or corporate donations outside, or just leave your contact details if we run out of forms.

It leaves me to thank on behalf of my family the overwhelming kindness and support we have received from everyone here, and also those who are not able to make it tonight. Friends and family have rallied round. People we have not kept in touch for many years have also sent their condolences. It has provided comfort, and has made it easier for us in very difficult times. We are deeply touched and are in gratitude to each of everyone of you.

My friends at Theatreworks, Keng Sen, Tay Tong, and Soo Mei, have provided much help and time and of course this beautiful venue. As Mingwei loved the arts and visited Theatreworks as a child, wowed by the tiny toy dinosaurs she

saw in the office on a desk. So this also as a very apt place for tonight's service.  
Thank you.

Over the years and on quite a number of occasions Mingwei discussed with us the meaning as well as the purpose of life. We gave her several answers. One answer I never gave you Mingwei, our love, my love is this, and this is something that I know you would agree with: "Life, my child, is but a butterfly's dream and the footprints of a crane in last night's snow."