



Photo taken at Loyola College, Quezon City, Manila, 1971
with a note from James on my 22nd birthday.

James was my role model in my secondary school years. In the upper forms, I had frequent contacts with James in the Altar Boys, CLC and other religious activities. His actions often spoke louder than words. He exemplified the quality of humour, generosity and insatiable curiosity. He taught me the importance of developing people skills to facilitate understanding and collaboration with others, which has produced lasting significance and meaning in my life. He will be fondly remembered for his unrelenting spirit of service to people he knows as well as those in need.

Joseph Lau, Altar Boys, CLC, WYK67, 4.10.2020, Hong Kong



A photo taken with the Maryknoll girls on one of the picnic outings at Clearwater Bay in 1966.

James, Tsien, WYK68, 6.10.2020, Hong Kong

Tribute to James Tong by Peter S. Li,'66

James was one year my senior in high school. I can never forget the genuine smile and subtle humour of James when he stood up to speak in those days. He retained that smile and humour even 40 years later. James spent many hours in high school discussing with me, or more correctly, listening to what I had to say and raising questions. A true friend and fellow schoolmate, James is forever in my mind. Here is my last tribute to James:

Your smile is gentle
And your influence deep.
You have laboured long
For harvests others to reap.
You have earned a quiet rest
And a long sleep.

湯維強教授，六十年代中學時期九龍華人書院校友。維強兄為人正直，樂於助人，熱愛生命，追求公義。1963年我們認識，維強兄雖長我一屆，但在參加學生組織活動中，我們經常討論人生哲理，質疑宗教意義，理解社會發展，探索個人使命。中學時代的優良風氣，奠定我們日後處世做人的基礎，也建立我們一生的友誼。青年時代的校外生活亦多姿多彩：笙歌曼舞，綠袖紅香，給我們帶來浪漫人生的遐想，詩情畫意的品味，與改造社會的信心。中學畢業後各奔外國深造，研究院畢業後又各為事業奮鬥，天南地北，雖很少機會見面，但早年建立的友誼和熱忱始終不渝。故友仙逝，膈臆紛紜。少年點滴，仿如昨日。舞台人生，瞬息煙雲。謹以宋詞《永遇樂》追憶逝水芳華，緬懷良友故人。

李勝生 2020.10.4

《永遇樂 悼辭》

鄰岸煙封，遠山雲隔，春意何在？綠水漂萍，紅塵倦客，倏忽沉滄海。
月明常缺，寬顏易斷，往事惹人嗟慨。夜深深，音容縹緲，少年恍惚重再。
英才早去，歸魂遲步，寂寞夜長空待。論索前程，奔投公益，滋潤奇葩采。
數年磨練，畢生鏤骨，塑造崢嶸一代。凡間別、丹心不滅，永存善愛。

From Dr Michelle Fan 范光中, wife of Bernard Ng Mau-sang (66) (1948-1994). October 5, 2020

昨晚收到你的 e-mail,關於茂生生前的又一位好友與世長辭。并看完你寫他的事跡，使我感到遺憾的是沒能在他生前見一面。我也去 WYKAAO 网站看了他的生平。確實你們都不容易，長期工作太辛苦沒有時間多休息，造成腦血管破裂。在此，向湯教授家人表示深切地哀悼。

From Cecilia Lai in HK, mother of an applicant to UCLA. October 6, 2020

“After reading all the memorials (about James Tong), I feel the Hong Kong society has owed much to the philanthropic Jesuit fathers. Through the quality education at Wah Yan, they have fostered subtly many altruistic scholars, academics and professionals who are willing to pay back to society. Among them was James Tong.

The world is very small. In fact, my daughter, Tracy, had a brief encounter with him more than ten years ago. The incident was so unique that she remembered it well. Tracy wanted to attend university in the US. She applied to UCLA. One day she received a long-distance call from Prof. James Tong, someone we did not know at all, urging her to study at UCLA. Though she did not attend UCLA in the end, she was very impressed by Professor Tong's sincerity. She also heard from her friend about the warm reception and mentorship he received from Professor Tong in UCLA.

This anecdote echoes what his wife said in the memorial. So, gone is the good man. Blessed are we to have had such a good person around us.”

Edward Wong, Wah Yan Class of '67, 5.10.2020, USA

I met James Tong in a number of occasions in Wah Yan Alumni activities in Los Angeles. One of such occasions was organized by the Hong Kong Schools Alumni Federation in Feb 2004. I was the invited speaker on the Landing of Rovers on Mars and Space Exploration projects since I was working in NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory. James was very friendly and personable. He expressed great interest and curiosity in space explorations and was very inquisitive on Mars rovers. Being in political science, his detailed questions on how the rovers were controlled and kept safe impressed me. Just like his entire career, he had demonstrated to be a very well-rounded person with multiple interests.



February 2004

From left: James Tong, Edward Wong, and person's identity cannot be recalled