

Mr. Laurence Tam R.I.P.

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I visited Laurence Tam on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March, just a week before he passed away. I am grateful to Ms. Minnie Li and Dr. Vincent Tse for making that possible.

When I spoke to him I could see that he had difficulty breathing but he was mentally very alert.

He was happy to see me and I had brought him Communion and gave him the Sacrament of the Sick.

After this he said to me "I am peaceful and happy now "

I think Laurence felt very attached to Wah Yan Kowloon where he taught from 1966 – 1971. It was there that he first introduced to the students a new method of Chinese Ink painting. No wonder he entitled his exhibition there "The Cradle of New Chinese Ink Painting "

He was a very versatile teacher. Besides art he taught English, General Science, Physics and Mathematics. In fact he used his skill in Mathematics in his teaching of art. Art, of course was his primary love.

He taught his students to go beyond imitation of other artists and to create their own painting, expressing their own ideas. He also saw beyond the painting to a much deeper meaning. He saw Chinese Art as an important way of developing students' personal growth in creativity and imagination and in their love of their own Chinese culture.

I always found Laurence very enthusiastic in promoting art and ink painting. He had at least 12 exhibitions and gave many lectures in Hong Kong , China , Canada and U.S.A . He had a very friendly and generous character. He was a model for us.

Christ promised that "even a cup of water given in My name, will not go without its reward "You can imagine what a wonderful award awaited him in Heaven after a life of great generosity, service and care. May he rest in peace with our Heavenly Father in joy and happiness.

We offer our sincere sympathies and prayers to Mrs. Tam, Vincent and Simon and their families, relatives and friends in this time of bereavement.