

A portrait of Nathaniel Kong, a middle-aged man with grey hair and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a light blue collared shirt under a dark blue sweater. The background shows a window with a view of a building and a colorful abstract painting.

*In Loving Memory...*

# Nathaniel Kong

OCTOBER 14, 1962 - FEBRUARY 28, 2022

MARCH 19, 2022 AT 10:00 AM  
MACK POWELL EVENT CENTER  
2003 HOWE AVENUE SACRAMENTO, CA 95825

# Program

Music Prelude & Slideshow

Welcome & Introduction

Hugh Pforsich

Opening Prayer

Dave Wilson

Hymn 1

I Am the Lord's!

Eulogy

Jonathan Kong - Father, Samuel Kong - Brother,  
Daniel Kong - Brother, Joanna Jeng - Sister, Joseph Kong - Son,  
Deborah Kong - Daughter, Bethany Kong - Daughter,  
Wanchi Kong - Wife, Jessica Mayo - Niece,  
Marianna Kong - Niece, Timothy Kong - Nephew

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23 - Congregation

Remarks from Abroad

David Wang, Adam Surjomartono, Leo Grman, Endy Štefurik

Remarks from the Campus Team at  
Sacramento State University

David Wilson, David Chen, Sarah Zhao, Alex Gonzalez, Chocolate  
Pridgen, Charles Thorpe, Amarisa Miranda

Remarks from the Children's Serving Ones

Gera Alvarez, Andrew Keys

Hymn 2

I Love My Lord, but With No Love of Mine

Open Sharing

Congregation

Hymn 3

Let Us Contemplate the Grape Vine

Concluding Words

Minoru Chen

Closing Prayer

Gary Kaiser

Announcements & Recessional

Hugh Pforsich

*loving to give, living*

# Biography

## Nathaniel Kong

### "A LIFE OUTPOURED"

*October 14, 1962 - February 28, 2022*

On February 28, 2022, Nathaniel Kong, 59, was tragically killed while supervising a court-ordered family visit that turned violent. The Mora Guitierrez sisters – 13-year-old Samia, 10-year-old Samantha and 9-year-old Samarah – were also killed in the heartbreaking attack before their father also ended his own life. The Mora family had been attending the Church in Sacramento under the shepherding care of Nathaniel Kong for almost 5 years.

Nathaniel loved to give, lived to give and ultimately died to give. He was committed to being a lifeline to individuals in desperate need as the highest form of service to his beloved Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When anyone asked for help – whether strangers or members of the small congregation in which he and his family actively served – he gave it, no questions asked. He loved people and always saw the good in them. Regardless of their past or present struggles, he always trusted, hoped and persevered in caring for them.

Because of his servant's heart, Nathaniel was respected and admired as an elder in the Church in Sacramento where he volunteered full-time. As a long-time member, Nathaniel earned this informal title so that younger members could go to him for help, assistance and fellowship.

*to give, dying to give*

# Bio continued

## *Early Years*

Nathaniel Kong made headlines the day he was born and the day he died, which was shocking to his friends and family who knew him as a quiet, unassuming, selfless “brother” who lived and died serving others. Nathaniel was born in Sacramento, California on October 14 during the great flood of 1962. The following day, The Sacramento Bee published the story of his birth in an article titled, High Water Makes Baby’s Arrival Unexpected Thriller. Not every newborn baby gets a ride to the hospital in the back of a dump truck! Nathaniel grew up in the Swanston Estates neighborhood, attending the Church in Sacramento, and graduated from Norte del Rio High School in 1980.



## *In College*

In college, Nathaniel spent his free time helping to remodel the very church building on Wyda Way where he would lose his life four decades later. In 1984, Nathaniel received a Bachelor’s Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Davis. After graduation, he joined a gospel outreach team in Berkeley, CA, and took Chinese language classes in preparation for the two years he would spend attending an intensive, yet informal, Bible school in Taiwan. When Nathaniel returned to Sacramento in 1988, he enrolled in the Mechanical Engineering program at California State University, Sacramento, where he earned his Master’s degree.

*I will pay my vows to Jehovah. Oh, in the presence of all His people.*

# Bio continued

## *Mission Field Abroad*

During an eight-year tenure with the California Air Resources Board, Nathaniel met, fell in love with, and married the former Wanchi Chen, who was working in a campus ministry in Monterey Park, California. In 2000, Nathaniel left his job and with their toddler and baby in-tow, the couple moved to Prague, Czech Republic, where they dedicated the next 13 years of their lives to the mission field in Eastern Europe. After Nathaniel and Wanchi's third child was born in Prague, their last seven years in the Eastern European mission field were spent in Bratislava, Slovakia.



## *The Last Decade*

In 2013, the family of five moved back to Sacramento, where Nathaniel continued his life of service as a full-time volunteer at the Church in Sacramento, shepherding and helping individuals in need in the community he called home. Stories of “Brother Nat’s” compassion and love for and generosity toward people of every imaginable background would fill volumes. His life of service is an inspiration to the family and congregation he left behind.



Nathaniel Kong is survived by Wanchi Kong, his loving wife of 27 years, and their three children: Joseph, Deborah, and Bethany.

He is also survived by his father, Jonathan Kong, a WWII veteran who turned 100 last year and his siblings and their spouses: Samuel and Jeanie Kong, Daniel and Sophia Kong, and Joanna and Isaac Jeng.

*Precious in the sight of Jehovah is the death of His faithful ones.*

*Psalm 116:14-15*

# Hymn 1

## I Am the Lord's!

### O JOY BEYOND EXPRESSION

#### *stanza 1*

I am the Lord's! O joy beyond expression,  
O sweet response to voice of love Divine;  
Faith's joyous "Yes" to the assuring whisper,  
"Fear not! I have redeemed thee; thou art Mine."

#### *stanza 2*

I am the Lord's! It is the glad confession  
Wherewith the Bride recalls the happy day,  
When love's "I will" accepted Him forever,  
"The Lord's," to love, to honor and obey.

#### *stanza 3*

I am the Lord's! Yet teach me all it meaneth,  
All it involves of love and loyalty,  
Of holy service, absolute surrender,  
And unreserved obedience unto Thee.

#### *stanza 4*

I am the Lord's! Yes; body, soul, and spirit,  
O seal them irrecoverably Thine;  
As Thou, Beloved, in Thy grace and fulness  
Forever and forevermore art mine.

Bennett, Lucy A, "433." *Hymns*, Living Stream Ministry, 1980, p. 391.

*For whether we live, we live to the Lord, and whether  
we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore whether we live  
or we die, we are the Lord's.*

*Romans 14:8*



# Hymn 2

## I Love My Lord, BUT WITH NO LOVE OF MINE

### *stanza 1*

I love my Lord, but with no love of mine,  
For I have none to give;  
I love Thee, Lord, but all the love is Thine,  
For by Thy love I live.

I am as nothing, and rejoice to be  
Emptied, and lost, and swallowed up in Thee.

### *stanza 2*

Thou, Lord, alone, art all Thy children need,  
And there is none beside;  
From Thee the streams of blessedness proceed,  
In Thee the bless'd abide.

Fountain of life, and all-abounding grace,  
Our source, our center, and our dwelling-place.

Guyon, Jeanne Marie Bouvier de la Motte, "546." *Hymns*, Living Stream Ministry, 1980, p. 500.



*But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon  
the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice  
together with you all.*

*Philippians 2:17*

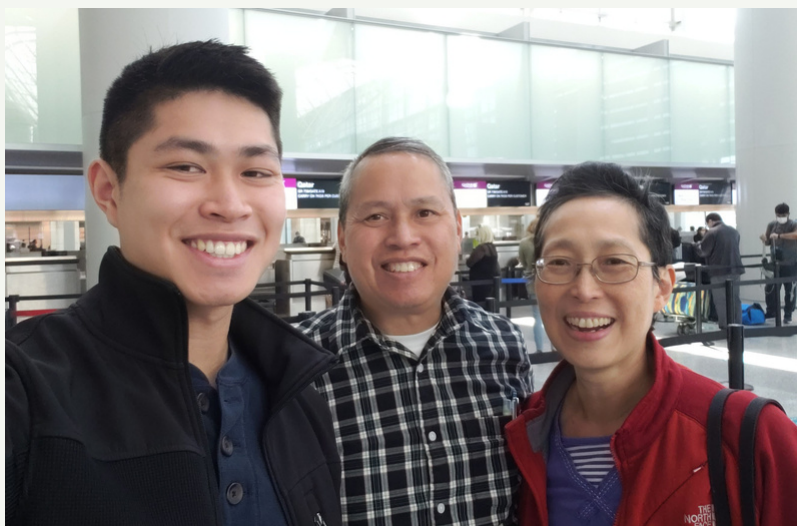


*...in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all  
body, whether through life or through death. For to me,*



*I am the good Shepherd; the good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.*

*John 10:11*



*boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my  
to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

*Philippians 1:20-21*

# Hymn 3

## Let Us Contemplate the Grape Vine

THE WAY OF THE CROSS - THE WAY OF FRUITFULNESS

### stanza 15

Not by gain our life is measured,  
But by what we've lost 'tis scored;  
'Tis not how much wine is drunken,  
But how much has been outpoured.  
For the strength of love e'er standeth,  
In the sacrifice we bear;  
He who has the greatest suff'ring,  
Ever has the most to share.

Nee, Watchman, "635." *Hymns*, Living Stream Ministry, 1980, p. 584.



*I have fought the good fight. I have finished the  
course; I have kept the faith.*

*2 Timothy 4:7*

# Psalm 23

## A Psalm of David

1

Jehovah is my Shepherd; I will lack nothing.

2

He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside waters of rest.

3

He restores my soul;  
He guides me on the paths of righteousness  
For His name's sake.

4

Even though I walk  
Through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I do not fear evil,  
For You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff,  
They comfort me.

5

You spread a table before me  
In the presence of my adversaries;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runs over.

6

Surely goodness and lovingkindness will follow me  
All the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of Jehovah  
For the length of my days.

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I do not fear evil, for You are with me;*

*Psalm 23:4a*

# Thank You

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*Give thanks to Jehovah, for He is good. For His lovingkindness is forever.*

*Psalms 118:1*