

He Made a *Difference*



Many attended Markus' wake.

THE adage, *the good die young*, certainly applies to Markus Ng Chung Yau. Who would have thought he would leave this world at a tender age of 23?

An intelligent young man, full of zest for life, Markus' untimely death left a trail of grief and disbelief.

His short life, however, had impacted many. Hundreds, mainly youths, paid their last respects at both the wake and funeral services. It tells us the significance of a life is measured primarily by how you live your life, not by its length.

Tears flowed freely but as the songs Markus composed and sung were played, the mood lightened. It was as if he was there with us, singing.

My friendship with Markus began in 2003 when we were classmates at HELP University College, before he left for Essex to read Philosophy, Politics and Economics.

We hit it off immediately as we both had to contend with courses which weren't our first choice. "This is not what I'm supposed to be doing," he used to tell me. "Though I'm interested in certain elements, I'm still searching for what I really want to do."

He was open and transparent, so I was able to interact freely with him on topics like politics, philosophy and theology.

Markus compared life to a game where everyone could be a winner with the right strategies. This belief was reflected in the way he did things whether in the classroom, orphanage or the football pitch.

By MJ Lim

"Way too small," was my initial reaction when a mutual friend asked whether Markus was good at football. "The defenders would swallow up his tiny frame."

But Markus was not one to be bullied on the pitch. His fancy footwork made him a threat whenever he had the ball. No matter how far up front he was, Markus would backtrack to help his team of defenders whenever they came under pressure.

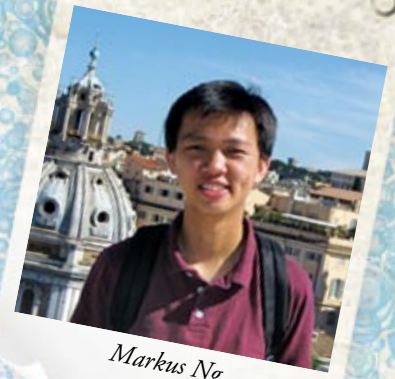
His humility left its mark on me. Markus never sought to be the man of the people but rather, the man for the people. He helped others from a position of "weakness", not strength.

In trying situations, where others would have given up, Markus gave his best to the task at hand. "Alone, one person can never bring about a significant change but big things can result from the actions of one person," he once said. Inspired by Jesus, Markus set his goals high. Like his Master, he was determined to walk the straight and narrow way.

His desire to serve others led him to be involved in student unions, Christian groups and community projects. He even ran a campaign to heighten awareness of the needs of indigenous people while he was still in England.

Colour didn't matter to Markus. While others used it to create division, Markus dreamt of a united community, a united country, regardless of race or creed. Thus he joined the *Anak Bangsa Malaysia* movement.

"You don't always have to prove a point," he once shared. "God knows those who are His." That struck a chord in me as I reflected on the lives of Peter and John. It was John, not Peter, who came alongside Jesus while He was dying at the cross. Peter, who boasted of his love for Jesus, denied his Master. But John,



Markus Ng

the *disciple whom Jesus loved*, was at the foot of the cross, receiving instructions to care for Jesus' mother, Mary.

Like many others, I reacted in shock at the news of Markus passing. When I informed others, I was inevitably asked the cause of his death. I still get such questions today. But knowing Markus, I'm sure he'd prefer me to concentrate on what is more relevant. So I would tell them how he lived.

Markus had fought the good fight of faith and completed the race (2 Timothy 4:7). His life was short but he had certainly made a difference. — (ab)

For more information, please check out: <http://markusng.last-memories.com/>



Markus playing the guitar.



Graduation photo with parents (Dato' Dr. Vincent Ng, Datin Dr. Ang Kim Teng) and siblings.

EDITOR'S NOTE

By living with the end in mind, we become wise. One day, each one of us will have to leave this earth. On that day, our success and possessions will not matter much. Rather, what matters is how much we have given of ourselves—in serving God and others. How many lives have we touched? How many people will grieve over us on that day? Dorcas was not rich or famous but when she died, she endeared herself to many whom she served (Acts 9:36-39).