

# Dr. Frances

## Professor of Mathematics

**Dr. Lu, how are you?**

Very well, thank you.

**I haven't seen you for a long time.**

Yes, it's been almost twenty years.

**Dr. Lu, on behalf of O.K Magazine readers, I would like to ask you a few questions. Would you take some time to answer them?**

Certainly, I would be more than happy to do so. I want to share my experiences with the readers.

**Would you please tell us a little about your background and your family?**

I was born in the city of Tianjin, a major port in northern China. My father was a renowned figure in the financial world. In 1937 Japan invaded Manchuria. The Japanese established a government in North China and wanted my father to be a puppet leader. My father did not want to be the figurehead of puppet government, so he vehemently rejected the position. As a result, he was persecuted by the Japanese military; this brought catastrophe to my family. My lavish lifestyle and sheltered childhood were thus ended. This incident had a great impact on my attitude toward life. I deeply sensed the transience of materialistic things which can never be depended on. While we drifted from one place to another during the war, Mr. Peter Lu and I got married. During those hard times, God's protection brought us out of many perilous situations. Those experiences would take a long time to recount. I had many of them published in the *Witness for Christ* monthly. You can get copies of them from the editor, Dr. Tso Hwa Lee, so I won't repeat myself here. I finally graduated from Yen Cheng University with a degree in mathematics. Later the Lord led me to further my education here in the United States. I obtained my Master's and Ph.D. in Mathematics at Ohio State University.

# Yu-Mei Yu Lu and Computer Science

**Is it true that while pursuing your degree you became famous for formulating Lu's theorem? Lu's theorem is a misnomer because it was entirely due to God's grace. Would you explain a little more?**

My professor had a difficult math problem. No one in the field of mathematics was able to solve it. Every year, my professor brought up this problem in class, but no one found a solution. Knowing that I was not able to solve it, I would only pray to the omnipotent and omniscient God. Miraculously, I found the solution. Overcome with joy, I called the professor, and he told me to go see him immediately. When he saw that the proof I gave was correct, he surprisingly admitted that it was through God's help that I had such penetrating understanding and the ability to solve this mathematical problem. This proof became what people in the mathematics field know as Lu's theorem.

**This is really amazing, Dr. Lu.**

I give all the glory and accomplishment to the true God who loves me.

**What are you doing after you obtained your Ph.D. from Ohio State University?**

I accepted an offer from Biola University in California to teach mathematical sciences. I taught for fifteen years; during eight of those years, I was also the department chairperson. I retired in 1982. Since I had started the Department of Mathematical Sciences and incorporated computer science courses into the statistical mathematics curriculum. I taught a majority of the computer science courses. (At the time, around 2,000 universities in America had mathematics departments, but only thirty had computer science divisions.) There, when I retired, the university commemorated my contributions by giving me the title of Professor Emerita.

**That's great, Dr. Lu! Besides teaching, you must have published many research papers.**

Yes, besides the so-called Lu's theorem, which formulated at Ohio State University, I have always had a particular interest in statistical mathematics and have published many these, I presented one thesis. "The Method of Midpoints." In the spring of 1977 at the Computer Science and Statistics: Tenth Annual Symposium on the Interface, a national convention which was held in Washington, DC. This thesis was also called

Lu's theorem by others. It was printed in the *NBS Special Publication 503* by the National Bureau of Standards. In addition, I was asked to participate in the conduction of the national census every ten years, because of the statistical methods involved. All these were God's gracious gifts.

**Dr. Lu, you have indeed contributed a great deal to the fields of mathematics and statistics. The United States has also benefited from your work. However, you have constantly mentioned the grace that God has given you. Now I would like to ask you how you came to believe in Jesus Christ. In other words, how were you saved?**

As I mentioned earlier, after the Marco Polo Bridge Incident in 1937, the Japanese military tried to force my father to head the Manchurian puppet government, but my father adamantly refused. My family was persecuted and torn asunder. After that, I got involved in the Catholic church in Peking. Finally in 1952, in Taipei, I truly accepted Jesus as my personal savior. From then on my faith became strong, and I served the Lord in many ways. Besides serving in churches, I also held meetings in my house on every Saturday afternoon and evening. Friends, relatives, and many students attended. Later more than thirty students were baptized into the Lord. They currently serve the Lord among churches in Taiwan and in Chinese churches in the United States.

**You have been teaching all your life. You must have had a great number of students from all over the world. It must be one of life's great joys to have a few worthy and pleasing students. What, in your memory, are some of the things that touched you the most?**

When I was teaching, not only did the students call me Professor, many also called me Mother Lu. That made me feel that my love for them was not in vain. I remember one time when an American who taught me in my elementary school days came to visit me in my classroom. I introduced her to the class saying, "This is my teacher from elementary school." All the students in my college math class suddenly got up and gave her a standing ovation. This elderly lady was so touched that she was in tears. She said, "These students honor me because of their respect for my student from many years ago. I have never seen such a thing here in America."

**Respect for teachers has become rare during recent years. It is especially novel in America today. It surely means a great deal to have such affection and love from your students. I thank the Lord Jesus Christ because all this results from being obedient to the Lord's teaching. While we're on the subject. I just**

**remembered something interesting. Please tell us, Dr. Lu.**

One time a few of my colleagues, professors from other departments, were walking on campus. They were about to take a short cut across the grass – a very common act in the U.S. – when they saw me standing some distance away. They bypassed the grass and took the long way instead. When they walked up to me, they said half-jokingly, “Do you know why we took the long way and walked on the concrete road instead of the grass?” I asked them why. They said, “Because you were standing here, so we did not dare step on the grass.” It was really funny. From this little incident you can tell that my uncompromising personality is well-known at the school.

**By the way, Dr. Lu – oh, I should call you Mother Lu – how do you spend your time now that you have retired?**

After I retired. I sold the house near Biola University and moved to Thousand Oaks, where I could be closer to my son and daughter.

**Oh, yes! I almost forgot to ask about your children. They must be all grown up now. Could you tell us something about them?**

The Lord took my oldest daughter, Yen Ling, to heaven in 1961, while she was attending Tung Hai University in Taiwan. My son, David, is an engineer working for a large firm. My daughter-in-law, Bafee, graduated from UCLA with a Master’s degree in nursing. She has taught nursing at Biola University and is now working in a hospital. They have two sons and two daughters. My youngest daughter, Maling, graduated from Cal State Long Beach and is now working in a large firm. My son-in-law, Daniel Huang, is also an engineer working for a big company. They have two sons. Our whole family immigrated to the U.S. more than twenty years ago. My children and in-laws are all serving in the church.

**What about your husband?**

My husband, Peter Lu, studied mining and metallurgical engineering. He was in charge of a mining and metallurgical business. He has also retired. Now he writes Bible commentaries at home. Besides walking with me on the spiritual path and serving in church. He is a member of Gideons International and helps raise funds and distribute Bibles He is an elder in the church and also a Sunday school teacher.

Since you’re enjoying your retirement now. You must not be as busy as before. Is that right?

It’s true that I’m not so busy. I can finally grow some vegetables in my backyard. There are always fresh vegetables to eat. I also give them to the brothers and sisters at

church. However, I am still invited to churches everywhere to preach or to give my testimonies. It doesn't matter if I am busy or not feeling well. I never turn down an invitation. I also joined the church choir in order to encourage the young people. In addition, I have written many short articles about the grace that God has given me and have had them published in the *Witness for Christ* monthly. Also, through the gospel radio broadcast program, *Way to Eternal life*. I have testified of God's amazing love to tens of thousands of overseas Chinese. I have also taught a course, The Bible and Science, at the Chinese For Christ Theological Seminary.

### **The Bible and Science?**

Yes, the Bible and Sciences.

To many people, the Bible and science are in conflict with each other.

Some people hold this very shallow view. In actuality, the Bible is the Word of the Creator who created all things; science is the study of the laws of nature which have been established by the Creator. Both came from the same true God. They should be harmonious and should not result in any conflicts. However, the conflicts that people perceive come from a lack of understanding of both the Bible and science. If they had a complete understanding of both, there would be no conflict, only harmony. Therefore, I always advise young people, especially those who blindly believe in science, to read the Bible and to go to church.

**On behalf of O.K. Magazine readers,**

**Thank you, Mother Lu.**