

# Faith In Action

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A new series profiling members and friends of SMCC

## Dr. Ruth Wu

San Marino Community Church member for 20 years, Ruth Wu is one of our three present Conversational English teachers, in a long line of dedicated teachers. She says, “I love teaching these students – they are so motivated!”



Ruth was born in Jacksonville, IL, where her mother was living and going to the university. Her father, who was to join them from China, was assassinated for being an activist in the pro-democracy movement. Ruth believes it was a great blessing to be born in the U.S., and that she and her mother were divinely protected from the revolution and the Japanese invasion.

From age 7 through high school, Ruth was fortunate to be able to live at the Presbyterian Ming Quong Home for Chinese girls in Los Gatos, CA. This is where she made life-long friends and got to know Jesus. In their Chinese classes, they memorized the Lord’s Prayer, Psalm 23, Isaiah 53, and John 3:16, among other Bible texts. She acknowledges that her whole life has been blest by God.

As a child, Ruth had surgery and experienced wonderful nursing care, which led her to become a nurse. After earning her R.N. and Bachelors degree from San Jose State and University of California San Francisco, Ruth yearned for enrichment and studied music, anthropology, and history at the University of Michigan. It was in Michigan that she met Joseph Wu, who had been born in China. They married and have two sons, Jim and Randy. Joe was on dialysis for four years before dying in 2002. Ruth feels very blessed by God the night Joe died--that she was not alone; both of their sons from Northern California were with her, offering support and care.

After years of nursing in hospitals at University of Michigan and Stanford, among others, with two Masters degrees, the first in Public Health (NYU), the second in Maternal Child Health (WSU), Ruth realized she was better suited to teaching and administering. Ruth taught at UCLA for 7 years before serving in various leadership roles at Cal State L.A. for 20 years. In order to teach and serve as Department Chair (10 years) and Dean of the School of Health and Human Services (10 years), she earned a Ph.D. in Education (UCLA).

Ruth says that deans are evaluated very often, and because her Christian faith formed her character, she was known and respected as honest and fair. Her faith also kept her grounded and steady, when initially offered and then turned down for a deanship, because men in a department she was to supervise protested about having a dean who was a minority woman.

What a privilege it is to get to know Ruth Wu and have her as a church member and Conversational English teacher.

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