



Maria Bong Ju Hong

March 24, 1929 - November 23, 2025

“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

Psalm 23

Maria Bong Ju Hong, age 96, was called home by the Lord and passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 23, 2025.

Born on March 24, 1929, in Busan, Korea, Maria was the second to youngest of seven siblings. After marrying Hong Kichul in 1948, they moved to Seoul, Korea, where she opened her own retail business. Although she received only an elementary-level education, Maria was a self-directed learner. She worked diligently and tirelessly to raise her five children to succeed professionally and academically.

Despite a long-standing Buddhist lineage, Maria accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior through the influence of her son, Paul Hong, and converted to

Christianity. Committed to her Christian faith, Maria was called to move to the United States. In 1985, Maria joined her son, Paul, who was a pastor in Toledo, Ohio. Her decision later opened the door for her daughter, Joan, and son-in-law, Peter Park, to live as missionaries in the United States. As a devoted mother of prayer, Maria faithfully supported the Toledo UBF ministry through her steadfast prayers, while joyfully raising her grandchildren, Joshua and Samuel. When she was not praying for others, Maria enjoyed feeding (and sometimes overfeeding) her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Committed to excellence, Maria encouraged her grandchildren to pursue their passions; however, she was emphatic that they pursue higher education and faithfully seek the Lord. Maria continued her own educational journey through her Bible studies, daily devotionals, and prayers. Extremely organized and disciplined, Maria embraced technology and faithfully encouraged her family members with her regular KakaoTalk messages.

As a beloved wife and mother, Missionary Maria was preceded in death by her husband Hong Kichul, and sons, Daniel Hong and Hong Chong Moon. She is survived by her 3 children: Hong Chong Ho (Choi Chun Sook), Paul Hong (Sarah), Joan Park (Peter), Susy Hong and Choi Bun Hee; her 13 grandchildren Sarah Trujillo (Jose), Faith Choi (Daniel), Hong Suk Man (Nam Bo Ram), Susan Lee (Elia), Hong Suk Hyun (Jun Ji Hyun), Augustine Hong, Su Hyun Hong, Albert Hong (Anna), Annie Roliz (Xavier), Joshua Park (Angelica), Daniel Hong, Samuel Park (Elizabeth), and Juliana Hong; and her 18 great-grandchildren Evan, Evyn, Leighton, Chloe, Lucas, Daniel, Hudson, Sofia, Jonathan, Nehemiah, Hong Min Suh, Caleb, Hong Jun Young, Hong So Hee, Elliot, Lydia, Gabriel, and Amelia.

Family and friends are invited to visit on Friday, November 28, 2025, from 10am to 12pm at University Bible Fellowship, 2841 Dorr St., Toledo, Ohio. A Celebration of Life service will begin at 12:00pm, officiated by Pastor Steve Stasinios.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **28**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

University Bible Fellowship
2841 Dorr St.
Toledo, OH 43607

Celebration of Life

NOV **28**. 12:00 PM (ET)

University Bible Fellowship
2841 Dorr St.
Toledo, OH 43607

Tribute Wall

DH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



David Hwang - November 27, 2025 at 12:15 PM

DH

“ When I felt like I was walking through a deep tunnel during the beginning of my life in America, M. Maria Hong encouraged and prayed for me to trust in God’s goodness and love, no matter what the circumstances, by saying, “*황용사 선교사님, 어떤 상황에서든지 하나님의 선하심과 사랑을 믿으세요.*” Through her encouragement and prayer, M. Pauline and I prayed together and were able to hold firmly to God’s goodness and love and to experience even greater grace and blessings.

“Thank you, Missionary Maria Hong. I recently longed to see you, and although I am saddened that I was unable to, I am filled with joy knowing that you are now resting peacefully in heaven, free from physical pain. I thank you once again for your labor of love and prayers, faithfully offered as a prayer servant on this earth.”

David Hwang

David Hwang - November 27, 2025 at 10:41 AM

PH

“ *And you know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).*

One of the greatest blessings of my life in Toledo was being able to know M. Maria Hong and to learn from her. She was a spiritual mother to me and a godmother to our family. Through every season of my life, both joyful and difficult, she prayed for me faithfully, always reminding me of God's promise in Romans 8:28.

There are no words to fully express how grateful I am for her love, or how deeply grieve that I will no longer see her in this world. Yet, I am comforted knowing she now hears the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant". I thank God for M. Maria Hings beautiful life of faith and service, which touched the hearts of many believers like me and my family.

Her humble prayer and unwavering trust in God's goodness and love shaped my life in ways I can never fully repay. I will carry her example in my heart until we meet again in heaven.

Pauline Hwang

Pauline Hwang - November 26, 2025 at 10:33 PM