

## *Nossa Família – uma história*

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Francis was born in Hong Kong on Halloween Day 1926, the eldest son of Daniel and Inez. He attended La Salle College before joining his father at Hong Kong Electric where he worked for 40 years, succeeding to the position of Superintendant of Stores before his retirement to Faro, Portugal. During his years with HK Electric, Francis secured jobs for many people, giving them an opportunity to support their families.

On 1 October 1952, Francis married Aida Mendes, the youngest daughter of Francisco de Nogueira Mendes and Milvida Xavier at St Theresa's Church, Kowloon City. The ceremony was officiated by Father Orlando. They have 4 children: Zinha, Tony, Ann and Irene.



Francis was a very devoted family man. He was very kind, soft-hearted, generous, caring and sentimental, and his family meant a lot to him. He never had an unkind word for anyone and because of his fine qualities he made friends from all walks of life, all over the world.

Francis loved the outdoors, camping and walking around the hills and mountains of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon Peninsula, and Lantau Island; walking through the paddy fields and visiting the villages of the outlying islands making friends among the local villagers.



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He was also a very keen fisherman. Nothing pleased him more than when any of his friends and family invited him to go fishing, when he would be ready and waiting a day ahead of time. In 1991 Francis joined his daughters in New Zealand where he spent the last 7 years of his life. After a long battle with a weak heart, he passed away on April 21st, 1998 with his family around him. He was aged 71.

Francis loved the sea and birds to the very end. Just before he drew his last breath the seagulls gathered outside his window. It seemed that God's creatures came and escorted him to heaven.



“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He lies me down in green pastures, He leads me by quiet wates. My soul He does restore and me to walk in the paths of righteousness for His own name's sake. Yet though I walk in death's dark vale, I shall fear no ill, for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff will comfort me. Thou has furnished my table and annointed my head with oil and my cup overflows. Goodness and mercy shall surely follow me all the days of my life and in God's house for ever more shall be my dwelling place.”

Psalm 23

