

—Service Report 2017-18—

Gerald Cheung, Centre Director

“All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.” (2 Corinthians 4:15)

20th Anniversary

As First Light Care celebrates twenty years of service this year, it's important for all of us who have been called to serve and support this ministry to first give thanks and glory to God. His grace is reaching more and more people as our works continue into the future. We thank everyone who has responded to His calling and participated in the works of this ministry in the past twenty years. May the Lord remember our labour for Him.

The highlight of this year was our 20th Anniversary celebrations which included the anniversary dinner and several public seminars and gospel meetings. On 8th April we came together with over five hundred supporters to give thanks and praise to God and celebrate what the ministry has accomplished in the past twenty years. President Devin Yu delivered a heart-felt sharing of his personal experience to encourage everyone to continue to work hard for FLC's vision and mission. We sincerely thank the guest speaker Dr. Charles Yu and his team for coming over from Hong Kong to support our ministry.

We give special thanks to the anniversary event organising committee members (Alice Tai, Fiona Yue, Dora Lee) and Eliza and Dennis Lau, the event coordinators, for their excellent organisation of the event and for their tireless dedication to provide support and hospitality to the guest speaker and his team. We also thank our supporters of the anniversary event and our partners for the public seminars and gospel meetings including CanCare, Evangelical Free Church of Australia (East Lindfield), North Side Chinese Alliance Church and Hebron Chinese Alliance Church for their partnership and excellent support.

Staff Changes

There have been some changes to the staff team this year. Our counselling staff has decreased this year due to the resignation of part-time Counsellor Stephanie Lowe who left the service on 30 November 2018. We are thankful for her great contribution to the ministry and for her faithful service that has helped many families in the past eight years. May God bless her and her works in her new ministry.

Wylie Ma, full-time Administrative Officer, has also resigned from the service on 6 June 2018 due to health reasons. We wish to express our deep appreciation for her great contribution to the ministry in her seven years of faithful service and we are grateful for her continuing support since her resignation. May God bless her and whatever she does in the future.

Kerrie Lam, part-time Administrative Officer, has joined the ministry in early 2018 and has become a valuable member of the administrative team.

In order to restore the counselling staffing level, an invitation for expressions of interest has been advertised in FLC's newsletter and website and in Herald since early 2018. However, no suitable candidate has been found yet. We shall continue to ask the Lord to send His workers to us soon.

We are thankful that Amy Lee (Accountant) has increased her overall working hours by working school holiday period as well from February 2018 on. We are also grateful she has also taken on the important roles of Administrative Co-ordinator at the same time.

Counselling Service

The counselling service has still managed to assist a fairly large number of clients despite the staff changes. The total number of counselling clients served this year (318) was lower than the number served in the 2016-2017 financial year (389) due to our lower staff numbers.

Please see the attached “Counselling Services Statistics 2017-2018” for more details about the clients we served.

As in previous years, clients with marriage and family issues remained the largest groups served. This was followed by mental health problems such as depression and anxiety.

We continued to keep the counselling fee at an affordable level for low income families. Around 12% of clients paid \$20 or below a session and 13% paid \$21-\$60 a session.

We continued to provide special discounted personality assessment and counselling services to students of the Chinese Theological College Australia (CTCA) and missionary candidates of the Chinese Christian Mission Australia (CCMA).

To improve the physical conditions of the facility from which we shall continue to serve the community for many years to come, First Light Care made a financial contribution to the repainting and renovation of the premises of Sydney City Counselling Centre in early 2018, organised by the property owner Central Baptist Church.

Pastors Renewal Ministry (PRM)

Since its inception in January 2015, Rev Joseph Fung and Dr Nancy Fung have tirelessly continued to consolidate and develop the Pastors Renewal Ministry to support and mentor many pastors and student pastors.

A total of 23 pastors was served by the PRM team this year. This was more than the total number (21) served in the 2016-2017 year.

Mental Health GP Clinic - Dr Max Wong

The Mental Health GP Clinic continues to provide a valuable service that is easily accessible and affordable for those clients who need medication for their mental health problems.

A total of 17 clients was served by Dr Max Wong from West Ryde Centre this year. This was smaller than the number of clients (24) served in the 2016-2017 year.

Education & Training

In this year, a total of 186 hours of education and training programs was completed, with 3921 participants attending these programs (including the public seminars/meetings associated with the 20th anniversary event), but not including the listeners of radio programs.

Please see “Education & Training Services 2017-2018” report for details.

In addition to her works on the Pastors Renewal Ministry, Dr Nancy Fung also ran quarterly seminars at West Ryde Centre this year.

Ms Joy Song, sessional Education Officer, continued to run quarterly Mandarin parenting courses at West Ryde Centre this year.

Dr Yixin Jiang Xu, volunteer sessional Education Officer, continued to contribute to the service this year. She completed two six-session “Circle of Security” parenting programs at GracePoint Church and West Sydney Chinese Christian Church (WSCCC) this year. This course, which was held in partnership with WSCCC at their church premises, was sponsored by *Families NSW* through the “*Resourcing Parents Project*” with a grant of \$2,000 to FLC for Inner West residents. Participants attended the course free of charge.

Yixin and the Centre Director also ran a seminar titled “Adult Attachment: Relating to Your Father” for a group of men in their twenties and thirties at GracePoint Church in December 2017.

Ms Evelene Ma, sessional Clinical Psychologist currently based in Macau, ran a parenting seminar in June 2018 while she came to visit Sydney.

Danny Sze, Management Committee member, continued to be involved as a volunteer speaker and completed two separate Cantonese career workshops for the Students Fellowship and the Young Workers Fellowship of the Chinese Presbyterian Church in September 2017. He also conducted a Cantonese Career Workshop at Northern Chinese Christian Church Sydney’s Students’ Fellowship in October 2017.

Our Centre Director continued to deliver lectures at Chinese Theological College Australia (CTCA) this year. He ran seminars at two different churches in Sydney and Canberra as invited, as well as quarterly seminars at the West Ryde Centre. He continued to coordinate the monthly men’s support group which since March 2018 has met at West Ryde Centre, instead of the Silverwater premises, to make the transport access by group members easier. He also continued the twice monthly pre-recorded SBS Cantonese Radio program “Return of First Light” which has entered its fifth year of broadcast.

Administrative Support

We would thank our faithful staff team and many volunteers including Mrs Euphine Siu, Mrs Ellen Lam, Mr Sin-lap Wong, Mr Teddy Lai, Mr Albert Lee, Mr Alex Tang and others for their much valued help with their different skills to support the ministry this year.

The New Year

As First Light Care enters the third decade of service, we shall continue to share our vision and mission with more people in the community and pray that there will be more members and supporters involved in the ministry to serve our changing community in the decades ahead.

We shall pray and seek for appropriate workers to be called to serve in First Light Care for the counselling service and the Pastors Renewal Ministry. Strengthening these two core services with appropriate workers is important for the ministry to be better able to meet the great needs in the community.

Apart from continuing the existing and established education and training programs in the new year, we are thankful that Dr Nancy Fung and Rev Joseph have been planning a couple of year-long training courses to be run in 2019 for pastors and Christian leaders to help others achieve personal and spiritual growth. May the Lord establish the work of our hands for us!

“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)