

President's Report 2018-2019

Dr Devin Yu

Thanksgiving

I thank my heavenly father for answering our prayers. In His time, He called Dr Winnie Chan and Mrs Cherrie Liu to join our counselling team, as well as two very experienced pastors, Rev. David Yung of St. Paul's Anglican Church Kogarah and Rev. John Yao of Padstow Chinese Congregational Church to join our Advisory Committee.

I also thank the Advisory Committee, the Management Committee, staff, volunteers, and everyone who has been supporting FLC ministry in the past year through prayers, donations or voluntary work. Special thanks also go to the Chinese Baptist Church for allowing us to use their church premises for so many years as our city-based counselling centre.

Ministry Update

In April, a few of us attended the Australia & New Zealand Chinese Coordination Centre of World Evangelism (CCCOWE) conference in Adelaide. We shared our ministry with delegates who came from all over Australia, New Zealand and even from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, and many of whom were particularly supportive of the Pastoral Renewal Ministry (PRM) which we started in 2014. This year, PRM has served a total of 75 pastors, missionaries, theological students, and their spouses. The number is significantly more than last year's. This might be due to more widespread recognition of our ministry, or it may actually reflect increased needs.

We continued to partner with the Chinese Theological College Australia by providing personality tests to interested students. The results are strictly kept confidential and follow-up counselling sessions may also be arranged. We hope that this may help them better know and prepare themselves and prepare for the many challenges in ministry, and reduce the chances of falling into temptation.

We also organised a Pastoral Tea Gathering in June which around 10 pastors attended. These meetings aim to forge closer ties and to increase cooperation with churches in terms of our counselling services and psychological educational initiatives. We hope that these gatherings can be held regularly in the future.

Sharing

“So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labour. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.” (1 Cor. 3:7-9)

I thank my heavenly father for the opportunities to serve pastorally, to contribute in theological education and to be involved at FLC. I witnessed how God works in these different ministries, and how wonderful it is when different ministries serve together with mutual support and encouragement. We dare not take any credit for what we do, but we long to see God's transformative work in the lives of those who call him Lord. May all the glory and honour be to our heavenly Father, the one who is always kind and merciful to us.

Looking Ahead

We humbly pray for:

1. a more acute awareness of the counselling and psychological educational needs within the Chinese communities;
2. a closer tie with Chinese church leaders so as to be more helpful in serving the churches;
3. a wider reception amongst spiritual leaders of our personality tests for people in ministry;
4. more retired and gifted pastors to join our PRM; and
5. the continued provision of operational expenses, volunteers and prayer warriors.