



Newsletter 2018

Thank God for leading us through the last two 8-year stages of growth - first the stalk, then the head and finally 2018 begins our fruiting season:

Facilitating book study was introduced in our family life educator training at the beginning of the year. It is a much easier and effective means of promoting the ministry. More than a dozen of our interns recruited their church members and friends to join their introductory course study programme. Those who could work with them as team members were brought to our training centre to attend their first level Family Life Educator Course. This approach has not only helped the course participants integrate their insights into their daily life in the process of attending the course, but it has also sped up the growth in the number of family life educators. This year we taught 8 batches of the first level Family Life Educator Course with 138 students from China.

We also conducted an intensive class for 11 students brought by the District Superintendent of the North District of the Chinese Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Malaysia at our Centre this year. We hope that these pastors will return with their respective teams of students for the 2nd level course.



FLE Class for Malaysia pastors & leaders

Good News for Gays and Lesbians

We are glad to note that two of our students who had gender identity disorder (a gay and a lesbian) were

convinced of our biblical beliefs in gender identity through our training programme. Since then, they have been working diligently and consciously on restoring their gender identity of being a godly man and woman. The man is now married with a wife and preparing to have children together with his wife next year. The girl has left her female lover and accepted Jesus as her Saviour. She is working happily with a job and looking for a husband, preferably a pastor. It shows that the right belief may correct the wrong behaviours of a person, even a person with gender identity disorder. Praise the Lord!

New Approach to Marriage Preparation

A courting couple course with a new approach was introduced to counter the trend of marriage break-ups among those who were born in the 80s and later. We focus on the basic biblical teachings about marriage and gender identity as the foundation, with some skills training in communication and management of conflict and resources. We have 12 hours of instruction, 8 hours of individual couples' session and 8 hours of group session. If the class works well together, the participants may continue to go on meeting regularly as a support group to study "A Guide to Christian Family Life" during the orientation stage of their marriage. A co-ordinator may be appointed among the participants.



Marriage Prep Class at Oasis new office

Oasis WeChat Ministry (绿洲丰盛家庭中心)

An enthusiastic work-team has been formed among our interns to promote our ministry through Oasis WeChat in China, especially serving those born in the 80s and later. Pray with us that more will be inspired to join the ministry, especially those from the younger generation.



LAUNCH OF NEW FAMILY LIFE EDUCATOR TRAINING COURSE

First Level (7-day stay-in intensive course)

- Lectures on self-awareness and EQ development
- Facilitating an introductory course study and recruitment work
- Training in skills in listening and consolidation of messages and group leading

Course assignment:

- Working as an intern of a Family Life Educator to conduct an introductory course

Second Level (7-day stay-in intensive course)

- Attending the class with the 12 students he had recruited through the introductory course he conducted in his church
- Involvement in the training of workshop leaders and course facilitators as an intern
- Demonstrating skills in facilitating group study of Self-Awareness course

Course assignments:

- Facilitating his students in studying the self-awareness course and polishing their group leading skills in order to form a work-team
- Organising a 3-day Marriage Enrichment Camp together with team members at the end of the study
- Receiving lectures on Marriage Enrichment course from a qualified FLE in the camp with his students and the campers
- Supervising his team members in facilitating workshop sessions in the camp
- Facilitating his team members in following up on their respective groups by studying the Marriage Enrichment book and completing the workshop sessions after the camp
- Forming Covenant Family Groups to monitor the family altar ministry of the group members after the study of the book

Third Level (7-day stay-in intensive course)

- Only those who have completed facilitating the group study of Self-Awareness and Marriage Enrichment books are eligible to attend this course
- Receiving instruction on the Courting Couple, Parenting as well as Marriage and Family Therapy Courses.
- Role play as clients and therapists in marriage and family therapy sessions

Course assignment:

- Involvement in 100 hours of Family Therapy case work
- Successful conduct of at least one each of the Parenting and Courting Couple courses
- Certificate will be awarded to those who have fulfilled all course requirements
- Work as qualified Family Life Educator and Family therapist of Oasis Family Life Ministry wherever they may be



Sarawak Methodist CAC Senior Adult Camp



Message Arising From LGBT activities

LGBT activities have apparently sent a strong message to the Christian community. It has awakened Singapore Christians at least to act together, through appealing to our Government to retain Section 377A of the Penal Code in order to prevent the country from legalising same sex marriage in our country. However, I am afraid that our action may cause more negative reactions from LGBT activists and challenge them to work harder.

I strongly sense that LGBT movement is an awakening call to the Church to rectify some of our weaknesses or negligence in our ministry. Though our Church focuses much on disciple-making and missions, we have failed entirely in heeding the call of the prophet Malachi who cried, "See, I will send you the prophet

Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”(Mal.4:5-6)

God had in fact already sent the prophet John the Baptist 2,000 years ago, as the angel of the Lord spoke to Zechariah, the father of the prophet saying, “He will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of fathers to their children...”(Lk.1:17) Thus, when John the Baptist began his mission, he cried out to the crowds coming out to be baptised, saying, “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourself, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’”(Lk.3:7-8)

What was wrong in saying that Abraham was their father? I believe it was because none of the descendants of Abraham known in the Bible had been a good father to their children. King David had been anointed as a godly King of Israel, but his most favoured son Absalom rebelled against him; the wisest king in the Bible, Solomon, raised up an ungodly and foolish son, Rehoboam, as his successor. Even the priest Eli brought up two sons who served as priests without knowing God; not only did they corrupt their roles as priests, but they also slept with women who served at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. Samuel was a well-known and godly priest and judge of Israel, but his two sons did not follow his father’s way and turned aside after dishonest gain, and accepted bribes and perverted justice. Abraham may be the father of faith but his descendants failed to know the heart of God.

This may show that godly man may not necessarily beget godly children. That was why John the Baptist forbade the crowd to say that they had Abraham as their father. The result of repentance should therefore be manifested through bearing godly offspring. The offspring is the fruit of our lives. That was why Malachi said, “He was seeking godly offspring, so guard yourself in your spirit and do not break faith with the wife of your youth.” (Mal.2:15) In order to produce godly offspring, fathers must first of all be faithful husbands to their wives and then be involved in parenting. Their daughters may need their special attention while they are of the age of 3 to 6, and their sons may need them to be playmates and models of their gender identity when they are of the age of 6 to 12. Of course, mothers impact their

children from their conception in the womb; their sons may have special need of affirmation of their gender identity at the age of 3-6, and their daughters may emulate their mothers’ gender identity at the age of 6-12. In other words, the mission of the Church should focus on the salvation of households rather than individuals and equipping parents to have appropriate interactions with their children before they become teenagers.

As Alan Carr’s *Family Therapy, Concept, Process and Practice* mentions on page 71, “The central insight that intellectually united the pioneers of the family therapy movement was that human problems are essentially interpersonal, not intrapersonal, and so their resolution requires an approach to intervention which directly addresses relationships between people. Family relationship became the focus for intervention, since these are of greater significance than most other relationships in people’s social network.” This may explain why God spoke through Malachi that a heart to heart interaction between fathers and children is the key to saving the land from being cursed by the Lord.

The LGBT movement today may remind us about the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah because of the great and grievous sin (homosexual sins) found in the city. Enormous efforts have been put into research about the cause of homosexuality. Some found that it was from birth factors and others concluded that it was due to social environments.

I was amazed to read from the Scriptures that before God wanted to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah, He said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.”(Gen.18:17-19) Obviously, the Lord wanted Abraham to know that in order to avoid the destiny of being cursed like Sodom and Gomorrah, mankind needed to teach their offspring to keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice. This may cause families to function as God desires. In fact, Abraham was chosen to give remedy to dysfunctional families, by directing their children and household to follow after their parents, to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is

right and just, in order to avoid the curse that was on Sodom and Gomorrah.

We as Christians today must be aware that we are chosen to be offspring of Abraham, as the Scriptures say, "If you are Christ's then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise." (Gal.3:29) Therefore, one of the most important ministries is to help restore dysfunctional families and teach parents to turn their hearts to their children and the hearts of children to their parents. This is definitely a more pragmatic action than just appealing to the Government to retain Section 377A of the Penal Code.

I therefore appeal to all those who are worried about the effect of LGBT activities to join us and be equipped for helping those who are born in the 80s and 90s, as a most noble and biblical action to counter LGBT activities.



Finally, we would like to thank God for His guidance given to our ministry and faithfully moving His children from various places such as Singapore, China, Malaysia, and even Australia to partner with us. May the Lord reward them richly with the blessings He promised Abraham.



From Rev & Mrs Francis Ngoi – Dec 2018

Programme Highlights of 2018

Jan - Pangkok, Taiping Meth Marriage Enrich Camp
 Feb - Sitiawan, 15th Batch FLE Training
 Mar - China, FLE refresher Course at Pingtan
 Apr - Sitiawan, 16th Batch FLE Training
 Apr - Sitiawan, FLE Training for CAC Malaysia pastors
 Apr - Moving of our Singapore office to 63, Wishart Road.
 May - China, Marriage Enrichment Camp at Keqiao
 May - China, 2nd FLE Conference in Pingtan
 Jun to Aug - Sitiawan, 6 Batches (17th to 22th) FLE Trg
 Sep – Tampin, Seminar for Senior Adults at Tampin Meth Church Malaysia
 Oct - China, Marriage Enrichment Camps & FLE Refresher course at Wenzhou/Keqiao/Xiaoshan
 Oct - Sibu, Sarawak CAC Senior Adult Conference
 Nov - Kedah, Simpang Ampat & Trinity Meth Church Camp

Financial Statement (Dec- 17-Nov-18)

Income:

1. B/F from 2017	S\$	1,076.07
2. Support from friends & family members		60,066.18
3. Income from China Training		19,260.00
4. Income from Sitiawan Training		40,007.00
5. Honorarium and tithes		<u>8,793.00</u>
Total:		<u>129,202.25</u>

Expenditure:

1. Operation cost (SG& Sitiawan)	81,134.13
2. China office rent & travelling cost	16,154.00
3. Food & lodging for Sitiawan Trg	<u>30,535.00</u>
Total:	<u>128,223.13</u>

C/F to 2019 979.12