



A Year After.....

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"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

~ Philippians 4:12-13 NIV ~

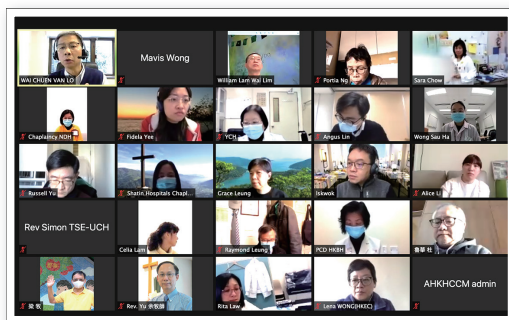
Wave after wave, the impact of COVID-19 pandemic seemed to have no endpoint in the near future. The "wish" of many people has not yet come true. An insightful article "What Did Chaplains Do During the Covid Pandemic? An International Survey" published in The Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling has helped us understand how such an unprecedented challenge to hospital chaplaincy is not unique only to Hong Kong, despite our relatively restrictive epidemic prevention and quarantine policy..

To Seize Every Opportunity for Visitation

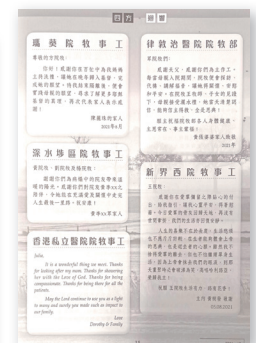
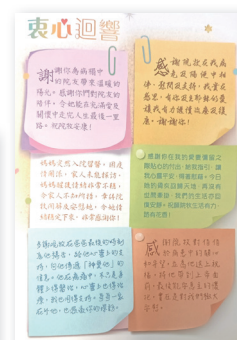
In the public hospital setting, only a very limited number of honorary appointed chaplains are allowed to provide essential spiritual care services. Each referral needs to be assessed and approved by the hospital management. While maximizing the use of tele-chaplaincy, chaplains are eager to seize and treasure every opportunity for face-to-face visitations, especially for those who were experiencing death and dying, crises, spiritual distress, as well as anxious families, burdened caregivers, and stressful hospital staff.

With vaccinations being available in the beginning of 2021 and better infection control measures, individual hospital managements were willing to approve more essential spiritual care referrals. However, the standard of approval still varied significantly. Chaplains shared different ways to meet with people wherever possible, such as in corridors, chapels, waiting areas, lobbies, podiums, and other non-clinical areas. They offered calming presence, empathetic listening, scripture reading, and reflective prayers as powerful means to bring forth comfort and healing in the midst of physical separation and spiritual isolation.

In times of social distancing, every physical pastoral encounter is more precious. Chaplains received positive feedback and genuine notes of appreciation from those they had cared for. Such acts of gratitude remind us that these sacred moments still happen in hospitals every day.



Chaplain I/Cs Round Table Sharing



Feedback and Appreciation

Mixed Mode Arrangements for Continuing Education Programs

Adapting to the new normal since 2020, many colleagues participated in chaplain continuing education (CCE) programs online. Nevertheless, as a professional community, chaplains also enjoyed meeting with peers in person. The Association organized, wherever possible and appropriate, the learning activities with mixed mode arrangements.



Certificate Course for Clinical Tutors



Chaplain Seminars

Experiential Arts in Spiritual Care

Month	CCE Programs / Seminars	Counts
Feb	The Last Room: Caring for Surviving Families in the Mortuary from a Pathologist's Perspective	91
Feb	Certificate Course for Spiritual Care Clinical Tutors (17 hours in 3 days)	11
March	An Ethical Reflection on the Visitation Restriction Policy	105
May	Shaking God's Hands? Examining Superstition and Prayer from a Psychological Perspective	93
June	17th Chaplains' Day: Transforming Our Tears to Dance	127
July	Chaplain I/Cs Education Day: SWOT Analysis of COVID-19 Pandemic	25
August	A Myth of Sin and Suffering: What Do We Learn from the Desperate Prayers in Psalms	96
Sept	Walking with You: Understanding the Caring Ministry for Those Who Choose to Die at Home	96
Sept-Nov	Fall CPE for staff chaplains	5
Oct	The Dialect of Love: Experiential Arts in Spiritual Care	25
Nov	Understanding Practices of Mindfulness in the Lens of Protestant Tradition	80



17th Chaplains' Day



Chaplain I/Cs Education Day

Fall CPE for staff chaplains

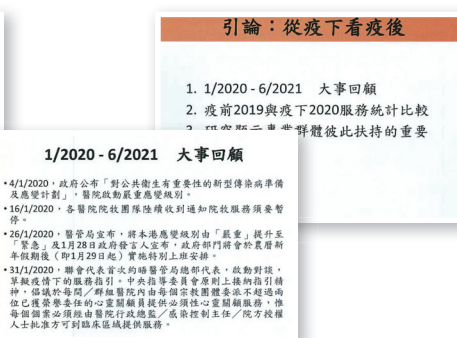
Learned from SWOT Analysis of COVID-19 Pandemic

In the “An International Survey” article, the author offered two insightful observations. Firstly, hospital management, in general, did not have thorough understanding of the unique dimension and clinical practice of chaplaincy ministry even before the pandemic occurred. This ambivalence, if not negligence, further limited the familiarity for the policy makers to draw the line for visitation approval. Secondly, to have a professional community was very important for mutual peer support in such a challenging time. These two observations were very true in our context as well.

The Association hosted an education program for our chaplain-in-charges during the summer. We used SWOT analysis as a tool for review. This turned out to be a constructive opportunity for “self-reflection”. Among all internal and external attributes, the attending in-charges voted “to keep up the team spirit” as the most significant concern, and diminishing financial support was the second.



Reflection in Chaplain I/C Education Day



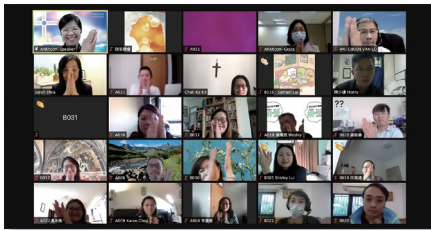
Certification Standards Review

To enhance the objectivity for chaplain certification, committee members took an opportunity to review the Certification Standards used since 2012. By the end of 2021, among 115 eligible applicants, 103 staff chaplains have registered with the Association. There are 35 Certified Chaplains, 40 Registered Chaplain I, 25 Registered Chaplain II, and 3 Auxiliary Chaplains. The registration rate of staff chaplains is around 90%.

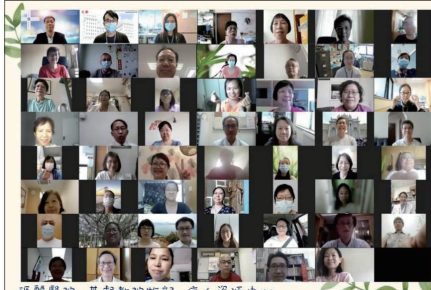
Pandemic Raises Awareness on Life and Death Education

COVID-19 pandemic reminded us that mortality is unavoidable and sometimes unpredictable. Death can be very close to everybody. Although many social activities were restricted, the need for pastoral education among different target groups never decreased.

Month	Events / Programs	Counts
Jan	The 11th Pastoral Care Workshops for Seminarians	62
March	Seminar for Chaplaincy Volunteers : An Ethical Reflection on End-of-Life Care	40
March	Public Education: Challenge and Opportunity of COVID-19 in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly	100
May	Public Education: Approaching Our Mortality – Experience and Choices when Facing Illness, Death, and Dying	200
June	Public Education: Understanding Spiritual Needs of Patients	50
July	CGST Online Intensive Course for Pastors in China: An Introduction to Pastoral Care in Times of Sickness (40 hrs in 5 days)	31
July	Public Education: Celebration of Life and Death Across Generations	50
Sept	Seminar for Congregation: Loss Teaches Us to Love – Open to Talk about Life and Death Across Generations	250
Sept	Chaplain Retreat: Recapturing Your Mission for Chaplaincy Ministry	35
Oct-Nov	Pastoral Education Program for ABS Chaplaincy Team (2 lessons)	32
Oct	Seminar for Pastors: Building Constructive Boundary for Pastoral Ministry (6 hours in 2 days)	60
Oct	Pastoral Education for Congregation: Walking with People in the Path of Sickness (3 lessons)	180
Oct	Seminar for Chaplains: What Should Novice Chaplains Understand About Professional Chaplaincy?	12



The 11th Pastoral Care Workshops for Seminarians



Life and Death Public Education



Online Intensive Course for Pastors in China



Seminar for Pastors



Pastoral Education Program for ABS Chaplaincy Team



Pastoral Education for Congregation

Conclusion

People always say, "Hope for the best and prepare for the worst." The virus seems to be mutating faster than the vaccines can be modified. No one knows how much longer we have to wait to resume the life style we want. With restrictions on social gathering nowadays, the occupancy of hospitals may be higher than the attendance of churches. As professional chaplains, we are committed to protect others and ourselves through vaccination, practicing personal precautionary measures, and standing by inside hospitals for people in need. Hospitals are a place that needs prayerful hospitality.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." ~ Romans 12:12-13 NIV ~

January 31, 2022

Corporate Honorary Overseas Consultants:

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. (ACPE)

Association of Professional Chaplains, Inc. (APC) & its subsidiary Board of Chaplaincy Certification, Inc. (BCCI)

Individual Honorary Overseas Consultants: The Rev. James T. Pollard, The Rev. Dr. Theodore E. Hodge, The Rev. Kjell Aas, The Rev. Dr. Mark E. Jensen, The Rev. Dr. John H. Moody, The Rev. Kathy A. Turner, The Rev. Dr. Dennis E. Kenny, The Rev. Dr. Hendrik Adriaan van Sluijs, Chaplain Robert Kidd, Chaplain John K. Swift, The Rev. Sandra Yarlott, and The Rev. Rodney W. Seeger.

Individual Local Consultants: Professor Simon Kwan, Dr. Choi Yuen Wan, Dr. Raymond Chen, Dr. Beatrice Cheng, Dr. Cheung Tak Hong, Dr. Susie Lum, and Mr. Ng Kin Yuen.

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