



## An Unusual Anniversary ..... Van Wai-Chuen Lo

*“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” ~ Micah 6:8 NIV*

A Chinese proverb says, “A person does not feel other’s pain and suffering until one has experienced it.” While celebrating the 35th anniversary of hospital chaplaincy ministry in Hong Kong, no one would have anticipated the events happening in this “Oriental Pearl” to gain attention worldwide. The whole society is “sick”. People in pain and suffering yearn for reconciliation.

### Maintaining our Pastoral Identity in the midst of Social Turbulence

Abiding to the Professional Code of Ethics, chaplains are committed to provide pastoral care without any discrimination, regardless of one’s position and political orientation. Unlike in the past medical professionals used to be less involved in political movements, but this turbulence unavoidably swept into hospital staff and administration. Relational tensions were obvious among inter and intra groups. Chaplains have to learn to maintain our integrity as well as our pastoral identity and duty in such a vulnerable social environment. Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) has set the standards for pastoral competence regarding social awareness and cultural sensitivity. This turbulence has provided a “dangerous learning opportunity” for our hospital chaplains.

### Continuing Quality Improvement (CQI) of Chaplain Continuing Education (CCE)

The Association continues to play a significant role in providing quality continuing education for our chaplain community, including delivering monthly recommended reading materials, organizing chaplain seminars and hosting the I/C educational retreat. In addition, four case study groups were formed and supervised by our CPE faculty. The overall attendance and feedback of all CCE activities was very affirmative.



Chaplain Seminars

Month	CCE Programs / Seminars	Counts
Jan-Mar	Spring CPE for Hospital Chaplains and Pastors (1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> unit)	4
Year-long	4 Case Study Groups for Hospital Chaplaincy Teams and Individual Chaplains	164
Feb	Children’s Tear: Reflection on Bereavement Support for Children	49
March	Handle with CARE: Chaplain’s Caring Role and Function in Clinician-Client Tension	54
May	Theological Reflection: an Exercise on Spiritual Care in Hospital Chaplaincy	51
July	Chaplains-I/C Educational Retreat: Maximizing the Synergy of Chaplain I/Cs	22
August	Born to Death: Understanding Fetal Death Funeral and Pastoral Care for Family	51
Sept	Extending Love: What Should Chaplains Understand about Organ Donation in Clinical Context	46
Nov	Reclaiming life: Understanding Narrative Therapy and Spiritual Care	60



Spring CPE



Case Study Groups



Certification Interview



In 2019, we received two applications for chaplain certification. They chose to prepare the materials on their own. As a result, one of them was granted and one was not. Since 2012, a total of 25 local chaplains completed the certification process. The passing rate is 92%.

### Promotion of Professional Development Directives (2.0)

Last summer, based on the professional development initiatives formulated in 2018, all chaplain in-charges or representatives gathered again to share about the progress of the initiatives. The survey statistics and feedback were reviewed. The Professional Development Committee then revised a document named Professional Development Directives (2.0) which set 26 goals that were categorized into five areas. The Committee and all chaplain in-charges agreed to disseminate this document to all registered chaplains, and planned to further elaborate on them accordingly in the coming year.

Among 136 eligible applicants, 112 staff chaplains have registered with the Association. There are 34 Certified Chaplains, 49 Registered Chaplain I, 26 Registered Chaplain II, and 3 Auxiliary Chaplains. The participation rate is 82.3%.



Chaplains - I/C  
Educational Retreat



Discussion on Professional Development Directives (2.0)

## Anniversary Events

Since 1984 when a chaplain resided for the very first time in Grantham Hospital, a non-religious public hospital in Hong Kong Island, now close to 95% of all Hong Kong hospitals have set up Christian chaplaincy services in the last 35 years. To celebrate this memorable moment, the Organizing Committee planned four events targeting on different stake holders. These events were Pastoral Care Symposium for pastors, The 15th Chaplains' Day, Spiritual Health Talk for Healthcare Professionals, and Thanksgiving Worship Service for congregations. Regretfully, the last event was cancelled due to the social unrest near the end of the year.

Month	Events and Themes	Counts
Mar	Pastoral Care Symposium: Becoming Vulnerable and Compassionate Pastors	170
Jun	The 15 <sup>th</sup> Chaplains' Day: Enhancing Our Resilience	102
Sept	Spiritual Health Talk for Healthcare Professionals: Angels @ Earth	132



The 15th Chaplains' Day



Pastoral Care Symposium



Spiritual Health Talk for Healthcare Professionals: Angels@Earth

## Extending Pastoral Education Network

Besides offering CPE for seminarians, the Association treasured making connections with theological seminaries to explore opportunities to serve the pastors-to-be. A report was drafted that reviewed the participation and feedback of the last ten Pastoral Care Workshops for Seminarians. With an aging society, the demand for pastoral care to chronic illness, death and dying keeps increasing. Congregation pastors and leaders need support in response to this increasing demand. Just like public health education, preventive measures are always better than redemptive medicine. Quality pastoral education helps to nurture caring congregations and healthier spirituality in facing one's own mortality. Although our days are limited, we can choose to care each and every day.

Month	Events / Programs	Counts
Jan	The 10th Pastoral Care Workshops for Seminarians	120
Jan, June	Chaplaincy Volunteer Training: Understanding Spiritual Assessment	80
May	Chaplaincy Volunteer Training: Understanding Listening and Empathy	30
May	Seminar for pastors on cancer care: Who Can Help Us?	50
June-August	Summer CPE for seminarians	5
August	Seminars for congregation: Facilitating Spiritual Conversation with Cancer Patients	35
Sept	Seminars for congregation: Understanding Life and Death	100
Sept	Seminars for church leaders: Pastoral Care at the Time of Death and Dying	25
Jan, Sept, Oct	Pastoral Education Program for Chaplaincy Team of Alliance Bible Seminary	54
Sept-Nov	Seminars for congregation: Pastoral Care from Chronic Illness to Death and Dying	450
Oct	Seminars for public: Preparing Our Seniors to Approach Chronic Illness and Death	100
Nov	Seminar for public: Life and Death Education	30

Visitor to theological Seminars



The 10th Pastoral Care Workshops for Seminarians



Summer CPE for Seminaries



Seminars for Congregation



Seminar for public



ABS Chaplaincy Team



## Conclusion

Chaplains are supposed to be familiar with chronic illness, but we are strange to prolonged societal crises. We are challenged to identify the deepest spiritual needs of people and to provide effective pastoral care at times of social turbulence. The concepts of reconciliation, mediation, and conflict management are easier said than done. Chaplains are neither saviors nor provokers. We continue to learn to pray, to trust in God, and to understand how God wants us to grow in this unusual situation.

*"Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone....Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*

~ Romans 12:17-21 NIV ~

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### Corporate Honorary Overseas Consultants:

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

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