



The Association of Hong Kong Hospital Christian Chaplaincy Ministry

Annual Report 2018

on

Professional Chaplaincy Development and Pastoral Education

Turn Our Eyes Upon the Holy

Van Wai-Chuen Lo

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witness, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” ~ Hebrews 12:1 NIV~

Perseverance is a prerequisite for success. This quality implies not only unflinching motivation and unceasing endeavor, but also wisdom for evolution and revolution. Steadfastly identifying root causes, obstacles, and solutions at times demand higher levels of perseverance. External hindrances may consume our energy whereas internal struggles may drain our spirit. These are lessons learnt in post-modern development of healthcare industry.

Effective Communication Fills the Gaps between the Above and the Below

After twelve interviews with hospital General Nursing Managers (GMNs) and nursing professors in 2016 and 2017, we resumed another round of visits with Cluster and Hospital Chief Executives (CCEs/HCEs). Some are newly promoted to this position while others have returned to hospitals from the Hospital Authority Head Office. All of them, however, are experienced clinicians. During interviews, this new generation of executives shares a common mission. They hope to fill the gaps between the above (policies) and the below (practices) through effective communication. With their clinical background, these executives define effective communication as having a sincere and open attitude, eagerness to listen, and effort to help frontline practitioners make sense of administrative policies. The preferred outcomes of effective communication include helping them to know, understand, adopt, practice, and finally develop a habit. This is much easier said than done.

Visitations to CCEs/HCEs



Chaplain Continuing Education (CCE) Means More than Certificates

Chaplains were encouraged to join the voluntary CCE Scheme. The theme of CCE in 2018 was “Enhancing a Chaplain’s Being, Doing and Thinking”. We aimed to balance the needs for spiritual self-care, theological reflection, and clinical competencies of chaplains. Through offering quality CPE programs and chaplain seminars, the Association hoped that our colleagues genuinely treasured the learning opportunities and outcomes rather than just attending for certificates.



The 14th Chaplains' Day



Orientation to New Chaplains



Spring CPE for Chaplains and Pastors



Fall CPE for Chaplains



Month	Programs	Nos.
Jan-Mar	Spring CPE for Hospital Chaplains and Pastors (1 st and 2 nd unit)	3
Quarterly	Case Conferences for the Hospital Chaplaincy Team of Pastoral Care Society	32
Feb	Seminar: Give me Oil in My Lamp – inside out of one's spirituality	30
March	Seminar: Constructing Helpful Conversation between Human Diseases and Spirituality	56
April	Orientation to New Chaplains	21
May	Seminar: Theological Reflection – an exercise on ethical consideration of euthanasia	61
June	The 14 th Chaplains' Day: Who Has Stolen Our Pleasure?	100
July	Chaplain I/C Educational Retreat: To Guide and Nurture our Next Generation	23
August	Seminar: Goodbye My Love – the arts of pastoral care in funeral services	53
Sept-Nov	Fall CPE for Hospital Chaplains (3 rd or 4 th unit)	3
Sept	Seminar: What Should Hospital Chaplains Understand about Clinical Research	45
Nov	Seminar: The Formation and Transformation of Anxiety and Fear	52



Chaplains Seminars



In 2018, three chaplains joined a certification tutorial group. Two of them chose to apply for certification, together with another chaplain who prepared the materials on her own. Among three applicants, two of them were certified by committees. This certification scheme was implemented since 2012. Applicants had to demonstrate satisfactory level in all 16 professional competencies in order to be certified. Since then, 23 local chaplains completed the certification process. The passing rate is about 96%.



Certification interviews



Certification tutorial group

Implementation of Professional Development Directives

Following up the *Reports of Decennial Survey on Professional Development*, the Professional Development Committee organized, for the first time, four cluster-based chaplain in-charge meetings to further discuss and explore the core values and meaningful directives for future professional development. All chaplain in-charges embraced the vocational calling of chaplains as an integral part of our profession. Relevant theological education and CPE are keys to sustaining such unique and sacred identity of chaplain community. In the summer of the year, almost all chaplain in-charges gathered together for an educational day retreat in which we listened to each other and formulated feasible directives that would be reviewed next year. One of these directives is to encourage these chaplain in-charges to communicate effectively with their chaplaincy committees. This helps motivate the committees to become positive driving forces for professional chaplaincy development.

Among 138 eligible applicants, 100 staff chaplains have registered with the Association. There are 33 Certified Chaplains, 48 Registered Chaplain I, 15 Registered Chaplain II, and 4 Auxiliary Chaplains. The participation rate is 72%.

Clusters Chaplain I/C Meetings



Chaplain I/C Educational Retreat



To Entrust to Reliable and Qualified Successors

Earlier this year, there were 22 pastors enrolled in a 24-hour certificate course in pastoral care to the sick people. Previously, we found that many chaplains shifted their orientation to hospital chaplaincy after years of pastoral ministry in churches. Nowadays, more seminarians apply for chaplain positions as their very first site of ministry. Besides, we also witnessed that some volunteers discerned the call to chaplaincy through their hospital services. Because of that, they pursued appropriate theological education and CPE then joined this ministry upon graduation. For that reason, providing quality pastoral education for volunteers, seminarians and pastors is always an essential mission of the Association.



Certificate course for congregation pastors



Summer CPE for Seminarians



Visitors from Mainland China



Seminar for Nursing Managers

Month	Events / Programs
Jan	The 9 th Pastoral Care Workshops for Seminarians
April to May	Certificate Course for congregation pastors: Pastoral Care to the Sick People
April	Seminar for pastors: Opportunity and Challenge of Cancer Care in Church
April	Seminar for seminarians: Further Understanding of Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry
May, Nov	Seminars for chaplaincy volunteers
June-August	Summer CPE for seminarians
June, Sept	Seminars for congregation: Pastoral Care to Cancer Patients
June	Seminar for visitors from Mainland China: Understanding Hospital Chaplaincy
June	Congregation Education: Understanding Life and Death
July	Seminar for congregation: Walking with People with Chronic Illness
Sept	Seminar for nursing managers: Holistic Nursing – to care with soul
Oct	Pastoral Education Program for Chaplaincy Team of Alliance Theological Seminary
Nov	Public Education: A Clinical Reflection and Application on Filial Piety

The 9th Pastoral Care Workshops for Seminarians



ATS Chaplaincy Team

Conclusion

To enroll in a marathon is easier than to finish it. A trained athlete understands how important it is to keep one's body, mind and spirit fit for a race. The development of hospital chaplaincy and clinical pastoral education in Hong Kong is like a relay marathon. The year of 2019 is the 35th Anniversary of the hospital chaplaincy ministry in this city. We have inherited this calling and now we persistently run towards the finish line.

“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” ~ Hebrews 12:2 NIV~

January 31, 2019.

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.

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