

CCLUC

Chinese Christian Love & Unity Association
Molding the Virtues of Singles; Preparing Blessed Families

2019

No.3

**I will give you praise, O Lord my God,
with all my heart; I will give glory to your name for ever. (Psalms 86:12)**

2019 is a thankful and being humble year, God lead our ministry to trust him in our financial and ministry direction difficulties. Thank you God, for help us to learn to believe in him more, make us experience his grace every day, in such a challenging and fulfill year!

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Praise God for CCLUC's 6 Year Anniversary Celebration

Rev. Kuo-Liang Lin

Ph.D. Professor of Family Ministry, President of LOGOS Evangelical Seminary. CCLUC Senior Advisor

I have personally served in family ministry for more than 30 years. I know how crucial a role singles ministry plays in both the growth of one's marriage and one's family. Praise the Lord for his special grace to touch Sue's heart and give her the burden of this singles ministry 6 years ago. Having the opportunity to participate and support this ministry, I sincerely believe that the establishment of this ministry is tremendously helpful to single Christians everywhere in the Bay Area. I am especially thankful to God and Lord's Grace Christian Church for supporting this ministry to help serve His churches. I pray for God to pour out His grace on CCLUC such that all its future endeavors would be greater, bigger, and better, and may it be a blessing to many more single brothers and sisters.

Dr. Wei-jen Huang

PhD. Internationally renowned Clinical Psychologist.

CCLUC Senior Advisor

I am ecstatic to see that there is a group of brothers and sisters in the Bay Area to care for the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of our single friends. Through a variety of activities to help them grow, and learn to better understand themselves and others, and to seek to build a marriage, love, family values after God's heart. This is a very meaningful ministry. May God greatly bless this ministry; I think this is also a blessing for all the churches. I also hope that everyone will support and encourage this organization so that it can serve more single friends in need.

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. (Proverbs 11:25)



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Rev. Patrick Auyeung.

LGCC Senior Pastor. CCLUC Chairman of the Board

I thank God for establishing CCLUC. I see how God is using this ministry to serve a group of single people who are often ignored by the church. I also see how God is using Sue and coworkers in such challenging ministry, yet full of grace. I thank God for richly providing in both finance and resources. I pray that God will provide a complimentary team that will make CCLUC more creative, better and more effective while also collaborating with other churches to serve singles from different churches and communities.

Ms. Deanna Go.

Director of Focus on the Family. CCLUC Board of Directors

I have been serving with CCLUC for nearly 4 years. I saw the importance of this ministry because I care about the family. I had invited several people to a few CCLUC gatherings. After attending, they came back and told me that they felt that someone out there cares about them and their lives were greatly changed. They learned how to continue in their marriage so I encourage more people to introduce this ministry to their relatives and friends. If there are brothers and sisters in the church who are single, I encourage you to join this ministry.

Amy Lin

Ph.D. Associate Professor of Counseling LOGOS
Evangelical Seminary. CCLUC Board of Directors

Thank God that since my collaboration with Pastor Lin Guoliang in the very first retreat, I have seen so many co-workers and volunteers serve and help this ministry. In recent years, CCLUC has grown to host many activities, retreats, and even caring for parents of single brothers and sisters. God truly has greatly blessed this organization. I think this is a very beautiful ministry. I deeply believe that healthy singles will form healthy families, which in turn will become part of a healthy church family.

President and co-workers

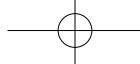
CCLUC is able to reach today's 6th anniversary because of God's grace and blessings! CCLUC's ministry is cross-church, addresses an often ignored singles group, and is also a new ministry without preexisting models. So then how can we do

this ministry well? All that the co-workers can do is to look up to God by prayer, to consistently host prayer meetings twice a week, to seek the will of God in everything no matter how small or in any circumstances, and then to obey God's guidance. From the second quarter of 2018 to the first half of this year, the donations received were reduced by 70%, which brought great challenges to the ministry, but the co-workers did not panic because Hudson Taylor said: "If we are willing to obey the Lord, then He is responsible, not us". "We pray for God to supply our financial needs, and He will touch the right people as a conduit for supply." God's wonderful leadership the second half of this year has satisfied all of our financial needs, allowing us to once again experience God's providence.

We believe that a full set of pre-marriage education and counseling can lead singles to understand God pleasing marriage, and help them build a more intimate relationship with God and build a Christian family. CCLUC has also extended the ministry to post-marital counseling, bringing people to put their faith in the Lord, using action to reveal the glory of God among brothers and sisters. A big thanks to Lord's Grace Christian Church for supporting and helping from all aspects. Also thank you to the brothers and sisters who have been faithfully sacrificed and served this ministry!

CCLUC 6th Anniversary Thanksgiving Sharing

CCLUC 6th Anniversary "Love of Life" Thanksgiving Sharing Day, will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2019. Representatives from the CCLUC single retreat participated in the past years will share the education they learned, the blessings and the changes and growth of life in CCLUC, and experienced the miracle of God in their marriage and marriage. Internationally renowned pianist Sandra Wright Shen leads the music worship. Howard Chen gave a message on "Retrieving the relationship of love". Review the ministry in past six years, thanks to the churches, donors and co-workers who have continuously supported and helped CCLUC ministry, and report on the 2020 ministry plan, calling for more singles to participate in CCLUC ministry, encourage churches, brothers and sisters come to support such a meaningful ministry.



5th Inter- Church Christian Singles Retreat

The long-awaited single retreat was successfully held on 5/17-5/19! God provides the most suitable speaker, Pastor Benjamin Chen & Sharon Chen. The brothers and sisters who participated in the camp thought that this was the best camp. Not only did they hear the message that they had not heard before, but they also met many brothers and sisters from different churches. Everyone gathered together to share their joys and challenges in their daily life, they encouraged each other, They agreed this is a very commendable camp, have an opportunity to let their minds can be updated and changed. (See the witness for sharing later.)



Training / Seminar

1) "Are you ready for relationship"- Practice Happiness

was completed on 8/10. Thanks for Sister Jamie to lead the discussion on some common obstacles to happiness and learn a few happiness practices to overcome them so to make you are much more attractive when you are happy and your interactions with others are more peaceful and harmonious.

2) "How to find the Mr./Mrs. Right?"

Give thanks to God for the training and discussion on "How to find the Mr./Mrs. Right?" which was held on Saturday, 10/26, led by Sue, President of CCLUC. Sue has many years of experience in servicing singles and based on bible's teaching to analysis their challenge. Brothers and sisters are very eager to participate in discussion though it's such limited time. They all hope CCLUC will organize similar seminar to help brothers and sisters in the future.

Pre-marital Counseling Training

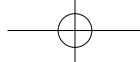
A thorough pre-marital education and counseling plays an important role in church's family ministry. Because of this, on 6/29, LOGOS and CCLUC organized 2nd pre-marital counseling training to be conducted by Rev. Kuo Liang Lin, PhD, who has 30 years+ experiences in marriage and family relationships, and is a trained FOCCUS facilitator.

The main purpose of the training course is based on Bible teaching, to train and equip the church's pastors, preachers, counselors for pre-marriage teaching and counseling, to help single people establish a Christian family. Praise God there was 45 pastoral, Elder, counselor attended!

8/24 BBQ & Volunteer Recruit

Thanks for God's guidance, and through the prayers and efforts of the co-workers and volunteers, the 8/24 BBQ ended successfully. God moved a group of brothers and sisters with a sense of mission, passion and vitality (from the 5th Inter Church Retreat) to plan this event. They get together to pray and discuss the program and take responsibilities. We have a variety program includes worship, prayer time, vision and testimony sharing. Thanks to the Lord's Grace Christian Church for providing beautiful venues. May God blessed the coworkers and encourage more brothers and sisters to served.





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Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year Celebration



We had an amazing night on 2/9 to celebrate Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year. Thanks to LGCC provide venue and brothers and sisters decorated it. Started with a group of brothers and sisters to lead a wonderful worship and followed by brother Paul's fun game to break the ice. Testimony from a newly married couple Jeff & Xinyu shared on how they walked with God from dating to married. Sister Jamie delivered a very powerful Love and Laugh presentation which was very inspiring and impressive. The party was filled with God's love, all attendees were having a great blessed holiday.

Testimony Sharing

Speakers:

Pastor Benjamin Chen & Sharon Chen

This year my wife & I had the honor to be invited to speak at the Christian Single Retreat hosted by CCLUC in the Bay Area. Since this was our first time joining a retreat specifically for this purpose, to be honest, we were wondering "who / what type of people" will come? But it turned out the answer to our question could only be described as serendipitous – a pleasant surprise!



The brothers and sisters who joined this retreat were all with great quality –physically, socially, and spiritually, they were all way more than just "presentable." Everyone was very humble – very receptive and responsive to the message. And everyone treated all the program and activity very seriously as they all were willing to put in full-effort even for just skits. Moreover, everyone was willing to be transparent & genuine during the small group discussion time. I believe whether they found someone special here, at least they gained great friendship and learned something valuable here!

Hope CCLUC will host this type of event in Southern California to bless the churches here, too!

Stunning Singles Retreat > Emily

This is my first time joining the CCLUC single retreat. Not knowing what to expect when I signed up the retreat. I'm glad that I had made the choice to go. I have the privilege to meet a group of passionate young Christian professionals who showed a great deal of vulnerability by sharing openly about their struggles in group discussion sessions. I'm very touched to see how brothers and sisters selflessly praying for each other. Pastor Benjamin used Paul's letter to encouraged us to avoid comparing ourselves with other people's timeline. Instead, we can have a new perspective of deepening our relationship with God while we are single and live that is pleasing God. Regardless we are rich or poor, single or married we can have peace in the Lord knowing that God has a perfect plan for our life. He knows us and loves us.

I also want to thank CCLUC co-workers whom faithfully serving in the Single Christian Retreats all these years. Thru their steps of faith, we have the opportunity to witness how God had provided just enough rooms to accommodate the people that signed up for the retreat. May God continue to bless this ministry.



Holy Life ▷ Mike

This is my 4th CCLUC retreat. I see this year the spiritual atmosphere of the retreat has been elevated, with small groups doing devotions together in the morning, having deep spiritual discussions, and praying together. The messages and testimonies also touched our hearts. We need to be affirmed as singles in God's kingdom, and to be challenged to live out a sacrificial life of love for the Lord.

The CCLUC retreat not only helped brothers and sisters from different churches know each other, but also encouraged us to live out an abundant life in the Lord. As we see the low dating morality around us, CCLUC seeks to restore the beauty of godly dating relationships and the glory of a holy life as a single Christian.

Unique Singles Retreat ▷ John

This is my first time to participate in the CCLUC Inter-Church Single Retreat. It was recommended by my pastor and a sister who had participated in the past. The camp is full of different activities, such as interesting ice-breaking games, wonderful worship, insightful message, touching testimony, daily group quality time, daily personal and group devotion, group discussion, personality test, skit from groups, as well as some perspectives and guidance on opposing gender. Speaker are very understand how our busy single Christians' struggles in dating. His wife is a family therapist, she gave us some guidance from a female perspective. There is also a couple who have participated in CCCLC Inter-church single retreats and seminars. I am very touched by their sharing.

I can feel the passion of CCLUC coworkers and appreciated their work. This Inter-church Single Retreat definitely is a unique retreat, highly recommend

Live out the Love of Life 

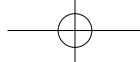
Commit to Learning to Seek God's Guidance ▷ Teresa

I really like to participate in CCLUC Inter-church activities even I live in East Bay. CCLUC activities, Single retreats, book clubs, seminars, is all based on the Bible teaching, I have benefited a lot from participation. I also met some brothers and sisters from different event to build our friendship. I am very pleased with the founding of CCLUC. Although they have their own family and children to take care of, they still care about our singles. I sincerely thank the CCLUC staff for their love and care, CCLUC provides a good platform to let us know each other, learn and encourage together. Although I have not met my Mr. Right, I believe that God has His plans on me. I will continue to participate and learn, grow spiritually, and ask God to lead. The Lord is my shepherd, and I will not be lacking. I want to share one of my favorite bible verse. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3: 5 – 6)

Love Relationship's Miracle

▷ Forest & Julia

When I was 30, my parents expected me already got married and have children. After I became a Christian, I served at my church and at my company's fellowship. I used most of my time serving. Because I was spending a lot of time at church and offering, especially since I was still not in a relationship, my father was getting angry on me. Even though I did not have a girlfriend, I had numerous crushes. These crushes lasted from 1 week to 6 months and ended when they announced engagement. At that time I felt the need to improve myself so that I may be worthy for my Soul Mate. A year had passed, 5 years had passed, my other half was nowhere to be found. My heavenly Father does not seem to have answered my prayers! In 2015, I participated the CCLUC Inter-church singles retreat where I volunteered enthusiastically. I reevaluated my life to find what was still not pleasing to God and I found that I was not completely holy. I had a problem with online pornography so I turned to God and prayed and prayed until my life may be completely holy and to keep my eyes holy. God pruned



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my temperament in various aspects, molding me to become a gentle, meek and attentive person who thought of God's teaching and others' needs before myself.

God waited 12 years for me to change and improve, a miracle happened in 2016! I met my wife, Julia, who is the Soul Mate that God created for me. That year we were already 40 and 48 years old. Because of God's lead, we soon got married. We experienced a lot of challenges preparing for the wedding as well deciding on whether to have children, but God helped us passed through ups and downs. God not only blessed my career, He also blessed us with a healthy son born on April 20th, 2019. We thank God and spread His gospel, may He use our testimony to bless more young people.

Retreat changes Me ▶ Maggie

This year (2019) was my first time participating in this retreat. I registered at the last minute and it is full already. However, a CCLUC's coworker gave up her room to let me able to go. I was not understand why I had such a strong feeling that I must

go to this retreat. Later I found out God is speaking to me through this retreat. During the retreat, a couple came to the camp site to share their story with us, "The Work of Waiting". The sister, Victoria, shared how she served the Lord with a delightful heart during her 10 years of singleness. She briefly shared her mission trip experience as an example to illustrate this point. Actually I'm not interested in mission ministry, even feel scared. However, her story touched my heart this time: some stronghold was broken apart and my spirit opened up. A soft but clear voice said to me that "I want to go to a mission trip as well!" Later, I joined church's Tuesday Prayer Meeting, at the end of the prayer meeting, our pastor suddenly reminded us that end of May was the deadline for applying for the July mission trip to Taiwan. I was so shocked, and all of a sudden Victoria's story came back to me. Then everything came clear of why God made me go to the retreat. My major concern to go to this mission trip was my visa will be expired on 8/7/2019, But then found out the mission trip was in July, and the returned date was July 28, before my visa expired. So in fact, God used this retreat to fulfill His plan in each of us.

It should continue learning even you are dating someone now. Newly wedded testimonials sharing

▶ Tony

At the time I was first asked if I would go to pre-marital counseling, I was not sure when I would get married, but I think it can improve our relationship. Problems found in early stage and solved would lay a solid foundation for our future marriage. Shuping is our counselor and is a dedicated sister in Christ. She said that pre-marriage counseling is better start at an early stage in a relationship, and it will be helped both to have the same goal in this relationship -- married.

First, she recommended us to read the book "The Meaning of Marriage." Before reading this book, I didn't know anything about marriage. My understanding of marriage is a love for two people and decided to be together for the rest of life. So marriage is the next step in a relationship. This book explains marriage based on the Bible and Christianity teaching. From the book, I understanding is that marriage is established by

God and is very sacred. In marriage, the intimacy of husband and wife should be the same as the relationship between Christ Jesus and the church. The husband treats his wife as his own body, and the wife obeys the husband as the church obeys God.

Secondly, Shuping asked us to work on the Pre-Marriage Questionnaire. Through the questionnaire results, we found out what aspects we have in common and what needs improvement. We can discuss and get through our differences. Shuping cares about us and prays for us all the time. During this counseling process, we learn and grow in the church, fellowship, and group.

We got married in early June this year. Thank God for letting us meet. Although there is a lot of disagreement, it must be that God's plan wants us to learn through each other. Continue grow and be a good testimony. I hope that through ours we can let the friends and family witness the Christian marriage and pass on the love of God to them.



► Tina

We came to Northern California in 2016 and join the Lord's Grace Christian Church in Mountain View. At that time, I had been in relationship with Tony for about 2 years, and we also started our career. In 2017, we started to have pre-marriage counseling. At the beginning, Shuping asked us to do the Pre-Marriage Questionnaire. The results showed that we have different thoughts on several aspects. Shuping encouraged us to participate in some seminars on marriage, retreats, and read the book "The Meaning of Marriage". In the past, I had a highly expectation and very much looking forward to marriage, but at the time, Tony didn't have the same thoughts as me. When we started reading books together to learn about marriage, we also participated in the church's intimate journey Sunday School. Gradually we understood how two people should get along, how to resolve conflicts, and have a clear understanding on the meaning of marriage.

From the book, the author, Timothy Keller mentioned "Don't give up in marriage", I think this is the hardest work in marriage and for a lifetime. When we looked back in our relationship, from the beginning we want to be together at all time, then we entered to the stage that have a lot of arguments. At last, because of our same religious and the desire to learn how to walk together in marriage, our relationship has gradually stabilized. Shuping often prays for us, and cares about our beliefs and our relationship. I gradually feel that we are so blessed to have dedicated sisters in church give us advice and caring.

When we are closer to God, our relationship with each other are closer too. We also learned a lot from the fellowship and disciple training, and rebuild our relationship with God and His Word, and I also began to have a fixed devotion time, all these made our relationship better. We have to give thanks to God, we got married in June 2019. However, this is not the end in our relationship. In our marriage, I hope that we all learn to live in Godly life and obey each other.

Caring and Visiting Singles

Praise God to touch co-workers to use their lunch time and off work hours to visit and call the single brothers and sisters from the 1st through 5th CCLUC singles retreat at their companies to care for them, understand their needs, and to listen to their opinions to seek together CCLUC's next year ministry vision. Co-workers are willing to use action to spread God's love to singles, which is very touching to these single brothers and sisters.

2020 Outlook

♥ Vision

"God sets the lonely in families"
(Psalm 68:6)

**build together, encourage each other,
Live our the love of life.**

♥ Goal

**Build a group with love for Singles,
encourage each other and mutual
acceptance and live a beautiful life.**

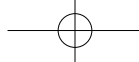
- 1) Regularly hold different forms of workshops**
- 2) Special topic seminars**
- 3) Premarital education and counseling**

Together With One Heart

CCLUC needs a group of people who are energetic, passionate, creative, have good education background and expertise to plan activities. Sincerely invite you and your friends to work together to build a group with love for Singles.

Love's Actions —retreat cowoker—

God has been leading CCLUC for 6 years now. I have served as a co-worker of CCLUC. I saw how the married co-workers work during the day, take care of housework and their children at night, and work on various CCLUC tasks until past midnight. Although some singles have not yet met a suitable spouse but they have continued to participate in CCLUC activities for six years to seek God's guidance. What touched me even more was the prayers and supporters who worked for CCLUC. In the past, I didn't believe that anyone would voluntarily offer money but I personally witnessed a sister, who had participated in the CCLUC retreat, donate money even though she lives simply. I hope that their life's witness can move more single brothers and sisters to participate in the CCLUC ministry!



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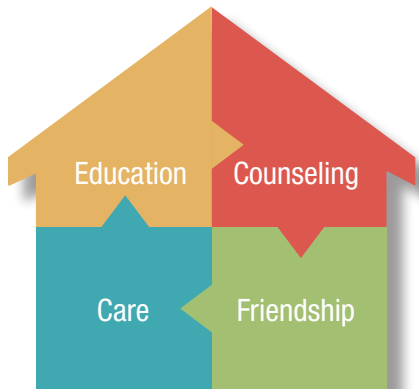
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Cultivate a Charismatic Single Character
To Build a Blessed Family



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Pray and Financial Support

Please pray for the implementation of CCLUC's next year ministry plan, and ask God to call for more brothers and sisters serve in this ministry. CCLUC's budget for next year is \$100,000. Pray for God supplies to make this ministry sustainable. Hope more churches to support Single ministry with CCLUC

Welcome to support the Chinese Christian Love & Unity, please use the following methods:

Donation Amount: \$ _____

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Check (Payable to "CCLUC")
- ☐ PayPal: ccluc.office@gmail.com
- ☐ Credit Card : ☐ Visa ☐ Master

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____

Expires Date _____

Signature _____