



5週年 感恩分享 2013-2018

回顧這五年的歷程，CCLUC 不得不舉手向奇妙的神感恩。這個時代的年輕人需要有人幫助、帶領、陪伴，更需要認識和經歷主耶穌基督的愛。神聽到他們內心深處的吶喊和禱告，更感動了灣區七個教會的牧師、神學院教授、和弟兄姐妹，讓他們有同一異象、同一使命，同感一靈，開始了跨教會單身基督徒事工。

2014年12月，重量級的董事會成立了，成員有神學院教授、美國婚姻家庭事工專家、教會牧師和同工，來領導事工方向。會長 Sue 帶領全體義工、同工，堅持禱告才能做聖工的原則：每一項事工都是從禱告和感恩開始，在禱告中進行，在禱告和感恩中結束。

因著聖靈的引領，五年來我們舉辦了不同類型的活動，包括營會、教育、關懷、輔導、和聯誼。參加人數共達2,600多人，來自120多個教會的單身弟兄姐妹，出生於中國大陸、香港、台灣、或東南亞等國家。隨著事工的發展，參加者擴展到華裔第二代、美國白人、韓國人、菲律賓人、巴西人等族裔。他們心意更新而變化，有的結婚成家，有的在愛的路上，有的在尋找愛的路上，有的從感情的傷

痛中走出來。看到他們生命的改變，我們由衷的感謝神。CCLUC 從栽培單身到勸勉父母，從栽培個人輔導員發展到培訓教會輔導員。

CCLUC 能夠走到今天，一切都是神的恩典和作為。因為「我是葡萄樹，你們是枝子。常在我裡面的，我也常在他裡面，這人就多結果子；因為離了我，你們就不能做什麼。」(約 15:5)。

在此，我們要感謝 CCLUC 董事會的各位董事和顧問、感謝為這個事工慷慨奉獻的捐獻者、感謝積極參與的義工和同工、感謝在背後默默禱告和支持的教會及弟兄姐妹，特別感謝主恩基督教會在場地和資源方面的大力支持和幫助。

現今時代的飛速變化和墮落，年輕基督徒正在面臨未知的歲月和挑戰。為此，我們要更加依靠神，堅固他們的信心，把他們引到主耶穌基督的愛裡。為配合未來五年的主題《活出生命的愛》，我們將陸續推出一系列的成長課程與進深計劃，來實踐“塑造單身品格，預備蒙福家庭”的使命。健康的單身，就能帶來健康的教會。

為此，我們需要更多的禱告和經濟支持，聯絡各方的教會和弟兄姐妹，參與這個有意義、有價值的單身事工。願神祝福所有在主內與單身同行的人！

11/3 CCLUC 五週年特別感恩募款會

董事會成員、捐獻者、義工、同工、牧師代表、長老代表及單身代表，共同數算主恩，展望未來。董事兼美國愛家協會華語部主任陳安娜女士，從南加州親臨作短講。大家共賞五週年回顧錄象，各代表作感恩分享。正道福音

神學院林國亮院長和協談學副教授林慈敏博士，也發來祝賀短片。「願主我們的神的恩慈臨到我們身上；願你為我們的緣故，堅立我們手所作的工；我們手所作的工，願你堅立。」(詩 90:17)

單身者的牧養與關顧

林慈敏博士

單身族群的存在和需要在近年來已經不容小覷。根據美國 2010 年的人口普查結果，單身人數已佔總人口的 43%。現代人持續保持單身的原因，包含受教育時間拉長、建立專業身份和穩固財力基礎所需時間之增加。該現象反映在教會處境中，則是單身女性和男性基督徒比例之懸殊，導致單身女性基督徒極不易在教會找到歸宿。教會傳統上認為單身僅是進入婚姻前的過渡時期，忽略了單身基督徒的需要。領受服事單身族群呼召的克里斯多夫 (Nicholas Christoff) 認為，單身族群是目前教會中最缺乏牧養的少數族群。

教會如何有效地牧養單身族群呢？可以分成三部分討論：

第一，教會必須檢視現存的偏見和誤解，明白神可以同時使用已婚和單身基督徒來建造基督的身體並宣揚福音使命，單身或結婚沒有優劣之分。實際上，神沒有應許所有人都進入婚姻；但神卻應許祂會與人永遠同在，使人經歷生命的更新。

第二，教會需要實際且平衡的角度，從教導單身弟兄姐妹被動地等候神帶領伴侶出現這種「擇偶過程過度屬靈化」的觀點，轉向鼓勵他們積極在靈性層面、人際關係互動、性格成長等方面邁向成熟。同時，教會應當教導單身者合宜地處理交往時可能面對的議題，包含網路交友安全問題和約會時的身體接觸界線等。

第三，教會需要有長期關顧牧養單身族群的計劃。例如，招募對關顧單身者有負擔的家庭來牧養單身者，提供他們生活引導和陪伴。另外，過去教會多會根據新婚或已婚的需要而另設小組，單身者不容易與同齡但已婚的弟兄姐妹保持連結。教會可以考慮組成跨年齡小組，將有助於不同生命階段的弟兄姐妹彼此有更緊密相連的關係，以及對教會有家的歸屬感。

結論：今日牧者應當視單身階段為神塑造祂兒女的靈性成熟的獨特季節。蓋瑞·湯瑪斯在《婚姻靈修學》中提及一個革命性的概念：婚姻的目的必須從帶給人幸福，轉變為基督徒經歷神在彼此身上靈命塑造的園地。同樣地，我們可學習將單身視為神塑造祂孩子靈命成熟的時期，並且他們可以使用這獨特的身份，來服事其他的單身基督徒。當單身基督徒經歷與神更深的連結，他們將有機會向這個世界展示一個驚人的事實：神自己遠比這世上任何的伴侶還要好。不論單身或結婚，在主裡面，我們都有為主活出喜樂和豐盛生命的自由。

[1] U.S. Census Bureau News. U.S. Department of Commerce, Unmarried and Single Americans Week Sept. 18-24, 2011, accessed October 17, 2013, http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/pdf/cb11ff-19_unmarried.pdf.

[2] J. J. Arnett, *Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from Late Teens through the Twenties* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2004), 3-4.

[3] Nicholas B. Christoff, *Saturday Night, Sunday Morning: Singles and the Church* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1981), 2.

林慈敏博士乃正道福音神學院協談學副教授及 CCLUC 董事。

2018

家庭事工策略與實務研討會 - 單身事工摘記

跨教會單身事工的必要性

2010 年美國人口普查統計，43.6% 的美國成年人處於未婚狀況，2017 年的報告顯示，現在單身人士比以往任何時候都要多。皮尤研究中心 (Pew Research Center) 2017 報告預測，等現在的年輕人到 50 歲時，他們中大約每四個人就有一個是終生單身的。

根據我們的調查報告：近八成的單身青年表示生活圈子窄為“脫單難”的主要原因。78.3% 在擇偶觀上的看法不樂觀，歸咎於婚姻道德觀念淡薄、缺乏家庭責任感。67% 希望見到多一些跨教會以興趣愛好為主的社交活動。

單身基督徒對於健康的友情有著很大的需求。隨著後現代時代家庭規模縮小，現在的單身青年比以往任何時代的人更需要愛。如果我們不和他們成為朋友，他們就會待在家裏或在不適當的地點與不適當的人建立關係，這種可怕的罪惡迴圈關係一直會繼續下去。健康的單身生活會帶來健康的婚姻、家庭和社區。在馬太福音 9:37 - 38 耶穌說：「要收的莊稼多，做工的人少。所以，你們當求莊

稼的主打發工人出去收他的莊稼。」單身很需要我們幫助他們擴大社交圈子和視野，來看神如何帶領其他單身，增進對婚姻的實際認識，從而體驗神的信實慈愛。

CCLUC 願像雅比斯那樣求告神：「甚願你賜福於我，擴張我的境界。」好讓我們去聯絡眾教會的有心人，像亞伯拉罕的僕人，以利以謝，為單身禱告幫助他們找到生命中的以撒或利百加；或像但以理的朋友，婚姻「即或不然」(但 3:18)，鼓勵單身仍可活出在基督裏豐盛的生命。

你願意加入我們幫助他人按著神的道建立婚姻和家庭嗎？你願意融入他們的文化群體中說出他們的心聲，為這項事工投入資源嗎？



華人教會裡未婚單身事工的挑戰

陳炳中牧師

1、教會整體對單身不夠友善

老一代經常教誨單身年輕人在每個人生階段應該做的事，例如 大學專業，收入良好的工作，找結婚對象，訂下未來計劃買房子，撫養孩子或升職等。

2、單身事工目標？

- A. 期待型 = 暫時性非自願單身
- B. 奮鬥 / 享樂型 = 暫時性自願單身
- C. 長久性非自願
 - i. 後悔 / 苦毒型
 - ii. 放不開型
 - iii. 寧缺勿濫型

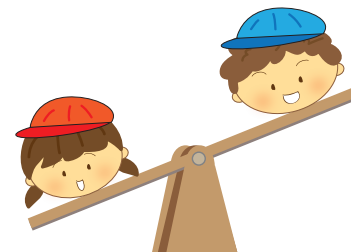
D. 決心型 = 長久性自願單身者

3. "屬靈" 因素的攔阻

Gina Alfonzo 在《今日基督教》雜誌說道：

“現今舊的求偶公式不再適用：一個虔誠的女人，與其說她更有可能結婚，倒不如說多半只剩她孤單一人。”

4. 陰盛陽衰普遍



陳炳中牧師乃愛恩台福教會 1.5 代宣道牧師

擇偶的智慧

住在硅谷的未婚單身每一天都會收到大量的信息，已造成選擇的困難和分辨能力的減低，往往太多的選擇而不會選擇或者不知道如何選擇。未婚基督徒雖然已經成為基督里的新人，但是他們的擇偶價值觀仍然停留在舊人的觀念上。

為了幫助灣區的單身基督徒學習從神而來的選擇智慧，建立合神心意的婚戀觀，同時提供跨教會弟兄姐妹在一起學習討論的機會，CCLUC 於六月十日舉辦《擇偶的智慧》講座，由林慈敏博士主講。內容包括：聖經中的智慧和選擇配偶的智慧禱告；我們應該如何選擇？從非必要的角度辨別必要的；「最大化者」與「滿足者」的決策；重新思考男女角色：男人必須比女人強嗎？匹配原則。

有超過五十多位未婚弟兄姐妹參加，來自灣區三十多個教會，並且吸引美國教會的未婚基督徒前來參加。跨教會的弟兄姐妹在主的大家庭里，在一個健康的環境下，一起聽講座，一起討論分享，一起唱詩歌、玩遊戲，一起聚餐，分享神的話語和基督的愛，心意更新而變化，這確是一個很有意義的事工。



父母如何關心初、成年單身子女的交友？

“現在的時代變了，和我們那個年代相比真是大不一樣！我們那個年代沒有聽說誰家的女兒嫁不出去、誰家的兒子結不了婚的。可是現在年輕一代的交友結婚遇到很多的挑戰。尤其是互聯網的快速發展，信息的多樣化，做父母的好像越來越不知道初、成年子女到底在想什麼、做什麼？也不知道怎樣來關心初、成年的子女，如何與他們溝通。”



CCLUC 成立以來，經常接到父母打電話向我們反映上述的問題，為了使基督的信仰能持續傳承及滿足父母們的需要，特於六月九日邀請林慈敏博士主講《父母如何關心初、成年單身子女的交友？》，深受與會者的歡迎，共有一百多位父母參加，分別來自灣區六十多個教會，他們當中有牧師、教會領袖、同工和弟兄姐妹。經過大家積極和熱烈討論，普遍認為在當今的社會裡做好初、成年單身事工非常重要，單身事工需要以跨教會形式進行。並希望 CCLUC 能經常組織針對父母的講座。

講座的主要內容包括：

1. 為什麼越來越多單身的人？
2. 當今的約會狀況。研究顯示，婚前有同居的比沒有同居的分手率要高，更容易有不忠和暴力的問題，更容易墮胎。
3. 父母錯誤的引導。
4. 對成年孩子的伴侶有偏見。
5. 合乎聖經的引導。

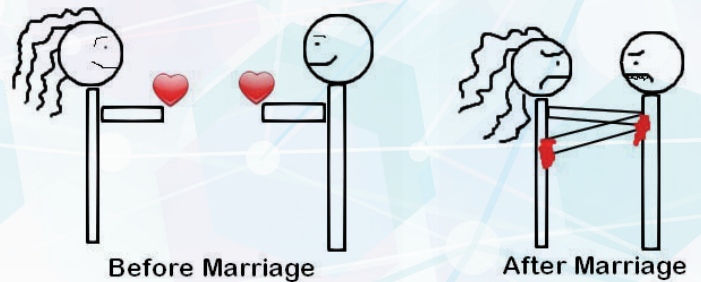
婚前教育決定婚後生活質素

當代青年一代比以往任何時代的青年更需要幫助和盼望。在過去的幾年裡，CCLUC 輔導組的同工們，主要側重單身男女情侶測試和輔導。可是今年不同，有幾對結婚 2-5 年的年輕夫妻，來尋求幫助。他們的主要問題是：婚後雙方的價值觀，性格，脾氣，溝通模式，原生家庭，姻親關係的矛盾越來越大，造成夫妻關係緊張，矛盾升級，分居，鬧離婚。而且雙方家庭的父母也參與其中，家庭關係出現僵局，使原本就脆弱的新型家庭和年輕夫妻，更加難以承受這些壓力。

在他們求助的過程中，輔導員左手牽著妻子、右手牽著丈夫，與他們促膝談心，傾聽雙方的心聲，探訪雙方的父母。建立以盼望為本的婚姻家庭輔導，引導他們按著神的道建立婚姻和家庭，給困境中的夫妻帶去幫助和盼望 --- 將他們指向我們的主耶穌基督的婚姻家庭。當他們能體會到神的愛的時候，就會去理解和寬容對方。通過這樣一個陪伴的過程，使我們了解到，有的夫妻婚前根本沒有接受過婚前教育和輔導，有的即使有過婚前輔導，時間也很短。

其中一個丈夫說“單身男女處在熱戀當中，對婚前輔導根本沒有什麼興趣，認為輔不輔導我都要和對方結婚，即使輔導員說了勸告的話，也聽不進去。現在才認識到婚前沒有裝備好，就急於進入婚姻是非常不利的。所以參加婚前學習和輔導是完全必要的，也是非常重要的，這樣可以避免或減少婚後出現的問題。”

通過陪伴、補課、輔導，帶領他們禱告，這幾對夫妻，關係得到改善，家庭開始融洽，並且有一個年輕丈夫因著聖靈的工作而信主受洗。雙方的家長也開始喜歡參加教會生活。



戶外活動

八月十一日，CCLUC 為灣區的單身基督徒組織了一次戶外活動。Teresa 和我自願成為這次的活動的主持人。我們在 San Mateo Crystal Spring 地區選擇了著名的



Sawyer Camp Trail。那天我們很幸運有陽光明媚的天氣。來自灣區不同教會的兄弟姐妹加入了我們的徒步旅行。在遠足開始之前，我們每個人都輪流向團隊的其他成員介紹自己。在休息時間，我們還圈起來玩一個有趣的數學遊戲。每個人都非常喜歡這個遊戲和徒步旅行，因為徒步旅行是放鬆的，我們不僅喜歡沿著遠足徑欣賞神賜給大自然的美麗景色，而且還享受著主內兄弟姐妹相互學習和交流的美好時光，讓我們結交了新朋友。徒步旅行後，我們在 Millbrae 市的一家餐廳停下來，一起享用美味的食物。

再次感謝 CCLUC 為各教會的單身基督徒提供這樣的好機會！愿神祝福 CCLUC 跨教會單身事工。

David

別具一格的讀書會

～兩次約會見真章～

七月二十一日，是 CCLUC 持續舉辦之讀書會，旨在提供更多機會使未婚弟兄姐妹彼此認識，學習更多在兩性關係中，處理問題的合宜方式，建立更符合聖經教導的戀愛、擇偶和婚姻觀。

這次分享的書籍是《兩次約會見真章》，作者尼爾·克拉克·華倫 (Neil Clark Warren) 是一位神學家、基督徒臨床心理學家。藉著他三十多年對個人和夫妻關係的輔導經驗，提煉出現在青年男女，如何在較短的時間裡，能夠快速篩選出合適自己的、以結婚為前提的約會對象。

帶領討論的是 Nick & Selene 夫婦。Selene 姐妹從 2015 年參加 CCLUC 的單身營會、講座到參與 CCLUC 的服事、做義工，目前在神學院修讀家庭事工專業。他們把所學到的知識用在自己的交友、戀愛、婚姻家庭上。他們進入婚姻不到兩年，對單身在戀愛和擇偶方面的掙扎深有體會。在帶領過程中他們分享了自己的例子，鼓勵單身們

積極參加跨教會的單身活動，通過學習裝備自己做合適的人，持守當持守的，改變當改變的。

在分組練習和討論中，單身們操練傾聽的功課，思考未來在情感當中，遇到問題時當如何看待和處理。讀書會之後，有的弟兄姐妹把所學到的擇偶條件，列出清單運用在自己的約會會上。



電影觀賞

四月二十六日星期六，是一個陽光明媚的上午，CCLUC 邀請灣區單身基督徒一起觀賞美國電影《The Family Man》。這與自己在電影院里觀看電影是完全不一樣的，因為有 CCLUC 的同工 Jamie 律師親自帶領我們對電影進行專題討論：建構婚姻家庭關係的核心價值是什麼？男主角專注事業得到了什麼？失去了什麼？男主角成為居家男人時，要付出什麼代價？有什麼收穫？開始討論的時候，大家有點害羞提出討論，由於有 Jamie 的帶領，大家很快打開陌生的局面，進入熱烈的討論當中。通過討論大家不但對問題有了一致的看法，而且弟兄姐妹之間也有了

Grace 更多的了解。雖然這不是一部新電影，但是可以幫助未婚基督徒對婚姻家庭的價值觀有更深的認識。影片的最後一句台詞是 “I choose us”，不是我選擇你，也不是我選擇我自己，而是我選擇了我們。這讓我們認識到，在物質極度膨脹、生活節奏飛快的今天，相同的婚姻家庭價值觀對於建立一個穩定的家庭是非常重要的。

討論結束後，CCLUC 的同工為單身準備了營養豐富的午餐，讓我們有家的溫暖，感謝 CCLUC 同工的付出和從神而來的愛。

“明月何曾是兩鄉”

—記灣區單身中秋聚會

Ning

又是一年八月半，一輪圓月寄託著中華兒女最樸素又最真摯的情感。身居海外，面對同一輪皓月，自是“每逢佳節倍思親”。今年不同的是，CCLUC 邀請了灣區的單身弟兄姐妹藉著中秋之時，一起敬拜，互相分享，共度一個不孤獨的晚上。聚會地點在位於中半島 Mountain View。早在開始之前，組織團隊便準備就緒和場地內外的佈置。燈籠，氣球和各種裝飾充滿了熱情的歡迎。服侍團隊井然有序的為大家註冊登記並發放名牌。

晚上 5 點，聚會準時開始。CCLUC 董事會主席 Patrick 牧師首先進行了開場信息分享和歡迎。看著與會的單身基督徒們，牧師滿懷感慨地回憶起自己的單身時光，鼓勵所有的年輕人在追逐愛情的同時，能更好的享受眼下自由的單身生活。之後牧師誠懇的給了單身男女在認識交往中的一些建議，讓大家受益良多。

之後的敬拜團隊帶領大家用歌曲來獻上感恩和讚美，曲動入腸，慢慢讓彼此陌生的弟兄姐妹們在共同的信仰和合一的敬拜中放鬆下來。緊接著的遊戲讓大家有了更多彼此接觸和認識的機會，彼此的交流帶來一片歡聲笑語，氣氛十分融洽。之後的 Salsa dancing 更是將聚會推向了高潮。這些生活在灣區的職業男女，平日里多是和電腦、代碼打交道，而在這樣一個晚上，大家發現了彼此不同於平日的另一面，甚至是發現了自己的一項新技能。

舞會結束後，大家一起共享晚餐，CCLUC 的同工們為單身弟兄姐妹預備了具有濃厚的中國風味的飯菜和果點，而且全部都是有機食材。大家彼此分享，彼此代禱，活動在一片歡聲笑語中結束，伴著濃濃的月色互道晚安。

這次聚會的特點是跨教會、跨文化，參加人數 66 位，來自 48 個教會，他們分別居住在北灣、東灣、南灣。出生地來自中國內地、香港、台灣、菲律賓、美國，聚會語言是英文，充分體現了美國加州的多元文化。我們能看出與會的單身基督徒對蒙主保守的婚姻及家庭生活的嚮往，弟兄姊妹非常享受聚會的主題，讓我們期待下一次聚會的到來和主恩的保守。



11月10日

1. 抓住時刻研討會

自我認知與約會婚姻關係
切勿只等待，過好每一天

2. 子女情父母心講座

如何認同初成年子女

講員：張江光麗博士，基督教百歐拉大學臨床心理學博士

感恩分享 ① Xiu Ming

感謝主，過去一年多我經歷了主的恩典不離左右。我於今年 1/20 結婚，而且年底會有個寶寶出生，很感恩遇到 CCLUC 在我處於低谷時期給我的禱告和支持。我肯定為這個事工繼續禱告，希望更多的弟兄姐妹能藉此知道如何去尋求主的旨意。

幾點感觸

1. 對很多“過來人”來講，基督徒尋求婚姻的過程是尋求基督的過程。但是，對很多處在過程中的人來講，這句話有點不接地氣。如何讓屬‘天’的道理與屬‘地’的行為完全融合起來，估計是每一個尋求婚姻的基督徒要學的一個功課。做基督徒很長時間，一直沒有搞清楚，基督徒如何談戀愛、約會拍拖，如何選擇對象，如何在戀愛過程中避免試探，如何從各種各樣的條規中看到神的心意？這其實是一個很大的話題，需要一個有經驗的屬靈長輩來引導。從 CCLUC 的事工中，我找到了一個方向，明白如何從一個信仰的角度，去尋求神的心意，去選擇合適的伴侶。如果真的用非基督徒的方式去追求異性，就很難面對各種各樣的試探。

2. 大多數教會對訂婚之後的時間有很好的準備，比如，婚前輔導，婚後的勸勉。但是，從單身到訂婚這階段的輔導有點缺乏，這是我對這個結構的事工很感激的原因。但是，這一步有比較多的不穩定性。如何引導基督徒順從聖靈，不順從肉體，也是很細緻入微的話題。

就我個人的過程來講，尋求婚姻的過程分兩步。第一步，預備自己成為合適的婚姻候選者。這個階段主要是讀了相當的書籍，和參加 CCLUC 的營會和講座。在此同時與主的關係明顯密切，增強信仰的基礎。第二步，跟異性約會，逐步明確神的心意和自己的需要。透過這個事工，我慢慢明白，尋求婚姻的過程，就是神逐步讓你慢慢成熟的過程，從而讓你更加接近主。當我與主的關係近了，靈命成長了，為人就更加成熟了，從而更加明白自己的需要，更加明白如何去看待異性，越發明白自己需要什麼樣的異

性來組成家庭。性格的成熟自然也會提高自己的情商，讓人更加容易與自己相處，交友也相對容易些，進而就愈發接近婚姻。再次感謝 CCLUC 的單身事工。祝，主恩同在。

感恩分享 ② Ying

我們都是來自不同教會，卻是連在一個葡萄樹上的枝子，而這兩個枝子又離得非常遠，通過跨教會的活動，讓我們能夠彼此認識，成為很好的朋友，成為主內的弟兄姐妹，而且能夠一起的服事，加深了彼此的瞭解，加深了我們對婚戀和家庭的認識，我們在一起事奉神、幫助人是非常有意義的事情。非常感謝有跨教會的活動和營會。

感恩分享 ③ Yang

我參加了跨教會單身基督徒營會，它和教會舉辦的營會是不一樣的，內容豐富、質量高，都是針對單身的需要，按照聖經的教導來處理在交友、戀愛所遇到的問題。認識不同的教會弟兄姐妹，在一起學習討論，收穫真是不一樣。

2019 年事工展望

- ♥ 情人節聯歡會
- ♥ 第五屆跨教會單身基督徒營會，
Redwood Christian Park, 5/17-19
- ♥ 一系列《活出生命的愛》成長課程與
進深計劃
- ♥ 感恩讚美敬拜
- ♥ 興趣愛好聯誼活動
- ♥ 情侶測試、協談及婚前輔導



CCLUC 5th Anniversary Thanksgiving Sharing

2013-2018

Looking back upon the last five years, CCLUC has to give gratitude to our wonderful God. These days young adults need someone to help, lead, or go alongside them, and they need to know and experience the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has heard their cry and prayers from their hearts. He has moved a team of pastors from seven churches, seminary professors, and brothers and sisters such that they share the same vision and mission and are compelled by the same Spirit to start an interchurch Christian singles ministry.

In December 2014, a strong board of directors was established, that included seminary professors, American marriage and family ministry experts, church pastors, and co-workers, to guide the direction of the ministry. Sue, as the person in charge, leads the team of coworkers and volunteers to hold on to prayers to effect any ministry. Every ministry begins with prayer and thanksgiving, proceeds with prayer, and ends in prayer and thanksgiving.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we have organized various activities over the past five years, such as retreats, educational seminars, caring & counseling sessions and social events. We had over 2600 attendees who are single brothers and sisters from over 120 churches. They were born in mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, or Southeast Asian countries. As the ministry has expanded, participants

came along from other ethnicities like second-generation Chinese, Caucasian, Korean, Filipino, Brazilian, etc. They have been transformed by the renewing of the mind: some get married, some are dating or still in the search, while some come out from the pain of broken relationships. We really thank God for the changes in their lives. With the growing needs of the ministry, CCLUC has expanded from serving singles to supporting their parents, from training individual counselors to church counselors.

It is all God's grace and handiwork that CCLUC has come this far today. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (Jn 15:5)

We would like to thank the Board of Directors and Advisors, the generous donors for this ministry, the active volunteers and co-workers, and the churches and brothers and sisters, who quietly support and pray for us. Special thanks go to the Lord's Grace Christian Church which gives us strong support and help with the venue and resources. They all serve and labor with one heart.

In this day and age, the rapid changes and moral decline pose a lot of uncertainties and challenges for young adult Christians. Hence, we need to trust our God to help strengthen their faith and lead them to the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. To implement our theme for the next five

years "Live the Love of Life," we'd offer a series of seminars for personal growth and counselor training, to carry out our mission of "Molding the Virtues of Singles, Preparing Blessed Families." Healthy singles will lead to healthy churches.

To this end, we need more prayer and financial support, and connect more churches, brothers and sisters to join forces in this meaning and valuable singles ministry. May God bless all those in the Lord who walk alongside the singles!

A Hiking Event

David

On 8/11 CCLUC organized a hiking event. Teresa and I volunteered to be the hosts, and we picked the famous Sawyer Camp Trail at Crystal Spring in San Mateo. We were blessed to have sunny weather on that day. A total of 18 brothers and sisters came. Before the hike started, we took turns to introduce ourselves. During break time, we also circled up to play a fun math ice-breaker game. Everyone really enjoyed the game and the hike. After the hike, we stopped by a fusion restaurant in Millbrae to enjoy delicious food together. The hike was relaxing because we not only enjoyed beautiful scenes along the trail but also had a good time talking and bonding with one other. Thank you CCLUC for providing such good opportunity for Christian singles across churches to make new friends!

5th Anniversary Thanksgiving Fundraiser

On 11/3 Board Members, donors, volunteers, coworkers, pastors, church elders and singles gathered together to count the Lord's blessings and look to the future of CCLUC. Ms. Deanna Go, Board Member and Director of Chinese Division of Focus On the Family, came from Southern Cal to give a short speech. There's viewing of a memory video, followed by sharings from various representatives. Rev. Dr. Kuo-Liang Lin and Dr. Amy Lin, President and Associate Professor of Logos Evangelical Seminary respectively, also sent their congratulatory video clips. "May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands." (Ps 90:17)

Nov. 10 Workshops

"Seizing the Moment"

Self-Awareness & Relationships; Don't Just Wait, Live Each Day to the Fullest!

"Hearts of Parents and Love for Children"

How do Parents Relate to Their Adult Children?

Speaker: Dr. Ruth Chang, Ph.D. Clinical Psychologist, Biola University

The Care and Shepherding of Singles

Dr. Amy Lin

In recent years the existence of singles segment and their needs can no longer be underestimated. According the 2010 US Census, singles comprised of 43% of the total population. The factors for staying single include the lengthened time spent on education, building up a professional career and creating a firm financial foundation. The phenomenon shows up in church scenarios as the imbalance of single female Christians to male Christians, making it hard for female Christians to find their mate at church. Traditionally, church finds singleness is simply the transitional period right before marriage, thus overlooking the needs of single Christians. Nicholas Christoff, who was called to serve the singles, finds the single groups is the group way underserved by current churches.

How should the church effectively pastor the singles? Let's discuss in three aspects:

1. The church must examine its existing prejudice and misunderstanding, and that God can use concurrently both married and single Christians to build up the body of Christ to carry out the Great Commission. There's no difference between single or married in who is better. In fact, God has not promised marriage to everyone, but He did promise His eternal presence with mankind for them to experience the renewal of life.
2. The church needs a practical yet balanced perspective. Instead of teaching brothers and sisters waiting passively for God to bring along a mate, this viewpoint of "overly spiritualizing in mate-selection," the church should encourage them actively seek maturity in spirituality, interpersonal interactions and personal growth. At the same time, the church should teach singles how to properly handle the issues probably surfaced during courtship, including the safety in online dating, the physical boundaries during dating etc.
- 3.3. The church needs long term plan for caring and pasturing the singles. For example, there can be recruiting

for families who have the burden for singles to care for them, and offer them guidance in life and companionship. In addition, in the past church usually forms separate small groups for the newlyweds or married, making it uneasy for the singles to fit in with these married brothers and sisters who are their peers. The church may consider forming groups across the age spectrum to facilitate brothers and sisters who are in different life stages to bond closer and build up a sense of belonging for their church homes.

Conclusion: Today's pastors shall see singleness a special season that God uses to mode the spiritual maturity of His children. In his book "The Sacred Marriage," Gary Thomas brought up a revolutionary perspective for the purpose of marriage is not to promote happiness, as much as to experience God's spiritual formation in one another's life. In the same way, we can learn to see singleness as a period for God to bring His children into spiritual maturity. Singles can use this special identity to serve other single Christians. When single Christians experience a closer walk with God, they have the opportunity to show the world this amazing reality: God is far better than any mate in the world. Whether single or married, we all have the freedom to live out the joy and the abundant life in the Lord.

[1] U.S. Census Bureau News. U.S. Department of Commerce, Unmarried and Single Americans Week Sept. 18-24, 2011, accessed October 17, 2013, http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/pdf/cb11ff-19_unmarried.pdf.

[2] J. J. Arnett, *Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from Late Teens through the Twenties* (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2004), 3-4.

[3] Nicholas B. Christoff, *Saturday Night, Sunday Morning: Singles and the Church* (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1981), 2.

*Dr. Amy Lin is Associate Professor of Counseling, Logos Evangelical Seminary & CCLUC Board Member.



Excerpts from Singles Ministry at Family Ministry for Christ Conference

The Essential Interchurch Singles Ministry

According to the 2010 US Census, 43.6% adults are single, and the 2017 report indicates the number of singles surpasses all those in the past. The Pew Research Center report in 2017 predicts one out of four young adults today will remain single when they turn 50.

From our survey among the singles, about 80% says the key factor for “stuck singleness” is a small social circle. 78% are not optimistic in finding a mate, attributing to declining moral in marriage, and the lack of sense of responsibility for family. Not to mention the divorce rates among those born in the 80s and 90s are ever increasing to 58 - 62%. Over two-thirds wish there’d be more interchurch social activities for various hobbies or interests.

There’s a huge need for healthy friendships among single Christians. With a diminishing family size in the post-modern era, the single adults today need love more than ever before. If we don’t befriend them, they may be homebound or develop relationships with the wrong person at a wrong place. This

horrific sinful pattern can spiral downward. Healthy single life can lead to healthy marriage, family and community. In Mt. 9:37-38 our Lord told his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Singles need our help to broaden their social circles, build up knowledge of marriage in real life, widen their horizon to see how God leads other singles, and experience God’s faithful kindness personally.

Just like Jabez in I Chron. 4:10, CCLUC pray to God to bless us and enlarge our territory, to provide a platform for churches to link up to pastor all singles in our communities. May all those who have the burden for singles, would become like Abraham’s servant, Eliezer, and pray for the singles to meet the Isaac and Rebecca in their lives. Or they can be like Daniel’s friends to encourage those singles when “Even if He does not” (Daniel 3:18) provide marriage, singles can still live an abundant life in Christ.

Are you willing to join us to help singles build up marriage and family according to the word of God? Are you willing to get into their communities and speak up for them, and invest your resources in this meaningful yet challenging ministry?

Challenges in Chinese churches

Rev. Benjamin Chen

1. Church as a whole is not “singles-friendly”

Older generation often preach to the young adults what they SHOULD do normally in each life stage, e.g. majors in college, jobs with good income, potential dates for marriage, future plans to own a house, raise kids, or advance in career etc.

2. What are the goals of the ministry for the various types of singles:

a. Involuntary temporary singles: wishful waiting

- Voluntary temporary singles: hedonistic or achievers

b. Involuntary stable singles

- Regretful
- Anti-social
- Non-Compromising

c. Voluntary stable singles: resolved

3. Barriers of “Spiritual” Factors

“These days, the old courtship formulas no longer apply: A devout woman, instead of being likelier to marry, may very well find herself alone.” Gina Alfonzo in Christianity Today

4. Imbalance of Females and Males

Rev. Chen is Mission Pastor, 1.5 Generation at Evangelical Formosan Church of Irvine.

Pre-marital Education Determines the **Quality of Life After Marriage**

Over the last few years, CCLUC had focused primarily on compatibility testing and pre-marital counseling for singles. This year was different in that a few couples who has been married for 2 to 5 years came for help. They had encountered conflicts after marriage in several key areas: values, personality, temperament, communication style, family of origin, in-law relationships. Their marital relationship has become tense, and escalated into separation and even divorce crises. Parents on both sides were involved too. With such deadlock in family relationships, the added stress is weighing on the vulnerable newly-formed families.

Walking alongside with these families, the counselor held the wife's hand on one side and the husband's on the other, listened at length to their voices from the bottom of their hearts, and visited both sets of parents too. The goal for the marital counseling was to build up hope and guide them to apply God's principles to their marriage and family. When they experience God's love, they would understand and forbear

one another. Through this process of walking alongside with these families, we realize some couples had never had pre-marital education or counseling. Even those who had some counseling, the sessions were short. One husband commented, "When a single man and woman were so in love, they were not interested in pre-marital counseling at all. They thought with or without counseling, they would still marry the person anyway. The counselor's advice fell on deaf ears. But now I realize it is not good to rush into marriage without the proper preparation. Pre-marital education and counseling are totally essential and crucial, to avoid or mitigate problems arose down the road."

Through walking alongside these young couples, providing marital education and counseling, and praying with them, we have found their relationships improved and their families are at peace. By the work of the Holy Spirit, one young husband has believed and been baptized. Couples' parents also became interested in joining church activities.

The Reading Club

The Reading Club is a regular CCLUC activity to provide an opportunity for single brothers and sisters to mingle and learn more what the Bible teaches on solving problems in relationships, dating and marriage. At the meeting on July 21, we shared the book "How to Know if Someone is Worth Pursuing in Two Dates or Less" by Neil Clark Warren.

The author is a theologian and a Christian clinical psychologist. Using his 30+ years of experience in personal and marital counseling, he offered young adults how in a short amount of time how to quickly size up if a date is suitable for dating toward the end goal of marriage.

The meeting was led by a husband and wife team, Nick & Selene. Since 2015, Selene had attended CCLUC's singles retreat and seminars. She has been volunteering in the ministry and currently attends a family ministry program at a seminary. They apply what they have learned in their own relationships,

dating and marriage. As they have been married for less than two years, they can still empathize with the singles in their struggles in dating and choosing a mate. In the discussion, they shared their own experience, encouraged singles to actively join interchurch activities. In the learning process, one would prepare to become a suitable mate, keep up what's ought to be kept and change what needs to be changed.

In small group discussions, singles got to practice listening and planning ahead how to handle problems in future relationships. At the end of the discussions, some brothers and sisters applied what they had learned and came up with a list of important issues for their own dating.



“Wisdom in Choosing Your Soulmate”

Dr. Amy Lin

Singles living in Silicon Valley are bombarded with large amount of information daily, which makes their decision-making difficult and diminishes their ability for discernment. With so many options, one finds it hard to choose or doesn't know how to choose. Even though single Christians have become new creation in Christ, their values for choosing a mate still remain in the concepts of the old person. Hence, CCLUC hosted a seminar on “Wisdom in Choosing Your Soulmate” by Dr. Amy Lin on June 10. Over 50 singles attended from 30+ churches in the Bay Area, with some single Christians from American churches as well. In the big family of the Lord, brothers and sisters enjoyed the seminar, discussion, singing hymns, playing games, and sharing a good lunch. Immersing in the word of God and the love of Christ, their minds are renewed and transformed. Indeed, CCLUC finds significance in serving the singles.

Outline of the seminar:

1. Wisdom in the Bible
2. Do I truly want to seek wisdom? (Steven J. Cole)
3. How Then Should We Choose? (Douglas Huffman)
4. Biblical Qualities
5. Discern essential from non-essential
6. Maximizers vs. Satisfiers Decision Makers
7. Rethink Male-Female Roles: Must men be stronger than women?
8. Gain-Loss Effect
9. Matching Principles
10. Rational vs. Emotional Decision Making
11. “The One”?
12. A Revolutionary Idea
13. Do I NEED someone to complete me?

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some essential and non-essential qualities that you look for in a partner?
2. Are you a rational or emotional person when it comes to dating? How can you be more balanced?

3. What is one spiritual lesson you have learned from being a single person?
4. Do you have trouble breaking traditional gender expectations (e.g. men must be stronger, have better career than women) in your relationship?

“How do Parents Care and Support the Relationships of Their Young Adult Children?”

Dr. Amy Lin

“Times have changed now. It's so different from our generation! Back then, we didn't hear any daughter or son having troubles getting married. But the young people today seem to face a lot of challenges when it comes to dating and marriage. With the advanced development of the internet, information has become widely available. Yet parents seem to know less and less what their adult children are thinking or doing. Nor do they know how to care for or communicate with their children.”

The above issues are often raised during parents' phone calls to CCLUC ever since the ministry was founded. To meet the needs of these parents and to pass on the legacy of our Christian faith to the next generation, CCLUC invited Dr. Amy Lin on June 9 to give a seminar on “How do Parents Care and Support the Relationships of Their Young Adult Children?” It was well-received by over 100 parents from 60+ churches in the Bay Area, including pastors, church leaders, coworkers and brothers and sisters. They find the interchurch singles ministry is of paramount importance in today's world and look forward to more seminars for parents in the future.

Highlights of the seminar include:

1. Why the increase in singles?
2. Today's Dating Scene. People who live together with their partner have higher rates of break-up, infidelity, violence and abortion
3. Wrong Parental Guidance.
4. Biases against Adult Child's Partner.
5. Biblical Parental Guidance.



《The Family Man》 Movie Event

On a sunny Saturday morning on 4/26, CCLUC hosted a movie gathering for singles. Watching this movie was so different from going to the theater, as CCLUC coworker, Jamie, Esq., led the discussion on the themes of the movie. What are the core values in building marital family relationship? What did the male leading character gain from his focus on career? What did he miss out? What price did he have to pay to become a family man? What did he gain? In the beginning, most of us were too shy to speak up, but Jamie quickly helped break the ice. Soon we were in hot discussions, and expressed our views for the above questions. There was better understanding

Grace among brothers and sisters as well. Even though this was not a new movie, it helped single Christians to explore the values for marriage and family. The last line in the movie was “I choose us,” that is to say I do not choose you, nor do I choose myself, I choose us. It made us realize nowadays the world is exploding outrageously with materialism and leading an ever faster paced life style, compatible values for marriage are so crucial to build a stable family. At the end of the discussion, we enjoyed a nutritious lunch prepared by CCLUC team and felt the warmth of home indeed. Thanks to CCLUC for their dedication and the love from God.

“Was the Moon Ever of Two Lands?”¹ — Full Moon Meet Up for Singles in the Bay Area

It's mid-Autumn again, and the full moon aroused the most simple and earnest nostalgia among men and women of Chinese descent. Living overseas under the full moon, we feel the “nostalgia abounds around holidays”². This year was special. CCLUC hosted a Full Moon Meet Up Night for single Christians in the Bay Area to worship and share together, spending a lovely evening in Mountain View. The organizing team had decorated the venue inside out with festive lanterns, balloons and decors to kick off the event with warm welcome. The reception team orderly checked in all guests with name tags.

The program started on time at 5pm. Rev. Patrick, the Chairman of the Board of CCLUC extended welcome and shared a short message. Looking around at single Christians in the audience, he couldn't help but recalled his own single days, and encouraged all young adults to enjoy the here and now freedom of singlehood while pursuing romantic love. He gave some earnest suggestions for courtship to benefit all of us.

The worship team then led us to give thanks and praise to our Lord. Amidst touching music unacquainted brothers and sisters began to relax in the worship and unity of faith. The games right after furthered the opportunities for all to get to know one another, and brought so much fun and laughter to

the harmonious atmosphere. The highlight of the evening was salsa dancing. Professionals in the Bay Area often spend more time with computer or digital devices, yet they discovered another side of themselves this evening. Some actually acquired a new skill.

After the dance, we enjoyed a great Chinese dinner that CCLUC team had prepared, complete with organic fruits. We shared and prayed with one another. The event concluded in joyful laughter and bidding good night under the full moon.

This event was characterized by interchurch and cross-cultural features with 66 attendees from 48 churches residing in the Peninsula, East and South Bay. While their birth places might be mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the US and Philippines, English was the language of choice for the event, fully showcasing the diversity of culture in California. We can feel the longing of single Christians for married and family life blessed by the Lord. Brothers and sisters enjoyed the evening very much and are looking forward to the next event and the Lord's blessings.

Editor's notes: 1. Quote from Tang poet Wang Changling 2. Quote from Tang poet Wang Wei.

Thanksgivings ① Xiu Ming

Thanks to the Lord for using CCLUC to see me through the valley of my life in the last years with prayer and support. I got married last January and expect my first child by year end. I'd like to share a few things for others to seek the Lord's guidance through this ministry.

1. When married Christians look back, the process of seeking marriage was the one to seek Christ. But for those who are still in the process, that saying is not down to earth. How can the heavenly truth actually be applied on earth? Despite the length of being believers, many may not have a chance to sort out how Christians should date, choose a mate, avoid temptations during courtship or discern God's guidance. From CCLUC's ministries, I have found the direction and a perspective of our faith to seek the will of God and choose a compatible mate. Pursuing a mate with the nonbelievers' ways will be so hard to fend off any temptations.
2. Most churches prepare well for those who have engaged with pre-marital counseling and post-marital advice. But there is a gap between singleness and engagement! It is the reason I am so thankful for CCLUC's ministries. This is an unstable life stage with intimate issues how to obey the Holy Spirit and not the flesh.
3. From my personal experience, there are two steps in seeking marriage. Firstly, I've prepared myself to be a proper marriage candidate, through reading more on the subject and learning through CCLUC's retreat and seminars. At the same time, my relationship with the Lord has grown, building a stronger foundation of my faith. Secondly, dating the opposite sex is a discovery process of God's will and personal needs. I gradually realized God uses this process to help me mature and draw nearer Him. With such spiritual growth also came maturity as a person and a deeper understanding of self and the opposite sex, as well as what I was looking for in a mate to build a family. Personal growth naturally improves emotional quotient and interpersonal relationships, and helps get ready for marriage.

Thanks again CCLUC!

Thanksgivings ② Ying

We come from different churches, yet are joined to the vine as branches. While two branches may be far apart, through interchurch activities we get to know one another, become good friends, and enjoy the fellowship of brothers and sisters. Through serving God together, we bond at a deeper level, and get enlightened on marriage and family. Thanks to CCLUC for the events and retreat.

Thanksgivings ③ Yang

I have attended the interchurch singles retreat, which was quite different from a church retreat. The contents are of high-quality, with biblical teachings to address issues often encountered during dating. The opportunity for knowing other single Christians is wonderful. The discussion and learning experience together are very rewarding.

2019 Events

- ♥ Valentine's Day Party
- ♥ 5th Interchurch Singles Retreat, Redwood Christian Park, May 17-19
- ♥ "Live out the Love of Life" Seminar Series on Personal Growth & Counselor Training
- ♥ Thanksgiving & Praise Worship
- ♥ Interest-based Social Activities
- ♥ Couples testing, Personal Counseling and Pre-marital Counseling