

## Director's Thoughts...

Blessed New Year 2018!

I am entering my 16th year serving in **PLUC** and I thank Him for His grace and strength each day. Turning 50 this year is a milestone, and I am reminded that everything I am and have done is only by His grace. Without Him, I can truly do nothing.

When the Apostle Paul wrote from his prison cell in Rome, knowing that his own death was approaching, he sent out warnings, especially to Timothy, of difficult days to come (2 Timothy 3). We are living in the last days and as Bible-believing Christians, we are to pay attention to what has happened and is still happening around us. Men are casting off all moral restraints, as society further disintegrates.

Personally, I do not like confrontation. For many years in **PLUC**, I laid low while faithfully responding to His call to "Relate" or journey with strugglers and their families, the first of **PLUC's** three-fold mission. However, I have realised I cannot do the same anymore, especially given how rapidly trends are changing and darkness is overwhelming our society today. There is a sense of urgency to what is happening in our society today, be it locally or globally.

Australia is currently the 25<sup>th</sup> country to join the list of nations that have endorsed same-sex marriage. We may not be on our guard, thinking we are spared or safe. But are we? Closer to home, around 28,000 Singaporeans and Permanent Residents gathered at Hong Lim Park on 1 July 2017 for the 7th Pink Dot event. Pink Dot SG is an annual, non-profit, free-for-all event which started in 2009 with 2,500 people in support of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in Singapore.

A year ago, in January 2017, National Geographic magazine published a special focus issue on "the gender revolution". Today's generation no longer embraces two genders (male & female) but more than 50 types of gender (71 in the UK). It's all about gender fluidity in the world we are living in today. If this is not a crisis point, then what else is? I want to challenge pastors and leaders today to educate their church with regards to these changing trends in the world, especially relating to sexuality.



Our younger generations today want engaging dialogue pertaining to issues like this. We cannot sweep things under the carpet anymore. It is time to raise our gender IQ and start to engage with and educate this generation. We cannot afford to allow the world to teach them, but must facilitate change with the truth of God's Word. Today's generation seeks authentic and godly leaders to follow after. They need guidelines on how to not be distracted by worldly agendas but rather, to apply God's truth as they navigate situations that challenge their convictions. They are watching how we, the adults, are approaching all these crises. This is why I have been deeply convicted by the Holy Spirit not to lay low anymore but in keeping with the second of **PLUC's** three-fold mission, to "Advocate" among the churches to help lift up the church's gender IQ.

At **PLUC**, we are more than willing to share whatever we know in order to "Educate", another of our 3-fold missions. In this, we are committed to producing targeted booklets and resources in redeeming and restoring sexually broken lives. We recently translated a handbook "Embracing Truth & Grace: A Manual to Understand and Journey with the Same-sex Attracted" (from the Chinese "Love and Learning") that will come in handy when you journey with a struggler. This English manual will be published and circulated this year at an estimated cost of RM20K. If you would like to partner with us to fund this groundbreaking project, please don't hesitate to contact us for more details.

Last but not least, please pray with us for more men to join **PLUC's** team. We need young, energetic and passionate young men who will respond to God's call to journey with those who are broken. We trust the Lord to bring in the right workers for His harvest field and we trust your prayers will join ours to make a difference.

Once again, may the Lord bless all of you who have been quietly and faithfully serving, giving and remembering us in prayer. We appreciate your friendship and partnership.



Redeemed by Him,  
**Rev. Tryphena Law**

## 总干事的话 >>

2018, 新年蒙恩!

我在**PLUC**的服事, 迈入第16个年头。因着祂每日供应的恩典与力量, 我感恩。今年我迈入50岁的人生里程碑, 50年的脚踪提醒我, 今日我成为何等的人以及一切我所做的, 皆出于祂的恩典。离了祂, 我什么都不能做。

当使徒保罗囚禁在罗马监狱时, 他知道自己大限已至, 所以他写信提出警惕(特别是对提摩太提出), 告知苦难的日子要来了(提摩太后书3章)。我们正处于末世, 而信靠圣经的基督徒, 我们应该警醒于身边四周已然及正在发生的事情。随着社会伦理的瓦解, 人们正在摆脱所有的道德约束。

我个人不喜欢面对冲突。在**PLUC**多年的服事当中, 我忠心地回应祂的呼召, 低调地与挣扎者及其家人一起同行康复的路程。这是**PLUC**的三层任务里的首要任务。但是我发现, 我再也不能只是这样做了, 主要的原因是: 现今社会趋势正迅速地变化, 以及我们的社会被黑暗势力笼罩与打压着。为着今天社会所发生的事情, 无论是本土性或全球性的, 我都有一股逼在眉睫的压迫感。

澳洲目前是第25个赞成同性婚姻的国家。针对此议题, 我们也许不会感到忧虑, 以为我们可以幸免或身处安全地带。但我们真的能因幸免而无动于衷吗? 看看那靠近我们家园的据点: 2017年7月1日, 约28,000名新加坡人和永久居民聚集在香林公园出席第七届的“粉红点活动”。“粉红点活动”是新加坡一项年度、非盈利的免费活动。该活动始于2009年, 当时约有2500人涉足新加坡支持与声援同性恋、双性恋和跨性别(LGBT)群体。



去年一月, “国家地理杂志”发表了一篇关于“性别革命”的专题报道。今天的世代, 性别不在只是二元分法(男性和女性), 而是超过50多种的性别类型(英国则是71种)。这统统说明了一个现象: 我们今天生活在“性别流动性”的世界里。如果这还不算是危机, 那还有什么危机呢? 今天, 我要挑战牧师和领袖, 他们必需要教育他们的教会: 关于现今世界的变化趋势, 尤指性别方面。

今天, 我们年轻的一代希望参与上述性别议题的对话。我们再也不能回避此类的性别议题了。现在该是时候提高我们的性别智商, 并开始接触和教育新生代了。我们不能让世界来教导年轻人, 我们必需以上帝的话语和真理来促成改变的发生。今天的年轻人正寻求那真诚与敬虔的领导人来跟随。他们需要被指导如何不被世俗的议程分散他们的注意力, 并且应用上帝的真理来走过那些挑战他们信念的境遇。他们正在观察着我们这些大人是如何面对所有这些的危机。这就是为何我在圣灵深深地感动之下, 不再低调地服事的原因了。我开始进行**PLUC**的三层任务里的第二个任务: 在教会中致力扮演“倡导”的角色, 以及帮助教会提升其性别智商。

站在**PLUC**的立场, 我们非常愿意分享我们所知的任何资讯, 以为达到“教育”的目的; “教育”, 是**PLUC**三层任务中的另一任务。在“教育”的前提之下, 我们致力于制作、分发一些针对性的小册子与资源, 以挽救和恢复那些在性关系底下被破碎的生命。我们最近翻译了一本手册——《拥抱真理和恩典: 同理, 并与同性恋同行》(原稿取自中文版《爱与学习: 认识陪伴同性恋手册》), 作为您陪伴着挣扎者时的指南手册。这英文指南手册将于今年出版发行, 估计其出版经费为马币2万令吉。如果您想与我们合作, 有心资助这个开创性的项目, 那请您不要犹豫与我们联系, 以获得更多的详情。

最后但同样重要的, 我要说: 请与我们一起祷告, 让更多的男性加入**PLUC**团队。我们需要年轻、充满活力、热情和拥有意愿回应上帝呼召而前来陪伴挣扎者的年轻弟兄。我们相信, 主会为祂的福音禾场带来适合的服事者, 我们也相信你们的祷告扶持会带来“改变”。

再一次的, 我要说: 愿上帝祝福大家, 感谢你们安静与忠心的服事, 并感谢你们的付出与祷告。我们珍惜彼此的友谊与同行。

被祂救赎的,  
罗碧玲牧师



# Increasing Effectiveness of Ministry to LGBT+ by Raising our “Gender IQ”

By Dr. Melvin Wong (Ph.D.), USA

*It was not a coincidence when this stressed mother came up to me after worship service one Sunday and whispered in my ear something about her daughter that my wife and I had already suspected: “My daughter has made the wrong choice (identifying as lesbian)!”*

My wife and I have prayed for this family for many months to join the “Parents Support Group” since we helped start this Cantonese-speaking group in January 2017. In Hong Kong, it is called “Closeted Parents” (柜父母 Support Group). This would be the first of its kind in the San Francisco area, if not the only one in the United States. My one regret was that we should have done this twenty-five years ago! My wife consoled me by saying, “Even if we did have a group then, there would have been no takers, as no Christian parents would believe they could have gay children!”

Either something has been wrong with our theological understanding, or most of our church leaders are in denial! While I do not want to be harsh on church leaders and seminary professors, the reality is that in North America, we are a decade behind Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Taiwan in the area of serving the needs of LGBT+ persons and their parents. This lag in ministry to both believers and seekers struggling with LGBT+ is clearly the result of a lack of accurate and truthful understanding of theology and medical science. In other words, it is due to a “Low Gender IQ”.

Here are some theologically and medically-backed truths to help churches raise their Gender IQ:

## Gender IQ Truth 1

***Having homosexuals in your congregation is to be expected and spiritually normal.***

Theologically speaking, having homosexuals in the congregation is nothing new. The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 encouraged sinners to be redeemed (washed, sanctified and justified) by Jesus and the Spirit, and to be free from the sins of greed, deception and sexual immorality, which includes homosexuality.

How is it then that in the modern church in our big cities and metropolises, pastors rarely talk about serving and shepherding people who are homosexuals? The harsh reality is that in 2015, after the legalisation of same-sex marriage in the United States, most Chinese churches here were more concerned about how to avoid being sued than learning how to reach out and minister to people struggling with same-sex attraction!

## Gender IQ Truth 2

***Homosexuals and their families are high priority in your ministry of care.***

Having gays in the congregation is biblically “normal” and it is a sign of effective ministry in any city and especially, metropolitan area. Yes, evangelism and saving souls are our first priority, but what about homosexuals? For over thirty years, we have been missing opportunities to shepherd and disciple gays at our churches.

Gay-friendly or pro-gay churches started out of necessity, similar to how ethnic churches started by meeting the community needs of immigrants. For same-sex attracted believers who cannot identify with the heresies of pro-gay churches, however, it seems they can only hide themselves in church “closets” because the sad reality is that many struggle alone. These believers are our brothers and sisters and we need to reach out to them to offer a safe environment for them to worship and belong. This is a complex problem for most churches as leaders do not have a way to minister to them, and most of the time, irrational fear based on ignorance hinders any dialogue between each other, especially in relation to serving them.

The late Rev. Thomas Wang (regarded as the Father of Chinese Missions, and a former International Director of the Lausanne movement) declared in 2005 in Toronto that homosexuals are the new “Unreached People Group”, deserving our ministry priority and attention. Have you heard of homosexuals being ministered to at your church lately? Have you heard a message preached on this subject lately? Why not?

**Let’s not have double-standards in ministry! We need a “Higher Gender IQ”!**

The church is for sinners like each one of us, both before and after we accepted Christ as Lord of our lives. We did not have to first prove that we were not sinners before we were allowed to attend church. We came to church first because we acknowledged that we are sinners. Thus, we must exercise the same standard for homosexuals, and not expect them to change first before they come to church. The logistics of this is very difficult but we must find ways to overcome wisely. For example, we cannot disregard heterosexual cohabitation among believers while condemning homosexual promiscuity. We need to understand that homosexuality promiscuity, like heterosexual promiscuity, results from something deeper beyond mere sexual satisfaction. It is a spiritual yearning for intimacy! This must be understood well before we can serve these people effectively.

### Gender IQ Truth 3

***Same-sex attraction is not a choice, but same-sex behaviour is a choice.***

While homosexuality is not inherited, an early sexual awakening may lead a person to believe they were “born” with that orientation. This is what misleads the same-sex oriented adolescent to believe he or she was born that way. The liberal media and academia (bowing to gay lobby pressure) have not done justice to the condition of sexual orientation and attraction, but instead have lumped the two together to mean homosexuality. Public schools under the control of teachers’ unions have perpetuated the celebration of “divergent” gender identity since thirty years ago before we had “identity politics”. Our children are taught very early that being “gender different” is to be celebrated, and people who promote this are on a higher moral ground than conservative people. Added to this misinformation and mis-education is the one-sided (fake news) reporting of the celebration of gayness in media, which censors out anything that is negative about homosexuality and HIV. The potential of a gay person not wanting to be gay is seen as a medical condition called “Internalised homophobia”. What it is saying, essentially, is that all gays must be happy and if you can’t accept your gayness you are sick.

### Gender IQ Truth 4

***When homosexuals desire to change, it is possible and godly, but it takes time and requires everyone’s help.***

Pro-gay activists get angry when anyone doubts the “gay gene” doctrine, and they shut off discussion by labelling their opponents as “bigoted” and “discriminating”. They get even angrier if anyone discusses how gays can change. The two main gender IQ components that Christian leaders must know how to navigate and balance are Grace and Truth. Without knowing Truth, gay people will remain living in lies but without Grace, gay people will not experience love. It is only the love of Jesus that will eventually satisfy them.

In many states like California, the pro-gay lobby legislates laws to make therapy illegal for minors with gender issues. By promoting “higher moral ground” as the authority that protects the gender rights of minors, the rights of parents and freedom of doctors to practice medicine then become restricted and frowned upon.

### Gender IQ Truth 5

***Parents hurt when their adult children come out of the closet.***

While Hollywood and the liberal public put themselves on a high moral ground promoting the freedom of gays, the heartache and pain of parents are usually ignored. The focus is the promotion of what is ideologically correct, and if parents and loved ones are unhappy, they are sick, i.e. “homophobic”, and the corollary idea is “*If you don’t celebrate your adult children’s coming out as gay, you are sick*” i.e. conservative or really behind the times.

### Gender IQ Truth 6

***Following the legalisation of same-sex marriage in most Western countries, the next battle will be about Transgenderism.***

Christian leaders need to continue to reach out to LGBT+ people, as each soul is precious to Jesus. Without this love towards the LGBT+ believers, we will not be able to serve the coming wave of transgendered individuals. Transgenderism is more complex than just being gay or lesbian. Identity politics change very quickly and the terminology is increasingly difficult to grasp. We really need experts in this area to help us keep pace with this trend so we can discuss these issues intelligently, or risk falling into the trap set by the “intellectual elites of identity politics” to label us as backwards and ignorant.

### Gender IQ Truth 7

***Identity politics, gender medicine and psychological research are about ideology, and not valid science.***

None of the above is objective, replicable or rational. They are randomised and essentially “political research” for the masses.

# 提高同志(LGBT+)事工的效益

## 提升我们的“性别智商”

黄伟康博士（美国）

当这位压力重重的母亲在某个星期天的主日崇拜结束后前来找我并非是一个巧合，她在我耳边低声诉说了有关她女儿的一些事情，而我太太已先前有猜到：“我女儿做出大错的选择（自认是女同性恋者）！”

自从我和我太太在2017年1月协助开办了这个讲粤语的群组，我们已经为这户家庭祷告多月，祈求他们能参加“父母支援群组”。在香港，当地称之为“柜父母”（柜父母支援群组）。这类群组若不是美国的唯一，也将是三藩市地区的首例。我有一个遗憾，就是我们早该在廿五年前就做这件事！我的太太安慰我说：“即使那时我们确实有了这个群组，也不会有人接受，因为没有基督徒父母相信他们有同性恋的子女！”

要么是在神学上有错误的理解，要么是我们大部分的教会领袖都拒绝承认！虽然我并不想对教会领袖和神学院的教授们有任何苛刻，但实际情况是，在服侍同志LGBT+人士及其父母的需要这方面，北美的信徒比起新加坡、马来西亚、香港和台湾，算是落后了整十年。在服侍为着同志LGBT+问题挣扎的信徒和慕道者的事工上，我们落在后头，显然是对神学和医学缺乏准确和真实理解的结果。换句话说，这是因我们的“低性别智商”造成的。

这里是一些有神学和医药背景的真相来帮助教会提高他们的「性别智商」：

**性别智商真相 1**  
**在你的会众中有同性恋者即是预料之中，在属灵层面也是正常的。**

就神学来说，会众中有同性恋者并不是什么新奇事。使徒保罗在哥林多前书6：9-11勉励罪人要靠耶稣和圣灵得救赎（洗净、成圣和称义），且脱离贪婪、欺诈和性不道德（包括了同性恋）的罪。

怎么会在我们大城市和大都会的现代教会中，牧师们却甚少谈及有关服侍和牧养同性恋者呢？残酷的现实是，2015年美国同性婚姻合法化之后，这里的大多数华人教会更关心的是如何避免被起诉，过于学习如何接触及服侍因同性吸引问题而挣扎的群体！

**性别智商真相 2**  
**同性恋者及其家属在你的关怀事工中应是高优先。**

会众中有同性恋者，按圣经来说，是“正常”的事情，且是任何城市，特别是大都会地区中事工有效的标志。是的，传福音和拯救灵魂是我们优先要做的事情，但同性恋者又如何呢？过去三十多年，我们一直错过了对教会中的同性恋者作牧养和门训的机会。

赞成同性恋或对同性恋友善的教会因需要而开始，类似于族裔教会早期是透过满足移民的社区需要而开始。然而，对那些信徒们有同性吸引却无法认同某些教会赞成同性恋的异端论，他们似乎只能把自己藏在主流教会的“柜”内。令人难过的现实是，许多人都是在孤单地苦撑着。这些信徒是我们的弟兄姐妹，我们需要向他们伸出援手，为他们提供敬拜及有归属的安全环境。这对于大多数教会来说是复杂的课题，因领袖未掌握服侍他们的方法，且绝大多数时候，因无知而产生无理的惧怕，妨碍了彼此间的对话，特别是在服侍他们的事项上。

已故的王永信牧师（被视为中国宣教之父，曾当洛桑运动的国际主任）在2005年于多伦多宣布，同性恋者是崭新的“未得之民”，值得我们事工上的重视及关注。你近期是否有听过同性恋者在你的教会中得到服侍呢？你近期有没有听过有关这课题的信息吗？为什么没有呢？

**别让我们在事工上有双重标准了！我们需要一份“更高的性别智商”！**

教会是为了罪人如我们每个人般而设，同时是在我们接受基督为我们生命的主之前和之后。我们并不需要先证明自己不是罪人，才被容许走进教会。我们来到教会，是因为我们先承认自己是罪人。因此，我们也必须对同性恋者行使同样的标准，不要期望他们先改变了才来教会。这样的运作是非常困难的，但我们必须想办法有智慧地克服。举个例子，在谴责同性恋滥交的同时，我们不能对信徒之间的异性同居的事坐视不理。我们需要明白，同性恋的滥交就像异性恋的滥交一样，超越仅仅是性方面的满足而已，而是某些更为深入的事造成的。此乃是热切地渴求灵里亲密的需要！在我们有效地服侍这些人之前，我们必须要在层面上有更多的了解和认识。

**性别智商真相 3**  
**同性的吸引力不是一种选择，同性的性行为却是一种选择。**

虽然同性恋不是与生俱来的，但过早的“被唤醒性欲”可能会导致人们相信他们“天生”就有某种倾向。这就是误导有同性倾向的青少年去相信他或她就是天生如此。思想开放的公众传媒和学术界（屈服为同性恋游说组织压力下）不但没有把“性倾向”和“性吸引”的不同状况做出公正的交代，反而把两者混为一谈，取意为“同性恋”。早在我们有“身份认同政治”之先，教师工会控制下的公立学校从三十年前，就已经延续到为“另类”的性别身份而庆祝。我们的孩子很早就被灌输认为在“性别上与众不同”是值得庆祝的事情，而宣扬着这种“观点”的人被视为比传统保守的人有更崇高的道德立场。除了失实的资讯和错误的教育之外，就是片面（假新闻）在公众传媒报导同性恋值得庆贺之事，还有删掉任何有关同性恋和“人类免疫缺乏病毒HIV或艾滋病毒”的负面新闻。当有同性恋人士不想成为同志，有可能性就被视为是“主观恐同”的医疗状况。基本上要说的就是，所有的同性恋者必须是快乐的，若你不能接受你是同性恋，你就是有病。

**性别智商真相 4**  
**当同性恋者渴望改变时，这是可能的和敬虔的，但需要一段时间和每个人的帮助。**

若有人对“同性恋基因”教义有疑问，赞同同性恋激进分子就会生气，他们通过将对手标签为“食古不化”和“歧视”来关闭讨论。若任何人讨论同性恋者如何可以改变，他们会更加愤怒。“恩典”和“真理”是基督徒领袖们必须懂得如何驾驭和平衡的两个主要的性别智商元件。不认识神的真理，同性恋者就会继续活在谎言中；没有神的恩典，同性恋者就无法体验到爱。唯有耶稣的爱才会最终能满足他们。

像加利福尼亚州这样的许多州属，游说赞同同性恋的组织成功立法规定对有性别问题的未成年人进行治疗是违法。透过高举“更高的道德底线”作为保护未成年人性别权益的权威，父母的权利和医生的施诊自由就受到限制和被以不赞成的态度看待。

### 性别智商真相 5 当他们的成年子女出柜时，父母会感痛心。

正当好莱坞和思想开放的群众以高道德姿态去促进同性恋的自由时，父母的痛心和痛苦却往往被置之不理。焦点是促进在意识形态上被看为正确的，若父母和亲人不高兴，他们就是有病的，比如“恐同”的病状，如此类推的想法是“若你不为你成年子女公开自己是同性恋而欢呼和庆祝，你就是有病。”病状是“超保守”或真正与时代脱节。

### 性别智商真相 6 随着绝大多数西方国家将同性婚姻合法化之后，下一场战役将与跨性别有关。

基督徒领袖需要继续向同志人士伸手和接触，因每个灵魂对耶稣都是宝贵的。我们若对同志信徒们不存这份爱心，就无法服侍即将涌现的跨性别人士浪潮。跨性别者比单是男同性恋者或女同性恋者都更复杂。“身份认同政治”变化会很快，术语越来越难以掌握。我们真的需要这方面的专家来帮助我们跟上这个趋势，好让我们可以有知识地讨论这些课题，否则就有风险会落入“身份认同政治的知识精英”为我们标签为“落后”和“无知”之辈的陷阱。

### 性别智商真相 7 身份认同政治、性别医学和心理研究是关于意识形态，并非是有凭据的科学。

以上都不是客观的，可复制的或理性的。他们是随机的，基本上是为群众进行的“政治研究”。

\*同志：目前，同志一词已经不仅限于同性恋者，现已扩大到国际上通称的LGBT四大群体，即女同性恋者（Lesbian）、男同性恋者（Gay）、双性恋者（Bisexuality）与跨性别者（Transgender）。同志指代LGBT群体的起源为1989年随香港人林奕华的同性恋电影节——《香港同志电影节》的出现，渐渐演变为社会对LGBT群体的代称和该社群之间的正式称呼。

\*Identity politics身份认同政治：是指在社会上因性别、人种、民族、性取向等原因受到歧视的人群因集体的共同利益而展开的政治活动。“身份认同政治”这一概念出现在20世纪后期，特别是美国黑人民权运动时期。然而也有批判认为身份认同政治导致社会分裂，且“身份认同政治”的内部也存在对其他群体的歧视。

## PLUC Team Gatherings & Birthday Celebrations



## Youth FairStival @ Acts Church

June 2017



**PLUC** was invited to speak to over 400 local and overseas participants at Youth FairStival @ Acts Church, Subang Jaya between 1-2 June 2017. Youth FairStival is the brainchild of Rev. Kenneth Chin (Founding Senior Minister of Acts Church) which unites both youths and youth leaders of the Malaysian Church who share the same mind and heart to reach and raise young people for the Lord. This annual initiative sees the participation of some of the most fruitful and forward-thinking ministries in Malaysia, helping more than 50 workshops designed to add value to different facets of youth ministry.

Pastor Tryphena brought awareness on the crisis facing the Church in relation to gender identity before helping the youths and leaders understand the contributing factors that lead to SSA. This led naturally to the second day's workshop on the practical aspects of how to journey with a struggler. It was good to engage with the young people and hear their heart through the many relevant questions raised. Our prayer is that more of our youth will be the advocates of truth and compassion to their generation in relation to this issue.



## Sekolah Pembentukan Alkitab Roh Kudus (SPARK)

June 2017

Over three full days, 13, 16 and 20 June, **PLUC** was invited to speak at Sekolah Pembentukan Alkitab Roh Kudus (SPARK) by Pastor Ong Boon Cheang, a mission trainer based with Breakthrough Worship Community Church. Pastor Ong is one of the founders of SPARK, an initiative to train up and establish indigenous young people in spiritual disciplines and leadership/ministry skills. The sessions were conducted in Bahasa Malaysia. Pastor Tryphena shared her skills and experience with the nearly 30 indigenous youth from East Malaysia and Peninsular Malaysia, speaking on "Pastoral Counselling". This covered youth issues and included a workshop on basic counselling skills. The youth were also ministered to and challenged to respond to the needs within their own communities.



Assembly of God BM Youth Conference @ Ipoh, Perak

27 June 2017



SCAC Training @ Kuching, Sarawak

22-23 July 2017



Breakfree Youth Issues Talk @ Agape AG, Seremban

29 July 2017



In August 2017, **PLUC** was involved in training full-time workers and members from various churches in Penang and Alor Setar at Bible College of Malaysia's Extension Centre in Penang. The five-day training conducted in Mandarin covered various aspects of the topic "Ministering to the Homosexuals: A Biblical & Pastoral Response" to equip the participants with a better understanding of same-sex attraction and advocate for a godly and compassionate response towards those who struggle. Many of the participants were concerned as they realised the crisis situation with regard to gender identity confusion, and expressed a desire to not only educate their members but to start support groups within their communities of faith.



## INTERVIEW WITH PASTOR ESTHER HO

MEGA CHINESE  
METHODIST CHURCH



**Pastor Esther Ho (Esther Lee)** is no stranger to the sexually broken. This Kampar-born Methodist pastor who is passionate about Christian Education, has been part of the teaching faculty at Seminari Theoloji Malaysia (STM) for over 30 years now, in addition to co-leading the vibrant and thriving Mega Chinese Methodist Church together with her husband, Rev. Ho Hon Yan. **PLUC** caught up with her in December 2017 to hear her heart on reaching out and journeying with same-sex attracted strugglers.

**Q: Pastor Esther, thanks for sparing some time to meet with us! Could you please tell us a little about your ministry background?**

Well, after high school, I went to Trinity Theological College in Singapore, and later to Taiwan Theological College to further my studies in Christian Education. I got married when I returned and my husband and I started to serve at Seminari Theoloji Malaysia (STM) which was short of teachers at that time. When my husband was asked to pastor a Chinese Methodist church part-time, I followed him to serve as the pastor's wife. In 1990, we started a preaching point in Taman Megah. There were only around 35 members then. As more and more numbers were added, we became established as Mega Chinese Methodist Church which today has grown to 1,500 members, by God's grace.

**Q: Wonderful growth! So how did you get started in counselling ministry?**

In my role as the pastor's wife, I was exposed to the needs of the young people in our pastoral care. People would approach me for counselling. I simply responded to the sexually broken who opened up to us and did my best to help them. Yes, I was young, inexperienced and started from ground zero doing counselling. But I tried to equip myself through books and any other resource I could get my hands on. Mind you, there were hardly any materials back then! Later in 1985, I equipped myself through further studies when my husband and I went to Southern Methodist University (SMU) in America. When we returned, I was already sensing a huge need to build up the family, even as I started to do premarital counselling with young couples.

**Q: Was this also when you began to encounter LGBT strugglers?**

Yes, this is when my ministry with homosexuals and lesbians began. I started to notice that even after a long time of counselling, I could not fully understand their issues, the causes for their struggles or their difficulty dealing with other people and family members. In my heart, I actually took their struggles lightly – I secretly doubted it was really so difficult for them to change.

I remember my very first client with whom I journeyed for over a year. I knew there was something going on with her but I did not dare ask. One day, she revealed to me that she was a lesbian – that was my first encounter. Inside, I already knew but never expected her to tell her me face-to-face. I have to admit I did not handle it well and my reaction actually hurt this person. When she came back to see me, there was a distance because I really didn't know how to handle her, fearful that she would maybe fall in love with me if I got too close. My awkward body language and the way I spoke to her would have definitely disappointed her, and not surprisingly she eventually stopped coming to see me.

This incident was in my heart and mind, and I felt very sad. I asked God to forgive me for not knowing how to minister to this sister. And I remember praying, ***“If you want to send these people to me, then equip me and let me have a sensitive heart.”*** Soon, I began to have many broken ones coming to me. Many lesbians, cases of sexual abuse and rape came and I began to open my heart towards them. In a way, I am grateful for that first client that came in – because of her, I began this journey to help strugglers and to teach others to walk with strugglers, too.

***Q: How did you first handle those who struggle with same-sex attraction? What were some of the challenges you faced when integrating them into your church community?***

In the last 10 years, Mega CMC has had many lesbians and gays come through our doors, believers and non-believers. Many came for counselling first and later, they began to attend here because they felt welcome. We even encouraged them to serve, while keeping them accountable. In this environment, they started to change. The changes encouraged were not external changes, such as dressing or appearance. There was also no compulsion to form relationships with the opposite sex.

Although our church actually has close to 45-50 Life Groups now, I initially did not know where to place the strugglers and needed to talk to the leaders first. Some leaders were not ready and asked for them not to be sent to their group, because they did not know how to handle them. And some of the church members were not ready either. Eventually, I started an informal separate small group to support the homosexual strugglers, to study the Bible or a book together. It has already been 5-6 years of having this support group. At the same time, however, I also encourage the strugglers to join selected regular groups to learn how to mix with others.

***Q: Was this approach successful?***

To a large extent it was, but it is still a challenge to journey with them without support. This is why I am grateful for **PLUC** because of the support they can offer. When I discovered there was an organisation specialising in this area of ministry, I was relieved and excited to support **PLUC** in terms of finance and volunteers, especially as our church grew.

There is such an urgency to minister in this area, which is why I cannot understand why so many churches close their doors to strugglers, especially Chinese churches. The fear is always that opening the door to homosexuals will bring a lot of problems to the church. Yes, it is challenging but today I can say that Mega CMC has grown as a church because we were willing to minister to the hurting, especially the sexually broken. As they find their recovery and remain here, they have added to our numbers.

***Q: Indeed, Mega CMC has been a blessing to PLUC and we thank you for partnering with us! What have you learnt or what has been birthed through doing this ministry?***

I learnt from encountering and studying different clients, reading books and resources such as conference videos that I obtained from **PLUC**. But what I realised from handling these cases is that many have wrong concepts about sex. With my passion as a Christian education specialist, I decided to develop sex education resources and I even helped start the now-compulsory course “Sexuality and Marriage” at STM to teach pastors how to educate their young people in this area. I really believe that tackling the issues from the perspective of sex education is vital for setting the right foundations.

I started in my church – teaching the much younger age group of 6-7 years old first, and along the way, I developed Chinese materials for three age groups: 4-6 year olds, 7-9 year olds and 10-12 year olds. I think it is important to begin sex education from an early age, as sexual awareness is already happening in our primary schools. In fact, at Mega CMC, we promote sex education as part of our Sunday School curriculum. I have since published a DVD animation series in Chinese to teach three key topics – *“I’m Special”*, *“Boys and Girls are Different”* and *“How to Say No”*. My next project targets children as young as 3 years old to teach them how to protect themselves from predators. The income generated from the sale of the DVDs helps to develop more materials and to support people who are walking in recovery through counselling. It also supports those who minister in this area, and 30% of the proceeds from the sale of our materials in the first two years was channelled to **PLUC**.

Last year, we started to train up teams of people in different churches. Interested churches were asked to gather at least 10-15 people who are keen to be trained, and I went over to conduct training using my DVD materials. After they undergo 30 hours of training on sex education, they are equipped to pass on the knowledge to their congregations.

In the last 8 years, I have also gone into Chinese schools with a team of people from different churches in the community to teach Standard 6 pupils on these topics. I have met with school principals and always ask that not only the students attend, but that the teachers commit to attending a 4-hour training with me, too. I also do sex education courses for teenagers as well as a full-day course specially developed for campus students, covering topics like Dating, Courtship, Purity, How to Protect Themselves, etc. My materials for adults and teachers include chapters on the Definition of Sex and Homosexuality, so they are aware of the facts and know how to help the students. Another group we have started to reach out to recently is kindergarten teachers.

**Q: This is no doubt on God's heart, seeing the doors He is opening for you! What are some of the results you have seen? Also, what has been the impact on your congregation?**

We have received a lot of feedback from the schools we have gone into. Some principals have reported that after our talk, they have had students approach their teachers to confide that they have been sexually abused. These teachers then consulted the churches around their school for help to minister to the kids. In church itself, a lot of young people who are indulging in premarital sex or have had abortions are now opening up to talk about their secret struggles. Since embarking on this journey, there is an atmosphere of openness that has been created; this helps ensure that issues are brought up and do not stay hidden.

On the church level, I encourage my members to attend talks and seminars on issues such as same-sex attraction. I have seen the growth in my church leaders since opening the door to strugglers. There is greater maturity and greater acceptance of strugglers in our midst.

**Q: What advice would you give to any pastor/church wanting to minister to those struggling with their sexual identity?**

Many pastors are unwilling to tackle these issues, because they lack confidence to minister to homosexual strugglers and fear they will bring problems into the church. I understand the fears and I would like to offer my support to those who are willing. Even for me, there were challenges initially and a lot of pressure not to allow homosexuals in. There were even questions as to why a church is teaching sex education, but now that people are seeing the results of the ministry, they are supportive. As the situation continues to worsen today, the issue is not even as straightforward as homosexuality but even multiple partners, bisexuality and such – churches are seeing the importance of building a proper foundation of sex education, at the earliest age possible. One encouraging sign is that my denomination's Chinese leaders have started allowing strugglers to serve, so long as there is accountability and someone watching over the person. And they have also seen their churches grow because of this.

*If any pastor or church leader is willing to come alongside a struggler in their church, I am willing to support them by showing how to handle a counselling session together with the struggler. The pastor can then continue to journey with the person in their own church. I am also making my DVD resources available to those who want to include sex education as part of their church's Christian Education programme. One final word of advice, I would encourage churches to start somewhere, and not wait till they feel "professionally qualified" to journey with the sexually broken!*

*Pastor Esther, thank you for your time and the great insights shared, God bless you!*

“若有任何牧师或教会领袖愿意陪着他们教会中的挣扎者一路同行，我愿意支援他们，与他们一起，向他们展示如何处理与挣扎者进行的辅导时段。然后，牧师就可以继续与他们自己教会中人同行之旅。那些想要把性教育容纳成为他们教会的基督徒教育课程的一部分的牧师们，我也有影音光碟供你们使用。最后，我的忠告是要勉励教会从某处开始着手，别等到他们觉得“有专业资格”了，才来与性破碎者一起同行！”

何李颖璇 牧师  
卫理公会美佳堂

For more information or to order copies of Pastor Esther Ho's sex education DVDs, you may contact her office at 03-6157 9711.

欲知更多详情，或者想要订购何李颖璇牧师的性教育影音光碟，你可以致电03-6157 9711至教会办公室联络她。

**Chinese DVD Titles / 影音光碟题目:**

- 1 我很特别 (I'm Special)
- 2 男女有别 (Boys & Girls Are Different)
- 3 如何说不 (How to Say No)

性教育学堂 (Sex Education Classroom)

- 1 教会与性教育 (Church & Sex Education)
- 2 性与婚姻 (Sex & Marriage)
- 3 性与成人 (Sex & Adults)
- 4 性与青少年 (Sex & Youth)
- 5 性与儿童 (Sex & Children)
- 6 性的定义 (The Definition of Sex)



# THE PATH OF GRACE

I thank God that by His grace, I have received endless favour over the past half year (2017).

At the beginning of 2017, I prayed to God to send me a spiritual father or mentor. I longed for a father-figure who could spiritually and emotionally mentor me and be someone that I could talk to. In April, I met a Singaporean brother who lives in Hong Kong when I attended a convention. He brought me to the Kairos course in Singapore in May. In one of our conversations, he said he felt a burden to take me as his spiritual son. He said: "You need a father-figure to guide you and to learn from; if you are willing, let me be your spiritual father!" Deep within, my heart pounded excitedly and I thanked God for being a God who answers prayer.

On the road to restoration when **PLUC** journeyed with me, I was serving in a small town in the south at the same time. While serving, I tried my best to move towards rehabilitation, and my life was like a rock being carefully carved by an artisan. I enjoyed serving in the church. There, my social skill with peers improved a lot, unlike previous times where I only made friends with older people to make up for the absence of a father figure. In the church of this little town, I have had good relationships with members of all ages. They love me very much and they really took care of me. There was one time when I was admitted to the hospital, and they came almost every two hours just to send me food or pay me a visit. I became very good friends with a male leader in the church while I was serving there. We always served together and would later go out for a chat over a drink. I thank God for preparing someone who I could trust and talk with sincerely. Most importantly, I thank God that in the process, I learnt to lay down the image of a child who refused to grow up, and started to reflect my inner life and express myself as a grown man.

During the first 6 months of my restoration journey, I almost gave up on myself. I am not saying that I wanted to end my life, but I no longer had the ambition to pursue dreams for the Lord. In other words, I did not want God to use me mightily. I just wanted to spend my whole life serving in a small church, and just following other people's direction. But after attending the Kairos course in Singapore, I heard God say to me in a firm voice: "**Do not walk in the will of man, do not become the tool of others; walk in the plan I have prepared for you. Be My vessel!**" In this strong instruction, I saw again the call that God placed in my heart from an early age to evangelise

to a certain community. He wants me to become a missionary. During the Kairos course, I answered God's call to me and made a decision to obey His will and plan for me. Since then, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, my prayer life and my spiritual walk have grown rapidly. My serving in the church has become more motivated and directed because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. The possibilities of continuing on this path keep on appearing to me. My spiritual father keeps on guiding me and mobilising help for me to mould me into a servant of the Lord.

God is renewing my heart and is teaching me to try new things with an open mind. Just like that, I have started to eat meat and seafood which I've never eaten before, and I've also reached out to crowds and encouraged others to do the same. Renewing my heart has brought about a great change in my life and ministry. Even my mentor and my parents have seen me change. They have seen me "come alive" in my restoration journey with the Lord. In the meantime, I desire to become one of the facilitators of Kairos to influence the lives of other young people with my enthusiasm, so that they may walk in His ways.

On this journey of restoration, I am not afraid to tell people about my past. The only thing is that my mother disapproves of me sharing about my previous experience with homosexual activities. But I know inside my heart, God wants me to bravely share my struggles with the flesh and lust so that strugglers will know that "change" is possible. When my family and church are ready, I am willing to stand before a crowd and share about my past and to tell the strugglers: The way out is in Jesus Christ!

Another thing worth mentioning is that my relationship with my father has improved a lot. Because of my mother's strong personality, my father was imageless in my heart from young. However, as I'm walking on this road to restoration by renewing my heart, my father often tells me he misses me. I know that God is giving me a taste of fatherly love on earth from my own blood-related father. This regained fatherly love is very precious! My way of communicating with my mum has also improved a lot, and I try to talk to her like an adult now. Laying down a child's mother-dependent role and perspective, I have started to say "no" to my mother with more courage and maturity. After all, I've already grown up to be an independent individual now.

If you ask me: *Do you still face any struggles with homosexual lust?* To be honest, I still do! Sometimes, when I see another male who is my type, my eyes still linger on him. But I have not forgotten to trust in God and to hold on to His love for me, and with the Rock and His strength upon which I depend, these kinds of flesh temptations are becoming less frequent. I put my soul and my inner emotions into His light and let Him reign over them.

When I look back, I see how God has led me through the valley of shadows; I am like an olive being crushed, so that He can squeeze out the inner essence of me. In this journey of discovering the nature of my life, God was with me, and so was **PLUC**. God took this opportunity to break me, and then reshape and remould me. I thank God for the people at **PLUC** who not only listened to me, but also changed how I look at my own life. I have learnt to see myself through the perspective of Father God and have learnt to be immersed in His unconditional love. Of course, I am also grateful to the church, all brothers and sisters who are like a family to me. I now like to be alone. In silence, I reflect on the moments in life where I had fallen. Every moment in the future, I realise I need to be constantly sculpted by Jesus, and the more I am reshaped, the more I can be like Him. I value those times when I fell. Without them, the work of God remoulding me would have been delayed. Such a proud and broken self-image I had within, but yet, He still cares. I thank God for giving me **PLUC** to journey with me.

Indeed, every journey I have walked and been through is a path of grace; it's a mark of grace that the Heavenly Father has given me.

感谢神，在这半年内，因着神的恩典，我领受了无尽的恩宠。

2017年初，我向神祈求：赐我一位属灵父亲或督导！我渴望拥有一位具有父亲形象的属灵父亲，让他成为我灵里和情感里的督导，并成为我倾诉的对象。四月，我参加了一个研讨会，研讨会上我认识了一位新加坡人居住在香港。五月，他带我到新加坡参加“把握时机”的课程，在某次的交谈中，他表明意愿要“收养”我成为他的属灵孩子。他还说：“你需要一位具有父亲形象的弟兄来成为你的榜样和引导，如果你愿意，让我成为你的属灵父亲！”乍听之下，我的内心深处翻滚着激动，感谢神，祂是垂听祷告的上帝！

**PLUC**陪伴我走在康复的路上，同时期，我也在南部一小镇里的教会服事。边服事，边努力迈步走向康复的这段日子，我的生命犹如一块被工匠细致雕刻的石头。我很享受在小镇服事的日子。在这里，我学会与同辈相处与交流，不像从前，为了弥补父亲形象的缺席而只爱跟长者做朋友。小镇教会里，我与不同年龄层的弟兄姐妹建立良好关系。他们很爱我，也很照顾我。记得一次我入院，每两个小时就会有人携带食物来探病。教会里有一位弟兄领袖，在我服事的期间，与我结为好朋友。我们一起配搭服事，一起出外喝茶倾心聊天。感谢神，祂预备了一个值得信任的人与我真心聊天，更重要的是，我在过程中学会抛下以往不愿长大的小孩形象，学会以符合真实心志年龄的口吻，像大人般的侃侃说话。

走在康复道路的前半年，我几乎要放弃自己。什么意思呢？我不是要放弃自己的生

命，而是不再有为主追求梦想的壮志，换言之，我希望主不要大大使用我。就让我耗尽一生守在一间小教会里服事，任凭人事带我随波逐流吧！但经过参加新加坡“把握时机”的课程，我听见神以强烈的声音对我说：“不要走在人的旨意里，不要成为别人的器皿，你要走在我给你的计划里，你要成为我的器皿！”就在这道当头棒喝的声音里，我重新看见那从小就被神放在我心中对某族群传福音的呼召，祂要我成为一位宣教士。“把握时机”的课程里，我向神回应了祂对我的呼召，我开始顺服祂对我的计划。课程结束后，藉着圣灵的引领，我的祷告生活和属灵生命的品质大大提升，在教会里的服事，因圣灵的同在，亦变得有了动力和方向。我的属灵父亲也不断引导和动用支援，一心要栽培我成为神所要我成为的仆人。神更新我的心意，教导我以开放的心去尝试一切新的事物，就这样，我开始学习吃那些从前不吃的肉和海鲜，也开始主动接触人群，并鼓励身边人起来接触人群。更新心意，使我的生命和服事带来很大的改变，属灵督导和亲生父母看我犹如“终于活了过来”的感觉。与此同时，我想在这期间担任“把握时机”课程的导师，以热忱的生命影响青少年的生命，好让他们行在祂的心意里。

走在这一条康复的道路上，我不害怕告诉别人关于我的过去。唯一隐忧的是，我的母亲不赞成我对外坦言自己曾经涉及同性恋活动的经历。但我心底知道，神要我勇敢对外分享我在肉体与情欲里的挣扎，好叫挣扎者知道“改变”是可能的。我会在家人与教会都预备好的情况底下，站在人群中分享我的过去，并告诉挣扎者：出路，在耶稣基督那里！

另外，值得一提的是，我跟父亲的关系改善了很多！母亲的刚强性格，使父亲自小在我的心底是个没有形象的父亲。但走在这一条康复的道路上，藉着更新心意，父亲常会特地地告诉我他想念我……我知道，是祂让我尝那地上血缘式的父爱！这一种失而复得的父爱，很珍贵！我跟我妈妈的沟通方式也改进不少，我尝试以成人的姿态与她谈天。放下小孩仰望大人的角度和依赖母亲的角色，我也越来越有勇气和成熟度对母亲说“不”，毕竟，我已经长大成为一个独立的个体了。

如果你问我：同性恋的情欲事上，到底还有没有挣扎？坦白说：有！有时看到心仪的对象（男生），我的眼光还是忍不住注视在他们身上。但我没有忘记紧紧地倚靠着神和捉住祂给我的爱，凭着我所倚靠的磐石和力量，这种情欲的试探逐渐减少。我把自己灵魂的深处及内心的情感，统统放在祂的光中，让祂来掌管。

回望过去，我看见神怎样带领我走过死荫的幽谷；我像一颗被压榨橄榄，也像那被压碎的葡萄，要被祂挤压出真正的内在本质。在这个认识自己生命本质的旅程中，有神陪伴，还有**PLUC**陪伴，神也藉此机会破碎我，然后重新塑造、建立我。很感谢**PLUC**，她不仅做了倾听的工作，更是改变了我对自己生命的看法，我学会用天父的眼光来看自己，学会沉浸在祂毫无条件的爱里。当然，我也感谢教会里如家人般的弟兄姐妹的陪伴。我现在很喜欢沉静的时间，沉静里，我思考生命中跌倒的时刻以及往后的每一时刻，我都需要持续地被耶稣雕刻，越是被雕塑，我才能越像耶稣。我珍惜这一段跌倒的日子，如果没有这段旅程，神启动雕塑我的工作恐怕还会延后，这么一个骄傲又破碎的自我形象，但祂却仍顾念！我感谢神，赐下**PLUC**作我的陪伴者。

所走过的，都是恩典之路，也是天父在我生命中留下的恩典记号！



# 恩典之路

## A Heart to Learn, Love & Serve

**M**y name is Nam-Zhye Lakthong, or as I get people to call me, Nicholas Thong. I am 21 years old and originate from Johor. I study in UCSI University in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur and am currently in my final year of my psychology degree as I write this.

### The “hows and whys” of my involvement with PLUC

It was early in March 2017 that I came to know about Pastor Tryphena and the ministry she runs, **PLUC** when she came to speak at UCSI's Christian Fellowship. Fast forward to early June, I attended Youth FairStival 2017, a youth conference with various ministries gathering to conduct workshops to equip and engage with young people. To my surprise, I discovered **PLUC** was conducting two workshops: “Understanding the Complexities and Possible Causation of Homosexuality”, and “How You Can Journey or Engage with LGBT”. I attended one of Pastor Tryphena's workshops to learn more about the ministry.

A requirement for my course is to complete three sets of internships each year, over a period of two months each time. I had been praying to God about plans for my final two-month-long internship – to either get into what I wanted to do in the field of teaching, or to get involved with a ministry. Long story short, I ended up applying and being accepted by **PLUC** as an intern. The tasks I was given were mainly on the administrative side but I was also tasked to conduct research to measure the level of acceptance of young people, especially those in church, towards homosexuality.

The main motivation that brought me into the ministry was to learn how to journey alongside those who struggle with same-sex attraction (SSA). I personally have friends who are on this path and some of them do struggle with SSA. It hurts me to be unable to do anything to help these friends who are struggling yet are Christians. Apart from that, I see a rising issue of people endorsing SSA and claiming that it is normal, which led me to want to be an advocate of truth and naturally, created a desire to serve in **PLUC**.



### What was my involvement in the ministry and with helping strugglers?

The research project I was assigned to manage, for one, has helped us to acquire insights on young people's views on homosexuality and homosexuals. The research data will, I believe, help in the tailoring of content for future workshops and talks. Also, by engaging with young people through the online survey link, I believe we have made more of them reflect on the topic. Well, we all need to know that homosexuality is happening in the world and that we CAN actually do something about it. I found to my surprise that many of the Christian respondents were actually interested to know how to help the LGBT community!

Overall, my two months here may not have contributed much, but I think that the skills and knowledge I have gained from **PLUC** will definitely help me to further reach out to strugglers. I have already been journeying with a few friends indirectly, just by being there for them and loving them as people of God. When I am more equipped, I want to volunteer to journey with more strugglers and guide them to follow Christ's path.

### The personal impact of partnering with PLUC

Working at **PLUC** had me learning a lot of things. Prior to entering here, I studied about the LGBT phenomena and what the Bible says about it. What I had was actually basic book-knowledge, which led me to want to know more. **PLUC** gave me a broader view of SSA ministry – the biblical principles and stands, the other camp (pro-gay activists) and some simple yet fundamental techniques in helping those who are struggling.

Being here, I was fed an almost daily diet of books. Yes, BOOKS! The reading materials available in the office cover a wide variety of topics, which helped me increase my knowledge of this unreached people group. Partnering with **PLUC** helped me gain insight on what is happening in the world – the issues surrounding homosexuality, what the ministry is working on, learning about the false theology and misconceptions, and ultimately, discovering God's heart for the restoration of people. This is much more than book-knowledge; this is knowledge brought to life in practical work! I believe my involvement here is preparing me to reach out to people struggling with same-sex attraction – to love them with truth and grace.

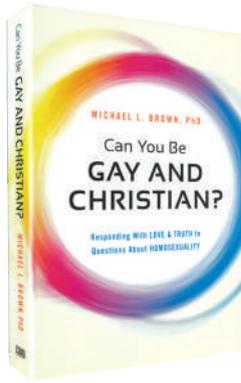
### Words of encouragement/advice for other potential volunteers at PLUC

For those who may be interested to help out in **PLUC**, do bear in mind that you will encounter people who are quite different from you in many ways. Nevertheless, every struggler is also the same as you – he or she is one of God's precious people!

Do have an open heart and mind if you are thinking of volunteering with **PLUC**. You will learn about the struggles that same-sex attracted people face. And you will be challenged to understand what is really going on in their situations or what should be done.

The simplest words of advice I can give, based on my own limited experience, is: “Have an enthusiastic heart to learn and to serve in the ministry. Have a big heart to love others, even if they don't live godly lives. Have God's desire in your heart, which will sustain you forward in the ministry.”

Loving them may feel “messy”, but that was what Jesus did during His time on earth. Are you willing to get into the messiness of lives by serving God's people?



BOOK REVIEW

图书推荐

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Brown, Michael L. (2014).

*Can You Be Gay and Christian?  
Responding With Love and Truth to  
Questions About Homosexuality.*  
Lake Mary, Florida: Frontline.

“*Can You Be Gay and Christian?*” is a great resource for those seeking to better understand the issues that surround homosexuality and Christianity, as it presents arguments from both camps. Michael Brown has genuinely looked into scriptures and provided theological reasoning on this crucial subject in a loving and clear way. He takes the most common arguments given by those affirming gay Christianity and walks the reader through how this cannot be compatible with the Scriptures. This is insightful and practical for all Christians and for those who are struggling with how to stand on God’s word.

Some truths may not be popular, but they are nonetheless true. Therefore it is a real challenge for the Church to not compromise on God’s standards and at the same time to be compassionate and Christ-like towards those in the gay lifestyle. Every pastor and lay leader should use this book as one of their resources.

## OUR 2017 NUMBERS

### RELATE

Total appointments  
(January – December) **162**

Male

Female

Parents

Spouses

### EDUCATE & ADVOCATE

Praise God for the many open doors for us to give awareness talks, conduct seminars and training as well as preach at various churches, schools, organisations, a radio station, Bible seminaries and colleges, both locally and overseas.

### Local

♦ Awareness Talks  
♦ Preaching

**52**

♦ Seminars  
♦ Training Workshops

**17**

♦Kuala Lumpur ♦Petaling Jaya  
♦Klang ♦Penang ♦Ipoh, Perak  
♦Kota Bahru, Kelantan ♦Seremban  
♦Johor Bahru ♦Kuching, Sarawak  
♦Miri, Sarawak

### Overseas





### Monthly Prayer Meeting 每月祷告会

First Saturday of every month (except Public Holidays)  
每月的第一个星期六 (除公共假期)

Time 时间: 9:30am – 10:30am

Contact us at +603-7887 3501 for Venue details  
欲获取地点详情, 请联系我们 +603-7887 3501

Updates on current global trends and news related to homosexuality will be shared for prayer.

目前与全球同性恋有关的趋势和新闻近况都会在祷告会中分享出来, 供出席者祷告。

## Thank you for your valued investment!

### Churches

Agape Community Centre S2 Seremban, Bethany Church, Charis Christian Centre, Charis Sanctuary AG, Changkat Kruing Chinese Methodist Church, DUMC, Gereja Charis KL, Glad Tidings Sri Damansara, Glory Assembly of God, Kampung Raja Hitam Chinese Methodist Church, Klang Chinese Methodist Church, Muk En Methodist Church, Peace City Tabernacle, Petra Christian Church, SIB KL, Semenyih AG, Subang Jaya AG, Wesley Methodist Church Sitiawan.

### Individuals

Aaron & Sandy Chui, Alice Leong, Choong Kee Lan, Dr. Chua & Yoke Cheng, Danny Pun, David & Karen Seah, Deborah Yap, Don Cheong, Esther Choe, Evelyn Lau, Fann Rui Jeat, Jennifer Chong, June Chin, Kenneth & Jackie Jung, Kevin Bong, Khiew Ning Ee, Lee Mee Mee, Bro. Loh, Loh Kuo Hao, Marcus Wong, Melvin & Connie Wong, Munnie Mok, Ng Wai Kuen, Pearl Hong, Peter Choo, Siow So Yin, Sophia Voon, Bro. Thomas, Bro. Vijay, Wendy Lee, Wong Chit Choi, Wong Kok Ping, Anonymous.

### Others

EDC International Sdn Bhd, Environment Design Consultants Sdn Bhd, Love's Hope Singapore, Malaysian Care, Webcon Sdn Bhd.

### Payment of Contribution 奉献 / 认捐

Your investment in our ministry can be done via bank transfer 您可透过银行转账资助我们的事工  
Public Bank Berhad 大众银行 | Account no 银行户口号码: 3133229425

Cheques are to be crossed and made payable to PLUC Events Sdn. Bhd.  
支票划线并填写收款者 PLUC Events Sdn. Bhd.

If you are facing issues with sexuality and seeking help, or if you are interested to volunteer with PLUC, please contact us at:  
你若面对性方面的课题, 且正在寻找帮助, 或者有兴趣在PLUC当志工, 请联络我们:



+603-7887 3501  
+6012-508 3501 ( Helpline 求助热线 )

help@pluc.org.my  
www.pluc.org.my

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46791 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.