

NewsLetter 2022



PURSUING LIBERTY
UNDER CHRIST
Truth Will Set You Free

Not Even One
Shall Be Left Out

What Is Wrong
With Me?

Stand
Firm

Heart of
Worship

(For Internal Circulation Only)

INDISPENSABLE

“Not even one shall be left out”

by Rev. Vincent Chan

Then Jesus told them this parable: **“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.** – Luke 15: 3-7

This parable highlights God’s compassionate heart. Even though it was only one of a hundred sheep, even if everyone sees it as insignificant, God the Shepherd sees it important to find the lost sheep. God accepts all those who are willing to seek Him, without exception. No one is rejected from God’s mercy and love. This is a truth I want to declare to those gender strugglers who are surrounded by many lies.

I am grateful to the Lord for His wonderful leadership, allowing me to participate in the ministry of PLUC, to be able to serve

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BIODATA



▲ **Rev. Vincent Chan**

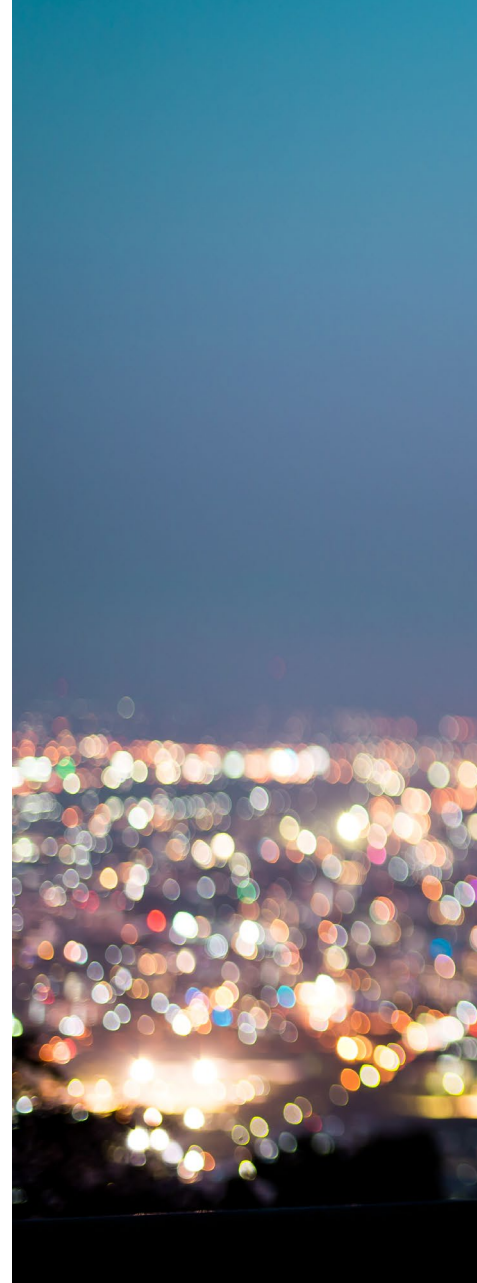
Rev. Vincent Chan is the Senior Pastor of Petra Christian Church (PCC) in Serdang. He is married to Lydia and blessed with 2 children, Sophie and Noah. Rev. Vincent is also one of the Directors of PLUC.

with Tryphena, Sylvia, Sharon, and other co-workers. This is my honor, it is God's special blessing to me. At PLUC, we journey with strugglers to walk in truth, learning to rely on God, to have a peaceful, joyful and fulfilling life. This is not because of the ability we have, but our personal experience of God's love and mercy. If it were not because of the encounter with God, our lives could not have such peace. It is the full grace and truth, complete love and acceptance of the Lord Jesus that make us experience the joy of rebirth and change. We are not the ninety-nine sheep who do not need repentance, but the one lost sheep found by God. This is why we become journeyers. We desire to see all strugglers experience God's love and mercy like us.

As a Pastor, I firmly believe that God not only wants to use PLUC, but also use churches of Jesus to help those who are struggling with gender issues. Through the preaching and application of truth in church, the fellowship of brothers and sisters, the work of the Holy Spirit, one will surely experience transformation in life. This is not an idea, but a

truth. In the season of serving in PLUC, I clearly saw how churches played a significant role in transforming the life of strugglers. May the churches of the Lord sense the mercy of God's heart whereby every person is "indispensable". To be willing to take the risk to seek, accept and embrace the lost sheep of the sexually broken. Let God's heart be satisfied, let His glory be revealed. Amen.

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What is WRONG with me?



While my peers began to find interest in female friends during puberty, I did not feel the same. They were engrossed in fashion magazines and talking about the latest and hottest female celebrity, I felt disconnected. I thought, *“what is wrong with me? Why am I not interested in girls?”*. Fearing they would judge me for feeling differently, I went along with their fascination. Also, I wasn’t confident because I was chubby and not good at sports. Thus, I was not masculine in the eyes of the world. I caught myself staring and admiring my male peers who were athletic. They exuded confidence, spoke well, and had great physiques. The world would define them as ‘real men’ and I would be called a ‘sissy’.

I grew up in a Christian home yet I did not have a strong role model. Although my father loved me, I did not look up to him. I saw him to be passive, lacking the boldness to take charge while my mother was dominant. I perceived Dad to always be bullied by Mom. At the same time, we never had deep conversations and he just focused on providing for the family. Yes, that is the right thing to do yet he did not meet my deepest need - affirmation. Just to let me know that I am okay, and that I do not have to worry if I do not shine in sports. I wanted to know and hear from him that he was proud of me and I am not a ‘sissy’.



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My first sexual awakening occurred when I stumbled upon my father's stash of pornography. I learnt masturbation from a young age, reading erotic novels given by my friends. When I read porn, I found myself more drawn to the male body than the female. I started fantasising and masturbating to them. When the internet became available, I befriended a guy on a chatting platform and he sent me a full-length homosexual porn movie. There was also a man who did phone sex with me. I enjoyed these encounters and I knew for sure I was not like the other guys. I struggled through my teenage years by keeping this side of me hidden. I poured my heart and soul into church, praying to God at altar calls that he would change me to be "normal". I was active in Christian activities, leading as many groups as I could.

However, nothing I did could take this part of me away. I secretly admired many of my male friends, I wanted to be around them all the time, asking them to be my best friend, not knowing I had dived into

infatuation. I fantasised to be more than friends with them, some of whom were my church mates. *"How could I, a leader of so many groups, highly admired in the church community, have such thoughts?"* In fact, I had my first sexual experience with a fellow male friend from church. I was already far away from God. Later, I met someone who eventually became my boyfriend. At that time, he was quite a popular figure and I was flattered to be pursued by him. Eventually, we moved in together and became very active LGBTQ advocates. We were happy for the first few years but it was a co-dependent relationship. I was the sole financier and after 3 years, I wanted out but I was so used to the familiarity of being in the relationship that I could not leave. Furthermore, he was dependent on me. Much as I wanted a relationship, I knew deep in my heart that my life was not right in the eyes of God. I've read every pro-gay theology article, but I still could not convince myself that homosexuality was accepted in the Bible.

I ended the relationship after seven years and asked him to move out. The idea of being alone again resulted in me falling into depression. I came out to my brother and thankfully he was very supportive. I wanted to know if there were more people out there like me, wanting to come out from same-sex attraction. I found PLUC on the Internet and we had a few pastoral counselling sessions. They helped me reflect on my past, upbringing and how it could have affected my sexual identity. I then joined a support group organised by PLUC and that is how I met a group of wonderful people that I am still friends with until this day, nearly 9 years later. Although we are on our own journey, we are

a support system, encouraging each other to stay the course.

Today, I have formed good healthy male relationships in church who gave me the acceptance and affirmation I needed. Most importantly, I have rooted myself in a church and put effort into knowing God more. For my identity comes from God, not from people, not even from my male friends. I know being in a same-sex relationship is not what I want in my life. After developing my confidence in my male identity, I begin to feel attracted to girls. I find myself wanting to know them more, have a relationship, get married and build a family. Being married or turning into a heterosexual is not the evidence of anyone overcoming homosexuality, it



is the journey that matters, and the relationship with God. I have been dating girls and enjoying the process. There were times when I thought we could get serious and I'd tell them about my past because I believe it is fair for them to know. To my surprise, most ladies understood my past and as long as I have put it behind me, a future can be considered. I was pleasantly surprised by these responses as I felt that my past would damper my chances of a heterosexual relationship. Although I have not met the right person, I am entrusting it to God that one day I will be able to fall in love with the woman after God's heart and build a future together.

The journey is not over. Some days it is hard, I remember my homosexual life yet some days

I do not even remember I had same-sex attraction. I remind myself with my brother's words, *"you can't stop the birds from flying over your head, but you can stop them from building a nest on your head."* God never promised us a life free of temptations, but He promised us that He will be with us whenever we call out to Him. These days, I am volunteering in PLUC to

take notes during counselling sessions. I am glad that I can also give back in my own capacity. I encourage others on a similar journey to always hope in God, despite the challenges and increasing advocacy for the LGBTQ lifestyle. It is possible to change, if you have the conviction and all you need to do is reach out.

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STAND FIRM

I grew up in a close-knit family. Although my parents were non-believers, they modelled love, kindness, filial-piety, and all the good values. We knew what was right and wrong. They did not oppose my choices and I came to know the Lord during teenhood, committing myself to youth ministry in church. Aside from church, I spent most of my days in college which was

stressful. One afternoon, while taking a break, I went online to a chat room. I met a guy there and it developed so quickly. I crossed boundaries which I did not feel comfortable with at first but slowly I was hooked to the physical and emotional intimacy of a “relationship”.

We were unequally yoked but I continued attending and

being active in church. I felt the tension growing within me and I decided to break it off after 3 years. During the time of healing, an older sister (Amy) in church was my support in keeping me rooted in His word and a listening ear. However, we got too close. This happened only months after breaking up with my boyfriend. We were emotionally dependent and physically intimate, resulting in much guilt. Along the way, Amy also had to deal with depression and I found the friendship to be no longer as desirable so we drifted. Although the distance made me feel “healthier”, I soon struck up a new friendship with another sister during an evangelistic meeting. Brenda and I had so much in common and we began to share on a deeper level. I asked her to be my accountability partner after

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revealing my vulnerabilities with Amy.

Over time, I found myself attracted to Brenda's personality and intimacy with God. It was something I longed to have as well. On that account, I got even closer with Brenda and emotional dependency took root in both of us. Perhaps the saving grace from getting physical was the fact that Brenda was in another town. Amy was still around and reminded me about how easily I can fall into unhealthy friendship but I paid no heed. Yet, I got disappointed when Brenda was less available due to her deadlines at seminary and felt jealous upon finding out she forged a new friendship. We had tense moments and Brenda suggested we cut contact to resolve our dependencies. I started off alright but soon behaved like an addict cut off from her addictive substance, which led to depression. This was a time of realisation - my approach to friendships was detrimental and there must be a reason for my behaviour. Amy suggested I look for help at PLUC.

During my sessions, I learnt about the roots of same-sex attraction and homosexuality. I began to understand why I was drawn to certain types of people, specifically those who walked closely with God. Perhaps I desired to be like a Christian the way they were. Instead of learning together towards holiness, we allowed our fleshly needs for people's presence to take over God. Together with pastoral counseling, I continued serving and after years of desolation, I had encountered God again. I was born again and the joy of having the awareness of Christ in me was indescribable! I thought I have recovered from my same-sex attraction issues until I met

Chris. She was not someone I was attracted to instantly but I was by her side during her time of transition in life. Again, I ignored a friend's warning to me. I gave so much time and energy to Chris that I no longer tended my own garden (soul). I was reminded that the devil is in an infinite game with us. Satan is always looking for a gap to slip in and opportunity to attack *"therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall."* (1 Cor10:12).

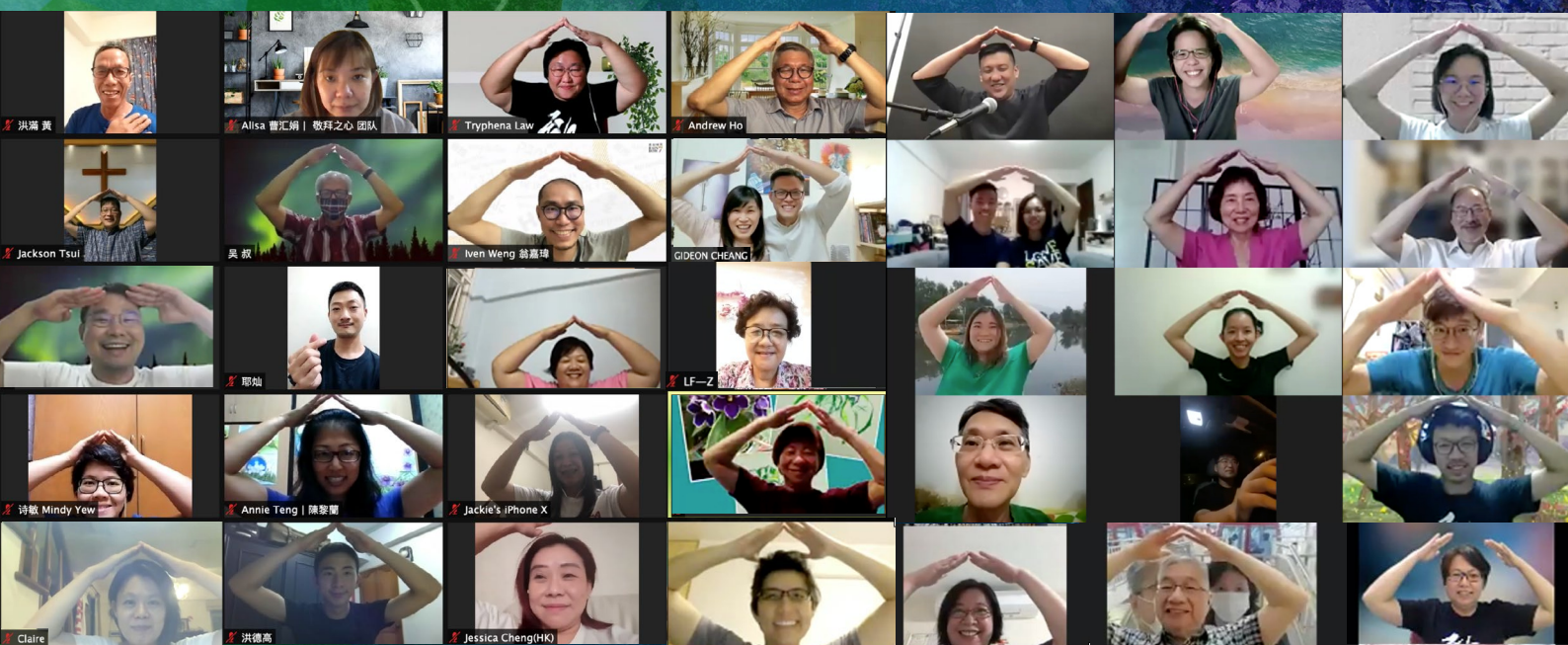
However, God is faithful. He knew I needed help to be firm. PLUC came into the picture once again and stood alongside. I understood what Paul meant by having the thorn in his flesh.

The episode is behind me now and I continue on the pilgrim's journey. The joy from being right with God outweighs all counterfeit validation from humans. I feel God personalising this verse *"My child, Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. But I have pleaded in prayer for you, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your sisters."* (Luke 22:31-32).



HEART OF WORSHIP – Asia Rainbow Crosser Prayer and Worship Altar

6 Sep 敬拜之心-亞洲華語跨虹者敬拜祭



Obey the Lord's Simple Calling

In the evening of 6th September 2021, which was also the Rosh Hashanah, rainbow crossers from **Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, and Mainland China** sounded the trumpet for the Lord with one heart, giving thanks and worship unto the Lord!

This significant moment began when I felt very clearly in my heart from the Lord “Are you willing to sound the trumpet for me?” I immediately replied, “Yes!” That moment, a thought sparked in my mind - to gather rainbow crossers and individuals working in the LGBTQ ministry from the abovementioned countries. We would come

together to praise and worship, give thanks for the power of God's salvation, and to be prepared for the upcoming season. I felt the weight of this gathering in my spirit and as I shared with Pastors from different regions, many felt the confirmation and touch of the Holy Spirit.

Looking back at the entire process, I thought to myself “Who am I to do this?”. I do not know many people from this community, but the pressing of the Holy Spirit is beyond my doubts and fears. All I did was obey. After three pre-conference meetings of seeking God together, and also on the day of sounding the trumpet, we all

heard the calling of our Father: *He loves LGBTQ community, He is willing to call His children home, preparing a true home for them, embracing with spiritual parents who are filled with God's heart, for them to cry earnestly before the Father!*

Indeed, our Heavenly Father intended to release His gentle voice of love and hope for the LGBTQ community. May we say to our Heavenly Father: “I heard you, I am willing to answer your call! Guide us to obey your simple call of love!”

Pastor Gideon Cheang
Director
Agape Walk Association, Macau

TESTIMONIALS

1

As soon as the trumpet was blown, tears rushed down my face. God's spirit was moving so strongly in the virtual meeting that I could no longer keep the worship to myself. The sound of the trumpet was like a declaration that God's truth still reigns over the nations, it will and it must be preached to all, that He is still the King despite the overpowering darkness. God is truly still at work!

- Jeah En

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Initially I was hesitant to join the "Heart of Worship - Asia Rainbow Crosser Prayer and Worship Altar" event due to my shallow understanding of Mandarin. However, we are all called to encourage one another in the faith so there I was, in virtual support. Right from the start, I could sense the worshipful atmosphere ushered in by prayerful hearts coming together before Abba Father. Earnestness was in the air with tears flowing openly even as pastors prayed for their respective countries. Amidst it all, there was joy from the redeemed. It was a meaningful evening: I came away encouraged and blessed. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." - Psalm 133 (KJV).

- PLUC volunteer

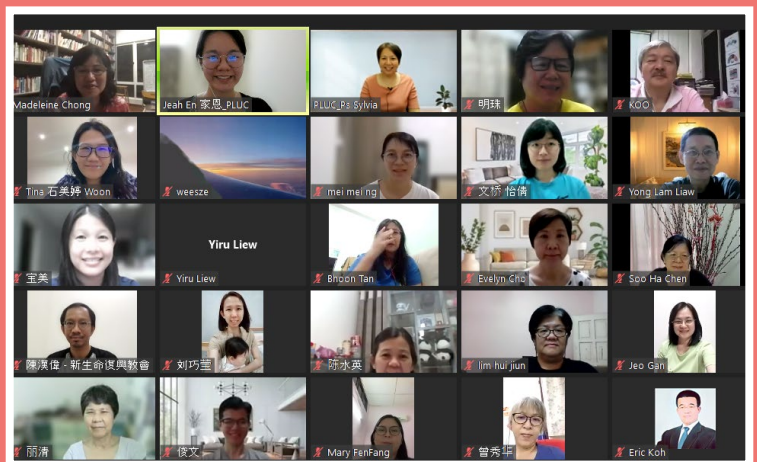
THROWBACK 2021



Klang Chinese Methodist Church
巴生基督教华人卫理公会



Revo Conference



The Bridge's Talk
文桥讲座会

WHO ARE WE?

Pursuing Liberty Under Christ (PLUC) is a Christian ministry that seeks to relate to, advocate for and educate on individuals struggling with same-sex attraction.

3 FOLD MISSION



Relate (Restoration)

We **RELATE** with strugglers in their brokenness and respect each individual's determination to see their personal dignity and sexual identity in God restored.



Advocate (Awareness)

In our awareness initiatives, we **ADVOCATE** an inclusive and safe environment for strugglers to develop self-awareness and foster healthy relationships.



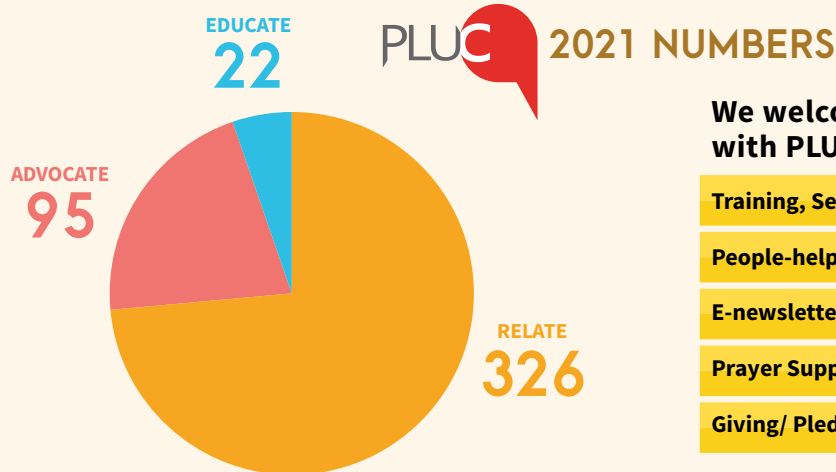
Educate (Enlightenment)

We **EDUCATE** the truth behind Same-Sex Attraction, and HOW communities can provide support for those who struggle with same-sex attraction.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

We offer:

- Individually-tailored pastoral sessions for strugglers and their families as needed.
- Support Groups to facilitate self-discovery, personal growth and offering a safe environment to foster new and healthy relationships.
- Talks, seminars, and workshops to educate schools, churches, organizations and communities on understanding and supporting strugglers and their families.
- Resources and materials on same-sex attraction and spiritual wholeness.



We welcome your partnership with PLUC in the following areas:

- Training, Seminar, Workshop (As Hosts & Volunteers)
- People-helper (Pastoral care & Counseling)
- E-newsletter (Subscription)
- Prayer Support (Whatsapp Prayer Room)
- Giving/ Pledges (PLUC is a faith-based ministry)

If you are facing gender-related issues and seeking help, or if you are interested to volunteer with PLUC, please contact us at:

- +603-78873501 / +6012-5083501 (Helpline)
(Working Hours: Tue-Sat, 9:00am-5:00pm)
- help@pluc.org.my
- www.pluc.org.my
- P.O.Box 8513, Pejabat Pos Kelana Jaya,
46791 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia.

We welcome your partnership with PLUC as we are a faith-based ministry:

Your investment in our ministry can be done via bank transfer:
Public Bank Berhad | Account no: **3133229425**
Cheques are to be crossed and made payable to **PLUC Events Sdn. Bhd.**
If you require a receipt, kindly WhatsApp **+6012 508 3501** or email **help@pluc.org.my** us the banking details.



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Thank you for your valued partnership and support!