



Newsletter (Feb 2022)

25th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

Praise the Lord! The theme of our 25th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service was “25 Years of Journey Together – Brighter Lives of Disciples”. We had the honour to have Revd Tai Ming Pang, Minister at East London Alliance Church, deliver a sermon on “New Creation in Christ” (2 Corinthians 5:17), encouraging and enlightening the attendees with God’s words.

Despite the shadow cast over us by the Coronavirus pandemic in 2021, the Thanksgiving Service was successfully held at the King’s Cross Methodist Church in London on November 11 (Thurs) evening, thanks to God’s grace. Members and volunteers of the centre, pastors, leaders and people from various churches made up the 60 attendees of the service, joining the service in person or online to count God’s blessings on the ministry over the years.



25th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

Say-No-to-Gamble Lunar New Year Campaign
「向賭說不」農曆年推廣

Through the Say-No-to-Gamble Campaign in the Lunar New Year every year, we hope to curb the spread of habitual betting and gambling and to help people kick the notorious habit.



HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR
(New Year Day 1st February 2022)

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Chinese love to greet each other with blessings during the Lunar New Year. Among the New Year blessings that we often hear is “Gung Hei Faat Choi” or “Gong Xi Fa Cai ” (meaning “Wishing you wealth”), a phrase so popular that even English -speaking people can utter.

It’s everyone’s wish to have abundant provisions for life’s needs, but to wish for accidental fortune or to have a selfish desire for wealth would only do us more harm than good. “The good that comes from the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow to it.” (Proverbs 10:22, NLV)

According to a survey in the US, 70% of those who won a lottery ended up penniless and one third of them eventually went bankrupt. The so-called “God of Wealth” brings not blessings but misery. It is the Chinese version of “Baal” (the Philistine idol in the Bible), bringing ruin to numerous generations of Chinese. Can you think of any other blessings to greet people during Lunar New Year, which would bring them true hope and encouragement?

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Article in Focus :

Avoid Falling into the Blackhole of Gambling

Gambling is a highly destructive habit. Do you know anyone who used to lead an ordinary life and never gambled, but out of the blue just succumbs to the temptation of fleeting pleasures or the despair of loneliness and turns to gambling to seek excitement or comfort? These people unwittingly fall into the blackhole of gambling, unable to get themselves out of it. People around them might not notice at first but such tormented lives, with their problems and brokenness, would be revealed when they could hide no more.

The problems of this engulfing blackhole of gambling have five facets: gambling, penniless, borrowing, indebtedness and addiction.

1) Gambling

- Craving for excitement and pleasures, mistakenly taking lavishness for nobleness;
- Unable to come to terms with loss, overwhelmed with the thought of getting back what is lost;

2) Penniless

- “God of Wealth”「財神」(pronounce: Cai Shen) turned into “Poor Guy” - the dream of making a fortune shattered as life savings drain off;
- Cutting down on everything just to keep up the gambling, despite being “penniless”;

3) Borrowing

- Descending from loan-repaying into putting off repayment and eventually reduced into habitually borrowing – an addict in debit;
- Overwhelmed by the debts and interests incurred from loan sharks, credit cards and lending from friends and relatives;

4) Indebtedness

- Descending further into the bottomless trap of indebtedness, caught in a financial crisis and no longer credit-worthy;
- Constantly worried about the unending debts, trying in vain to repay loans or to evade;

5) Addiction

- Wishful thinking – hoping to repay all debts once and for all by making a fortune out of gambling before stopping the bad habit altogether;
- Suffering from all kinds of mental problems like low-esteem, stress, anxiety and depression.

The sick need the doctor! Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of the only true God, the Almighty Healer, who, through the Gospel, brings glory to the power of God and salvation to everyone who believes. Are you willing to bring the Gospel to those who are helplessly entrapped by gambling and witness the saving power of our Lord? CCGR receives the vision from God, who commands us to help people rebuild their lives through the love of God so that they can reconcile with God and with people and become the disciples of Jesus Christ. May God use us to lead people to repentance and new life as they become born again through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Items:

- 1) The Third Pan-Europe Christian Conference for Gambling Rehabilitation 2022 will be held by CCGR at King's Cross Methodist Church, London on July 18-21 (Mon to Wed). The conference can be attended in person or online. May the Lord lead us through the preparation and promotion of the Conference, and arouse concern for the cause among church leaders, pastors, elders, deacons and all Christians so that they would take part in it.
- 2) May the Lord help those entrapped in gambling to have a change from within and repent. May they be stirred to take that first step away from gambling, contemplating the future for themselves and for people around them. May they love the words of God and walk with Him all their lives.
- 3) May the Lord help the co-workers and volunteers of the centre to work together in serving, exploring the paths ahead and expanding our services.

CCGR Invited to give sermons at the following churches for their Sunday Services (Jan - Mar 2022)

Feb 13 Chinese Church in London (New Soho, Hounslow)

Feb 27 Rhenish Church UK

Mar 20 King's Cross Methodist Church

To Church Leaders

If your church would also like our coworker to give sermons during your Sunday service as well as setting up booths afterwards to raise awareness on the dangers of gambling and to promote the services of our centre, please feel free to get in touch.

CCGR Speaker: Elder Aaron Ng

Aaron is an Elder at Stanmore Chapel and a full-time coworker at CCGR. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in electronic engineering from the University of Bradford, UK, and a master's degree in Divinity from Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary before ministering at Castle Peak Baptist Church in Hong Kong and Chinese Church in London for a total of 19 years. He came to London from Hong Kong in 2010 with his wife and two children, who have now become teenagers.

Our work is funded entirely by donations from churches and individuals. Your support to us via prayers, donations and volunteering would be highly appreciated.

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