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Newsletter (June 2010)

Sharing of Ministry

Praise the Lord! In March 2010, the Centre and the Chinese Church in London (CCIL) jointly held two seminars on "Gambling Addiction, Debt and Family Problems". We were honoured to have Reverend Siu Yu-fat from Hong Kong to be our speaker, explaining the problems of gambling and the mentality of gamblers, and sharing the incredible power of the Gospel in rehabilitating problem gamblers. Staff from the New Leaf Counselling Service and the Chinese Information and Advice Centre was also on hand to share their experience in dealing with domestic disputes and violence. We were deeply impressed by how God led gamblers and their families in need of help to come to us.

Among those who attended the seminars was a pathological gambler who had no intention of going to a church that day. However, by God's wonderful leading, he happened to see posters advertising for the seminars outside the venue church while on the bus! Since then, the Centre has become the main source of help in his rehabilitation process. Praise be with God!

The Centre's ministry has always experienced the grace and guidance of God, seen not only in our bid to create a short promotional video, but in the volunteers who offer to help in times of need. Thanks be with him for regularly providing for us in abundance, as he promised: "the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." (John 15:16b)



Volunteers' gathering, September 2009

Testimony

"I come from Hong Kong and used to run my own businesses. I became addicted to gambling after my relationship failed, and within a few years I had lost more than HK\$5 million, leaving me penniless.

After that, I moved to the UK to live with my two daughters, but my gambling addiction became worse. Sometimes I would stay in a casino until it closed at dawn. My daughters were greatly hurt and disappointed, and thought that I was beyond help.

A few years ago, I lost tens of thousands of pounds again. I did not have the courage to face my family, and I was agonising over my inability to kick the addiction. Eventually I no longer wanted to live, and hoped to solve my problems by taking my own life. I planned to drive off a cliff, but on my way there, perhaps because of my emotions, I caused an accident with another car. After all the hassle in dealing with the accident (I did not understand English and required an interpreter), I simply could not continue my suicide trip. However I still did not want to go home, so I rented a room in a hotel. I still felt very depressed and suicidal. I called my daughters and husband to bid them farewell, but in spite of their earnest pleadings, I refused to change my mind.

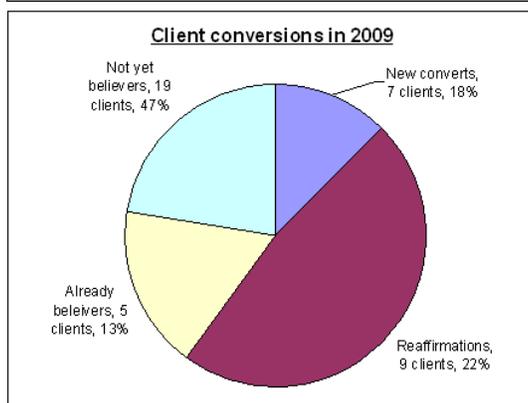
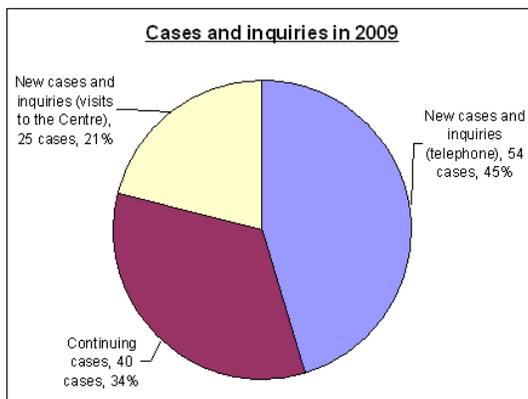
Suddenly, I remembered that I had once noted down the telephone number of the CCGR from the Herald newspaper, so I immediately called the Centre. The staff there listened patiently to me and offered support and guidance, calming me down. They told me that if I put my trust in Jesus and accepted the Gospel, I could get rid of the addiction. I immediately decided to become a Christian. Looking back, it was God's grace and mercy that I failed in my suicide attempt and found the Centre.

Thanks be to God! Since becoming a Christian I have been able to quit gambling and become a new person. I have not just lost interest in gambling; I now loathe it. My life has also become fulfilled. I used to have a quick temper and was unforgiving, but now I am more patient, tolerant, and no longer as stubborn as before. Moreover, my relationship with my family members has improved a lot as they witnessed the incredible change in me. Happily, I am also serving the Lord by helping my family and friends to get to know Jesus and be blessed.

Thanks be to God. May all honour and praise be with our loving Lord Jesus Christ!"

(Mrs. Lee)

Cases and inquiries received in 2009



Financial 2009/10

Local donations	£37763.73
Overseas donations	£10821.48
Other income	£2277.46
Total income	£50862.67
Staff salary & volunteer allowance	£31669.07
Rent & insurance	£960.00
Office maintenance	£1959.14
Other expenditure	£2212.62
Total expenditure	£36800.83
Balance	£14061.84

summary.

The operation of the Centre financially relies wholly on free gifts from individual Christians and churches. Please continue to support our work with your prayers and donations.

Thanksgiving

Apart from the items already mentioned, we also give thanks for:

1. The Centre, jointly with three other voluntary organisations, started the “Chinatown Oasis” project in Leicester Square, which aims to provide Chinatown workers with a healthy resting place during their afternoon breaks, and to provide information and referrals.
2. Co-workers from the Centre visited different Chinese churches, organisations and schools 7 times in total last year to share the Centre’s vision, mission and experience. One of the trips was to Amsterdam to train co-workers and celebrate the establishment of their gambling rehabilitation centre.
3. Last summer, a sister in Christ from Birmingham donated several dozens of uniforms to the Centre. Co-workers were then able to go out to Chinatown as a team in uniform to distribute promotional leaflets for the Centre’s services.
4. A brother in Christ with professional graphic design experience volunteered to design leaflets and posters for the Centre.
5. The Centre has been included in the list of “Organisations that help gamblers” on the Gambling Commission’s website, and also successfully petitioned to the Commission to replace the link to this list to a prominent place on its website.

Prayer items

1. To prevent further spread of gambling problems, the Centre joined 22 Chinese churches and Christian organisations in London last December to petition Westminster City Council to stop licensing more gambling establishments in the Chinatown area. Please pray for our follow-up actions in unity with other voluntary organisations.
2. To enhance the public profile of the Centre and its work, we are planning to

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Fundraising appeal: promotional and educational video

Thank God for inspiring volunteers to create this video for the Centre. We need to raise £5,000 towards the production.

We hope that the film will educate people about the perils of gambling and the life-changing power of the Gospel.

We ask brothers and sisters to pray for this project and kindly give towards this meaningful work.

- operate with other organisations to make a short promotional and educational video. Please pray for our fundraising for this project.
3. We also hope to