

Newsletter (March 2011)

From Fetters to Freedom

"I was brought up in a well-to-do environment by my grandmother. She treated me like a princess, and I developed a self-centred personality. After getting married, many things went against my wishes, and I faced many problems. I felt very stressed. I often became emotional and argued constantly with my husband. After some time we stopped talking.

I befriended some people who enjoyed playing mahjong. We became very good friends, often sharing gossip. I felt accepted by them. I started to gamble with them, and that made me forget my worries. After a while, without me noticing, I became a compulsive gambler. My relationship with my husband gradually deteriorated beyond repair, and divorce was often brought up. We often quarreled, terrifying my children. Once, my husband had bolted our front door shut when I was out. My 10-year-old son, worried that I wouldn't be able to get in, waited for me by the door all night. When I saw him, as a mother, I felt devastated and hopeless, to the point that I felt like committing suicide. But I didn't want to leave my children motherless, for they were innocent. Although I was full of pain inside, I couldn't get rid of gambling by myself.

When I had sunk to the deepest depths, I saw the phone number for the CCGR on "Herald" newspaper. I struggled mentally; I didn't want my friends to gossip, or be laughed at by my husband, who had already lost all faith and hope in me. But I managed to pluck up the courage to contact the Centre. The staff were kind and loving. Through their experiences I knew that if I wanted to stop gambling, I had to come to Christ. I really did want to stop, so I immediately committed my life to Him. Throughout the following year, I went to church and the Centre weekly. Now, 10 years later, the demons of gambling have truly fled from me. I have been set free!

Thanks be to God! By His grace, all my family also turned to Christ, and our lives changed completely. I learnt to relax and how to deal with difficulty. I now know how to love and treasure the people around me, and I developed patience and tolerance, no longer having fits of temper. Some of my friends, who saw my radical change and how I enjoyed family life now, became Christians themselves, together with my sisters.

Hallelujah! May all honour and glory be with our loving Jesus Christ!"

- Mrs Tse

If you go to London's Chinatown, or the high street of your city or town, take a look in a gambling establishment. You will see that most of the customers are Chinese. Do you also see the sad stories behind the faces? We have a duty to help them. May the Lord call you to join us in our efforts to serve the families who are suffering the ill effects of gambling.



May more be involved in serving: **Training course for Gospel-oriented gambling counselling**

On 9 September 2010, 34 participants from 15 churches across the UK attended a training course for Gospel-oriented gambling counselling at King's Cross Methodist church in London. Speakers included Ms Y L Mok, chief executive of the New Hope Gambling Counselling from Hong Kong and missionary and senior counselling instructor, Ms Winnie Ting from Canada. Topics included basic

counselling techniques and how to help gamblers and their families to deal with debts. We had very positive feedback from participants, who felt that the course could raise the awareness of churches of the problems arising from gambling. They hope that such courses could be held again in the future.

The joys of serving **Christmas celebrations**

On 27 December, staff and volunteers of the Centre celebrated Christmas at Marigold's house. We thank her especially for her hospitality.



Care for our society: **Anti-gambling campaign**

Chinatown is awash with gambling establishments, but there is a lack of awareness in the Chinese community about the harmful effects of gambling. People find it hard to fight temptation when so many chances to gamble are in sight. Recently the Centre has joined other organisations to campaign against gambling, holding demonstrations and petitioning Westminster City Council to stop granting more gambling licences in the area. The Centre hopes to get the Government to change the law so that councils are more able to reject licence applications.



The Centre on TV!



For its TV programme "Thought.tv", Channel 4 recently interviewed David Li, a staff member of the Centre. David testified how Christ rescued him from his gambling addiction. His interview can be viewed at: <http://www.4thought.tv/4thoughts/0218-David-Li-What-are-your-hopes-for-this-Chinese-New-Year-> .



To raise awareness about the ills of gambling and the power of the Gospel, we are in the process of producing a short promotional video. Thanks to God, we have received generous donations totalling £5,000 from brothers, sisters and churches towards the production. The video is expected to be available by November this year.

Coming up...

CCGR's 15th Anniversary Thanksgiving & Fundraising Dinner

On 1 November, the Centre will host a thanksgiving dinner to celebrate our 15th anniversary.

Funds raised will be used to support the Centre's financial needs.

Please put this date into your diaries and show your support, so that more families affected by gambling may come to know God and be saved.

Prayer items

- ✝ We pray that the promotional video will be completed as soon as possible and become an aid to the Chinese community.
- ✝ The Centre will have to relocate as the landlord has advised us of their intention to resume the premises. We pray that the Lord will guide us and prepare for us a suitable place to continue His work.
- ✝ The Centre is planning our 15th anniversary thanksgiving dinner. We pray that God will lead the organising process.
- ✝ We pray that the law on gambling will be changed to improve the situation in Chinatown where there is a proliferation of gambling establishments.
- ✝ We pray that God will provide the Centre with adequate funds for its operation.
- ✝ We pray that God will guide more people to the Centre, to know Christ, and quit gambling. CCGR is financially supported solely by .

Income & Expenditure: First three Quarter of 2010-11

Local donations	£15,446.
Overseas donations	£0.
Other income	£7.
Total income	£15,453.
Salaries & volunteer allowances	£23,114.
Rent & insurance	£3,015.
Office expenditure	£2,479.
Other expenditure	£1,052.
Total expenditure	£29,660.
Deficit	- £14,207.

CCGR is financially supported solely by love offerings from Christian churches and individuals. Your giving can help more suffering families experience the power of the Gospel and rebuild healthy living. May God move you to give generously.