## **NEWSLINK**

Volume 1 Number 5 October 2018

### Chinese Baptist Fellowship of the United States and Canada

Mailing addresses: Box 1393, Monterey Park, CA. 91754, USA. 10 Waterbridge Lane, Markham, Ontario L3R 8W9, CANADA

#### "PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY"

The vocational ministry can be a lonely place. Ministers are there for people as they tend to their physical, emotional and spiritual needs 24/7 on top of everything else they have to do. But where do they go when they needed help and support. Moreover, Jesus warned and quoted Zechariah 13:7, "I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered." (Matthew 26:31) Ministers are constantly under attack by the enemy and they need all the help they can get to take care of their charge. They and their families need a support system whereby God's love and affirmation of their calling can be expressed in tangible ways. The Chinese Baptist Fellowship Fellowship of the US and Canada seeks to be a servant of servants and of their families.

As an initial first step: (1) We are reaching out to the wives of ministers, especially to those who are new to the ministry. Our goal is to encourage and to affirm them in their role as an indispensable partner in ministry with their minister husbands; (2) We are also concerned about the mental health of our ministers and are finding ways to help those in need.

We care and you can join us in caring too. Talk to us how we may be of help and how you can help.

### **MINISTRY TO WIVES OF MINISTERS**

At our 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference held in Vancouver Septem-

ber 2016, the Executive Committee felt the need to establish a Pastoral Care Ministry as part of the Supporting Ministry to ministers in the Fellowship. Mrs. Kate Leong in Houston, TX. (wife of Rev. Peter Leong) and Mrs. Sarah Chiu in the San Francisco Bay Area (wife of



Rev. Abraham Chiu) were tasked to initiate it. Due to the enormous scope of their responsibility, both of them strategized that they would first focus on the wives of ministers involved in the Church Planting Initiative.



When the announcement was made at the Chinese New Year Luncheon of Chinese Baptist pastors in Southern California, February 2017, a retired minister couple responded by a contribution to help fund the work. This was a great encouragement to us! After the

event, it was felt that this ministry should be expanded to include the wives of serving and retired Baptist ministers as well. As a result, all the events sponsored by the Ministry includes these latter two groups of people which adds to the pool of wisdom from years of ministry experience for the wives of younger ministers.

With support from Rev. Jack Yuen (Toronto, Canada), the Vice President of CBF who has responsibility for the Supporting Ministry, the Executive Committee established the "Ministry to Wives of Ministers Fund". Part of the seed money was then used to print brochures to promote the ministry. (Thanks to Mrs. Kate Leong for designing them!) Through the fund-raising efforts of Mrs. Sarah Chiu among the believers, the ministry received tremendous support and through the Church Planters Retreats and visits to the different regions, we were able to be in touch with the wives of ministers and introduced them to the Ministry.

Here is a chronology of events that promoted this Ministry the past two years:

- 1). February 2017, Mrs. Kate Leong attended the Annual Pastor Appreciation Dinner of the Northern California Chinese Baptist Association and shared about the ministry. This was our first outreach to pastors and churches.
- 2). April 2017, Mrs. Sarah Chiu gathered a group of pastors and wives at a dinner in Washington State and shared about the ministry.
- 3). July 2017, Mrs. Sarah Chiu was in Vancouver, Canada and met with four wives and a sister minister there. It was a small group but a good start.



- 4). October 2017, they were in Mississippi for the Church Planters Retreat and met with more than 10 of the wives of church planters there. The sharing was good and the wives felt encouraged.
- 5). December 2017, a High Tea was held exclusively for wives for the very first time. We thank the Northern California Chinese Baptist Association for footing the entire bill for the event. A total of 24 wives were present. It was a very uplifting



experience and they decided that such an event should be held every year.

- 6). January 2018, Mrs. Sarah Chiu paid a second visit to Vancouver, Canada. There are not many Chinese Baptist coworkers in Vancouver but there were 10 pastors, wives and co-workers who came for the gathering. The response was better than our first visit. We hope to do better.
- 7). May 2018, about 10 wives of ministers were at the Pioneer Camp in Texas for the Church Planters Retreat. Everyone felt that they should come together more often to be in touch and to encourage one another.



8). July 2018, we were able to reach out to 39 wives of pastors and 31 pastors, sharing with them about the Ministry to Wives of Ministers at the Church Pastors Retreat in Texas. The group gathered for lunch at a well known local restaurant and had great time of fellowship with one another.



9). September 2018, our Executive Director was in Hawaii for ministry. He reached out to the two pastors and wives and one other co-worker serving there, had dinner together and shared about the Ministry to Wives of Ministers.



On November 2-4, we will have another gathering of wives at the Church Planters Retreat in Oklahoma. We look forward to getting to know this precious group who serve alongside their husband church planters.

With God's help, let us continue to build the Ministry to Wives of Ministers step by step, by:

- 1. Caring for the wives of ministers who are new to the ministry and to the wives of church planters.
- 2. Networking with wives of ministers in different regions so that they can get to know each other better and mutually encourage one another.
- 3. Exploring new ways to develop the ministry in context.

This is just the beginning. We hope that this ministry of caring will be helpful to them. We want to thank the Northern California Chinese Baptist Association for their generous support for the Pastoral Care Ministry and the Ministry to Wives of Ministers.

Let us know how we might be of help. Please contact Mrs. Kate Leong (kate.k.leong@gmail.com) or Mrs. Sarah Chiu (schiu4678@gmail.com).





# 美加簡訊 NEWSLINK

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### 「牧者關懷事工」

從事聖工常會感到孤單。傳道牧者常要照顧他人在身體,情感和靈性上的需要,但當他們需要幫助的時候, 有誰

會為他們伸出援手? 此外 ·耶穌警告並引用撒迦利亞書 13:7 "我要擊打牧人,羊群就分散了。'" (馬太福音 26:31)牧者們經常受到惡者的攻擊 ·他們及其家庭需要一個以切實的方式,來表達神對他們的愛和肯定神對他們的呼召的支持系統。聯會願意成為獻身的神僕及其家庭的僕人。

作為最初的第一步:(1)我們正在接觸傳道人的妻子, 尤其是那些新入工場的師母。我們的目標是鼓勵和肯 定他們與丈夫,一起作為事工不可或缺的合作夥伴; (2)我們也關心傳道人的心理健康,並正在設法幫助 有需要的同工,家庭和個人生活的壓力。

我們願意關心同工,你也可以加入我們的關懷網絡。 請與我們聯繫。

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## "師母關懷事工"

2016 年 9 月在溫哥華舉行的 第十九屆美加華人浸信會聯 會雙年會議上,執行委員會認 為有必要設立關懷教牧同工 部,作為支援事工的一部分。



委任梁德舜師母(徳州休斯頓)和招世超師母(加州三



藩市灣區)負責關顧。鑑於工作 範圍廣泛,她們決定第一步從關 顧植堂及新成為師母的姐妹們 開始,

2017 年 2 月, 藉南加州教牧同 工新春聚餐作首次介紹此事工。 翌日部份教牧同工午餐中,得到 一位退休資深牧者夫婦,即時為 此事工奉獻。 這實在給予我們 極大的鼓勵!經過第一次聚會後,感到也應關懷在職師母及退休師母們。自此,每次聚會中必邀請她們出席,這實在增加了我們事奉上的實力。透過她們事奉的經驗,對後輩們幫助不少!



美加副會長負責關怀組的袁國強牧師,在他帶領下開會,向執委員會申請批准把籌得的款項,指定為"師母事工"專用款項。我們就開始為籌措奉獻支持,預備印刷宣傳單(多謝梁師母的設計!)。透過招師母個別接觸一些信徒,得到很大的支持。藉著參加植堂培訓,地區聯會退修會和地區探訪,聯絡各教會師母,並介紹"師母關懷事工"。

經過一段時間的籌備,我們開展以下的事工:

- 2017 年 2 月梁德舜師母來參加北加州華人浸信 區聯會之「讚譽教牧同工新年聚餐」會,介 紹師母關懷事工,算是走出去的第一步。
- 2017 年 4 月探訪華盛頓州,與十名牧師師母晚餐,介紹師母事工,一般都覺得有這需要,但只是簡單的交談。
- 2017 年 7 月探訪溫哥華師母 , 4 位師母女同工相聚 ,雖然不太多人出席 ,但是一個好開始。



2017 年 10 月去參加密西西比州植堂培訓 伺師 母有好的交流分享,有十多位師母參加,當 中認識了一些植堂的師母,她們覺得分享很 實際和鼓舞,得到支持。

2017 年 12 月組織北加州師母 High Tea 聚會 (首次只是師母的聚會,多謝北加州區聯會 支付消費。) 共 24 位師母出席,雖然沒什麼 特別內容,但難得彼此認識多些,所以決定 繼續每年一次聚在一起,內容慢慢改善。



2018 年 1 月探訪溫哥華,今次共十位牧師師母 同工一起晚膳交流,那區浸會同工不多,但 第二次探訪,已比上一次進步,希望能聯絡 到更多師母。

2018 年 5 月出席德州 Pioneer Camp 植堂培訓,有大約十位 師母一起交流,各 人都覺得師母要多 加聯絡,彼此支持。



2018年7月參加德州教牧退修會,聯絡了39位 師母31位牧師,介紹事工。同數十位牧師 師母在一家民名的餐館一起用午膳。





2018 年 9 月聯會總幹事在夏威夷檀香山與兩位牧師和師母及一位師母同工一起相聚及享用晚膳,彼此鼓勵,並介紹 "師母關懷事工"。



我們下次的活動在本年十一月三至四日(禮拜五及六),將前往奧克拉河馬州,出席植堂事工退修會,特別為師母們舉行小組研討,藉交談並多瞭解她們的需要,從旁協助她們,使她們成為另一半的好助手!



靠著神, 讓我們一步一步把關怀事工開展起來。 "師母關懷事工"是:

- 1. 關心和培訓新入工場或植堂的師母。
- 2. 聯絡不同地區師母,讓她們彼此認識支持。
- 3. 看情勢不斷修改發展。

這只是個開始,讓美加師母關怀事工能幫助眾師母。我們還要感謝北加州華人浸信會區聯會,為這教牧同工關懷事工的慷慨支持。 如牧者或師母有需要請與:

梁德舜師母(kate.k.leong@gmail.com);和 招世超師母(schiu4678@gmail.com)

聯絡。



