P7-P8

Family-centric ministry to prevent intergenerational crimes Testimonies of a rehabilitated father and mother







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Rev. Chow Wing Fu

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 11:11-13



"I am/Not a Good Father 5" Testimonies of four rehabilitated person fathers.

and we are there to help them to be more understanding in the adjustment. If needed, our hostels become a buffer zone.

Paul said to Christians," Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household" (Ephesians 2:19). Not only do we want to help the inmates to keep their families, but we also hope that one day they can become God's family as well.

Recently the School of Communication of Hong Kong Baptist University published a journal named "I am/Not a Good Father". A group of professors with four students from writing majors interviewed four fathers that KSA recommended. It was about their experience as fathers. The publication was funded by the Centre of Fatherhood of Family Value Foundation of Hong Kong. For a publication that promotes how to be a good father. Its only natural to use "Good Father" in the name of the journal. But why use the old Chinese character of "I" which has the same sound as "not" in Cantonese, which means "Not a Good Father"? If my speculation is correct, I think the name "I am/Not a Good Father" was inspired by Luke 11:11-13. We will never be as good as a father to our heavenly father because of our weaknesses. But I think what Jesus said was more of an acknowledgment than judgment to earthly fathers. The Jews thought of God as a harsh judge, but Jesus proclaimed the good news of a God who is merciful, and we can understand how great and perfect God's love is through the love of imperfect earthly fathers.

Nothing can keep love in prison. Many fathers who are in prison express their love for their children by making cards, etc. Because of imprisonment, they are not able to care for their families. Years ago, KSA started the "Angel Tree" program to deliver gifts to the inmates' families to help maintain their relationships as families. In recent years, we observed many inmates' children facing difficult times. Therefore, we started a family ministry to support the inmates' families spiritually and physically and motivate them with hope while waiting for a reunion. There are of course challenges in the family after imprisonment,









Family-centric ministry to prevent intergenerational crimes



Charlotte Chen

Senior Ministry Officer (Family Ministry)



Through the ministries of Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association, we reached out to inmates and rehabilitated people and their families. We care for their personal needs, but also their families' needs. When someone goes into prison, there is a huge impact on his or her family, especially the children. These children become the secondary victims. They missed the care and companionship of their father or mother, and they might be even neglected and discriminated against by society. It sometimes pushes them to the wrong path and becomes a family with intergenerational crimes.

It is a traumatic experience for children when their parents go to prison and leave them immediately without saying goodbyes. Some parents choose not to tell the children and said they were working overseas. Some inmates were forced to become absentee parents. They keep thinking and are concerned about their children. Therefore, the family ministry is very important for inmates and their families. There is an "Angel Tree Visitation" every Christmas. Our staff help inmates pick Christmas gifts and prepar Christmas cards for their children. So even if they are

in prison, they can still express their love and care for their children or

Through the "Angel Tree Visitation", KSA can further assist and support these families with other long-term needs, for example, family counseling, scholarships, mentorship program, etc. We have run our third mentorship program. We matched each child with a suitable mentor, by building a relationship and opening up resources and support from society. Mentors give guidance to these children on academics, interpersonal relationships, emotions, skills, and life values. The mentors are there to expand their horizons and provide guidance at the right time and place. Helping the children to face challenges and difficulties, so that they won't go astray because of neglect, and stop intergenerational crimes.

We had a shorter summer holiday this year, and the burden on the families was the same. KSA hosted a Back-to-School event and received overwhelming responses. Because of the generosity of donors, 216 students benefited, and they were from families of inmates and rehabilitated people. Each student received vouchers for textbooks, and kindergarten and primary school children also received vouchers for shoes. We reimbursed 33 children whose families have financial needs for back-to-school spending. Parents were thankful because it helped relieve their financial burdens.

We are thankful for God's work and the hard work of many, we can see the spiritual growth of some rehabilitated people. They are slowly breaking away from the negative impact of their family origins. This year, KSA together with the Family Value Foundation of Hong Kong and the School of Communication of Hong Kong Baptist University published a tool book for fathers, "I am/Not a Good Father - series 5". We invited four rehabilitated fathers with different backgrounds and

ages to share how their absents affected their children, how their relationships were restored, and become their fathers again. We hope to encourage and inspire fathers to treasure every moment of their children's lives, and raise awareness of the importance of companionship and being good models. By sharing these stories, we hope to see our society accept and care for rehabilitated people so that they can be part of society again and rebuild family relationships.



Testimonies

Heart of a father

Ng Ka Chun

When I was studying at the seminary for Theology, I read the book "The New Peoplemaking" by Virginia Satir. One of the chapters talks about one's sense of self-worth is very much related to one's upbringing. Parenting makes a huge impact on one's sense of self-worth. With negative parenting, children tend to have a lower sense of self-worth. And I was one of them.

My upbringing

My parents separated when I was young. My father became the sole caretaker of my sister and me. Growing up, my father was very strict. If I behaved well and got good grades, he never gave compliments or encouragement. However, if I did something wrong, he would yell at me or punish me. The way my father treated me, I did not feel loved or accepted. There was no one I could trust in the world. I was also angry at my mother who left the family. I could never understand how she could be so heartless and leave my sister and me behind, and want nothing to do with us. I did not feel that I belonged to this family. So, when I was thirteen, I decided to skip school and run away from home. I became a gang member and got addicted to drugs. For seven years, my life was taken over by drugs, and I was in and out of prison a lot.



Ka Chun's family

My personality

Because of my upbringing, I felt worthless, had low self-esteem, was paranoid, had a bad temper, and did not know how to love and appreciate others. It was all because I was not loved and nurtured properly by my parents.

Life is never the same

I am thankful. Even though I became who I was due to the experience of my family origin, I was blessed to have Jesus enter my life. Because of Him, my life was never the same. He broke me free from my drug addiction, He led me into the light with a new purpose. God's word teaches me how to live out love and receive love, it also healed me from all my hurts. I am also thankful, by God's grace, that my relationship with my parents was restored!

Teaching the truth of the Bible

Not only God has given me a new life, but He also gave me a wife who loves and helps me. He also gave us an adorable daughter and the privilege to become a father. When I was preparing to be a father, my wife constantly reminded me not to parent our daughter as my parents did to me, as

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Testimonies

A heart's journey of a rehabilitated mother

Ng Kei Yan

I am a rehabilitated person who was in prison in Thailand for 12 years. Through a prisoners' transfer program, I applied to return to Hong Kong to serve for nearly another seven years.

My father was the only child, born with a silver spoon, and often ran away from home. When I was about half a year old, he left the family. Therefore, my sister and I were raised by my grandparents. Before my mother gave birth to me, my grandparents wished I would be a boy. They were all disappointed and thought of me as a worthless commodity. I became their punching bag. When I was eight years old, my grandmother died of illness, and my father reluctantly took my sister and I back to live with him. At that time, my father had another family. My stepmother treated me quite well, but I was neglected and acted as a punching bag by my father.

Growing up without being cared for and validated, I had always wanted to leave this so-called home. So, I got married at the legal age of twenty-one and promised myself I would build a family with lots of love for my children.

The truth is I did not know how to love. I only got married because I wanted to leave my family. My married life was not great, so I got divorced. My ex-husband and I have two children, and the court granted full custody to my ex-husband. I only had visitation rights. So I took my children out every week whenever I was on break. I was thankful that my children still wanted to see me. I thought being a good mother was showering them with material things to make them happy. As for the grandparents, they took pity on the children because of my divorce. They accommodated the children in every possible way and spoiled them. I argued with them because of how they overindulged my children. We often fought in front of my children.



Kei Yan and her son

In 1992, I was in prison in Thailand. My children were ten and eleven years old at that time. We lived in two different cities, so I wrote them a lot. But my mother intercepted all my letters. I worried about my children and was ashamed of myself. Fortunately, with the help of my sister, I would

But my mother intercepted all my letters. I worried about my children and was ashamed of myself. Fortunately, with the help of my sister, I would know about my children through her letters to me. It was the only way to know what had happened to them. My sister asked my daughter to write me a letter, but she said, "I don't want to write, I don't know what I can say to her." My heart sank, but I was comforted knowing that my daughter was doing well. Contrary, my son was in all kinds of trouble ever since childhood. He was in and out of juvenile. I was sad and felt helpless.

In 2014, I was back to Hong Kong from Thailand to continue serving my sentence. By that time, my children had all grown up. My sister brought them to visit me in prison. Even though we are family, we were like strangers to each other. We met in-person again after 12 years, and I almost could not recognize them. I started crying when I saw them two all grown up. All the longings and guilt resurfaced from the bottom of my heart. I could not help but apologize to my children over and over again. I had made their lives miserable. It was because of my divorce that led my son to fall into the wrong path. But they comforted me and told me not to blame myself. They were the ones who should be responsible for their actions and choices.

While serving my time in Hong Kong, my daughter came to visit me very often. We became closer after every each visit. It was during the half-hour of visitation, that we amended our relationship. She shared everything about her life, big or small things, happy or sad. I understood more about how she lived her life without a mother, and my heart sank. My son first visited me with my sister, but on the other two visits, he had to apply for permission to visit me from the prison he was in. By Looking at my son in prison uniform, my heartache was indescribable! I felt, even more, worse when he pretended as if nothing happened.

After I had done my time, I was in a very good place with my daughter, but my son was like a kite that lost its string. He was so lost and could not take control of his life. Whenever he was in trouble, he would come and ask for my help. Even though he knew that I would yell at him, he still come back to me, because he knew that I am his mother and I would always help him.

But to be honest, it hurt me to see my son fall over and over again. I wanted to give up every time, simply because I could not handle anymore disappointment. One day, I went to visit him in prison. I was angry and heartbroken to see him giving up on himself. I could not stand the sight of him and started yelling, and he did not even care. I was so angry and left immediately. I wanted nothing to do with him. A few days later, staff from KSA called me and tried to convince me to be more patient with my son, give him more time to turn around, and encourage me to visit him again. I did not know how to face a son who did not even care about himself and want to repent. I felt hopeless. But I decided to give him another chance. On my way for the visitation, I prayed on the MTR. I asked God for a calm and peaceful heart, especially when I was about to see my son. I heard from God who said to me, "You need to see him the way I see him, love him the way I love him. Before he was born, I loved him. I have called him even he was in his mother's womb." I was surprised how God love someone I thought was beyond hope. Who I am to despise someone whom God loves? I surrendered and thanked God for giving me the strength to love my son again. Some says a mother's love is unconditional, but after all, mothers are humans who are not perfect. No mother can always be selfless towards their children. Only the love of God is unconditional. Therefore as a mother, only through Jesus do we learn how to live out God's love, and submit to Him so we can be an example to our children.

Although my son still stumbles, I followed God and learned how to love. Even if it is not easy, I will persevere because I want to be a mother who is pleasing to God! Now my son is in a drug rehabilitation program, and it is a big deal for him. I am thankful that Jesus has never given up on him. I pray that not only he will overcome his addiction, but he will also follow Jesus and become a new creation!

香港基督教更新會 | KSA Financial Report for the period from 2022年4-6月份財政報告 | 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022

收入 Income	港幣HK\$
奉獻 Donation 宿舍租金收入 Hostel Rental Income	832,165 247,503
籌款活動 Fundraising Donation 政府保就業政府補貼 Government Employment Support 其他收入 Other Incomes	5,500 284,000 2,992
總收入 Total Income	1,372,160

支出 Expenses

行政費用 Administration Overheads	(331,553)
事工費用 Ministry Expenses	(1,674,774)
「信實之家」之大廈優化升降機第一期費用 The Lift Modernisation Fee for	(53,236)
"Faith Hostel" for Phase 1	

總支出 Total Expenses

(2,059,563)

本期不敷 Deficit for the period

(687,403)

本年度截 至 2022年6月30日不敷 Total deficit for the year at 30 June 2022

(297,971)

* 承上期事工儲備調整\$389,432 Adjusted Ministry Reserve for the last period \$389,432)

備註:上述報告未經核數師覆核,只供參考。 The above reports presented without auditor review that the figures are only for reference.

Donation Method

- 1. 可用劃線支票郵寄本會,抬頭寫「香港基督教更新會有限公司」 Issue cross cheque made payable to "The Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association Ltd."
- 2. 直接存入本會香港匯豐銀行戶口416-4-010375,並傳真或寄回入數紙,以便寄發收據。 Deposit to our HSBC Bank account 416-4-010375, and return the payment slip by fax or by post, an official receipt will be issued to the donor.
- 3. 自動轉賬表格,可在本會網頁www.ksa.org.hk下載,或致電本會會計部索取。 Auto-payment form can be downloaded from our web site: www.ksa.org.hk, or contact our accounts department for requisition.

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感恩與代禱 Thanksgiving & Prayer

請為在囚人士因疫情需減少與外界接觸,也擔心在外家人的身體健康,請為他們的心靈代禱。在這段沒有宗教 班的日子,感謝書信組義工們的忠心,令所員繼續透過書信及信仰函授課程得著支援和牧養。所員也透過書信 向義工問好,我們都得著鼓勵。

Please pray for the heart and minds of the inmates with very little outside contact due to covid, they are also worried about the health of their families. We are thankful for our volunteers who are diligent in their serving trough writing letters to the inmates so they can continue to learn about Christianity. The inmates were able to continue writing letters to our volunteers, so everyone was encouraged.

感謝主,懲教署在 5 月恢復專職教士進入院所探訪囚友;屯門兒童及青少年院也可以重新舉行實體的宗教班。 求主憐憫,讓疫情退去,讓我們早日得與所員舉行聚會及進行探訪。

Give thanks to God, starting in May, the Correctional Services Department (CSD) resumed visitation for chaplains and the resumption of in-person Bible class in Tuen Mun Children and Juvenile Home. Pray that God gives mercy and takes away the pandemic, so we can have service together with the inmates and visitations.

2022「開學有禮」計劃順利完成,本年度我們幫助了108個家庭,囚友子女155位,更生人士子女61位,他們在開學前都獲贈實用物資,詳情見本刊p.2。感謝懲教署的協調配合,願囚友及更生人士的家人不單獲得支援,更明白神的愛。

The Back-to-School event of 2022 was completed smoothly. This year, we helped 108 families, 155 children of the inmates, and 61 children of rehabilitated people. All the children received what they needed for the new school year. For more details, please refer to page 7. We are thankful for the assistance of the CSD, and pray that the inmates and rehabilitated people not only feel supported, but understand the love of God.

国期電影欣賞
日期: 2022年8月6日(星期六)
時間: 早上10時30分(於発早20分離到場)
地點: The One日老應飯院3號影院
- 九龍尖沙咀嘯歌迦川の號The One八楼
- 港館火沙咀嘯歌迦 100號The One八楼
- 港館火沙咀嘯野歴
査詢: 2728 2341 林太/悪寶

感恩「師友同行」計劃在8月6日順利舉行「DC超寵聯盟」電影欣賞,招待友員(囚友及更生人士子女)和照顧他們的家人,及友師(本會義工),共108人參加。疫情中大家減少外出活動,友師和友員也減少了相聚相見,大家因此很珍惜是次見面重聚的機會,祝福義工們的關懷與同行繼續幫助孩子們的進步和成長。

We are thankful for the movie night on 6 August hosted by the mentorship program. We invited children of inmates and rehabilitated people and their caretakers. A total of 180 participants attended the event including the mentors (KSA volunteers). Mentors and the children were not able to meet often due to the pandemic. Everyone treasured the opportunity to meet again. Pray that God will continue to bless our volunteers in helping them to care for and walk with the children.

今年本會的「更新、愛、同行」步行籌款 以線上形式舉辦,大家可自由組隊,步行 時間自選。路線由聖約翰主座堂至大館約 個半小時;日期由7月15日至10月31日。 詳情請參本會網頁、Facebook,及本刊 物宣傳資料。求主保守祝福我們的籌欵活 動,也帶領本會事工繼續按主心意前行。

This year's walkathon, "Rehabilitation - Love - Partnership" is an online fund - raising event. Participants are free to form teams and walk in their own time. The route is from St. John's Cathedral to Tai Kwun, takes about 30 minutes walking time. The event date is from 15 July to 31 October. For more information, please visit our website, Facebook, or other promotional materials. Pray that God will bless the event and lead the KSA ministries to be pleasing to God.





這幾個月期間,有更生人士及更生人士的親屬紛紛因病離世,我們幫忙辦理喪事和主持喪禮;願家屬都感受到 神的恩典和人的關愛,願意更開放的認識信仰。

In the past couple of months, there are rehabilitated people and their relatives who passed away due to illness. We helped and organized their funerals. Pray that the families can experience God's grace and the care from Christians, and pray that God will open their hearts to the Gospel.

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