



SUNSET PULSE

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婦女事工部成立及動向

Formation of Chinese Service's Women's Ministry

撰寫：王馮梨珍 Lei-Chun F Wang | Photos By: Marco L. & Esther L.



Holding hands in unity.

轉折人生、誰伴我行」午餐講座

繼今年五月「女人心事多籬籬」姊妹聚會後，有見反應很好，中文部鄭牧師及長執們，支持正式成立「婦女事工部」及核心團隊，開始籌備及計劃下一個聚會。核心團隊姊妹們，本著提多書2:3-5節：「年長的婦女要生活虔誠，用善道教導人，好提醒年輕的婦女」的目標，戰戰兢兢的安排下一個聚會，讓教會不同年齡、不同小組、團契的姊妹們，可以實體地見面，共聚一堂，彼此認識，支持及建立。

感謝神的帶領及供應，在11月14日，有80位姊妹們，一齊參加了在Basque文化中心，婦女事工部安排的「轉折人生、誰伴我行？」的午餐講座。當天講員曾熊國英師母，使用舊約的路得記拿俄米和路得的關係，及曾師母自己的個人經歷，帶出一個非常重要的信息，每一位姊妹，在轉折人生的不同階段中，如能夠找到2-3位姊妹同行者，可以幫助和支持我們面對及渡過人生的轉折、挑戰及風暴。曾師母更鼓勵我們要定意，主動找一位同行者或作其他姊妹的同行者。使用神給予我們的真愛，用真誠的心，彼此關心、關顧其他姊妹，彼此建立，一起成長。



Holding hands with YFM sisters hand in hand.

姊妹們的回應

當日出席聚會的姊妹們，在回應表中，開心見誠地分享他們的喜樂、感受及得著，以下是多位姊妹的心聲：

- 我非常感謝曾師母的生命分享，給我很大的鼓舞，我也盼望在教會有姊妹作同行者。
- 今天很高興認識到不同小組，不同團契的姊妹們，彼此分享，非常開心。
- 能夠在午餐枱上，一起享受午餐，一起傾談，彼此認識更深，又可以聆聽師母的教導，生命影響生命！
- 核心團隊安排得非常仔細，由座位、個人的名牌，及記事簿禮物等。非常周到！
- 更多謝教會的支持，讓我們有豐富的收穫。盼望能舉辦多些聚會，讓大家更深入認識分享。

從回應表中，85%的姊妹盼望在教會中有姊妹一起同行，有想自己安排的，也有想婦女事工提議的。在將來的日子中，姊妹們盼望能聆聽到有關靈命塑造，身心靈健康及跨年代姊妹分享的題目，可以是講座式或午餐講座。核心團隊從姊妹們的回應，感受到姊妹們的熱情及感恩，除盼望能有相聚聯誼的機會，更渴望在屬靈生命上的塑造及成長。在身心靈上彼此建立，姊妹們提議可以舉辦一些集體活動，如廚藝、遠足及茶話會，手工藝等。▶

2022年「結伴同行·成長關顧」課程

基於姊妹們盼望在教會中有姊妹同行，婦女事工部計劃，在2022年，採用Western神學院的牧養婦女系列材料，舉辦「結伴同行·成長關顧」的課程。每月一次網上講學(明年1月至4月)；課程講師是曾熊國英師母；盼望這課程讓婦女能更深入學習，在屬靈中彼此關懷，一起成長。課程詳情及報名，可參閱教會網頁：scbcsf.org/shepherding



Speaker Mrs Christina Tsang - "We all need spiritual companions to walk alongside with us"

“Who is walking with you during life challenges?” Sisters Lunch Workshop

Following the zoom workshop on “Concerns of the Heart and Soul of Women” in May this year, Pastor Simon and the Elders/CMT officially formed the Women’s Ministry and Core Team in the Chinese congregation. The core team used Titus 2:3-5 to be the theme of Women’s Ministry, “ Teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live...but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to be self-controlled and pure...to be kind...”

The 2nd Sisters Event happened on 11/14/2021 at Basque Cultural Center in SSF. 80 sisters attended the lunch event, with Mrs. Christina Tsang as the speaker who spoke on “Who is walking with you during life challenges?” Mrs. Christina Tsang used the Old Testament women Ruth and Naomi, as well as her own life experiences, to bring out a very important message that, every sister needs “spiritual companion(s)” when facing different life stages/transitions. Mrs. Tsang encouraged us to set our minds and take initiative to find a spiritual companion or be a spiritual companion for other sisters. Using the true love that God has given us, with a sincere heart, we can care for each other to build each other up, and grow together.

Survey Responses from the Attendees

The sisters who attended the meeting that day openly shared their joys, feelings, and gains in the survey response forms. The following are the voices of many sisters:

- “I am very grateful to hear Mrs. Tsang’s sharing her life, which gave me great encouragement. I also look forward to having sisters as spiritual companions in the church.”
- “Today, I am very happy to meet the sisters in different small groups and fellowships, sharing with each other, we are very happy.”
- “We are able to enjoy lunch together, talk together, get to know each other better on the lunch table, and listen to the teacher’s teaching, life affects life!”
- “The core team arranged the event very carefully, including seats, personal name tags, and notebook gifts. Very thoughtful!”
- “Many thanks to the support of the church, so that we can have a good lunch. I look forward to attending more gatherings so that everyone has deeper sharing with each other.”



Core Team members presenting Thank You cards to speaker Christina Tsang C-Mo.

From the response forms, 85% of the sisters hope that there will be sisters who can walk alongside them in the church. In the days to come, the sisters look forward to hearing topics like spiritual formation, Physical, mental, and wellbeing, and inter-generations conversations and sharing. The core team feels the enthusiasm and gratitude of the sisters from their responses. The sisters are eager to get trained and grow together. Sisters also suggested that some group activities could be organized, such as cooking, hiking and tea party, handicrafts, etc.

2022 “Equipped to Care and Grow Hand in Hand” class

Based on the sisters’ desire to have sisters in the church, the Women’s Ministry plans to use the Western Theological Seminary’s series of materials for shepherding women to hold a course on “ Equipped to Care and Grow Hand in Hand”. The class will meet on zoon monthly from Jan to April 2022. Mrs. Christina Tsang will be the lecturer I hope this course will enable women to learn more deeply, care for each other spiritually, and grow together. For course details and registration, please refer to the church website: scbcsf.org/shepherding. ■

Operation Christmas Child

Written And Photos By: Steve T.



This past season marked the 15th year that Sunset Church has partnered with Operation Christmas Child (OCC), commemorating the milestone with a statue presented to our church. OCC theme from headquarters this year was based on Nehemiah and rebuilding of the walls. After a Covid-laden 2020 where shoebox participation dropped across our region (SF to mid-Peninsula), 2021 was a rebuilding of the ministry, and we saw that with an increase of 33% over last year's shoebox count.

What does the OCC ministry look like at Sunset Church during the week? The weeklong packing party is like operating an all-you-can-eat buffet. We have to ensure all the stations are well replenished, so the recipient will receive a healthy diet of school supplies, hygiene items, and toys; and operate at a steady pace to ensure we have enough "food" to last the entire week, especially for the final Sunday where the Kids Ministry packed about 200 boxes this year.

As a drop-off location where over 55 non-Sunset visitors/churches/schools dropped off their shoeboxes, it's like operating a post office. We processed 4,802 boxes this year (2,446 packed from Sunset) and arranged the transportation of them at a steady pace throughout the week so that the volunteers at the next central drop-off location are not over-burdened with all of them coming at once from us.

For the approximate 500 volunteer hours that it took from over 100 people throughout the week (from both Cantonese and English congregations; and a handful of non-Sunset visitors), we try to create a space for meaningful and engaging volunteer experiences, while fellowshiping together. Volunteers come, eager to roll up their sleeves, and we try to provide enough variety of ways to serve and get involved and utilize each person's talents and abilities (especially when it comes to crafting octopus balls and hair scrunchies). One parent mentioned to me afterward that her daughter and friend had wanted to go back to church after lunch to help prepare or pack more boxes. For families, participating and packing a shoebox through OCC is a way to model giving to their kids. Another highlight this year was that the After School Program of 20+ kids (the majority of them non-believers) packed boxes for the first time at Sunset.

God provides...year over year, our weeklong ministry is provided for. Thankfully, we always have enough volunteers, enough transportation, enough donations, to get God's work done, and get it done joyfully. Year over year, God is faithful! ■



Why I Walk

Written By: Sherise L. | Photos By: Sunset's Walk For Life Teams

When I was in high school, I went to the new building that Alpha Pregnancy Center had recently acquired on Mission Street to volunteer and get the space ready for clients. Over a decade later, I stepped back into the center and met the director at the time, Chastidy Ronan. She took the time to not just take in our donation, but to walk us through the center and share APC's vision of walking alongside clients facing unplanned pregnancies. Her passion and vision to realize the value of each life that came to the center were captivating. I can think of few people in my life with such clear focus on her purpose as related to the heart of God.

This past year, I watched the documentary "Divided Hearts of America" on the abortion debate in the United States. Our country has made abortion a political issue, but to God, life is apolitical. The Bible tells us that God values human life because we were created in His very image (Genesis 1:27). When I understand this for my own life, it lifts me from my sometimes feelings of low self-worth and encourages me to advocate for life - particularly for the vulnerable. When I participate in the Walk for Life, I have the opportunity to meet the lives that the center has been able to advocate for and support. By walking, it reminds me that there are faces and lives behind my giving. I am grateful for the partnership that Sunset Church has with APC to be a beacon of hope in the city of San Francisco to not only provide materially for women and families but to also reach them with the life-giving message of Jesus Christ. This is why I walk. ■



"Thank you so much for the care packages. It was a blessing to receive all of the supplies for my baby. I will never forget your generosity. God bless you!"

During the 2021 Walk For Life:



Blessed 40 Families



Delivered 203 Gift Bags



Mobilized 100 Walkers



Raised \$26,926

賀益康團契三十華誕

Written By 撰文: Kin Sit 薛健策



三十而立青翠松，
根深傲挺風暴中；
甘霖福澤結聖果，
不惑之年樂融融。

【說明】“三十而立”、“不惑之年”是借用中國古代名人孔子著作中的的詞語“三十而立，四十而不惑”。

A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Zoo

Written And Photos By: Elgin O.

Walking alongside a friend on our way to the zoo, a sudden gesture turned into a thought-provoking question. Pulling on my sleeve, she sank her penetrating eyes deep into mine and asked me “in your many years of doing ministry in the church, how are you able to see Christ in people?”

GOD'S PART

We are loved by God from the very beginning.
He has never stopped loving us



Mrs 郑李显珍 Cheng Lee Hing Jun
fleeing from Vietnam. 1950

In my ministry to Chinese seniors, I have heard many heartbreaking, yet spellbinding stories. It never ceases to amaze me how harsh and painful life can be. Some have fled Vietnam enduring perilous journeys on sketchy boats, some have suffered cruel conditions under Communist rule.

As refugees/immigrants most have been isolated and separated from families for unbearably long periods of time. In their lives of quiet desperation, don't think they did not cry out to God, don't think they did not plead for mercy. Don't think they did not depend on the grace of God for life itself. Enduring long-suffering, these immigrants' journey eventually took them to the shores of America.



Now in their old age they reflect and give praises to God. A Church family has loved and welcomed them. They have rebuilt their family. They have found new life. The entire family has become part of God's redemption plan and restoration of all things.

Family settles in San Francisco and son becomes pastor. 1980

How am I to see Christ in people?

In the beginning, God has loved us. He has never left us.

I have witnessed in these immigration stories, that He has never stopped loving us. God's work in Christ culminates in God's voluntary journey into solidarity with sinners, with the poor, and victims of injustice. Jesus came to redeem all those who are in bondage (Is 61:1). In their cry for mercy, the wretched of the earth learn that God is on their side, Matt 11:5. He walks in solidarity with the down and out. They have a hermeneutical privilege that others around them did not have (James 2:5). I see Christ formed in them because the poor were at one time, at the end of their rope. Loved by God, “hidden in Christ in God” (Col 3:3. Matt 5:2), their souls have become restored. God has changed their lives. Now we see less of them, more of God.

OUR PART

If we learn to love one thing, truly love this,
whatever this is becoming the gateway to everything.

How we love one created thing is finally how we love everything. We have to find our capacity to see, to love to accept and to delight in one created thing. If we cannot delight in one single object whether a leaf, a flower, a baby, focus on it with our senses its giftedness, and its essence, we are not going to delight in God. How we see what He has created, is how we are able to see Christ in people.

At the Chinese Congregation women's ministry lunch in November, I caught up with a lady whom I had known for a while. She had always had a captivating smile, even though she was raising a child with autism. I asked her how do you manage to do this day in and day out? She replied: “I see the value of every human being. They are made in the image of Christ”. Christ has welcomed every individual especially those with disabilities in the life of this church. “They are created in the image of God. They share in Christ's pain and struggles.” ▶

Her belief in the dignity of all creation, as bearing the presence of Christ, inspires her work, day in and day out. It is an act of faith an act of hope, believing that her life and the life of her child is working itself out, to be part of God's restoration of all things.



The mystery of the marginalized in this: that they are Jesus, what you do for them, you do for Him. The mystery of the disabled, the poor, and victims of injustice is that by sharing in it, we make ourselves part of God's redemption and restoration plan. We enlarge our capacity to love and become partakers in God's grand design. We are able to see Christ being formed in every human soul.

THE LIFE OF GOD IN THE SOUL OF MAN ¹

Our story is part of the Grand Story of
Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration

On my way to the zoo, a strange thing happened. From a simple conversation, I began to understand and observe the process by which Christ is formed in an individual - God's part and our part working simultaneously together, hand in hand.

Blessed are the poor in spirit for
those are the ones God has blessed
– *Matthew 5:3*

The poor in spirit are the ones God has conferred His favor. They acknowledge their spiritual bankruptcy and their radical dependence on God. They have been humbled and are open-minded. The elderly openly admit their vulnerability and helplessness (Heb 4:16). They have committed themselves to change thinking and behavior (5:1-7:27). They are ready to receive mercy. Those who serve the weak, the downtrodden, see the presence of God who identifies and walks in solidarity with the poor and weak. We see the presence of Jesus in their lives.



The King of Kings came down from His throne to walk alongside us side by side, to fulfill God the Father's Grand Design of bringing redemption and restoration to all things.

Loved by God from the very beginning, Jesus is omnipresent. He has never left us. But we must do our part, be humble, be open-minded, be willing to be transformed.

To see Christ formed in people is to see a constant reality that our redeemed lives are in a continual process of being restored to God's Grand Design - Creation, Fall, Redemption Restoration - the life of God in every human soul. ■

CampToons 2021



¹ Scougal, Henry. The Life of God in the Soul of Man 2016. Updated by Paul Lamb



Mobilize Love's IN THE CITY

Written By: Richard L. | Photos By: Wesley Y.



Serving at Mobilize Love's IN THE CITY was a new experience for me in a few ways. Most of the time, when I volunteer, it is at Sunset. It was also the first time I volunteered with the organization. To be honest, the initial reason I went was because a friend pushed me to go. In hindsight, I am glad that I went because it forced me out of my bubble.

The event was a collaborative effort where nonprofits, corporations, and churches wanted to be present in the city and serve the people. There were people from all over San Francisco and some from the east bay. This event gave away PPEs, Christmas presents to children, shoes, clothes, snacks, and raffle prizes. There were also a few speakers that shared their testimonies and a word from Mobilize Love to let the people who attended know that they are loved by Christ.

Oftentimes, comfort is my idol, and thinking about an event like this does not cross my mind. To drive out of the Sunset District and go into the city sounds like a drag to me. I know that it is selfish, and I also know that God doesn't call us to live in our comfort. Stretching myself to be a part of this event gave me one of the highlights of the event, which was just getting to know and chat with some of the attendees whom I probably would not have met otherwise. I know it is easy to serve in our comfort zones, but consider stretching yourself to serve in the city that you live in. ■

