

Dear Ministers, 「教牧與牧養事工」 We Care About Your Ministries!

Among the services provided by Living Grace, one important item is that we provide telephone and face to face consultation help to pastors and church ministry leaders to support them in caring for their church members. The goal is to help them in managing situation and crisis that would require more intensive counseling support resources.

In this past year, we have received increased amount of calls from church pastors and leaders, requesting for help in handling various kinds of difficult situations including: church members experiencing marital conflict, in-laws problem, gambling addiction, depression and chronic mental illness, addiction to internet, drugs, and run-away. When we receive a call, we will try our best to understand the needs of the pastor regarding the problem situation, help to assess the case situation, discuss and explore intervention strategies, provide referral information or direct counseling help.

On one hand, we were saddened by many of the case situations brought to our attention. However, we were thankful to the Lord that through the consultation and support service, many of the pastors and church leaders found help and concrete steps to provide further care to their church members.

A pastor called, indicated that a church member has an adult child who has recently been hospitalized and diagnosed with manic-depressive disorder. The family had concerns regarding how to provide continuous care for the person when he was discharged from hospital. Since the pastor was involved in caring for this family, he would like to find out resources available in outpatient treatment, residential program, and other supportive services in their neighboring area. When we learned about the needs, we were able to provide the pastor with necessary information and discuss caring strategies. We are glad that we can be helpful.

A pastoral staff called, said that in her church, there was a member who was a single parent. Recently, due to some changes in her work, as well as problems in interpersonal relationship, she felt distressed and even talked about thoughts of death and dying. In the process of helping this church member, the pastoral staff worried that the person might do something to hurt herself. In order to find better way to prevent possible tragedy, the staff would like to discuss with us to identify ways to manage this case situation. After the discussion, the staff felt much better and validated. She got some referral information and felt more confident in helping the individual.

一位教牧同工來電，表示有一位初信主的單身家長，近日在生活上遇到了重大的壓力，兼且因為一些感情的問題，令自己處於十分困擾的狀態，甚至有自殺的念頭。故此，在關懷扶助這位會友有時，這位教牧同工也感到焦慮，恐怕處理這類有性命危險的個案時，有所疏忽。在聆聽過有關當事人的資料情況後，我們分析了多個可能發生的情景和應對方法，並且找到了幾項危急應變的服務資源可以使用。

在恩泉所提供的服務中，有一項十分重要的，是特別應教會牧者及牧養關懷事工的領袖們所需，提供電話或面談諮詢，以支援他們的工作，能更有效地牧養生活上遇上各樣難題的會友家庭。

在過去一年，有越來越多的教會領袖認識到我們的事工，並且致電使用我們的服務。而協助處理的問題繁多，包括有：夫妻不和、婆媳相爭、丈夫好賭、太太有抑鬱及精神病、成年子女不務正業、子女有吸毒，離家出走，上網成癮...等問題。當同工們瞭解到牧者們所要面對的牧養問題時，我們會盡力去協助分析問題成因所在，並探討可行的扶助方法和服務。一方面，我們因見到人生中的各種重擔和困難而感到不安。但另一方面，感謝神讓我們可以跟牧者們配搭同工，實踐愛心的服事。

一位牧師來電，表示有一個會友，家中有一名成年子女，最近被確診有精神病，情緒有時高漲不堪，有時又會變得抑鬱低落，現在醫院就醫，但將快要出院回家。家人擔心如何能給予充足照顧，保持他情緒穩定。我們按牧師對事件的了解，提供所需的資訊及可行的應對方法，好能讓當事人的家庭獲得合適的服務幫助。

A church Sunday school teacher called, brought up a situation where a Christian couple had marital conflicts for a while, but recently got worse and talked about divorcing each other. After assessing the situation, we were able to help the teacher to develop a plan to intervene and mediate. After a few months, the same teacher called us again, reported that he was successful in referring the couple to a Christian counselor for further help. With a few more times of follow up and praying together, the couple made good improvement in their relationships.

一位教會關懷事工的領袖來電，表示有一對信徒夫婦，過往已經有相處上的問題，但近日情況轉差，甚至鬧著要離婚。當我們從這位事工領袖那裡，得知多一些有關的情況後，便作出一些跟進計劃，以鼓勵當事人願意參與輔導調解。其後，該領袖成功地引導當事人願意進行輔導，並且同意讓教會的牧者及關懷事工領袖參與，給他們代禱和支持，改進夫妻的相處。

