

## Public Seminar on Problem Gambling

On the 13th April Friday 2018 2pm–5:30pm, the NCCS task force on Problem Gambling conducted a public seminar at Trinity Theological College. The task force led by Bishop Terry Kee was commissioned in early 2017 and its members consist of representatives from different denominations. The seminar comes as the culmination of our discussion as a task force on ways we can educate our church members on the dangers of gambling.

The seminar was lined up with short but impactful presentations that achieved a fine balance between the various aspects of problem gambling, ranging from the theological to the psychological to the practical.

- Dr Leow Theng Huat (Lecturer at Trinity Theological College) started the seminar by presenting the theological basis why Christians should restrain from gambling. The arguments have been summarised in a bilingual tract produced by NCCS and made available to the churches. Dr Leow's paper in full is also available through the link below.
- Dr Valentino Gonzales (Lecturer at Singapore Bible College) and Mr Dick Lum (former Executive Director of One Hope Centre) spoke on the physiological and psychological aspects of addiction in general and gambling addiction in particular.
- Ms Cynthia Lee (Assistant Director, Ministry of Social and Family Development) shared with the participants some statistics and trends of gambling activity among Singaporeans.
- After a short break, Rev Billy Lee (Founder and Senior Pastor of Blessed Grace Church) shared with us ministry strategics that his church uses to help recovering gambling addicts rebuild their broken world.
- Rev Vincent Lee and Mr Wong Kee Soon (Adullam Life Counselling) encouraged the churches to focus on upstream preventive work by educating our members (especially youth and young adults) on managing our finances well. Mr Wong also shared some practical pointers in managing and resolving debt situations.
- The seminar concluded with a Q&A fronted by the presenters and Ms Audrey Seah (Director, Ministry of Social and Family Development)

Overall, we pray that the Lord would have used this public seminar and the tract on problem gambling to help our churches stay away from the deceptive lure of gambling, and to find in Christ our Lord the true freedom that is meant for us (Gal 5:1).

*By Rev Dr Edmund Fong (Task Force member and lecturer, Trinity Theological College)*

[Read More... "Much to Gain? More to Lose! A Christian Argument Against Gambling".](#)

