

2005 West Coast Chinese Christian Conference- Counseling Training Guide (Updated on Dec 16, 2005)

The entire counseling session is no more than 30 minutes.
Testimony sharing time begins shortly after the counseling session begins.

I. **Basic Sequence and setting**

- Altar call usually happens at the end of 3rd evening message (Be flexible with changes)
- All conferees who made a commitment will be asked to come to the front of the auditorium (Depending on speakers)
- All counselors and counsees will be directed to Youth Memorial (counseling room)
- Counseling session begins

II. **Understanding Counselee's Motive**

- Responding to God's Word and the Holy Spirit's prompting
- Desires for something better in their spiritual walk
- Wants to share and to be understood

III. **Objectives of counseling**

- Listen and discern the need or decision
- Provide prayer support
- Give assurance and encouragement
- Offer resources and guidance
- Share from your personal experience if appropriate and applicable

Suggested Methods:

1. Listen to their concerns / problems
2. No preaching
3. Help them to shape up their logic
4. Identify the goal, in other word, what the counselee really want to change /improve
5. Develop a "concrete" plan together for the counselee to achieve that goal
6. Write down the plans
7. Pray for the plans

IV. **Characteristics of a good counselor**

- Personally right with God (I John 1:9), having confessed her/his own sins
- Recognition of the Holy Spirit's control of the situation (John 16:8; 2 Cor. 5:18-20)
- Caring (interested, open, available and sensitive)

• **A Good questioner**

Kinds of questions to ask:

- a) Direct: "Susan, what do you think God is trying to tell you?"
- b) Open: "Why have you decided to dedicate yourself to Christian service?"
- c) Closed: "Have you ever invited Christ into your life?"

- **An active listener**

Ways to express interest:

- a) Exhibit positive body language (e.g. lean forward, open gestures)
- b) Warm and steady eye contact
- c) Use of people's first names
- d) Use of acknowledging phrases (e.g. really? . . . I see . . . uh-huh . . . that's great)
- e) Use of non-verbal expressions (e.g. nodding, smiling)
- f) Paraphrasing

Ethical Responsibility

1. Confidentiality
2. Keep the sharing and information between you and your counselee only
3. Respect Counselee's decision and sharing

V. **Details of Counseling Events (15-30 Minutes)**

After the altar call:

1. Counselors will be asked (either by speaker or EC Chair) to leave to assist before counselees enter the Youth Memorial.
2. All counselors will have a color sticker on their nametag upon entering the room.
3. The room will be divided into 5 sections labeled Cantonese, English, Mandarin, New Believer and Full Time Ministry. (This may change, follow instructions at the conference)
4. All counselors will have 1-2 commitment forms and counseling booklets.
5. The counseling coordinator (Michelle Cheng) will do an opening group prayer.
6. All counselees will be assigned according to their language, age and gender.
7. Sit down, smile and introduce yourself
8. Find out what decision the Counselee made during altar call (Use your questioning skills. Don't just accept the answer given. Be interested!)
9. Affirm counselee's commitment and decision (use booklet or 4 spiritual laws)
10. Share information – use counseling booklet
11. Add your own testimony or experience if appropriate
12. Help counselee to fill out the commitment form (Make sure both copies are legible)
13. Close in prayer – counselee pray first and you close (Be flexible)
14. Exchange contact information
15. Encourage counselee to share during testimony time

The end of Counseling Session:

- Deposit the Yellow copy of the WCCCC commitment form into the "Personal Commitment" box
- Direct counselee back to Auditorium for worship and testimony time
- After the conference, contact or send a postcard (WCCCC provides) to counselee at least once as a mean of encouragement and accountability.

Commitment Form:

- Forms will be given out at the counseling session
- (white): Conferee's copy, (yellow): WCCCC's copy
- Some commitment forms will be available at the rear of the Auditorium.
- If you have a non-believer in your BS or CS group, keep 1-2 copies with you.

** Please write HARD with a PEN. So both copies are legible.

Quick note about Testimony time

- Testimony time begins shortly after the counseling session begins
- Those who would like to share during testimony time would need fill out a short “questioner” (3-4 questions) prior to sharing
- Please encourage members in your BSG or CSG to fill out questioners whenever they feel like sharing during testimony sharing time
- Forms would be available in the back of the auditorium
- BSL and CSL can pick up few copies just in case

The Lord looks at the heart; the Holy Spirit is our Counselor

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not **look** at the things man **looks** at. Man **looks** at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7)

But the **Counselor**, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26)

V. Six Types of Decisions and what do they mean

1. Salvation (New believer) – will assign to WCCCC staff

- Emphasize the gain of new life and eternal place in His Kingdom
- Go through the basic 4 spiritual laws with the counselee
- Ask him/her to accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior/Lord through prayer
- Encourage him/her to grow in a local church, provide resources if possible. Ask for help from coordinator in the conference if needed.
- Pray with them, follow the prayer in the booklet

2. Assurance of Salvation (To be sure about his/her relationship to Christ)

- **Know** that God made you and keeps you. God has authority over your life and you are responsible to reflect God. (Psalm 100:3, Acts 17:24-31)
- **Admit** to yourself and to God that you are a sinner. (Romans 3:10-12, 3:23, 3:20 and James 2:10)
- **Confess** your sins (name them specifically if possible) Psalm 139:23-24, 1 John 1:8-10
- **Believe** that Christ went to the Cross for you, taking your guilt upon Himself and enduring God’s judgment in your place. Your sins have been forgiven and you are justified. (Isaiah 53:5-6, John 5:24, 1 Peter 2:24, John 14:6, Romans 5:8-9, Acts 4:12)
- **Believe** that Christ rose from the dead three days after the crucifixion, Jesus conquered death and sin and he ascended to the Father and he will return again. (Acts 2:22-24,36, Acts 1:9-10, Romans 6:4, Eph 2:1-10)
- **Trust (Be assured)** that having received Christ into your life, you are sealed with God’s Holy Spirit and stamped with God’s name on you.
- Discuss issues in personal spiritual growth (e.g.: Confessing Christ, Witnessing to others, dedicating yourself to pleasing God and doing His will)

3. Personal Spiritual Growth (Desire deeper spiritual maturity)

- Encourage them to build an intimate relationship with Jesus
- Focus on knowing and learning more about Christ in your daily life
- Be faithful in prayer, present all requests to Jesus (Mark 1:35, Matt 7:7, Phil 4:4-7)

- Share your faith with others (John 1:35-42, Acts 1:8, 2 Corth 5:20)
 - Allow the Holy Spirit to empower and control your life
 - Follow Christ and be obedience to His command. Be baptized and become an active member of a biblically sound church.
 - Stress on personal spiritual growth (e.g. prayer, Bible study, quiet time, daily devotion, confessing Christ, witnessing to others, doing God’s will and joining other Christians)
 - Encourage baptism if applicable
4. Dedication and Re-dedication (Seeking forgiveness)
- Focus on confessing sins (1 John 1:9: “If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful and just and will forgive us **our sins** and purify us from all unrighteousness.”)
 - Refer diagram in the booklet (if needed)
 - Be specific with the sins, suggest them to write them down and confess them before God and ask God for forgiveness. (Proverb 28:13)
 - Continue to rely on God’s grace, strike to live a holy life and take necessary steps to make things right with God and others. (2 Peter 3:14, Hebrews 12:14, Romans 14:19)
5. Christian Service
- Encourage *active* involvement in serving the Lord
 - Explore his/her Spiritual gifts
 - Discuss opportunities for service (e.g. fellowship, church, school, community, outreach ministry)
6. Church Vocation/Full Time Ministry (will assign to WCCCC staff)
- Confirm his/her salvation and sanctification (e.g. how did you become Christian? Tell me something about your testimonies?)
 - Discuss opportunities for full-time church work, missions, seminary. . . etc
 - Discuss the “next step” with the Counselee (e.g.: What would you like to do after the conference? What is your next step in this commitment?)
 - Resources are available through WCCCC

References

Non-Christian → (a point in time) Justification: accept Jesus as Savior → (over time)

Sanctification: allow Jesus to take control over own life [Lordship] → glorification (When Jesus returns)

Final Notes:

- Counseling is one-on-one, same language, same gender
- No teaching, no preaching, no lecturing
- Don’t make up answers; it is okay to say “I don’t know.”
- Your personal response to the altar call is a higher priority than the counseling role
- If you feel uncomfortable or are concern about being a counselor even after this training, please notify ST/YA Dept Vice-Chairs.
- For any questions, feel free to ask WCCCC staff anytime. You can also email the counseling/follow-up coordinator, Michelle Cheng, at michelle_wcccc@yahoo.com

THANK YOU for serving at WCCCC this year!