

October 2015 – FACCES UPDATE

Dear Pastors, Co-workers of FACCES:

The hot summer has passed and has already ushered in autumn with its cooler and refreshing weather and shorter sunlight days!

It is with much thanksgiving and joy, as I ponder on our last FACCES Symposium in Berlin, May 2015. As mentioned in our June 2015 update newsletter (attached, below, for your reference, and also available on the website <http://www.facces.eu>), some of the highlights included:

- A wonderful time of learning and sharing about what God is doing among our various European-plus churches and ministries.
- Furthermore, as a Fellowship, our group decision -- to formally adopt a Constitution, will strengthen the region's ability to more accountably and effectively serve and collaborate as a CMA family.

God has, indeed, been guiding FACCES into a new milestone; and the dedication, servanthood, team spirit, and support from all of you -- the national leaders, are a great encouragement.

However, following our FACCES Symposium in May, several of our FACCES church members were contacted by the USCCA (a.k.a. Chinese Churches Association of C&MA in USA) to officially withdraw membership with us. We especially regret that the co-workers/leaders of these European CMA churches -- have also been prohibited from any further association or participation in future FACCES events (including attending our conferences, or involvement as a FACCES Committee members (*).

- * Note: Two FACCES Committee members have been required by USCCA to withdraw from their positions as Committee members (as of July 2015): Pastor Yeng-Yang LEE (Germany), Pastor Billy CHONG (Netherlands). FACCES thanks Pastor Lee and Pastor Chong for their servanthood and team spirit; and looks forward to their continued friendship.

- * Note: The following FACCES Committee member has been requested by USCCA to resign from his position as a pastor of the church in Dortmund (as of July 2015): Pastor Mark YU (Germany). Pastor YU will, however, continue to serve as a member of the FACCES Committee. In order to assist Pastor YU during this time of uncertainty, FACCES is helping him arrange short-term ministry opportunities in different parts of the FACCES region. If your church would like to invite Pastor Yu to serve for a short-medium term (mandarin-speaking), please contact Edward KWONG

at edkwong10@gmail.com. Please remember the Dortmund church, Pastor Yu, and his young family during this time and as everyone awaits clarity.

- Additional note: The following FACCES Committee member withdrew from his position as Committee member, for personal reasons (as of 2014): We appreciate Pastor Sam SHAM's (United Kingdom) one year commitment to serve FACCES.
- Additional note: FACCES is grateful for, and welcomes, Pastor Gus FUNG (United Kingdom) to serve as a FACCES Committee member (as of September 2015).

FACCES remains unclear as to the reasons behind USCCA's demands on European churches and leaders, especially since:

- FACCES is a regional (European) fellowship (similar to other Chinese CMA associations in other regions of the world) -- that simply desires to share our common bond and unifying association in Christ.
- FACCES strives to be a complimentary fellowship (to the national organisations with supervisory roles and authority) – that fosters care and support; and that also encourages strategic and effective collaboration as we serve Christ's churches in Europe and the surrounding areas.

In light of these recent circumstances, FACCES Committee members will not attend, as originally planned, the upcoming triennial CAWF Conference (a.k.a. Chinese Alliance World Fellowship), to be held in Indonesia (October 21-26, 2015). Unfortunately, FACCES will not be able to be represented, or to participate, at this important gathering. We trust that as the situation becomes clearer, that CAWF will, once again, welcome and strengthen partnerships with FACCES.

Let us continue to uphold one another in prayer. FACCES hopes that, as a network and family of European-plus co-workers and churches, we shall continue to strive to remain strong and firm. We are one in Christ and Christ is among us! May each FACCES member shine for Him ... in Europe and beyond ... for His Kingdom and glory.

Chair of the FACCES Committee

Rev. Daniel NGUYEN

October, 2015

JUNE 2015 – FACCES UPDATE

Dear Pastors / Partners in Christ,

The Fellowship of Chinese Alliance Churches in Europe & Surroundings (**FACCES**) praises God for His grace and guidance during this last biennial **FACCES** Round Table Symposium (for European co-workers). The Symposium was held in Berlin, from May 4-7, 2015, at the Faith Hope Love Alliance Church.

The Symposium's main theme this year was, "Pastoring in the City", and the schedule included speaker presentations, project updates, business, as well as planning sessions. Over 80 national church leaders and representatives from across Europe, U.K., and surrounding regions came together for a rich time of fellowship, discussion, and collaboration. Indeed, there was a deep sense of God's Spirit and unity.

The following are just a few highlights of the Berlin 2015 **FACCES** Symposium:

During the opening ceremony, Rev. Benedict Kwok (professor, Alliance Bible Seminary, Hong Kong; currently on sabbatical leave and doing research in Germany), shared a proposal that promotes further theological training for pastoral leaders in Europe. Dr. Kwok introduced a model for continued education – to provide an opportunity for further equipping and learning Chinese ministry leaders.

The main speaker of the Symposium, Professor Dr. Paul Leung, is an experienced psychiatrist, currently teaching and practicing in the United States. Dr. Leung reminded **FACCES** delegates that, as pastors and leaders shepherding flocks in their respective metropolitan cities – we cannot neglect our own personal (and family members') physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Dr. Leung encouraged us to be attentive, and to seek appropriate support for common concerns -- including symptoms of anxiety disorder, depression, and burn-out. We were also reminded to remain unrelenting in building a strong devotional life nourished by God's word and prayer. Dr. Leung's firm clinical and biblical teachings were very timely. **FACCES** delegates greatly appreciated Dr. Leung's serious, wise, and gentle 'doctor's orders'.

Among the over 80 international **FACCES** delegates joining us from different countries (including French Guyana, U.K., Germany, Israel, Netherlands, Spain) – we were also blessed by other special guests and representatives -- who shared greetings, encouragement, support, ministry updates, etc. These included:

- Wallace Mang (representative, Chinese Churches Association of C&MA U.S.A.);
- Frank Fung (representative, Chinese Churches Association of C&MA U.S.A.);
- Aaron Tang (representative, Canada Chinese Alliance Churches Association);
- Nick Tsang (representative, Canada Chinese Alliance Churches Association);
- D & Y (international worker, Creative Access Country);

- Kwong Choi Kan (Hong Kong Men's Fellowship);
- Frank Wong (representative, accompanied by 11 Suriname church deacons and leaders) who shared about cross-cultural-mission work in Suriname and South America;
- Daniel Nguyen (pastor, France) who shared about short-term mission opportunities for French-speaking millennial in Senegal;
- Dick Kaan (international worker, France) who shared about church-planting and other mission opportunities in Italy.

To more effectively meet the ministry opportunities among the growing Diasporas across Europe, our church leaders recognized the need to establish a formal European Chinese network among our C&MA churches.

Therefore, in May 2013, during our biennial Round-Table Symposium conference held in Paris, national European Chinese C&MA church leaders shared overwhelming support and voted to officially establish **FACCES** and also nominated a Working Committee. This formally provided the added accountability that encourages **FACCES** to serve as a bridge -- to connect churches and facilitate ministry partnerships in Europe and surrounding areas.

This year in Berlin (May 2015), once again, unity was evident as leaders came together during Symposium scheduled business sessions. Following discussions, national leaders voted and affirmed their official support to adopt a Constitution. Consequently, **FACCES** will more effectively be positioned to collaborate and team with other ministry, including their European CMA national offices with which churches are already closely connected.

During the closing ceremony, we were further blessed by another special guest, William Leung (representative, Hong Kong Alliance Global Serve). Rev. Leung re-emphasized our continued responsibility to the God-opened mission opportunities at our doorsteps, and that we are to shine as the light of the world, as we strive to spread the gospel far and wide.

On behalf of **FACCES**, may I offer praise to God and gratitude to you. Your continued faithfulness and support provide encouragement to us all. We look forward to partnering and serving, together, with you!

Additional information about **FACCES** (with a list of the 26 C&MA European Chinese churches, and their ministry descriptions, etc.) can be viewed on our website: <http://www.facces.eu>.

Servant of our Lord,
Daniel Nguyen (representative, **FACCES** Committee)
June 2015, France