

## The Turning Point Newsletter - August 2016

Dear Friends of The Turning Point,

Greetings in the Precious Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

14th May 2016 was a special day for The Turning Point as we held our 24th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at our centre. We thank the Lord for the heart-warming support from our regular volunteers from various churches who came to rejoice with us and thank the Lord for another year of His faithfulness towards this ministry that reaches out to women drug offenders and their families.

We are grateful to God for giving us seven God-fearing Members whom the Holy Spirit has convicted to remain on the Executive Committee (ExCo) to oversee this ministry for another year. Our new Executive Member is Mr Shawn Lim who has replaced Ms Talia Ivy Lee on the ExCo. Towards the end of last year, God convicted Talia to join The Turning Point as a full time social work associate. The current ExCo of The Turning Point comprises the following:

ExCo of 2016/2017	Name
Chairman	Mrs Thumboo- Yeo Swee Ching
Vice Chairman	Ms Kang Lay Tin
Hon Secretary	Mr Lam Wai Seng
Hon Treasurer	Mr Chan Lai Yin John
Member	Ms Wang Loke Yang Lilian
Member	Mr Chan Chee Kong Joseph
Member	Mr Lim Chong Huat, Shawn

During the AGM, Pastor Brenda Lim shared the Word of God from Psalm 145 v 8-20. She reminded us that our God is gracious and compassionate and He is Jehovah Jireh who provides for all our daily needs. We are also reminded that when our burdens seem too heavy to bear, God is still beside us and He heeds our cries. He is ready to lift us up and bear our burdens when we call upon his Name.

At The Turning Point, spiritual programmes remain the mainstay of the teaching curriculum. These are conducted by volunteers and ministry partners. Together, they are instrumental in imparting Christian values to our residents through workshops on life-skills. Baking and craftwork continue to be the primary vocational therapy for our residents.

During the thanksgiving speech, our Chairman, Mrs Thumboo thanked our staff, volunteers and ministry partners for labouring together to conduct a viable in-house rehabilitation programme for our residents. She also thanked the pastors and leaders of Yishun Christian Centre, Sembawang Presbyterian Church, Full Gospel Assembly and Provident Presbyterian Church for their hospitality towards our residents who joined them for the Sunday Worship Services and support group meetings.

In January 2016, we saw the fruition of our vision to embark on an interim house to enhance our aftercare programme. This Home is started with the view to cater to discharged residents who are not yet ready to face the outside world with its many temptations and challenges . The ExCo chose the name, Ahavah (Hebrew word for Love) for this Home. Our prayer is that Ahavah will provide a positive and supportive environment for these residents to remain drug free, achieve economic self-sufficiency and a healthy degree of autonomy before they reintegrate into society.

Our TTP social worker will help them secure employment so that they can be gainfully employed while staying at Ahavah for a period of 3 months or more. At Ahavah, these residents continue to attend counselling by our staff and church support group meetings with our volunteers.



living room and balcony of Ahavah Home

We prayed for night duty staff to man Ahavah and God answered our prayers when Khew Swee Ling, our TTP co-founder and Ruth Kala from Smyrna Assembly responded to this call in February 2016. So far, we have admitted 5 residents into Ahavah. One of them left us in July after a stint of 3 months.

Before closing, allow me to share the story of a resident.

Jane (not her real name), aged 35, experimented with methamphetamine for 2 years before she was arrested in March 2015 and served her regime in Changi Women's Drug Rehabilitation Centre. A divorcee, Jane first abused drugs to cope with the stress of meeting the financial needs of her 3 sons. At the same time, she struggled with caregiving for her severely depressed mother, who was hooked on heroin at the same time. As a result, Jane lost the custody of her sons while serving the DRC regime.

For the last 4 months of her DRC regime, Jane was admitted to The Turning Point (TTP) under the Halfway House Service Model programme where staff provided counselling and case management to increase her awareness of the problems before her. Jane became aware of her need for self care and the dire lack of family support in her situation. She saw that she was on the brink of relapse if she were to return home upon her release. She realised that she was not ready to reintegrate into society and needed more time and help to work on her recovery .

Jane took up the 3-months Interim Housing Programme (IHP) at Ahavah to enjoy the community-based, mutual-help living environment that supports her towards the goal of drug abstinence. Before her transition to Ahavah, TTP provided career counselling to help Jane find employment by starting work under the mentoring scheme from TTP. Jane subsequently went for an admin job interview and was accepted for the position.

The IHP programme allowed Jane to have a semi-structured environment for her to be self-reliant and yet remain accountable for her work and other responsibilities. Jane continues to undergo regular individual counselling to learn to cope with her fears and sense of insecurity. After 3 months of TTP mentorship and gainful employment, Jane was ready to reintegrate into society.

Jane's employer provided positive feedback on her good learning attitude towards her exposure to sales and admin functions. This feedback helped to boost her self-esteem and confidence. Though Jane has moved on from Ahavah in July this year, our aftercare staff continues to monitor her work progress through close engagement with her employer. The good news is that Jane became a Christian during her stint at TTP. Today, she continues to attend church and joins a bible study group regularly.

I hope the above story has warmed your heart. Indeed, God is doing His work of transforming lives in our midst. We covet your prayers that God will continue to glorify Himself through The Turning Point and Ahavah. Once again, thank you for your faithful support.

In His Service

Joyce Neo

#### Current Staff Workers:

Executive Director : Joyce Neo, Bukit Panjang Gospel Chapel  
Case Manager : Coreen Chong Ann Foong, Amazing Grace Presbyterian Church  
Administrator : Violet Lim Siew Kiak, Trinity Christian Centre  
Operations & Admin Executive : Sharon Law Lay Choo  
Programme & Aftercare Executive : Tay Lee Leng, Full Gospel Church  
Social Work Associate : Talia Lee, New Creation Church  
Night Duty Staff : Emily Chua Bee Choon, Evangel Family Church  
Night Duty Staff : Wong Youk Kheng, Faith Community Baptist Church  
Office Aide Cum Driver : Low Siang Hong