

The Turning Point Newsletter - August 2017

Dear Friends of The Turning Point,

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

As The Turning Point (TTP) ministry crosses into our 27th year of operation, we are grateful to God for His continuing provision and sustenance. We are also reminded that He is faithful to keep the promise He has given to our founders in 1990 : Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom (Luke 12: 32)

By the grace of God, TTP held our 25th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the 6th May 2017, and elected our Executive Committee (Exco) for the next two years. We praise God that almost all the earlier Exco Members chose to stay on to hold the fort. The Executive Committee now comprises the following :

TITTLE OF OFFICE	NAME
Chairman	Yeo Swee Ching
Vice Chairman	John Chan Lai Yin
Hon. Secretary	Lilian Wang Loke Yang
Hon. Treasurer	Lam Wai Seng
Member	Joseph Chan Chee Kong
Member	Shawn Lim Chong Huat
Member	Margaret Lok Siew Yin

At the AGM, God used a message by our Committee Member, Rev Shawn Lim to exhort the Exco, staff, volunteers and residents to live a life that is significant in the eyes of our Lord. It means to be willing to give our life, our brokenness and our prejudices to God so that He could mould us into the likeness of His Son (Isaiah 64:8). It means to give of our best to the Master and to strive to please Him in the way we care for our residents and ex-residents in their road to recovery and social integration.

As we take stock of the past year, we thank the Lord that He indeed is Jehovah Jireh. He has supplied the financial resources through the generous giving of individual donors, churches and through government grants to supply our needs.

所有乐捐本会款项得豁免所得税
All donations to this body are exempted from Income Tax

We take comfort in the fact that we were blessed with a grant of \$40,000 from President Challenge 2016. It came in at a time when we needed to replace our old passenger van. Our new van comes with automatic gear! What a wonderful change it makes to our drivers to know that we can be kinder to our aging knees and ankles! At the same time, we also received a one-time grant from SCORE to change the flooring of our open kitchen to anti-slip tiles, upgrade the wobbly drainage gratings and purchase new chairs for our offices.

Besides the residential programs that we run daily to facilitate recovery cum spiritual growth and church participation to facilitate social integration, our residents were invited to many helpful community projects in the past year. One of them was the Dark Room Community Program, a play commissioned by Esplanade theatre. It is a verbatim performance on the prison experience narrated by an ex-offender, beginning from her pre-trial to her reintegration to society as a "returning citizen". Imagine our surprise to discover that the main performer was "Di", our ex-resident! Praise the Lord!! In our newsletter some years ago, "Di" shared how she experienced hope and picked up her desire to pursue higher education while staying at TTP in 2008. Her application to study Applied Drama and Psychology at the local Polytechnic was rejected. She appealed through TTP, and by the grace of God, in the last week of her program at TTP, she was granted a special interview by the Polytechnic. "Di" was accepted and she completed her Diploma and went on to do a Bachelor's degree in Australia under a scholarship.

From eternity's perspective, our hearts rise up in gratitude to God as we rejoice with 5 ex-residents who were baptized over the past year. This is indeed a very great encouragement to our staff and volunteers who have been patient and tireless in reaching out to them during and after their stint at TTP program. Here are some of their stories.

51 yrs old WK was lost in the maze of drug addiction for almost 3 decades. She was in TTP program a few times, the last being in 2015. Although she had accepted the Lord Jesus Christ in her earlier days, there was no breakthrough and she was incarcerated twice from 2010 to 2014. She had a turning point in her relationship with God during her last stint at TTP. She is grateful to the Lord for not abandoning her and bringing many 'angels' to encourage and journey alongside her. She finally took the step to profess her faith publicly through baptism. Currently, she has joined a care-group in her church and is still working hard at the humble job that was recommended to her by TTP.

YP is a young divorcee with 2 teenage children. She was first incarcerated for substance abuse in 2002. Then in 2014, she was incarcerated again and was admitted into TTP in early 2015. Though she has heard of Christ during her incarceration, it was only at TTP that she learnt more about who Jesus is through all the bible classes and workshops. She shared how at TTP, she had experienced God's faithfulness in answering her prayers when she was trapped in her "personal problems". God mysteriously untied the knots in her heart and she felt that she was set free from it. Today, YM is active in her church as well in the community service spearheaded by them. By the grace of God, she was also able to get a job as a purchasing officer in an engineering firm.

MY was a Buddhist when she came to TTP. At the age of 44, she was incarcerated for a Cheating and Dishonesty offence. She came to know the Lord through TTP program in 2014. She is thankful to God that she was able to obtain her children's forgiveness and reconnect with her long lost siblings. It has taken her a long time to come to terms with her divorce but by the grace of God, she was able to obtain some measure of inner healing during her stint at TTP. MY was baptized 8 months after leaving TTP program.

KH was 46 yrs old when she came into TTP. A first-time substance abuser, she attempted drugs to spite her husband when she discovered to her horror that he was back on drugs. Her mother-in-law and family expressed their gratitude to God for guiding her to TTP and doing a deep work of transformation in her.

Jane is 35 yrs old and we have shared her story in our August 2016 Newsletter. The following incident in her life is worth mentioning: Jane started attending Blessed Grace Church after leaving Ahavah, our interim house. One Sunday in August 2016, after the Sunday service, an old man brought a birthday cake to church, intending to bless the church for visiting him during his hospitalization. While celebrating his birthday, Jane suddenly recognized the old man whom she last laid eyes on when she was only 9 yrs old. She approached him and asked if he recognizes her. Of course, he could not. Jane then divulged to him that she is the daughter that he has not met for 26 yrs ! Indeed, that day was a bitter-sweet reconciliation for father and daughter. Jane's parents were divorced 26 yrs old ago and Jane's mother is currently under incarceration for drug addiction. Today, father and daughter meet regularly for meals and are planning to take a holiday together in August this year! Jane has also started attending BSF to deepen her faith in Christ. We praise the Lord for His amazing grace : He arranged for them to bump into each other in church, He opened her eyes to recognize her father and He brought about their reconciliation after 26 years.

Do rejoice with us that we are witnessing how God is moving in the lives of our residents and ex-residents. In closing, may I remind all our volunteers, donors and staff, that each and everyone of you have played a special part in the moulding of their lives. Therefore, we want to thank you and we covet your ongoing support and intercession for this ministry. Without your participation and prayers, The Turning Point would not have crossed the threshold into our 27th year of ministry.

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