

The Turning Point Newsletter - January 2016

"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:30-31

Dear Friends of The Turning Point,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The year 2015 has just passed by so quickly. We praise the Lord for His providence and faithfulness as we embark on another new year, as the past year had been a challenging one where we saw the highest number of women being sent to us.

Back in October 2013, we had signed the Service Agreement with the Prisons to implement the revised Halfway House Service Model Programme, which included the work-based transition (employment) and Community-based transition (aftercare) phase. Under this revised programme, the first 3 months will be the therapeutic intervention to prepare the inmate for reintegration into workplace, family and community. Residents will be placed on employment for the remaining 3 months. Upon release from our centre, Aftercare support would be provided by our staff and volunteers for another 3-6 months to sustain their reintegration and minimise the risks of re-offending.



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From January to December 2015, we had the opportunity to assist 67 women through this programme. Of the 67, 20 are currently in the process of completing their residential programme with us.

With the advancement in the areas of education and technology, the profile of the offenders has changed accordingly. Offenders being sent from the authorities are now younger, better educated and many are synthetic drug users. In 2015, 80% of the offenders that were sent to us were first or second timers, and 64% were aged 40 and below. They tended to be more volatile and vocal than our previous clients who were older and had undergone long years in prison.

With the wide variation in age groups ranging from 18 to 62, it was not easy for the staff and the residents to live together. However, by God's grace, the majority of our residents were well behaved and appreciative of the rehabilitation programme, in spite of the occasional scuffles among the women.

Though we were short of staff for about half a year, we never failed to see God's hand in meeting our needs and upholding us. Through God's providence, we managed to hire 2 new staff in September 2015. Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we reflect on how God has brought forth His workers.

Through the dedicated volunteers, staff and Executive Committee members, The Turning Point continues to search for opportunities to share the love of Christ and the Word of God with our residents for a much needed transformation in their lives.

Over the years in The Turning Point, we have been encouraged by the many wonderful testimonies of how God has transformed the women's lives through this ministry. However, for every happy testimony, there were many more who succumbed to their old habit after leaving our centre. Many were not ready to cope with the harsh life outside, but did not want to continue with the HWH programme. It has been the vision for The Turning Point to embark on an Interim House under our aftercare programme for this group of residents.

After years of praying, our Executive Committee has taken a leap of faith to start an interim housing programme in January 2016. We have rented a separate premise to house our residents who, upon completing their rehabilitation programme, either have problems finding accommodation or whose family members are not ready to receive them at home, due to more time being needed to work on their reconciliation. Our Interim House will also cater to ex-offenders who need more time to be stabilised and to be away from their high-risk friends. This community programme aims to provide the additional support for this group of ex-offenders who are trying hard to obey God on their road to recovery. However, getting a night duty staff is challenging and we request your prayers for a female mature Christian to come on board.

To all our friends of The Turning Point, THANK YOU for the continued support and your co-labouring with us in this ministry of love. *"God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them."* Hebrews 6:10

On behalf of the Executive Committee members and staff of The Turning Point, I wish you a Blessed Chinese New Year! May the Lord's blessings for healthy living and good tidings be unto you and your loved ones in the New Year!



*Paper-quilling cards
designed and handmade by
residents of TTP*

Together in His Service,

Joyce Neo

Executive Director, The Turning Point

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