

The Turning Point Newsletter – May 2018

Dear Friends,

Greetings from The Turning Point (TTP) in the Mighty Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Time flies and our next **Annual General Meeting** is just around the corner. The Executive Committee of The Turning Point would like to invite you to our AGM on Saturday, 19th May 2018 from 2.30pm to 4.00pm at our halfway house. We hope that you can come and join us on this special occasion to get to know our ministry and to encourage us through your presence and prayer support. By the end of June 2018, this ministry would be 28 years old.

The following is a brief report of the humble work that we have been able to accomplish in Year 2017.

In January 2017, TTP signed a 3-year contract with Prisons. This is our 7th year of joint venture with Changi Women's Prison/ DRC (CWPD) since 2011 which will take us into Dec 2019. It is called the Halfway House Service Module version 3 (HSMv3). Essentially, it give us the rare opportunity to take in mandated woman prisoners into our halfway house to live with us for 5 to 9 months to serve the last leg of their sentence. (By the way, between 1996 to 2011, we were already admitting women drug addicts from CWPD into our halfway house through the community-based rehabilitation programs.)

In 2017, we had the privilege to rehabilitate 26 women in our halfway house program. If we include the 15 residents whose mandated program spilled into 2017 from the previous year, we praise God that we had the wonderful opportunity to serve 41 women last year. It is not an easy mission to help rehabilitate these ladies but we thank the Lord for giving us His strength and perseverance to minister to them day by day, one by one through sweat and tears.

Spiritual Support

Spiritual impartation remains the main pillar of our rehabilitation program. It is TTP's fundamental mission and belief that only the Word of God can bring about lasting, authentic transformation in the lives of our residents. We are thankful to our ministry partners, staff and Christian volunteer groups who skilfully weaved in Christian values and principles into their workshops on life-skills learning and psycho-education.



Activities/Events

By the wisdom of God, we were able to offer healthy and meaningful activities into the program to enhance the learning of our residents. Some of the events included Praise Dance every Thursday morning and even an occasional BBQ at Sembawang / Pasir Ris Park. Christmas was very special for our residents as we had a festive celebration with their family members. Many Christian volunteers came together to organise memorable events over the weekends to deepen their bond with our residents. The purpose is to make it easier for volunteers to do aftercare with residents after they complete the residential program.



Community Projects

Engaging in community service is an important part of our rehabilitation program. It provides our residents with a taste of what it means to be active volunteers in our society. We hope that such experiences will help them to learn empathy and understanding for the weaker members of our society and that one day, they learn to give a little back to society of whatever they have gained from our rehabilitation program.

The residents also benefitted from other community projects when The Turning Point was invited to live performances at Esplanade Theatre Studio and Acrobatic Drama @ Kallang. A highlight for our residents was their active participation in the annual Yellow Ribbon Run.

Being able to run for this Event reminded them in an experiential way that our Singapore society is fully behind them when they are prepared to say No to drugs and work hard at their recovery from drug abuse and recidivism. We praise God for the annual Yellow Ribbon events in our beloved country which seeks to remind our society to give these ex-offenders a second chance to rebuild their lives and contribute back to society.



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Baptism

Finally, we want to praise God for the three sisters from our rehabilitation program who were baptised in 2017. It was really heartwarming for TTP staff and volunteers to witness such a great testimony of the Lord at work. Please rejoice with us over the harvest (Matt 9:37,38). May the Lord continue to encourage the workers through such testimonies as we seek to glorify Him in His vineyard at The Turning Point.



As we reflect on our journey as a Christian -based ministry in the past year, our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for providing us with volunteers and ministry partners who came alongside us faithfully to co- run our faith-based programmes. We are also thankful to the Lord for our faithful staff who are willing to multi-task painstakingly in our multi-faceted ministry. Most of all, we are grateful to God for giving us a supportive Executive Committee who weeps and prays with us through difficult times. Finally, we are deeply grateful to God for giving us many residents who are open to the Christian faith.

We give all the glory to God that He has made it possible for us to rejoice in His vineyard today!

Note:

If you are able to join us for the AGM, please rsvp to violetlim@theturningpoint.org.sg. or call us at 62578364. This will help us in our food preparation.

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