

THE TURNING POINT NEWSLETTER

October | 2018

Dear Friends,

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

In July 2018, we crossed the 28th year of TTP. I am overwhelmed at the goodness of our God and His faithfulness to us all. My heart thanks the Lord our God and rejoices with everyone who reads this newsletter, knowing that it is only by the grace of God that has brought us through these 28 years.

7th July 2018 was a special day. Our 2nd Alumni Gathering saw more than 50 ex-residents gathering at our premises, with 1 to 2 former residents from each cohort since 1990 to 2016 represented at this joyous occasion. We were very happy to have Exco members and founding leaders, Ms Florence Ng and Ms Khew Swee Ling, and long-time volunteers from Providence Presbyterian Church, gracing the event.

The theme for this year's gathering was "Down Memory Lane". I take this opportunity to thank staff members who had put in much time preparing for the event and putting together a montage of old photos through the passage of time from 1990 to 2017. The old photos taken at TTP's past locality at Meng Suan Road and our present premises at Jamaica Road revived many a treasured and nostalgic memory of former residents who reminiscence with fondness, their stay at TTP.

All of us had a great time trying to identify one another from those old photos and recounting the many reasons

we can give thanks to God for. Everyone enjoyed the varied snacks prepared by our current residents. There were kacang puteh and popcorn, and even a make-it-yourself popiah station on site.



This year's Alumni Gathering saw more than 50 ex-residents from the cohorts since 1990 to 2016 returning to our premises at Jamaica Road.

Every alumni has stories of how their lives have been impacted from their time at TTP as many recollected their best memories of experiences of bible studies and opportunities to learn more of God's Word from staff and volunteers. They also recounted how TTP's programmes helped them to understand themselves better as individuals which in turn enabled them to better handle life's challenges. It is very heart-warming to know that most have found God during their stay at TTP. We are indeed encouraged to see that many of our alumni are thriving in their personal relationship and daily walk with God today.

ZECH 4:6

"Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD Almighty."



Everyone had a great time reconnecting with one another whilst enjoying the sumptuous buffet dinner in the cool of the evening.

The spirit of camaraderie continued throughout the buffet dinner. The atmosphere of love and acceptance was tangible, and many were happy to stay connected with one another as well as catch up with staff and volunteers. We were blessed by the love of some former residents who generously contributed delicious parcels of otah wrapped in banana leaf and delightful assortments of fresh fruits. It was indeed heartfelt to see both current and former residents supporting one another and contributing in various ways to make this event a meaningful and memorable one.

The alumni gathering closed with an uplifting word given by Ms Florence Ng, “*We at TTP are not here to judge the drug addicts. No one but God alone can fully understand their mindset and struggles. Rather, we are here primarily to give them a helping hand to lift them out of addiction with the hope that one day, they will come to the realisation that it was God Who had made it possible for them to recover. TTP was entirely His inspiration and perseverance at work all these 28 years. As current and former residents trudge along in their recovery, may they look around at their friends who are still struggling with drugs addiction and stretch out their hands to give them a helping hand.*”

As The Turning Point crosses its 28th year of ministry, we give thanks to God for every ministry workers, volunteer, staff, donor, partner, and friend who has loved us, prayed for us, and supported us in one way or another. To everyone who has come to know of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us rejoice together as we share an amazing testimony of how one precious life, an ex-resident, A, has been transformed by the relentless love of God over a course of almost 30 years.

LUKE 15:10

“... there is joy in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who repents.””

TESTIMONY

God, in His relentless love, pursued me back to Him

Since my first admission to prison in 1984, for almost 30 years of my life, I was chained to continuous struggles with drugs addiction and a homosexual lifestyle. I have been in and out of prison 8 to 9 times and couldn’t break out of my drug habits. I tried to break away from the homosexual urges, but there was no real victory out of that too. Only in the past few years, I finally tasted true freedom this True God has given me in His Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Saviour.

The first time I cried to Jesus for help was around year 2000. In a desperate attempt to change my lifestyle, I married my good friend and confidante who had long ago expressed his love for me. At that

time, I thought it was part of God’s plan that He had sent this man into my life to visit me in prison, to encourage me and to take care of me. It was very difficult to consummate a marriage with no feelings or affections on my part. Touched by his continuous patience and understanding towards me, I began to feel remorseful towards my husband and made the decision to bear him a child.

Nevertheless, even after my marriage, I continued to take drugs each time I was released from prison and continued the homosexual lifestyle whilst in prison. I felt powerless to break free, like I was under a spell. No matter how hard I tried to keep my promise to

God that I would change, and no matter how many desperate pleas I made to God to set me free, I still couldn't stop those sinful habits.

But something happened during my last prison term. God supernaturally removed my homosexual urges and placed in my heart a new hunger for His Word. I began to read His Word every day. Even though I only had up to Primary 3 education, I felt the Holy Spirit helped me to understand His Word. Most importantly, I began to feel the love of God for me.

I thank God for sending me to The Turning Point. I valued the bible studies conducted by staff and volunteers during the years spent there. I realised I was most happy during those moments of spending time with the Lord in His Word and in prayers. During quiet times worshipping God, I could feel the change in me every time I turn to Him for help and strength.

Sometimes I think that 30 years seems to be a long time to waste away in sinful, futile and vain pursuits. Perhaps many people may also think like this. There were times I had regretted making bad choices for my life, and I wouldn't want that for others too. Thank God He has redeemed me from sin by the blood of His Son and made me His child.

After more than 30 years, I finally understood it is God Himself who has watched over me and won me over from my own rebellion. I realized all the while, it was God Himself who has been drawing me close to Him and constantly tried to draw me away from everything else that distracts me from Him. The most precious thought to my soul today is the realization that in all those years, this loving God never once gave up on me. Indeed, it is the goodness of God that leads me to repentance (Rom 2:4).

Today, I believe God can turn the remaining years of my life around for good for His purpose. So many years of substance abuse has taken a heavy toll on my body. In 2008, I was diagnosed with lymphoma. At that time, I almost gave up on myself. But knowing God will never give up on me, each time foreign growth appears on my body, I know I could turn to Him believing that He would heal me. Although last year was a tough year for me as two people very dear to me, my mum and my husband, passed on, I realize there are many things I can be grateful to God for.

I thank God for continuously watching over my son. My heart is comforted knowing he has grown to be a sensible young man. While I am also no longer able to sustain the work of running a small business selling simple home-cooked food and self-handmade handicrafts, I am very grateful to The Turning Point for giving me a day job to sustain me and my family through this period of trial.

Having set me completely free from so many years of drugs addiction and homosexual lifestyle, I believe God's love for me is real, and that my future is in His hands. I am assured His loving plans for my life in the years to come are good.

To God be the praise and glory forever, amen!

Together in His Service,

Joyce Neo

Executive Director, The Turning Point

As Christmas approaches, please continue to support our baking therapy with your orders for our Cookies. Please email us at turningp@singnet.com.sg or call us at 62578364.

STAFF OF THE TURNING POINT

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