



转换点

The Turning Point

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Dear volunteers, donors and friends,

The Turning Point Newsletter - December 2011

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In December, I cross my eighth month as God's servant in The Turning Point. It has been an eventful time learning more about the ministry and being in the thick of things running the halfway house. There were uplifting days and not so good days. There were celebrations as well as heartaches.

As 2011 draws to a close, let me take stock of what had gone by in the year. Firstly, I thank God for His provision for the many needs in this ministry. He has supplied the financial resources - through the generous giving of individual donors, churches and Christian organizations to upkeep the work and He has brought help from the various sources for our rehab programmes. I thank God for the dedicated volunteers who come faithfully week after week, month after month, to reach out to the residents, bringing joy and hope, and most importantly the love of Christ to our residents. I thank God for granting us favour with the authorities, such as Singapore Prison Service, SCORE, NCSS and MCYS with whom we have carved out a good working relationship. We, too, have been able to establish good rapport with employers like Swensen's Restaurants at City Square Mall and Bukit Panjang outlets and Polar Puffs and Cakes who have gone out of their way to accommodate some of our terms of employment for the residents. For instance, we had requested that our residents be excused from working on weekends, even for those working in the food and beverage industry, so that they can participate in The Turning Point's rehab programme. The employers responded favourably to our request, allowing the residents to have their days off on weekends. Indeed, Jehovah Jireh has supplied all our needs beyond measure, PTL.

Secondly, I thank God for His hand of protection both physically and spiritually over the lives of the residents and the staff in this 24-7 residential setting. We have spotted wild animals around the compound of The Turning Point on many occasions. Besides wasps, wild fowls and monkeys, snakes lurk around in this wooded area. Except for a wasp sting suffered by one of the residents, I thank God for keeping us from harm's way. Indeed when we make the Most High our dwelling and refuge, He promises that no harm will befall us for He commands his angels to guard us. (Psa. 91:11)

As we welcome 2012, please pray along with us that God will continue to watch over this ministry and protect us from the 'fowler's snare and deadly pestilence.' Working with this group of women who carry many hurts and baggages from their past, the staff at The Turning Point are inadvertently engaged in spiritual warfare. We need to be vigilant and strong in the Lord as we work with our clients. Indeed our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.' (Ephesian 6:12)

2011 has also been a year of transition for The Turning Point. We signed an agreement with Singapore Prison Service in January to take in drug rehab and penal inmates from Changi Women Prison for the Halfway House Service Model programme(HSM). We took our first batch of HSM inmates in March and we have a total of 21 residents admitted under this scheme in 2011. Typically, the HSM requires selected inmates to stay in The Turning Point for 6 months, which is divided equally into (i) the in-care phase and (ii) the employment/study phase. In the employment/study phase, the residents are emplaced in suitable jobs or attend courses daily in preparation for their re-integration back to the community. One of our challenges in re-integrating the residents is in assisting our homeless residents find accommodation. It is not the lack of rooms but the cost of rental that is the obstacle. For these ladies, their low wages are not sufficient to pay for both rent and food. Even with some financial assistance, they are still needy. Applications for HDB rental flats is a pile up in the long queue with other needy families for subsidised housing which is well-sought after.

The other transition that The Turning Point had was a change-over in leadership in May 2011. Founder and former Director of The Turning Point, Florence Ng, stepped down as Honorary Director and handed over the baton to me. I am grateful for the support and much needed guidance I received from her and the Board of Management as I took over the helm and learn the ropes.

It is with great joy and anticipation that I look forward to 2012 as God unfolds His plans for The Turning Point and continues to use us as His channel of blessing to the future batch of women from Changi Women Prison in the New Year. I am also very grateful to the many volunteers, donors and prayer warriors who are our partners in this ministry. It leaves me now to wish one and all **“A Very Blessed Christmas and a Fruitful Year ahead. May the Lord continue to bless and keep you. Shalom!”**

Together in His service,

Chuen Yann

Director, The The Turning Point



Current Staff Workers:

Director: Foo Chuen Yann, Trinity Christian Centre

Case Manager: Grace Wong Yin Wah, Faith Community Baptist Church

Administrator: Violet Lim Siew Kiak, Trinity Christian Centre

Senior Operations & Aftercare Executive: Khew Swee Ling, Glory Presbyterian Church

Accounts & Operations Assistant: Lau Leng Hoe, Covenant Evangelical Free Church

Admin & Operations Assistant: Sharon Law Lay Choo