

Dear friends,

The Turning Point Newsletter - June 2012

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

How time has flown. We are now at the mid-point of 2012 and I have just passed my first year service in The Turning Point in May 2012. It has been a very fruitful learning journey as a full-time staff in the Home. On 12 May, the Home held its Annual General Meeting and elected 2 new Board members to replace 2 former members who have recently stepped down before the end of their 2-year term in May 2013. The Board of Management who will serve from May 2012 to May 2013 comprise the following Volunteers:

Mrs Thumboo - Yeo Swee Ching	Chairman
Mrs Ray Teh-Kang Lay Tin	Hon. Gen. Secretary
Ms Jenny Lim Peck Chin	Hon. Treasurer
Dr Eileen Poh Chu Luan	Member
Mrs Florence Yeow-Yap Soo Ten	Member
Ms Carol Wee Hwee Ling	Member
Mr John Chan Lai Yin (new)	Member
Ms Tang Chung Hwa (new)	Member

At the Annual General Meeting, we also bade goodbye to Pioneer Staff and Co-founder of The Turning Point, Khew Swee Ling, who has stepped down after 22 years of faithful service. Quoting Florence Ng, the other Founder of the Home,

*“Swee Ling has contributed much to the Ministry of The Turning Point. Her ability to stand in the gap is her greatest asset. Over the past 22 years, she was willing to stand in the gap for the unpopular working hours ie. weekend night duty, Sunday work and public holidays. This is indeed an asset to the 24/7 supervision work in our halfway house rehabilitation work. Her willingness to accept the women drug addicts for who they are in the Name of Christ and to give them a second chance often gives her an added advantage in Aftercare work which she intends to continue after her retirement. It also gives the clients the needed courage to return to the halfway house programme when they relapse. Her patient and calm nature is an anchor to the other staff in a setting where the residents' tempers and moods can turn volatile anytime. Finally, she patiently and graciously stood in the gap through the succession of two Directors to ensure that there are enough Staff to run the 24/7 operations from 2009 to (the present*

*date) before she steps down from the ministry. We wish Swee Ling God's abundant blessings and joy for a well-deserved retirement in the years ahead."*

We are pleased to share a testimony from an ex-resident who has experienced God's intervention in her life through her stay in The Turning Point. Cherrie\* was emplaced in The Turning Point in February 2007 after she was arrested for drug consumption. This is her story:

*"I was stubborn from the very beginning and I headed down a rebellious path in my teen years. My form of self-discovery was to take risky and challenging behaviours which were driven by my search for identity. I sniffed glue, abused different types of drug, quitted school, indulged in night life and at 18, got myself pregnant. I thought life would change after starting a family of my own but life was not what I thought it would be. My then boyfriend and I continued to take drugs together. I did not take up the responsibility as a mother to my daughter. I neglected her and got even deeper into my drug addiction. My heart became detached from all human love; I was totally in love with drugs. Then my boyfriend and I got arrested.*

*7 months after I was incarcerated in the Drug Rehab Centre in Changi Women's Prison, I was given the opportunity to be emplaced in the community based rehab programme in The Turning Point. As I recalled, it was Chinese New Year Eve and it was the first time I ever stepped into a church all my life. As I walked in, I felt a sense of peace within. I remembered crying during the service and I silently asked God to change my life.*

*During my 1-year stay in The Turning Point, I learnt that I did not have to live my future based on my past. I needed to change – change willingly. God placed different people in my life to help me be a better person but I must obey and accept His discipline. I am not sure why all that had to happen to me, but my life began to turn around when I was willing to change. It was indeed a turning point in my life. However, it was only after several months later that I said the sinner's prayer and accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour.*

*3 months before completing my programme in The Turning Point, I was offered a job in Sembawang Presbyterian Church where the residents from The Turning Point worshipped most Sundays. I continued to work in the church for 3 years and was given the opportunity to return to school. I graduated with a Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Leadership. On Christmas day in 2007, I was baptized together with my daughter in the sea by Sembawang Park.*

*God not only gave me back my daughter but He also gave me a new family. In 2009, I met my future husband. We registered our marriage 2 years later at the Registry of Marriage in 2011. As the Church wanted to bless our marriage, the Pastor arranged for a Consecration of Marriage ceremony in the Church witnessed by a small group of friends on 24 March this year. To my delight, we were able to share our joyous occasion with the whole congregation on the Lord's Day, with a sumptuous lunch by courtesy of the Church. I felt so blessed by the love showered upon me by my sisters and brothers in Christ.*

*It is by God's grace that I have come so far. God took care of me even back then when I was wallowed in my sin. He saw what I could be in Him. My life is*

*what it is today for His glory, for without Christ I am nothing but through Him, I am a co-heir in Christ. I thank God for His power that is still healing, still saving and still delivering. I made many mistakes in life but as a prodigal child, I have returned. God loves us and if we truly repent and confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. I give God all the praise, honour and glory for all that I am today and all that I will be.'*

Cherrie has since left the employment of the Church to help her husband set up a Company. God has blessed their business so much that they have expanded to establish a branch recently. We praise God for transforming Cherrie's life. Surely He has bestowed upon her *'a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a garment of praise instead of a spirit of mourning. (She) will be called oak of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.'* (Isaiah 61:3)

(\* Cherrie- not her real name)

Together in His Service,

*Chuen Yann*

Director, The Turning Point

**A note to our donors:** *All donors are required to provide their full names and tax reference numbers(NRIC/FIN/UEN) to The Turning Point in order to be given tax deduction for their donations. IRAS will no longer accept claims for tax deduction based on donation receipts we sent you. Our staff will submit information on your donations to IRAS through a special portal they have created for this purpose so please let us have your full name and the tax reference numbers for our submission.*

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

Programme & Aftercare Executive : Paulene Ng Meow Yee, Covenant Evangelical Free Church

Admin & Operations Assistant : Sharon Law Lay Choo

Ops & Admin Executive cum Night Duty Staff : Emily Chua Bee Choon, Lighthouse Evangelism Church

Night Duty Staff : Wong Youk Kheng. Faith Community Baptist Church