



341, Jamaica Road (Off Falkland Road) Singapore 757615
Tel: 6257 8364 Fax: 6257 8317 Email : turningp@mbox4.singnet.com.sg

Advisors: Dr Toh See Kiat • Rev. Dr Quek Swee Hwa • Rev. Dr Michael Shen • Elder Goh Ewe Kheng • Dr Y. C. Lim • Miss Laura Seet • Ms Felicity Carter

Dear volunteers, donors and supporters of The Turning Point Ministry,

The Turning Point Newsletter September 2011

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Time flies and in July 2011, The Turning Point crossed the 22nd year of Ministry among women drug addicts, prisoners and ex-offenders. In May 2011, I came on board as the Director of The Turning Point after much prayer and waiting upon the Lord. Though I am new to many of you, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you for praying faithfully and giving sacrificially to this Charity over the past two decades. It is my hope that over time, we will have the opportunity to meet and be acquainted with each other.

It was not an easy decision for me to leave behind a secure job in the civil service, where I have worked for over 14 years, to join The Turning Point fulltime. With the encouragement of the The Turning Point Board Members, (I was one for a few years) I stepped out in simple faith into a new season of life to embrace this Ministry for women caught in the web of drug addiction and crime. Although I felt inadequate for the huge responsibilities ahead, I know that His calling was clear and sure. Hence, I deeply covet your prayers that I will be able to accomplish His plans and purposes for The Turning Point and fulfil His destiny for my life.

I recall about 32 years ago, as I was at the threshold of launching into the working world after graduating from university, I was anxious about my future. As I pondered over what the future holds, God used His Word to strengthen and encourage me, reminding me of Proverbs 3:5-6, "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.*" In the New King James Version, verse 6 says, "*In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*" Being the pragmatic and rational person that I am, it is a struggle for me not to lean on my own understanding and have control over my decisions. But Proverbs 3:5-6 is a precious promise that I still hold on to till this day. It keeps me anchored in Him through the challenges in life, knowing that He will lead and guide me. As God's servant in The Turning Point, I am trusting in Him to direct my path and enable me for the responsibilities ahead.

Joshua 1:9 also ministered to me in my journey of faith. God deposited the verse in my heart three decades ago as I prepared to return home on completing my studies overseas. I had not been home for three years and was not sure if I could adapt to the changes in my home country, then Malaysia. God knew I felt insecure and anxious about the future. His Word in Joshua 1:9, "*Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*" comforted me and assured me of His presence and help wherever I go. Today, as I moved out from my comfort zone as a civil servant into full time ministry, this verse continues to sustain me.

It is now my privilege to share with you the wonderful work that God is doing in the lives of our residents in the residential programme. Here is a testimony by Lynn who has been in the halfway house programme since April this year. Lynn is a cheerful and forward-looking person, always ready with a cheery smile that brightens up one's mood. But it has not always been this way for her. This is her story:

"I felt I have been rescued from this curse. Jesus Christ came to save me from the destructive lifestyle I had been living in the past. Though I was baptized as a baby and said the sinner's prayer as a teen, I did not really know the Lord. I am grateful to hear Him call me back. To be a believer was not easy for me as I was ensnared in sin for a long time. I was trapped in a disappointing marriage which ended in divorce and my life turned topsy-turvy after another failed relationship. My father was always in debts and I had to sought ways and means to pay them off. Our relationship became estranged and I blamed him for the mess I was in. I worked in a Japanese lounge as a hostess to support my family and took drugs to perk myself up until I was caught. The only ones dear to me were my grandmother and my son who was in my ex-husband's custody.

During my term in prison, I had no visits as my grandmother became critically ill and was wheelchair bound. As for my dad, we had many unresolved issues that made me decide not to write to him. I felt betrayed by friends and loved ones and I lost hope.

I rededicated my life to God when I came to Turning Point. Through the help of the staff and Christian volunteers, I experienced the power of God's love, grace and forgiveness. Jesus gave me hope and strength to stand on my feet again. I rejoice in the hope of glory in Christ. Not only so but I also rejoice in my sufferings because I know that suffering produces perseverance, character and hope(Romans 5:2-5). God has poured His love into my life and by His grace, I am able to forgive my father and am now reconciled with him. I want to say: "Lord, your secrets of life are amazing; your Word is my light and you set me free. I choose to follow your precepts and forsake my rebellious ways. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Satan cannot rob my life anymore. I stand on a firm foundation, which is Jesus Christ."

We praise God for the work He is doing in the lives of the ladies who have come into the halfway house programme. Indeed, it is not by might, it is not by power, but by His Spirit that the lives of these women have been transformed.

Together in His service,

Chuen Yann

Director, 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