

The Turning Point Newsletter

(August Issue 2022)

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." 1John 4:7

Greetings in Jesus, Name!

Under the shelter of God Almighty, we are thankful for our Government's push towards covid resilience trending from the fast covid infection recovery rates. We press on in vigilance as an essential service to exercise personal and social responsibility while committed to every resident on a spiritually guided rhythm of living while under rehabilitation.

The last 2 years for TP have been retrospective. Over the course of the pandemic, our residents' programme duration had been shortened with introduction of long home leave by Singapore Prison Service (SPS). General rehabilitative progress was somewhat affected with less physical interaction when programmes were mostly carried out via zoom by our Volunteer leaders and representatives. We were also handling a changing profile of clients coming through our doors with ageing medical conditions and mental health issues. Indeed it is the season that SPS had prepared us as early as 2019 for the reality of 60% women in ages 50-60s being emplaced at Turning Point in year 2021 doubling over that in year 2020. Then, we explored the need to find a balance between slower pace and catering to needs of the younger client was also taken into consideration. By 2021, we introduced self-directed activity as therapy with safe distancing measures. We noted that the quiet activity was helpful with regulating negative emotions in the women. Residents found it therapeutic from calming to self-reflecting and the result was increased self-awareness and positive changes noted in attitude and openness to change negative perceptions and self-destructive behaviours. SPS has also introduced a new curriculum on psychoeducation "STAR" for women in recognition of gender needs differences to replace its decade long common curriculum for both genders. It is time to be integrative.

On 11 July 2022, we launched the WIO framework (Wellness-Inside-Out) to Residents. We believe a WIO lifestyle with holistic segments in rehabilitation increases self-efficacy that is crucial for a new beginning and rebuilding in reintegration. In this client-centred approach, we believe a resident's guided daily rhythm of a sense of wellness will strengthen her resolve and self-efficacy for reintegration. We are now putting these building blocks in place. As we sense the Lord's leading, pray for us as His servants to follow in love as we work with our Volunteer leaders and representatives' existing bible-based programs on the new calendar WIO 2023. Our Next Focus Group#2 is on **8 Oct 2022**. The Focus Group meeting objective is to | Synchronise Delivery | Minimise Overlaps | Maximise Synergies | in preparation for Timetable 2023. Time-table holistic segments by **30Nov** aims to complete our 2023 Timetable by **4 Dec 2022 / latest Dec 31, 2022** and WIO goes live on **Jan 1, 2023** for the love of our residents, His sheep. *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." 1John 4:7*

Thank you.

To God be the Glory!

Together in His Service,



Coreen Chong/ Executive Director, The Turning Point

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Current Staff workers: Executive Director : Coreen Chong / Corporate Support Officer : Zann Chik Yiet Ling / Case Manager : Eunice Quek / Social Work Associate : Violet Lim Siew Kiak / Tay Lee Leng / Operations & Admin Executive : Sharon Law Lay Choo / Care Staff, Ops Assistant: Low Siang Hong / Night Duty Staff :Wong Youk Kheng / Jenny Cheong Hin Moi / Part-timers: Florence Lim/Chiang Mui Long/ Doreen Chou

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Announcements

- There will be an EGM on 15Oct2022. Notice of EGM to all members will be early Oct. 2022.
- TTP Alumni Get-Together 2022 on 10September 2022.
- Our next issue Dec 2022 Newsletter will be available on our Website: www.theturningpoint.org.sg. Kindly write in to admin@theturningpoint.org.sg if you wish to receive a hardcopy instead.
- **A note to our donors:** All donors are to provide their full name and tax reference number (NRIC/FIN/UEN) to The Turning Point in order to be given double-tax deduction for their donations. Our staff will submit information on your **donations** to IRAS through a special portal created for this purpose.

Annex A: Activities

Community Work at Blue Cross -15July 2022



Quilling Class at SGcares VC@Sembawang



Yishun Garden - 16May 2022



MacDonald Lunch Fellowship



**Community Partner
PFS - 6May 2022**



**Community Partner
SANA - 3Aug 2022**



**30th AGM
Ps Lawrence -11Jun2022**



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Testimony by Ex-resident Chris Wong Yim Peng

I was 12-year-old when I started to know about drugs. In 2002 I was arrested.

My first experience in prison was scary and was when I first heard about God. One day when my sister come to visit me and told me that my diabetic mother was hurt in her leg, she may need amputation. I was so sad and worried, I told my Christian friend about it. She told me about God and asked me to pray. When I told her I don't know how to pray. She said : "you are just like talking to your father". So, I started to pray. I tell you God is so amazing.

On her next visit to me, my sister told me about my mother's leg recovery, I was so happy and started to believe that there is a wonderful God. But when I was out of the prison, I immediately forgot about God and started to walk my own way. Because of family problems and stress building up again over the years, I turned back to drugs to feel better. But things only got worse. As we bought more drugs, my boyfriend owed more and more money. Our income weren't enough to pay the loans, so I sold my house to pay off everything. We were left with a hundred thousand dollars, and within three months, we had used it all up and were back to gambling. My boyfriend also beat me a lot – it was so bad that there were mornings I couldn't get up because of the excruciating pain. I was sick of the drugs, and I didn't want to carry on with this kind of life anymore. So, the second time we got caught – 11 years after my release from prison – it felt like it was a "godsend".

When I was released from prison one year later, I went to The Turning Point, which is a Christian halfway house in Singapore. I stayed there for **[9 months]** to finish my rehabilitation.

I really learnt a lot at The Turning Point: how to pray, how to read bible. Above all, I thank all The Turning Point's sisters who taught me a all lot of things then my faith in God become very strong. I always keep in mind that sister Joyce told me, **(is not we chose God is God chose me to know him)**

After more than a decade of wrestling with drugs and addiction, I was finally free. I paid careful attention to my stress levels so that I would know when I needed to get help before things went downhill. I started going to church and volunteering there. Slowly, I made new friends. These were friends I could cry with and talk to when I felt stressed. I met a man – a good man, who isn't a drug addict – and we got married in church. Today, my relationship with my children is good, and I'm very close to my younger sister. I talk to my mum often, although her memory is getting worse. When I got my first bonus, I brought her to Hong Kong for a holiday. That was a dream come true.

And this is what God has given to me : my job and marriage. I know that these few years is not easy for me, something I have to struggle about my job and marriage to the point that I was almost going to give up God. But God never gives up on me, He still love me and is helping me go through all difficulties that I face.

All glory to the GOD!

Luke Ch17-19

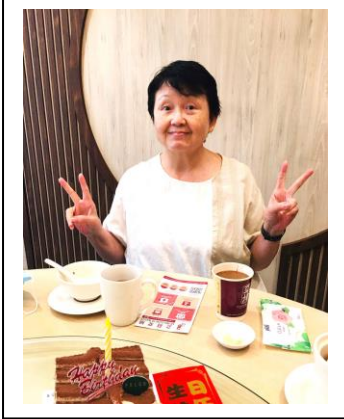
Then he said to him, Rise and go; your faith has made you well.

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Sharing by our part-time Night Staff Chiang Mui Leng

God's plan for you at the Turning Point



I thank God for enabling me to serve at Changi Prison under the CCS umbrella. This was proposed to me by a sister at my former workplace at TTSH. Having had a fresh look at the inmates and listening to their encounters and also the opportunity to share the Bible with them gives one the hope of the Word being planted in their hearts. The Holy Spirit will open their eyes when the Word is shared and implanted in their hearts.

My friend then forwarded to me Turning Point's vacancy for a night staff and asked me to pray and consider it. I requested to try one night and then continue to two nights per week.

The regular routine for night staff remains consistent but it has allowed me to see the needs of the residents here. Their background, reason why they failed in their walk and also the hope that one day they will be able to overcome their weaknesses and obstacles in their life, though not with struggles but to put their faith and hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank God for the opportunity to share morning devotions with the non-working residents as the working residents have to leave in the morning to their workplace only returning in the evening. In my daily morning devotions from Daily Bread, this has enabled the residents to see God working in each individual's lives. He never fails when/where we falter and it only shows us how much we need Him to guide us as our Shepherd. The Bible is also replete with exemplary examples of saints going through trials, afflictions, difficulties and how the Lord has enabled them to go through. After reading an article from The HIDING PLACE, I am reminded of how the founder started Turning Point. In the book of Esther where Mordecai tells Queen Esther " Who knows whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Yes, God places each of us in different places for a purpose. Queen Esther, it was God's plan to save the Jews. What about The Turning Point?

What is God's purpose in putting each of us at Turning Point? Nothing happens by accident or by chance. God sees and foreplans all for His glory.

Likewise, I believe the residents are placed here also for a purpose. Staff who has been here a a period of time has seen and learnt the needs of the residents and hopefully pray for each of the residents as the Lord impresses upon their hearts to pray and support a resident or fellow sister in Christ. Who knows how He will enable you to help a resident to truly leave her old ways and be changed in Christ's image.

We may be frail mere creatures, but He can strengthen us and help us to be a beacon to the residents. Let us pray and help each other to further His kingdom for His glory.

Colossians 3: 23,24 " And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance, for ye serve the Lord Christ."