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The Turning Point Newsletter - November 2014

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Dear Friends of The Turning Point,

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

Since joining The Turning Point in June 2014, I have been touched by many well-wishers who had dropped me notes of encouragement. Co-ministry leaders involved in Prisons work have also been a source of valuable advice. I am also very grateful to Volunteers coming in on certain days to share God's Word and Love with our residents. Many volunteers and supporters pray fervently for TTP. This really shows that we are not alone, but with many co-partners walking alongside with us in this Ministry of Love. Indeed God is Jehovah Jireh whose grace is sufficient for us.

The first four months have been a learning experience for me, attending many workshops, seminars and short courses to furnish myself the knowledge I need in my commitment. I gratefully thank all my co-workers and the Executive Committee for their co-operation, patience and guidance. Being totally new in this area of working with the broken-hearted, I came in with an open mind and an eagerness of heart to understand our residents. On some occasions, I cried with them upon hearing their heart-wrenching stories.

On August 2, we celebrated one of our resident's 46th birthday, together with the volunteers from Faith Methodist Church. She was very touched as this was the first time she celebrated her birthday in 46 years! .

This simple occasion made me realise that many of us take things for granted and we should be thankful and grateful for whatever we have. We also rejoiced with one of our ex-residents who was baptised in September. All the residents were in the Church to give their support.

Our muster has been picking up since August, and by end November, we will have 20 residents with us. We thank God for bringing these women to us, and we are bracing ourselves for more challenging days ahead. We have His assurance that we can do everything through Him who gives us strength. (Philippians 4:13)

We request that you continue to pray that all of us will adhere to God's Word in 1 Peter 5:2-3 "Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers – not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock."

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you a testimony from one of our residents.

Hi, I am Mary. I left home in 1973 with one of my neighbours to look for her husband at a bar. Her husband had an affair. Since then, I worked in a bar, and met a man who later became my husband. But we were divorced after two years, because he was unfaithful.

I started taking drugs from 1980. I picked up the habit from my boyfriend then. In 1983, I was arrested and imprisoned. In 1985, I returned to my parents' place after I was released from prison. I only stayed with my mother for a month before she passed away. I was very sad. In 1990, my father also passed away, so I stayed with my younger brother. In 1995, I went into a drug rehabilitation centre the second time. When I came out in 1997 I stayed with my younger brother for a few months before he had a heart attack and passed away. It was August 11, 1997. For the next 10 years or so, I stayed alone. I hardly met up with my older brother at all.

I felt very lonely, after I came back from work, there was no one I could talk to. No one cared for me. It was then I learned to pray to God, and poured my heart out to Him. I took comfort in His promise: "My daughter, don't be sorrowful, Jesus loves you!"

But I succumbed to drugs again in 2008. I was sent to a drug rehabilitation centre the third time in 2013. It was not easy to kick the habit, I stayed there for six months. Yet I was very thankful that I was caught, I knew it was God helping me to turn over a new leaf.

Now, I am happy to have come to The Turning Point. I am grateful to my Father in heaven and the Lord Jesus Christ, for accepting me again and again, also for the help and care I receive here from the Staff, Volunteers and the friendship from other residents. I truly want to start all over again, not to waste my life any more. Thank you all, may God bless all of you.

*"Dear Father God and the Lord Jesus Christ,
Give me strength and help me to live a meaningful life.
After I come out of this place, I want to settle into a church,
To fellowship with Christians, and to share the Gospel with others.
Lord Jesus, with You in my life, I am not afraid, despite the storms outside.
Because You are with me, I am not alone.
All glory to Your name, Amen."*

Please continue to support our baking therapy with your orders for our Cookies. Your participation makes it possible for our Residents to have a viable vocational therapy. Please email us at turningp@singnet.com.sg or call us at 62578364.

Together in His Service,

Joyce Neo

Executive Director, The Turning Point

Current Staff Workers:

Executive Director : Joyce Neo, Bukit Panjang Gospel Chapel
Case Manager : Coreen Chong Ann Foong, Amazing Grace Presbyterian Church
Administrator : Violet Lim Siew Kiak, Trinity Christian Centre
Operations & Admin Executive : Sharon Law Lay Choo
Programme & Aftercare Executive : Tay Lee Leng, Full Gospel Church
Night Duty Staff : Emily Chua Bee Choon, Evangel Family Church
Night Duty Staff : Wong Youk Kheng, Faith Community Baptist Church
Staff Support : Wong Kim Huay