

## Newsletter Through Email

If you prefer to receive our newsletter through email, please send us an email with the subject “Email Newsletter” along with your full name and address as shown on the newsletter address label to [admin@hidingplace.sg](mailto:admin@hidingplace.sg)

*We wish all our supporters a  
blessed Christmas,  
joyful New Year  
and  
bountiful Lunar New Year!*

*May the Lord keep you healthy and flourishing in  
2023*

### EXISTING NEEDS OF THE HIDING PLACE

We are thankful and appreciate your support in prayers and giving to the ministry through the years. Many have been affected financially by the Covid pandemic. If you feel led to give, we are thankful.

| NO | Item  | Amount   | PLS.TICK |
|----|---|----------|----------|
| 1  | General operational fund                          |          |          |
| 2  | Staff bonus                                       | \$25,451 |          |
| 3  | Fire, public liability and workman comp insurance | \$3,965  |          |
| 4  | Repair of kitchen equipment and rice cooker       | \$1,800  |          |
| 5  | A4 paper for newsletter                           | \$1,260  |          |

NAME:..... TEL: .....

ADDRESS: ..... POSTCODE: .....

Kindly make cheque payable to “THE HIDING PLACE (CHRISTIAN HOME MISSION) LTD and mail to 5A Jalan Haji Salam Singapore 468746 or PayNow to UEN 198301684WAC1 (General Fund).



# THE HIDING PLACE

...as long as we live we will open our door to anyone who knocks.

5A Jalan Haji Salam, Singapore 468746 Tel: 64835348 Email: [admin@hidingplace.sg](mailto:admin@hidingplace.sg)

MCI (P) 010/02/2022 (RCB NO:198301684-W)

Dec 2022 / Jan 2023

## Letter from Pastor Tan Hock Seng

### Emotional Healing

*“He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents...” - Malachi 4:6*

I know of a story about a man who, as a child, was chained at the collar to the house gate by his father. He grew up to be a very angry man.

Our family story follows us for better or for worse. Memories become a wound that continue to hurt us even after the experience is over. That past memory will flow out of us into our daily relationships. We cannot change the hurtful things that happen to us in our past. But if we can find healing for those memories that stay with us, we can become a happier and better person. Of course, this is easier said than done.

Helping people come out of their past emotional hurt is like walking a journey whose path is filled with difficult and painful experiences. The first step is ‘Confessing’ – telling as it is, while they are feeling it, to God the Father. All this is done with the awareness that the presence of the Lord is near. As they recall the people who hurt them in their mind, they have to exercise their will to forgive. That does not mean forgiving is easy. Some will find it hard and refuse to forgive. In truth, however, forgiveness is for our benefit. Otherwise, we will keep revisiting the incident in our mind and it can make us bitter, angry, wanting revenge, or worse – we become like the person we cannot forgive. Romans 12:19b however states “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord”, so leave the matter of vengeance and justice to God for it belongs to Him. On our part, we have to complete the process of forgiveness before we can progress to the next stage.

At this next stage, we ask God the Father to heal our pain and take away the hurt in our heart. We let the Love of our Father fill our heart. God loves us with His everlasting love. He tells us “See, I have written your name on the palms of my hands” (Isaiah 49:16a). We must dare to believe that God the Father loves us and that we can experience His healing Love.

As we go through life, it is inevitable that we will experience hurt along the way. Hurt can stunt our Christian growth and have a ripple effect. We must develop a tough skin and a soft heart; a heart that is loving and not easily hurt. Let us keep Ephesians 4:32 in our hearts, “...be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you”.

## ***House News***

### **A) RESIDENTS' UPDATE**

We have 11 residents currently. Sohil joined us recently. Pray he will intergrate well into the programme and that God will work in and through him.

### **B) THP 49TH ANNIVERSARY & THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION**

We celebrated our 49th Anniversary on 12 November. All glory to God for the good turnout from our faithful supporters. Indeed the Hiding Place is a testimony of God's work and not of human endeavour. God is good! We look forward to celebrating our jubilee next year.

### **C) HIDING PLACE KITCHEN**

December and January will be a very busy period for the kitchen. Other than bento orders, we have Christmas and New Year catering orders too. On top of this, we have our cookies production. Pray we will all gel well in unity and with the right attitude to serve in this busy season. We trust the Lord will help us. We thank God for the support from churches, organisations and individuals.

### **C) HIDING PLACE CNY COOKIES PRODUCTION & ORDER**

The sale of our CNY goodies has been a means to support the ministry financially over the past 20 years. Production has started. Unlike in the past where the highlight was having volunteers to help out, the current challenge of space constraints and central kitchen regulations prevents us from doing so. You can still support us by ordering the goodies and recommending them to your family and friends. The CNY order form is enclosed.

### **D) HONG LEONG LOAN**

Praise God! God is good. Thank you so much dear supportrers in your giving to the building fund. We have fully paid up the Hong Leong loan. Without your contribution, this would not have happened.

## ***Resident's Testimony - Jonathan***

My name is Jonathan Goh. I am 49 years old. I come from a low-income family. My mother was a mahjong addict and it led to my parents quarrelling every day over her addiction. After a huge quarrel, my mother decided to run away from the family, leaving us with our dad.

I started mixing with bad company during my teenage years because I needed a sense of belonging. I joined the secret society and started collecting protection money from hawkers. I was also involved in armed robbery and was sentenced to Singapore Boys' Home as I was underaged. I served two years plus in Boys' Home as I was involved in gang fights inside the home.

After release from Boys' Home, I still didn't change my ways. I continued to be involved with secret society, which landed me in the Reformative Training Centre (RTC). I served a total sentence of three years due to bad conduct. After my release from RTC, my family decided to put me in Teen Challenge halfway house. However, even after completing the programme, I did not change my ways. I was caught for trafficking drugs from Malaysia to Singapore and was sentenced to one-year imprisonment. After my release from prison, I decided to admit myself to a halfway house because I believed only God could change me. However, through the years, I was unable to change myself and got myself into trouble over and over again and had kept changing from one halfway house to another.

Finally, in 2017, I came to The Hiding Place as a resident. I am really thankful for what the staff of The Hiding Place has done for me. They always encourage me not to give up on myself and to put my trust in God. Finally, after more than three years into the programme, I was raised to be a kitchen helper in the Hiding Place Kitchen. I am grateful for this opportunity and the chance to contribute to The Hiding Place. I thank God for changing me, making me less self-seeking. I am learning to give and not just receiving all the time. All glory to Him!