

take me back into the programme. Thus, almost exactly 10 years later, I found myself back at HP.

Truly – in the words of the classic hymn Amazing Grace - ‘I was blind, but now I see.’ Coming back was like stumbling into the light – I could see my sins painfully illuminated, I could see the collateral damage I had caused to my loved ones, I could see God’s work in my life.

I continue to be encouraged by the lives of those who live with me here – many of whom were residents together with me a decade ago, but are now full-time staff and board members of HP. I aspire to follow their example in living out Ephesians 4:28 - Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

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

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	Property tax for 4 units 5A, B, C and D	\$7,392	
3	Retreat expenses for staff and residents	\$12,000	
4	Cash register for kitchen	\$1,295	
5	Staff drum course	\$1,949	

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

MCI (P) 002/02/2023 (RCB NO:198301684-W)

Jan/ Feb 2023

Letter from Pastor Tan Hock Seng

Forgiveness Before Deliverance

“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” - Eph 4:32 NIV

It is important that we learn to accept God’s forgiveness and extend that forgiveness to others. I have seen Christians having problems forgiving themselves and others. We all make mistakes, but for some reason, we have problems forgiving others. Forgiveness is not natural; it is a supernatural action.

Hurts that we experience from those we love the most, like our family, friends and neighbours can really affect us. We may find it hard to forgive because our pride is wounded. In serious offences such as violent crimes, divorce and slander, the roadblock to forgiveness is our natural desire for revenge. When we are hurt, we want to hurt back. We are all capable of being very angry towards others. We may also fear that our act of forgiveness will be misunderstood. In society, a forgiving person may be viewed as weak. Society may also say that certain people do not deserve forgiveness.

Saying “let’s forget about it” is not forgiveness. That would be like burying the problem by blocking it out of the mind. The relief would only be temporary. On the other hand, true forgiveness honestly says, “Yes! You have wronged me. I am hurt, but I will not allow that hurt to control me. By an act of my will, I will see you as God does - an imperfect person in need of forgiveness and love.”

Christ forgives us this way. He does not agree with our wrongs. He does not pat us on our backs and say our sin is fine and ok. When He forgives, He says, “Go, and sin no more.” (John 8:11) We must have a tough skin (that is not easily hurt) and a soft heart (that always extends God’s love to others).

House News

A) RESIDENTS' UPDATE

We have 12 residents currently. 2 brothers joined us recently, Marc and Donald. It's never easy, especially during the first 3 months of the programme. It is a battle of the mind to surrender and change for the better. Pray they will adjust well into the programme. Pray for their hearts to be open so that God will work in and through them.

B) STAFF UPDATE

Alvin Cross, who is in charge of worship, will be upgrading his drumming skills through a worship band course lasting 7 months. Pray for a fruitful time of learning so he can lead the team to make music to please the King of kings.

C) CHINESE NEW YEAR AND CHAP NGOH MEH

God is good! With things going back to normal after Covid, we were able to celebrate our Hiding Place Family Reunion and Chap Ngoh Meh. We had a meaningful time of fellowship and makan especially with the staff and residents' family gathering together.

D) HIDING PLACE KITCHEN

Psalms 133:1 How wonderful and pleasant it is when God's people live together in harmony. Where there is unity, there is blessing - the Lord blesses. Though Dec to Jan was a very challenging period as we were doing bento, catering and cookies making, we can really thank God for the good team spirit, with everyone gelling well together to get the job done. God is good and all glory to Jesus! Thank you for remembering us in prayer.

E) CNY COOKIES PRODUCTION & ORDER

Praise and thank God our New Year goodies sales were good. We thank God for you, our dear supporters, for buying our cookies.

F) THE HIDING PLACE FAMILY RETREAT

From 10th to 13th April, we will be in Batam for a time of refreshment, reflection and rest. Our theme will be "Let Your Light Shine" (Matt 5:16). It will be a time of learning, worship and games. We are looking forward to it. Pray God will speak to us and we will have a fruitful time of bonding and rest.

Resident's Testimony - Frederick Law

I was born 29 years ago to Christian parents. My father was a pastor and a missionary. Although I grew up with as much Scripture as any young mind could handle, I never truly understood or experienced who God was until much later in my life.

At 15 years of age, I was tired of being a social outcast in school due to my strict parents. I started smoking, drinking and fighting. Within a few months, my attendance in school went from 100% to 0%. Eventually I ran away from home to stay with friends. I began to steal from convenience stores almost every day. I eventually got arrested for the first time for theft when I was 16.

When I turned 17, a friend introduced me to ketamine, and then subsequently, meth and ecstasy. It was not long before I got caught for drug-related charges. I was sentenced to two years supervised probation at the Hiding Place (HP). HP opened my eyes for the first time to the way God was working in my life and the lives of those around me. I experienced reconciliation with my family. God also blessed me with committed tutors who sacrificed their time and effort to enable me to achieve an 'O' Levels aggregate of nine points.

When I was 19, I completed my probation and left HP to begin studying for my diploma at a polytechnic. Although I stayed drug-free, I gradually stopped going to church and reading the bible. During my final year in polytechnic, my girlfriend of two years left me. I slid into depression, and one of my friends offered me drugs to cheer me up. From that point, I got sucked even deeper into drugs, and I spent the next few years giving myself up 'to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity,' as Paul aptly describes in Eph 4:19.

I eventually stopped substance abuse again at 24, when I found a girlfriend with whom I had a three-year relationship. However, after the relationship went south, I picked up right from where I had left off and soon found myself in more trouble than ever before. Within the span of a few months, I did so much wrong under the influence of drugs which I deeply regret. I had also accumulated a mountain of debt which caused considerable stress for my family.

At my wits end, I contacted a staff member of HP to ask if they were willing to