

helped me to cultivate a Christlike character and redirected me to a new purpose in life. In my entire life, most of the choices I made were wrong. But the one right choice I made was not going home when I was released from prison and going to The Hiding Place instead. Until now, I have never regretted it. God has shown His faithfulness in my life. I was a nobody, nothing, yet God has used me to serve in prison ministry and Hiding Place, empowered me to graduate from Tung Ling Bible School in 2019.

I got married to my wife, Jayne, last year and I am studying for my diploma in theology at TCA College. These are things I would never have dreamt of doing. I am very grateful to God for transforming my life, and the blessings He has granted me in Christ. All glory be to God!

### *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)

### 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	AIA staff group insurance	\$9147.00	
3	Etiqa insurance	\$1164.41	
4	Smokerlyzer	\$2030.40	
5	School fees for staff theological studies	\$1175.36	

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

March/ April 2023

## *Letter from Pastor Tan Hock Seng*

### *Forgiveness Before Deliverance*

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry. – Eph 4:26 NIV

On the same day we are offended, we are to resolve our anger and forgive. It is better to forgive right away, not tonight, or tomorrow, or next week. We must also keep in mind that life is uncertain. A more convenient time may never come.

If something angers or bothers us, we should forgive. But this does not mean denying our hurt and anger. In fact, we do not need to pretend we are not hurt or angry just because someone else thinks we should not feel that way. Let us learn to be honest with ourselves, with others, and with God. At the same time, let us learn to forgive.

We need to forgive both one-time offences and repeated offences. We need to forgive things that offend (or we feel should offend) our loved ones. We need to forgive people who have hurt us but have now passed away. We need to forgive trespasses – all the times people made use of us and our property without permission. We need to forgive persecution – all the moments where someone cursed us behind our back and we knew. We need to forgive the things that rip and tear at our very core; the people who remained ungrateful and thankless even after we helped them. We need to forgive people who falsely assault our image and character. In short, we need to forgive sins against us.

Forgiveness is one of the basic Christian teachings, but I find it very hard to practise. And yet, I know I have to practise it. Basic teachings are basic not because they are easy, but because they are critical. For example, the very first advice I received from my driving instructor while learning to drive was to

plan my route, have enough rest, and not speed. These sound very basic, but they make all the difference between life and death. I once had a friend who travelled to Malaysia regularly for his holiday trips. One night, he drove into Malaysia without enough rest and he had a fatal accident the following morning. Afterwards, I found myself thinking and wishing – if only he had had enough rest.

If I do not practise forgiveness, I would become a bitter person unable to relate with others properly. I would be of no help in a people ministry. Unforgiveness would create a blind spot in my life – I would find it hard to listen to God’s small, still voice even if I read the Bible. Sooner or later, I would stop going to church. The consequences would be severe. So dear brothers and sisters, forgive and be delivered.

## ***House News***

### **A) RESIDENT UPDATE**

We have 12 residents currently. 2 brothers joined us recently, Markus and Sanjay. Thank God! Frederick has completed his one-year programme. We have seen changes in his character, behaviour and attitude in work. Yes, temptations and new challenges can’t be avoided especially in the recovery journey of an addicts life. Pray that he will seek the wisdom of God on what’s best for him as he enters a new season and that his central focus will continue to be on none other than His Saviour Jesus.

### **B) PINEAPPLE JAM PREPARATION FOR CNY COOKIES**

Praise God! We will be starting our pineapple jam preparation in mid-May. From cutting the raw pineapples, grating, cooking and finally packing them into the freezer. It is a lot of hard work and it involves everyone. The shared sentiment in Hiding Place is that “We brought nothing here, only our negative, problematic baggages. Therefore whatever we do is not only unto the Lord but also a time of contributing back to the ministry with gratitude for what we have gained from it.” Thank you for remembering us in prayer.

### **C) THE HIDING PLACE FAMILY RETREAT (APRIL 10-13)**

We had a wonderful time of refreshment, reflection and rest with the theme “Let Your Light Shine” (Matt 5:16). We are back now charged in mind and body, all ready to function well in the ministry. God is good.

## ***Staff Testimony - Cary Lim***

Drugs controlled my life for 10 years starting from the age of 20. I lost all interest in work, quit my job, and just indulged in partying and consuming different kinds of drugs. For those 10 years I lived a miserable life. Every day my first thought waking up was to find money to feed the addiction. I would borrow money from loan-sharks. By 2007, being completely broke, I decided to peddle drugs. I got caught in no time and was sentenced to six and a half years in prison and 10 strokes of the cane. I had thought prison life would change me, but my heart remained hardened, I still got involved in gangs and other illegal activities. At that time, I asked myself, “Why can’t I turn over a new leaf, even after being locked up in prison?” There was a void in my heart that nothing could fill. Hopelessness overwhelmed me.

A year before I was due to be released, I was doing exercises in the yard one day when the speaker blared overhead: “Christian counselling standby”. A voice inside my heart asked me to go. It felt strange, I did not know how to describe it. Nevertheless, I obeyed the voice and queued up to go to the counselling room. I had not registered for the session, but God opened three gates from the yard to the counselling room for me. Each of these gates usually had a warden but that day, there was no warden at all three gates.

During the worship session, my heart felt very warm. I know now it was the Holy Spirit. From that point on, I never stopped attending the counselling sessions in prison. God placed many Christian brothers around me, even in my cell, and I began my journey of faith, praying and reading the Bible. In my quiet time with God, He had pointed me to 2 Timothy 2:22: “Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” I started to ponder in my heart and seek God; yes Lord, I know I need to flee the evil desires but where should I go after my release to pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace? One month before my release, a Prison Fellowship staff recommended that I go to The Hiding Place after hearing how God had spoken to me through this Bible verse. After praying to God, I had peace that He wanted me to be there.

On 12 November 2011, after my release, I followed God’s calling and checked into The Hiding Place. The 12-month programme changed my entire life. I was touched by the love, care and concern of the brothers. The spiritual programme