

desire for our family to be whole. I decided to appeal for my wife and son to come to Singapore. With an MP's help, my appeal was approved and on February 7, 2007, Virginia arrived in Singapore with Christian. There was a room available at the Hiding Place and were able to stay there. We were finally reunited. My wife was granted permanent residence on our first application and her citizenship application was approved after two attempts. It was a miracle that Virginia was able to obtain citizenship after being banned from entering Singapore previously. All things are indeed possible with God! And we were blessed with another son, Cedric.

I am now 64 years old and I continue to serve in Hiding Place, doing maintenance work and helping to run the kitchen.

Timothy's paraphrase of Ps 66:10-12 – "For you, God, tested me; you refined me like silver. You brought me into prison and laid burdens on my back. You let people ride over my head; I went through fire and water, but you brought me to a place of abundance."

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.

NO	Item	Amount	PLS.TICK
1	General operational fund		
2	Auditors fee financial year 2023	\$8665.20	
3	Upgrade of CCTV system	\$5000.00	
4	Keyboard for worship	\$2793.50	
5	Mission trip expenses	\$1000.00	

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) 008/02/2024 (RCB NO:198301684-W)

April - July 2024

Letter from Pastor Tan Hock Seng

The Great Commission

There is a unique and unusual conversation about The Great Commission that sticks in my mind to this day. I was assigned to fetch the speaker for our evening class that day. He was a seasoned missionary and had served on the missionary ship, the Doulos Hope, and its floating library. He has since passed on, but at that time, he was taking a break from mission work and had been working in a local church in Singapore instead. As he boarded my vehicle, I tried to strike a conversation with this man on our way to the Hiding Place Home. Out of curiosity, I asked him about the "calling" for missions. In Christian circles, "calling" was a word I often heard used to describe those specifically assigned to pursue full-time missions by God. I wondered what this highly-experienced missionary would make of it. To my surprise, he bluntly declared that what the church needed was not a "Missionary Calling" but a "Missionary Kick". The calling had already been given a long time ago, he shared. I was stunned and didn't know what to make of his words. A missionary "kick"? Why would this person talk like that? After hearing his bold statement, I decided to just keep my mouth shut and drive him to his speaking engagement.

After that encounter however, I kept wondering why he described it as a "Missionary Kick". Then, I looked up Luke 2:49 (NKJV), 'And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"' How striking! Jesus was up and about doing God's business – His Father's business. His relationship with the Heavenly Father was very close and personal. He knew His Father's heart.

The Great Commission didn't start in Matthew 28:19, it started in Luke 2:49. Jesus knew the Father's love, and the love of the Father compelled him to carry out the Father's ministry. Missions starts from being in a loving relationship with the Heavenly Father.

Therein lies the problem of our “Missionary Inertia”. Jesus knew and experienced the depth of the Father’s love. Do we know our Heavenly Father’s love? Have we experienced His healing love that is able to heal all the hurts in our memory and the chains that bind us in our story? Let us desire to experience the Father’s love more deeply, throwing off everything that hinders to pursue our Father’s heart for this world, wholeheartedly!

House News

A) RESIDENTS’ UPDATE

We have 10 residents currently. We thank God for Dickson who joined us in April. He came out fresh from prison and joined our one year programme. Pray he will adjust well and continue to persist in his goal to know Christ more and to be transformed.

B) STAFF UPDATE

Richard Neo completed his term at Tung Ling Bible School. He graduated on June 27. We thank God that with conviction he took up another challenge to join a team from Tung Ling to go on a mission trip to Kalimantan to reach out to the village folks from 20-27 July.

Alvin Cross has also gone on a mission trip to Taiwan with a team to visit and share the Gospel to the different halfway houses and prisons from 4-18 July. We thank God for open doors to venture into these various ministries.

C) THP RESIDENTS AND STAFF RETREAT

Thank God once again for our dear friend Dr Leslie who lead us into an engaging time of bonding, fun and games. Indeed the bible says, “two is better than one because they have a good return for their labour”. And the return was good, We came back refreshed and we continue to sharpen one another to be more like Christ as we stay and serve together in unity. Glory to God.

D) ACTS LEADERSHIP CAMP IN MACAU

Pastor Hock Seng, staff Jeremy and Sally had a wonderful retreat meeting up with the different halfway houses leaders from Malaysia in Macau. They each shared their own experience in what they faced in ministry, be it challengers, struggles or rejoicing moments. They compared notes, prayed and encouraged each other not to give up but continue the good work the Lord has started.

Staff Testimony: Timothy Tan

I became addicted to heroin in 1975, when I was 14. My family sent me to the House of Grace (HOG), which was later renamed as The Hiding Place. I invited Jesus into my life the first night I was there. After completing the programme, I left HOG. I was able to stay clean for a period but eventually relapsed.

Around 1992, I was arrested for drug consumption and sentenced to the Drug Rehabilitation Centre (DRC) for a year. After my release, I went back to Hiding Place to join the programme. While I was doing my quiet time one day, I felt a burning sensation all over my body as I read about Saul’s conversion in Acts 9:1-10. I wondered if God was calling me to serve Him.

At my baptism on April 11, 1993, I heard again from God. He spoke to me in an audible voice, saying, “I give you 10 years”. I didn’t know where the voice came from but I knew it was from God. I didn’t fully understand its meaning at the time. I left The Hiding Place not long after.

I met Virginia near my workplace and we began dating. My struggles with addiction created challenges for both of us. She was a believer involved in Christian outreach. However my addiction led her away from her faith and caused her to backslide. Despite the difficulties, we got married in 2001 and had our first son, Christian.

In 2003, I walked into a trap set by CNB. When I entered the house, the officer calmly said to me, “It has been very long, don’t run anymore.” This statement immediately reminded me of the message I had received at my baptism. “I give you ten years”. It was exactly 10 years ago that God had spoken to me. I went to DRC for the second time, serving a sentence of nine months. Virginia and Christian were deported to the Philippines and barred from returning to Singapore, just before I went to prison.

After my release, I returned to the Hiding Place as a resident, just three days before Christmas. It was at this new location in Jalan Kayu that I fully surrendered and continued my journey of transformation and service. After completing my rehabilitation programme, I travelled to the Philippines to visit my wife and son, Christian, in 2004. It was during this visit that I felt a strong