year at The Hiding Place, I often struggled with my love for the pleasures of the world which would distract me from my walk with God. But I persevered and in time experienced the love, peace and joy of God. By the grace of God, I completed the one-year program earlier this year and chose to extend my stay.

I pray that God will use me as His instrument to bring hope to others and to become a channel of blessing to many. I hold on firmly to this promise.

Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I know that God will never leave me nor forsake me. I am grateful to The Hiding Place ministry, the staff and brothers, and our church community for all the support and love shown to me.

## **Newsletter by 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

# Wishing you a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year filled with love, joy and peace!

## EXISTING NEEDS OF THE HIDING PLACE

We are thankful and appreciate your support in prayers and giving to the ministry through the years. If you feel led to give, we are thankful.

NO	Item	Amount	PLS.TICK
1	General operational fund		
2	Staff bonuses 1-month	\$28,700.00	
3	Upgrade of CCTV system	\$8500.00	
4	Elevators annual maintenance	\$2550.00	
5			

NAME:		TEL:	
ADDRESS:	POSTO		

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).



5A Jalan Haji Salam, Singapore 468746 T

Tel: 64835348

Email: admin@hidingplace.sg

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

Nov - Dec 2024

Letter from Pastor Tan Hock Seng

## Seasons of Life

Ecclesiastes 3:1 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens"

Discerning which season of life I am in helps set the direction for my journey. We will all grow older, but we cannot go backward in time. There are certain things I can do when I am young that I will not be able to do later—my energy, perspective, and priorities will shift in ways I cannot predict yet, but I know they will shape the choices I make and how I experience the world.

Just as the natural world experiences seasonal changes, our lives also go through distinct phases. From infancy to childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and the senior years, each stage brings its own challenges. Understanding these stages can help us navigate them more effectively.

There is also a parallel in our spiritual journey. Just as we grow physically, we also grow spiritually. Understanding both the developmental stages of life and the spiritual stages helps us navigate them with greater awareness, patience, and grace.

Life is a continuous cycle of growth and transformation—unless we stop being curious or lose our "hunger". Becoming seasoned takes time, because it means becoming an expert—someone who has dedicated years to a specific skill or activity. When we are ready for the next stage of growth, the teacher will appear. We must be still and sensitive to the Holy Spirit's teaching and guidance.

Psalm 32:8 (Amplified Bible) "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you [who are willing to learn] with My eye upon you."

### House News

#### A) RESIDENTS' UPDATE

We have 9 residents currently. Andrew had a relapse and he came back for the programme. An addict is like a mouse running round and round in a wheel, always going back to the old lifestyle. In and out of the system but not able to break the addiction cycle. Yes, we know the answer lies in Jesus but the individual plays a big role in wanting to break the cycle. May the all Sovereign Lord grant us grace and strength.

## B) ACTS CAMP

We had a good and refreshing time at the camp. The games were engaging and fun but also tiring It was also an eye opener for us interacting with the brothers and sisters from Malaysia, especially in how they live their simple lives. It really taught us precious lessons of humility and gratitude. God is good.

## C) HIDING PLACE 51st ANNIVERSARY

What a joyous and blessed time it was. We thank God and thank all the supporters for coming to celebrate with us. We thank you for your giving and prayers. Akan Datang! See you in 2025. Glory to the Lord Most High.

## D) CNY COOKIES/TARTS PRODUCTION

Large scale cookie production is back again. It will be a busy month for the home and the kitchen but God empowers. He will give us strength and unite us to do the job with a right spirit.

This is a once-a-year fund-raising project of the Hiding Place.

Please support us by purchasing our goodies and recommending them to your family and friends. Your efforts are very much appreciated, thank you!

The CNY order form is enclosed.

## Resident's Testimony: Eddie Wong

I left school at a young age and was never keen in studying. Being young, naive and easygoing, I started mixing with the wrong company. I soon picked up the habit of smoking which then led to ganja and eventually heroin. My first brush with the law was in 1975 as a teenager and over the next four decades, my life revolved around the vicious cycle of going in and out of prison. The prison became my second home. Drugs made me a very hardened person and I did not care much about the suffering I was causing my family; especially my mother and sister. I would often ask my family for money and even got involved in illegal activities to feed my drug habit. I would occasionally source for drugs in Malaysia because it was more affordable.

I got to know about Jesus through the chapel services during my time in prison. I attended chapel to pass time and I would accept Christ into my life whenever the speaker gave an invitation. I had no assurance of my salvation. In 1988, I started getting serious with my faith. I started reading the Bible and walking close to God. He gave me the gift of singing and playing the guitar and I became part of the chapel music team.

Sadly, my faith wasn't strong enough and I went back to my old lifestyle not long after I was released from prison. I was caught coming back from Malaysia and was charged with the importation of drugs. Being just a few months shy of fifty years old, I was not spared the cane and was sentenced to 5 years and 5 strokes of the cane. Being in prison did not really change me but while serving my last sentence from 2012 to 2015, my father passed away and I was not able to see him for the last time. This left a huge impact on me and for once I came to my senses.

Upon release from prison, I managed to stay clean for the next 6 years, determined not to let drugs cause me anymore misery. Despite my best efforts, I became complacent and eventually fell back to drugs. Over the next year, my addiction grew worse and I woke up one day in the hospital not having any clue how I ended up there. In sheer desperation, I cried out to God in prayer, asking Him to lead me to a Christian home. I saw no other way out for me but to fully surrender to Jesus and to trust in Him wholeheartedly.

My prayers were answered. I was led to The Hiding Place. During my first