

Finding God in prison was the most profound gift I have ever received. It was a moment of true grace, a turning point where He pulled me from darkness and placed me in His marvellous light. I shudder to think where I might be today had I not encountered Him. I could easily still be lost and aimless on the streets, a burden to society rather than a contributing member. Instead of being a positive influence, I could have become a negative one, a stumbling block for others. It is proof of His transformative power that He can take what the world considers as “trash” – a broken, troubled life like mine – and reshape it into something useful, something meaningful. This grace, this redemption, is what drives me forward.

Today, I am a social worker, happily married to my best friend and life partner, Charmaine. We have a child and expecting another one soon. I serve as a director on the Hiding Place Board. It’s all the goodness of God and I give all glory and honour to Him.

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

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	Property tax for 4 units (\$2880 per unit x 4)	\$11,520.00	
3	Hiding Place retreat expenses	\$6000.00	
4	Alumni cum volunteers gathering expenses	\$2800.00	
5			

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
MDDI (P) 015/02/2025 (RCB NO:198301684-W) Jan - Feb 2025

Letter from Pastor Tan Hock Seng

MIND HABITS

“Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards,
our vineyards that are in bloom.” - Song of Solomon 2:15

To catch the little foxes, the vineyard keepers must set traps that are safe and humane, to guide them away from the vineyards. In the same way, this story serves as a powerful metaphor for our inner world. Just as the foxes pose a threat to the delicate vines, our thoughts, fears, and external pressures can disrupt the growth of our mental well-being and the blossoming of our spiritual potential.

To apply this lesson to our minds, we first need to recognise that, like vineyards, our minds require care, attention, and protection. Begin by identifying the thoughts or influences that disrupt your mental peace. These may include negative self-talk, anxiety, or external pressures that drain your energy. Acknowledging these “little foxes” is crucial to understanding what specifically threatens your mental health. By acknowledging these thoughts, we can begin to understand their impact.

To protect our mental vineyard, we can cultivate habits that create barriers against negativity. These may include surrounding ourselves with positive influences (select your friends, don’t let your friends select you), engaging in uplifting activities, or taking care of ourselves in ways that nourish our minds and spirits. Like the vineyard owners who reflect on how to deal with the foxes, we should also reflect on our thoughts and feelings. Challenges and distractions are a natural part of the human experience. By reframing these “foxes” as opportunities for growth and learning, we can build resilience and adaptability.

The tale of the little foxes and the vineyards reminds us of the importance of tending to our minds with care and intention. By identifying distractions, creating supportive environments, and nurturing our mental well-being, we can cultivate a flourishing inner landscape where our potential can bloom. Mark 9:23 - “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

House News

A) RESIDENTS' UPDATE

We have 9 residents currently. Ah Hai, Jun Jie and Benny joined the programme recently. Pray they will adapt well and have a desire to love and encounter the Lord. Residents come and go and many do not complete the programme. At times, it can feel like a discouraging and thankless ministry of helping the brothers. But we take comfort from the story of the 10 lepers whom Jesus healed. One came back to worship and thank him. For just that one, it is worth it. The heaven rejoice and we rejoice too.

B) CNY UNDATE

God is good. We had a wonderful Chinese New Year reunion dinner with the residents, staff families and some close friends. It's a Hiding Place tradition where we celebrate together as one big family of God.

C) ALUMNI CUM VOLUNTEERS GATHERING

Chap Ngo Mai is the night where we invite the alumni, volunteers and friends to come celebrate together. We had makan, followed by a time of worship and thanksgiving, and a message of peace by Rev Dr Patrick Stephen. It was a wonderful time of catching up with friends. We had a joyful and meaningful time. We thank the Lord.

D) CNY COOKIES UPDATE

We thank God for the right spirit and unity of everyone involved in completing our CNY cookies production. Thank you, dear supporters, for buying our cookies. All glory to God!

E) HIDING PLACE RETREAT

This year our retreat will be at Citrus Hotel in JB from May 19-22. Pas Luke Thurai will be our speaker for this retreat. Pray we will have a wonderful and restful time together.

Board Director Testimony: Thomas Liao

My childhood was marked by a desperate need for attention, a void I tried to fill by acting out and defying authority. This path led me down a dark road. At 13, I joined a gang, dropped out of school, abused drugs, and ultimately became homeless, even contemplating suicide. In 2008, at the age of 20, I was arrested and incarcerated for drug trafficking. The four walls of prison did not intimidate me because I was caught again for a similar offence less than two weeks after I was out on bail.

However, it was also within those same prison walls that something profound happened. I found Christianity, and with it, a glimpse of hope. For the first time, I dared to imagine a future that was different from the one I had carved out for myself. I began to wonder if I could truly change, whether my life could have a purpose beyond the pain and mistakes of my past.

After serving my sentence, I voluntarily sought rehabilitation at The Hiding Place. I knew that a strong foundation in faith was crucial for successful reintegration into society. The daily devotions, sermons, and spiritual trainings I received there were instrumental in building a strong foundation for my walk with Jesus. It was a period of crucial growth and healing, allowing me to solidify my faith and to prepare for the challenges ahead. I am incredibly grateful for the support I received there, including the accommodation and tuition assistance provided which enabled me to complete my O-Levels. Passing those exams opened an unexpected door: I was accepted into the Social Work diploma program at Nanyang Polytechnic. This, in turn, paved the way for me to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Social Work at the University of Social Sciences (SUSS) eventually. My 13 months at The Hiding Place were essential for stabilising my life.

My early life was defined by a broken family and the pervasive belief, shared by many like myself, that I was a lost cause, destined to be nothing more than a troublemaker. But my life now is a testament to the statement that “Your start in life does not determine your destination,” a quote that resonated deeply with me in the years following my release. Today, my life is grounded in the importance of relationships, caring for my family, and striving to live a life that honours God. I am no longer that aimless, troubled youth. I have found my purpose, and it is rooted in helping others find theirs.

