



THE HIDING PLACE

(CHRISTIAN HOME MISSION) LTD.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2024

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ"

Colossians 1:28-29 NASB





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HOW LONG



ABOUT US

OUR PURPOSE

The Hiding Place is a Christian Home for a new beginning, set up for the rehabilitation of drug addicts, ex-prisoners, alcoholics, gambling addicts, homeless orphans, inhalant abusers, wayward teens, young offenders, troubled youths and those in need of help. Through our programmes and services, The Hiding Place promises an environment that restores one's life balance.

OUR MOTTO:

***As long as we
live, we will
open our door
to anyone
who knocks.***

OUR MISSION

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ"

Colossians 1:28-29 (NASB)

For every person who enters our doors, we promise to mould them in the way our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ would want us to.



ABOUT US

OUR HISTORY

Students from the Singapore Bible College had responded to the late Reverend Henry Khoo's call to do outreach work for drug addicts at the opium treatment centre on St John's Island. These regular visits to the island led one student, Sister Christina Chan, to start the first Halfway House in Singapore in 1973 called the House of Grace. In 1976, Sister Christina was joined by her husband Pastor Philip Chan and the Halfway House was renamed The Hiding Place. A former heroin addict, Pastor Philip Chan was set free from drugs by the power of the Gospel. He believed that Christianity had much to offer in the rehabilitation of drug addicts and so dedicated his life to this cause. The couple thus initially reached out to drug addicts, but The Hiding Place has since opened its doors to many others in need.

Pastor Philip and Sister Christina went home to be with the Lord in the years 2020 and 2022 respectively. Since Pastor Philip's passing, leadership of the ministry has been handed over to Pastor Tan Hock Seng, who has been with The Hiding Place since 1981.



OUR FOUNDERS

The late Pastor Philip Chan and Christina Chan responded to God's call to reach out to those in need.





MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Pastor Tan Hock Seng, Executive Director of
The Hiding Place. Pictured with his wife, Elaine.*

***"Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the
vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom."***

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:15

Tending the Vineyard of the Mind

The new year is often seen as an opportunity for a new beginning. Whatever the challenges or failures of the previous year, the new year in our socio-cultural context tends to make seeking self-transformation seem like a possible thing to embark on again. At The Hiding Place, transformation begins in the mind. Like a vineyard, the mind requires regular care, protection, and intentional pruning.

In the Song of Solomon, we read of "little foxes" that threaten to destroy flourishing vineyards. Just as vineyard keepers must guard against these hidden threats, we too must be mindful of the subtle thoughts and habits that can quietly erode our emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being. The first step is awareness—recognising the "little foxes" in our lives:

- negative self-talk
- anxious thoughts
- guilt or shame
- peer pressure
- harmful influences

Setting Mental Traps—With Compassion

Once we identify these intruders, we can take active steps to protect our mental vineyard. This includes:

- Choosing uplifting influences — select your friends; don't let your friends select you.
- Engaging in restorative habits — worship, prayer, rest, and community.
- Speaking life and truth over ourselves and others.
- Challenges are part of life. But when we view them as opportunities to grow in faith, character, and trust, we build spiritual resilience.

A Word of Hope

Jesus said, *"If you can?... Everything is possible for one who believes."* (Mark 9:23). As we reflect on the past year, we give thanks to God for the many lives renewed—men and women who have chosen to confront the “foxes” within and step into the freedom Christ offers. We thank God for everything He has done through and in The Hiding Place ministry, and we thank you, kind supporters, for having journeyed alongside us all this time.

May we all continue to tend to our inner vineyards with wisdom, courage, and hope.

God bless you!

Pastor Tan Hock Seng
Executive Director of The Hiding Place





OVERVIEW OF CHARITY

THE HIDING PLACE (CHRISTIAN HOME MISSION) LTD ("THE HIDING PLACE") *was registered as a company limited by guarantee in 15 April 1983.*

THE HIDING PLACE *was registered as a charity under the Charities Acts (chapter 37) since 30 June 1987.*

THE HIDING PLACE *has M&AA as well as Rules and Regulations as its governing instrument.*

UNIQUE ENTITY NUMBER (UEN):
198301684W

REGISTERED ADDRESS:
5A JALAN HAJI SALAM, SINGAPORE 468746

AUDITOR:
NLA DFK ASSURANCE PAC

BANKERS:
DBS BANKING

ADVISORS:
DR HAN MENG SIEW
DR TIEW LAY HWA
MS SHIRLEY HOO

OVERVIEW OF CHARITY

(RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME)



The Hiding Place operates a 24/7 resident live-in ministry Christian Home where staff live in as well, becoming family to the residents in the Rehabilitation Programme. We provide a 12-month programme which comes in three phases: 1) Nurturing, 2) Growth, and 3) Integration. Each stage takes up to four months, although residents may always choose to stay longer even after officially completing their programme.



Our programme aims to help residents achieve balance in different aspects of living through the Spiritual, Vocational, Educational, and Recreational. A day in the life of a resident/staff will typically comprise of all four. Residents with special circumstances or needs may have a different schedule and are considered on a case-by-case basis. On Sundays, we also attend our own in-house church service. Restoring life balance will always be our top priority.

OVERVIEW OF CHARITY (RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME)

SPIRITUAL

Although our programme also emphasises other aspects, we recognise that the spiritual aspect must be given top priority. Our Ministry has helped and nurtured numerous people over the years, many of whom have affirmed that religion plays a vital role in the rehabilitation of drug addicts. We are confident that when a resident repents and turns to God who has planned a way for them, they will have a success story to tell the world.



VOCATIONAL

The preparation of the residents to face the competitive world when they leave, is of next importance in our Drug Rehabilitation Programme. The vocational emphasis seeks to train the residents in work skills, to shape their attitudes, and to inculcate responsibility. Residents are taught skills such as carpentry, welding, gardening, farming, as well as various culinary and service sector related skills.



OVERVIEW OF CHARITY (RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMME)

EDUCATIONAL



Education is encouraged as far as possible. Young residents study under Home Tuition provided by volunteer tutors to allow them to attain their GCE 'N' or 'O' Levels certificates. Residents who have already completed their secondary education will be sent to public schools such as Polytechnics to be equipped with a diploma. Residents are also equipped with basic knowledge in computer and IT.

RECREATIONAL

Recreational activities are important for fitness and to help one remain mentally alert and active. They help build character through discipline. In addition, we believe that if we can interest the residents and emphasise the importance and benefits of being involved in sports, it would divert their attention from drug-taking to a more healthy recreational activity.



OVERVIEW OF LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME	CURRENT BOARD APPOINTMENT	CURRENT OCCUPATION
Tan Hock Seng	Executive Director 01 Jan 2021	Executive Director
Samuel Chua	Board Chairman 02 Jan 2019	Manager
Bob Toh	Board Vice-Chairman 21 Jun 2006	Manager
Patrick Stephen	Board Secretary 11 Feb 2020	Assessor
Ann Siew Ong	Board Treasurer 25 Jun 2024	Accountant
Toh Kim Hong	Board Member 21 Jun 2006	Freelance Accountant
Edmund Chua	Board Member 20 Jun 2007	Evangelist
Gary Tan	Board Member 20 Jun 2007	Sole Proprietor
Thomas Liao	Board Member 11 Aug 2020	Social Worker
Raymond Chan	Board Member 25 Jun 2024	Sole Proprietor

OVERVIEW OF LEADERSHIP

SUMMARY OF BOARD MEETINGS

MEETING	BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE
09 JAN 2024 GENERAL MEETING	EX-OFFICIO: TAN HOCK SENG MEMBERS: SAMUEL CHUA, BOB TOH, TOH KIM HONG, PATRICK STEPHEN, GARY TAN, EDMUND CHUA BY INVITATION: CALEB TAN, JEREMY TAN
02 APR 2024 GENERAL MEETING	EX-OFFICIO: TAN HOCK SENG MEMBERS: SAMUEL CHUA, BOB TOH, TOH KIM HONG, EDMUND CHUA, PATRICK STEPHEN, THOMAS LIAO, GARY TAN BY INVITATION: CALEB TAN, JEREMY TAN
25 JUN 2024 GENERAL MEETING	EX-OFFICIO: TAN HOCK SENG MEMBERS: SAMUEL CHUA, BOB TOH, TOH KIM HONG, PATRICK STEPHEN, THOMAS LIAO, GARY TAN, ANN SIEW ONG BY INVITATION: CALEB TAN, JEREMY TAN
25 JUN 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	EX-OFFICIO: TAN HOCK SENG MEMBERS: SAMUEL CHUA, BOB TOH, TOH KIM HONG, PATRICK STEPHEN, THOMAS LIAO, GARY TAN, ANN SIEW ONG BY INVITATION: CALEB TAN, JEREMY TAN
13 AUG 2024 GENERAL MEETING	EX-OFFICIO: TAN HOCK SENG MEMBERS: SAMUEL CHUA, BOB TOH, EDMUND CHUA, TOH KIM HONG, PATRICK STEPHEN, GARY TAN, THOMAS LIAO, ANN SIEW ONG, RAYMOND CHAN BY INVITATION: CALEB TAN, JEREMY TAN, VINCENT QUICK
12 NOV 2024 GENERAL MEETING	EX-OFFICIO: TAN HOCK SENG MEMBERS: SAMUEL CHUA, BOB TOH, TOH KIM HONG, PATRICK STEPHEN, GARY TAN, THOMAS LIAO, ANN SIEW ONG, RAYMOND CHAN BY INVITATION: CALEB TAN, VINCENT QUICK

KEY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

TOTAL INCOME : \$944,798
TOTAL EXPENDITURE : \$1,230,189
NET SURPLUS : \$285,391

ANALYSIS OF 2023 AND 2024 FINANCIALS:

	FY2024	FY2023	VARIANCE
TOTAL INCOME	\$944,798	\$1,117,542	\$172,744
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$1,230,189	\$1,073,698	\$156,491

REMARKS:

NONE OF THE HIDING PLACE PAID STAFF RECEIVES MORE THAN \$100,000 EACH IN ANNUAL REMUNERATION



Highlights of 2024



ACTS Camp

REGIONAL HALFWAY HOUSE MINISTRY CONNECTIONS

HOW LONG O LORD?
50th Anniversary



Alumni Ministry

SPURRING ONE ANOTHER ONWARD IN BROTHERLY LOVE

HOW LONG O LORD?
50th Anniversary





Alumni Testimony: Joshua Cheong

My name is Joshua Cheong. I am 42 years old. I came to The Hiding Place (THP) in March 2017 due to my gambling addiction. At the time, I was married with two children. The thrill and irresistible desire to gamble overshadowed my sense of responsibility to live a normal life. I found it difficult to focus on anything—whether it was my work or my role as a husband and father. I constantly sought out different gambling avenues, such as online poker and soccer betting. Despite having a good salary in the finance industry, I ended up accumulating substantial debts and even resorted to stealing money from home. I was at my wit's end and truly detested this version of myself. I even had thoughts of ending my life. It was through my sister's church friend that I came to know about THP and decided to "give it a try," since I did not know of any other way to break out of this vicious cycle.

It was during my third month at THP that I truly experienced the presence of God. On the night I received news that my wife intended to serve me divorce papers the following day, I was devastated and couldn't sleep. As I passed by the usually bustling worship hall—now empty—I felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to enter and kneel before the cross. Tears streamed down my face as I poured out my heart to God—my questions, struggles, and surrender. Although I didn't hear any audible response from God that night, I distinctly remembered feeling as if someone was embracing me from behind, and I experienced a profound sense of peace that I had never felt before. It was then that I realized God is real, and that He had been with me all along and would always be by my side. Even though I had accepted Christ a few years before, I decided that this would be the moment I would rededicate myself to my Lord and Saviour.

After completing my one-year programme, I continued to serve as a project helper for six months and then became a working resident. This opportunity, along with God's provision of a job with a media organisation, allowed me to clear my debts and fulfil my alimony obligations. I am truly grateful for the privilege of working outside while remaining close to God and His community.

I left THP in November 2021. I am now working as a community partnership executive at a social service agency. I want to testify to God's goodness. Looking at where I am now, I lack nothing in terms of daily necessities. Though divorced, I am able to spend every weekend with my children, guiding them on their faith journey with the Lord. I serve in the community, striving to build a city of good, and I get paid for doing what I love. I continue to stay close with the THP family, where we encourage and support one another through the alumni cell committee, group gatherings, and fellowship over meals. God has also opened opportunities for me to serve in church as a Mandarin interpreter and worship leader.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."
—Psalm 107:1

51st Anniversary

CELEBRATING ANOTHER YEAR OF GOD'S HAND IN THE MINISTRY

HOW LONG O LORD?
51st Anniversary



It was a time of thanksgiving for all God has done in the ministry. Dean Philip Ong from Tung Ling Bible School gave the exhortation based off the theme "How Long, O Lord?" taken from Isaiah 6:11.

How Long, O Lord, are we press on in this ministry? For as long as the Lord has work for us to do, we will remain steadfast in reaching out to the lost, the last, and the least.



Family Moments

GOD'S LOVE MADE KNOWN THROUGH THE EVERYDAY

HOW LONG O LORD?
50th Anniversary



THP FAMILY DINNING OUT 19Feb24



THP FAMILY DINNING OUT 19Feb24



Birthdays, Dinners, Chinese New Year...these are all opportunities to demonstrate familial love to one another in the Body of Christ as the brothers encourage each other to press on in the journey.

Hiding Place Camp

A TIME TO REST, LEARN, AND HEAR WHAT GOD IS SAYING

HOW LONG O LORD?
50th Anniversary



Everyone had a blessed time of rest, fellowship and learning. Residents learnt from Dr Leslie Choudhury important life-skills related to communication, understanding one self and others, working as a team, team dynamics and relationships, as well as seeing different points of view, amongst other topics.



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 ten 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 my wife 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 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 we 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."

Milestones

CELEBRATING THE PERSONAL FAITH JOURNEYS OF OUR BROTHERS

HOW LONG O LORD?
50th Anniversary



Featuring our
brothers' baptism,
as well as
graduation from
Tung Ling Bible
School Chinese
School of Ministry



Community Partnerships

IT TAKES A VILLAGE - WE ARE THANKFUL FOR YOU!

HOW LONG O LORD?
50th Anniversary



The Hiding Place is blessed to have had the opportunity to partner with other church groups, NGOs, halfway houses, and friends – both local and overseas!

We thank God for each one of you.

GOVERNANCE

BOARD GOVERNANCE

- Induction and orientation are provided to incoming governing board members upon joining the Board.
- There is no governing board member holding staff appointments.
- There are no staff chairing the Board.
- The Finance governing board member responsible for overseeing the finances of the charity will can only serve a maximum of 4 consecutive years.
- All governing board members must submit themselves for re-nomination and re-appointment, at least once every 3 years.
- There are documented terms of reference for the Board and each of its committees.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- There are documented procedures for governing board members and staff to declare actual or potential conflicts of interest to the Board at the earliest opportunity.
- Governing board members do not vote or participate in decision making on matters where they have a conflict of interest.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

- The Board periodically reviews and approves the strategic plan for the charity to ensure that the charity's activities are in line with the charity's objectives.

HUMAN RESOURCE AND VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

- The Board approves documented human resource policies for staff.
- There is a documented Code of Conduct for governing board members, staff and volunteers (where applicable) which is approved by the Board.

GOVERNANCE

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

- There is a documented policy to seek the Board's approval for any loans, donations, grants or financial assistance provided by the charity which are not part of the charity's core charitable programmes.
- The Board ensures that internal controls for financial matters in key areas are in place with documented procedures.
- The Board ensures that reviews on the charity's internal controls, processes, key programmes and events are regularly conducted.
- The Board ensures that there is a process to identify, and regularly monitor and review the charity's key risks.
- The Board approves an annual budget for the charity's plans and regularly monitors the charity's expenditure.
- The charity invests its reserves in fixed deposits only.
- The charity has a documented investment policy approved by the Board.

FUNDRAISING PRACTICES

- The charity received cash donations (solicited or unsolicited) during the financial year.
- All collections received (solicited or unsolicited) are properly accounted for and promptly deposited by the charity.
- All donations in kind received are properly recorded and accounted for by the charity.



THE HIDING PLACE

75th Anniversary

GOD REMAINS OUR HOPE

Then I said, “How long, O Lord?”

And He said: “Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste, and the Lord removes people far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. And though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak, whose stump remains when it is felled.”

The holy seed is its stump.

Isaiah 6 : 11-13 (ESV)

