



# The Helping Hand

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest” Matthew 11:28

Oct - Dec 2020 MCI (P) 037/12/2019

## Commissioner of Prisons Visit



On 13 October 2020, The Helping Hand (THH) was privileged to have the new Commissioner of Prisons, Ms Shi Yong Lee, and her entourage, consisting of Mr David Tan (Deputy Commissioner of Prisons,

Policy, and Transformation), Mr Wilfred Wee (Acting Director, Community Corrections Command) and Mr Ho Kim Teck (Senior Assistant Director, Programme Management Branch, RRD) visit us.



The purpose of this scheduled visit was for the new Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to introduce themselves as they have just taken over the roles, learn more about THH's programmes and regime, understand our challenges, and to see how they could further support us, if necessary.



Upon their arrival, they were received by our Chairman, Rev Dr Yap Kim Sin, together with our Vice-Chairman, Ms May Loh, CEO Mr Mervyn Lim, and ushered to our conference room for a video presentation of THH followed by a fruitful dialogue session.



After the session, the Commissioner and her party had a tour around our premises, where they visited the residents' dorms, our Furniture Gallery of imported teakwood furniture as well as our recently established

Urban Farm. During the rounds, the Commissioner also took the time to speak to some of our staff and residents.



We are thankful to the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and the team for taking the time to come and visit us and we look forward to a closer and better working relationship in helping our residents stay out of trouble and successfully re-integrate back to society.

## ALLIANCE OF HALFWAY HOUSES



An alliance between 9 Halfway Houses (8 HSM Halfway Houses and Highpoint Halfway House) was formed in March 2020 to promote collaboration and partnership during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our initial meetings were through Zoom but on 6 October 2020, we were able to have our first physical meeting at The Helping Hand with SMMs in place. We are thankful that HEB-Ashram, Breakthrough Missions, Jamiyah



Halfway House, Teen Challenge, and Highpoint Halfway House were able to be present. Absent with apologies were Green Haven, The Turning Point, and Pertapis Halfway House.



The initial twice a month meetings were mainly focussed on dealing with the Covid-19 situation faced by the halfway houses and we are thankful that as we shared our various concerns and best practices during those times, we were able to generate ideas and find solutions to help one another through the situation.



Now even as the Covid-19 situation is beginning to improve, the alliance will continue to meet once a month to seek opportunities for future partnership and collaborations. Our



collective goal in this alliance will be to work together to help our residents stay away from their vices and



be gainfully employed. In doing so, we hope to be able to bring down the recidivism rate and help our residents re-integrate successfully back to society as contributing members once again.

We are truly thankful for every halfway house in this alliance and we hope and pray that as we continue to have our scheduled meetings at

the different halfway houses, our collaboration and partnership will yield much fruit and achieve the desired outcomes we have set before us.



# THE HELPING HAND CHRISTMAS THANKSGIVING 2020



*Shalom!* Warm greetings from THH Family! Thank you so much for your partnership and prayers for the vital work we are doing in our ministry! This year, unlike previous years where we could invite all of you to our annual Christmas Celebration, Covid-19 has limited the number of guests we could have for our family day. As a way of testifying God's goodness, and to bear witness to God's everlasting presence with us, "Immanuel!", our staff and residents decided to work together to create a Light Up Nativity Scene and Christmas Tree. The sight of the Nativity reminds us of Christ's ultimate sacrifice, and the gift of everlasting life to those who believe. We pray that many will experience the true meaning of Christmas even in the midst of the various challenges.

This year, we are also pleased to partner with various donors and churches, in bringing the gift and love of Christmas through the act of blessing the THH family with a pair of shoes, as a simple way of saying, we are in this race of recovery together! (2 Timothy 4:7). Residents were encouraged to contribute back to society through the act of giving up their "old shoes" while receiving their pair of "new shoes". This act is a symbolic intervention by every resident, to choose to put off their "old self" and put on their "new self", in commemorating their new lease of life (Ephesians 4:22-24). The Christmas Celebration anchored by our aftercare volunteers in small groups started with prayers and a simple Christmas message. Residents had a heart-to-heart conversation about what Christmas means with each other, and believers were offered an opportunity to share their salvation testimony. The facilitator gave everyone present a chance to make a personal response and spend time to pray for one another. We are blessed by the love and dedication of our partnering churches!

As part of our ongoing efforts to bless and strengthen the relationships of our residents and their families, the Social Work Department and Chaplaincy Department conducted a Christmas home-visit and brought some 20+ residents' home for an early Christmas Celebration meal with their loved ones. Residents were given a Christmas card to write to their loved ones, and some families even commented that this is the first time that they had received a card from them. Some were brought to tears when they read the Christmas card written by their loved ones. One resident commented, "Helping Hand didn't have to do this, but they went the extra mile to bless us!" We pray that through this little act of loving our brothers, our residents and their families may know the love of Christ and experience the true joy of Christmas!

With the generous support from our donors and partners, we were also able to bless some 17 needy families with a special Christmas care pack that contains helpful essential items such as basic groceries, face masks, and anti-bacterial handwash. Our residents were beaming with joy when they received the extraordinary care from our Social Workers. Praise God! Indeed, we are grateful for all that the Lord has provided, and the strong partnerships from the larger Christian community. Thank you for your support and prayers for our ministry! Please continue to keep us in your prayers for the work ahead of us.

On behalf of THH staff and residents' families, we would like to wish all of you a Blessed Christmas 2020 and a Happy New Year 2021! "Immanuel!" – *Our God is with us!*



# FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AT JURONG LAKE GARDENS



The National Parks Board, People's Association and A-Smart Media jointly organised a public community event to raise funds and public awareness for The

President's Challenge (PC) 2020 and its 72 affiliated beneficiaries. Besides raising funds and public awareness, the event, themed "A Better Tomorrow" also aimed to foster better community bonds and stronger cohesion among Singaporeans.



Held at Jurong Lake Gardens, large animal lanterns welcomed visitors at the park entrance. As you made your way in, there were also lighted displays featuring sights and scenes from 8 different countries and the one of Japan with cute brightly lit sumo wrestlers and cherry blossoms was easily one of the favourites. Children were laughing, playing, and running around, with their parents keeping a close watch on them. The brightly lit displays and the cool weather made for an enjoyable evening for the many visitors.

Amongst the many other beneficiaries of The President's Challenge, The Helping Hand was privileged to have a booth at the Festival of Lights. We are thankful to God for this opportunity that allowed us to share with the public the ministry of The Helping Hand and the work we have done in helping many ex-offenders re-integrate back to society

as contributing members once again. We also thank God for the effort and involvement of the 16 staff who sacrificed their nights and took turns in manning the booth from 7 pm – 11 pm for the two weeks at Jurong Lake Gardens.

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for men" Colossians 3:23

CHRIST Our Cornerstone



## 监狱署总监的到访



援手之家 (THH) 于2020年10月13日，很荣幸地接待了新上任的监狱署总监许荣丽女士及其随行人员的莅临。其中包括了 David Tan 先生 (Deputy Commissioner



of Prisons, Policy, and Transformation) · Wilfred Wee 先生 (Acting Director, Community Corrections Command) 和 Ho Kim Teck 先生 (Senior Assistant Director, Programme Management Branch, RRD)。



他们这次到访的目的除了介绍他们刚上任的职务外，也为了能够更多了解有关于援手之家的计划和制度及我们所面临的挑战，并在必要时如何进一步的给予支援。



他们的抵达，受到我们的主席 Yap Kim Sin (博士) 牧师，副主席 May Low 女士及首席执行官 Mervyn Lim 先生的热烈欢迎。紧接着被接待到会议室，观看了“援手之家”的简介视频并随后进入了一段富有成效和充实的对话。



会议结束后，监狱总监及其一行人参观了我们的处所及学员们的宿舍，进口柚木的家具廊以及我们最近建立的都市农业菜园。他们也在此行中，抽出时间与我们的一些同工和学员们互动交谈。

我们衷心的感谢监狱总监，副总监和团队抽出宝贵时间的拜访。我们也期待与他们建立更加密切和良好的工作关系，以帮助我们的学员摆脱困境，并成功地重新融入社会。

# The Helping Hand

## Panel of Advisors:

Assoc. Prof Ernest Chew  
Prof Philip Lee  
Rev. Dr. Quek Swee Hwa  
Rev. Dr. William Wan

## Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 578  
Ang Mo Kio Central  
Singapore 915603

## Home Address:

819 Upper Serangoon Road  
Singapore 534678  
Tel: 62832204 Fax: 62833748

Email: [adminsupport@thehelpinghand.org.sg](mailto:adminsupport@thehelpinghand.org.sg)

Website: [www.thehelpinghand.org.sg](http://www.thehelpinghand.org.sg)



@thehelpinghandsingapore



## Pray With Us

### The Helping Hand's prayer requests and needs

1. Pray for unity and harmony amongst staff as they continued to serve the Lord and to lead exemplary lives that will encourage the residents and glorified our God in heaven.
2. Pray for all residents walking through the gates of The Helping Hand, to experience the amazing love of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Pray for God's blessings to be upon our Social Enterprise Activities for the sustenance of our ministry.
4. Pray for positive interim results for the COVID-19 vaccine.
5. Pray for God to lead and guide us for 2021 to ensure that everything that THH does will be according to His will and for His glory

S/No	Items	Amount
1	Production of THH 34 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Magazine 2021	\$12,000
2	Holy Bible / Christian Literature	\$3,000
3	2 Washing Machines (Heavy Duty)	\$2,000

We are grateful to all the people who are being used by the Lord to provide for our needs. Your every act of generosity is deeply appreciated and is a great encouragement to us as we continue to labour for the Lord.

To donate, please scan the QR Code or click the link below.



<https://www.giving.sg/web/the-helping-hand>

**All Donations to The Helping Hand are tax-exempt**

CHRIST Our Cornerstone