



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 2022 MCI (P) 003/01/2022

Christmas Thanksgiving Celebration 2022



On a cool Saturday evening on 3 December 2022, The Helping Hand (“THH”) gathered at Kim Tian Christian Church for a Christmas Thanksgiving Celebration.

The service began at 5 p.m. and about 320 people comprising THH’s Board

members, Panel of Advisors, staff, residents, family members, aftercare volunteers, and church partners, gathered for the celebration.



Our CEO, Mervyn Lim, welcomed everyone and Richard Khalil the Executive Director led the opening prayer. Social Work Manager Raymond Chow, and his team led us in a time

of singing Christmas carols, beginning with “Joy to the World”, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” and ending with “Silent Night.”



After the worship session, two of our helpers, Steve Chen and Asher Vijay shared their testimony of how Jesus has transformed their lives. They had once been deep in their drug addiction, living hopeless and aimless lives, but today by God’s grace and mercy, they have been set free from their addiction and are living hopeful and purposeful lives.



We were then privileged to have Rev. Chris Chia, from Adam Road Presbyterian Church preach the Word of



God from Matthew 1: 21-23 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. In his message, he reminded us of what God has done for us in Jesus. Through Jesus, God has forgiven our sins and freed us to be his people forever. In the light of what God has done for us through Jesus, he encouraged us to be thankful and live thankful lives.

After the message, our Board Chair May Loh and Board Member Rev. Yap came up to appreciate our retiring Panel of Advisors comprising Rev. Quek Swee Hwa, Professor Philip Lee, Dr. Ernest

Chew and Rev. William Wan. As the Panel stood to the applause of the congregation, they were presented with a gift from THH’s furniture gallery to thank them for their faithful and loving service to us.

After the service, the guests made their way back to THH where they were treated to a Christmas buffet dinner that included an ice cream vendor on a scooter serving traditional ice creams for dessert. It was joyous to see everyone talking, laughing and fellowshiping over the meal.

We truly thank God for the blessed Christmas Thanksgiving Celebration.



Staff Retreat 2022



After a hiatus of more than two years, we were thankful to resume our staff retreat. In October 2022, 44 of us arrived in Phuket, Thailand and travelled to the Pullman Khao Lat Resort near

Baan Nam Kem in Phang Nga province, 70 miles north of Phuket, for a 5 day-4 night retreat.



The objectives of the retreat were to give the staff a time to relax and reflect on God's purpose for them in the ministry. This was done through promoting the value of Nurturance through team-building and cohesion activities and strengthening their faith and personal growth through mission exposure.



After check-in and dinner on the first night, the staff gathered for devotion where the opening message reminded them that Christ is our Living Hope and that we all have value and purpose in life.



Over the next 2 days, the staff worshipped and fellowship with missionaries from The New Light Community Development Centre and engaged in some mission work through team bonding activities with children from migrant families. It was a meaningful time for our guys as many had never had this experience before.

The small group devotions in the mornings and nights also taught us the importance of nurturing one another as we served the Lord at The Helping Hand. We want to be a community that loves God and cares for each other.

In between the devotions, small groups and mission work, the staff also got to see the beautiful sights of Phuket, enjoy the delicious local food and do a spot of shopping.

As we gathered for our last devotion on the last day, many of the staff came forward to give thanks to God for a meaningful retreat that spiritually refreshed them and brought them closer together.

We pray that this thanksgiving will stay with the staff and help them to love and serve God better. We thank God for blessing us with a wonderful retreat.

Yellow Ribbon Awards 2022



The Yellow Ribbon Awards ceremony was held on 2 November 2022 at the Star Gallery and was jointly organised by the Singapore Prison Service (SPS) and Yellow Ribbon Singapore (YRSG). The theme for this year's event was "We Are Each Other's Second Chances".



The event recognised individuals and organisations celebrating their successful journeys, collaborations, and second chances. A total of 203 individuals were recognised for their achievements and commitment to Second Chances.

Mrs. Josephine Teo, Minister for Communications and Information & Second Minister for Home Affairs, was the Guest-of-Honour at the event. In her speech, she highlighted the important role of community partners, employers, and volunteers in building a strong network of pro-social support for ex-offenders.



The Yellow Ribbon Awards comprise two categories.

1. Advocates of Second Chances — this honoured 60 ex-offenders, also known as Overcomers, who have remained crime-free and given back to the community in their own unique ways. In addition, 129 employers, community partners, donors, and individuals were recognised for their contributions to reintegrating ex-offenders.
2. Beyond Second Chances— this recognised the contributions of 14 ex-offenders, individuals, employers, organisations, and partners towards rallying the community to positively support and impact the lives of ex-offenders and their families.



Two of our staff received awards. Vincent Tan was awarded the Beyond Second Chances (Overcomer) Gold Award and Steve Chen was awarded the Advocates of Second Chances (Overcomers) Silver award. We are thankful to God that our two brothers received these awards for remaining crime and drug-free.



We pray that they will remain steadfast in their recovery and that the changes in them will encourage and inspire others to change too.

THH Second Employers' Forum 2022



On 1 and 2 December 2022, The Helping Hand (“THH”) Social Work Department organised its second Employers’ Forum at its Multi-Purpose Hall from 9am to 12.30 pm. Twenty-three participants from fourteen companies attended the Forum. These companies have employed a considerable number of THH residents who have opted to collaborate with external employers during the third phase of their Community Rehabilitation Programme.



THH is thankful for these employers who partner with us as vocational stability is essential for successful reintegration of ex-offenders back into community. An ex-offender who can find stable and long-term employment builds up his self-worth and this helps him become a contributing member of society again. This in turn, will lower the risk of him re-offending and going back to prison.



Mervyn Lim, CEO of THH, welcomed the employers and thanked them hiring our residents. He encouraged them to consider ways that our residents could continue to work with them even after they have completed their prison-employed programmes. Our Spiritual Mentor, Jason Goh, then gave an overview of the ministry of THH, where the following topics were discussed:



- (i) Aftercare Support for ex-addicts and ex-offenders
- (ii) Challenges of hiring ex-addicts and ex-offenders
- (iii) Feedback on partnership with THH

We thank God for the lively and opened discussions that followed. Through the forum, employers better understood the work of THH and our rehabilitative programmes.



The forum also provided THH a platform to find out more about the joys and challenges employers faced as they worked with our clients. We pray that through such forums, both THH and employers can work better together towards helping our clients remain employed.

2022 年圣诞节感恩庆典



援手之家（‘THH’）于2022年12月3日（星期六），一个凉风习习的傍晚，欢集在金殿基督教会一同庆祝圣诞节感恩庆典。



庆典于下午5点开始，大约320人欢聚一堂，其中有THH的董事会成员、顾问小组、在职同工、学员和他们的家人亲属还有关怀志愿者与教会合作伙伴。



我们的首席执行官 Mervyn Lim先生开始欢迎大家掀起了当天的庆典，总干事Richard Khalil先生也为活动祷告。紧接着社工主管Raymond Chow先生和他的团队以“普世欢腾”和“听啊！天使高声唱”带领大家唱起了圣诞诗歌并以“平安夜”结束敬拜。



敬拜后，两位助手同工Steve Chen和Asher Vijay与大家分享了耶稣如何改变他们生命的见证。他们曾经深陷毒海，过着绝望和漫无目的的生活，但因着神的恩典和怜悯，现今他们已经摆脱了毒瘾，过着充满希望和有目的的生活。



我们荣幸盛邀自亚当路长老会教会的 Chris Chia 牧师来与我们分享神的话，经文是取自马太福音 1章21-23节和帖撒罗尼迦前书 5章16-18节。他在信息中提醒了我们上帝在耶稣里为我们所做的一切。通过耶稣，上帝赦免了我们的罪，使我们所做的一切，他鼓励我们要感恩并且过着感恩的生活。

信息过后，我们的董事会主席 May Loh 和董事会成员 Yap 牧师上前感谢我们即将退休的顾问小组，其中包括Quek Swee Hwa牧师、Philip Lee教授、Ernest Chew博士和 William Wan牧师。当顾问小组在会众的掌声中起立时，我们以援手之家家具长廊的礼物赠送顾问小组，感谢他们对我们的忠诚与爱心服侍。

庆典结束后，客人们徒步回到援手之家，在那里享用他们的圣诞自助晚餐，其中包括古早式三轮摩多车冰淇淋老伯所供应的传统式冰淇淋作为甜点。见到大家的谈笑声更充满了整个场所，晚餐氛围实在令人鼓舞。

我们诚心感谢上帝赐福恩待这圣诞节的感恩庆典。

The Helping Hand

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Pray With Us

The Helping Hand's prayer requests and needs

1. Pray for the staff to live exemplary lives that will encourage the residents and glorify our God in heaven.
2. Pray for all residents passing through The Helping Hand's gates to encounter the amazing love of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Pray for God to bless our Social Enterprise Activities to generate the funds needed to sustain the ministry.
4. Pray for God's continual leading and guidance throughout the year 2023.

S/No	Items	Amount
1	THH 36 th Anniversary Magazine	\$10,000
2	Bibles for Residents	\$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>



Charity Reg: 000673/IPC: 000344/UEN: S88SS0058F

All Donations to The Helping Hand are tax-exempt

CHRIST OUR LIVING HOPE