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香港基督教更新會  
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## Chairman's Message

Rev. Chow Wing Fu

Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.



John 21:18, NIV

The author of the Gospel of John explains that "Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God." (John 21:19, NIV). However, this statement also reflects the difficulties that elderly people face, as taking care of oneself in life is far more challenging than when one is young. This difficulty is even greater for elderly rehabilitated persons who have served decades in prison. On the one hand, their bodies are much weaker than when they were young, and they are also severely disconnected from society, especially in rapidly changing societies like Hong Kong. On the other hand, their relatives and peers have grown old or passed away, and young people, unless they have a very close relationship, are unlikely to provide the support needed. Therefore, when these rehabilitated persons leave the prison, the place where they have lived for decades, and return to society, they often feel very lost.

One of my colleagues once told me of an experience when he went to pick up a long-term inmate. The inmate couldn't see him at first and was full of confusion. When he finally saw the colleague, he couldn't help but embrace him and burst into tears. After hearing this story, I had an idea in my mind: we must do something for these ex-convicts so that they can live their final stage of life with more peace and dignity.

This matter has always been on my mind and in my prayers. Recently, this prayer has been answered. Our male hostel supervisor, Brother Leung, has completed training and can now hand over his responsibilities to other colleagues. We invited him to start a ministry to care for elderly rehabilitated persons. His work in the hostel has already involved in this area, but now he can focus on it more. My hope is that volunteers will participate in this ministry and accompany these seniors to live a more "normal" life, such as going shopping and having tea.

Although death is a necessary stage in life, facing the departure of familiar people will inevitably cause sadness, even for Christians. Our senior colleague, Ms Sze Kam Wong, passed away earlier due to cancer. Sze Kam has served in our organization for many years and has participated in adult women's ministry, youth ministry, and literature ministry. She has also assisted in the administrative work of our organization. Now that she has rested in the Lord, we are naturally deeply saddened and regretful. In addition to being an important colleague of our organization, she was also the backbone of her family, and her passing has caused some difficulties for her family. Our colleagues and board members have been supporting Sze Kam and her family throughout her illness and after her passing.

We are grateful that we, especially Susan, were able to accompany Sze Kam until she left, and even more grateful to witness her faithfulness until her passing. It is beyond doubt that she was a faithful servant of God.



e-Donation



KSA FB

# Ministry to elderly ex-inmates released from long sentences

Leung Kwok Ki

Ministry Officer

The highest penalty for crimes such as murder, manslaughter, rape, and drug trafficking is life imprisonment, it does not necessarily mean being imprisoned until death. The Hong Kong Correctional Services has a Long-term Prison Sentences Review Board that reviews the sentences of life-sentenced inmates. The board conducts its first review after 20 years of imprisonment, evaluating the inmate's behavior, discipline, psychological qualities, repentance for their crimes, attitude towards their guilt, recidivism rate, and more. If the inmate meets the board's requirements, the board recommends to the Chief Executive of the Special Administrative Region that the inmate can be released on parole under supervision, regaining their freedom. KSA's male hostel has received over 20 life-sentenced inmates who have been granted parole, with sentences ranging from a minimum of 24 years to a maximum of 43 years, including those who committed murder, rape, and other offenses. Some of them even committed multiple rapes against young girls, and one even killed his own wife in front of their children. However, all of them underwent multiple reviews and demonstrated good behavior to be granted parole.

Upon release and regaining freedom, the life-imprisoned inmates experience mixed emotions - both joy and sorrow. They are joyous to see the sun again and breathe the air of freedom, but most of them have no family or have been abandoned by their loved ones due to their crimes. Additionally, some have been imprisoned for so long that they have lost contact with their families or their families have already passed away. It is a sad reality that many of these inmates are all alone and in pitiful situations, such as the case of a 73-year-old man I once received who was released after serving a life sentence.

In 2010, the KSA reopened its male hostel to provide accommodation for rehabilitated persons who were released from the correctional institution without a place to live or those who had no family to support them. We also welcomed some brothers who graduated from drug rehabilitation centers. We assist the residents in applying for social welfare, medical appointments, handling documents, arranging work, applying for public housing, and providing spiritual guidance. We give them a home where we take care of their physical, mental, social, and spiritual needs. They have been to bible classes while in prison, but we also welcome those who are not yet believers. Through training, we help our residents actively change their lives and behaviors, hoping that their families can accept them again and forgive their mistakes. Due to the urgent need for accommodation, KSA's male hostel has expanded to four hostels since 2010. The overall occupancy rate of the four male hostels is over 80%.

Receiving a former inmate who has served a short sentence and is about to be released requires careful planning and support. Imagine a person who has been away from reality for many years returning to their former residence, only to find that everything has changed and become unfamiliar, making it difficult for them to navigate everyday life on their own. This is why we work closely with the The Hong Kong Correctional Services, accepting referrals and providing a safe place for rehabilitated person to live after their release. Our staff, hostel supervisors, and current residents all work together to help them integrate into the hostel and society. Although they have committed serious crimes, so they are rejected by society, but most of them have already repented and admitted their guilt. Because of Jesus, we accept them, and we strive to provide them with the care and support they need to rebuild their lives. Assisting a person who has been sentenced to life imprisonment and has been away from society for a prolonged period of time is a challenging task that requires patience, understanding, and compassion. We work diligently to help them navigate the complexities of everyday life, including social welfare matters and obtaining identification documents. In some cases, we even have to accompany them on their first outings to ensure they do not get lost or encounter any difficulties. We are committed to protecting their privacy and ensuring their safety, as we understand that their past crimes have caused significant harm and may still be a source of public scrutiny. Despite the challenges, we remain dedicated to helping these individuals reintegrate into society and find hope for the future.

Now, the majority of the rehabilitated persons we have assisted have been allocated public housing units and have begun afresh. Some have been welcomed back to their families. One individual still resides in our hostel, while in May, two more rehabilitated persons will be granted parole and move into our hostel.

However, living alone is not desirable. The hostel residents who have moved into public housing are generally elderly, with an average age of 60 years old. They used to live together in the hostel, reading the Bible and taking care of each other. But after moving into public housing, they now live alone and must rely mainly on themselves, despite receiving pastoral care from the church. They require even more care and attention from others now, and need to learn to take care of themselves.

In the past, I was busy managing four hostels. I am now approaching retirement age, I will pass on the management of the hostels to my colleagues. In the future, I will work according to the organization's mission and focus on providing special care for rehabilitated person who have been released from life imprisonment, particularly for those who were once my hostel residents and who need our continued support and attention. We aim to help them reconcile with their families, establish a stable church life, and contribute to others, even in old age, live a rich and meaningful life. Starting a new project is always challenging, but I fully believe that "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

## Case A

Uncle Ming was born in 1948 and was sentenced to 10 years in Hong Kong Correctional Services in 2013 for causing serious bodily harm to others. He was released in 2019 through the department's rehabilitation program and moved into a men's hostel run by KSA. His application for parole was helped by the provision and arrangement of accommodation and work by the hostel and supervision by hostel wardens.

While in prison, Uncle Ming became a Christian and thanked Jesus for saving him. During a skin graft surgery, he discovered that the artery in his heart was severely blocked and he had to undergo an Angioplasty. A medical social worker helped him apply for a fund to cover the cost of the stent.



Uncle Ming reflected on his life and said that before he became a Christian, he only cared about himself. After becoming a Christian, he learned to think of others, be more tolerant, and help those in need. He deeply regrets his impulsive behavior in the past.

Uncle Ming was 71 years old when he moved into the men's hostel. The staff and other residents helped him in various ways, and his physical and mental health continued to improve. He chose to work instead of applying for Comprehensive Social Security Assistance. In 2022, he was allocated a public housing unit and moved out of the hostel. He still works at a container terminal and is full of energy and joy.

Our staff also helped him rebuild his relationship with his family. The person he harmed was his wife, so he was not allowed to contact her and their children during his supervised release. However, he has rebuilt a good relationship with his ex-wife and their children. His ex-wife still takes care of him out of kindness, and he is grateful for that.

During his time in prison, our volunteers met Ming through the religious class in the prison, the brothers and sisters cared for him, encouraged him to receive baptism and helped him to have a strong foundation in faith. After release from prison Ming frequently attended the church small group. He said 'Now I pray everyday and rely on the Lord, I'm willing to offer my efforts and money to bless others and make God happy!'

## Case B



Hostel gathering

Ah Man is the person who killed his wife in front of their children and was sentenced to life imprisonment. He spent 24 years in prison and was released on parole at the age of 74 in Jan 2019. He moved into our men's hostel after his release.

Our staff at the hostel helped him apply for various social welfare resources and gradually assisted him in readjusting to society and integrating into the community.

In the past, he was a man with traditional Chinese values who never talked about his own affairs. Now, he is willing to express sincere regret and acknowledge his mistake for the crime he committed in the past. He also accepts and faces the fact that his children have not forgiven him.

During his stay at the hostel, Ah Man exercised daily to keep himself fit and disciplined himself to save money. He also returned to church and got along well with his roommates. In 2022, he was allocated a public housing unit and moved out of the hostel. At the end of the same year, he remarried. Ah Man still maintains close contact with the staff at the hostel and is willing to be a volunteer because he believes that everything is grace and he wants to give thanks to Jesus.

## Testimonies

### The Mother and Son reunited after 32 years

Kwok Man



I grew up in a broken family, where my parents divorced when I was young and was raised by my grandmother. My father provided for my education and daily expenses, and overall, life was manageable.

However, when I was in kindergarten, my father remarried and had another child with his new wife. This led to favoritism and neglect towards me, which made me very unhappy. I rebelled and lost interest in school, eventually falling in with people of bad influence and turned to drugs. I went in and out of prison multiple times, and my family gave up on me.

In 2018, I was sentenced to one month in prison for possessing dangerous drugs. A week before my release, I had a realization: I felt tired of the repeated cycle of going in and out of prison and my life was a mess. I reflected on my mistakes, repented, and found help through a religious class organised by KSA. After my release, I moved into the women's hostel run by KSA.

I thank KSA for introducing me to Jesus Christ and helping me to learn about the Bible. I experienced struggles and tears, but God sent angels to comfort and help me through difficult times.

In July 2018, I moved into the women's hostel, and after graduating, I moved into the 'Sisterhood' home run by KSA in March 2022. I lived with other sisters and learnt how to serve in the hostel. I thank God for His grace and love, which not only saved and changed me but also performed a miracle in my life: my son, whom I was separated from for 32 years, found me through the Red Cross's family tracing service.

After the Red Cross learned of my whereabouts, they contacted KSA, and the hostel supervisor Zoe informed me of the news. I was shocked and amazed.

When I was young, I was with a man that had bipolar disorder and gave birth to a son. There was often domestic violence, and I couldn't take it anymore, so I left when my son was almost two years old. I tried to contact this man many times, hoping to bring my son back to live with me, but he kept avoiding me. Later, he even said that he had sent our son to a relative's house in Australia and told me to give up. I was very sad and thought that I would be separated from my son forever, and my life would have no purpose anymore. I let myself fall into a life of drugs. I never expected that a miracle would happen to me today, it was like a dream!

After hearing the news that my son was looking for me through the Red Cross, I was stunned for a while. Then, I knelt beside

my bed and cried tears of gratitude to God, asking if this was true. I thanked God sincerely for His gift, His power has made me fall to the ground! After a while, I received a notification from the Red Cross arranging for me to meet my son. I was so nervous and afraid that my son would blame me for leaving him that day. I also expressed my anxiety to Zoe, and she comforted me by saying that God opened this door for me, and He would not close it.

I went to the Red Cross to meet my son with a mixed feeling of excitement and nervousness. The whole process was beyond my expectations. We communicated well, and my son understood my situation and living conditions at that time. He didn't blame me at all. Thank God for removing the ache in my heart completely! My son even left his phone number with the Red Cross to pass on to me, to make it easier for us to contact each other in the future. I give great praise and gratitude!

From then on, I texted my son almost every day, and I invited him, his wife, and my granddaughter out for meals and tea several times for family time. I learned to be a good mother again, caring for and understanding my son and his family, and praying for them often. And for this true and living God, I need to respond by obeying and following Him. Even if there are struggles and failures, I will not give up. I have decided to believe in and follow God for the rest of my life.



# Remembering Our Colleague

## Sze Kam

2012 Kun Sun Vision Sharing and Carnival "Partnership in Faith"

Ms Sze Kam Wong joined KSA in 2001, making contributions to both the ministry and administrative work. Sze Kam passed away on April 9, 2023 due to cancer, and was welcomed into heaven by the angels on Easter Sunday.

The following two paragraphs are excerpts from Sze Kam's past contributions to our annual publications:

“ During my visits to the prison, I learned that no matter what circumstances we face - whether it's a clear blue sky, thunderstorms, extreme cold or heat, or even seemingly hopeless situations - we must rely on the Lord to overcome all obstacles. In the prison, I often see an unusual sight that is rare in the outside world: inmates who are willing to listen quietly to the gospel and then choose to believe in Jesus, experiencing a life-changing transformation. This is what drew me closer and closer to this ministry. Additionally, my own life has become more mature, grateful, and obedient to the Lord's guidance through constantly "fighting the good fight" (preaching the gospel) in the prison.

There are countless amazing things that happen in prison ministry that are truly astonishing. Of course, I believe that all of this is the work of God, allowing those who are inside to experience true rest and true freedom. Being a part of prison ministry brings me joy, and every day I witness how the Lord continues to work His wonderful miracles! (2009)

“ In my over 6,500 days of serving in prison ministry, I have never had a day without salary. This is a miracle and a grace from God. The KSA has experienced the truth that seeking His kingdom and righteousness first means that all these things will be added unto us. Although many prisoners have made the decision to believe in the Lord, what happens after they are released is another story. However, my colleagues and I and also our volunteers never lose heart and believe that it is the Holy Spirit who inspires people to do good and not give up. We are deeply grateful that the work of the KSA is a testimony that the power gospel is from God, benefiting both the preacher and receiver. All glory be to God! (2018)

Sze Kam said that if she passed away, the thing she would miss the most is not having the opportunity to preach the gospel again. In the final stage of her life, she also said, "Thank the Lord, with the Lord's help, there is nothing I cannot overcome." Sze Kam's faith and loyalty were a sweet aroma pleasing to the Lord.

Farewell, Sze Kam. We will miss you dearly.



# 感恩與代禱 Thanksgiving & Prayer

1

疫情穩定後，今年2月我們可以在懲教院所重開宗教班；求主給監獄事工持續敞開的門，幫助囚友有渴慕追求及堅定相信的心，也讓同工和義工有美好的配搭。

We have resumed religious classes in prisons after covid. Pray that God will continue to open the door for prison ministry, and help the inmates to grow in their faith and hunger for God's words. Pray for good relationships between our staff and volunteers.



2

2023「開學有禮」計劃感恩獲懲教署批核及幫忙推廣，願各院所囚友踴躍參加，希望藉此計劃能幫助更多在囚及更生人士家庭，減輕他們在孩子開學時的經濟負擔和壓力。

We are thankful that the Hong Kong Correctional Services has approved the 2023 Back-to-School program and helped us promote it. Pray for the inmates willingness to join, and that this program can help more families of the inmates and rehabilitated persons financially and relieve their stress when schools start.

3

感恩在3月開始，我們可以跟懲教署心理組合作，在壁屋懲教所為已判刑的青少年開辦“TOTALFIT”運動課程，追求全人健康，幫助參加者在身心社靈層面得到培訓和裝備。

We are thankful for the partnership with the Psychological Services Section of the Hong Kong Correctional Services back in March, and started a well-being class, “TOTALFIT” to train and equip youth participants physically, emotionally, socially skills and spiritually.

4

更新會現有4個男宿舍，其中一個剛完成搬遷，感謝主賜下合適的地方，也給我們順利和同心。5月份有兩位終身刑期獲假釋的更生人士進入男宿舍居住，求主帶領他們各方面的適應及與家人關係的建立。

KSA now has 4 male hostels, one of these hostels has just finished being relocated. Thank God for helping us finding a suitable location so smoothly. In May, two lifetime-imprisonment inmates who are on parole will be moving in. Pray that God will help them with this transition and be able to build relationship with their families.



5



因成功申請迪士尼和故宮文化博物館的免費門券，本會家庭事工部、男女宿舍、深恩團契所接觸的更生人士及家人都能參與，大家都很享受當天的活動。

We are thankful for the free tickets to Disneyland and Palace Museum. The rehabilitated persons and their families from our family ministry, male and female hostels and Grace fellowship were able to visit. Everyone enjoyed and had a good time together.

6

感謝主帶領更新會走過45個年頭，本會訂於9月9日舉行45週年感恩聚餐晚會，求主帶領我們籌備，讓董事同工、義工及支持者、更生人士和家人一起頌讚主的厚恩，見證主的榮耀。

We are thankful for God leading KSA for the past 45 years. KSA is hosting a 45th thanksgiving and fundraising anniversary dinner on the 9th of September. Pray for the preparations, so that all board members, staff, volunteers, supporters, rehabilitated persons and their families can give praise for God's grace and bring glory to Him by our testimonies.



7

同工黃思琴姊妹安息主懷，求主與她的家人同在，保守扶持。

Our staff, Ms. Sze Kam Wong has rested in peace with the Lord. May the Lord be with her family, protect and support them.

8

更新會在同工團隊上人手不足，求主引領更多合適的弟兄姊妹加入我們的行列。

There is a shortage of manpower in KSA ministries, may the Lord guide and lead more suitable brothers and sisters to join the team as staffs and volunteers.

收入 Income	港幣HK\$
奉獻 Donation	1,869,439
宿舍租金收入 Hostel Rental Income	218,808
籌款活動 Fundraising Donation	247,141
政府保就業政府補貼 Government Employment Support	42,000
其他收入 Other Incomes	7,872
<b>總收入 Total Income</b>	<b>2,385,259</b>
支出 Expenses	
行政費用 Administration Overheads	605,778
事工費用 Ministry Expenses	1,809,260
<b>總支出 Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,415,037</b>
本期不敷 Deficit for the period	(29,778)
本年度截至 2022年12月31日不敷 Total deficit for the year at 31 December 2022	(227,134)
(*承上期事工儲備調整 \$251,838 Adjusted Ministry Reserve for the last period \$251,838)	

收入 Income	港幣HK\$
奉獻 Donation	1,451,161
宿舍租金收入 Hostel Rental Income	159,332
其他收入 Other Incomes	220
<b>總收入 Total Income</b>	<b>1,610,713</b>
支出 Expenses	
行政費用 Administration Overheads	383,805
事工費用 Ministry Expenses	986,978
大廈優化升降機第二期費用 The Lift Modernization Fee for Phase 2	53,236
<b>總支出 Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,424,019</b>
本期事工儲備 Ministry Reserve for the period	186,694
扣減 2023年指定基金備用 Less Accumulated reserve of designated funds for 2023	(51,676)
本期累積事工儲備 Accumulated Reserve for the period	135,018

備註：上述報告未經核數師覆核，只供參考。 The above reports presented without auditor review that the figures are only for reference.

## 奉獻 方法

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- 可用劃線支票郵寄本會，抬頭寫「香港基督教更新會有限公司」  
Issue cross cheque made payable to "The Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association Ltd."
- 直接存入本會香港匯豐銀行戶口416-4-010375，並傳真或寄回入數紙，以便寄發收據。  
Deposit to our HSBC Bank account 416-4-010375, and return the payment slip by fax or by post, an official receipt will be issued to the donor.
- 自動轉賬表格，可在本會網頁 [www.ksa.org.hk](http://www.ksa.org.hk) 下載，或致電本會會計部索取。  
Auto-payment form can be downloaded from our web site: [www.ksa.org.hk](http://www.ksa.org.hk), or contact our accounts department for requisition.

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