

Chairman's Message

Rev. Chow Wing Fu

Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!"

Luke 7:14 (NIV)

The youth ministry in the church is not easy, and the youth ministry in prisons is even more challenging.

The ministry of nurturing incarcerated youth is difficult, and the ministry of nurturing youth outside of prison is even more challenging, and it is becoming increasingly difficult.

But despite the difficulties, we persevere because it is a burden, a hope that cannot be lost.

There is a poignant verse in the book of Jeremiah: "A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted because they are no more." (Jeremiah 31:15, NIV)

Extreme pain or disappointment makes it difficult to find comfort. Many young people today may have shattered dreams, feel unjustly treated, be discouraged and disappointed, have a lack of direction, or feel lost and empty. This is true both outside and inside prison walls.

Losing children brings extreme pain because it represents the loss of hope and the loss of the future. Rachel's mourning is the mourning of the city of Ramah.

We persevere because we do not want to lose the youth, we do not want to lose the future and hope.

"Young man, I say to you, get up!" The purpose of Jesus' command brings life, and the way it is carried out can include encouragement, accountability, admonition, and empowerment, and more importantly is to display Jesus' love and patience.



Journey together, bound by love.

In the past two decades of serving in youth ministry in KSA, I have consistently worked with young people in correctional facilities. Without realizing it, the young boys and girls I once served are now grown adults, and many have become parents themselves. In order for me to walk alongside young people and journey with them in their growth, it is primarily driven by my love for them, so that we can establish a lasting relationship. From visiting them inside the facilities and maintaining correspondence to following up with them outside, I witness both the growth and the struggles of life. Some young people end up repeatedly going in and out of the facilities, and I make every effort to visit them in different places, offering encouragement and support, letting them know that their heavenly Father has not forgotten or given up on them. Day after day, year after year, what compels me to continue serving? I would say it is because of God's love and the moving of the Spirit!

God has called me to be a catalyst in the transformation of others' lives, and this process of renewal is filled with challenges and obstacles. Some individuals, from their youth to adulthood, experience instability and struggle. I journey together with them in seeking various resources for assistance, but soon they return to their "old lives," and during those times, I may feel discouraged. However, the Lord reminds me, "As you journey with them, I am journeying with you. You can let go, but do not give up." It is the heavenly Father who entrusted me with the mission of "journeying together with young people," and I cannot rely on my own strength to be persistent in this mission, it is only by God's love and the moving of the Spirit that sustains me, so I did not give up.

I have personally experienced the truth spoken in Zechariah 4:6: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts."



Looking back on the past, I realize that the heavenly Father has never called me to fight alone. He constantly sends dedicated brothers and sisters to participate in the work of building lives. To better serve and build up the youth, starting from September last year, the youth fellowship transitioned from large group activities to individual meetings with volunteer mentors. We then organize activities according to their preferences, such as "Dialogue in the Dark," playing in a band, hands-on coffee brewing experiences, and Christmas tree making. I hope that this change in strategy will allow us to better meet the spiritual needs of young people and care for them more effectively. I believe that it is a cycle of one life influencing another, and I hold on to the hope of Christ as I continue to care for generations of youth.

Pearl Ho ka po

Senior Ministry Officer



A compelling evidence of God's presence

Calix Fong

Mentor of Youth Onesimus

Recently, there was a popular song that won an award called "Where are You" (meaning of the Chinese title: God's alibi) which has been widely loved and embraced by the younger generation.

When we share the Gospel with young people in correctional facilities, we often hear questions like:

"If God is here, why do so many drug dealers go free while I get caught?"

"If God is here, why was my accomplice given a light sentence while I received a harsh punishment?"

"If God is here, why was I arrested and sentenced when I was merely standing by during a fight?"

There are countless doubts and questions about God's presence.

I try to share my own experiences with them. I once agreed to participate in cross-border drug trafficking, but due to certain circumstances, I couldn't be a part of the first operation. As a result, that drug trafficking group was raided and busted. If God hadn't been there to protect me, I would likely still be suffering in prison.

There was another incident where I got involved in a brawl between two gangs. Both sides had injuries and eventually agreed to a ceasefire. I was delayed on my way to the negotiation spot because I saw police cars patrolling. However, I later discovered that the other side had prepared a group of armed individuals in a car, intending to ambush me, which I was unarmed at that moment. If God hadn't been there to protect me, the consequences would have been unimaginable.



I am well aware that these personal stories may not fully resolve their doubts about God's presence. My intention is to help them see from a different perspective and that God is always there despite any situation.

There was a young person we closely interacted with and mentored at a boys' facility. Unfortunately, after leaving the facility, he was enticed by friends into committing a serious robbery and deeply regretted his actions. During his detention, it was the pandemic, but our volunteers persisted in visiting him. At one point, he expressed that he had embraced another religion and discouraged our visits. However, the volunteers were undeterred and continued visiting him until he completed his sentence, even personally picking him up upon his release. This love demonstrated by the volunteers was a clear proof of God's presence. The young man genuinely felt it and eventually made a decision to believe in the Lord, started going to a church.

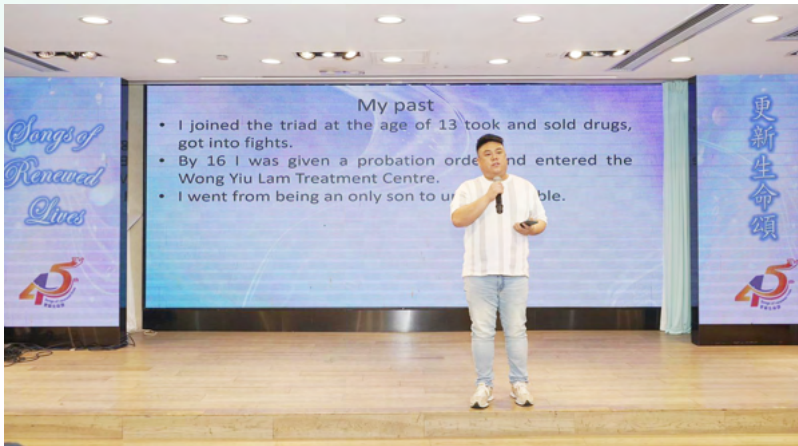


God still loves me

David Wong

Rehabilitated Person

From a young age, I've been rebellious and loved to be with the gangs. I joined the triad at the age of 11, started using drugs at 13, and my parents couldn't bring me back on the right path. During my time in the triad, I engaged in fights, drug abuse, drug trafficking, and smuggling. I was essentially a useless person. I was caught for my illegal activities and went through rehabilitation, spending time at the Caritas Wong Yiu Nam Centre and the Lai Sun Correctional Institution. My parents completely gave up on me. I spent 14 days in the Pik Uk Correctional Institution and nearly 9 months in the Lai Sun Correctional Institution, and my parents never visited me. I was what they called a "dead volcano." My emotions hit rock bottom, and I cried every night. I sent letters home, but I never received a single reply. I felt extremely lost, but at the same time, I knew it was my own doing. If I had to blame anyone, it could only be myself.



After spending some time in prison, the correctional officers selected me to attend the religious class. I remember it was a Sunday, the most free day in the prison. When the other inmates found out I was chosen to listen to Jesus, they cheered, sarcastically implying that it served me right. I had no choice but to participate. I distinctly remember hearing hymns coming from the room even before I entered the religious class, and it made me very unhappy. The first person to introduce himself to me in the room was a man named Joe, a staff of KSA. He asked how he could help me, and I told him about my parents abandoning me and how I felt lost every day. I admitted my wrongs in all my letters to them, but I never received a single response. Tears streamed down my face as we talked. Joe told me to try praying tonight when I returned to the cell, but in my heart, I cursed him because what I

really needed at that moment was a tissue to wipe away my tears. That would have been enough.

When I returned to the cell, I remembered Joe's words and thought I would give it a try. However, I was afraid of being teased, so I waited until all my fellow inmates were asleep before I dared to pray. The content of my first prayer to Jesus was, "Jesus, I don't really believe in you. If you're capable, bring my parents to see me, and I'll follow you for the rest of my life." And that's how my prayer ended.

The next day, during the preparation for the morning exercise routine on the playground, I suddenly heard a correctional officer loudly calling out my number, "3xxx7, step out!" I thought to myself, "Could it be that the phone call went through last night?" From one heavy gate to another, onto the prison vehicle, and down to the visitation room at the foot of the mountain, I felt both nervous and excited. I saw the silhouette of my father and younger brother in the distance, and tears welled up in my eyes. During the 15 minutes of visitation time, I repeated the same words over and over again: "I'm sorry, I was wrong." When it was time to end, I uttered my own wish: "Dad, can you come visit me again?" My father replied, "Of course," and I was deeply moved. Later, as I stepped into the prison vehicle, I offered my second prayer to Jesus, saying, "I'm a loyal person. I will definitely do what I promised to You. I promise to follow You for the rest of my life."

When I initially got to know the Lord Jesus, both my heart and actions were filled with love for Him. Because of my prayers to God, He answered everything, including finding a suitable church, a life partner, and a job. He responded to all of them. In my first year back at church, I participated in serving the homeless in the city, building a church without walls, and preached the gospel in Sai Yeung Choi South Street in Mong Kok. I was very active because I felt that this God was so amazing, and I needed to give back to Him.

Later, I experienced a breakup. I even tore off the cross that I wore around my neck. After that, I relapsed into drug addiction again, and it escalated to the point where I consumed more and more drugs. When I ran out of money, I resorted to borrowing from banks and financial companies, a total of six of them. Every day, I was constantly receiving phone calls demanding payment, but I was unable to repay. I worked long hours, up to 10 hours a day, just to sustain my drug habit. As soon as I received my paycheck, I would use it to buy drugs. This went on for about a year. One night, as I was preparing to use drugs, I accidentally spilled them all over the floor. Without thinking, I immediately got down on the ground to consume the drugs. In that moment, I despised myself. I opened the balcony door and contemplated jumping off. Suddenly, my mind went blank, and

I thought about my family, then I started to have a breakdown. I tightly wrapped myself in a blanket, pulling my hair and clenching my fists, repeatedly saying, "Jesus, I'm here! Save me! Can you see me, Jesus? Save me!" I repeated these phrases for 30 seconds. Then, my mouth started to release air, my tongue flipped, and I began speaking in an unfamiliar language I had never known before. I also felt someone's touch on the outside of my blanket. During this process, my shattered emotions gradually found solace, and my inner being became incredibly calm.

Afterward, I went to the bathroom to wash my face and calm down. I recalled the events I had gone through and walked into the living room. I saw a bright star outside the window, and I immediately prostrated myself on the ground. Once again, I started speaking in the unknown language, but this time louder than before, and even my family members came out to see what was happening. Later, I called Joe and shared my experiences with him. He said that I had likely received the gift of tongues. He asked what God was saying to me, and I told him that God was calling me to join the Christian New Being Fellowship (CNBF, a youth gospel and drug rehabilitation organization). Subsequently, I joined CNBF and began studying the Bible and devotions there. Every time I read a scripture related to my experiences, my inner being was deeply moved, and I thanked God.

Looking back from when I first encountered faith until now, I am completely amazed by God's love, His patience with me, and His works in my life. I have a much deeper understanding about Him. Initially, I thought it was a transactional relationship, where the more God granted my requests, the better I had to perform. If I didn't do well, I believed God wouldn't listen to my prayers. However, as I went through more in life, I came to realize that it's not about how well I perform or how much I do. God's love for me and the grace He gives are completely unconditional. Despite being such an inadequate person like me, God still loves me. It's because I believe, boldly pray, and confess with my heart that God is my only Savior, my only Redeemer. He transforms me, heals me, and restores me.

Today, I surrender in the sovereignty of God, and hope that God will use each one of us, to bring all glory and praises to my Lord. I also spend some time studying courses at a seminary to equip myself.



Special Activity in Correctional Institution



Lo Wu Correctional Institution Mind and Heart Healing Small Group

Tang Chi Shan

Certified Counsellor (CCoun) /
Person-centered Expressive Art Facilitator

After passing through heavy iron gates, my colleague and I entered the religious room of Lo Wu Correctional Institution, starting our second phase of the Mind and Heart Healing Small Group. Together with the inmates, we mixed colors and planned the design based on sketches, transforming the dull, grey walls into vibrant shades. This was a journey of passing through many doors of the inmates' hearts, touching the deep into people's souls, and embarking on an journey together to explore with the unknowns.



Grateful for the opportunity to participate in this group for several months, my colleague and I initially heard a lot of self-judging voices from the inmates: "I don't have artistic talent," "I don't understand color mixing," "My painting doesn't look good," and so on. However, we focused on encouraging the inmates to enjoy the process of creating, to feel the flow of paint, the strength of brushstrokes, and the changes of colors. We had seven female inmates divided into three teams, each responsible for painting a main subject on the mural. Though we encountered uncertainties along the way, there were also surprises everywhere: "I didn't realize I could paint!" "I think I mixed this color beautifully!" "Seeing the completed painting brings me great satisfaction!"

According to the worldly standard, individuals are often judged as good or bad, right or wrong. However, we believe that art does not have absolute "right" or "wrong," or "good" or "bad." Through the Mind and Heart Healing Small Group, we aim to create a safe and trusting atmosphere, allowing the inmates to express their emotions and feelings through the process of artistic creation in a space free from criticism and comparison. The artwork on the wall not only displays the beauty of the design, but more importantly, it carries the traces of each person's emotional expression and pursuit of aesthetic beauty.

When individuals can fully engage in the moment of artistic creation, sincerely face the "controllable" and "uncontrollable" aspects that arise, and calmly accept and appreciate their own efforts, the creative process (rather than the finished product) can already have a healing effect. I greatly admire the inmates who bravely experimented with unfamiliar colors, broke through their habitual self-criticism, learned to appreciate each other, cheered each other on, and collaborated to complete a vibrant mural. Seeing the contentment on their faces filled my heart with warmth. I am grateful that art can connect our hearts together!



感恩與代禱 Thanksgiving & Prayer

1

感恩2013年12月聯同各教會、神學院及義工團隊到各院所舉辦聖誕佈道會。不少沒有恆常出席宗教班的所員也樂於參與及投入。有教會表示，與所員接觸後，期望可以參與院所的義工服侍。

Thanksgiving for the Christmas evangelistic meetings held in December 2023, together with various churches, theological seminaries, and volunteer teams in different institutions. Many inmates who did not regularly attend religious classes were happy to participate and engage. Some churches expressed their desire to be involved in volunteer service within the institutions after interacting with the inmates.

2

感恩，今年復活節期間，我們可以在小欖精神病治療中心、荔枝角收押所及勵敬懲教所舉行復活節佈道會。另又可藉著復活節卡、探訪及宗教班與所員分享主復活的喜訊及意義。求主大大使用，讓院內的所員早日信主。

During this Easter season, we held various Easter evangelistic meetings at the Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre, Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre, and Lai King Correctional Institution. We also shared the good news and significance of the Lord's resurrection with the inmates through Easter cards, visits, and religious classes. May the Lord use these opportunities greatly and lead the inmates to faith in Him.

3

感恩去年「天使樹聖誕行動」祝福了所員家中的子女或父母。更新會代所員送出的聖誕禮物，贈予350位孩子及家長，藉此表達所員對家人的關心和愛顧。由2023年開始，外籍所員也可參與。所員們都感激更新會提供這服務。

Thanksgiving for the "Angel Tree Christmas Project" last year, which blessed the children or parents of the inmates' families. KSA sent Christmas gifts on behalf of the inmates, reaching 350 children and parents to express the inmates' care and love for their families. Starting from 2023, foreign inmates could also participate. The inmates are grateful for this service provided by the KSA.



4

哈利路亞！2024年1月有兩位所員在石壁監獄接受洗禮。當日，洗禮者邀請了院內囚友參與並見證他們領受上主恩典。他們分享神對他們一直的恩領，多謝更新會及義工多方面及同行和教導。

In January 2024, two inmates received baptism at the Shek Pik Prison. On that day, the baptizees invited fellow inmates to participate and witness their receiving of the Lord's grace. They shared how God has continually shown His grace to them and thanked KSA and the volunteers for their support, guidance, and companionship.

5

感謝主！一位小欖精神病治療中心的所員將於4月30日在院所內接受洗禮。因院所規定不可拍照，但上帝預備了畫師把現場繪畫以代替照片，給洗禮者留念。願主祝福弟兄在靈裡不住成長，一生為主作見證。

An inmate from the Siu Lam Psychiatric Centre will receive baptism within the institution on April 30th. As photography is not allowed in the institution, God has prepared an artist to create a painting of the scene as a keepsake for the baptizee. May the Lord bless the brother to continue growing in the Spirit and be a lifelong witness for the Lord.

6

讚美主3月31日有4位參加靈頌基督教會的男宿舍弟兄接受洗禮及1位接受轉會禮。求主堅固弟兄們的信心，保守他們繼續成長，大大被主使用。

On March 31st, four brothers from the men's dormitory who attend Praise Christian Church were baptised, and one brother was confirmed in his faith. May the Lord strengthen their faith, preserve their growth, and use them greatly for His purposes.

7



同工們在2月27-28日一起於烏溪沙青年新村退修。藉主的恩典，大家可以在主裡得安息和團契，也讓我們得著更新及鼓勵。

We give thanks for a blessed staff retreat at the Wu Kai Sha Youth Village (烏溪沙青年新村), we were able to have a restful time with the Lord and also with each other. It was a good time of refreshing and encouragement.

8

義工訓練於3月12日舉行，主題是個人佈道法竅門，由林以諾牧師主講。感恩，當日有超過60位義工報讀。求主幫助，活用所學習的，讓更多所員認識福音、認識上主。

Volunteer training was held on March 12th, with the theme of "Effective Personal Evangelism Techniques," presented by Pastor Enoch Lam. Over 60 volunteers enrolled on that day. May the Lord help them apply what they have learned and lead more inmates to come to know the Gospel and the Lord.



收入 Income

港幣HK\$

奉獻 Donation	3,680,554.00
宿舍租金收入 Hostel Rental Income	356,921.00
其他收入 Other Incomes	13,126.59
活動收入 Event Fees Income	64,936.50

總收入 Total Income

4,115,538.09

支出 Expenses

行政費用 Administration Overheads	892,998.95
事工費用 Ministry Expenses	2,433,421.56

總支出 Total Expenses

3,326,420.51

本期事工結餘 Ministry Surplus for the period	789,117.58
扣減 2023年備用指定基金 Less Accumulated reserve of designated funds for 2023	(1,589,182.90)
本期累積不敷 Accumulated deficit for the period	(800,065.32)

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 Donation can be made by

奉獻港幣\$100或以上者，將獲免稅收據。Tax-deductible receipt will be issued for donation of HK\$100 or above.

- 劃線支票抬頭請寫「香港基督教更新會有限公司」。
Crossed cheque made payable to "The Hong Kong Christian Kun Sun Association Ltd."
- 直接存入香港匯豐銀行戶口416-4-010375，並將入數收據連同此封郵寄/ 傳真/ 電郵/ Whatsapp 5409 5099至本會。
Depositing into the HSBC account: 416-4-010375, and return the bank receipt with this envelope to us by mail / fax / email / Whatsapp 5409 5099.
- 使用網上電子捐款（中國銀行捐款易平台）
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