

GEM LINK

FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATIONS ONLY.

She
CAN
LAUGH
at
her
FUTURE
Proverbs 31:25



A Message from the President



Time flies, we have entered the last month of the year and looking back, I am marvelled by God's favour and mercy upon the work of GEM. Working in a girl's ministry is indeed a tall order and we can get weary or discouraged at times.

As the bible says in Hebrews 12:2, "We must focus our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith". I constantly remind myself and the team that we need to keep our focus on the cross. As we face hard times, we must steadfastly look to Jesus and fix our eyes on the love of God for there is where we draw strength and encouragement. There are times when our staff feel stretched but they are still holding on strong because they believe in the mission of GEM, reaching out to vulnerable girls and women-in-need (WIN) who deserve to walk in God's purpose and live life to the fullest.

I am truly thankful for Pastor Brenda for answering the call to start GEM New Start Centre Limited 4 years ago, for without her dedication and commitment, GEM will not have made it so far. Pastor Brenda has decided to move on from GEM and though we are saddened by her departure, our prayers and blessings go with her. We pray that God will use her mightily wherever God has planted her and prosper her in all ways. On the other hand, we are excited to have Ms Doreen Lim on board to add strength to the current team. Let us warmly welcome her as she embarks on the journey of new life with GEM. Finally, please pray along with us for like-minded individuals to come alongside to partner with us in this God's ministry for the WIN and His provision for expansion of His Kingdom.

Last but not least, I wish you all a very blessed and joyous Christmas as we remember the birth of Jesus Christ.

In His Service,
Caroline Kwan

A Word from BRENDA Lim



“There is a **time** for **everything**,
and a **season** for
every activity under
heaven.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

These are profound words written by the writer in the Book of Ecclesiastes and was appropriately applied to me during my time with GEM New Start Centre Limited.

In 2011, I responded to GEM’s founder, Pastor Lilian’s invitation to set up a centre with the purpose of helping teenage girls and women-in-need in their character development and to acquire an employable skill so that these women can start a new life from their bad life experiences.

During the last four years, GEM NSC has reached and touched about 20 women with our in-house training program and nearly hundreds of women with our community partners with God’s grace and empowerment. Praise the Lord.

I have *witnessed and experienced God’s numerous favours* and His hands on NSC when it was being set-up. Thanks be to God and to all our faithful sponsors, donors and dedicated volunteers who have believed and journeyed with GEM thus far.

My season of “planting the seed” with GEM NSC has come to a completion and I will be handling the baton over to a capable successor, Ms Doreen Lim. I am confident that with Doreen’s wealth of experience and expertise, she will move GEM NSC to a higher level for the Lord.

I have planted the seed, Doreen will continue to water. And in God’s purpose, He will establish the works of every hand for His glory....AMEN.

Brenda Lim

w e l c o m e



Dear friends and supporters of GEM NSC,

Warmest greetings to you in the wonderful name of the Lord Jesus Christ!

I knew about the work of GEM NSC when it first started back in 2011 but never did I imagine myself to be part of GEM ministry today. I can only say this is God's divine appointment. Reaching out to girls and women in crisis is one of the most challenging ministry and not many have the courage to answer the call. Why is this so? Do they not deserve to be loved and cared for? The truth of the matter is we all deserved to love and be loved. However, because of disappointments and hurts from relationship, that makes them even more vulnerable and emotionally needy.

“People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care” — Theodore Roosevelt

The famous quote by Theodore Roosevelt “People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care” aptly fits the scene at GEM NSC where the staff are devoted to love every single one of them and accepting them as who they are. It is our heart's desire to see every single one of them entering into a new chapter of life, threading on a new path leading to their God-called destiny.

Love is more than just words, it is **love in action**. As we journey with them, we hope that they will experience the love of God in their lives.

Lastly, may this issue bless your heart as we share our heartbeat and ministry updates.

Together we serve,
Doreen Lim



I am God's **MASTERPIECE**

We are privileged to have Pastor Dianna Koh to volunteer her time with GEM NSC to conduct lessons on 'I am God's Masterpiece' to the **Woman-In-Need (WIN)** every Monday morning. Her lessons are never boring as she often shares her life experiences and life-inspiring video clips to value-add to the lessons where the WIN are able to identify and understand. She has a unique style of teaching and is good with using illustrations to describe the key ideas of the lessons. The WIN thoroughly enjoyed her lessons.

Despite her busy schedule, Pastor Dianna has chosen to avail herself to minister to the WIN as she viewed it as a privilege to serve God's people who are in need. Moreover, she has a heart for the younger people whom she is able to connect with easily.

She **counts it a joy** when the girls are able to relate to the lessons and she attributed this to the grace of God in granting her wisdom to deliver the lessons.

WIN A 

I can relate to Pastor Dianna as a good teacher and a shepherd whom I can follow. Her life examples are useful as I can relate better and have a clearer understanding of the lesson.

One lesson that I hold deeply in my heart is that I need to treasure who I am, just like a cracked pot with holes but God can still use me for His great purpose.

WIN B 

I regard Pastor Dianna as a friend because she can guide me in my path with God and most importantly, she encourages me.

One of the lessons on 'Happy with who you are' speaks to me a great deal. I learnt that I need to accept and be happy with who I am because God has created me as unique and special.

转折点 The Turning Point

AS part of GEM NSC's move to partner with community agencies and halfway house to reach out to women-in-need, GEM has been conducting our signature INSIDE-OUT GEM BEAUTY program at The Turning Point (TTP) since March 2015. Through the program, we seek to empower and equip the residents with both life and work skills upon their completion of the program.



To date, we have conducted four batches of training and our final batch ended in October, bringing to a total, 50 trainees for the year. Other than sharing the Word of God, we taught them important life skills on humility, forgiveness and the importance of having good communication skills. The residents were also shown testimony videos on the lives

of individuals who had personally experience the love of God and transformation in their lives. Most of the residents enjoyed watching the testimony videos which enable them to learn life lessons and also encouraged their faith in God. Besides life skills, the residents also attended the work skills program on baking and also manicure/pedicure and makeup skills conducted in the afternoon.

The residents gave very **positive feedbacks that the program is very well planned and the life skills taught are very applicable to their lives.** We certainly prayed that the principles and values that were imparted to them will continue to guide them as they integrate back to society to start life anew after their discharge.

Lim Yan Yan

Changi Women's Prison

In November, I have ended the last batch of beauty skills classes in Changi women's prison. I am truly blessed as it not only enlarge my love capacity and patience but most of all, it helped me to sharpen my skills to communicate to young girls of diverse background.

Looking at them reminds me of my rebellious past and the faithfulness of God that never leave me. It is God who turned my life around. Working with these girls taught me not to look at them with the same lens but to look at each one of them as unique. I learnt to communicate with them as a friend, an older sister, trainer or even as a mother. As I looked at these young lives, my heart goes out to them as I truly believe that they can make it great one day despite their past failures.

Though I may be teaching beauty skills, I looked beyond the technical part of transferring knowledge to them. I seized the opportune moment to teach them life lessons, values and encourage them to be bold in pursuing their dreams.

Many are looking forward to return to their family, taking up a job to take care of their little ones while some are still searching for an answer.

I am thankful that I have the freedom and luxury to spend time with my loved ones and today, I treasure my time with my family even more.

The **satisfaction is indescribable** when I see them putting in efforts to learn and practise on one another, seeing each of their own masterpiece, transforming a plain Jane to a beautiful young lady. This is a moment where you see all faces shine brightly with pride, self-esteem restored and thrilled to bits. At that instant, they seem to be transported to another heavenly place where all were jumping with joy and gleaming with happiness.

I believe no seed of love is too big or small as long as you love them just like how God first loved us. It is my prayer that God will use me to touch their lives and show them that they are loved and valued.

Jean Marie Seah

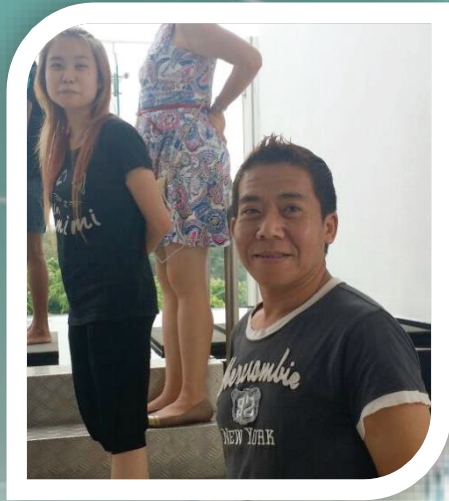
A *Glance* at GEM



APRIL



Faith Declaration



Water Baptism for Belle (Staff trainee) and Kenny (Spouse of GEM NSC Staff)

MAY



Serving The community
Sweet Treat on Mother's



**Singapore Council of Women Organizations
Centre (SCWO)**



St Hilda's Church Community Services

GEM Activities in 2015

JULY



Community Partner



GEM ladies attending anniversary celebration dinner at The Turning Point

SEPTEMBER



Celebration



Founder's and President's Birthday Surprise

AUGUST



School Talk



Career Fair Workshop @ North Vista Primary School

AG Home

GEM NSC partners with AG Home to conduct classes on teen life issues and work skills for girls aged between 13 to 18 years old. Those sessions has given us the opportunity to interact and bond with them. We are thankful that our trainers have also been a positive influence in their lives and most importantly, a word of thanks to Pastor Adrian for believing in our programme.

*“GEM NSC is a precious community partner whom we got to know and love for their labour of love since 5 Jan 2015. Despite their initial concerns about working with teenage girls, they soon found their footing and forged a strategic alliance with us when it came to the care and development of our new admissions. **Gem’s unique “Inside Out” Programme of self-discovery, taught our residents to discover the “Beauty Within”**, pick up manicure, cooking and baking skills and more importantly, to have proper assessment of who they are in God’s eyes. Ever patient and eager to engage our residents, GEM had even gone on to place one of our residents on an apprenticeship programme as part of her discharge plans.”*

Thank you, Gem NSC!

Pastor Adrian Tan

Refresh, Relief & Re-Energized GEM team

I have committed myself to volunteer at AG Home for this entire year as I support the mission of GEM reaching out to woman in need.

GEM’s partnership with community partners like AG Home and The Turning Point adds value to their programme while it helps to relieve and supplement their staff’s work. Whatever that is being done, all go in one big round for the advancement of God’s kingdom. Whether as a volunteer for a day, a week or a month, let it be a fruitful season of each life. You may use your talents in cooking, baking, music or other areas, whichever you think you can value-add.

God never short-changes you.

Blessed to be a blessing.

Penny Tan

BE

involved

unteer 

I have been serving Turning Point as a volunteer to co-run the service together with 7 other faithful volunteers on every Saturday morning for the past 4 years. The session usually starts with an ice-breaker followed by the service and each time, their worship and adoration to the Lord never fails to touch my heart.

This year, our theme is centred on the "Miracles of Jesus" and incorporate personal testimonies to glorify and thank God for His faithfulness and mercy. After which, the volunteers helped to facilitate deeper sharing and discussion in a smaller group to reinforce the teachings. Personally, I enjoyed the small group sharing session the most because I can interact and pray with them.

I am privileged that God is using me as a vessel of instrument to reach out to them and bring words of encouragement to them as they continue on their journey and life struggles. During these times, I have gained their trust and this is an open door for me to minister to them with the love of God. Though I am there to share God's love to them, but in the end, I feel that ***I gained more than I give*** because I have grown in spiritual maturity.

All Glory to God!

Lynn Ching



To all our faithful volunteers,

Thank you for answering our call for help when we need volunteers who share the same heartbeat as us to minister to the women-in-need (WIN). You have made such a great difference in the lives of all the women be it in GEM, AG Home or The Turning Point. Your commitment to the ministry is commendable and has helped to **touch 185 lives in 2015**. Every single one of them matters to us just as it matters to God who loves His people.

You are simply the BEST and very much APPRECIATED!

REMEMBER THE FORGOTTEN ONE

Verse 40 “The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine (the sick, hungry, thirsty and poor) you did for me” Verse 45 “He will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me”.

Matthew 25:34-46

Yes, **Christmas is all about giving**. God gave his beloved son Jesus, Jesus gave the Holy Spirit and the Spirit gave us life so we could give the gift of love. It is very natural for us to give Christmas gifts to our nearest and dearest. We love to celebrate with our family and closest friends as we prepare them the most sumptuous food and expensive gifts.

Now let's consider those people that Jesus spent most of his time with and even sacrificed his life for them. Remember he came for the sick, broken and lost. He died for those who opposed him and persecuted him. While he was on earth, he hung around with the rejected, sick and unlovable. He ate with the commoner and spent time with the lepers, demon-possessed, prostitutes and poor widows. Can we continue in His steps and do likewise to this group of people during this season of celebration? I believe there are the sick, homeless, lonely and sad people who have no one to celebrate or rejoice with them.

While many of us are so busy shopping and preparing for celebration, let's give some thought to those whom you can encourage and bring the joy of Christmas by inviting them to celebrate with you and your family. If you are not sure, pray and ask God. I believe the Holy Spirit will impress upon your heart and bring the person/people to mind.

Let's shine like the star that leads the shepherds to the manger where CHRIST was born!

Christmas Recipe

Bring JOY to your home this Christmas with this
AWESOME homemade dish!

POTATO CASSEROLE



METHOD:

1. Mix all the ingredients together leaving the cornflakes to the last.
2. Bake in moderate oven at 180C for an hour.
3. Spread the cornflakes on the top and bake for another 15 to 30 minutes.
4. Remove from oven when the cornflakes turn slightly brown.

INGREDIENTS:

- 750 kg hash brown
– cut into small cubes
- ½ onion
- 2 Cups grated Cheese
- 2 Cups of cornflakes
- 1 Can Cream of Chicken soup
- 300 g sour Cream
(Can also use light sour Cream)
- 2 hard-boiled eggs

Optional:

You can add a layer of spinach leaves, a Can of tuna or bacon bits together with all the other ingredients.



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My Testimony

I joined GEM in mid-December 2013. Before I joined GEM, my life was aimless because I had stopped going to school. My daily routine at home was simply sleeping, eating and watching television programme whole day long.

I got to know GEM through my counsellor who was then helping me and my family because of family issues. After hearing about GEM's programme, I decided to join the program to learn character development and have since learnt the importance of good work attitude, punctuality and gradually **I gained my self-confidence**. At the same time, I also make new friends in GEM. Besides life skills, I also learnt beauty skills on manicure and pedicure, which I discover that I have an interest in. I shared with Aunty Carol that I wish to open a nail shop one day. Hence, she helped to find a sponsor for me so that I can attend a diploma course on nail technology to upgrade my skills. I started my course in September this year.

Through GEM, I also came to know GOD and accepted Christ into my life. I was **baptized during Easter Day** this year. Since then, God has been helping me a lot just like how he had helped me in my mock pedicure exam in school. I was very worried that I might not do well. I prayed to GOD to help me to overcome my fear and anxiety. I felt the peace of GOD throughout the exam and I was able to complete the assessment on time.

Praise the Lord!

WIN A

***Therefore,
if anyone is
in Christ,
the new
creation
has come:
The old has
gone, the
new is
here!***

2
Corinthians
5:17
(NIV)



Vision

To help teenage girls and women with a dysfunctional past to become a woman of destiny and live life to its fullness.

Proverbs 31:25 "She CAN laugh at her future"

Mission

We are committed to bring restoration to the women in need and help them to re-discover the value of womanhood so as to have a new start in life.

Committee Members:

Founder – Pastor Lilian Tng
President - Caroline Kwan
Secretary – Julie Gan
Treasurer – Helen Yong
Member – Lynn Ching
Manager – Doreen Lim



Please call us for appointment today!

Stay Connected

We love to hear from you!



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We need your support. Donate to GEM's ministry, be a part of the life-changing mission today.



Donation :

Please make cheque payable to GEM New Start Centre Limited or direct credit to OCBC corporate account :
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