

GEM LINK

FOR INTERNAL CIRCULATIONS ONLY.

She
CAN
LAUGH
at
her
FUTURE
Proverbs 31:25





A Word from GEM's Founder

My heart is filled with great appreciation to many of you who had contributed in finance, prayers and services to keep this work going for the last 3 years. The amazing grace and love of God are the keys to the success of the WIN (women-in-need) program. Our partnership with Singapore Prison on the in-house skill training allows interaction time for the girls and our trainers. Those girls who later came into our 3-6 months program felt at home at our centre. We are so happy to celebrate with the girls who successfully completed the program. One of them has worked with us for more than a year. Her life transformation after she joined GEM is indeed a miracle. This greatly encourages me and my staff.

Though this work is forged with much challenges, I am still convinced that everyone deserves a second chance because God loves and values each one of these girls. Despite the conditions they are in, God has destined for them a good future.

In GEM NSC, we genuinely love the girls by walking with them through their difficult journeys. Our team of dedicated and loving staff and volunteers showers the girls with unconditional love which is what touches them most. LOVE NEVER FAILS!

Moving forward into the year 2015, we are actively growing our partnership with halfway houses, schools and youth community centres to expand our work. The need for a temporary "Shelter Home" is real for the ex-convict women who are released from Prison. While preparing them to face the society again, most of them need a place to stay before they become independent with livelihood.

Please pray with us as we explore resources and supports to expand into this new area of work. You are welcome to speak to me if you are able to assist in this new work. GEM is doing our part to build up this generation of teenage girls to become future leaders, upholding justice and righteousness in the schools, marketplace, family and thereby building a strong and healthy nation.

Pastor Lilian Tng

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From the Heart of.....

GEM's President, Singapore

How did GEM New Start Centre (NSC) come about?

Embracing the same passion as Ps Lilian and together with a few other ladies to help teens at risk and women-in-need, GEM NSC started 3 years ago when God miraculously placed people, resources and finance together in a short span of our planning. GEM stands for "Graceful, Empowered, Masterpiece" – our vision for each WIN who comes for help.



What were the beginnings of GEM Beauty?

GEM beauty, an extension of GEM NSC, was set up to provide skills development and work training for the girls. The idea for the beauty centre came about after 2 groups of our girls finished the 6 months program and are ready to be employed. Working in GEM Beauty is a step before they actually go in the REAL world to work. We decided to put the girls under our employment in the beauty centre to further train them to manage work stress, attitude, team work and expectation. These girls have finished our program with one going for further skill training with accreditation for her to build a career on Nails SPA and the other helping her family business.

Have you been encouraged during the last 3 years with GEM NSC?

I am very encouraged each time when I shared with my friends about what I am doing and my passion to help these girls. They too realised there is a great need for this work as many teen girls are lost and living in hopelessness. Therefore many of them showed their support in different ways. Witnessing the transformations of the girls is definitely very encouraging.

Moving forward, what are your hopes and aspirations for GEM?

My hope is to provide more areas of help to many out there who need them. As Ps Lilian mentioned, a temporary "Shelter Home". In addition to beauty-related jobs, I hope to expand the job scope at GEM to include other skills such as IT, flower arrangement, sewing and cooking.

Mrs Caroline Kwan

Sharing from the

Desk of New Start Centre's Manager

It is a fact that gems increase in value as time passes. The same is true with our Inside-Out Beauty Training Programme that God uses to polish up our WIN (Women-In-Need) through a 6 months to a year period to become precious, sparkling gems. This is a process that comes with much discipline, moulding and polishing in order for the ladies to gain practical skills and emotional stability that will indeed sparkle as they bless others and shine with God's brand of beauty.



I am amazed to see how God works in the lives of those in our training programme since we started in August 2011. GEM New Start Centre (NSC) has become:

- **REFUGE**..... (for WIN to receive God's peace in times of their struggles)
- **RESTORATION** (their relationships with God and their family)
- **REBUILDING** (of lives with a sense of purpose and self-esteem)

The focus is on God who has enabled us to journey with the WIN to reach their God-given potential besides re-building their lives to become a precious GEM (Graceful, Empowered, Masterpiece) in the hands of our Great Master, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank You, dear faithful donors, supporters, volunteers and friends for journeying with us at GEM NSC.

Brenda Lim

GEM New Start Centre's Signature Programme



INSIDE-OUT GEM BEAUTY Program aims to help girls and women to journey from their destructive past toward a New Start in life.

- This program engages the participant in the attitudinal aspects of life & womanhood, life skills processes, and includes the element of work skills in the Beauty Industry.
- The program offers methods and guidelines that will help the participant identify the challenges of life, help her grasp the principles of self-worth and esteem, and enable her to move forward with positive self-belief, as well as skills for gainful employment.



Sharing from GEM Beauty

I am Jean Marie and have been working in GEM as a beauty trainer for about 3 years.

As I teach the girls outer beauty skills, I also learned a lot about inner beauty skills while working with them. I learned how to handle every girl differently and play various roles (colleague, friend, superior, mother) to them. I learnt to love without expectations and even when I am disappointed. I press on even when I don't feel like loving or even when I feel like giving up.



Watching the girls grow brings satisfaction. And when I see the changes and improvements in them, I learn that when we as human beings run out of ideas, God can do wonders.

Of course there are ups n downs, times when the girls are sweet, times when they are not so teachable, times when they do things that will encourage me, times when they disappoint me.

During those moments, I needed God's love, wisdom n strength. Each time when I need to learn how to love them with God's love, it brings me closer to God because I need to draw strength from him.

I thank God for not giving up on me then, so now I can have the chance to love the girls like how God loves me.

Life Changing Testimonies

A lesson on gratitude

Before I joined GEM, I was serving my prison sentence. I was selected to attend a beauty course conducted by GEM while serving my time, which was how I got to know what the organisation is all about.

I joined GEM after I was released from prison, and they taught me many life skills, such as character development. I also went through an advanced beauty course to upgrade my skills. GEM taught me how to be humble and the importance of saying "thank you", "sorry" and "please". Because of my pride, these are three words that I hate to say, but yet I am saying them now every day!

-WIN A

Getting a new start

I stopped schooling at the age of 17 because of family problems. It was then that my life changed. My father suggested that my mum, brother and I moved elsewhere, so we turned to a Family Care Centre for help. The centre counsellor found us a place to stay at a shelter for one to two years while my mother applied for a rental flat. After a few months, we finally had our own rental flat. Since I stopped schooling, I just stayed at home, doing nothing except eating, sleeping and watching television. It was the same routine daily.

I joined GEM in mid-December 2013 through the counsellor too. GEM helps me to build my self-confidence through their character development program at the New Start Centre. I have learnt about the importance of self-confidence, good work attitudes and punctuality. I have also made more friends through GEM. I have also learnt a work skill on manicure and pedicure which I enjoy very much. Above all, I learnt about God and that He loves me dearly. I have since then believed and accepted Him into my life. GEM has a career path for me and I foresee that I will become a professional manicurist in the future and have my own shop.

- WIN B

Ministry's Update

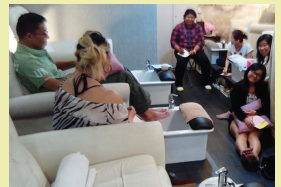
Outdoor activities are an exciting part of our training program. A trip to visit Chinatown Heritage Centre to learn what was the living conditions like for our "Pioneer" generation times. A lesson learnt on gratitude and appreciation for our forefathers!



Thank God for a good rapport with Prisons Services. They have invited Stephanie, our full-time staff, for a dialogue session to share her life transformation after her release and her work with GEM.



A care group was started at beauty side for a time of sharing, encouraging and bonding among staff and friends. You are welcome to join us on every Thursday, 8pm-9.30pm @ Holiday Inn Orchard.



June 2014

During the Great Singapore Sale, GEM was honoured to serve the hotel staff in manicure, pedicure and leg spa. Keep up your good works!



August 2014

Girl's Seminar (Impart godly values to the younger generation).



Group Participation



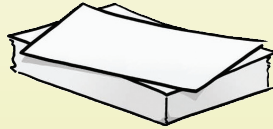
September 2014

We are in action again at St Hilda Church for their Church Carnival.



2015 NSC's Upcoming Training Programs : -

- 1) Providence Care Centre.
– *Conduct enrichment course for teen girls*
- 2) In-Prison Beauty Vocational Skill Training.
- 3) Prison's Home Detention Work Skill.



Who's in GEM?



Carol Kwan
President



Lilian Tng
Founder



Brenda Lim
Centre Manager



Helen Yong
Treasurer



Julie Gan
Secretary



Lynn Ching
Prayer Coordinator



Yan Yan
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**If you would like to make a donation to GEM works,
please make cheque payable to: GEM New Start Centre Ltd
OR
make direct donation to our OCBC a/c: 647743558001.**

Thank You.