

C-LINK

2009 Issue 002

C for Christ, His Care and Concern for all



Rev Stephen Pang
Chairman
SANA Christian Counselling
Services

Looking ahead

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

2 Corinthians 12:9a

This verse comes to my mind as I look back at the past year. Though there have been many challenges for SANA CCS, the Lord has been gracious and faithful in dealing with us. Indeed, He has supplied all our needs abundantly just as He has promised.

Looking around us today, we see natural calamities, like the H1N1 flu pandemic, the earthquake in Sichuan, the cyclone in Myanmar and famines in Africa; and man-made disasters, like the financial crisis in US, the skyrocketing of oil and food prices and the poisoned-milk-powder scandal, happening in quick succession. All these events remind me of the description of the Last Days in the Bible. They could be signs to alert us that Jesus' return may be imminent. We may not have the luxury of time to complete our mission here. We, at the CCS, will have to speed up our efforts to reach out to those who have yet to hear about Jesus before it is too late. I am glad that the Lord has been gracious in providing us with resources and people to carry out our mission. But it is also our responsibility to ensure that these resources are put to good use and in good time. "As long as it is day, we must

do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work" (John 9:4).

To double up our efforts to reach out to ex-drug addicts and other offenders, we will need to have more volunteers. Presently, the Singapore Prison Service is consolidating the Tanah Merah Prison (TMP), Queenstown Remand Prison (QRP), Khalsa Crescent Prison (KCP), Sembawang DRC (SD) and Selarang Park DRC (SPD) into one single cluster — Cluster B. In so doing, they may require us to provide more counselling, Bible Study and Sunday worship services for the inmates. This is a field that is ripe for harvest. We will need to recruit more volunteers to come forward to help us in this endeavour, particularly those who have the burden for these lost souls in prisons. "Then He said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his Harvest field.'" (Matthew 9:37-38)

Besides the in-care ministry, there is also a need for volunteers to help out in the after-care programme. Currently, SANA runs several of such programmes in which our volunteers can take part. The aftercare of ex-drug offenders is even more important than in-care as they are now back to the society with all the



The SANA CCS congratulates Rev Stephen Pang for receiving the NCADA Star Award in recognition of his contribution to the National Anti-Drug Cause.

temptations made available to them again. To ensure that they can overcome the Devil and continue to walk the narrow road that leads to life, someone must reach out to them.

If you have not been involved in this ministry, do pray about it and seriously consider joining our team as a volunteer in this meaningful and challenging ministry. Do contact us so that we can provide you with more information.

For those who have been involved in various areas in this ministry, we would like to further enhance their effectiveness. CCS will be planning for more advanced training courses for those existing volunteers to upgrade their skills and perhaps refresh their souls and minds. Ministering to these lost souls can be a tiring job and we need to periodically freshen ourselves up. I would also like to, once again, urge you to join our bimonthly Grace Fellowship. In this Fellowship, we, both counsellors and over-comers, can come together and

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

 <p>Second chance</p>	2
 <p>Training @ CCS SANA</p>	2
 <p>AGM 2009</p>	3
 <p>VAO Appreciation dinner</p>	3
 <p>Grace Fellowship</p>	4

Second chance



Mr Andy Tan and his family

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”

Rom 8:1



“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”
Phil 4:13



“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.”

Jas 1:5

Mr Andy Tan, 44, was a drug addict before he came to know the Lord. This is his testimony.

When I was younger, only two things were important to me – money and drugs. Money was mainly for buying drugs. Life was really meaningless to me as I could only think of nothing but ways and means to satisfy my cravings. Friends avoided me as I would borrow money from them whenever I met them. Family members were disappointed with me, especially my mother. My incorrigible ways had brought much heartache for her. She went through many sleepless nights because of me. Financially and emotionally, my family suffered tremendously because of my addiction. Eventually, I was caught. I was sent to prison and given a few strokes of the cane.

I heard of the gospel when I was in primary school. I knew about how Jesus died for my sins. But at that time, it meant nothing to me. I really came to know this Jesus when I was going through the drug

rehabilitation programme at a half-way house after serving the sentence. That was when I accepted Jesus into my life as my Lord and Saviour. As I put my trust in Him and walk in His way, my life changed and became more meaningful.

As I compare my present life to my wayward days, I am indeed so grateful to God for he has been so merciful and gracious to me despite my sinful ways. He has blessed me with a beautiful wife and two adorable boys. I could have been a rotting drug addict now, but God forgave me and gave me a second chance in life.

Some of my friends are still serving time in prison now because of their drug habits, a few have ended their own lives and one was sentenced to death for drug trafficking. I came to know of his case when I saw his picture in the newspaper. He was only thirty years old when he was hung. If not for my Lord Jesus Christ, I could have been like one of them.

Today, I am able to share my

testimony with you because of what Jesus has done for me. Jesus not only saved me and forgave my sins; He has also healed me of my drug addiction and restored my relationship with my family. My desire now is for my mother and my siblings to come to know and accept Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour – in particular, my mother, who is already 86 years old.

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). I am not ashamed to tell others about my past. In fact, it gives me the opportunity to share how God’s saving grace has changed my life.

To God be the glory!

Looking ahead

(Continued from page 1)

worship the Lord as one body. We can encourage and exhort one another, share our victories and frustrations, and uphold one another in prayer and supplications. “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Finally, as the CCS executive committee commences the new term of office, one of the tasks that we need to take on is succession planning. As most of us in the committee have served for many years, we will need to inject new blood into the management. We need newer and fresher ideas on how this organisation can improve and continue to be relevant in today’s community.

I would like to invite you to come forward and contact us if you would like to play a more active role in CCS.

Training @ SANA CCS

Working with ex-drug addicts and prisoners has never been an easy task. Coupled up with a rapidly changing drug scene and a wide potpourri of new drugs being abused, it is imperative that our volunteers remain relevant and keep abreast of the developments in the arena.

At SANA CCS, we want to ensure that our volunteers are suitably equipped in dealing with our clients, both in and out of prisons. New volunteer applicants are required to attend the quarterly SANA Volunteer Briefing and the monthly Singapore Prison Service (SPS) Volunteer Orientation Briefing. Volunteers with no counselling experience

have to attend the EMBARK programme, which stands for Enrichment of the Mind and Body through Acquiring Religious Knowledge. So far this year, 18 volunteers have gone through the training.

Other counselling skills trainings are also conducted all year round. One of them is the Solving the People Puzzle seminar which covers topics like “Understanding Yourself”, “Valuing Yourself and Others”, and “Developing your Versatility”.

With proper training, we will be well-equipped to carry out the task God has placed on our shoulders. Do contact us for more information.

The SANA Christian Counselling Services' 31st Annual General Meeting was held on the evening of 27 April 2009. The meeting began with a time of worship led by Mr Lemuel Ho and his team. Thereafter, the Chairman, Rev Stephen Pang, in his chairman address, urged the volunteers and clients not to lose heart in running the race but be encouraged because "God will empower us in our battles, and will definitely finish what He has started in our lives, as



we continue to trust him".

Rev Dr David Lee, Senior Pastor of the Maranatha Christian Assembly then gave the devotional address and spoke on The Mind to Succeed – Overcoming Fear, which echoed the chairman's speech.

CCS Executive Committee elected for 2009/2011:

- Chairman: Rev Stephen Pang
- Vice-chairman I: Mr Joseph Tay
- Vice-chairman II: Mr Ryan Yuen
- Hon. Treasurer: Rev Dr George Seow
- Hon. Secretary: Rev K Steven
- Members: Mr Steven Lim, Mr Patrick Chow, Mr Lemuel Ho, Mr Darren Lim, Mdm The Hok Nio

The election of office bearers for 2009/2011 was then held. The meeting concluded with the dedication of the newly elected members of the executive committee.



A time of worship before the AGM



Chairman addresses the AGM



Rev Dr David Lee gives his devotional address



Rev Dr David Lee prays for the newly elected committee



The congregation join in prayer for the committee



The newly elected executive committee of CCS

SANA CCS Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

On the 06 February 2009, the SANA CCS hosted the VAO Appreciation dinner for her volunteers, supporters and friends at the G7 Sinma Deep Sea Live Seafood Restaurant. This annual affair is a token of appreciation for the many volunteers who have sacrifice their time and energy for the rehabilitation and betterment of those who have gone astray.

In his pre-dinner address, Rev Stephen Pang, chairman of SANA CCS, thanked the vol-



unteers for their tireless and selfless commitment to help those who have been ensnared by drugs. Many prison inmates have benefited from the love, care and counsel of the volunteers who visit them week after week.

In recognition of their contributions, several volunteers received their awards on that day – Florence Ng Sin Tong and Rasoo Muthusamy received the Silver Awards; Karl Duane Ott and Jenny Lim Peck Chin received the Bronze Awards; while

Chelliah Samuel Dhanaraj and Chua Gim Hin received Certificates of Appreciation.

The final highlight of the evening was the sumptuous Lunar New Year dinner, specially arranged by our beloved Bro. Joseph Tay. Besides the good food, we had a good time of fellowship – encouraging and sharing with one another God's blessings.



Some of our award recipients.



Volunteers worship the Lord together



One for the album



"Makan" fellowship

Grace Fellowship



Dinner fellowship



The Grace Fellowship is a bimonthly meeting, usually on a Monday evening, where counsellors, friends and supporters can come together to worship the Lord and encourage one another. The meetings usually begin with a simple dinner where we can catch up with our friends. It is then followed by a time of worship with songs

and praises, sharing of testimonies, and finally, a short message of encouragement.

During one of the recent meetings, Rev Sam Rasoo shared about his struggles in the prison ministry and subsequently how God had shown him that his efforts had not been in vain.

In our ministry to ex-drug addicts and prisoners, we sometimes feel exasperated because of the many seemingly insurmountable obsta-

cles that are in our way. It is during fellowship meetings like these that we are reminded of God's faithfulness and providence.

Do come and join us in our next meeting.

"...but let us encourage one another..." Heb 10:25



A time of worship with songs and praises



Rev Chelliah Samuel Dhanaraj gives his exhortation



Rev Sam Rasoo shares his experience

My response

- I would like to receive your newsletter, the C-link magazine, regularly.
- I would like to donate *\$_____
- I would like to make a monthly pledge of *\$_____
- I would like to have more information about the drug ministry.

Name: _____ NRIC: _____

Address: _____

Church: _____

Contact No.: _____ Email: _____

*Note: Cheques are to be made payable to "SANA Christian Aftercare Counselling Services".

All donations are tax deductible. Please send your cheque to:

No. 10 Seng Poh Road
Singapore 168895

Editorial Team

Editor: Mr Patrick Chow
Asst Editor: Mr Jerome P Navoa Jr
Contributors: Rev Stephen Pang,
Mr Andy Tan

You can now find us on the internet:

Blog: <http://sanaccs.multiply.com/>

URL: <http://www.geocities.com/sanaccs2003/index.html>