

C-LINK

2009 Issue 003

C for Christ, His Care and Concern for all



Rev Dr George Seow
Honorary Treasurer
SANA Christian Counselling
Services

Can you be counted on?

Two thousand years ago, our Lord Jesus gave his disciples this Great Commission: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthews 28:19-20. This Commission is still in force today!

This means all of us should "go and make disciples". None is excluded. You and I should be involved.

So, how do we go about making disciples? Apparently, our first response is to look to our church. It is a privilege to serve in a church. But depending on the size and extent of the church ministries, we may or may not have the opportunities to serve God in the church. There will always be some of us who are not actively involved in the church. If so, how can we then fulfil Jesus' commission? I am sure the Lord does not want us to become pew warmers, does he?

1 Peter 2:9 states that "you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." This verse speaks of the priesthood of believers. That is, every person is a

minister of God declaring his praises. And we can go beyond the four walls of the church to do that.

In Matthews 25:35-40, Jesus said: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

There is a ministry that God may be calling you to — the ex-drug addicts and the ex-criminals. They may still be in prison now. They may be out in the streets now spiritually hungry and thirsty. They may be lonely. Are you prepared to give them a helping hand? Are you ready to feed them with spiritual food and give them the Living Water?

What is needed of you?

- *Your time* — take time to visit them and to pray for

"...I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Mt 25:35-36

them.

- *Your compassion* — be there for them to minister to their needs.
- *Your patience* — listen to them and understand their fears and frustrations.
- *Your love* — most importantly, love them as God has loved you.

If your church already has a ministry to ex-drug addicts or a prison ministry, do join them and a part of it.

If your church does not have such a ministry, do not hesitate to contact us. We will be pleased to help you fulfil the Great Commission that Jesus has given us. You may also like to join us for our bimonthly Grace Fellowship meetings where you can see for yourselves at first hand what miracles God has done to many, many ex-drug addicts' lives.

You can make a difference! You must make a difference! God is counting on you to make a difference!

CAN YOU BE COUNTED ON?

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By God's grace



Mr Desmond Teng, one of the new volunteers

Mr Desmond Teng, 42, is one of the new volunteers who has joined us recently in our ministry to the ex-drug addicts. Desmond presently worships at the Christian Parousia Fellowship (Singapore) with his wife.

His desire to come forward to help the ex-drug addicts comes mainly from his own experience of God's grace in his life. Having been under the bondage of drugs and subsequently delivered by God, he feels that he is in a unique position where he can effectively minister to those still under the bondage. He understands their struggles between changing for good and succumbing to the desire of the flesh.

His life of substance-abuse and crime started in his early teens. By the time he was in his twenties, he had "graduated" to narcotics. Drug Rehabilitation Centres and the prison became his regular abode. Then, in 1999, he was caught with a substantial amount of narcotics on him. In accordance with the tough Singapore law, he was facing the death sentence.

Suddenly, his world collapsed. For the first time in his life, Desmond realized that he was on a one-way road to hell with no turning back. Fear gripped him. And there was nothing he could do to change his fate. It was then that he met a Christian brother, Daren, who shared the good news of Jesus with him. Yearning for the peace that he saw in Daren, he repented and accepted Jesus as his personal saviour. Slowly, he began to have peace that he had never experienced before. He realised that God had given him the option to choose where he wanted to go after leaving this world. His heart was full of joy and peace despite facing the death

sentence.

As it turned out, the amount of drugs found on him did not warrant the mandatory death sentence. He was sentenced to eight years of imprisonment instead. During the incarceration, he attended Bible Study classes diligently to learn more about God. At the same time, he also took up the BEST programme to improve himself.

His trials and temptations did not end upon his release. In fact, his family was so disappointed with him that

Having been liberated from the bondage of sins and drugs, he has a deep yearning to help others break free from their yokes of sins. He knows that many of the ex-drug addicts want to change, but they cannot do so by their own strength. Someone needs to tell them about God and how He can help them. Having gone through that path himself, he hopes that he can help those who are still lost find the true way.

So, in late 2008, following the example of Abraham men-



"The Lord is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear?"

The Lord is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalms 27:1

they had moved and had not bothered to inform him. But he clung on to God's promise in Psalms 27. This verse in the psalm held special meaning to him: "Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me." Psalms 27:10.

By God's grace, he managed to secure a job as a driver shortly after his release despite his records. He even managed to buy a HDB flat for himself six months later.

Over the years, Desmond has moved on from a driver, to a technician, supervisor and he is now working as a service engineer in a marine engineering firm. All these would not have been possible if not for the grace of God and his divine providence.

tioned in Hebrews 11:8, "By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going", he took the step of faith and joined the SANA CCS to become a volunteer. He was enrolled in the basic training course for volunteers organized by SANA to be trained as a counsellor. In the mean time, he is going in to the prison every week to help to conduct the weekly worship service for the inmates.

It is his prayer that his testimony and his experience can emphatically demonstrate God's love and power so that more souls, especially those ensnared by drugs, can be saved.



Mr Desmond Teng and his wife worshipping God during one of the Grace Fellowship meetings

Grace Fellowship

After Jesus' ascension to heaven, it is recorded in the Book of Acts that the believers "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42. It can be seen that the gathering of believers together for prayer and mutual encouragement is extremely important in view of the many threats that these early believers faced.

themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:10-12.

The purpose of Grace Fellowship is to provide such a platform where counsellors, overcomers and friends can come together for fellowship and mutual support. The fellowship meetings are held once every two months, usually on the first Monday of the month, at the CCS

premises. The formal programme usually consists of a time of "breaking of bread" (a.k.a. dinner), a time of praise and worship with songs and finally a short exhortation. Informally, this is the time where we can catch up with one another and share words of encouragement.

So, do come and join us in our next meeting...



Similarly, for many of us who believe that Jesus has triumphed over Satan and liberated us from the bondage of drugs and sins, we need to come together to pray and embolden one another so that we can remain strong in the Lord. "If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend



"They devoted themselves... to the breaking of bread" Acts 2:42



"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts... , praising God" Acts 2:46,47

Our new ex-co member



Mrs Doris Tay

In July 2009, the executive committee of SANA CCS unanimously approved the co-opting of Mrs Doris Tay into the committee. Mrs Tay currently worships at the Lighthouse Evangelism. She joined SANA CCS in 2000 as a volunteer and since then, she has been counselling ex-drug addicts. We look forward to her active contributions to the committee and to CCS as a whole in the coming years.



Pastor Andrew Wee gave his words of encouragement during the August GF



Rev Sam Gift Stephen spoke during the October GF

23rd IFNGO World Conference

Theme of the Conference:
“Global Best Practices & Sustainable Programmes in Drug Abuse Prevention”

The 23rd IFNGO World Conference was held from 29 June to 01 July 2009 at the Empire Hotel & Country Club, Brunei Darussalam, with the theme “Global Best Practices & Sustainable Programmes in Drug Abuse Prevention”. The opening ceremony was officiated by Her Royal Highness Princess Hajah Masna, Ambassador-at-Large. The conference was attended by local and foreign experts in the field of drug rehabilitation, delegates from international and local NGOs, and government agencies such as the Narcotics Control Bureau.

Plenary sessions included topics like ‘Empowering Youth to Prevent Drug Abuse’ which studied the various drug situations in the ASEAN region, and the preventive measures taken up by the NGOs and the government agencies. These sessions highlighted the innovative programmes undertaken by various youth groups to expose children, even those at a very young age, to drug prevention programmes in their countries.

The workshop sessions were held for participating delegates from different countries to discover the programmes and strategies in the areas of Preventive Education, Rehabilitation and Community Participation. The workshops were divided into four sections with target participants for youths, teachers, community leaders and prevention

practitioners.

Most of the delegates from Singapore attended the workshop for community leaders where we learnt about communication skills, communication road blocks, personal skills and self esteem. The conference ended with the note that “drug abuse affects all sectors of society and countries at all levels of development; therefore drug demand reduction policies and programmes should address all sectors of society” by Dato Seri Paduka Eusoff Agaki Haji Ismail, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister’s office.

In conclusion, with the common goal of preventing drug abuse in mind, NGOs need to come together and work with various organizations to achieve this goal through the young in this region.

Report by Rev K Steven who was present at the conference.



← The delegates from SANA CCS, Singapore, attending the 23rd IFNGO World Conference

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: _____

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 Mr Desmond Teng

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