

HIDING PLACE

"You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." Psalm 32:7-8

REFLECTION

The Hiding Place, a Christian halfway house in Singapore that houses and helps people with drug, alcohol and gambling addiction was founded in 1978 by Pastor Philip Chan and his wife Christina. Ps. Philip first hear of Christianity in another Christian halfway house called House of Grace that Christina had set up. There he found a new life and finally overcame his drug and alcohol addiction and also met the love of his life. On 4 Feb 2020, the Straits Times carried a report of his succumbing to a long battle with cancer and him being conferred an award for leading others to find a new lease of life in Christ.

Many who knew Ps. Philip and had been helped by him visited the wake and funeral to pay their respects and tribute to him for his compassion and fatherly love. The Hiding Place continues to offer refuge and rehabilitation to those in addiction to find hope and restoration.

Just as the Hiding Place offered a safe haven and refuge for those recovering from addictions, Psalm 32 tell us that we have a "hiding place" in God. David who wrote Psalm 32 found safety and solace whenever he went to God in penitent prayer, confessing his sin to God who readily forgives. He always found God dependable and did not count his sin against him.

For the repentant, it is comforting to know that God does not remembers our sin forever but seeks to counsel, instruct and teach us a better way to live through His means of grace. When David said that God surrounds us with songs of deliverance, it means that God seeks to deal with our sin with His tender loving grace. God does not resort to harsh or restrictive measures to control us but lavishes His unfailing and everlasting love to restore us. In God we are hidden from the punishment for our sins. God has hidden us from eternal damnation by breaking the curse of sin and death. Confess your sins and addictions to God and He will hide you, protect you and give you new life in Christ.

PRAYER

God our Father, You are our hiding place. You see our sins and addictions and seek to free us from bondage and death. We step into the newness of life You provide. We incline our ears and our hearts to Your counsel. We submit to Your loving watch over us. Teach and instruct us with Your Living Word. Restore us from within that we may live freely for You. Amen.

SUPPLICATION

- Give thanks to God for the tireless work of The Hiding Place and other halfway houses in Singapore that care for people in addiction towards new life. Pray for these halfway houses

run by religious and private organizations that they may receive sufficient funding and resources. Pray for trained social workers and other helping professionals to assist in the transformative work. Pray for people who face unhelpful stigma for being addicts. Pray for their families. Pray for them to find decent work and be able to live out normal lives, contributing to society with their gifts and talents.

- Give thanks for church communities that readily accept and affirm the recovery process for addicts. Pray for loving assimilation into their families and communities. Pray for the church family to welcome such persons in recovery. Pray for believers who are "secret" addicts to receive the needful intervention. Pray for families struggling with an addict in the family, that they may find strength for themselves and professional tangible help for their loved ones to overcome addictions.
- Pray for the persons in addictions to find hope in their despair. Pray for the extension of grace to all who struggle in sin. Pray that they may find a loving community that affirms them with God's love and journeys with them to full restoration.
- Pray for the refugee problems around the world where people have to leave their countries in search of safety in other countries. Many refugees have been stuck in camps for years without finding a country to take them. Others have died while crossing the seas or taking treacherous routes. Ask God to protect the innocent and lead these refugees to safe shelters, where children can attend schools and adults be able to find jobs to take care of their families.

*"Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the Lord's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him."
Psalm 32:10*

If you need any prayer or pastoral care support, kindly contact the pastoral care team via:

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