



LOOKING AHEAD

*By Edmund Chan
Advisor, New Life Community Services Centre*

Making A Difference

We exist to make a difference. And to do so, we must look beyond ourselves. We must aim to serve others, not merely ourselves.

New Life Community Services Centre was founded on that very premise of looking beyond ourselves. Before Covenant Evangelical Free Church moved into the estate of Bukit Panjang, in 2000, it had already birth forth the vision of establishing a social service arm to serve the community.

I call New Life the face and hands of Covenant EFC. She exists to make a difference in Bukit Panjang and, more recently, Woodlands. New Life is the platform to engage the community for the purpose of making the love of God real to them through holistic social services that enrich the personal, family and community life. This practical outworking is aptly

captured in her mission statement: New Life seeks to demonstrate God's love by empowering people to master life's transitions.

New Life is conscious of the religious sensitivities of our multi-racial community, therefore, her services and activities are available to all residents and with no strings attached.

Entering New Grounds

Covenant EFC opened its second centre in Woodlands in August 2008. With one-church, two centres, we are better able to serve the communities as well as serve other churches in training and leadership development.

New Life is moving in tandem with Covenant EFC to serve the Woodlands community. Much as she has been a blessing to Bukit Panjang, New Life now brings her services to Woodlands.

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New Life Community Services
Centre is affiliated to Covenant
Evangelical Free Church and a
member of the National Council
of Social Service (NCSS).

I am delighted to learn that Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Member of Parliament for the Sembawang GRC, is excited about New Life's foray into Admiralty. With the support from Dr Maliki and his grassroots leaders, I am confident that New Life will impact the community immensely.

To pursue excellence, I am committed to finding the best people on our leadership team. For example, we are thankful that Mr Barney Lau (former Managing Director of Microsoft, Singapore) is coming on the Covenant staff team as the Operations Director.



A Holistic Ministry

The future lies in the younger generations. Not only in the sense of population renewal, but more so of the kind of people who will take our place in society. New Life aims to engage and empower the young to be a certain kind.

Touching the lives of youths cannot and should not be done in isolation. I do not claim to be an expert in youth social work but this much I can say, influencing and impacting the lives of youths is an uphill battle, which will continue to incline for the generations to come. This critical task requires the concerted efforts of as many willing parties as possible.



“ New Life aims to engage and empower the young to be a certain kind. ”

Currently, New Life reaches youths through schools and its drop-in facility located at Fajar Road. New Life Youth will adopt a multi-faceted approach, engaging parents, teachers, and carers, to touch youths in a holistic manner, empowering them to master life's transitions.

Looking Ahead

After more than eight years of service expansion and lateral growth, it is now time for New Life to build depth so that lives will not only be touched, but also made different.

I am thankful for New Life. As the face and hands of Covenant, she has been faithfully demonstrating God's love to the community. From her staff and board members to volunteers and donors, various ones have caught, believed and owned the vision of empowering the community through compassionate service and love. I believe more will come forth to partner us in this journey. New Life has been at it for eight years now. She will continue to fulfill her calling to make the love of God real to the communities in Bukit Panjang, Woodlands, and beyond.

MOVING FORWARD

*By Diana Ooi, Centre Manager,
New Life Community Services Centre*

“ New Life will continue providing the young people’s services (children and youth) in Bukit Panjang, with the emphasis to strengthen, deepen and broaden the reach by partnering and working with fellow advocates in building our next generation. ”



A Social Service Arm

In 1999, the call to serve the Bukit Panjang community was answered by a handful of men and women, who plowed the ground laboriously and looked into possible programmes to serve the community.

This handful of people served with passion and tenacity to bring New Life to where it is today. Till this day,

most of them are still with us, either at the board or programme level.

After eight years of extending our reach to the community, all the programmes have found its relevance and served the community well. Since her inception in 2000, New Life has served the community with services ranging from children and youth to family and the elderly.

New Life Childcare started in January 2001 to cater to the shortage of childcare services in the community. The following year, New Life started Family Life Centre to provide case work, counselling, financial and legal aid services. In 2003, Community Health Services was started to provide home medical and home nursing care mainly for the elderly, who were confined to their homes as a result of their physical and or medical conditions. In 2004, we started New Life Youth providing school-based social work and subsequently, in 2005,

the New Life Youth Hub was established with the encouragement and assistance of the then-Member of Parliament (MP) for Bukit Panjang, Mr Gan Kim Yong.

Eight good years of community work, having provided an all encompassing service with a wide span and variety of programmes, New Life has received a fresh call to review and evaluate her primary existence for the community.

Moving Forward

We want to serve the community by building to last!

In order to build to last, we believe New Life must focus on what we are called to and be best at.

Building the Next Generation, that is, children and youth is what New Life will focus on.

The task of building the next generation is a tall order. It calls for a collaborative and seamless effort among several parties. New Life will certainly not exist to provide these services by herself. We aim to partner various bodies to bring a healthy wholesome service to our young.

So what does it mean for New Life practically? New Life will continue providing the young people's services (children and youth) in Bukit Panjang, with the emphasis to strengthen, deepen and broaden our reach by partnering and working with fellow advocates in building our next generation. New Life Children and Youth Services will adopt a multi-faceted approach by working closely with parents, caregivers, school authorities, grassroots leaders and fellow service providers, to impact and influence the young for change and empower them for life.



In tandem with the opening of Covenant EFC Woodlands Centre, New Life will extend our reach to Woodlands. New Life will enter Woodlands with the same focus by initiating the youth work for a start.

Exploration of the type of youth services and partnership with the various bodies is underway, with a head start of the Admiralty's MP Dr Maliki's in principle endorsement for New Life to start a youth service in his ward.

Making A Difference

The community social work of New Life is labour intensive and highly dependent on volunteers. It has to be staff-led and volunteer-driven. We are thankful that, to date, many have volunteered and served passionately and selflessly, as each catches the vision to love the community by making a difference.

The board and staff team together with the volunteers will work towards

A Distinct Purpose
With
A Distinct Impact
For

**A Distinct Change and Empowerment
for Life in the Young!**

Thanksgiving

"I am most thankful for the people – staff, volunteers, donors and board members. I thank God for people who believed in the vision and partnered us. Knowing that there are many who support us in tangible ways matters."

— Mr John Lim, Chairman

"New Life started small but it has never stopped growing and influencing the community. God has always provided the funds for New Life year after year. Even in the midst of building the CEFC Woodlands Centre, we didn't fall short of our operating budget. Praise the Lord!"

— Rev Tan Kay Kiong, Vice-President (2000 - 2006)

"God has been faithful. New Life opened 4 service centres in 4 years, it's amazing. I'm also thankful for the support we had from the ex-MP of Bukit Panjang enabling our Youth work to progress."

— Elder Lawrence Chua,
Founding President (2000 - 2005),
current Board Member

"Each day, I look forward with great expectation that I will be able to make a difference in the lives of these youths who stepped into the Youth Hub. By spending time listening and talking to teens, I can be a channel for the fulfillment of the mission of New Life to "demonstrate God's love by empowering people to master life's transitions."

— Ms Florence Chia,
Admin Assistant, New Life Youth

"New Life has given me space and platforms for spiritual growth. I like the emphasis that we should love and grow in God continuously before we can bless others continuously. I learnt Christian unity and leadership in New Life through Nelson and my team mates. In all, I enjoy growing both as a person and a professional. Thank you New Life."

— Ms Dawn Ang,
Programme Coordinator, New Life Youth

"In New Life, I had to lead others in their respective areas of specialisations. The job was much too big. I surrendered it to the Lord and depended on Him. It helped me to be aware of my limitations, kept me humble and teachable. I am thankful for how the Lord has blessed New Life, for the opportunity to grow with New Life."

— Mr Lee Da-Win, Centre Manager (2001 - 2007)



Bouquets

"It is a burden off my chest that Jing En has managed to overcome her cry-baby syndrome. Thanks to the efforts of teachers such as Ms Rosaline, Ms Shi and Ms Xiao. They teach so well that I've taken her (Jing En) off the Phonics and Primary One English and Mathematics Preparatory Classes. She reads by herself and updates her own English and Chinese vocabulary handbooks. Thank you Ms Chua and Ms Zhang, as well as other teachers, who have helped in laying her foundation."

- Mr Lim Ming Fang, Childcare Parent



THANK
YOU

"Nicole joined New Life Childcare in Feb 2008. I noticed Nicole has become more independent and is able to obey instructions. I'm able to communicate with her more effectively. This improves our relationship tremendously as I understand her better. New Life Childcare gives me more confidence that Nicole is well-taken care of in school, so that I can concentrate on work. Nicole looks forward to going to school everyday. Keep up the good job, New Life Childcare!"

- Ms Jenny Lee, Childcare Parent

"Our daughter Reyna enjoys going to New Life Childcare. She tells us she loves her teachers and friends. She has learnt a lot in school and we are very happy with her development. We find the teachers in New Life good and professional. Because of all these, we can go to work in peace. We want to thank all the staff and teachers in New Life for making all these possible. We really thank and praise God for New Life Childcare."

- Mr & Mrs Kok, Childcare Parents

"(Youth Hub is) a place where I can make new friends and also find answers when I am lost."

- Clarus Guo Yida, 19,
Youth Hub Member

"The Youth Hub staff are always there to help me when I have any problems...Through the staff, I learnt moral values like boundaries."

- Annie Goh, 16, Youth Hub Member

"I learn that a social worker needs awfully lots of patience. I also learnt to make friends through games; that in life I can't get everything – to get some, I will lose some."

- Lim Jia Hao, 16, Youth Hub Member



New Life's Milestones

2000

- New Life registered as a Society.



2001

- HQ office & Childcare Centre opened.



2002

- Family Life Centre opened.
- Attained NCSS Full membership & Central Fund Member.



2003

- Community Health Centre opened.

2004

- Youth Centre opened.



2005

- Youth Hub opened.

2006

- Youth work grew.

2007

- 5-year Institutions of a Public Character (IPC) status awarded.

2008

- Change of Centre Manager.
- Consolidation of services.