

# After-Care Storybook

Liu Zong-Hui

## Seeds of New Life—Stories of Successfully Rehabilitated Ex-offenders



Life is a long journey that is not always beautiful  
But remember, when you fall, please get back up  
bravely,  
And calmly face the new world.  
Be thankful for the struggles during hard times,  
and learn to be humble and grateful;  
Beautiful sceneries in life are still ahead waiting for  
you.

Taiwan After-care Association has provided guidance to many successfully rehabilitated ex-offenders and also published a number of volumes detailing case studies in after-care guidance; however, it had never cooperated with a major publisher for publications or sold any of its publications in bookstores.

Taiwan After-care Association celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2005, and

Taiwan After-care Association Taipei Branch cooperated with a major publishing house, Rye Field Publishing Co., for the first time to publish *Seeds of New Life—Stories of Successfully Rehabilitated Ex-offenders*. This marked the first time that the Branch promoted successful stories of how the rehabilitated transformed through prison corrections and after-care guidance.

The book titled, *Seeds of New Life* the

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1. Authored by Director of Taiwan After-Care Association Taipei Branch.



content is followed the journeys of reintegration of 16 rehabilitated ex-offenders. Their real-life and touching stories were compiled in aim to inspire those who had made the wrong decisions and mistakes before so that, even at their low point in life, they could learn to cherish life and care for others, ultimately finding their way toward a brighter future.

Minister of Justice Shih Mao-lin, Taiwan After-care Association Chairman Hsieh Wen-ting, after-care ambassador Ms. Hsiao Chiang and Mr. Lin Chih-ying

were invited to pen the forewords for the book, in which they encouraged the rehabilitated to rediscover themselves and promise themselves a bright and beautiful future. They also hoped that these touching personal journeys would inspire the general public so that everyone would understand the meaning and significance of after-care and be willing to reach out and accept those rehabilitated ex-offenders who were trying to right the course in life, helping them to successful reintegrate into society just like seeds sprouting into new lives.

### Take a Turn, and Love is not Far Away

Life is a journey without a map; it is a long process of exploration.

You can only realize a beautiful life after experiencing setbacks and sorrows, and embracing love and happiness.



This was the second book published by Taiwan After-care Association in collaboration with a publisher, which also involved Taichung City Government and Taiwan After-care Association Taichung Branch.

When I was planning the publication of *Take a Turn, and Love is not Far Away*, the target readers were students and those who commute to work on metro. The goal was for young students and the public to learn more about Taiwan After-care Association and understand the significance and services of after-care, thereby promoting the concept of “accepting the rehabilitated, providing job opportunities” to various sectors and demographics.

The storybook was in the format of a notebook with rich colorful illustrations; it was convenient to carry around and had spaces to for people to take notes. More importantly, it serves as great reading materials during commutes. The storybook featured 14 stories at the front of the calendar pages for each month, breaking free from the old format of presenting case studies in af-

ter-care; the months or days were left unmarked so it could be used for any year and any month. The cover was bright yellow, which symbolized the rising sun in the lives of all rehabilitated ex-offenders. The 14 real-life stories were records of people who conquered their inner demons, as well as 14 exciting journeys of life that resonated with readers. Special thanks are owed to Minister of justice Wang Ching-feng, Taiwan After-care Association Chairman Yen Da-ho, and Taichung City Mayor Hu Chih-chiang for writing the forewords and encouraging the rehabilitated to find their own maps in life.

A “map” may be temporarily lost due to setbacks and mistakes in life, but hopefully through this notebook, those who had made wrong choices and travelled in the wrong directions could be inspired and learn to treasure life and care for others during the low point in life so that they could walk out of the dark times and fight to regain their map of own life journey.



## Reset for Rebound



If you are like me, always fighting until the very last second,

The flower of dream will definitely blossom for you.

“All successful people must work hard, but not all people who work hard can succeed.” This is the motto of Chairman Tsai of Sinte Painting, a successful enterprise that grew out of an after-care petty loan from the Taipei Branch.

After Mr. Tsai was released on parole, he never received any reply for any job applications in the first six months. At the time, he told myself that he must reset and learn everything from scratch. In 1999, he applied for a petty loan of NTD 200,000 from Taiwan After-care Association Taipei Branch and purchased a second-hand cargo truck, launching his painting job through-

out Taiwan. With the assistance of the branch and his persistence, he started from a small painter and became an outstanding supplier to the Formosa Plastic Group with an annual revenue of NTD 800 million. He finally turned his life around.

To encourage the rehabilitated to start afresh and rediscover life goals, Taiwan After-care Association Taipei Branch joined forces with Yuanta Cultural and Education Foundation and Chien Hsing Publishing to publish *Reset for Rebound*—From Criminal to Paint Tycoon, and held a new book release press conference at first-floor lobby of the Minis-





14 Jun., 2012, Interview by China Times



27 Jun., 2012, Media interview at book launch

try of Justice at 2 pm, June 27, 2012.

Chairman Tsai could relate to the helplessness of the rehabilitated. It was with care from people around and assistance from the Association that he could successfully start his own business at a time when he struggled the most, and he was able to bravely create a new destiny for himself, turning the second half of his life around. Therefore, he was more than willing to share his own story, hoping it could encourage and inspire other rehabilitated ex-offenders who were facing difficulties.

Minister of Justice Tseng Yung-Fu un-

derstood that most of the rehabilitated were trying hard to return to the society; however, after their release from prison, the rehabilitated often had difficulties fitting in and interacting with the society. The society would look down on them and label them because they had spent time in prison. Their families would often abandon them as well. If the rehabilitated could not adapt to life after prison, they would likely commit another crime and serve time again.

To help inmates acquire professional skills for future employment after release, Taiwan After-care Association invest a great deal of manpower and resources toward organizing skills train-



ing, cooperating with companies, providing employment information and referral services, and follow-up services, hoping to help the rehabilitated find jobs and lead a stable life.

Minister of Justice Tseng Yung-Fu and Taiwan After-care Association Chairman Yen Da-ho were deeply moved by the story, and recommended the motivational book. They appealed to the public to give every ex-offender an opportunity to reflect on their mistakes and reach out to them so that the rehabilitated could gain respect from others and build their own confidence through work, succeeding in their reintegration and rejoining the society.

Yuanta Cultural and Education Foundation sponsored publication of the book along with recommendations from Minister of Justice Tseng and of Taiwan After-care Association Chairman Yen. The revenue of the book would be donated to the “painting renovation training program” for the rehabilitated, hoping to help more rehabilitated ex-offenders rebound in life and open another window of opportunity.

The storybook was struck a chord with many readers. The story of the protagonist and the young mother was covered by various news and variety shows of major TV and radio stations. They were also invited to schools, Rotary Clubs, Dharma Drum Mountain,



16 Jul., 2012, Exclusive interview by CTS  
"Lighting up Life"



27 Aug., 2013, Radio interview by David Yin

## Reservation for the Second Half of Life



Life is full of hurdles and setbacks, and it is difficult to make predictions.

On the journey toward the unknown, we must constantly remind ourselves:

With dreams come hope, and with love, we can create happiness;

The second half of life has much to be anticipated and will be exciting.

and prisons.

The book entitled, *Reservation the Second Half of Life*, was part of a series of events commemorating the 70th anniversary of Taiwan After-care Association, which was executed by the Taipei Branch.

Most of the rehabilitated try hard to return to the society; however, after their release from prison, they often had difficulties fitting in and interacting with the society. The society would look down on them and label them because they had spent time in prison. Their own families would often abandon them as well. The Association collect-

ed successful stories from all branches across Taiwan and compiled them into a book. It appeals to the public to give every of the rehabilitated an opportunity to reflect on their mistakes and reach out to them so that they could rebuild confidence and re-enter the society. It is hoped that these motivational stories of the rehabilitated could become positive influences, bringing more warmth to the society and guiding other rehabilitated ex-offenders who were still looking to charter out a new direction in life and lead them toward hope.

Through *Reservation for the Second Half of Life*, the rehabilitated could hopefully recollect all the fragments of



life, triggering their understanding and reflection on the “past,” and then reassemble the pieces to make their lives whole again. The Association hoped that the rehabilitated could see themselves and realize the meaning of life in these stories of transformation and rejuvenation.

At the beginning of each story in the book, there was a letter written by an ex-offender to him or herself, allowing the rehabilitated of the “past” and “future” to communicate--a conversa-

tion with oneself. In the first half of life, they made mistakes and headed in the wrong direction, but they were now ready to make a reservation for a better second half of life. The book gave readers insights to the most candid revelations of the rehabilitated to understand their imperfect lives.

*Reservation for the Second Half of Life* was published by Taiwan After-care Association Taipei Branch at its own expense and was sold in all bookstores in Taiwan. It became the top-selling



13 Oct. 2015, Interview by UFO Radio



27 Aug., 2015, Promotion on Hakkia Radio



new book twice on the "Book Your Life" chart. The press conference for the book release was held jointly by Taipei District Prosecutors Office and Taiwan After-care Association Taipei Branch at the ground-floor hall of Ministry of Justice. The book was released under the supervision of Taiwan After-care Association, and published by Chien Hsing Publishing Co., Ltd. It featured the real-life motivational stories of 7 rehabilitated ex-offenders who corrected their mistakes and accomplished their dreams. The press conference was hosted by Chief Prosecutor Wang Tien-sheng of Taiwan High Prosecutors Office, who also served as the chairman of Taiwan After-care Association. Those who attended and came to show support and encouragement for the rehabilitated included Minister Luo, Deputy Minister Chen, and Deputy Minister Hsieh of Justice, and chief officials of related agencies and departments, as well as Chief Prosecutor Tsai of Taipei District Prosecutors Office, Chief Prosecutor Chen of Keelung District Prosecutors Office, and Commissioner Lin of Taipei Branch and Commissioner Chen of Keelung Branch. Four protagonists

in the stories also attended the press conference to share stories about how they turned their lives around.

Warden Huang of Tainan Prison composed the popular song "Romance of Shalun Station" for the rehabilitated, and the press conference extended a special invitation to the singer of the song, Ms. Chu Hai-jun to perform it to show care for the families of the rehabilitated and encourage more rehabilitated ex-offenders and families to reserve a trip towards happiness through her lovely voice. Chairman Wang of Taiwan After-care Association reiterated that we should show more "care" and "empathy" when treating the rehabilitated, for our decisions may likely change their entire life. For those who were willing to start anew, we should always extend a helping hand and treat them equally.

The Internet has become a major source of knowledge for the general public nowadays. Thus, the Branch also produced two commercials based on two stories from the book, "Awakening of the Dark Horse" and "Brother Chiang of Longshan Temple". They were





broadcasted on YouTube and galvanized the society's attention for the rehabilitated, becoming more willing to accept and encourage the rehabilitated to get a fresh start and create new life.

The Branch also established a Facebook fanpage for *"Reservation for the Second Half of Life"*, promoting the

book and encouraging the public to search and read more about the rehabilitated and cheer them on. Also, the "Discussion" section aimed to give the public a proper understanding of the rehabilitated and correct negative stereotypes in order to help the rehabilitated build confidence.

### New Book Release



Upper left: Nov., 2005, *"Seeds of New Life"* Book Launch

Upper right: 12 Nov., 2008, *"Take a Turn, and Love is not far away"* Donation Ceremony

Lower left: 27 Jun., 2012, *"Reset for Rebound"* New Book Release

Lower right: 28 Aug., 2015, *"Booking the Second Half of Life"* New Book Release

### **Contract Writer of Chiuko Publishing—Kao Mei-Yan**

It was a special experience to participate in the interviewing and writing of “*Reset for Rebound*” and “Booking the Second Half of Life” published by “Taiwan After-care Association.” Through the process, I realized that many things require us to examine from various dimensions in order to gain deeper understanding. For example, many people think that the mistakes made by the rehabilitated cannot be forgiven, but their sad life stories were often heart-wrenching. I felt bad for their lives full of struggles and twists of fate, and now I am able to put myself in their position to consider what kind of help and encouragement this society can offer them.

Some of the rehabilitated took a wrong turn in life at an early age, joining a gang, doing drugs, or selling drugs; some of them committed crimes and ended up in jail for money. They have gotten the punishment they deserved and did time for their mistakes; however, after their release from prison, they were faced with a greater challenge. Many of them wanted a fresh start, but they were turned down everywhere due to their past records. They could not find any opportunity to start a new life. Instability in life and discrimination by the society only make their reintegration that much harder.

Still, many of the rehabilitated work hard for themselves and their families, overcoming barriers. Their unparalleled courage and determination definitely worth our cheers. All the cases I interviewed for the aforementioned two books have conquered various obstacles to finally discover a world of their own, but the prerequisite is that their families and the society do not give up on them, and are willing to give them another chance. Only with stability in life can they achieve what they have today.





Lastly, I want to say that for the rehabilitated to have sufficient motivation and energy to reintegrate with the society upon their release from prison, they must rely on the care of their families and sincere acceptance of the society. Let's all join together and build a friendlier environment for the rehabilitated. This is one goal that we should all focus on.

"If you happen to come across an intersection in life; if, you feel lost about your life, then, the stories in this book will perhaps help you to find an 'exit' in life, waking you up and transforming you from a mundane and ordinary everyday life." This is my greatest reflection after cooperating with Taiwan After-care Association for the publications on the life stories of the rehabilitated over the past decade or so.

By sharing true stories, though many of them are not perfect, people can see themselves in these stories, and accept their own imperfections. Imperfection is a gift, like sand in a clam, which will in turn bring pearls to life.

Most precious, Taiwan After-care Association has enabled the rehabilitated to recollect the segments in life through long-term guidance and assistance, so that they can reassemble the pieces, and make life whole again.

A story of a person, a story of many people. In these stories, we can see ourselves, heal ourselves, and realize the meaning of life.

*by Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Chiuko Publishing, Tseng Min-ying*

# 不讓她再傷心！ 母親探監身影 讓毒販重生

【記者蕭白雲／台北報導】曾經國罵不離口、看人不順眼就動手砍人的蔡水富，因獄友年邁母親的探監身影，讓他「振悟」，不但改變人生，如今還是年營業額超過八億的公司老闆。昨天他出版《歸零，才能逆轉》一書，敘述他如何從重刑犯變大老闆的人生經歷。



蔡水富(中)由毒販變大老闆，昨天出版新書，特別邀請母親(右)與妻子(左)一同分享喜悅。

北搭車到台中探監；後來這名老媽獨守空房，仍每周拖著蹣跚腳步南北奔波探監。

蔡水富有著獄友那宛如風中殘燭的母親，無法在家享受天倫之樂；想到自己的父母，會不會到了八十歲還在為他擔心？

蔡水富說，剛入獄時，母親第一次到監獄探視他就淚流滿面。他還對母親發脾氣說「要哭就不要來看我」。後來母親探監時雖沒在他眼前流過一滴淚，但眼眶總是紅的。

有一天，台中監獄下著雨，母親親會面後走回去的路上，他腦海中一再浮現的是母親哀傷的臉；那一刻，他發誓不再讓母親傷心。

新書發表會上，蔡水富帶著一直支持他的媽媽、太太上台；他感謝母親從小至今，總要等到他回家才睡著，忍不住哽咽。蔡媽媽說，從沒想過放養兒子，她認為兒子本性不壞，只是一時被朋友牽引做錯事。

國中時期的蔡水富，是學校裡出名的問題學生，三不五時被罰到訓導處報到。不愛讀書的他，在監獄裡看了比念書時期還多的書，尤其愛看日本戰國時代的書；德川家康、豐臣秀吉、織田信長等人的傳記都看了。更成為他出獄後創業、公

本週 08 月 11 日播出【刷出新人生—蔡水富的故事】

lightup 於 2012/8/10 下午 09:55:51 發表



本週點燈要介紹的人物曾經誤入歧途，而今不但已痛改前非、洗心革面，更踏出成功的步伐——他，是蔡水富，國中時誤入幫派、打架、吸毒，又因販毒罪名入監服刑，將近八年的鐵窗歲月，因為家人的愛，...

## 《預約人生下半場》新書發行記者會

【啟新網訊】時間2015-08-26 13:46:02 | 作者:台北/梁博傑 | 13次閱

由財團法人臺灣更生保護會主導，健行文化出版之新書《預約人生下半場》記者會訂於八月二十六日(三)上午十一時假法務部一樓大廳舉行。今年時值更生保護會成立七十周年紀念，法務部長羅瑩雪、更生保護會董事長王添盛等多位貴賓出席共襄盛舉。書中七則不同故事主角，其中亞洲首位培訓識讀街遊文化導覽員強哥、潔安企業社負責人黑馬陳興餘、藍洲第一雞桶仔雞王子吳世培、工程師老闆大仁哥黃春仁，這四位到場出席或捎來紙信，他們藉由更生保護會的協助，成功逆轉人生，堪稱記者會中最真實閃耀的「更生R4勇士」。

首頁 即時新聞 時事

## 預約人生下半場新書發表 羅瑩雪勉勵更生人再出發

2015年08月26日 11:26

facebook



台灣更生保護會今天舉辦「預約人生下半場」新書發表記者會，書中透過七位更生人勵志改過故事，完成夢想，重新踏進社會的真實故事，激勵人心，法務部長羅瑩雪說，挫折能讓生命長出韌性，希望更生朋友能找回相信自己的力量，比現多一點點的努力，有夢想就有希望，告別過往，歸零再出發，人生的下半場絕對精彩可期。(撰文：林俊宏)



開場由更生志工朱海君帶領更生輔導員團隊春風合唱團演唱〈戀戀沙崙站〉，這首台語歌曲，即是由黑馬陳興餘的真實故事改編而成，藉由家人每週搭火車南下探監的內心故事，勾勒出相會、離別的美麗哀愁，唱出更生人們人生上半場最遺憾的，其實是親人間的情感。法務部長羅瑩雪致詞表示：「我們非常感謝這七位朋友，分享自己的精彩故事，願意將自己的過去攤在陽光下，讓大家改過的喜悅，我們人生不一定要追求大富大貴，但找到生活、家庭關係、相知相惜的夥伴，才是人生最可貴的地方。」





一 名 影 然 天 印 糖 印 影