



杰弗里出狱后，曾参加重返社会计划“Project Reconnect”，聆听社工分享生活贴士。（ISCOS提供）

## 父亲岳母遗言 唤醒前囚犯回正途

黄贝盈 报道

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父亲和岳母先后去世，两老各自留遗言，彻底唤醒迷途的浪子！

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2013年11月，杰弗里（化名）和相识两年的女友结婚，但夫妻俩同住刚过一个多月，他就因吸毒和贩毒被捕，接着被判坐牢，去年11月18日才恢复自由身。

现年39岁的杰弗里受访时坦言，当年他服完兵役后开始当送货司机，因为经常到处跑而误交损友，开始接触毒品。“我照样每个月给家用，所以家人都不知道我在外面染上恶习。”

他忆述，新婚不久就被捕入狱，家人当时非常震惊，而最令他遗憾的，是父亲和岳母在他服刑期间相继离世。

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批准让他申请恩恤假（compassionate leave）回家跟父亲团聚半小时。

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为了不再辜负家人的期望，杰弗里下定决心重新做人，出狱后不想再成为家人的负担。“我知道我伤害他们很深，但我答应过父亲和岳母要振作，绝对不会食言。”

他说，自己的学历不高，摆脱铁窗生涯后，要找工作也不容易。但他辗转找到一份司机的工作，总算可以踏踏实实地和妻子展开新生活。

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在开始工作两个多月后，他积极寻求提升个人技能的机会，结果顺利通过

合作社申请到800元的津贴，让他得以考取第四级驾驶执照，薪酬几乎翻倍。

忆及过往的心路历程，杰弗里表示，妻子和家人的不离不弃，是他坚持下去的最大动力。

“出狱前，我最担心的就是找不到工作，没有稳定收入就无法养家，幸好得到合作社的帮助。如今我最大的心愿，是和妻子生个孩子，好好展开家庭生活。”

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Translation:

## **The final words from his own father and Mother in-law led the ex-offender back to the right path**

By Ng Pei Yin

It was a wake-up call for him, when his father and mother in-law left him their last words before they passed away.

When the 37-year-old was in prison, he requested for permission to visit his father who was very ill at that time. The father's final words "take care of your mother and wife" made him realise that he should work hard to earn a living for the family and not becoming the family's burden.

Jefri (pseudonym) married his girlfriend of two years in November 2013 but in less than two months of them staying together, he was arrested for drug consumption and trafficking. The charges resulted in prison sentence and he was only released on 18 November last year.

Now 39, Jefri recounted his past where he mixed with the wrong company when he was working as a delivery driver after completing his national service. The friends introduced him to drugs.

"My family did not know I was addicted to drugs then, because I still gave monthly household allowance to them."

He remembered that his family was extremely shocked when he was caught and sentenced to jail, shortly after his wedding. His biggest regret was the death of his own father and mother in-law when he was in prison.

In September 2016, he heard that his 73 year-old father was in critical stage due to kidney failure and applied for compassionate leave from the Singapore Prison Service to go home and spend time with his father.

That 30 minutes spent remained unforgettable for Jefri, even until this day. His father reminded him to not let him down and to take good care of his mother and wife. The father passed away one week later.

Devastated by his father's death, Jefri subsequently received news that his mother in-law also passed away due to illness. She left him a note which deepened his sense of guilt and self-blame.

"When I read her last letter in prison asking me to take good care of her daughter, I was very heartbroken and remorseful.

In order not to disappoint his family again, Jefri was determined to change.

"I knew that I have hurt them badly, but I want to keep the promises made to my father and mother in-law to be a better person."

After his release, he faced challenges in employment due to lack of qualifications. Thankfully he managed to find a job as a driver to mark a new chapter of life with his wife.



## **His pay almost doubled upon securing driving licence of a higher class**

By acquiring the driving licence of a higher class which landed him a job with better pay, the ex-offender was grateful for his family's support.

In November last year, Jefri signed up for Project Reconnect at the Pre-Release Centre in prison. Project ReConnect is a programme by ISCOS to help ex-offenders reintegrate into society. He also became an ISCOS member.

After working for more than two months, Jefri was looking for opportunities to upgrade his skills. He successfully applied for the \$800 training subsidy offered by ISCOS, which helped him obtain the Class 4 driving licence and double his work pay.

Looking back at his past, Jefri quoted the support from his wife and family as the biggest motivation for him.

"Before the release, I was worried about the inability to find a job and earn money for a living. Thankfully I received help from ISCOS. As for the future, I hope to have children with my wife and lead a happy life with my family."