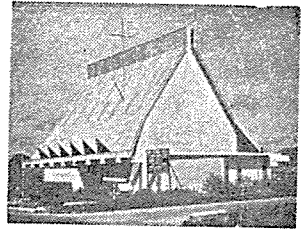


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY
SINGAPORE-19



PASTOR—REV. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

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MARCH 1872
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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

FOR ME - AND WITH ME

We have entered the season of Lent. We are walking the Road to Calvary. We are examining the way we are living, the goals we have set, the dominating desires which govern our decisions, and the resources of strength which are available for us to depend on - all in the light of the Cross and Rising of the Lord Jesus. As I begin this journey again, it seems to me that two great truths have been given for me to travel by - like the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire that led the People of God in the wilderness.

Sometimes God seems hostile. There is so much in my life of which I am ashamed that it seems impossible that God should want to do anything but reject me. Then the Cross of Jesus cries: "GOD IS FOR YOU. Your sins are forgiven. Christ died for sinners."

And sometimes God seems far away. My prayers seem hollow, my faith burns low, old anxieties and doubts creep back, my life is dark defeat. Then Easter dawns, and the voice cries: "GOD IS WITH YOU. Don't be afraid. It is I."

This is the good news; that the God who made me is on my side and at my side. For me and with me - this is the God of my life!

"If the love of Jesus had been less than perfect, He might have questioned at one point after another whether He had not gone far enough. Some few He had gained, and they might gain some others. But this question did not arise with Him. There could be no term to the Shepherd's search for His lost sheep 'until He found it'. He could not disown any who needed Him, and none needed

* OUR TRINITY FAMILY *

INFANT BAPTISMS: Tanya Michelle, daughter of Bruce and Carolyn Wilson, 58, Brockhampton Drive, born 28 October 1971, baptised 30th January 1972.
Stephen Timothy, son of John and Rhonda Deering, baptised 27 February 1972.

CALLED HOME: George Woodhull, husband of Peace and brother of Mrs Willie Rasiah, on 27 January.
Soh Chuan Swee, father of Doris Gwee and Jenny Neo, on 14 February.
We express our loving sympathy to these bereaved families.

THE ENGAGEMENT IS ANNOUNCED of Miss Lena Seow and Mr Ronnie Kwok on 8 February. Congratulations and best wishes to you both!

OLD FRIENDS DR and Mrs Stockwell have sent a generous gift of US\$200/- with their warm good wishes and greetings to those they remember. "We are glad," they say, "to hear of the real progress there at Trinity Church and agree with you that the church ought to consider seriously the building of additional facilities for the Sunday School and church work. We hope that you can get something under way. Esther and I are both well. We do a bit of speaking and travelling to the churches, but do not feel that we are under any particular pressure. We are enjoying the retirement relationship, though at times we feel a bit guilty that we cannot do more. With best wishes for the Lenten and Easter season, and with a prayer that God may sustain you and yours, and the good people there at Trinity Church....."

We remember with gratitude the many ways in which the life of our young church has been enriched by these good friends!

(More news on Page 6)

AROUND AND ABOUT

A group of church members visited the Christian Home for the Aged at Sembawang on Saturday, 12 February, taking cakes and ang-pows for the residents there.

The Home, which is sponsored by some of our Chinese churches, houses some thirty old ladies, most of whom have been church workers or Bible-women in earlier days. Situated just off the Old Thomson Road - it must be noisy there when Grand Prix time comes round! - the Home is a very simple cluster of wood and attap kampong houses, but breathes a most happy and contented Christian atmosphere. We shall long remember the little service we shared in the tiny wooden chapel, when Mrs Goh Yeow of the Kampong Kapor Methodist Church spoke in Holkien of 'The Good Shepherd' and our own Honeybees sang two musical numbers to the great delight of the old ladies.

We hope to be able to maintain some contact with this Home in the future, and thank the following for ang-pow gifts totalling \$69:

Mrs E. Chua, Mrs N. Huang, Mrs Leong Hong Toh, Mrs Catherine Pang, Mrs Wendy Tan, Mrs T.K. Tan, Mrs E. Smith, Miss Khoo Koh Hee and an Anonymous Donor.

The W.S.C.S. visited the Home for Retarded Children in Tampines Road on Saturday 19 February with gifts of food and clothing for the children.

It was meal time when we arrived, and we were able to help in feeding the children, most of whom are quite unable to look after themselves. We were deeply impressed by the dedication of the staff of the Home, for it must make great demands upon them to go on expressing their loving care and concern to their charges, many of whom have been totally written off by their own families.

One of the children is blind, many others are hopelessly crippled and have to be carried everywhere, one teenage girl crawls around on all-fours, and there is a pathetic little group of thirty- or forty-year olds who are still tiny children in all but age. The Home is a little pool of desperate human need. The buildings are very simple wood and wire-mesh barracks, but the low-lying site floods badly in wet weather, and the Association is planning new premises close to the Trafalgar Home.

It takes a very special kind of loving courage to live and work in such an environment, and we honour those who are doing this wonderful work. We were glad to hear that the University students

Thur.	2	6.00 p.m.	Pastor visits in THOMSON Parish.
Fri.	3	5.30 p.m.	World Day of Prayer Service at Wesley Church. Offering for Refugee Relief Action.
		8.00 p.m.	Choir Practice.
Sat.	4	2.00 p.m.	Boys' Brigade Parade & Bible Class.
		3.30 p.m.	M.Y.F. Bible Study.
SUN.	5	8.45 a.m.	Sunday School Membership Class.
		10.00 a.m.	HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
		11.05 a.m.	Choir Practice
		3.30 p.m.	M.Y.F. Meeting
		5.30 p.m.	HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - Rev. Chew Hock Hin
Wed.	8	8.00 p.m.	Sunday School Teachers' Bible Study.
Thur.	9	6.00 p.m.	Pastor visits in DRIVES II Parish.
Fri.	10	8.00 p.m.	Choir Practice.
Sat.	11	2.00 p.m.	Boys' Brigade Parade & Bible Class
		3.30 p.m.	M.Y.F. Bible Study.
		5.00 p.m.	MONTHLY PARISH MEETING at the home of Miss Nancy Tan, 8 Simon Lane (19).
SUN.	12	8.45 a.m.	Sunday School Membership Class
		10.00 a.m.	SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
		11.05 a.m.	Choir Practice
		12 noon	Worship Service at Woodbridge Hospital
		3.30 p.m.	M.Y.F. Meeting
		5.30 p.m.	SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
Wed.	15	6.00 p.m.	Pastor visits DRIVES II Parish
Thur.	16	7.30 p.m.	Record Broadcast at Radio Singapore
Fri.	17	8.00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Sat.	18	2.00 p.m.	Boys' Brigade Parade & Bible Class
		3.30 p.m.	M.Y.F. Bible Study
		4.00 p.m.	W.S.C.S. Meeting - Speaker: Mrs Eileen Smith

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SUN. 19 8.45 a.m. Sunday School Membership Class.
 (Passion Sunday) 10 a.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Rev Thomas Babler (Wesley Church)
 11.05 a.m. Choir Practice.
 11.15 a.m. Meeting of Official Board.
 5.30 p.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor.

Wed. 22 8.00 p.m. District Commission on Evangelism at Wesley Church.

Thur. 23 6.00 p.m. Pastor visits LICHFIELD Parish

Fri. 24 8.00 p.m. Choir Practice

Sat. 25 2.00 p.m. Boys' Brigade Parade & Bible Class
 3.30 p.m. M.Y.F. Bible Study

SUN. 26 8.45 a.m. Sunday School Membership Class
 (Palm Sunday) 10 a.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP (with Infant Baptisms)- Pastor.
 11.05 a.m. Choir Practice
 12.00 noon Worship Service at Woodbridge Hospital
 5.30 p.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Lam Yet Seng.

H O L Y W E E K

Mon. 27 8.00 p.m. Holy Week Service

Tue. 28 8.00 p.m. - do -

Wed. 29 8.00 p.m. - do -

Thur. 30 8.00 p.m. MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION.

Fri. 31 GOOD FRIDAY
 10.00 a.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP
 Cantata by Church Choir
 (offering for Conference Board of Missions)

ON PALM SUNDAY March 26 a pre-recorded service will be broadcast over Radio Singapore at 6.05 p.m. with an epilogue at 10 p.m. The preacher will be the pastor and music will be by the Trinity Church Choir.

SERVICES FOR EASTER DAY April 2nd will be as follows:

6.15 a.m. EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE in Church Grounds, followed by breakfast in the basement.
 10.00 a.m. EASTER WORSHIP with Sacrament of Holy Communion.
 5.30 p.m. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - Rev Chew Hock Hin.

* MORE FAMILY NEWS *

ANGELINE LOH sends greetings for the New Year from Melbourne. She says that she is settling down to the new routine of life in Australia, though still with a tinge of homesickness. She is happy about the Methodist International House where she is staying. The housemother has been very kind and taking her around. Angeline attends church services with her next door, and sends her regards to the church choir and the rest of the church members.

SONIA WEE also sends her greetings to Trinity Friends, especially the 'F-'n-'S' group. She actually missed the green fields of Ormskirk when she spent a few days in London recently. Wonder if she is growing away from city life!

THE OFFERING ON CHINESE NEW YEAR'S DAY amounted to \$177.25, and was sent to the Singapore Association for the Blind.

REFUGEE RELIEF ACTION organised a series of Refugee lunches at various church and other centres in the city during February, and also sponsored a Big Walk to raise funds for victims of the recent troubles in Bangla Desh. Trinity Church has sent a cheque for \$1,000 to R.R.A., most of the proceeds of the collection taken on Christmas Day.

THE DISTRICT COMMISSION OF EVANGELISM has set up a number of sub-committees representing all the churches in the District, to prepare for the Evangelistic Meetings to be conducted by Dr. Alan Walker at the Conference Hall, August 3 - 5. A number of our own members are actively involved in this planning.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE.....

pledges totalling \$927 since last Newsletter and
Thankofferings from:

Mrs Rosie Leong (\$50), Miss P. Baruch (\$40), Madam Clara Chan (\$50), Mr Percy Chew (\$300 in loving memory of his parents and grandparents and of his beloved wife), Mr & Mrs George Lee (\$10), Dr & Mrs Alan Tay (\$10), Mrs Tan Kim Tee (\$20), Miss Lelia Seow (\$25), Mr & Mrs Peter Low (\$30), Anonymous (\$130.50), Mr & Mrs Michael Ong Swee Lee (\$10), as well as the gift of US\$ 200 from Dr & Mrs F. Olin Stockwell referred to elsewhere.

THE DISTRICT SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMISSION is exploring ways in which the welfare work of our different congregations might be co-ordinated. It may be possible to employ a professional social worker to assist with social case-work and to help educate our Methodist people to more effective social involvement in the life of the nation.

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regularly visit and take the children to the seaside on Sundays. We could judge how much this must mean to the children by the excited welcome they gave to us. Other groups visit from time to time, and we met some of our Methodist friends from Christ Church while we were there.

THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER will be observed with a special service to be held at Wesley Church at 5.30 p.m. on Friday March 3rd. The theme is 'ALL JOY BE YOURS'. Special offering for Refugee Relief Action.

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Him more than those who disowned Him. Pilate could wash his hands of Jesus, but Jesus could not wash His hands of Pilate. He Himself said the only thing that could be said for His accusers - they knew not what they did. He knew.

"He went up to Jerusalem to challenge their sin. They in their turn challenged His love. When sin had flung its last dart and said its last word, He answered them from His Cross. If we may dare to say so, He there betrothed Himself for ever to the human race, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health. Seven words from the Cross are reported, but there was another, which said: "I will never leave you nor forsake you"....That pledge stands for ever, and binds Him to our race in its deepest need....I may deny it; I may ignore it; I may never have heard of it; but it stands. If I sit in the House of the Lord, I may sing, "He loved me and gave Himself for me". But if I choose to sit at the table of harlots, and steep myself in sin's delirium, it is still true that He loved me and gave Himself for me, and His presence I cannot escape.

"No man is now left alone in his sin. It pleased Him to join Himself for ever to our unworthy race and to contend with the sin that we love until we love it no longer. If to bear sin means to go where the sinner is, and to refuse either to leave him or to compromise with him; to love a shameful being and therefore to be pierced with his shame; to devote oneself utterly to his recovery, and to follow him with ceaseless ministries, knowing that he cannot be recovered without his consent, and that his consent may be indefinitely withheld - if this is to bear sin, then this is what Jesus did from first to last, what no other could do, and it is the innermost secret of the heart of God".

These quotations from W.R. Inge's 'The Cross of Christ' express so beautifully what seems to me central to the message of this Holy season. It is my prayer that we may find this God of Love, who makes Himself known in Jesus, and know:

That I am His and He is mine,
For ever and for ever!