

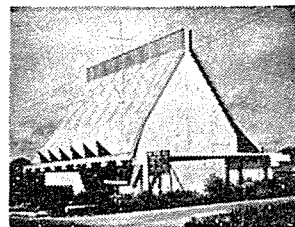
Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY

SINGAPORE-19



Pastor—Rev. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

PARSONAGE:

28 CHUAN HOE AVENUE

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MC (P) 3870

AUGUST 1972

THE TESTIMONY OF THE MARTYRS

We enclose with copies of this Newsletter sent to church members, a pamphlet prepared by Pastor Richard Wurmbbrand, who, it is hoped, will be visiting Singapore in September. Plans are being made for him to speak at the National Theatre, and further details will be given later when arrangements have been finalised.

Those who have read his book 'Tortured for Christ' will know what incredible suffering and privations this courageous man endured for fourteen years, in solitary confinement for his faith in Christ. It is a tale of Christ-empowered endurance that shatters our complacency and shames our comfortable respectability. In the tolerant atmosphere of Singapore, it is easy for us to forget that there are still so many fellow-Christians in the world whose commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ requires them quite literally to take their lives in their hands. Pastor Wurmbbrand is determined to bring home to as many people as possible the true situation. His own experience and example, and his continuing concern for those who still suffer as he has done, make it plain that the call of Jesus to "take up your cross and come after me" is not simply to be brushed aside as a picturesque figure of speech. To some of our contemporaries it is an exact description of what Christian obedience may mean.

Following Jesus always means, in one way or another, being ready to put our lives on the line for what we believe; to affirm, in the brave words of Martin Luther, "My conscience stands captive to the word of God. Here I stand. I can do no other. So help me, God." In the long line of witnesses stand many noble souls, from Paul and Peter to the martyrs of our own day, and the name 'martyr' which we give to them is simply the Greek word for 'a witness'. For there is no testimony so compelling as that which so clearly affirms total conviction, total surrender, and a love for Christ that is stronger

TRINITY FAMILY NEWS *****

BAPTISMS

Adult : Mr. Liu Pai Ho of 6 Upper Wilkie Road (9)
at Outram Road G.H, on 6 July, 1972
Infant: Joyce Yueh Ming, daughter of Mr. & Mrs.
Chen Meng Sheng of 65, Chartwell Drive
(19), born 9 October 1967.
Eugene Yew Jin, son of Mr. & Mrs. Paul
M. Talbert of 63, Jalan Jarak (28),
born 4 December, 1971.

NEW MEMBERS

By transfer from Wesley Methodist Church,
Singapore: Maçam Khor Peck Hoon of 41, Taman
Serangoon (19)
By transfer from St. Andrew's Presbyterian
Church, Invercargill, New Zealand: Mrs. V. J.
Ridler of 16, Seletar Court, Seletar Hills
Estate (28).

WELCOME HOME

to Mr. David Tan of 14, Boon Keng Road (13) from
a short study course in Holland.
and to David Smith, back for the holidays from
Kingswood School, Bath, England.
We have been glad to have Mrs. Chen Meng Sheng
back with the two children for the last few weeks.
Mrs. Chen will be returning shortly to rejoin her
husband whose special course at Den Haag has been
extended for a further period of a year to allow
him to complete his Master's degree. Address:
c/o Institute of Social Studies, Molehstraat 27
Den Haag, Nederland.

TONNI WEI

acting President of the Trinity M.Y.F., is one of
the members of the Singapore Young Musicians Choir
which will be singing in the Teeside International
Disteddfod, England early in August.

TWELVE MEMBERS

of the church have been attending the Training
Class for Counsellors, held during July in
preparation for the Alan Walker Preaching Mission
August 3-5th at the Singapore Conference Hall.
Please support them and the preacher, Dr. Alan

 MORE FAMILY NEWS *****

MISSIONS DINNER Mrs. Stella Lee, Chairman of the Commission on Missions, arranged a highly successful Pot-luck Supper and fellowship evening on 14 July which raised a further \$316 for the work among the Sengoi people of West Malaysia. With plenty of food, community singing and items by our talented MYFers, it was a very happy occasion. Mr. Andrew Lee spoke briefly about the opportunities of this work and some of the people involved in it, and the pastor closed the proceedings with a short epilogue in the sanctuary. Thanks to Mrs. Lee and all those who helped in a hundred and one different ways to make this a night to remember.

WORK HAS BEGUN at long last to erect a covered area at the Lichfield Road end of the church building, which will provide valuable extra space for our church and Sunday School activities. The extension will cost almost \$4,000.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY The Planning Committee and the Committee on Membership and Evangelism is organising a survey of our church members, to discover your interests and opinions about the existing programme of our church and how it might be improved. A questionnaire has been drawn up and we hope that all of you will complete this form when you receive it at the end of August or beginning of September, so that we can secure valuable information to help us as we plan for future development of our premises and programme.

During the four Sundays in September, all who attend our Sunday Services will be asked to complete a simple registration card, to assist us in assessing accurately the nature and composition of our worshipping congregation. We hope you will not find this too much of a chore, and that all of you will gladly participate in this survey.

M.Y.F. SUNDAY will be observed on August 27th, with the young people of the church in charge. Further details on Page 6.

Wed. 2 8.00 P.M. DEDICATION SERVICE for Alan Walker Preaching
Mission at Wesley Church

* ALAN WALKER PREACHING MISSION *

* at *

* Singapore Conference Hall *

* Thursday 3 August- Saturday 8 August *

* at 8 p.m. *

* Saturday 8 August - YOUTH RALLY 3 p.m. *

Sat. 5 7.00 P.M. GOLDEN WEDDING THANKSGIVING SERVICE for Mr &
Mrs Lam Yet Seng

Sun. 6 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - The Pastor
11.05 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - The Pastor

Fri. 11 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE

Sat. 12 3.30 P.M. BOYS' BRIGADE PARADE

SUN. 13 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL (no Membership Class)
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Dr. Bobby Sng (Gen.
Secretary of Fellowship of Evang. Students)
11.05 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
12.00 NOON Worship Service at Woodbridge Hospital
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Rev. J.K. Watson
(Methodist Missionary Society, Indonesia)

Fri. 18 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE

Sat. 19 3.30 P.M. BOYS' BRIGADE PARADE

IDAR FOR AUGUST

- 20 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL (No Membership Class)
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Rev. Frank Earle (Singapore International School)
11.05 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
NO MEETING OF OFFICIAL BOARD
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Rev. George Wan (Paya Lebar Methodist Church)
- 25 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
8.00 P.M. STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE COMMITTEE
- 26 Sat. 3.30 P.M. BOYS' BRIGADE PARADE
YOUTH RALLY & Tae Kwon Do demonstration
- 27 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP
M.Y.F. SUNDAY - M.Y.F. members in charge
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
M.Y.F. RE-UNION DINNER
- 28 Mon. 8.00 P.M. FOLLOW-UP MEETING from Alan Walker Mission at Paya Lebar Methodist Church
- 29 Tue. M.Y.F. PICNIC
- 31 Thu. M.Y.F. visit Charitable Homes

THE PASTOR with Mrs Smith and the family will be out of Singapore on holiday from 7 August to 23 August. If urgent pastoral help is needed, please contact Rev. Dr. George Wan at Paya Lebar Methodist Church (Tel: 87719)

16TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY Saturday 16 September - Anniversary Dinner
Sunday 17 September - THANKSGIVING SERVICE at 10 a.m.
Preacher: Bishop Yap Kim Hao
Anniversary Appeal on behalf of the Methodist Project Toa Payoh

M.Y.F. REPORTS *****

It is most wonderful that the M.Y.F. has this chance to express itself to the church again. Sometimes we tend to get the idea that the church and the M.Y.F. are entirely two different 'families'. Each is unsure whether they are needed by the other and find it difficult to reach out to the other. I honestly think that one cannot live without the other; just as in a family, children and parents are interdependent.

This next bit of news is pretty painful to the M.Y.F. Our counsellor, firm supported and close friend, Ioana Afoa, will be leaving us soon. In these past eighteen months, he has been trying to help us grow in all ways and has always listened to us and has been very patient with our repeated mistakes. Indeed the M.Y.F. has grown and learnt very much from him. He loves and cares for the MYFers so much that we cannot help responding. We shall miss him a lot and would like to say, very sincerely, "Thank you"

Since the Vice-President is now the acting President, a new Vice-President Irene Lim has been elected to take over his vacant post. The M.Y.F. Newsletter is out at least and please do ask us for a copy if it fails to reach you.

The M.Y.F. Week is coming soon, 26th August to 2nd September. A rough programme outline has been drawn up as follows:

- 26 August - YOUTH RALLY with Tae Kwon Do demonstration
- 27 August - MORNING SERVICE with M.Y.F. in charge
Reunion Meeting and Dinner for past, present
and future members (dating back to about
1962)
- 29 August - M.Y.F. PICNIC
- 31 August - VISITING Charitable Homes
- 2 September GAMES for the afternoon and FILM SHOW at night.

Please do support us by encouraging the MYFers in your home to participate in the events of this special week. Thank you!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Tan and baby Aileen have moved to
30-E, Clementi Estate, Singapore 5.

Walker, with your prayers. Pray also for those who will be Page 7
attending the servicew during the Mission. The Trinity Choir
will combine with the Paya Lebar choir to lead the singing at
the Friday evening meeting.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE *****

a very generous anonymous gift of \$2,000 for the purchase of new
hymnals in memory of the late Mr. Loh Peng Seah. We want to tell
you about this, and to express our deep gratitude to the donor.

Pledges for July totalled \$1,314 and special Thank offerings were
received from:

Mr. & Mrs. Tan Kee Pheng in loving memory of Miss Catherine
Tan (\$50) Mrs. C.H. Fang (\$20) Mr. Teo Beng Chuan (\$100)
Mrs. Tan Kim Tee (\$40) Miss Mercy Rajah (\$10) Miss Susie Lim
& Mr. Lee Kiat Hoon (\$50) Mr. & Mrs. Chew Chin Nam in memory
of Mr. & Mrs. Chew Hock Lee (\$50) Anonymous (\$250) Dr. & Mrs.
Alan Tay (\$10) Mrs. Goh Keng Swee & Mrs. Tan Hin Jin in memory
of their parents (\$100) Mrs. Alice Yap and family (\$20)
Anonymous (\$5) Mr. Ong San Tho (\$100) Mrs. Grace Wee (\$10)
Miss P. Baruch (\$40) The family of the late Madam Tan Looi
Neo (\$30) Miss Grace Wee (\$10)

FAREWELL AND THANK YOU ***

We bid Godspeed to our student assistant Ioane Afoa, who returns
to Samoa shortly after two years at Trinity College. For most
of this time, Ioane has been attached to our church where he has
endeared himself to all, especially to our MYFers with whom he
has spent most of his time. We have valued his service very much
and shall long remember his broad and ready smile, his cheerful
helpfulness - and those fascinating Samoan dances! God bless
your future ministry and forthcoming marriage, Ioane!

INVITATION TO BIBLE STUDY

In connection with the World Day of Prayer, an inter-church
Bible Study group will meet at St. Peter's Church, Tavistock
Avenue each Thursday morning from 3 August at 10.30 a.m.

Subject: The Letter to the Philippians (The Letter of Joy)

Further details from Mrs. Daphne Cook (Tel: 87966)

than love for life itself. "The blood of the martyrs is a seed," cried the 2nd Century Christian leader Tertullian. "The more you destroy us, the more we multiply!" By the grace of God we are part of His Church through the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ on Calvary, and through the faithful testimony of ten thousand times ten thousand ordinary Christians, whose devotion to Him brought them to a final confrontation with the persecuting power of a hostile State.

Of course, the martyrs are special people - not by birth, or natural endowment, for some of the most conspicuous have been simple, ordinary folk; but in their certainty that the God who raises the dead is one from whom no power on earth can separate them. That glowing assurance undergirds them, and makes the impossible possible.

Not that they are perfect people (though certainly 'saints' in the Bible sense) for God does not need perfect people to be witnesses to His saving power. Sometimes they were misguided in certain of the opinions they held (though not in the conviction that obedience to the Lord of their lives must come before all other obediences). The fact of martyrdom is not in itself a demonstration of truth. Down the centuries people, Christian and non-Christian, have been prepared to die in the cause of error. Martyrdom is a demonstration of conviction, not of infallibility. There is always a danger that we may run away with the idea that a martyr is always right.

I do not wish to belittle the sacrifice of one like Pastor Wurmbrand. God forbid! But I cannot share his adamant opposition to the Ecumenical Movement as a pro-Communist organisation, even though I know it too has many flaws, weaknesses and errors. I deeply regret that one who has endured so much should sometimes be so divisive of the cause of Christian unity. I honour, for Christ's sake, the testimony of his faith; I differ from him in regard to some of the opinions he holds.

Let us, nevertheless, be uplifted by his witness. Let us work and pray for those still 'in bonds' for the testimony of Jesus. Let us be strengthened to 'run the race set before us' in the remembrance that we, no less than the first Christians, are surrounded by a 'cloud of witnesses' who have sealed their witness with their blood. God grant that we too may be ready to stand fast for Jesus!