



NEWSLETTER

from

TRINITY METHODIST
CHURCH

34, Serangoon Garden Way
Singapore 19

M.C.(P) 561/73

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

JUNE 1973

MANY-SPLENDoured SALVATION

I have been reading in 'The CMS Newsletter' a vivid and challenging account, by John V. Taylor, of the Bangkok Assembly of the World Council of Churches in January this year. Dr Taylor does not disguise the deep differences that marked this gathering, nor the disturbing words in which these attitudes were sometimes expressed when, for the first time, a majority of the delegates came from the so-called 'Third World'. But I want to quote him as he comments on the wide-ranging study of the Conference theme, 'SALVATION TODAY'.

"To a remarkable extent," he says, "Bangkok released us from the old polarization between personal and social salvation. This was partly due to the presence of many Christians from the Third World, for whom this division has never been a reality, and who objected to being involved in the theological battles of the Western churches. I heard a leading conservative evangelical exclaiming joyfully halfway through the Conference: 'These Asians really do hold the two truths together. For them salvation means something completely revolutionary in their society and yet, for the sake of that revolution, they call men to conversion and personal faith in Christ.' This was reflected in the affirmation of the whole Conference which set out the comprehensive salvation which Jesus offers to mankind.

To the individual he comes with power to liberate him

TRINITY FAMILY NEWS

NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Mrs Judy Wee on the safe arrival of her infant son, Mark, born 12 May in London. Mr. and Mrs. Wee hope to be back in Singapore later in the year.

WEDDING BELLS

At Trinity Church on 26 May, Hoo Piew Seng and Rosalind Gan were joined in marriage. The happy couple are now living at 32, Burghley Drive (19) and are part of our parish.

EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

Among recent graduates from the University of Singapore were Misses Lee Pak Kheng and Linda Seet. Congratulations to both!

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

We shall celebrate the 17th Anniversary of our church and the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the sanctuary for Christian worship on the weekend of 15 - 16 September. We expect to link this with an appeal for church extension as noted elsewhere in this 'Newsletter' and further details will be given later. Meanwhile, please plan to keep this weekend free to celebrate this important mile-stone occasion in our church life.

FROM OVERSEAS

Mr. Arthur Abeyasekera who, although not a Trinity member, was a very familiar part of our congregation until January, send warm greetings from the Australian cold to his friends in the church. He has not yet got permission to settle in Australia with his family, but hopes to receive definite news shortly.

OUTREACH DONATIONS

From Christmas Day, Chinese New Year's Day and Good Friday offerings, the Executive Committee voted \$2,000 for the Sengoi Mission, \$300 for the Churches' Counselling Service and \$300 towards the support of Trinity member Victor Goh who is working fulltime with Campus Crusade for Christ.

THE TRINITY TAE KWON DO GROUP

The Trinity Tae Kwon Do Group start a Beginners Class on 1st June. Training sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7.00 p.m.

 * W. S. C. S. *

W.S.C.S. SUNDAY

The W.S.C.S. ladies were in charge of the morning service on Sunday, 13th May and afterwards held a sale of food in the crowded church basement.

There was a great variety of Western and Eastern Food - hamburgers, mee siam, laksa, kuey chang, curry rice, etc. On top of these there were also very beautiful orchids on sale. The response was terrific and by noon all the food was snapped up. The sum collected amounted to \$733.30 and the proceeds went to the two Sengoi women workers in Malaysia, the Retarded Childrens' Home, the Good Neighbours and our very own Church Mission Fund.

The success of the sale was of course due to the great effort and warm response of all concerned, and the W.S.C.S. would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who, in one way or another, contributed towards the success of this project.

MONTHLY MEETING

On 23rd June the W.S.C.S. will meet at 28, Chuan Hoe Avenue at 3.00 p.m. when Dr. Tan Cheng Imm will speak on "CYSTLOGY". All church members and their friends are welcome.

 * M. Y. F. *

RETREAT CAMP

The M.Y.F. will be camping out from 1st June to 5th June, at the SIA Bungalow, Windsor Drive. The theme during the five days retreat will be "REALITIES OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP". Mr. Albert Low and Mr. John Tan will address the campers and Mr. Paul George will be the Dean during those five important days.

JOINT FELLOWSHIP

The Trinity M.Y.F. will take part in a combined meeting with the Paya Lebar M.Y.F. on 24th June at the Paya Lebar Methodist Church.

CHURCH DIARY FOR JUNE 1973

- 1 Fri. M.Y.F. Retreat begins at S.I.A. Bungalow, Windsor Drive.
9.00 p.m. Committee on Worship & Music.
- 2 Sat. 2.30 p.m. DISTRICT CONFERENCE ON EVANGELISM at Wesley
Church Basement.
- 3 SUN. 10.00 a.m. & 5.30 p.m. HOLY COMMUNION
- 5 Tue. M.Y.F. Retreat ends.
- 6 Wed. 5th ASSEMBLY of EAST ASIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE opens at
Seaview Hotel.
- 9 Sat. 5.00 p.m. Monthly Parish Meeting in Groves Parish - home
to be announced in Sunday Bulletin.
- 10 SUN. PENTECOST (or Whitsunday) - Dr. S. Nababan preaching a.m.
Sacrament of Baptism at 10 a.m. service
- 12 Tue. E.A.C.C. Assembly ends.
- 16 Sat. CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE SEMINAR - 2nd Session opens at the
Trinity Theological College.
- 17 SUN. 10.00 a.m. Service of Worship - Mr. Billie Cheng.
11.15 a.m. Local Church Executive Committee.
5.30 p.m. Service of Worship - Bah Rahu.
- 23 Sat. 3.00 p.m. W.S.C.S. Meeting at 28, Chuan Hoe Avenue.
- 24 SUN. 10.00 a.m. & 5.30 p.m. Pastor preaching.

VISITING PREACHERS in June

DR. SORITUA NABABAN is a Lutheran Pastor from Indonesia, where he is presently General Secretary of the Council of Churches of Indonesia. Dr. Nababan was formerly Youth Secretary of the East Asia Christian Conference, and will be attending the 5th Assembly of the E.A.C.C. in Singapore this month. He is also Vice-Chairman of the Divisional Committee of the Commission on World Mission & Evangelism of the World Council of Churches.

MR. BILLIE CHENG is an active lay member and Chairman of the Local Executive Committee in the Foochow Methodist Church, Treasurer of Trinity Theological College. He is a member of the Scripture Union Council and Director of Finance, P.S.A.

BAH RAHU is a full-time Sengoi Christian worker in the Sengoi Mission, whose dedicated and energetic service has reaped a rich harvest for Jesus Christ.

FIRST DISTRICT LAITY CONFERENCE

"The Role of the Laity in Today's Church in Singapore" was the theme of a one-day conference held on 17th May at the Regional English Language Centre. Altogether 80 participants attended from ten SMAC churches in the District. Eleven were from Trinity, which sent the largest delegation from any one church. Two Trinity members were co-opted into the organising committee.

Four important topics, all of them vital to laymen of our times, were chosen for study. They were:-

- understanding our faith
- personal sharing of our faith
- sharing of our faith in groups
- training for preaching and speaking.

The key address was given by Dr. Benjamin Chew, well-known lay-worker and evangelist. Dr. Chew stressed the importance of lay training and participation, and quoted scriptural texts which indicated that there were no differences between laity and clergy. The barrier is man-made and artificial. The main points of his address were discussed in the groups which followed.

It is hoped that more lay training and participation will result out of this conference, especially in view of the decreasing number of ministers in our churches. Trinity Church hopes to organise a training programme which has already been prepared and sent out to the various churches by the Rev. Denver Stone, the S.M.A.C. coordinator for this programme.

- Daniel Gwee -

Y.M.C.A. PROGRAMMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS

ADVENTURE SURVIVAL CAMP (13-21 years) at Pulau Tekong Besar
June 12-16, with leaders from Australian Army (\$30 members and \$35 for non-members)

LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP (16-25 years) at Mata Ikan, Somapah Road
June 13-16, led by Mr. Anthony Yeo (C.C.C.) (\$25 members and \$30 for non-members)

SELF-DISCOVERY CAMP (18-23 years) at Mata Ikan
June 21-24 (\$20 members and \$25 non-members)

SACRAMENT OF INFANT BAPTISM on Pentecost Sunday 10th June at 10.00 a.m. Parents wishing their infants to be baptised please contact Pastor.

"WHEN BOY MEETS GIRL....."

Have you ever wondered what happens when boy meets girl? Well, quite a number of our young members did - if the response to the Forum on 20th May is anything to judge by. Between 60 and 70 people were present, including a few parents and there to present their views on this topic was a panel of five speakers.

Chaired by our lay leader Mr. Daniel Gwee, the forum started on a rather serious note with Miss Virginia Heng from the Churches' Counselling Centre speaking on the various physiological, psychological and emotional changes that go on in an adolescent.

The next speaker was our pastor Rev. Smith who, approaching the topic from a religious point of view, reminded us that God created a woman for Adam to show that man was never intended to live as isolated individuals. The pastor felt that sex should have a double function - that of procreation and that of building up a meaningful relationship between two persons.

Looking at the subject from yet another angle was Mr. Pung Khye Sun, a father of three teenagers. He referred to three aspects of boy-girl relationships - sexual, economic and social and even dared to suggest that the first was least important and "more trouble than it was worth".

Finally, Jade Chow and Lee Park Ming, both from our MYF gave their views. They spoke on some of the problems faced by our youth such as the uncertainties of their feelings, the dilemma of being confronted with differing social standards, parental objections etc. The subject of 'going-steady' was also touched on.

Questions from the floor were then thrown open to the panel. The question of pre-marital sex was also raised and discussed.

The forum, arranged jointly by the Christian Education Committee and the MYF proved to be quite an interesting session. It was particularly encouraging to note the presence of some parents and adult members among the audience. It is hoped, however, that more members from the adult congregation would join us in future programmes.

- Miss P. Kwok -

 TRINITY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Ten years ago in 1963, our sanctuary was opened for public worship. Several years earlier, little more than 30 members had gone ahead in faith to purchase the plot of land where the church is now situated, and as soon as the land debt had been cleared it was still a very small group who launched on building plans.

By the close of the fruitful ministry of our "pastor emeritus" Rev. Chew Hock Hin, we were once more free of debt and able to begin thinking of expanding our facilities to match our growing needs and the needs of the Serangoon Garden community. The parish is developing rapidly. Seletar Hills Estate is constantly growing, Golden Hill and Grace Park are nearing completion, more and more people will soon be moving into our area.

The Planning Committee met our architect, Mr. Edwin Choo, for the first time on 23rd May, to discuss possible extension plans. Based on a projected growth in church membership to 400 in five years time and to 500 by 1983 (our maximum effective size, as we now see it), we shall need to plan seating accomodation for 250 people, excluding the choir, with an extension to the sanctuary that would provide room for 100-150 more on special occasions. Part of this can probably be accomplished by minor re-structuring of our present sanctuary (e.g. filling in the existing stairway to the basement).

In addition, we need proper educational facilities. The Sunday School and organisations have had to make do for too long with what we now have. Plans will probably include a two-storey block, providing a manse for the pastor, with office space and library on the first floor and a general-purpose hall which can be divided by partitions, possibly including a small stage that could be used by the community as well as the church.

Details are now being worked out and we will keep you well informed about what is going on. But as you are well aware, building costs are rising all the time, and this project is going to require from each and every one full participation and convinced, dedicated giving. The whole project, which may have to be carried out in two phases, is likely to cost about \$200,000.

from every evil and sin, from every power in heaven and earth, and from every threat of life or death.
To the world he comes as the Lord of the universe, with deep compassion for the poor and the hungry, to liberate the powerless and the oppressed.
To the powerful and the oppressors he comes in judgment and mercy.

The really unifying discovery at Bangkok was that God's salvation is a "many-splendoured thing", and we dare not limit it to only one level of human experience. This was movingly expressed in the report submitted by Section I. On certain issues this took the form of a poem or prayer because the members of the section felt that what they had to say could not be so truly conveyed in propositions of prose. Each item in the following litany reflected the actual experience of one or other of the members of the section.

It was the drug scene, you were lost and wretched, and you put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea.

I rejoice with you, my sister

You were turned on by the exciting and ever-deepening insights of Scripture.

I rejoice with you, my brother.

You were converted from shallowness to mystic depths by discipline and meditation.

I rejoice with you, my sister.

You were a poor Mexican baptized by the Holy Spirit and the Blood of the Lamb.

I rejoice with you, my brother.

You were an intellectual Chinese who broke through the barrier between yourself and the dung-smelling peasant.

I rejoice with you, my sister

You found all the traditional language meaningless and became "an atheist by the grace of God"

I rejoice with you, my brother

Out of the depths of your despair and bondage you cried and your cry was poignant with hope.

I rejoice with you, my sister

You were oppressed and put down by male authority and in spite of sneers and snarls persevered in your quest for dignity.

I rejoice with you, my sister.

For all my brothers and sisters who have entered the struggle for social and spiritual liberation - I rejoice.

Victory and grace be unto you.