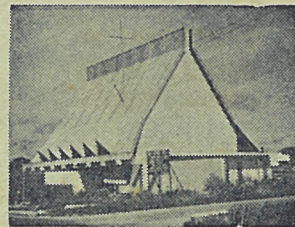


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY
SINGAPORE-19



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

JULY 1973

A CALL TO MINISTRY

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts," says St. Paul, "but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to everyone for all services. Each one is given some proof of the Spirit's presence for the good of all." (I Cor. 12:4-7 TEV)

But, in spite of (or perhaps because of) all this variety, it is clear that nobody is left without abilities and nobody is exempted from some form of service. When Jesus told the parable of the talents, the main point seems to be the unfaithfulness of the servant who did nothing just because his master had not given him the same gifts as somebody else. Every Christian man and woman needs to be continually seeking the Lord's guidance and strength, so that he or she may be giving service as and where the Lord shall choose.

What is your particular service? I suspect that nobody but the Lord who called you to be His can tell you, but I would be failing in my service if I allowed anybody to escape the question.

"Christ has many services to be done; some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and temporal interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is assuredly given us in Christ, who strengthens us." So says the Covenant Service which we use at the beginning of each year. What, then, is your partic-

FAMILY NEWS

NEW MEMBER

We welcome Mrs. Khoo Cheek Sin of 55, Jalan Sindor (28) on transfer from Trinity Church, Penang, and pray that God will bless her in her new relationship with this congregation.

INFANT BAPTISMS

On Sunday 10th June 1973 KHOO CHENG HSUNG son of Cheek Sin and Beng Lian and ONG MEI LIN the daughter of Michael Ong Swee Lee and Gloria.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Due to increased responsibilities in school, Miss Violet Tan has had to resign as Associate Lay-Leader and Executive Committee Secretary. She will continue as Church School Superintendent and as a member of the Committee on Christian Education, and Miss Violet Khor, Assistant Secretary will take over from her as Secretary to the Local Executive Committee.

VICTOR GOH, who is working full time with Campus Crusade for Christ, returned to Singapore from the Philippines early in June.

WELCOME HOME to Miss Sonia Wee of 85, Highland Road (19)

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES -

Madam Gan Kwee Hong, Susie - 272, Upper Paya Lebar Road
Mr. Lim Joo Hock, Albert - c/o 20, Taman Serangoon (19)
Miss Tio Phek Im, Helen - 348E, Kim Keat Avenue, Blk. 195 (12)
Miss Choy Yin Loy, Cheryl - c/o Prince Henry's Hospital Nurses' Home, St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria 3004, Australia.

WORLD TRAVELLERS

Mrs. Patricia Chia writes from Europe and informs us that she misses her home food. She sends her love to all and says that she will be back in August.

Other Trinitarians have been discovering that home cooking's best! Among them are Mrs Lee Poh Lin ("glad to be back!"), Mr & Mrs Tan Keng Hian (visiting England to be at the Royal Festival Hall for Melvyn's big concert) and Linda Kan (who has bucked the trend by going East!). We have had letters from David Tan (in NZ, and very much caught up in the life of the church) and from Miss Choy Yin Loy (sounding happy in her Melbourne hospital training)

 * M. Y. F. *

THE M.Y.F. SINGERS

The evening service of the 17th June was graced by the presence of our young singing evangelists - THE YOUTH CHOIR. Encouraged by the Local Executive Committee, the Methodist Youth Fellowship selected Misses June Chew and Irene Lim to take over the project which started in February. Today they number fifteen strong. Presently this up-and-coming choir will sing once a month during the evening services and they hope very soon to sing fortnightly. They are also preparing, at the moment, for the Musical Night, which will be held during the Church Anniversary celebrations, when they will be appearing side by side with our regular choir. At an interview, both June and Irene informed me that they welcome all those who are interested in singing and "passing on the message". They also stated that they have already decided to change the name of their choir to - THE M.Y.F. SINGERS.

M.Y.F. RETREAT CAMP

The camp began on 1st June at 3.30 p.m. and ended on 5th June at 9.30 a.m. Due to unforeseen circumstances it was held in Church from Friday to Saturday afternoon and later at the S.I.A. Bunglow. There were two main aims, firstly to teach us about Christian Life and secondly to teach us Christian Leadership.

Mr. Albert Low and Mr. John Tan led us in the lectures, discussions and games. Mr. Low dealt with Christian Leadership and Mr. Tan in Christian Life.

Our camp leader was Mr. Paul George who is from the Petaling Jaya M.Y.F. Mrs. Wei and Mrs. Yeo devoted many precious hours in cooking the delicious meals for the campers.

The Camp was a success, we learnt a great deal, experienced greater Christian Fellowship and enjoyed ourselves.

The theme song for the camp was composed and written by our very own Tonni Wei. (We'd like a copy - and perhaps the Board of Music and Worship would like one too - Editor)

- Camp Chairman -

TOA PAYOH WEEK OF EVANGELISM organised by the District Commission of Evangelism - August 20th to 26th. Are you ready to share your faith?

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JULY

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|----|------|------------------------|---|
| 1 | SUN. | 8.45 A.M. | SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS |
| | | 10.00 A.M. | HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor |
| | | 3.30 P.M. | M.Y.F. MEETING |
| | | 5.30 P.M. | HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor |
| 4 | Wed | 8.00 P.M. | BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse |
| 6 | Fri. | 8.30 P.M. | TRINITY COLLEGE CONCERT OF MUSIC & DRAMA at the Singapore Conference Hall |
| 7 | Sat. | 4.30 P.M. | TRINITY COLLEGE GRADUATION SERVICE preceded by tea at 3.30 p.m. |
| | | 4.00 P.M. | TOA PAYOH GOSPEL RALLY Visitation Campaign begins (at new church, Lorong 2 Toa Payoh) |
| 8 | SUN. | 10.00 A.M. & 5.30 P.M. | Preacher - The Pastor |
| | | 12.00 NOON | Worship Service at Woodbridge Hospital |
| 9 | Mon. | 8.00 P.M. | ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE meets at 24, Alnwick Rd. |
| 12 | Thu. | 5.15 P.M. | CCMS REGIONAL COUNCIL Executive Meeting |
| 14 | Sat. | 2.30 P.M. | TOA PAYOH GOSPEL RALLY District Counsellors' Get-Together (at new church, Lorong 2) |
| | | 5.00 P.M. | MONTHLY PARISH MEETING at 25, Medway Drive, the home of Mr. & Mrs. Phung Khye Sun |
| 15 | SUN. | 10.00 A.M. | WORSHIP SERVICE - Dr. Gunnar J. Teilmann Jr. |
| | | 11.15 A.M. | LOCAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meets |
| | | 5.30 P.M. | WORSHIP SERVICE - The Pastor |
| 21 | Sat. | 4.30 P.M. | W.S.C.S. MONTHLY MEETING at the Manse |
| 22 | SUN. | 10.00 A.M. & 5.30 P.M. | Preacher: The Pastor |
| | | 12.00 NOON | Worship Service at Woodbridge Hospital |
| 29 | SUN | 10.00 A.M. | WORSHIP SERVICE - The Pastor |
| | | 5.30 P.M. | WORSHIP SERVICE - Mr. Lam Yet Seng |

REGULAR MEETINGS will be the Wednesday Evening Bible Study Fellowship at 8 p.m. at the Manse 28, Chuan Hoe Avenue and Choir Practice each Friday evening at 8 p.m. in the church. As a big programme is being prepared for the Church Anniversary, choir members are asked to attend these weekly practices without fail.

BEGIN PRAYING NOW for the Toa Payoh Gospel Rally, organised by the District Commission on Evangelism, 20 - 26 August, with Dr. G.D. James as the guest preacher.

Volunteers are needed to visit homes and distribute tracts in Toa Payoh prior to the Rally; also counsellors for the gospel meetings.

TRINITY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE is celebrating its Silver Jubilee this year, and seeking to provide assured support for the future by raising an Endowment Fund of \$600,000. Contributions may be made direct to the College or through our Church Treasurer.

 * CELEBRATING OUR 17TH ANNIVERSARY *

Mr. Chew Chin Jin and his energetic Anniversary Committee are planning a full programme for our 17th Anniversary in September. Because this is the 10th Anniversary of the opening of Trinity Methodist Church for public worship, this will be an EXTRA-SPECIAL occasion, when we hope to be able to launch our plans for further extension of our p nises and work.

BOOK THESE DATES (subject to possible alteration)

ANNIVERSARY BUFFET DINNER
 10 or 11th September
 (place to be announced)

17TH ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Sunday, 16th September

AT 10 a.m.

followed by a bumper

F O O D F A I R

organised by the W.S.C.S. in the church grounds
 a real festival of delicious home-cooked dishes

together with:-

THE ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

presented by the Trinity Church Choir
 & MYF Singers

a medley of folk songs, light popular favourites,
 and negro spirituals

Friday, 21st September

An Anniversary Souvenir Programme is being produced, with messages, pictures and reports. Anniversary Bricks will be on sale at \$20 each, towards the Building and Extension Fund. Any help which can be given towards soliciting advertisements to defray printing costs will be welcomed by Mr. Chew and his committee members.

 WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE

a generous donation of \$300, in memory of the late Madam Kwong Yuet Mong, from Mr & Mrs Ong Kim Siong and others members of Madam Kwong's family; also a thankoffering of \$100 from Mr & Mrs Pang Kia Seng. We are grateful also to Mr Low Kway Song who has donated 100 copies of his 'Praying Jesus' picture to be sold in aid of the Church Extension Fund.

BAH RAHU INTERVIEWED

In a very informal question and answer session with our brother and friend from Kampar, BAH RAHU the Sengoi Missionary Worker states:

Q. CAN YOU BRIEFLY LET US KNOW THE NATURE OF THE WORK YOU ARE INVOLVED IN ?

A. I have the overall supervision and responsibility of the work among the tribal peoples in Malaya, particularly centered around Perak. Together with a team of 5 full-time and 3 part-time workers employed by the Board of Missions, we reach out to more than some 35 Sengoi villages to bring the Gospel of Christ to the people. With the growing numbers who are hungry for the Word of God, it was found necessary to train lay Sengoi leaders to lead in worship services and to teach the Gospel. My colleagues and I conduct a regular lay leaders' Christian Training Course each Saturday and an average of 45 volunteers come from all the various villages for this. The number could be much larger and has in fact at one session reached the figure of 71, but, owing to the lack of funds and facilities, for the moment, we are obliged to limit the number at each session. A council of Headmen (Penghulus) has been set up and I act as its adviser.

Q. WE GATHER THAT YOU ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN ANOTHER IMPORTANT TASK, THAT OF TRANSLATING THE BIBLE INTO THE SENGOI DIALECT. CAN YOU TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WORK ?

A. I consider this work very important indeed because most of the Sengois should be taught to read. Moreover, most of them do not understand other tongues and therefore the availability of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Sengoi dialect will be very welcomed. I am only a beginner in Bible translation work which is a time consuming task. I need the prayer support of Christian friends. I am much encouraged when my people say that they understand clearly the materials that have so far been translated.

Q. WHAT PORTIONS OF THE BIBLE HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRANSLATED ?

A. The Gospel of St. Mark and St. John were already completed before I became involved in this work. However, I helped in completing the revision of St. Mark's gospel. The Bible Society

of Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei is guiding the translation work and sets the programme which I follow. I have already translated several selections from the Bible on "The Power of Jesus" and "The Parables of Jesus", also a set of 5 book-lets, 'Come' - 'Trust' - 'Follow' - 'Learn' and 'Obey'. I have also translated a number of hymns and choruses which are being regularly used not only at the training sessions but at Sunday worship services in the Sengoi villages. One of the major problems is that the Sengoi language is so limited and sometimes new words have to be coined or adapted from the Malay or English versions.

- Q. CAN YOU SUGGEST OTHER WAYS BY WHICH THE METHODIST CHURCHES CAN HELP TO EXTEND THE WORK AMONG YOUR PEOPLE ?
- A. I feel that the support given by the Methodist Churches in the past has helped tremendously and pray that the help will not only continue but increase greatly as the work is growing rapidly. More full-time and part-time Sengoi Christian workers have to be employed and trained so that the many Sengois who have recently accepted Christ can be adequately helped to grow in the newly found faith. There are now more than 3,000 Sengois baptised by Methodist ministers and many more seek baptism but there are still no ordained Sengoi pastors and the work is done by laymen at present because of many restrictions. Many aboriginal villages have not yet been reached and therefore many more workers are needed urgently. Since November 1972 till now, 5 new village chapels, 5 House-churches and 3 village schools have been built through the dedication and efforts of the Sengois themselves at great sacrifice in terms of time, money and jungle produce. They ask for your prayers and gifts as they hope to build at least another 6 new chapels and 6 more village schools next year. They are only asking for \$50/- for each of them, and will find the rest among the Sengois themselves. Gifts in kind are also needed urgently and these include:-
- a. 6 bicycles for use by the Christian workers and lay volunteers for evangelistic trips.
 - b. Bible Story Pictures as visual aids in village Sunday schools and classes.
 - c. Blackboards, exercise books, and other writing materials.

MISSIONS SUNDAY will be celebrated at Trinity on August 12th, which is also the birthday of our Autonomous Methodist Church.

ular service?

There are services, or ministries, within the church organisation, which we cannot ignore if ours is to be a living, effective witnessing congregation. We are seeking, for example, Sunday School teachers and, particularly urgently just now, a mature person to take the Sev.IV class. It is not necessary for you to be a professional teacher; in fact, I often wish it were possible to allow those who are teaching all week to have a needed break on Sundays. Also, I think that formal classroom methods are ill-suited to the intimate opportunities of the small group, where so much is 'caught' through frank, open discussion and sharing of ideas and experience. Techniques can be learnt; what it primarily requires is an awareness of the life-needs of children and young people, a readiness to be open to their questions and difficulties, and a sincere desire to share your love for Jesus with them. That means, of course, that you will have to be as willing to learn from them as to share with them. Is this your ministry?

Then, as Trinity College prepares to celebrate its 25th Anniversary, I cannot help reflecting that Trinity Church has not yet provided one of its own sons or daughters for the ordained ministry of the Church. (I don't like speaking of 'full-time' ministry, because I believe that all Christians are called to full-time service; and that all share the pastoral and evangelistic task of the Church.) Victor Goh is working with Campus Crusade for Christ, and we are contributing a small monthly sum towards his support; but is there no one else within our fellowship whom we could help to hear this call? Does it not seem important enough, or rewarding enough? I am convinced, from my own experience, that in spite of all the discussion concerning the nature of the professional ministry and all the frustrations that can be caused by an over-structured church, that here is a form of ministry which can use every gift with which a person has been endowed, challengingly and satisfyingly - and with a tremendous sense, nowadays, of voyaging into the unknown!

Visitors and counsellors are needed to prepare for and staff the August Gospel Rally in Toa Payoh. Our Boys Brigade Company is in (temporary?) suspension for lack of leadership. What is your particular service? And since most of our Christian service is given off church premises, at home, at school, in the office, perhaps we can think next month about how, in our church life together, we can become better equipped to be his men and women in the world.