

# Newsletter

from

## Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY  
SINGAPORE-19



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### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 1973

### TWO-WAY CONVERSATION

The best kind of conversation, suggests Dr. Erik Routley in his little book "Into a far Country", is like two or three people sending one another rather difficult catches with a ball, each in turn throwing the other catching and returning it, at fairly high speed. In good conversation every participant is alert to what the others are saying, and to some extent anticipates it. Yet at every moment each is immediately adaptable, so that each new throw each new point made, finds him ready to receive it. It is a two-way game.

Nothing kills conversation so quickly as one 'player' becomes inattentive or stops trying to 'catch' the ball when it is thrown. The moment one relaxes the effort to understand or refuses to shift position to one where it is possible to receive what is being said, the game comes to a dead end. Turn your back on the thrower and the ball lands on the ground!

Similarly conversation becomes impossible when one participant says, "I'll throw: you catch." (It happens with preaches, doesn't it? But also with parents and teachers dealing with children! Would it not be more profitable to teach children to catch the ball and throw it back, even if we have to send them easy catches?) such a person does not wait to ask what information is needed or what the interests of the other person are: he pours out endless information, regardless! He tells people the answers before he has listened to the question. In short, he is a bore (and most of all when he can talk of nothing but himself).

Information alone cripples conversation because you can't throw the ball back. All you can say is, "Oh" or "Is that so?"



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FAMILY NEWS  
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PASTOR & FAMILY ON HOLIDAY

The Smith Family is away on holiday in Malaysia. They left Singapore on 21st August and will return on 4th September 1973. We ask the Lord to renew their strength for the tasks that lay ahead. Anyone in urgent need of pastoral assistance is asked to get in touch with Dr. George Wan, at Paya Lebar Methodist Church (tel. 887719).

POH LIN OUT OF HOSPITAL

Mrs. Lee Poh Lin was discharged from hospital recently and we are once again glad to have her back with us. Thank God.

MRS. GRACE CHAN WRITES...

".....During this summer holidays we all (including Christie who is now 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  years) attend Church. We do so at 10 a.m. because it is a family service and Christie can run and partake in the fun without being an embarrassment.....The climate now is wonderful....I do hope winter will be mild." Then she goes to inform us that she and Christie may return to Singapore in mid-October for a month.

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THE GOSPEL RALLY

The Church was still uncompleted. Some of the window panes were not fitted in as yet. Thank God we had electricity but there were no fans.

At 7.30 p.m. on the 20th August 1973, the first notes of music were heard from the Church premises. This attracted the attention of the residents nearby.

The Trinity Methodist Church Choir started off the Rally with beautiful singing. A short welcome address and a brief history of the church by Bishop Yap. More Singing and owed by D e message from the Dr. James. 7 people put up their hands to confirm the fact that they had made decisions that night and on that note the months of preparation ended and the long awaited Gospel Rally at the Toa Payoh Methodist Church, Singapore began.

- Lorna Khoo

BIG SWEEP AT TRINITY

On the 6th September 1973 our young people from the MYF will spend one day of MYF Week in cleaning the Church. Care to join them?

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 \* M. Y. F. \*  
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### THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

In a short interview with the President of the M.Y.F., Mr. Stephen Tan, I learnt that the MYF though progressing with time is still losing some of their members due to lack of interest. He also did mention that though some lead spiritual lives there are others who need help in order to cultivate a spiritual mode of living. Mr. Stephen Tan also expressed his desire to meet church members who have had experience in Youth Work. He hopes that they will come forward and volunteer as Counsellors of the MYF.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Trinity Methodist Youth Fellowship will be held on the 30th September 1973 from 3.30 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

### SALE OF CHRISTMAS CARDS

During the School Holidays you will be visited by teams of our Youth who will be approaching you with samples of a beautiful Christmas Card which is being produced by them. Do take a look at the Card which portrays a beautiful colored picture of last year's Nativity Scene and place your orders with those who visit you. By this action our MYF'ers also hope to get to know you better and have fellowship with you.

### M.Y.F. WEEK AT TRINITY

Our M.Y.F'ers will be observing MYF WEEK during their holidays from the 1st September to the 8th September 1973.

PROGRAMME: 1st Sept. Saturday - Concert & Dinner  
 4th Sept. Tuesday - Outing  
 6th Sept. Thursday - Cleaning-up the Church  
 8th Sept. Saturday - Games & Snacks

A retreat for all Council members will be held during the week.

### SINGAPORE DISTRICT MYF

The Singapore District MYF will be holding a "Bible Reading Competition" and a "Verse Memory Competition" on the 2nd September 1973, at 3 p.m., at Barker Road.

You are invited to witness the competitions.

Annual General Meeting of the District MYF will be held on 20th September, 3 p.m., at Wesley Church.

# SIXTEENTH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

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ANNIVERSARY BUFFET DINNER \* FRIDAY, 14th SEPTEMBER 1973

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME \* \* \* \*

- \* Introductory Remarks
- \* Prayer - The Doxology
- \* The Anniversary Cake
  - + Blowing of Anniversary candles ) - by
  - + Cutting of Anniversary Cake ) - Rev. & Mrs. Smith

Venue: The Church Grounds

AFTER THE DINNER, AT 9.15 p.m., A MUSICAL PROGRAMME

IN THE CHURCH

BY THE . . . .

CHURCH CHOIR singing .. & THE MYF SINGERS singing ...

- |                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Go Down Moses                 | * No one to depend on |
| When the Stars begin to fall    | Searching             |
| Down by the Riverside           | Blowing in the Wind   |
| Lord, I want to be a Christian  | Nowhere man           |
| Roll Jordan Roll                | Reach out for me      |
| I'm so glad                     | LOVE is surrender     |
| A Quartet                       | Sounds of silence     |
| The loveliest night of the year | There is someone      |
| When Irish eyes are smiling     | Reach out to Jesus    |
| My inspiration                  | A New Mind            |
| Hi-li li, Hi lo                 | I believe God is real |
| One day when we were young      | Pass it on            |
| Oklahoma Encore                 | The wonder of you     |

SIXTEENTH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

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"ENTER INTO HIS GATES & CHURCH WITH THANKSGIVING . . . . ."

THE ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE IS THE MAIN EVENT OF OUR  
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS . LET US ALL COME WITH HEARTS FULL OF  
THANKSGIVING FOR THE MANY BLESSINGS WE HAVE RECEIVED IN THE  
PAST YEAR. PREACHER: REV. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

S E R V I C E   O F   T H A N K S G I V I N G   A T

1 0 . 0 0   A . M .

SUNDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> S E P T E M B E R

YOUR PRESENCE & PRESENTS ARE INDICATIVE OF YOUR THANKSGIVING

A N D

AFTER PARTAKING OF SPIRITUAL FOOD Y O U MUST NOT MISS

THE BUMPER FOOD FAIR WITH SUCH DELICIOUS FOOD AS:-

Mee Siam	Dumplings
Poh Piah	Fried Bee Hoon
Hor Pau	Assorted Cakes
Lak Sar	Chendol Drink
Kuay Pai Tee	Glutinous Rice
Century Egg Porridge	Yong Tow Foo
Hamburgers	Curry Rice
Chin Chow Drink	Butter Cookies
Fish-balls Soup	

THE BUMPER FOOD FAIR WILL BE HELD AFTER THE  
ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE FROM 11.15 a.m. TILL  
ALL FOOD IS SOLD OUT

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CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

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- 1 Sat. MYF (Trinity) WEEK BEGINS  
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS BEGIN.  
4.00 p.m. MYF Bible Class  
7.00 p.m. MYF Concert/Dinner
- 2 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS  
10.00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - Rev. Robert Foster  
3.30 P.M. MYF MEETING  
5.30 P.M. COMMUNION SERVICE - Rev. Michael Wong
- 4 Tue. The Smith Family return to Singapore  
MYF outing
- 5 Wed. 8.00 p.m. Bible Study Fellowship
- 6 Thu. 8.00 p.m. Anniversary Committee Meeting  
MYF BIG CLEAN UP OF CHURCH
- 7 Fri. 8.00 p.m. Choir Practice
- 8 Sat. 4.00 p.m. MYF Bible Class  
4.30 p.m. Wedding at Trinity Methodist Church  
Parish Meeting  
7.00 p.m. MYF Games & Snacks  
MYF WEEK ENDS
- 9 SUN. SOCIAL CONCERNS SUNDAY  
8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS  
10.00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE - The Pastor  
3.30 P.M. MYF MEETING  
5.30 P.M. WORSHIP SERVICE - The Pastor  
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS END
- 12 Wed. 8.00 p.m. Bible Study Fellowship
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- SEPTEMBER 14TH. 7.30 P.M. ANNIVERSARY DINNER at the  
Church Compound  
8.00 P.M. MUSICAL EVENING
- \*\*\*\*\*
- 15 Sat. 4.00 p.m. MYF Bible Study
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- SEPTEMBER 16TH. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS  
10.00 A.M. ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE  
11.30-1.00 P.M. FOOD FAIR  
5.30 P.M. EVENING SERVICE - The Pastor
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- 19 Wed. Bible Bible Study Fellowship
- 21 Fri. 8.00 p.m. Choir Practice
- 22 Sat. 4.00 p.m. MYF Bible Class
- 23 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
- 10.00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP - Miss Miriam Gruber
- 5.30 P.M. WORSHIP SERVICE - The Pastor
- 26 Wed. 8.00 P.M. Bible Study Fellowship
- 28 Fri. 8.00 p.m. Choir Practice
- 29 Sat. Singapore District Social Concerns Seminar on "Christian Participation in the Campaign against Drug Abuse."
- 4.00 p.m. MYF Bible Study
- 30 SUN. Singapore District Social Concerns Seminar on "Christian Participation in the Campaign against Drug Abuse."
- 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
- 10.00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE - The Pastor
- 3.30 P.M. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - M.Y.F.
- 5.30 P.M. WORSHIP SERVICE - Mr. Lam Yet Seng.

#### SINGAPORE DISTRICT SOCIAL CONCERNS SEMINAR

The Singapore District Social Concerns Committee is planning a Seminar on "CHRISTIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG ABUSE" to be held on Saturday 29th September and Sunday 30th September at the Toa Payoh Methodist Church. It is expected that some two hundred people will attend the Seminar. Those interested are asked to contact the pastor or Chairman of our Social Concerns Committee.

#### THE CHURCH SHALL LIVE

The Paya Lebar Methodist Church is planning to organise for the lay people of the Paya Lebar and Pothia Churches a Lay Training Course entitled "THE CHURCH SHALL LIVE".

This is a grand opportunity for all lay people to go through a set of lessons prepared by Rev. Denver Stone.

Those interested are requested to immediately contact Miss Phyllis Kwok, Chairman Christian Education, Trinity Methodist Church. Further details will be furnished at a later date.

#### PLEDGE NOTE

We are nearing the end of the Conference year 1972/73. Have you fulfilled your pledge for the furtherance of His Work on Earth through Trinity Methodist Church, Singapore?



or "How interesting!" when somebody tells you "That's the City Hall" and "There's the padang" and "This is Clifford Pier". There's a take-it-or-leave-it kind of situation, quite different from the give-and-take of real meeting between persons. We become students in the lecture room, slavishly taking down notes of the professor's opinions, but wishing that we felt less like empty bottles being filled with water.

Conversation - the encounter between two or more persons - includes expression and response, and perhaps also command and decision. It is not necessary (indeed it can deaden the whole interchange) for either the expression or the command to be completely detailed and explicit for every 'i' to be dotted and every 't' crossed. Much is taken for granted, much is implied, for room must be left for a genuine response, the throwing back of the ball which enables the 'game' to go on.

And as I think of these things, I am persuaded that this is the way God deals with us. He does not simply instruct or command: he invites us to join Him in conversation, he speaks and awaits our response. He treats us as persons in fact. He hints, he suggests, he challenges, he says: "Son of man, stand upon your feet and I will speak with you:" "Come" "Follow." Perhaps he always speaks to us "in parables", as Jesus did: wondering what we will make of what he says and what we will do about it. He made us "responsible" people - needing to pay attention but able to respond.

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M.Y.F. SUNDAY Sunday 19th August saw our Youth, inspired the Holy Spirit, impart a very vital and important message - the message on Prayer; and what was revealed to you on MYF Sunday is not to be lightly taken. I hope that you grasped the reality of what was depicted and with the help of the Spirit you will move towards the correct way to PRAY. In their Personal Testimonies, they told us how in their troubles, disbelief, problems, in their grief and sorrow God revealed His presence and nearness to them and how he renewed their strength. You were challenged by them to pray and pray correctly for prayer works wonders.

As our young people go on growing in their Spiritual Life I sincerely hope that all of you will help them onward and say a little prayer for them. -----Wilfred.