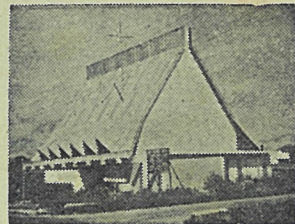


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

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SINGAPORE-19



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

JANUARY, FEBRUARY 1974

THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Time is the inexplicable material of everything. With it, all is possible; without it, nothing. The supply of time is a daily miracle. You wake up in the morning and lo ! your purse is filled with 24 hours of the unmanufactured tissue of your life! It is the most precious of your possessions. You have to live on this 24 hours of daily time. Out of it you have to spin health, pleasure, money, content, respect and the evolution of your immortal soul. Its right use, its most effective use, is a matter of the highest urgency.

- Arnold Bennett -

The child says, "When I am a big boy! But what is that? The big boy says, "When I grow up". And then, grown up, he says, "When I get married". But to be married, what is that after all? The thought changes to "When I am able to retire! And then when retirement comes, he looks back over the landscape traversed: somehow he has missed it all, and it is gone. Life, we learn too late, is in the living, in the tissue of every day and hour.

- Stephen Leacock -

He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside, He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word, "Follow thou me!" and sets us to the tasks which he has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey

OUR TRINITY FAMILY

NEW ARRIVAL To Mr & Mrs Lim Leong Siung, a third daughter, born on December 1973.

CALLED HOME One of our oldest members, Mr Khoo Thiam Swee, passed away on 20 December 1973 at Outram Road, G.H. after an operation, at the age of 84. Mr Khoo has been house-bound for a number of years because of his age, but has maintained his links with Trinity Church through the sacrament of Holy Communion which he received each month at his home in Dunbar Walk, Singapore 15. His son, Mr Khoo Teng Son, is Editor-in-Chief of the Straits Times, and Rev Chew Hock Hin was his brother-in-law. We express our sincere sympathy to all members of the bereaved family.

UNITED BY GOD in Christian marriage at Trinity Church on 8 December were two of our Sunday School teachers, Chan Chong Hiok and Lai Seow Keet. In the unexpected absence of the pastor, the service was conducted by Elder T.C. Koh of the Bethesda Church, Katong.

CONGRATULATIONS to Victor Goh on his engagement to Miss Ivy Yap on 24 December.

WE SHALL MISS Edwin Tan as he returns to complete his studies at Sheffield University after being deferred from National Service on health grounds. He has contributed much to the life of the church during his months here.

WE WERE PRIVILEGED to have the distinguished soprano, Miss Mabel Lee Soo Bee, as our guest soloist on 6 January. Miss Lee, who is the daughter of Mr & Mrs Lee Teck Hock, presents a public recital at the Victoria Theatre on 14 January at 8.30 p.m.

THE CHURCH CHOIR sang the Christmas Cantata 'Carol of Christmas' (Peterson) on Sunday 23 December, with Miss Violet Tan conducting and Mrs Chew Chin Jin at the organ.

WE SEND OUR LOYAL GREETINGS to our new Bishop Theodore R. Doraisamy, and will continue to support him with our prayers as he begins his wider ministry among us.

A CHAIN OF INCREDIBLES from Leslie Weatherhead

I find evidences of the existence of God in both mind and heart. Take first the mind. Tell me you can find any broken link of logic in the following chain of argument.

1. It is incredible to me that the universe 'just happened' accidentally and fortuitously. Much in the universe is meaningless to me, but there are a few marks of purpose, as for example the ways the cells in the human embryo seem differently determined some to make nerve, some bone, some brain, some teeth, and go to their appointed places at the appointed time..... So I find the marks of a mind in the universe.
2. It is incredible to me that this mind is not in some ways like my own mind. If it did not in some way work like my own, I should not perceive what I call 'purpose' or 'orderliness' to be thus..... So I find a kinship between the world-mind and my own.
3. It is incredible to me that my sense of values is all wrong; I regard love as better than hate, kindness as better than cruelty, humility as better than pride, self-sacrifice better than egotism. It is incredible to me that beastliness is better than loveliness, Hitler a better man than Jesus, a cosh-boy better than St. Francis.
4. It is incredible to me that the creative mind does not possess and express these values. (I now give the word 'God' to this creative mind.) If god does not love, and is not ultimately good, then I am better than God, for I try to express these values, and I feel better when I do express them and worse when I deny them.
5. It is incredible to me that this creative mind has no personality; that God is 'it' but not 'he', a thing not a person, since personality is my greatest asset. He may be far more than I mean when I use the word 'personal'. It is incredible to me that He is less.
6. It is incredible to me that this powerful, creative, personal Planner has no purpose in humanity..... I plan for my children's highest well-being as I conceive it. Does God do less?

(see page 6)

WAITING FOR RESULTS - WANTING TO GROW?

Here is an opportunity, either for those who are awaiting their examination results or for others who want to grow in their Christian understanding!

Trinity Theological College offers the following courses, continuing to the end of March:-

CHURCH & MISSION (Dr Karl Hammar)	Tues & Thurs	9.00-9.50 A.M.
SOCIAL ISSUES (Dr Ray Nyce)	Mon & Fri	2.30-3.20 P.M.
PASTORAL COUNSELLING (Dr Albert Dalton)	Tu & Th	3.30-4.20 P.M.
PERSONAL EVANGELISM (Dr George Wan)	Wed. eve	7.30-9.30 P.M.
CHILD MINISTRY (Miss Margaret Thomas)	Thur. eve	7.30-9.30 P.M.

Token fees for these one-term courses are \$10 (for the first course taken) and \$5 (for each additional course).

We realise that those of you who are working will not be able to join the morning or afternoon classes, but the two evening classes might be extremely valuable to those involved in teaching children (or being parents!) and concerned to share their faith with others. The "Personal Evangelism" course begins on 30 Jan'y.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING BY REV. DENVER STONE

We are happy to announce that Rev. Denver Stone, District Missionary in the Selangor District and formerly pastor of the Pentecost Methodist Church in Singapore, has promised to conduct an afternoon session on

'LEADERSHIP TRAINING'
at Trinity Methodist Church, Singapore
on Saturday, 16th February
at 2.30 p.m.

All are invited to share in this training opportunity, which will be open also to members of other churches in the District. Those who heard Rev. Stone at the W.S.C.S. Annual Conference have spoken enthusiastically of the help and inspiration that he gave them. There will be a nominal registration fee of 50 cts for the session.

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to Mr & Mrs Ernest Kan, Linda, Bernard and Anthony, and to other members of the family, at the passing of Mrs Kan's mother, Madam Chan Yuet Keong, at the age of 73, in the Outram Road G.H. on Monday 21st January 1974.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 1974

- 1 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 3 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 - 5 A.G.M. OF COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, MALAYSIA/SINGAPORE in
 Kuala Lumpur
- 6 Wed. 9.30 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION for the house-bound and aged
 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 8 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 9 Sat. 4.30 P.M. MONTHLY PARISH MEETING
- 10 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Victor Goh
 12.00 NOON Worship Service at Woodbridge Hospital
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 13 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 15 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 16 Sat. 2.30 P.M. LEADERSHIP TRAINING SESSION led by the Rev.
 Denver Stone, Kuala Lumpur
- 17 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
 11.15 A.M. LOCAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 20 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 22 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 24 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
 12.00 NOON Worship Service at Woodbridge Hospital
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Lam Yet Seng
- 27 Wed. Ash Wednesday Lent begins
 7.45 P.M. LENTEN BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse

EDWIN TAN has returned to the University of Sheffield where he is working on his thesis for a Ph.D in Chemical Engineering. He says he misses his Trinity friends very much.

CHOY YIN LOY writes excitedly about a recent holiday 'safari' in Australia, when they were held up for days by widespread floods and slept rough, under canvas or in sheep-shearing sheds!

(Continued from Page 3)

7. It is incredible to me that God has done nothing about sin and suffering, since it is the greatest hindrance to the success of His planning, and suffering the greatest stumbling-block to man's belief in Him.....
8. It is incredible to me that God has not disclosed His purposes, since, by His own ordaining, they can only reach fruition by man's conscious cooperation. Man's enlightened conscience, his standard of values, his insight, his reaction to the words and lives of others, help him to read God's purposes. The Bible comes in here. To the Christian it is the supreme revelation of His nature and purposes.
9. It is incredible to me that Jesus Christ was mentally unbalanced, or wholly misreported, or hopelessly mistaken when He claimed to stand in a unique relationship with God, or that the early Church and the saints were wrong when they saw in His death and resurrection and life after death facts importantly relevant to the redeeming purpose of God.
10. It is incredible to me that man does not survive death. The nature of God, the nature of man, the rationality of the universe, the faith of the mystics would all be indicted if man does not survive. All men have embryonic qualities which only become meaningful in a life that begins at 'death'. No man at death has exhausted his possibilities.
11. It is incredible to me that Christianity is false or irrelevant to man's problems. One only knows a few good Christians, but they claim that Christ has changed their lives. No one can doubt that it would be a wonderful world if it were full of them. What problems would remain if all men were like Christ?
12. It is incredible to me that the Mighty Planner we call God can finally be defeated. Ignorance, folly and sin can temporarily defeat His will and bring suffering and frustration to men. But omnipotence, while it does not mean that everything that happens is His intention, does mean that in allowing its power God knows He can use it for a higher purpose, namely man's ultimate welfare and blessedness.

These things make me want to dedicate my life to Him and to be used, however humbly, in the working out of His mighty plan. For myself, I cannot find any flaw in that argument... which brings me to a belief in a personal, loving, purposeful and finally Omnipotent God who in Christ is the world's Redeemer. We cannot pretend that reason makes it possible for us to say that there is no God. The mind cries out against atheism...

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE

gifts to the Building Fund in memory of the late Mr Lim Eng Hoe from Mrs Lim and the family;

in memory of the late Mr Cheong Kam Hing from his family;

and in memory of the late Mr Khoo Thiam Swee from members of the family and friends;

Anniversary 'bricks' from Mr & Mrs Lawrence Pang, Mr & Mrs Peter Lai, Mr & Mrs Robert Cheok, Miss Violet Tan;

Thanksgiving Gifts from Mr & Mrs Lee Eng Hoe, Mr & Mrs Michael Ong Swee Lee, Dr & Mrs Alan Tay, Mr & Mrs W.H. Henley, Mr & Mrs Wei Chong Seng, Anonymous (\$50), Mr Edward Chua, Mrs J. Low, Mrs Alice Yap, Mr & Mrs E.K. Liew, Mr & Mrs Malcolm Roderick, Miss Ho Lek Cheng, Mrs E. Hardy;

Christmas Offerings from Mr & Mrs T.S. Khoo, Mr & Mrs Peter Low, Mr & Mrs Lee Eng Hoe, Mrs Eunice Tan, Mr & Mrs Kwan Chee Yew, Anon. (\$100), Mr & Mrs Ong Cheng Yam, Dr & Mrs Khor Tong Hong, Eileen & Eddie Tang, Mrs Catherine Pang, Mr & Mrs Tan Keng Hian and family, Mr & Mrs Ong Thiam Kok, Mr & Mrs Chiang Hai Chew, Miss Lelia Seow, Mr & Mrs Tay Soon Hock, Madam Susie Gan, Mrs A. Lee, Mr & Mrs Lim Tin Soon, Mr & Mrs Tan Hoay Djin, Wee Chin Huat, Mr Teo Chien Hoon, Mr & Mrs Goh Siak Juay, Edwin & Clifton Tan, Mr & Mrs Ong Seng Geok, Mr & Mrs Samuel Teo, Mr & Mrs Wee Chye Huat, Mr Yip Fook Yoon, Mrs Harriet Chua, Mr Low Kway Song, Mr & Mrs Tan Tiam Guan, Mr & Mrs Yeo Kim Kiat, Mr & Mrs E. Samuel, Mr & Mrs Ronnie Kwok, Miss Lilian Seow, Mr Frederick Wong and many other anonymous donors.

Christmas Flowers donated by Mrs Alice Goh and Mrs Tan Hin Jin, in loving memory of their late parents, Mr Woon Chow Kit and Madam Shimi Wonn.

Christmas Offerings on Christmas Day and the Sunday preceding totalled \$2,124.

We express our thanks to all these generous givers, known and unknown and also to the M.Y.F. who have been selling their own Christmas cards, depicting last year's Nativity Scene, in aid of the Building Fund. More than \$600 was paid in by the MYFers from this source before the end of 1973.

"GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON....."

Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the sufferings which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience Who He is.

- Albert Schweitzer -

SALUTATION TO THE DAWN

Look to this day!
For it is life, the very life of life!
In its brief course
Lie all the verities and realities of your existence:
 the bliss of growth
 the glory of action
 the splendour of beauty.
For yesterday is but a dream,
And tomorrow is only a vision,
But today well lived makes every yesterday
 a dream of happiness
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.
Look well, therefore, to this day!
Such is the salutation to the dawn.

- Kalidasa -

You understand, Lord, they simply haven't the time. The child is playing, he hasn't time right now ... Later on ...
The schoolboy has his homework to do, he hasn't time ... Later on
The student has his courses, and so much work, he hasn't time ...
 Later on ...
The young man is at his sports, he hasn't time ... Later on ...
The young married man has his new house, he has to fix it up,
 he hasn't time ... Later on ...
The grandparents have their grandchildren, they haven't time ...
 Later on ...
They are ill, they have their treatments, they haven't time ...
 Later on ...
They are dying, they have no ... Too late! They have no more time!
You who are beyond time, Lord, you smile to see us fighting it.
And you know what you are doing.
You make no mistake in your distribution of time to men. You give
each one time to do what you want him to do. - M. Quoist -