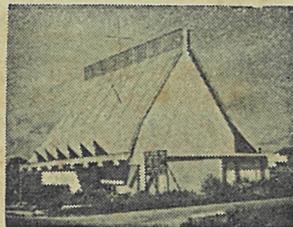


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY
SINGAPORE-19



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

MARCH 1974

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A COFFEE HOUSE?

Some of you will have heard hints, during recent months, of an idea to open a coffee house at Trinity, and you may have wondered what it was all about. You have probably said to yourself, What has a coffee house to do with the life of a Methodist congregation? Let me try to set you in the picture.

The idea grew out of the District Seminar organised by the Commission on Christian Social Concerns in September last year, to consider "Christian Participation in the Campaign against Drug Abuse." A number of speakers at that seminar had emphasised the important social problems which appear to underlie much of the drug scene. Local drug abusers are more likely to come from homes where there is little security or understanding, and to be found among lonely young people trying to find some group to which they can feel they belong.

Faced with the question, What can concerned Christians do to help people like this? two suggestions made an impression on some of our Trinity young people who were present. First, the challenge thrown out to the Church to become the kind of warm, accepting, 'open' community that it ought to be, from which no person need feel himself excluded; and secondly, the criticism levelled against so many churches, that the buildings they possess are under-used, and (one might say) selfishly used for the church's own private purposes. Might not our premises, it was suggested, be used as a place where lonely young people could meet each other in an environment healthier than the street-corner 'gang'.

Hence the idea of the coffee-house. We looked at our own premises - still very limited until this year's Extension plans can

TRINITY FAMILY NEWS

NEW ARRIVAL To Bernard and Nancy Tan of 30-E, Clementi Estate (5) a daughter, Adele, born at Kandang Kerbau Hospital on February 20th 1974

ADULT BAPTISM On Sunday 3rd March at Trinity Methodist Church, Miss Lim Poh Lan & Miss Lim Poh Chan

NEW MEMBERS We welcome into the fellowship of the Church:
Mr & Mrs Wee Sip Ghee of 85, Highland Road (19) by Certificate of Transfer from Wesley Methodist Church, Penang
Miss Lim Poh Lan & Miss Lim Poh Chan of 22, Berwick Drive (19) on Confession of Faith

Mr Wee is employed by Singapura Building Society Ltd. and was chairman of the Property Committee at Wesley, Penang. Mrs Wee was the W.S.C.S. President before coming back to Singapore, and used to help weekly in the arrangement of church flowers.

The Misses Lim were both Matrons in Singapore Hospitals before their retirement. Previously they were associated with the Kampong Kapor and Wesley congregations.

Please add these new names and addresses to your Church Directory, with the telephone numbers:-

Wee (889416) & Lim (882957)

LEAVING SOON In the middle of March, Mr Tonni Wei will be leaving for the United Kingdom on a special S.A.F. scholarship to Kneller Hall, Twickenham, Middx, which is the Royal College of Military Music. Tonni, a talented and versatile musician both as vocalist and instrumentalist, was President of the M.Y.F. before entering on his period of National Service. We shall miss his quiet charm and helpfulness, and wish him well in this exciting new venture

MONTHLY PARISH MEETING this month will be held at the home of Mr & Mrs Tan Keng Hian, 43 Lengkok Angsa (9) on Saturday, 9 March at 4.30 p.m. Transport leaves the church at 4 p.m. Town members especially, please note!

 WEDNESDAY EVENING TRAINING COURSE

Under the leadership of the pastor and Madam Khor Peck Hoon, a weekly Training Course under the title: "PREPARING TO HELP PEOPLE" is being conducted each Wednesday night at 41, Taman Serangoon.

The course, which is being attended by twenty five persons (two thirds of them of M.Y.F. age), began on 13 February and will continue until 17 April, omitting the Wednesday night in Holy Week when the church will be holding one of its Passiontide services. It is designed to make us more effective in dealing helpfully with needy and anxious people, by fostering an awareness of the ways in which people relate to one another. There are talks, discussion and role-playing in small groups, through which we are gradually making some progress in our ability to put ourselves in somebody else's place and see things from their point of view.

Many of us are very fond of telling other people what they ought to do. We say, "If I were you, I would do this or that ..." when what we really mean is "If you were me, you would do this or that ...", which is a very different matter. We find it almost impossible to restrain ourselves from giving advice or from expressing ourselves very forcibly on the subject of right and wrong! On the other hand, because we want to be helpful and have sensitive consciences, people can easily make us feel guilty by making demands upon us that we are unable to meet.

The training class is helping us to discover, not only how other people are likely to react, but a good deal also about our own needs and hang-ups. It is valuable to have a group like this in which all of us can participate. This class is now full and we will not be able to accept any more members; but perhaps, if needed, we can organise something similar at a later date. Topics dealt with are:-

20 February	The Importance of Listening
27 February	How we help
6 March	Befriending
13 March	How people grow
20 March	Problems of Youth
27 March	Sex Problems
3 April	Background to Drug Dependency
17 April	Goals and Ideals

We wish more of the older members had been able to join us!

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 * CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MARCH *
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- 1 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
 A.C.S. OLD BOYS' DINNER in School Auditorium
- 3 SUN. First Sunday in Lent
 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
- 6 Wed. 7.45 P.M. PREPARING TO HELP PEOPLE "Befriending"
 at 41, Taman Serangoon
- 8 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 9 Sat. 4.30 P.M. MONTHLY PARISH MEETING at home of Mr & Mrs
 Tan Keng Hian, 43, Lengkok Angsa (9). Cars
 leave Trinity Church at 4 p.m.
- 10 SUN. Second Sunday in Lent
 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Dr Bobby Sng (F.E.S.)
 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. PREPARING TO HELP PEOPLE "How People Grow"
 at 41, Taman Serangoon
- 15 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 17 SUN. Third Sunday in Lent
 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
 in the Basement
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 20 Wed. 7.45 P.M. PREPARING TO HELP PEOPLE "Problems of Youth"
 at 41, Taman Serangoon
- 22 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 24 SUN. Fourth Sunday in Lent
 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Victor Goh (C.C.C.)

- 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
- 27 Wed. 7.45 P.M. PREPARING TO HELP PEOPLE "Sex Problems"
- 29 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 31 SUN. Fifth Sunday in Lent
 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Lam Yet Seng

THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING will be held in town this month at the home of our Church Treasurer, Mr & Mrs Tan Keng Hian. The Tan Family, with Maureen & Melvyn, have been part of the life of Trinity Church since its earliest days, and we look forward to a happy gathering on 9th March. A film will be shown.

VETERANS OF THE CROSS SUNDAY on 3rd March is a day when we remember retired pastors, many of whom have given long years of service to the Methodist Church. At the last meeting of the Singapore Malaysia Annual Conference, the rate for the pension paid to retired pastors was raised after the Annual Budget had been approved. The Communion Offering on this Sunday will therefore be given to the Pastors' Pension Fund. Please give generously! You may not know that a retired pastor at present - **EVEN AFTER THE INCREASE** - only receives \$4 per month for every year of service. (i.e. after 25 years in the ministry, he will receive a pension of \$100 per month). We hope you will not only give generously, but also start looking for ways and means of increasing this tiny sum - which is pitiful in these days of spiralling prices!

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

A group of about twenty persons met in the Basement on the 16th February for an afternoon of Leadership Training under the guidance of Rev. Denver Stone from Kuala Lumpur. We were disappointed at the attendance, especially after the rigours of a long-delayed train journey which Mr Stone had had to face. Only one representative turned up from the other Singapore churches to which invitations had been sent. This was a pity, for he had much to teach us - and we have much to learn!

NEWS IN BRIEF

+++ The Bangkok Office of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) has been closed, following the appointment of our former bishop Dr Yap Kim Hao as General Secretary, and the new headquarters are located in the premises of the Methodist Church, Toa Payoh. Among the CCA Secretariat who will be stationed in Singapore is Mr Lee Soc Jin (Secretary, Communications), the younger son of Mr & Mrs Lee Teck Hock. (CCA News) +++++

+++ Eleven young Christian leaders in Seoul, Korea were arrested on the morning of January 17, on charges of violating the President's decree of January 8, which banned all criticism of the present constitution and advocacy of constitutional revision.

They were arrested shortly after they issued a statement calling for the immediate withdrawal of the President's decree, the freedom to discuss the revision of the constitution and the restoration of democratic order in Korea. This statement was the first of its kind made after the presidential decree. Contents of the statement were not released in any Korean newspaper.

If convicted by a military tribunal, those arrested face a maximum penalty of 13 years imprisonment. (CCA News) +++++

+++ EXPLO' 74 - Preparations for EXPLO' 74 - the International Training Congress on Evangelism in Seoul, Korea from August 13-18 are now well advanced. The closing date for registration has been extended to 17 March, and those interested in the possibility of attending the Congress should contact Victor Goh or Ivy Yap, or Chan Chong Hiok.

Arrangements have been made with Bishop Doraisamy for the film EXPLO' 72 to be shown to Methodist pastors and church leaders at 15, Shelford Road (11) on Monday 11 March at 7.30 p.m.

All are cordially invited to this film show. There will be opportunity for questions about EXPLO' 74. +++++

+++ ALDERSGATE CONVENTION 1974 Have you booked to attend the 4th Aldersgate Convention, which is to be held at the University, Petaling Jaya?

This year's Convention is being opened to all English-speaking Methodists in the different Conferences of the Methodist Church in Singapore & Malaysia. There is a place available for you. +++++

"He who has a WHY to live for can bear with almost any HOW"

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE

We would like to say thank you to all who so faithfully help to maintain the work and witness of Trinity Church by their regular generous giving.

Pledges received during January and February totalled \$ 3,213, with Open Offerings of \$ 1,293.

Special Gifts and Thankofferings were received from Mrs Tan Kim Tee, Serangoon Garden Secondary Technical School Christian Group, Mr & Mrs W. Henley, Mr Percy Chew, Miss Jane Choo, Miss P. Baruch, Mr & Mrs Choo Poh Siong, Mr & Mrs Goh Peng Hian, and from Mrs Alice Goh & Mrs Tan Hin Jin in loving memory of their late father. Also Mrs Clara Chan and Dr & Mrs Alan Tay.

Gifts designated for the Building & Extension Fund were received from Mr & Mrs T.S.Khoo, Miss Khoo Koh Hee and the W.S.C.S., with contributions for 'Anniversary Bricks' from Yip Fook Yoon, Chan Chong Hiok and Mr & Mrs Tan Keng Hian, Mauræen and Melvyn.

For those considering full-time Christian Service in the Church

LIFE SERVICE RETREAT 1974

SMAC LIFE SERVICE RETREAT will be held at the Methodist Centre, Port Dickson between May 4 - 6, 1974.

It is especially intended for those who are seriously considering full-time Christian Service within the Church as their life work.

Only those who have completed SEC. IV or ABOVE should apply.

The Retreat is being sponsored by concerned friends, so that nobody need be kept away on the ground of expense. Board and lodging will be free, but applicants will be responsible for their travel expenses to and from Port Dickson.

Further details and Registration Forms may be obtained from the Pastor, who would also be happy to receive and forward donations towards Retreat Expenses.

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* THE CALL *
* The ministry is a matter *
* of pure grace and favour; *
* who then will dare to *
* enter into it without a *
* divine call! There is no- *
* thing in which a king *
* would willingly be more ab- *
* solute than in the choice *
* of his ministers. And shall *
* we dare to contest and take *
* away this right from the *
* King of Kings? *
* * * * *

be completed - and wondered about the possibility of applying a little imagination and a coat of paint or two, so that the basement could be transformed into a little coffee-house each Saturday night - with small tables and attractive cloths, suitable lighting (or even suitable gloom!) and the sort of music young people enjoy and appreciate - a place that would be open to young people in the estate who might care to drop in for coffee or a cold drink, biscuits too perhaps.

Whenever it was open, we thought, we would have four or more committed young people from the church who would be available to talk to any lonely person, and to be talked to by anybody who wanted to talk; sensitive young people, with a deep, Christ-given concern for others, not trying to proselytize or pressure them, and certainly not wanting to exploit another's need or loneliness, but ready and able to get alongside them and be their friends. There might well be the opportunity sometimes to speak directly of their faith, if that was what the other wanted to do - but there would always be opportunities for being (if it doesn't sound too pious) Christ-centred, Christ-directed friends.

We would need other young people (some of the younger ones, maybe) to do the serving; and we would need, each night the coffee house was open, at least a couple of dedicated, equipped older members, to accept the responsibility of general oversight of what was going on, and to be available, hopefully, to do more counselling type of work if this should ever be needed.

We recognised some of the problems involved, and we talked these over in the Outreach Committee. To open our doors to all kinds of people that we do not know means accepting the risk that an invitation might be abused. It would mean facing the fact that our young people, participating in the project, would be brought into contact with others of whom their parents might not approve - with all the risks that this could involve. It would mean proper control and supervision of what was going on each Saturday night, and during the week, and drawing up some fairly clear guide lines, which would allow maximum effectiveness as a genuine 'meeting-point' and yet give adequate protection to all those involved.

Most of all, we recognised that the project could never succeed, unless the congregation as a whole was prepared, with open eyes, to undertake a completely new kind of outreach, and to accept the uncertainties which any new venture such as this must entail. We hope therefore that you will complete the enclosed questionnaire, and give us your honest reaction to the idea.