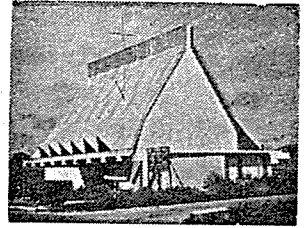


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY
SINGAPORE-19



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PARSONAGE:

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PASTORS' MESSAGE

AUGUST 1974

CHURCH EXTENSION PLANS

The plans drawn up by our architects, Edwin S.H. Choo and Partners, are making good progress through the planning department, and there is every likelihood that within a few weeks they will be approved. We are glad about this, for we very much need the extended facilities the new buildings will provide.

But the speed with which they are moving towards approval imposes on us an added sense of urgency as we seek to raise the large sum of money needed to realise them in bricks and mortar. The Planning Authority's approval of any plans is contingent upon the work being commenced within a specified period and completed by an agreed date. So far as our church plans are concerned, their approval is based upon the expectation that work will begin on January 1st, 1975 and be completed within eighteen months. By the first of next year, therefore, the plans will have to be approved, put out to tender, and a building contract signed.

However, the Trustees of the Methodist Church, who form the legal property-holding body for all Methodist premises and land, will not sign a contract for any new building unless and until 75% of the total amount required under the contract is actually in hand. In our case, this means that no contract can be signed until we have raised about \$250,000 in actual cash donations, firm pledges or by loans. Hence, within about the next three months, we have to reach this sum, so that a contract can be signed allowing operations to begin by the beginning of the year. Without this, the planning approval will lapse, and we shall be back at square one - needing to resubmit plans, as well as pay whatever liabilities have been incurred during this period.

TRINITY FAMILY NEWS

WE EXPRESS OUR SYMPATHY to Nonee and Vincent Teo, as they mourn the death of Nonee's mother, Madam Chan Tang Quay on Monday 5th August at the age of 72 years.

WELCOME TO OUR FELLOWSHIP, by certificate of transfer from First United Methodist Church, Clanton, Alabama U.S.A., Mr & Mrs W. Douglas Henley of 19, Jalan Miriam. The Henleys, and their three delightful daughters have worshipped regularly with us since the family arrived in Singapore in the latter part of last year, but they have been dogged by difficulties throughout their time here. Some weeks ago, Mrs Henley had to return to the United States because of her mother-in-law's terminal illness, and about the time when the older Mrs Henley passed away, her daughter in-law had herself to enter hospital for major surgery. Let us offer our prayers on their behalf as we gladly welcome these new friends from overseas.

OFF FOR EXPLO '74 Leaving Singapore on 11 August to attend the Congress on Evangelism, called EXPLO '74, to be held in Seoul, Korea, are six members or friends of Trinity Church:-

Mr & Mrs Victor Goh Hng Hang

Mr & Mrs Chan Chong Hiok

Mr Lee Park Ming

& Mr Chan Chong Khai

They will form part of the group of 103 delegates from Singapore who will share in the weeklong Congress with thousands of others from all parts of the world. Campus Crusade for Christ, who are responsible for organising the Congress, expect as many as 300,000 to attend some of the public meetings.

MONTHLY PARISH MEETING This is an opportunity to meet fellow-members under less formal conditions than is usual at our Sunday worship. This month we are holding a combined meeting with members of Kampong Kapor Methodist Church at the home of Mrs Helen Thio, 9 Buckley Road (11). Transport will leave the church at 3.15 p.m.

NOTHER NEW MEMBER is Mrs Jessie Cheng of 7, Taman Serangoon (19) by transfer from Christ Methodist Church.

MORE FAMILY NEWS

WE SAY GODSPEED to Mr & Mrs Chiang Hai Chew, Lynne, Paul and David as they leave Singapore to settle in Canada where other members of the family are already living. Hai Chew and Engeline have been members of Trinity since it was first constituted as a Local Conference in November 1957, and through the years they have served the church faithfully and always unobtrusively. Hai Chew has been for many years a member of the Official Board, was on the original Building Committee when the sanctuary was erected, served as Church Treasurer and, for many years, as one of our honorary auditors. During the past ten months, he has been Chairman of the Local Church Executive Committee and actively involved in the Church Extension planning. We shall miss them all very much, and pray that God will bless them in their new life across the world.

PRIMARY I REGISTRATION If there are members of our church who wish to register their children in Methodist Schools on 12 August, please obtain a letter from the pastor certifying your church membership, as this will facilitate your application.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS If you desire to join the Church and to be prepared for baptism and/or confirmation, please note that the pastor is beginning a new preparation class on 11 August at the home of Mrs Dorothy Tan, 20 Taman Serangoon, almost opposite the church. The class will meet each Sunday morning at 8.45 a.m., unless announced later to the contrary.

'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE We are hoping to be able to open the Coffee House in the Church Basement on Saturday 21 September, with simple drinks and refreshments provided. It is to be a meeting place where young people can drop in for a time of discussion, fellowship, relaxation, privacy or inter-action. Here they can meet friends who will stay by them whatever happens, not condoning their faults but accepting them as they are; believing in their best and sharing with them in the search for a meaning in life. Here is a place where they could feel wanted, and feel that they belong to the Coffee House as part of a family of concerned and caring Christians. Please pray for this project, for all the preparations which still have to be made before 21 September - and look out for news of a new Training Course for committed Christians who want to work in the Coffee House! 'THE OPEN DOOR' will be open, initially, only on Saturdays, 7 - 10.30 p.m.

 * CHURCH CALENDAR FOR AUGUST *

- 1 Thu. 8.00 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE Meeting
- 4 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30 P.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
- 7 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
'Great Old Testament Themes'
- 8 Thu. 8.00 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE PLANNING meeting
- 9 Fri. NATIONAL DAY - Public Holiday
- 10 Sat. 3.15 P.M. MONTHLY PARISH MEETING at home of Mrs Helen
Thio, 11 Buckley Road (11). Transport leaves
church
- 11 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Andrew Lee
11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
12.00 NOON Service of Worship at Woodbridge Hospital
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 12 - 16 S.M.A.C. PASTORS' SCHOOL at Port Dickson
- 14 Wed. No Bible Study Fellowship
- 15 Thu. 8.00 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE Working Party
- 18 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
L.C.E.C. MEETING in the Basement
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 21 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 22 Thu. 8.00 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE WORKING PARTY
- 25 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE

- 25 SUN. 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Lam Yet Seng
 12.00 NOON Worship Service at Woodbridge Hospital
- 28 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 29 Thu. 8.00 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE Working Party
 PASTOR & CHOIR record broadcast at R.T.S.

THE PASTOR will be attending the S.M.A.C. Pastors' School at Port Dickson from 12 - 17 August. The District Superintendent Rev. T. C. Nga (Faith), Rev. Ong Chaik Ghee (Christ) and Pastor Chan Wah Teck (Bedok) will be the only Methodist Pastors remaining in Singapore during that week, and urgent pastoral help could be obtained from one of these.

ANOTHER RADIO BROADCAST by the Pastor and the Trinity Church Choir will be transmitted on Sunday 1 September at 6 p.m. (evening worship) and 10 p.m. (epilogue). Recording date is 29 August.

THE SACRIFICIAL LUNCH organised by the Outreach Committee and held in the Basement on Missions Sunday raised \$452.30 for the Pastors' Fund of the Sarawak Iban Provisional Conference. A special word of thanks to all who gave food for this lunch - and for those who bought tickets and helped to eat it!

MOTHERS WITH SMALL CHILDREN who wish to attend our morning service and have been worried that their children might find the strain of sitting still for an hour-long service too much for them will be glad to know that extension speakers have now been installed in the church basement. It will be possible now for them to take their children to play about under the downstairs porch during the service, and so avoid any unnecessary disturbance of fellow-worshippers. We are grateful to Messrs Ong Chye Huat and Seah Siow Kiang for fixing up the new speaker-system.

CONGRATULATIONS ON NATIONAL DAY to Mr Chen Meng Sheng, a member and former Sunday School teacher, who receives Pingat Pentadbiran Awam (the Public Administration Medal - Bronze) in the National Day Honour List. Mr Chen is the Acting Traffic Manager (Keppel Wharves P.S.A.) and undertook special study in The Netherlands last year.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY DINNER to celebrate the birthday of Trinity Church is planned to take place on Saturday 14 September. More details later but book the date now!

* W. S. C. S. *

SHOCKING CONDITIONS FOR OLD PEOPLE!

On 20th July, a group of our W.S.C.S. ladies visited the sixty-two inmates of the Home for the Aged in Aljunied Road. Some of the inmates are very old and in very poor health. The place they live in is in an appalling condition. We understand that it is looked after by a Buddhist priest.

The old people there were most happy to see us. We brought them each a packet consisting of a face towel, a piece of soap, a bottle of Tiger Balm, a bun, biscuits and a meat 'pau'. We would like to express our thanks to kind friends from Paya Lebar Methodist Church and Zion Church, namely Mrs Lim Kok Boon and Mrs Eunice Lee, for their kind donation of \$20.00 and the Trinity Social Concern Fund for donating \$100.00 to help us purchase the gifts.

FAREWELL TO TWO MISSIONARY FRIENDS.

The District W.S.C.S. is planning a Farewell Tea for Miss Miriam J. Gruber and Miss Margaret Thomas at Toa Payoh Methodist Church on Saturday, 17th August at 4.30 p.m. It is hoped that as many ladies as possible will represent our local society at this tea in honour of two missionaries who have served many years in Malaya and Singapore.

Miss Gruber has been a great help to the W.S.C.S. during the twenty-five years she has been here. A brilliant speaker, she has been much in demand as preacher and teacher. Miss Margaret Thomas has, we think, had less contact with our branch, but the recent years she has spent on the staff of Trinity College and her tireless, imaginative work with the Board of Christian Education have done much to help us to grow. They leave on 1 September.

REMEMBER THESE!

We remember in our prayers Miss P. Baruch, who was incapacitated by a fractured ankle for the past few weeks but is now greatly recovered; and Mrs Loh Hwi Lan, who has been advised by her doctor to have a complete rest for the next few months

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE

We are grateful to those who have been pledging regularly to the work of Trinity Church throughout the year - or rather, the ten months October - July. By 31 July, we had received \$15,051 from this source, almost exactly 10/12 of the \$18,000 which was our pledge target for a full twelve months, and for this faithful support we give thanks to God.

As our new Budget for 1974/75 will not be accepted until the Local Conference meets on September 15, we ask all who have been pledging to maintain their existing level of giving for the next two months. This income will, of course, be credited towards the new financial year's account, and the next pledges will be made for the ten months October 1 - July 31, 1975. It is not expected that the ordinary Budget will be increased in the coming year, as all extra efforts will be needed to build up the Building Fund!

We acknowledge Thanksgiving gifts received during July from:- Mr & Mrs W.D.Henley, Mrs Lily Lee, Mrs Alice Goh & Mrs Tan Hin Jin in loving memory of their mother who passed away on 15 July 1969, Mrs Tan Kim Tee, Miss Molly Cheang in loving memory of her father who passed away on 17 June, Mr & Mrs Chew Chin Nam in loving memory of Mr Chew Hock Lee who died 7 July 1967, Mrs Grace Wee.

For the Church Extension Fund we have received:

Miss Maureen Tan	100.00	Mrs Loh Heng Chow	100.00
Mrs Irene Chin	20.00	Miss Helen Tio Phek Im	150.00
Mr Lee Kim Tah	500.00	Mr Daniel Koh Yew Bin	20.00
Miss Ng Lee Choo	10.00	Mrs Winifred Lim	50.00
Mrs Pauline Seow	5.00	Miss Lucy Lau	50.00
Madam Khoo Sock Yan	30.00	Mr & Mrs Wong Tien Choh	1000.00
Miss Khoo Koh Hee	100.00	Dr & Mrs T.H.Khor	1000.00
Mr & Mrs Joseph Chang	100.00	Miss Agnes Ong	10.00
Mr & Mrs Chiang Hai Chew	1000.00	Mr & Mrs Ong Seng Geok	20.00
Miss Lily Tham	5.00	Mr & Mrs Chan Chong Hiok	80.00
In loving memory of the		Mr & Mrs Yip Kam Choong	
late Mdm Ong Lian Neo	50.00	and family	100.00
Miss Mary Chan	20.00		
Madam Khoo Koh Ho	50.00		
			<hr/>
			\$ 4,570.00
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I have spelt out the situation in full because it is important that all our members and friends appreciate the need for urgency in this matter, and the reasons why we are asking for substantial, generous outright donations wherever this is possible - or even the offer of interest-free loans to be repaid within a period of five years.

It must be confessed that initial progress of the Building Extension Appeal has been disappointingly slow. Many of us have not yet got down to making our commitment and returning the appeal counterfoil to the Treasurer. Probably this is one of those things which has been left on one side "to be thought about later", and we have just not got round to acting with the urgency required. If that is so, may I urge you not to put off the decision any longer but prayerfully and generously do your part. And again let me stress the importance of 'ready cash', rather than long-term pledges. I know that this is not possible for everybody, but if it is possible for you, please act accordingly.

Are there any doubts in your mind about the necessity for this extension plan? We would be glad to talk with you about this if you are one of the uncertain ones. Could you call me on the phone, and we will make arrangements for a couple of our members to visit with you and help to clear up any misunderstanding of what is proposed. We need a manse of our own - it is costing over \$6,000 to rent the place I now occupy, each year; and how good to have the pastor on the premises! We need a good-sized hall - for Sunday School, and youth activities; we think that Serangoon Gardens could make use of it, too. (Even now we are often having requests from community groups or school groups for the use of our existing limited premises; so how much more ...!). We need an office, and a committee room/library, and a place for the caretaker to stay. And over our shoulder, we can already catch a glimpse of those new residents in Ang Mo Kio wondering whether there is a Methodist Church in the neighbourhood of their new high-rise home.

If you cannot give, can you lend? Could you forgo five years interest on that P.O.S.B. deposit you have set aside for the rainy day? I know that together we can achieve all that is needed to make our dreams come true, and we shall look forward to hearing from you in the next week or two. God bless you and yours!