

# Newsletter

from

## Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY  
SINGAPORE-19



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### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 1974

#### MORE ABOUT 'SUPERSTAR'

A couple of months ago, I wrote a piece for this Newsletter about the two films "Jesus Christ - Superstar" and "The Exorcist". I suggested then that the furore about the former was much overdone, but that in the light of a number of reviews published in leading secular and religious newspapers, the latter seemed a dangerous film to let loose upon the adolescent public of Singapore. Since then, I have myself experienced some of the advance publicity for 'Exorcist' and feel that even this panders to the lower human emotions, with a foretaste of further 'horrors' to come. I still hope it will be withdrawn - and, if not, that parents will heed the warning I gave last time about its unsuitability for the emotionally immature.

I have also had the opportunity of attending a preview of "Superstar". I do not want to turn this Newsletter into a film review, but I believe that theological attitudes are involved which are more than superficial, in the approach to this film.

Let me say that, considerably to my own surprise, I was deeply moved by this presentation, and came away wishing that I could preach as vividly and present the person of Jesus Christ in a way that would make him live as he did for me at the Golden Theatre. The film confronted me again with the crucial biblical question, "Whom do you say I am?" Here was Jesus the man - but is he just a man? I felt that, in the film, this was the tormenting question of Judas and Mary Magdalene and Peter and Pilate; and the closing scene, in which the participants in this Passion story, now changed into modern young people in T-shirt and jeans, make their way back to the waiting tourist bus from the place where Jesus has been crucified, left me asking, "What have we done? Who is this that we have destroyed?"

(see back page)



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OUR TRINITY FAMILY

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NEW MEMBERS Welcome to Mr & Mrs Chooi Chee Seng of 52, Bodmin Drive (19), transferred from Wesley Church, Melaka. Mrs Chooi was formerly a student at Trinity College when Mr Smith was on the staff there.

FAREWELL and God be with you, is our prayer for recently received transfer members, Mr & Mrs W. Douglas Henley. The Henleys only became official members of our congregation last month, but Mrs Henley has again been admitted to hospital in the United States and her husband, after three weeks in hospital here, flew back to join her on 27 August. Our prayers and good wishes go with them.

BERNARD KAN the son of Mr & Mrs Ernest Kan is a member of the swimming team representing Singapore in the Asian Games, which begin in Teheran on 1 September. Bernard also captained the team in the recent Asian Age-Group Championships in Manila.

LOVING SYMPATHY We extend to Pastor Chan Wah Teck, pastor of our Bedok church, our prayerful sympathy as he mourns the passing of his wife, who died at Outram Road G.H. on 12 August.

NEW ADDRESS Please alter the address of Mr Steven ONG Huay Kim, who is now living with his wife and family at the following address: 324-A, Jalan Besar (8)

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS A new class has just begun each Sunday morning at 20, Taman Serangoon, for those who wish to prepare for baptism and/or church membership. It is not too late to join this small group (provided you do so within the next two weeks), which on this occasion will be for those who have already left school.

THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY of Trinity Methodist Church will be celebrated with a Pot-Luck Dinner at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 14 September, which will be followed by a programme of music by our musicians and young people. The District Superintendent will be the guest preacher at our Anniversary Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 15 September. Pledges for the on-going work of the church will be dedicated at the service.

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 PLEDGING FOR 1974-75  
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With this Newsletter, we enclose a Pledge Card for your completion and return.

We appeal to all members and friends of Trinity Church to support its on-going programme with regular weekly or monthly contributions through the Pledge Scheme. In this way, the Finance Committee is able to plan ahead wisely and members have the deep satisfaction of knowing that in a thoughtful, systematic way they are fulfilling their membership promise "to uphold the church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts and your service".

Because of the urgent Church Extension Appeal already launched, the Finance Committee is presenting a stand-still Budget to the Local Conference on 15 September. The total sum needed is very slightly less than for the preceding year.

We are asking those who are already pledging to maintain the level of their giving for this financial year. If you are not yet pledging, we do not wish you to hold back. NOW is the time to start.

Some of you may feel you wish to increase your commitment. After all, many have received substantial wage or salary increases, and for the church as for individuals, everything costs that much more than it used to. You could channel such increases straight into a Church Extension Pledge (you will find a form inside the Appeal leaflet). But you should also know that any surplus on our regular Budget will also be utilised for the Extension Fund. Either way, therefore, it will get to the place where it is most needed.

We in this church commend to all our people the practice of Proportionate Giving. That is to say: as our ability to give increases with rising salaries, so our contributions to the work of the Church increase. Many Christians tithe i.e. give to the church 10% of their nett income. We do not dictate what your proportion should be. That is between you and God.

BUT HAVE YOU EVER PAUSED TO REFLECT

that assuming the average income of our 300 members were \$500 p.month if each of our members 'tithed' for just this one year, all our Church Extension anxieties would be over.  
 WE SHOULD ACHIEVE AN ANNUAL INCOME OF \$ 180,000 !!



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\* CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER \*  
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- 1 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
- 4 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 5 Thu. 8.00 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE Working Party
- 8 SUN. Social Concerns Sunday  
8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS  
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Dr Gunnar J. Teilmann  
11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE  
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
- 11 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP - The Pastor
- 12 Thu. 8.00 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE Working Party

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\* SEVENTEENTH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY \*  
\* September 1974 \*  
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Saturday 14th September

7.30 P.M.

ANNIVERSARY DINNER

A Pot-Luck Meal with Music to  
follow  
and fellowship for us all

SUNDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

10.00 A.M.

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

Preacher

Rev. T. C. Nga - District Superintendent

(The Local Conference will be held after the Service)

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- 15 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS  
 10.00 A.M. ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE - Rev.T.C.Nga  
 11.15 A.M. LOCAL CONFERENCE in the Basement  
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING  
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 18 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 19 Thu. 8.00 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE meeting
- 21 Sat. 9.30 A.M. SINGAPORE METHODIST TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP at  
 M.G.S., Mount Sophia  
 7.30 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE 'The Open Door' opens in the  
 Basement
- 22 SUN. Youth Sunday  
 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL (No Membership Class today)  
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR YOUTH - Miss Joanne Ray  
 of the Navigators  
 11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE  
 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
- 25 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 26 Thu. 8.00 P.M. PREPARING TO HELP PEOPLE - A second training  
 course for those wishing to work with the  
 Coffee House
- 28 Sat. 7.30 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE in the Church Basement
- 29 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS  
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor  
 11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE  
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING  
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Andrew Lee

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'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE will open in the church basement, God willing, on Saturday 21st September. The group of Coffee House workers will be preparing for opening day on Thursday evenings.

A NEW TRAINING COURSE for volunteers who, as committed Christians, wish to work in the Coffee House project, will begin on 26 September (possibly earlier!) and last for eight to ten weeks. We particularly invite older members and friends to join this training course. Please see Pastor about it.



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\* W. S. C. S. NEWS \*  
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from Mrs Catherine Pang

DISTRICT A.G.M. The Annual General Meeting of the Singapore District W.S.C.S. will be held at Trinity Theological College, Mount Sophia on Saturday, 14th September 1974 at 2.30 p.m. Members are urged to make a special effort to attend.

ANNOUNCING!

A new COPPER TOOLING CLASS  
Six sessions to be held at 27, Blandford Drive.  
Beginning on 28th September at 3.30 p.m.  
Fee for W.S.C.S. members ... \$10.00  
Fee for Non-members ... \$12.00  
All are welcome, including the men!  
If interested, please inform Mrs Lee Poh Lin  
or Miss Kwok Syn Wun.

Also:-

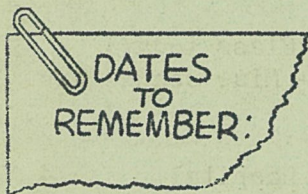
W.S.C.S. FAMILY NIGHT FILM SHOW  
at the church  
on Saturday 26th October  
at 7.30 p.m.  
' MAN IN THE WILDERNESS '  
starring Richard Harris & John Huston

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BITS AND PIECES  
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WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC Our Trinity Church Choir was one of the Methodist Church groups that took part in a programme of religious music at the Kampong Kapor Methodist Church on Sunday 25th August.

THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE is grateful to members and friends who have responded to their appeal for old clothes, during recent months. The stockpile thus accumulated should now be on its way to Bangla Desh, to help those whose homes have been devastated by the recent floods. The Committee will go on collecting good, clean used clothing for use in similar emergencies.

KAMPONG KAPOR METHODIST CHURCH present 'LIFE' an evangelistic musical by Otis Skillings, with a full supporting programme at the Victoria Theatre on 4 & 5 October in aid of renovation & youth work.



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CHURCH EXTENSION FUND  
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Each month, we plan to keep you up-to-date about the growth of the Church Extension Fund by helping you see the 'temperature' rise on the Fund Thermometer. You will see that there is a long, long way to go yet!

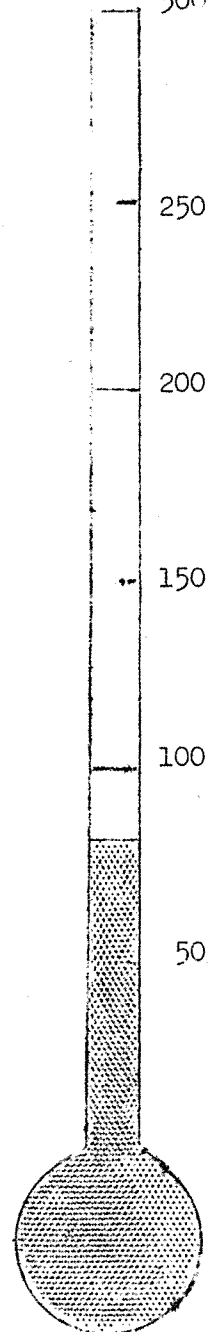
Our first, minimum target stands at the \$150,000 mark. With this in hand by the end of the year, it may just be possible to start on Phase I - a part-plan which could include manse and hall. Without at least this amount, we shall not be able to embark on the project at all.

Our second, hoped-for target is the sum of \$250,000. Raising this by the end of the year, in cash donations, interest-free loans or firm pledges, we shall be able to ask the Board of Trustees to sign a contract for the whole scheme.

Some time ago we received a gift of \$20,000 in memory of the late Mr Loh Peng Seah. We believe that there are other families who may wish to make substantial donations in memory of some loved one. The proposed church hall, therefore, will be named the Memorial Hall, and it will incorporate a plaque bearing the names of those memorialised by gifts of \$5,000 or more. We hope you may feel that this is a suitable way of keeping alive the memory of a loved one, and at the same time helping to advance the work of the church.

We acknowledge the following donations received:-

Mr & Mrs Wee Eng Hock	300	Mr C.W.Ng	50
Faith Methodist Church	25	Dr Bobby Sng	100
Dr & Mrs Ng Kong Kai	50	Dr Ng Yew Kwok	500
Misses P.C. & P.L.Lim	100		
Anonymous	100	<u>Fledges</u>	
Miss Darlene Yip	50	Mr & Mrs Chan C.H.	720
Miss Phyllis Kwok	50	Mrs Susie Lee	360
Mrs Kwok Chee Meng	50	Mr & Mrs Khoo O.H.	1000
Mrs Clara Chan	50	Mrs Lim Leog Siung	500
Mr Ha Khoi Sian & fly.	100	Mr Tan Huay Djin	360
Mr Yeo Kim Kiat	5	Mrs Tan Mei Lee	200





This is not a 'Christian' film in the sense of presenting a complete theological interpretation of the meaning of Christ and his death on the cross. (I do not think that is possible in any case - or that any Christology, however orthodox or sacrosanct, is wide enough or profound enough to be 'the last word about Jesus Christ'. He is always more than we know. That, if we would recognise it, is what we mean by proclaiming the resurrection!) It was just because the message was so un-dogmatic, that the film gave so rich and disturbing a sense of the 'mystery of the manhood' of Jesus, which is the mystery of the incarnation - God's word made flesh.

The agony of Jesus in the Garden depicted him asking God whether his three-year's faithfulness wasn't enough, and begging for some kind of assurance beforehand that his dying would mean more than his living. The 'last supper', set in the film in the Garden of Gethsemane, was overshadowed by the awful sense that he might be completely forgotten within a couple of weeks. (I loved the little touch where Jesus follows Judas to give him his cloak). The terrifying sense of human need crawling out of the holes in the rocks and threatening to submerge Jesus beneath its weight gave me a new sense of what the burden of love means in a suffering world, and of how sometimes Jesus must have longed to be able to get away from it and close his eyes and heart to others.

Mary Magdalene (almost too pure a prostitute!) wondering how she can express her love for this strange man who has changed her life, yet who scares her so'; Peter in his frantic dance trying to urge Jesus forward to seize the only power he understands; the pathetic weakness of Pilate, the contemptuous dilettantism of Herod; the black-robed priests poised like vultures over the desert road along which Jesus and his little band approach in triumph (what a glorious 'Hosanna' song, by the way!); there was so much that struck home with new reality. This was not 'plain history' - people in modern dress and modern idiom mingled with figures from the past, tanks as symbols of power rolled across the desert threatening to engulf Judas, there were guns and cash-registers on the 'tables of the money-changers' - it was interpretation (like the Gospel record itself), and to me it got home!

You may dislike this film; you may find its music something you can't take; you may question its approach and theology. But it is not a flippant film, it is not a blasphemous film, it is not a wicked, dangerous or immoral film. I hope you will see it.