

Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY
SINGAPORE-19



Pastor—Rev. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 1974

OPENING THE DOOR

"Problem-solving night" was how the press described the opening of the Coffee House in the church basement on Saturday, 21st September. The 20-30 volunteers who are engaged in this new outreach project see it in different terms.

It is, rather, an attempt to open up the church to people who might otherwise remain outside, to allow them to see us living and working together, and to allow us to meet as friends those with whom we might have no other contact. The name "The Open Door", which was chosen after much discussion in the group, aptly sums up its purpose. And like any other door, this one opens both in and out for two-way traffic.

From last year's District Seminar on Drug Abuse came a new awareness of the isolation of many young people in our busy city, and their sense of estrangement and non-acceptance. There came also the awareness that the Church is a community with good news about being wanted! How was it that we still give people the impression that they are welcome only on our terms? We had premises and people, both underused for much of the time; together they could provide a new meeting place.

So without any opening ceremony or fanfare, the church door has swung wide — as it will do again each Saturday between 8 p.m. and 10.30 p.m. — to reveal a freshly-painted room set with brightly covered small, round tables, and the warm welcome of the group of Befrienders who staff the Coffee House.

Soon the tables were full, with young people in earnest or cheerful conversation. This is much more than a trouble-shooting centre. It is a meeting place where people can drop in for a time

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TRINITY FAMILY NEWS

ADULT BAPTISM at the Youth Service on 22 September 1974, Miss Jade CHOW Wei Mun of 3-A, McAlister Road (3)

NEW MEMBERS Mr Vivian Alfred HARRIS from St. Andrew's Cathedral & Mrs Muriel Bernice HARRIS by transfer from Wesley Methodist Church, Singapore; both of 31, Jalan Kechubong (28)

CALLED HOME on 24 September 1974, Miss Lily Yong, one of the members of our congregation at St. Luke's Church, Woodbridge Hospital. Rev. John Cook, vicar of St. Peter's conducted the funeral, which was attended by Mr Andrew Lee and other members of our Woodbridge team.

WE BID FAREWELL once again to members of our congregation leaving the country. Mrs Betty WOOD left on 26 September with her family to settle in Canada, where two of her sisters are already living, with their families. God be with you, Betty!

CONGRATULATIONS to Miss Yong Lai Wah & Mr Lawrence Leong who celebrated their engagement at a simple service conducted by the pastor at 16, Hillside Drive on 21 September 1974.

MR WILLIE RASIAH has been seconded to the Brunei Government for six months. He left on 13 September to be Port Advisor in connection with the new deep-water port which is under construction there.

17TH ANNIVERSARY of Trinity Church was celebrated on 14 September by a highly successful and enjoyable Pot-Luck Dinner followed by a social hour. The District Superintendent, Rev. T. C. Nga was the guest preacher at the Thanksgiving Service on the 15th, and he later presided over the Local Church Conference.

YOUTH SERVICE MYFers arranged and conducted a very meaningful Youth Service on 22 September, with special items by their own MYF Singers accompanied on the piano by Sydney Tan and on the drums by Paul George. Jade Chow, who was baptised at this service, gave a vivid and challenging personal testimony. We are indebted to the young people for their ministry.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS may be inserted in the December issue of the Trinity Newsletter according to our custom. Please give name & address to Mrs Patricia Chia. The charge of \$5 helps to pay for the cost of issuing this monthly Newsletter.

CHURCH LEADERS FOR 1974-75

LAY LEADER: Mrs Catherine Pang ASSOC.LAY LEADER: Mr Daniel Gwee
 TREASURER: Mr Daniel Gwee PLEDGE TREASURER: Choo Poh Siong
 DISTRICT STEWARD: Mr Daniel Gwee RESERVE DIST.ST.:

CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT: Miss Violet Tan
 STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE CHM: Mr Peter Lai
 MEMBERSHIP & EVANGELISM CHM: Mr Lee Park Ming
 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHAIRMAN: Mr Chan Chong Hick
 OUTREACH CHAIRMAN: Dr Khor Tong Hong
 PROPERTY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Mr Lawrence Pang
 WORSHIP & MUSIC CHAIRMAN: Mrs Chew Chin Jin
 CHURCH EXTENSION FUND CHM: Mr Lee Teck Hock

LAY MEMBERS OF ANNUAL CONF: Mr Daniel Gwee
 Mr Peter Lai
 RESERVE LAY MEMBERS Dr Khor Tong Hong
 Miss Violet Tan
 W.S.C.S. PRESIDENT Mrs Catherine Pang
 M.Y.F. PRESIDENT To be elected

ELECTIVE STEWARDS

Miss Violet Khor	Mrs Patricia Chia	Mr Francis Lee
Mrs Lee Poh Lin	Mr Tan Keng Hian	Mr Khoo Eu Kiong
Mrs Dorothy Tan	Mr Harry Lim	Mr Andrew Lee
Mrs Grace Wee	Mr Henry Chia	Mr Paul George

HONORARY STEWARD: Mr Lam Yet Seng

CHOIR DIRECTOR:	Mrs Chew Chin Jin
COMMUNION STEWARDS	Mr & Mrs Harry Lim
CRADLE ROLL SECRETARY	Miss Khoo Koh Hee

The above-named will form the Local Church Executive Committee and will elect their own officers at the first meeting.

PASTOR-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE Mr Daniel Gwee (Lay Member)
 Mrs Catherine Pang (Pastor's Nominee), Mr Peter Lai,
 Mrs Patricia Chia, Dr Khor Tong Hong

LOCAL PREACHERS: Mr Lam Yet Seng Mr Andrew Lee

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE Mrs Patricia Chia Mr Lee Park Ming
 Mr Peter Lai, Mr Choo Poh Siong,

 * CHURCH CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER *

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|-----------|------|------------|---|
| 1 | Tue. | 8.00 P.M. | OUTREACH COMMITTEE at 68, Chartwell Drive |
| 2 | Wed. | 7.45 P.M. | BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse |
| 3 | Thu. | 8.00 P.M. | COFFEE HOUSE Meeting at church |
| 5 | Sat. | 3.00 P.M. | CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE at the church |
| | | 8.00 P.M. | 'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE till 10.30 p.m. |
| 6 | SUN. | 8.45 A.M. | SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS |
| World- | | 10.00 A.M. | HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor |
| wide | | 11.15 A.M. | CHOIR PRACTICE |
| Communion | | | W.S.C.S. JOY STALL in the Basement |
| Sunday | | 3.30 P.M. | M.Y.F. MEETING |
| | | 5.30 P.M. | HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor |
| 9 | Wed. | 7.45 P.M. | BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse |
| 10 | Thu. | 8.00 P.M. | COFFEE HOUSE Meeting at church |
| 12 | Sat. | 4.00 P.M. | DISTRICT DISCUSSION OF CONF. RESTRUCTURE |
| | | 4.30 P.M. | MONTHLY PARISH MEETING at home of Mr & Mrs Henry Chia, 3 Medway Drive |
| 13 | SUN. | 8.00 P.M. | 'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE until 10.30 p.m |
| | | 8.45 A.M. | SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS |
| | | 10.00 A.M. | SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor |
| | | 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 |
| 16 | Wed. | 7.45 P.M. | BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse |
| 17 | Thu. | 8.00 P.M. | COFFEE HOUSE Meeting or Training Course |
| 18 | Fri. | | <u>HARI RAYA PUASA</u> |
| | | 9.00 A.M. | INAUGURAL MEETING OF NEW L.C.E.C. at the Church, with Planning Session till noon |
| 19 | Sat. | 8.00 P.M. | 'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE until 10.30 p.m |
| 20 | SUN. | 8.45 A.M. | SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS |
| | | 10.00 A.M. | SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor with the Dedication of LCEC Members & WSCS Officers |
| | | 11.15 A.M. | CHOIR PRACTICE |
| | | 3.30 P.M. | M.Y.F. MEETING |
| | | 5.30 P.M. | SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Toh Ka Shiong |
| 22 | Tue. | 5.30 P.M. | RESTRUCTURE DISCUSSION for SMAC Delegates |
| 23 | Wed. | 7.45 P.M. | BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse |
| 24 | Thu. | 8.00 P.M. | COFFEE HOUSE Meeting or Training |
| 26 | Sat. | 2.30 P.M. | SINGAPORE DISTRICT CONFERENCE at Toa Payoh |
| | | 8.00 P.M. | 'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE till 10.30 p.m. |

- 27 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Rev. Philip Chan
 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
 30 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
 31 Thu. 8.00 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE Meeting or Training

THE COMMUNION OFFERING on Sunday 6 October (Worldwide Communion Sunday) will be for the relief of victims of the Honduras Hurricane & Flooding disaster. Please give generously.

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR PLEDGE CARD? Completed cards may be placed in the offering bag any Sunday or posted to Mr Choo Poh Siong at 60, Walmer Drive (19). Extension Fund pledges and contributions may also be sent to him at the same address. Cards and leaflets for your use are available at the church door. Pledges to date total \$14,865/- towards the target of \$18,000.

MISSION TINS which were issued on Missions Sunday, 5 July, will be collected at the beginning of December. Don't let yours gather dust!

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE Thanksgiving gifts received during September from the following:

Mr Chew Chin Bee, Mrs Tan Kim Tee, Mr & Mrs Vincent Teo in memory of the late Madam Chan Tang Quay, Mr & Mrs E. K. Khoo, Mrs Chan Keong Poh, Dr & Mrs Alan Tay, Rev & Mrs Chew Hock Hin, Mr & Mrs Chew Chin Nam in loving memory of Mdam Seet Thiam Lee (Mrs Chew Hock Lee)

<u>For Church Extension</u>	Anonymous	50	Mr Tonni Wei Shi Ren	200
Mr & Mrs Wei	Mr/Mrs Lim H.S.	100	Karen Tan Pui Lin	10
Chong Seng	200 Mrs How Ah Sun	50	Mr/Mrs Tan Tiam Guan	500
Mrs Dorothy Tan	200 Mr/Mrs Michael Ong	Swee Lee	100	
Miss Violet Tan	100 (plus pledge)	Miss Ho Lek Cheng	500	
Mr & Mrs Andrew Goh	10 Anonymous	10 'A Friend'	50	
In memory of Miss Catherine Tan	50	Dr/Mrs Yap Jin Yau	100	
Miss Eunice Hardy	100	Nga Family Endowment Fund a/c	1,000	
Anonymous	12	Miss Violet Yap	5	Mr Yap Yong Lip 5
Mr Seah Siow Tong	10	Mr & Mrs Goh Siak Juay	50	W. Tan 120
Mrs E. Hardy	200	Malcolm Tan	10	Anonymous 50
Total for October: \$3,792.00				

S.M.A.C. SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM will be held at Rumah Methodist, Penang Hill from 3 - 8 December, with the theme: "AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST" Booking forms may be obtained from the Pastor.

BUDGET FOR 1974-75

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE

<u>I PASTORAL SUPPORT</u>			
Pastors' Salary Pool @ \$500/- p.m.	\$ 6,000.00		
Pastor's Housing @ \$550/- p.m.	6,600.00		
Pastor's Travelling Expenses @ \$140/-	1,680.00		
P.U.B. charges (Manse)	500.00		
Telephone (Manse)	230.00		
T.T.C. students' travel pool	45.00	\$15,055.00	
<u>II ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</u>			
Stationery & Printing	1,500.00		
Postages	500.00	\$ 2,000.00	
<u>III MAINTENANCE & UPKEEP OF PROPERTY</u>			
Caretaker @ \$140 + \$40 + 6% + 15% CPF	2,600.00		
Telephone (Church)	345.00		
P.U.B. Charges (Church)	1,000.00		
Insurance (Building etc. for \$100,000)	150.00		
Repairs & Maintenance	1,500.00		
Quit Rent	45.00	\$ 5,440.00	
<u>IV SUBSIDIES TO CHURCH ORGANISATIONS</u>			
Committee on Christian Education	600.00		
Committee on Worship & Music	500.00		
Committee on Membership & Evangelism	100.00		
W.S.C.S.	200.00	\$ 1,400.00	
<u>V CONFERENCE SUPPORT</u>			
Conference Commitments (1973/74 + 10%)	3,630.00		
Contribution to District Fund	363.00		
Conference Travel Expenses	130.00	\$ 4,123.00	
<u>VI OUTREACH</u>			
Projects of Outreach Committee	3,120.00		
Others	500.00	\$ 3,620.00	
<u>VI CONTINGENCIES</u>			
		\$ 1,200.00	
		<u>\$33,038.00</u>	

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR PLEDGE CARD YET!

We anticipate \$ 18,000/- in pledges again this year.

MRS DAISY LAI

OUR JOY STALL

OLD NEWSPAPERS

WSCS FAMILY NIGHT
 "A Man in the Wilderness"
 a suspense action film
 starring
 Richard Harris & John Huston
 will be shown at the church at 7.30 pm
 26th October
 Snacks and refreshments will be on sale
 Make it a family night!

MUSIC EXAMINATION

LADY LEADER

LADY LEADER Mrs Catherine Pang, our W.S.C.S. President, was elected Lay Leader of the church at the Local Conference on 15 September. God bless her in this new responsibility!

of discussion, fellowship, relaxation, privacy or interaction. If those who come want to talk, they're welcomed, and a Befriender will provide an attentive ear. Older, more experienced members of the church provide an unobtrusive back-up, to help out should any complicated problems emerge. If those who come just want to sit quietly over a cup of coffee or a cold drink, they are equally welcome. We just want to be with people where they are.

Asked what she felt like on opening night, one of the young volunteers confessed. "I'm a bit scared. We've been training and planning and praying for tonight for months. Now it's here, and we wonder what is going to happen next. It's really exciting, opening up like this in faith!"

The keynote of the Coffee House is simplicity. There are attractive small tables for those who want closeness, a longer table where perhaps ten people will be able to "chew the rag". Visitors can order tea, coffee or a cold drink (from the newly rented dispenser), and peanuts, kacang or potato crisps will be provided "on the house". An immense amount of hard labour has been put in by the young enthusiasts under the dynamic leadership of Lee Park Ming; the basement re-painted, doors removed and adapted, shelves fitted, the fridge re-sprayed, curtains hung. The transformation is dramatic! A tremendous sense of combined team-work marks the whole project.

The "statement of purpose" which the group has drawn up together says that this "should be a place where young people 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."

Whenever we open a door and encounter somebody else, it is impossible to predict what will grow out of that meeting. A two-way conversation affects both parties; we shall expect to be learning as well as sharing, receiving quite as much as giving. We have tried to maintain the maximum of flexibility to allow for future development. We neither know who The Open Door will bring to us, nor where it will lead us out. A small group of MYFers played a short interlude of music on opening night, but for much of the time there will be no special "programme".

Here is a place, and here are people, that we want God to use. We know He will show us how.