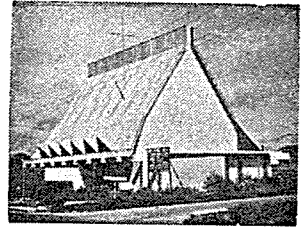


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY
SINGAPORE-19



Pastor—Rev. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

PARSONAGE:

28 CHUAN HOE AVENUE

SINGAPORE 19 • PHONE: 806339

CHRISTMAS 1974

MC (P) 561/73

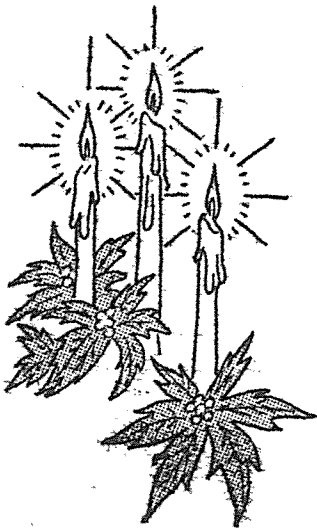
THE NAME OF THE NAMELESS

Perhaps at root the question "Is there a God?" is a foolish one. Ought we not to ask, "What is the God you worship like?" - for the life of each of us has some centre around which it moves, even when we do not name it, and do not even recognise it. Many a family altar is still raised "To the Unknown God", and many a frightened, guilty man or woman still wrestles in the darkness, as Jacob did, asking for a glimpse of the hidden face of the Real. "Tell me, I pray, your name!" (Genesis 32:29)

Who is it that is the ground of our being? What is there at the heart of things? Is his name 'Fear' - for there are moments when we tremble with a nameless dread, afraid to ask, afraid to act, afraid to fail? Or is it 'Nothingness' - a worse name still than Fear, speaking of a hollow centre to all that is? Or is the name we seek, but fear to find, 'Judgment' - and is the last word He will speak to us the word of condemnation on our failure and sin? Or is 'Death' the final power that claims us?

Perhaps all we say and do is an attempt, a groping question, to learn God's name. But since He is God and we are creatures of flesh, how can we ever know unless He tells us?

In the deep desert, where the bush flamed and was not consumed (Exodus 3), Moses hearing the call to liberate God's people from their slavery, asked of the felt but unseen presence, "But when they ask who sent me, what shall I say?" The answer he received still haunts us with



TRINITY FAMILY NEWS

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS to Frederick Wong Chiang Kwang & Ruth Thio whose marriage was solemnised at Trinity Church on 1 November; and to Low Siew Thian & Julie Low who were married there on Friday 15 November.

REMEMBER THE SICK especially Mr Lee Kong Boon, father of Mr Francis Lee, who is in Ward 50 at ORGH and Mrs Wee Huck Lay, mother of Mr Wee Sip Ghee and grandmother to Sonia, who is seriously ill at home, 15 Highland Road. Pray also for Mrs Chew Swee Kiok's mother, back in Tan Tock Seng Hosp.

ELECTED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD of the Annual Conference was Mr Peter Lai, chairman of our L.C.E.C., when the S.M.A.C. met recently at The Methodist Centre, Port Dickson.

WOMEN FOR CONFERENCE Mrs Catherine Pang (W.S.C.S. President) and Miss Khoo Koh Hee attended the WSCS Annual Conference in Penang from 22 to 26 November.

CHYE HUAT LEAVES Ong Chye Huat, a former Trinity MYFer and chief custodian of things electronic and electrical, left on 5 November to work with the Shell Company in Seria, Brunei. All of us will wish him well.

HOLDERS OF MISSIONS TINS are requested to return these to the pastor or any member of the Outreach Committee by 15 December, so that they can be emptied and re-issued before the end of the year.

APOLOGY FROM THE EDITOR The Editor of the Newsletter regrets that in the last issue the names of successful candidates in the recent music examinations were, in error, listed as Mrs Chew's students. In fact, Elsie and Eddie Chew, Selina Lai, Emilyn Tan, Ivan Tan and Grace & Timothy Ong were prepared by other teachers. Janet Koh (piano), Grace Ong (violin) and Timothy Ong (cello) passed the Grade VIII examination, not Grade VII as stated.

We apologise to the students and teachers concerned for all these careless mistakes.

WESLEY CHURCH PRESENTS Mendelssohn's oratorio 'ELIJAH' on 7 & 8 December, in aid of their Youtre Project. Programmes are available from the pastor at \$5 each.

The Annual Conference, which met at Port Dickson from 16 to 20 November, 1974 was well-attended and the sessions were lively and constructive. Singapore District was well represented with approximately ten ministers and twenty laymen attending from the ten churches. Toa Payoh, which has not yet attained Local Conference status, had no lay representative.

On the first evening of the Conference, Holy Communion was celebrated with Bishop Doraisamy preaching. All delegates and observers attended this very moving service, and the offering taken was donated to retired pastors and their families for the coming Christmas season. Our pastor Rev. Smith was given the honour of conducting the morning worship services throughout the Conference.

In his presidential address, Rev. Denis Dutton, who was later re-elected for a further period of two years as President, stressed the importance of research before embarking on important projects, so that our existing resources can be utilised more effectively.

Mr Peter Lai chaired the Conference Workshop of Administration, and Rev. Smith and Philip Chan chaired the Workshop on Outreach. Mr Lai was elected to the Conference Executive Board and Mr Daniel Gwee was chosen to serve on the Board of Pensions. Rev Patrick Yeoh, who was at one time attached to our church when he was a student, was ordained and later appointed District Superintendent of the new South Eastern District. Mr Andrew Lee continues as chairman of the Board of Missions.

Rev. Denver Stone was appointed to serve as pastor of Trinity from June 1975, when Mr Smith will be returning to U.K. with his family. Rev. Sam Goh was appointed pastor at Paya Lebar, following Dr George Wan who becomes full-time Secretary of Evangelism.

two General Conferences

Conference reiterated its acceptance of the fundamental principle that two General Conferences be formed, one for Singapore and one for Malaysia. The proposals of the Re-structure Committee were voted on item by item (there were 16 items in all) and most of the proposals relating to administration and finance of the General Conferences were accepted, though there were clearly different emphases in the Malaysian and Singaporean viewpoints. It is hoped that all the other Annual Conferences will vote in a similar way,

A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW
YEAR to all our Trinity Church friends
from:

Rev. & Mrs Chew Hock Hin
16, Hillside Drive (19)

Rev. & Mrs C.H.Smith & family
28, Chuan Hoe Avenue (19)

Mr & Mrs Ang Boo Seng & family
62, Kensington Park Road (19)

Mr & Mrs Chan Chong Hiok,
37, Surin Avenue (19)

Mr & Mrs Robert Cheok,
St.Andrew's House (12)

Mr & Mrs Chen Meng Sheng,
65, Chartwell Drive (19)

Mr & Mrs Choo Poh Siong,
60, Walmer Drive (19)

Mr & Mrs Chew Chin Jin,
24, Alnwick Drive (19)

Mr & Mrs Chia Kim Teng & f'ly
21, Kensington Park Road (19)

Madam Susie Gan
272, U. Paya Lebar Road (19)

Mr & Mrs Daniel Gwee & f'ly
111, Tai Keng Gardens

Mr & Mrs Goh Seng Hock
15, Huddington Ave. (19)

Mrs E. Hardy & Eunice
48. Serangoon Garden Way

Mr & Mrs Ho Lye Hon,
16, Jalan Khamis (20)

Mr & Mrs Ernest Kan & family
133, Neil Road (2)

Mr & Mrs Khoo Eu Kiong,
27, Blandford Drive (19)

Miss Khoo Koh Hee
33, Kensington Park Road, (19)

Mdm Khoo Koh Ho & Lucy
34, Cardiff Grove (19)

Dr & Mrs Khor Tong Hong
68, Chartwell Drive (19)

Miss Violet Khor
22, Braemar Drive (19)

Mr & Mrs Kwan Chee Yew
2, Greenmead Avenue (11)

Mrs Kwok Chee Meng & family
16, Faber Crescent (5)

Mr & Mrs Lai Men See & family
77, Lorong Pisang Emas (21)

Mr & Mrs Peter Lai & family,
34, Lichfield Road (19)

Mr & Mrs Lam Yet Seng
11, Carisbrooke Grove (19)

Mr & Mrs Stanley Lam & Yvonne,
30, Conway Grove (19)

Mr & Mrs Andrew Lee & family
26, Lengkok Angsa (9)

Mr & Mrs Francis Lee & family
97, Serangoon Garden Way (19)

Mr & Mrs Wong Eng Seng
57-C Jalan Raja Udang (12)

Mr & Mrs Lee Teck Hock
19, Walmer Drive (19)

Mr & Mrs Liew En Kin
60, Watten Heights (11)

Mr & Mrs Lim Hock Aun
57, Kingswear Avenue (19)

Mr & Mrs Harry Lim & f'ly
10, Cardiff Grove (19)

Mr & Mrs Jolly Low
3, Borthwick Drive (19)

Mr & Mrs Sydney Lowe & f'ly
122-G, Lorong Hong Lee (19)

Mr & Mrs Ong Ah Bok,
65, Jalan Songket (19)

Mr & Mrs Ong Ee Kok
27, Daisy Avenue (13)

Mr & Mrs Michael Ong
36, Chartwell Drive (19)

Mr & Mrs Ong Thiam Kok
12 Lorong 5 Realty Pk (19)

Mr & Mrs Ong Kim Siong & f'ly
4, Gerald Crescent (28)

Mr & Mrs Albert Oh Ban Hock
268-C Lorong 1 Blk 107 (12)

Mr & Mrs Pang Kia Seng
18, Kasai Road (28)

Mr & Mrs Lawrence Pang & f'ly
23, Burghley Drive (19)

Mrs Val Ridler
16, Seletar Court (28)

Mr & Mrs Wee Eng Hock

Miss Peggy Sim
17, Worthing Road (19)

Dr & Mrs Tan Beng Guan
32, Penshurst Place (19)

Mrs Dorothy Tan & Carol
20, Taman Serangoon (19)

Mr & Mrs Tan Keng Hian
43, Lengkok Angsa (9)

Mr & Mrs Tan Hoay Djin & f'ly
85, Bridport Avenue (19)

Mr & Mrs Tan Khe Tong & f'ly
17, Saraca Road (28)

Mr & Mrs Tan Tiam Guan
3611-C Blk55 Geylang Bahru (12)

Mr & Mrs Philip Tan
210-G Lorong 6 Blk 33 T.P. (12)

Mr & Mrs Tan Thuan Seng,
49 Chiltern Drive (13)

Mr & Mrs Tay Soon Hock & family
57, Brockhampton Drive (19)

Mr & Mrs Tham Yew Kee & family
49, Bloxhome Drive (19)

Mr & Mrs Wee Chye Huat & f'ly
88, Cardiff Grove (19)

Mrs Grace Wee
16 Hillside Drive (19)

Mr & Mrs Wei Chong Seng
101 Bridport Ave. (& f'ly)

Mr & Mrs Yip Kam Choon
43, Chiselhurst Grove (& f'ly)

40, Greenwood Avenue (11)

continued from page 3) for a two-thirds majority of those present and voting is necessary for the proposals to be adopted.

The Conference Budget for 1974-75 is \$ 174,000, with 34% going to outreach and 27% to administration, the two major items. The smaller and poorer churches will now be able to apply for loans, once rules have been drawn up by the Board of Finance regarding the use of contingency funds which are at present untapped.

workshop reports

The Workshop on Teaching recommended that counselling services be provided in all our schools which do not have them now. The Workshop on Outreach recommended that church premises be made available as study centres and meeting places for young people. It also proposed that a full-time co-ordinator be appointed to co-ordinate the work of the Boards of Evangelism, Missions and Social Concerns. The Workshop on Youth & Adult Work recommended the appointment of a full-time Director of Youth Work, and Miss Chia Nyoke Lin, Christian Education worker, was appointed to this post. The Workshop on Administration recommended the formation of 5 Districts (4 in West Malaysia and 1 in Singapore) to lessen the burden placed on some District Superintendents.

local finance

The new Pastors' Salary Scheme was referred back to local churches for decision at the First Local Conference. If the required votes are received this time, the scale will be implemented as from 1 January 1975. A proposal from the floor that poorer churches be given the opportunity of applying for subsidies, provided they submit their accounts for verification, was unanimously agreed. It is hoped that this will encourage poorer churches to accept this scheme.

It was unanimously resolved that all Conference Boards submit audited accounts to the Executive Board within three months of the close of Annual Conference. At present most statements presented to Conference are still unaudited.

The Bishop commented that there was a different tone to Conference this year and that some important resolutions had been passed. He believed the Spirit was moving amongst us and pushing us into action. Nobody could fail to be impressed, too, by the true Methodist singing which lifted our spirits when business was heavy. The South Eastern District will organise next SMAC at P. Dickson.

'FULFILLING THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH'

- Dr Khor Tong Hong

On 13 November, a whole-day Retreat was held at the S.I.A. Bungalow at Mata Ikan.

The theme, 'Fulfilling the Mission of the Church', was a follow-up on the planning for the year carried out by the current L.C.E.C. at its first meeting for the year.

After an opening devotion led by Rev Christopher Smith, a series of short key addresses to set the tone for group discussions followed. These were delivered by Pastor, Mr Victor Goh and Mr Andrew Lee. The Retreat then went into workshop group discussion.

In the afternoon the groups re-assembled in plenary session. It was the unenviable task of the Moderator, Mr Peter Lai, to summarize the views expressed and recommendations made.

Briefly, the recommendations fell into two broad groupings:

1. Deepening the fellowship within the congregation.

All three workshops emphasised the importance of home visitation between church members as well as by the pastor, in strengthening congregational fellowship. Many suggestions went into detailed means of improving the warmth and quality of such fellowship e.g. by hospital visitation groups, formation of tightly-knit area groups, maintaining regular contact by phone, mailing birthday cards. The need for a more prayerful life both at church and at home was also stressed.

2. Reaching out to new communities.

The strategy envisaged was of teams trained for home visits first within Serangoon Gardens and then into Ang Mo Kio. One group also recommended church support for a full-time missionary either in Singapore or overseas.

Altogether some 40 members and friends attended the Retreat with more than half a dozen children. Catering needs were not forgotten, and were admirably met by Miss Lucy Lau and her team. Thanks are due to them, the moderator, speakers, registrars (Mr & Mrs Chan Chong Hiok) and to the many others who planned and ran the Retreat.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE thanksgiving gifts from Eddie Chew, Mrs Annie Chew, Mrs Lily Lee, Dr & Mrs Alan Tay, Mrs Tan Kim Tee; and Extension Fund gifts from Mr & Mrs Wong Chiang Kwang, Frederic Chia Mrs May Oh & Mrs Betty Lim (\$500), and Mr Yeo Kim Kiat.

with the mystery of God. "I AM WHO I AM.
Say, I AM has sent me."

And then comes Christmas in its gentleness. And though the doubts come knocking at the door, so lovely is the story that we wonder if we have any right to let them linger. God revealed in a tiny, wrapped-up Babe? God disclosed as a Child in a poor and inconspicuous home, an Infant whose first cradle was a manger, and whose first visitors were shepherds from the hillside fields? "You shall call His name 'Jesus'...." And though the doubts still go on knocking, something inside us begins to lift with a new and blessed hope. For if this be so, God's name is 'Lowliness', 'Emmanuel', 'God with us'. At the heart of things, the really Real is 'Love'. And he looks out at us through human eyes and speaks through human lips.



When the mystery of Life becomes a life, we begin to understand that the heart of the Divine is not power - a power than wonderfully protects or mightily manipulates our lives - but the helplessness of love, a helplessness that can do nothing until, in answer to that love, we put ourselves at his disposal. May the deepest message of this blessed season be (breath-catching thought!), that God needs me to make His presence felt in the world He loves?

What is so totally undogmatic as a Baby? Yet, speechless and powerless, it says with strange compulsion, "I AM WHAT I AM. I AM here." This Christmas it is as though the Babe of Bethlehem is asking, "What are you going to do with Me? Have you a place for me? May I come in?" God is showing us His face.

May His presence be with you and His love transform you through His Christmas coming.

LATE NEWS

We welcome with joy the birth of Adelyn Chan to Philip & Lynell Chan on Wednesday 27 November 1974