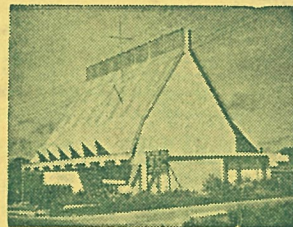


# Newsletter

from

## Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY  
SINGAPORE-19



Pastor—Rev. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

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MC (P) 313/75

### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 1975

### METHODISM'S NINETIETH BIRTHDAY

February 1885 "Sunday found Dr Thoburn at the Town Hall a full hour before the time announced for the meeting. Miss Battie was at the little organ which the young women of Mount Holyoke Seminary had presented to Mrs Oldham before she left America. Mrs Thoburn was ready to lead the singing - if anyone came. Having distributed hymnals Oldham was to serve in the humble capacity of usher - if anyone came. In spite of the two thousand handbills which had been distributed on Saturday Dr Thoburn felt some misgiving and could only hope that Phillip's prophecy of a large congregation would be partially fulfilled. People began to wander in. Assumed nonchalance, obvious self-consciousness or unrestrained curiosity lent a strange atmosphere for a religious service. The hour arrived and Dr Thoburn stood before nearly one hundred fifty people and announced his text: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit: saith the Lord" " (Malaysia Mosaic p.18)

From these beginnings came the Methodist Church into Singapore and Malaysia. Ninety years ago on the 22 February, the first Methodist congregation was formed from three full members and fifteen probationers - several Eurasians, three Englishmen, a few Tamils and one Chinese - with John Polglase, the assistant Municipal Secretary elected to every official post, since he was the only actual member present at the inaugural meeting! Later in the same year, the first Methodist church building was built in Coleman Street, closely followed, on March 1st, 1886, by the founding of the Anglo-Chinese School. By the end of the first five years, two girls' schools had been added (MGS and Fairfield), the Epworth League had started (forerunner of the MYF) and Chinese work had begun in Teok Ayer.



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TRINITY FAMILY NEWS

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NEW ARRIVAL We rejoice with Mr & Mrs Tan Thuan Seng, 49 Chiltern Drive (13) at the safe arrival of their third daughter on January 31st.

CALLED HOME We extend our loving sympathy to Daniel & Doris Gwee and other members of their family, as they mourn the passing of Daniel's father, the late Mr Gwee Eng Choon, on 17th January:

Also to Mr & Mrs Soh Yew Chye and Mr Ernest Soh, at the sudden passing of Wilton Soh Geok Hua on 25th January, at the age of 18 years.

We praise God for the long life granted to our oldest church member, Mrs Tan Kim Tee, who died in the Alexandra General Hospital a couple of weeks after breaking her hip in a fall at home. She was 101 years old, and we baptised one of her great-grandsons, the child of Mr & Mrs Franklin Tan, at Trinity Church on Christmas Day. Mrs Tan died on 21st January and we express our sympathy to Mr & Mrs Tan Sing Khing and other members of their family.

AMONG OUR KNOWN SICK We are glad to know that Rev Chew Hock Hin is making fine progress at the Alexandra General Hospital and hopes to be able to celebrate Chinese New Year at home with the family.

We are sorry to hear that another of our older members, Mrs How Ah Sun, after being in the Thompson Road Hospital for a few weeks, will be unable to return home as she will not be able to look after herself properly. She will be cared for in the Khoo Block at Mount Alvernia Hospital and it would be a wonderful thing if a small group of Cantonese-speaking members could be gathered together to visit her regularly. I know she would appreciate this greatly.

ON LEAVE We have been glad to welcome Mr David Tan back this month, on holiday from his studies in New Zealand.

TUTOR NEEDED One of our members is looking for a tutor in Elementary Maths for two Sec IV girls. If you could help, please let the pastor know.



CHINESE NEW YEAR We shall hold our customary Thanksgiving Service for Chinese New Year at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, 11th February - early enough for you to begin the Year of the Rabbit with worship before you go out for your visiting. We hope that all our Chinese members will celebrate with us.

GOSPEL SONG SERVICE Led by Rev Philip Chan, we thoroughly enjoyed an unusual Song Service on 26th January. Special songs were sung by our MYFers, the choir and a group of girls from Mount Sophia M.G.S., and we were able to choose and sing our own favourite hymns. Young and old seem to have enjoyed a new sense of freedom and un-reserve through the music we shared; and the general vote is, "Let's do it again!" We shall.

M.Y.F. OFFICERS will be installed at the 10 a.m. service on 2 March. The following have been elected to serve:

President: Miss June Chew      Vice-President: Miss Lorna Khoo  
 Secretary: Miss Joyce Chew      Treasurer: Miss Lim Guat Khim  
 Committee Members include Miss Deborah Chia and Mr Malcolm Tan

FRON OVERSEAS Miss Choy Yin Loy hopes that we all had a lovely Christmas and New Year and is sure that "the Christmas selections by the choir must have been well presented". (Too right, Yin Loy!) She remembered us all while enjoying an exciting holiday trip to New Zealand in mid-January. And we remember her as she goes back to her nursing training in Melbourne. It was good to hear from her again!

INFANT BAPTISM The Sacrament of Infant Baptism will be celebrated at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday 23rd February. Parents who wish their children to be baptised on that day are asked to contact the pastor as soon as possible. The next baptismal service is likely to be Palm Sunday.

PROGRAMME ASSISTANT A week or two ago, the Metropolitan Y.M.C.A. was advertising a vacancy for a Programme Assistant in their Community Development/Youth Department. (As no date is given for closing applications, we do not know whether this post has already been filled) The successful applicant will organize and work with youth members of the Association, assess needs of the youth population and organize projects to meet these needs. Qualifications: HSC, proficient in Malay or Mandarin, creative and innovative, Christian, male between 20 - 25 years of age. Salary: Basic \$300; on-the-job training. Application forms from: Metropolitan YMCA, 70 Palmer Road, Singapore2



# The Marriage

## COMFORT EACH OTHER ...

Provide a refuge and sanctuary for each other from the chill winds of the world. Your marriage is a hearth from whence comes the peace, harmony and warmth of soul and spirit.

## CARESS AS YOU WOULD BE CARESSED ...

Warm your loved one's body with your healing touch. Remember that as babies can die with lack of touching, so can marriages wither from lack of closeness.

## BE A FRIEND AND PARTNER ...

Friendship can be a peaceful island, separate and apart, in a world of turmoil and strife. Reflect upon the tranquillity of the many future years you can share with a true friend and beware of becoming battling enemies under the same roof.

## BE OPEN WITH EACH OTHER ....

Bind not yourselves in the secretness that causes suspicion and doubt. Trust and reveal yourselves to each other, even as the budding rose opens to reveal its fragrance and beauty.

## LISTEN TO EACH OTHER ...

And hear not only words, but also the non-language of tone, mood and expression. Learn to listen to understand rather than listening to argue.

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RESPECT EACH OTHER'S RIGHTS ...

Remember that each is a person of flesh and blood  
entitled to his or her own choices and mistakes.  
Each owns himself, and has the right to equality.

ALLOW THE OTHER TO BE AN INDIVIDUAL ...

Seek not to create for each other a new mold  
that can only fit with much discomfort and pain.  
Accept the other as he or she is, as you would  
have yourself accepted.

GIVE EACH OTHER APPROVAL ...

Remember criticism divides, while compliments  
encourage confidence in the other. Hasten not  
to point out the other's mistakes, for each will  
soon discover his own.

CHERISH YOUR UNION ...

Let no one come between your togetherness;  
not child, nor friend, nor worldly goods.  
Yet maintain enough separateness to allow each  
other his or her own unique oneness.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER ...

Love is the river of your life — your eternal  
source of recreating yourselves. Above all else,  
love one another.



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 \* CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY \*  
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- 2 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS  
 10.00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor  
 11.15 A.M. JOY STALL of food in the Basement  
 CHOIR PRACTICE  
 12.00 NOON M.Y.F. OUTING to Tanah Merah leaves church  
 5.30 P.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor  
 8.00 P.M. MEMORIAL SERVICE for Wilton Soh
- 4 Tue. 8.00 P.M. OUTREACH COMMITTEE in the Church Basement
- 5 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 6 Thu. 8.00 P.M. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE at 31, Brock-  
 hampton Drive
- 7 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 9 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL (No Membership Class)  
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Dr Bobby Sng  
 11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE  
 12.00 NOON Worship Service at Woodbridge Hospital  
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. "The Family" (talk and discussion led  
 by pastor)  
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 11 Tue. CHINESE NEW YEAR'S DAY  
 8.00 A.M. FAMILY THANKSGIVING SERVICE
- 12 Wed. Ash Wednesday - Lent begins
- 14 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 16 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS  
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor  
 11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE  
 11.30 A.M. L.C.E.C. MEETING in the Basement  
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. DEVOTIONAL  
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 19 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 21 Fri. 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF METHODISM - THANKSGIVING  
 SERVICE at Toa Payoh Methodist Church
- 22 Sat. 7.30 P.M. 90TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER at ACS School Hall
- 23 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL  
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP with Infant Baptisms  
 12.00 NOON Worship Service at Woodbridge Hospital  
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. OUTING to Old People's Home  
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Lam Yet Seng  
 7.30 P.M. ABUNDANT LIFE MEETING at National Theatre  
 Rev. Dr Samuel Kamaleson



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 WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE  
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For Church Extension (excluding instalments on pledges already  
 acknowledged)

Mr & Mrs Lim Hock Aun	50.00	Mr & Mrs Charlie Tan	100.00
Mr & Mrs Lee Teck Hock	100.00	Mr & Mrs Wei Chong Seng	40.00
Mr & Mrs Wee Chye Huat	20.00		

Thanksgiving & Memorial Gifts

Mrs Tan Kim Tee	20.00	Miss P. Baruch & Jacqueline	50.00
Madam Ho Lek Cheng	100.00	In Loving Memory of <u>Wilton Soh</u>	
<u>Geok Hua</u> from:		Chairman, YWCA Katong Club	100.00
Mr & Mrs Chen Nee Sian	10.00	Rev & Mrs C.H. Smith	30.00

Pledges received in first 6 months (Aug-Jan) \$ 9,296

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 COLLECTING TINS FOR MISSIONS  
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Dr Khor Tong Hong, Chairman of the Outreach Committee, reports that Missions tins, issued last July, have been returned by 37 members and friends, and have raised a dollar or two short of \$500 (including a small balance left over from the Woodbridge Christmas donations).

Two hundred dollars is being sent to the Churches' Counselling Service and \$300 to the Sarawak Iban Provisional Annual Conference to help towards pastoral support.

The Missions tins are being re-issued and it is hoped that many more of you will use them during the second half-year to July 1975. The money raised in this way will be sent to Campus Crusade for Christ to help support two of our own members, Victor and Ivy Goh, who are our 'missionaries' in the student world.

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 NOTE ABOUT CHURCH KEYS  
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Please be warned that the locks on the church doors have now been changed. If you need access when the caretaker is not there, keys may be obtained (and signed for) from: Mr Choo Poh Siong, Mr Peter Lai, Mr Lawrence Pang or the pastor.



Singapore then became the centre from which the Methodist Church spread out into other parts of Southeast Asia - to Malaysia first, Penang and Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur; to the Philippines (1900), Sarawak (1903), Java and North Sumatra (1905); to the Bataks (1922), the Senoi (1931) and the Ibans (1950). Perhaps Dr Thoburn's text holds the key to the growth of the work! "...By my Spirit, saith the Lord"

Some of us have watched, with regret, the disappearance of so many of the old landmarks in our city. We know that the ancient houses in the back streets had become slums, and that other buildings had become inefficient, clumsy, space-wasters in a dynamic land-hungry young nation. But every country needs a history to give it some coherent sense of identity. I believe that the Church also needs a sense of its origins - longer, of course, than the coming of Oldham, or the conversion of the Wesleys, or the "Here I stand" of Martin Luther - and an understanding of its debt to the 'missionary' vision of an earlier age, if it is to accept its responsibility for its own mission today. So perhaps it is fitting that this month we celebrate a ninetieth birthday with thanksgiving, and commit ourselves to a decade of mission and evangelism which will make our centenary in 1985 a truly great occasion.

We invite you to participate in as many of the special Anniversary events which have been planned as you are able to do:-

- 21 February THANKSGIVING SERVICE at Toa Payoh Methodist Church with Bishop Wilbur Choy of the Council of Bishops preaching and the five Conference Presidents participating
- 22 February THANKSGIVING DINNER at the A.C.S. School Hall with tickets available from the pastor at \$10 each
- 23) Each evening at the National Theatre (in English)
- 24 February ABUNDANT LIFE MEETINGS
- 25) with Dr Samuel Kamaleson as our special preacher.

Dr Kamaleson will also conduct a Seminar on Evangelistic Preaching from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. daily, 22nd, 24th and 25th February, at Wesley Methodist Church. This seminar is intended primarily for pastors and Christian Workers. Dr Kamaleson is an old friend, former pastor of Emmanuel Methodist Church, Madras and Vice-President of World Vision International.

Pray that these meetings may be blessed by God, and that through our grateful celebration of the past many may find new life now and a new sense of mission for the future for our Church.