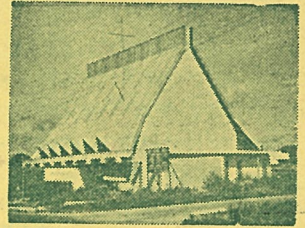


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY
SINGAPORE-19



Pastor—Rev. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

PARSONAGE:

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MC (P) 313/75

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

WORDS OF LIFE

APRIL 1975

In the records of the first Easter, the words of the Risen Lord seem to form a kind of pattern. Spoken on different occasions to different people, they come across as timeless, universal words of life.

The Day begins with one word: 'MARY!' - the calling of a name, by someone alongside, someone at first unrecognised though strangely familiar, someone breaking into a woman's sorrow, anxiety and sense of unutterable loss with the offer of himself. In that one word, the Lord says, "I am here; I am here for you."

Somehow this encounter takes us by surprise. 'WAS THE MESSIAH NOT BOUND TO SUFFER THUS before entering his glory?' asks the Stranger on the Emmaus road. You haven't been doing your Bible study, or you would have realised that the scriptures tell the story of the God who, from the beginning, has been seeking, calling, being rejected - and calling again the disobedient, obstinate and rebellious. "I have been seeking you for a long time," the Lord says, "but I couldn't reach you till you thought yourself too far away to be reached. You have tried to kill my caring; but see! I am here! Do not be surprised."

'WHY ARE YOU SO PERTURBED? Why do questionings arise in your mind?' Fear is there in the Easter record, fear in the darkness by the tomb, fear at the sudden unprecedented encounter, superstitious dread of ghosts. Our fear is different when we hear him call our name. We are afraid to believe he cares like that, afraid to be loved by a love that will not let us go, afraid of this meeting which means that life only makes sense on God's terms. The neat plans we have made may fall in ruins if we let him take charge.

TRINITY FAMILY NEWS

INFANT BAPTISMS at the evening service on Palm Sunday, 23 March:
Kenneth LOW Meng Tze (born 8 January 1972) &
Lisa LOW Lee Meng (born 26 December 1973), the
children of Mr & Mrs Peter Low Peng Bak of 37-A Mackerrow Road (13)

NEW MEMBER Mr Peter B. T. Lee of 25, Cotswold Close (13) by
transfer from the Westminster Chapel, London.

MARRIED At Kampong Kapor Methodist Church, by the Revs.
Wong Hoon Hee and Ong Chaik Ghee on Saturday,
22nd March, Miss Evita Lee Li Lian to Pastor Ngoei Foong Nghian,
associate pastor at Kampong Kapor.

OUR SYMPATHY is expressed to Mr Peter Lai and his family, at
the unexpected passing of his mother in Ipoh on
Sunday, 2 March.

CONGRATULATIONS to our successful candidates in the G.C.E. &
H.S.C. examinations, including:

<u>G.C.E.</u> Malcolm Tan	Selena Chin	Ivan Tan	Eugene Lim
Esther Tan			

<u>H.S.C.</u> Carol-Ann Tan	David Chia	Benjamin Chia
Yip Lai Cheng	Seah Seow Tong	Adeline Tan
Stephen Tan	Joyce Loh	Susan Wei

CHANGE OF ADDRESS The Editor apologises for the omission of Mr
& Mrs Tan Thuan Seng's new address from the last
Newsletter. They are now staying at 1, Clover Avenue (20)

FROM KUALA LUMPUR Paul George, former Vice-President of the MYF
Singapore: writes nostalgically of the two years spent in
Singapore: " The experiences I had in Singapore are still
very vivid in my mind, and there have been many moments when I
felt like catching a train back just to be with the usual gang
that I've grown so accustomed to. I particularly miss the Coffee
House as well as the M.Y.F. group. It's really funny; I'm back
in the place where I was born and bred for most of my years and
yet I'm 'homesick' for a place which I've lived in for barely two
years!" Paul is settling into his life-insurance field-work
with a growing sense of satisfaction - and helped the congregation
to break into the new Subang-Sungei Way preaching-point, when the
caretaker was out of town with the church key!

 EXTENSION PLANS MODIFIED

Soaring inflation, a period of 'tight money' and, perhaps, too limited a sense of commitment have made the Local Church Executive Committee re-assess our ambitious extension plans.

The original request to our architects was for plans to be drawn up, incorporating a parsonage, hall and enlarged sanctuary, within a budget of about \$ 250,000. Rising costs meant that the proposed plan would, it was anticipated, cost not more than \$ 400,000 - a very high target for a church of the size of Trinity, but one which we felt might not be entirely out of reach, particularly if the development could be carried out in phases. It was with this maximum figure in mind that the appeal was launched in the middle of 1974. It came as a rude shock, therefore, when the architect's quantity surveyor assessed construction costs a couple o months ago at over \$ 650,000!

This was a figure out of all proportion to our capabilities. It would be difficult, even for a very large church, to justify so big an investment in "bricks-and-mortar" as wise stewardship of the Church's resources! As we go on reminding ourselves, the Church is people with a programme, long before it is an institution with premises! Moreover, owing to the tightness of cash liquidity, the money we needed ha come in much more slowly than we had hoped. Even the original target seemed an "impossible dream", but this was way beyond our wildest fears. At the present time, even with a substantial loan from the Ecumenical Loan Fund, we can only see some \$ 120,000 in cash immediately available. Our giving has not kept pace with our needs, and I am still sure that we have much greater resources than we are prepared to use.

But in the light of all these factors, the L.C.E.C. at its March meeting, voted to request the architect to modify the existing plan by extending the present sanctuary by four 'bays' (instead of two), and making this extension in two floors: the ground floor providing a small 'hall' a little more than half the size of our sanctuary now with folding doors which would permit the whole area to be added to the church seating on festival days, and the first floor providing a choir loft, choir/committee room and church offices. This modification would leave the Master Plan substantially unaltered, so that it could be carried out at a later date if so desired, when more funds are available. This plan to all intents and purposes,

(see page six

 ** CALENDAR FOR APRIL **

- 2 Wed.
- 5 Sat. ALDERSGATE CONVENTION opens at K.E.VII Hall
 8.00 P.M. 'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE Guest Night with
 Mr Alex Abisheganaden
- 6 SUN. 8.00 A.M. M.Y.F. & MEMBERSHIP CLASS at St.Peter's Ch.
 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10.00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
 11.15 A.M. JOY STALL of food in the Basement
 CHOIR PRACTICE
 3.00 P.M. M.Y.F. meets to visit Chinese Temple
 5.30 P.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
- 9 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 11 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 12 Sat. 8.00 P.M. 'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE until 10.30 p.m.
 4.30 P.M. MONTHLY PARISH MEETING at 60 Watten Heights *
- 13 SUN. 8.00 A.M. M.Y.F. & MEMBERSHIP CLASS at S.Francis Xavier
 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Pastor Ngoei Foong
 11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE (Nghian)
 12.00 NOON Worship Service at Woodbridge Hospital
 3.00 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING to visit Hin a Temple
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 16 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 18 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 19 Sat. 8.00 P.M. 'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE until 10.30 pm.
- 20 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
 11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
 LOCAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meets
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING Discussion: "Christ and
 other religions"
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 23 Wed. 8.00 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse

* home of Mr & Mrs Liew En Kin

- 25 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 26 Sat. 8.00 P.M. 'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE until 10.30 p.m.
- 27 SUN. 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 - Mr Lam Yet Seng
- 30 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse

SPECIAL INVITATION!

Visit the ' O P E N D O O R '

Coffee House

each Saturday evening from 8 pm

Guest Night on 6th April

with Mr ALEX. ABISHEGANADEN

Don't miss this special evening!

The BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP meets each Wednesday evening at 7.45 pm
 at 28, Chuan Hoe Avenue

This Month's Study: "Introducing the Book of Revelation"
 Everybody is welcome!

TRAINING COURSE on Church Extension Centres in New Housing Estates
 each Saturday in April

2.30-4.30 pm

Course Fee: \$2.00

at Church of the Good Shepherd, 2 Dundee Road, Singapore 3

already been approved by the Planning Department, and since what is now proposed is simply a modification of what has been agreed, the architect does not anticipate any major delay to the commencement of the project.

It should, however, be recognised that this new plan will cost in the neighbourhood of \$ 150,000 so that we shall need to press forward over the next few months to raise that additional \$ 30,000 we need. We are grateful for what has already been done. We appeal now for another urgent effort so that we can go forward in the latter half of the year.

NEWS FOR THE LADIES

The members of the Kampong Kapor W.S.C.S. invite all the ladies of the church to share a three-week study course on the book

' JESUS CHRIST FOR TODAY '

by William Barclay

on 12th, 19th April and 3rd May. Each meeting will be preceded by a fellowship, and Rev. Hugh Baker will lead the study sessions.

A W.S.C.S. DISTRICT MEETING will be held on 26th April

Our W.S.C.S. President (and Church Lay Leader) will be away from 7th to 29th April. She will be visiting China with her sister on holiday.

LOOKING AHEAD!

16 MAY - 16 MAY - 16 MAY

W.S.C.S. SUNDAY will be held on 18th May, when the speaker at the 10 a.m. service will be Mrs Eileen Smith.

There will be a special offering for the WSCS Conference Project which this year is the support of new Counselling Centres in Ipoh and Penang.

A FOOD FAIR will follow the W.S.C.S. Sunday Service to raise money for this project and our own Church Extension Fund.

Because of the Food Fair, please note that there will be NO Joy Stall in the basement after the May 2nd Holy Communion Service. The Joy Stall will be there as usual this month on 6th April.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE

During the month of March we received \$ 1,803 in pledges and about \$ 1,700 in open offerings.

The Communion Offering on 'Veterans of the Cross' Sunday raised over \$250 for the Pastors' Pension Fund.

Thankofferings have been received from:

Miss Grace Lee	25.00	Dr & Mrs Alan Tay	20.00
Mr Michael Ong	20.00	Misses P.L. & P.C.Lim	200.00
Mrs Tan Hin Jing	25.00	Mrs S. Thevathasan	20.00
Mrs Alice Goh	75.00	In memory of the late	
		Mrs Tan Kim Tee	20.00

Church Extension Fund pledges and donations:

Mr Teo Beng Chuan	100.00	Miss Teo Chin Luan	100.00
Mrs Tan Khe Tong	200.00	Mr & Mrs Kwan Chee Yew	500.00
Mr Lim Kah Huat		Mr & Mrs Khoo Oon Hoe	100.00*
in loving memory		Mr & Mrs Chan Chong Hiok	10.00*
of his late wife	100.00	Mrs Susie Lee	20.00*
Anonymous	1500.00	Mrs Lim Leong Siung	30.00*
Mr & Mrs E.Samuel	10.00*	Miss Violet Tan	50.00*
Mr Tan Hoay Djin	20.00*	(* = pledge)	

Easter Offerings, where names were written on the envelopes:

Miss Deborah Chia	Miss P.C.Lim	Mrs Judy Yip
Miss Lucy Lau	Miss P.L.Lim	Miss Shirleen Yip
The Kan Family	Sharon & Radael Chia	Mr Sydney Lowe
Mr & Mrs V.A.Harris	Eugene Ong	Michelle Ong
Timothy Lai	Dr B. Sng	Serene Chew
Mr Chan Kok Foon	Mrs Chia Chye Koon	Mr Yeo Kim Kiat
Malcolm Tan	Mr & Mrs Lim Hock Aun	Dr T. H. Khor
Madam Clara Chan	Miss Betsy Hui	Miss Janet Chan
Miss Selena Lai	Mr & Mrs Tan Hui Peng	

"Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all."

And so we hold out against him who calls. Like Thomas, we will not live on another's testimony; we demand our own proof, a private demonstration. It is hard to doubt - for we have seen the change it makes - that others have met the living Christ; but it is easy to go on being uncommitted on the ground that nothing very special has happened to us. "It's all right for you. It means something to you. But I just haven't had the kind of experience you talk about." We turn a blind eye to the fact that the stranger beside us is calling our name. "BE UNBELIEVING NO LONGER, but believe!.... Happy are those who never saw me and yet have found faith."

And perhaps the germ of faith is there, inside us, struggling to be born. Easter finds us not totally unbelieving; beneath the level of our intelligence or understanding, there are deep, wordless longings for meaning, significance, life - and God. We hear, it seems, a wordless knocking at the door of our life; it troubles and disturbs us, makes us restless with ourselves as we are, and our life as it is. We are not sure what it is, this faint inner dissatisfaction that is like a beckoning figure on our path. "Lord, I do believe Not as I ought, perhaps, but the mustardseed of faith is there." And in reply, the voice says, "But DO YOU LOVE ME? Do you love me more than anything else? Will you care for the people I love? Will you?"

If we are ready to respond to that question, and give ourselves in love to the unrecognised Stranger, he commissions us to spread the experience we have been given. He sends us to tell others what we know, and what a difference it makes to us. He tells us not to cling to him but to share him, by putting our lives on the line for him. "AS THE FATHER SENT ME, SO I SEND YOU."

Where? How far? For how long? There is no boundary to that commission. It may be here, it may be anywhere. Its only limit is the world. "GO INTO ALL THE WORLD and make disciples!" The encounter with Jesus begins with the calling of my name; but who knows where it will end. That is why we hesitate to get involved. Never to be able to call my life my own! Never to know the security of a life without change, challenge or risk. "Come with me ... Go for me!" this is the uncomfortable word we hear.

And then - the promise, that shall never be shaken and that is our real security. "I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, even to the end of the world." Wonderful words of life!