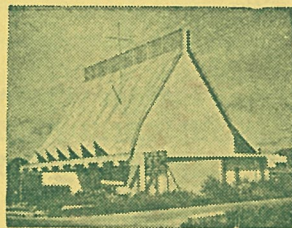


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY
SINGAPORE-19



Pastor—Rev. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

PARSONAGE:
28 CHUAN HOE AVENUE
SINGAPORE 19 • PHONE: 806339

MC (P) 313/75

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

MAY 1975

BIRD OF HEAVEN

The congregation in Ephesus hadn't "even heard that there is a Holy Spirit" (Acts 19:2), and if that is not literally true at Trinity, perhaps there are some who have not heard in a way that gets through. The images we use to make the Spirit real and vivid seem to convey very little; the Holy Ghost sounds like a phantom and the heavenly dove of the baptismal story (Mark 1:10) is almost as ethereal. We can understand the puzzled Japanese, trying to grasp the Christian message, who scratched his head, saying, "The Father I know, the Son I know - but who is this Holy Bird?"! Perhaps Sydney Carter's song will get through.

Catch the bird of heaven,
Lock him in a cage of gold;
Look again tomorrow,
And he will be gone.

Ah! the bird of heaven! Follow where the bird has gone;
Ah! the bird of heaven! Keep on travelling on.

It is a song of protest against so much religion. We want a tame God, a nice, domesticated, controllable God, like a pet 'budgie' in a cage. We will make for him a splendid cage of tradition and ceremony, and keep him for ourselves

Lock him in religion;
Gold and frankincense and myrrh
Carry to his prison -
But he will be gone.

For we cannot hold God! He is like a wild bird flying ahead of us. We chase after him, we bend to try to catch him - but he flutters on out of our reach. Just when he seems securely in our grasp, and we

TRINITY FAMILY NEWS

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Please note the following changes of address in your Church Directory.

Mr James T.H. Tay 15, Lorong Tanggam, Singapore (28)
Mr Paul George 33 Lorong Jambatan, Kuala Lumpur 21-02
Mrs How Ah Sun (Madam Mok Yuen Yee) 3rd Floor Khoo Block, Mount Alvernia Hospital, Thomson Road, Singapore 20

FORMER MEMBER

Mrs Ngoei Foong Ngian (formerly Miss Evita Lee Li Lian) is now living at 40, Yuk Tong Avenue, Singapore 21. Recently her membership was transferred to the Kampong Kapur Methodist Church where her husband is the Assistant Pastor.

AMONG OUR KNOWN SICK we send our love and prayerful good wishes for speedy recovery to a number who have been in hospital recently. Among them are Mr Ong Kim Siong, who was taken ill shortly after returning from Saigon where he has been attending a special course for the past four months. After some anxious days in Outram Road GH, he now seems to be improving. Mr Ong Seng Geok, of 38 Chartwell Drive, is hospitalised for surgery at Thomson Road GH. Mrs Ruth Wong has been in Mount Alvernia Hospital and little Sharon Chia, daughter of Mr & Mrs Vincent Chia, had to spend several days at ORGH. We were sorry to hear that Miss Khoo Sock Yan has been having trouble with her eyes; like Mr Harry Lim who, early last month, had a cataract removed.

We remember also those of our older members house-bound by sickness: Rev Chew Hock Hin, Mr Lee Eng Hoe who is blind and Mrs How Ah Sun (Madam Mok) at Mount Alvernia. Also, though not a member, Mr Lee Kong Boon, father of Mr Francis Lee.

Please remember all these in your prayers. Perhaps you could find time to visit one or more of them.

ADDITIONAL SUCCESSES Accidentally omitted from last month's list of successful GCE candidates were Peter Lim and Dan Ng. We add apologies to our congratulations!

WELCOME HOME!

Our Lay Leader, Mrs Catherine Pang, is back from her holiday visit to China. She will be talking about her trip at the Parish Meeting, 10th May.

T.V. PERSONALITIES A B.B.C. Film Unit recently visited Singapore to make a documentary on educational development in the Commonwealth countries. The film was shot around the life and work of teacher and Primary III students at Serangoon Garden South School, where Mrs Tan Khe Tong's imaginative principalship has built up such a fine reputation in educational circles here. We are proud that recognition has been given in this way.

And, while we are talking about TV, we note that Deborah Chia and Esther Tan both sang in groups trying to "Make it Together" in the recent RTS competition series.

MONTHLY PARISH MEETING is on Saturday, 10th May, at 27 Blandford Drive, the home of Mr & Mrs Khoo Eu Kiong. Come and share this informal fellowship, with Mrs Catherine Pang talking about her visit to China.

THANKS FOR GIFT We hope you like the new folders for the Newsletter, though we are sorry that the printers took too long to get them ready (hence the late arrival of this issue!). We express our appreciation to My Wong Tien Choh for a generous gift of 24 reams of paper for this purpose.

HUNT THE PASTOR! Pastor will be out of town from 13th to 16th May, attending the Pastors'/Church Workers' Retreat in Kuantan. He will also be having a short holiday with the family from 23rd to 28th May, during which time he hopes to visit former students and friends in K.L.

If urgent pastoral care is needed during these times, please get in touch with Mrs Catherine Pang, Mr Peter Lai (LCEC Chairman), Dr Khor Tong Hong (Vice-Chairman) or Mr Andrew Lee (Local Preacher).

W.S.C.S. SUNDAY SUNDAY 18TH MAY !

A day to remember - remember - remember !

The Ladies will be in charge of the 10 a.m. service.

Theme: "Christ's Call to Discipleship"

Preacher: Mrs Eileen Smith

The service will be followed by a W.S.C.S. inspired F O O D F A I R in aid of the WSCS Conference Project (Counselling Centres for Ipoh & Penang) and our Church Extension Fund.

Come one and all - but especially the Ladies! Make this a happy and memorable day in the life of our Church Family!

 ** CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MAY 1975 **

- 1 Thu. LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 3 Sat. 3.00 P.M. LAY VISITATION GROUP leaves church
8.00 P.M. 'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE till 10.30 p.m.
- 4 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE (No Joy Stall this week)
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING - 'Singspiration'
5.30 P.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
- 7 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 10 Sat. 3.00 P.M. LAY VISITATION GROUP leaves church
4.30 P.M. MONTHLY PARISH MEETING at home of Mr & Mrs
E.K.Khoo, 27 Blandford Drive (19)
8.00 P.M. 'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE till 10.30 p.m.
- 11 SUN. Christian Family Life Sunday
8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP with Infant Baptism.
Preacher: Dr Gunnar J. Teilmann Jr
11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
12.00 NOON WORSHIP SERVICE at Woodbridge Hospital
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. COTTAGE MEETING at 24 Alnwick Road
5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
8.30 P.M. 'MESSIAH' at Orchard Road Presbyterian Church
- 13 Tue. S.M.A.C. PASTORS'/WORKERS' SCHOOL begins at Kuantan
- 14 Wed. NO Bible Study Fellowship this week
- 17 Sat. 3.00 P.M. LAY VISITATION GROUP leaves church
8.00 P.M. 'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE till 10.30 p.m.
- 18 SUN. Pentecost & W.S.C.S. Sunday
8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mrs Eileen Smith
11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
W.S.C.S. FOOD FAIR in the church basement
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING - Combined Meeting with Barker
Road M.Y.F. (at Trinity M.C.)
5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 21 Wed. 8.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse

- 24 Sat. 3.00 P.M. LAY VISITATION GROUP leaves church
 8.00 P.M. 'THE OPEN DOOR' COFFEE HOUSE till 10.30 p.m.
- 25 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL (NO Membership Class)
 10.00 A.M. ALDERSGATE SUNDAY WORSHIP - Mr Andrew Lee
 11.15 A.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
 12.00 NOON SERVICE OF WORSHIP at Woodbridge Hospital
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Lam Yet Seng
- 26 Mon. VESAK DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY
- 28 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 30 Fri. School end First Semester (till 23 June)

CHURCH TRAMP (concluded from Page 7)

Of course it's not a perfect church;
 That's simple to discern!
 But you and I and all of us
 Could cause the tide to turn.

What fools we are to flee our post
 In that unfruitful search!
 To find at last, where problems loom,
 God rpoudly builds His Church.

- Author Unknown -

MISGIVINGS ON MATTHEW 25: 31ff

I was hungry - and you formed a humanities club and discussed my
 hunger. Thank you.
 I was in prison - and you crept off quietly to your chapel and prayed
 for my release. Thank you.
 I was naked - and you debated the morality of my appearance.
 I was sick - and you knelt and thanked God for your health.
 I was homeless - and you preached to me the shelter of God's love.
 I was lonely - and you left me alone to go home and pray for me.

You are so holy and close to God. I am so hungry and cold.
 You prayed - but your prayers were unanswered.
 What does it profit a man if he pages the prayer book daily, when the
 rest of the world is crying for help?

- Author Unknown -

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE

Thanksgiving Gifts from the following:

Dr & Mrs Alan Tay 20.00

Church Extension Fund including ~~former~~ pledges

Miss Violet Tan	20.00	Mr Ng Cheng Guan	200.00
Mr & Mrs Khoo Oon Hoe	75.00	Rev. Denis Dutton	101.60
Mrs Lim Leong Siung	15.00	Mrs B. K. Khoo	100.00

Ordinary pledges were a little less than average during April.
The Pledge Treasurer encourages members and friends who are giving
in this systematic way to keep up to date with pledges, as far as
this is possible.

CAR POOLING!

One of our members offers a lift from Serangoon Garden
Estate to 5 m.s. Bukit Timah (via University of Singapore). The
car leaves the estate by 6.40 a.m.

Anybody interested is asked to contact the pastor.

NEED A TUTOR ?

One or two of our University students offer themselves as
tutors for those interested. Please contact Seah Siow Kiang.

M.Y.Fers LOOK AT OTHER RELIGIONS

As part of a month-long series of programmes on "Christ &
the Religions", members of the M.Y.F. accompanied the pastor on
week-end visits to other places of worship in the city. We went
to the Eucharist at St. Peter's Church and early Mass at St. Francis
Xavier's. In the afternoons we visited a Chinese Buddhist temple,
a Hindu temple, were at evening prayers at a mosque and attended
a service at the synagogue in Waterloo Street. We had the chance
to talk about some of the things we saw and felt afterwards.

IN AID OF THE CHURCHES' COUNSELLING SERVICE

Mrs Lilian Choo and her Combined Choirs present

Handel's famous Oratorio

' M E S S I A H '

at the

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

on Sunday 11th May 1975, 8.30pm

Soloists

Penelope Gan

Eileen Smith

David Lim

Robert Iau

Entrance is by programme obtainable from the Churches' Counselling Centre or at the door of the church on the evening of the performance. Or you can obtain vouchers (exchangeable for programmes) in advance from the pastor.

'MESSIAH' will also be presented the previous evening at the Singapore Conference Hall in aid of the Graduate Christian Fellowship.

CHURCH TRAMP

If you should find the perfect church
Without one fault or smear,
For goodness sake don't join that church!
You'll spoil the atmosphere.

If you should find the perfect church
Where all anxieties cease,
Then pass it by, lest joining it,
You mar the masterpiece.

If you should find the perfect church
Then don't you ever dare
To tread upon such holy ground;
You'd be a misfit there.

But since no perfect church exists,
Made of imperfect men,
Then cease looking for that church
and love the church you're in

(See page 5)

have defined him in our beautiful formulae and shaped an image in his incomparable likeness, he's gone - leading us tantalisingly forward to new experiences and challenging new vistas.

Temple made of marble,
Beak and feathers made of gold;
All the bells are ringing -
But the bird has gone.

It is a temptation as old as history - to want God in a cage, God in a box, a God we can carry around and say, "He's here! We've got him and He's ours!". The ancient Hebrews had the Ark of the Covenant, and when the box was captured by the Philistines, they cried, "The glory is departed from Israel" (I Sam.4) They built for God the Jerusalem Temple, and thought they had left God behind when they were taken away into captivity in Babylon (Is.137:4). On the Mount of Transfiguration (Mark 9), even the closest disciples wanted to keep the glorious vision safely housed in three tents on the mountain top!

The temptation is to stay where we are, to cling to the security of past experiences and to act as though He has no new thing to reveal. So we tailor God to our own littleness; we make Him a Methodist on a grand scale; we are confident that we understand Him as nobody else does and imply (even though we deny it) that He strongly disapproves of vestments, incense, candles and the noisier activities of the Pentecostals! We cut Him down to an "our-size" God that we can be comfortable with. But ...

Bell and book and candle
Cannot hold him any more,
For the bird is flying
As he did before.

Ah! the bird of heaven! Follow where the bird has gone;
If you want to find him, Keep on travelling on.

The message of Pentecost is the message of the living God, who will not be controlled and who is always in control. The Church had to learn it at the beginning. First they wanted to limit Him to the Jews, but the Spirit broke loose. He chose His missionaries and the Gentiles felt His hand as He guided and prevented their journeying. And the Church needs to go on learning God afresh, as the uncaged Bird of Heaven, the Spirit of Christ that still leads us on down new and unexpected roads and still calls to us, "Follow me!"

"Ah! the bird of heaven! Keep on travelling on."