

TMC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY — FEBRUARY 1983 MC(P) 10/1/83

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

"Church? Who needs it?"

"I don't have to go to church to worship God."

"As long as I attend Christmas and Easter services, I don't have to worry about church membership."

"What has Conference Commitment to do with me? What is it anyway?"

I am sure you have heard some of the statements and questions quoted above. The tone may be different. The words may not be exactly the same. But surely you know of people who have raised questions and issued statements regarding the church membership. Sometimes the questions are raised out of ignorance. Other times they are genuine protests against the imperfections of the established churches and church-goers. But at times, I suspect that the questions raised and statement made are just sheer excuses for our own failure to keep our pledge to God to support His Church and to participate in corporate worship. It is always easier for us to point an accusing finger at the faults of others than to admit that we are also not perfect.

I would like to take this opportunity to clear some misconceptions concerning the church and membership.

MISCONCEPTION 1: THE CHURCH IS ONLY A BUILDING.

The Church is not just a building. It is more than that. Paul uses many metaphors to illustrate the meaning of the Church. His best example is that the Church is the Body of Christ. Christ is the Head of the Church. We are all different members of the same Body. You would realise that for the Body to function properly, every part of that Body must learn to cooperate with each other, and each part has to accept the unique roles of the others. The Church is the Body of Christ. It is a gathering of believers who form the different parts of the Body. The ministry of the Church is impeded every time a member refuses to participate or support her work.

MISCONCEPTION 2: THE CHURCH IS A PLACE FOR "SAINTS".

If by "saints" we mean "Christians" then the statement is correct. The church is meant for Christians. But if by "saints" we mean "perfect and sinless" people, then the statement is wrong. The Church is made up of Christians who acknowledge that they are not perfect. We attend church services because we want to worship God, receive teachings from God and we desire to grow in our faith in God.

PASTOR DANIEL KOH KAH SOON TEL. NOS. 2824443 7481986

MISCONCEPTION 3: I DON'T NEED TO ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES REGULARLY.

We know that there are people who cannot attend church services regularly. We have in mind the disabled, the shut-ins and people who work on Sunday. These people would love to attend church regularly if only they could do so. But if we are healthy and we don't have to work on Sunday, surely it is not a great sacrifice to give God one morning each week to worship Him.

A WORD ABOUT CONFERENCE COMMITMENT

The Methodist Church in Singapore is a connectional Church. We have a Bishop, and a Headquarter. The salaries of all pastors and money needed to support Conference projects (missions, social concerns, evangelism, Christian education, schools etc) come from the contributions of all Methodist churches. Each year our contribution (Conference Commitment) is based on the total recorded membership of our church. If you are a registered member of

TMC, it does not matter whether you are regular in church attendance, whether you have migrated to another country, or whether you are now attending another church, as long as your name is in our membership roll, TMC has to send \$120 for every member to the Headquarter annually.

A WORD ABOUT TAKING MEMBERSHIP SERIOUSLY

As a member of the church, each of us pledged to support the church by our regular attendance, prayer, gifts and service. Keeping or disregarding this pledge is a reflection of our faith or lack of it, in God and His Church. As your pastor, I would encourage everyone to take church membership seriously for the love of God and His Church.

1 Corinthians chapter 12 is worth reading and meditating.

Diana and I wish you all a God-blessed Lunar New Year.

With you in His Glorious Service.

Pastor Daniel K.S. Koh

EDITORIAL

We have just entered a new year. Let us thank God for the manifold blessings which He had showered upon us, the mercy He had shown us, the Grace which He had bestowed upon us and most of all the Love which He had given us through the precious gift of His beloved Son Jesus Christ.

Let us search hearts earnestly and honestly to see if we have failed God in any of these areas. Have we been faithful in our stewardship of time, and money or have we been robbing God? Have we been regular in our attendance at church or are we "C and E" Christians. (Christmas and Easter)? Have we been praying, reading the Bible, doing our quiet time or seeking the will of God for John 15:5 says "apart from Me, you can do nothing."

If we have not been regular in any of these areas let us ask God for forgiveness and make a New Year resolution to ask God to help us to have a closer walk with God and "do not be anxious for your life as to what you shall eat or to what you shall drink nor for your body as to what you shall put on," (Matthew 6:25) "But seek first His Kingdom and His Righteousness and all these things shall be added to you!"

Wishing you a meaningful and Happy New Year for 1983 and God Bless you!

Tham Yew Kee
Editor

INFORMATION

MYF REPORT FOR NEWSLETTER

The MYF sets the following objectives for the year 1982/83:-

1. to enhance a greater sense of commitment in the youth toward God;
2. to inculcate spiritual growth in the MYFers, especially in the areas of Christian conduct and discipline;
3. to encourage MYFers to participate in the ministry of disciple-making; and
4. to help develop a deeper level of fellowship among MYFers.

To fulfill these objectives, weekly programmes have been planned in such a way that relevant topics will be discussed by invited speakers, through video tape teachings and in small groups. The small groups concept was implemented, specifically to help MYFers develop a deeper level of fellowship.

For the next two months, weekly programmes will be centred on the theme of Christian living. Topics listed below will probably be dealt with.

Strength in weakness.

Fulfilling your responsibility.

Christian conduct — what does the Bible has to say.

The fear of the Lord.

The Bible and our habits.

The Bible and honesty.

The Bible and materialism.

The above programmes will be punctuated by a special event, the MYF Annual Games Day! Be on the look out for more details.

If you are a youth reading this newsletter now, the MYFers would like to invite you to join us during our weekly meetings, every Saturday at 4.00 p.m. You are also welcome to join us for the MYF weekly Prayer and Sharing Session held in Church every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m.

We look forward to meeting you.

NEWS FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

1) Christmas Programmes

Recently the Sunday School organised a combined Christmas party with the MYF. It was held on Saturday 18th December, 1982. The party was well supported with about 130 persons in attendance. Judging from the joyous way the young people participated in singing and playing games, the party was a success. We want to thank the parents for their donations of cash and food.

The following day, 19th December, a combined Christmas Worship Service was held in the church sanctuary. Again the attendance was good. The programme included carol singing, a sketch by the teachers, a message from our Pastor and the Christmas story presented by the junior department.

2) Witnessing in Kim Keat

A few teachers led by Joyce Chew started witnessing in the Kim Keat area for the last three months. Through their efforts about ten children are attending our Sunday School. They are put in a special class called the "Follow-up" Class. We thank God for this ministry and continually seek His guidance and blessing.

If you need prayer support or pastoral care, please let Pastor know. You may give him a call or send him a note.

If you are planning to get married in church, consult the Pastor before you finalised your date or book the restaurant. Couples thinking of getting married in church must attend 4-6 sessions of Pre-Marital Preparation classes. The Pastor should be notified at least three months before your marriage.

PULPIT CALENDAR

JANUARY — MARCH 1983
THEME — PARABLES OF JESUS: LIVING
IN GOD'S KINGDOM

JANUARY

- 2 The Sower, The Seed & The Soil
- 9 The Wheat and The Weeds
- 16 Yeast and Mustard, Dough and Tree
- 23 Humility and Hospitality
- 30 Preparing For His Majesty's Service

FEBRUARY

- 6 Passing By The Other Side
- 13 The Parable Of The Three Pigs (LUNAR NEW YEAR)
- 20 The Guy Who Wanted To Go His Own Way
- 27 The Salt Without Taste

MARCH

- 6 Invitation To A Royal Feast
- 13 The Rich and The Poor (SOCIAL CONCERNS SUNDAY)
- 20 Getting Ready For The Royal Bridegroom
- 27 Royal Entry Into Jerusalem
- 28-31 Holy Week Nightly Meetings

If you have not returned to the church the membership survey form, will you do so immediately. Our membership record is incomplete without your particulars.

If you have been attending another church with no intention of returning to Trinity Methodist Church, and you wish to have your membership transferred out, please inform the Pastor. It is our policy to encourage members to worship in a church of their choice where they can participate meaningfully in the life and ministry of that church.

FOTO - NEWS



CHRISTMAS PARTY AT WOODBRIDGE HOSPITAL



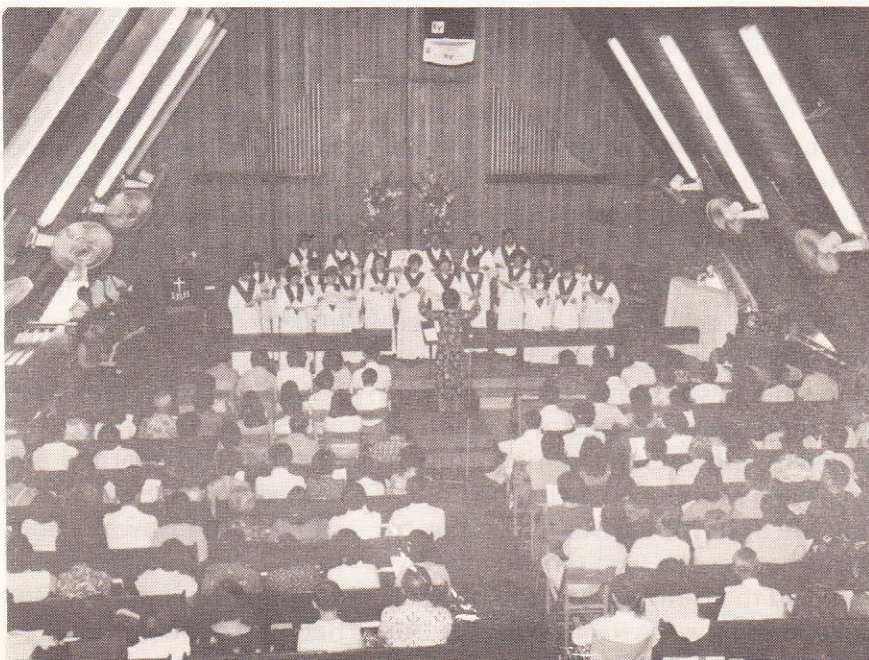
POT-LUCK DINNER, 31. 12. 82



MEMBERS OF TMC GIVING A SKETCH AT WOODBRIDGE HOSPITAL



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND MYF CHRISTMAS PARTY



O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL — CHRISTMAS SERVICE

TESTIMONY

HOW I BECAME A CHRISTIAN AND WHAT JESUS CHRIST MEANS TO ME

Ever since I was a boy, I knew deep down within me that there is a God, but how can God care for me when He has the world to take care of. I was brought up in a family where my parents taught me that "life is what you make out of it". So I studied hard and strived to be happy.

I began to allow the world to squeeze me into its mould and to model myself after it. Like many others I know, I lived a happy, joyful, and satisfied life on the outside, but inside I was all broken up.

I was too proud to turn to my Christian friends to find out about their 'God'. I began to follow God in my own superstitious way, and from the things I picked up from my sisters and brothers who were from Catholic schools. I learned a prayer or two which I recited each night and in times of trials and trouble.

Then one day, something happened that was to change the whole course of my life. It was in my second year in the Singapore Polytechnic when a friend of mine met me during a lunch break. He introduced me to the Christian life and what Jesus Christ has to offer me. For the first time in my life I realised the freedom and the hope all believers have in Christ Jesus. All

these years I never knew Him, yet He loved me. I was moved by the Holy Spirit and all the walls and masks that I have put around me all my life were torn down before me. There and then I repented and sincerely surrendered my life to the Lord Jesus.

As a young Christian, my friend quickly enrolled me into a Christian camp during my vacations, so that I could learn to walk closer with my Saviour. After the camp, I was so full of hope and joy for my new found faith, that I was ready to go back and change the world.

But God was to show me that the Christian life is not a bed of roses. "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15 : 18, 19

And so it was that when I began to share my faith with others, I was rejected and scorned and instead of receiving Christ after I spoke to them, many turned away. Somehow I felt that I was responsible for these people's rejection of God and that I had failed God.

To add to my problems, I was enlisted into the army. There I suffered alongside many others and experienced loneliness which I've never felt before in my life. I tried to make up by doing good and helping others, but this could not lift the burden that was weighing in my heart and slowly I began to fall back to my old sinful ways.

But Jesus promised in Hebrew 13 : 5 that "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." God did not reject me and count me unworthy of Him, but he loved so much that through my suffering and loneliness He was moulding me to be strong in my faith.

And so one night, in my darkness hour of loneliness in the army, God witnessed to me through the Holy Spirit and it all came clear to me, I broke down and on my knees I asked Jesus Christ to come back to the throne of my life. And I thanked God

that He loved so much more by letting me suffer through those years of emptiness in the army to bring me back to Him.

The Bible says in Romans 8 : 38, 39 "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

Whatever former achievements I had in life, whatever good that I did, whatever high ideals which I held and whatever kindness that I have shown to a fellow human being, they all amount to nothing as compared to the love and joy of knowing Jesus Christ as my Lord.

Edgar Wong

If you have not been attending church service for sometime, we want you to know that we miss you. It is our prayer that you will join us in fellowship and worship soon.

If you have children of school age and are not attending our Sunday school, you may want to encourage them to join other children who are enrolled with our Sunday School where they are taught about God, the Christian Faith and Beliefs. We'll love to see your children in Sunday School.



Let us light the light of peace.

LCEC CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The old year has phased out and the new year has begun.

I am sure we are all thinking of our plans for the new year.

TMC's theme for the New Year is the Church and Mission. This theme was adopted at our recent Church Retreat where detailed discussions were held and plans made for the year.

I see quite clearly that all planned activities can be divided into two functional areas. Firstly, the internal function which is to cater to the needs of members through worship and music and through the various organisations for youth, adults and women. Important as the internal function may be, we must not forget our Mission outside the church. All internal activities provide a broad based Christian education which must be put into application. "We enter to worship and depart to serve."

The second functional area is Outreach. Here we have three committees which I see as the spearhead of our outreach programme. They are Missions, Evangelism, Social Concerns.

Bringing the word of God to diverse peoples must be accompanied by care and concern for people. This makes it imperative for Evangelism and Social Concerns to complement one another in their activities. As I see it, Evangelism has a slightly different function from Missions since its primary objective is conversion. Missions is concerned with encouraging our members to become more missionary minded and provides information and education on Mission work. Its hope is to nurture mission minded members into becoming full time missionaries and to support such members.

It is quite definite that all our internal activities are meant to prepare us for a greater task which is to reach out and share the Good News of the Gospel with everyone. This is the task of every disciple of Christ.

May the Lord's richest blessings be upon you as you serve Him in the New Year.

Daniel Gwee



HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR TO ALL

from LCEC, Pastor & Dianna

"They that are whole need not a physician : but they that are sick."

Luke 5 : 31.

The MAF invites you to a series of 6 meetings to discover the full meaning of your life in perfect balance. To let the Great Physician take charge and make you whole all over.

8.00pm Tuesday:

11th JANUARY - WHOLENESS : Shalom - perfect harmony with myself, others and God.
What gets you down and why?

25th JANUARY - RELATIONAL : No man is an island.

8th FEBRUARY - VOCATIONAL : Is your work a job or a calling?

22nd FEBRUARY - ENVIRONMENTAL : What are you filling your life with?
What are your priorities?
How do you spend your time?

8th MARCH - PHYSICAL : What is your body saying to you?

22nd MARCH - SPIRITUAL : What is optimum health and well-being?
What is the difference between holistic and wholistic health?

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF
LEARNING, SHARING AND FELLOWSHIPING