

TMC NEWSLETTER

MARCH - APRIL 1983 MC (P) 10/1/83

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

There is a church situated in a middle-class sub-urban district of Revenland. This church is a growing church. Each Sunday people would flock into the sanctuary to worship God. The young people are active. The ladies are usually available to help out in church ministries. The church as a whole is mission-conscious so much so that a good percentage of its annual budget is earmarked for mission-related projects.

And as the church grows in number and spiritual maturity, the leaders and pastor begin to ask important questions like how may they collectively show more love and concern for one another. It is not that the church lacks warmth. Most visitors can attest to the fact that they do feel welcome when they attend worship services. Nor is it because the church has no programme which expresses its care and concern for members and the underprivileged in society. A look at the programmes and projects planned by the various organisations confirm that the church cares. But a warm and caring church cannot rest on its laurels. The members and pastor want to deepen and widen their quality of love and concern for members and friends.

As the pastor contemplates on how he could guide the church members into deeper faith and greater love for God and His children, he sees the care-taker of the church approaching him. "Pastor", she sheepishly mutters in her broken English, "long time Sim Tiah no come Church already huh? He very active when Rev Teng here. A good boy Sim Tiah. Now he no come church. Sometimes he come when I telephone tell him I miss him. I call him later okay? See if he come this Sunday. Please Pastor, call him too. He good boy."

Pastor remembers how this care-taker had in the past brought to his attention some other members and friends who had missed church or had been going through difficult times in their lives. How she would say, "Please pastor, pray for Tan. He good too." "Please pastor, I

call Kek Sim can? I saw her when she small girl in Sunday School. Now she no come regular." "Pastor I so happy George Richard this morning came to church. He no attend church for so long. I happy to see him pastor."

The pastor then remembers how her face would light up in joy when a member who had been absent for a long time turns up for worship.

He also recalls the question which the church leaders had discussed with him: "How may they collectively show more love and concern for one another?"

He has found an answer. Every member should be a church care-taker. Nay, every member should be a church care-giver.

With you in His Glorious Service.

Pastor Daniel K.S. Koh

(This is a tribute to our care-taker Mary. God bless her)



"OF COURSE NOBODY KNOWS WHAT GOD LOOKS LIKE. I HAVEN'T FINISHED DRAWING HIS PICTURE YET."

PASTOR DANIEL KOH KAH SOON

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EDITORIAL

Easter is fast approaching and once again we cannot help but turn our attention and focus our thoughts on our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ who died on the cross that we might be saved. Jesus Christ died at Calvary as our substitute taking the sinners' place. Jesus Christ went to the cross that He might endure the wrath of God against the sins of the world.

The scriptures clearly declare our Lord's suffering and that His death was our ransom. Isaiah 53: 6 reads, "All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him." In 2 Corinthians 5:21, we are told that God "made Him who knew no sin, to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him". This shows God's supreme love for us.

Since God has shown His love for us by the precious gift of His beloved Son then it is not asking too much if we reciprocate our love for Him by giving sacrificially to His church. On 20th March our church is launching a fund raising campaign for a building extension project to be called "Trinity Educational Centre". I appeal to each and every member of T.M.C. and friends of T.M.C. to donate cheerfully, generously and sacrificially so that our Church may extend His Kingdom here on earth especially in the Serangoon Gardens/Ang Mo Kio area. Remember God loves a cheerful giver and He will bless your lives richly.

There will be a nightly spiritual renewal meetings from March 28 to March 31 beginning at 7.45 p.m. each night. Rev Martin Alphonse will be bringing God's message on the three nights and Mr Edmund Chua will speak on Maundy Thursday. Please make time to attend these nightly meetings for personal spiritual renewal and growth and you will be richly blessed.

May God bless you and wishing you a Happy Easter!

Tham Yew Kee

HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME

Every member and friend is invited and encouraged to PRAY for and PARTICIPATE in our Holy Week Programme. Plan to bring your friends and family along.

a) RENEWAL PROGRAMME

Theme : Cross and Renewal
Date : March 28 - 31, 1983
Time : Nightly from 7.45 p.m.
Speakers : Rev Martin Alphonse
: Mr Edmund Chua (Maundy Thursday)

b) GOOD FRIDAY

Theme : The Seed Must Die
Date : April 1, 1983
Time : Morning 10.00 a.m.
Speaker : Pastor

c) EASTER SUN-RISE SERVICE

Date : April 3, 1983
Time : 7.00 a.m.
Speaker : Mr Malcolm Tan
(Breakfast will be provided)

d) EASTER SUNDAY

Theme : The Son Rises
Date : April 3, 1983
Time : Morning 10.00 a.m.
Speaker : Pastor
(Holy Communion postponed to April 10)

PULPIT CALENDAR

THEME - PARABLES OF JESUS : LIVING IN GOD'S KINGDOM

MARCH

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

APRIL

1 The Seed Must Die
(GOOD FRIDAY)
3 The Son Rises
(EASTER SUNDAY)

THEME - CONTROVERSIES IN CORINTH

10 Friction And Faction
17 Sexual Immorality And The Christian Life
24 Food And The Idols

MAY

1 The Lord's Supper
8 Teach Me O Lord
(WSCS SUNDAY)
15 The Way Of Love
22 (ALDERSGATE SUNDAY)
29 Tongues, Prophesy, Love And Edification

TRINITY EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

(A Project of Trinity Methodist Church - Serangoon Garden)

We are aware that you have all been waiting anxiously for news on our Church Extension Project - Trinity Educational Centre, and we are happy to inform you on the progress made thus far.

The LCEC has after careful and prayerful consideration taken the final decision to proceed with the Project. The Board of Trustees of the Methodist Church in Singapore have also endorsed the Project.

The Project Committee under the leadership of Mr. Pang Kia Seng has been working closely with the architectural firm of M/S. Tuh Fuh Lee & Lee Bay Tseng. The plan has been submitted to the relevant authorities for approval.

The plan of the extension Project caters for much needed additional space. All activities of the Church organised through the various programme committees and Church organisations:- Sunday School, Junior Church, Adult Bible Class, MYF, MAF, WSCS and Senior Citizens will largely benefit as a result of the extension Project.

The plan also incorporates a multi-purpose social hall, a kitchen, a library and caretaker's quarters.

The extension which is a two-storey building has been designed to blend with the existing sanctuary. With the completion of this Project, the seating capacity of the sanctuary will be increased.

Minor alteration and renovation to the present basement is also in the pipe-line.

The total cost of the Project is approximately \$1,000,000. The Church Building Extension Fund Raising Committee will officially launch the fund drive on Sunday 20th March 1983. The aim is to get members to pledge their support for the fulfilment of this Project to the Glory of God.

God's work needs your support - Please take up the challenge prayerfully.

P. Sathiasingam
CHAIRMAN
CHURCH BUILDING EXTENSION
FUND RAISING COMMITTEE.

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.

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.

MYF ANNUAL GAMES DAY 1983

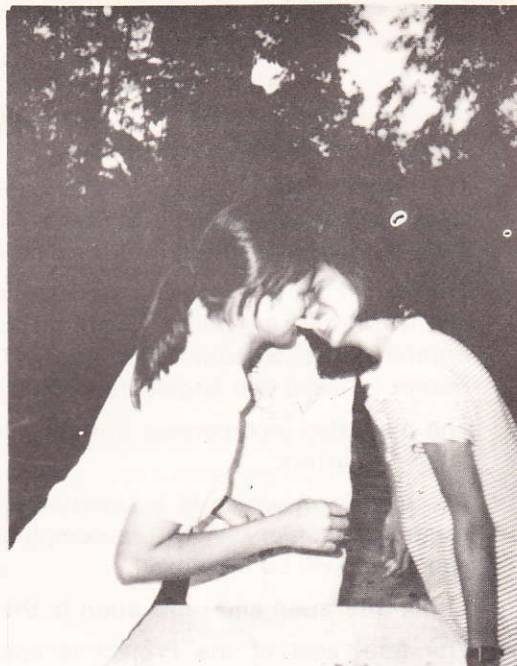
The Annual Games Day organised by the MYF took place on 29.1.83. in the church ground. It was a time of fun and fellowship for both members and friends.

Although this event was organised by the young people, we had participants whose ages range from 13 to above 30. Had it not been for the intermittent "showers of blessings" our Lay-Leader Mr Chew Chin Jin might have put on his sport-suit and joined the rest in games designed to bring out laughter, tease the mind and wet the body. Mr. Chew was spared the showers when he was appointed the official judge.

Pastor Daniel Koh and his wife Dianna, the Conference Youth Worker were with us to give moral support. Other guests included Conference MYF President Lim Jen Huat and his council members.

At the end of the day, the mini-olympians were exhausted and the coordinator of the day, Christopher Ow was rewarded with a bombardment of water balloons and saucers full of flour.

And as I was saying my tooth-paste is better than yours.



Games Day.



WSCS PROGRAMMES**27 MARCH, SUNDAY**

We will be cooking dinner and having fellowship with the senior citizens of the Whampoa Methodist Home for the Aged.

Time of Departure from Church : 4.15 p.m. Please come and support us by your presence or your contributions.

29 MARCH, TUESDAY

WSCS participation in the Holy Week Nightly Renewal Meetings

9 APRIL, SATURDAY

Combined Service with Paya Lebar WSCS

Place : Paya Lebar Methodist Church

Time : 4.00 p.m.

Speaker : Rev Naomi Dowdy

Topic : "Women Of The Bible" Part II

16 APRIL, SATURDAY

WSCS Fellowship Hour in church member's home

Time : 4.00 p.m.

8 MAY, SUNDAY**WSCS SUNDAY**

The ladies will be in charge of the services on this day.

Speaker : Mrs Tan Siang Chwee

Topic : "Teach Me O Lord"

A mini fair will be held in the church basement after the morning 10.00 a.m. service. All the proceeds of this fair will go towards the following:-

- 1) FELLOWSHIP CENTRE FOR DISABLED (50%)
- 2) ANNUAL CONFERENCE WSCS PROJECT (50%)

Games Day.



Watch out Chin Soon. The white monster is behind you.

I have always believed in the existence of God. I come from a non Christian family and religion for me at best has been a haphazard, touch and go affair - I was never entirely convinced. As I grew older I began to discover that gradually the Buddhist/Taoist belief grew less and less relevant for me - there is no sense of firm belonging - in times of stress I could not turn to it for spiritual comfort. A vacuum in me needed filling up as after all spiritual side of life is just as important as the material, without which how can there be a balance? I am fortunate as Christ found me at the right point of my life.

Through an almost planned set of circumstances, a very dedicated Christian friend from Malaysia witnessed to me one day. She could answer many of my questions, and I accepted Christ on the spot and have found that I could relate to Him and find sustenance from Him. I liked the idea of salvation from sin in Christianity (it sounds funny but I have often the vague idea that I needed pardoning) and the beauty of it is that you are not saved by your own (weak) efforts alone. One is saved with the help of someone infinitely stronger. I find no other religion as reassuring. Moreover the Christian ideals, though high and difficult to strive for, are not unattainable by humans. It is not something so mysterious or lofty. Its teachings are simple and the consistent practice of love, unselfishness and charity together with the stress on the relative unimportance of material possessions is a great antidote to the present preoccupation with "keeping one up" on others and in the process becoming ruthless, rough and uncaring.

In Christianity I find protection from the uncertainty surrounding death and the unknown. It is a question with no answers - from laymen, scientists or philosophers. Now at least there is a certainty. Christ will be "there" when the day comes. With conversion to Christianity I feel a change in myself, for the better. Now there is a steadying influence. Life is more purposeful, serious and less frivolous. There is a happy balance in life and a tendency to view things not always from a temporal point.

To God be the Glory.

— Kim Chan

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS

by John Bunyan

Bunyan's classic has been translated into more than a hundred languages and given amazing praise. The value of this book comes from using it as a devotional guide. After all, where is there a better analogy of the Christian life than a pilgrimage?

The pilgrim begins from the City of Destruction towards the Celestial City. The path leads past a cross-crowned hill where the pilgrim's burden rolls into an empty grave and where he finds a light heart and a new song. The path runs straight as an arrow towards the City of God. However there are problems and dangers all the way and once-in-a-while the pilgrim loses the path.

For many years Bunyan suffered from deep fears and feelings of insecurity. Before he was ten, he had recurring nightmares of being snatched away by demons. On his sixteenth birthday, he was drafted for a stint in the army. Upon his disruption, he experienced severe emotional traumas before he found the inner peace that passes all understanding. Assured of his salvation, he committed his life to doing God's work. Pilgrim's Progress is a fruit of his commitment to God.

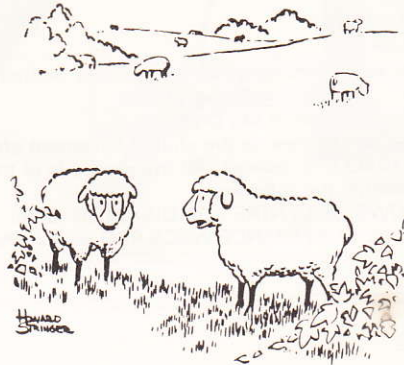
Submitted by Catherine Tan

This book is available from the Library and Bookstall.

Quote

If you believe in the Gospel what you like, and reject what you don't like, it is not the Gospel you believe, but yourself.

St. Augustine of Hippo



"ALL WE, LIKE PEOPLE, HAVE GONE ASTRAY"

Quote

"It has always seemed unfair to me that many churches (and some individual Christians) keep careful records on how many converts they make to Christianity, but never keep any records at all on how many they drive away from Christ. Fairness would seem to dictate that both sides of the ledger should be maintained. For the fact is, churches often turn far more people from Christ than they ever win to him, and frequently it is the most zealous and orthodox of Christians who are doing the driving away. The reason is, as we have seen, that though they may indeed be true Christians themselves, the life they are manifesting is false Christianity. It is as phony as a three-dollar bill."

Ray C. Stedman.

This issue of TMC newsletter is partly sponsored by Mrs Alice Goh and Mrs Tan Hin Jin "in loving memory of our father the late Mr. Woon Chow Kit who passed away on 2.3.1952."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM LOCAL CONFERENCE

REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Committee currently has 15 members concentrating their activities in 4 areas.

- 1) Woodbridge Hospital Service & Visitation
 - a) Sunday Service, 2nd & 4th Sunday at 10.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. - in cooperation with St. Peter's Church.
 - b) Ward Visitation, 1st & 3rd Saturday at 12.30 p.m. - in cooperation with Anglican Welfare Council.
- 2) Needy Families
Currently under our list there are six such families, out of which 3 are in financial support programs, 2 independent cases and 1 new challenge support.
- 3) Christmas & New Year Outreach
 - a) Selling Christmas cards for the E.S.N. children.
 - b) Christmas & New Year Worship Services & Gathering.
 - c) Christmas & New Year gifts to Woodbridge & Needy Families.
 - d) Christmas & New Year Visitation to Needy Families.
- 4) Welfare & Charitable Institutions
 - a) Chen Su Lan Home
 - b) Hiding Place
 - c) Home for Chronically Aged SickWe have also recently decided to support the Hiding Place by giving them physical rations and provisions.

Submitted by: Ng Yean Kiat

Chairman, Social Concerns Committee

METHODIST ADULT FELLOWSHIP REPORT

1. After much deliberation and consideration, the MAF Council started off the Year 1983 with a very clear understanding that the Role of the MAF in Trinity Methodist Church is as follows:
"..... to Gather Adults as a Supportive Fellowship for Exhortation in Practical Christian Living and Mobilisation for Effective Christian Service."
2. In the light of our role of gathering adults as a supportive fellowship, and in line with our church theme, the MAF has adopted the following to be our Theme for 1983:
"Fit For the Master's Mission"
2 Timothy 2 : 20, 21

3. The MAF, as a Supportive Fellowship for each Christian Adult in Trinity Methodist Church, will help to keep each other Fit for the Master's Mission. Our program and emphasis for 1983 have been planned around our theme.
4. Background work for implementing our plans has been subdivided into four areas:
 - (i) Establishing Contacts (new church members, uninvolved members)
 - (ii) Publicity (Announcements, Invitations)
 - (iii) Monitor for each MAF Meeting (Interaction, love, care, concern)
 - (iv) Program Implementation (Content of Program; Involvement; Resources)
5. At present, we have about ten dedicated workers to help the MAF fulfil its role in our church. However, as full time working adults, we are finding ourselves short of labourers. As such, encouragement, help and participation from all will go far in helping us create that Supportive Fellowship that will be a blessing to all Christian adults in TRINITY.

We invite you to join us every second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

Submitted by: Hum Sin Hoon
President, MAF

REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- 1) MAIN EMPHASIS:
 - a) To build up the people of God, to declare His praises through growth in the understanding and application of His Word in small groups.
 - b) To motivate and encourage the congregation to participate in small groups.
- 2) SUPPORT FOR SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
 - a) Material Support through various ministries viz. Library, Tape Ministry, Book-stall, Video Ministry.
 - b) Developing a curriculum with MAF for small groups.
 - c) Developing a Training programme for leaders - cover devotional, doctrinal and discipleship aspects
- 3) PROJECTS:
 - a) Proposed Training camp to be held from June 1st - June 4th.
 - b) Monthly film show/Video presentation.
 - c) Christian Education Sunday - Special programme on 18/9/1983
 - d) Christmas Party

Submitted by: Ivan Tan

Chairman, Christian Education Committee

MISSION - EXPOSURE TRIP TO INDONESIA

The Missions Committee is planning a missions exposure trip to the Karo Highlands (North Sumatra) some time in July 1983. The team will comprise about 10 participants.

TMC members who feel burden to serve the Lord in the missions field are invited to join this trip which will provide them with ample opportunities to observe missionary activities in progress, learn from our Indonesian brethren, and to participate in personal ministry for Christ.

Those interested may approach Pastor or any of the following members of the organising committee:

Mr Daniel Gwee
Mr Teh Hong Kia
Mr Chew Kim Min
and Mr Edgar Wong

Selected candidates will have to undergo a short period of training conducted by Pastor Daniel Koh, Mr Malcolm Tan, and Mr Edgar Wong, Mr Gabriel Liew and Mr Ivan Tan.

A subsidy may be given to those who require financial assistance for this trip.

Teh Hong Kia
Chairman, Missions Committee

HAPPY EASTER TO ALL

— from LCEC, DIANNA & PASTOR



SUNDAY SCHOOL