

TMC NEWSLETTER

JULY-AUGUST 1983 MC (P) 10/1/83

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

PASTORAL EPISTLE

I have been asked on a number of occasions for my view concerning our new extension project. Some wanted to know how I feel about the whole thing. Is the project necessary? Can we raise the one million dollars needed for the project? Is this going to be another block of concrete that may be underutilised? How may we contribute towards the fund for this project.

As the pastor, I see the project as something more than just another building. It is a vision. It is a mission. I am excited about this project, and it is my prayer that every member of this church will catch the vision and participate in the mission of this extension programme which we have named as the Trinity Educational Centre.

"I see the project (Trinity Educational Centre) as a vision. It is a mission."

Our church has grown in terms of membership, Christian commitment, and spiritual maturity. As it is, the number of worshippers attending the morning service has increased to the extent that many of them have to sit on chairs placed at the social hall at the back of the sanctuary. This does not happen only on special occasions. It is a common sight every Sunday morning.

The Sunday School needs space for the students. At present the students are occupying every nook and corner in the sanctuary, at the basement, in the open field and at the upper room for their classes. Problems arise when it rains on Sunday and the classes in the open field have no where to go. Furthermore with new outreach programmes, new students have joined the Sunday School. There is a definite need of space for the important ministry of the Sunday School.

Look into the future. In less than five years time, the Serangoon Central Estate and the Hwi Yoh Estate will be bustling with people. These new towns are situated at our door steps. They present new opportunity and challenge for us to reach out to the people for Christ. They present opportunity and challenge for us to provide community service. When the time for harvest come, we must not be caught unprepared.

My vision is the vision of a growing church. My vision is the vision of a church that grows not only in number but also in maturity. My vision is the vision of a church that is not afraid of new opportunity and challenge. This vision will become a reality when the church as a whole (members both young and old, working and not working) rally together to support the extension project.

"In less than five years time, the Serangoon Central Estate and the Hwi Yoh Estate will be bustling with people. These new towns are situated at our door steps.... When the time for harvest come, we must not be caught unprepared."

The Trinity Educational Centre will have facilities for a library, resource centre, audio-visual library, class-rooms, a kitchen, social hall, and a servant's quarter. When this vision becomes a reality, the scope of mission in and through the church will widen.

I am excited about this project. I am supporting it whole-heartedly.

"...your participation in this project: PRAY....PLEDGE....PUBLICISE."

see page 2

PASTOR DANIEL KOH KAH SOON

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GUEST EDITORIAL

"Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver."

II Cor. 9; 6,7

We are stewards of our time, our money and our talents. God has given us a little "chunk of eternity", to make full use of our God-given wealth, time and intelligence to glorify Him.

When we were received into the membership of the Methodist Church, we agreed and pledged this solemn obligation that we would be loyal to the Methodist Church and uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service. This puts the Church and its work in a place of most importance in the life of the individual and of society. Therefore to be good stewards, we must devote and sacrifice our time to pray daily, to attend Church regularly, to give generously towards the work of the Church and to participate in the activities and programmes of the Church committees/organisations. Let us remember that it was "Christ who loved the Church and gave Himself for it."

Let me quote what Rev. Dr Billy Graham wrote on stewardship :-

"We usually hold onto our money tenaciously, yet it is uncertain in value and we cannot take it into the next world. The Scripture teaches that we are stewards for a little while of all we earn. If we misuse it, as did the man who buried his talent, it brings upon us the severest judgement of God. The tithe is the Lord's..... Even our capacity for love is a gift from God. We show our gratitude by giving back to Him a small part of that which He has given to us. If you have been giving God the leftovers of your substance and your life, you have been missing the true joy and blessing of Christian giving and living."

Therefore by being good stewards, we are in partnership with God - that we are doing something constructive - that we are working with Him to reach the world for JESUS AMEN.

Chew Chin Jin
Lay Leader

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Here are three concrete suggestions for your participation in this project;

1) PRAY. There is no substitute for prayer. Pray as an individual. Pray together with a few friends. Pray that God will supply our needs, and pray that when the project is completed it will be used for the extension of God's Kingdom.

2) PLEDGE. If you share the vision and the mission of this project, pledge cheerfully to support it. Give an outright donation and/or pledge to give in monthly installment a certain sum for the next three years or less.

3) PUBLICISE. Talk about this project. Build up enthusiasm for this TRINITY EDUCATIONAL CENTRE. You may also want to invite personal friends who share the same vision and mission to participate in this project.

With you In His Service,



Pastor Daniel Koh Kah Soon

A GUIDE TO MEANINGFUL CHRISTIAN GIVING

- Pastor Daniel Koh

Q1. What is tithing? Should Christians tithe?

A1. Tithing is a biblical principle of material stewardship. It is a systematic and regular practice of returning to God 10% of what He has given to us. The Bible says that we rob God when we fail to tithe (Malachi 3:6-12).

“The Bible says we rob God when we fail to tithe (Malachi 3:6-12)”

Q2. But isn't tithing an Old Testament practice? Jesus does not teach us to tithe.

A2. Tithing began long before the coming of Jesus Christ. It became an accepted practice among the People of God after Moses declared that tithing was required of every Jew. While it is true that tithing originated from the Old Testament time, it was still a common practice among the Jews during the time of Jesus. Jesus did not elaborate on this subject probably because He saw no need to reinforce what was already a common practice. Jesus did not reject tithing either. Instead He built on the Old Testament teaching and expected His followers to give more than 10%.

Q3. Are you then saying that tithing is not the only model of material stewardship for Christians to follow?

A3. That is correct. In the New Testament, Jesus encouraged His followers to emulate the example of a poor widow who gave her total saving. Notice that the widow gave her all. One hundred percent and not only ten percent! Elsewhere in the New Testament Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to give their best, and to give cheerfully (2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9). In the context of 2 Corinthians, Paul was asking the Christians to give over and above their regular offerings and pledges in Church.

Paul was raising funds for the relief of the Church in Jerusalem. Cheerful giving does not end at our regular offerings and pledges. It extends to our giving to special projects. You see, unlike the people living in the Old Testament, Christians are living under the grace of God. We are enjoying the gift of eternal life offered to us by Jesus Christ. The people of the Old Testament did not know the extent of God's love. But we do. We know that God loves us, and He gave us His best when He sacrificed His Son Jesus Christ for our sake. Honestly, should we give less than 10% to God considering what God has sacrificially given to us?

“We know that God loves us, and He gave us His best when He sacrificed His Son Jesus Christ for our sake. Honestly, should we give less than 10% to God considering what God has sacrificially given to us?”

Q4. If I understand the New Testament correctly, I should endeavour to give more than 10% of my income.

A4. Yes, but it has to be cheerful giving without pride and it has to be done without a complaining spirit. An increasingly popular practice among some Christians who desire to take their faith seriously is a model known as “Graduated Tithe.” It is sometimes referred to as “Progressive Tithe.” Basically, you set aside a minimum of 10% of your gross income for the work of God's Kingdom. As your income increases, you increase your offerings proportionately.

CHURCH CAMP 1983

This year's church camp took place from June 6th to 9th, 1983. Our thanks to Mr Peter Lai who helped to make available the SIA bungalow at Loyang for our use.

The theme of this year's camp was "Called To Serve". It was hoped that with the emphasis on servanthood, the campers would be made more aware of the need to serve others with a sense of humility, obedience, submission and responsibility. These virtues were also the topics of the four messages. The camp attracted more than 30 participants. They were divided into five groups for the purposes of small-group discussions and sharing.

The following are snippets of what happened at the camp:

The first organised activity on arrival at Loyang was games-time. In a wild attempt to hit the ball at all cost, an over-enthusiastic player hit another player's face instead. (Ooh! How it must have hurt!)

Bathing was a mad rush for most people. If there were prizes offered for the "fastest bather", some of our campers would have collected more gold medals than both Junie Sng and Ang Peng Siong put together!

Thanks to them, other have more time to bathe.

Most of the campers (especially the girls) did not sleep well the first night. In one of the girls' rooms it was too cold to sleep (air-con was on full blast). In the other girls' room, it was decided that the air-con should not be on. Result? Too warm and stuffy to sleep soundly!

Free time at the camp meant time for singing, for discussion, for watching video-tapes of Christian messages, for rehearsal for concert-nite or simply time for whispering confidences to one another. As the camp papa Mr Victor Han said "I'm very impressed. Never have I seen a group of such hard-working people. Always having discussions, rehearsals etc"

Perhaps all these activities made us more famished than we usually are. We managed to shock Aunt Patricia Chia, our God-sent Chef by devouring everything she dished out. Even the chilli she made was not spared. We finished the two days supply of chilli before she even discovered it. As Aunt Pat laughingly remarked at the end of the camp, "Thanks for the TREMENDOUS appetites!" We would like to say "Thanks too Aunt Pat" for all the delicious meals!

Coming to the group sessions, one cannot help but **note that the sessions helped the people in the same group to know one another better.** The times

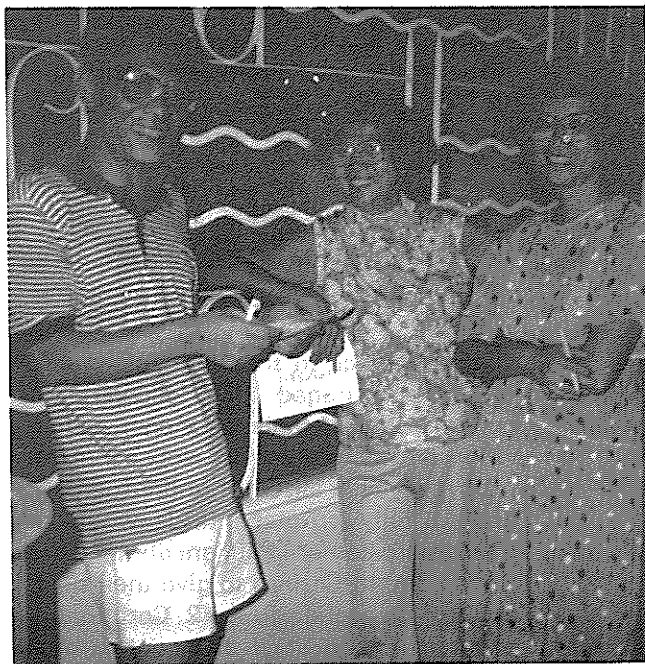
spent together sharing, praying, acting, singing and crossing obstacles were really precious.

There were also serious moments of reflection. One was when Mr Hum Sin Hoon challenged us to be committed Christians. Symbolically, we lighted the candles one by one. A moment of silent meditation followed when we did our personal evaluation at the end of the camp. What thoughts could have passed through the minds of the campers? What commitments to the Lord were they making? Only God knows.

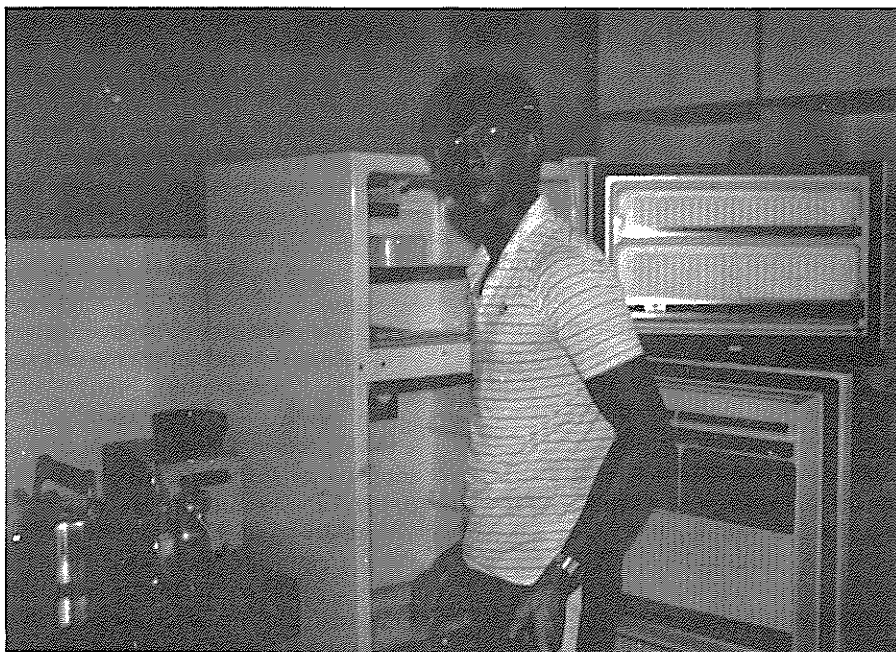
What do you think was the most sensitive issue at the camp? The moment of truth came during the concert when three out of the five groups included a toilet-cleaning scene in their attempts to depict servanthood! Clearly many felt that toilet - cleaning was a unsavoury job. However, the various groups took turns to carry out this duty and if there was any fuss about it, it must have been minimal.

Yes, there were the good moments and the bad moments, the tears and the sweat, the smiles and the frowns, the seriousness and the pandemonium (during scavenger-hunt). Successful? Though the actual results remain to be seen, I believe the committee-members and group-leaders consider their efforts well-spent. A BIG thank you to each and every individual for helping in some way or other to make the camp what it was.

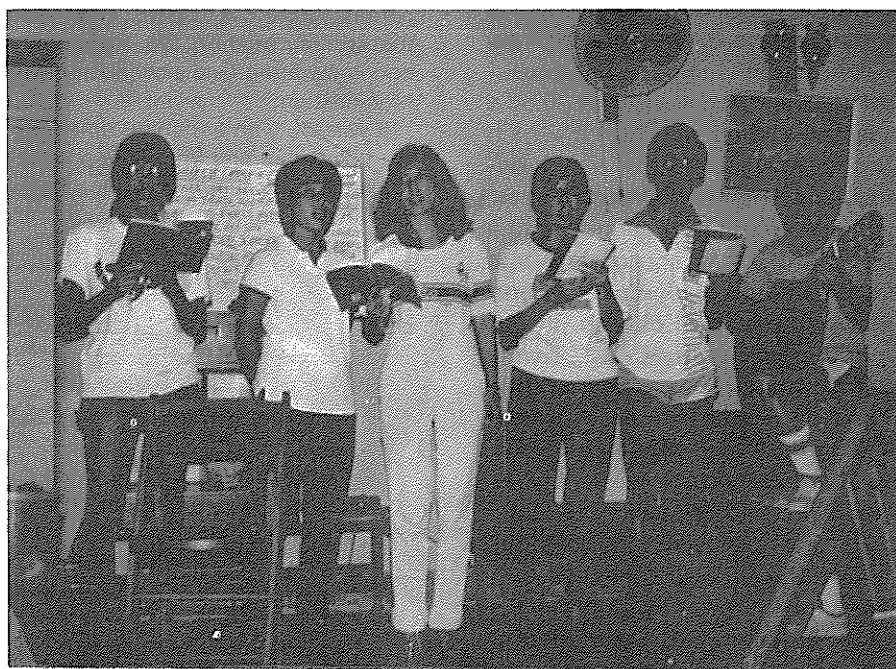
- Chiam Lu Lin



L-R. Camp Papa Victor Han, Chef Pat Chia, Camp Mama Lydia Han.



Church Camp - "Who took my piece of cake?"



Church Camp - Singing for the Lord.

from page 3

- Q5. So which model should I adopt?
- A5. Any model which you are pleased with and you can honestly keep. In deciding on a suitable model, bear in mind these few biblical teachings: Am I giving at least 10% of my gross income? The Bible is very clear on this point. It says we rob God when we give less. And am I giving cheerfully?
- God does not measure our giving by the amount we give. He measures it by the amount we retain.

"God does not measure our giving by the amount we give. He measures it by the amount we retain."

- Q6. Where should I give my tithe and offerings? Should I pledge my whole offering to a particular church?
- A6. In the context of Malachi chapter 3, the people were asked to bring their full tithe to God's "storehouse." The "storehouse" refers to a place of worship. It was the temple of God. In our time, the "storehouse" refers to the church. Now then, the church of God does not necessarily mean the local church. God's Church is the Universal Church which every Christian regardless of our denominations is a member. Nevertheless, since we have committed ourselves to a particular church, it is appropriate and right that we should pledge our support to and through the local church. In our case, our local church is Trinity Methodist Church. The needs of this church and the wide ministry of this church should be wholeheartedly supported by members.
- First pledge to and through the local church. Beyond that you may channel part of your tithe or your offerings over and above your tithe to support other works for the extension of the Kingdom of God.

TRINITY W.S.C.S.

Praise the Lord, In spite of a heavy shower about 20 members including our LCEC Chairman, Mr Daniel Gwee and Pastor Daniel Koh turned up at 'The Hiding Place' for fellowship and pot-luck dinner on 28th May, 1983.

Our pastor shared the message based on 'the Samaritan woman' and to highlight some points from this text:-

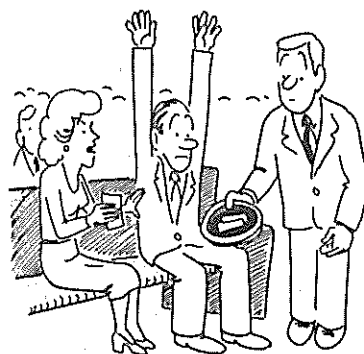
- Jesus loves us no matter who or what we are.
- We must share his love with others.
- Respond and accept his call and you "will never, never thirst again."

We were also impressed with the slides showing the life and work of this 'home' and touched by testimony of one of its residents, Jabez Tan Gek Choon. He was an ex-medium whose drug addiction contributed to his father's suicide. He vowed to quit drugs before his father's coffin but within three months he broke his resolution. He was arrested, released after 22 months, relapsed again, arrested and sentenced to three years' rehabilitation. Praise the Lord! He met old friends, "incorrigible ones," transformed by the power of Jesus Christ. Convinced and convicted he committed his life to the Lord on Good Friday 1981. He was recommended into 'The Hiding Place' where he experienced the love of Christ and the power of God that transformed his life. He is now a salesman and is awaiting God's call to serve in Operation Mobilisation.

It was truly an enriching time for everyone as we fellowship and enjoy the pot-luck dinner. Praise God for the great things He has done and will always do!

Patricia Chia

JOE-MCKEEVER



"DON'T CONTRIBUTE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO—BUT DON'T BE SO DRAMATIC!"

MYF BARBEQUE MAY 1ST 1983

On the 1st of May, thirty of us from the MYF went down to Marine Parade for a barbeque and overnight stay.

We arrived at a site on the beach next to the HUDC chalets. This was a very convenient spot as it was very near the toilets and telephones. The rain of the early afternoon had cooled the atmosphere and brought a welcome respite from the heatwave of that period. Praise God for that.

After an hour of settling down, Albert proceeded with the regular MYF programme. We had quite a long period of singspiration led by Sin Guek. Thereafter we had a series of games which involved almost everyone. There was much fun and laughter as we participated in the programme.

As it got dark, the portable pits were set up for the barbeque but the food was not ready until 8.30 p.m. Over the meal we took time to talk to each other. There was no rush for the food as everyone took turns to cook and eat.

It was a still clear night and after the meal, most of us just lazed around and talked. Some of us gathered around Kevin, our guitarist, to sing old favourites and learn new songs as well. This was done on the breakwater by torchlight. The atmosphere was very serene and we all enjoyed just as simple time of singing together to the Lord.

Some of us slept while the rest of us spent the night talking, walking along the beach. Some of the boys even took a midnight dip. We rounded off with supper at about 3 a.m. and finished up all the food. We went to sleep by about 4 a.m. It was a pleasant experience to fall asleep, gazing up at the countless stars and the moon and to hear the gentle lapping of the waves.

We awoke to greet a beautiful dawn. Clearing up began at 7 a.m. and by 8.10 a.m. we left the beach.

It was a new experience for most of the YFers and we enjoyed it thoroughly even though we did not get much sleep. We thank God for this experience and the chance to fellowship more deeply with each other.

Fellowship Department
Trinity MYF

Complete possession is proved only by giving. All you are unable to give possess you.

Andre Gide

PULPIT CALENDAR

THEME - GEMS FROM GENESIS
JULY

- ✕ 3 The Devil Made Me Do It
- ✓ 10 The Christian's Missionary Concern (MISSIONS SUNDAY)
- ✓ 17 Am I My Brother's Keeper?
- 24 MAF SUNDAY
- 31 The Great Flood

THEME - CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP
AUGUST

- 7 The Quality Of A Good Government (NATIONAL DAY SUNDAY)
- 14 Give As God Has Blessed (PLEDGE AND STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY)
- 21 The Story Of Three Investors
- 28 MYF SUNDAY

THEME - THE LORD'S PRAYER
SEPTEMBER

- 4 - "Our Father"
- 11 - CHURCH 26TH ANNIVERSARY
- 18 - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY
- 25 - "Who Art In Heaven"



TRINITY EDUCATIONAL CENTRE
BUILDING FUND
(STATUS AS AT 25.6.83)

AMOUNT NEEDED \$850,000.00
AMOUNT RECEIVED/PLEDGED \$127,053.45
DONATIONS/PLEDGES STILL NEEDED \$722,946.55

MEMBERSHIP MOVEMENT

CHILD BAPTISM

(March 27, 1983)

Gary Ng Wei Ping, son of Dr. & Mrs. Ng Yew Kwok
Quan Keng Swee Christopher, son of Mrs. Linda Quan

Quan Meng Swee Jacob, son of Mrs. Linda Quan
Lorraine Soh Ying Hua, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Willy Soh

Mark T. Wilfred, son of Mr. & Mrs. William T. Wilfred

ADULT BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION

(July 10, 1983)

Miss Lorinne Chia
Miss Chiam Lu Lin
Mdm. Choo Mei Chan
Miss Goh Swee Eem
Miss Nancy Koh
Miss Loh Mui Inn Eunice
Miss Florence Teo Guan Tin
Miss Mary Teng Siew Leng
Mr. Lim Heng Ann
Mr. Bobby Yap Yong Lip
Mr. James Woon Tai How
Miss Jane Yoon Kwee Lan

JANUARY - JULY 1983

CONFIRMATION

(July 10, 1983)

Miss Karen Goh
Mr. Eric Ng Yuen
Miss Margaret Tan Lee Gek
Miss Yee May Wah

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED IN

Mrs. Prudence Oei from Wesley Penang
Miss Shirley Ong Kim Meng from Bible Baptist Church.

MEMBERS TRANSFERRED OUT

Mrs. Ee Sui Hua to Clementi Methodist Church
Mr. Dennis Tan to Calvary Assembly of God
Mr. & Mrs. Ong Kim Siong to Wesley Church
Miss Grace Ong to Wesley Church
Mr. Christopher Oh to Australia

DEATH

Mr. Ong Seng Geok, father of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ong, and Miss Agnes Ong on 12.4.83.
Mr. Huang Fang Kuei, father of Madam Clara Wong on 16.6.83

QUOTE

WHEN TO START TITHING - NOW

"If you are not now a tither, do not expect that a sudden increase of income would make it easy for you to start. It won't - because you'll always find something to spend it for. Unless you tithe on your present income, it is highly doubtful if you would tithe on a higher one. There is only one way for most families to tithe: set it aside. We must be specific and exact, or we will be trivial and spasmodic. Benevolent dollars must be budgeted and protected the same as the food dollar, the health dollar, or any other."

MOTIVES FOR GIVING

"In giving, some do so out of a sense of duty. They feel it is their responsibility as a member of the congregation to 'do their part,' as they would in a club. Others give out of hope for reward or recognition, and others because they feel under pressure. A few may give out of fear, apprehensive lest God punish them in some way in the form of illness, accident, or other misfortune. Some give out of pity. But the noblest motive is Christian love, which doesn't wait to be flattered, pressured, or begged. Love assumes the initiative, takes the first step, seeks the altars which need its gifts. This is the essence of Christianity - loving, seeking, searching, weeping, finding, giving, saving, lifting, healing."

- R.J. Hastings, How to Manage Your Money, Nashville: - Broadman Press, 1965.

TRINITY EDUCATIONAL CENTRE BUILDING FUND

In gratitude to God and as my/our contribution to the above Fund :-

#enclose the sum of \$ _____ as donation.

pledge the sum of \$ payable in:

#12 monthly instalments of \$

#18 monthly instalments of \$

#24 monthly instalments of \$

#30 monthly instalments of \$

#36 monthly instalments of \$

(Delete whichever not applicable)

Name: (In block letters)

Address:

Date: Signature:

NOTE:

1. Cheques should be crossed and made payable to 'TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH EXTENSION FUND' and forwarded to the Treasurer, Trinity Methodist Church, 34 Serangoon Garden Way, Singapore 1955.
2. By HSBC Bank Deposit.
Deposit your cash/cheque at any branch of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp., Account No. 145-020434-002. Please send us your copy of the deposit slip with your name and address on it. This will enable us to send you an official receipt.
3. Please do not send cash by mail.

MAKE A PRAYERFUL DECISION, GOD'S WORK NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.
WILL YOU IN LOVE AND GRATITUDE TO HIM ACCEPT THIS INVITATION
AND BE PARTNERS OF THIS PROJECT?
