

TMC NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1984

MC(P) 50/1/84

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

PASTORAL EPISTLE

This is the first issue of our bi-monthly newsletter for 1984. I thought I should share with you my personal reflection on the church theme for the new year, which is **CHRISTIANITY IS THE WAY OF LIFE**. As you know a theme is a guide. It tells us where our emphasis is directed, and it serves as a call to members of the church to rally behind a common purpose and vision for the year.

This year's theme is inspired by Paul's exhortation to the Christians in Philippi. In his letter, he calls on Christian to "let your conduct be worthy of the Gospel of Christ." (Phil. 1:27a) Paul is saying to us that we have to take seriously our faith in Christ and His Gospel. This should be made visible in the way we live our lives and the lifestyle we adopt for ourselves. I shall elaborate on this as we look at our theme.

CHRISTIANITY. In this word we have a clue concerning our Master, our identity and our basic beliefs. Christ is our Master. The word 'Christ' is found in 'Christianity' only because Christianity is founded by Christ. Without claiming Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and without showing Him as the Master of our life and lifestyle, we are kidding ourselves because the people who look at us know who our master really is. Christians are followers of Christ. Christ has given us a new identity. Once we were lost. Now we are found. Once we were groping in darkness. Now God has given us His light. Peter reminds us that we are "the chosen people, the King's priests, the holy nation, God's own people chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God." (1 Pet. 2:9). Our basic beliefs must therefore be rooted in Christ and His teachings as found in the Bible and expounded within the fellowship of believers.

The problem with us is that sometimes we refuse to be taught by God. We close our ears to the prompting of the Spirit, and we live a life as if trying to bury Christ alive.

IS. While it is true that Christ came almost two thousand years ago and the Bible records events which took place even much earlier than His time, Christianity is not a dated or antiquated faith which has lost its meaning except to sooth the conscience of the superstitious. There is no denying that we have our shares of superstitious believers, just as other faiths have attracted superstitious adherents. But the present indicatice 'Is' affirms that our faith is relevant. God still speaks to us today. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. We worship and serve the Living Lord. The problem with us is that sometimes we refuse to be taught by God. We close our ears to the prompting of the Spirit, and we live a life as if trying to bury Christ alive.

THE WAY OF LIFE. Have you ever come across Christians who argue that Christianity is something private and personal and we must not mix Christianity with what we are doing outside the church. This proposition seems attractive but it is unbiblical. When we say that, we are in fact saying that Jesus Christ is neither real nor relevant. If you push the issue further, the proposition seems to suggest that Christians have split personality, and that we are a group of people who are confused about our identity! However, if we affirm that Christ is real and relevant, we must allow His teachings to nurture us, to challenge our selfish thoughts and lifestyle and to transform our attitude and behaviour, not just on Sundays or worse still on Christmas, but every day of our life. This would mean that we have to learn to think Christianly, grapple with issues from a Christian perspective, live a life that is worthy of Christ, and grow in faith and understanding of our faith.

When we invited Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Saviour, we entered a new adventure of faith and hope with Christ by our side. The Holy Spirit enables and empowers us to live that life more abundantly. Happy living. God bless you.

With you Serving and Worshipping the Living Lord.



Pastor Daniel Koh Kah Soon

EDITORIAL

Greetings in the name of Christ.

Another year has passed and a new one has begun. With the passing of another year it is hoped that we have grown in experience, wisdom and spiritual maturity. I am sure if we look back we can find much to be thankful. God our Father has indeed blessed us abundantly. We have regular income although blessings need not necessarily be in monetary form. God had given us good health, peace of mind, and a church to belong. We thank God for harmony and happiness in the family and among friends and loved ones. When we begin to count our blessings, our cup of thanksgivings and praise should "runneth over" with joy!

It is a practice for many of us to make new resolutions. Unfortunately, basing on past experiences, we seldom succeed in keeping the resolutions. I suggest that we should not make any new year resolution which we cannot keep or have no intension of keeping. Take stock of our 'strenghts' and 'weaknesses' in our Christian living. Work on our 'weak areas' and improve on them. Let Paul encourage us with these words: "Forget what lies behind and reach forward to what lies ahead and press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Jesus Christ." (Phil. 3:13-14).

Wishing you a God-blessed and meaningful Lunar New Year.

Tham Yew Kee

LIVING THE ABUNDANT LIFE

Here are some courses worth attending:

1. **ART OF FRIENDSHIP**
Sponsor: Eagles Evangelism
Date: March 8, 9, and 10.
Time: Nightly 7.30 pm - 10.00 pm
Speaker: Dr. Em Griffin
Venue: PUB Auditorium
Registration: Call 468-4933
2. **DEALING WITH TENSION**
Sponsor: Counselling and Care Centre
Date: February 14, 21, and 28.
Time: 6.30 pm - 9.00 pm
Fees: \$20
Registration: Call 3377748
3. **ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING**
Sponsor: Counselling and Care Centre
Date: February 16 and 23,
March 1 and 8.
Time: 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm
Fees: \$30
Registration: Call 3377748
4. **PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Sponsor: Counselling and Care Centre
Date: March 5, 12, 19 and 26.
Time: 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm
Fees: \$30
Registration: Call 3377748

An Invitation to Join Us

We want to improve the coverage and presentation of this newsletter. We can do so only when we have more qualified and experienced people helping us. If writing is your gift. If drawing is your talent, we invite you to join us. We need more writers, reporters, graphic and FA artists.

This Newsletter is Yours

We need your feedback. Write to us. Contribute articles or news of interest to our readers. Send us announcements of new birth, marriage, engagement, promotion, or passing an important examination. This newsletter is yours. We welcome your criticism, contribution and suggestion.

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY

8.30 a.m. - Sunday School
9.00 a.m. - Adult Bible Class
10.00 a.m. - Worship Service
5.00 p.m. - Worship Service
(Holy Communion - 1st Sunday of the month)

TUESDAY

The Methodist Adult Fellowship meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at 8.00 p.m.

FRIDAY

8.00 p.m. - Prayer Meeting

SATURDAY

4.00 p.m. - Youth Fellowship



What's cooking? see page 8

DEADLY DISEASES FOR CHURCHES

In his book, **The Reputation of a Church**, G. Avery Lee, pastor of the Saint Charles Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, lists four diseases that kill a church. He said that these four diseases are: "sleeping sickness," "cirrhosis of the giver," "Hardening of the heart-aries," and "spiritual myopia."

Let us examine each one of these.

For a church to be afflicted by "sleeping sickness" is to be asleep amid possibilities. Isn't that tragic for a church? Consider some possibilities we have for outreach to students, people in new towns, young married couples and young people. Consider some of the possibilities we have for ministry to the aged persons, to disadvantaged people, and to the neglected. Consider the talent and the resources we have available to us. We surely have the possibilities for Christian service and growth. We must not be asleep to them.

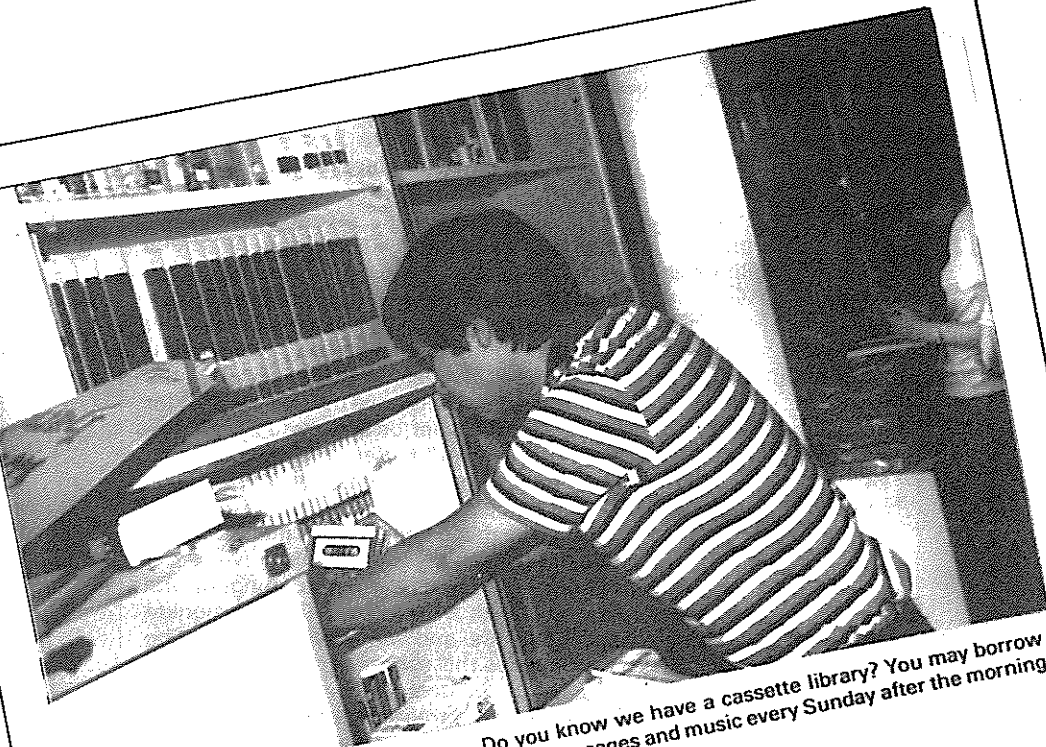
The church with "cirrhosis of the giver" suffers from an improper stewardship. This church may depend only on certain persons to give. Or it may depend largely on outside sources for its money. But the strongest stewardship churches are those which all the members feel a responsibility and support the church through regular giving.

Another deadly disease for the church is "hardening of the heartaries." This is due to the lack of concern. Compassionate concern for persons marked the life and ministry of Jesus. The church, the body of Christ, must have this same degree of concern. It is inconceivable that a church could be unconcerned about people's problems, their relationship to God, and their spiritual development. Too often churches have been concerned only about themselves and their welfare without exhibiting a real concern for others.

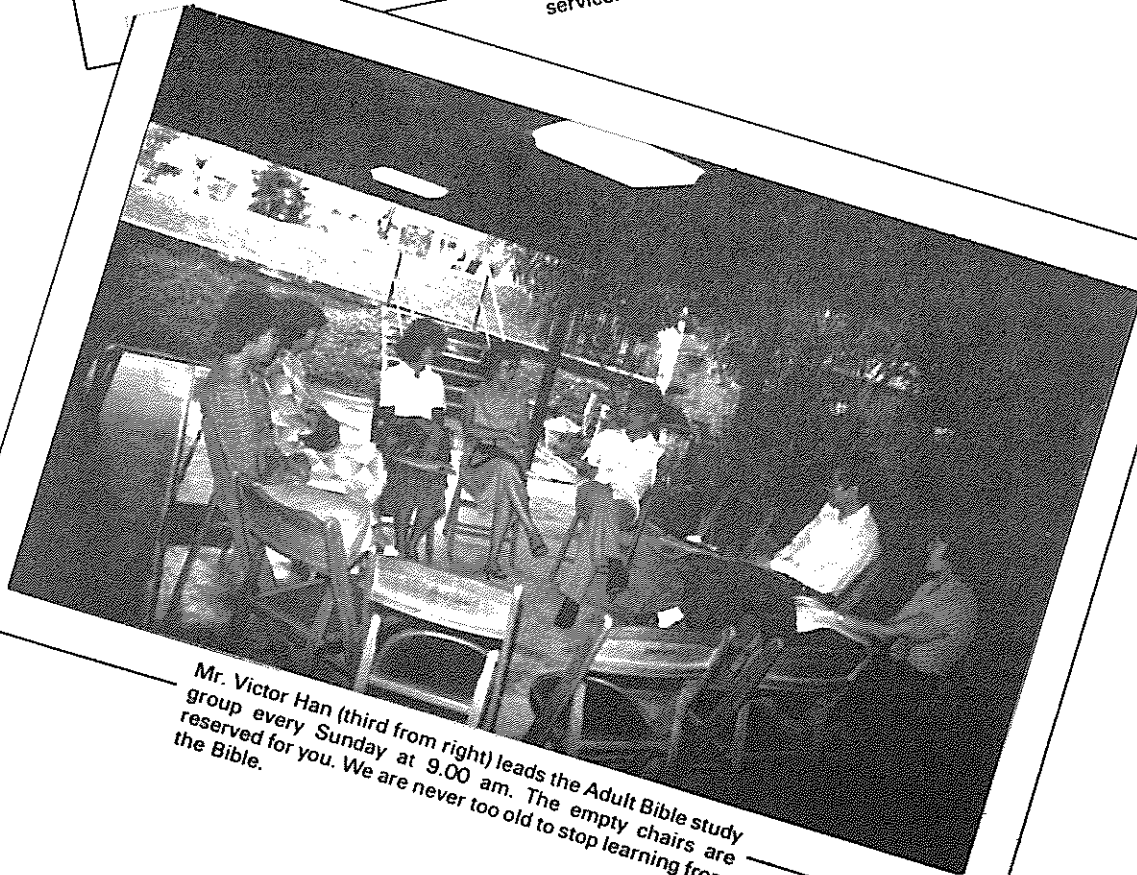
A church with "spiritual myopia" sees only the immediate. It is unwilling to take the long look and to consider its responsibility in the days ahead. Shortsighted decisions, failure to provide space and property for expansion, and refusal to have meaningful children's programmes or youth ministries can ultimately be fatal for such a church. To save a few dollars, a church can sometimes sell out its future.

Make your own diagnosis. Do you want to keep your church healthy and free of any of these diseases? Preventive medicine is the best approach. How about helping to practise it?

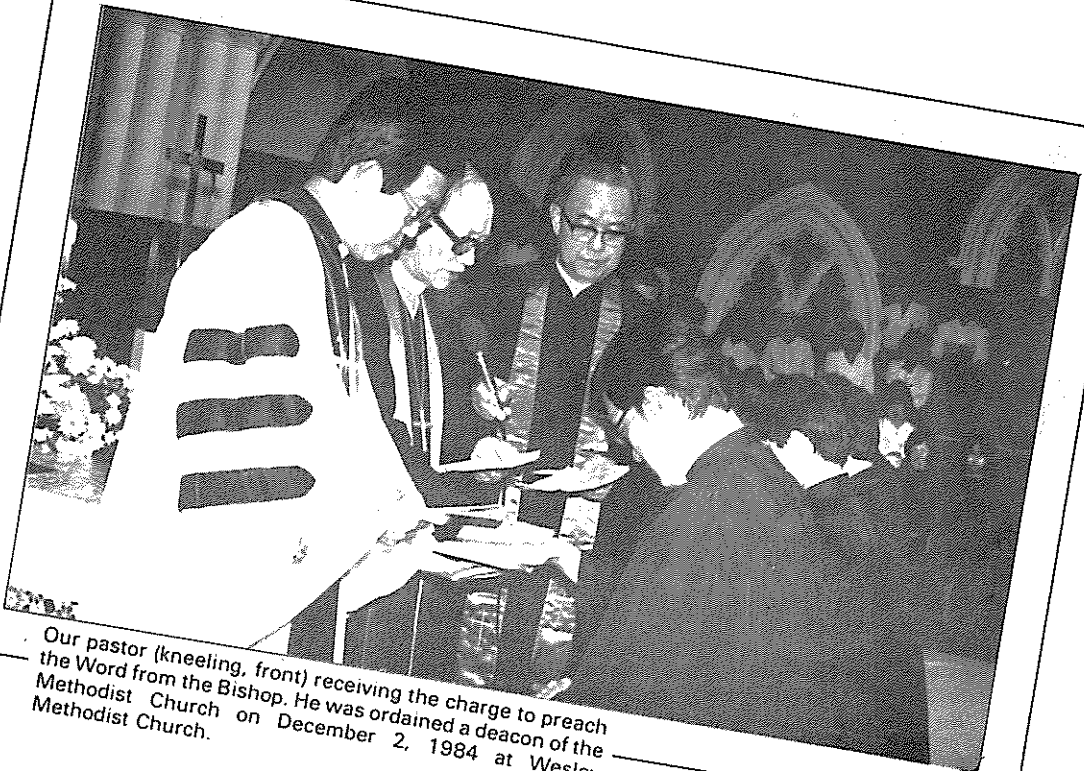
— James E. Carter, *People Parables*, Baker Books, 1973



Do you know we have a cassette library? You may borrow taped messages and music every Sunday after the morning service.



Mr. Victor Han (third from right) leads the Adult Bible study group every Sunday at 9.00 am. The empty chairs are reserved for you. We are never too old to stop learning from the Bible.

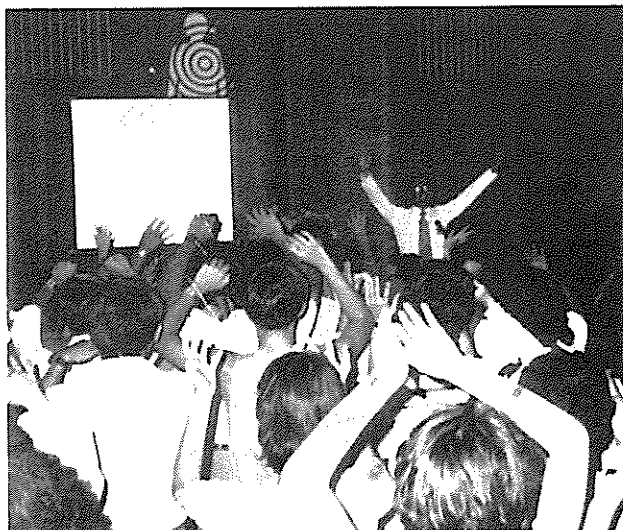


Our pastor (kneeling, front) receiving the charge to preach the Word from the Bishop. He was ordained a deacon of the Methodist Church on December 2, 1984 at Wesley Methodist Church.



Sunday School in session. Ms Dawn Ow teaches a class of young and eager students about God, and our Christian Faith. If you have children of school age, why not send them to our Sunday School every Sunday at 8.30 am?

AN INTERESTING WAY TO STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT



To many of us the Old Testament seems to be a closed book. Either it is too difficult for us to comprehend or we think it is not relevant to our present needs.

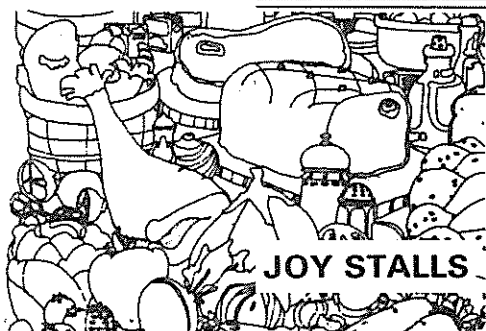
To correct these faulty impressions of the Old Testament, the Committee on Evangelism under Mr. Gabriel Liew organised the "Walk Through the Bible Seminar" on December 11, 1983. This seminar was conducted in a fun and enjoyable way. Through a unique system of hand signals and word games, the participants were taught how to commit important themes, events, names and places to memory.

The committee trusted God for 130 people to benefit from this seminar. In the past no seminar on such a scale was ever organised by the local church. By faith in God, the organising committee met regularly planning and praying for the seminar. Brochures were distributed, announcements made in church and a banner was put up near the entrance of the sanctuary. On the day of the seminar 127 people turned up.

Feedbacks received from the participants were in the main favourable. It was a new experience for most of the people. 66 persons indicated that they re-committed themselves to God. 8 persons confided they received Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

Indeed our Lord open to us a new awareness and understanding of the Bible through the seminar. The Bible is the Word of God which can build up the life of the church. We praise God for blessing the seminar and the participants.

Gabriel Liew



The WSCS is raising fund for our Church Extension Project; the Trinity Educational Centre. We have a share in this vision project.

Since November last year, we have resumed our Joy Stalls on the first Sunday of the month. Every month different varieties of food are offered for sale at the church basement, immediately after the Morning Communion Service. Profit received from the sale of the food go towards the building fund. So far our average takings from the Joy Stalls have exceeded \$200 each month. This sum does not look spectacular when compared with the \$1 million needed for the building project. Nevertheless, it is an expression of the sisters' labour of love. God will bless our contributions many folds.

Every month, two members of the WSCS Executive Committee would take charge of organising the stalls. They would prepare the food, buy the food or approach friends to cook the food for the stalls. We would like to encourage members to participate by contributing dishes and to patronise the stalls every month.

Meanwhile, here is our appetiser for the month. We call it SALAD OF LOVE.

This recipe is given for your home trial.

Ingredients:

- 2 fruits of love
- 1 cup of understanding
- 2 cans of faith in God
- a few leaves of hope
- 1 cup of confidence
- ½ teaspoon of jealousy
- a dash of humour
- a can of romance (Giant size)

Method:

Open the can of romance and dice contents. Cut the fruits of love into the cup of confidence to prevent discolouring. Put faith and understanding into the mixture and pour it into the bowl of harmony.

Garnish with spice of jealousy and a dash of humour. Add leaves of hope and arrange them decoratively. Chill and freeze in a happy home. The mixture will sweeten as time goes by.

Total cost:

Hearts beating together.

Time of preparation:

A lifetime.

Serving:

God and humanity.

Lydia Han

PULPIT CALENDAR

January - March, 1984

Theme : New Life, New Lifestyle
(Matthew 5-7)

1.1.84	New Life, New Lifestyle
8.1.84	Secret of Happiness
15.1.84	Secret Agents vs Sacred Agents
22.1.84	Laws: A Question of Perspective
29.1.84	Pretentious Piety vs True Spirituality
2.2.84	M.I.C.K.E.Y. M.O.U.S.E!
5.2.84	Priority in Life
12.2.84	Judging vs Discerning
19.2.84	Perseverance in Prayer
26.2.84	Relational Rule
4.3.84	Counterfeit Christianity
11.3.84	Social Concerns Sunday
18.3.84	No Easy Road
25.3.84	Fakers' Follies

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Programmes for Youth

February	Topic
11.2.84	Peer Pressure
18.2.84	Christians and Etiquette
March	
3.3.84	Youth and Temperament
10.3.84	Peter, the Sanguine
17.3.84	Paul, the Choleric
24.3.84	Moses, the Melancholy
31.3.84	Combined Meeting with AMK-MYF

Meetings held in church at 4.00 pm

METHODIST ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Programmes for Adults

February	Topic
14.2.84	Does God Really Deliver?
28.2.84	How do I make Decisions?
March	
13.3.84	Do I Listen to Godly Counsel?
27.3.84	Am I Tense or Trusting?

Meetings held in church at 8.00 pm

It is easy to want things from the Lord and yet not want the Lord Himself; as if the gift could ever be preferable to the Giver.

— St. Augustine

MEMBER TRANSFERRED OUT

Mrs. Yeo Geok Choo (To Paya Lebar Methodist)

FAMILY NEWS

MARRIAGES SOLEMNISED IN 1983

8.1.83	Lim Jit Siew and Merinna Choy Yin Yee
26.3.83	Richard P. Moreira and Patricia Yap
9.4.83	Hum Sin Hoon and Eunice Chew Ai Bee
7.5.83	Dennis Oei and Prudence Lim
24.9.83	Terence Phung and Nancy Cheong
24.9.83	Stephen Tan and Lee Foong Yin
2.11.83	James Chan and Diana Tay

ENGAGEMENT

Congratulations to Patricia Lee and Bruce Zee on their engagement on 22.1.84.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mr. and Mrs. Lim Choo Siang who were blessed with a baby boy, Kevin Lin GuanJie on 1.10.83.

Mr. and Mrs. Ng Yean Hee who were blessed with a baby girl, Win Nie on 27.12.83.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Yeo who were blessed with a baby boy, Jason on 10.1.84

INFANT BAPTISM ON 25.12.83

Leonard Li Yongzhi son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Cheong Seng

BAPTISM ON 17.12.83

Mr. Tan Seng Hee
Mr. Ong Eng Hong
Miss Patricia Lee Soh Choo

CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Christmas 1983

Mr. Alvin Ho Kong Wah
Mr. Samuel Goh
Mr. Tan Seng Hee
Mr. Ong Eng Hong
Miss Patricia Lee Soh Choo

MEMBERS TRANSFERED IN

Mrs. Dianna Koh (From Barker Road Methodist)
Mr. Richard Tay (From Apostolic Church)
Mrs. Nancy Tay (From Apostolic Church)
Miss Chong Quek Keow (From Grace Bible-Presbyterian)

A TASK FORCE FORMED

At an extraordinary meeting of the Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC) held on Sunday January 22, 1984, five members were elected to "study the optimum use" of our new extension project. They form the "task force" which will look into various ways in which our new building can be wisely used on week days. These members will work closely with the Extension Project Committee headed by Mr. Pang Kia Seng, and the Fund Raising Committee led by Mr. P. Sathiasingam.

For sometime now, we have felt a crying need for more space. When completed, the building will give us the space and facilities which our growing church needs. It will be occupied by our Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, Church Organisations and Bible Study Groups. It will house the church library, and a new Christian education resource centre. There will be enough room for fellowship gatherings, and other functions.

However, our leaders have wider vision. They are concerned that the new building should also be opened to other forms of ministries during week days. The LCEC sees great possibilities for our church to expand her outreach programmes. The Task Force is appointed to explore these possibilities, and recommend specific programmes for additional ministries which could take full advantage of the new building.

The LCEC elected the following persons to serve in the committee: Dr. Khor Tong Hong, Mr. Chew Chin Jin, Mr. Philip Tan, Mr. Lee Park Ming, and Mr. Victor Tan. Pastor is the ex officio member.

Who knows, we may yet revive our Boys' Brigade? We may start a night tuition centre for people staying in the new Housing Estates. We may consider launching a kindergarten, or a creche, or a day care centre. If we have sufficient qualified voluntary workers, we may even have other services for the poor. Our possibilities for service and ministries are wide. The special committee will make the necessary recommendations to the LCEC for consideration. God has given us exciting days ahead. He has planted a vision in our hearts. Make this vision yours. Share in this vision project.

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?