

TMC NEWSLETTER

MARCH—APRIL 1984 MC(P) 50/1/84

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

PASTORAL EPISTLE

Tienanland is a beautiful country. The citizens of Tienanland have benefitted from a time of peace and prosperity. They are grateful to their migrant ancestors who worked hard to build this nation into an economic paradise. It was the diligence of their foreparents which contributed to the wealth and well-being of the nation. It was the rich cultural heritage left by them that made Tienanland a unique cultural centre. The people are proud to identify themselves as Tienanese. They feel insulted if outsiders mistakenly refer to them as Indians, Chinese or Malays.

Although they have their own national identity, the Tienanese continue to keep and treasure the rich traditions and cultures which their ancestors brought with them. As time changes, the Tienanese have gradually integrated part of their cultural practices. They have given new interpretations to certain customs. But in the main, they have kept intact the folklores, and cultural values of their foreparents. They understand that most folklores and myths are to transmit social values which seek to build a person's character.

On special occasions such as the Sonar New Year, Tienanese love to narrate stories of the adventure of Kow, a mythical creature. They recall how their grandparents had reminded them that Kows are guardian animals sent by heaven to protect the good people of the world. Kows bring good fortune. They are heavenly creatures, and people born in the year of Kow are looked upon as favoured by the Divine. Needless to say, parents who love their children would affectionately name them Kow Kiah, literally the child of Kow. Kow Beng, Kow Chye, Ah Kow, Kwai Kow, Ho Kow, and Soon Kow are auspicious names which Tienanese reserve for their most beloved child.

One group of fervent religionaries from the faraway Angmoland sees Tienanese as heathens who are still primitive in their outlook in life. The Angmos presume that they have divine order to preach their forms of religion. Although they belong to the Way faith, these Angmo religionaries consider themselves more superior, spiritual and gifted than other followers of the Way. They seem more vocal and aggressive. They have a very spiritualistic interpretation of their faith. They have a generally triumphalistic attitude towards people who do not accept their teachings.

In many ways, the new religionaries with their zeal have shaken the complacent established Tienanese believers and forced them to think afresh their relationship with God. Unfortunately, they have brought with them teachings wrapped up with their cultures and prejudices.

It is said that in Angmoland, there was once a creature which brought fear to the Angmos. Tales of the evil creature devouring helpless babies, and innocent animals often send shivers down the spines. This evil creature is now extinct. But the Angmos still talk about this creature which their ancestors called 'wolf'.

When the new Angmo religionaries arrived at Tienanland, they warned the Tienanese to beware of wolves. Initially the Angmos had difficulties trying to convey their warning to the Tienanese because there is no such creature in the Tienanese literature or vocabulary. The Angmos have to describe what they perceive as the image of a wolf. It has four legs, a long nose, and a pair of pointed ears.

Nevermind there is no such creature in the Tienanese tradition. The zealous Angmos did a literary somersault. Somehow through an act of linguistic gymnastic, the Angmos cleverly linked wolf to Kow. A Kow has four legs, a long nose and a pair of pointed ears. Kow is wolf!

So anyone who follows the emotive teachings of the Angmo religionaries is taught to view Kows as evil because wolves are evil. Followers are taught to accept Kows as satanic because wolves are satanic.

A new spiritual wave has swept through Tienanland. Antiques carrying the images of Kows were destroyed. No follower should be seen patronising restaurants named after Kows. Some went further. They see names like Lucille as satanic because it sounds like Lucifer the evil one. All the Kow Kiahs overnight became the children of wolves.

Mr. S. A. Tan smiles when he sees the Tienanese denouncing their cultural heritage, and preoccupying themselves with their battle against the sacred Kow.

With you liberated by Christ,



Pastor Daniel Koh Kah Soon

EDITORIAL

As Easter draws near and as we prepare ourselves for it, let us be reminded of its significance - the Death, the Resurrection and the Ascension of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

The death of Jesus Christ paid the price of the penalty for sin (Matthew 20 : 28). By His death, the position of the world was changed so that all people are now able to be saved. (2 Corinthians 5 : 18-19). Christ died in the place of the sinner (2 Corinthians 5 : 21). But most significant of all it is the proof of the love of God. (Romans 5 : 8)

Christianity is unique in that it is the ONLY religion with a LIVING GOD. We serve a living Saviour. He is in the world today. The resurrection proved Christ to be the Son of God (Romans 1 : 4) and confirmed the truth of all He said. (Matthew 28 : 6). The resurrection designated Christ as the Head of the Church and guaranteed the believer's resurrection. (2 Corinthians 4 : 14).

His ascension occurred forty days after His resurrection. Heaven was His home and it was only logical that He would return home to be with His Father (John 14 : 28) to take His appropriate seat on the right hand of God (Hebrews 10 : 12). Not only did Christ return home, but He ascended to prepare our heavenly abode (John 14 : 2) and be a forerunner, opening the pathway for us.

God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him "the name which is above every name," and because of this exaltation "every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

As Easter draws near let us give special attention not only to the physical preparation but also our spiritual preparation. Let us focus on promoting unity, spirituality, a deeper appreciation of the ministry of the church and prayer.

"Happy Easter and God Bless!"

Tham Yew Kee

A GUIDE TO CORPORATE WORSHIP

Corporate Worship is a happy discipline for every God-loving Christian. The Psalmist testifies, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the Lord's house.'" (Ps. 122:1) Like the Psalmist, we should look forward to Corporate Worship in God's house every Sunday.

Let me suggest three ways in which we can help to enhance our Corporate Worship in Church.

PUNCTUALITY

For a start, ensure that we are punctual for worship services. Most of us try to be punctual for work, and would try even harder when it comes to an official function. We would consider it a great honour to be invited by the President to the Istana for a state function, and would never intentionally be late for the invitation. This would be most discourteous to the host. Yet every Sunday, we receive an invitation from the King of kings to His House to worship Him, and we think nothing of arriving late.

Coming late for a worship service has at least three consequences. It dishonours God; it disturbs other worshippers already present and worshipping in the sanctuary; and it deprives the late-comer of the full benefit of the service. The Corporate Worship Service begins with the Introit and ends with the Benediction Response: it does not consist only of the Sermon, important though this may be. By arriving late, people often miss out on beautiful and meaningful parts of the service.

SILENCE

Secondly, resolve not to talk during the service. "Be still, and know that I am God," say the Scriptures (Psalms 46 : 10), and like coming late, talking and inattention during the service dishonours the Lord and disturbs other worshippers. Let us remember this especially during the Holy Communion Ritual, and during the singing of anthems and prayer responses. Anthems and prayer responses (which are a continuation of the Prayer) have been carefully chosen and prepared by the Pastor and Choir to enhance worship. Let us gain full benefit from every part of the service. It is good when attending services to recall the words: "Before the service, speak to God; during the service, let God speak to you; after the service, speak to one another."

REGULARITY

Finally, plan to be regular in attending worship services. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that failure to attend Sunday Mass without cause, is to commit serious sin. While we do not share this view, we should remember that the habitual failure to attend church services makes it easier for us to stray further and further away from God. Let us make it a habit to come to church regularly, and to come to regard missing Sunday Services as unthinkable as missing meals for a day.

Dr. (Miss) M. Doraisingham

HOW TO BE A CHURCH MEMBER WITHOUT BEING COMMITTED

There is an interesting book of satire entitled "How to Become a Bishop Without Being Religious". The thesis of this book is that to get ahead in the ministry one doesn't have to really be religious; he just has to look pious.

Interesting enough, this is old hat. Church people have been doing it for years. Many number of ways have been devised to indicate church membership and church involvement without really being committed to Christ, the Head of the Church.

Some do it with their presence. They make sure that they are at the church for everything. But sometimes this very activism hides real confrontation with the Lord. They often are too busy for a devotional life.

Some do it with their payments. Being generous in gifts to the church is considered by many to cover a multitude of sins. Some people have even been known to tithe thinking that this excused them from any other obligation to Christ or the church.

Some do it with their pretense. The book referred to above mentions the "stained glass voice". We have learned certain facial expressions, certain phrases, and certain postures that seem to indicate real piety. But often they are pretense. Underneath, the person still has a heart untouched and a spirit unmoved.

What do we need? Jesus called it the "new birth." This indicates a change so radical that it is like being born anew. What the Lord demands of us is real commitment - giving our lives to Him completely and unreservedly in faith. Elton Trueblood says the church ought to be the "company of the committed." Until it truly is, many people still want to know how to be a church member without being committed. But God wants from us both confession and commitment.

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

HOLY WEEK MEETINGS

Come for a time of personal spiritual renewal. Attend the nightly meetings planned especially for you.

MONDAY 16.4.84

Topic — Judas : The Man Who Betrayed Christ
Speaker — Mr Joseph John
Time — 8.00 p.m.

TUESDAY 17.4.84

Topic — Peter : The Man Who Denied Christ
Speaker — Pastor Edmund de Souza
Time — 8.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 18.4.84

Topic — Pilate : The Man Who Pleased The Crowd
Speaker — Mr John Ng
Time — 8.00 p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 19.4.84

Topic — Criminal : The One Who Repented
Speaker — Mr John Ng
Time — 8.00 p.m.

(Holy Communion will be served)

Our Guest Speakers:

- MR JOSEPH JOHN is a full-time staff of the Fellowship of Evangelical Students. He serves part-time as a counsellor attached to the Counselling and Care Centre.
- PASTOR EDMUND DE SOUZA is the assistant Pastor of Kampong Kapor Methodist Church.
- MR JOHN NG is the Acting Director of Eagles Evangelism. He pastors a church.

PULPIT CALENDAR

THEME : NEW LIFE, NEW LIFESTYLE

| March | Topic |
|---------|--------------------------|
| 4.3.84 | Counterfeit Christianity |
| 11.3.84 | Social Concerns Sunday |
| | Saved to Serve |
| 18.3.84 | No Easy Road |
| 25.3.84 | Fakers' Follies |

April

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| 1.4.84 | How Strong Is Your Foundation |
| 8.4.84 | By Whose Authority? |

THEME : CHALLENGE OF THE CROSS

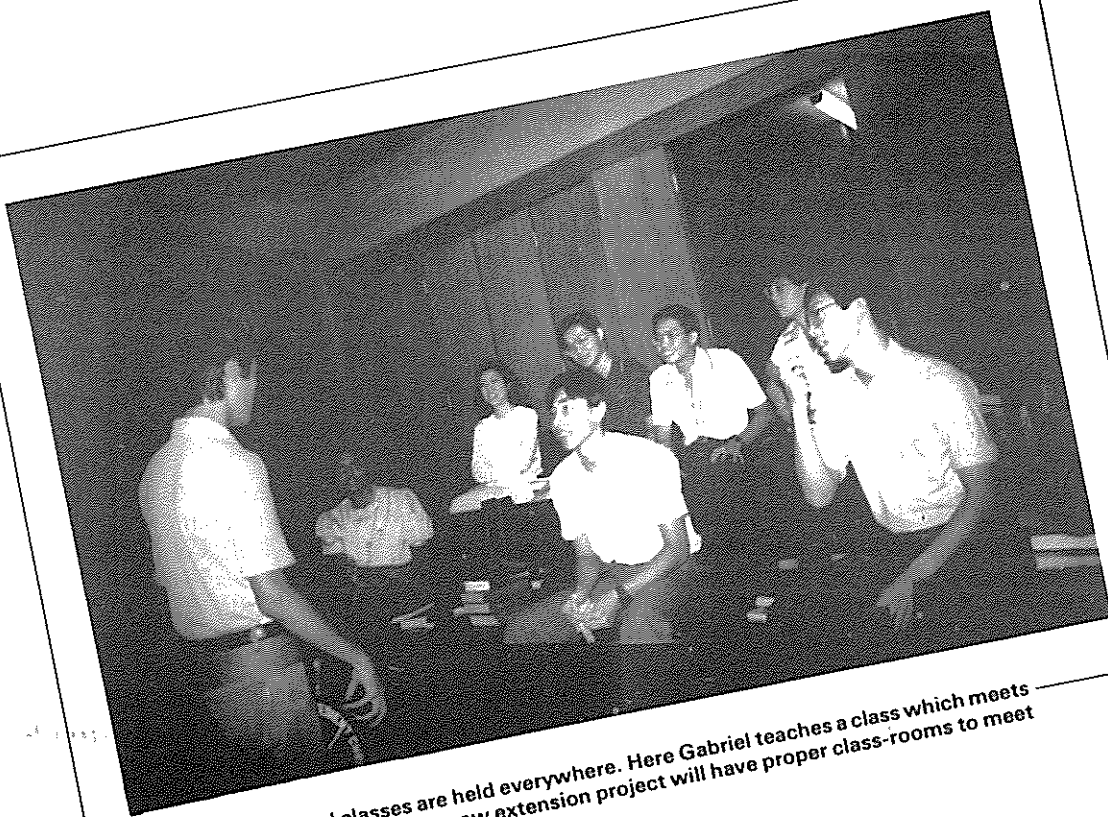
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|---------|--|
| 15.4.84 | Keep The Church Clean Campaign (PALM SUNDAY) |
| 20.4.84 | Death Is A Doorway (GOOD FRIDAY) |
| 22.4.84 | Can A Dead Man Live Again (EASTER SUNDAY) |
| 29.4.84 | Meeting The Living Lord |

THEME : GUIDELINES FROM GALATIANS

| | |
|---------|---|
| May | |
| 6.5.84 | The Gospel: Authentic or Synthetic? |
| 13.5.84 | WSCS SUNDAY |
| 20.5.84 | Paul: Persecutor turned Preacher |
| 27.5.84 | Faith: The Key To Salvation (ALDERSGATE SUNDAY) |



Mary, our care-taker, getting the P.A. system ready for church service.



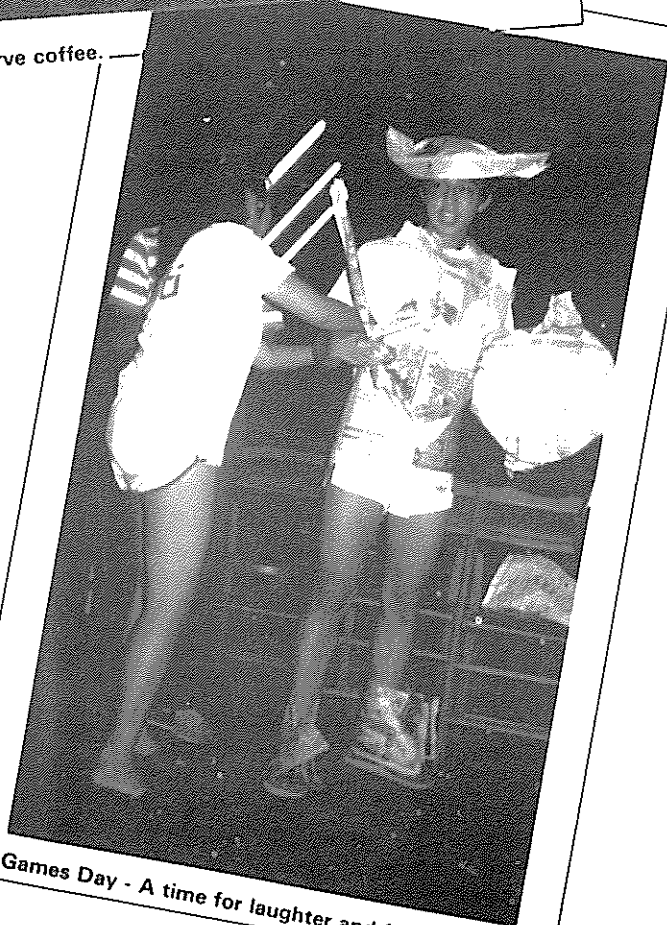
Our Sunday School classes are held everywhere. Here Gabriel teaches a class which meets regularly at the choir loft. The new extension project will have proper class-rooms to meet the needs of our Sunday School.



Games Day - This is the way you serve coffee.



"HOW LONG, OH, LORD, MUST I SUFFER UNDER THIS
HEAVY-HANDED TASKMASTER, AN' THESE
CHAINS OF BONDAGE?"



Games Day - A time for laughter and fun, 28.1.84.

WSCS NEWS

1. The WSCS runs a Training Centre for the Educationally Sub-normal girls at 12 Mt. Sophia. This is a social concern project of the WSCS Conference. The Training Centre was officially dedicated by Bishop Kao Jih Chung on March 17, 1984. It was followed by an exhibition of handicrafts and sale of food.
2. Trinity Theological College provides a special ministry of training workers for Christian Education, Church and Missionary work. The WSCS recognises the unique and essential ministry of Trinity Theological College. As an indication of our support, we have initiated a new project whereby WSCS members from the various Methodist Churches will cook a meal for the students and staff of the college. We will provide dinner for about 90 persons on May 14, 1984. We invite you to participate and share in this project. For more details, please contact Mrs. Patricia Chia.
3. Recently TRAC WSCS donated \$2,000 to Trinity Theological College. This represents a very small fraction of the annual budget of the college. Nevertheless, it was given in love, and in recognition of the ministry of Trinity Theological College. The donation was channelled to their Asian Endowment Fund.
4. We thank you for your kind support at our joy-stalls. The sales have been most encouraging. As you know, the proceeds will go to our church extension fund. If you want to contribute a dish or two for future joy-stalls, please inform Mrs. Lydia Han.

— L. Han

TRINIOLYMPICS

The MYF held its Annual Games Day on January 28, 1984. It was a time of joy and laughter, fun and fellowship. The participants were the young people of the church. They were all divided into three groups to pit their skill and wit against each other. Most of the games demand teamwork and creativity.

Highlights for the afternoon included the "Gospel Armour" game. It required the different groups to dress up one member with newspapers. The result was three comical looking creatures who looked as if they were lost in this planet.

The finale of the day was a "Treasure Hunt" which sent all groups looking high and low for clues and treasures. No one was a loser at the end of the day. If they have "Gospel Armour" and "Treasure Hunt" games at the forthcoming Olympic at Los Angeles, our three teams may win Singapore the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals.

Says one satisfied participant, "It was certainly a time of lighthearted fellowship."

— Ashley Choo

TRAC PASTORS' RETREAT

Rev Daniel Koh will be away from the 24 - 30 of April, 1984. He will be attending the TRAC Pastors' Retreat at Cameron Highlands, West Malaysia. The Purpose of this RETREAT is to help our Pastors to reflect on their pastoral services rendered in the days past and also to study ways and means on how to make their Christian ministry more effective in the days ahead. The THEME for the RETREAT is "PREACHING TODAY". During Pastor's absence the following persons will provide care and counselling.

MINISTER

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LAY MINISTRY

- 1) Mr Chew Chin Jin (Lay Leader)
Telephone : 2885319
- 2) Mr Tham Yew Kee (Associate Lay Leader)
Telephone : 2801145
- 3) Mrs Margaret Tan (Associate Lay Leader)
Telephone : 2883239

LIVING THE ABUNDANT LIFE

Here are some courses worth attending:

1. **CONGRESS ON BIBLICAL LIFESTYLE**
Sponsor: The Navigators
Venue: A.C.J.C.
Date: April 13-15, 1984
Cost: \$15 - student
\$20 - adult
Registration: Call 4688273
2. **MARRIAGE COUNSELLING WORKSHOP**
Sponsor: Counselling and Care Centre
Date: April 16 and 17, 1984
Fee: \$60
Registration: Call 3377748
3. **STRESS MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP**
Sponsor: Counselling and Care Centre
Date: May 19, 1984
Fee: \$30
Registration: Call 3377748

METHODIST ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Programmes for Adults

MARCH Topic
 13.3.84 Do I Listen To Godly Counsel?
 27.3.84 Am I Tense Or Trusting?

APRIL
 10.4.84 How Do I Relate To God After Failure?
 24.4.84 Am I Willing To 'Lose My Life'?

MAY
 8.5.84 Can I Trust God's Timing?
 22.5.84 How Do I Handle Success?
 Meetings held in church social hall at 8.00 pm

METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Programmes for Youth

MARCH Topic
 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

APRIL
 7.4.84 Role Of Jesus
 14.4.84 Prayer and Preparation for Easter Rally
 21.4.84 Easter Rally

The MYF meets every Saturday at 3.30 p.m.

FAMILY NEWS

MARRIAGE SOLEMNISED

25.2.84 Gabriel Liew and Chong Quek Keow

MEMBER TRANSFERRED IN

Miss Julia Chia Soo Wah (From Toa Payoh Methodist Church)

ADULT BAPTISM ON SOCIAL CONCERNS SUNDAY, 11.3.84

Ms Chan Kah Lui
 Ms Wee Chwee Keow
 Ms Boey Kee Kit
 Ms Ho Pee Chin
 Ms Jenny Kiong

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.

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.

Happy Easter!
Christ is alive!

THE TRINITY EDUCATIONAL CENTRE BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE

The Committee met only once in 1983 to plan the official launching of the Pledge Drive on 20.3.83. In the days to come, it is my fervent hope and prayer, the Committee will meet frequently to plan for ways and means to raise funds for the 3-Storey Building project which is estimated to cost \$1.5 million.

PLEDGES FOR TECBF

The Pledge Drive for funds which was launched on 20.3.83 was responded to by 52 members in 1983 and 2 in 1984 making total of 54 pledges. The total amount pledged for periods varying from 1 - 36 months is \$101,118.00. The breakdown is as follows:

| Amount \$ | No. of Pledges | Gross Amount \$ |
|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 120.00 | 6 | 720.00 |
| 240.00 | 3 | 720.00 |
| 250.00 | 1 | 250.00 |
| 300.00 | 1 | 300.00 |
| 360.00 | 1 | 360.00 |
| 500.00 | 1 | 500.00 |
| 600.00 | 2 | 1,200.00 |
| 720.00 | 1 | 720.00 |
| 900.00 | 1 | 900.00 |
| 1,000.00 | 1 | 1,000.00 |
| 1,008.00 | 2 | 2,016.00 |
| 1,200.00 | 5 | 6,000.00 |
| 1,500.00 | 2 | 3,000.00 |
| 1,800.00 | 5 | 9,000.00 |
| 2,000.00 | 9 | 18,000.00 |
| 2,400.00 | 3 | 7,200.00 |
| 3,000.00 | 1 | 3,000.00 |
| 3,600.00 | 2 | 7,200.00 |
| 4,032.00 | 1 | 4,032.00 |
| 5,000.00 | 5 | 25,000.00 |
| 10,000.00 | 1 | 10,000.00 |

The total amount of pledge contributions received as at 31.1.1984 is \$39,604.00. A confirmation note was sent out to all to intimate the amount received upto 31.12.1983.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY ORGANISATIONS (Internal)

The following Programme Committees/Organisations have taken definite steps in support of this project and have collected/transferred their accumulated funds effective 31.12.83 to the TECBF:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| i) Trinity Sunday School - Transfer | \$ 3,729.00 |
| collected | \$ 1,287.80 |
| ii) Christian Education - Transfer (CEDF) | \$ 4,765.00 |
| iii) Trinity M Y F | \$ 1,420.00 |

PERSONAL EFFORT

One member, Mrs Shirley Ong has taken the lead in raising funds from her personal friends and contacts. I am recording this as an acknowledgement and appreciation for her initiative. Faced with the difficulties of organising fund raising projects, the returns from which might not be worth the effort, personal approaches should be made by every member to friends, colleagues and relatives to make their donations no matter how small the amount may be. This is one avenue the Committee will explore when planning fund raising.

DEVELOPMENT COST

Total amount paid out to-date is \$55,300.00.

P. SATHIASINGAM
CHAIRMAN