

TMC NEWSLETTER

MAY — JUNE 1984 MC(P) 50/1/84

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

PASTORAL EPISTLE

A growing church is a mission-conscious church. Without participating in God's mission, a church usually stagnates and gets stale. The members become complacent and are retarded in spiritual growth. Instead of being concerned about growth in corporate membership and personal maturity, the church would be more engrossed in keeping things as it is and doing things "the way we have always done before." There is no way new ideas and visions can get a fair hearing. The members seem content living in the world of yesteryears, rather than facing the challenge of the future with creative and positive attitude in mission.

But then mission is a loaded word. Most Christians seem to adopt a one-dimensional package-deal definition of mission. Its meaning depends on who pack the word, and who is the distributor. For instance, mission to a marxist-inspired Christian is nothing short of political liberation from an oppressive system and military dictatorship. Mission to an American-centric Christian would mean besides sharing the Gospel, new converts must keep Uncle Sam's value-system and churn out Kentucky Fried Christianity. Mission to others may be an insidious form of anti-culture. It propagates that a Christian has to renounce her past completely, as if this is possible without a psychological breakdown along the way.

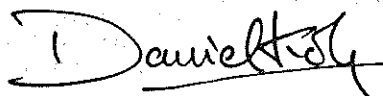
Biblical understanding of mission is never one-dimensional. It takes into consideration God's missionary involvement since the beginning of creation. It takes into consideration the covenants He made with His erring people. It includes the socio-economic and political teachings of the prophets. In fact, mission must be seen in the light of the full Scriptures.

Our tendency to take on a one-dimensional interpretation of mission can be seen in the way we sometimes quote just one favourite text to defend our definition of mission. For many of us, the "proof" text is Matthew 28:19-20. But unfortunately quoting this text to defend an idea of mission has often done injustice to the message which our Lord gives. We seem to think that mission is strictly "Go ye and preach the Gospel." Full stop. Nothing more. We forget that even in this text, our Lord has more to say about mission than winning souls. According to the text, mission includes bringing people into the Fellowship of Believers through baptism. Mission means we do not superficially introduce the Gospel to a person. We have to make disciples and ensure that they in turn become disciple-makers. This is a time consuming process which calls for long-term personal care and commitment. Furthermore, mission in the context of Matthew 28 emphasises importance of wholesome Christian education for every believer. Notice that Jesus does not relegate Christian education to Sunday Schools. Christian education is our business. It is our life-long business.

Pray that we are not promoters of one-verse, one-dimensional view of mission. Healthy Christian life is built on a Biblical-dimensional understanding of mission. Our church will enjoy greater growth in corporate membership and personal maturity when members discard shallow one-verse, one-dimensional understanding of mission and begin to view mission with a multi-dimensional Biblical lens.

God bless you.

With you Serving and Worshipping the Living Lord.



Pastor Daniel Koh Kah Soon



SIT IN THE PEW BEHIND US, AND I'LL MAKE SOME OF MY BEST SILLY FACES FOR YOU

EDITORIAL

In Acts 1 : 8 our Lord tells us that the gospel must be preached throughout the whole world - "and ye shall be witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and even to the remotest part of the earth." Ever so often we think of evangelism as going overseas or sending some qualified persons out to spread the word of God. But our Lord's command is clear "Go ye" that means every member of the body of Christ i.e. even the layman of the church. We do not have to go "overseas" to fulfil God's command. We can do so with personal evangelism which can be simply thus:

- 1) By sharing testimony - tell others of the blessings and answers to prayers you have received from our Lord.
- 2) By giving time and talent in doing God's work - being active in a church organization or committee or by teaching in the Sunday School.
- 3) By bringing people into the fellowship of a local church
- 4) By distributing appropriate and effective tracts.
- 5) By constantly praying for your pastor, church members, the sick and the bereaved and those who have not heard the Good News.

Being involved in mission actually begins where we are. Let us join in the mission of the Church today! God Bless!

Tham Yew Kee

PASTOR WILL BE AWAY

Pastor will be attending a Christian Communication Conference in Manila in June. He will be away from June 11 - 23.

During his absence the following persons may be contacted for care and counselling.

Lay Leader	— Mr Chew	Telephone:
	Chin Jin	2885319
Associate Lay	— Mr Tham	Telephone:
Leader	Yew Kee	2801145
Associate Lay	— Mrs Margaret	Telephone:
Leader	Tan	2883239
Minister on	— Rev Michael	Telephone:
standby	Wong	4408663 (O)
		3455143 (O)
		2507309 (H)

The Conference is sponsored by the Asia Christian Communications Fellowship (ACCF). It will bring to Manila, Christians who are concerned about communicating the Gospel effectively in Asia. Among the people attending the conference will be Christians involved in T.V., Video, Literature, Drama and Radio ministries.

PULPIT CALENDAR

THEME : GUIDELINE FROM GALATIANS

MONTH	TOPIC
MAY	
6	The Gospel : Authentic Or Synthetic?
13	WSCS SUNDAY At The Master's Feet
20	Paul : Persecutor Turned Preacher
27	ALDERSGATE SUNDAY Faith : The Key To Salvation
JUNE	
3	Law : Its Pedagogic Purpose
10	Freedom : Limited by Love
17	EVANGELISM SUNDAY
24	Fruit : Sinful and Spiritual <i>not to be</i>
JULY	
1	Care : Every Christian's Business
8	MISSIONS SUNDAY
15	MAF SUNDAY
22	Harvest : Reaping What We Sow

THEME : CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP — A JOYFUL RESPONSIBILITY

29	Moths and Rust : Robbers and Heart
AUGUST	
5	STEWARDSHIP & PLEDGE SUNDAY Spirit of Stewardship
12	NATIONAL DAY SUNDAY Prayer and Politics
19	MYF SUNDAY

NEW ADDRESS

Pastor has moved out of Ang Mo Kio to Telok Blangah. His new address is:

424-A, Telok Blangah Road,
Singapore 0409

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

INVITATION

**"I'd rather be in this chair,
knowing Him, than
on my feet without Him."**

It wasn't easy for Joni Eareckson to speak those words. She did not accept that reality overnight. Her road to Jesus Christ, and all He could mean in her life, was a difficult one. She faced pain, heartache, fear, depression, and an overwhelming feeling that she was deserted by God.

After all, how could a loving God allow her to suffer a devastating accident, brave death and lose the use of her arms and legs? How could a loving God seemingly destroy everything that had meant so much in her young life?

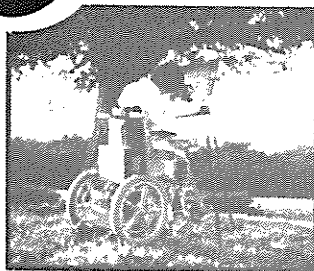
At some point in our lives, we all ask "Why?" And we all grope for answers that evade us. We all search for the missing pieces of the puzzles that make up our lives.

JONI is a motion picture that confronts these difficult questions head-on. And comes up with the triumphant answer!

A powerful motion picture played by the one who actually lived the story, JONI is an "up" in a world filled with "downs." Hope in the midst of despair. Victory in the shadow of defeat.

*JONI — You've never met
anyone quite like her.*

Joni



EVANGELISM SUNDAY

On 17th June 1984, we will celebrate Evangelism Sunday. Basically this is a Sunday Worship Service where worshippers are reminded to tell others about the Good News.

Mr Jim Chew, the Director of the 'Navigators' will preach in the morning service and Mr James Yeo, the Director of the Working Adults' Ministry in Campus Crusade, will deliver the sermon in the evening service.

The Committee on Evangelism will take charge of the two Worship Services.

'JONI' : An Evangelistic Movie

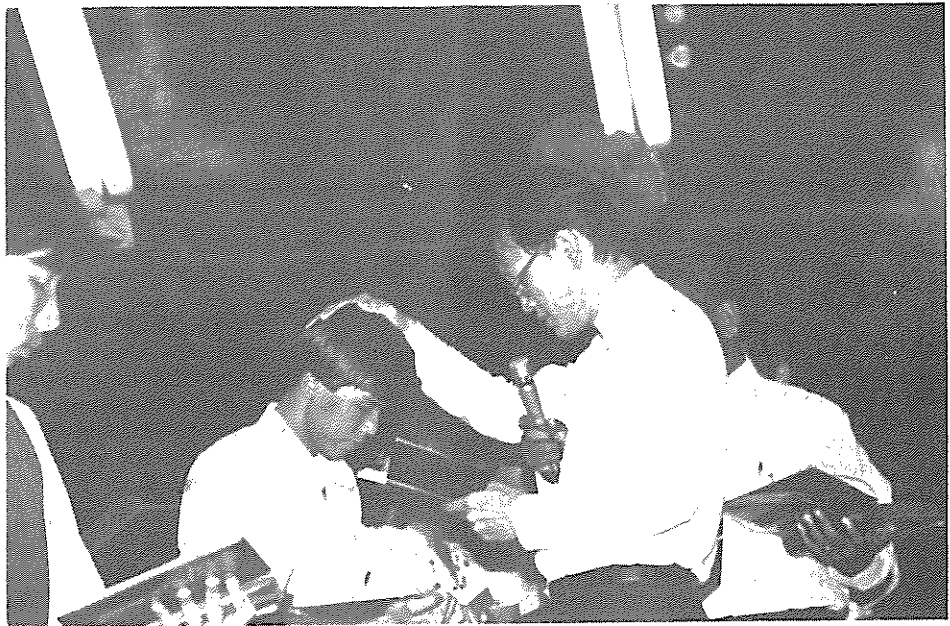
If Jesus is worth having, then He is worth sharing. The MYF and EVANGELISM Committee will be organising another Gospel Rally on Sunday 24th June 1984 at 7.00 p.m. in our church. The Programme includes a sketch, song item and a powerful motion picture entitled "J O N I".

Pray for your family members and friends whom you intend to bring to this evangelistic meeting.

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but that the world should be saved through Him." John 3 : 17

Join us in this exciting opportunity to reach people for Christ.

Gabriel Liew



Baptism and Confirmation on Easter Sunday.

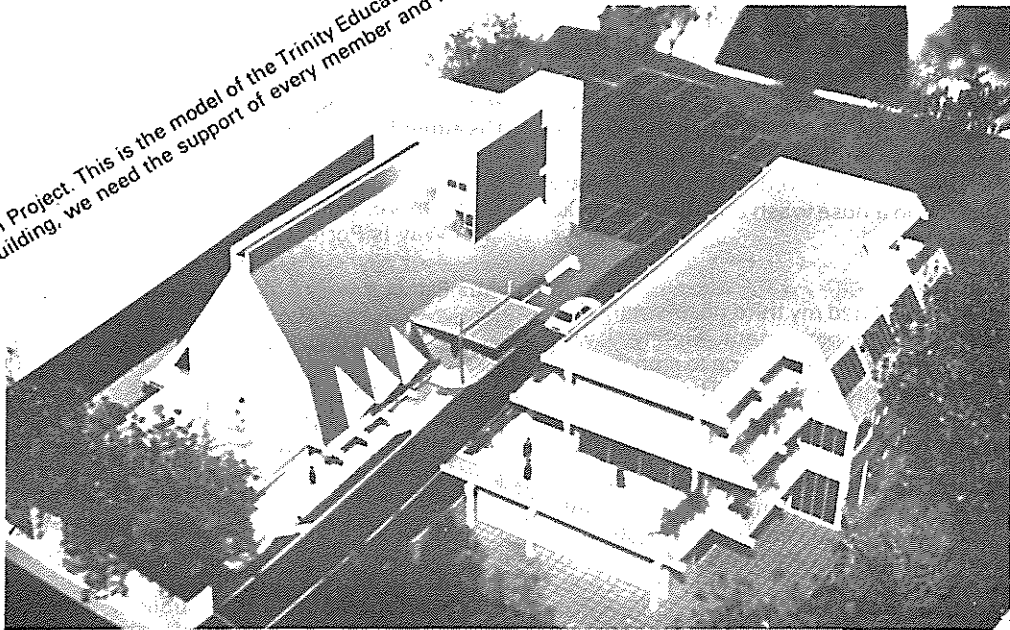


Three new members were baptised by immersion off East Coast Parkway on April 21, 1984. L-R: Christopher, Amos, Pastor and Kimberly.



"Jesus loves the little children" - and our little children love Jesus too. Our Sunday School students offered their praise to the Living Lord on Easter Sunday.

Our Vision Project. This is the model of the Trinity Educational Centre. To put up the building, we need the support of every member and friend.



TESTIMONY

JESUS HEALS

Sometime in May 1982 I was spitting out blood. I couldn't believe my eyes but my throat irritated me. I read a book called "Modern Guide to Health" and it mentioned the danger signals of cancer and other unusual bleeding or discharge that can be serious.

I was afraid so I consulted a doctor. He gave me antibiotics and sent me to S.A.T.A. for a chest X-ray. I continued taking medicine but there was still blood in my sputum. On my next visit to the doctor. I complained to him and he showed me my X-ray result and told me he need not give me treatment as my chest X-ray was clear.

I thanked God that I was not suffering from T.B. But I could not go on spitting out blood all the time.

In January 1983 I consulted another doctor and he referred me to the E.N.T. specialist at the Singapore General Hospital. I had the E.N.T. X-ray and the doctor told me that I was suffering from Sinusitis. Thereafter, I had regular check-ups once a month. However, in the sixth month the doctor discharged me saying there was no medication for me. Yet there was still visible sign of blood in the sputum. Nevertheless, I praise the Lord and continued praying to Him.

Then in October 1983, I consulted my private doctor and told him I was not feeling well. There were traces of brownish discharge from my throat. So he recommended me to the E.N.T. specialist in a private clinic. I was examined and again had a chest and the E.N.T. X-ray. The result showed that sinuses were well developed. I had a nose wash and was given lots of medicine to take.

In December 1983, I had my third nose-wash. Still there was not much improvement. Finally, I was given an injection and some medicine to stop the discharge from dripping into my throat. The doctor then wrote a chit for me to go for another E.N.T. X-ray.

Came January 1984 and I consulted my doctor again. I told him how I felt after my E.N.T. treatment. I was exhausted. He said that I might have to go for an operation and also mentioned that I was suffering from severe depression. I might have to take a long-term course of treatment and that I could not be completely cured.

At that time, I was very confused and during my quiet moments I set aside time to ponder and think; to recollect how when I was a little girl with recurring sicknesses our late Pastor Rev Chew Hock Hin prayed over a cup of water for me to drink and by faith in Jesus Christ I was cured.

I struggled through trials but I couldn't see a thing. Nevertheless, through it all I trusted God and kept on praising Him. I knelt down and cried out to Lord Jesus. I prayed for forgiveness of sins and thanked Him for His goodness. From then on I put my trust completely in Jesus. I have learned not to worry but to have faith; that all things will turn out well.

After much prayer and on 10th January 1984, I came upon a book called "Chinese Patent Medicine" which I had kept for a very long time. I browsed through the contents of the book and came across illnesses on nasal diseases. The symptoms described were exactly what I was suffering from. So I bought the medicine and till today I'm still taking it knowing that the Lord Jesus will heal me.

God does heal! He heals it in two ways; through science and through faith. I have found real peace and wonderful joy, unspeakable and full of glory! In Hebrews 13 : 8 says "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever." I know He is Lord and Saviour of all my ways. I thank the Lord for comforting me and through all thorny ways He leads me to a joyful end.

It is not easy to realise that I have no right to demand my way in life. But because God is planning my life I know that wherever He leads (and whatever His time) His way is the best.

Therefore, I praise God with my whole heart for "His Way Is Perfect!"

Mrs Esther Yan

GOSPEL RALLY

The MYF and Evangelism Committee jointly organised a Gospel Rally on 28th April, 1984 in our church. A team consisting of 17 talented young people from "Youth With A Mission - Belgium" portrayed the Gospel in drama, testimony and message. 2,000 publicity handbills along with some tracts were distributed in Serangoon Gardens. 140 people turned up for the Rally. 4 of them rededicated their lives to Christ.

TRINITY MYF ANNUAL BARBEQUE

The MYF held it's Annual Barbeque on 31st July, 1984 at East Coast Parkway. We rented a chalet and a barbeque pit for this particular event. Except for Ashley and his Planning Committee who were there early, the rest of us arrived at about 6.30 to 7.00 p.m.

By 7.30 p.m., Pit 20 was surrounded by Trinity MYFers, all ready to kick off the first part of our planned programme, "Singspiration" led by Hwee Suan and Amos.

While the songleader tried frantically to get the group singing, Ashley and gang were also trying frantically to get the fire going (through the encouragement of the song — "It only takes a spark!!!")

Hwee Suan finally succumbed to the hungry cries of the MYFers and by 8.15 p.m. the smouldering charcoal from the pit was ready to "pengkan" the chicken wings.

We were blessed with many new faces and not forgetting the presence of our distinguished guests, Mr Daniel Gwee and his family, who were there to share our delight. Everyone enjoyed the sumptuous meal. Apparently, the "carniverous" side of Christopher was also exposed when he was caught munching his half-cooked chicken wing in the park.

By 10.00 p.m., everyone reorganised around the pit again, this time for a livelier singing plus a short game which all of us enjoyed thoroughly.

The MYFers finally had their own free time after 11.00 p.m. The young people scattered about. Some went to the chalet to share, some to the beach to "sing their hearts out". Corina and some of the younger ones were seen running crazily after a circular disc.

Chin Soon and Philip were caught snoozing away on the soft patch of grass. While at the other end, a few youngsters were sitting on the verge of the rock, facing the sea. They seemed to be overwhelmed by the beauty of the starry sky and sediments brought closer by the waves of the sea. It would only caused one to look up and exclaimed "How Great Thou Art!"

Surely, we want to praise God for His Greatness, for providing us the place and fine weather. Indeed we hope that the programme plus the fellowshiping together would only enable us to fulfil the scriptural teaching of "Loving One Another."

Albert Loh

COLUMBARIA IN ALL SAINTS' MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Christians who are members of TRAC Churches may reserve niches at All Saints' Chapel for \$515 per niche. This offer is valid until end of July 1984. After which the rate will be \$850/- per niche, or more. Christians may reserve niches for themselves or for their parents. Please contact Pastor if you are interested in reserving the niches.

CHURCH WEDDING

If you are planning to have your wedding in church, please inform Pastor at least three months in advance. Do not fix your date until you have consulted Pastor.

NEW ARRIVALS - CONGRATULATIONS!

- 1.3.84 Karen Kwan Ling to Linda and Kwan Yue
- 2.4.84 Shaun Choo Ming Jhian to Soh Lin & Choo Lee Sai

ADULT BAPTISM ON 21.4.84 (BY IMMERSION) & CONFIRMATION ON 22.4.84

Mr Amos Ang Boon Leong
Mr Christopher Ow Chee Seng
Miss Kimberly Toh Siew Kim

ADULT BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION ON 22.4.84 EASTER SUNDAY

Miss Choo Gek Hong
Mr Choy Kam Hay
Mr Richard Poh Yew Lay
Mrs Linda Quan Wee Neo
Miss Rosie Tan Gek Lan

CONFIRMATION ON 22.4.84 EASTER SUNDAY

Mr Ashley Choo Ping
Mrs Melinda Poh Loun
Mr Sunny Loh Kim Soon

DEATH

7.5.84 Miss Choo Lian Hua, Sister-in-Law of Mrs Choo Poh Siong
20.5.84 Mdm Wong Miew Ngoh, mother of Mr Richard Poh Yew Lay
20.5.84 Mdm Ng Lee Yoong, Sister-in-Law of Mrs Gloria Lim

If a man cannot be a Christian where he is, he cannot be a Christian anywhere.

— H.W. Beecher

TRINITY EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

APPROVAL FOR THE PROJECT

At the Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC) meeting held on Tuesday, 15 May 1984, the Chairman of the Extension Project Committee, Mr Pang Kia Seng, brought the good news. He reported that the Deputy Director, D & BCD and all other relevant authorities have given their approval for the erection of the proposed Trinity Educational Centre. Praise God. We have received more than we bargained for as the approval given is for 3-storey building not the single storey which was originally planned.

Mr Pang Kia Seng also informed the LCEC that his Committee will meet soon with the Architect to review the time-table for the commencement and completion of the total project. In his estimation, the project should be completed by September 1985.

FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT

The Chairman of the Trinity Educational Centre Building Fund Committee, Mr P Sathiasingam, informed the LCEC on the current status of the building fund. To-date a total of \$378,654 has been accounted for. Based on the estimated cost of \$1 million and \$1.5 million (excluding professional fees) for the 2-storey and 3-storey building respectively, the task of raising the balance of \$621,346 or \$1,121,346 will fall on the shoulders of 440 members of Trinity. The foundation upon which the present church was established was by faith. And by faith we will resolve ourselves to fulfil this project to the Glory of God.

THE MODEL OF THE TEC

Mr Eddie Chew and Mr Selwyn Lemos in a very short time translated the Architect's perspective of the building into a lovely model. The materials for the model were supplied by Mr & Mrs Chew Chin Ghee and Mrs Susie Lemos. Thank you and God bless you. The model will be on display for all to see.

CALL FOR COMMITMENT

God calls upon all of us to be partners in this Project. So far less than 60 members have sent in their pledge. We need the support of every member. Please pray for this project and give generously to support the new extension

SUPPORT OUR EXTENSION PROJECT.

PRAY CONSTANTLY

GIVE GENEROUSLY

WE NEED EVERY MEMBER'S SUPPORT.

Call 2824443