

# TMC NEWSLETTER

JULY — AUGUST 1984 MC(P) 50/1/84

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

## PASTORAL EPISTLE

"I doubt that there is a more threatening subject than tithing. That which touches the wallets and purses taps a very sensitive nerve," writes R.T. Kendall the pastor of the famous Westminster Chapel, and author of the book, **Tithing, A Call to Serious Biblical Giving**.

To certain extent, Dr. Kendall is correct. The subject of tithing and pledging can be a very threatening topic to people whose life-style and value system revolve around self-enrichment and self-gratification. These people probably worship a god with the capital \$. No matter how much they have, even with increased income, they always complain that they don't have enough. To such people, tithing and pledging is indeed a threatening subject to be ignored, swept under the worn-out carpet to excuses, and conveniently explained away. When it comes to giving to charity or supporting the work of the Church their giving is often measured by the least they could afford.

Christ our Lord understands the foibles of mankind. He knows how easily it is for us to be blinded by the glitters of gold, and seduced by the intoxicating power of wealth. With the heart of the perfect Pastor, our Lord reminds us that whilst wealth is important, it should not replace God and His ministry in the altar of our life. In His wisdom He counsels:

"Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and robbers break in and steal. Instead, store up riches for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and robbers cannot break in and steal. For your heart will always be where your riches are." (Matt. 6:19-21).

In short, our Lord is saying, **"Do not be possessed by your possessions."**

On the other hand, Christians who have experienced the liberating power and love of God do not view tithing and pledging as something threatening. These Christians know their priority in life. They realise that ultimate satisfaction and meaning in life do not come from pursuit of self-enrichment and self-gratification, but from their pursuit of God's Kingdom and Righteousness (Matt. 6:33). To be able to seek God's Kingdom first is to free ourselves from the bondage of selfishness, and to liberate ourselves from the crippling tentacles of materialism.

Viewed correctly, material blessings are gifts from God. He has given us such blessings trusting us to manage them wisely. We are stewards given the responsibility to manage time, money and talent by God.

Why do Christians tithe?

We tithe because we want to be good and trustworthy stewards. We tithe because we want to get involved in the ministry of God and His Church. We tithe because it is a Biblical teaching. Above all, we tithe because we love God.

No one has become poor because he is a faithful steward. I have not come across any Christian who has become poor because of sacrificial and cheerful giving. Instead, when we begin to look around, Christians who have practised tithing and systematic giving are often blessed with abundant living.

August 5 is our Stewardship and Pledge Sunday. I invite you to dedicate your tithe and pledge on that day when you come for Communion.

With you ..... Serving the Living Lord,

*Daniel Koh*

Pastor Daniel K. S. Koh

## THE TITHER'S SURPRISE

The Christian who begins to tithe will have at least six surprises. He will be surprised:

1. At the amount of money he has for the Lord's work.
2. At the deepening of his spiritual life in paying for the tithe.
3. At the ease of meeting his own obligations with the nine-tenths.
4. At the ease in going from one-tenth to larger giving.
5. At the preparation this gives to be a faithful and wise steward over the nine-tenths that remains
6. At himself in not adopting the plan sooner.

The Glad Tidings

## EDITORIAL

"I will place no value on anything I may possess except in relation to the Kingdom of Christ. If anything I have will advance the interest of that Kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it, I promote the glory of Him, to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity." (David Livingstone)

As the Church embarks on the Trinity Education Centre Project, we as members of the Church are obliged and duty bound to see that the 'vision' becomes a 'reality'. Our life, and possessions, both belong to God. We are only stewards of them - entrusted to us by the grace of God.

Proverbs 3 : 9 tells us "to honour the Lord from our wealth." Let us give cheerfully and not grudgingly or under compulsion for the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ for God loves a cheerful giver. It does not matter how much we give as long as we give it sacrificially. Our Lord reminded us of this in Mark 12 : 42 - 44. The poor widow put in all she owned (two copper coins which amounted to a cent) into the treasury.

If we honour our Lord and advance His Kingdom in the Serangoon Area, God will bless us richly as He has promised in 2 Corinthians 9 : 6 "He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully and 2 Corinthians 9 : 8 "God is able to make all grace abound to you, that always having all sufficiency in everything you may have an abundance for every good deed."

So make a prayerful decision to give and God will bless you abundantly! God bless.

Tham Yew Kee

## PRAYERS AND ADULT

### MAF PROGRAMME

A most common lament in the MAF, and I am sure in the church itself, is when you hear adults say that they do not know how to pray. Just imagine - the most important aspect of a growing Christian's life, apart from Bible study is sadly lacking in the all-round development of a Christian.

The MAF got together to look into this problem and also discovered that

- we were in a prayer rut, praying for the same old things over and over again without seeing any results in our prayer life.
- we lacked a greater sense of fellowship when we prayed together.
- although we wanted other people to pray for us, we were not very good at remembering to pray for them.

The MAF then decided to deal with enriching our prayer life in our future meetings. We also felt that it was important to continue with our present format of Bible study and discussion in our meetings while we 'practise' praying. To meet these challenges the MAF has planned their programme for the next six months centred on studying biblical prayers by

- looking into the context surrounding each prayer
- observing the facts
- finding principles we can follow in each study
- and apply the biblical model when we pray together during the meeting.

In learning to pray for other people and to support and encourage each other in this personal Christian discipline, the MAF has also drawn up a format for each participant to spend about 20 minutes a day for Quiet Time with reference materials and guidelines to help in this activity.

We would therefore like to extend an invitation to all adults to join us at MAF meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 8.00 p.m.

We pray that as God teaches us through Scripture and when the Holy Spirit works in us when we study, discuss and learn to pray together, we would experience more freedom and more fellowship with our Father and with each other.

We look forward to sharing with you at the following meetings :

DATE	THEME
12.6.1984	LOOKING TO GOD
26.6.1984	PREPARING FOR PRAYER
24.7.1984	PRAYING FOR PEOPLE'S NEEDS
12.8.1984 (SUN)	MAF PICNIC
28.8.1984	MAF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
11.9.1984	CONFESSING SIN
25.9.1984	OFFERING PRAISE TO THE LORD
9.10.1984	SUPPORTING EACH OTHER IN PRAYER
13.11.1984	CALLING FOR HELP
27.11.1984	GIVING THANKS

### METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Date	Programme
July 7	Gifts of the Spirit
July 14	MYF Quiz
July 21	God's Orchestra
July 28	Discovering Your Gift(s)
August 4	Shape Up Or Ship Out
August 11	Evaluation of MYF 1983/1984
August 18	Preparation For MYF Sunday
August 25	MYF Affair
September 1	MYF Annual General Meeting
September 8	Games Day

# THOUGHTS ON TITHING

## PAUL'S PLAN OF CHURCH FINANCE

(1 Corinthians 16:2)

**PROVIDENT**  
lay by him in store

Forehanded  
Deliberate  
Thoughtful  
Intelligent  
Planned

**PERIODIC**  
Upon the first  
day of the week

Worship  
Regular  
Prayerful  
Cheerful  
Systematic

**PROPORTIONATE**  
as he may prosper

Generous  
Careful  
Responsible  
Faithful  
Sacrificial

**PERSONAL**  
let each one of you

Each Man  
Each Woman  
Each Boy  
Each Girl  
No Proxies  
No Merging

**PREVENTIVE**  
that no collections be  
made when I come

No Deficit  
No Interest on  
Loans  
No Worry  
No Retrenchment

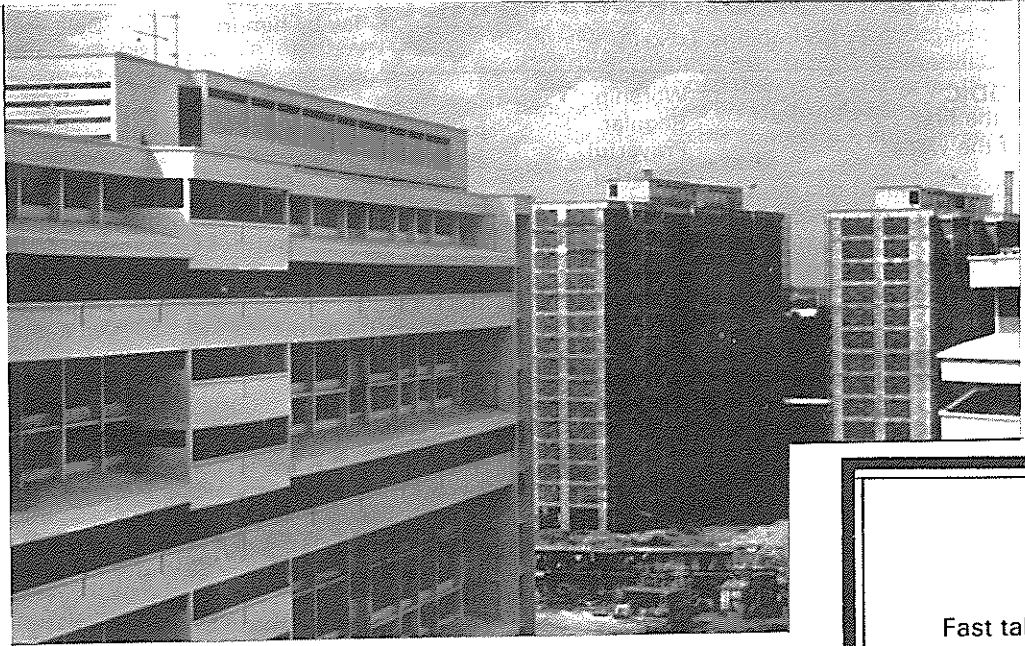
## WHAT TITHING MEANS TO ME

Tithing is the best way to acknowledge that God owns all I possess. I am His child; He has made it possible for me to live in this universe. I do not own it; He does. He sustains me daily. My tithe, given freely, gladly and with love, is my acknowledgement that He is my Father and I belong to Him. I like to think of tithing as a matter of trust in the goodness and mercy of God in the days ahead. God has given us wealth abundantly-all we need and more. He trusts us to be good stewards. My regular giving of the tithe is an acknowledgement of my appreciation for His gifts and also of His faith in me to be a good steward in all He has entrusted to me. The tithe not only helps me acknowledge God as Father, but also helps me to use wisely the other nine-tenths.

I am happy to be a tither. My tithe helps my church carry out the Lord's work and it helps me to handle carefully not only my money but all other gifts with which God has blessed me. I have never known a tither to be a miser. I have never known a tither to be an unhappy man. I have never known a tither who felt that he was wasting his money. On the other hand, the tithers I have known have had a love for God. They have expressed a loyalty to the church and Kingdom and they have found joy in handling of our God-given treasures.

I want to be a good steward. Tithing helps me in this and therefore I recommend it. Study it - pray about it - try it for a year. See for yourself its real spiritual value to your life and the work of the Kingdom.

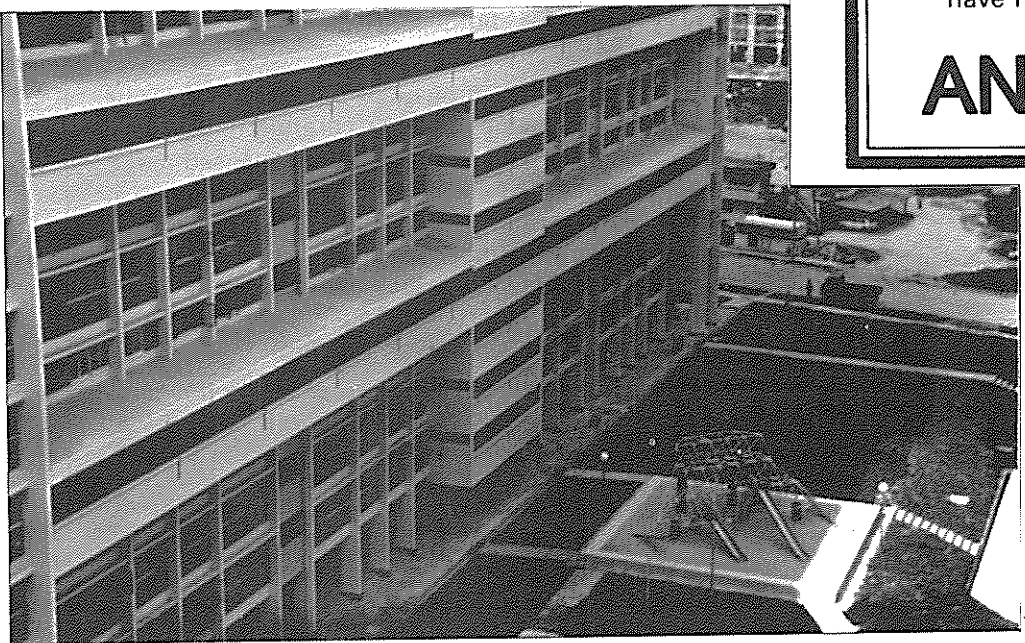
F. Broyles, Head Football Coach, University of Arkansas.



## VIS

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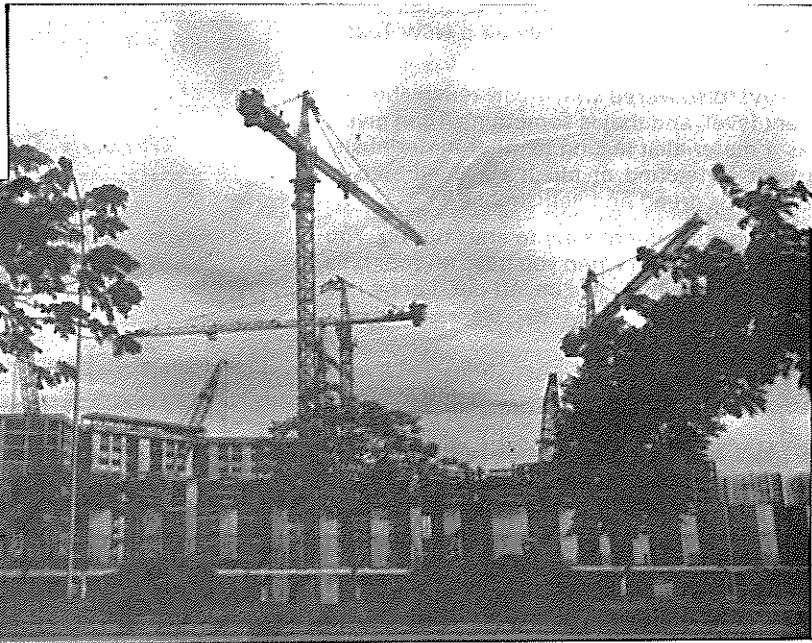




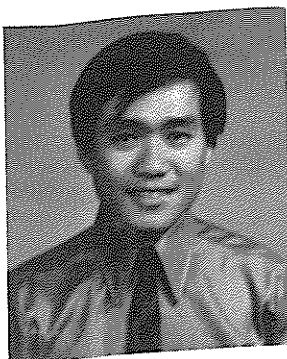
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# MISSION







Malcolm Tan has completed his theological training. For four years he was supported by our church when he studied in Trinity Theological College. He graduated recently with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. At the TRAC Special Session held on 7.7.84, it was announced that Malcolm has been accepted as a Member of Trial. He will assume responsibility as an Assistant Pastor in Kampong Kapor Methodist Church with effect from 1.8.84. Malcolm preached in our church on 22.7.84. At the morning service, he was "officially sent off" as our "missionary to the Methodist Church in Singapore."

## SOME INTERESTING THOUGHTS ON TITHING

Tithing is an Old Testament word. It means tenth - a tenth of something; a tenth of the crop, a tenth of the money, a tenth of the grape harvest, a tenth of the land, or a tenth of the cattle, etc. The Old Testament Hebrews paid it with the regularity that we pay our income taxes, and with about as much spiritual meaning.

So when Jesus came to the scene he upgraded giving; instead of the tenth he demanded a new perspective on all of life. He commended that widow who gave all she had. He said nothing to the tithers. When the early Christians were being fed to the lions, Paul didn't talk about tithing either. But the New Testament didn't do away with the Old Testament standard; it simply upgraded it.

Now frankly, I'm not up to the New Testament standard yet. I'm too tightly tied to that which is around me. Perhaps someday, if I keep working at it, I will be able to live consistently on a New Testament level.

But I have discovered that I can reach the Old Testament level, and that is something. I can give a tithe. As a materialist talking to other materialists, tithing isn't farfetched at all. It's a good step to conquering our greed and selfishness.

There is no convenient time to start tithing. You certainly will not begin when you have all your bills paid. Something will always be left out. I hope it is not the Lord.

— James Flaming

## DROPPED IN A CENT

"Old Jack Horner, he sat in a corner,  
As the offering bag passed by;  
Sweetly content, he dropped in a cent  
And said, "What a good churchman am I!"

## STEWARDSHIP

"I bought gasoline; I went to the show;  
I bought some new tapes for my big video;  
I bought candy and peanuts, chocolates and ice-cream;  
While my money lasted, life sure was a scream.

"It takes careful spending to make money go 'round;  
One's methods of finance must always be sound.  
With habits quite costly, it's real hard to save;  
My wife spent fifty "bucks" for a permanent wave.

"The church came 'round begging.  
It sure made me sore!  
If they'd let me alone, I'd give a lot more  
They have plenty of nerve! They forget all the past!  
I gave them \$100 the year before last."



"THIS WAS A JOB DONE BY A PRO."

## PULPIT CALENDAR

**Theme : Christian Stewardship - A Joyful Responsibility**

**MONTH TOPIC**

### AUGUST

5 Spirit Of Stewardship  
(Stewardship and Pledge Sunday)

12 Prayer and Politics  
(National Day Sunday)

19 MYF Sunday

**Theme : Ordinary People - Extraordinary Faith**

26 Abraham: Uprooted

### SEPTEMBER

2 Abraham : Theological Development

9 Anniversary Sunday

16 Abraham : Blessed Inspite of His Sins

23 Timber To Build God's House  
(Christian Education Sunday)

30 Abraham : Tensions In Growth

## METHODIST MISSIONARY CONVENTION

Organiser: Council of Missions  
Speakers: Dr. John T. Seamands,  
Dr. R.T. Srinivasagam  
Date: 31.8.84 and 1.9.84  
Place: RELC (Day seminar)  
ACJC (Evening Public Meeting)

## A SEMINAR WITH DR. ROBERT COLEMAN

This seminar is designed to help Christians grow from spiritual babies to disciples.

Date: August 13-15, 1984  
Time: 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm nightly  
Venue: Wesley Methodist Church  
Cost: \$4.00  
Call church office for registration.

**John Osman :** "Even if a man makes the most of his riches, after the fashion of material-possessing, the only thing quite certain in the end is that instead of inheriting the earth, the earth will finally inherit him."

## STEWARDSHIP AND PLEDGE SUNDAY

The Financial Year 1983/84 will end on 31.7.84. We thank God that we have been able to fulfil all our commitments for the Church Year, although we are now shouldering the responsibility of financing recurrent expenses and ensuring the completion of our vision project - Trinity Educational Centre.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee's Budget proposals for the new Financial Year 1984/85 have been accepted by the Local Church Executive Committee. The Budget reflects an increase in just over 8% from the 1983/84 Budget. The Finance Committee in working out the Budget, took into consideration the need to support TRAC programmes and budget. The Committee is aware of the additional challenges placed on our members to support the Trinity Educational Centre Project. However, our financial needs can be met when members begin to practise tithing, that is putting aside one-tenth of our income for God's work in and through the Church. We are also praying that members who have not pledged in the past will now come forward and pledge to give systematically and regularly. When more members give, our responsibility becomes lighter (Galatians 6:2), and we help to fulfil God's teaching.

Stewardship and Pledge Sunday will be observed on August 5, 1984. At the Worship Service, members and friends will be invited to offer their tithes and pledges for dedications as they approach the altar for Holy Communion.

The Pledge Treasurer will soon be sending out letters and Pledge cards to all members and friends of Trinity. With God as our help, we will meet the needs of His work on earth through prayerful, sacrificial, cheerful and systematic giving.

Please pray for the Stewardship and Pledge Sunday, and come prepared to give cheerfully.

**P. Sathiasingam,**  
Chairman,  
Stewardship and Finance Committee.

## MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISM CLASS

A new Membership and Baptism Class will begin in August. The class will be conducted every Sunday after the morning service, at the Upper Room. It will go on for at least three months. Those who are interested in getting baptised and confirmed as members of Trinity Methodist Church should register with the Pastor immediately. Candidates must be above 16 years and should be attending Church regularly for at least six months.

# TRINITY EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

## PLEDGE SUNDAY

1st July 1984 was observed by the Church as PLEDGE SUNDAY for the TRINITY EDUCATIONAL CENTRE, BUILDING FUND.

Mr. P. Sathiasingam, Chairman of the Building Fund Committee, in launching the Pledge drive, informed the Congregation at both worship services, that the aim was to raise \$400,000 from within the Church membership for the start. He said, it was important to know our own commitment for this vision project which God has called us to shoulder. He urged the members and friends to give generously and sacrificially and through the Pledge Programme systematically. God in His wisdom has called us to collectively shoulder the responsibility to establish this \$1.5 million Education Centre.

A total of 100 pledge cards were received at both the Morning and Evening services. The breakdown of support is as follows:

65 New pledges	:	\$110,464	
16 Second time pledges	:	37,335	
19 Outright donations	:	15,150	\$162,949

More members and friends are continuing to pray for this project. Some members have given us their verbal assurance of support in the future.

Mr. Seah Siow Kiang, Treasurer of the Building Fund Committee, estimated that to fulfil the project, the Church has to find yet another \$976,000. He is hopeful that more members would rally around to support the vision project.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

There have been some enquiries from members who are considering to give memorial gifts in the name of their 'Loved Ones'. The Building Fund Committee is already looking into this and assures the members that when the scheme is finalised, any amount previously contributed will be adjusted accordingly for their Memorial gift. Details will be announced soon.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND REQUEST FOR PRAYER SUPPORT

The Building Fund Committee, on behalf of the LCEC, acknowledges the support of members and friends for responding to be partners of this vision project.

We need to continue to pray for this project. Corporate prayer sessions will be arranged by Mr. Victor Han. All Church leaders, members & friends are welcome. Details will be announced in due course. Please continue to pray for this Project in your personal prayer.

**SUPPORT OUR EXTENSION PROJECT.**

**PRAY CONSTANTLY**

**GIVE GENEROUSLY**

**WE NEED EVERY MEMBER'S SUPPORT.**

Call 2824443