

TMC NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER 1984

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

PASTORAL EPISTLE

1885 Centennial Celebrations 1985

The Methodist Church in Singapore is entering an important year in 1985. It will be our centennial year. Our church has taken a century to grow to what we are today. Along the way our Lord has blessed this church, and used her to bless countless number of people.

1985 will also see the church having a new bishop. In fact election for the new bishop will take place this December when the General Conference meet. As we celebrate our centennial, our hope for the church is that we shall have a bishop who has courage, creativity, commitment and confidence to lead the church into the new centenary. We are looking for new episcopal leadership which would inspire and up-lift the church into an exciting era of growth in membership, maturity and ministries. His work will not be easy. He has to lead a church held in tension by three conferences demarcated along linguistic and ethnic lines. At the same time, he must have the resolve and wisdom to guide the church entrenched in a pluralistic and fast changing world.

As we look ahead, I want to share with you three positive steps which we as ordinary members of the church can take to influence the direction and leadership of the church.

a) Pray for the church.

Needless to say, prayer is an essential channel given to us by God to bring our concerns to Him. Join me in asking our Lord to open the doors of heaven and release His blessings upon the Methodist Church. Ask God to show us the person who should be elected the new bishop. Equally important is for us to pray that our Lord will grant the new bishop a supportive team of pastoral and lay leaders who are united in vision and strategy for the church.

b) Think connexional and not congregational.

The Methodist Church is connexional church. We have sister churches scattered all over Singapore. While it is important that we should strengthen our local church, we have to consider the welfare of our sister churches as our welfare. The whole Methodist Church in Singapore needs our support, prayer, feedback and service.

c) Get involved in the ministry of the church.

The health and leadership of the church is sound and vibrant when every member considers herself/himself as an important and involved member of a large family. Put it another way, the church is not a high-class tourist ship. Members of the church are not paying passengers who are kept entertained as the ship cruises from one tourist attraction to another. The church is a ship with a mission. A battleship in fact. Everyone on board is a member of the crew. There is no tourist. Everyone is actively involved in the maintenance, management and mission of the ship.

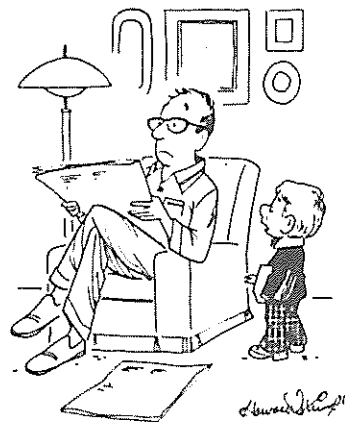
Let us unite together and move into the future with Christ.

"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord almighty." (Zech. 4:6)

With you In His Glorious Service.

Daniel Koh

Pastor Daniel K. S. Koh



WANT TO KNOW WHAT I LEARNED AT SUNDAY SCHOOL THIS MORNING, HYPOCRITE?

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EDITORIAL

Every year a Sunday is set aside to observe Laity Sunday for laity participation.

Who or what is the 'Laity'? Laity is defined as the Lay Person i.e. ordinary people as distinguished from the clergy.

Every believer is a lay person and is given an important responsibility in the Church. God has also given us varying and different gifts (1 Corinthians 12:14-27).

Let the participation of the Laity not be confined only to 'Laity Sunday' but all times. It is the pleasant duty and responsibility of every church member to be active for Christ.

We can be active for Christ, though:

- 1) Worship — the Church has been established for the Glory of God. Therefore, regular corporate worship is imperative.
- 2) Intercession — Pray for the Pastor, church Officers and members and projects or programmes of the Church.
- 3) Edification — As Christians we are to comfort and edify one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11) by showing care, concern and love and having fellowship.
- 4) Witness — Bear personal witness in our place of work, at leisure, in our neighbourhood and at home by our daily living and our words.
- 5) Service — Serve in any of the many committees of the Church for 1 Corinthians 12:5-6 reads, "There are different ways of serving but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service but the same God gives ability to everyone for their particular service."

May God help us to carry out our duty and responsibility faithfully and cheerfully.

God bless!

Tham Yew Kee

1885 Centennial Celebrations 1985

The Methodist Church in Singapore • The Methodist Church in Singapore

Preparing for Christian Marriage

Marriage is an important event for Christian couples. The Church recognises the sanctity of marriage, and has always advised Christian couples to undergo a period of training and preparation before they exchange their marriage vows. With this in mind, three pastors of District East, met recently to organise an in-depth pre-marital preparation course for members who are planning to get married in 1985.

Who can register?

- a) Couples getting married in 1985.
- b) Engaged couples.
- c) Couples 'going steady'.
- d) 'Newly weds'.

When

Sundays - January 13 to March 17, 1985.
1.00 pm. to 3.00 p.m.

Where?

Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church,
1 St. 21, Ang Mo Kio,
Singapore 2056.

Contents

- a) God and Marriage: A Biblical and Theological Understanding.
- b) Knowing Self and Partner.
- c) Expectations in Marriage.
- d) Communication in Marriage.
- e) Handling Conflicts in Marriage.
- f) Relating to In-laws.
- g) Sex in Marriage.
- h) Money and Dual Career in Marriage.
- i) Wedding Day, Wedding Service and honeymoon.
- j) Open Dialogue with Married Couples. Holy Communion.

Instructors

Rev. Dr. Ngoei Foong Nghian,
Rev. Dr. Kang Ho Soon,
Rev. Daniel Koh Kah Soon,
and other resource persons.

Get your registration form from the office.

THE SECOND ACCF CONFERENCE

Pastor Daniel Koh Kah Soon attended the Second ACCF Conference in Manila on June 11-15, 1984. Here is a report written by him which first appeared in the July edition of ASIACOM, an official publication of the Asia Christian Communications Fellowship.

"Communicating Christ in Asia" was the theme for the Second ACCF Conference held in Manila, June 11-15, 1984. The conclave brought together 80 Christian communicators who are concerned about common issues they encounter in communicating the Gospel in pluralistic Asia. Most of the participants came from within Asia. A few came from the USA, and we had one special guest from Kenya. The five-day conference gave the participants opportunities to exchange experiences, to learn from one another, and to grapple with issues together.

The key-note address was given by Dr Isabelo Magalit, formerly with IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students), and now the pastor of a local church in Manila. In his thought-provoking message, Dr Magalit reminded Christian communicators to appreciate the Asian cultural contexts in which we work. He emphasised the necessity of working with the existing local church, and challenged the participants to consider the incarnational approach to communication as exemplified by Christ, the "Word became flesh".

Other highlights were the case-studies presented by Dr Wayan Mastra (Bali Protestant Church), Mr Efren Pallorina (FEBC, Philippines), Mr Anthony Leung (Breakthrough, Hong Kong), Mr Ronald Stephen (World Vision Bangladesh), and Mr Bedan Mbugua (Step Magazine, Kenya).

Dr Mastra shared his research into church architecture and his experiment with indigenous forms of communication. He informed us that historically, the church in the West had often adopted traditions outside the Church. He quoted examples of church architecture and Christmas celebrations. He contends that Asians need not be wary or ashamed of the good values of our diverse and rich traditions which can be adopted and adapted as media for effective communication. His church in Bali has attracted new believers through indigenous media which are appreciated and accepted by Balinese.

Mr Anthony Leung of Hong Kong focused our attention on the importance of research and strategy in communicating the Gospel within a fast-moving urbanised society. He gave us an overview of the development of the Breakthrough ministry — and the ways in which God is using media such as slides, radio and literature to reach urban peoples.

Quite a different focus appeared in Mr Ronald Stephen's presentation of a World Vision Bangladesh project among the Garo people. His case-study illustrated the importance of integrated communication within a community for goals to be achieved.

We were well-entertained by three "Papuri" singers — at the Opening Banquet and at the Papuri case study presented by Mr Efren Pallorina. He told us how FEBC in Manila got the vision for encouraging the writing and performance of indigenous Filipino Christian music. There was a good discussion on music styles, appropriateness of vocabulary and expressions, and ways to encourage the development of local talents in composing music, writing lyrics and performing skills.

A view from a different perspective was presented by Mr Bedan Mbugua of Step Magazine in Kenya. He explained the foundations on which Step's ministry is based. Step's popularity and ministry outside of Kenya is also an indication of its acceptability and its fulfilment of a deeply felt need in Christian literature.

Miss Peggy Yeo presented a paper on the changing trends and issues in Asia. Mr Anthony Leung shared with us the predicament and prospects of ministering to people in Hong Kong who are facing an uncertain future. Rev. Makito Goto's preliminary findings on Christian Media Ethics attracted heated debate, especially over the questions of royalty and copyright infringements.

The general feeling of the participants is that the Conference had been an enriching experience.

At the Conference, it was announced that Miss Peggy Yeo, the Executive Director, will leave ACCF at the end of August. She will be doing post-graduate studies in Sociology of Religion.

The Board also announced the appointment of Miss Tay Mui Lan as Administrative Secretary with effect from November 1, 1984. Mui Lan is a Singaporean, formerly editor of Impact Magazine, and now completing her studies at Regent College, Canada.

The Conference closed with a Communion Service led by Dr Ronald Hill, assisted by Rev. Reuben Lao and Rev Darwin Sokoken.

PULPIT CALENDAR

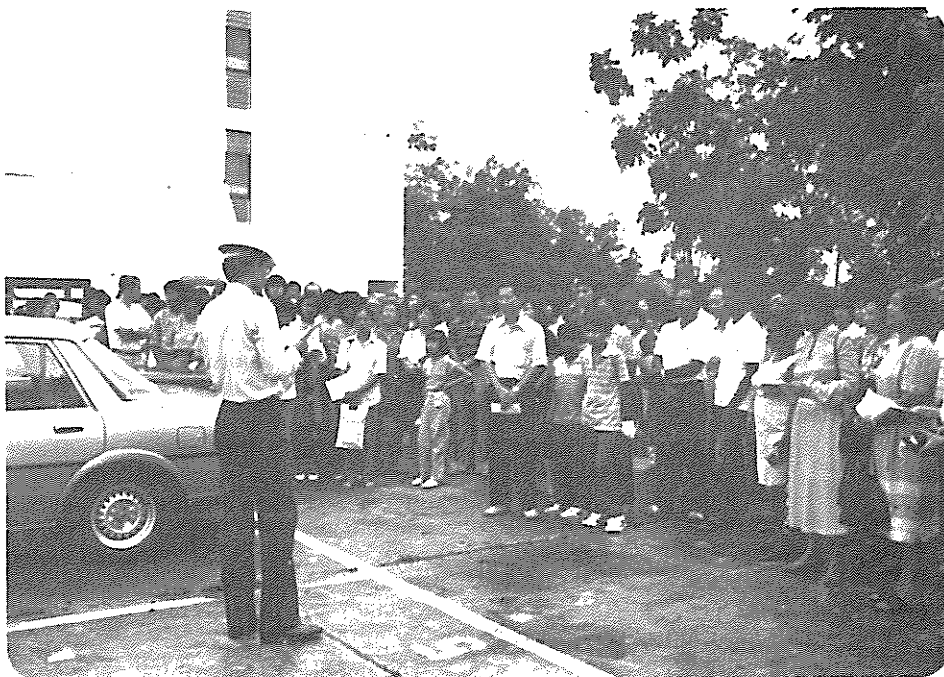
Theme: Ordinary People — Extraordinary Faith

OCTOBER TOPIC

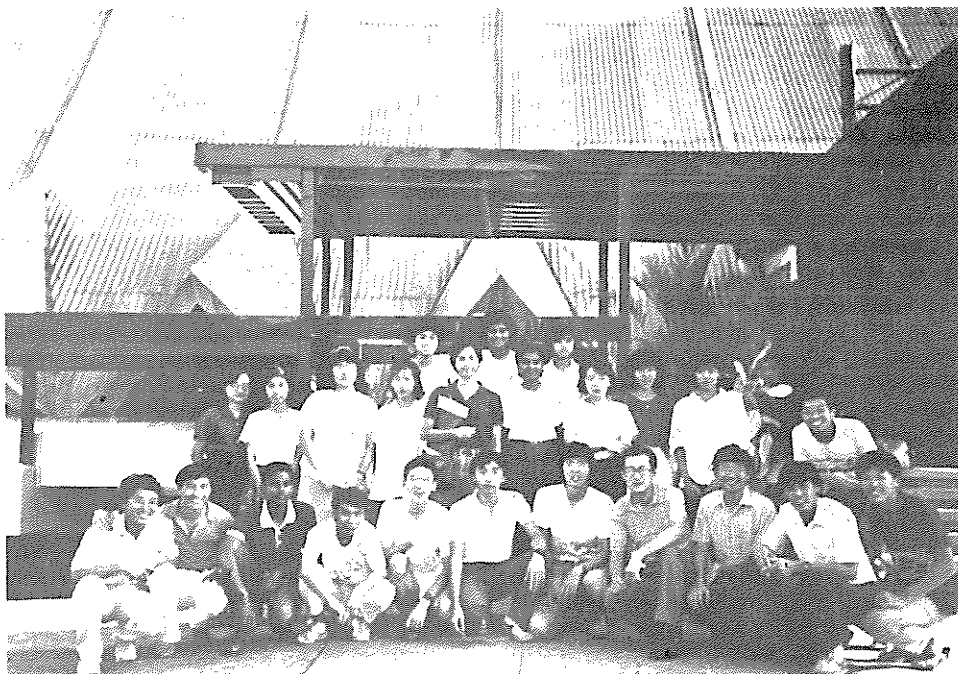
- 7.10.84 Abraham: a Good Kinsman, Ally, And Warrior
14.10.84 LAITY SUNDAY
21.10.84 Abraham: Hope In a Hopeless Situation
28.10.84 Abraham: Pleading With God

NOVEMBER

- 4.11.84 Abraham: Faith On Trial
11.11.84 Abraham: A Grief Observed
18.11.84 Isaac
25.11.84 Jacob And Esau: Siblings Rivalry

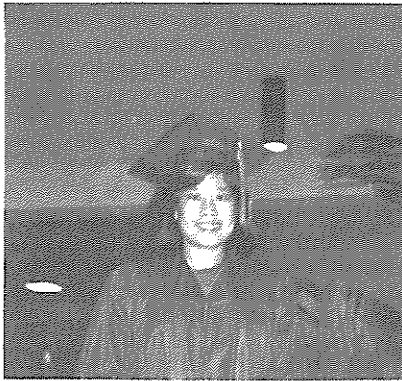


Members and friends participating in the Dedication Service on September 30, 1984.



Only young people below the age of 35 attended the MYF Annual General Meeting. These young people are members and friends of the MYF.

LETTER



"To All My Friends in Trinity,

Greetings from Miami! It's been two years since I was last in Singapore; a lot has happened, and there is so much for which to thank Him. I praise the Lord that my parents and brother, Kenneth, were able to attend my graduation this May. I am worshipping in a Chinese Baptist Church which reminds me very much of home. The congregation and church life are very similar to that of Trinity's.

I sing in the choir and occasionally play the piano too.

I am hoping to stay in the United States for at least another year, to work as a physical therapist and gain some practical experience. These 3½ years have been great, and I want to thank you all for your prayer support.

God has been by my side, protecting, guiding and blessing me. Please continue to pray that I will be strong and faithful to Him. God Bless."

In His Love,
Lynette



"I SAID MY PRAYERS BEFORE YOU GOT HERE BECAUSE GOD AND I HAD SOME SECRET THINGS TO TALK ABOUT"

NATIONAL DAY AWARD

Mr Khoo Eu Kiong was awarded the Efficiency Medal.

MARRIAGE

Bruce Zee and Patricia Lee on Saturday September 15, 1984.

BIRTH

Paul Wong son of Mr & Mrs Frederick Wong.

To Phung Tuck Chee and Boo Suan, a daughter Sandra Minsi, on September 16, 1984.

BAPTISM

Mr Poh Kim Leng on Sunday August 26, 1984 at Trinity Methodist Church.

SYMPATHY

To Mr Lim Soo Guan whose mother Madam Lee Sim Nio passed away on September 7, 1984.

To Madam Yeo Ah Mui whose husband Mr Tham Kwang Hui passed away on September 9, 1984.

CHURCH RETREAT

About 60 members of our church are expected to attend this year's Church Retreat to be held on Deepavali Holiday, Tuesday, October 23, 1984. The Chairman of the organising committee, Mr. Chew Chin Jin announced that the Retreat will be slightly different from the past. This year will see a change of format and emphases. Participants will be involved in group prayers, open forum session, and putting their heads together to draw up plans and programmes for the Trinity Educational Centre. Said the Chairman, the church should be prepared to make full use of the new building for spiritual and social ministries. The Retreat will give our leaders and concerned members an opportunity to explore and draw up some proposals for using the new building which is expected to be completed next year.

The Retreat will take place at the Metropolitan YMCA, Stevens Road. A bus will ferry the participants from church to the YMCA. The organising committee comprising Mr. Chew Chin Jin, Mr. Tham Yew Kee, Mr. P. Sathiasingam, Mrs Margaret Tan and Pastor Daniel Koh Kah Soon has adopted the theme "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord Almighty." (Zech. 4:6) This is the theme which the Methodist Church in Singapore has chosen for her Centennial Celebrations in 1985.

Piling work for the church extension has begun. The whole project will take about a year to complete. If you drive to church, please make alternative arrangement to park your car outside the church whenever the car park is fully occupied. You may want to consider:

- Car-pooling.
- Taking a bus or taxi to church.
- Walking to church.

LOCAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

LOCAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The most significant event this year is the planning approval given by the authorities for the Trinity Educational Centre. In a very short time, work on the building will commence. And yet, not too long ago, we were clouded with much uncertainty as to the shape and size of the building. The project was consequently delayed. We placed our trust in the LORD and now He has given us something better than we planned for. Praise be to Him because He never fails to recognize our needs. Let us continue to place our trust in Him because He is going to provide abundantly the funds we need.

Meanwhile, our regular activities must go on. We must continue to strengthen our organisations, especially those of our young people in the Sunday School, MYF and even the MAF. The youth are our future assets and they must be nurtured and trained to take over the future leadership of the Church. The time has come for us to think seriously of leadership training. We need some one qualified to train our future leaders, some one who can relate to our members' needs and is spiritually matured. This person should be employed on a full-time basis. I believe we have such a person in our membership. When we have set up a proper leadership training faculty, we can begin to identify the potential leaders who will be trained. It would be ideal if we could rotate our LCEC leadership every few years. Change will bring in new ideas and new activities and inject new life into our organisation. This can only be done if we have a pool of trained leaders ready to take over when the need arises. The senior members can always continue to play important roles in the Church and can share their experiences with the new leaders.

I am sure you have noticed the increasing numbers of people attending our church services. I would like to attribute this growth to our pastor Daniel Koh, although he has always given the credit to the church leaders. We may have to think of an assistant pastor and very soon we may have to conduct more services. Our next important task is to encourage members to build up a closer fellowship and to be more concerned with each other. This is not an easy task but our pastor has said that it is possible to achieve this. Let us take this as a challenge for our next church year.

Meanwhile, God has opened up tremendous opportunities for us in Serangoon Gardens and the surrounding areas. How is our outreach programme doing? Should we evaluate what we have done in the past and see if more could be done.

Let us unite with one heart in our Lord Jesus and trust Him to guide us in our plans for the future. We seek only to glorify His Name in whatever we do. May the LORD be gracious to you.

Daniel Gwee
LCEC Chairman

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

OBJECTIVES

The Committee has carried out the year's programmes with the following objectives:

- a) To remind TMC members of their basic duty as Christians, "to go and spread the Gospel to all nations."
- b) To encourage more TMC members to take up missionary work as a full-time service to the Lord, assuring them of the Church's support both in prayers and financial aid.
- c) To raise funds from among TMC members and their friends as a supplementary support to TMC members who are engaged in missionary activities both locally and abroad.
- d) To urge TMC members to participate in the various mission programmes put up by the TRAC Board of Missions.

MISSION WEEK PROGRAMME

a) During one of the evenings, Dr Khor gave an informative and inspiring talk with colour-slides presentation on his mission exposure trip to the Karo highlands. He had the opportunity of informing the TMC members of the various activities currently being carried out in Indonesia by the TRAC Board of Missions and highlighting the possibility of TMC members getting involved in such missionary work if they feel the call to serve the Lord in the mission field.

Dr Khor's colour-slides presentation was followed by a brief but motivating talk by Brother Chan Chong Hiok through the sharing of his missionary experience in the Philippines.

Brother Chan and his family were in Singapore on a short vacation.

b) During Mission Sunday, Brother Chan Chong Hiok in response to our Pastor Rev Daniel Koh's invitation, delivered a sermon with a view to promoting awareness among the TMC members to be more mission-minded.

c) The church also handed out brochures issued by the TRAC Board of Missions which highlighted its Missions thrust in South East Asia, namely to the Sengois in West-Malaysia, the Ibans in Sarawak and the Karo Bataks of Indonesia.

EVALUATION OF PROJECT & PROGRAMMES

The Committee has once again completed its programme formulated at the beginning of the Conference year. Nevertheless its members feel the need for a more active programme and would be meeting in due course to discuss and prepare one. The Committee is also inviting other missions inclined TMC members to join them.

Teh Hong Kia
Chairman,
Missions Committee

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

MYF SUNDAY

OUR OBJECTIVES

To seek out the unsaved and the unchurched in the community, and to exercise all diligence that they may be led into the saving knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and into the fellowship of the Church.

ON-GOING PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

- a. Personal Evangelism is held on every last Sunday of the month.
- b. To organise two Gospel rallies.
- c. To subsidise 50% of the training fees for evangelism and discipleship courses.
- d. "Helping in the Transition" is a Seminar with Dr Robert Coleman organised by TRAC. 39 members will be attending.

NEW PROJECT (S)

- a. To organise 'Life-style evangelism' seminar by the "Eagles".
- b. To participate in Church Growth Seminar by TRAC.
- c. To participate in TRAC, Centennial Evangelism Rally on 7th to 9th March 1985.

EVALUATION ON PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

- a. The First Gospel Rally was held on 28th April, 1984. A team consisting of 17 talented young people from YWAM, Belgium portrayed the Gospel in drama, testimony and message. 140 people turned up.
- b. The second Gospel Rally was held on 24th June 1984. Programme involved a sketch, song item, film 'Joni' and message. More than 200 people attended this rally.
- c. For Evangelism Sunday, Mr Jim Chew spoke on the topic "Make disciples — the mission of the Church". It was a wonderful worship experience.

CONCLUSION

There is a **qualitative** growth in TMC as reflected by a sharp increase in the attendance for Gospel rallies, seminars and courses. Members are becoming more interested in their spiritual development. Our church must not become complacent and ingrown. It was John Wesley who said, "I am not afraid that the people called Methodists should ever cease to exist,..... But I am afraid, lest they should only exist as dead sect, having the form of religion without the power."

With this in mind, let us state all our dreams (goals), examine all our motives, consider all our opportunities, remove all our non-essentials, utilise all our resources and tap upon His power to fulfill Christ's Great Commission.

Gabriel Liew
Chairman,
Evangelism Committee

August 19, 1984 was our MYF Sunday. The morning and evening services were planned by the MYFers, with the assistance and consent of Pastor. Much planning and co-ordination and hard work had gone into the preparation for this occasion.

The morning service was led by Mr Albert Loh, the President of the MYF. The Youth Choir, (made up of MYFers) put the congregation in a worship mood by singing the Choral Introit "Come Praise Him". Later on, the Youth Choir rendered the prayer response "I Love You Lord." We were also privileged to have the Youth Choir sing for us two Anthems "As for Me I will Behold Thy Face in Righteousness" and "How We Love You And Praise You O Lord". The Scripture lesson for the day was Colossians 1:3-12. Pastor Johnson Lim from the Rainbow Baptist Church spoke on the topic "Living Responsibly For Christ". (The MYF Conference theme for the year 1983/84). I'm sure many besides myself were inspired by his short and sharp message. The Youth Choir rendered the benediction response "The Lord Bless You". After the morning service worshippers were invited to stay behind, to view an exhibition, set up by the MYF.

The exhibition was put up in the social hall, at the back of the church. Among the highlights of the exhibition was the history of the MYF, the Evangelism rallies held during the year, the Structure of the MYF and the photographs of the events held all through the year. Souvenir pens were given to all. It was the hope of the MYF that the exhibition would make MYF known to the Youth of our Church. The exhibition generally depicted the ministry of the MYF.

The evening service was held in much the same manner, except there was no exhibition. The worship leader was Mr Ashley Choo and the speaker Mr Lim Jen Huat, President of the TRAC MYF Conference. Mr Lim also spoke on the theme "Living Responsibly For Christ."

It was interesting to note that many Methodist Pastors and full-time workers were blessed by the ministry of MYF in their younger days. Our pastor, Rev Daniel Koh was formerly from Christ MYF, Pastor's wife, Dianna, was from Barker Road MYF. Mr Malcolm Tan, a member of our church and now serving the Lord in Kampong Kapor Methodist Church, was a former President of Trinity MYF.

It is our sincere prayer that more young people will come to know of the MYF. We invite all, between the ages of 14 to 24 to join us in our weekly fellowship, held in the social hall on Saturdays at 3.30 p.m.

Ashley Choo

*Centennial 1985
1885 Celebrations*

Ground-Breaking Service

The ground on which the Trinity Educational Centre will stand was blessed and dedicated at a simple yet dignified dedication service held on Sunday September 30, 1984. More than 250 members and friends witnessed the ground-breaking ceremony led by our pastor, Rev. Daniel Koh.

The dedication service is a further step of faith towards the fulfilment of a vision which God has placed in our hearts. The project costing approximately \$1.5 million will take about a year to complete.

The construction work will serve as a visible reminder to members and friends to pray for the vision project. It should encourage them to offer financial support through sacrificial giving.

