

TMC NEWSLETTER

March — April 1986

MC(P) 53/1/86 ISSN 0217-5673

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

Pastor: Rev. Daniel K. S. Koh

Asst. Pastor: Rev. Melvin Huang

Pastoral Epistle

The first quarter of 1986 has been dominated by bad news. First the television invaded our living rooms with the news of the space shuttle explosion which killed everyone on board, including the first teacher selected for the programme. Then the unthinkable happened in our country. A building which was relatively new collapsed and took the lives of thirty-three people. But perhaps the worst news, and one which affects almost every Singaporean is the economic recession threatening our life-bowls, and burdening workers with fear of retrenchments. In times like these, we may be tempted to think God has given up on us. We wonder what is the good news for bad times.

There are a number of ways in which we can respond to bad times. The pessimists among us would probably consider reducing their commitment to the work of the Church. They may begin to hoard wealth and in turn become more self-centred. It is difficult for people harbouring negative thoughts to look beyond the dark clouds. In their minds they can't see that once the clouds have moved away, the sun will shine again. Pessimists like the proverbial grumblers complain about the thorns in rose bushes. They can't appreciate the roses in thorny plants.

A proper response to bad times is to adopt a more positive attitude. Adopting a positive attitude is both creative and biblical. It is good medicine for our spiritual and mental health.

Sometime ago the Strait Times carried a few articles relating the experiences of families coping with reduced income. I was touched by the positive ways the Christian families featured in the articles are responding. When they cut costs match their reduced family income, they did not cut their tithes, nor did they give God less time. These Christians understand what it is to think positive and to cope creatively. The Scripture has these words of encouragement for all of us going through bad times. "Consider it pure joy, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4.

God bless you.

With you Serving the Living Lord.



Pastor Daniel Koh Kah Soon

HOOKED ON BOOKS

a few tips on avoiding mental malnutrition

— by Dan Kirkbride

Reason for Not Reading

There are at least four standard reasons that people give for not reading more.

The first is tied closely to a cultural phenomenon. There is a television generation. Their fancies have been tickled so long by sophisticated media that a plain ol' book no longer appeals as it once did.

Second, competition with work finds Christian reading the loser. When people have to spend so much time with work, they don't feel like reading for fun or further enlightenment.

Some think that new books are too expensive or have already spent so much on unread books that they'd feel guilty buying new ones.

Finally, they say they get bogged down reading uninteresting titles and that reading isn't fun. I see this ploy as key to their whole argument. If my team removes it, we'll begin to shred their defenses.

We're not concerned that you only read Christian literature. Let's get back to reading and then we can tackle Christian reading. We can overcome some of the hurdles.

Fifteen books a year!

A nifty little formula deals with the problem of fun reading competing with work. If you read fifteen minutes per day, you can read fifteen books per year. If you keep a book nearby, you're apt to find fifteen-minute periods for snatch reading. The moments before class begins and just before going to bed are such times. Magazine articles also lend themselves to short bursts.

If you find that new books are too expensive, you have several options. You and a few friends can put together a list of books that you'd all like to read, each buy one or two and trade them around. Libraries (including the church library) are sources for many classic books, both secular and Christian. A further literature reservoir is your own bookshelf where you've probably stockpiled goodies for years.

Carefully select the books you'll read. Most of us probably read only a few nonrequired books a year; so we better make sure we pick winners.

Magazine Madness

Current periodicals also aid our search for worthwhile reading. For instance, **Christianity Today** picks about forty significant books of the year. Ten minutes reading a book review is a wise investment toward picking something that you'll like.

Also, listen to your trusted friends. By the time eleven of them tell you you'll like C.S. Lewis' **Chronicles of Narnia**, take the hint.

Soon favourite authors and honourable publishing houses will surface. Go back to them periodically. There are selection pitfalls. Don't be hornsogged by books that promise easy answers to age-old dilemmas. If the saints of 1948 years of church history haven't discovered nine entirely painless methods to do evangelism, it's not likely that the shortstop for the Lexington Thoroughbreds has either. Especially if he's only been a Christian for a few months.

Through it all, remember the battle cry — "No one should have to read a poor book". There are too many good ones around.

Two are better than one

Another hint is to keep two books going at once. That way you don't get stuck on one that you don't like and go for a month without reading.

Also, I've had success keeping notecards with my book. When I come to a key idea or phrase, I jot it on a card along with a page number and the book title. It's time-consuming but leaves you with a file of easily retrievable information and a good grasp of the subject.

You don't have to read a shelf of books to be in the big leagues. But do read. Read the book of the year. Read a classic. Read your mom's favourite. Read the good stuff and grow.

(Adapted and abridged from an article which first appeared in the October 1981 issue of *HIS Magazine*).



"I WANT A BOOK THAT WILL GO GOOD WITH HOT MILK"

BOOK TALK!

Out of the Saltshaker and into the World. (a.k.a. Evangelism is a way of life.)

by **Rebecca Manley Pippert.**
Inter-Varsity Press.

Salt is a common substance in our homes. It is used to preserve food and also to add flavour to it. Jesus referred to the Christian as the "salt of the earth." (Matt. 5:13) This book discusses some practical ways by which we can bring our "saltiness" into a bland and tasteless world.

Many books have been written about lifestyle evangelism but Ms Pippert's book brings a refreshing perspective on this somewhat jaded topic. This is what the author has to say about modern day evangelism:

"I believe that much of our evangelism is ineffective because we depend too much upon technique and strategy. Evangelism has slipped into the sales department. I am convinced that we must look at Jesus, and the quality of life He calls us to, as a model for what to believe and how to reach out to others. This basic assumption underlies both the content and the structure of this book."

Ms Pippert's book rings of authenticity for she shares very candidly from her life experiences; from her student life in Barcelona, Spain, to her working experiences as a staff worker of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. She shares about her successes and her failures as she tells others about Jesus. As she recounts her meetings and friendships with varied, yet ordinary people, she stresses that Jesus' humanity, values and conversational skills, should be our model for sharing the gospel.

In chapters 4, 5 and 6 Ms Pippert warns against the dangers of legalism, of becoming "project'-minded" with evangelism. She does this by comparing Jesus to the religious leaders of His time — the Pharisees. She questions and compares the issues of priority, holiness and obedience. In the remaining chapters, she shares about how we can develop "tools" of evangelism. These include conversational skills (striking up a conversation with others, being interested in them as persons and not evangelistic targets, etc.), resenting evidence for what we

believe and also the corporate witness of the community of believers.

Ms Pippert's conclusion has left a deep impression on my mind:

"When we live as Jesus did, in His power and in His presence, seekers will be drawn to us. Evangelism will not be a dreaded task to ticked off every Wednesday. Rather, sharing Jesus will become a true delight and evangelism will become a lifestyle."

Editor's note: This book is available at Good Christian Book Stores. Cost \$3.90

Submitted by Phoon Kok Kwong

A LIST OF BOOKS ON CHRIST, HIS DEATH, RESURRECTION AND RETURN

AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH LIBRARY

1. **American Bible Society**
Jesus. New York, American Bible Society, 1971. 232 ABS

A narrative on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ based on selected passages from the four Gospels.

2. **McDowell, Josh**
More than a carpenter. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House Pub., 1977. 232 MCD

The author focuses upon the person who changed his life — Jesus Christ. He writes about Jesus' deity, his resurrection and his claims on our lives.

3. **Sanders, J. Oswald**
Certainties of Christ's second coming. Paco, Manila : O.M.F. Pub, 1977. 237.3 SAN

It discusses the events that must take place before Christ's second coming and what will happen when he comes. The author aims to encourage Christians to embrace and act upon the great certainties of Christ's second coming.

P.T.O.

4. United Bible Societies

The man you cannot ignore : the life and teachings of Jesus from Good News for Modern Man.

Singapore : United Bible Societies, 1966. 232 UBS

The book traces the life of Jesus Christ from his birth, his ministry, miracles, teachings, relationships with people, his death and resurrection.

5. Vigeveno, H. S.

Jesus the revolutionary. Glendale, Calif.: G/L Publications, 1966.

232 VIG

The author discusses the many-faceted Christ, depicting him as "revolutionary", "unconquerable", "compassionate", "powerful", "praying", and "living".

6. Weldon, John

Is there life after death? John Weldon and Zola Levitt. Irvine, Calif. : Harvest House Pub., 1977. 237.3 WEL

The book attempts to answer many questions currently being asked about death. It also discusses what happens after death.

7. Willmington, H.L.

The King is coming: an outline of the last days. Wheaton, Ill. : Tyndale House Pub., 1973. 273.3 WIL

The book outlines the events of the end times. It discusses the rapture of the Church, the judgment seat of Christ, the marriage of the lamb, the seven-sealed book, the tribulation ... etc.

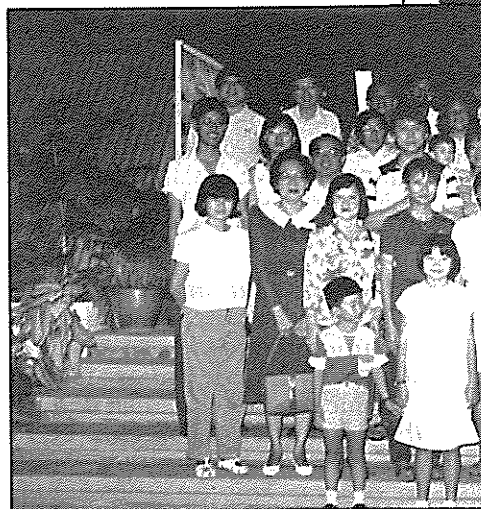
8. Wilkerson, David

Jesus Christ, solid rock: the return of Christ. David Wilkerson . . . et al. Grand Rapids, Michigan : Zondervan Pub., 1973. 236.4 WIL

This book contains the thoughts of David Wilkerson together with 4 other authors, Kathryn Kuhlman, Hal Lindsey, W.A. Criswell, Pat Boone on the issue of the return of Christ.

These books can be borrowed from the Church Library after the Sunday morning service.

— compiled by Tan Sin Guek



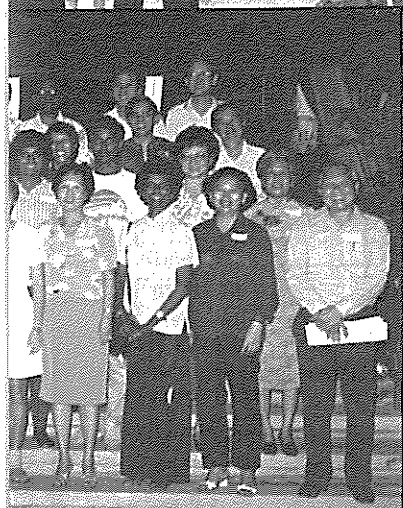
New members who joined TMC on Christ attended a reception on 14.2.86. They were introduced to some of our church leaders

JOE MCKEEVER

PAN
Process
deficit
pance



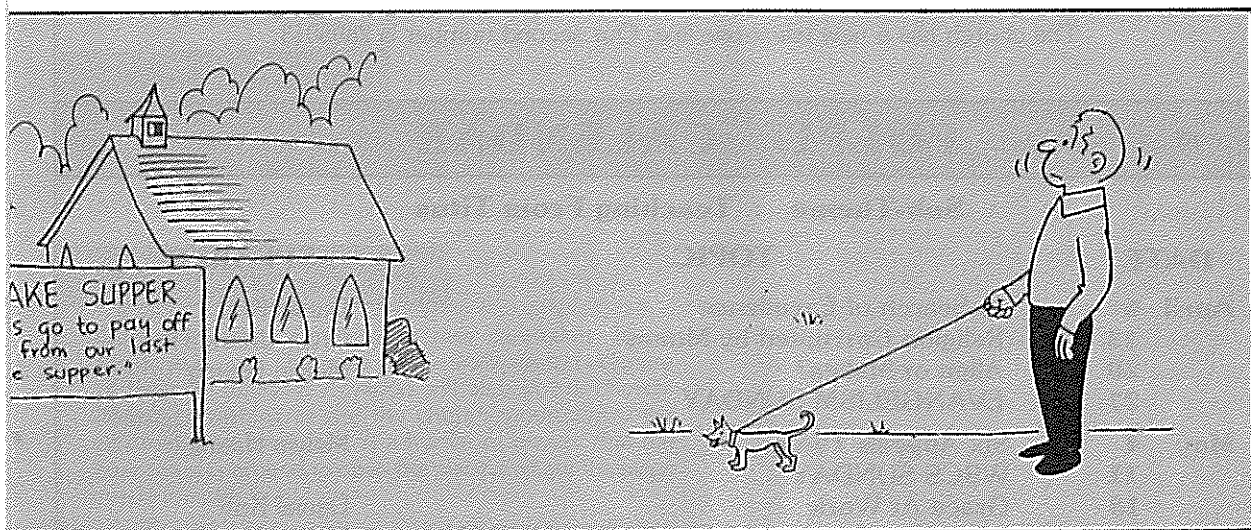
ACS Centenary Charity Runners visited our church. Rev. Melvin Huang read a message from the founder of ACS, Rev. W. Oldham and a message from the Chairman of ACS-OBA.



Tea reception for new members on 14.2.86

as '85

2



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Ng Yean Kiat and Pauline Chua who had their marriage solemnized on 15 March.

Hum Sin Hoon and Eunice on the birth of their son Samuel on 19 March, in USA.

Tommy and Marina Soh on the birth of their daughter Rachel on 19/20 March.

Seah Pong Hin and Pak Lan on the birth of their daughter Stephenie on 2.4.86.

CONDOLENCES TO:

Mr & Mrs Albert Chan Cheow Khoo on the death of his father in March.

Family News



ANNOUNCEMENT

METHODIST ADULT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Tuesday 8 April	Professional Relationship
Tuesday 22 April	Members of Christ's Body
Tuesday 13 May	Relating on Life's Way
Tuesday 27 May	Sexual Temptation

NEW SERVICES

A new service at 8.15 am will begin on Sunday 20 April 1986.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL will be RESCHEDULED at 10.00 am together with the usual service. The 5.00 p.m. service will continue as usual until 18 May when it will be conducted as Prayer and Praise Service.

NEW TELEPHONE NO.

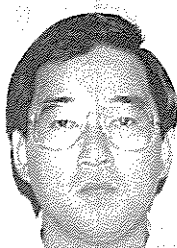
The church has a new telephone line. Our second number is 2805013.

PULPIT CALENDAR

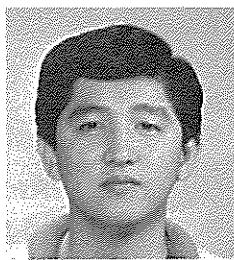
Sub-Theme : Teaching From Titus

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
April 6	In Search of Excellence	Daniel Koh
13	Religion Corrupted by Money	Chan Chong Hiok
20	Align or Malign?	Melvin Huang
27	EVANGELISM SUNDAY	
May 4	Six Appeals Twice	Melvin Huang
11	WSCS SUNDAY	
18	Grace At Work	Daniel Koh
25	"The Best Of All" ALDERSGATE SUNDAY	Melvin Huang

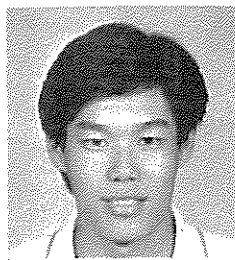
New Members Who Joined the Church on Easter



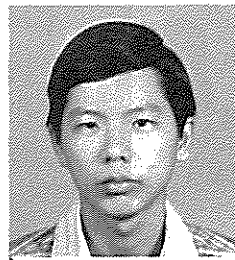
Ronald
Yong Ee Chaing
Baptism (22.3.86)
+ Confirmation



Tommy
Soh Tian Seng
Baptism & Confirmation



Tony
Hoe Boon Poh
Baptism & Confirmation



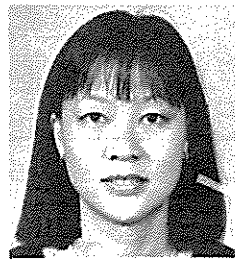
Koh Beng Chye
Baptism & Confirmation



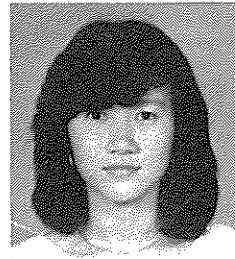
Alice Ng
Transferred from
Pentecost M.C.



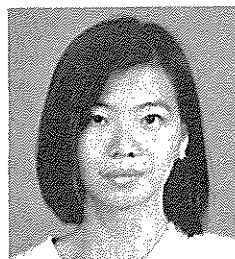
Shirley
Chin Phui Khuen
Baptism (22.3.86)
+ Confirmation



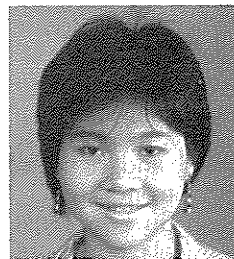
Marina
Oei Phaik Cheng
Baptism & Confirmation



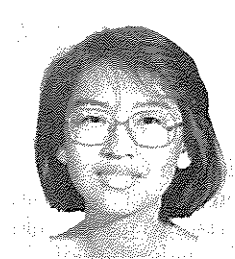
Claudine Chan
Transferred from
Zion Gospel Mission



Kwek Bee Choo
Baptism (22.3.86)
+ Confirmation



Au Chui Lin
Baptism & Confirmation



Khor Li Ing
Confirmation



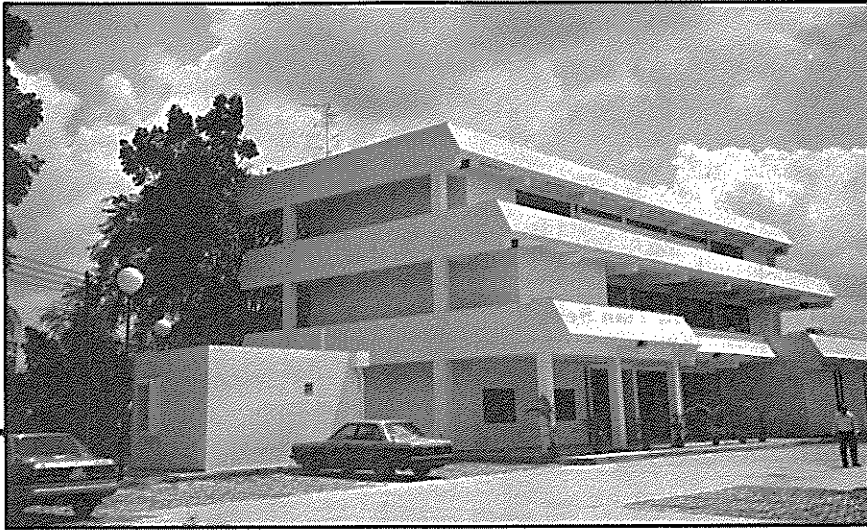
Gerda Huang
Transferred from
Wesley M.C.

Infant Baptism

Christopher Yong Shi Khai, son of Leslie and Juliet Yong. Nicole Faith Moreira, daughter of Patricia and Richard Moreira.

New Care-Taker

Our church has appointed a new care-taker. He is Mr. R. Ayyavoo. His main responsibility is to take care of the new building. Ayyavoo will stay in the church. Members wishing to use the church must inform the office at least one week in advance to ensure that the care-taker is around to open the place, and get the place ready for use.



TRINITY EDUCATION CENTRE BUILDING FUND

While waiting for the finalisation of the actual project cost of our Vision Project — Trinity Education Centre, it is appropriate to give thanks to God for the way He took leadership of the Project from the start to finish. The construction of the main block was completed according to the time-frame in the contract i.e. 24 January 1986.

FUNDS FOR THE PROJECT

The original tender price was \$1.4 million. However, the indications are that the project will now be completed for approximately \$1.2 million (subject to confirmation). The Project Committee is yet to meet the Architect and contractors to work out the final cost of the project. Meanwhile, in response to many requests from concerned members and donors to the project, the Building Fund Committee is obliged to submit this brief report on the Status of the Building Fund.

To date, the Building Fund Committee has paid out a total of \$1,040,382.69 in construction cost, professional fees and other preliminary costs, based on the original tendered sum.

Source of funds largely come from within the

church and friends of the church. External support came from TRAC Churches — \$13,542/-, The Chen Su Lan Trust — \$25,000/- and loans from National Council of Churches, ECLOF Committee — \$100,000/- and Interest-free loans from members — \$112,000/-.

The Building Fund Committee, on behalf of the LCEC, records grateful thanks and appreciation to one and all for your concern and generous support towards the Trinity Education Centre Project. We also look forward to your continued support to meet the outstanding project cost, loans and recurrent expenditure on the maintenance of the building which will be dedicated debt-free to the glory of God.

P. Sathiasingam
Chairman, TECBFC

Pastor's Note:

The building is completed, but we are still short of \$450, 000. If you have given in support of this project, God bless you. Do continue to give generously. If you have not supported the project, now is the time to get involved and send in your donations. This is the project of the whole church. Give sacrificially.