

TMC NEWSLETTER

JULY — AUGUST 1986

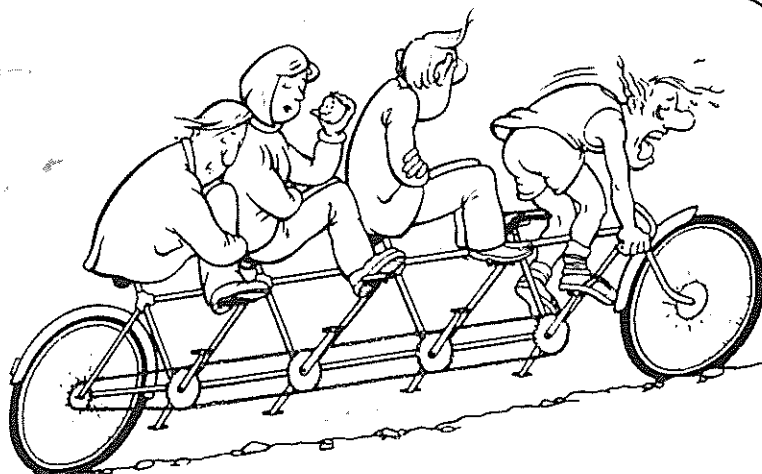
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TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

Pastor: Rev. Daniel K. S. Koh

Asst. Pastor: Rev. Melvin Huang

PASTORAL EPISTLE



Did you know that you can help speed up the second coming of Christ? Well, II Peter 3:9, 11b, 12. Says "The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance You need to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and **SPEED ITS COMING!**

ISN'T THAT AMAZING? The Scripture tell us that it is possible to "hasten" the Lord's day by God's people speeding up the accomplishment of His purposes. Since God is wanting and waiting for all who will believe in Christ, as Christians help to bring this, His purpose, to pass, the sooner Christ will bring all things to completion.

THAT'S REAL MOTIVATION! What part are **YOU** going to play?

Furthermore, this is also **HARVESTIME** for our nation. I believe never before have people in Singapore been so open to the Gospel. So there is an urgency of the harvest. Let us bring in before harvest time passes and it is too late.

THE REAL URGENCY! What part are **YOU** going to play?

EVANGELISM. A word that used to scare many people. Does it still frighten you? Don't let it. More

and more Christians are realising the freedom to share the Gospel, to participate in Evangelism. Why? Because they are excited about their Lord and their faith. Because they have received training and tools that enable them to share Christ effectively.

That's **REALLY EXCITING!** What part are **YOU** going to play?

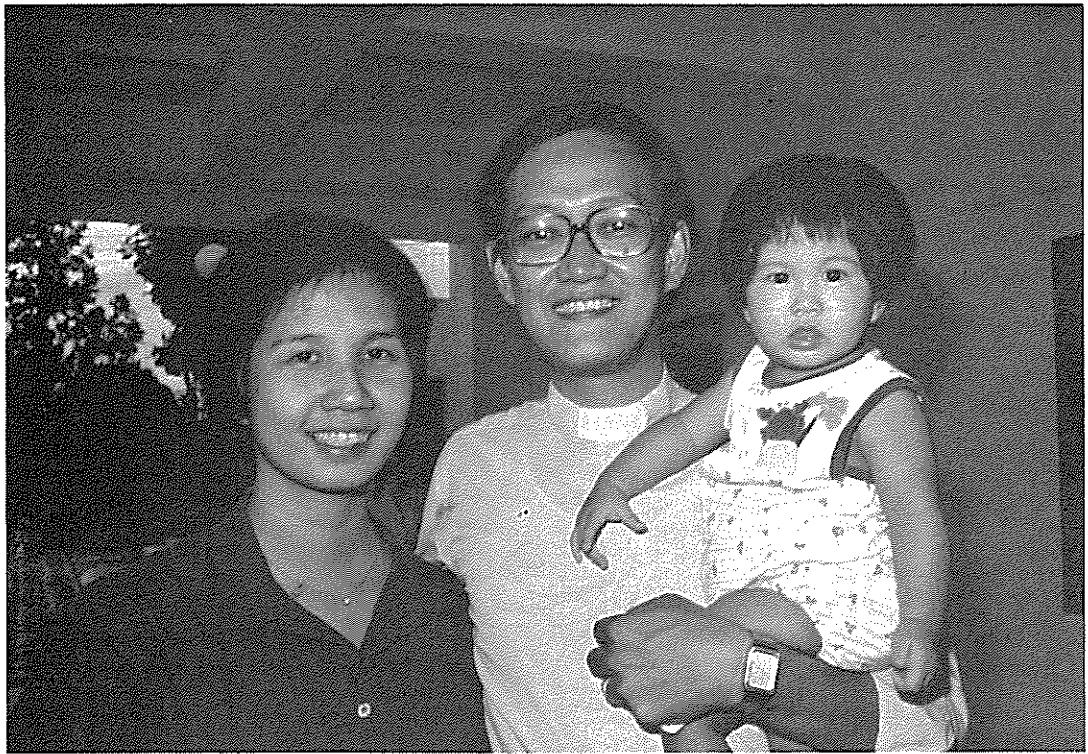
MORE AND MORE we are realising that evangelism is a process, and there are many different ways to evangelise. From pre-evangelism to follow-up to baptism. From house to house witnessing to mass missions to friendship evangelism. Surely one, at least, of these is suitable for you. Yes, **YOU!**

That's REAL INVOLVEMENT! What part are **YOU** going to play?

LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM. That really sums up the spirit of evangelisation in our time. We are to live lives that share the gospel by our actions and attitudes. We are also to make the sharing the gospel part of our everyday living. And as we do so, we play our part in accomplishing God's purposes on earth and speeding up the coming of the day of the Lord!

What part are **YOU** going to play?

Rev Melvin Huang
Assistant Pastor



INTERVIEW WITH PASTOR

1. Q : When will you be officially ending your pastoral term at TMC?

A : It depends on the Board of Appointments, but I am going on leave on August 10.

2. Q : Where will you be doing your further studies?

A : Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, USA.

3. Q : When will you leave for Dallas?

A : We shall be leaving on Saturday August 16.

4. Q:: What will be your field of research?

A : A two year Master's Programme, hopefully on issues affecting (i) Church and Society, (ii) Gospel and Culture. The exact field of specialization has yet to be confirmed as I'm still not sure the exact courses available for this year's student in-take.

5. Q : Are you on any scholarship programme?

A : Southern Methodist University has offered Dianna and myself a partial scholarship each.

This will take care of our tuitions, lodging, medical insurance and one meal per day. TRAC will continue to pay our basic salaries and the Council on Scholarship has given us two two-way tickets.

6. Q : What will be Dianna's field of research?

A : A Master's programme possibly in Counselling and/or feminine issues such as the role of women in church and so on.

7. Q : Will you be returning to T.M.C. upon the completion of your studies?

A : This will be up to TRAC. But the possibility of a reposting to TMC is very slim.

8. Q : How do you feel about leaving TMC?

A : Dianna and I do feel sad to leave many good friends behind. Where our trip to Dallas is concerned, we both feel that it would be a very enriching time for us, and two years is a short time which will pass quickly. As for leaving TMC, we shall treasure the close relationships which we have developed in the past 5 years.

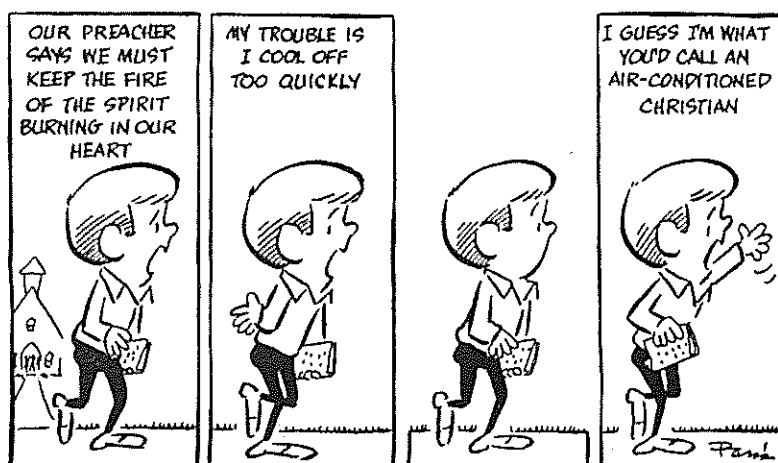
METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES

AUGUST THEME: GOD'S WILL

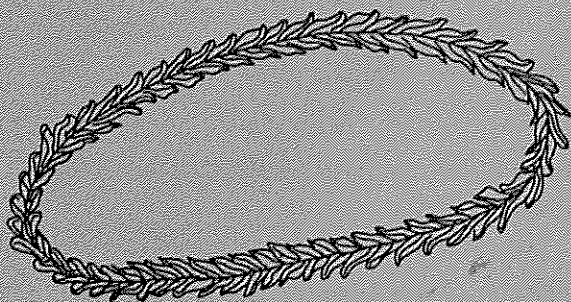
AUGUST	2	Knowing God's Will
AUGUST	9	Cell Group Decentralisation
AUGUST	16	MYF Sunday Preparation
AUGUST	17	MYF Sunday
AUGUST	23	Combined Programme with Bedok MYF at TMC
AUGUST	30	Bible Study

METHODIST ADULT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES

AUGUST	12	Annual General Meeting
AUGUST	26	James 2 : 14 — 26
SEPTEMBER	9	James 3 : 1 — 12
SEPTEMBER	23	James 3 : 13 — 18



Mrs Gloria Lee gave a talk on the Priesthood of Christian Parents on WSCS Sunday on May 11, 1986. For those who missed it, here is a summary:



THE PRIESTHOOD OF CHRISTIAN PARENTS

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”. Ephesians 6:4

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people that you may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of

darkness into the marvellous light.” 1 Peter 2:9

Christians being God’s people should be giving urgent attention to marriage, home and work, so that we may set an example to others and show them how family and home life should be conducted. The above theme concerns not only parents and their children, but that it is a subject that belongs to all and applies to all of us, because as Christians we should be interested in principles of truth.

The biblical teaching is that Christian parents must discipline their children, but it must be done in the right and biblical manner. If we cannot exercise discipline in love and understanding, we will do much more harm than good to the life and soul of the child. The following principles are to be remembered:

- (1) Exercise self-control over our own temper and never react with violence like a drunken, whatever the provocation may be from the child.
- (2) Never be unreasonable or unwilling to hear the child’s case, or forbid him to give any kind of reply or explanation.
- (3) Never be unpredictable in moods and actions. There must be consistency in parents’ conduct and behaviour.
- (4) Never impose your personality upon the child or crush the child’s personality by demanding everything and expecting everything from the child, because if we are possessive, selfish and dominating, we can ruin the child’s life.

Punish if punishment is called for, which must be based on love and understanding. Never do it in such a way that the child feels he is being trampled on and being utterly humiliated in your presence, or worse still, in the presence of others. Pay respect to the personality and individuality of the child. If we leave out personality and our punishment is rigid, hard and harsh, or we get carried away with our own anger, the child will feel a sense of injustice, resentment will build up and we will be making a rebel out of him and he will lose respect for us.

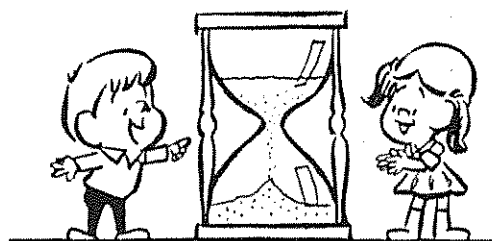
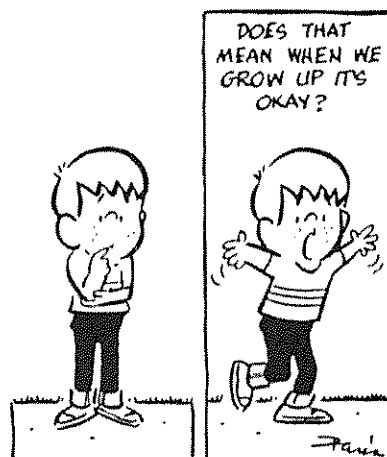
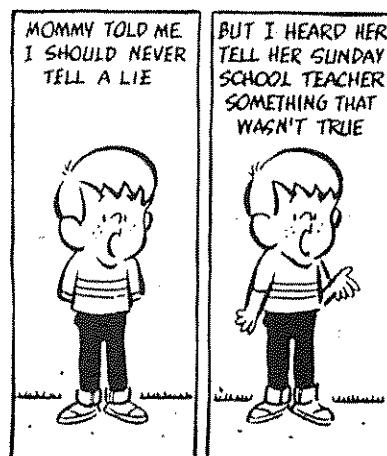
The Apostle Paul, besides exhorting us not to provoke our children to anger also exhorts us to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. This means that Christian parents have to realise that our children are not ours, they are not our property, but that they are a life, a soul, given to us by God for a little while. We are guardians and custodians of the child entrusted into our care, so our business is to rear, bring up and prepare him not only for living his life in this world, but that the teaching of the scripture is that, his welfare, his soul, and his relationship to God should always be the first and foremost consideration of the Christian parents.

How are we to bring the child up?

- 1) Christian parents should not bring the child up to be a Christian in a mechanical, cold, clinical way. There must be love, real understanding, communication, sharing, encouragement, moral support and warmth to warm the child’s heart.

- 2) Never give the child the impression that to be religious is to be miserable, and that we have to repress ourselves constantly. If we do, we will be driving the child into the arms of the devil and into the world, because what he sees is not Christianity, but a harsh, man-made religion, a false Puritanism.
- 3) Never fall into the mistake of trying to force your child in the adolescent stage into the Christian faith. This method is not only wrong, but also unscriptural, because if the person in question is not convicted of his sins and sees the sorrowful state he is in, he will not wake up and walk away from darkness to light. When a person is dead in trespass and sin, he cannot believe, so we cannot force faith on others.
- 4) Never bring any unfair pressure to bear on a child.
- 5) Christian parents should be living in such a way that the children should always have a feeling that the family is under Christ and Christ is their Head.
- 6) The atmosphere in the home should be of love produced by the Holy Spirit.
- 7) Our general conversation is very important. Whether we are discussing international, personal or business affairs, everything must be considered under the general heading of Christianity. In this way, the child will unconsciously become aware of the fact that, there is a governing principle in the lives of his parents.
- 8) Always be ready to answer questions. Therefore, know your facts, understand the gospel, build yourselves up in it, so that you will be able to bring the child up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- 9) Guide the child's reading in the right direction.
- 10) Give thanks whenever you have a meal and ask God for His blessings upon it.
- 11) Meet together as a family round the word of God daily. Make it simple, interesting, so that the children will look forward to it.
- 12) Walk in the spirit of the Lord always and grow.

We ourselves as Christian parents have to grow and submit ourselves completely to God's control, waiting humbly and patiently on Him, relying on not our strength, power and intelligence, but on God's power and strength, walking the way he wants us to go. Remember, our children like others, are watching us and still more important, judging us. We are God's representatives, we stand for the Gospel of Salvation, so let our children see the joy, love, discipline and the control we exercise over ourselves. Let them know that we are bond slaves of Jesus Christ, that God in His grace, has opened our eyes and awakened us to the most glorious thing in the world, and that as Christian parents, our greatest desire for them is not that they will be successful in life, but that, they may have the same knowledge, same joy and same privilege as we have, and that is, of serving the Lord and living a life to His Glory and Praise.



The Plastic Years

They pass so quickly, the days of
youth,
And the children change so fast,
And soon they harden in the
mold,
And the plastic years are past.
Then shape their lives while they
are young,
This be our prayer, our aim,
That every child we meet shall
bear
The imprint of HIS name.

—Author unknown

The Luis Palau Singapore Mission

Some Thoughts



"Welcome Meeting" Thursday 19 June, 7.30 pm for brothers and sisters referred to TMC Nurture Group from Luis Palau Singapore Mission.

Come to think of it, I don't remember much about the Billy Graham Crusade, the first massive scale evangelistic rally held here. The LPSM made me realise that the BGC was held almost a decade ago. Immediately, I thought: It's about time.

I had never heard of Dr Luis Palau before this. His name even sounds funny. Only later did I find out, to some amusement, that in Mandarin, 'Palau' means 'guaranteed joy'. The Singapore mission thus became known as the 'Guaranteed Joy Campaign'.

Because, by God's grace, I was more deeply involved in this mission, I was able to feel the immensity of the task of the organisers. It was a project on a national scale. So far I knew of only the Government or SAF, having vast resources and manpower, that organised such nationwide projects.

The mission involved many churches in Singapore. It was fun to visit other churches for training classes and to interact with brothers and sisters in Christ from all over the island. There are some churches I hadn't heard of, others with names I can't pronounce. But it was wonderful to gather together in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luis Palau was publicised as a man full of energy. He sure was. Upon his arrival, he started giving talks to various groups of people in town, including businessmen and professionals. This was followed by a children's rally, dedication service and seven nights of mission meetings. I was impressed that he tried to reach a wide spectrum of people.

He preaches with humility, yet authoritatively from God. Sometimes he pleads with the audience to come to Christ, at other times he issues warnings. His style is simple and easy to understand, thus reaching both the young and old. His emphasis is clear -- to save as many souls as possible.

In his messages, he addressed a wide range of subjects but he zeroed in on problems that plague a modern society like ours. Topics like Spiritual Warfare; Successful Marriage; Jesus Christ for this Generation; and Sex, Temptation and Victory are all relevant today. For the curious and arcane, he included The Climax of History, The 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ; and The Mystery of the Cross. The tapes of his messages are available.

The LPSM provides for many Christians including myself an opportunity to publicly serve the living God. In doing so we store up rewards in heaven. But through this effort we also gain more knowledge of Him and enhance our understanding of His nature.

God touched the lives of thousands, young and old during the mission and brought them into His Kingdom. These thousands will in turn touch others with their lives. I think that God is pleased with the LPSM. That's why he gave us a shower of blessing on the last night.

Submitted by Colin Lowe

THOUGHTS FOR STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY AUGUST 3, 1986

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 tithe.
3. At the ease of meeting his 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/herself in not adopting the plan sooner.

- The Glad Tidings -



Hamlet, on Church Finances (Apologies to Shakespeare)

To pledge or not to pledge
That is the question.

Whether it is nobler in a man

To take the gospel free and let another foot the bill,
Or to sign a pledge and help to pay the church
expenses.

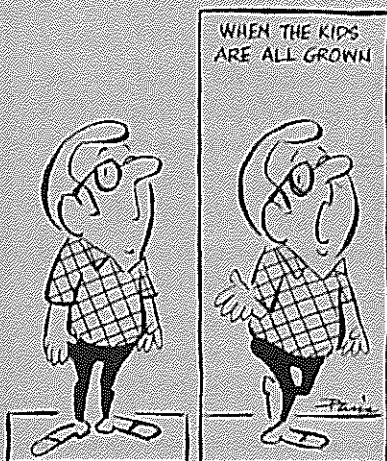
To give, to pay - aye, there's the rub - to pay.
When on the free pew plan a man may have a sitting
free,

And take the gospel, too as though he paid
And none the wiser be,

Save, the finance committee, who -
Most honourable people - can keep it secret.

To err is human; human too, to buy at cheapest rate.
I'm wise; I'll wait, not work,
I'll pray, not pay, and LET THE OTHERS FOOT THE BILL,
And so with me the gospel's free you see.

- Anonymous -



SOME MONEY

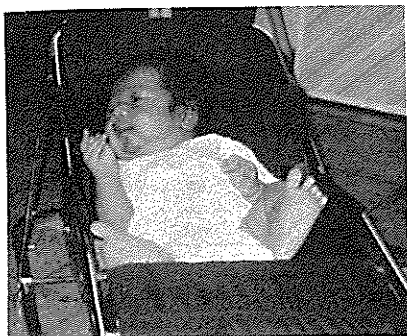
I am a dollar note - I am too small to buy a durian - I
am not on speaking terms with the fast-food joint - I
am not large enough for a bowl of Hokkien Mee - I
am hardly fit for a taxi ride. But believe me, when I
go to church on Sunday, I am considered Big Money!

Adapted.

FAMILY NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS

to Rev Melvin Huang and Gerda on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Huang Yongping on June 10.



OUR CONDOLENCES

Mrs Koh Mei Chan on the death of her father, the late Mr Choo Ah Tuck

LATEST

From August 1, 1986, the Rev. Melvin Huang will assume responsibility as Pastor-in-charge of TMC. This appointment was announced at TRAC special session on 12-7-86.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SERVICE OF BAPTISM FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN will be held 10.00 am service on Sunday 27 July. Parents who wish to have their children baptised please call the Pastors. Telephone 2824443 or 2805013. A briefing for parents will be held on Sunday 20 July immediately after the 10.00 am service.

A FAREWELL BUFFET FOR REV & MRS DANIEL KOH will be held on Saturday 2 August at 7 pm at the TEC. Tickets at \$10.00 and \$5.00 for children under 12 will be available from

Mrs Catherine Pang
Mr Tham Yew Kee
Mr Daniel Gwee

Tel: 2884805
Tel: 2801145
Tel: 4662612

