

TMC NEWSLETTER

APRIL - MAY

M.C.I.(P) NO. 67/1/88

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

Pastor: Rev. Melvin Huang

Tel: 2824443

Your Aldersgate Experience

This is a very exciting period of the Church's calendar. Holy Week, Easter. Pentecost and Aldersgate.

Holy Week brings us to the cross to realise afresh the great price God had to pay for our salvation. Easter helps us to understand again how Christ can be the Risen Lord in our lives, giving us the opportunity to live His resurrection — life. Pentecost challenges us to examine our lives in the light of the promise of the Holy Spirit. Are we filled with the Spirit? Walking in step with Him? Do we find in our lives, the church, the fruit and gifts of the Spirit?

And in the midst of this comes Aldersgate, a time when we remember John Wesley's dramatic experience of assurance which led to the founding of a people called Methodists. This year is its 250th Anniversary. And in conjunction with this a series of meetings and seminars is being organised. It is going to be called ALDERSGATE 250.

The speaker for Aldersgate 250 will be Rev Dr David Seamands. Some of you know that he was my pastor when I studied at Asbury Theological Seminary. Dr Seamands is a man of vast and varied experience. Within the newsletter you will find book reviews of 3 books he has written and also the ALDERSGATE 250 PROGRAMME.

So please plan to go to Aldersgate 250 and learn together with other Methodists, not only about the richness of our Methodist heritage but also about how to grow as Christians and find wholeness in Christ.

Many of us need an Aldersgate experience, just as John Wesley needed it and God touched him so graciously. What is your Aldersgate experience?

Let us not miss out on God's blessings during this exciting time in the calendar of the Church. God Bless You Richly.

Pastor

Trinity Methodist Church

1988 Church Calender

APRIL	6-12	TRAC Pastors' Retreat
	11	Choir Course
	17	Social Concerns Sunday
	23	Small Group Leaders' Get Together
	24	Evangelism Outreach
	25	New Members' Reception
MAY	1	WSCS Mini Fair
	2	Church Clean Up
	8	Mothers' Day/WSCS Sunday
	20	Aldersgate 250 Lectures
	21	
	22	Pentecost/Aldersgate Sunday
JUNE	4- 6	WSCS Family Retreat
	9-15	TRAC MYF — YLDP
	12	Evangelism Sunday
	12-16	Youth Camp
	19	Fathers' Day
JULY	1	Andre Kole Outreach
	4	Bible Course
	10	Missions Sunday/Exhibition
	17	Dedication of TEC
	18	Bible Course



L-R: Phyllis, E.T., Mable, Poh Kim and Sam.

TMC's
Saturday
Work Force
 (collate/fold
 church bulletins)

Aldersgate 250 Programme

(Venue : Wesley Methodist Church)

May 20 Friday	7.30 pm	Aldersgate 250 Lectures I	
21 Saturday	2.30 pm	Aldersgate 250 Lectures II	
		"Healing and Wholeness in the Wesleyan Tradition"	
24 Tuesday	8.00 pm	Aldersgate 250 Service	
25 Wednesday	7.30 pm	Healing of Damaged Emotions)	
26 Thursday	7.30 pm	Healing of Memories)	ALDERSGATE
27 Friday	7.30 pm	Putting Away Childish Things)	250
28 Saturday	2.30 pm	Family Life Seminar)	SEMINARS

Our Speaker for Aldersgate 250 will be Rev Dr David Seamands. Dr Seamands was born in South India of Methodist missionary parents. He is a graduate of Asbury College and Drew Theological Seminary, and obtained a Masters Degree from Hartford Seminary. He served as a missionary in India under the Methodist Mission Board from 1946 to 1962 (16 years) ministering in the South India Conference. From 1962-84 (22 years) he pastored the Wilmore United Methodist Church. At present he is the Professor of Pastoral Ministry at Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky. His ministry emphasises Biblical Teaching and Preaching, In-Depth Counselling and the Christian Home. He has written three books, *Healing of Damaged Emotions* (500,000 copies) *Healing of Memories* and *Putting Away Childish Things* (200,000 copies). A fourth book, *Healing Grace*, will be out in July 1988.

Book Reviews

PUTTING AWAY CHILDISH THINGS

Why do we find so many Christians so prone to defeat in their Christian lives?

The Central issue confronting us, says Rev Seamands, is that many Christians are still under the control of old behaviour patterns and attitudes, clinging on to personality traits that should really belong to children and are thus, stagnating in Christian growth.

The author probes into how wrong, immature and inadequate conceptions, (for example, about sin, temptation, prayer, perfectionism, self-esteem), left over from childhood can cause Christians to live in the bondage of spiritual and emotional immaturity.

The book is very readable and provides a fresh approach for the Christian to discovering areas where one needs to change, to forgive and be forgiven, to be healed, to discipline oneself and not allow the inner child of the past to interfere with one's adult life. The

practical and helpful guidelines given will serve as a challenge to very decisively deal with the issue and break the hold of childishness on one's life and move on to a mature and balanced wholeness in Christian living.

Reviewed by Elizabeth Lim



Healing For Damaged Emotions

This book on inner healing was one of the first of its kind when it was published in 1981. Since then, there's been a spate of similar books. While the rest of them are fairly heavy reading, **HEALING FOR DAMAGED EMOTIONS** is easily readable and practical.

Seamands writes with a pastor's heart. His reason for penning the book stems from the desire to help Christians who are not ministered "by the preaching of the Word, commitment to Christ, the filling of the Holy Spirit, Prayer or the Sacraments."

Many Christians believe that emotional problems disappear once a person accepts Christ as Saviour and Lord. This is not so, says Seamands who believes that God's Holy Spirit, will often need to do a deeper level of healing in a person's life.

Troubled Christians who do not avail themselves to the inner healing administered to by the Holy Spirit will inevitably end up in two camps, Seamands continues. One is the camp of spiritual phoniness as Christians deny or repress their existing problems because "Christians can't have such problems". These believers will cover their problems up with nice sounding platitudes and theological terms together with Bible Verses. The other camp is one of disillusionment and despair. These Christians will discipline themselves further in their daily walk with God, only to find that they are no more victorious in their lives as

before.

"**HEALING FOR DAMAGED EMOTIONS**" explains very clearly the causes and symptoms of emotional illnesses. It also deals with three most common ones — low self-esteem, perfectionism and depression.

And the solutions which the triune God offers — "The Father's unconditional and accepting love, the Son's complete identification as our High Priest and Wounded Healer with our sins and infirmities, and the Spirit's daily loving, lifting help."

Besides expounding the biblical foundation and principles in inner healing, Seamands offers good practical advice. In other words, he is balanced. Seamands warns us to stay off the extreme when it comes to solution solving — by either labelling every emotional problem as demonic or by dispensing pat 'Christian' advice like lengthening one's quiet time.

Seamands peppers the book with experiences from his long years of counselling ministry. It is this true-to-life quality and his lucid style of writing that lifts this book out from the ordinary.

"**HEALING FOR DAMAGED EMOTIONS**" cannot be more highly recommended. It is compulsory reading for every Christian.

Reviewed by Perry Lee

Healing Of Memories

In this book, Seamands continues elaborating on the "realm of problems" described in His earlier book, **Healing for Damaged Emotions**, as a realm which requires "a special kind of prayer and a deeper level of healing by the Spirit". It is an important area of spiritual and emotional need, one which remains largely unrecognised and unmet in the hectic lives of people today.

It is commonly believed that time heals all wounds. Seamands does not agree. While he concedes that time can heal "all unrepressed and uninfected painful memories", he submits that time alone "does not and cannot heal those memories which are so painful that the person's mind cannot tolerate them."

The nature of human memory according to Seamands is but "the experiences of whole persons as they remember something." They include "feelings, concepts, patterns, attitudes, and tendencies toward action which accompany the picture on the screen of the mind". As such, memories often involve powerful emotions, especially if they are particularly painful. They could include feelings of bitterness, hatred, humiliation, betrayal, fear and the like. Many of us have memories which hurt so much that we have blocked them out of our minds. The more we keep

them out of our minds the more powerful they become and like an infected wound, they spread to other areas of our lives and even affect our personalities. Sometimes these surface as 'physical illnesses, unhappy marital situations and recurring cycles of spiritual defeat'. Such can be the effort of unresolved hurts which were inflicted on us long ago.

To help deal with such painful unresolved memories, the book contains insights into how these can be confronted and resolved, bringing healing and enabling us to become "healed helpers". We are given not only a scriptural basis for the ministry of healing of memories but also references to modern science and practical suggestions drawn from many years of experience. Many real-life illustrations are given. Seamands writes with great feeling, as one who himself had received such healing. It is a book where the author's perceptive insights often challenge our preconceived notions. But for the concerned Christian, it is profitable reading. It is an invitation to a better understanding of oneself and our neighbours and the healing power of "the Spirit who helps us in our weakness".

Reviewed by Ivan Tan

New Members

TMC Welcomes You!



New Members of the church and the "older" ones had a warm fellowship recently.

The occasion?

When new members were presented membership certificates and bibles in our TEC building.

(L-R: Pastor, Philip Tan (LCEC Vice President) and Noel Goh, new member)

Singspiration before the presentation!



Wong Yow Chuen, extreme left (Membership Committee Chairman) introducing the LCEC leaders to new members.

From The Evangelism Committee Chairman's Desk



Andre Kole

John Wesley was once asked, "why do you spend so much time speaking on the subject 'You must be born again?'" He answered "Because you must be born again".

The task of the Evangelism Committee, therefore, is to seek the unsaved and the unchurched in the community and to exercise all diligence that they may be led into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the church.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

1. **'Jesus' Film**
The 'Jesus' film was shown to a crowd of 300 people. Praise God for 13 who indicated decisions for Christ.
2. **Evangelism Sunday (12th June 1988)**
An invited evangelist will preach the Gospel. Please bring your friends to this worship service specially planned for them.
3. **Andre Kole Project**
Andre Kole, one of America's leading illusionists, has appeared before millions in 74 countries of the world. He was awarded the Performing Arts Fellowship the highest award offered in his profession, equivalent of an oscar in the movie profession.
In response to God's call he sold his successful business and use his talents as a platform to share the Gospel.

Our church has decided to stage Andre Kole, live, on performance on **Friday 1st July 1988** at the Victoria Concert Hall (capacity 937)..

Objectives

- a. To mobilise the whole church for evangelism.
- b. To foster a closer bond of fellowship, love and unity through working TOGETHER for the GREAT COMMISSION.

Our target groups are our families, friends, and residents of Serangoon North/Central/Serangoon Gardens, Ang Mo Kio and Hougang. As this will be the biggest Faith project ever attempted by this committee, we are asking for your total support, participation and prayers.

Mail to Church Office

Yes! You can count on me to help and pray for our Church Andre Kole Evangelistic Project.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

Sunday School

Who Needs It?

On February 21 1988, a dedication service was held for TMC's Sunday school teachers and helpers.

Since many church members never attend Sunday school, the "who needs it" question deserves attention. Just to get this question in focus, let's assume the church has no Sunday school. What difference would it make?

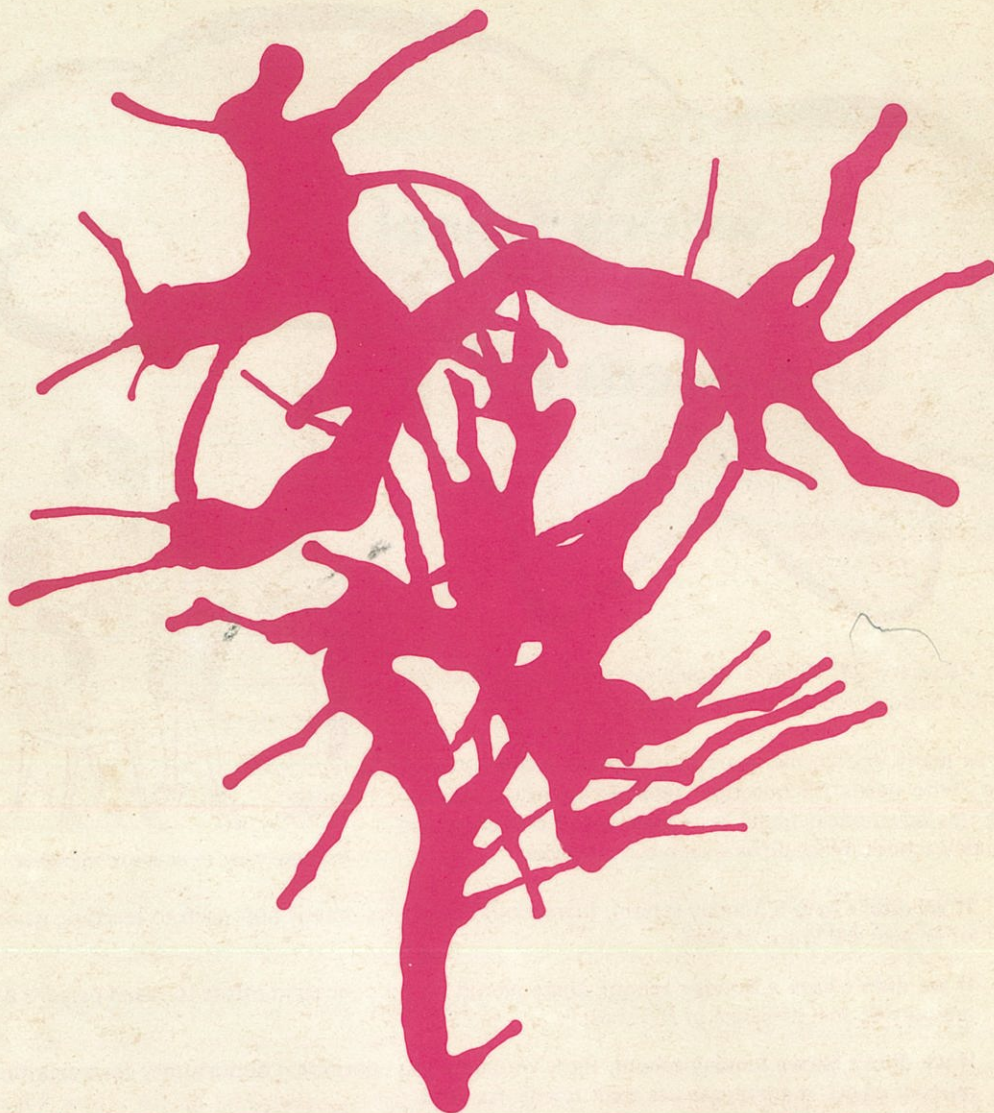


JESUS DIDN'T HAV' TO WEAR A TIE TO CHURCH.

1. **If we didn't have a Sunday school**, there would be no systematic approach to teaching persons of all ages the Word of God.
2. **If we didn't have a Sunday school**, there would be no concerted effort to reach persons who are outside the influence of the church.
3. **If we didn't have a Sunday school**, there would be less continuing opportunity for a significant number of our members to use their talents for God.
4. **If we didn't have a Sunday school**, there would be no formal Christian influence on members and prospects.
5. **If we didn't have a Sunday school**, there would be no serious attempt to involve large numbers of people in Christian worship.
6. **If we didn't have a Sunday school**, there would be no effective avenue for providing a continuous witness to lost people.
7. **If we didn't have a Sunday school**, there would be no consistent way to instruct and enlist our members in the stewardship principle of life.
8. **If we didn't have a Sunday school**, there would be no specific process for the Christian nurture and growth of our children and youth.
9. **If we didn't have a Sunday school**, there would be no practical means for helping adults grow in spiritual and emotional maturity.
10. **If we didn't have a Sunday school**, we would have to create a organisation similar to the Sunday school to enable our church to do its work more effectively.

REQUEST

Church members who can contribute in one way or another are urged to involve themselves in this important ministry.



Prayer and Praise Service

Sunday 5.00 pm

" this strange but amazing peaceful feeling flooded my whole being. Jesus has saved me. Jesus is alive." This is only an extract of a testimony given by a brother-in-Christ one Sunday evening at our Prayer and Praise Service. There are always new testimonies being shared by people, men and women alike, whose lives have been touched and transformed by the power of Jesus Christ. Such people are invited to our evening service to testify to The Glory of God.

Each Sunday, there is also a guest speaker who ministers The Word of God. The worship service is informal. At the end of the service, there is an altar call and those who respond to it are prayed for and ministered to.

Periodically, a teaching series is conducted for 4 or 5 consecutive Sundays on certain aspects in the bible.

All are invited. Come and hear, and you too can experience the power of Jesus Christ in your life!