

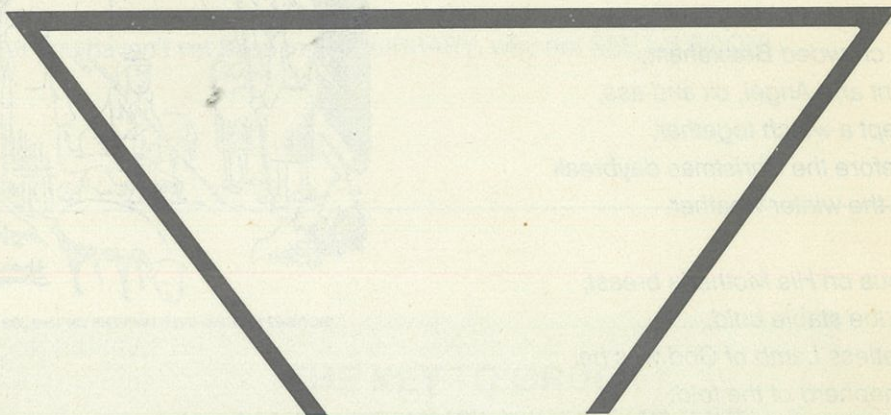
TMC NEWSLETTER

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

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

Pastor: Rev. Melvin Huang

Tel: 2824443



REMEMBER THE CENTRE

Have you ever been afraid of Christmas? What a peculiar thought, you might say. Isn't Christmas a time of joy and peace rather than fear?

Oh yes, surely it should be - but sometimes the "busy-ness" of Christmas get all too stressful, even distressful. Some people have expressed fear of Christmas season. Shopping, food, parties, church, gift-wrapping, new clothes... I guess when happens we have lost the centre of Christmas. But is it really possible **NOT** to lose the centre in the midst of all the hustle and bustle?

Come to think of it, Mary and Joseph, that first Christmas, were also surrounded by crowds and urgency and stress and maybe even fear. No room in the inn. Imminent childbirth. A dirty stable. Only a manager.

And yet, for them, for the shepherds, the magi nothing could be compared to the baby that was born, our Lord Jesus. They had the

secret.

Focus. When we do not forget the reason for the season. When we remember the centre. When our focus is **JESUS - The Christ of Christmas**. Then, nothing can come our way in the season to overwhelm us. Not the busy-ness. Not the stress, Not the urgency. Because Jesus holds the centre of our attention and activity.

So this Christmas, if you hope things were simpler. If it is all getting to you. If you wished Christmas would be quick about it. If you hoped it would never come. **RECENTRE YOUR LIFE**. Remember the centre of Christmas. And this would put other matters in proper perspective.

This Christmas, every Christmas, let Christ be the true centre. May God grant you a very special blessed Christmas and New Year.

In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Before the paling of the stars,
 Before the winter morn
 Before the earliest cockcrow
 Jesus Christ was born;
 Born in a stable,
 Cradled in a manger,
 In the world His hands had made
 Born a stranger.

Priest and king lay fast asleep
 In Jerusalem
 Young and old lay fast asleep
 In crowded Bethlehem;
 Saint and Angel, ox and ass,
 Kept a watch together,
 Before the Christmas daybreak
 In the winter weather.

Jesus on His Mother's breast,
 In the stable cold,
 Spotless Lamb of God was he,
 Shepherd of the fold:
 Let us kneel with Mary Maid,
 With Joseph bent and hoary,
 With Saint and Angel, ox and ass,
 To hail the King of glory.

Christina Rossetti



"NOTHING EXCITING EVER HAPPENS ON THIS JOB."

HOW TO LIVE THE NEW YEAR



WHY WERE THE SHEPHERDS OUT WASHING THEIR
 SOOTS BY NIGHT?

Life is a journey; I will live it trustingly: "though I walk through the valley of the shadow... I will fear no evil: for thou art with me" (Psalm 23:4).

Life is a task; I will live it obediently: "we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (1 John 3:22).

Life is a mission; I will live it helpfully: "By ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another" (Ephesians 4:32).

Life is a contest; I will live it earnestly: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (1 Corinthians 16:13).

Life is a battle; I will live it courageously: "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid; for the Lord thy God is with thee" (Joshua 1:9).

THE LIBRARY

TMC's air-conditioned library is situated at the basement of the sanctuary. Besides friendly librarians, it has a total of 2500 books, quite a sizeable tape collection (400) and a 'solid', reference section. In the 11 months of 1988, 3700 items were loaned out!

Children, by the way, are the library's most faithful users. Do you know they borrowed twice as many books as adults? That's right. The library therefore has to be always on the lookout for books which captivate our young readers. (Any advice or suggestions would be most welcome!)

Because of the fantastic growth in membership (424 at last count next year, s plans are all aimed at serving library users better. In fact, a video tape library would have been started by then.

So, if you haven't yet been to THE LIBRARY, why not SEE US SOON!

BOOK REVIEW:

THE KEY TO ORDER IN AN OVERWHELMING WORLD

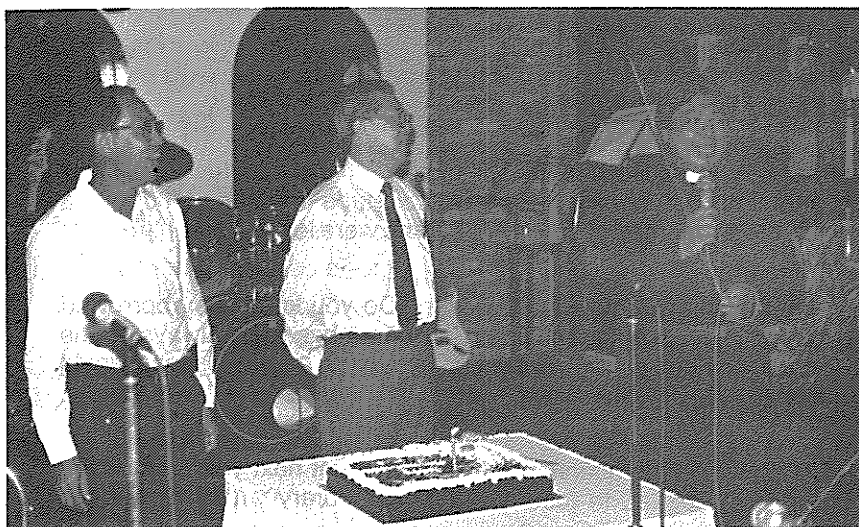
Someone observed "Many of us are too busy making a living, we don't have time to live!" I wonder if you too have felt life's hectic pace. So much so that the peace and contentment promised of the Christian life just slip away as demands of home, work, ministry and church crowd all over us.

For the author, Jean Fleming, life for her was such a whirlwind of demands. The book (available in our library) records her quest for a simple lifestyle, and the surprising discoveries she makes along the way.

Put simply, Jean explains that Christ must not be just an item in our life. We need to allow Him to have Lordship over our family, job, dreams, and so on. As a result of this new outlook, Jean has learned to rearrange her personal priorities and discover the secret of contentment.

This book has caused me to re-examine my own 'overcrowded' life and given valuable insights. It is a must for Christians whose lives are always a whirlwind of activities and responsibilities and who are also yearning for that quiet intimacy with God.

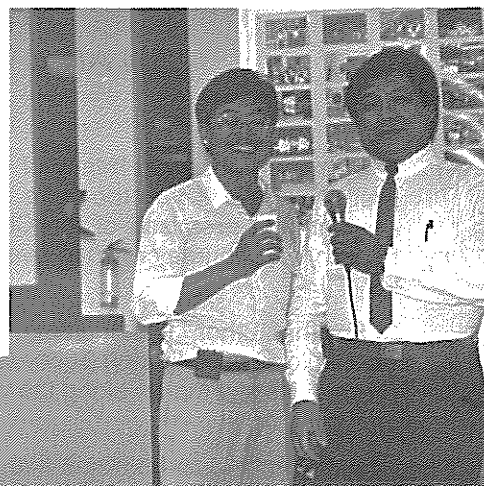
Peter Soh



*Our guest of honour
Mr Tan Boon Chiang
with Pastor &
LCEC Chairman
joining in the
"Happy Birthday"
song.*

TMC turns 31.

SMALL GROUPS' (S.G.) GET-TOGETHER



*Mr. Henry Chow of
Bridport S.G.
sharing his fellowship
experience in an
interview with Pastor.*



*An all-women's group
from Namly Drive S.G.*

SUNDAY SCHOOL JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

The kids of the junior department went on an outing at PASIR RIS PARK on October 2, 1988 to celebrate Children's Day.



Jane: Phew, I need a rest!

Yen Jun: Phew, me too.



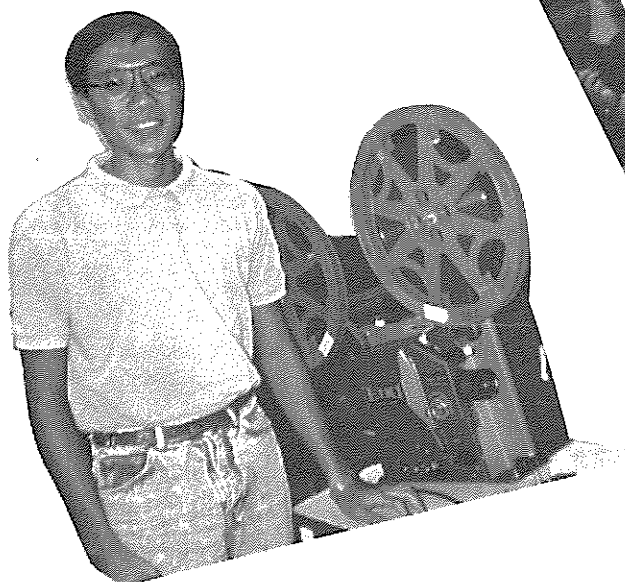
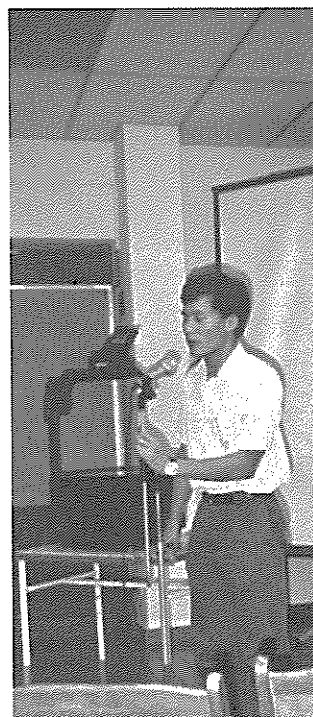
Teacher, Mrs. Mary Ee, with some of her Pr. III kids.



This is more fun than Sunday School!!

TURN YOUR HEART TOWARDS HOME

Organised by Evangelism, Christian Education and WSCS Committees, this teaching-cum-film series by Dr. Dobson attracted about 100 people on Nov 11-12, 1988. Held at TEC Building, the focus of the series was on Christian principles to parenting.



Only God knows how many apples are in one seed.

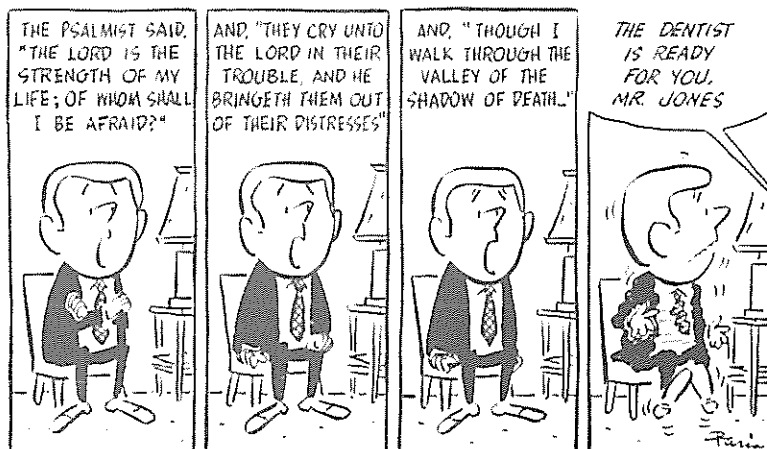
"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Matthew 13:33

Lillian Dixon married her husband when he graduated from Princeton Seminary. Together they agreed to go and spend the one life they had for the work of God where the need was greatest. So they got on a boat, went to Formosa, and the first thing they did was to go and see a government official. He listened as they shared how they wanted to help the people in Formosa with schools and hospitals and churches. Finally he said, "Look, young people, you're both in your twenties, very young, and very idealistic. But there is no way you can do anything here in Farmosa." He explained. "Look at that ocean. If you take a bucket of water out of the ocean here, it doesn't make any different. You can spend your life here, and it's like taking a bucket of water out of the ocean. The needs are too great. Please go back to America."

Lillian Dixon said to him in her fiery ladylike way, "Well, then if that's the case, I'm just going to fill my bucket! The ocean may not know the difference, but the bucket will."

That was over fifty years ago. Her husband has since passed away, but at last count, Lillian has established over 1,000 hospitals, schools, and churches.





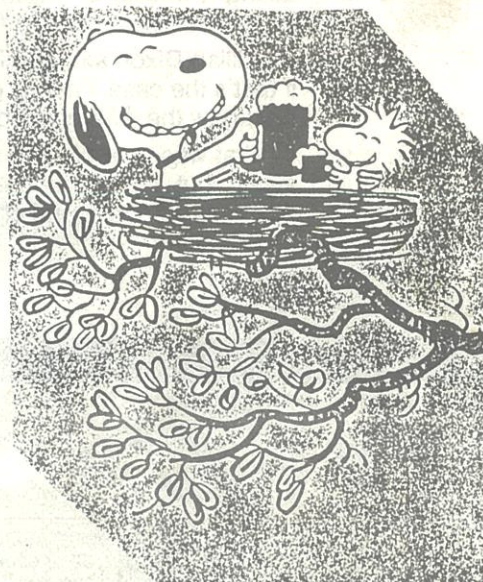
Pastor's Appointments:

- Director of Ministry of Schools
- Registrar of the Board on Ministry
- Member of Board on Finance
- Member of Executive Board
- Ministerial Delegate to General Conference

LCEC leaders, Dr Khor Tong Hong (Chairman), Mr Philip Tan (Vice Chairman) and Mr Viva Doraisingham (lay leader) laid hands to pray for Pastor as he takes on his new responsibilities. (November 1988).

SECRETS OF HAPPINESS

1. Keep skid chains on your tongue; always say less than you think.
2. Make promises sparingly, but keep your promises faithfully, no matter what it costs you.
3. Never let an opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging word to someone. Praise good work, no matter who did it.
4. Show your interest in others. Let everyone you meet feel that you regard him as a person of importance.
5. Be cheerful. Keep the corners of your mouth turned up. Hide your pains, worries, and disappointments under a pleasant smile.



6. Keep an open mind on all issues. Discuss but don't argue. It is possible to disagree in a friendly way.
7. Let your virtues speak for themselves and refuse to talk about another person's vices. Discourage gossip. Make it a rule to say nothing unless it is something positive.
8. Be careful of other people's feelings.
9. Pay no attention to cutting or critical remarks about you; live so nobody will believe them.
10. Don't be too anxious about getting what you deserve. Do your work faithfully, and you will be respected and rewarded.