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Trinity Methodist Church

M.I.T.A.(P) No.036/09/2003



Saltshaker



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Hey, what's happening to TMC?

Wow! Time really flies. It's been a year since the little (but very smoky) fire broke out on TMC's rooftop. And guess what? People are still talking about it! Some say that it was God's way of telling us we made a wrong decision to go ahead with the redevelopment project. Others considered it a blessing that we now have a new roof – free of charge. You want to know what is the most prophetic interpretation of the fire I've heard to date? I'll tell you later.

Well, what's been happening to TMC since we moved out into the wilderness? Some people decided to move to another church. Some come less regularly, citing inconvenience as the main factor. Some feel that worship is no longer as "ministering", and long for the "good old days". But many others continue to come faithfully, as if nothing has changed – except the location.

What's happening to TMC? Many, many, good things. We are finally moving out of our comfort zone. 47 years of history now lie behind us, and we are breaking new grounds. Ponder over the following with me:

- More than 100 people have gone through Disciple 1
- We now have a **Discipleship Roadmap** to systematically nurture our people
- **Youth ministry** is experiencing a revival
- Our **Worship** and **Children's ministries** are taking on bold new challenges
- Leaders are serious about **praying and mentoring**
- **Small Groups** have begun to experience true fellowship and ministry
- TMCers readily took up the challenge to be **Befrienders** of needy families
- Our **Outreach** to PLMGS(P) has begun. Following the P5 Camp, we now have a regular slot (in school) to share Christ with the girls every week!!
- After more than 10 years, our dream of a **Chinese Ministry** is being realised.

Well done, TMC.

What's happening to TMC? We have begun moving, like never before. Our time in the wilderness has indeed done us some good. Never mind the funds that we still have to raise – we are moving in the right direction, and God will help us. All we need to do now is stay focused, and work hard.

Oh, yes – I promised to tell you more about the fire. You know, the best interpretation I've heard so far is that the fire represented the burning away of our old ways and mindset. The old sanctuary roof symbolised our tendencies to stay comfortable, and to live in the past. But God graciously sent the fire to remind us to **step out of familiar grounds into risky lands for the sake of the Gospel**. The new roof represents a new beginning. Serangoon Gardens today is not the same as Serangoon Gardens 47 years ago. We need to change. We need to pour "new wine into new wineskins" (Matthew 9:17). Come, let's move on, by faith. Let's get ready to go back to our new home.

Pastor Lai Kai Ming

HE GAVE ME LIGHT!

by Wee Hian Chor

My name is Wee Hian Chor, aged 47, married with 3 children. I was brought up in a family that worshipped idols. Taoism was our religion.

Whenever we were in trouble we would seek the help of mediums and be given talismans for protection. I remember how one of my brothers, who was constantly sick and unable to work, sought the help of a medium. The medium told him that he needed to be a medium in order to be cured and so he became one. In time, he was told by the medium that every night he would have to go to the temple to carry out rituals so that people could seek help and give donations. My brother was

reluctant because he needed to work in the day and worried that he could not make it every night. This upset the medium and he cursed my brother saying that he would not have a smooth working life. True enough, he had no peace thereafter. He had constant headaches and was unable to work and his family despised him. He found his life miserable and, at times, wanted to give up. Thanks be to God that a Christian relative happened to find out about his condition and came forward to help. He and his family were brought to church and worshipped the Lord. Eventually he accepted Christ and was saved.

Upon seeing what my brother had gone through, I lost faith in Taoism. I did not think of being a Christian at that time for I always felt that I should follow my mother's beliefs. She became a Buddhist after my brother's incident. Also, in the later part of my working life, I came to learn more about Buddhism through my immediate boss who was the YMBA chairman. He brought me to a Sri Lanka Buddhist Temple to learn more about this religion.

Then came year 2003 when I was diagnosed with colon cancer. I went

through an operation to remove the tumour. During the operation, the surgeon found that the cancer had spread into my lymph node and was classified as stage 4. The surgeon told me that I needed further medical treatment and referred me to an Oncologist. I was put on 6 cycles of oral chemotherapy. This lasted for 6 months. During this period of time, I constantly visited the Buddhist temple to chant

and pray, hoping that my sickness would be cured. After the 6 months, I was able to go back to work. However, 3 months later, there was a re-occurrence of my sickness and the cancer had spread to my stomach

lining, causing a serious bloating in my tummy. I was unable to drink and eat properly. My sister, Alice, and my brother-in-law, Png, suggested I follow them to a Christian healing session and listen to other testimonies. The following week on Friday I followed them. During the session, Brother Yan prayed for me and through God's words he told me that my colon was very red and that God had cleansed it. Throughout the healing session I could see a Cross appearing in my head. That night I accepted Christ, and brother Yan encouraged me to attend TMC's services which I did the following Sunday.

It was already late afternoon when I went home after that Sunday's service. After settling down, I decided to read my Bible that was given to me by my sister. I proceeded to my room and closed the door. My son was also in the room playing on his own. As it was rather dark in the room I switched

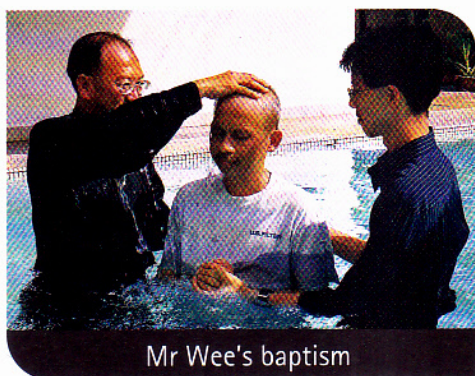
on the room light and the wall light behind the bed. This wall light had two bulbs and one of them had not been working for quite some time. As I began to read my Bible, suddenly, the light that had not been working lighted up and this was witnessed by my son. Praise the Lord that he gave me light! After reading the Bible I tried switching on and off the wall light but the one that had began to work again just minutes ago, failed to light up. I shared this with the rest of my family including my sister, Alice. It was through this amazing incident that I decided to get rid of all the idols in my house and accepted Christ fully.

The following week, Pastor Kai Ming, together with other brothers and sisters-in-Christ, came to my house. They prayed for my whole family and helped us to clear all the idols and chanting books. Thereafter, many brothers and sisters-in-Christ came forward to pray for me and my family. I felt that I was never alone in praying – this was unlike when I was a Buddhist. I have received so much care and concern from TMC Pastors, brothers and sisters-in-Christ. Especially Pastor Kai Ming who frequently called me to ask about my condition and Brother Yan who prayed for me day and night. I no longer feel bloated and am gaining strength day

by day. It is the constant prayers from brothers and sisters-in-Christ that I am where I am today.

God was also very kind to me. I received unexpected gifts to help

me financially when I lost my job. Even though I am still under treatment for my sickness, I have strong faith that I will be fully healed by our mighty God who has shown so much love for me and my family. Thanks be to God and Praise the Lord!



Mr Wee's baptism

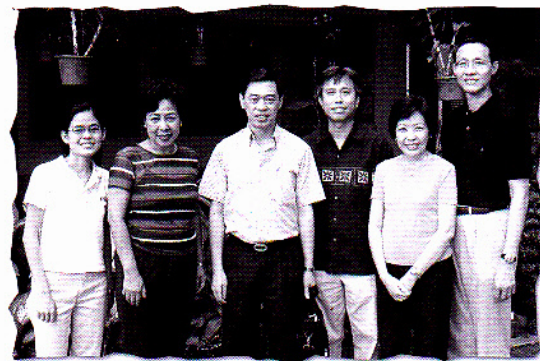


Mr Wee and his family were all baptised on 20 March 2004

Building a House of Prayer

by Patsy Ong

'Therefore I exhort first of all that all supplications, prayers and intercessions, and giving thanks be made for all men' (1 Tim 2:1)



The Prayer Committee (from left): Cindy Teo, Violet Khor, Ong Chew Chwee, Tan Seng Hee, Maely Sim, Sim Cher Khee (not in photo: Lydia Han & Joy Seah)

Saltshaker interviewed Mr Sim Cher Khee, Chairman of Prayer and Intercession Committee to find out more about its work:

Q: What does the Prayer and Intercession committee set out to do?

A: The committee aims to communicate three main messages. Firstly, while most would agree that prayer is important, there is a need to reclaim the priority of prayer. Secondly, prayer is a two-way communication with God – when we pray, we talk and listen to Him. And thirdly, by praying, we always participate in God's greater purposes, as Christ did in his Gethsemane prayer (Matt 26:36-46).

The desire of the committee is to see that all at TMC develop their individual prayer lives, that homes and households establish time for family devotions and prayer, and that the church becomes a praying church – praying for church leaders, church ministries, the members in need and for missions. In Acts 13:3, we see that the church prayed and fasted for Barnabas and Saul before they left for their missionary journeys.

Q: What are some of the Committee's plans?

A: We have identified four 'Pillars' of prayer revival, namely: convicted leadership, teaching on prayer, practice of prayer, and multiplying prayer leadership and workers.

Under convicted leadership, we want to see pastors and leaders lead by example for prayer and revival. In practical terms, this could be attending the Wednesday (2nd and 4th in the month) or Friday (weekly) prayer meetings. Pastors could also teach on prayer at the LCEC prayer meetings while the leaders could pray for the pastors and the various ministries' needs.

For teaching on prayer we are looking at various avenues, such as conducting prayer workshops, using the pulpit ministry for teaching on prayer topics, and encouraging

everyone to attend the International Prayer Conference (IPC).

Practice of Prayer would entail the ongoing mobilisation of TMC for prayer, be it at the weekly prayer meetings, the TMC prayer net or prayer chains to support special church

events. We also organise prayer teams to visit church members who are unable to come to church on Sundays for worship. The sharing of testimonies – through the pulpit, church bulletin, Saltshaker and emails – on how God answers prayers will also spur us on in our faith and prayer life.

In terms of multiplying prayer leadership and workers, the Committee will challenge everyone in TMC to attend the prayer workshop in May. We also target to have a total of 50 children, youths, adults and seniors to attend the IPC sessions in June and we will work with the other committees, like WSCS and the Seniors Ministry, to do home visitations and prayer.

Q: What are some challenges faced by the Committee?

A: The first major challenge is in convincing our TMC members that prayer is vital for an intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father. As Singaporeans generally have a hectic schedule, the

other major challenge is getting people to set aside time to come together to pray for the church and for one another.

Q: What are some steps we can take to participate in the church's prayer life?

A: For those who would like to pray for personal needs and healing, they should attend the weekly Friday Prayer Fellowship. On the other hand, members who would like to pray for the needs of the church as well as for one another can join in the Wednesday

The unified prayer of Christians wields unimaginable power
– T.W. Hunt in 'Disciple's Prayer Life'

Prayer meeting. We also have an email system in place called the TMC Prayer Net for those who would like to pray 'virtually' for other members or friends. All they need to do is to give us their email address and they will be kept informed of prayer requests that need their

prayer support. Currently, there are about 100 members on the Net. We have just started our visitations to the sick who are at home or in hospital. Any member who needs our Committee to visit their family/friends can always contact the church office.

Q: Any other thoughts about prayer that you would like to share with the church?

A: There is no need for us to worry. God is faithful to respond to our every need and request. We, His children, are loved by the Heavenly Father whose nature is constant, never-changing. He is always merciful, forgiving, loving, all powerful and his plan for us is always perfect. We are therefore urged, according to a Christian writer, to simply pray: "Lord, I come now not just to have my needs met – needs You have foreseen and are eager to supply. No, I come to meet Your needs!"

"We were made to fellowship with him – even in our heaviest times. Do we love to be with him? Do we prefer Him above all others? Does our heart cry out: 'Jesus, You are my everything. You are my soul's great pleasure – and I love Your company?'"

May the Lord put in us a heart that is easily wooed to God's presence, listening closely to God's voice and putting all our confidence in His Word.



The work of God and the advance of the kingdom are in the hands of the church
– T.W. Hunt in 'Disciple's Prayer Life'

JOIN US!

Wed Prayer Meeting – 8pm to 10pm at Gabriel room PLMC

Fri Prayer meeting – 8pm to 10.30pm at Gabriel room PLMC.

Email churchoffice@tmc.org.sg to join TMC Prayer Net. For visitation/prayer requests, call church office at 6282 4443.



三一卫理公会华文团契

好消息——

华文事工开锣啦！

我们的教会成立到现在虽然已有很多年，但一直以来却只有英文事工；最近我们发现其实在我们周围，不论是教友的亲戚朋友或住在教会附近的居民中，有不少是渴望认识上帝，却又因语言的问题而迟迟不敢踏入我们教会。因此，教会决定成立华文事工，敞开大门，让英语不好或习惯使用华语的人士和我们一起敬拜仰望上帝。

限于教会目前的经验与人力，华文事工无法一开始就像英文事工般的多元化。我们将以华文团契作为华文事工的开始，以此为起点，逐步展开更多元化的事工。

若您喜欢用华语查经、敬拜赞美上帝，欢迎您来参加我们的团契。

团契细节是：

地点：巴耶利巴美以美女子小学食堂

日期：是每个星期日

(除了每月的第一个星期日以外)

时间：十一点正至十二点半

华文团契时间与内容：

11:00-11:10 相见欢

11:10-11:30 唱诗赞美

11:30-12:00 查经

12:00-12:15 祷告与代祷

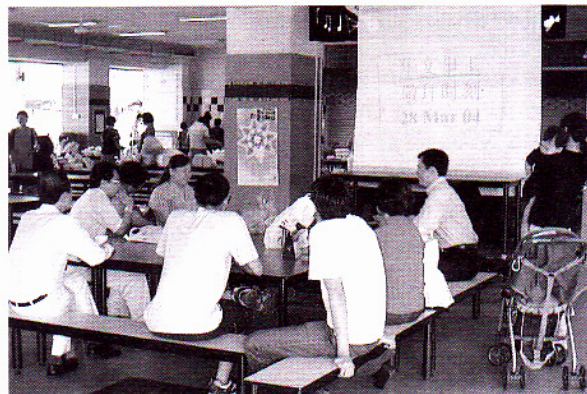
12:15-12:30 茶点与交流

by Neo Siew Choo

Announcing the Genesis of the TMC Chinese Fellowship!

Despite being established for nearly half a century, TMC has only had an English congregation. Recently, we realized that many of the people around us – be it the family and friends of church members or our neighbours in the area around PLMGS(P) – yearned to know God but were hindered from stepping into our church because of the language barrier. Thus, TMC decided to establish the Chinese Ministry, to open doors so that these people could join us in using Mandarin to worship the Lord.

Being a young ministry, the Chinese Ministry is unable at present to hold full-fledged Services. It is starting with the weekly Chinese Fellowship. If you would like to study the Bible and worship the Lord in Mandarin, do join us in the fellowship meetings!



DETAILS

Venue: PLMGS(P) Canteen

Time: Weekly on Sundays (except 1st Sunday)
1100h – 1230h

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

1100h – 1110h Welcome and Greetings

1110h – 1130h Praise and Worship

1130h – 1200h Bible Study

1200h – 1215h Prayer and Intercession

1215h – 1230h Refreshments



A UNIQUE LIFE

by Jeannie Chee

Not only was Seok Eng responsive and warm and very open with her sharing but she clearly proved to be an extremely unique individual with a very unique ministry.



When I was asked to interview Seok Eng, my immediate thought was that it was going to be one of those typical interviews – I would get typical responses about the life of a typical missionary. I was, however, pleasantly surprised when I finally spoke to Seok Eng. Not only was she responsive and warm and very open with her sharing but she clearly proved to be an extremely unique individual with a very unique ministry.

As you may already know, Seok Eng has been a missionary for about 13 years. She started off with church work at Fairfield Methodist Church as a member of the ministry staff and eventually branched out into full-time missionary work. She is definitely very passionate about her work as evidenced by how she chatters excitedly about the years she spent in various parts of China, sharing the gospel and equipping the church leaders and pastors with a better grasp of the Word. Seok Eng lists community development amongst the tribal people as one of her most fulfilling experiences. She was part of a team that helped build cables, dams, bridges and reservoirs as part of reaching out to the various tribes. This experience was particularly rewarding as initially there was much resistance amongst the tribal people against wanting to know about the Gospel. Nevertheless, putting their faith in Jesus and trusting entirely on his providence, Seok Eng and her team finally succeeded in reaching out to the tribes.

As a missionary in China, Seok Eng had to get used to the poor sanitary conditions and the rough living conditions. She also had to move from place to place often at very short notice. Judging from her soft-spoken nature, one would have hardly guessed that Seok Eng can live without the modern comforts of life that most of us are used to. When asked how she sustained such rough and tough conditions, Seok Eng attributes it to God's protection. She fervently believes in the power of prayer and told me that it was prayers from her family and friends at home that saw her through even the worst of her time in China. She recalls that she was once caught in a heavy flood which had resulted in a number of fatalities. The flood waters were highly contaminated and she saw dead animals being swept away by the swift currents. Most of the people who came into contact with the flood waters suffered severe skin problems. Wading for days in the flood waters; she even had to eat the crops that were caught by the waters, out of sheer hunger. Miraculously, she did not suffer from skin problems that typically afflicted flood victims. She attributes this miracle to God who answered the prayers of her family and friends.



Being a woman of great faith, she encourages all of us to find time for mission work as, in her words, "it's a very rewarding experience". Her advice to would-be missionaries is to ask God for the passion for lost souls and to pray about it. She very strongly believes that once God has called you to mission work, He will see you through.

Seok Eng is currently employed as a lay ministry staff of our church. The work she will do will revolve around pastoral care. She will be involved in many aspects of TMC's ministries such as the Discipleship programme, membership classes, baptism classes, marriage counselling and missions training. She

may even, in the near future, be involved in the Chinese fellowship as well. She is enthusiastic about being a part of the church and looks forward to contributing to its growth.

Having a gregarious personality, Seok Eng is really keen on interacting and sharing her life with all of us. She wants very much to be a part of the Trinity family. She told me that she really wants to get to know all of us, so, please feel free to stop her for a chat over a cup of coffee or morning tea on Sundays or, for that matter, whenever you can.

OUTREACH TO PLMGs(P)

by Eugenia Koh



The Primary 5 girls from Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Primary) looked wide-eyed as we told them that they were going to be blindfolded. "Where are you guys going to bring us to?" they kept asking, some trying to peer over to sneak a look at what was happening ahead.

This was the beginning of the "Black station", a station illustrating the darkness of sin. The girls were blindfolded and led to the beginning

of a "tunnel", a maze made out of tables with black cloth draping down. Shrieks of protest came from some of the girls as they heard about the tunnel and we had to assure them that all would be fine. "Are you sure there are no spiders and cockroaches inside?" many of the girls asked warily.

This experience however helped to illustrate the darkness of sin and the fear that came from being in the dark and many looked reflective as the message of how sin causes us to walk in darkness was shared.

This creative concept of using colours to explain the gospel of Christ was a great hit with the girls. Each station was fun yet meaningful. The activities ranged from decorating the "Green station" with flowers and materials to looking for a box of "gold" at the "Yellow station".

As the girls went through the different stations, white, black, green, yellow and red, the message of the gospel was being planted. They learned how man, who was initially pure had sinned and fallen short of God's glory and how only through His blood can a relationship be restored, growth in Christ take place and a place in Heaven secured.

As the message of God's love was shared to all by Dr Hum at their final station in the hall, many of the girls were touched, with 47 girls wanting to receive Christ. Indeed, praise God for that!

On the second night, a campfire was held where the girls sang, cheered and danced along to campfire songs. As each class sent two mascots up, their creativity was put to the test as they dressed up their mascots. The finale of the night was the presentation of their class cheers. The classes pitted themselves against each other in terms of both creativity and loudness of their cheers.

As the night drew to an end, sparklers were given out and the girls sang the closing songs for the campfire. Indeed, memories of the Primary 5 camp would continue to linger in the girls and it is our prayer that the seed of the gospel sown would reside and bear fruit in time to come.

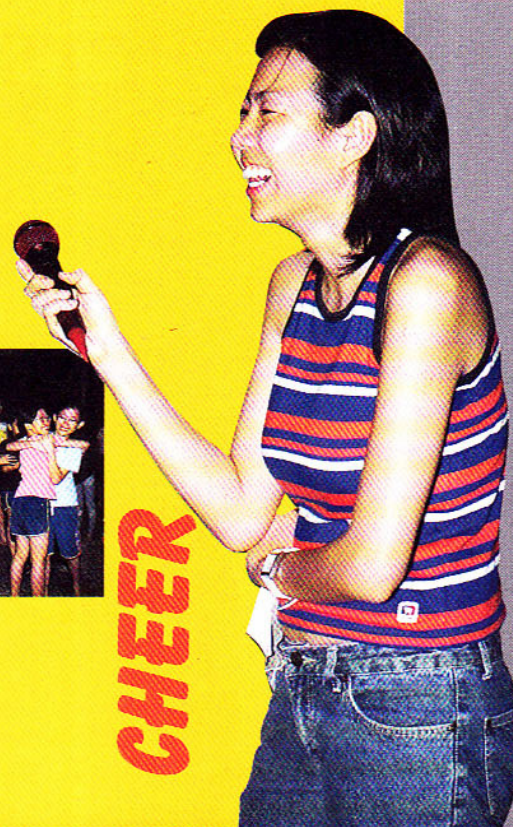




CAMPFIRE



CHEER



W C B O G L Y O R



GAMES

Vespers at Chen Su Lan

Methodist Children's Home

by Chan Chong Wei

Ringling laughter slowly ebbed away, as Ms Grace George attempted once more to regain the children's short-lived attention. She was content that the children were happy so long as they allowed her small group members to finish the skit on Bartimaeus- the blind man who was healed by Jesus.

Rather fortunately, the skit was allowed to run its course and thereafter, the

children got to reprise the roles of the characters in the skit - much to the merriment of the rascally audience. A short quiz followed; it was heartening to note that some of the children had remembered various little details of the skit and for every correct answer each child gave, he or she was rewarded with a pen. At the end of the quiz, every child received gifts of sweets and pens irrespective of whether he or she has answered any questions - life is plain not fair.

Clearly, maintaining order in a room seated with a score of children, aged 4 to 14, from Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home was a job hair-raising enough, even for any riot policeman. Indeed, there was not one adult accustomed to the children's high levels of unwearied animation. In the midst of the skit, some of the younger children had not the slightest inkling of what was going on and so they turned fretful, proving to be a handful for some members of the small group. It remains a mystery, where all the children got their Duracell™ bunny capabilities. The effect of their fiendish energies was never more apparent during the time of worship earlier on: the children's raucous bellows had drowned that rather discomfited

worship leader's voice. Curiously enough, one of the small group members who teaches in Trinity Methodist Church's (TMC) children ministry wished that her less responsive charges can be the same.



Every third Friday of the month, from 8 to 9 p.m., a group from TMC, mainly from the Serangoon North SG, will conduct vespers for the children of the home. These sessions are meant to be used as a time

of devotion for the children. Normally, the volunteers are given a free hand in what they wish to do for vespers. The group had decided that prayers and worship should be de rigueur. The skit was a first.

Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home is one of TMC's 'social concerns'. The Home sits on 202 Serangoon Garden Way and provides salubrious living conditions for children, whose families are indisposed to care for them. The families of the children often possess one or more of these traits: single-parent, low-income, and parents being held in custodial institutions. The children have normal primary school education and attend schools in the vicinity. The Home hopes to provide purposeful intervention for the children and their parents - who have many needs and unresolved problems - so that these children can integrate with their families one day. The Home has another purpose: as a child-care centre, it caters to children aged 3 to 6 from the neighbourhood community as well as disadvantaged families. Additional services such family-life



education, before and after-school care (BASC), public education, volunteer training and development, are provided.

5 children from the Home also attend church every Sunday to join the 'Thank God It's Sunday' (TGIS) programme under the care of part-time church worker, Ms Susan Chua. It was not too long ago too, that Pastor Lai Kai Ming assigned the church caretaker, Mr Chua, to the home every Wednesday for cleaning and gardening.



Traditionally and faithfully, TMC has contributed to the home in other areas. As teachers, six ladies from TMC gave free tuition classes weekly; as loving aunties and uncles, the Hougang small group organised monthly birthday celebrations and bought 'Angie's

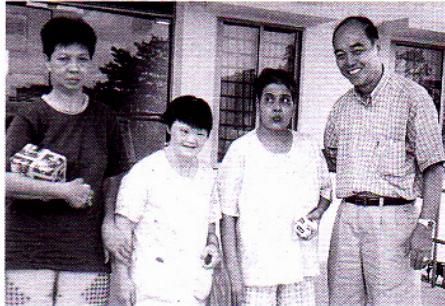
The Choice' cakes for the children; as Santa Clauses, various helpers organise a social outing every December. These outings are a rare opportunity for the children to watch movies and receive presents in the form of toiletries, games and alarm clocks.



TOUCHING LIVES

by Chan Chong Wei

Besides Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home, the Outreach and Social Concerns (OSC) Committee has other social concerns that fall within its purview. TMC has helped out at the Pelangi Home for the destitute and mentally unsound for sixteen years. A precursor to Woodbridge Hospital, the Home has one female and four male dormitories. The activities of the TMC volunteers have been confined to the female dormitories. Due to fears of Severe Atypical Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), fortnightly social visits to the Home were discontinued after March 2003, to allow the Home to minimise physical contact with outsiders.



In the last two years, OSC committee chairperson, Mr William Chua, has seen an unprecedented growth in social outreach programmes – the new initiatives at Chen Su Lan Methodist Children's Home exemplifies that and more of such examples abound. One of them is the truly laudable commitment of 6 TMC members, towards 6 needy families outside the church. These families were referred to the pastors, by members of the congregation and the church members help look into their needs.



Yet another example is the 'Befrienders' programme, by which Mr William Goh and Mr Kelvin Tan's groups, along with some other individuals, mentor 5 Paya Lebar Methodist Girls School (PLMGS) girls. Also, bursaries amounting up to \$300, for textbooks, were given to 9

PLMGS girls on 9th January, this year. Finally, in the last three years, TMC has been active in Methodist Welfare Services (MWS) flag-days. Last year, in September, 100 TMC participants raised \$150,000. This year, the Flag Day will be held on 24th April.

Social concerns in TMC have begun to expand into the world domain. A month ago, Mr William Chua had been casting about for volunteers for relief crisis teams. Such teams require healthcare volunteers such as doctors, nurses and ancillary workers such as cooks and construction personnel. To date, 3 volunteers from TMC have responded to this call. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Defence and the Red Cross, the teams hail from different corporate and religious organisations.

There are many pairs of hands at work in TMC to reach out to the infirm and to those with socio-economic difficulties. These acts of kindness, are not without returns. The activities at Chen Su Lan have illustrated that high degree of reciprocity: to the volunteers, the learning process is ongoing and is a good tonic for the restless. It is a rare gift indeed, for anyone who lives in this pyramidal society, to be totally at ease with people of any segment in the social spectrum. In the New Testament, Jesus was egalitarian and was thus able to sow spiritual seeds anywhere.



Many in TMC have been able to commit themselves to social concerns despite their very busy schedules. Typically, these people have families and equally typically, they have stressful jobs that may require them to travel a fair bit. Drawing on Mr



William Chua's musings about TMC as a growing church – is it a mere coincidence that social concerns has expanded at such an unprecedented scale before TMC moves back to Serangoon Garden Way? Is it then possible to have everyone in the social spectrum, to be of one voice in their praise of GOD in the new premises? Is foreign worker outreach involving Pakistanis, Chinese and Bangladeshis possible?

'Religion that our God accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world' (James 1:27). Let us reach out with new eyes.

TMC Resource Centre goes *mobile!*



One canteen table, one laptop and three mobile shelves of books – that's all there is to the current make-up of our resource centre...

Since the move to Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Primary) last year, like many activities from the other ministries, we face the challenge of continuing our resource centre operations. This challenge proves even bigger with our logistical needs such as storage area for books, book shelves for display and a proper recording system for the loans. While we tried to sort out these issues, the resource centre stopped operating.

A few months after the move, we managed to find three mobile bookshelves. Though a little old and shaky, they certainly displayed great potential as to what they can help us do. Our RC members then spent some time picking out a few hundred books and CDs/VCDs to open up for loan again. Due to space constraints, and the need to cater to members of all ages, the selection of titles is rather limited at the moment

-we have focused on pushing out the more popular materials.

With this new arrangement, our temporary resource centre began its operations once again, twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

Occupying a little corner in the canteen each time, the setup always requires the RC members to painstakingly push out the three heavy, mobile bookshelves. Then there is the passing around of the laptop, amongst the RC members on duty, for recording loan transactions. The desire to serve certainly drives us to overcome many of these difficulties.

Thankfully, the efforts paid off. It didn't take us long to 'lure' back many of our regulars from the good old days. The children, once again, proved to be our most supportive 'customers'.

For the time being, the titles selection for the materials on loan is kept small for obvious logistical reasons. For the actual volume of books that the resource

centre currently owns, there are about: 3,000+ adult books, 3,500+ children books, 60+ VCDs and 1,000+ video/audio tapes. Look out for this full range when we move back to the new resource centre.

To enable our members to have access to new materials more readily, RC members constantly review our stock titles and replace them with new ones where necessary. We also welcome members who know of good materials to inform us so that we can build up our resources for the benefit of all at TMC.

With the move back to the new church building nearer the end of the year, we can expect a new resource centre with added facilities. As we excitedly wait to see this new site, we are even more thankful to God's generosity and all of these that He has provided for us. We hope that members will be even more active to tap on this rich supply of resources along their journey of building up their spiritual walk with God.

Enrolment and Dedication Service

for the Boys' Brigade 47th S'pore Coy and SP Primers S'pore Coy - 28th March 2004



CALLING ONCE, TWICE... SOLD!

by Andy Chew

An auction of photo prints and paintings was held over the New Year's Eve dinner at Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School (Primary) canteen, just before the 2003 Watchnight Service.

About 80 church members and friends attended the dinner. It was a wonderful time of feasting and fellowshiping with one another.

The auction was a great success and in just an hour of bidding, S\$9800 was raised for the TMC Redevelopment Project. Five photo prints and two paintings of TMC were sold to the highest bidders. Four of the seven sold were donated back to the church for future displays in the new building.

The photo prints are the works of a dear brother-in-Christ, Mr. Daniel T.S. Kon, whose life was met with many trials. At the age of 14, his father was admitted into a mental institution. He, being the only child, had to earn his keep - paying his school fees and supporting his mother. He became a successful book publisher in the region, got married and raised a family of five children.

His life took a turn for the worse in 1996 when he had to undergo two major operations, was admitted into the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) twice, and later suffered bouts of depression and extreme anxiety.

In the next few months of his recuperation, God ministered to Mr. Kon. He simply surrendered himself to God and was reconciled with his Creator. He has written two books, entitled "A Ray of Hope" and "Blessings," to share with others his testimonies.

His love for photography was basically to show the world the intimacy between us,



nature and our Creator - his style is more conceptual and interpretative, rather than documentary. Mr. Kon does not sell his photo prints but he donates them to churches and organisations mainly for fund-raising purposes.

The paintings of TMC were done by two children from the Grace Haven Home. It was an idea by Mr. Siva Subramaniam, a friend of Mrs. Patricia Tan of the 11am choir, who visited TMC last year and heard about the redevelopment project. He decided to play a part in raising funds for the church.

Being an active sponsor for activities in the home, Mr Subramaniam, who is the Vice-President of Avaya Singapore Pte Ltd, got the children to do the paintings. He bought them when they were completed and donated the artworks to the church for the auction.

We thank God for the lives and ministries of our dear brothers-in-Christ. Their generous donations have truly shown TMC how God can work in many ways in blessing the church.

Please do not fret if you have missed the auction. Another auction for five more photo prints by Mr. Daniel T.S. Kon will be held between April and June. Details will be announced to the church by the Pastors.

To God be the glory!



Daniel Kon & his grandchild



SUCCESSFUL BIDDERS

Mrs. Christine Ho (S\$1300)

- Photo Print 1 ("Put your hope in God" - Psalm 42:5)

Mr. & Mrs. Koh Eu Beng (S\$1000)

- Photo Print 2 ("Jesus said, "Peace be with you." John 20:21)

Mr. Paul Ng (S\$1000)

- Photo Print 3 ("Surely I am with you always." Matthew 28:20)

Mr. Norman Ng (S\$3300)

- Photo Print 4 ("God is love." 1 John 4:8)

Mrs. Christine Ho (S\$1200)

- Photo Print 5 ("In Him was life, and that life was the light of men." John 1:4)

Mr. Ron Teo (S\$2000)

- Paintings of TMC 6 & 7

Praise the Lord for His abundant blessings through the generosity of these individuals!



Redevelopment Coin Tins

The TMC Seniors Ministry has come up with the novel idea of using recycled Coin Tins to help raise funds for the TMC redevelopment fund. The aim is for members to fill these tins regularly over the next few months either with loose change or with donations from friends and family.



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Musings on TMC Church Camp 2004



Jesus did not just go to the mountains to sleep or to enjoy the beautiful scenery – He went there to "be with the Father". As Jesus is our perfect model, so we too, should follow his example, and find rest in God.

Yes, we have visions of ships in harbour, just waiting to be launched; we pray for the Church to be 'One in Spirit'; we have dreams of transforming our local communities and even beyond, to places like Cambodia; we talk about reclaiming the 'Promised Land', which God has promised to us. But let us not forget to take time to go back-to-basics, to the two greatest commandments, and build relationships with God and our 'neighbours'.

Without a doubt, this Church Camp will be radically different, and have a powerful impact on our lives – not just because of the fantastic programme planned, but because God Himself will be with us.

– James Wei, TMC Youth

God is calling us into service not to occupy a new church building but to build up our relationship in faith in the living God and his people. In Galatians 5:22-24 one of the fruits of the spirit was the product of obeying God in love, by loving one another (Gal 5:13,14). As the foundation is rooted in obedience, the 'neighbours' of TMC shall see the goodness of the Lord and believe in His Salvation plan in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, the camp is a time to build up our faith, trusting in a God-centered relationship that will lead us to obey in love and to be the gospel of peace in Serangoon Garden.

– Yu Yong Horng, Church Camp Organising Committee

For the coming church camp, the key focus will be on our relationship with God and our 'neighbours' which include our family, friends, churchmates and other people around us. As members of the Body of Christ, we are to build up one another (1 Thes 5:11, Heb 10:24-25, Psalms 133).

The key focus will be covered by Rev. Tony Tan in his messages and further explored during group discussions. Below are some other related practical workshops that will be held:

- Homemaker's Spirituality
- Bringing up Godly Children
- Marketplace Evangelism

Of course, there will be time for 'rest and recreation' as well, with lots of fun activities (e.g. telematch, finale dinner and treasure hunt) and time set aside for family bonding.

The newly established TMC Chinese Ministry will also be catering some activities to our non-English speaking parents, friends and relatives, so that they too will experience the blessings of Christian love from the church.

More details are available at the information booth. Registration closes on 30 April so sign up soon!



The Chapel of Life in Trinity Methodist Church

Trinity Methodist Church is being redeveloped to cater to the needs of a growing ministry. Among the new facilities is a columbarium – 'The Chapel of Life' – located at the basement of the redeveloped church building. The air-conditioned columbarium's design and finishings include frosted glass plaques for the niches. This will make for a warm and restful setting, not just to keep the ashes of loved ones, but also for quiet contemplation, devotion and prayer. The Chapel's opening hours are from 11.00am to 7.00pm daily (including Public Holidays).

There are 3,500 niches for single and double urns. These will be on a 75-year lease starting from 2005. Select a niche for yourself and your loved ones. Niches are available for booking now and all donations will go towards the Trinity Methodist Church Redevelopment Fund.

For enquiries, please call Tel: 6282 4443.

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DONATION AMOUNTS*

Level	Single	Double
8	\$2,000	\$3,625
7	\$2,500	\$4,500
6	\$3,250	\$5,875
5	\$4,000	\$7,250
4	\$4,000	\$7,250
3	\$3,375	\$6,125
2	\$2,750	\$4,875
1	\$2,250	\$4,000

*subject to terms and conditions

For members, minimum donation amount will be lower.

- TMC members: 20% less
- Other Methodist Church members: 10% less