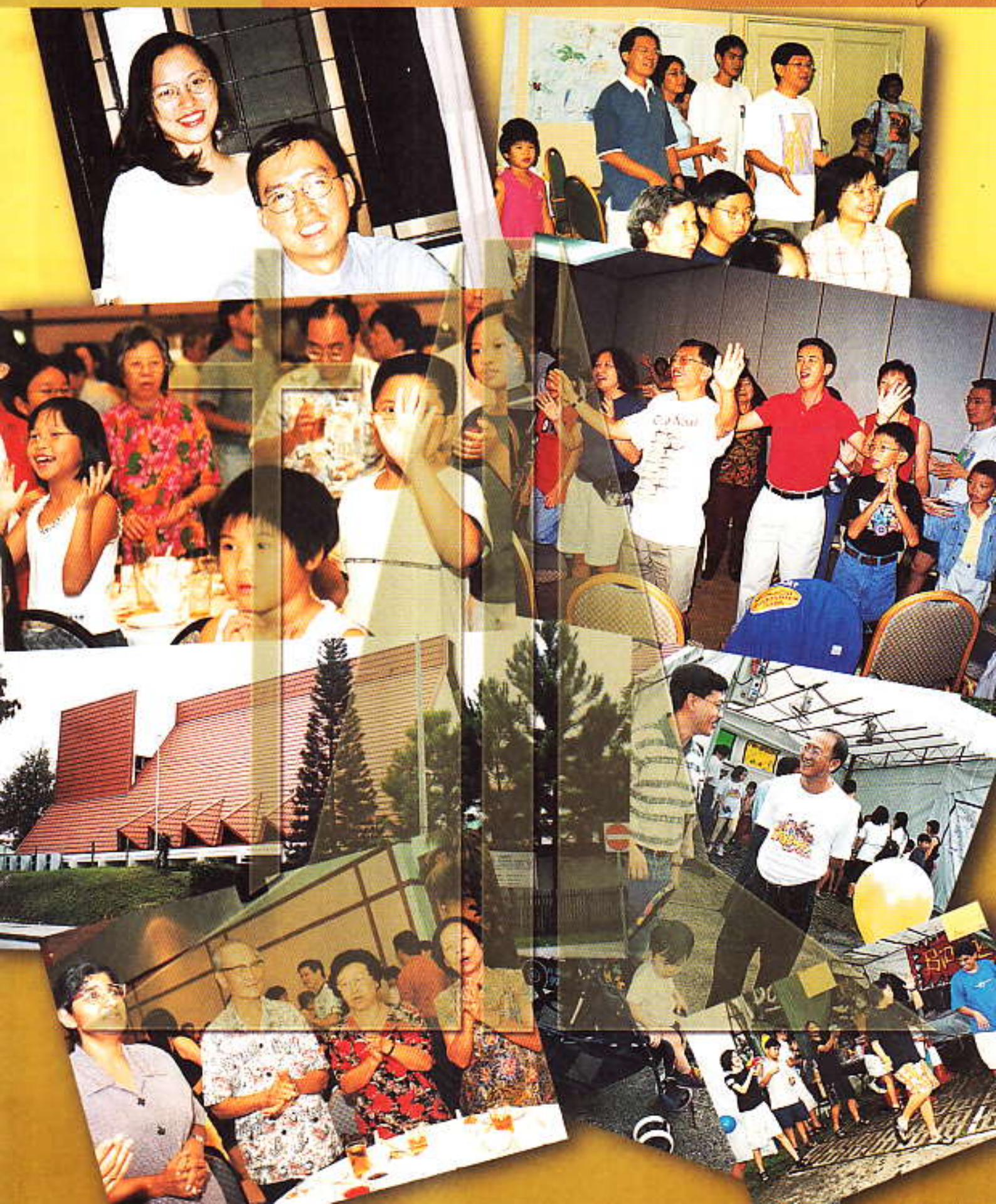


THE SALTSHAKER

Trinity Methodist Church • September 2001



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Pastors' Message

As we celebrate our 45th Anniversary this year, we have so much to be thankful for. God has blessed us and enlarged our territories. We started as a small group 45 years ago and are now a mid-size church with missions work locally and overseas. Indeed God's hands have been upon us as He used us for the work of His Kingdom. It is now time for us to rise above our fears and limitations to trust in His strength and provision as we move forward into the next phase of our Church's life and ministry.

At our last Anniversary we shared with you the Redevelopment Project and the possibilities our present site holds for us. It has taken our pastors and leaders about one year to finalise plans for redeveloping the premises.



Our original intention was to preserve both the sanctuary and the Trinity Education Centre (TEC). Our sanctuary is a unique structure - it is one of the few A-shaped buildings in Singapore. Its wooden interior is deeply sentimental for many. The TEC building was completed only in 1986, hence it is only 15 years old, and it seemed such a waste to tear it down. But it was felt that we need to optimally redevelop the site and solve the need for more space and improve the traffic congestion. It is also more costly to retrofit an existing building. Therefore we had to make the painful decision to keep only the sanctuary and demolish the TEC building. We apologise to those who worked so hard to build TEC and assure you that it was a decision not taken lightly but after deep thought, much deliberations and long prayers.

Our plans have been finalised and fund raising launched on 1 July 2001. To date, we have received donations, pledges and interest free loans amounting to \$1.3 million, about 10% of the total \$12 million needed.

On 9 September 2001, our 45th Anniversary, we will share with you our finalised plans and ways you can participate in our Redevelopment Project. We challenge you to continue to pray about your involvement.

God has blessed us, He has enlarged our territories and His hands are upon us. We must be willing to go forth to assume greater tasks for Him. It is our prayer that this Redevelopment Project is the God-sized task that we are called to give our lives to.

Let's build God's House at Trinity to His Glory. Happy 45th Anniversary, Trinity!

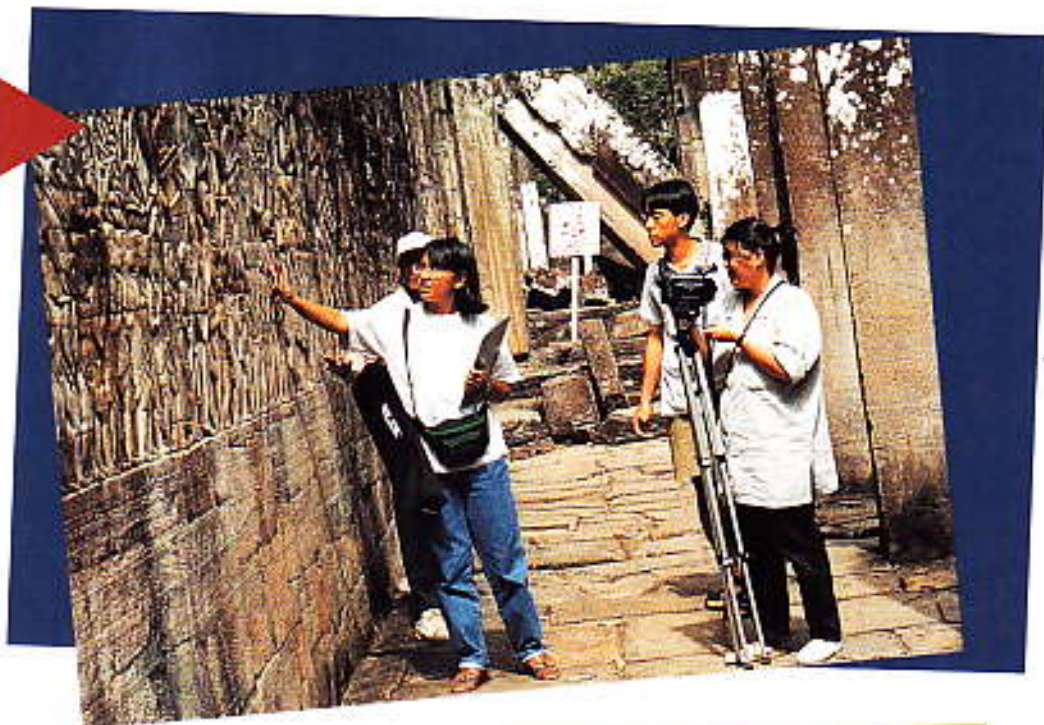
Philip Lim & Foo Fook Heng



Highlights

Missions in Cambodia

Cambodia remains the main missions focus for our church. In 1999, the Audio Visual Team went there in order to capture the country on film. They not only spent time with the various missionaries supported by TMC, but also took pains to try to understand the Khmer culture and people. By doing that, they would then be able to use print and visual media to present the needs in Cambodia so as move the hearts and spirits of TMC members to action.



Car Rally

A Car Rally was held each year for a few years as an avenue for TMC members to bring their non-Christian friends to a fun activity. The turn out may have been small, but all participants always found that they had a great time together, and learnt more about Singapore in the process!

To be a blessing . . . a family camp
The Legend Resort
 Cherating, Kuantan, 2-6 June 2000



Church Camp

The Church Camp continues to be held every other year. It is an occasion for learning, building friendships, and fun during a short, intense time at a holiday resort in Malaysia. At Camp 2000, "To be a blessing..." worship was a special time when children and adults gathered together, to sing as well as express their joy in the Lord.



Christmas Carnival 2000

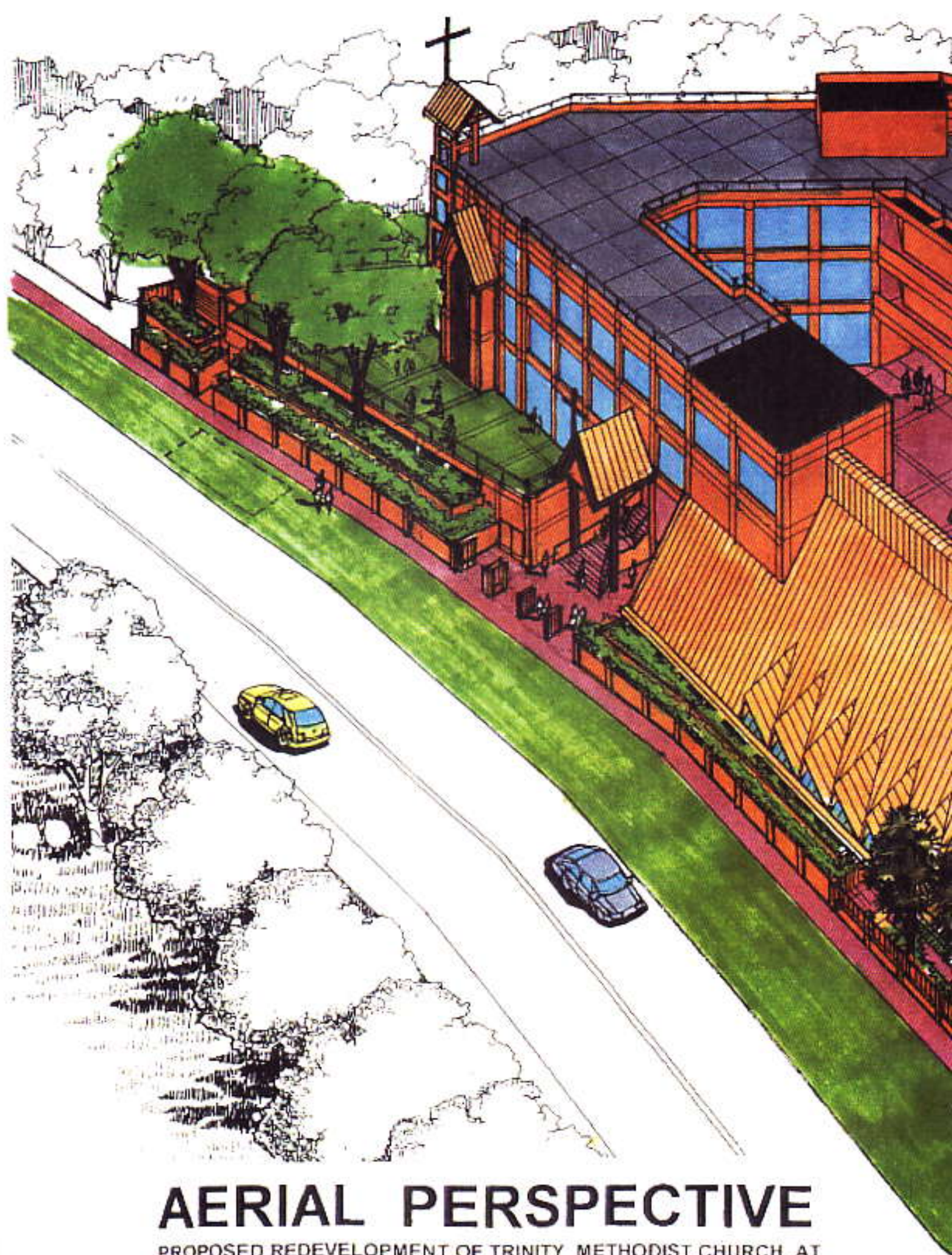
The mood was cheerful, enthusiasm unflagging and atmosphere vibrant. It did not matter that the crowds were not as huge as hoped for, and that it drizzled during the day. Carnival 2000 did not just happen on 24th December, it was the whole church rallying together for the couple of months before that—selling items, preparing games, endless meetings, and lots of praying. A total sum of about \$29,000 was raised and given to 3 charitable organisations.



47th Coy Boys' Brigade and 55th Coy Girls' Brigade

On Sunday, 25 March 2001, 30 Boys were enrolled into the Boys' Brigade 47th Company. Thus the boys became a part of TMC. As a church we are committed to support the company by providing leadership in terms of officers and chaplains, as well as financially. Officers and Girls from the 55th Company were also present at the service, but in practice, their enrolment will be held only one year after they have held their first parade.

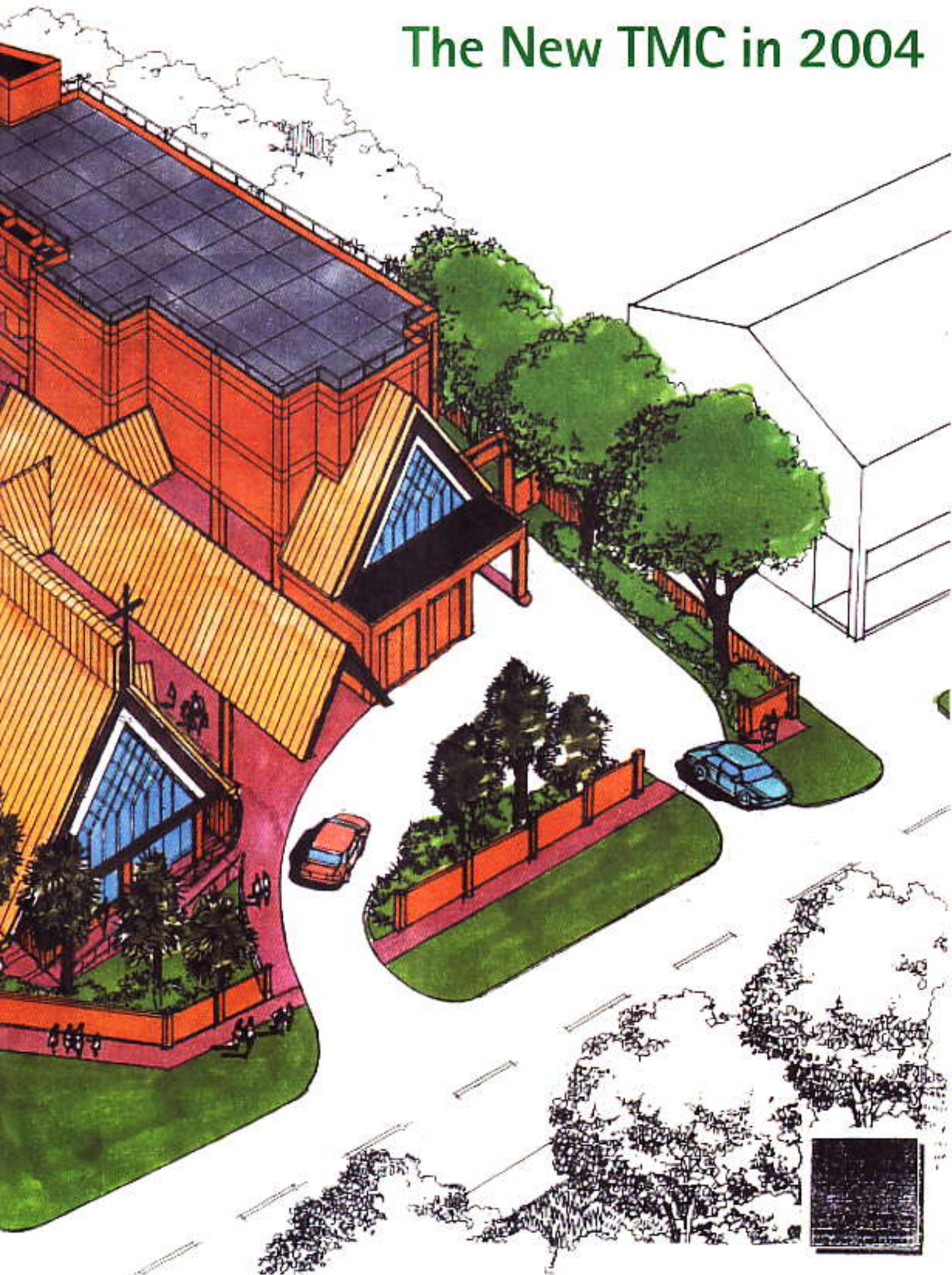




AERIAL PERSPECTIVE

PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH AT
34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY

The New TMC in 2004



Our Growing Church

Everything has stages of growth. Seeds grow into seedlings which grow into trees. Animals are born and grow from young into maturity and old age. So do people. Trinity Methodist Church is also growing. We now are entering into our 4th major stage of growth. What an exciting time to be part of a growing church!

The visionaries who pioneered TMC were bold. They built a beautiful wooden church sanctuary to house a much larger congregation than themselves. At the time, there were some who questioned the wisdom of a seemingly extravagant structure. Undeterred, the pioneers forged on. Thank God for such forward looking predecessors!

The second stage of growth was when the sanctuary was extended and a choir loft added. For a time, music and singing floated down as if from heaven as the choir occupied the elevated platform. Also added was a multi-purpose hall on the third storey which was quickly dubbed "The Upper Room". So appropriate was the name that it has stuck ever since.

The third stage saw TMC's largest project yet. The Trinity Education Centre (TEC) was built to cater to a burgeoning younger population who needed an appropriate place to study God's word. Indeed we have seen the TEC play its part in providing an environment which nurtured many children and youth who are now the adults and leaders of our church.

And here we are. We stand at the threshold of an immense project. Huge in scale for mere mortals, but not for God. The fourth stage sees us tearing down the TEC which sadly, does not meet the needs of our still growing church.



Those of us who drive will gladly agree that the car parking situation on Sundays can be chaotic. Those who attend the 9am service cannot linger to chit chat with newcomers or catch up with old friends. Even those who attend the 11am service are forced to keep a watchful eye out if they are blocking someone, or have parked along the driveway. Once "freed" they rush to move their vehicles out of the way for others who wish to leave. With the new building comes 3 basement car parks. While this does not guarantee that the car park scramble will be eliminated, it nevertheless offers a bright ray of hope that the situation will be improved.

Those of you who attended Sunday School at TEC some time ago will remember the heat and noise from other classes distracting you. Pity the poor teachers then. Imagine what it is like these days with the great increase in students. It is for this reason that we have planned for 15 rooms so that our youth and children will have a conducive learning environment.



Ever since the kindergarten started, they operated on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the TEC. This is certainly less than ideal. In the new building, the Kindy children will have a spacious area at the ground level, complete with child-sized toilets and adjacent playground. What a joy for them!

TMC pastors baptise infants and adults, both by sprinkling and immersion. Thus far, we have always had to go to the sea or a pool outside in order to be baptised by full immersion. That will not be the case in the future. A baptismal pool will be built in the plaza at the ground level. This will surely be a tempting area when the weather turns hot!

The sanctuary, built by our predecessors and best loved of all TMC structures, will remain. Instead, the seating capacity will be increased to accommodate a bigger congregation, as well as for Easter, Christmas or the Church Anniversary services. There will also be a worship hall in the new building to seat 400 people. Imagine the concerts, plays and other events we can hold to reach the unchurched.

The toddler ministry is today confined to a restricted space in the basement. It will remain where it is. However, the space will be greatly expanded to take over the area currently occupied by the resource centre. The resource centre will move upstairs to larger premises on the second level of the new building.

Other ministries such as the WSCS, Seniors Ministry, Choir and AV will have enough rooms for their meetings. Even the roof will be designed to be used as a fitting area to witness sunrise on Easter mornings.

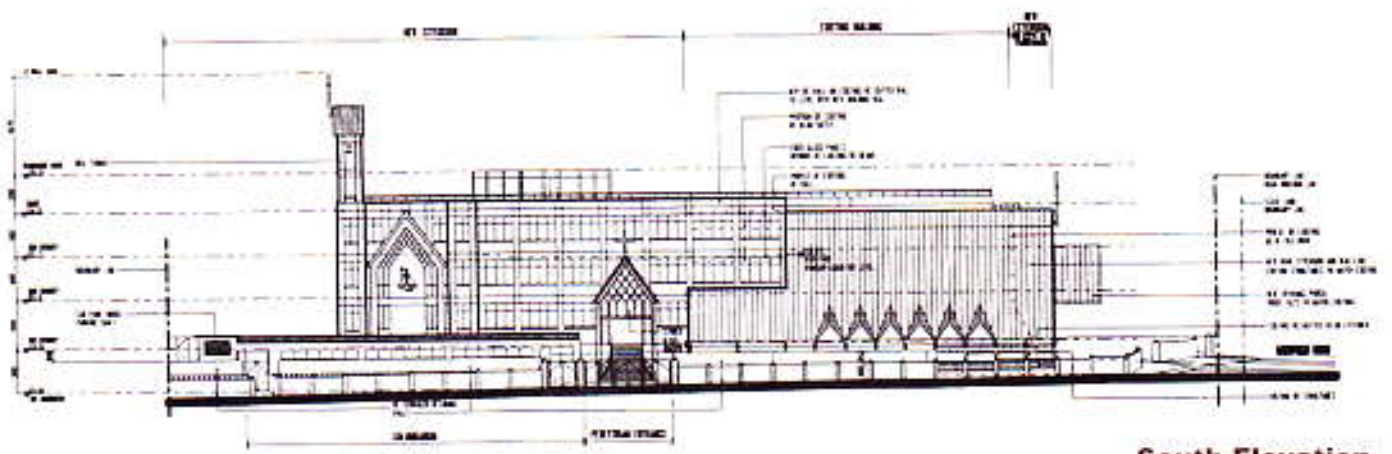


Finally a significant aspect of the new building will be the provision of a columbarium. Those of us desiring a final resting place in a church we know and love will have it. Housing up to 8000 urns, church members will have priority in this place. Let us pray that we secure government approval for this and all the other plans.

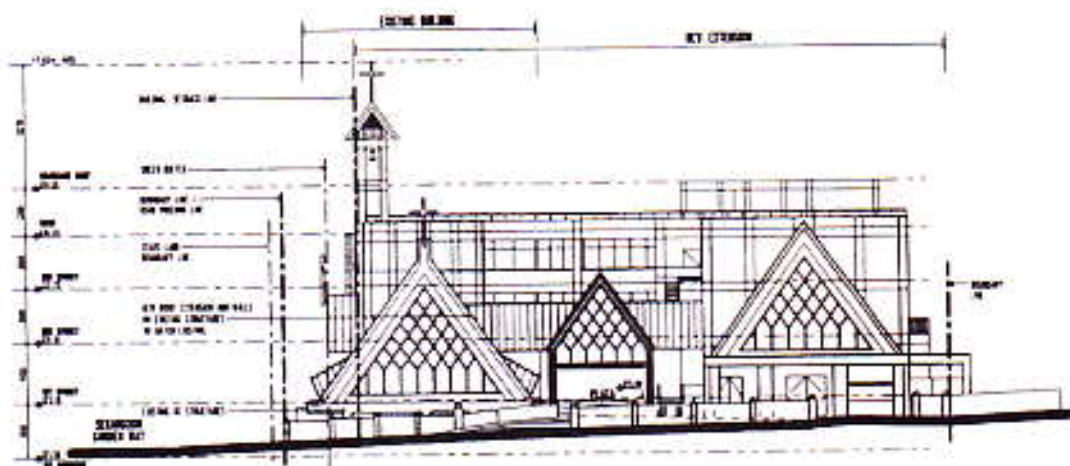
The cost of all this is estimated to be \$12 million. It is a huge sum for man, but not for God. We have truly been blessed with a 999 year lease property. Few churches enjoy this privilege. It is our duty then, to maximise the use of this wonderful gift for God.

Come join us on this adventure. Pray with us and give generously. The Lord is good and His mercy endures forever!

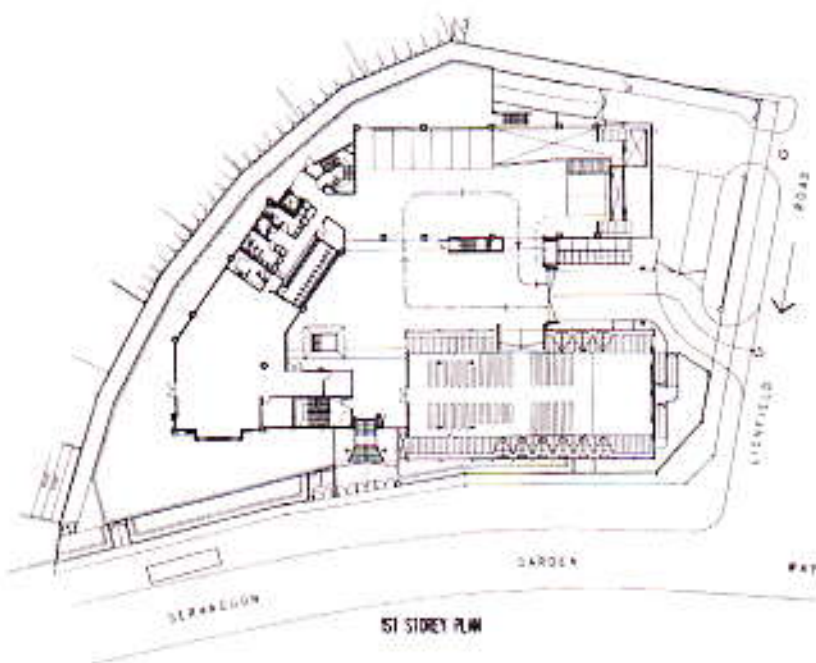
David Gwee
Vice-Chairman, LCEC



South Elevation



East Elevation



2nd STOREY PLAN



3rd STOREY PLAN

Fund Raising Efforts

As soon as fund raising for the redevelopment project was launched in July 2001, church members have responded with enthusiasm and creativity. Many pledged and gave outright donations, food and plants have been on sale, and soon the Resource Centre will be putting some materials for sale. But more than just 'things' it has been the love and effort of members and friends which has characterised the fund raising so far.

As of August 19, 2001, TMC Redevelopment Fund is:-

Pledge	\$ 829,788.00
Lump Sum	\$ 293,260.00
Loan (interest free)	\$ 250,000.00
	\$1,373,048.00

Youth Ministry

On Youth Sunday, the youth came carrying pails and dressed in shorts, ready to raise funds by washing cars. They were not slick professionals, but they did a thorough and enthusiastic job working in pairs in the narrow confines of the car park. Members drove off with a sparkling clean car and a colourful balloon floating gaily from their antennas.



Fund Raising Efforts

Small Groups

On 26 August, Small Group Sunday, two Small Groups teamed up to cook up a small stir. The City Group comprises 9 couples, some of whom already experience the joys of grandparenthood. They decided to bless the family of TMC with their culinary skills, while at the same time, doing their part to raise funds for the church redevelopment.

In fact, several of the group members had individually been involved in the WSCS's weekly sale of breakfast and snacks over the last few months. You've tasted their yam cake, glutinous rice, muffins, sushi, soon kuei etc. and returned for more.

On Small Group Sunday, City Group cooked an economy rice lunch - chap chye, spicy omelette, long beans fried with belachan and dried shrimps and braised pork with mui choy, curry chicken, sweet sour fish, to go with rice or porridge. For those who preferred something lighter, there was soon kuei, yam cake, glutinous rice, bee hoon, mee goreng, mini fruit tarts, fish balls and homemade achar.

The IED (In Excelsis Deo) Group partnered these efforts by providing the labour and logistics support. The IED comprises mainly 5 young couples and several boisterous kids in the extended team. You could see them doing their sales pitches and sweating out as they scooped up plate after plate of the day's sell-out lunch special for hungry members.

So how did this "Economy Rice" project come about? "We wanted to help raise funds as a small group and thought that Small Group Sunday would be the ideal time," said Yip Fook Yoon of City Group. They also thought that it was a good way to fellowship and work with others on a project, hence they combined with IED Small Group. And it was a delicious way to raise funds in a food-loving church.

It was a tiring but fun experience, they said. They started at 5am that morning, cooking, and collecting supplies; and ended with cleaning up way after the lunch crowd had dispersed. "I'm glad we don't do this everyday!" said one member. Maybe, next time they won't be so ambitious. Having said that, the groups are already thinking of their next project!

Thanks, City Group and IED, for your labour of love.

