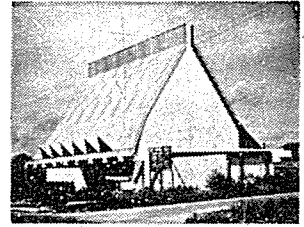


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY
SINGAPORE-19



Pastor—Rev. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

PARSONAGE:

28 CHUAN HOE AVENUE
SINGAPORE 19 ~~PHONE 225333~~
DECEMBER 1972

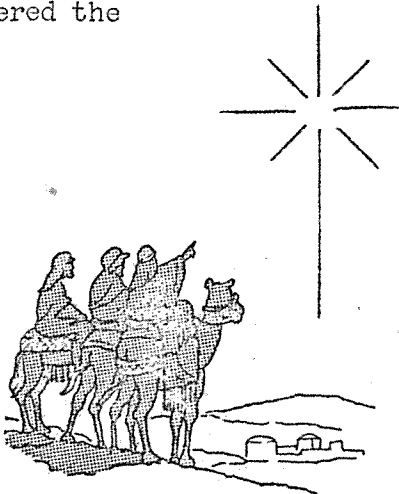
MC (P) 3870

READY FOR CHRISTMAS?

What does it take to be truly ready for Christmas? Is Christmas to be found in reindeer and Santa Claus? Is it a festival of lighted trees and candled windows? Is Christmas merely the joy of giving and receiving gifts - the spirit of friendliness and goodwill?

No, Christmas is not a spirit at all. It is an event in time and place, when God invaded the world with the birth of a babe. For "when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son...." (Gal 4:4).

For the Christian the nativity can never be merely a bit of poetry or the moving drama of ancient folklore. This is the celebration of the way God has come into the world for all men. God in a decisive act entered the world as a man. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...." (John 1:14).



God took centuries to get ready for Christmas. Yet how few were ready for him the night Jesus Christ was born.

The little town of Bethlehem was not ready. The holiday spirit filled the narrow streets to be sure, but because of the decree of Caesar and not the gift of God. The innkeeper in the city of David was not ready. His house was full of important people with gold in their purses,

NEWS OF OUR TRINITY FAMILY

NEW ARRIVAL To Michael and Shirley Ong of 36 Chartwell Drive,
the gift of a son, born on 7 November at Mount Alvernia Hospital

WEDDING BELLS rang across the sea on 28 October for the marriage
of our former student-assistant Ioane Afoa to Miss Vaaalii Seinafo at Richmond Methodist Church, Christchurch, New Zealand. We wish the happy couple all God's blessings for their future life together.

BIRTHDAY WISHES to our Pastor Emeritus, Rev Chew Hock Hin, who was
72 on 29 November

INSTALLATION The new Official Board and the officers of the WSCS
were installed at the morning service on Sunday, 12 November

APPOINTMENTS At the meeting of the Board on 19 November, the following additional appointments were made:-
Chairman, Membership & Evangelism: Madam Susie Gan
Church School Superintendent: Miss Violet Tan
Senior Department: Mr Chan Chong Hick
Junior Department: Miss Evita Lee
Choir Director: Miss Maureen Tan

COMMITTEES FOR 1972-73

Membership & Evangelism Madam Susie Gan (Chairman)
Mrs Patricia Chia Mrs Catherine Pang
Mr Chiang Hai Chew Mrs Koh Chin Peng
Mr Chan Chong Hick Mrs Loh Hui Lan
Miss Khoo Koh Hee Mrs Valmai Ridler
Miss Irene Lim

Christian Education Miss Phyllis Kwok (Chairman)
Miss Violet Tan Mrs Doris Gwee
Miss Violet Khor Mr Chew Chin Jin
Miss Evita Lee Mr Khoo Cheok Sin
Mr Chan Chong Hick

Worship & Music Dr Khor Tong Hong (Chairman)
 Miss Darlene Yip Mr Chew Chin Jin
 Mr Frederick Wong Mrs B.K. Khoo
 Mrs Eileen Smith Mrs Patricia Chia
 Mrs Gloria Lim Madam Susie Gan
 Miss Maureen Tan (Choir Director)

Property - Local Trustees Mr Pang Kia Seng (Chairman)
 Mr Henry Chia Mrs Eunice Tan
 Mr Lai Men Soe Mr Choo Poh Siong

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Mr & Mrs Wong Eng Seng are now living at
 14-A, Leicester Road (12)

THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING will be held on Saturday, 9 December at
 5 p.m. in the home of Mr & Mrs Peter Lai, 34 Lichfield
 Road (19). Come and share this informal fellowship
 and get to know your fellow-members better

THE M.Y.F. MEMBERS are very busy during the school holidays, pre-
 paring for Christmas; building a king-size stable
 for the living Christmas Tableau and practising hard
 for the Carolling Party on Christmas Eve.
 Six of the m will be going to the Methodist Bungalow
 at Frazer's Hill to take part in the Life Service
 Retreat organised by the Conference

POST-H.S.C. STUDENTS, PLEASE TAKE NOTE! What have you planned for
 the period during which you are waiting for results?
 Would you be interested in deepening your understand-
 ing of the Christian Faith and equipping yourself to
 serve the present age?

TRINITY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE invites you to enrol as
 a special student for the January Term (begins 8 Jan.
 and ends 30 March).

Students may choose one or more of the following:
 Old Testament New Testament Social Issues
 Church History Primitive Religions

(Fees: \$10 for first course \$5 for each additional
 course)

Students will live at home and attend College for
 courses, with use of the excellent College Library.

MORE TRINITY NEWS

SONIA WEE writes cheerfully from London, sending Christmas greetings to her friends - especially the former "Fun-'n-Study" Group. She is staying in England for a further year to take a course in Teaching Retarded Children. She is slightly anxious about the effects of a British diet on her silhouette!

A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CHURCH RETREAT at the S.I.A. Bungalow on 8 November was attended by more than fifty church members, representing an excellent cross-section of our membership. The day was spent in eager discussion of the needs and future plans of our church, as we considered what steps are required to make us effective as a congregation and properly equipped as Christian individuals in the world. A full report of the proceedings and recommendations is being prepared, and this will be circulated to all church members for study and discussion - and, of course, action.

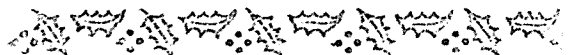
TRINITY CHURCH LEADERS elected to serve the Singapore-Malaya Annual Conference during the quadrennium 1972-74:-

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Mr Andrew Lee | Chairman, Board of Missions & lay alternate, Conference Executive Board |
| Mr Peter Lai | Lay alternate, Board of Finance |

LADIES FROM THE CHOIR sang at the Annual Conference of the W.S.C.S. at Eusoff College on 17 December



In the pure soul, although it sing or pray,
The Christ is born anew from day to day;
The life that knoweth Him shall bide apart
And keep eternal Christmas in the heart



MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

The Combined Choirs
of
Trinity and P aya Lebar Methodist Churches

present

excerpts from

" M E S S I A H "

BY

G. F. Handel

on

Friday 15 December

at

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

at 8 p.m.

&

on

Sunday 17 December


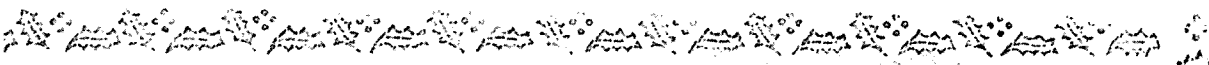
at

PAYA LEBAR METHODIST CHURCH

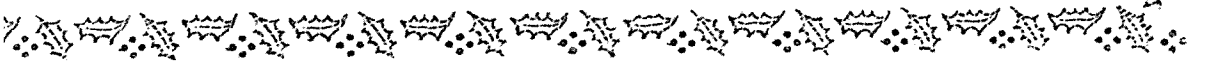
at 5.30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS to all our Trinity Church friends
from:

Rev & Mrs Chew Hock Hin	16 Hillside Drive, 19
Rev & Mrs C.H.Smith & family	28 Chuan Hoe Avenue, 19
Mr & Mrs Robert Cheok	St.Andrew's House, Woodsville 12
Mr & Mrs Chew Chin Jin	24 Alnwick Road, 19
Mr & Mrs Chia Kim Teng & f'ly	21 Kensington Park Road, 19
Mr & Mrs Chiang Hai Chew & f'ly	104A Newton Road, 11
Mr & Mrs Choo Poh Siong & f'ly	60 Walmer Drive, 19
Mr & Mrs Jeffrey Chua	35 Blandford Drive, 19
Miss Choy Yin Loy	2 Raglan Grove, 19
Madam Susie Gan	272 Upper Paya Lebar Road, 19
Mr & Mrs Goh Seng Hock	15 Huddington Avenue, 19
Mr & Mrs Daniel Gwee	111 Tai Keng Garden, 19
Mrs Elsie Hardy & Eunice	48 Serangoon Garden Way, 19
Mr & Mrs Ho Lye Hon	16 Jalan Khamis, 20
Mr & Mrs Ernest Kan & family	133 Neil Road, 2
Mr & Mrs Khoo Eu Kiong	27 Blandford Drive, 19
Miss Khoo Koh Hee	33 Kensington Park Road, 19



Madam Khoo Koh Ho & f'ly	34 Cardiff Grove, 19
Dr & Mrs Khor Tong Hong	68 Chartwell Drive, 19
Miss Violet Khor	22 Braemar Drive, 19
Mr & Mrs Kwan Chee Yew	2 Greenmead Avenue, 11
Mrs Kwok Chee Meng & f'ly	26 Bridport Avenue, 19
Mr & Mrs Lai Men Soe	75 Bridport Avenue, 19
Mr & Mrs Peter Lai Kwok Chiw	34 Lichfield Road, 19
Mr & Mrs Lam Yet Seng	11 Carisbrooke Grove, 19
Mr & Mrs Stanley Lam	30 Conway Grove, 19
Mr & Mrs Andrew Lee & family	26 Lengkok Angsa, 9
Mr & Mrs Francis Lee Cheng Eng & family	97 Serangoon Garden Way, 19
Mr & Mrs Liew En Kin	60 Watten Height, 11
Mr & Mrs Lim Hock Aun	57 Kingswear Avenue, 19
Mr & Mrs Harry Lim & family	10 Cardiff Grove, 19
Mr & Mrs Jolly Low & Julie	3 Borthwick Drive, 19
Mr & Mrs Sydney Lowe & family	122-G Lorong Hong Lee, 19
Mr & Mrs Graham Nicholas	18 Watten Terrace, 11
Mr & Mrs Oh Ban Hock	268-C Bl.167 Lorong 1, T.P., 12
Mr & Mrs Ong Ah Bok & family	65 Jalan Songket, 19



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS to our friends at Trinity from:

Mr & Mrs Ong Hock Kim & f'ly	36 Chartwell Drive, 19
Mr & Mrs Ong Kim Siong & f'ly	4 Gerald Crescent, 28
Mr & Mrs Pang Kia Seng	18 Kasai Road, 28
Mr & Mrs Lawrence Pang & family	23 Burghley Drive, 19
Mr & Mrs Phung Khye Sun	25 Medway Drive, 19
Mr & Mrs Willie Rasiah	3 Fir Avenue, 10
Miss Peggy Sim & Sim Kwang Song	17 Worthing Road, 19
Dr & Mrs Tan Beng Guan & f'ly	32 Penshurst Place, 19
Mr & Mrs Tan Hee Phuan	27 Jalan Insaf, 20
Mr & Mrs Tan Hoay Djin & f'ly	85 Bridport Avenue
Mr & Mrs Tan Keng Hian & f'ly	43 Lengkok Angsa, 9
Mrs Dorothy Tan & Carol-Ann	20 Taman Serangoon, 19
Miss Nancy Tan Mui Ling	8 Simon Lane, 19
Mr & Mrs Tan Khe Tong & family	17 Seraca Road, 28
Mr & Mrs Tan Tiam Guan & f'ly	456A Blk 152 Lor.2 T.P.,12
Mr & Mrs Charlie Tan Yew Eng	28-B Poh Huat Road, 19
Mr & Mrs Tay Soon Hock & f'ly	57 Brockhampton Drive, 19
Mr & Mrs Vincent Teo & family	38 Mayflower Way, 20
Mr & Mrs Tham Yew Kee & family	49 Bloxhome Drive, 19
Mr & Mrs Wee Chye Huat & f'ly	88 Cardiff Grove, 19
Mrs Grace Wee	16, Hillside Drive, 19
Mr & Mrs Wei Chong Seng & f'ly	101 Bridport Avenue, 19
Mr & Mrs Wong Eng Seng	14-A Leicester Road, 19
Mr & Mrs Yip Kam Choong & f'ly	43 Chiselhurst Grove, 19

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.



Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

 METHODIST CONFERENCE NOTES

- THE GENERAL CONFERENCE at its 2nd Session, Singapore, 13-19 November
- + elected Bishop Yap Kim Hao to serve for a further period of four years as Bishop of the Methodist Church
 - + rejected a proposal to reconstitute the Methodist Church into the Methodist Church, Singapore and the Methodist Church Malaysia
 - + referred an application from the Commission of the Laity (Singapore District) for permission to establish a Provisional Annual Conference of SMAC churches in Singapore
 - + appointed, after discussion in closed session, an inter-Conference committee comprising two ministers and two laymen elected by each Annual Conference to "study the restructuring of the Methodist Church in Malaysia & Singapore and present the appropriate structure and legislation at the next session of the General Conference" in 1976
 - + increased lay representation in Annual Conferences (subject to confirmation by Annual Conferences) to allow two representatives from churches with 200 or more members and three representatives from churches with 400 or more members
 - + stipulated that the constitution and bye-laws of any and all organisations in the Church must be approved by the relevant church conference before they can become effective
 - + changed the name of the Official Board to "the Local Church Executive Committee"
 - + rejected a Trinity Church petition suggesting that pastors be appointed for an initial period of 3 years (instead of 1)

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE at Fort Dickson, 24-28 November

- + re-elected Rev Denis Dutton as President, 1972-74
- + approved the proposed amendments to the Constitution forwarded by the General Conference
- + spent one day in "work groups", drafting suggested plans for the quadrennium in the areas of Evangelism, Christian Education, Social Concerns and Mission
- + ordained one elder and one deacon, and accepted five recent Trinity College graduates 'on trial'
- + voted to meet in Singapore next year

 CHURCH DIARY FOR DECEMBER 1972

- 1 Fri. 8.00 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE at Trinity
- 2 Sat. 3.00 p.m. BOYS' BRIGADE PARADE
- 3 SUN. 8.45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
- (1st Adv) 10 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
- 11.30 a.m. COMBINED CHOIR PRACTICE at Paya Lebar M.C.
- 3.30 p.m. M.Y.F. MEETING "Custom, Tradition & Truth"
- 5.30 p.m. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
- 6 Wed. 8.00 p.m. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at 20 Taman Serangoon
- 8 Fri. 8.00 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE at Trinity
- 9 Sat. 3.00 p.m. BOYS' BRIGADE PARADE
- 10 SUN. 8.45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
- (Bible) 10.00 a.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 11.30 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE (Dress Rehearsal) at Paya Lebar
- 12.00 noon Worship Service at Woodbridge Hospital
- 3.30 p.m. M.Y.F. MEETING
- 5.30 p.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 13 Wed. 8.00 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE (Dress Rehearsal) at Trinity
- BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at 20 Taman Serangoon
- 15 Fri. 8.00 p.m. "MESSIAH" sung by Combined Choirs at Trinity
- 16 Sat. 3.00 p.m. JUNIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY
- 7.00 p.m. SENIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY
- 17 SUN. 8.45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
- 10.00 a.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 3.30 p.m. M.Y.F. MEETING
- 5.30 p.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- "MESSIAH" sung by Combined Choirs at Paya Lebar
- 20-23 7-10 p.m. M.Y.F. present LIVING CHRISTMAS TABLEAU
 Trinity Choir sings on 23 December
- 24 SUN. Christmas Eve
- 8.30 a.m. COMBINED SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE
- 10.00 a.m. A SERVICE OF CAROLS
- 12.00 noon CHRISTMAS COMMUNION & CAROLLING at Woodbridge
- 5.30 p.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 25 Mon. Christmas Day
- 10.00 a.m. CHRISTMAS THANKSGIVING SERVICE - The Pastor
- 31 SUN. Services at 10 a.m. & 5.30 p.m.
- 11.00 p.m. WATCHNIGHT COVENANT SERVICE with Holy Communion

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE

pledges received during November totalling \$ 1,222
and special Thankoffering s from the following: -

Mr & Mrs Tan Hee Phuan (\$50) Mrs Wee Huck Lay (\$10) Dr & Mrs
Alan Tay (\$20) Miss Khoo Koh Hee (\$20)

THE PLEDGE TREASURER reports that pledges received for the current
year's expenses now total \$ 17,253. This is a fine result
so far - the highest total ever - but it still falls short
of our target of \$ 18,000 for the year.

It is important that we support God's work at Trinity Church
in such a way that we can continue planning for outreach with
the Gospel and the extension of our premises to provide the
facilities we need for our year's programme.

If you are not yet pledging, or if you have not returned your
Fledge Card, please make this part of your response to God's
great Christmas Gift of his beloved Son.

We do not want to have to make special appeals during the
year. Please help us make this quite unnecessary!

WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM,
Poor as I am ?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him -
GIVE MY HEART.



GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN, over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain,
THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BORN!

so there was, of course, no room for the carpenter of Nazareth and his weary bride. King Herod was not ready. His fearful reign could not tolerate the possibility of even a child who might prove a rival for his throne. The religious leaders of the time were not ready. They longed for a Messiah who would come in kingly glory with the sceptre of David in his hand, but they were too obsessed with rites and ceremonies, with prestige and position, to be concerned about the birth of a child.

"...when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son...." but so few were ready for him.

Only a few simple shepherds watching their flocks on the Judean hills were ready. They, when they heard the glad good news of the angels, hastened to find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Only wise men from afar who dared to follow their star of hope in the faith that it would bring them to the new-born King.

"He came unto his own and his own received him not." No, the world was not ready for Christmas.

Nineteen centuries have gone - nineteen centuries of Christmas - and we must ask if we are any more ready for the coming of God's Son today. We welcome indeed the Christmas season, with its glitter and glow. We are ready for Santa and sleigh bells and candles and gifts. We may even be ready for carols and pageantry and the M.Y.F. tableau and a child in the manger. But are we ready for the Son of God - the Lord of Life?

Now is the time to make ourselves truly ready to receive all that Christ means to us and to our world. Now is the moment to come and adore him, not as a babe but as the Lord of our lives. Now we bring to him our gifts; not gold, frankincense and myrrh, but hearts filled with love and a life dedicated to his service.

To be ready for his coming demands in us the willingness to let his will become our way, his purposes direct our deeds, his life become our hope. Are we ready for Christmas? Has he come too soon? Pray God the world will wait no longer to receive him, Christ the Lord.