

Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY

SINGAPORE-19



Pastor—Rev. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

PARSONAGE:

28 CHUAN HOE AVENUE

SINGAPORE 19 . PHONE: 806339

MC ~~XXX~~ XXXX MC(P) 561/73

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

MAY 1973

NO REFERENCES

A certain church found itself without a minister. In the course of searching, they received this letter from an applicant:

Gentlemen:

I should like to submit my application for your pulpit. I have been considered to be a fair speaker.

As for references, I am handicapped. I have not stayed in one place too long nor taught for too long, and the groups I preached to were really pretty small and they were generally not held in too high regard by many of the town.

As for me, the elders of my last church called me a drunkard and glutton and I am afraid that they disapproved of a large number of my friends.

References are going to be hard to come by. I am not sure that the people who could tell you most about me are the sort of people you want to hear from.

You will want to know what sort of impression I have made in the places where I have been working. In some places we really had to run for we were by no means welcome, several times almost causing riots and certainly upheavels in the 'status quo'. At the last church, leaders got especially mad at me when I called them 'phonies', 'vipers' and hypocrites. I suppose you could say I really didn't get along with the religious leaders in my last town.

Really I can't get any references that you must want. I have been threatened many times. I'm not any good at administration. I can't keep records on things like new members, and all that

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OUR TRINITY FAMILY
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INVITATION TO LUNCH! May 13th. is W.S.C.S. Sunday and you are invited to buy a delicious lunch of home-cooked foods after the 10 a.m. service. Proceeds in aid of the W.S.C.S. Annual Appeal to support two Sengoi women who are going to Lawas for training as Christian Workers.

WELCOME to Elaine Ong Mei Lin, infant daughter of Michael and Gloria. Born 19th. March 1973.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS to Eddie Tang and Eileen Lim who were married at Trinity Church on 9th March 1973 and to Hui Tang and Henry Tan who were married at the Hakka Methodist Church on 31st. March 1973.

The Church choir were happy to be able to sing for one of their fellow members on such an important occasion. We wish both couples all joy and blessing in their life together.

UNIVERSITY EXAMS Radha Nair and Ong Sui Hua were among the successful Arts graduates in the recent university examinations.

THE M.Y.F. arranged a filmshow and social for members and friends on Saturday 28th. April 1973.

HOME AGAIN Mr. Tay Teck Hock who was hospitalised for five weeks following a severe stroke is back home again and continuing to make excellent progress. Thank God!

THE CHURCH CHOIR under the direction of Mrs. Chew Chin Jin sang Peterson's Easter Cantata "NO GREATER LOVE" at the 10 a.m. service on Easter Day. The Church was packed with a deeply appreciative congregation, moved by a worthy performance which contributed greatly to the spirit of the festival. Thank you once again, you talented and faithful choristers!

HOLY WEEK 1973 was celebrated with well attended evening services, a full church for the Maundy Thursday Communion Service and we were packed to the doors on Good Friday and Easter Day. More than 100 members and friends were at the Sunrise Service and shared in the Communion Service which followed.

BROADCAST SERVICE over Radio Singapore on 6th. May 1973 at 6.05 p.m. is conducted by the Pastor.

Rev. Smith will be conducting the Religious Emphasis Week services at the Methodist Boys' School, Kuala Lumpur and preaching at Wesley Church, Kuala Lumpur from 6-9 May 1973.

CLERICAL HELP is now being given to the pastor by Wilfred Richards, four mornings a week.

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WEEKLY MEETINGS AT TRINITY

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REGULAR MEETINGS

SUNDAY	8.45 a.m.	Sunday School and Membership Class.
	10.00 a.m.	Service of Worship.
	3.30 p.m.	Methodist Youth Fellowship.
	5.30 p.m.	Service of Worship.

On the first Sunday of each month we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, morning and evening.

WEDNESDAY 8.00 p.m. Bible Study Fellowships at
20, Taman Serangoon and
28, Chuan Hoe Avenue.

The Taman Serangoon Fellowship is studying parts of I Corinthians. The Manse Fellowship is studying parts of John's Gospel.

A MONTHLY PARISH MEETING normally meets in the home of one of our members on the second Saturday of the month.

THE W.S.C.S. normally meets in one of our homes on the third Saturday.

WOODBIDGE HOSPITAL. A Worship Service is conducted in St. Luke's Church at 12 noon on the second and fourth Sundays of the month.

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Friends across the Sea
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David Tan writes from the Victoria University of Wellington, N.Z., where he is majoring in Public Administration:

"Praise God for His many wonderful ways of solving problems.

Am attending the Wellington Baptist Church right now. The pastor and the church members are all very friendly and God-fearing. Pray that as the days go by, I may be able to contribute more towards the Church.

Have met a good number of staunch Christians. Some of them go tract-distributing on most evenings and groups of young people spread the gospel by singing in public places especially on Friday right where the shops are opened up to mid-night or so.

...I hope the membership of Trinity Church will increase, not only in terms of quantity but also in quality as the days pass by.

Would appreciate if you could send the Church newsletter to my address in N.Z. so as to keep me informed of the activities back home.

My regards and wishes to all members of the Trinity Church - a Church where I have learnt and experienced 'Warm Fellowship.'

David's address: 65, Norway Street, KELBURN, Wellington,
New Zealand.

Chen Meng Sheng who is at the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague wrote recently from East Africa:

"Greetings from steaming hot Mombasa. I've been here in East Africa with the U.N. Development programme Team for the past 31 days. At the end of April, I'll go to Nairobi and then fly back to the Hague. I'll return to Singapore on 1st. July. I sure miss my family and the fellowship of Trinity Church. I went to a nearby Church here last Sunday - it's a Catholic one. I'm trying to locate a Methodist Church. Please convey my best

wishes to all the fine people (especially the Sunday School group and the M.Y.F.) of Trinity, too many to mention. I'll want to be involved in Sunday School teaching again when I return if it is not too fully staffed."

N.B. The Sunday School is not too fully staffed. (Hint!)

Victor Goh Hng Hang is in the Philippines as a full time worker with Campus Crusade for Christ (Address: P.O. Box 51, Quezon City, Philippines). He expects to be back in Singapore at the end of May:

"The schedule is getting heavier as the University term is drawing to an end. We have to bring our ministry to a peak and have to train at least one disciple to take over the work when we leave.

At present our singing team - the Cross Roads are performing here. I really want to thank the Lord for the possibility of having the 2 concerts at U.S.T. This in itself is a crusade. Last Friday and Saturday a total of 2,300 attended the concert out of which a few hundreds prayed to receive Christ including two professors. Early in March I had the opportunity to show a film (evangelistic film) to 1,000 of the students and 266 prayed to receive Christ. I was amazing to see how the Lord opens these doors.

It is my desire that not too long from now I can be really supported fully. This can only come about through Christian friends who love the Lord and would like to invest their money in my ministry.

The main stress in my ministry will be among the students and a bit in Churches. The main purpose will be to "win", "build", and "send" men to help fulfill the great commission.

When I worked among the Chinese in the Philippines the Lord began burdening my heart for Chinese scattered in many countries who are in desperate need of Chinese workers who are well trained. If God will send me to Red China when its door opens I would be ready."

The Outreach Committee is planning to send some regular financial support for Victor's work.

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* CHURCH PROGRAMME - MAY 1973 *
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SPECIAL DATES

- Sunday 6th. May HOLY COMMUNION
10 a.m. Mr. Daniel Tan
(Ass. Pastor - Faith Methodist Church)
5.30 p.m. Mr. Issac Lim
(Ass. Pastor - Kampong Kapor M.C.)
- Thursday 10th. May 5.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting of Singapore
Regional Council of Churches.
(Wesley Church)
- Sunday 13th. May W.S.C.S. SUNDAY
10 a.m. Mrs. Eileen Smith.
5.30 p.m. The Pastor.
Food prepared by W.S.C.S. members will be sold,
to eat or take away, after the 10 a.m. service
in aid of W.S.C.S. projects.
- Thursday 17th. May DISTRICT LAITY CONFERENCE
at R.E.L. Centre, Orange Grove Road.
- Sunday 20th. May 10 a.m. The Pastor.
11.15 a.m. Local Church Executive Committee.
3 p.m. FORUM: "When boy meets girl."
organised by Christian Education Commi-
tee and the Methodist Youth Fellowship.
5.30 p.m. The Pastor.
- Wednesday 23rd. May 8 p.m. Planning Committee meets architect.
- Saturday 26th. May S.O.S. (Samaritans of Singapore) FLAG DAY.
3 p.m. Wedding: Hoo Piew Seng - Rosalind Gan.
Christian Family Life Seminar at Trinity
College.
- Sunday 27th. May 10 a.m. The Pastor
12 noon Worship service at Woodbridge Hospital
5.30 p.m. Mr. Lam Yet Seng.
Christian Family Life Seminar continues.

FIFTH ASSEMBLY OF THE EAST ASIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

The EACC is comprised of churches in fifteen countries in the region reaching from Pakistan to Japan and to New Zealand. They are churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and they seek to fulfill their common calling to the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. National Councils or similar bodies which belong also are bound by this confession.

The Fifth Assembly will be held in Singapore from 6th. to 12th. June, 1973,

Appropriately themed, "CHRISTIAN ACTION IN THE ASIAN STRUGGLE", the Assembly will feature a keynote address by Dr. M.M.Thomas, Director, Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society (CISRS) of India and three Niles Memorial lectures which will set forth the possibilities of Christian action in the Asian struggle for justice, liberation and development. The presentation of sub-themes will bring to the Assembly for consideration, thrusts and priorities of Christian action programmes for the next 4 years.

COULD YOU BE A HOST TO DELEGATES?

The EACC Assembly Organising Committee hope that visiting delegates (250-300 of them) will be able to share on Singapore Christian hospitality on Sunday 10th. June.

Hosts/hostesses would fetch 2(or more) delegates from the Sea View Hotel and take them for morning worship to a church where the delegate is preaching, or to the host's church, provide them with lunch, take them to a few places of interest, if possible, and return them to the hotel by 4 p.m. at the latest.

We think that this is a wonderful opportunity for you to meet some of the Christian Leaders of East Asia.

Please speak to, or ring 806339, the pastor as soon as possible.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Valuable camera prizes are offered for photographs on the theme "Struggle in Asia" which will be exhibited at the EACC Assembly. Closing Date for entries: June 1st. 1973.

Details are set out on the Church Notice Board.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

"THE METHODIST MESSAGE" in its new format costs 20 cents per copy and is a "must" for those who want to keep in touch with what is going on in the wider Church. Please sign the form on the Church notice board if you wish us to order you a regular copy at \$2/= per year. THAT'S CHEAP!

BIBLE BREAKFASTS as being organised by the Chinese Y.M.C.A. each Wednesday morning at 8 a.m. Breakfast costs \$1/= per person. The programme ends in time for you to get to the office from Palmer Road.

DISTRICT LAITY CONFERENCE

at Regional English Language Centre, Orange Grove Road.
on Thursday 17th. May 1973 (Wesak Day).
from 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Theme: ROLE OF LAITY IN THE SINGAPORE CHURCH TODAY

Please speak to the Pastor or the Lay Leader (Mr. Daniel Gwee) if you would like to be one of the Church representatives.

SEMINAR ON CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

organised by Board of Christian Education and led by Dr. Nalla Tan (Chairman, Christian Family Life Committee, World Methodist Council).

Saturday and Sunday 26 - 27 May
and 16 - 17 June

at the Trinity Theological College.

Aim: To give Christian parents, teachers, pastors and church related workers a chance to understand some of the more pressing problems of Christian Family Life in a rapidly changing society, and to help them establish some guidelines towards their solution.

Further details and registration forms from the Pastor.

SINGAPORE KESWICK CONVENTION

at the National Theatre, from June 16-23 1973.

CHRISTIAN SONG-WRITING COMPETITION

organised by the Board on Worship and Music.

1. Open to all. Competitors may submit more than one entry, which must be their own original and hitherto unpublished work.

2. Words and Music of these Christian Songs must be indigenous and reflect the values of the cultural life in this region (broadly taken) today.
3. Music must be made in standard musical notation. Harmony is optional, but the melody and rhythm must be clearly indicated. It will be helpful if competitors suggest guitar chords and/or piano accompaniment, and also syllabification of words to fit in with music written.
4. All entries must be submitted to the S.M.A.C. Board on Worship and Music, c/o Wesley Methodist Church, 2 Jalan Wesley, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Closing date of the competition will be May 31st. 1973. The results will be made known through the Methodist Message.
5. All materials submitted will become the property of the S.M.A.C. Board of Worship and Music.

PRIZES: 1st. \$100 or equivalent in books
2nd. \$50 or equivalent in books
3rd. \$25 or equivalent in books
Certificates of Merit will be awarded to the next 5 in order.

THE JOINT CRUSADE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

of the Methodist Church in West Malaysia and Singapore offers:-

1. Limited full-scholarship loans up to 1,500/- for students who are pursuing the first University degree at a University in West Malaysia or Singapore.
Closing date: May 19th. 1973.
2. Tuition-Scholarship for undergraduate studies in theology in West Malaysia or Singapore or within the region.
3. Limited full-scholarships for graduate/post graduate studies in West Malaysia or Singapore or within the region.
4. Limited Scholarships for non-formal training: (seminar, in-service training, etc.)

Application forms available from the Chairman, 121 Lahat Road, Ipoh, Perak, West Malaysia.

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THE CHURCH IN MISSION - Near and Far
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TOA PAYOH METHODIST CHURCH PROJECT

Because of rainy weather and the recent shortage of building materials the building work could not be completed by Easter as promised by the contractor. However the construction work is progressing smoothly and steadily and it is hoped that the Dedication Service can be conducted on 22nd. June, 1973, the very day the tender was submitted two years ago. We are glad to inform you that today, the total amount pledged is slightly more than \$1,000,000/-.

Two full time workers are carrying out Christian out-reach programmes in Toa Payoh; and the monthly expenses including their salaries and C.P.F. come to some \$1,500/-. The S.M.A.C. Churches in the Singapore District have pledged to bear one half of the financial responsibility for 1973 Conference Year.

Although the Executive Committee of the MCTPPC had decided to close the Building Fund Account, it is hoped that donors will continue to support the project by giving generously towards the General Fund or the Endowment Fund for carrying out the programmes and activities in Toa Payoh.

The new church hopes that members of other Methodist congregations who are resident in Toa Payoh will be associating themselves actively with the witness and programme of the Toa Payoh Methodist Church for a period of one year. At the end of this term of service, they would then be free to decide whether to transfer membership to the new church or to remain within the fellowship of their original congregation. Any Trinity missionary volunteers?

AMONG THE SENGOI VILLAGES

Extracts from a letter just received from Bah War, a Christian Sengoi boy who is at present under training at the MIRI Bible College.

"Thank you for the encouraging news, concerning the training course for Sengoi lay leaders at Kampar. I never thought that this training would be carried out even now, because Dr. & Mrs. Means had gone home and no one would be able to lead the meetings and the training course. However, I kept thinking about the matter, asking the Lord to choose the right person to work for His people.

So, a few days ago when I received your letter saying that Bah Rahu has come back to serve the Lord, my heart was filled with JOY. Why? Because I acknowledge that God has chosen him to work among his own people and this might give greater encouragement to those Sengoi Workers and church members because they now have such an able man to lead them to God. So let us pray for him and that he may carry out the work not by his own will and ability, but of God's knowledge and understanding. I believe that work often fails, if one tries to do with only his/her own understanding and knowledge. We as children of God should learn to be obedient to His word and help those who are in need.

...About my present situation, well, I should say there is no problem except a shortage of finance. I need various things, especially books beside my clothing. For one year, I haven't bought any clothing except the year before last when I had made only one pair of trousers and that is all.

...For the last two terms, I really praised the Lord that He has provided enough money to pay for my food expences etc. The Lord has provided me an opportunity to work at "Tractors Malaysia Berhad", Miri where I worked for 3 weeks and that was how I was able to pay for my food expenses."

Yours Sincerely, Bah War.

GIVE GENEROUSLY ON 26TH. MAY 1973. IT IS THE S.O.S.(SAMARITANS OF SINGAPORE)

FLAG DAY

.Have You Ever Wondered As To What

Happens

"WHEN BOY MEETS GIRL"

do not miss the forum on SUNDAY 20TH. MAY AT 3 P.M.

never really interested me. I didn't even keep any record of healing or baptisms or anything like that. I know I wouldn't be interested in administration. Really, you know, I suppose I don't have too much to recommend me for your pulpit, but if you could use me you might consider me.

(Signed) JESUS OF NAZARETH

(From The Texas Methodist)

THANK YOU, CHRISTIAN FRIENDS

Rev. and Mrs. Richard Ong write:

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank many of our friends all over the world who have faithfully prayed for Richard during his illness and we are thankful to God for his faithfulness in answering their prayers. We would also like to thank many Methodist Churches, groups and individuals, both Methodists and non-Methodists, that have so generously contributed to a medical fund that has helped defray much of the medical expenses incurred during Richard's illness. Many friends have sent flowers and get-well cards and other gifts which we would like to acknowledge at this time and we would like to say "THANK YOU" and may God continue to bless you for your genuine Christian concern.

We have learned in the past few months through our suffering and hardship that if we trust in God and turn to Him in our moments of weakness and insufficiency, He is just and merciful in meeting our needs. We have also learned under the circumstances to trust in Him completely that He will provide, one day at a time, our needs as we turn to Him. We also learn to thank and praise Him even in our suffering, because we know that everything that happens to us is a part of His greater plan for our lives. We do not know what the future holds and so we commit ourselves into His keeping."