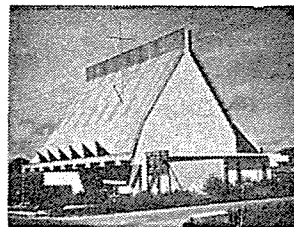


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY
SINGAPORE-19



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PASTOR'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 1973

MISSING THE POINT

A recent editorial in the 'Sunday Times' commenting on a speech by one of our political leaders, quoted the words of Jesus (Mark 12:17):

'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's.'

Unfortunately, the words were used to support the argument that religion and politics belong to two different spheres, and that each should allow the other to go its own way.

This is certainly an argument which has been used at different times of Church's history, but surely it misses the central point of Christ's reply. He is not suggesting that God has authority over one part of the world or one area of human life, while Caesar has authority over another part. There is no way of dividing human life and saying: "This is Caesar's; this is God's." When once we affirm "There is no God but God", we are saying "All life is answerable to him." And therefore "what is Caesar's" is also God's. "You would have no authority over me," says Jesus to Pontius Pilate, "if it had not been given to you from on high" (John 19:11).

The authority of the State is God-given - but not absolute. Political power must be responsible power - answerable to the God who gives it. Equally, the exercise of our citizenship must be responsible. We must acknowledge the authority God has given to the State for the maintenance and ordering of society - and individuals, no less than governments, are responsible for the ways in which they exercise the political powers they have been

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FAMILY NEWS
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NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Mr. & Mrs. Ong Thiam Kok, 12, Lorong 5, Realty Park (19) on transfer from Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church and Dr. Ng Yew Kwok, 72, Butterfly Avenue (13) on transfer from Cantonese Kum Yan Methodist Church.

WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome David Smith and Melvin Tan who will be holidaying here with their families during the Summer Vacation. Also Mr. Peter Lai, back again after nine weeks of study in the U.S: and from Europe Mrs. Patricia Chia and Miss Kwok Syn Wun.

SWIMMING COLOURS AWARD

Miss Janet Koh Puay Hoon, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Koh Chin Peng was awarded the Singapore Primary Schools' Sports Council Colours award in Swimming.

WE EXPRESS OUR DEEP SYMPATHY to Dr. & Mrs. Khor Tong Hong at the passing of Dr. Khor's mother, Mrs. Khor Choo Eong, on 25th July.

THE TRINITY Choir and the M.Y.F. Singers will be amongst the choirs and groups leading the singing at the Toa Payoh Gospel Rally, 20-26 August.

WE ARE GLAD that Madam Khor Peck Hoon is back in action again, following surgery at Mount Alvernia Hospital.

MRS. M. E. WINCHESTER who worshipped with us last year, sends her greetings to Trinity friends from back home in New Zealand, where her husband is posted miles away from the nearest Methodist Church.

MISS HO LEK CHENG writes with frozen fingers from the beautiful, but bitterly cold countryside outside Aberdeen, Scotland.

MISSIONS SUNDAY will be observed at Trinity on August 12th, with Mr. Andrew Lee, Chairman of the S.M.A.C. Board of Missions as the special preacher.

WE EXTEND OUR CONGRATULATIONS to our Bishop Yap Kim Hao on his election to the office of General Secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia.

 * M. Y. F. *
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NEWS

Membership of M.Y.F. Mr. Gan Boon Wah an official of the Trinity M.Y.F. recently mentioned that, "the overall attendance at M.Y.F. Meetings have increased, but even then only a third of the total membership comes regularly. May I use this opportunity to urge the M.Y.F'ers who have absented themselves 'regularly' to come back to the fellowship".

M.Y.F. Week. Trinity M.Y.F. Week will be held during the holidays from the 1st. to the 7th. of September 1973. Your support and prayers will be an inspiration to our youth.

Activities. Every Saturday at 3 p.m. the M.Y.F. Singers have their Choir practice.
 Saturday at 4.30 p.m. Bible Study.
 One Saturday a month at 7.30 p.m. Organised Games.
 Sundays at 3 p.m. M.Y.F. regular meetings.

PRECIOUS THOUGHTS FROM OUR YOUTH - Quotes from 'The Link'

On Witnessing. "We have to be very cautious and perceptive in witnessing. We cannot assume a 'tidak apa' attitude or make suppositions on the basis of external appearances only. In witnessing, we have to be sure of Christ, sure of ourselves, let us pray for confidence and perseverance". (Patricia Yap)

On God's Will. "One cannot expect God's will to be revealed to him if he doubts God's power, grace and love. It must be an absolute and implicit trust". (Jade Chow)

On Fellowship with Christ. "I know I haven't always allowed him in but the few times I did, I've never regretted. Thank God".
 (Irene Lim)

On God's Love. "Like a lost sheep I was found by my Good Shepherd..... I really don't know how God works but I believed that He wanted me back and He went out of His way to find me".
 (Catherine Lim)

On Kindness. "Kindness begins in the heart, slowly grows until it fills your whole system and becomes a second nature - ever experienced it?" (Patricia Yap)

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CHURCH CALENDAR FOR AUGUST
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- 1 Wed. 8.00 p.m. Bible Study Fellowship
3 Fri. 8.00 p.m. DISTRICT COMMISSION ON SOCIAL CONCERNS at Wesley Church
Choir Practice
- 5 SUN. 8.45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00 a.m. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
3.30 p.m. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30 p.m. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
- 8 Wed. 8.00 p.m. Bible Study Fellowship
9 THU. NATIONAL DAY
10 Fri. 8.00 p.m. Choir Practice
11 Sat. 2.30 p.m. DISTRICT COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM
"Counsellors Get-Together" at Toa Payoh Methodist Church, Lorong 2
Parish Meeting-16, Seletar Court (28)
- 12 SUN. MISSIONS SUNDAY & ANN. OF AUTONOMOUS METHODIST CHURCH
10.00 a.m. Mr. Andrew Lee
12.00 noon WORSHIP SERVICE AT WOODBRIDGE HOSPITAL
3.30 p.m. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30 p.m. The Pastor.
- 15 Wed. 8.00 p.m. Bible Study Fellowship
17 Fri. 8.00 p.m. Choir Practice
18 Sat. W.S.C.S. Meeting
19 SUN. M.Y.F. SUNDAY
10.00 a.m. M.Y.F. in charge
11.15 a.m. MEETING OF LOCAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
5.30 p.m. The Pastor
- 20 Mon - 26 Sat. TOA PAYOH GOSPEL RALLY
Evangelist: Dr. G.D. James
- 25 Fri. 8.00 p.m. Choir Practice
26 SUN. 10.00 a.m. WORSHIP SERVICE
12.00 noon WORSHIP SERVICE AT WOODBRIDGE HOSPITAL
5.30 p.m. Mr. Lam Yet Seng

NOW
18TH!

The Smith family will be away on holiday from Tuesday 21st August until 5th September. Anyone in urgent need of pastoral assistance is asked to get in touch with Dr. George Wan, at Paya Lebar Methodist Church (Tel: 887719).

SINGAPORE DISTRICT COMMISSION ON LAITY is conducting a Lay Training
ing Study Group on the theme: "THE CHURCH SHALL LIVE" at Wesley
Church on Monday at 8 p.m.

6 August: "Action must Last"

13 August: "Holy Wordliness"

10A PAYOH METHODIST CHURCH

G O S P E L R A L L Y
20 - 26 August 1973

Evangelist: Dr. G.D. James

Volunteers to act as visitors and
counsellors are urgently needed.

Please tell Pastor you can help.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMME

DO KEEP THESE DATES FREE :

Anniversary Buffet Dinner & Musical Evening

venue: Church Compound .. date: Friday 14.9.73

times: 7.30 p.m.Dinner

9.00 p.m. Musical Evening (in the Church)

price: \$8/- per working adult

\$4/- per student

Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, 16th September, 1973 at 10.00 a.m.

Anniversary Food Fair

Sunday, 16th September, 1973 from 11.30 a.m. till 1.00 p.m.

We hope to find you, your family and friends celebrating this very
important occasion with us.

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

Serangoon Garden Estate will celebrate National Day with a dinner
and Cultural Show on the 11th & 12th August at the Serangoon Garden
Taxi Stand.

Our Youth from the M.Y.F. will be contributing an item for the two
day Cultural Show.

METHODIST CHURCH TOA PAYOH PROJECT

A Message from the District Superintendent - Rev. T.C. Nga

Exactly two years ago, we submitted our tender for the piece of land 63,055 square feet at \$320,000/-; and we were happy to get the land per the tendered price. On the 9th August, 1971, a meeting was held in the Board Room of Faith Methodist Church to get ourselves organised into the Methodist Church Toa Payoh Project Committee to do the Project.

Immediately after the Meeting, all efforts were put in to raise the necessary fund as well as to get the building plans ready for the construction of a church complex. We thank God for His rich blessing upon the Project. In spite of all sorts of problems, we were able to get the plans approved with all the listed amenities and facilities; and we were able to secure the required fund to do the Project.

Today, we can see the building almost completed testifying to the faithfulness of God and also to His own glory. We have received some \$900,000/- solid cash from local sources only, excluding gifts and donations from outside. We trust that when the Project is completed by the end of July, 1973, all the pledges will be fully honoured. In fact, many churches in Singapore, have gone beyond their pledges: some by \$5,000; \$10,000; and even \$20,000. Therefore we have the confidence that the \$1,000,000/- can be raised locally for the Project.

We are glad to share with you the plans made by the Commission on Evangelism to hold a series of Gospel Rallies on August 20 through 26, 1973, and a week-long Toa Payoh Children's Health Campaign organised by the Singapore District W.S.C.S. jointly. May we request you to pray for the Project, particularly its activities and programmes in the days ahead.

The official opening and the dedication service will have to be postponed until a local Congregation is formed to play host. The worshippers at the Methodist Church Centre at Lorong 7 are very anxious to join force with the Methodist Church Toa Payoh Project Committee to establish a strong Toa Payoh Methodist Church Congregation; and we thank God for their wonderful spirit. At present two full time pastors are engaged by the MCTPPC to carry out the Christian activities and programmes in Toa Payoh; and they need your prayers and support.

Lastly, may we request you to continue your support for the Project until the local Congregation is established and strong enough to take over full responsibilities of the Church in Toa Payoh. Thank you.
May God continue to bless you and keep you.

TO SET YOU THINKING

"What will happen if we plan our evangelism project according to the insights we have now gained?"
'Frankly, it may be that many among your present church-membership will leave the Church and that a few who are now completely outside the Church will join you'. 'You mean to say that as a result of this project we may in the end actually be fewer!' This was the end of a conversation about evangelism....Numbers and growth are important in God's arithmetic: not necessarily large and increasing numbers, but representative numbers and growth in grace....The key question is not how the churches can grow numerically, but how they can grow in grace and so become God's representative number." (Hans-Ruedi Weber)

"The love of the church-community means that we ought to take one another on for better or for worse, for always. And a member who continues long in sickness or disability will test the Church to the uttermost. To undertake intercession for a sick man may mean we have to see the family through a difficult time. We may have to see the man's widow and children through their adjustment to life after his death - not just spiritually, but materially too. Every member of the congregation will be the better or the worse for accepting or refusing responsibility. Intercession will not merely demand this of us, but will do this to us." (Michael Wilson)

CHINESE Y.M.C.A. ANGLING CLUB

All those interested in fishing are invited to join the Chinese Y.M.C.A. Angling Club which aims at bringing you interesting activity at the ponds and in the deep sea and also to provide meaningful outdoor recreation and wholesome fellowship. For further information please contact the Chinese Y.M.C.A. Camping Department, telephone number 984681.

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given. In short, nobody can affirm, "The whole of my life is subject to God's will and purpose - except that part in which I have to fulfil my obligations as a citizen." What is Caesar's is also God's!

Lord Acton, the great historian, wrote of this cryptic saying of Jesus: "Those words ... gave to the civil power, under the protection of conscience, a sacredness it had never enjoyed and bounds it had never acknowledged, and they were the repudiation of absolutism and the inauguration of freedom." At one and the same time, they assert the rights of the state and the total claim of God.

We cannot compartmentalise our lives in the way so often suggested. "Religion" is not, for the Christian, part of his life but the whole of it. Christ did not come that we might have religion and have it more abundantly! - though, alas, we sometimes behave as though we thought this was what he had said. Let us then, as National Day approaches, dedicate ourselves as Christian Citizens to the great task of fulfilling God's plan for Singapore society, working with the government to create a free, just, disciplined community in which all shall have equal opportunity, all shall have their basic needs satisfied, and all shall live together and work together in harmony and peace.

ABOUT THE ANNIVERSARY

We are grateful to our hardworking Anniversary Committee for the way in which they are preparing for our 16th Anniversary, and enclose an appeal letter from them asking members and friends to subscribe for a 'brick' towards our proposed church extension plans.

At the Anniversary Dinner itself, we hope to be able to present complete architect's plans for the project and to launch a full-scale Fund Raising Drive to finance it. A Church Extension Appeal Committee is being formed to plan and spear-head this, but it will need the strenuous and dedicated efforts of all of us to make our dreams come true.