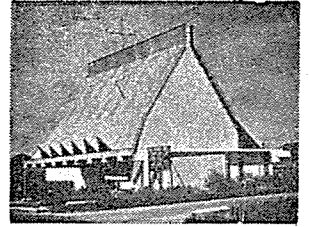


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY
SINGAPORE-19



Pastor—Rev. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

PARSONAGE:

28 CHUAN HOE AVENUE
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MC (P) 561/73

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 1973

REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR

We have a fine group of leaders at Trinity Church, and their reports indicate how much thought and effort and dedication have been given to the life of the congregation. I want to begin, therefore, by expressing my deep appreciation and admiration to these devoted people and to say how much the church owes to them.

Looking back, however, at the plans reported to the First Local Conference, I am aware of the limited progress we have made towards our year's objectives. We suggested three main thrusts:-

1. to bring into membership those who are resident in our parish and already worship with us regularly
2. to foster deeper fellowship among us through the establishment of groups or cells
3. to develop increased Christian growth through an improved education programme.

It must be reported that, in spite of strenuous efforts, especially by our energetic Lay Leader Daniel Gwee, the group idea has not yet got off the ground. This is still an important priority, and perhaps we need to re-think our strategy and begin to train leaders rather than to gather groups - believing that we have those willing to accept local leadership for gathering and guiding such groups, if they were shown how.

All those who, although not our members, attend our services regularly were approached during the year to transfer their membership. Some did so, and we are glad to have them within our company of commitment, but there are others who, for a variety

OUR TRINITY FAMILY

ADULT BAPTISMS On 7 October 1973 by Rev. Chew Hock Hin,
WONG Tien Choh of 40, Cecil Street (1) and on
26 October 1973, by Rev. C. H. Smith, LIM Eng Hoe, at his home,
141-D, Devonshire Road (9)

CALLED HOME Mr LIM Eng Hoe, after a short illness, on 30 Oct-
ober. We express our sincere sympathy to Mrs Lim
and the bereaved family.

AMONG OUR KNOWN SICK are Mrs LEE Poh Lin, home again after surgery
at K.K. Hospital. Mrs B. K. KHOO and Mr ONG Seng
Geok are also recuperating at home after spells in hospital. We
are praying for you.

HOME AGAIN are Mr & Mrs CHEN Meng Sheng of 65, Chartwell Drive
after a year of study in Holland

CHANGE OF ADDRESS Miss Helen TIO, 348-E, Kim Keat Avenue Blk 195
TO SERVE THE DISTRICT At the District Conference on 27 October,
Mr Daniel GWEE was elected Associate District Lay
Leader, Mr Peter LAI elected one of the two District Stewards to
administer the District Fund, & Mr Andrew LEE was elected to the
District Nominations Committee

M.Y. FERS under the leadership of LEE Park Ming have trans-
formed the appearance and useability of the church
office, on their own initiative. Many thanks!

W.S.C.S. FILM SHOW The WSCS presented the film 'The Bible' on
Saturday 27 October, and raised money for their
three projects; Asia Christian Service in Vietnam & Laos; drought
victims in Maharashtra, India; and the Trinity Theological Coll-
ege Foundation Fund

MONTHLY PARISH MEETING on Saturday 10 November will take the form
of a home dedication at the new home of Mr & Mrs
LAI Men Soe, 77 Lorong Pisang Emas (21). Please meet at the church
at 4.30 p.m.

PLEDGE CARDS may be obtained at the church, any Sunday, by
those who still want to give regularly to support
our work. Our target of \$18,000 still lies ahead of us!

LOCAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (formerly Official Board) 1973-74

LAY LEADER:	Mr Daniel Gwee	DIST. STEWARD	Mr Peter Lai
TREASURER	Mr Tan Keng Hian	RESERVE -do-	Mr Francis Lee
PLEDGE TREAS.	Mr Choo Poh Siong		

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT	Miss Violet Tan
CHAIRMAN, STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE	Mr Peter Lai
CHAIRMAN, MEMBERSHIP & EVANG'M	Mrs Patricia Chia
CHAIRMAN, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	Mr Chan Chong Hiok
CHAIRMAN, OUTREACH	Mr Andrew Lee
CHAIRMAN, WORSHIP & MUSIC	Dr Khor Tong Hong
CHAIRMAN, PROPERTY	Mr Pang Kia Seng
W.S.C.S. PRESIDENT	Mrs Catherine Pang
M.Y.F. PRESIDENT	Mr Roland Chew

LAY MEMBER OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE	Mr Daniel Gwee
	Mr Peter Lai
RESERVE LAY MEMBER	Dr Khor Tong Hong

ELECTIVE STEWARDS:

Miss Violet Khor	Mr Chiang Hai Chew
Mrs Lee Poh Lin	Mr Chew Chin Jin
Mrs Dorothy Tan	Mr Lee Teck Hock
Mrs Grace Wee	Mr Wong Chiang Kwang
Miss Linda Kan	Mr Francis Lee
Miss Phyllis Kwok Syn Han	Mr Vincent Teo
Miss Sonia Wee	Mr Willie Rasiah
Mr Henry Chia	Mr Lee Park Ming

In token of our love and gratitude for many years of devoted service and leadership, and in the hope that he will continue to serve Trinity Methodist Church for many years to come, the Local Conference also made the following election:-

HONORARY STEWARD Mr. Lam Yet Seng

M.Y.F. COUNCIL FOR 1973-74

PRESIDENT	Mr Roland Chew	VICE-PRESIDENT	Mr Paul George
SECRETARY	Miss Irene Lim	TREASURER	Mr Stephen Tan

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

- 2 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 4 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - The Pastor
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - The Pastor
- 7 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 9 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 10 Sat. 4.30 P.M. MONTHLY PARISH MEETING at the home of Mr & Mrs
Lai Men Soe, 77 Lorong Pisang Emas (21).
Transport leaves church at 4.30 p.m.
- 11 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL. NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS starts
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP (Trinity College Sunday)
- Preacher: Mr Isaac Lim (Kampung Kapor MC)
11.15 A.M. LOCAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meets in basement
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
- 14 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 16 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 18 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
- 19 Mon. 9.00 A.M. 6TH SESSION, SINGAPORE-MALAYSIA ANNUAL CONF-
ERENCE opens at Toa Payoh Methodist Church
- 21 Wed. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP will not meet today.
- 22 Thu. 6TH SESSION, S.M.A.C. closes
- 23 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 25 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
12.00 NOON Holy Communion Service at Woodbridge Hospital
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Lam Yet Seng
- 28 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse

 WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE

We are grateful to all those who have returned Pledge Cards for the support of the work of our church during the coming year, and to those who have made special gifts during October:-

Mrs Tan Kim Tee, Miss Linda Fang, Mr Chew Chin Bee (in loving memory of his wife, Chew Yang Tze Kin), Miss P. Baruch, Mr & Mrs P.S.Choo, Dr & Mrs Alan Tay, Mr Wong Tien Choh, Mr & Mrs W. Henley, Mrs Chew Hock Hin, and two Anonymous givers.

We have received a cheque for \$500 towards the Church Extension Fund from Mr Ng Cheng Guan, and other gifts for the same purpose from Mr & Mrs E.Samuel, and an anonymous donor. Many thanks for these valued expressions of support and interest in the future!

 WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SILVER JUBILEE

The World Council of Churches celebrated its 25th Anniversary on 28th August 1973.

Meeting for the first time at Amsterdam, in August 1948, when Dr. Daniel T. Niles, an outstanding young Methodist leader from Ceylon, preached the Inaugural Sermon, it represented a new dimension in Christian cooperation on a world scale and affirmed that "the Churches have come together and intend to stay together".

Many changes have taken place in the W.C.C. over the past twenty-five years, not least the impressive position now occupied, in all its deliberations, by the leaders of autonomous churches in independent nations, the full participation of the Orthodox Churches who were not present in 1948, the more recent membership of some of the Pentecostal Churches. The World Council now represents 262 member churches in 80 different countries.

Asked recently whether, in spite of all the criticisms from certain quarters (in which he himself has shared), he still believed in the W.C.C., the Archbishop of Canterbury replied:

"I do not believe in any thing. I believe in God. I think that the World Council of Churches tries to serve God. I pray that it will go on doing so."

That is also our prayer, as we with fellow-Methodists work for deeper understanding and closer cooperation between Christians of all denominations - both in Serangoon Gardens and throughout the world.

PROPOSED NEW STRUCTURES

The last General Conference of the Methodist Church in Malaysia and Singapore, at its meeting last November, set up a Committee on Restructure with the responsibility of studying, and making recommendations about, ways in which the Methodist Church should respond to the problems raised by the different needs of two independent sovereign States. The proposals of this Committee will be discussed at the forthcoming Annual Conference, to be held at the Toa Payoh Methodist Church, 19 -22 November 1973.

It is proposed that two separate and autonomous General Conferences be constituted, one for Malaysia and one for Singapore.

The General Conference of Malaysia will comprise five Annual Conferences (Sarawak Annual Conference, Sarawak Iban Provisional Annual Conference and the Malaysian components of the Chinese Annual Conference, Singapore-Malaysia Annual Conference and the Tamil Provisional Annual Conference). The General Conference of Singapore will comprise three Annual Conferences (the Singapore components of CAC, SMAC & TPAC).

Each General Conference will elect one Bishop, who shall be a citizen of the country in which the General Conference operates. This would be done either without nomination or from among the list of Annual Conference Presidents. In the former case, the Bishop would also be eligible to serve as President of his own Annual Conference. Each Annual Conference, large or small, will send an equal number of representatives to General Conference for at least the next two quadrennia, to avoid any sense that minority groups might lose out to the larger groupings. Existing assets would be divided between the two General Conferences as decided by the Area Executive Council, and commitments (both in finance and personnel) between and within present Annual Conferences will be recognised and written into the constitution.

Annual Conferences, meeting in November this year, will indicate their preferences, following which a constitution will be drawn up for adoption by a Special General Conference in late 1974. The Annual Conferences next year will be able to ratify these decisions, so that the two General Conferences could be constituted by the end of 1974.

Please let your pastor or Lay Members of Annual Conference know how you feel about these proposals, as soon as possible.

what is a rapidly expanding community. Tai Hwan Garden, Golden Hill, Grace Park are neighbouring estates approaching completion on our borders, and we are preparing leaflets for distribution to these new homes as residents move in. Seletar Hills goes on growing and work is commencing on the big HDB scheme at Ang Mo Kio. We need those new premises, and we need them soon, but we are going to have to dig into our capital savings to raise the quarter million dollars that even a modest building project demands these days.

Arising from the recent District Drug Seminar, I hope it will be possible for us to develop, in the basement of the church and the covered porch beyond, a simple 'drop-in coffee-house' centre where young people from the community can stop by and find Christian friends ready and always available to offer a friendly and understanding ear - if and when they want to talk. This can only be done if we can arrange a roster of younger people to man the centre when it is open. I hope also that during the year it may be possible to begin training an ecumenical group of older volunteers to staff a pioneer Marriage & Family Counselling centre one or two nights a week. This seems to be just the kind of area where such a programme could be highly valuable.

So there is plenty to look forward to, sufficient challenge for deeper dedication and more committed service for us all. We pray that God will bless the church in the year ahead, and make us a blessing to others.

(From the Pastor's Report to the Local Conference

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS Since next month's Newsletter will reach our members and friends overseas after Christmas, we send our warmest greetings to them now. May you have a very happy Christmas! We shall be thinking of you all, scattered around the world. Members and friends who wish to send their personal greetings through the December Newsletter are asked to give their names (and their \$5) to Mrs Patricia Chia as soon as possible.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS A new preparation class for those who desire baptism and/or confirmation will begin on 11th November at 8.45 a.m. Please give your name to the pastor if you wish to join the class. And if exams get in the way just now, plan to join as soon as they are over!

Page 8 (continued from front page)

of reasons, still hesitate. Efforts will continue to build them into the congregation.

The Sunday School and adult classes have followed a rather fluctuating pattern, very encouraging earlier in the year but tending to decline in recent weeks. The Christian Education Committee has worked hard and well throughout the year, and their efforts need the encouragement of church-wide support.

Congregations, both morning and evening, have been well-maintained and this is reflected in the solid financial position we now occupy, with record giving all round, culminating in a highly enjoyable and successful Anniversary celebration at the close of the year. Our commitment to Toa Payoh has been fulfilled, our Missions giving increased, and substantial sums contributed to other projects of Christian concern. But it remains true that much of the work and witness of the congregation is carried out by a small number of members.

The Boys Brigade Company has had to be wound up for the time being, owing to lack of suitable leadership, but the MYF continues to be a beacon of life and energy among us. The young people organised a most stimulating Retreat in mid-year, have had well-attended (and noisy) meetings each Sunday, have delighted us with their music on numerous occasions and help us most generously with time, thought and physical strength whenever we have any function of the whole church. I think we sometimes fail to appreciate all they do - and how fortunate we are to have such a vital band of young people within the church. We need more of them to come, now, into a deeper, more personal commitment to Christ and His Church.

Ladies from the WSCS have been most active. A 'mini' Food Fair on Missions Sunday inspired a fantastic Anniversary feast; classes of different kinds have been organised; members have helped in the little 'sheltered workshop' run by Good Neighbours at St. Peter's Church, and others have given regular service in the children's wards at Outram Road G.H.

It is not possible to list every activity or name all those who have led and participated in our church life. We are grateful to many, and to God, for the days past and we poise ourselves in faith for an expanding future.

The Church Extension Plans are approaching completion and should provide an adaptable base for all kinds of outreach into
(Concluded Page 7)