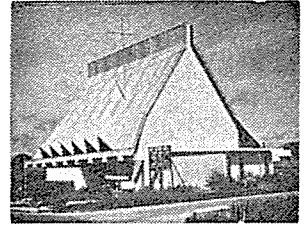


Newsletter

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 (P) 561/73

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 1973

GOD IS WITH US

There is a mystery about Christmas. It is beyond our powers to comprehend and explain. Honesty compels us to say:

I know not how that Bethlehem's Babe
could in the Godhead be;

But faith nevertheless dares to testify -

I only know the Manger Child
Has brought God's life to me!

It is not our carols, or gifts, or decorations, or parties that make Christmas. We do not change people's sense of values by presenting a living tableau of the Manger-scene outside our church door - though, thank God, this is one thing that we do in the public view! Religious displays in the Christmas business district do not themselves put sacredness into life. But this is what God did when he entered the human scene in the babe of Bethlehem. Jesus is Emmanuel - God with us. And God with us is what makes life sacred - and gives it its true meaning.

Christmas means that life is sacred. God is with us - is there a lovelier name for the Saviour? God is with us - neither far from us nor hostile towards us. He who from of old was described as the 'mighty God' is amongst us as a helpless baby! He who is called the 'Everlasting Father' is a child! He who is the Lord and Master of all kneels to wash his disciples' feet! He who is the Giver of Life, dies on a cross!

REPORT ON SIXTH SINGAPORE-MALAYSIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
19-22 NOVEMBER 1973
TOA PAYOH METHODIST CHURCH, SINGAPORE

The Conference was attended by over a hundred ministerial and lay delegates representing practically all churches within the Conference area.

Trinity Church Singapore was represented by Mr Daniel Gwee and Mr Peter Lai with Dr Khor Tong Hong (1st Reserve) and Miss Violet Tan (2nd Reserve).

The working part of the Conference was divided into three "Sessions", namely, Reports, Workshops and Plenary. The first dealt with reports submitted by the various organisations covering their activities during the year which ended just prior to the Conference. As there were numerous tasks to be undertaken in the comparatively short duration of the Conference, they were tackled by Workshops. There were seven Workshops formed to cover the following topics:-

1. Administration & Finance
2. Missions
3. Evangelism
4. Christian Education
5. Social Concerns
6. Youth Week
7. Full Time Christian Workers.

The resolutions resulting from Workshop discussions were then presented for debate and adoption at the Plenary Session.

It is not possible to include in a comparatively short report all the resolutions adopted and decisions taken by the Conference. Indeed it may not be desirable as some are pertinent to certain organisations/committees in the Church. In these cases, the relevant parties will be advised in order that they may take the necessary action.

However, there were certain decisions taken which will have widespread repercussions throughout the Church and it is these that I wish to draw to the attention of our congregation. In particular I would like to highlight the following:-

Restructure of the Methodist Church

A Committee was empowered by the General Conference to study the question of re-structuring the Church in this area by the end of the present quadrennium and to make concrete proposals towards this end.

(continued from page 2)

The Committee agreed on the following specific proposals for consideration and decision by all Methodists in the five Annual Conferences:-

1. The Methodist Church in Malaysia and Singapore is to be reconstituted into two separate and autonomous General Conferences:
 - (a) for Malaysia.
 - (b) for Singapore.
2. The General Conference of Malaysia will comprise five Annual Conferences (SAC, SIPAC and the Malaysian components of CAC, SMAC, TPAC); The General Conference of Singapore will comprise three Annual Conferences (the Singapore components of CAC, SMAC & TPAC).
3.
 - (a) Each General Conference shall elect one Bishop who shall be citizen of the country in which the General Conference operates.
 - (b) The Bishop shall be elected without nomination and may be eligible for election as President of his own Annual Conference; or
 - (c) The Bishop shall be elected from among the list of Annual Conference Presidents.
4. The present equal representation of Annual Conferences to the General Conference shall continue for at least two quadrennium.
5. The commitments (financial and personnel) between and within present Annual Conferences shall be recognised and written into the constitution.
6. The division of assets between the two new General Conferences is to be decided by the Area Executive Council (Singapore & West Malaysia) or a special sub-committee which it may appoint.
7. The following time-table is suggested to be followed:
 - (a) Proposals to be studied and an indication of preferences by Annual Conferences to be taken in November 1973.
 - (b) Structure Committee drafts constitution and enabling legislation for Special General Conference to adopt them in late 1974.
 - (c) Annual Conferences to ratify General Conference decision, late 1974.
 - (d) Constituting General Conferences to meet soon after Annual Conferences to enable new structure to function immediately after.

(continued page 8)

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS to all our Trinity Church friends
from

Rev & Mrs Chew Hock Hin	16, Hillside Drive (19)
Rev & Mrs C. Smith	28, Chuan Hoe Avenue (19)
Mr Chan Chong Hiok	37, Surin Avenue (19)
Mr & Mrs Robert Cheok	c/o St. Andrew's House, Woodsville (13)
Mr & Mrs Chew Chin Jin	24, Alnwick Road (19)
Mr & Mrs Chia Kim Teng	21, Kensington Park Road (19)
Mr & Mrs Chiang Hai Chew	104-A, Newton Road (11)
Mr & Mrs Choo Poh Siong	60, Walmer Drive (19)
Miss Choy Yin Loy	c/o Prince Henry's Hospital, St.Kilda Rd Melbourne, Victoria 3004, Australia
Mr & Mrs Jeffrey Chua	35, Blanford Drive (19)
Madam Susie Gan	272, Upper Paya Lebar Road (19)
Mr & Mrs Goh Seng Hock	15, Huddington Avenue (19)
Mr & Mrs Daniel Gwee & family	111, Tai Keng Gardens (19)
Mrs Elsie Hardy & Eunice	48, Serangoon Garden Way (19)
Mr & Mrs Ho Lye Hon	16, Jalan Khamis (20)
Miss Khoo Koh Hee	33, Kensington Park Road (19)
Madam Khoo Koh Ho	34, Cardiff Grove (19)
Mr & Mrs Khoo Eu Kiong	27, Blanford Drive (19)
Dr & Mrs Khor Tong Hong	68, Chartwell Drive (19)
Mrs Kwok Chee Meng & family	16, Faber Crescent (5)
Mr & Mrs Ernest Kan & family	133, Neil Road (2)
Miss Violet Khor	22, Braemar Drive (19)
Mr & Mrs Kwan Chee Yew	2, Greenmead Avenue (11)
Mr & Mrs Lai Men Soe	77, Lorong Pisang Emas (21)
Mr & Mrs Peter Lai & family	34, Lichfield Road (19)
Mr & Mrs Stanley Lam & Yvonne	30, Conway Grove (19)
Mr & Mrs Lam Yet Seng	11, Carisbrooke Grove (19)
Mr & Mrs Andrew Lee & family	26, Lengkok Angsa (9)
Mr & Mrs Francis Lee Cheng Eng	97, Serangoon Garden Way (19)

PROGRAMME FOR ADVENT SEASON

December

- 2 SUN. 8.54 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10.00 a.m. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION- Rev.K.Chellapah
 3.30 p.m. MYF MEETING
 5.30 p.m. SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION- Rev.R. Foster
- 9 SUN. 8.45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10.00 a.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Dr. Bobby Sng.
 5.00 p.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr. Victor Goh.
- 14 Fri. 8.00 p.m. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 15 Sat. 3.00 p.m. JUNIOR DEPT. SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY.
 7.00 p.m. SENIOR DEPT. SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY.
- 16 SUN. 8.45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10.00 a.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr. Victor Goh
 11.15 a.m. CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
 3.30 p.m. MYF MEETING
 5.30 p.m. EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE - Mr. Lam Yet Seng.
- 20 -22 7 to 9 p.m. LIVING NATIVITY SCENE
- 23 SUN. 8.30 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME
 10.00 a.m. CHOIR CANTATA - " CAROL of CHRISTMAS "
 12 noon WORSHIP SERVICE at Woodbridge Hospital
 followed by CHRISTMAS LUNCH & PARTY and
 Carolling in the Hospital Wards.
 5.30 p.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor.
- 24 M.Y.F. CAROLLING PARTY
- 25 Tue. 10.00 a.m. CHRISTMAS MORNING THANKSGIVING SERVICE
 The Pastor.
- 30 SUN. 8.45 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10.00 a.m. SERVICE OF WORSHIP
 5.30 p.m. EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE.
- 31 Mon. 8.00 p.m. (SHARP) NEW YEAR'S EVE TRINITY CHURCH
 " POT-LUCK" DINNER & GET-TOGETHER
 followed by:-
 11.00 p.m. WATCHNIGHT SERVICE & HOLY COMMUNION.
 The Pastor.

WHITE GIFTS:- Members and friends of the Church are invited to contribute WHITE GIFTS which will be distributed to the NEEDY in Hospitals and Welfare Homes.

Trinity Tae Kwan Do Group welcomes new applications for a NEW TKD Class for BEGINNERS which will begin on December 14th.1973 at 7.30 p.m. Sharp.

W.S.C.S. GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Singapore District had a record number of 25 delegates from our ten local Chapters to attend the General Conference held at Kuala Lumpur from 24th to 28th November, 1973. We are glad that two of our members, Miss Khoo Koh Hee and Mrs Catherine Pang, were able to attend. The Perak, Eastern, Southern and Northern Districts were also well represented.

The mornings were devoted to Bible Study, Leadership Training and Business Meetings. Miss Enid Liu, a lecturer from Trinity Theological College, led the Bible Study on "The Way, the Truth and the Life". Her message was most inspirational and all of us can definitely say we were spiritually strengthened.

Rev. Denver Stone conducted the workshop on Leadership Training. His guidelines on choosing a leader, the manner in approaching people to serve and how to become an effective leader are invaluable. If our MYFers are interested in getting the services of Rev Stone to give them a talk in Leadership Training, please get in touch with Mrs Pang who will arrange for Rev Stone to come down from Kuala Lumpur in February. (as his schedule is very tight, we have to let him know one month in advance).

Our Conference will continue to support the two Sengoi girls for another two years (making a total of four years) in their training at the Bible College in Lawas. One of our projects for 1974 is the Asian Faculty Endowment Fund of Trinity Theological College, and we have set W.S.C.S. Sunday in May to raise the necessary funds.

Let us remember in our prayers the Methodist women of Wesley, R.L. Due to no response from their church women and to lack of "new blood", this society was forced to close down in September last. Let us pray that God's Holy Spirit will touch the hearts of the women there, especially the younger ones, and that they will see the need to resuscitate the W.S.C.S. in Kuala Lumpur.

Trinity W.S.C.S. - Our local Chapter will help to supply the "hats" at our Church Sunday School party to be held on 15th December. We will also join the Outreach Committee in giving a Christmas party to the Woodbridge patients on 23rd December. Ladies, we have to cook for about 40 people, and instead of approaching you for help, let us be willing stewards of God and come forward voluntarily to offer ourselves. Those of you who could bake a cake or two, or cook some mee-hoon and fried rice make some sandwiches, jelly, etc., please get in touch with Mrs Loh Hwi Lan (887120) or Mrs Catherine Pang (884805).

Mr & Mrs Lee Teck Hock	19, Walmer Drive (19)
Mrs Rosie Leong & family	150-T, East Coast Road (15)
Mr & Mrs Liew En Kin	60, Watten Heights (11)
Mr & Mrs Harry Lim & family	10, Cardiff Grove (19)
Mr & Mrs Lim Hock Aun	57, Kingswear Avenue (19)
Mr & Mrs Sydney Lowe & family	122-G, Lorong Hong Lee (19)
Mr & Mrs Jolly Low & Julie	3, Borthwick Drive (19)
Mr & Mrs Oh Ban Hock, Albert	268-C, Lorong 1, Blk. 107, Toa Payoh
Mr & Mrs Ong Ah Bok	65, Jalan Songket (19)
Mr & Mrs Ong Ee Kok	27, Daisy Avenue (13)
Mr & Mrs Ong Hock Kim & family	36, Chartwell Drive (19)
Mr & Mrs Ong Kim Siong & family	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 & family	71-N, One Tree Hill (10)
Mrs V. J. Ridler	16, Seletar Court. (28)
Miss Peggy Sim	17, Worthing Road (19)
Dr & Mrs Tan Beng Guan	32, Penhurst Place (19)
Mrs Dorothy Tan & Carol-Ann	20, Taman Serangoon (19)
Mr & Mrs Tan Kheng Hian & family	43, Lengkok Angsa (9)
Mr & Mrs Tan Khe Tong & family	17, Sarasa Road (28)
Mr & Mrs Tan Hoay Djin & family	85, Bridport Avenue (19)
Mr & Mrs Philip Tan	210-G, Lorong 6, Blk.33, Toa Payoh
Mr & Mrs Tan Tiam Guan	456-A, Blk.152, Lor.2, Toa Payoh
Mr & Mrs C. Tan Yew Eng & family	28-B, Poh Huat Road (19)
Mr & Mrs Tay Soon Hock & family	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	88, Cardiff Grove (19)
Mrs Grace Wee	16, Hillside Drive (19)
Mr & Mrs Wei Chong Seng	101, Bridport Avenue (19)
Mr & Mrs Wong Eng Seng	57-C, Jalan Raja Udang (12)
Mr & Mrs Yip Kam Choong	43. Chiselhurst Grove. (19)

After lengthy discussions, the Conference decided as follows:

- Proposal 1 - Adopted. 79 for, 1 against and 1 abstention.
- Proposal 2 - Unanimously adopted
- Proposal 3(a)- Unanimously adopted
3(b)- Adopted with an additional Clause:
"In the case of Malaysia it would be preferable that the Bishop not be a president as well."
- Proposal 4 - Adopted with 1 against
- Proposal 5 - Unanimously adopted
- Proposal 6 - Adopted with an additional clause:
"Representation shall be equal among the Conferences."
- Proposal 7(a)- Done
(b)- Adopted
(c)- Adopted
(d)- Adopted with the phrase "within 3 months" to be substituted for the word "soon".

Ministerial Support

Working papers containing 3 proposals for a revised pastors salary scale were tabled for consideration by the Conference. These proposals were made for the following main reasons:-

1. The existing salary scales have not been revised for the last 17 years, since January 1956, and are now completely irrelevant because of inflation especially over the last 5 years.
2. The Church faces a real crisis in meeting the demand for ministers and full time Christian workers. Increasing difficulties are being encountered in recruiting sufficient personnel. One reason for this could be the very unrealistic remuneration paid to pastors.
3. It is essential that there be a salary scheme which is commensurate with the responsibilities borne by our pastors. Moreover, it should be adequate for a family man to support his wife and children.

The proposals were studied in the Workshop sessions resulting in one of the 3 schemes being recommended for adoption. Realising the need to adequately compensate our ministers for their dedication and service to the Church, the Conference decided to adopt the recommended scale.

(continued from page 8)

When implemented the adopted salary scale would require an additional amount of approximately S\$80,000 per year for both Singapore and Malaysia. This may seem large but reduced to a per capita basis, it would be tantamount to each church member paying only an extra 70 cents per month.

I am sure you will agree that this will not prove to be real hardship for the great majority of members. Indeed it appears insignificant compared to the contributions made by the pastors to the enrichment of our lives.

Peter Lai

.....

Trinity M.Y.F. Council 1974

(Exco)

President:	Roland Chew
Vice President:	Paul George
Secretary:	Irene Lim
Treasurer:	Stephen Tan

(Programme area chairmen)

Worship:	Tonni Wei
Study:	Malcolm Tan
Fellowship:	Eunice Chew
Service:	Lorna Khoo
Membership:	Clifford Wong
Publicity:	Seah Siow Kiang

T.K.D. Chaircat:	Andrew Ngeow
Newsletter Editor:	Lee Park Ming

Advisors:	Dr Khor Tong Hong
	Mr Chew Chin Jin
	Mr Daniel Gwee.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE *****

Thankofferings from Dr & Mrs Allan Tay, Anon., Mr Wee Chye Huat, Mr Ernest Tan, Dr & Mrs E. S. Tan.
Donations for building fund from Mrs H. P. Hendry, Mrs Lim Eng Hoe, family members of the late Mr Cheong Kam Hian.

(continued from front page)

Human life is sacred because God has entered into it. Our life is sacred because God is with us. As C. H. Dodd has said:

'This world of things, persons and events can never forfeit because of human sin, its one title to reality - namely its fitness to mediate the call of God to man. For it has once been the field upon which the great encounter was fought to a decision, and it bears the mark of that encounter for ever.'

We shall never be able to despise our own life, or the life of any other person, or treat it as a thing of no value. For God himself took this stuff of which we are made and used it to express in human terms the glory of His limitless love.

Dr. J. A. Dell had a Christmas message which was entitled, "I dreamt that He had not been born". And in the dream he would tell of chaos on the throne. The clock was turned back upon all the advances of human learning the human growth. There were no institutions of mercy, no hospitals, no homes for the aged, no schools for the handicapped. Women were second-class citizens again. Human freedom had been destroyed by tyrants. Life was meaningless - empty - a horrible nightmare! And then suddenly the sleeper awakens, and with overwhelming relief discovers that the horror is only a dream. Christ has been born.

Do not let anybody try to persuade you that God is not relevant to life. It is He who gives life its meaning; and He does it by entering it Himself. History is not going round in circles; it is moving towards a goal, a fulfillment. God is with us!

It takes faith to believe in the Christmas message in a world like ours. But let us not apologize. For Christmas is our assurance that in spite of chaos around us, Christ is on the throne, and the final victory is His. Christmas means that your life has meaning. God is acting in it and through it. It is going somewhere, for eternal life is in His Son. "He that hath the Son hath the Life". Your life has another dimension, the eternal dimension; and that dimension changes not only the future but the present. Everything is seen in a different perspective in the light of the Star of Bethlehem. He that hath the Christ has God with him - now, and for ever!