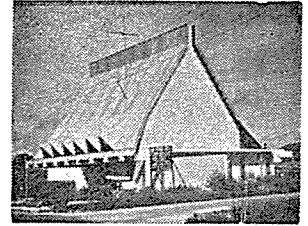


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY
SINGAPORE-19



Pastor—Rev. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

PARSONAGE:
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MC (P) 561/73

APRIL 1974

MORE MYSELF THAN EVER - FOR EVER

When archaeologists began to excavate Roman cemeteries, they discovered that nearly all the grave markers had seven letters carved on them - NF F NS NC. The bare initials were enough for any Roman to understand what was meant; 'non fui', 'fui', 'non sum', 'non curo' - "I was not", "I was", "I am not", "I do not care"... the ancient world needed only seven letters to sum up the whole futility of human life and the finality of death.

But Easter has transformed all that. "Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept Even so in Christ shall all be made alive". And that all means you and me; we shall be made alive, and death will not be the end of us.

I do not think we have been given a blueprint for the life ahead; but we can be sure that the God who gave us life intends us to keep that life forever, and that He who made us each a particular, peculiar individuality intends us to keep that uniqueness for ever.

That's what the creed means when we say, "I believe inthe resurrection of the body." Not this body, of course. Everything that is now my body, as I write this, will be dead in seven years; but what it means is that I am not just going to disappear into some dim, shapeless 'spirit-cloud'. I am, because of my relationship with the Living Christ, going to go on being me for ever.

My body is very important here and now. In fact, without it you would not know me at all. I would not be able to share

TRINITY FAMILY NEWS

WE WERE SORRY to hear that Victor Goh and Ivy Yap were involved in a road accident when the van in which they were returning from a Campus Crusade camp overturned on the main road. Fortunately, none of the six occupants was seriously injured though they were badly shaken by the experience. We thank God for their safe return!

A VISITATION TEAM composed of members of the Membership and Evangelism Committee and the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee has begun to visit homes especially in the Serangoon Garden area. This is part of our plan to get to know each other better, and so to build up the sense of fellowship within the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS WANTED! This is the appeal from Mr Chan Chong Hiok, Chairman of the Committee on Christian Education and Superintendent of the Senior Department of the Sunda School. Do you love the Lord and young people and children? Perhaps this is the place where God wants you to serve. The Scripture Union Sunday School Teachers' Training Course (see Page 6) will help to equip you!

CHURCH EXPENSION PLANS prepared by our architects Messrs Edwin Choo & Partners have been signed by the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Church and forwarded to the Planning Department for approval. Appeal brochures are in process of preparation and we shall be calling upon all members and friends for a tremendous effort to raise the necessary money as quickly as possible. Under our General Conference rules, 75% of the sum must be in hand before any contract can be signed by the Trustees. With escalating costs, delay in proceeding with the project at the earliest possible date would leave us with an impossible financial target. So this will be a matter of real urgency!

MEMBERS OF THE M.Y.F. held a successful Retreat Camp at Pasir Ris from 15 -18 March, during the mid-term break.

OLD CLOTHES NEEDED The Outreach Committee is seeking to build up a stock-pile of used, but useable, clothing which could be available for use in times of emergency and distress. Please contact Miss Lorna Khoo.

MORE FROM HERE AND THERE

THE TRINITY CHOIR under the leadership of their Director, Mrs Chew Chin Jin, will present John Peterson's Cantata "What A Saviour!" at the 10 a.m. service on Easter Day and lead our praise throughout this holy season.

THOSE COFFEE-SHOP QUESTIONNAIRES Which were sent out with the March Newsletter are important, and we would be grateful if you could return the completed form to the Church Office not later than Easter Sunday, 14 April. We are convinced that if anything like the suggested coffee-shop plan is undertaken at Trinity, it must be as a congregational project and because together we feel that it is worth the risk involved.

We are interested that the Singapore press had made favourable comment. This was entirely unsolicited, as the Newsletter was sent out to church Members only. yet the Straits Times asked for comment the day after it was posted.

We are glad of their concern, but we want all of you to know that nothing has yet been decided - and we need your response so that we can decide wisely.

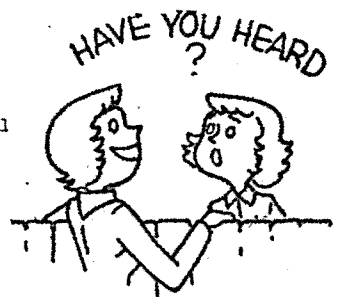
"I CAN NEVER GET HOLD OF THE PASTOR!"

We don't want anybody to feel like that, but now that Mrs Smith is teaching part-time, it may be difficult to contact the Pastor, especially in the mornings. If nobody answers at the Manse (806339), messages left at the S.O.S. office (96541) or the Churches' Counselling Centre (327748) will be passed on to him as soon as possible.

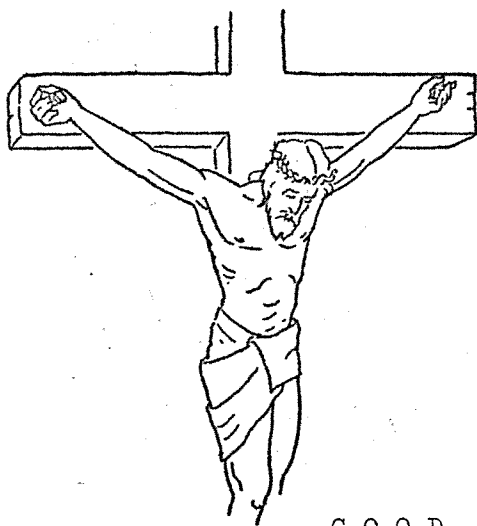
THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING will be held on the third Saturday, 20th April, at the home of Dr & Mrs Khor Tong Hong, 68 Chartwell Drive at 4.30 p.m.

THE W.S.C.S. has arranged for a sales representative of Hagemeyer to demonstrate how to cook mutton curry in a pressure cooker. Place: Home of Mrs Daisy Lai, 34 Lichfield Road on Saturday, 6th April at 3 p.m.

Orders for pressure cookers and Moulinex grinders etc. can be placed at this time.



- 3 Wed. 7.45 P.M. 'PREPARING TO HELP PEOPLE' 7. Sex Problems
at 41, Taman Serangoon
- 4 Thu. 4.00 P.M. OPENING OF BIBLE HOUSE by Bishop Chiu Ban It:
Armenian Street, opposite Methodis HQ.
- 5 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE in the sanctuary
VISITATION TEAMS meet at 111, Tai Keng Garden
- 6 Sat. 3.00 P.M. W.S.C.S. Cooking Demonstration at 34, Lichfield
Road.
- 7 PALM SUNDAY
- 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND MEMBERSHIP CLASS
- 10.00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE with Infant Baptisms
- 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
- 5.30 P.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor



8 p.m. HOLY WEEK

'WHAT THE CROSS MEANS TO ME'

Monday: Dr. Bobby Sng

Tuesday: Mr. Henry Khoo

Wednesday: Miss Miriam Gruber

MAUNDY THURSDAY The Pastor
Commemoration of thr Instit-
ution of the Lord's Supper

The M.Y.F. will be in charge
of Monday & Tuesday services.
The W.S.C.S. conducts the
service on Wednesday.

GOOD FRIDAY

10.00 A.M.

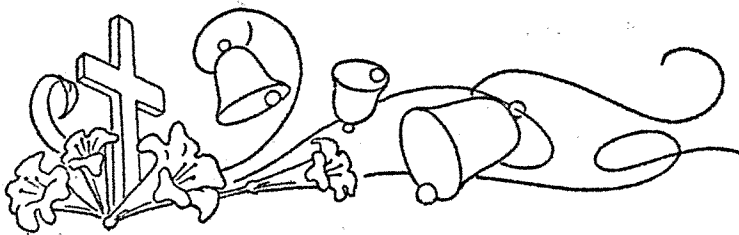
Service of Worship
Preacher: The Pastor

8.00 P.M.

Combined Service of
Passion Music & Readings
led by young people of St. Peter's
St. Francis Xavier's & Trinity

- 13 Sat. 3.00 P.M. WEDDING of Mr John Cheang & Miss Sonia Wee

14 April	<u>E A S T E R D A Y</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
6.15 A.M.	EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE in the church grounds, Holy Communion followed by breakfast	
8.30 A.M.	Sunday School Combined Easter Service	
10.00 A.M.	MORNING WORSHIP with Cantata by the Choir "ALLELUIA! WHAT A SAVIOUR!"	
5.30 P.M.	EVENING WORSHIP	The pastor



- 17 7.45 P.M. PREPARING TO HELP PEOPLE 8. Background to
Drug Dependency (at 41 Taman Serangoon)
- 19 Fri 8.00P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 20 Sat ALDERSGATE CONVENTION begins in Kuala Lumpur
4.30P.M. MONTHLY PARISH MEETING at 68, Chartwell Drive
at home of Dr & Mrs Khor Tong Hong
- 21 SUN 8.45A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP for Youth
11.15A.M. LOCAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meets in
basement
3.30P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 24 Wed. 7.45P.M. PREPARING TO HELP PEOPLE 9. Goals & Ideals
(at 41, Taman Serangoon)
- 26 Fri 8.00P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 30 SUN 8.45A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Dr Bobby Sng
12.00Noon Worship of Servie at Woodbridge Hospital
3.30P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Lam Yet Seng

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES for YOU

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' TRAINING COURSE 1974

organised by the Scripture Union

commencing on Monday 22nd April

at St. Andrew's Cathedral

each Monday & Thursday

for 5 weeks 7.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.

+ . DISTRICT W.S.C.S. BIBLE STUDY

By popular demand and request
Miss Miriam Gruber will conduct
a series of six Bible Study sessions
on I & II Thessalonians
at Wesley Church Hall
Wednesday evenings 8 - 9.30 p.m.
beginning 24 April.

THE CHURCH LIBRARY

+ . + .

We want to remind you of the books
which are available for your use in
the Church Library which is open
after Sunday morning services.
We hope that you will borrow books
and read them for your growth.
Books may be borrowed for 2 weeks
or renewed by our librarian, Miss
Darlene Yip, for longer periods.

+ . FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLASS

conducted by Miss Paulina Baruch
in Church Basement for six Saturdays
beginning 11th May
4.30p.m. - 5.30p.m.

Registration Fee \$ 15 for W.S.C.S. members \$20 for non-members

Those interested in joining this course are asked to get in touch
with Mrs Doris Gwee (Tel. 801271)

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE

regular Pledges received during the first four weeks of March, which totalled \$ 1,234 with open offerings at our morning services amounting to \$600.

We were able to send \$ 323.60 as our contribution to the Retired Pastors' Pension Fund.

We received Thanksgiving and Memorial Gifts from Mr Toani Wei, Mrs Jolly Low, Mrs Alice Ch & Mrs Tan Kim Tee, Anonymous in memory of Mr & Mrs T.J. John, and Mr & Mrs Douglas Henley



FOR YOUR DIARY

4TH ALDERSGATE CONVENTION

to be held on the campus of the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur

from 18 - 21 April

It is still not too late to book for this period of spiritual refreshment and challenge.

THE LIFE SERVICE RETREAT

for those who have completed not less than Secondary IV schooling and are considering whether their calling is to full-time Christian service in the Church.

at the Methodist Centre,
Port Dickson
4 - 6 May, 1974.

Board and Lodging will be free, because of the generous sponsorship of concerned friends. Applicants are responsible for their own travel expenses to and from P.D.



these few simple thoughts with you if I had not got hands to strike these typewriter keys and to get the duplicator working. I could talk to you, of course, but not without a mouth - and you could not receive these ideas of mine if you had no physical ears, with their cunning and wonderful mechanism. It is only through a body that we can communicate with each other, relate to one another and remain individuals, different and distinct from one another.

That is what it is like, the Bible tells us, in the life to come. We were never meant to be single, isolated units related only to God. We were meant for each other - always and always - and we are going to be provided by God with a special kind of body so that we shall always be able to communicate with, and relate to, one another - persons understanding and enjoying each other.

The Bible doesn't speak much about 'the immortality of the soul', as though this was our natural destiny or right. Rather, it promises that God will give us a new kind of body for a new, more complete kind of life; and rests this promise upon the fact that Jesus Christ was made known as risen from the dead.

What will we be like in the life to come? Again, we must not speculate too much. The body we now have - that, as I have said, is going to decay, die and disappear. But Paul reminds us of the analogy of the seed in the ground and the flower of a plant. "What you sow," he says, "does not come to life without dying first. You do not plant the future flower; you plant a seed (that does not look a bit like what is going to come), and God gives it a new body as he chooses." And he goes on to say that the God who created all kinds of bodies, both living creatures and the stars in their courses, is going to find a way in the life to come for us each one to be ourselves.

And if that makes you ask the natural question, "Will we know each other there?" I am pretty sure I can answer, with a great deal of conviction, Yes! Because I believe firmly that in the world to come, I will be more myself. I will more and more become my full self, which in this life I have not fully become. And that will be true of each of us. And since love is eternal and since individuality is eternal, and since we are what we are so much because of our relations with other people, we can assume (as indeed we are promised) that we shall be known and we shall know. We shall be launched on the exciting adventure of becoming more ourselves than ever - and of getting to know each other better and better. And there will be eternity to do it in!