

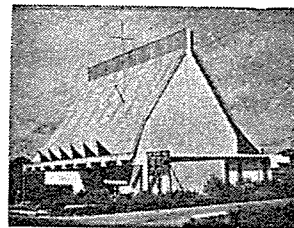
Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY

SINGAPORE-19



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PASTORS MESSAGE

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

JUNE 1974

One of the creeds we sometimes use in church declares: "We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, comfort and for strength." God present with us ... To receive the Holy Spirit is to receive God into our lives.

To grasp this truth is to possess a secure base from which we can move into the often bewildering debate that seems to surround the promised gift of the Holy Spirit nowadays. Much of the confusion stems from the fact that many people think of the Holy Spirit as though 'it' were a sort of force or fluence, a power that comes in from the outside and takes over control. The New Testament speaks, rather, of a divine presence, God's indwelling, a new relationship out of which a new life is beginning to grow.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9) without whom nobody may be called a Christian. In the Book of the Revelation, the glorified Christ says: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in ..." (3:20), and when he promises the Spirit of truth, the Comforter "who will be with you for ever", he adds: "I will not leave you bereft; I am coming back to you" (John 14:18 NEB). To receive the Holy Spirit is to receive Christ into our lives.

So when people ask me, "How may I receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?", I respond by saying, "Have you handed over to God? Are you trusting him with your life? Have you invited Jesus Christ in as the Lord of everything you do and are?" If you have done these things, you have received the Holy Spirit. He has come in, just as he has promised. You know God's presence with you. "You know him, because he dwells with you and is in you." (John 14:17)

OUR TRINITY FAMILY NEWS

NEW ARRIVAL To Mr & Mrs Pang Kia Seng, at Mount Alvernia Hospital on 14 May 1974, God's gift of a daughter.

INFANT BAPTISM at Trinity Methodist Church on Sunday 12 May 1974, Mark WEE Swee Boon, infant son of Mr & Mrs Wee Eng Hock, on his first birthday.

WEDDING BELLS rang for Mr Leonard Goh Chin Khee & Miss Shirley Low Choon Gek on Saturday, 18 May at the Church of the Ascension, Singapore 13; and for Mr Victor Goh Ling Heng & Miss Ivy Yap Guat Yong on Saturday, 25 May, at the Paya Lebar Chinese Methodist Church, Singapore 15.
May God bless these two new homes established in Him!

AFTER TWENTYFIVE YEARS of marriage, Mr & Mrs Wong Yow Chuen of 9, Burghley Drive (19) celebrated their Silver Wedding with a simple thanksgiving service at Trinity Church, followed by a buffet dinner for members of the family and friends, on Saturday 11 May.
We send our best wishes to the happy couple as they begin their next twenty-five years together.

GET WELL SOON. This is our hope for Mrs Lily Lee, who has been hospitalized at Middleton Hospital for the last three weeks with an unpleasant skin ailment.

A TASTE OF GOOD FOOD. Trinity celebrated W.S.C.S. Sunday with a special service on Sunday morning 12 May, which was led by members of our Woman's Society, with Miss Enid Liu (Trinity Theological College) as the guest preacher. Open offerings of \$168/-- received on this occasion will be contributed to the Asian Teachers Foundation Fund at Trinity College.
The FOOD FARE which followed attracted a large crowd of members and friends, in spite of a heavy downpour of rain, and netted \$1,330 for W.S.C.S. projects.
Congratulations and thanks to all concerned.

THE L.C.E.C. voted to instal an extension speaker in the church basement, so that parents with small children will be able to look after them downstairs, and still participate in the worship of the congregation.

 BEL CANTO SINGERS CHARM

The evening of 25 May proved a delightful night out for members and friends attending the Bel Canto concert in aid of the Church Extension Fund.

Charmingly presented at the Cultural Centre Theatre in Canning Rise, these talented singers, under the leadership of Mrs Lilian Choo, sang a full programme of songs, many of them from the repertoire of negro music. Singing much of the time unaccompanied, but with fine attack and fullness of tone, the Bel Canto Singers captivated the audience, which should have packed the hall to capacity. They were ably supported by soloists David Lim (tenor), Ed Kimball (trumpet) and our own vocal group The Honeybees.

It was disappointing to see so many empty seats, for Mrs Choo's group had put an enormous amount of disciplined effort into getting ready for their concert. Tickets had been sold, of course, and at least \$ was raised for the Extension Fund; but such generous personal commitment, all of it entirely voluntary, deserved to be greeted by an equally generous audience and its grateful appreciation and applause.

A simple makan kechil followed the concert, and we express our thanks to Mrs Choo, her choir and soloists, Mr Lee Teck Hock's planning committee, Mrs Smith and her lighting crew, and to all who made this such a happy evening.

 OPEN-AIR CINEMA

Some two hundred and fifty people, most of them young, attended an open-air showing of the dramatic film "THE CROSS AND THE SWITCHBLADE" in the church grounds on Sunday evening 26 May.

Based on the book of the same name, the full-length colour film, starring Pat Boone as the Rev. David Wilkerson, tells the thrilling true story of a country preacher's fight against teen-age crime in big city slums and of a courageous faith that seeks to embody the message "God loves you" to the young mobsters and junkies of New York. Set against the sordid background of the ghetto, confronted by every kind of vice and violence, here was convincing testimony to the life-changing power of Christ in our time.

(see foot of page five)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JUNE 1974

- 1 Sat. 2.30 P.M. DISTRICT SEMINAR ON EVANGELISM at Toa Payoh
Dr. Bobby Sng "Christian Imperatives"
2. SUN. Pentecost
8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL & MEMBERSHIP CLASS
10.00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
with Adult Baptisms & Confirmation
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30 P.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE - The Pastor
- 3 Mon. YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME begins at
Paya Lebar M.G.S.
- 5 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse "Vital
Old Testament Themes"
- 6 Thu. 8.00 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE PLANNING at 41, Taman Serangoon
- 7 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 8 Sat. 4.30 P.M. PARISH MEETING at the home of Mr & Mrs Wei
Chong Seng, 101 Bridport Avenue
- 9 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Ong Ing Pee
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
- 12 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 13 Thu. 8.00 P.M. COFFEE HOUSE PLANNING at 41, Taman Serangoon
- 14 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 15 Sat. 2.30 P.M. DISTRICT SEMINAR ON EVANGELISM at Toa Payoh
Dave Dawson "Follow-up as Evangelistic Medium"
- 16 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR YOUTH - The Pastor
11.30 A.M. LOCAL CHURCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE meets
3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
- 19 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 20 Thu. 8.00 P.M. OUTREACH COMMITTEE meets at 41, Taman S'goon

- 21 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 19 - 23 EVANGELISTIC RALLY at Toa Payoh Methodist Church 7.30 p.m.
- 23 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
 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
 7.30 P.M. EVANGELISTIC RALLY ends in Toa Payoh Meth.Church
- 26 Wed. 7.45 P.M. BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP at the Manse
- 28 Fri. 8.00 P.M. CHOIR PRACTICE
- 30 SUN. 8.45 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10.00 A.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - The Pastor
 3.30 P.M. M.Y.F. MEETING
 5.30 P.M. SERVICE OF WORSHIP - Mr Lam Yet Seng

LOOKING AHEAD Missions Sunday with Sacrificial Lunch 7th July
 Broadcast Service by Trinity M.C. 7th July

DISTRICT MEETING

to meet Mr & Mrs Joe Hale and Mr & Mrs Loran Grant
 who are World Ambassadors for the International Prayer Fellowship
 which developed from the prayer witness of men and women whose
 experiences in Seoul, Korea had given them deep understanding
 of the needs of the world -
at Kampong Kapor Methodist Church
on Wednesday, 5 June at 8 p.m.

from page three) As young gang leaders turned from their sneers and
 threats and discovered God for themselves, the
 ministry of David Wilkerson has widened out rapidly into the Teen
 Challenge movement, and other new experiments in contemporary evangel-
 is.

The M.Y.F. did a fine job of preparation and publicity, there
 were representatives from all the churches in the Estate and from
 others in the neighbourhood, and God provided (apart from a few
 faith-testing drops) a rain-free evening. Praise Him!

WHAT'S ON IN JUNE ?

THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING will be held at the home of Mr & Mrs Wei Chong Chong Seng, 101 Bridport Avenue, on Saturday June 8th at 4.30 p.m.

DISTRICT SEMINAR ON EVANGELISM to be held at the Toa Payoh Methodist Church at 2.30 p.m.:

- Saturday 1st June - Dr Bobby Sng on "Christian Imperatives" followed by group discussion, reports and formulation of Action Plans
- Saturday 15th June - Mr Dave Dawson on "Follow-up as an Evangelistic Medium", with workshops & opportunities for sharing problems encountered by fellow-counsellors.

All counsellors, members of Committee of Evangelism and other interested people are invited to attend.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, an intensive programme for leaders in M.Y.F. Chapters and Christian Fellowships in Methodist schools. To be held at Paya Lebar M.G.S. from 3rd - 10th June.

INSTITUTE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES for college students and laymen.

Courses organised by Campus Crusade include the following: Christian Living (Practical Theology)
Gospel of John
New Testament Survey
Bible Study Methods.

from June 3rd - 15th (excluding Sunday June 9th) 8.30 - 12.30 daily at Toa Payoh Methodist Church. Cost \$15/-. Phone 669560

LAY INVOLVEMENT FOR EVANGELISM (LIFE) a weekend Retreat at Toa Payoh Methodist Church, an intensive programme to teach more consistent Christian living and more effective Christian witnessing. Total cost is \$10, which includes the meals, tea and overnight lodging. Book before 9th June

SINGAPORE KESWICK CONVENTION The well-loved series of Renewal Meetings to be held from 8 - 15 June.

EVANGELISTIC RALLY IN TOA PAYOH, at the Methodist Church, Lorong 2 each evening at 7.30 p.m. from 19th - 23rd June.

Special Speakers: Dr. G. D. James & Dr. George Wan.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We say thank you, first of all, this month to Mr E. K. Liew for a generous donation of \$5,000 to the Church Extension Fund, and hope that this will provide an example to be copied by many others within our circle!

Also to the family of the late Mrs Mary Lim, for a gift of \$410/- made in her memory to our Social Service Fund. This gift was received through Mrs Margaret Seah.

We apologise to the following for omitting their names from last month's list of Easter Offerings:

Mrs Lim Eng Hoe, Mr & Mrs Ong Seng Geok, Mr & Mrs Yeo Kim Kiat, Mr & Mrs George Lee, Mrs Val Ridler, Mr & Mrs E. K. Liew.

The Pledge Treasurer reminds all of us that the end of the current financial year will fall on 31 July, and would like to ensure that pledged commitments are brought up to date before then. He adds his thanks for \$1,320/- received during the last 4 weeks as Pledges.

Thanksgiving offerings this month have come from Dr & Mrs Tan Eng Seng, Mr & Mrs Tan Eng Han (in memory of the late Mrs Mary Lim), Dr & Mrs Alan Tay, Mrs Lee Eng Hoe, Madam Ho Lek Cheng, Mr & Mrs W.D.Henley, Misses Lim Poh Lan & Lim Poh Chan

REACHING OUT TO OTHERS

OLD CLOTHING NEEDED! The Outreach Committee renews its appeal for old clothing in good condition. Articles, especially clothing for men and children, may be brought to church for collection and despatch.

Clothing already sent to the Sengoi Mission has been sold at a nominal 10 cts per piece, and the proceeds paid to the Sengoi Mission Fund. This fund has been raised by the orang asli themselves, and now stands at over \$3,000. What an example of generous giving from the most meagre resources!

A SACRIFICIAL LUNCH will be organised after the morning service on Missions Sunday, 7 July. A very simple meal will be served and the proceeds sent to the President of SIPAC for the support of the Iban ministry. Ministerial salaries in this Conference have for a long time been subsidised from the U.S., and the Iban church needs our help as it adjusts to a new situation.

We ought, therefore, not to be misled by those Christians who speak, as some do, of a 'baptism in the Spirit' as a 'second blessing', a new kind of experience different from, and in addition to, the blessing we received when, in faith, we committed ourselves to God in Christ Jesus. Truly there will always be for us more to discover of the love of God; he gives us 'grace upon grace';

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell ...

But by the unutterable grace of God we have already been 'blessed in Christ with every spiritual blessing' (Ephesians 1:3), and our responsibility is not so much to crave some mysterious 'extra' as more and more to make our own the blessings that are already ours in Christ. The New Testament teaches (and how poorly we embody it) that the whole Christian life is life in the Spirit following our birth of the Spirit, and it continually urges us to walk worthy of the calling to which we have been called.

Our prayer is that we may be 'filled with the Spirit', that God's very nature may so soak into us that we may grow more and more like him. Our sins and disbelief have robbed many of us of our full inheritance, and we need to return to God in penitence. But our backsliding is evidence of our need, ^{not} to be baptized with the Spirit (even the proud, loveless, quarrelsome and sin-tolerant Christians of Corinth had been baptized with the Spirit - I Cor. 12 verse 13) but to recover the fullness of the Spirit (Ephesians 5: 18).

And how much all of us need that! The evidence of the Spirit's fullness is not the exercise of his gifts, but the ripening of his fruit (Gal. 5:22); not what we can do but what sort of people we are becoming. We can speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but without love we are noisy gongs, the clanging of funeral cymbals! When we are born of the Spirit, we have only a limited grasp of God's purpose and only a fringe-knowledge of his life-changing power. The tragedy is that so often our faith does not keep pace with our knowledge. The Spirit leads us deeper into the truth, our eyes are opened wider and wider to see more of the wonders of God's purpose for us, but we hang back from seizing hold of the full life for which God made us. Our lungs develop, but we don't use them. The wind (or breath) of the Spirit blows, but we do not breathe it in deeply.

Whatever our spiritual condition may be, let us constantly seek to be filled with the Spirit, to be led by the Spirit, to walk in the Spirit, and know 'God present with us for guidance, comfort and strength!