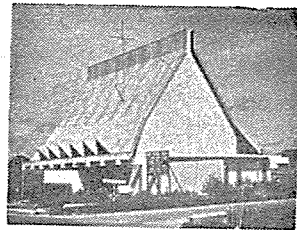


Newsletter

from

Trinity Methodist Church

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SINGAPORE-19



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MARCH 1971

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"NOW ABOUT THE COLLECTION....."

The words are Paul's, not mine. You can read them in I Corinthians 16: 1-2.

Earlier in the letter he has been talking about some of the great pinnacle themes of the Christian faith - the Lord's Supper, the body of Christ, the nature of Christian Love, spiritual gifts, the Life after Death. Then, prosaically, flatly - but very practically - he goes on: "Now, about the collection....." He knows that it is all very well to spin fine ideas and arguments, but somewhere and sometime the sharing of the Lord's Supper, the mutual caring of the members of the Body, Christian love and all other gifts of the Spirit need to find practical, concrete expression. "Now, about the collection....."

Paul saw the collection for the poor Christians in Judaea, which he pressed upon the other churches he visited, as a practical expression of what fellowship in Christ really means. It is the privilege of the stronger to help the weak, and that principle must touch even a man's wallet. Providing for the needs of the Church he saw as something far too important for a last-minute whip round for funds. He urges his friends not to wait until he arrives and then waste time dashing round to scrounge subscriptions (verse 2).

OUR TRINITY FAMILY *****

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS to Bernard Tan Heng Yong and Nancy Tan Hong Hong who were married at Trinity on Saturday 27th February. May God bless them with years of happiness together!

OUR BEST WISHES for a speedy recovery to our friend Mr Lim Hock Ann, who spent a week in hospital recently and is still not allowed back to work by the doctor.

WELCOME HOME to Mr Robert Lim Cheng Ean, back from Australia, with his new wife Lorraine Marilyn Lim. Robert has been recently qualified as a Chartered Accountant and will be with a firm of Chartered Accountant in Singapore.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS STUDY NIGHT. The Committee on Christian Education has decided to make Wednesday night our time for study in the church. A varied series of programmes is being developed for different groups in the congregation. Once a month, the Sunday School teachers will get together to plan the next batch of lessons and to talk over problems or share insights. On other occasions, a short series of topics will be studied and discussed. Sometimes we will use films or film strips for teaching purposes; sometimes we will take a theme of particular interest to the young marrieds etc. But remember! WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS STUDY NIGHT.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT. The study programme begins on Wednesday, March 3rd with the topic: "What is a Layman?" This is the first of five studies under the general title "GOD'S FROZEN PEOPLE". Underlying this series is the conviction that the Church means all God's people, that the Church exists to show God's love to his world, and that we have within the Church all kinds of powers and possibilities amongst its ordinary members which have never been used but which "exist as frozen credits and dead capital"

Hence the title! And you will see that the series is for you!

Other themes: "Frustrated Layman - Bewildered Parson"

"What's the Church for?"

"Where in the world is my place?"

HELPING GROWN-UPS TO GROW. We have just started an Adult Class each Sunday morning at 8.45 a.m. as part of the programme of the Church School. Why not pop in and join us? We are only just across the road from the market!

CHURCH BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31ST 1971

The Local Conference has accepted the following as the estimate of what our church needs to spend during this Conference year.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Including pastor's housing, travel, public utilities etc.		\$	
			7,415

CONFERENCE SUPPORT

Conference benevolences	2,800		
Conference travel (lay del.)	80		
Support of Toa Payoh Project	<u>280</u>		3,160

MAINTENANCE & UPKEEP

Caretaker incl. CPF	1,210		
Repairs and maintenance	1,500		
Telephone (church and manse)	500		
Public Utilities	1,000		
Insurance & quit rent	<u>145</u>		4,355

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Stationery, printing, postage			1,580
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SUBSIDIES TO CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

			1,000
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CONTINGENCIES

			600
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DEVELOPMENT FUND

			<u>1,800</u>
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE

			<u>\$19,910</u>
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We plan to raise the necessary income like this:

PLEDGES			10,000
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OPEN COLLECTIONS (Church offerings)			5,200
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CHURCH ANNIVERSARY			1,000
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THANKSGIVING GIFTS			3,000
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Estimated deficit			<u>710</u>
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			<u>\$19,910</u>
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CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MARCH

The regular programme of Trinity Methodist Church includes the following:

SUNDAY	8.45 a.m.	SUNDAY SCHOOL for all ages
	10.00 a.m.	SERVICE OF WORSHIP
	11.05 a.m.	CHOIR PRACTICE
	3.30 P.M.	M.Y.F. MEETING
	5.30 p.m.	SERVICE OF WORSHIP
WEDNESDAY	8.00 p;m.	WEDNESDAY STUDY NIGHT a varied programme for different groups in the church
FRIDAY	8.00 p.m.	CHOIR PRACTICE
SATURDAY	2.00 p.m.	BOYS' BRIGADE PARADE & BIBLE CLASS

Special Preachers for March:

<u>Sunday 7 March</u>	(Holy Communion) 5.30 p.m.	Rev Chew Hock Hin
<u>Sunday 14 March</u>	10.00 a.m.	Rev John Buxton (Paya Lebar M.C.)
<u>Sunday 28 March</u>	10.00 a.m.	Bishop Yap Kim Hao

Special Announcements for March:

WEDNESDAY STUDY NIGHT programme begins on the theme:

"GOD'S FROZEN PEOPLE"

3 March, 8.00 p.m. at the Manse, 28 Chuan Hoe Avenue

MONTHLY PARISH MEETING on Saturday 13th March, 5.00 p.m. at
3, Medway Drive, the home of Mr & Mrs Henry Chia.

W.S.C.S. MEETING on Saturday 20 th March, 4.00 p.m. - Cake-
making (kueh Sarrat) demonstration by Miss Khoo
koh Hee at 33 Kensington Park Road. All are welcome.

HOUSE-GROUP LEADERS TRAINING CLASS at Paya Lebar Methodist Church,
Tuesday evenings 9th, 16th 23rd and 30th March.

Preliminary Announcements for April

Services will be held each evening (except Saturday) in Holy Week, April 5th to 9th.

Preachers:

Monday: Mr Lam Yet Seng
 Tuesday: Rev Robert Foster
 Wednesday: Mr Andrew Lee
 Thursday (Holy Communion): The Pastor
 Friday (Good Friday) 10 a.m. The Pastor

PREACHING THROUGH LENT

The Pastor is preaching a series of sermons based on I Corinthians and entitled: "BEING A CHRISTIAN IN A NON-CHRISTIAN WORLD". Themes for March include:

March 7 (Communion)	a.m.	Church Meeting can do Harm
March 14	p.m.	When not to claim your rights
March 21	a.m.	Whose Body?
	p.m.	What's Mine is Yours
March 28	p.m.	It's the Greatest!

GROUP LEADERS TRAINING

We hope in the next few months to begin to develop small house groups for closer fellowship and more meaningful study of our faith and responsibility.

We shall need trained leaders for these groups.

We are beginning a training course on Tuesday March 9th at Faya Lebar Methodist Church - a joint venture - that will not only give theoretical training but produce together practical material for group meetings.

Come and join us!

TUTORS FOR TOA PAYOH

Teachers are needed to assist one night a week in a special tuition programme designed to help children in low income families. The children will be from Primary 3 to Primary 6. The subjects to be taught are:

English as a second language (in Mandarin)

English (taught in English)

Mathematics (taught in either Mandarin or English)

on Tuesday or Thursday evenings, 7.30 to 9.00 p.m.

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WHAT ARE CONFERENCE BENEVOLENCES?

We shall make no separate appeal for Conference Benevolences this year. As a congregation of the Methodist Church, we are responsible not only for our own local financial needs but also for the needs of the Singapore-Malaysia Annual Conference to which we belong. This wider obligation must therefore be an item on our regular Budget.

The Singapore District must raise the very large sum of \$70,500 this year, of which our share is \$2,800. Why so much?

Because an autonomous Methodist Church must be responsible for providing for its Bishop and President. It must make it possible for District Superintendents to do their work, for ministerial members to travel to Conference and help ministers appointed to new charges with their removal expenses. It must provide pensions (often grossly inadequate) for retired ministers who have served the Church long and faithfully, and for their widows.

As a Conference, we contribute to the work of the Council of Churches, the students Centres at the universities and help to maintain the work of Trinity Theological College. Together we make a (ridiculously small) grant to the Board of Missions, contribute towards a full-time Youth Director for the Board of Christian Education, continue to pay off the old debt on the Port Dickson Methodist Centre. Conference Boards have to meet if they are to function effectively; and that costs money, too.

Perhaps you can understand, therefore, why it is unlikely that this item on our Budget can ever be decreased. There is so much more that the Methodist Church as a whole could do if we had the financial resources. And that means that each local congregation - including Trinity - must faithfully play its part.

CHOIR CANTATA FOR EASTER The choir, led by Mr Andrew Lee, is hard at work preparing the cantata " NO GREATER LOVE ". It will be presented as the theme of the Easter Sunday evening service, April 11th

INFANT BAPTISMS on Sunday 28 February; LORINNE, daughter of Mr and Mrs Rodney Roberts and ANDREW MICHAEL, son of Mr and Mrs John Deering.

WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE -----

PASTOR'S PURSE We apologise to all those generous donors whose names were inadvertently omitted from the last Newsletter, who also contributed to the Purse presented to Rev Chew Hock Hin on his retirement. They include the following:

Mr & Mrs Ernest Kan, Mr & Mrs Lee Kim Fah, Mrs P. Chia, Mr F. Wong Chiang Kwang, Mr Yeo Kim Kiat, Mr & Mrs Lim Hong Hai, Mr & Mrs Michael Ong Hock Kim, Mr Chew, Mr & Mrs E.K. Liew, Mr & Mrs Goh Seng Hock, Mr Choo Sit Fuee, Mr & Mrs How Ah Sun, Mr & Mrs Andrew Goh, Mr & Mrs Phung Khye Sun, Mrs Goh Keng Swee & Madam Tan Hin Jin, Mr & Mrs Lim Hock Ann, Mr & Mrs P. Sathiasingam, Miss Khoo Koh Hee & Miss Khoo Sock Yan, Miss Lucy Lau & mother, Mr & Mrs Henry Chia, Mr & Mrs Tan Khe Tong.

THANKSGIVING Mrs. Rosie Leong (\$50), Mr & Mrs Tan Keng Hian (\$20), Mrs E. Hardy (\$20), Anon.(\$5), Miss Irene Lee (\$5), Mr & Mrs Bernard Tan (organ fund) (\$15).

DONATIONS In memory of Akos Krisch (\$20), Anon.(for Easter Folders)(\$35.50

NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS -----

We hope to be able to pass on each month a little bit of news about what is going on in our neighbouring Methodist churches at Paya Lebar and Toa Payoh.

Rev John Buxton, from Paya Lebar, has been away throughout the month of February, attending a course for Bible Translators organised by the United Bible Societies in Bangkok.

A four-week Training Course for Parish Group Leaders is being organised at Paya Lebar, on Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m. starting on March 9th. We are sharing in this programme, and we hope that any of you who would like to take part in this practical course will be with us on that night.

The Paya Lebar friends are organising a series of Revival Meetings during Holy Week.

Rev Michael Wong, from Toa Payoh, is in the United States for two months, taking part in the "Mission to America" programme. While he is there, he will also visit and observe various urban and industrial mission projects.

Rev George Hover, who works particularly in Community Development programmes in Toa Payoh, is looking after the congregation while Rev Wong is away. He tells me that he would be very grateful if there were Trinity Methodists who would be willing to share, regularly and faithfully, in the Tutorial Programme which they are offering to some of the children in the new town.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE (continued)

This expression of Christian partnership (he says) must be treated seriously and systematically

- by EVERYBODY ("each of you.....")
- REGULARLY ("Every Sunday....." i.e. before you start spending on yourself)
- PROPORTIONATELY ("in proportion to his gains.....")

Now we believe these principles still hold good. We have set out our minimum Budget needs for the current year on another page. We have not yet dared to present an "all-in Budget", which would include all those excellent and necessary causes for which we have taken special "second collections" from time to time; things like the Medical Fund in support of the Perak clinics, the Missions Fund in aid of Sengoi and other mission projects, Trinity College etc. These are all proper claims on us, and we are moving towards the day when our normal Budget will include these as regular items to which we make planned contributions.

But first, we have to make sure that our Budget income is, overwhelmingly, underwritten by pledged giving. We can only plan wisely when our people are ready to promise that they will accept for themselves the Biblical principle of regular, proportional, systematic giving.

This year, now almost half gone, we plan to raise at least half our needed income from your pledges. To date, just over \$7,000 has been promised by less than 70 members and friends.

Let me invite each and every one of you - whether you have already pledged or not - to ask yourself: "How has God blessed me? Daily? Hourly? Or only from time to time?" Then ask yourself again: "What part of all that He has given can I give back to Him? How can I say how grateful I am - daily? weekly? monthly?"

"Thanks be to God for His gift beyond words!"

Your friend in Jesus Christ,

Christopher X Smith