

TMC NEWSLETTER

March — April 1985 1985

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TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

Pastor Epistle

Last year, in one of my PASTORAL EPISTLES, I shared with you my view concerning the Church Extension Project. I see the project as a vision given to us by GOD. In fact it is a vision for us to complete the project and widen our ministries to our own members and to the community at large. I encouraged you to participate in the project, and many of you have responded very generously and sacrificially.

The main construction work for the extension project started in mid-March. According to the Project Planning Committee, the whole building should be completed within ten months, although it is likely that the project may be finished on time for our Christmas celebration.

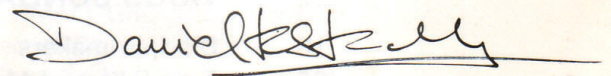
Now that the main work has begun, our Church has to raise the outstanding sum of \$600,000 to meet regular payments. So far, less than 50% of our membership pledged to support the project. There are about two hundred members who have not responded to our call to participate in this worthwhile vision project. If you are one of those members who have not sent in your support, will you do so immediately. It is the project of the whole Church. Every member should have a share in contributing cheerfully to the vision project which seeks to expand God's work and glorify His Name. It doesn't seem right if only 50% of our membership support the project and the rest of the members refuse to be partners in this vision project.

The members who have been sending their regular contribution since we launched this project are ordinary people. There are a few who have pledged more than \$5,000. God bless them. In the main, most members have pledged to give their best, and they have given sacrificially. I know of young members who have sacrificed their pocket money for the project. I know of members who have given a major part of their year-end bonus to the project. I know of members who have given more than one tenth of their income in support of the project. These are not "rich" members. Their richness is in their love for God and their desire to be an active partner in God's growing ministry.

We need to raise another \$600,000. This sum may seem like an exorbitant figure. However, if those of you who have not sent in your support would now begin to contribute, I am sure that we won't have much problem meeting our financial need.

Come. Be an active partner in God's ministry. Have a share in the building of the Trinity Educational Centre.

With you Believing in the Power of the
Resurrected Lord.



Rev Daniel Koh Kah Soon

1885 Centennial 1985
Celebrations

EDITORIAL

The German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: "It is infinitely easier to suffer in obedience to a human command than in the freedom of one's own responsibility. It is infinitely easier to suffer with others than to suffer alone. It is infinitely easier to suffer publicly and honourably than apart and ignominiously. It is infinitely easier to suffer through staking one's life than to suffer spiritually. Christ suffered as a free man alone, and in ignominy, in body and spirit...."

Every year at Easter, we commemorate the infinite suffering that Christ willingly went through in order that we might be redeemed from our sins and have eternal life. During every Holy Week, we have sermons centering around Christ's passion, death and resurrection, reminding us once again of this one act which liberated the world from sin. We are often touched and moved by such sermons to renew our commitment to the Lord. This is because we are reminded of the enormous debt that we owe Him.

Yet, even as we renew our covenant with the Lord, it is worthwhile bearing in mind the message of Easter

which should be kept in mind, not only at Easter, but throughout the year. In fact, the memory that Christ died for our sins should be the very foundation upon which our entire lives as Christians are built.

All too often, we tend to lose sight of the right reasons for serving the Lord in the daily grain of life, and our motives get confused in the process. Thus, we may come to "serve" God simply because it has become a habit or custom to do so, or because we happen to enjoy the social interaction and fellowship of church work, or even because we "feel good" about going good.

At Easter we are reminded that our true motive in serving our Lord is to repay what little we can of the infinite debt that He paid for us by dying for our sins. We should also keep this thought constantly in our minds as we live our lives as Christians throughout the rest of the year.

Cecilia Wee

PULPIT CALENDAR

SUB-THEME:

CHALLENGE OF THE CROSS

APRIL

1	A Garden of Grief	Mark 14 : 32 — 42
2	A Betrayal and Mass Desertion	Mark 14 : 43 — 51
3	The Rock and A Cockerel	Mark 14 : 66 — 72
4	A Purple Robe, A Crown of Thorns (MAUNDY THURSDAY)	Mark 15 : 16 — 20
5	A Sponge & Vinegar in the World's Darkest Hour (GOOD FRIDAY)	Mark 15 : 33 — 41
7	The Day Death Died (E A S T E R)	Mark 16 : 1 — 7

SUB-THEME:

TREASURES FROM TIMOTHY

MAY

14	Faith of the Family	2 Timothy 1 : 1 — 5
21	Phobia & The Spirit of God	2 Timothy 1 : 6 — 7
28	The Power of the Gospel	2 Timothy 1 : 8 — 14
5	Onesiphorus: A Genuine Friend	2 Timothy 1 : 15 — 18

12 WSCS SUNDAY

19	Disciple-makers	2 Timothy 2 : 1 — 2
26	Four Pillars of Methodism	

ALDERSGATE SUNDAY

JUNE

2	The Discipline of A Disciple-maker	2 Timothy 2 : 3 — 7
9	In Season & Out of Season	2 Timothy 4 : 1 — 5

EVANGELISM SUNDAY

16	Sign of A Good Worker	2 Timothy 2 : 14 — 19
23	God's Word In Troubled Time	2 Timothy 3 : 1 — 17
30	Running the Race	2 Timothy 4 : 6 — 8

MYF PROGRAMMES

APRIL

- 6 SIGN-POSTS FOR CHRIST
13 CELL GROUP SECTION
20 FILM SHOW: JOURNEY TO THE SKY
27 STREET WITNESSING

MAY

- 4 HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE STUDENT
11 GROUP SECTION
18 PRAYER AND PRAISE
25 COMBINED MEETING

JUNE

- 1 COMBINED REGIONAL MUSICAL RALLY
8 NO MEETING
15 QUIZ
22 CAMP ECHO
29 PRACTICE FOR MYF GAMES DAY

COMBINED EVANGELISTIC MUSICAL RALLY

ORGANIZERS : ANG MO KIO MYF, TOA PAYOH MYF,
PAYA LEBAR MYF AND TRINITY MFT

MUSICAL : "BEAUTIFUL MUSIC"

DATE : SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1985

TIME : 7.00 P.M.

VENUE : PAYA LEBAR METHODIST CHURCH

ALL ARE WELCOME

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US AND PRAY FOR THIS MEETING.

METHODIST ADULT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES

APRIL

- 9 HOW DO I RESPOND TO GOD'S JUDGEMENT?
23 HOW DO I SHOW MERCY?

MAY

- 14 CAN ANYONE COUNT ON MY LOYALTY?
28 AM I WILLING TO TRUST GOD'S JUDGEMENT?

JUNE

- 11 HOW WOULD GOD DESCRIBE MY LIFE?
25 DO I KNOW THE REAL SECRET OF SUCCESS?

TMC YOUTH CAMP 1985

THEME : BECOMING LIVING EXAMPLES

THEME VERSE : 1 TIMOTHY 4 : 12

AGE : 14 years and above

DURATION : 10TH — 13TH JUNE 1985

VENUE : MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER
PONGGOL 17TH AVENUE

PROGRAMMES : MESSAGES, WORKSHOPS, GAMES,
GROUP ACTIVITIES, MOCK COURT AND
SPECIAL SMALL GROUP LECTURES

OBJECTIVES : 1) To Practise Biblical Lifestyle.

In 1 Peter 5 : 1 — 3, we are called to
shepherd the flock and to be examples
to the flock.

2) To be able to reflect God's love.

Matthew 5 : 14 — 16

Two messages on small groups will be included in the camp schedule. This is to prepare and encourage the growth of small groups in TMC. We sincerely hope that the adults will be able to join us for these two messages. We look forward to your support to fulfil the Great Commission.

L SERVICE

ed a Centennial Service on Feb 24. After the service,
e church. These are some of the highlights...



Wow! That sermon really made an impact on the ear, didn't it?

*Centennial
ations 1985*



"Mugging" in progress

Lifestyle Evangelism

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28 : 18 — 20

When Jesus died on the cross, He did not do it for a few individuals but for the whole world. He committed the task of reaching the world to a group of people called Christian. However, many associate the task of reaching the world with a rare group of Christians called missionaries. Most of us often fail to see the people in our working places, schools, our neighbours, friends and our families as part of the world too. But Jesus said "Go therefore and make disciples....." which means that in whatever we do and wherever we go we should try to make disciples and touch the lives of people around us.

Most of us think of evangelism in terms of a group of (usually) young people going out and giving tracts. In such cases, when one gets answers like "No, I don't want to believe, I have no basis to believe", one wonders how these people will come to receive Christ. Why is it some people receive Christ with the same message and some do not? To answer this question we need to look at the process of evangelism.

The Parable of the Sower (Mark 4 : 1 — 20), the same seeds (i.e. the Word of God) were sown in four different types of soil. Only those falling on good soil responded and bore fruit. Similarly with the hearts of people — not all are ready to respond to the Gospel. Their hearts need to be prepared.

In view of this, we see a few problem in our evangelism. Firstly, many of us are so anxious that the person we talk to will receive Christ that we just simply push a tract in their faces expecting them to swallow it. Are we just trying to recite off a formula or to communicate truth? When we say "Jesus is the only way to God", the person's reponse may be "I believe", or "What right have you to say my god is wrong?"

Do we give time towards trying to understand the hearers' thought patterns and translating the gospel message into their everyday language?

Our second problem is in our methods of evangelism. Traditional methods include preaching in rallies, crusades or talking to strangers. Open proclamation is commanded (Mark 16 : 15) and effective (Acts 14 : 1) but it is limited to those who are prepared (Acts 16 : 14). There are lots of people around whose hearts are prepared to receive Christ but also many who are not ready. The world consists of everyone, prepared and unprepared. Therefore we need a strategy to reach the unprepared and soften their hearts from 'hard road' to 'good soil' so that they may believe.

The Apostle Paul is primarily a proclaimer. His strategy was to go from city to city, reap those who were prepared, establish them and move on. He left the task of reaching the rest of the city to those little churches. We will then expect Paul to exhort the churches simply to get out and proclaim the gospel. However, Paul realised that to reach the rest of the people would involve more than just words. We also need to communicate truth through a positive lifestyle. Paul tells the Philippians to conduct themselves "in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1: 27). Jesus said in Acts 1 : 8, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be My witnesses....." The command is not to do witnessing, but to be Christ's witnesses. Evangelism is not merely an activity; it is a way of living.

Robert Coleman once said the love of God breaks through every barrier of communication. We need to demonstrate love (John 13 : 34, 35) godly character (Galatians 5 : 22) and truth (Ephesians 4 : 15). Our lives must be built on the Word of God and our actions must reflect the fact that we are the sons of God (Colossians 3 : 12, 13).

Yet we must remember not to do this in our own strength. We need to rely on the Holy Spirit. We need not only to show Christ but also to challenge people to receive Christ when the time is ripe. I would like to suggest some practical steps to follow:

- 1) Recognise there is a needy, unreached world out there.
- 2) Understand the limits of Proclamation.
- 3) Get involved in lifestyle evangelism by
 - (a) Learning to listen and share the gospel to meet a person's needs rather than just being eager to force the person to receive Christ. Evangelism is a process — we may be contributing to any part of it.
 - (b) Build your life on the foundation of God's word.
 - (c) Get a group of like minded people to encourage one another.
 - (d) Prepare to verbalise the gospel.
 - (e) Take initiatives to establish relationships.
 - (f) Single out individuals and pray for them.
 - (g) Invite friends to study the bible with you.
 - (h) Rely on the Holy Spirit.
 - (i) Be patient, persevere.

We are the only living representatives of Christ on this earth, if we don't show them Jesus, how will they know Him? If we don't tell them, how will they believe?

Further reading for those interested: Evangelism as a Lifestyle by Jim Peterson. This book is available at most Christian bookshops.

Walking With Jesus

Come June 20, '85 — TMC will descend upon the streets of Serangoon Gardens and its periphery en masse. It's our ardent wish and prayer that Church Members and Friends will walk for Jesus in the TMC Walkathon '85, organised in aid of the TRINITY EDUCATIONAL CENTRE.

The Walkathon Committee is hoping not only to raise the targetted \$15,000/- but aims to reach out to residents living around the area covered by the route. The second objective of having walkathon is thus, "To walk through the new housing estate and claim it as an area of ministry for TMC as the Israelities did at Jericho." (Joshua 6).

Walking has been said to be a fantastic form of cardio-vascular exercise — tones the muscles and improves the circulation. Eminently suitable for both young and old. Why not make this event a family affair? You may wish to take a brisk walk, or you may wish to stroll along. Whatever it is, the idea is for you to set your own pace and enjoy this healthy early morning activity.

This being our first ever TMC Walkathon, there is the novelty and excitement of setting the precedent for future ones. Participants can look forward to receiving a free T-shirt, certificate of participation, and refreshments. Furthermore, attractive prizes will be given away to winners in the various categories. In this connection, the Committee would like to appeal to church members and friends for donations — in cash or in kind.

Do take home a Walkathon card and join the Committee in making TMC Walkathon '85 an unabashed success. Your kind support and enthusiastic walking spirit is sought.

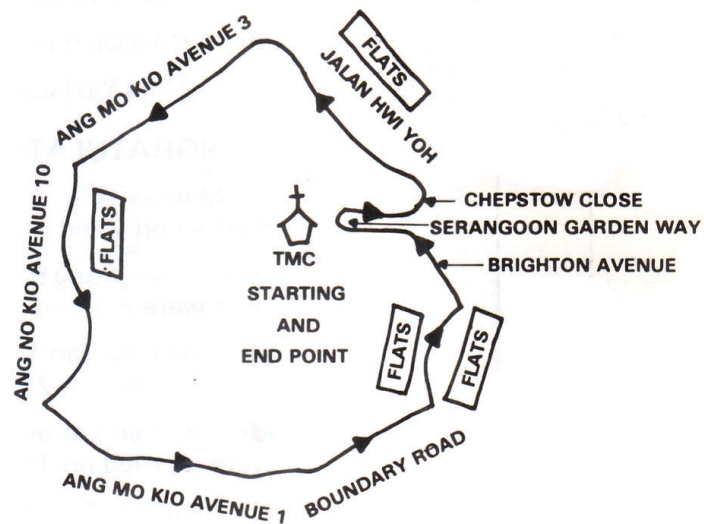
And when the Trinity Educational Centre is up, we can say that TMC worked and walked together towards its completion — with JESUS all the way.

Please channel all donations to the Walkathon Committee, care of the Secretary or any Committee member. Look out for more details on the TMC Walkathon '85 in the weekly order of worship, on posters or simply seek out the Committee members.

Committee members are: Eugene Lim (Chairman), Linda Cheok (Secretary), Daniel Gwee, Doris Gwee, Ng Yean Kiat, Sunny Loh, Albert Loh, Ivan Tan, Ashley Choo.

Below is a sketch of the route (not the size):-

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WALKATHON '85 ROUTE MAP: APPROXIMATE DISTANCE IS 7 KM



JOE
MCKEEVER

"I THINK I'VE FOUND THE GUY TO
LEAD OUR FUND-RAISING DRIVE."

— submitted by Linda Cheok —

Family News

HOME BLESSINGS:

The Pastor dedicated the homes of:

Mr and Mrs Oh Ban Hock on Thursday 21st March 1985

Mr and Mrs Yip Fook Yoon on Friday 22nd March 1985

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Mr Marcus Ang and Ms Choo Gek Hong who were married on 22nd December 1984

Mr Kenneth Pang Seng Choon and Ms Goh Hoon Hwee who were married on 19th January 1985

Mr Brembley Tan Kim Yam and Ms Sim Li Chin who were married on 26th January 1985

Mr Koh Tien Lai and Ms Sharon Tan Wah Chin who were married on 16th February 1985

Mr Yong Poh Fah and Ms Adeline Poh Yong Tee who had their marriage blessed on 30th March 1985

Mr Nicholas Chan Mun Yew and Ms Kok Ee Lynn who had their marriage blessed on 20th April 1985

GIFT OF A CHILD

A baby boy, Christopher Yong Shi Kai, to Leslie and Juliet Yong on 20 December 1984

A baby boy, Kevin Tan Jian Wen, to Clifton and Mildred Tan on 10 January 1985

A baby girl, Romona Loh Jess Mien, to Stephen and Jessie Loh on 16 January 1985

A baby boy, David Jonathan Chan Thuang Tong, to Philip and Pak Kheng on 18 March 1985

OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

Mr Eugene Lim on the demise of his father, Mr Lim Cheng Tew on 2nd December 1984

The Family of Mr Chow Wah Seng on the demise of Mr Chow on 17th January 1985

Mrs Patricia Chia and Adeline Chia on the demise of their mother, Mdm Sim Kwi Hong on 15th February 1985