

July — August 1985
MC(P) 22/1/85 ISSN 0217-5673

TMC NEWSLETTER

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

Pastoral Epistle

By the time you received this newsletter, the church would have observed our Pledge and Stewardship Sunday. This would have taken place on the first Sunday of August. Following our practice started last year, members of the L.C.E.C. would lead the way in offering their pledges.

This year the budget will exceed S\$200,000. If we take into consideration the sum faithful members are giving to the Extension Funds, the total would add up to more than S\$300,000.

We have encouraged members to practise the Biblical principle of setting aside 10% of their income for God's work through the church. We have also encouraged more members to pledge regularly. So far we have succeeded in convincing just over 55% of our registered members to give regularly. As yet, we have not been able to rally the support of the other 45% of our membership. Some of the members who have not been supporting the church regularly have migrated or are studying overseas. A number of them have chosen to give quietly their tithes. About 20% of our membership for various reasons have decided to keep away from church, and in so doing they have opted out of the fellowship of Trinity Methodist Church, although they still keep church membership.

I am trusting that the Spirit of God will work in the lives of members who have been standing by the sideways to come forward and join the faithful members in assuming greater responsibility in Christian Stewardship in our church. It would be answered prayer if we can get up to 75% of our membership to support the ministry of the church on a regular basis.

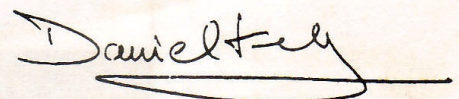
Why Christian Stewardship? We see Christian stewardship as a joyful responsibility because we believe in a great and living God. We affirm that whatever we have (job, savings, home, family, business, friends, church, money,) come from God. He has entrusted these gifts to us for our stewardship. Of course, if we are not convinced about the existence and love of God, we would not care too much about stewardship, and it would not make sense to support the church or any ministries. Although we may not have spent much thought on it, the fact is that our stewardship or the lack of it, reflects our belief or the lack of it in God and His work.

Why tithe? Christians tithe because they want to be active partners in God's missions in and through the church. They tithe because they refuse to be seduced by their possessions. They tithe because they want to set their priorities right.

The marvelous thing about people who tithe out of their love for God and His church is that none of them has become poorer or disadvantaged. None of them has been declared a bankrupt because they tithe. None of them has suffered insomnia or depression because they set aside 10% for God's Church. Often people who tithe are people who have been blessed and enriched. They are the people who have been set free by the Spirit to live a more meaningful life.

Be an active partner in God's Work. Support the church with your tithe and regular givings. God bless you.

With you..... In Active Service.



Rev. Daniel K.S. Koh

*1885 Centennial 1985
Celebrations*

THE JOY OF SERVING GOD

My inferiority complex has always caused me to doubt my capacity to serve. I could not believe that God could use a person like me. Therefore, like Jonah, I always ran away from Him.

However, I gained confidence and courage as I read the Bible, especially verses such as 2 Cor 12:9-10, which says:

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly therefore, I will rather boast my weakness, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake, for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

My desire to serve the Lord grew greater and greater. I began to ask God to use me as His instrument; I no longer wished to be a useless vessel. When Albert Loh approached me to be in the camp committee, I saw this as an opportunity to serve the Lord.

I was apprehensive when Albert asked me to be the treasurer since I have always had difficulty balancing accounts. At this time, I was reminded of Matthew 19:26 which says: “With men this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible.” I was reassured that as long as I was willing to submit myself to God, He would see me through and I decided to take up the challenge.

Throughout the planning of the camp, I prayed for wisdom and guidance because I knew my own weaknesses. I acknowledged the fact that without God, I could do nothing. I thank and praise God that He has seen me through so many difficulties and heartaches during the course of my responsibility.

During the camp, I was asked to act as the “havoc” Far East Mama in our sketch. Initially, I strongly refused. I could not see myself in that role. It did not take me long to realise that it was actually pride which was stopping me from doing the act. I wanted to preserve my image.

I finally accepted the part as I did not want to disappoint my group members. I also realised that a servant cannot be proud.

The camp concert was a success. My appearance as the Far East Mama caused an uproar. Many of the campers could not believe that I could act “havoc”. I was later told that I was very natural. Actually, my heart was thumping very hard throughout the performance. However, I am glad I acted because it was fun!

Discipline during the camp was not too good. God taught me to be tolerant and to bear other people’s burdens (Gal 6:2). I felt the need to encourage and uplift others during the camp. I also learnt to accept people who are different from me and to love them.

It’s such a joy to be used by the Lord. I can truly sing that “the greatest thing in all my life is serving (God)”. God has answered my prayers for help and has shown me “great and mighty things.” You too can serve God, no matter how useless you think you are!

submitted by Jane Yoon

PASTOR AND DIANNA HAVE MOVED

To

Block 116 Serangoon North Avenue 5 #04-493
Singapore 1955. Tel. 2861082

In case of Emergency, contact Pastor at Pager No. 5020791

PULPIT CALENDAR

CHURCH THEME : "NOT BY MIGHT, NOR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT"
Zech. 4:6

SUB-THEME : BUILDING FOR BLESSING

JULY	7	Church Growth: Mobilising for Building	Haggai 1 : 1 - 15
	14	Why Missions? (MISSION SUNDAY)	Matthew 28 : 16 - 20
	21	(MAF SUNDAY)	
	28	Tithe: Test of Stewardship (Pre-Pledge Sunday)	Deutronomy 14 : 22 - 29
AUGUST	4	Value-Added Stewardship (STEWARDSHIP & PLEDGE SUNDAY)	
	11	Prophets and Politics (NATIONAL DAY SUNDAY)	Micah 3 : 1 - 12
	18	(MYF SUNDAY)	
	25	Church Growth: Promise of Blessing	Haggai 2 : 1 - 9, 15 - 19

SUB-THEME : ROMANCE OF RUTH

SEPTEMBER	1	Ruth & Naomi: A Relationship Strengthened	Ruth 1 : 1 - 22
	8	(CHURCH 29TH ANNIVERSARY) Bishop Ho Chee Sin	
	15	Rev Christopher Smith Guest Preacher	
SEPTEMBER	22	(CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY)	

As August is the month when the Church approaches members to join the various Church Committees for the coming year, it might be worthwhile for us to bear the following extract in mind:-

ARE YOU A KEY PERSON?

Even though my typewriter is an old model, it works quite well except for one of the keys. I have wished many times that it worked perfectly; it is true that there are 46 keys that function well enough, but just one key not working makes the difference.

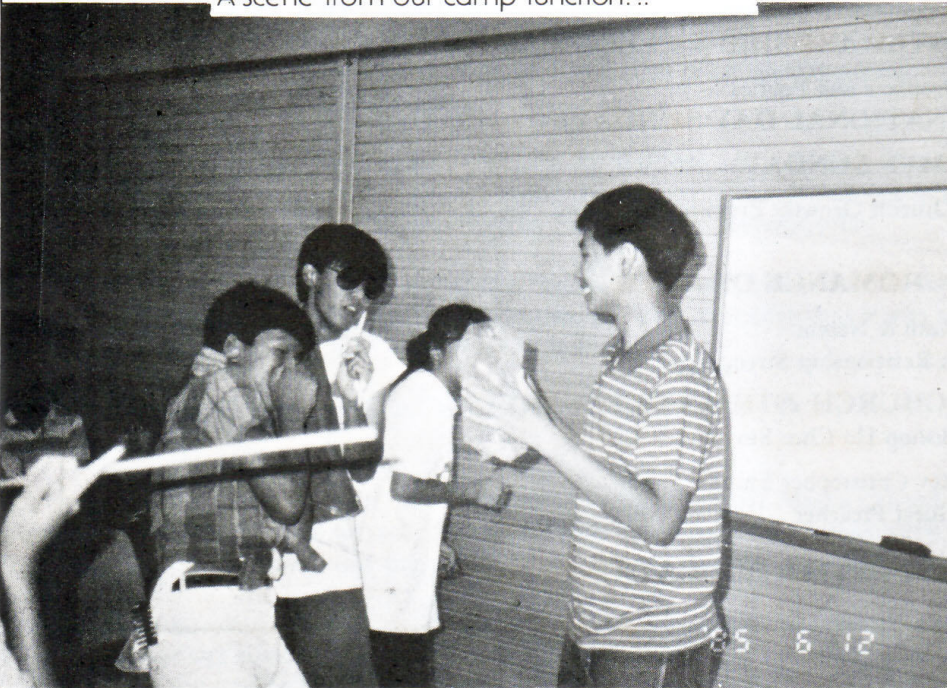
Sometimes it seems to me that certain of our members are somewhat like my typewriter—not all the key people are working properly. You may say to yourself: "Well, I am only one person; I won't make or break the organization. But it does make a difference, because for an organization to be effective, it needs the active participation of every member."

So the next time you think you are only one person and that your efforts aren't needed, remember my typewriter and say to yourself: "I am a key person in the organization and I am needed."

(The above appeared in a British Methodist newspaper.)



Some People were a bit harvoc in camp.
A scene from our camp function?!!



Sunny the gangster. Guess you haven't seen this side of him, have you?



The group "Joshua" presented a sketch called "The History of Music".
This is the stone age family who first discovered music.



The most glamou

TMC YOU
(10 - 1
P-H-O-T-O



Pastor taking



ous "girls" in camp

TH CAMP
(5 June)
-N-E-W-S



girls' pictures



"Don't tell me you don't know that verse, George!"



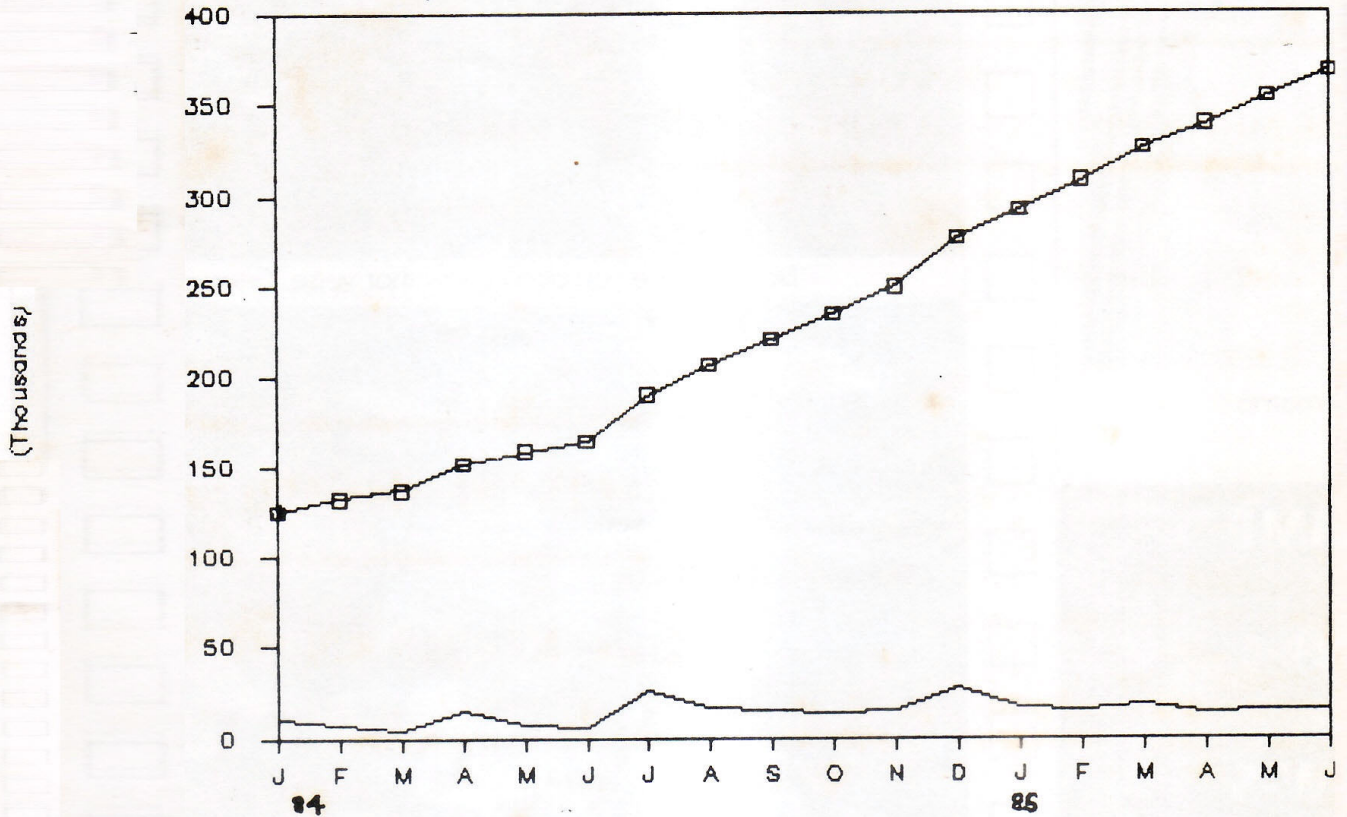
Guess what Hwee Suan was telling them?



Believe it or not, we had 5 B — X during the camp!

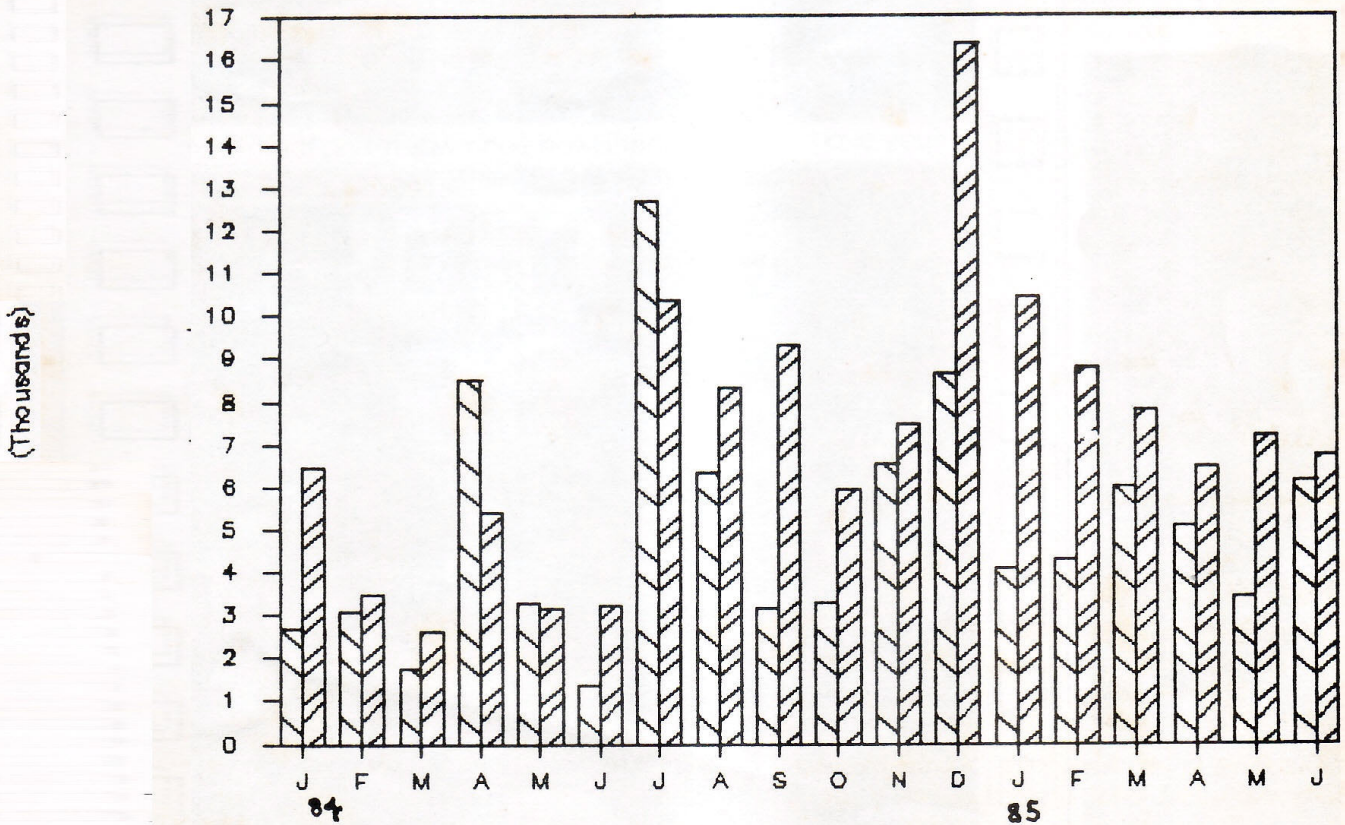
Donations & Pledges For The TRINITY EDUCATIONAL CENTRE Building Fund

Period January 1984 to June 1985



□ TOTAL RECEIPTS

— MTHLY RECEIPTS



□ MTHLY DONATIONS

▨ MTHLY PLEDGES

REFLECTIONS ON THE METHODIST YOUTH CONVENTION



The Methodist Youth Convention (MYC) was organised in conjunction with the centennial celebrations of the Methodist Church in Singapore. For me, the very mention of this Convention brings beautiful thoughts and memories.

This camp not only enabled me to learn a lot but I also made lots of new friends. I was very encouraged by some of the speakers, and the theme speaker, Mr. Jim Wilson, especially left a deep impression upon me. He was not only a dynamic speaker but a great singer as well.

Besides the theme message, the workshops were also very enriching. The workshop on "Understanding Your Sexuality" was very helpful and practical. The speaker was very frank and clear and I praise God for that.

There was a group of musically talented people at the Convention and they brought much joy to me as they shared the songs they had written. I could see God's hand at work, enabling ordinary people to create beautiful music.

In the beginning, a few of our church members and I did not really feel a sense of belonging in the camp. We met one night to share amongst ourselves. We prayed hard for positive attitudes and hearts eager to know God. Sharing and praying for each other brought us closer to one another. Our prayers were answered for the very next day, we felt different and were able to enjoy ourselves.

I found the "Farewell Service" particularly memorable. The band leader from Bedok Methodist Church, Serene Tan, sang a very lovely song for us. The camp ended with the inevitable signing of autographs and exchanging of telephone numbers and addresses. Lastly, we were invited to go on stage to speak or shout out thoughts, which were to be dedicated to the Lord, into the microphone.

I sincerely hope that a Convention of this nature will be organised more often. The Convention brought people from different churches together for fellowship and enabled us all to see beyond our little niche. Warmth and fellowship prevailed throughout the Convention and I will never forget my wonderful experience.

submitted by Lynn Poh

FAMILY NEWS

HOME BLESSING

The pastor dedicated the home of:
Mr & Mrs Daniel Gwee on Saturday June 29, 1985.

OUR CONDOLENCE TO:

Dr Tan Beng Guan, May Ling, Victor, May Lee, Francis on the demise of Mrs. Wendy Tan.
Wendy was called home to the Lord on Friday July 12, 1985.

"HE"

*He is my Savior and my Lord —
The master of all I've got,
My comforter and protector —
He's all nature's creator,
He lightens me when I'm down,
Sustains me till now;
Every moment that I live,
Everything that He gives,
Means more each passing day —
He guides me along the way,
With me He promised to stay*

*Lest one day I go astray;
He's my friend, my all —
He cushions me when I fall
And I know He loves me so —
For who else would give himself
To save a sinner like myself,
To care for me, my everything?
Only Christ and Christ alone,
His love I would make known,
For He's the Way, the Truth, The Life —
Without Him, no man will survive!*

Sim Sok Hian
November 1984

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP & BAPTISM CLASS

A new Membership and Baptism Class has begun on Sunday, AUGUST 4, 1985 at 11.30 a.m. in the church upper room. This will last for at least 3 months.

Members are welcome to join the class as refresher course.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

DATE : FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1985

Place : TMC

Time : 7.30 p.m.

Cost : \$30.00 per person

Rev & Mrs Christopher Smith will be our guests of Honour

Donation tables available at \$300.00 and above per table.

Tickets available from

Mrs Catherine Pang

Mrs Patricia Chia

Mrs Irene Chin

Mr Chew Kim Min

ANNIVERSARY BRICKS

A souvenir Magazine will be published to celebrate our 29th Anniversary. We invite you to donate \$10.00 (minimum) per 'brick space' in the magazine. All Proceeds will go towards our extension fund. Please see Mr Wong Yow Chuen.

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Date : Sunday, September 8, 1985

Place: TMC

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Speaker : Bishop Ho Chee Sin

There will be no evening service.