

TMC NEWSLETTER

November — December 1986

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TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH 34 SERANGOON GARDEN WAY (1955)

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Pastoral Epistle

I know that this is a trite question but DOESN'T TIME FLY? once again the Christmas Season is upon us. Why it seems only just a while ago that we left the last Christmas behind! And before we know it, the next Christmas will soon be here, too.

Each Christmas that passes, as we remember our Lord Jesus' "first" coming to earth two thousands years ago, we also realise that we are also that much closer to our Lord's Second Coming. In fact the season of Advent, the four weeks or so preceding Christmas, is meant precisely for this. Advent does not only prepare us for Christmas it also reminds us of His coming again in great power and glory.

As we greet this present Christmas season, let us also examine ourselves to see if we are ready for our Lord's coming again. Will we be as glad to see the Lord again as the shepherds were that first Christmas night? Are we as devoted to worshipping Christ with our best as the wise men as they travelled many miles following the star just to bring their gifts to the Christ-child and worship Him?

How prepared we are to meet the Lord as He comes again depends on the room we make for Him in our hearts. As always, Christ comes to the INN of our hearts and asks for room. As in the Scriptures, some relegate Him to the stables of their lives. Shall we?

Surely not. Instead let us give over our whole heart to Him. Let us give Him not only the best room but the whole INN of our hearts. In that way, as He is born a new "INN" our hearts, surely He shall be Lord of our whole lives, as well, and we, who shall have the Light of Lives residing "INN" us. Shall also boldly and joyously proclaim Him as Witnesses of the Light. And when He comes again, we shall also surely be ready to meet Him and we shall reign with Him forever.

Will you be ready to meet Him when He comes again? What place does He have at the INN of your life?

This Christmas, let us give our lives to Him anew, and rejoice as the angels, shepherds, wisemen and others did at the Birthday of a King; indeed our King, the Lord Jesus.

Merry Christmas and a Specially
Blessed New Year.

Rev Melvin Huang



Are we as devoted to worshipping Christ with our best
as the three wise men as they travelled many miles

Evangelical Films presents

A Father...
A Son...
and a
Three-Mile
Run

NOW
SEE THE STORY
THAT THRILLED
AND INSPIRED
THOUSANDS
IN PAPERBACK
AND THE
READERS
DIGEST



This is a true story of a boy, Billy who was a slow learner in school but who eventually proved himself a success in other ways.

Despite being told by his teachers that Billy would not make it through the exams, his parents accepted him as he was. Their unrelentless love and encouragement, through the love of Christ, greatly comforted and encouraged Billy on.

One day, Billy was spotted by a physical exercise trainer who later trained him for cross-country running. With consistent training and sheer hard work, he made it to the national event and eventually came in among the top few positions.

The parent's unconditional love for their child inspite of his weakness is a good lesson for many of us (parents and parents-to-be) who shun our children because they are not up to our expectations.

SSH

**CHRISTIAN
QUOTATIONS**

ANXIETY

Anxiety is the natural result when our hopes are centred in anything short of God and his will for us.

Billy Graham

BLESSING

The more we count the blessings we have, the less we crave the luxuries we haven't.

William A. Ward

CHRISTIAN

If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

David Otis Fuller

DAILY LIVING

Every day should be passed as if it were to be our last.

Publilius Syrus

EXAMPLE

Example is not the main thing in influencing others - it is the only thing.

Albert Schweitzer

FEAR

We must fear God through love, not love Him through fear.

Jean Pierre Camus

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT :

We would like to praise God for Misses Ang Hwee Suan and Cecilia Wee for their leadership and dedication to the TMC Newsletter publication during the past year.

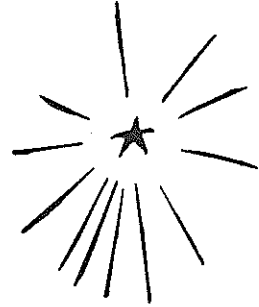
The Editor
Sim Cher Khee

The Spirit of Christmas

Gifts for the King

We all have gifts that we may bring.
We all have songs that we may sing.
We all have kind words we may say.
We all have prayers that we may pray.

We all have love and joy to give.
And what a joy life is to live
If we just scatter everywhere
The things God's given us to share.



If you have a gift—bring it
If you have a song—sing it
If you have a talent—use it
If you have love—diffuse it

If you have gladness—share it
If you have happiness—give it
If you have religion—live it
If you have a prayer—pray it

—Author unknown

Christmas and Watchnight Programme

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTY

Date : Saturday 20 December
Time : 3 pm
Place : TEC

CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

(Infant and Adult Baptism and Confirmation)

Date : 21 December
Time : 8.15 am and 10.00 am services
Pastor will preach

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Date : Wednesday 24 December
Time : 9.00 pm
Place : Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Date : Thursday 25 December
Time : 10.00 am
Pastor will preach
THERE WILL ONLY BE ONE SERVICE

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE (Holy Communion Covenant Service)

Date : Wednesday 31 December
Time : 10.30 pm
Pastor will preach



International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists July 12-21

AMSTERDAM 86

By Gabriel Liew

I had a once-a-lifetime opportunity to attend the International Conference for Itinerant Evangelists held in Amsterdam from July 12 to July 21 1986. It was sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The purpose of Amsterdam '86 was to encourage, equip and motivate itinerant evangelists of the world.

When I got off the plane, I was warmly greeted by a young American steward who took me to the baggage claim area and helped me get through customs. This warm reception was the beginning of many good things to come.

The opening ceremony was filled with grandeur. Six torchbearers, representing the six continents, lit one flame to symbolise the gospel. Flag-bearers representing 170 participating nations marched in the parade.

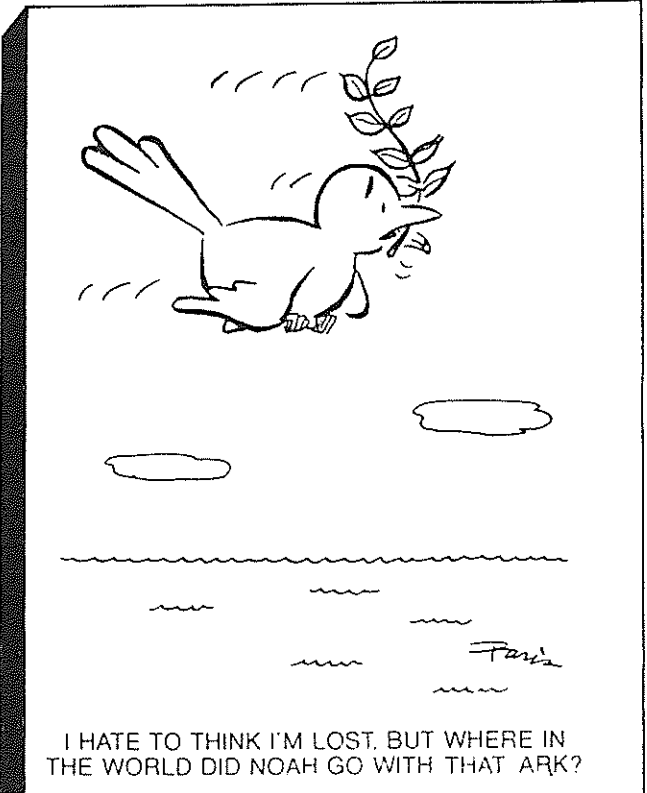
I was refreshed by the meaningful worship and heart-warming preaching. Through the plenary sessions I learned the Biblical standards for the evangelist. Drama sketches brought forth realistic application. Music, testimonies, prayer times added to my inspiration and encouragement. The seminars stimulated and motivated me concerning important issues in my ministry (there were altogether 100 seminars and 160 workshops; examples of the topics covered were youth work, apologetics and street preaching).

One afternoon, we went witnessing at 68 locations in 49 Dutch cities. At each city was featured a drama team or musical group to attract a crowd.

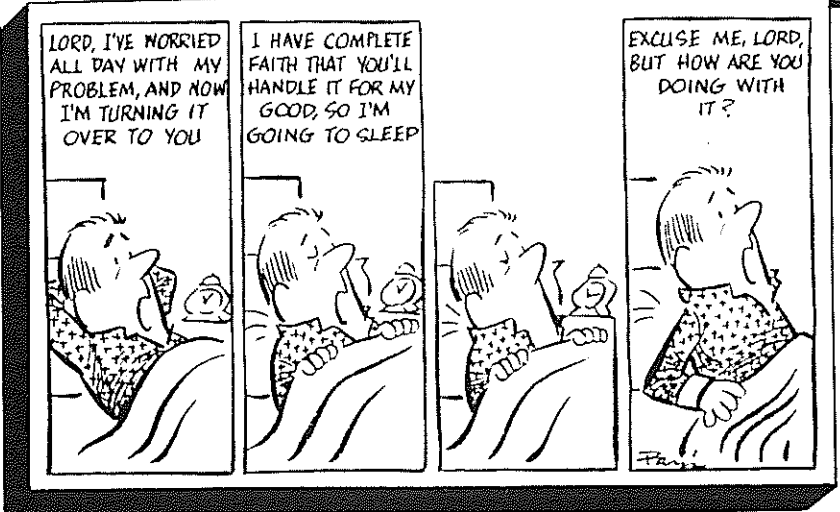
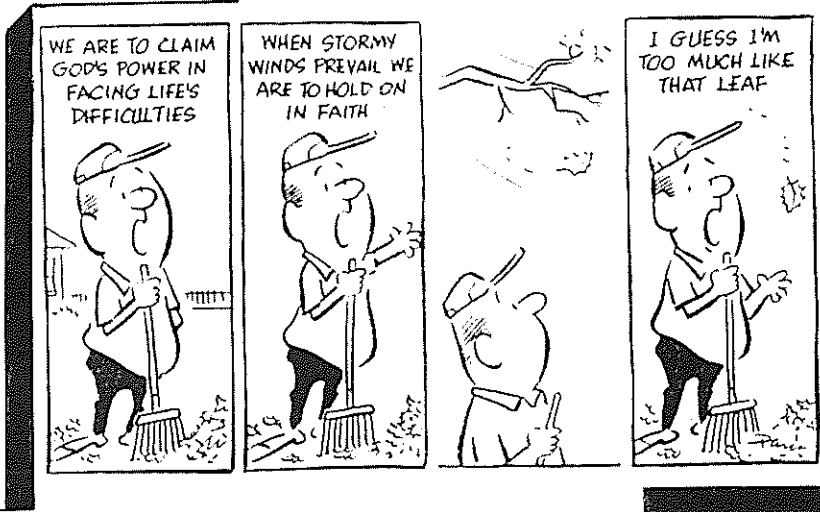
A short message was followed by opportunities to talk with passersby. It is sad to note the spiritual bankruptcy of this nation - many of the awesome cathedrals are empty. The tide of secularisation is overwhelming. This Christo-pagan country reminds me to be on guard against having "a form of religion but denying the power thereof". It also reminded me that my relationship with Christ should be sincere, intimate, real and vibrant, instead of just going through the motion of worship and service."

One evening, an American Missionary shared her experiences in reaching the tribal people in a remote part of the Philippines. She sacrificed modern comforts, endured loneliness, suffered pain and risked her health for this tribe. Once she sustained serious injuries when the plane which took her to the jungle crashed. However, the Lord miraculously preserved her life. In 1982, after 20 years of tireless labour, she and her workers finished the translation of the New Testament in the Balangao language. This resulted the salvation of the entire village and the building of the first church there. Through her message the Lord spoke to me and renewed my commitment to Him and His ministry.

I also enjoyed the fellowship of brothers and sisters from various parts of the world. Having experienced so many blessings, I want to express my appreciation to Trinity Methodist Church for her subsidy which enabled me to attend Amsterdam '86 and to return to do the work of an evangelist.



I HATE TO THINK I'M LOST, BUT WHERE IN THE WORLD DID NOAH GO WITH THAT ARK?



If you do have creative or original cartoons with a message, please send it to the editor for publication.

HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY TMC!

In 1956, our present church vicinity comprised scattered Chinese villages and small rubber plantations.

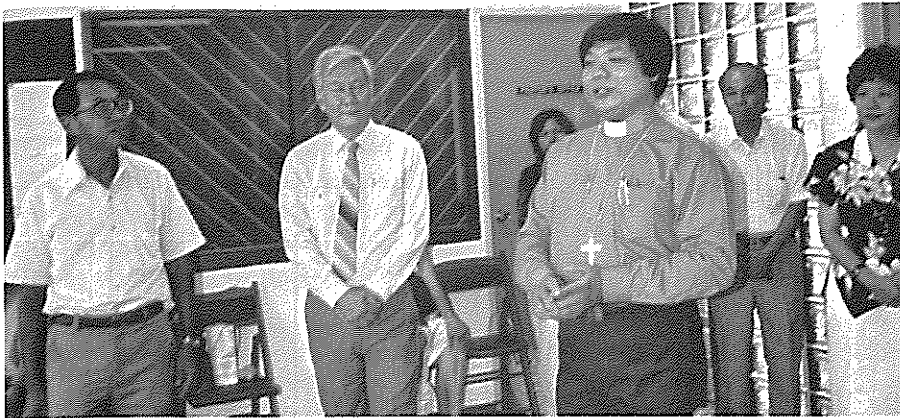
Inspired by the enthusiasm of a small group of Methodists, the church became, on November 25 1956, officially constituted as part of the Malaya Annual Conference, Singapore District.

Hardly one year later, and with a membership of only 28, this young church committed themselves to buying a piece of land where we are occupying today.

On February 17, 1963, the church sanctuary was completed and dedicated at a grand service attended by members and friends. To cut a long story short, we have indeed moved along since then!



A section of the crowd at our recent anniversary fellowship held at the new TEC Building.



The Three Wise Men Gracing The Occasion:
* Rev Melvin Huang (Pastor)
* Mr Liau Nyuk Siong (Guest of Honour)

* Dr Khor Tong Hong (Chairman,
LCEC)

J o y c e is a member of our church and is a missionary supported by Trinity. She was the Superintendent of the Church Sunday School last year.

Dear Aunt Nancy and Elizabeth,

We arrive safely in Philippines at 1.03 pm. From there we took a jeepney to Antipolo, about an hour's drive from Manila. It is a rural area and we live on the hilltop, in a two-storey wooden/brick big house. (We have tiled bathrooms - Amen! Praise The Lord! Ha!) We are surrounded by hills and greenery. First lights starts at 5 am and by 6 pm darkness sets in. Water in the mornings and nights are icy-cold (but that's O.K.)

As we arrive on Saturday, we took that day to rest. On Sunday we went to a nearby church (charismatic missionary), pastored by an American (who was formerly a drug addict). He is a great preacher, anointed, and full of love and humility. He's truly a man of God. In the afternoon we went for a prayer-a-walk, as we claimed the schools and different areas that God has laid in our hearts to pray for. That lasted for about two hours.

Every morning begins at 7 am breakfast, then Quiet Time, followed by worship or intercession at 9 am. We then practised our dramas, do our laundry or work duties. Lunch is at 12.00 noon. By one o'clock, we're out for ministry. Usually we go to two different locations, which would take up the whole afternoon. Dinner is at 6 pm or later depending on when our ministry ends. We work together with the nearby church. They sent a few interpreters to help us. Most of the Filipinos understand English (especially the children). The people are very warm and friendly, very responsive to the Word of God. Mostly all are Catholics and don't know about having a personal relationship with Jesus at all. Many don't have Bibles either.

The villages that we go to are all squatter areas - they're really poor. They still use wood for fuel, wash clothes in the streams, and live amidst dirt and mud. Many are jobless.

We normally do dramas, sing, share testimony, preach the message, then share one on one for about half an hour or longer. Once when we had reached the location, the sky was dark and it rained quite heavily. However, we persevered and we saw God's hand and grace. He miraculously stopped the rain and the sun came out. How we praised God! Another time on our way in a van, the van got stuck in the mud. Though the guys tried their best, they couldn't do a thing. Just about ten minutes later a huge lorry drove by. The people came down from the lorry, (they happened to have huge ropes) and pulled our van out. We praised God for the right timing! Such a miracle. As on dirt roads, we hardly see any vehicle except jeepneys and tricycles. Oh yes, we've been tested too a few times; 3 nights consecutively we've had no water. That's the toughest because when we returned from our ministry, we couldn't shower. We were hot and sticky and smelled. We couldn't wash our uniforms too. On two occasions, water returned the next morning; however there was once it didn't come on till 2 pm the next day. That was the hardest test so far as we could only brush our teeth but not wash our faces. On another occasion we arrived home from the ministry and there was no electricity the whole night, in addition to the shortage of water. I remember clearly that we were all really quiet and tried hard to keep our chins up. Then just as we were leaving for ministry at 2 pm, the water came on. It was great! Since nothing else can be worse than not having water. Well, I want to learn to be dependant on Jesus as I am on water. I praise God for all these lessons which I know is shaping all of us here. Pray for us.

Love,

Joyce Chew

(Matthew 6:33) 'But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well'

Mrs Nancy Lee and Miss Elizabeth Lim are members of the church Missions committee and they are designated prayer partners to Joyce. This letter was addressed to them.

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING COURSE

YOU MAY REGISTER IF YOU ARE:

- *Newly Wed*
- *Planning for Christian marriage in 1987*
- *Engaged to be married*
- *"Going Steady"*

COURSE DURATION

10 Sessions

Thursday

Jan. 15. 22

Feb. 5. 12. 19. 26

Mar. 5. 12. 19. 26

TIME

8.00 pm to 10.00 pm

MEET AT

*Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church
(Conference Room)*

*#1, Street 21 Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3
Singapore 2056*

Registration ends on January 4, 1987.

CONTENT

JANUARY

- 15 • *God & Marriage*
— *a biblical and theological understanding of marriage*
- 22 • *Knowing Oneself And One's Partner*

FEBRUARY

- 5 • *Expectations in Marriage*
- 12 • *Communication in Marriage*
- 19 • *Handling Conflicts in Marriage*
- 26 • *Relating with In-Laws*

MARCH

- 5 • *Sex in Marriage*
- 12 • *Money & the Dual-Career Marriage*
- 19 • *The Wedding Day, Wedding Service and Honeymoon*
- 26 • *An Open Dialogue with Married Couples and Holy Communion*

INSTRUCTORS

REV DR KANG HO SOON

Pastor, Paya Lebar Methodist Church

REV MELVIN HUANG

Pastor, Trinity Methodist Church

REV DR NGOEI FOONG NGHIAN

Pastor, Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church

REV SNG CHONG HUI

Pastor, Barker Road Methodist Church

REV DR YAP KIM HAO

Pastor, Christ Methodist Church

REV DANIEL TAN

*Pastor, Kampong Kapor Methodist Church
and other resource persons.*

REGISTER WITH PASTOR OR GET YOUR REGISTRATION FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE