

APR-JUL 2023

TRUMPET

VIEWS AND NEWS FROM TRINITY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

MCI (P) 073/03/2023



Barth on the Cross and the Empty Tomb

By Rev Dr Edmund Fong

This year, after the pandemic, we had the opportunity to participate without any restrictions in what is probably the most commemorated among the festivals and Holy Days observed by the Christian Church, the Holy Week. I would like to share three insights from the Swiss-German theologian Karl Barth (1886-1968) concerning the cross and the empty tomb for our meditation and reflection. These insights come from Barth's renowned lectures that he gave post-World War II in 1946 at the ruins of Bonn University on the Apostles' Creed. They were subsequently compiled as *Dogmatics in Outline*.

The first insight is that Barth saw Good Friday and Easter together, where the full meaning and significance of one event is only understood in light of the other. On this note, Barth interestingly attributes to the Western Church an inclination towards the *theologia crucis* (theology of the cross, "he was surrendered for our transgressions") and to the Eastern Church the *theologia gloriae* (theology of glory, "he was raised for our justification").

But as Barth reminds us, "there is no *theologia crucis* which does not have its complement in the *theologia gloriae*", or as he puts it across more simply, "Of course, there is no Easter without Good Friday, but equally certainly there is no Good Friday without Easter!" Reminding ourselves that the crucified one is the one who rose again from the dead on the third day strikes a different tenor

INSIDE

Changing World,
Unchanging Light

Image and Faithfulness

Trumpet through the Years—
The First Twenty-Five Years

ACS Professor of the
History of Christianity

Chinese-Speaking Churches
and Chinese Worldwide

God, I'm Angry

...continued on page 2

in the way we commemorate Good Friday. As Barth suggests, it is just as appropriate to sing Easter hymns on Good Friday! After all, in considering the death and passion of our Lord, we are already looking “beyond it to the place where His glory is revealed”.

Why Barth is able to see in an intertwined manner Good Friday and Easter brings me to his second insight. Traditional theology has often seen the work of Christ as captured by the two sequential stages of Christ’s incarnate life—his *exinanitio* (humiliation) followed by his *exaltatio* (exaltation). Barth provides a refreshing outlook on the traditional perspective in at least two ways.

The first is that where traditional Christology saw the two stages as sequential—the exaltation follows strictly from the humiliation—Barth saw the two as simultaneously happening in the one God-man, Jesus Christ. That God, in an act of eternal divine self-determination, has elected himself to be the God who is for us (humanity) in Christ Jesus means that the being of this God-man consists in his humiliation and exaltation simultaneously. I surmise that this is why Barth saw the cross and the empty tomb, and more importantly, the understanding that these two events bring to our knowledge of who Jesus Christ is, as inseparable and mutually reinforcing.



The second is that whereas traditional Christology was inclined to associate the humiliation with the humanity of Jesus Christ and the exaltation with his divinity, Barth did the reverse. The obedience and humiliation of the Lord Jesus Christ, Barth associated with the eternal humility and obedience of God the Son, while the resurrection and exaltation of Jesus Christ, Barth associated with the exaltation of man. Barth states clearly in *Dogmatics in Outline*:

“[T]he real mystery of Easter is not that God is glorified in it, but that man is exalted, raised to the right hand of God and permitted to triumph over sin, death and the devil.”

The final insight that Barth offers is the vivid reminder of the reality of Jesus’ victory in the resurrection, and consequently, that this victory is also the reality of exalted humanity in Christ. And perhaps this is the very reminder that we need today, as so often we find our Christian existence one where death, disease and decay seem to have the upper hand! I leave us with the riveting words of Barth:

In the resurrection of Jesus Christ the claim is made...that God’s victory in man’s favour in the person of His Son has already been won. Easter is...the proclamation of a victory already won. The war is at an end—even though here and there troops are still shooting, because they have not heard anything yet about the

capitulation. The game is won, even though the player can still play a few further moves. Actually he is already mated. The clock has run down, even though the pendulum still swings a few times this way and that. It is in this interim space that we are living: the old is past, behold it has all become new. The Easter message tells us that our enemies, sin, the curse and death, are beaten. Ultimately they can no longer start mischief... [W]e must still reckon with them, but fundamentally we must cease to fear them any more. If you have heard the Easter message, you can no longer run around with a tragic face and lead the humourless existence of a man who has no hope. One thing still holds, and only this one thing is really serious, that Jesus is the Victor. ❖

.....

“Of course, there is no Easter without Good Friday, but equally certainly there is no Good Friday without Easter!”

.....



Rev Dr Edmund Fong
Dean of Students
Lecturer in Theology



Changing World, Unchanging Light

Trinity Theological College celebrates our 75th Anniversary this year. Established from the ashes of war, our college has journeyed through a changing world throughout our history. These changes have left their indelible mark upon the way theological education has developed at TTC. Amid the winds of change, the light of God’s prophetic word has been our constant companion, sustaining hope, and motivating service towards the church and society.

Our founding years were deeply troubling ones. Engulfed in the fires of the Second World War, uncertainties about the future of the church, the world, and the real threat of death confronted church leaders who were interned at Changi Prison. Stripped of freedom, these leaders put aside denominational differences and started common worship services that shone the light of hope in tumultuous times. The popular saying that “man’s extremity is God’s opportunity” could not have been truer. The God-given vision of establishing a union theological institution was born in the context of a church in captivity united around the worship and service of God.

A principal participant in war-time conversations on the founding of TTC was the Rev T Campbell Gibson of the English Presbyterian Church. His sermon, entitled “But God”, based on Luke 12:20, poignantly captures the light of hope from God’s word that sustained our founding fathers amid the darkness of war. It was preached on Sun 1 Mar 1942 to a group of male civilians who were on their way to Changi Prison. Appealing to the life of the Old Testament Patriarch, Joseph, Gibson exhorts:

“But God”—there is the something new which makes the whole situation different. There you have the Divine Overruling. At the time it had seemed as if Joseph’s life was at the mercy of evil men, and determined by cruel circumstance. But now he could see that all the time he had been in the hands of God—those strong and wise and loving hands.... To all of us, as to Joseph, there come unpleasant experiences, which seem to have no meaning in

them.... But set it against the background of the Divine Overruling, and how different it looks.”

Similar to our founding years, our world today is filled with uncertainties and disturbing changes. In a recent speech in Parliament, Singapore’s Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, offered a bleak prognosis of our world. He observed that the ongoing war in Ukraine, the deepening geopolitical conflict between China and the United States, and the trend of protectionism are three simultaneous crises that will “set in train a whole series of changes and shocks that will severely disrupt the world, our region and Singapore”.

.....

“Changing World, Unchanging Light” captures our posture as we embrace the realities of the times in which we live.

.....

TTC celebrates our 75th Anniversary in the context of a deeply troubling, global milieu. Our anniversary theme, “Changing World, Unchanging Light” captures our posture as we embrace the realities of the times in which we live. It is not the sunken posture of despair we adopt, but one poised in hope in the God who has always acted to shine the light of his prophetic word in troubled times to take us forward into his redemptive purposes in Christ for the world. *Lux Mundi!* ❖





By Dr Mark Chan

Our world is saturated with images. Visuals are ubiquitous. They grace magazine covers and populate brochures and billboards. Images push and shove their way into our line of sight. From logos on T-shirts to tattoos and graffiti, from graphic novels to flickering images on our computer screens, everywhere we look we are inundated by photos, icons, and graphics. Words may inform, but advertisers know that it is the image that sells.

Thanks to the convenience of smartphone cameras and the ease of uploading photos, we now have an explosion of the visual. Visual data crisscross the global cyber-corridors 24/7, ensuring that the eyes of the world stay riveted. Just think of the millions and millions of digitised pictures and video-clips that zip back and forth every single nanosecond of every day on the web.

The human love affair with the image is of course not new. Peoples and cultures everywhere from time immemorial have fashioned visual products. From the Palaeolithic cave paintings at Lascaux in southern France to the exquisitely embroidered Japanese kimono to Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa, visual expressions are as old as the human race. *Homo sapiens* have always been *homo aestheticus*.

Our image-making capacity and inclination is

hardwired into us at the dawn of creation when the Creator God made us in his image. Scripture is not against the image or image-making per se. The Lord himself inspired image-making among his people, specifying, for instance, the kind of decorative art needed for the Tabernacle. Christ's teaching is replete with pictorial examples from everyday life. And when we turn to the Book of Revelation, we find there a feast of fantastic visual imageries.

While visual objects can be God-inspired and God-honouring, they can also be objects of idolatrous worship. The bronze serpent in the wilderness, built at the instruction of God, served to heal Israelites bitten by "fiery serpents". But the golden calf worshipped by the Hebrews represented their spiritual apostasy. Images, three dimensional or otherwise, can be consecrated to God's purposes; but they can also be portals that lead to spiritual infidelity.

Today's "golden calves" are more sophisticated and persuasive. Modern technological wizardry makes enticing images readily available. We have what Tim Wu calls "attention merchants" who are highly skilled at arresting our attention and redirecting it to whatever it is that they want us to buy, feel, think, or sign up to. And integral to that power to capture attention and sway opinion is the ability to manufacture, manipulate, and mass-market

images; particularly the pixelated kind that can be instantaneously transmitted to mobile devices across our planet.

To be sure, the opening of the digital highway and the ease with which content is delivered and accessed do bring benefits. Toddler Emily in Serangoon Gardens can now "face time" her dad away on business in Tokyo, while her mum works remotely and communicates on Zoom with colleagues and clients around the world. Scientists and medical researchers collaborate online to develop vaccines against the latest infectious disease.

Yet the same digital highway that enables family connections and makes possible online worship also facilitates human traffickers and scammers to deceive, damage, and destroy. Cybercriminals paint attractive pictures of job offers to lure the unsuspecting into bondage. Corporations seek to monetise the human gaze by offering up an array of attractive goods aimed at loosening our purse strings.

Sins often enter through the gates of the eyes. The fruit in Eden was a "delight" to Eve's eyes. So was the comely form of Bathsheba to the prying eyes of King David from his rooftop. Little wonder that the apostle John, in cautioning his readers against worldliness, warns about "the desires of the eyes". Given the decadent moral arc of our times, we shouldn't be surprised to find tempting sexual images aplenty on the digital airwaves. Christians living in such a highly sexualised environment certainly need to discipline their consumption of images.

But Christian faithfulness in our visual and digital culture is not exhausted by steering clear of lurid images. To begin with, it must be mindful of the effect our visual culture has on how people



perceive themselves. Constant exposure to pictures of seemingly perfect human specimens, all good looking and with impeccable skin and well-toned bodies, can lead one to despair of the way one looks. And judging by the many happy photos of perfect lives displayed on social media, one's life seems downright dreary. The self takes a battering and is held ransom by the perceived perfection of others online.

However, what is not always apparent is the way images of perfection on social media are severed from the reality they purport to represent. The hegemony of the image tends to lead to the prioritisation of perception over substance. What meets the eyes is not necessarily the same as what is there. Photoshopped reality always looks more pristine than the real thing!

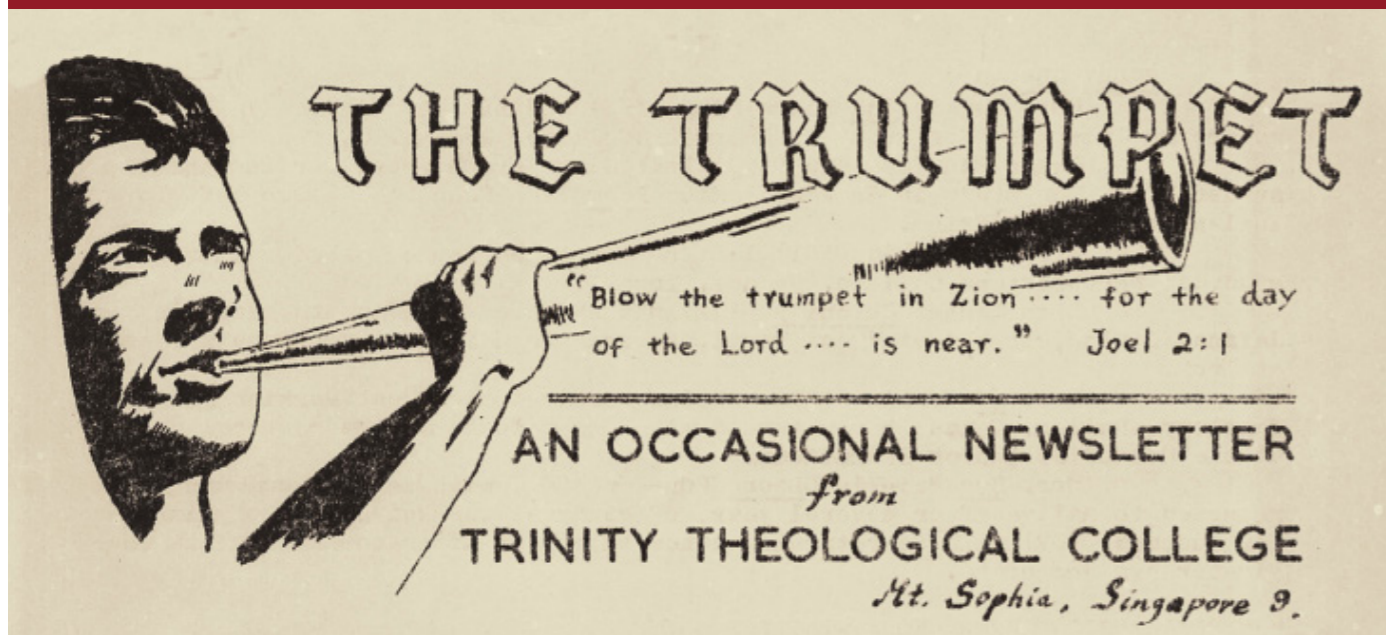
This disconnect between image and reality is evident not only on social media but also, unfortunately, in the mass media. Particularly in the politicisation of our media outlets, seen, for instance, in the eroding of the line separating news from opinions. It is not so much bearing witness to the truth that matters; it's about winning. Staged events, fake news reports, and deepfake videos are part and parcel of the arsenal in the contest for votes and influence. Rather than serve the purposes of truth, images are manipulated and weaponised for political gain.

Living as we do at a time when the image tends either to conceal, distort, or ignore the truth altogether, it is imperative that followers of Christ bring truth to bear on our image-making. After all, our Lord himself is both *imago* and *logos*, the expressive image of the invisible God and the revealing word of truth from the Father. The *imago* of perception needs the *logos* of truth. We need the discernment of the Spirit to help us navigate our way through the constantly evolving maelstrom of our image-laden digital world. ❖



Dr Mark Chan

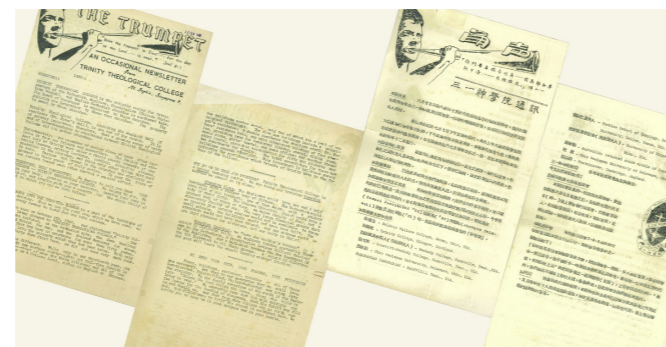
Earnest Lau Professor of Systematic Theology



By Rev Dr Andrew Peh

The Trumpet was first published as an occasional newsletter in 1960 and the Chinese publication, 角声, debuted a year later. It became a regular publication from May 1965. The purpose for the publication was for the college to provide updates and information to the wider church to be acquainted with and participate in the life of the college. The name of the publication is based on the verse in Joel 2:1—"Blow the trumpet in Zion...for the day of the Lord is near".

This series of three articles provide snapshots from The Trumpet in 25-year segments of the college's history as captured through the articles. It is a reminder of what the Lord has done and what He continues to do in and through the college.



The Trumpet debuted in 1960, and the Chinese publication, 角声, a year later

tumultuous years that the idea of a union college was birthed. Amstutz had been the principal of the Jean Hamilton Theological School, which merged with Eveland Seminary to form the Malaya Methodist Theological College in May 1940. Together with Rev Canon Sorby Adams (Anglican) and Rev T Campbell Gibson (Presbyterian), Amstutz revived their discussions on an interdenominational theological college. The new college absorbed the existing Malaya Methodist Theological School and was named Trinity College, as suggested by Amstutz, who was appointed as its founding principal. The union college, Singapore's first seminary, was located at 7 Mt Sophia. In 1954, Trinity College was renamed Trinity Theological College (TTC). On Thu 1 Nov 1962, the Lutheran Church in Malaya presented the request to become an affiliate member of the body of churches supporting the college. The reasons for the establishment of a union college may have been numerous but the one published in the inaugural publication of The Trumpet, puts it well:

"I am addressing the future" were the opening words of Bishop Hobart B Amstutz as he spoke to the alumni gathered at the dinner of the Malaysia Chinese Annual Conference of The Methodist Church in 1962. These words from the founding Principal of Trinity Theological College serve as a signpost as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the college. It is a marker for us to remember God's past faithfulness and recall the purposes for which the college was founded, for "the future of the church in Southeast Asia depends very largely on the well-trained and creative leadership graduating from the halls of Trinity Theological College".

Amstutz, together with other clergy, was interned during the Japanese Occupation and it was in those

"Why do we do this together? . . . because we cannot do it alone!"

Amidst the context of decolonisation, the assertion of a national identity and the development of an indigenous church, ecumenism and the attendant ties with the colonial masters and former mission were not the priority. Yet TTC is evidence that the body of Christ can and must work as one.

In a sobering sermon at a chapel, the Rev T S Garrett shared,

Sometime ago there was a world conference of a particular denomination. The members were discussing church union. One speaker after another arose to stress the fact that, while church union is important, they must not fail to preserve the essential denominational contribution that their communion had inherited from the past. Finally, one member who had come from a far country, arose, marched to the platform and said, "My only comment is that if we continue to put up a few more red lights, God will by-pass our city altogether." He then sat down.... We must not forget that this is the rush hour in our world. Traffic is moving. We either awaken to the urgencies of this hour, God's hour, or history will pass us by. (The Trumpet, 1961-3)

This ecumenical partnership catalysed growth as the college welcomed scholars from various disciplines as it engaged in the theological equipping of the church in various parts of Southeast Asia and beyond. These included:

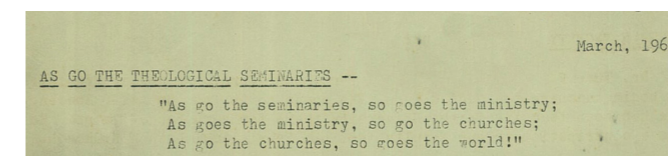
Dr D T Niles, Ceylon—lectures in Christian Ethics (Sep 62)

Dr Frank W Price, Nanking Theological Seminary, China—four lectures on the Rural Church in Asia (Jan 64)

Dr Wilbur C Harr, Evangelical Theological Seminary, USA—cultural anthropology and five lectures on Africa (May 1965)

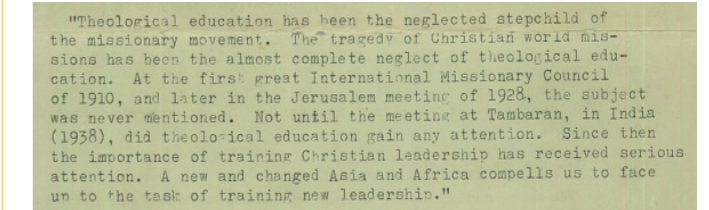
Dr Elmer Douglas, Hartford Theological Seminary, USA—lectures on Islam (Jun 1966)

This vital work of theological education in community (as a union college) continues to be a distinctive of Trinity Theological College. Dr Henry Pitt van Dusen, head of the accreditation team that visited



An extract from the Mar 1965 issue.

Trinity Theological College one February 1965, remarked (read on in the extract below),



An extract from the Mar 1965 issue.

His comment on the priority of building a solid foundation for theological education must not be overlooked:

He explained, "The three essentials of theological education are solid learning, vital godliness, and enlightened experience. We must have good education, true piety, and practical field experience."

Two snippets provide commendable testimonials to this fruitful collaboration in theological education:

A missionary from Sumatra reporting on a graduate from Trinity now serving a large Batak church, said: "We felt that he ought to have a car. He said he did not want one. We suggested a new bicycle. Again, he refused. He said, "I would like to have a second-hand bicycle. That is as good as my members have and that is sufficient."

A letter from New York read: "We have received correspondence from a Mr J. A. Johnson, of Sebree, Kentucky. Mr Johnson tells us that he is almost 95 years of age, and he would like to give a scholarship for a student studying at Trinity. He wants a beginning student. He says, 'I will try to make plans that this will be carried out on to the finish if I do not live to finish myself.'" (The Trumpet, Sep 1963)

This, again, is a reminder that as far as theological education is concerned, we cannot and must not do it alone! ❖

The defects in the images are inherent to the sources themselves.



Rev Dr Andrew Peh
Lecturer in Missions & Missions History

ACS PROFESSOR OF THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY

By Dr Chan Yew Ming
Bishop William F Oldham Professor of Old Testament

On 17 Feb 23, Trinity Theological College celebrated the establishment of its sixth professorial chair with an induction service in its chapel. That TTC was already a beneficiary of five endowed professorial chairs, underlines the college's commitment to Christian scholarship. This celebration was a reaffirmation of this commitment with the installation of Rev Dr Wilfred Ho Wai Tat as the ACS Professor of the History of Christianity. This chair was endowed through the generosity of ACS (International), an institution of The Methodist Church in Singapore. This family of schools under the name of Anglo-Chinese School distinguishes itself by offering a unique "ACS brand of education" that nurtures students with Christian values in the pursuit of a holistic education for the service of society.

The six professorships reflect not just the level of academic excellence at TTC, but also its development of Christian scholarship which contributes to the growth and witness of the church. Established before the ACS Chair of the History of Christianity were the Chen Su Lan Chair of New Testament endowed by the Chen Su Lan Trust, and the Earnest Lau Chair of Systematic Theology endowed by former students of the late Mr Earnest Lau in 2002. These were followed by the Chew Hock Hin Chair of Christian Doctrine endowed by Paya Lebar Methodist Church in 2008, the Bishop William F Oldham Chair of Old Testament endowed by Barker Road Methodist Church in 2009, and the Lee Huai Kwang Chair of Religious Education endowed by the family of the late Rev Lee Huai Kwang in 2019. Dr Tan Kim Huat currently holds the chair in New Testament, Dr Mark Chan in Systematic Theology, Dr Roland Chia in Christian Doctrine, Dr Chan Yew Ming in Old Testament, and Rev Dr Lim Teck Peng in Religious Education.

Rev Dr Wilfred Ho has been a faculty member at TTC since 2007, teaching Theology, Church History, Homiletics, and Methodism. His contributions to the college's academic expertise and spiritual formation make him a worthy appointee to the rank of professor. Besides lecturing and providing guidance to our students, he serves as the Associate Chaplain and Director of TTC's lay training centre, 启承 (QiCheng).

In his introductory message, the Principal of TTC, Rev Dr Edwin Tay, highlighted that the Induction Service was the first of a series of celebratory events marking the 75th anniversary of the college. In recognising Rev Dr Ho's contribution and commitment to Christian scholarship and theological equipping, Rev Dr Edwin Tay described him as "not only a scholar of the highest calibre but also a pastor-teacher with a big heart".

The Chairman of the ACS Board of Governors, Mr Richard Seow, brought his greetings on behalf of Mr Tan Wah Thong, Chairman of the ACS (International) Board of Management. He acknowledged that the college holds a special place in the heart of the ACS community and affirmed that "Christianity engages with integrity in life issues and recognises the significance of Christian scholarship in addressing major questions in

the public domain". The Principal of ACS (International), Mr Gavin Kinch, offered his reflection on Bishop William F Oldham's legacy of founding the Anglo-Chinese School to educate and nurture God-fearing students for service in society. He concluded that the creation of the new professorial chair reflected a desire in capturing history so that one should not forget but learn from it and make wise decisions going forward.

Continuing with the tribute was Rev Dr Luke Cheung, the former Wilson Chow Professor (Biblical Studies) at the China Graduate School of Theology where he served as Academic Dean and Vice President. He spoke of a long-standing friendship with Rev Dr Ho which dated back to 1978 and described Rev Dr Ho's distinctive scholarship as not one motivated primarily to satisfy academic curiosity and interests, but one that is intensely personal and pastoral.

In the Litany of Introduction led by Rt Rev Lu Guan Hoe, Chairman of the TTC Board of Governors and Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Singapore, Rev Dr Ho with his wife, Ee Suen, and daughter, Berakah, at his side, undertook the call to uphold the Christian faith, observe the duties of servanthood and pursue academic excellence in scholarship.

The title of Rev Dr Ho's inaugural lecture was "In search of Our Christian Identity—A Journey in History". His semi-autobiographical approach to this lecture reflected his belief that "human experiences, with responsible interpretation, are important theological resources". He utilised four keywords, 'dream', 'history', 'identity' and 'home', to describe his unique experiences, encounters with both God and people, and observations based on them.

In reflecting on a 'strange dream' he had in the year 2000, Rev Dr Ho acknowledged its impact on his subsequent 22 years of academic research and teaching. His initial writings on Jonathan Edwards followed by that of John Wesley in his scholarly journey revealed the importance of 18th-century Christianity. This served as an appropriate reminder to those who neglect the significance of more than two thousand years of Christian history. Addressing the neglect of specific periods of church history would provide a fresh understanding of Christian identity which many believe to be an individual choice. Yet his analysis showed that "for every human being, a personal identity is always a narrative identity, which means, every human being must take time to become who he or she is". The search for Christian identity is a continuous process in which our identity has merged with others along the way, suggesting that Christians are searching for a true home. Rev Dr Ho's move from Shanghai to Hong Kong and finally Singapore, along with the two key factors of being rooted in the Bible and the History of Christianity, led him to conclude that "my home is in the future, which will be unfolded one day when the Lord Jesus returns".

The service ended with the recessional "For All the Saints", a hymn resonating with the faith and ministry of past and present labourers of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will be the source of inspiration to those searching for their Christian identity. ❖



(From left) Professors and Principal: Dr Tan Kim Huat, Dr Roland Chia, Rev Dr Wilfred Ho Wai Tat, Rev Dr Edwin Tay, Dr Chan Yew Ming, Dr Mark Chan, and Rev Dr Lim Teck Peng

Chinese-Speaking Churches and Chinese Worldwide

By Rev Dr Lim Teck Peng, Lee Huai Kwang Professor of Religious Education, Academic Dean

On 23 March, TTC launched a new book written in Chinese, entitled *Huawen Jiaohui Yu Huaren Shijie* (Chinese-speaking Churches and Chinese Worldwide). This is one of the events celebrating TTC's 75th anniversary.

The new book contains twelve articles written by past and present faculty members, and alumni from Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia. Providing multi-perspectives and insights from different disciplines, regions and denominations, the book aims to examine the opportunities and challenges facing Chinese-speaking churches in Singapore and worldwide.

From disciplines as divergent as biblical studies, mission studies and diasporic Chinese studies, the first four articles of the book introduce concepts and themes that are useful to readers who want to understand the importance of communal identity and mission,



The book launch, the second event celebrating TTC's 75th anniversary, drew a good response and saw brisk sales of the book.

especially in the context of Christian Chinese work outside the East Asian Sinosphere. The first two articles provide accounts of how the ancient Israelites and the early Christians constructed their communal identities in and through the vicissitudes of history. The third article focuses on the need of Christian witness to the Sinophone, where Christianity is still largely perceived as a Western religion; and the fourth article examines the issues concerning cultural identity of the Chinese-speaking churches.

The remaining seven articles provide rich accounts and analysis of the development of the Chinese-speaking churches in Singapore, Indonesia, West Malaysia, and East Malaysia. These articles focus on the contexts



Panellists (from left): Mr Christopher Lee, Rev Shawn Koh, Rev Dr Lim Teck Peng (moderator), Dr Chan Yew Ming, and Rev Dr Liew Yoo Kiang

and trajectories through which Christian Chinese work has been evolved in this part of the world. At the same time, they provide insights into the challenges and opportunities awaiting the Chinese-speaking Christian communities.

Since 1952, TTC has been offering theological training programmes in English and Chinese. As the College is celebrating her 75th anniversary, the world is undergoing drastic and fundamental changes. However, the need of bilingual theological programmes remains unchanged. In fact, one may argue that it has become more crucial to have such programme under the current circumstances. With a sense of unchanging mission, the publication of Chinese-speaking Churches and Chinese Worldwide represents a small step forward in engaging a particular aspect of this changing world. ❖



Welcome to the Family

Rev Dr Nathanael Goh joined Trinity Theological College (TTC) as a full-time lecturer in Jan 2023. He is an ordained elder of the Chinese Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Singapore. Nathanael (or Nat, as he prefers) served as a youth worker before enrolling in TTC for the Master of Divinity (MDiv), graduating with the TTC Class of 2012.

Following his MDiv, Nat undertook the Integrated PhD programme at the University of Durham. His research focused on the theology of the common good, contrasting Catholic Social Teaching with more modern interpretations of Augustine and Aquinas's political thought. Nat's research interests lie in Christian ethics, hermeneutics, philosophical theology and political theology. Away from academics, Nat's interests are in supporting the mighty Manchester United football club.

Nat is very much looking forward to serving together with his esteemed colleagues, many of whom were his lecturers while he was completing the MDiv. He also looks forward to ministering to and being ministered to by the students at TTC. He is always open for coffee and conversation!

Nat is married to Charmaine, who is an editor with Educational Publishing House. They have two children, Jonathan (nine) and Joelle (two). Nat is currently an elder attached to Sengkang Methodist Church. ❖



Rev Dr Nathanael Goh and his wife, Charmaine and children: Joelle (left) and Jonathan (right).

New Book by Faculty

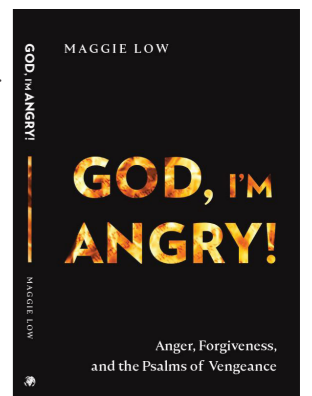
By Rev Dr Jeremy-Joe Tan, Lecturer in Theology

God, I'm Angry is the title of Rev Dr Maggie Low's latest book. It delves into issues that are highly relevant both in pastoral ministry and personal life—anger and forgiveness. She shared at the book launch held on the morning of 27 Feb 2023 that the impetus behind this book was "you all". This referred to those gathered in the hall for the book launch, many of whom were her former or current students.

She noted that many students in her classes needed to be convinced that it was acceptable to express their hurts and anger to God. It is as though their perception was that anger should not have a place in God's kingdom nor their lives. This results in Christians getting angry, then feeling guilty for being angry! Such a notion, argues Dr Maggie, is a misconception which her book aims to correct. It does so by covering lots of ground spanning the Old Testament, New Testament, and theology.



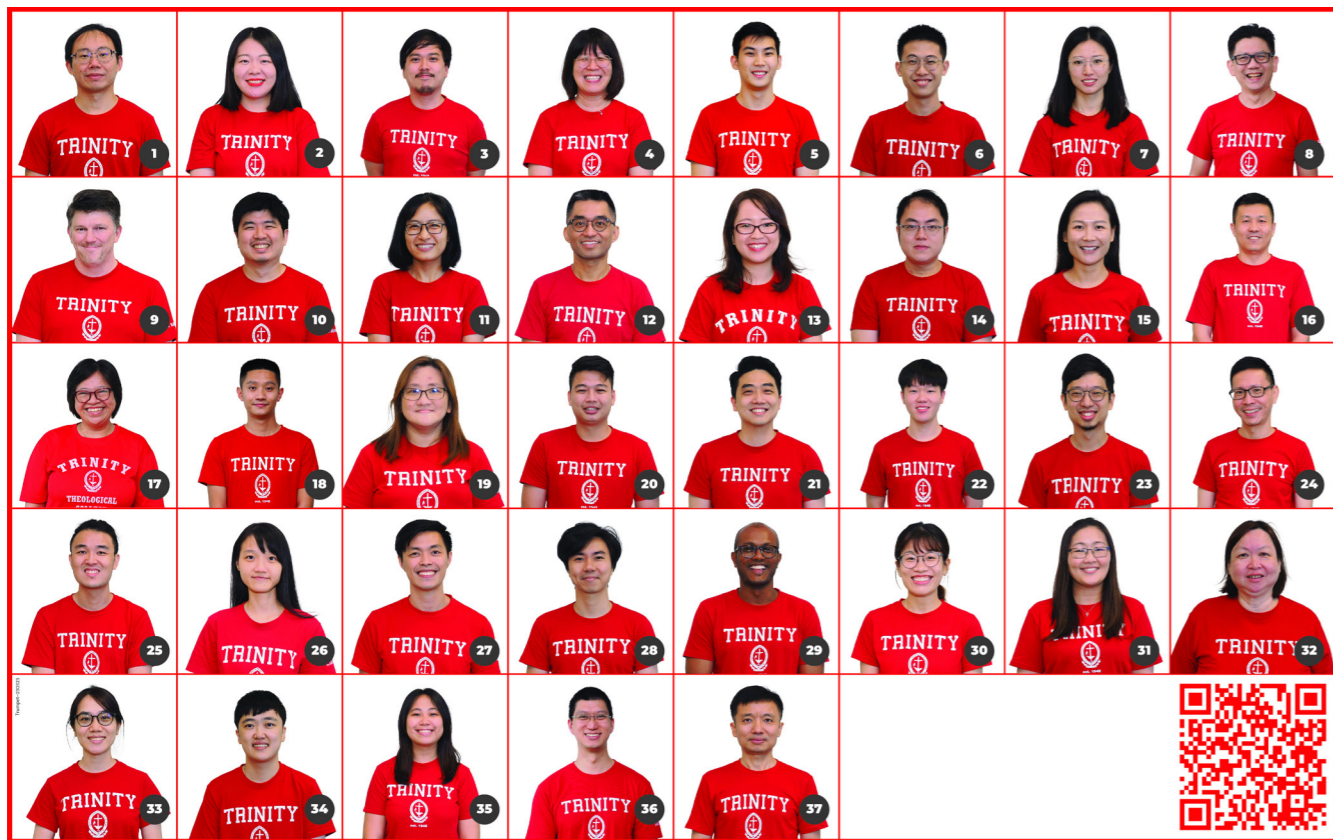
Rev Dr Maggie Low at the book launch.



Those at the book launch, however, were treated to more. The programme included three invited guests who had either contributed to or inspired various parts of the book. They were brilliant dialogue partners who enlivened the launch through the sharing of their struggles. The launch ended with the sale of the book, where surpluses from the nett sales were channelled to the TTC Women's Scholarship Fund. ❖

Student Council 2023

TTC's Student Council 2023 was installed on 3 Feb 2023 by Principal, Rev Dr Edwin Tay. Incoming President, Mr Ho Qi Heng (MDiv 2), reminded council members to build up the body of Christ in TTC together in love, with Christ as the Head. The pensive installation ceremony was witnessed by the student community and faculty, including Dean of Students, Rev Dr Edmund Fong. The ceremony ended with the symbolic but significant handing over of a Bible from Ms Celeste Cheong (MDiv 3), the outgoing Student Council President, to Mr Ho which ignited the 74th council's active service. May God grant humility and gladness to the 37 council members as they minister in their newly assumed roles. ❖



1. Ho Qi Heng, 2. Guo Zheng, 3. Chia Shao Xiong, 4. Yek Yew Lik, Esther, 5. Bryan Ho Shao Xiang, 6. Sam Xie, 7. Zhang Su Jun, 8. Timothy Chew, 9. Timothy Harold Wade, 10. Charles Lee, 11. Nguyen Thi Truc Giang, 12. Ray Soh, 13. Rebekah Lim, 14. Yu Jiayi, 15. Li Shan Shan, 16. Wang Sheng Gang, 17. Arlina Permatasari Wiguna, 18. Liu Yu Hang, 19. Poh Siok Ching, 20. Oh Chong Yee, 21. Benjamin Huang, 22. Aaron Woong Song Wei, 23. Chen Jia En, Daniel, 24. Ho Chien Kwok, Aaron, 25. Seah Ying Lun Leon, 26. Fiona Lee, 27. Chua Kang En Asher, 28. Nigel Goh Chiaw Pheng, 29. Kannan s/o Kumaran, 30. Law Yi Ting Jasmine, 31. Zhang Jiali, Kelly, 32. Clara Toh, 33. Lim Sze Hui, Jean, 34. Weng Shanshan, 35. Chua Wee Lynn, 36. Lou Wei Xin, 37. Zhou Longjiang.

For more details on the student council, scan the QR code above or go to ttc.edu.sg/english/community/student-organisation/. Contact the student council at ttcstudentcouncil@gmail.com.

Inter-College Games 2023

By Kannan Kumaran, MDiv 1

The Inter-College Games was held on Fri 3 Mar 2023 at the Singapore Bible College (SBC). Participating in the games were Trinity Theological College, East Asia School of Theology, Baptist Theological Seminary and the host, Singapore Bible College. As this was the first time the games were held at the grounds of a college, changes had to be made as to the games being offered. For the first time, electronic games were included as a competitive event, and this aroused much excitement and interest amongst students.

Even though the dark clouds eventually brought rain, spirits were still high as students could still compete in indoor events like the bible quiz, table tennis, and e-sports. The rain did little to deter students as they packed the different competition venues in SBC, all excited to see their colleges compete in the various events. When the weather became more favourable, the highly anticipated soccer competition was held. Students all gathered around the makeshift soccer court cheering loudly for their college mates. That was truly a sight to behold. The day ended with prizes being awarded to teams that won the various events.

Seeing all the colleges come together was truly heart-warming. To see students in the different collegiate colours mingling together and cheering was a glimpse of unity amidst differences. To see healthy competition as the college teams played their hearts out to win is a testament to the respect that we all hold for one another. It was truly, as our Principal Dr Edwin shared in his opening remarks, a picture of the body of Christ coming together. ❖



Team TTC in fine form, competing with students from the East Asia School of Theology, Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Singapore Bible College.

We Invite You to Support the Ministry of Trinity Theological College

Your support will enable our college to:

- keep tuition fees affordable,
- be equipped with a competent and dedicated faculty,
- offer financial subsidies to less fortunate students, and
- house an outstanding theological library.

Here are some ways you may contribute to our ministry. By:

- cheque to **Trinity Theological College**,
- bank or ATM transfer to our DBS current account **033-017261-3**,
- **PayNow** to **UEN T01CC1488C**, or via QR code, or
- a **bequest** to TTC. We would be pleased to discuss a plan with you. Please email us at principal@ttc.edu.sg or call 6767 6677.



To view 角聲, the Chinese edition of the Trumpet, please visit our website at www.ttc.edu.sg

A Light to Our Paths in 2023

By Andrew Kon, MTS 2

TTC celebrated Chinese New Year on 19 Feb 2023. The boisterous TTC community gathered in the dining hall with eager expectation as emcees for the morning, our Community Living chairpersons Jasmine Law (MTS1) and Kannan s/o Kumaran (MDiv1), welcomed faculty, staff, workers and students into our Family Groups. Our curiosity about the morning's activities grew when we found craft kits of colourful papers, cardboard, strings and leaflets bearing instructions to build lanterns!

In a spirit of cooperation and togetherness, we started. It was soon clear that while some possessed dexterity and nimble fingers, others displayed ingenuity in interpreting instructions! It was a fun, albeit at some points frustrating, time.

The significance of the event only sunk in when we lighted up the lanterns. The dining hall was aglow with pretty lanterns—they were symbols of God's light to our path for the new year!

Thanks to the organisers, this activity was culturally sensitive to the occasion and much appreciated by all participants. Organisers also deliberately arranged for a dumpling to be included in each lunch meal, because they are a must-have for Chinese during the season as they are said to represent prosperity. We left with renewed vigour to face the challenges of the new academic year! ❖



Dr Tan Kim Huat with students at the TTC community's first Chinese New Celebration after the pandemic.

TRINITY NEWS

Congratulations to...

Linberg Wong (MDiv 2017) on his ordination as elder in the Methodist Church in Malaysia (Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference) on 23 Nov 2022.

Divinia Lynn Tan (MTS 1) and Anthony Tan who were joined in holy matrimony on 26 Nov 2022.

Justin Chan (MDiv 2019) and his wife, Christine, on the arrival of their twins, Chan Meng Xiang Jonathan and Chan Meng Ying Calista on 3 Dec 2022.

Shaun Lim (MDiv 1) and Koh Peixin who welcomed their first born, Natalie Lim Xuan Le, on 27 Dec 2022

Pastor Anthon Simangunsong (MDiv 2018) who was ordained and installed as Associate Minister at Orchard Road Presbyterian Church by the English Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore on 7 Jan 2023.

Lin Siwei (BD 2022) and Wei Xiaofang who were joined in holy matrimony on 11 Feb 2023.

Rev Benjamin Fong (BD 2014; MTh 2016) and Rev Peace Choi (MDiv 2013) on the birth of their daughter, Eunice Clare Fong Eun A, born on 1 Mar 2023.

Amos Yeo (MDiv 2021) and Elena Yeo (MDiv 2019) who welcomed their first born, Aletheia Yeo Ying En, on 13 Jan 2023.

Condolences to...

The family of the late Mrs Ruth Anne Zimmerman who ministered among us as a voice teacher from 1981 to 1987. She was called home to be with the Lord on 12 Nov 2022.

Pastor Lai Sze Khiong (BD 2003, MMin 1) whose mother Mdm Tan Goon Choo returned home to Jesus on 2 Dec 2022.

The family of the late Rev Ng Ee Lin (LTh 1957) who returned to the Lord on 14 Dec 2022.

The family of the late Rev Dr Douglas E Wingeier who was called home to the Lord on 19 Dec 2022. Rev Dr Wingeier was a Methodist missionary who served on our faculty from 1963-1970. He taught Christian Education and also served as Dean of Students and Director of Field Education.

The family of the late Rev Dr Samuel Huang (BD1970) who returned home to his heavenly father on 3 Jan 2023.

Lisman Komaladi (MTS 2016) on the passing of his mother, the late Mdm Fifiyuna Jauhari, on 3 Jan 2023.

Our library officer, Ms Kong Ling Fang, on the demise of her beloved mother, Madam Low Siew Choo, on 12 Jan 2023.

Ms Renata Tan (MDiv 2004) & Rev Ivan Liew (MDiv 2004) on the passing of Renata's father, the late Mr Benjamin Tan Boon Chiau, on 18 Jan 2023.

Rev Lek Yong Teck (BD 1998) on the passing of his mother, the late Mdm Tan Woo Kiang, on 7 Feb 2023.

The family of the late Rev Juliette Arulrajah (MDiv 1996) who was called home to the Lord on 12 Feb 2023.

Rev Dr Chiang Ming Shun (MDiv 2000) and family on the passing of his beloved father, the late Mr Mickey Chiang, on 15 Mar 2023.

Mr Kannan Kumaran (MDiv 1) and family on the passing of his beloved father-in-law, the late Mr Yue Weng Yew Raymond, on 10 Apr 2023.

Rev Chan Chee Keng (MDiv 2004) on the demise of his beloved wife, the late Mdm Kuan Geok Tin, on 11 Apr 2023.

The family of the late Rev Goh Aik Hiang (BTh 1979) who returned home to the Lord on 12 Apr 2023.

Spiritual Retreat for Lay Leaders

2023 retreat dates
Fri-Sat Nov 3-4

Retreat directors
Rev Dr Simon Chan
Rev Dr Jimmy Tan

Venue Trinity Theological College
Fee S\$200 (incl GST)

Come away...and rest a while



SIGN UP NOW at www.ttc.edu.sg/english/SRL2023 or via this QR code
Registration closes on **Fri 20 Oct** or when the capacity of 12 participants is reached
For enquiries, please email retreat@ttc.edu.sg

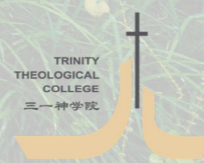
Participants from past retreats share their thoughts:

The teaching on silence is very good. I learned to pray the Jesus prayer with the breathing rhythm and learned to be still.

A short but refreshing pause to spend extended time alone with God in a guided fashion.

The retreat provides the physical space and guidance which really helps me.

The retreat has been a time of rebounding with God and a chance to truly rest in Him.





75th Anniversary Calendar of Events

Trinity Theological College celebrates her 75th anniversary in 2023 with the theme: **Changing World, Unchanging Light**. It is our joy to share with you key events in this historical milestone. Our celebrations will culminate with an anniversary service and a thanksgiving dinner on Fri 6 Oct 2023.



Trinity Lectures

1-4 Aug | 8.00-9.30pm
TTC Chapel

Four public lectures on the theme "The Resurrection" will be presented by Prof Murray Rae from the University of Otago, New Zealand

More information at www.ttc.edu.sg/english/trinity-lectures

Anniversary Conference and Book Launch

4-5 Oct | 9.00am-5.00pm
TTC

TTC will host its 75th anniversary conference on the theme "The Church in a Changing World"

Registration is now open at www.ttc.edu.sg/english/75th-Anniversary-Conference
Please register soon. Registration closes on **Wed 20 Sep 2023**

APECSS Conference

7-9 Sep | 9.00am-6.00pm
TTC

TTC will host the 13th Annual Conference of the Asia-Pacific Early Christian Studies Society (APECSS) on the theme "Pluralistic Contexts in Early Christianity"

Registration is now open at www.ttc.edu.sg/english/APECSSConference
Please register soon. Registration closes on **Fri, 30 Jun 2023**

Thanksgiving Service and Dinner

6 Oct
Service | TTC Chapel | 11.00am
Dinner | Orchid Country Club | 7.30pm

Our 75th anniversary celebrations will culminate in an anniversary service and a thanksgiving dinner

For details, please visit our 75th anniversary microsite: www.ttc.edu.sg/english/75th-anniversary



THIRD QUARTER 2023 EQUIP COURSES

TTC is pleased to offer a series of online lectures for the Christian public for the third quarter of 2023. The subjects in these courses are explored in depth by EQUIP instructors who include both TTC faculty and other guest lecturers, all of whom are highly qualified subject matter experts in their fields. Many of our own alumni, pastors, Christian ministry staff, missionaries, and lay leaders also attend our courses for their own continuing education.

EQUIP courses are conducted from 7.30-9.30pm via Zoom.

Ministry to Children: Helping Children to Love God and Love Others
by Dr Morgan Zhou
Mondays, 10 Jul-21 Aug

Church History: Once Upon a Time in His Story
by Rev Dr Chiang Ming Shun
Tuesdays, 11 Jul-22 Aug

Cultural Anthropology
by Rev Dr Andrew Peh
Wednesdays, 12 Jul-30 Aug

Christ-centred Preaching in the 21st Century
by Rev Dr Christopher Chia
Thursdays, 13 Jul-24 Aug

For details and for online registration, go to www.ttc.edu.sg/english/EQUIPinfo



TRUMPET EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

Rev Dr Edwin Tay (Editor), Rev Dr Lim Teck Peng (Editor for Chinese),
Rev Dr Chiang Ming Shun, Dr Leow Theng Huat, Dr Tan Loe Joo,
Rev Dr James Lim, Mr Tan Chong Yaw, Ms Christine Ting, Ms Pauline Wong

TRINITY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

490 Upper Bukit Timah Road
Singapore 678093
Email: info@ttc.edu.sg
Website: www.ttc.edu.sg
Tel: (65) 6767 6677

