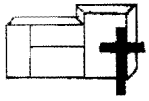
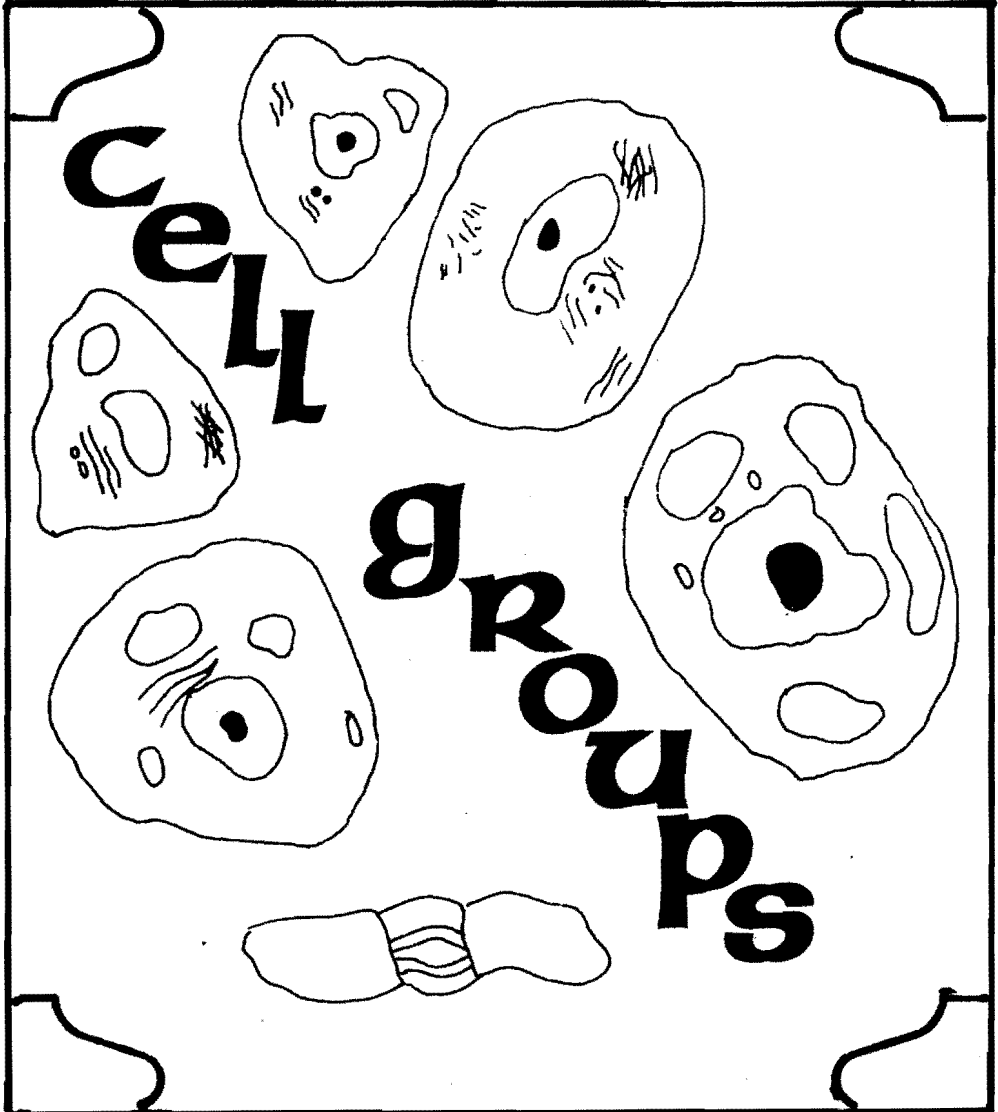


Christian Nurture



Among Christian Church

Aug/Sep 84



THE PASTOR WRITES:

Christian Nurture

At last we are able to have our very own Newsletter after many years. Thank the Lord for giving a few members the vision and the desire to serve Him through the channel of literature. "Christian Nurture" aims to exhort one another and inform you of the various opportunities for fellowship or training within and outside the church. It also serves to teach the Word of God through articles.

"Christian Nurture" is headed by our Brother Tan Swee Leong as the Editor with sisters Nancy Lim, Lim Yin Leng, Ow Yuen Peng, Julie Yow and Brother David Ng in the committee. Advising the committee would be myself.

We covet your prayers for the subsequent issues that we may be sensitive to the direction of God's leading to meet some of the needs of the members here through "Christian Nurture".

May the Lord bless you richly through the written word.



CHURCH PLAN--

PROCEED TO ADVANCE

The Church of God consists of the fellowship of believers in all places. At the outset, the Church is a dynamic and growing organism. What makes the early church so distinct and dynamic? One of the factors is found in Acts 2: 42 :

" and they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

This passage tells us of the vital ingredient for a thriving and dynamic church. They are teaching, fellowshiping, worshipping and praying. The believers did not do it once or twice but continually everyday! One of the reasons they were able to do it is because they were not doing it alone - it was done corporately as a family affair. Thus they encouraged and challenged one another to press on. And the church grew with more people added daily! We must not be mistaken that the growth was due to the presence of the above factors - we must examine the scriptures - it was the mighty work of the Lord who caused the growth (Acts 2:47). However, the faithfulness of the believers was instrumental and thus the Lord worked through the various factors.

This is also the case even in this modern computer age whereby God is still active. How can our people grow spiritually? This question has been hovering in my mind for a long time. Even with the best computers or the best administrative structure etc., the church may not be able to grow a centimeter more godly. We need God - and only God the Holy Spirit can make this difference. But we must also bear our responsibility i.e. our faithfulness in our christian walk daily coupled with the preparations done like the early church in terms of learning the Word of God diligently, active and regular participation in fellowship, worship and a good prayer life, personally and corporately so that we can present each one complete in Christ. With these facts in mind, after much considerations, prayers and deliberations with other members of our congregation, I introduced the idea of the church plan to our church council and it was accepted.

This idea is to cater for the needs of our members in the area of spiritual, social, intellectual or physical. The members would be clustered into personal groups with small number of persons meeting face to face regularly for the purpose of studying the Bible and the Christian faith, for prayer, for the exchange of experiences, needs and insights, and for taking thoughts as to how we can best fulfill our calling as Christian to love and serve God and other people, encouragement, support, sense of belonging and meeting not only once a week other than Sunday worship.

Here is the breakdown of the six divisions from the areas our members come from:

1. Pandan/Teban
2. Jurong Town I (Block 1 - 119)
3. Jurong Town II (Block 120 onwards)
4. Boon Lay/NTI
5. Jurong East/West
6. Clementi/NUS/City

* Please check the notice board for your group . If you name is missing please notify the Pastor.

There will be a few small personal groups in each area led by a trained leader. These groups will meet weekly in various homes, then corporately once a month on the last Saturday of each month for fellowship and special programmes. The programme for August 25th will be "Spot the talents" where each group is to perform a skit from a Biblical story. For September, we will be having a picnic day on the 6th (further announcement will be made later)

May the Lord help us to fulfill this task and bless us richly through these personal groups.

In His Vineyard

Edmund Lim, Pastor

christian cell group

The Christian life is a battle, but we were never meant to fight alone. I not only have the Holy Spirit dwelling in me - but I also have you, with God's Holy Spirit dwelling in each of you. The question is this : Am I prepared to admit that I need help from other Christians? I'm not ashamed to admit that I need personal encouragement. This is not to say that I'm denying the all-sufficiency of Father to meet all my needs. I know He can and He does. But one of the main ways in which He does it is through other people.

I find it difficult to pray - I need someone to exhort me and pray alongside me.

There are times when reading the scriptures are difficult - I need someone to encourage and instruct me.

Often I just don't know how to help my non-Christian friends. - I need someone to listen to my difficulties and support me.

Sometimes my Christian life seems to be going nowhere - I need someone who knows me, who understands me, my difficulties my weaknesses to help me find my place.

Often I can't see what's wrong with my own life; I don't know how to overcome pride, jealousy, fear, anger, a sharp tongue. - I need someone who loves me enough to correct me that I may be more like Christ.

"We ALL need PERSONAL encouragement and exhortation, as we grow towards maturity in Christ."

That very simply is the aim of the cell group. The 'big' meetings where we worship the LORD together are necessary. But we need the "small' meeting, the cell group to allow the Holy Spirit to apply to our individual lives the practical truths of the gospel. In a big meeting, we can easily escape God's dealing. We can be all confused and mixed up inside but appear outwardly happy. Our problems do not get dealt with. But in the small meeting, its difficult to hide. This gives us an opportunity to help one another grow to be like CHRIST.

First, two foundational principles :

1. CHRIST must be CENTRAL

If our hearts are not set on CHRIST, nothing will happen. It is God Himself, through the Holy Spirit who is seeking to change our lives. We must be able to say, "Lord, I trust You, I put my life into Your hands. I want you to change me to be more like Christ, whatever it takes - hardship, trials, pain - make me like Him, Lord. I trust you know how much I can take, and You won't give me more than I can take."

2. Whatever you wish that men would do to you, DO SO TO THEM:
for this is the law and the prophets. (Matt 7:12)

This is a tremendous principle. I said earlier we all have needs; here is the beginning of the answer to all our needs.

If when the group gathers and you like other people to greet you and ask about you - you take the first step and approach others.

If you have something you want to share but find it difficult and would like someone to ask you - you ask someone else first.

If you find it irritating when you're speaking and no one seems to be listening - you learn to listen to others.

If you need others to pray for you - you pray for others first.

If you need encouragement - you go and encourage others.

If you wish that others would understand instead of criticize you - you spend time to understand others first.

Finally some practical points

1. Make time for fellowship

I honestly believe that this kind of close fellowship is not an optional extra - it's vital. I know you all have busy schedules but this is very important. Don't crowd it out.

2. Be regular in your attendance, otherwise the purpose is defeated.

3. Be willing to learn and to change.

Don't give up! Like most things in life, learning to be open and honest with others takes time to learn. You may go through a phase of frustration, disappointment - but don't give up. That's precisely the time to go on. It's never easy to accept correction - but we must learn. Change is always painful. Learn to embrace the pain of change.

4. Be willing to discipline yourself and give priority to the cell group meeting. Effective Christian living is costly and it is impossible to experience the joy of the life in Christ without paying the cost of commitment. There must be a nucleus of deeply devoted members who regard the cell as a vital part of our witness and expression of our love for Christ and one another.

THE CELL GROUP IS NOT JUST AN INTERESTING SUGGESTION, IT IS A CALL TO ACTION.

1. True Fellowship

The basis of fellowship in the Christian cell group is Christ the living truth revealed the working of the Holy Spirit in the Word of God. The Spirit of God revealing through the little groups in the early church caused the presence of the living Christ. The member of the cell group enters into a close fellowship with one another and are concerned with the application of the Word of God to the relationship that are happening in daily life.

Christians whose only contact is during the Sunday worship are lacking in one of the most important part of Christian fellowship. They need a close relationship with other Christians who will stimulate them to grow in the knowledge of Christ and to relate their faith to daily living.

2. Teaching and Training

Cell groups are not subjective sharing sessions without objective training, but should emphasise the training of its members and the need to be "transformed by the renewing of the mind".

3. Growth

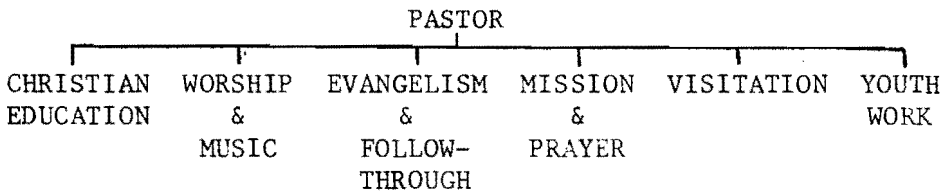
The object of the cell is to reproduce itself by preparing its members to start other cells. Cell groups should complement church evangelism. Members of the cell may pray concerning friends they have witnessed to and discuss ways of making their witness more objective. Those who have expressed interest in knowing Christ may be invited to the group.

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Introducing...

THE ENGLISH CHURCH COUNCIL

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our English Section Council members. They were elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), to serve the Lord in the Church. Each council member holds different responsibilities and assists the Pastor in co-ordinating the various ministries of the Church. Upon election, each member will be serving a 3 year term and can be re-elected for another 3 year term. Those who have served 2 full terms, that is, a total of 6 years, are required by the Constitution to take a recess for a year before another election. We welcome sisters and brothers who are baptised and truly born again to take such a privilege to serve the Lord and one another. The organisational structure of the English Section is as follows :-



BRO WILBUR KAO



: Elected in this year's AGM. Age 32. A member for 10 years. Married, his wife Mary is the co-teacher of the Bethel Bible class. Wilbur is in charge of the Youth Work of the English Section. He is also the Church Treasurer and the Chairman of the Stewardship and Finance Committee. Wilbur works as a Superintendent in a manufacturing company.

BRO SAMMY WEE



: Elected in this year's AGM. A member since 1976. Age 29. He is single. Presently, he co-teaches the Bethel Bible class with Mary Kao. Sammy serves on the Church Property Committee and the Evangelism/Follow-through for new believers. He works as a Technician.

BRO WILFRED KAO



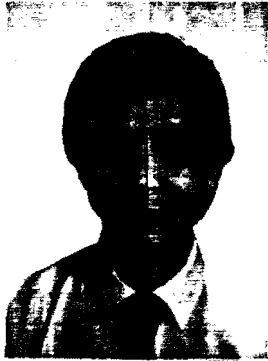
: Elected in 1983 AGM. A member for 10 years. Age 31. Still single. Brother of Wilbur. He serves as Secretary to the Church Council and is in charge of the Worship and Music Committee. He works as a Foreman in a manufacturing firm.

BRO TAN SWEE LEONG :



: Elected in 1983 AGM. A member since 1973. Age 33. Married, wife Swee Eng and has a son, Samuel. The family is expecting to expand in December! Swee Leong serves in the Mission and Prayer Committee and is the Editor of this newsletter. He also leads in our Wednesday Bible Study group. He works as an Executive in a steel mill.

BRO FRANCIS LOW



: Elected in 1982 AGM. A member since 1968. Age 38. Married, wife Sally and 2 daughters, Priscilla and Patricia. The family is also awaiting an arrival in October. Francis is in charge of the Visitation programme and is the Superintendent of the Sunday School. He is a manager of a manufacturing company.

BRO RONNIE LIM



: Elected in the 1982 AGM. A member since 1972. Age 30. Married, wife Nancy and daughter Cui Yin. They are also expecting to expand the family in November. Ronnie is in charge of the Christian Education Department and is the Chairman of the Children Center Committee. He is a Superintendent at a petrochemical plant.

Scripture tells us that God tempts no man. Temptation always comes from the devil. God will test us and allow us to endure the temptation, but the devil does the tempting. How do we overcome it? A little girl once told her method. "When the devil comes knocking at the door", she said, "I don't answer it. I send Jesus to the door." And that is exactly the way to take care of it. Send Jesus to the door!

★ JESUS CHRIST and the SUPERSTARS ★ ★ ★

The visit by the group, 'AIR SUPPLY' sometime ago made me wonder. This group is well known for hits like 'The One That You Love', 'Here I am'.. It really makes me think as to what makes them so popular, so unique, so famous, so celebrated and so accepted by everybody. Everywhere they go, fans will be waiting, screaming for them at the airport. Their records sell like hotcakes and teenagers all over idolise them. To be fair to those who don't like 'AIR SUPPLY', there is Paul McCartney or The Bee Gees to sworn over. The world is full of 'beautiful people' to adore and people are so eager so ready to set up an 'idol' and worship and adore them.

Yes, in the Old Testament, God's people turned away from Him to worship idols of stone, of gold, of Baal and of foreign gods. Today, we worship the likes of John Lennon, Rick Springfield, Sylvester Stallone and Dudley Moore. And these individuals, receiving so much adoration of their fans, became carried away in their sense of personal power. Many superstars turn to drugs and a marriage that ends in inevitable divorce as in the movie world. There is no standard in sexual morality. Still, blinded by all their show and glitter, we follow. The world is corroding. Call it decadence, moral decadence, mental decadence and spiritual decadence. It is going to lead us to HELL.

Talking about Hell, it unavoidably brings me to Jesus Christ. What has Jesus Christ to do with superstars, you may ask. Jesus doesn't cut singles, He doesn't sing songs that hit the charts. Today's teenagers don't cry for Jesus Christ like the way they cried for John Lennon when he died. In fact, I think a concert by a celebrated group is worshipped with more zeal and meaning than Christ!

NEWS - JURONG MONITOR

CHURCH PICNIC

Our church will be organizing a picnic on 6/9/84 - Hari Raya Haji - tentatively to be at St John's Island. Further details will be announced in the Sunday Service bulletin. Any volunteers who wish to help can contact Pastor Lim.

FELLOWSHIP

There will be a christian fellowship on 25/8/84. It's a family-of-Christ get-together where there will be games, sketches, etc.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome into the family of God :-

Mr & Mrs Saw Hin Teong

Ho Sook San

Saw Pei Ping

Lim Wei Yi

Saw Pei 'En

who were baptised on 29/7/84. Praise God and remember to pray that the Lord will lead and bless them as they seek to draw nearer to Him.

BAPTISM CLASS

A new baptism class will be starting in mid-August. Any-one who wishes to join, can submit your name to Pastor Lim.

CHURCH RETREAT

A year-end retreat 14-16 Dec '84 is planned for the congregation. This 3-day retreat will be held in Singapore, location to be confirmed. Please support the working committee comprising Pastor Lim, Peter Cheong, Wilfred Kao, Ronnie Lim, James Tan and Teng Ting Ching in your prayers.

CRUSADE

The Lutheran Church has endorsed the crusade led by Evangelist, Luis Palau, who will be coming to Singapore in mid-August. Plans for the crusade will be underway and training will be conducted. Further information will be given later.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS TRAINING

To be held on 18/8/84, Saturday 2 pm - 5 pm at Queenstown Lutheran Church. It will be conducted by Mrs Ruth Slim, Pastor Terry Kee and Miss Dorcas Yeo.

Those interested, please see Francis Low - Superintendent of our Sunday School.

METHODIST MISSIONARY CONVENTION

The convention will be held on 31/8/84 - 2/9/84. The theme is 'Go Forth' and the speakers are Dr John T Seamands and Dr R Theodore Srinivasagam. For further details and programme, please see the notice board.

MOVED

The following have moved :-

James Tan	New Address : Blk 135 Bukit Batok West
Susan Tan	Ave 6 #07-475
Wilfred Kao	Singapore 2365
	Telephone : 563 9312
Wilbur & Mary Kao	New Address : Blk 223A Jurong East
	St 21 #10-857
	Singapore 2260
Ng Tuck Ming, Simon	New Address : D-306 Sheares Hall
	National University of
	Singapore
	Singapore 0511

GRACE

Sister Grace writes to us from the Duolos which is now in Germany. Grace is now in her 2nd year of service with the Doulos and is working with the Book Exhibition Section besides leading a group of girls. She writes to say that she is currently involved with evangelistic work among the Chinese during their stay in Germany. Living as a big family on the ship requires a lot of love and Grace finds the grace of the Lord sustaining them.

Please remember to pray & write, her address is :-

MV Doulos
Postfach 1609
D-6950 Mosbach
WEST GERMANY

PASTOR KUSSEROW & FAMILY

Pastor Kusserow writes to us from Tanzania. Mrs Kusserow and he had just covered a 4 month course on Swahili grammar. Pastor even participated in a worship service conducted in Swahili.

Recently, Pastor Kusserow has a bad swelling & pain in his left ankle, he thinks it might be caused by the medicine he is taking to prevent malaria. Please do pray for his early recovery.

Hans, their eldest son, has graduated with a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering. Kurt, their second son, who is planning on entering the ministry, will be a senior at Thiel College next school year. Tim, their youngest son, will be a junior at Thiel.

Pastor & Mrs Kusserow would appreciate our prayer for progress in speaking Swahili, that the parsonage in Maswa might be finished soon so that they will not have any delay in beginning their ministry there and also that God will bless the young congregation that they will be serving in Maswa. Their address is :-

c/o Central Synod
ELCT P O Box 100
Singida
TANZANIA

"NO TURNING BACK" By George Verwer

George Verwer is a compelling author who does not mince his words in his uncompromising approach in his books on Christian discipleship, service, lifestyle and our relation with the Lord. His recent book "No Turning Back" is not just a book to be read but one that challenges many of the things that we accept as part of the accepted way of living, he provokes us to think on the meaning of being a disciple for God and the price we have to pay, the battle to fight, the discipline we need in our Christian life. The battle, the spiritual warfare, is not ours alone for God has provided us the weapons of warfare, are we wise in using them? Are we knowledgeable in the way God can use them through us in this warfare? Are we adequately prepared so that God can use us as instruments and as weapons? As we examine ourselves, and often see our own weakness and inadequacies, we would often ask ourselves these questions. Our God is a God of might, he is the Almighty, the Sovereign, The All Sufficient, the Name Above All Name, the Name at whom all knee shall bow. As we think of the greatness of God, how can we as his children use that Great name and power for the victory that God wants to give us. Ultimately it is God who is able to give us the Victory through Christ. "No Turning Back" provides the answers, not from George Verwer, but from the Word, which is Christ himself.

The book is firmly based on Scriptures and George Verwer shares his experiences in his ministry through the work of Operation Mobilisation (OM). I am sure that in this work many battles have been fought, much hardship endured, much pain suffered, much injury sustained, much loss incurred and much sacrifices made. To the world, it would seem like loss, but should we not be like Paul who under much persecution and suffering in prison, wrote to the Philippians saying "But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ" or as Isaac Watts wrote in the hymn "My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride". Are we willing to take these word and live them out as practically in our lives?

To quote an excerpt from the book, George Verwer says:
"The commandment of Christ in John 14:21 states,
'Whoever has my commandment and obeys them, he is
the one who loves me. He who loves me will be
loved by my Father and I will love him'. Yet most
people think that if they go to Church twice a
Sunday, they are getting rather spiritual and if
they go to the mid-week prayer meeting as well,
they are getting super dedicated.

My prayer for this book is that it should call you
to effective service and show you some of the
disciples' weapons, that it should teach you how to
press on when the going gets tough and that it
should help you live a life of love, a life worthy
of the Lord you serve."

We are all called to be disciples, learner of Christ,
seeking first the Kingdom of God. Let us also draw upon
the rich experience of those who have been ministered by
God in their service and discipleship.

"No Turning Back" has been written in the light of the
reality of the Word, Christ himself. Read it, I am sure
you will find it revealing, enlightening and challenging.

"No Turning Back" is available from our Church Library.

By: Tan Swee Leong

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.....*In human intercourse the tragedy
begins, not when there is a misunderstanding
about words, but when silence is not understood.....*

Henry D Thoreau

IN CLOSING ---

Yes, this is the very first issue of our Church Newsletter; your Newsletter. We do look forward to receiving your feedback, suggestions and contributions. Please submit any articles, testimony, cartoons , jokes you want to share, any experience to encourage and uplift, any announcements you want to make to any of the committee members. If you have any questions relating to the Christian faith, social issues, personal life etc etc, please feel free to submit them (we will ensure confidentiality).

We certainly hope that this interaction would truly provide "Christian Nuture" within our congregation and upbuild the Body of Christ to the glory of His Name. Would you be willing to partake with us in this partnership?

The Editorial Committee

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	BIBLE READER	USHERS	COMMUNION USHERS	OFFERING CHARGE HAND	SONG LEADER	ORGANIST
Sep 2	Sammy Wee	Chau Chwen Hwe	Ivan Ho Lim Cheng Teck		David Lim Mr Daniel	Ng Tuck Meng	Chan Bee Fong
Sep 9	Tan Swee Leong	Mary Kao	Tan Pei Pei Ong Siew Hong	Esther Lim Danny Wee	James Tan Dandy Lee	Tai Kim Keong	Chan Bee Fong
Sep 16	Francis Low	Martin Yee	Tan Joo Huang Jessie Cheong		Ng Joo Liang Lilian Lee	Chong Wong Mui	Julie Yow
Sep 23	Wilbur Kao	Ooi Bee Hong	James Sum Chan Foo Tuck		Mary Kao Tan Pei Pei	Molly Lim	Chan Bee Fong
Sep 30	P S George	Lim Yin Leng	Ow Yuen Peng Chen Mee King		Khoo Hock Lai Danny Wee	David Ng	Chan Bee Fong
Oct 7	Sammy Wee	Peter Cheong	Eu Boon Hoe Ng Ah Seng		David Lim Mr Daniel	Kaleen Heng	Betsy Cheong
Oct 14	Francis Low	Mrs Daniel	Ong Day Wah Ong Siew Hong	Esther Lim Danny Wee	James Tan Tan Pei Pei	Ng Tuck Meng	Chan Bee Fong
Oct 21	Wilbur Kao	Mary Kao	Ivan Ho Lim Cheng Teck		Ng Joo Liang Lilian Lee	Tai Kim Keong	Chan Bee Fong
Oct 28	P S George	Chau Chwen Hwe	Tan Pei Pei Ho Sook San		Khoo Hock Lai Danny Wee	Chin Yew Neng	Julie Yow