

**DURING AN AVERAGE LIFETIME, A HUMAN BEING EATS ABOUT 70 TONS OF FOOD.** It is possible that the Singaporean eats more. In Singapore the common greeting is not 'Hi-ya', or 'Good day', but 'Have you eaten?' The Singaporean is willing to eat anywhere & standards of hygiene are rigidly enforced. Hundreds of hawkers found handling food unhygienically are regularly prosecuted. In the USA, Americans consume an average of 3,316 calories a day. The average in Europe is 2,434 calories. The Japanese consume 2,571 calories daily. In Singapore, prisons provide convicts with 3,520 calories a day. Those outside the jails can be expected to do better. They are also big food wasters. According to studies done, consumers throw away from 20-40 million calories of food daily. Perhaps it is the food - or the climate. But whatever the cause, Singapore's youngsters tend to stay maturing physically ahead of adolescents in Britain. Girls in Singapore reach full breast development at an average age of 13.5 years, compared to Britain's 14.7 years. Singapore girls begin puberty between 9 & 17 years & boys between 11 & 18 years.

**RESISTE MODERNITY. THERE IS STILL A WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN MAGIC.** You can receive help from the Malay 'bomoh', the Chinese medium or the Indian astrologer. Conservative Chinese believe that most things are dominated by specific spirits. Anything bad is controlled by demons, but they believe that it is possible to co-operate with the demons. Appeals for help may also be made to the many gods & goddesses, the good spirits of Chinese folk religion, in one of the 300 Chinese temples in Singapore.

**SINGAPORE IS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT COMMUNISM.** Although there is active armed revolt in Malaysia, along the Thai-Malaysia border, there has been no armed subversive violence in Singapore for 20 years because of police vigilance. Communist cells are broken up or carefully watched as soon as they are formed.

**SINGAPORE HAS A DEFENCE FORCE BUT NO NEWS OR INFORMATION ON IT MAY BE PUBLISHED WITHOUT PERMISSION.** Nevertheless, Mr. Lee claims that small Singapore's defence capability is not insignificant. About 1% of the annual budget currently goes to the armed forces. Foreign experts say that Singapore is capable of self protection for a period of time long enough to bring international pressure on the aggressor. But Singapore has no formal defence pacts with other nations & is in effect on its own. Nobody has promised to come to Singapore's rescue if attacked. Singapore is a member of ASEAN, along with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines & Thailand but the ties are in economic, social & cultural areas, not military.

**THERE IS A DRAFT.** Citizens & permanent residents are called for national service at the age of 18. Other ranks are liable to serve in the military reserve until they are 40, officers until they are 50. National service can be served in the Army, the police force or the vigilante corps, which was formed in 1965 as a sort of militia force against subversive infiltrators. It now plays a role in civil defense, the fire service & crime prevention.

**SINGAPORE IS UNIQUE IN MANY WAYS.** The most popular place of entertainment, aside from the restaurant, is the cinema. Singapore holds the world's record for cinema attendance. More than 70 cinemas show about 1,500 films to a yearly viewing audience of 42 million (out of a population of 2.3 million)! Singaporeans are not great travellers - most have never been off the island. And to keep their island clean, govt. snoopers patrol in plain clothes carrying walkie-talkies. Those who litter are spotted by the snoopers, who radio the information to the police. According to University of Hong Kong studies, Singapore is the second noisiest city in the world, next to Hong Kong. Noise level in Hong Kong is 75 decibels - Singapore's average is 67 in the urban areas. On the whole, Singaporeans are a self-contained people. Although most live in high-rise flats, few know their neighbours. In the life there is usually complete silence. There are few inter-ethnic marriages in Singapore. Chinese & Malays seldom wed.

**MUSLIM, HINDU & CHRISTIAN PRIESTS REPORT A BIG INCREASE IN ATTENDANCE IN RECENT YEARS IN RESCUES, TEMPLES & CHURCHES.** The Buddhist Union, on the other hand, claimed only a slight increase in the number of Buddhists attending temple prayers. Some critics accuse the govt. of encouraging religion not because of its spiritual values, but because it is an anti-communist force. Nevertheless, Singapore has been recognised as a haven of religious tolerance, though a secular state.

**THE SINGAPOREAN IS REPUTED TO BE THE MOST PRAGMATIC PERSON IN THE WORLD.** As one Minister joked: a typical Singaporean is a person whose aim in life is to have two children, three rooms & four wheels. Though they can be generous, they can also be firm & practical when it comes to their own interests. Some Vietnamese refugees streaming into Singapore were put back into their boats, given food & water & sent on their way to Australia.

**COME SAY THAT THE FUTURE OF SINGAPORE LIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISLAND REPUBLIC INTO A GLOBAL CITY,** a kind of Zurich of the East. Singapore tries to maintain a balanced foreign policy, despite being anti-communist. They have learned to cope with the fact of great powers. American warships pay courtesy calls on Singapore. Russian warships never do, although her cargo vessels & fishing ships are constant visitors. In 1976 nearly

1,000 Russian ships called at Singapore. The port has emerged as a major regional repair centre for Russian commercial & fishing vessels. In the city, Singapore traders have opened at least two shops that speak Russian to cater for Russian seamen. Lee & others have warned that if Western capitalism fails Singapore, then to maintain living standards, to provide jobs, Singapore's new leadership might be tempted to move into the USSR's economic network. Another alternative is that the Republic could become an international city, rather than a free global city, with status guaranteed by the U.S. and Singapore's relationship with China, excellent & realistic in the past, will always be a key to the future. Singapore's economy is oil-based & must begin to consider alternative sources of energy too, since it has none of its own.

**SINGAPORE BELIEVES THAT IT MUST BE STRICT WITH ITSELF.** The general belief is that Singapore does not have much of a safety margin, the place is too compact. There is no room for the sort of vagrancy which larger nations take in their stride. Problems have to be taken care of before they grow out of hand & threaten the general welfare. Mr. Lee has said he plans to continue in his role as Prime Minister 'for as long as I am contributing an effective role which nobody else can. The moment someone else can perform the role more effectively than I can, then I should not be where I am.' In 1982 he & his party will have been in power 23 years.



## "I Felt My Spirit Leave My Body!"

MOTHER LEARNS PRAISE & GRATITUDE THROUGH DEATH EXPERIENCE!

From J. Nentwig, Australia:

**MY BEING A MOTHER IS A MIRACLE IN ITSELF!** I had my first baby in the system when I was 17 yrs. old. He is now 13 yrs. old & serving the Lord in Indonesia! GBH! When I was pregnant with him the Lord told me that he was to be called Joseph & that he was going to work for Him.

**ANYWAY, WHEN HE WAS BORN,** I had a really rough time as the doctors pumped drugs into me without my permission, telling me it would make things easier for me. As a result I was very frightened, not at all relaxed, & I tore very badly.

**NEEDLESS TO SAY, I NEVER WANTED ANY MORE BABIES** as I thought that's the way all babies are born. I never really had the "faith" to use contraceptives so for the next 8 yrs I was "playing with fire" so to speak. Hal 6 years after Joseph was born I again felt pregnant but lost it, then exactly a year later I again miscarried.

**BOTH TIMES I WAS KIND OF SAD** yet relieved at the same time, because the memories of Joseph's birth had made me really fearful. Between the time of Joseph's birth & meeting the Family I had been mated twice in the system, both not working out, so when I met the Family I felt like I was living in Heaven on Earth!

**FIVE MONTHS AFTER BEING IN**

**THE FAMILY I WAS AGAIN MATED** & 3 months later I was pregnant! Now to most mothers that would be the most joyous thing on earth, but to me it put me through some heavy trials, I was so fearful.

**AS A RESULT I BECAME VERY VERY SICK,** & at only 4 wks. pregnant I was confined to bed, not being able to move without help & not being able to keep any food or drink down & my body got weaker & weaker & I got thinner & thinner to the point of dehydration!

**I LAY THERE FOR 6 WEEKS** not getting any better even though some of the top leadership of that time prayed for my recovery beside my bed. Everyone thought it was just a purely physical reason I was so sick, but the Lord showed me otherwise.

**ONE NIGHT AFTER WEEKS OF AGONY,** everyone in our home went to view movies which Faithy was showing at a get-together for all the homes. At first my mate decided he should stay with me but I encouraged him to go so he did. An hour after they'd left, I was lying in the semi-darkness with every thing so quiet when suddenly

**I FELT MY SPIRIT LEAVE MY BODY.** I realized what was happening & it really sobered me up & made me realize how rebellious I'd been at not wanting to accept the gift that the Lord had given me--my baby! Suddenly I was so sorry &

ashamed with myself.

**I CRIED OUT TO THE LORD & ASKED HIS FORGIVENESS** & told Him I really did want the baby. Straight away my spirit re-entered my body & within a week I was completely healed! TJJ!

**AS I HAD HAD NO NOURISHMENT CONTAINED IN MY BODY** we were worried that the baby would be born with something wrong so when she was born big & healthy we knew it was all just the Lord! We knew she was definitely a miracle baby & she's been a real blessing. PTL!

**EVERYTHING ABOUT HER BIRTH HAPPENED IN 7'S!** I started labour in the 7th hour with my contractions 7 minutes apart, & I was in labour 7 hours. It took 7 pushes to get her out (I was counting every push!) & I was put in room 7, bed 7 afterward! Plus, our pet dog had 7 puppies the same day, & she was born in 1977! - Amen!

**EVEN HER NAME, ESTHER, WAS CONFIRMED BY THE LORD** by having me open to Esther 2:9, "and 7 maidens, which were meet to be given her;" we realized that there had been 7 maidens (nurses) present at her birth!

**I WAS SO HAPPY BEING MOMMY TO MY BEAUTIFUL LITTLE PRINCESS,** but suddenly, after only 3 mos. there I was with a new seed growing inside me again! I had conquered my fear of birth but now here was a new trial--another baby so soon? How would I ever cope?

**WELL, THE LORD STOPPED THAT MODE OF THINKING STRAIGHT AWAY** by bringing to my remembrance

how, because of my unthankfulness before, I had nearly died!

**FROM THE BIRTH OF ESTHER, I HAD LEARNED THAT IT IS BEST TO BE SPECIFIC IN PRAYER** & let the Lord know exactly what you want & have the faith for it. So, I had another beautiful little girl Keren, born easily with no stitches required, completely naturally, big & healthy! TJJ!

**THE LORD SHOWED ME THAT ESTHER & KEREN** (born within 1 year of each other) were the two babies I'd miscarried. It was really encouraging to read the letters on re-incarnation.

**WHEN KEREN WAS ABOUT 20 MOS. OLD I GAVE BIRTH TO DAVID** MICHAEL JAMES--another result of specific prayer. I had prayed for a labour of less than 2 hours and he was born in 1 3/4 hours. GBY!

**ON ONE POINT THOUGH MY FAITH DID WAVER**--I knew he was going to be a big baby, & at first I prayed for no stitches, but the Lord said I wouldn't need any, but then he changed his mind & gave me one anyway! And all because my faith wavered! LHM!

**I HOPE THESE TESTIMONIES CAN BE AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO OTHER MOTHERS** on being specific in prayer. Pray for every little thing, don't be afraid to ask thinking you don't deserve or that you're supposed to "suffer" in childbirth! Some verses that have really encouraged me are Is. 66:7,9; ITi.2:15; Joel 2:32a; Ps 31:2A; Mt 11:28; Isa65:23. GB&Y&CTMTAB! J. Nentwig