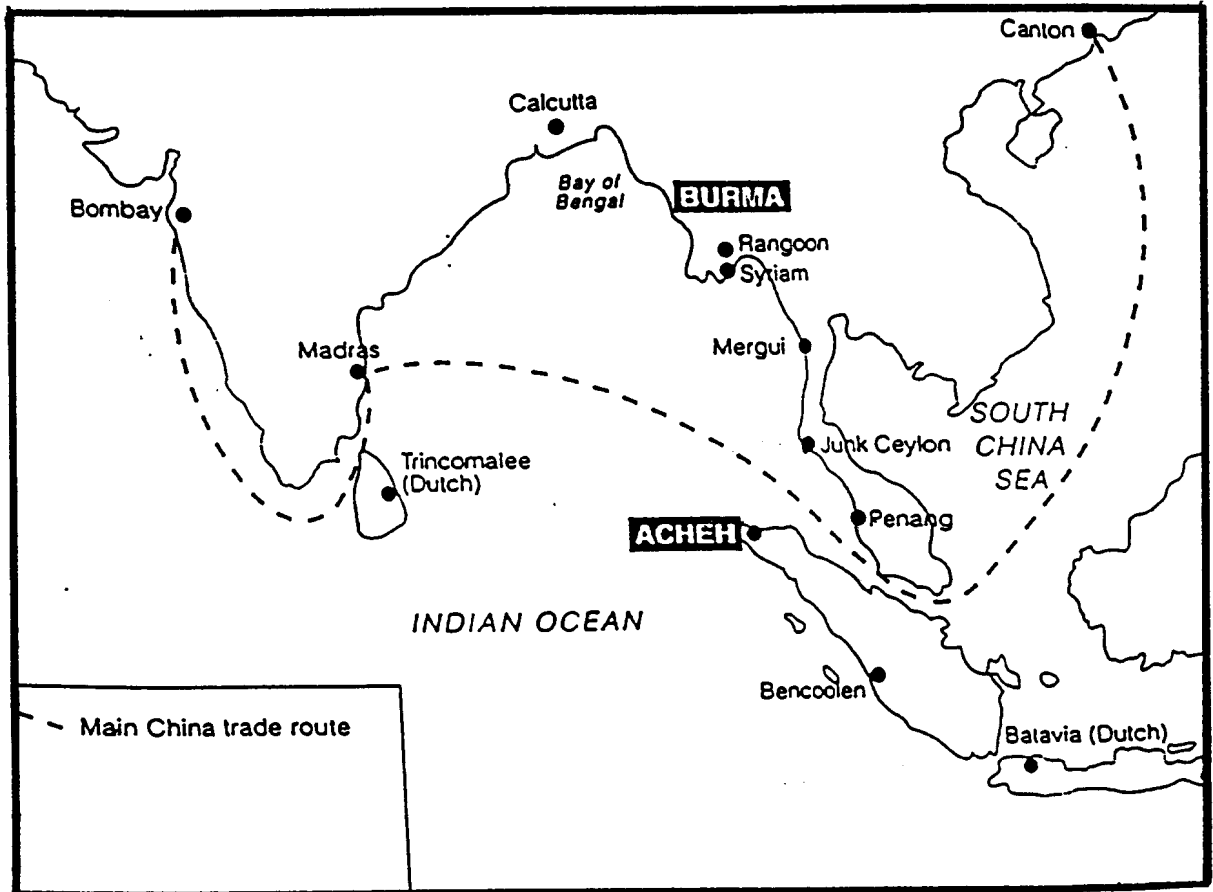


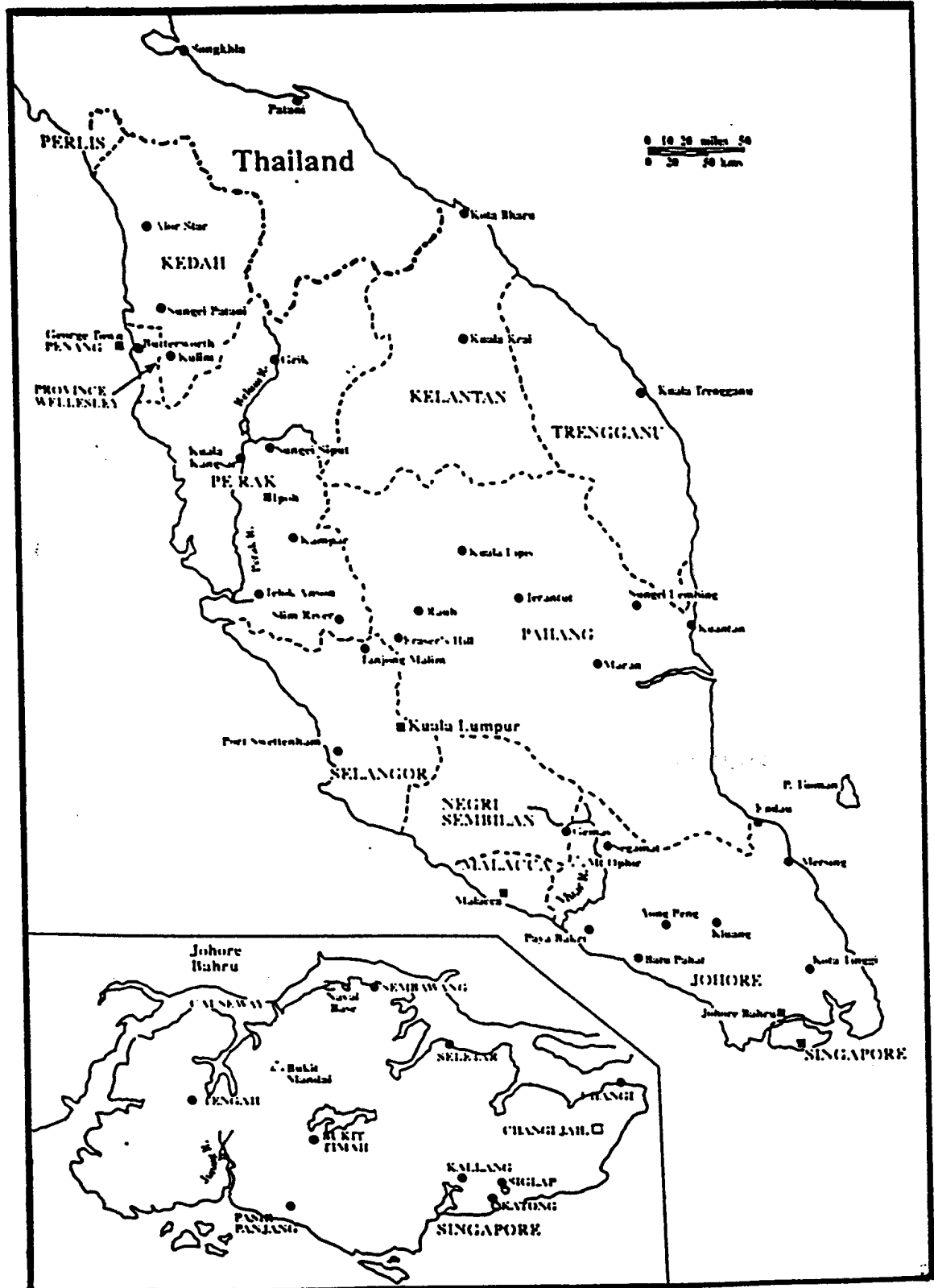
Map of Indian Ocean-South China Sea Trade Route in the Late 18th Century
(Baker 1999:80)





ANNEXURE B

Map of Singapore and Malaya (Ong 1997)



ANNEXURE C

Letter of Intent

John Yuen
Block 516, Serangoon Nth Ave 4
#08-244
Singapore, 550516
Tel: 483-4509 (Home) 9789-2414 (Hand Phone)

1 January 2001

Dear Brother in Christ at _____ Church,

Greetings in His name. Let me first introduce myself.

My name is John Yuen and I am a lecturer with the Singapore Bible College. At present, I am on study leave, writing my PhD dissertation in the field of practical theology as an external student of the University of Pretoria in South Africa. The topic of my research is on the success culture in Singapore and its challenges to Christian men in building strong families.

As part of my research, I am conducting an opinion poll among Christian men who are married and have dependent children. The purpose of this is to gauge how these men perceive their roles at work and at home in general. I have sought the assistance of your pastor, the Rev _____, in conducting this opinion poll in your church, and you have been identified as a potential respondent.

The information provided through the questionnaires will be presented in my dissertation, and used to generate some suggestions as to how family men and the Church can help in building strong Christian homes. Thus, your response to this opinion poll is very important to me not only because it is a dissertational requirement, but more importantly, as an instrument to help enhance Christian living and ministry.

Please be reassured that your response will be kept confidential, and no individual will be identified by name in my dissertation. Completing the questionnaire should take no more than 15 minutes. I very much appreciate your completing and returning the questionnaire by 31 January 2001, using the postage-paid envelope attached.

Thank you and I look forward to receiving your early response.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

John Yuen, PhD Student
Faculty of Theology
University of Pretoria
South Africa



ANNEXURE D

QUESTIONNAIRE
(For Married Christian Men with Dependent Children)

Name: _____ Age: _____ Contact Number: _____

Please tick in the appropriate [].

Own Occupation:

- Professional/Technical
- Business/Financial
- Administrative/Managerial
- Educational
- Clerical
- Others (please specify): _____

Wife's Occupation:

- Professional/Technical
- Business/Financial
- Administrative/Managerial
- Educational
- Clerical
- Others (please specify): _____

Own Highest Education:

- Secondary/'O' Levels
- Pre-University/'A' Levels
- Polytechnic
- University/Professional Qualification
- Others (please specify): _____

Wife's Highest Education:

- Secondary/'O' Levels
- Pre-University/'A' Levels
- Polytechnic
- University/Professional Qualification
- Others (please specify): _____

No. of Years Married: _____ No. of Children: _____ Age(s) of Child(ren): _____

Please choose and tick your most preferred response for each of the statements.

| Statement | Agree Strongly | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Disagree Strongly |
|---|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|
| 1. I compete with others so that I can stay ahead of them. | | | | | |
| 2. I compete with others so that I can bring out the best in myself. | | | | | |
| 3. I measure achievement in terms of getting the desired results. | | | | | |
| 4. I measure achievement in terms of experiencing the satisfaction of having tried hard. | | | | | |
| 5. I work hard at providing well for my family so that they can be materially comfortable. | | | | | |
| 6. I work hard at relating closely with my family members. | | | | | |
| 7. I expect my family members to be understanding when work takes me away from them. | | | | | |
| 8. I enjoy doing things <i>with</i> my family more than doing things <i>for</i> them. | | | | | |
| 9. I fail as a man if I cannot be the sole breadwinner in my family. | | | | | |
| 10. I lead my family by sharing substantially in home responsibilities. | | | | | |
| 11. I fail as a man if I have integrity of character but no influence of control. | | | | | |
| 12. I lead my family by listening to their views before making decisions that will affect our home. | | | | | |

Please use attached envelope to return completed questionnaire by 31 January 2001 to John Yuen at:
Block 516, Serangoon Nth Ave 4, #08-244, Singapore, 550516.

Thank you!

ANNEXURE E

Name of conversational partner: _____
Age: _____
Education: _____
Occupation: _____
No. of years working: _____
No. of years married: _____
Wife's education: _____
Wife's occupation: _____
No./Ages of children: _____
Contact no.: _____
Date of conversation: _____

CONVERSATIONAL GUIDE 1

Research Topic:

The success culture in Singapore and its challenges to Christian men in building strong families

I. Conversational topic 1: Working life in Singapore

A. Main question: From your working experiences over the years, what has it been like working in Singapore?

1. An example of success
2. An example of failure

II. Conversational topic 2: How work demands affect family life

A. Main question: In what ways has your work been in tension with your family?

1. Feelings when such a tension arises
2. Attempts to resolve such a tension

III. Conversational topic 3: Man's role at home

A. Main question: As a Christian, what does male headship in the family mean to you?

1. Trend toward dual-income families
2. Value of homemaking, child-care and child-tutoring options today

ANNEXURE F

Name of conversational partner: _____
Age: _____
Education: _____
Occupation: _____
No. of years working: _____
No. of years married: _____
Wife's education: _____
Wife's occupation: _____
No./Ages of children: _____
Contact no.: _____
Date of conversation: _____

CONVERSATIONAL GUIDE 2

Research Topic:

The success culture in Singapore and its challenges to Christian men in building strong families

I. Conversational topic 1: Work satisfaction and frustration

A. Main question: Could you share some stories about the 'ups and downs' in your working life all these years?

1. Identify causes/reasons for work satisfaction
2. Identify causes/reasons for work frustration

II. Conversational topic 2: The 'rat race' - choice or no choice?

A. Main question: If need be, would you be honest enough to tell your boss that your family needs you more than your work? What struggles have you gone through in this regard?

1. Why not getting into the 'rat race' is difficult
2. What the balancing factors are

III. Conversational topic 3: Challenges facing a dual-income family

A. Main question: Yours is a dual-income family. How has this arrangement affected the roles and relationships in your family life?

1. The positive and negative effects on family life
2. How husband's headship and wife's submission is understood and practised in such an arrangement

ANNEXURE G

Name of conversational partner: _____
Age: _____
Education: _____
Occupation: _____
No. of years working: _____
No. of years married: _____
Wife's education: _____
Wife's occupation: _____
No./Ages of children: _____
Contact no.: _____
Date of conversation: _____

CONVERSATIONAL GUIDE 3

Research Topic:

The success culture in Singapore and its challenges to Christian men in building strong families

I. Conversational topic 1: Doing well at work

- A. Main question: What is more needed for you to do well in the workplace - competing with others or cooperating with them? Why so?
1. Factors favouring chances of doing well
 2. Pressures facing those who want to be less driven

II. Conversational topic 2: Providing well for family

- A. Main question: What have been your struggles as the family breadwinner in relation to your roles and responsibilities at home?
1. Material and emotional support
 2. Making decisions and giving guidance

III. Conversational topic 3: Living out Christian beliefs

- A. Main question: How have your Christian beliefs affected the way you deal with work-family conflicts?
1. Climbing up the career ladder without cheating family
 2. The traditional view of women as homemakers

ANNEXURE H

Name of conversational partner: _____
Age: _____
Education: _____
Occupation: _____
No. of years working: _____
No. of years married: _____
Wife's education: _____
Wife's occupation: _____
No./Ages of children: _____
Contact no.: _____
Date of conversation: _____

CONVERSATIONAL GUIDE 4

Research Topic:

The success culture in Singapore and its challenges to Christian men in building strong families

I. Conversational topic 1: Work motivations

A. Main question: What motivates you in your career life?

1. For self
2. For family

II. Conversational topic 2: Family income

A. Main question: Yours is a single-income family. What are your experiences like with the pros and cons of this arrangement in relation to your family life?

1. Reasons for this arrangement
2. Viability of single income today

III. Conversational topic 3: Family health

A. Main question: How do you feel about your family life, and what would you like to see happen to it?

1. Marks of a strong family life
2. Different roles and help

Name of conversational partner: _____
Age: _____
Education: _____
Occupation: _____
No. of years working: _____
No. of years married: _____
Wife's education: _____
Wife's occupation: _____
No./Ages of children: _____
Contact no.: _____
Date of conversation: _____

CONVERSATIONAL GUIDE 5

Research Topic:

The success culture in Singapore and its challenges to Christian men in building strong families

I. Conversational topic 1: Hard realities in the workplace

A. Main question: In wanting to do well in your career, what have been your experiences like with some hard realities in the workplace?

1. Own measure of success
2. Personal sacrifices

II. Conversational topic 2: Detrimental effects on family life

A. Main question: How have work demands affected your involvement in family life?

1. Husband's support
2. Father's involvement

III. Conversational topic 3: Dual income

A. Main question: Yours is a dual-income family. How has this arrangement further affected family relationships?

1. Reasons for dual income
2. Family sacrifices

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ABSTRACT

*Singapore's Success Culture
and Its Challenges to Christian Men
in Building Strong Families*

by

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The aim of this study is:

To critically correlate insights from the normative Christian sources and other disciplines so as to formulate a pastoral counsel on building strong families for Christian men in Singapore as they live out their faith and interact with others in a success-oriented society.

This study is important in that it attempts to:

- Expose the false belief that homemaking should not be a masculine responsibility, and to challenge Christian men in Singapore to lead their families as God-honouring husbands and fathers in a materialistic and success-oriented society.
- Help the Church in Singapore in the ministry of building strong Christian families so that a good witness can be presented before a highly secularised society.
- Nurture professionalism in the ministry by formulating a pastoral guide with which those in Christian full-time vocation or voluntary work can use to effectively care and counsel Christian men with troubled family lives.

To accomplish these tasks, the four aspects - descriptive, historical, systematic and strategic - advocated by Don S Browning in his book, *A Fundamental Practical Theology*, were considered. An opinion poll was also done to augment the library research. Additionally,

qualitative interviews in the form of conversational partnerships were conducted to better hear and understand the work-family complexities faced by some Christian men.

The findings in terms of some features that give a preliminary profile of the average Christian man in Singapore as a basis for further research are:

- i. He accepts competition as inevitable in a meritocratic society.
- ii. He works hard so as to develop to his best potential and to provide well for his family materially.
- iii. He often has little time to bond with his family relationally unless he makes a deliberate effort to do so.
- iv. He does not equate male headship with sole leadership at home. Hence, he shares or delegates family responsibilities, including that of breadwinning, housekeeping and parenting.
- v. He discusses rather than dictates decisions related to major family concerns. Hence, he is pragmatic enough to seek and adopt alternatives that are most beneficial to the family. These include choosing options like dual-income, child care centre, maid and grandparent to meet the breadwinning, child caring and housekeeping needs of the home.

Finally, to help Christian men and the Church in Singapore to be actively pro-family in perspective and action, the study concludes by proposing five suggestions:

- i. Work hard so as to earn enough to turn limited time and energy into actual pro-family events.
- ii. Adopt an extended family member into one's own home.
- iii. Enhance pro-family facilities and services by establishing, giving and volunteering more.
- iv. Emphasise family life education in the Christian faith in order to advance it in the Church, home, workplace and society at large.
- v. Be prepared to do that which honours Christ even if it means losing 'face', beginning at home.