On the morning of December 26, 2004, the tsunami that followed an earthquake which measured 9.0 on the Richter scale, devastated the Indian Ocean coastlines and caused untold loss of life and properties. As world-wide relief operations swung into action and passionate philanthropic organizations and peoples from all walks of life rose to the occasion, I contemplated sending a square meter box of needed items to a few people I knew in Sri Lanka. I felt that I could comfort my saddened heart if I gathered a “little treasure chest” and contributed something.

I shared my concern with a few people. From there on this spawned an outbreak of generosity seldom manifested. My office phones rang incessantly. One mother close to tears said over the phone, “I have no transport to send a few bags of clothes, please get someone to collect them. I want to give to Sri Lanka!” A father sobbed over the phone and begged to go to Sri Lanka to help the needy.

Soon goods began to arrive and they were much more than I could fit into a one square meter box. With the Adventist Community Service coordinating the relief operation it seemed that we could quickly filled more than a 20 ft container!

Among the hundreds of phone calls I received was one from a soft-spoken lady calling from the P&O Nedlloyd Shipping Company. She had heard about our relief effort and said, “Sir, we can give a 40 ft container free of charge!” Amazingly, more goods kept coming and we needed a second container to send additional goods to Indonesia. Again the P&O Nedlloyd Shipping Company came to the rescue. A second 40 ft container was donated. Instead of a small one square meter box, we ended up sending two 40 ft containers. With embarrassed hesitation we had to stop further donation of goods. Isn’t that great?

Our gratitude to those who responded unselfishly: two sisters deserve our appreciation, one I named “network,” and the other, “encouragement” (That is what the two sisters did!). Others included supporting members of the Adventist congregations, Pathfinder clubs members, business firms such as Cold Storage, Cathy Pacific Airline, Misa Travel, KWH Marketing Pte. Ltd., News Radio, two taxi captains who did not charge the meter readings for transporting donated goods, countless volunteers who came to pack the donated items and load them into the containers, caring friends who prepared food for the volunteers and four others who (at their own expense) went to Sri Lanka to distribute the goods!

The tsunami had indeed unearthed an invaluable treasure—a genuine kindred spirit of giving—a treasure that needs safe-keeping! It reminds us all of a greater treasure—of a God who “so loved the world that He gave ...!”
A ‘Common Ground’ in Ministry

Peter Ramdas, General Manager
Hope 107

The coming together of supporters, donors, partners and friends of 107 marked a memorable ‘Thanksgiving cum Fund-Raising Nite’ on October 2, 2004 at the YMCA ballroom. Inspiring testimonies, music and programs provided the basis for strong fellowship and bonding amongst the guests. The ‘mixed crowd’ of SDAs and other Christians was testimony to the fact that Hope 107 is a ‘common ground’. The relevance of the ministry of Hope in an uncertain and secular world, became the theme that night. The excitement and ‘buzz’ of the new frequency was the talking point.

The presence of a ‘mock’ tower beside the podium and the linking of hands (in prayer) around the tower at the end, symbolised the commitment of all to keep the station ‘shining brightly’ on the hill, drawing all to Jesus.

Praise God that the dinner raised about $37,000. Although it did not meet the target set, the night saw many positives. Relationships with partners have been strengthened; friendships between SDAs and other Christians have grown closer; ‘ownership’ of station has been affirmed by all present.

Wining Ways at Crysolite

Jill Quek, Chuan Hoe Church

Working with the Adventist Community Service the Crysolite Pathfinder Club of Chuan Hoe Church launched a five-full-day School Holiday Camp for the neighborhood children at Serangoon North Estate.

This is our club’s first community as well as evangelism project. Five thousand flyers were handed out to the residents of more than 20 block of HDB flats. Fifteen campers enrolled for the camp during which they learned about Bible truths through parables and nature study, practiced skills, fostered appreciations, solved problems and developed good attitudes.

At the end some campers expressed their desire to join our Pathfinder Club. We decided to form an Adventure Club for those below 10 years old. We thank God for this.

It is our desire to continue bringing life, hope and joy to the people around us. We solicit your prayers for our Pathfinder and Adventure Clubs.

You may give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.