Seventh - A Difference
John Ho, Communication

Seventh is no magical number neither mystical nor sacred as held by some. However, anyone who has attended past triennial sessions would have indeed found this seventh one not the usual run-of-the-mill meeting, more like extraordinary to say the least.

A very visible difference was a number of new faces from the youth representation who added a refreshing dimension to the delgates representing their churches and entities. This was no happenstance but a deliberate effort to encourage an untapped source of feedback on the challenges facing our church this triennium.

The atmosphere was genial and somewhat marked by eager anticipation. Even when difficult issues were addressed which seemingly led to locking of horns these soon vanished. Generally a spirit of cooperation marked the discussions of the two days.

Some who had the unenviable task of serving in the nominating committee were heard to remark that they found their task rather enjoyable and smooth-going.

Sixty delegates representing 14 various local churches and church agencies met on May 27, 2006 at the Southeast Asia Union Mission auditorium.

At the opening of the Saturday session the mood was set right with an encouraging devotional from the Union president, Bill Townend. For the rest of the afternoon reports of the past triennium work were reviewed.

The delegates voted to adopt the vision: “Tell the World - The Journey of Hope”; the mission: “We exist to proclaim the the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people by all the disciples of Jesus Christ”; and the Core Values: a) “Unity”, b) “Quality of Life”, and c) “Growth.” The business part of the session occupied the rest of the evening until ten o’clock.

The following day was taken up largely by the work in the various committee. The nominating committee elected departmental directors and the elective members of the mission executive committee and the boards of other mission entities. The credentials and licenses committee classified and accredited regular denominational employees. The plans committee met in tandem focusing on four main areas of concerns: 1) Nurture and Revival, 2) Equipping and Training, 3) Evangelism, and 4) Youth Outreach.

Four subgroups were formed to address each of these

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10
areas and set goals. The resulting work would be further reinforced and implemented by the various local church boards:

1) Nurture and Revival
   - 70% of active members had personal devotion.
   - A 65% score achieved for Natural Church Development (NCD).
   - 55% of attending church members were involved in small groups.
   - 70% of active members returned tithes.
   - 40% increase in ministry involvement by active members.

2) Equipping and Training
   - 50% of attending church members were equipped and trained for church ministries.

3) Evangelism
   - 40% increase in church attendance.
   - 500,000 outreach contacts made.
   - 176 baptisms resulted.

4) Youth Outreach (focus on students and single young adults)
   - A mission youth committee set up.
   - 60% increase in attendance for youth small groups.
   - Every youth has brought at least one non-Adventist youth to church or small group.

The following were elected as departmental directors subject to acceptance (hn):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children Ministry/Family</td>
<td>Sherine Perera</td>
<td>(ht)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>John Ho</td>
<td>(pt)</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>John Ho</td>
<td>(pt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Mission</td>
<td>Danson Ng</td>
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<td>Health &amp; Community Service</td>
<td>John Cheang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministerial</td>
<td>Gration Perera</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Affairs/Religious Liberty</td>
<td>Danson Ng</td>
<td>(pt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Ministry/Sabbath School</td>
<td>Berson Simbolon</td>
<td>(pt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shepherdess</td>
<td>Rolando Hernawati</td>
<td>(hn)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spirit of Prophecy</td>
<td>Mark Chan</td>
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<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>Mark Chan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust &amp; Wills/Philanthropic</td>
<td>Peter Foo</td>
<td>(hn)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voice of Prophecy</td>
<td>John Ho</td>
<td>(pt)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women Ministry</td>
<td>Corinna Cheang</td>
<td>(hn)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
<td>Charlie Oh</td>
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The following were appointed as members of the youth committee:

Charlie Oh           | SAM Youth Director
Frances Lim          | Thomson Church
Thomas Ang           | Thomson Church
Suresh Kumar         | Chuan Hoe Church
Rudy Low             | Maranatha Church
Joelle Goh           | SDA Community Church
Melvin Pan           | SDA Community Church
Calvin Tampubulon    | Balestier Church
Shannon Tan          | Balestier Church
Jeoffrey Lonon       | Jurong English Church
Elaine Phua          | Jurong English Church
Gary Tang            | Adviser
Johnny Kan           | Adviser
Philip Ko            | Adviser