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t was Muthu and Ramamoorthy who paved the way to the beach for the “Holy dips” in 2006. Muthu was invited by Chandran, an Adventist from India, to visit Balestier Church. Their continued desire for a Tamil-speaking worship service triggered and energized Anand and Justin, an enthusiastic and evangelical minded couple, to vision a small group.

Muthu shared the “Truth” that he had so enthusiastically embraced with his family. Today his wife has taken the same route of accepting Jesus.

Ramamoorthy, who joined later along with several others, was quick to realize a way out of bondage when enlightened with the saving knowledge of Jesus. Convinced of the power of the gospel, he is cherishing a burning desire to build a church in his hometown and win over his community for the Kingdom.

Then there were Vel Murugan and Bala Murugan who were named after the god of youth, valor and beauty. They were searching desperately for peace and prosperity both in their spiritual and temporal lives. Little did they know that they would be soon be enraptured by the “Fairest of Ten Thousand” and were baptized on Dec 31, 2007.

My encounter with Vel Murugan took place one night on my way home from Mustafa Shopping Centre. Leaning against a street lamp-post at a deserted corner was a stranger who seemed to be in deep thought. When befriended, he was quick to accept a verse of promise and even exclaimed “amen” to a brief prayer. Quickened by the soothing touch of God’s love Vel Murugan fell in love with the Truth and the Savior. For the next few months, night after night, we both toiled in understanding the deeper truth. He loves to be called as Martin for he loves the work of reformation.

Another precious child of God is Bala Murugan, a self disciplined site supervisor, known for his gift of public relation. He was wavering between the churches in search of “the best way.” It took a little longer for him to be convinced of the Biblical truths. Affirming his love for the remnant Church and the truth it proclaims he testifies, “I have come to the right place. I doubt if there is anything better that I could learn in any other congregation than in this church.”

The Lord continued to add more to our group as four more were baptised in a retreat at the East Coast Parkway Beach on...
Dr. Hope Ferdowsian, MD, MPH, and Director of the Washington Centre for Clinical Research presented a seminar on diabetes on November 13, 2007. She is not only a physician, a nutrition researcher, but also a public health advocate. The seminar was held at Youngberg Wellness Centre and attended by some 30 members of the public.

Dr. Ferdowsian discussed how a low-fat, plant-based diet may improve and even reverse diabetes. She showed how a simple dietary change can improve health and prevent diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease.

From the questions raised during the Q&A, it is clear that participants are very concerned about their health and that of their family. It is enriching to have scientific research from a source outside the Adventist circle, to support a plant-based diet as the choice for healthier living.

John Cheang, Director, Adventist Community Services (ACS)  

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Low Fat, Plant-Based Diet  
And Diabetes

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Health Screening Training

Thirty-five members from the local churches attended a half day training on February 24, 2008 at the Balestier Road Church.

This training was organized by the Adventist Community Services to train layman in organizing health screening for shopping malls.

John Cheang shared his experiences with organizing such events at the Toa Payoh HDB Hub and the Suntec Convention Centre. The attendees practised on operating the health screening equipment in a mini health screening booth that was set up for the purpose. They also took the opportunity to share their local churches health and community outreach program in 2007 and their plans for the new year.

It is indeed very inspiring and heart warming to hear that the churches in Singapore are doing their part for the community. Many of the participants went home confident they can organize a health screening for the community in the coming year, based on their answers to the feedback form.

John Cheang, Director, ACS
March 9, 2008. All four who decided for the Lord affirmed their commitment to the ministry of the church.

Jesuraj, an active member of a charismatic group, was merely curious to know what was happening during our fellowship. The joyful singing and the presentation followed by the Christian fellowship soon won him over. The Adventist’s approach to the study of prophecies that marks the end time and the way of doing church anchored him to this little flock.

Sebastian, a committed elder of a charismatic church, was enthralled by what he learned about the Second Coming of our Lord on his first visit. Neither the rapture theory nor speaking in tongues gave him hope. He was not sufficiently content as he admitted later, “I have lost great blessings for overlooking the Sabbath commandment in my Christian walk.”

Raju, being concerned about his spiritual life, found himself in each and every kind of Christian congregation. When I met him in his former church, I little thought that I could reach him with the distinct message. Like the others he found something he was searching for. One day, he requested “Can I also be enlisted in your group through baptism?” We were overjoyed.

Gnanasigamony Paulraj had some knowledge and affection towards Adventism in India itself. Though in Singapore for about nine years he had no courage to step into any of our churches. When he heard of a Tamil Adventist group he was excited and wanted to be a part of it. After deepening his knowledge of the Biblical truths he, too, requested baptism. When he got out of the water after the “Holy Dip” he remarked, “it is renewing and refreshing, indeed.”

Paulraj Masillamony, Pastor, Indian Group
Some 30 youth leaders from the local churches gathered for fellowship and training on February 2 and 3. It was also an opportune time to catch up with old acquaintances and make new friends. This training, though brief, was intensive but graspable.

Participants learnt about what being an Adventist means, picking up interesting points of our Adventist heritage and how the movement came about. Charlie and Estelle Oh started with ice-breaker games that encouraged the attendees to get acquainted. By the end of the first ice-breaker, everyone knew something about the others like how old they were, where they came from and what they were doing.

The emphasis on our Adventist identity was presented by Johnny Kan. He spoke about the pillars of our faith and ‘markers’ that we put up to define Adventism. He challenged his listeners to be critical thinkers, understand what they believe and be authentic.

Each of them then took part in a “spiritual audit” to recalibrate their spiritual walk with God and progress towards being a credible Christian youth leader.

The highlight of the retreat was learning the model of the “4 As” shared by John Tan. Briefly put, it focused on the story of Peter and his amazing haul of fish as recorded in Luke chapter 5:

1. Astonished - Peter was astonished by the miracle of the haul of fish he got upon obeying Jesus’ words.

2. Ashamed - Peter was ashamed when he realized his sinfulness in the presence of Jesus.

3. Assured - Peter was assured by Jesus’ acceptance.

4. Acted - Peter acted immediately by leaving everything and following Jesus.

If you are wondering why your relationship with God is going nowhere, or if it has been lifeless, you should look at the model above and consider the following:

1. Are you astonished at what God has done for you?
2. Do you feel ashamed because you don’t deserve but have received God’s blessing?
4. Act on that experience and choose to follow Jesus.

After learning about the “4 As” the attendees wrote out their their besetments and shortcomings on paper and gave them to God in prayer. It was an emotional experience for many as they bared their innermost feelings to God and felt His acceptance. While singing and praying, members of the group then individually came forward to a shredder which symbolically disposed all their sins.

Each one then went his own way realising that leaders are not born overnight. They are developed over time with prayers, tears and perseverance. Best of all God will complete the good work that he has started in them.

Nathaniel Tan, Intern Pastor,