A Peaceful and Idyllic Getaway

Pulau Hantu Besar! This island of ghosts (hantu - meaning ghost in Malay) did not deter some 90 campers comprising pathfinders, adventurers and family members from attending the First SAM Pathfinder Camporee. Not even the H1N1 epidemic could dampen their eagerness nor keep the campers at home.

Pastor Wesley Toh See Wei from the Penang Adventist Hospital was invited to speak on the theme “My God is Real”. His friendly, humorous and down to earth approach held the attention of the campers. As a result there was a good response to his call to be committed to God and to serve Him more faithfully in the work.

Besides the interesting lectures, the campers had a wonderful opportunity to study the Marine Invertebrates Pathfinder honor as Pulau Hantu (part of the Southern islands of Singapore) is rich with marine life. One could not help but be amazed at all the beautiful and strange creatures on the sea bed during low tide. It was certainly an out of the world experience for those who have never been so close to nature before.

All too soon the beautiful scenes of the Island, the fun, and all the interesting activities were only pleasant memories as they broke camp and headed home. They are already looking forward to the next camporee and hope more will join in.
Annual Bible Quiz

Forgotten and abandoned for many years, the annual Inter-church Bible Quiz was revived on June 27, 2009 at the Adventist Community Church. Some 97 youth participated.

The Bible Quiz for this year focused on the Book of Acts and the Adventist Hymnal. This encouraged the youth learn more about the Bible and the Adventist hymns.

Each church was represented by a team. The program was divided into three sections. Throughout the quiz, there were moments of excitement and laughter as participants came up with creative answers in response to the questions that were asked, or when they tried to guess the title of a hymn that was played.

The quiz reached its climax when the team from the Chuan Hoe Adventist Church was declared the champion with the teams from the Thomson Chinese Adventist Church and the Bales-tier Adventist Church as runners-up.

Bayu Kaumpungan
Youth Department

When He Calls, He Provides

Arrangements had been made with Clarence and May Ing to conduct a NEW-START Lifestyle Program organised by the Adventist Community Services in June 2009.

A three-day program priced at an affordable $250 inclusive of blood test and nine meals required at least 30 participants to break even. It was only days before the program was to begin and the response was poor.

But do you know what? God in His own timing started bringing people to Newstart in miraculous ways. One of our volunteers met a lady at the Singapore Botanical Gardens wearing a 20-year old Newstart T-shirt. Upon learning that another Newstart program was to be conducted, the lady was so thrilled and signed up. Praise God! She also brought another three friends to the program.

Not long after I was having dinner with the Ings at Novena Square. After dinner, as we headed to the car park I received an sms from a family member to pick up something. Clarence and I returned to the mall. At the mall Clarence met a former Newstart interest who had many good things to say about the program.

The next day, the former Newstart interest's mother called to register herself and another friend for the program.

You may call it coincidence but I call it God's providence. There were two days left before Newstart was to commence but God kept sending people. By the time we launched the program, we had 32 people. Of these 75% were non-Adventists.

Insightful lectures, hands-on cooking demonstrations, physical exercises and lots of healthy food brought a new perspective on lifestyle for the attendees.

At the graduation ceremony, one former participant testified how Newstart had cured her of pancreatic cancers and she is still in the pink of health after 16 years of adhering to the Newstart lifestyle.

Another lady, a mother of six children related how against all the odds of having to take care of a 9-year old daughter and also nursing an infant she faithfully attended the Newstart program. She arranged for her husband to bring their infant for regular breast feedings while she attended Newstart.

Because of more requests there will be another Newstart program on November 22, 2009. Not only have thirteen signed up but they have also committed to bring their friends. For those who have not attended Newstart, I invite you to seriously consider registering.

I would like to thank my volunteers for their unceasing dedication and diligence. I also want to thank God for the blessings of using this means to reach out to the community.

John Cheang
Adventist Community Services
Struggling with his suitcase and a large box of Bibles, Elder Gunawan Sulaiman had a mission to accomplish. Under the heat of the Jakarta sun and with determination and enthusiasm he lugged them into the plane. Upon landing at Changi, he was interrogated by the custom officers and was cleared after explaining that the gilded-edged Malay Bibles were meant for the Indonesian students at the San Yu Adventist School "Bahasa" Gospel Camp.

San’Yu Indonesian Students’ Association, also known by its acronym, SISA, was first set up by the Indonesian students with the help and support of Pastor Berson Simbolon and the Maranatha Church. A 4-day/3-night “Bahasa” Gospel Camp was organized for the thirty-six Indonesian and the Malay-speaking students.

Campers were divided into four teams – Agape, Alpha, Logos and Omega. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the camp held at Desaru beach in Johor, from May 8-11, 2009. There were fun, fellowship, songs, quizzes, games, lively activities and devotional talks.

Pastor Berson was the speaker, Pastor Nathaniel Tan was the camp director and chaplain, and Principal Tang Swee Keng was the camp advisor. The chaperones and student team advisors were Mrs Rolando Berson, Mr and Mrs Gunawan Sulaiman, and Mrs Dorca Tan.

The theme “He Is Coming Soon!” was presented in the daily message with such passion and in the power of the Spirit that it piqued the interest of six students and led them to decide to surrender their lives to Jesus.

Six Indonesian students baptized

On the final day of the Camp Adrian Agung Sentosa Litoy, Bernhard Kevin Sentosa Litoy, Rendy, Salim Kusumo, Sandy Gautama, and Danuh Nuraga took their stand and stepped out of the water to a new life in Jesus Christ.

Danuh Nuraga
San Yu Indonesian Student Assoc

What Do I Do Now?

This is the question that Pastor Keith Goodman from the North Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church posed during the combined youth meeting at the Jurong Seventh-day Adventist Church.

His dynamic and enthusiastic presentations kept the youth coming for three nights beginning on September 11, 2009. He made prophet Jeremiah come alive with his elaboration on the experiences of the proph.et. His believes that youth needs to know the purpose of life and fulfill this purpose to live life to the fullest.

He introduced the SHAPE (Spiritual gift, Heart, Ability, Personality and Experience) method of assessing spiritual gifts. He is convinced that churches often put people in certain ministries not based on the need and SHAPE, but for the sake of filling a required position resulting in many feeling burnt out after a short time of service. This topic sparked off a lively discussion. Many youths were left with a conviction that they have an important role to play in their local church.

Accompanying her husband was Mrs. Evelyn Goodman. A gifted singer she uplifted everyone with her fine singing.

Lively music was presented by the students from the San Yu Adventist School. Refreshment and gift were given to all the attendees.

Besides leaving with a good impression of our beautiful and well-organized island city on his first visit to Asia, Pastor Goodman also left with a prayer that our youth in Singapore will find a higher calling for service to God in their life.
Mental and physical well-being is very close to the hearts of many Singaporeans. This was evident at the recently concluded ‘Be Healed’ evangelistic series held at the Thomson Chinese Church. An average of 370 people attended the nightly sessions from August 28-30, 2009. Of these 62 percent were seekers.

At the Sabbath morning worship 469 packed the church. The keynote speaker, Pastor Norman Tu from Taiwan, captivated his audience with his inimitable wit, humour and well-researched material directed at helping attendees achieve good physical and mental health. His emphasis was “Healing begins with love.”

He explained how the weekly Sabbath rest set aside by God was in itself a healing process. To many this was the first time they heard the Sabbath truth. He also showed how one could choose to have a “happy brain” or an “unhappy brain.” To choose the latter would result in a downward spiral leading to depression. On the other hand a “happy brain” will render positive responses to negative situations.

Church pastor Peter Foo felt this series achieved a three-fold purpose: Firstly, Singaporeans realized there is an omnipotent Creator God from evidences in medical science and the practical applications taught by Pastor Tu.

Secondly, many non-Adventist Christians gained a better understanding of the Adventist Church and Bible truths resulting in many desiring to study the Bible further.

Finally, church members became more united and made evangelism their personal goal.

This last sentiment was echoed by Elder Albert Seah, who galvanised church members to put together this evangelistic event. “God has helped Thomson Chinese Church raise a 60-strong army for Christ in carrying out His work in Singapore. Every soldier fought a good fight and the result was a resounding victory. Praise be to the Lord!”

A “resounding victory” indeed. In response to Pastor Tu’s altar call 50 courageously stood forward in demonstration of their determination to follow the Lord.

The chairperson of the organising committee, Frances Lim, observed: “The ‘Be Healed’ evangelistic series has made me realise that when we work together unitedly as one, God can work miracles. When we place our total trust in God, He can move the hearts of people and lead more to His kingdom.”

**Victory #1**

On May 28, 2009 Singapore confirmed its first patient infected with the H1N1 flu: a 22-year-old female Singaporean student who had flown in from New York.

Since then H1N1 has killed 18 victims of all ages in Singapore. It was estimated that in this first wave of the epidemic here, over 700,000 were infected by the swine flu (Straits Times, May 9, 2009).

At San Yu Adventist School stringent anti-swine flu measures were put in place and implemented by its H1N1 Crisis Management Team. Students, staff, parents and guardians rallied in full support to battle the disease, with temperature-taking exercise initially four times a day, and then thrice daily, to detect early any infection.

From a throat swab sample, Tan Tock Seng Hospital confirmed SYAS’s first H1N1 case on July 7, 2009. However the total number of cases was minimal – only 3 authenticated cases who have since recovered.

Praise God for His merciful protection and care over all at San Yu.