Sitting on the floor can be fun

Instead of an indoor celebration the Pathfinder Day was commemorated with a campfire at Camp Christine last quarter. The unpredictable weather did not deter the enthusiasm. Some hundred members, officers and parents had a wonderful time together.

The high spirit of the youth was evident in the lively and enjoyable singing led out by the Orion Pathfinder Club (OPC) members. Master Guide (MG) Charlie Oh, the youth director, shared an encouraging message during the sundown worship. Various club directors had the opportunity to report their club’s activities and accomplishments with many interesting photos on the screen. MG Oh affirmed the leaders for their effort and presented each with a Camporee T-shirt.

The EPC showed with placards how everyone can be helpful to those around. The initial shyness melted away when the Jireh Pathfinder Club (JPC) introduced icebreaker games and did such a wonderful job that soon everyone was mingling and enjoying himself.

The EPC took charge of dinner for all the hungry members and officers. A delicious meal of vegetarian chicken rice, honey pear and packet drink was served.

Finally, after dinner, the much looked-forward-to time came. MG Calvin Tampubolon from the Zuriel Pathfinder Club called upon our guest-of-honour, MG Oh, to light the campfire and declare the event open. With slivers of flame shooting skywards, the crackling wood, the smell of smoke and faces reflecting the the glow of the fire, the excitement was further heightened as enthusiastic voices sang action song after action song led by MG Jimmy Wee.

Switching gear a little it was time for the different clubs to present their item. The JPC presented two songs, one of which was in sign language. An outrageously funny skit to add to the mood for the evening was presented by the OPC. Each club then contributed a game for the evening.

After all the fun and laughter, it was time for something more serious. MG Julie Wee and MG Jackie Tsen coordinated a recommitment ceremony. MG Oh held a lighted candle to symbolize a recommitment towards the spirit of Pathfindering. That flame was shared with every other person’s candle. MG Fam Saw Ching then led out in the recitation of the Pathfinder Pledge and the Pathfinder Law.

Everyone left with a beautiful bookmark as a memento of the spirit of the special event.
The ministry to the Myanmarese is a young and growing one. Not long ago we had a reach out event at the East Coast beach to build friendship and sense of belonging among the Myanmarese in our community. We had guests from the Westlite dormitory, Myanmarese working in the health industry, friends and their families. A total of 60-70 from Christian background participated. There was no preaching nor singing of any religious songs. Everyone enjoyed the games and the food. There was a sense of true friendship and sincerity. Many felt they would like to join us in other programs and activities. As a result of this, we now have four men from the Westlite dormitory who are receiving Bible study.

On behalf of the Myanmarese Ministry, I would like to thank God for this opportunity He has provided. We appreciate the support from our senior pastors, elders and the members of the Jurong English Church. May you continue to keep us in your prayers.

STUDENTS REACHED OUT to Community

On Saturday evening, 18 September 2010, San Yu Adventist School students and parents joined neighbouring residents, about 280 in all, to attend the Tanglin Community Centre’s Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration. The theme was “International Night.” Students in their national costumes wowed the audience with a fashion parade. They also presented the song “Humouruesque” on the recorder, and further thrilled the audience with the song “Humouresque” on the recorder, and further thrilled the audience with a musical item and songs and a skit that demonstrated how kindness and love could be contagious. The children were treated to a balloon sculpting by Jill Quek and her team. To top it all healthy vegetarian halal meals were provided. At the same time arrangement was made with the Singapore Blood Bank to set up a mobile blood donation drive to which 60 blood donors responded. The guest-of-honour, Acting Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education and special guest, Ms Rosemarie Chong, received a cash gift. The Church donated a cheque to the Yuhua CCC Welfare and Educational fund for needy students.

For entertainment there were musical items and songs and a skit that demonstrated how kindness and love could be contagious. The children were treated to a balloon sculpting by Jill Quek and her team. To top it all healthy vegetarian halal meals were provided. At the same time arrangement was made with the Singapore Blood Bank to set up a mobile blood donation drive to which 60 blood donors responded. The guest-of-honour, Acting Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education and special guest, Ms Rosemarie Chong, received a cash gift. The Church donated a cheque to the Yuhua CCC Welfare and Educational fund for needy students.

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A handshake from the guest-of-honour

A motley group

A handout from the guest-of-honour

Sharing Our Blessings

An annual event much looked forward to by the community, the Pay It Forward event took place on 23 Jan 2011. It was organized by the combined effort of the Adventist Community Services, the Jurong English Church, the Jurong Chinese Church, the Adventist Kindergarten and the Yuhua Citizens’ Consultative Committee (CCC).

One hundred and fifty food hampers, each filled with a bag of rice, bottle of cooking oil, packets of biscuits, cookies, noodles, etc. were handed out to 120 needy residents who turned up for the event. Each resident also received a cash gift. The Church donated a cheque to the Yuhua CCC Welfare and Educational fund for needy students.

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So 62 members and friends ranging in ages from 3 to 87 attended this special event. It began at 12:15 p.m. with Pastor Fabien extending his words of gratitude to the church officers, ministry leaders, and members in general for their unstinting collaboration throughout the year. A slide show highlighting various aspects of church life during 2010 was presented. The lunch which followed was indeed sumptuous, and each attendee received a customized SDACC mug as a token of appreciation.
I was pumping unleaded at the Exxon station across the street from the General Conference building when I first heard the whistling. Whistling—at least the musical kind—is rare enough in public these days that I turned to find the source. And what was that tune? Difficult... complicated... not in the usual whistler’s repertoire...

It took a few seconds for the song to register: “Ya ha deedle deedle, bubba bubba deedle deedle dum”—“If I Were a Rich Man,” Tevye’s prayerful complaint from the musical Fiddler on the Roof. The whistler emerged from behind the gas pumps, a tall, bearded, Tevye-looking fellow, clutching two steaming hot dogs and a 32-ounce soda cup. He strode across the ice-strewn parking lot, brimming with unself-conscious merriment, and slid onto the seat of his Chevy pickup.

As the pump meter raced at the rate of $3.19 a gallon, I pondered both the whistler and the song. Was this tuneful stranger whistling for himself, or for me, or maybe for the wider universe? And was he actually happy with his lot—as the whistling would seem to imply—or was he instead warbling an existential cry for redress? If he were a rich man, it’s not likely he would be buying hot dogs and a soda at an On the Run mart. Had he, like the apostle Paul, stumbled on the secret of happiness, both economic and otherwise? “For I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content” (Phil. 4:11, NKJV).

Wealth, of course, is a relative status. The billionaire whose company has just clawed its way into the bottom rank of the Fortune 500 feels as insecure as the first-grader who discovers his Crayola box has just 16 crayons while her peers all have 32. We estimate our margin—and thus gauge our generosity—by a continuing assessment of where we stand relative to our colleagues, our neighbors, and yes, even our relatives. Do I have enough to give to others’ need, or does a healthy prudence dictate keeping everything under-cover for that proverbial and distant rainy day? Do the causes I believe in open my wallet, or only my emotions? And will the Lord actually require of me an account-one day for that talent buried in the credit union or hidden in a pension plan?

Across the face of Adventism, investment opportunities abound, though probably not the kind your broker is advising.

Bill Knott is editor of the Adventist Review. This article was published February 24, 2011

Badminton aficionados

Badminton Game. Led by Magdalena Koea from the Jurong English Church, it was not only a time for exercise it was also an opportunity for members from other local churches to play together and get to know one another.

The Thomson Chinese Church, the Jurong English Church, the Jurong Chinese Church, and the Maranatha Church sent their representative players to support event.

The event had a following from different age groups as evident from those who attended. Among the adults were children as young as 12 years old. There were at least 15 people representing each church.

The matches were played in the categories of Men’s Singles and Doubles, Women’s Singles and Doubles, and Mix Doubles. The grand champion of the game was the Thomson Chinese Church. More of such events would be planned by the youth ministry.