The theme song of the Singapore Youth Training Camp (SYTC) 2011 “Faith on Fire” has the lyric “set my heart on fire that is my heart desire.” This became a reality for 89 youth from Singapore and Peninsular Malaysia who attended the three-day training.

The focus of this year’s training is on the Ministries of Ellen White. In addition to that, the youth also received training on how to lead a soul winning CARE group, how to give bible study, and how to establish a deep personal devotion. The training was conducted in several classes held throughout the day.

The guest trainers were Johnny Wong and Edmund Yeoh from the Gateway Adventist Centre in Melbourne, Australia and Merlin Burt from the Ellen White Estate Branch Office at Andrews University, Michigan. Supporting them were our local trainers, Benjamin Kipzanang from the Jurong English Church and Bayu Kaumpungan from the Chuan Hoe Church. Each trainer handled a different topic bringing his own unique experience and knowledge with him. Johnny Wong served as the plenary speaker with inspiring messages that help the youth rediscover their calling for ministry.

As part of the training practice everyone had to meet the public out on the streets. In collaboration with Studio Elpizo Be107 Radio Station, the youth conducted a religious survey on the public awareness of BE107 broadcasts and at the same time hoped to contact truth seekers to provide them with a copy of Mark Finley’s DVD. Initially, many of the youth were nervous especially at the thought of handling rebuffs. However, during the testimony time after the meeting, many shared experiences contrary to what they feared. They related exciting and encouraging stories of how God touched the hearts of people, who cooperated in the survey, gladly receiving the DVD and signing up for bible studies.

At the close of the training Johnny Wong’s appeal for a recommitment to the Gospel moved a lot of youth to make a radical change in their life and take the challenge to witness for Jesus. A number decided to be baptized.

Indeed, the SYTC has brought revival in the life of those who attended. This event is just the beginning of seeing our youth dedicating their life for service to Jesus. There will be a follow-up of the contacts from the survey and DVD recipients in preparation for a Voice of Youth public evangelism effort in November 2011. This meeting will be completely youth-centered in the organization and presentation, from the receptionists to the speakers.

The youth are already looking forward to the SYTC 2012 and praying that God will continually inspire and encourage them to serve Him with all they have got.
The 5th run of the Newstart program from May 29 to June 1, 2011 proved to be the most challenging. Unlike previous times when Newstarters recommend their friends, this time there were none of those. Much time had to be spent on our knees praying that God will bring the people to His program. Unbeknown to us He had already set in motion His plan. The Vegetarian Society in Singapore had invited Dr Caldwell Esselstyn to present a series of lectures. Through Esselstyn’s presentations we managed to establish contacts with some interests. The day before we were to begin Newstart God sent another former member who recommended two of his friends to attend Newstart. We ended up with 17 participants, including three guests from the US.

Many who came were somewhat skeptical but went away thoroughly convinced and grateful for the health message. One of those who attended donated $1,000 to support the Newstart Ministry. She was so touched that we shared such knowledge so freely and earnestly. A guest from the US was equally moved. He decided to return and help in December 2011. He pledged to donate 100 copies of the book “Ministry of Healing” for future participants of the Newstart.

God is really blessing our Newstart program. I would like to appeal to all our church members to give themselves a chance to enjoy healthful living. They could experience a renewal for themselves, hear the powerful testimonies and reap the benefits. Every Newstart is a venture in faith and God has proven His faithfulness over and over again. Share this with relatives and friends with problems of high blood pressure, high cholesterol or heart diseases. The next Newstart will be from December 4 to 7, 2011.

Personally, I can testify to the wonders of Newstart. For years I was trying to lower my cholesterol level of 225 but failed miserably. Now on a plant-based diet my cholesterol level is at 185. Even my cancer markers used to be way out of the normal range but now they are back to normal. I praise God for our health message. There are many people out there with chronic diseases who need to know how to cope. Will you share Newstart with them?
Building a good relationship between one another is indeed crucial for everybody. However, it is not always easy in the real world. Some people just seem hard to relate with and often it is not a pleasant experience. How to understand and handle these “difficult” people without losing one’s own self was the focus of the Young Adult event entitled “Relationship Breakthrough.”

Team speakers, Johnny Kan and Tan Pik Yee presented views from modern psychological studies while emphasizing the spiritual aspects of relationships. By understanding the background of people and treating them with the compassionate grace of God, we can achieve a more mature and healthy relationship with one another.

Groups were formed to discuss different personalities and handling them. This session also provided opportunities to share experiences and insights and understanding the reasons behind certain behavior. As they reflected many begin to be aware of their own emotional vulnerability and realize how much their own childhood affects their personality and worldview.

Most of you may have heard of the Adventist Community Services (ACS) and its health screening services and programmes. However, little is known of its social welfare role. Being a grassroot leader for 15 years has put John Cheang in good stead to help our members with certain problems. Sometimes it involves meeting their MP, other times it is a matter of hearing them out and helping them substantiate their case with strong reasons. Each case is assessed on its merit. Hence it is important to have supporting documents and examining the case from all possible angles. Most of the cases are solvable to some degree if no law is violated; it is a matter of timing. Over the years, by God’s grace, solutions have been found for our members with certain needs often in miraculous ways. John Cheang can be contacted at 81251374 or johncheang@adventist.org.sg. Some examples of the cases in which ACS has assisted our members:

- Public assistance application.
- Temporary shelter and eventually rental flats.
- Work permit pass for foreign spouse.
- Transfer course of study at University.
- Social visit pass extended for dependents.
- Foreign worker quota extension.
- Lower interest rate on mortgage loan with bank.
- Student pass application.
AGreat Way to Celebrate

Mark Chan

In conjunction with its 60th Church Anniversary Celebration, leaders of the Balestier Church were inspired to make a difference in the community. Some $20,000.00 for the Handicaps Welfare Association (HWA) was raised through the Festival of Hymn and the personal solicitation from church members.

In grateful reciprocation, HWA invited the Balestier Church to join in their annual Wheel, Walk or Jog Event at East Coast Park officiated by K. Shanmugam, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Law.

Balestier Church, spearheaded by Sister Yuke, head of the Health and Community Services, registered 67 participants. There were more than 800 people from the schools, government agencies and the corporations who took part in the event. In their unique blue T-shirts the church members assisted in pushing the wheelchairs of the handicaps. A health screening was conducted and several people enrolled for the “Take Charge of Your Health” Course.

We praise the Lord for the huge success of the event that provided an opportunity to forge friendships and goodwill with HWA.

Have you heard of the Roadside Grass Ministry? Probably not, then read on. He sat on the grass, sang aloud, read his Bible and prayed that God will bring someone interested to join him. After the day’s hard work he resorted to his roadside grass sanctuary - near his dormitory at Lim Chu Kang. This went on every night.

From the moment Bastien was baptized in Aug 2010 he could not contain the joy within him. The Adventist message triggered him to do something with the Truth that he found so fulfilling in his life. For several weeks he prayed. As time passed by, one by one they joined him singing, praying and studying the Word. Intense search for the Truth and the excitement from its discovery kept them coming back night after night. From Bastien the group multiplied eight times out of which four precious souls took their stand for Christ.

When the Global Mission leaders from the GC and the Division made an impromptu visit they were very impressed with the unique Roadside Grass Ministry.

Yes, God can use the most unlikely means for his work. He only needs willing hearts.

Roadside Grass Ministry

Paulraj Masillamony

A close-knit bunch

If there’s a will nothing’s ill

Ernestly seeking for truth

Providing ample help

A close-knit bunch

Portrayal of the rebuilding of the wall

Shooing the blues in blue

Filipino Ministry 1st Anniversary

Francis B Feabela

About 14 years ago, Filipino Adventists in Singapore started to form an informal and distinctly Filipino group later known as the Filipino Ministry (FM). Through years of faithfulness and prayers what seemed to be just an aspiration before now becomes reality.

July 2 marks another milestone for the FM in Singapore. We are thankful to the Lord as we count our blessings the past year. We now have our very own 100% Filipino worship services led by a Filipino pastor in the person of Isagani Valencia. Our programs are also participated enthusiastically by all Filipino officers and members. The FM is growing from strength to strength in modern Singapore. We are also thankful for the support of the local Adventists in more ways than one.

The Sabbath of July 2 was celebrated with Filipinos from all our other local churches. There were joyful singing, moving testimonies and other inspiring features. Not least was the portrayal of the rebuilding of the Jerusalem wall by Nehemiah and God’s people in 440 BC in a play by the FM Council. The evening comedy presentations and folk dances brought a memorable day to a fitting close.