Massive, Crazy But with Unprecedented Unity

This is my grandfather’s road!” yelled ten youths as they trooped across the zebra-crossing holding hands.

It was early on a Sunday morning as a hundred youths exploded out of the gates of the Thomson Chinese Adventist Church marking the start of the Amazing Race 2012.

In groups of ten, they darted around Singapore from station to station on a mission to conquer every challenge their stationmasters threw at them while completing a list of more than a hundred tasks on the go. All in hope of clinching the grand prize - a whopping box of a dozen donuts.

**Real Goal**

But in reality the donut prize and mindless fun were simply a distraction from the real goal—friendship and unity.

“The purpose of the Amazing Race,” said Amazing Race Chairman, Shauna Ng, “is to provide an opportunity for all the participants, the San Yu students and the youths from the various churches, to get to know one another better.”

“We wanted to be more united,” said

**Gag or Laugh**

To spice up things, each team had a personal media crew recording down every gag-or-laugh moment from throwing around a deffeathered black chicken in a game of captain’s ball to dancing behind strangers in a dance dare, playing human fuzzball, duck waddling across the road and the list goes on.

"Our youths are gravity-defying."
the 20-year-old. She and chief programmer, Jasper Seah, were supported by an executive committee consisting of youth leaders from the Adventist churches.

Without Borders

Christon Choo, a veteran youth leader, who participated in the race found this to be a hallmark event where the unity of the Adventist youths were unprecedented.

"I have been in youth ministry for 11 years and I have never seen the youths from different churches interact and work so seamlessly together," said the 28-year-old school counsellor. "It’s like church without borders," he said with a wide grin. This race was an idea that sprung out of the Youth Leader Building Camp held in the beginning of the year, where the youth leaders were inspired to plan programs on a conference level under the banner of the Urban Youth Community.

Seventh-day Adventist Kindergarten

Esther Lau

This year the Seventh-day Adventist Kindergarten (SDAK) celebrates 25 years of providing a high quality education to children within its community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their support. My thanks also go to our dedicated staff for their untiring effort in loving, caring and engaging the students under their care.

Within the span of 25 years, SDAK has managed to make significant progress and achievements. Some of the milestone achievements include:

Milestones

- **2012** Won two Good Practice Awards by MOE—Group & Individual.
- **2011** Awarded SPARK certification by MOE
- **2010** Awarded Outstanding Performance in Parent Education in Pre-school Programme by MCYS.
- **2009** Awarded ISO 9001: 2008 certification Awarded MOE-AECES Outstanding Kindergarten Innovation Award (Finalist)
- **2008** Involved in MOE approved in
Multiple Intelligence as our main teaching approach

- 2006 Involved in MOE Kindergarten Standards pilot project
- 1999 First kindergarten in Singapore to be ISO 9002 certified, a testament to our quality management system and design to help our school ensure that we meet the needs of our stakeholders while meeting statutory and regulatory requirements.

SDAK places great emphasis on the professionalism of our staff in the areas of teaching and learning. We continually work on the professional development of our staff sending them for courses and regular sharing and discussions on pedagogy and good practices.

Teaching Approach

We have chosen Multiple Intelligence as our main teaching approach. If we can identify children’s different strengths among these intelligences, we can accommodate different children more successfully according to their orientation to learning. Our teachers are now working on assimilating this knowledge into their strategies teaching each child according to his orientation to learning.

Engaging Parent

We also proactively engage parents to create a positive learning environment for the child at school and at home. Our Very Important Parent (VIP) sessions provide the platform for that engagement, where teachers and parents connect to work for the best of the children.

Appreciation

SDAK has, indeed, been greatly blessed by God and we will strive to provide the best care for our students by meeting their needs. On our 25th anniversary, we want to especially acknowledge the following individuals for their contributions: Pastor Danson Ng for his foresight in building the Jurong church with the kindergarten integrated in its overall operation; Mrs Lan Teo for being the champion to pioneer the kindergarten work; and Mrs Lina Wee for being the school principal for more than 20 years during which she has helped the school to progress by leaps and bounds.

SPARK - The Singapore Pre-school Accreditation Framework is a quality assurance framework introduced by the Ministry of Education to raise the quality of pre-schools in Singapore.
**What is the Urban Youth Community?**

**Bayu Kaumpungan**

On the night of 20th October, more than 40 youth leaders gathered at the Thomson Chinese Church for a dual purpose. First, to show appreciation for the respective churches’ youth leaders’ contributions and second, to formally introduce the Urban Youth Community concept.

**Thank You, Youth Leaders**

The first ten months of 2012 saw our youth leaders enthusiastically involved in reaching out to others through the vehicle of friendships. After receiving youth leadership training through camps held in Batam and Singapore, these leaders participated in several relationship-based activities – from the San Yu Adventist School (SYAS) Gospel Camp at Pulau Ubin to the Amazing Race.

As a result, several spontaneous “clubs” sprung up—bonding SYAS students, youths and visitors from the different Adventist congregations through common interest-based activities such as running, cooking and media. These “clubs”, though different in nature, all share a common Adventist identity as reflected by their respective names bearing “Adventist...Club” and thus cut across the various congregational membership lines.

We see God’s gracious hand leading in all these developments to form a strong and united purpose among our youth groups. The Urban Youth Community concept is aligned with this overall vision.

**Win, Train and Disciple**

Its three main thrusts – to win, to train and to disciple – is structured along a strategic, integrated and collaborative approach spearheaded by the Youth Ministries department of the Singapore Conference.

The objective of the Urban Youth Community is not to duplicate or compete with the local Adventist youth ministries. Rather, it supports the local ministries by providing harvest opportunities as well as focused training, equipping and resources for its youth leaders. By coming together we draw on our collective strength to work the harvest fields whose fruits can then be re-distributed to impact the local congregation.

The Urban Youth Community strategic team headed by Conference Youth Director, Dr John Tan and assisted by Pastor Charlie Oh, comprises youthful pastors Pastors Benjamin Kipzanang, Bayu Kaumpungan, Nathaniel Tan and Tan Jia Hong who in turn lead their respective teams at the local congregation level.

Youth leaders of Thomson Chinese Church.

Youth leaders of Jurong Church.

Youth leaders of Chuan Hoe Church.

Youth leaders of Balestier Church.

Youth leaders of Maranatha Church.