Life-Changing Camp

S.Y.A.S, on March 29, 2013, thirty minutes after nine in the morning, students started streaming into the canteen. They came with different purposes, some to make new friends, some to have a fun time, some to just use it as another way to spend their weekend. Little did they know that waiting for them would be a life-changing experience.

**Play**

The Talent Night showcased the acting abilities of many students. During this time they performed skits about biblical stories with modern adaptation that taught meaningful lessons as well as provided entertainment.

**Locale**

The San Yu Adventist School 2013 Chinese Gospel Camp drew some 80 campers. It commenced with a fun-filled morning of games at the school campus. Then it moved to the beautiful campus of the National Community Leadership Institute.

**Work**

Guest Speaker, Pastor Wong Tat Ying, from Malaysia, kept his audience engaged with a talk on knowing more about themselves and their personality types. The participants had an enjoyable learning experience. Two more talks, a workshop and a discussion session followed the day after.

...and more significantly, many were introduced to Jesus Christ.

*Continue on p. 2*
Life-Changing Camp

Decisions

In his final talk on the last day of the camp, Pastor Wong painted a vivid scene of Christ’s profound grief; not only the physical pain, but also the emotional pain that He suffered. In response to an appeal, nine students, who are having bible study, decided to be baptized in the near future, while 29 others committed to get bible study.

The enthusiasm in the room was palpable.

Outcome

At the conclusion of the camp, a survey taken showed very positive response to the location, food, and activities. Some of the students even commented that the camp was too short! Indeed this camp was a memorable and meaningful one, with many friendships forged, and more significantly many were introduced to Jesus Christ.

Helping others brings joy.

Health & Community Ministries

John Cheang, Adventist Community Services

The Adventist Community Services jointly organized an outing on March 10, 2013 with the Health and Community Ministries of the Balestier Seventh-day Adventist Church. This was part of church Pay It Forward event.

Special Guests

The special guests were 30 patients from the Adventist Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre and nine care-givers. They were treated to a tour of the Garden by the Bay. There was no shortage of volunteers as sixty-one members turned out to help push wheel-chairs and keep company with the guests.

Treats

The tour of the Flower Dome and the Cloud Forest conservatories provided opportunities for picture taking and relaxation. A special lunch treat at the Peach Garden Restaurant and a goodie bag for each guest wrapped up an enjoyable day,

Special needs require extra help.

Outdoor recreation for the physically challenged.

Continue on p. 3
Health & Community Ministries

The best part of the outing.

Void Deck Health Screenings

John Cheang, Adventist Community Services

Two health screenings at a HDB void deck were conducted through the collaborative effort of the Jurong Seventh-day Adventist English and Chinese Churches, the Adventist Community Services and the Yuhua Zone 7 Residents’ Committee.

Heartland Style

Church members set up shop at the void deck behind the Jurong Church on two Saturday afternoons in April. Three hundred and thirty residents turned up for the health screenings. More than 20 of them volunteered to be our wellness ambassadors and be involved in community work.

Help build rapport with the community

Rapport

The health screenings have been positively received by the residents and these two events greatly helped build rapport with the community around the church. Both the residents and grassroot leaders appreciate what the Church is doing for the community.
Achieving Prosperity and Intelligence

Tan Jia Hong, Assistant Pastor and
Ben Paulraj, Bible Worker

“Achieving Prosperity and Intelligence,” a seminar jointly held by the Balestier Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Thomson Chinese Seventh-day Adventist Church saw a nightly average attendance of 200 people. The meetings took place in the evenings over two weekends from April 26-28 and May 3-5.

John Ng (left) presenting “Raising Smart Kids.”

Mark Chan (left) on “Be Money Smart.”

About the Seminar

“Raising Smart Kids,” was the topic presented by Dr. John Ng from Malaysia, who gave many pointers on raising children, the relation between one’s diet and the brain, and even practical ways to “activate” your brain! Pastor Mark Chan in his presentation “Be Money Smart,” shared ways to be financial savvy by storing treasures in heaven where it has eternal value.

Financial Security and Sustaining the Cause

Roger Wong, Conference Treasurer

17 members from the Balestier Road Seventh-day Adventist Church were given free legal help in writing their personal wills. Arrangements were made by the conference stewardship director, Pastor Mark Chan, with two practicing lawyers, Mr. Wan Kwong Weng, a member of the Thomson Chinese Seventh-day Adventist Church and Mr. Sim Chee Siong from the Jurong English Seventh-day Adventist Church, who provided the pro bono services. Interested members were given an appointed time when they could personally discuss their preferences with the lawyers.

A total of nine wills were written. Others have yet to be finalized. Six of these were bequests of between 10% to 35% to the Church and its institutions. Members expressed appreciation that this partnership with the Church assures them of being provided for their future.

All will-writing, discussions and documents related to such session are kept in strict confidence by the Singapore Adventist Conference (SAC). Church members are encouraged and urged to participate in this partnership with God.

Response

On the last two nights, appeals were made to participate in follow-up program like small groups studying the Bible. About 30 responded to the appeals. The seminar made it possible to reach others in a less conventional way and has kindled a spiritual awakening to those who attended.

kindled a spiritual awakening

Interests

Programs for the children were also run simultaneously. Attendees were given free books on the first and the third night, and those who came regularly for five nights received a Bible. A significant number of seekers came to the meetings as a result of newspaper advertisements. Attendees enjoyed the novel approach to presenting Bible prophesies.

About the Seminar

“Raising Smart Kids,” was the topic presented by Dr. John Ng from Malaysia, who gave many pointers on raising children, the relation between one’s diet and the brain, and even practical ways to “activate” your brain! Pastor Mark Chan in his presentation “Be Money Smart,” shared ways to be financial savvy by storing treasures in heaven where it has eternal value.

Financial Security and Sustaining the Cause

Roger Wong, Conference Treasurer

17 members from the Balestier Road Seventh-day Adventist Church were given free legal help in writing their personal wills. Arrangements were made by the conference stewardship director, Pastor Mark Chan, with two practicing lawyers, Mr. Wan Kwong Weng, a member of the Thomson Chinese Seventh-day Adventist Church and Mr. Sim Chee Siong from the Jurong English Seventh-day Adventist Church, who provided the pro bono services. Interested members were given an appointed time when they could personally discuss their preferences with the lawyers.

A total of nine wills were written. Others have yet to be finalized. Six of these were bequests of between 10% to 35% to the Church and its institutions. Members expressed appreciation that this partnership with the Church assures them of being provided for their future.

All will-writing, discussions and documents related to such session are kept in strict confidence by the Singapore Adventist Conference (SAC). Church members are encouraged and urged to participate in this partnership with God.
Introducing Jesus

Bayu Kaumpungan, Youth Pastor

Following the wonderful experience many SYAS students had during the school’s Chinese Gospel Camp another camp was organized for the students from Bahasa-speaking background. It was held at the Loola Adventure Resort, Bintan, Indonesia from May 24 to 26.

Outreach Focus

The camp was not the first one for this group of students as the Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church had pioneered such an outreach earlier. Now, with the establishment of the Urban Youth Community Project at SYAS the work among Indonesian students is getting stronger support from the Conference and the School.

Even a grey sky could not dampen their vivacious spirit.

Good News

Starting each day, Pastor Jerry Jacobs from the Maranatha Church acquainted the students with Jesus and His love. For most of them it was something new since they came from either a non-religious background or an agnostic one. Through his personal experience and a very down to earth presentations, Pastor Jacobs related very well to the campers.

Complements

The daily messages were complemented by various activities that help the campers build their confidence. Activities included rock climbing, nature walk, and many more. Each camper was assigned a set of personal eating utensils to be used for the duration of the camp. The campers were expected to clean their own eating utensils after each meal and place them in a designated place. This helped them engender good habits and a sense of responsibility. Youth volunteers from the Maranatha and the Chuan Hoe Churches contributed by befriending the students during the camp. The combination of all these activities created a strong bond between the church and the non-church youths.

Not your usual stroll in a park.

Fulfillment

Campers took advantage of the opportunity to approach Pastor Jacobs for personal questions about God and other spiritual matters. At the end of the camp many expressed that they found the camp a most delightful experience though some admitted hesitancy to join at the beginning of the camp. Trusts between many campers and the pastors soared to a new level. Follow-up works continue for all of these students with the support of the School, the Conference, the participating churches and their ministries.
How Children Learn

Debbie Chan, Conference Children’s Ministries Director

“Now, close your eyes and keep them closed and follow the instructions.” Debbie Chan led in the icebreaker and instructed the participants to fold the A4 paper in their hand and tear the paper at different points. Then all the papers were compared. Everyone came up with a different design. This exercise was to emphasize the fact that everyone has a different perception.

The Entrée

The Children’s Sabbath School Primary Teacher Training Workshop was conducted on March 23 to help participants appreciate how children learn. During the workshop, Rosie Ng, discussed the four types of learners: Imaginative, analytic, common sense and dynamic. She explained how to spot each child’s learning style, how to capitalize on his strengths and work on his weaknesses. Attendees were asked to look at their own learning style so that it would help them better understand about themselves. A very interesting presenter, Rosie, provided copious examples and illustrations. Not everything was serious as there were moments of laughter that punctuated the discussion.

Recommended

Highly recommended are the Gracelink lessons put out by the Church which are specially designed for the different types of learners and teachers. Participants found the workshop very beneficial and relevant.

This workshop was one of the series held to equip current Sabbath School teachers with teaching techniques they can use in their classes. The last training was held in January 2013 for the Junior & Earlteen teachers.

teaching techniques they can use in their classes
A Camp Like No Other

Debbie Chan, Conference Children's Ministries Director

The first ever Junior & Earlteen Day Camp targeting those aged 10 to 14 attracted about 40 children. It took place at the San Yu Adventist School from May 31 to June 4, 2013.

Captivating

Dr Saustin Mfune, GC Associate Children’s Ministries Director and well-known story-teller held his audience’s attention with his initial message on the three MJs: Michael Jordan, Michael Jackson and Michael Jesus. The first two MJs are celebrities without lasting power. Unlike them the third MJ lasts forever. In his subsequent daily messages during the five-day camp he drew lessons from the Bible and addressed issues that concerned his listeners.

Hands-on

Campers helped out in song service and prayer, rendered special music and led in different group events. Activities were organized and planned to tie in with the daily messages and encouraged teamwork. They included a test of bible knowledge, using creativity in composing songs about Dr Saustin, relays, making designs on T-shirts, etc. Mrs Sim Sew Moi, SAUM Children’s Ministries Director, showed how to make designs on T-shirts based on the theme of the camp “Your heart, His purpose.” The children created their own designs. Five top designs were selected by the judges and awarded prizes. Participants proudly wore their T-shirts on the final day.

A Miracle

One of the events was a trip to the Singapore Botanic Gardens. It was a sunny day when the children started out. However, upon reaching their destination it began to rain. Everyone huddled under the shelter at the Ginger Garden as Dr Saustin prayed. A miracle happened before everyone’s eyes for as soon as his prayer ended the rain stopped. And for the rest of the day it stayed dry. Praise the Lord for answered prayer. It left a deep impression on everyone.

Brownie Points

On the final day, Willie Yuen from the Singapore Conference organized the “Amazing Race” at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. The theme was “God’s purpose” for each individual. Five teams comprising six to seven children were to complete a variety of tasks at various stations. Brownie points were awarded for good teamwork, compassion, helpfulness and other positive traits displayed. One of the teams encountered an elderly woman who had a fall and injured herself. They rendered help with the assistance of an adult leader who then accompanied her to the other end of the park where her family picked her up. Teamwork was also shown when one leader encouraged his team members when they had difficulty accomplishing their tasks. Another team helped carry equipment to the next station without being asked to.

Conclusion

Lunch was served in the park after which Dr Saustin officially ended the camp with a brief challenge to keep close to God. This was followed by a prayer of dedication.

Participants’ Feedback

Participants were asked to feedback based on the following questions:

a) What did you learn from the camp?
b) Which part of the camp did you enjoy the most?
c) Would you like another event/camp to be organised for your age group?
d) Any other comments?

Faith (12 years old)

a) I have learnt to trust God, give my heart to Him, always praise Him and how to behave in church.
b) I enjoyed the T-shirt design.
c) Yes, please.

Sherina (13 years old)

a) At this camp I have learnt to be more independent and share my time individually like play time, study time, etc.
b) I enjoyed most the talks by Dr. Saustin. They were very interesting. I have learnt a lot from him. Thank you Dr. Saustin!
c) Of course. without any thought, I will definitely go.

A visit to the Singapore Botanic Gardens.
A Camp Like No Other

Sean (13 years old)

a) I have learnt many things from the camp, especially things that I can apply in my everyday life and I also acquired more knowledge of Jesus and His second coming.
b) I enjoyed and loved every activity in the camp from Dr Saustin’s lectures to having that Amazing Race where we learnt to cooperate, work as a team and not blame anyone but instead encourage one another.
c) Definitely, I would love another camp like this but it would be better if we could stay overnight.