Mainland Chinese Introduced to Jesus

There are about one million mainland Chinese who have come to Singapore to live, work, and study over the last few decades. They are businessmen and businesswomen, professionals, spouses and children of Singaporeans, students and their parents, workers, employees etc., all who have left their homeland and migrated here to look for a better life.

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Led to the Light

God has led many of them to know Him through churches. Many of these Chinese have come to the Thomson Chinese Church (TCC). In this past three years about six adults and 11 students from China were baptized into the church. By God’s grace, the Chinese AY “Mustard Seed” was established. An AY Sabbath School class started on August 21, 2010. Five months later the Chinese AY weekly activities which has been absent for more than 10 years was revived. Many have come from the San Yu Adventist School (SYAS) and about 10% of them are from other schools. In Oct. 2010, the Adult English class started with about some 20 students of whom 90% come from China. During the weekly classes they were taught not only basic English but also Christian songs, Bible stories, and NEWSTART principles. During the past three years, the Mainland Chinese who have come to TCC or the adult English class have been blessed by many different activities such as outdoor hiking, cooking classes with nutrition lectures, small groups, social and spiritual events, community service, and baptisms.

Up-close

Wen Juan who came from Jiangxi province eight years ago to find work is now a permanent resident (PR). She was attended a Sunday church and its small group. Her mother who is an Adventist in China persuaded her to look for an Adventist church in Singapore. She found our church three years ago and started worshipping with us and joined our Sabbath afternoon small group. She was baptized on December 24, 2011. We have also been praying for her husband Mr.
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Kong who also came from China eight years ago is now a Singapore citizen. From the internet he learned about the history of our church. They both are working in different companies in Singapore.

Mulin, who is from the city of Dalian, works as a kindergarten teacher in Singapore. She spent almost 10 years in Ireland pursuing her Master’s degree and profession there. Although surrounded by many churches in Ireland, she was not interested in going to any of them. However, when she brought her seven-year-old son to Singapore, God led her son to study at SYAS. In February 2012 she visited the TCC for the first time. Her heart was moved by the smiles and the friendliness of the members. After nine months of studying the Bible and attending the church, she was baptized on November 3, 2012. She has grown fast in the truth and has been one of the Sabbath school program superintendent even before her baptism.

Liu Yao was a Sunday church Christian and a high school English teacher in China. Her daughter, Poyi, is a SYAS Sec 3 student. One day in February 2012, Sunshine met Poyi on the MRT while she was on her way home. This contact later resulted in the whole family being led to attend Bible classes. Liu Yao and Poyi were baptized together with Mulin on November 3, 2012. Liu Yao’s husband had a 20-year smoking habit. He quit smoking one day by the power of few months of prayers. He wanted to keep the Sabbath but his job has not allowed him to do so up until now. We continuously pray for him and look forward to that day when God will open the door for him to join the Adventist church.

Wang Xin is a businesswoman holding a Master’s degree from China. Many years ago she was baptized without truly understanding the Bible truths. When her son started to attend SYAS in the beginning of 2012, she met Sunshine and they became friends. She had Bible studies and wanted to be baptized after few months. However, she had to wait until May 2013 to be baptized with eight others.

Chen Gang is a Singapore PR and an accountant. She has been a Christian for about four years. Once she accidently came across the Amazing Fact Chinese website and started watching Pastor Doug Batchelor’s preaching. She was convicted about the Sabbath truth. She shared the truth with her pastor and suggested that he should change the worship service to Saturday. The pastor ignored her many times and even ordered her to stop showing others in his congregation the Bible verses concerning the Sabbath. She stopped going to that church. After spending two Sabbaths at home alone, she finally found our church in June 2013. She rejoiced and believed that it was God’s grace and leading. She has been coming to our church since then and is studying the Bible with Sunshine once a week.

Li Wei and her daughter, who is in SYAS P6, were baptized three years ago in the City Harvest Church. After one year Bible study at TCC they have learned more of the Bible truth and want to join our church.
The Chinese who leave their country to a strange land need friends and a community where they can find a sense of belonging. The church can be a big family to them. Just like what Jesus said in Matthew 9:37, “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few,” there is a great need for laborers in His work. May God raise up more people to be His workers and may the church continue to be a loving place for many to learn to know God.

Marriage on the Rock
Debbie Saul-Chan, Family Ministries Director, Seventh-day Adventist Conference, Singapore

“Marriage on the Rock” took on a totally different meaning for 17 couples who attended a weekend seminar at the Pulai Springs Resort, Johor in September 2013.

Purpose

The theme “Marriage on The ROCK” formed the crux of presentations, lively interactions and applications in a three-day seminar led by Drs Chek Yat and Sally Phoon. Its purpose was to strengthen couples relationship by emphasizing the skills and attitudes associated with marital success, enhancing companionship in marriage, improving communication and conflict resolution skills, all within a Biblical context. The couples had an opportunity to take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) assessment, which is a psychometric questionnaire designed to measure psychological preferences in how people perceive the world and make decisions. This tool helped them better understand themselves and their spouse in managing their relationship.

The Challenge

The Chinese who leave their country to a strange land need friends and a community where they can find a sense of belonging. The church can be a big family to them. Just like what Jesus said in Matthew 9:37, “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few,” there is a great need for laborers in His work. May God raise up more people to be His workers and may the church continue to be a loving place for many to learn to know God.

Empowered & Renewal

The highlight of the weekend was on Saturday evening when the couples participated in a Renewal of Vows ceremony. Each couple was seated at individual tables decorated with flowers and candles. They were briefed on the 100/0 Principle, a formula for developing effective relationships. It means that a spouse takes full responsibility for the relationship (the 100) and expects nothing in return (the 0). As one spouse takes authentic responsibility for a relationship, the other person does as well. Consequently, the 100/0 Principle quickly transforms to something approaching 100/100.

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Hymn Fest 2013

Debbie Saul-Chan,
Balestier Seventh-day Adventist Church

The Musical Ministry of the Balestier Seventh-day Adventist Church held a festival of hymns on October 12, 2013. With the theme, “Hymnody through the Ages,” the hymn festival featured the Filipino Church choir, the Balestier Church choir and the junior choir. Accompanied by guest organist, Mr John Green, the choirs sang songs from the different period featuring hymn writers such as Bishop Ambrose, Martin Luther, Philip Nicolai, Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley, Henry Francis Lyte, Fanny Crosby, Catherine Winkworth, Timothy Dudley Smith and Gloria & William Gaither. The fest also featured several members dressed in costumes relevant to the period.
Marriage on the Rock

As one spouse takes authentic responsibility for a relationship, the other person does as well.

The evening continued with the reading and signing of the renewal of vows and each couple received a certificate. A lovely musical number from Uriah, Zachary and Ellen See added to the occasion. Following that a delicious buffet dinner was served. The evening’s program was graced by the presence of the Conference President, Pr Johnny Kan, and his wife, Dr Tan Pik Yee. Couples enjoyed the time spent one-to-one as well as mingling with other couples. Many expressed enjoying a meaningful weekend.
Some time earlier in August this year 30 youths from the local Adventist churches spent three days as facilitators and friends to about 50 students at the San Yu Adventist School Gospel Camp. As a follow-up strategy an opportunity was created for church youth members to bond with the student campers.

We believe that the seed of curiosity about the Gospel was planted in the participants’ minds.

Youth leaders, Bernice Leong, Brian Ramdas, Natasha Ten, Stacia Choo, Theresa Ang and Jack Sukanto organised a treasure hunt at Sentosa Island on September 1. Altogether, 70 youths showed up for the treasure hunt. Participants were split into different teams to find pieces of a map which would provide clues to find the treasure. To secure these map pieces, the teams had to complete various mini tasks and team bonding games at different stations. An example was the sand castle building station where two teams battled it out to see which team’s sand castle could better withstand bombardment by water bombs. A team was victorious if it could annihilate the other team’s sand castle. Additional points were also awarded for enthusiasm and teamwork displayed while completing the tasks.

The mini tasks and games were designed to elicit a certain level of challenge and “suffering” to encourage teams to work together. It was evident that this objective was achieved as participants not only learned to work with each other and accept each other’s flaws, they spurred each other on to win more points for their respective teams.
Although eventually there could only be one winner of the treasure hunt, all the participants seemed to have enjoyed themselves. New and deeper bonds of friendship were forged as well. We are thankful that the event ran smoothly due to the many prayers of church members and the blessing of God. We believe that the seed of curiosity about the Gospel was planted in the participants’ minds.

Faith Milestone

Debbie Saul-Chan,
Balestier Seventh-day Adventist Church

On the Sabbath of October 26, 2013 six would-be disciples of Christ reached an important milestone in their journey of faith. They want to be identified with Christ in a public testimony. Thus, Jeremy Rozario, Deirdre’ Lee, Jeremy Ng, Chanel Lee, Mirahmae Antopina, and Lecel Angeli Deslate sealed this desire in a baptism service at the Balestier Seventh-day Adventist Church.
Church anniversaries are significant moments in the church’s history. It usually commemorates another year of God’s blessing and leading. The Balestier Road Seventh-day Adventist Church turned 62 on November 2, 2013. It has chosen for the celebration theme “Hastening the Lord’s Coming Through Prayer.”

The celebration started with a Prayer Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. followed an hour later by Sabbath School. The Worship Service began at 10:45 a.m. after which a Celebratory Lunch was served at 12:15 p.m. Sixty people took part in the Prayer Breakfast. The Filipino Church joined in the Worship Service and played a part in providing inspirational songs from its Novacoustics and Solus Deus singing groups. Pr Mark Chan delivered a passionate sermon. Elder Hardiono shared a testimony of God’s miraculous healing power. Our God be praise for all the great things He has done!

Debbie Saul-Chan, Balestier Seventh-day Adventist Church

Praying at the Prayer Breakfast.

Joachim Leong, Mark Chan and Isagani Valencia

Breakfast smiles!

Novacoustics and Solus Deus singers