Making a Difference

**Janie Foo,**
**Chuan Hoe Seventh-day Adventist Church**

“... whatever you did for one of the least of these...”

Chuan Hoe Seventh-day Adventist Church organised its first Pay It Forward (PIF) Program on March 30, 2014 for the Serangoon constituency. It was jointly sponsored by the Adventist Community Services (ACS). It involved close collaboration with the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC) which

Volunteers with the guest of honor

PIF guests receiving cash vouchers

Filipino members helping with the health screening

† Press coverage: [http://www.todayonline.com/singapore/50-needy-residents-benefit-pay-it-forward-event](http://www.todayonline.com/singapore/50-needy-residents-benefit-pay-it-forward-event)

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Celebrating Gratitude

Ester Gerber, WM Coordinator, SDA Community Church

SDA Community Church Women celebrated this year’s women’s day of prayer with a special brunch on March 16, 2014. Our cafeteria was beautifully decorated by John, Lucy and Michelle Ho. They created a very pleasant ambience for the ladies. Under Felicia Pan’s expert leadership the food was a delicious feast. We thank all the women who contributed to our buffet. Our SAC women’s ministries leader, Debbie Chan, shared her personal experience in how God provides for all our needs.

Over 60 ladies were blessed that morning. We are especially glad to have had many specially invited friends attending.

“Prayer unites us with one another and with God. . .” (Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 250).

“Prayer unites us with one another and with God. . .”

Youthful smiles

Much to be thankful

A great combination of balloons and smiles

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Making a Difference

invited the PIF recipients. Assistance was also provided by the Serangoon Community Club that allowed us free use of its function hall.

We were honoured to have Mr Baey Yam Keng, Member of Parliament for Tampines GRC and a board member of the CDAC, to grace the event.

Besides enjoying health games, guests were given a free on-site health screening, and a health talk by Dr. Eric Teo. There were musical presentations by the San Yu Adventist School (SYAS). Other entertainment included songs in Mandarin, English, Hokkien. The 50 PIF recipients were treated to a vegetarian dinner. Each of them received NTUC cash vouchers and hampers.

In his address, Mr Baey thanked ACS for its PIF program that helped the needy in our midst.

Many recipients also signed up for the PIF+ a six-month follow-up program where the Wellness Ambassadors visit monthly to continue health checks and offer health and lifestyle advice. From such visits we hope to make a difference in the lives of the recipients who often are elderly and needy – for “...whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matt 25:40).

We thank God that everything went smoothly. Our appreciation also goes to ACS staff Dr Eric Teo and John Cheang, SYAS, Thomson Church Pathfinders, Filipino Church members, CDAC staff, Serangoon CC staff, Studio Elpizo, Chuan Hoe members and friends for their support without which the PIF event would not have succeeded.

Mr Baey addressing the audience

Thank you, Lord

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Smiles of gratitude

Someone’s not smiling!
Bonding and spiritual revival was the main aim of the Jurong Seventh-Day Adventist Church’s young adult camp. The camp was held at the Pulai Springs Resort in Johor Bahru from the July 26-28, 2014. The theme was ‘be’, with Pastor Tan Jia Hong dealing with topics ranging from ‘be-live’ to ‘be-have’. Thought-provoking questions facilitated group discussion and spiritual insight after each session.

The organisers for the camp were Tricia Tan, Andrew Phua and Jeffrey Lonan from Jurong Church. Although the expected number of campers was 35, the total number of registered campers was 53.

Said Tricia Tan, head organiser, “It is encouraging that we can use our talents for God in this planning... We had seekers as well as visitors, and our goal will be to integrate them into the church and assist in their journey in developing a relationship with Jesus Christ.”

Of the 53 who signed up for the camp, ten were visitors and seekers from the Jurong Chinese Church, the Chuan Hoe Church, the Balestier Church and the Thomson Chinese Church.

Ivy Fang, a member of the Jurong Chinese Church, found the camp particularly meaningful with its emphasis on revival and bonding. Concerning revival, she said, “Through Pastor Jia Hong’s message and people’s testimonies, I sensed the greatness of God and I realised that my relationship with God is still so weak. Although I am not Christian yet, I am eager to know more and get closer with God after this camp.”

She went on to add that she previously felt a rift between the Jurong English Church and the Jurong Chinese Church, but said this: “After this camp, I know what exactly being a family of Christ is.” Ivy was not the only one who felt that this camp had met her needs.

“Every stage of life brings with it its own set of challenges,” said Charis Teddy from the Chuan Hoe Church. “Through this camp I was able to meet and get to know others who share the same experiences, and who, through our interactions, gave me the comfort of knowing that the journey with God is not one that has to be done alone.”
The Balestier Bible Camp at Batam took place back-to-back with the revival meeting held in June 1-4. The speaker was Pastor Benjamin Ng, of the Damansara Adventist Hope Center at Kuala Lumpur, West Malaysia. There was a good mix of spiritual food as well as rest and relaxation. Free time during Saturday and Sunday night allowed for bonding and fun.

There was a maximum of 3 sessions per day. At the first session on Friday night the speaker used his range of experience to dwell on winning souls, self-examination daily, the “almost” Christian, forgiveness, fear God and the need to awake from our slumber as the Laodicean church. He used his range of experience to continually bring us back to the basics. Even the 13 non-members among the campers were inspired.

Since it was a combined Bible Camp with the youth, two sessions of Youth Hour were held on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Initially, the youth were hesitant. However, they soon warmed up and started asking many questions.

On the first day Pastor Ng shared his personal testimony followed by a Q & A session. The following day there were so many questions after his sharing that it took over two hours. The speaker enlightened the youth on many topics such as Christ-like relationships, music, movies and games.

Meal times were opportunities to connect with our Bible Camp interests. The evenings offered a range of wholesome activities from bowling, pool, squash, table tennis to Chinese chess.

A deep appreciation for Pastor Ng to revive the church was noticeably felt. As the Bible Camp drew to a close, a token of appreciation was presented. Many felt a change in their spiritual experience. The revival and rise in spirituality was most timely. It left us refreshed and recharged ready to serve the Lord in a mightier way.

. . . the need to awake from our slumber as the Laodicean church.

Kion Chuen Rong, Bible Worker

A keepsake to remind of the wonderful time together
When you begin to bless others in whatever form because you have been blessed you will experience an untold joy. In short, this is what Pay-It-Forward (PIF) is all about. A harbour cruise on a Chinese junk was planned for 30 patients of the Adventist Nursing & Rehabilitation Centre (ANRC) on June 1, 2014. It was a combined effort by the Balestier Health & Community Ministry and the ANRC.

The 3-hour cruise provided an opportunity to view the beautiful shoreline of Marina South Bay and Sentosa. In addition, we passed by several southern islands. The view of the relatively unspoiled habitat in the southern islands was refreshing, indeed.

On board, the guests were given a treat to the various performances. The ukulele group entertained with popular tunes. The children sang with their beautiful voices. There were also several nostalgic renditions of the oldies music of the 1960s and 1970s. Guests were also entertained with games and activities. The novelty of a buffet lunch on board a Chinese junk was enjoyable.

A sudden downpour left everyone wondering if a visit to Kusu Island, which was part of the itinerary, would be cancelled. As we neared Kusu Island, the rain showed no sign of relenting. But as we moored the ship, the downpour turned into a drizzle. We were sure this was no happenstance.

A few guests who had been on a similar event previously remembered some of the helpers who had accompanied them before. They were extremely grateful for the love and care shown them. They asked that we visit them during the Chinese New Year and looked forward to another event like this next year.

It was truly a thrilling experience to be able to help such in need. Sharing love and concern like Jesus did.

Kion Chuen Rong, Bible Worker

When it comes to sharing the more the merrier

Blessing Others

... bless others because you have been blessed you will experience untold joy.
Realizing a need to survive the declining spiritual conditions in today’s world, the Balestier Seventh-Day Adventist Church held a four-day revival meeting. Pastor Benjamin Ng of the Damansara Adventist Hope Center at Kuala Lumpur, West Malaysia was invited to speak on End Times. His main focus was on cultivating a relationship with Jesus to change our lives. He gave very practical advice and timely reminders on daily prayer and Bible study and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

There was an altar call on Wednesday and Thursday. Many responded, determined to leave sin at the door and to resist besetting sins that had been plaguing their lives.

A Bible camp followed over the weekend. It was, indeed, a much needed revival since the previous revival camp. Many were inspired as they listened to the Word of God and refocussed their spiritual priority.
A passion for sharing the gospel with another who does not know Christ brought together sixty-five members from the various local churches to a Three Days Dynamic Training. It was organised by the Indonesian Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (IAFCOE) at the Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The training team comprised Jasper Ivan from the Philippines, David and Melissa Young from the USA, and Aaron Wijaya director of IAFCOE.

Four facets of the training emphasized:

1. Friendship evangelism
2. How to prepare and deliver a sermon
3. How to prepare an effective Bible study
4. First-hand experience of sharing Beyond Imagination books and Glow tracts.

Praise God the training went well. The participants felt confident that they were equipped and empowered to reach out for souls in creative ways.