The first ever Children’s Music Fest was held at the Jurong English Seventh-day Adventist Church on the evening of August 23, 2014. Children from our local churches entertained with instrumental and vocal music with the theme “Kids Helping Kids”. The objective of this event was to provide a platform for the children to help raise funds for other less fortunate children in our community.

The idea was first mooted when we had the Adventist Children’s Choir last year where children from our local churches formed a choir to help raise funds. We hope to continue that spirit of community service and giving through the event.

The evening program was graced by Pr Johnny Kan, president of the Singapore Adventist Conference and Ms Evelyn Goh, head of the Preventive Drug Education & Counselor at Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA). The Children’s Ministries Department

Debbie Chan,  
Children’s Ministries Director,  
Singapore Adventist Conference

Neo LeAnne piano solo  
“Flight of the Bumble Bee”

“The desire to do more to help the less fortunate in the community.”

Continue on p. 2
Kids Helping Kids

has adopted children from clients of SANA. The fund-raising efforts will help purchase Popular Bookstore vouchers for recipients to buy school books and school supplies in preparation for the new school year 2015.

The children did a wonderful job much to the enjoyment of the audience. Many responded enthusiastically to the request for donations. Parents who were there to support expressed their delight that their children could play such part in helping others.

At the close of the Music Fest everyone joined to sing "We are His Hands." Indeed, a fitting way to end the evening’s program by committing our life to be God’s hands and feet.

Anxiety is the Hand Maiden of Creativity

Kion Chuen Rong, Bible Worker

There has been prayer meeting every Wednesday in Balestier Road Church for the last couple of years. However, lately, the numbers have dwindled to about 4 or 5. It became a cause for concern for the members and there was talk of changing the focus.

What could not be done through persuasion was to be done by orchestration. Through prayer, Pr Mark Chan had the idea of organizing the Sabbath School classes to take turns to come and lead out and support the prayer meeting. It was well received. While coming every week may seem a tall order for some, surely coming once every 5 or 6 weeks is perfectly reasonable. Each Sabbath School class was asked to be present when it was their turn and encouraged to come on the other weeks.

The small numbers of 4 or 5 immediately went up to a encouraging 22 people. It was heartwarming to see about 15 people come to prayer meeting the following week as well. Praise the Lord!
Reaching Out to SENGKANG & PUNGGOL

Johnny Kan, President, Singapore Adventist Conference

As part of the effort to reach our neighbours within Singapore, a two-week series of meeting was planned specifically for a section of the residents in the northeastern part of the island. The purpose is to establish an Adventist presence there and build community relations with local grassroot leaders. Both Sengkang and Punggol estates have a population of about 190,000 and 90,000 respectively. Singapore is increasingly a very secular nation and the church attempts all ways and means to share the gospel of Jesus Christ to every folk living in these housing estates. It is also the first time that such a meeting is held in a government-owned community hub. Groundwork for the meetings began with the Adventist Community Services holding its first PIF+ (Pay It Forward) event for some 80 low-income residents living in that area. Residents who have medical needs are placed under the care of a program where trained Wellness ambassadors will visit them. They are taught basic healthy lifestyle improvements in various areas for six consecutive months. Such efforts to build rapport have opened doors and enabled us to hold religious meetings in these buildings.

Johnny Kan,
President,
Singapore Adventist Conference

"to know and understand that there is a God who cares"

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The Conference invited two speakers from Australia to be the key presenters. Paul Geelan, who has a rich background in corporate work before joining the church, presented a series of need-oriented seminar entitled “Life at Its Best.” The seminar dealt with emotional health, achieving success, principles of financial health, power of decisions and forces that control your life. On the average 120-200 guests attended nightly. Preparation efforts to pull out all the stops included saturating these housing estates with flyers, bus ads, internet ads, Facebook notices, street ads and inviting friends living in that area to the meetings.

The second week presentation transitioned to a more spiritual context. Vadim Butov, who is the senior pastor for the Pioneer Memorial Church in Australia, shared passionately with the attendees biblical teachings about prophetic events like Daniel 2, issues on life after death, overcoming loneliness, the world’s coming to an end soon, the 1000 years, etc. to help seekers to know and understand that there is a God who cares. Nightly meetings feature a cameo by accomplished violinist, Leroy Peterson, who is a retired music professor from Pacific Union College, USA accompanied by our talented local pianist, Rena Phua.

The follow-up program is divided into two tracks. One is “Finding God” which is done in a “testimonial style” cum group discussion. The other is an in-depth study of the book “Revelation” for those who are interested. In addition, several health seminars and presentations will be conducted in the coming weeks for the seekers. We have also identified a few homes in the vicinity where our members are willing to host and conduct small group meetings.

We solicit your prayers as we plan to duplicate many of these meetings in 2015 all over the city so that many folks living in Singapore can experience the saving grace of Jesus Christ.
Bridging the Love Gap

Debbie Chan, Family Ministries Director, Singapore Adventist Conference

From September 5 to 7, 2014, about 54 adults and children spent the weekend at Le Grandeur Palm Resort, Johore, Malaysia, for a weekend of learning, family bonding and fun activities. The camp theme was “Bridging the Love Gap.” Adults had the opportunity to take the MBTI (Myers-Briggs Type Indicator) test while the children took the MMTIC (Murphy-Briggs Type Indicator) test. There were combined and separate sessions where the presenters dealt with both groups. Through these sessions, parents were able to understand their children’s learning styles and develop strategies for more effective learning. For the children, they learnt to appreciate the strengths that result from diversity and learn to deal with challenges. They also discovered fulfillment through activities that they enjoy and the self-discipline they need to complete less desirable tasks.

Besides the learning sessions, the younger children and teens had their own crafts and activities with Mrs Debbie Chan and Mrs Sim Sew Moi.

There was a special session during which each family had to work together to design and decoupage their family photo on a plate. The resulting masterpieces served as beautiful mementos of the family camp. On Saturday evening a brief family commitment service was held. Each family was given a family commitment certificate to which family members affix their signature.

After another session on Sunday morning there was time for more recreation like swimming, putting at the driving range or just simply visiting one another. At the final session with parents and children, Dr Sally Phoon urged the parents to continue building strong bonds with their spouse and children and apply the principles learnt. Many expressed that they enjoyed the activities and the sessions although some lamented that the weekend was too short.

“Discover fulfillment through activities that they enjoy and the self-discipline they need to complete less desirable tasks.”
WOMEN, INSPIRED TO GO!

Debbie Chan,
Women's Ministries Director,
Singapore Adventist Conference

Women, inspired to Go! was the theme of the Women’s Congress held at the Southeast Asia Union auditorium on May 16 and 17, 2014. Some 150 women attended. The keynote speaker was Mrs Raquel Arrais, the associate GC WM director.

Her topics: The Call to Follow; The Call to Flourish; Feet Go, Hand do; The Call to Service held her listeners in rapt attention with moments of emotional release. It concluded with a commitment and a prayer session during which the women recommitted themselves to serve the Lord.

A number of feedbacks were received:

• It was a most relevant seminar and a great speaker whom we could connect with. I was certainly blessed by the meetings. So glad I went. ----

• Thank you for arranging for Raquel to come and inspire us! What a blessing she has left us with. I was all dried up like the desert Raquel talked about - this program being ‘just’ another item on my mile-long to do list. I had been praying for this program, hoping for it to be truly inspiring for all the women attending. God has more than answered my prayer, He sent His showers of blessing and let it rain on this dry soil. It made the desert bloom. I am truly refreshed and inspired. ----

• As a mother, wife and also a ministry leader, I feel stressed and at times burnt out. Listening to Raquel is like refueling for me. Her messages touched my heart. It so inspired me to refocus on what needs to be done. ----

• Indeed, Mrs Raquel Arrais came at the right time. Many women are busy juggling work, ministry and family and not realising that their need to be renewed and refreshed especially in fast-paced Singapore. Raquel’s presentations were something that was needed for many, and when she spoke hearts were touched. ----

• Indeed, women have a unique role in the work of our church to minister in areas where men cannot reach. ----

• The women’s meeting was very inspiring! It has brought Adventist women together to realise the very important role they have in their community. ----

• The speaker delivered inspiring messages and the objectives of the meeting were met. She related very well with her audience. ----

• It was my first time attending a Women’s Ministries meeting and I was very blessed knowing that as a woman in our church, we have the capacity to be able to continue to finish the work of our Lord Jesus Christ. ----

• Indeed, women have a unique role in finishing the work in our church to work in areas where men cannot reach.”

“Indeed, women have a unique role in finishing the work in our church to work in areas where men cannot reach.”

Adventist Crossroads /Jul-Sep 2014 5
Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated its 60th Anniversary on July 18 & 19 2014. The joyous occasion was commemorated with a special program centered on the theme – Reminiscing Maranatha, Jesus is Coming Soon! Many months prior to the celebrations, members were abuzz with a whole slew of preparations. Some of its members came together to form the Maranatha anniversary choir, creating new memories as they practiced together in preparation for the event.

The anniversary weekend began with a communion service reminding us to put Christ first in our lives. We were blessed to have the Teachers of Tomorrow (TOT) choir from the Universitas Klabat join us as our guests. Their musical contributions truly uplifted hearts heavenward. Pastor Johnny Kan delivered the message, encouraging us to reflect, repent and prepare for the coming of Christ. In the afternoon, the lighting of the candles represented our desire and renewed our commitment to keep our light shining for Jesus always. The celebrations were rounded up with an evening of fun, as the TOT choir put together a cultural show filled with colorful costumes, exciting music, and traditional dances. It was a relaxing evening for one and all.

Whilst sharing laughter and trading stories as we looked back on the past, we also thanked the Lord for His blessings and guidance all these years. Most importantly, the focus was to cast our gaze forward as we anticipate and work to hasten the coming of Jesus Christ.

The 60th anniversary celebration was a reunion of sorts for the Maranatha Family, and it gave a glimpse of how it would be like when we are all reunited with our Heavenly Father one day. Maranatha!

Celebrate TURNING 60

Natasha Turambi,
Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church

President Johnny Kan delivering the sermon

Indonesian traditional dance

The Divine Service
Teachers of Tomorrow choir

Maranatha anniversary choir

Communion Service

“You want to pass it on”
September 14, 2014 was no ordinary Sunday. It held promises of much excitement for many at Jurong Church. It was the day for the church’s inaugural Family Fun Carnival.

The church has been blessed with the Seventh-day Adventist Kindergarten (SDAK) since 1987. There is a healthy annual enrolment of Adventist and non-Adventist children. The Family Ministries hatched a plan to reach out to parents through parenting and family bonding programmes.

The concept of the carnival was inspired by the Church’s family retreat held a year before which blended fun with learning. Tony Cho, a speaker from Focus on the Family, enlightened the parents on principles of family communication through his presentation on “How to talk, so that kids would listen”.

At the same time, kids aged four and below were entertained with songs and fun-oriented arts and crafts while kids aged five to nine were introduced to Adventurer programs.

Then it was party time! Servings of delectable cupcakes and ice-cream followed a sumptuous meal of fried noodles and garlic rice. French toasts and popcorns went down very well with freshly squeezed juices.

Exciting games like sticky balls and shooting ping pong balls with water gun got the parents and kids showing great teamwork. There were more fun games like kick ball, mini basketball, table ‘rolling’ and ‘fishing’ and even a brick and mortar version of Angry Birds!

The popular face-painting was a surefire way to get kids to live out their imagination as Tiger Cub, Iron Man, and of course Elsa from Frozen which was a big hit with the girls. All in, more than 30 families had a memorable Sunday of fun and learning.

The Family Ministry couldn’t have pulled this off without the help of the youth, young adults, deacons and deaconesses, and elders of the Church, as well as the teachers from the SDAK. Special mention goes out to all the games and food booth teams and ‘Kid’s crew.’ There is power when all come together in the name of the Lord, and we thank God for the privilege of delighting His flock on this memorable Sunday.