

An Eventful Year for ACS

By John Cheang, Director
Adventist Community Services

In the devastation following the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 26, 2004 the Adventist Community Services (ACS) rallied church members and supporters. Overwhelming donations in cash and kind poured in. Two containers of 40 feet each were shipped to the tsunami victims in Indonesia and Sri Lanka. Several houses were built in both countries. Rebuilding project is still ongoing.

On 2nd February 2005 a Crisis Management seminar was organized. Dr Martin Feldbush from the General Conference Chaplaincy Department shared much practical tips.

In the HDB heartland, ACS conducted several mega projects. One was with the Yuhua



ACS booth at Yuhua Community Centre event

Community Centre in the western part of the island. Mrs Yu Foo Yee Shoon, Minister of State for Youth, Sports and Community Development invited ACS to participate in their Intergeneration Day celebration on 26 June 2005. This invitation was prompted by something that happened three months before at the SAM Centennial Celebration. She was the guest-of-honour then and was very impressed with the wholesome vegetarian foods.



SDAK students performing at the Lantern Festival

At the Intergeneration Day celebration Youngberg Wellness Center (YWC), Jurong Church, the Ark, and ACS together with members of local Adventist Churches set up ten booths promoting a smorgasbord of items and services from health and family books, nuts, grains, raisins, figs, and other healthy foods,



Excitement at the Five Loaves booth

to massage and health screening.

The smoothies was such a hot favourite that the Community Centre gave ACS a budget to serve the smoothies during its Lantern Festival on 17 September 2005. At the event the Jurong Seventh day Adventist Kindergarten (SDAK) and the San Yu Adventist School gave a performance. The kindergarten also sponsored many games stalls for the night.

There was also a request to serve smoothies and Five Loaves buns during the community centre's Dong Fang Billy* event on 6th November

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* Dong Fang Billy was a popular DJ on the 97.2 FM radio station who battled leukaemia into remission 10 years ago and now espouses a healthful diet.

Simply Sharing Wins Many

By Shiela Pulmones
Balestier Church

The Voice of Prophecy ministry in Balestier Church started in early 2003. A group of volunteering Filipino members took the VOP responsibility under its wing. They met every Sabbath afternoon, before and after their AY program to organize and plan the work.

How did the recruitment of students start? Aside from personal referral of friends, neighbors and relatives of church members, the Filipino volunteers planned a sharing effort on Sundays.

A small group would go out to popular areas such as Orchard Road. Starting with a prayer, they would separate in twos, mingle with the crowd, and then invite them to sign up for a free Bible correspondence course.

To the spiritually downhearted this offer sounded very interesting, simple and with no obligation and many responded. From zero, the enrollment increased af-

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2005. Thousands of residents turned up for these two events. It was heart warming to see church members working together in synergy and with passion. Many more community events are in the pipeline namely, Yuhua Multi Cultural procession on 4th December, Christmas Caroling on 21st December and the Yuhua Countdown 2006.

On the health front, ACS, with Youngberg Wellness Centre (YWC) conducted vegetarian cooking classes. At the last one four individuals purchased the full set of health encyclopedias costing \$380 each. Health classes such as *Power Up Your Health 2* and *Power Up Your Heart* were conducted in October and November by Dr Clarence Ing, Mrs May Ing and Dr Tan Pik Yee. These classes were very well received.

Health is indeed an entering wedge into the hearts of secular Singaporeans, many of whom might not be reached for Jesus in any other ways. We intend to have a monthly health follow up session with



Pathfinders signing a song

these interests.

ACS with the YWC also gave a health talk at the Metropolitan YMCA. A seminar, *Dealing and Understanding Family Violence*, was specially organized for social workers on 2nd November 2005. Dr Bryan Craig, an Australian Adventist marriage and family counselor, was



Vegetarian cooking demo at the YWC

the speaker. The response was very positive.

A half-day health evangelism training was held on 1st November 2005. There is plan to organize quarterly training sessions in 2006 so that each church could be trained for medical missionary work.

The ACS seeks your support and prayers that God will continue to bless this ministry. **AC**

Looking Forward

Please keep February 18 to March 11, 2006 open in your personal calendar.

Exciting range of topics to be presented by the Jon Paulien Team comprising five speakers.

More information will be coming your way.

Staff News



Charlie Oh began his second year ministerial internship at the Jurong East Chinese Church in June 2005. Previous to this he was attached to the Chuan Hoe Church.

Simply Sharing Wins Many

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ter just a few months.

But not all were able to finish their courses. Contributing factors vary from change in address without notification, wrong or incomplete address and postal code to decisions not to continue or loss of interest.

In 2005 there were 203 active students, 5 percents of which were local and 95 percent largely Filipinos followed by Indonesians and Chinese. Amazingly, the number of Indonesian students steadily increased after introducing a Bahasa Indonesian version of the *Amazing Facts* lessons!

Five courses were offered. Most of these students were not only enrolled in one but also two or three courses at the same time. *Amazing Facts* was the most popular fol-

lowed by *Health*, *Daniel & Revelations*, *Discover* and *10 Questions About God*.

Thus far three graduation exercises have been conducted. A graduand receives a certificate specifically designed for each course completed besides a Bible, religious CDs and magazines as complimentary gifts.

They were also invited to outdoor socializations. The last graduation was more of an outdoor activity. The VOP volunteers met with the students and their friends for a get-together and at the same time awarded them their certificates. It was also a good opportunity to invite their friends to sign up for the VOP courses.

The total number of graduates from the different courses since 2003 until the last graduation held last month was 181. About half took the *Health* course and a third the *Amazing Facts* course. Heaven rejoiced when ten students were baptized into the Family of God!

Friends, if you think you do not have the talent in speaking to share the gospel, why don't you introduce Jesus through the *Amazing Facts* or *Health* lessons? You'll be surprised, doors will open—there's no limit to what God can do! **AC**