

mission360°

The official mission magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church | VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 1



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Digital Issue Online at Mission360Mag.org

Editorial

I am delighted to introduce the first issue of *Mission 360°*, an exciting magazine dedicated to a complete focus on Adventist mission.

Mission 360° will feature inspiring stories about missionaries, Adventist volunteers, Global Mission pioneers, tent makers, and church planters. From remote jungle villages to teeming megacities around the world, it will take you to the front lines of mission to experience the challenges and joys of reaching people with the love of Jesus Christ.

Mission is at the very heart of the church. As we see the world around us crumbling and disintegrating—politically, economically, socially, ecumenically, and environmentally—Jesus calls for us to proclaim His love, His righteousness, His three angels' mes-

sages, His warning to a dying world, and the powerful announcement of His soon second coming!

It is my prayer that *Mission 360°* will serve as a wonderful resource and encouragement as we carry out God's mission everywhere around the globe.



Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson
*President
Seventh-day
Adventist Church*



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mission360°

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Diary of an Adventist Volunteer



Frenita Buddy says that the years she served as an Adventist volunteer in Japan was one of the best times of her life. The following bits and pieces from e-mails to family and friends reveal the joy and wonder of her experience.

February

Konnichiwa! That's Japanese for "good afternoon." I've passed the one-month mark here in Japan. Every day is a learning experience for me.

This week, two students are taking me to see the plum blossoms. It's a beautiful precursor to the cherry blossom season. I've got a full roll of film ready to go!

The people here are wonderful and kind. Each host is like a little grandmother, forcing you to eat. So, I've learned to pace myself! Last weekend several of us were invited to a former student's house. We each took home enough food to last two days! Of course, I don't eat all day. I do work!

I teach English twice a week in Harajuku, a suburb of Tokyo. Sometimes I crash at a fellow teacher's house to avoid rush hour. We often play beauty salon and she twists my hair for me. Other times, we chat about our roots in the Caribbean. She is from Antigua and I have family in Grenada.

Tokyo and Yokohama are melting pots. Within my own church, I've met

people from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Australia, Great Britain, the Philippines, America, and of course, Japan. I'm trying to learn to read in Japanese, but after a while things begin to look a little messy to my untrained eye.

April

I hope this email finds you doing well. I've moved from Yokohama to the heart of Tokyo in the skyscraper district of Shinjuku. From my apartment window on the 19th floor, I can see Mt. Fuji from my balcony on a clear day. The Shinjuku train station is one of the busiest in the world. It is estimated that the entire population of New Zealand could pass through the station each day!

Guess what? I felt my first earthquake! At first I thought it was a strong wind. Recently the wind was blowing so hard, it brought sand from the Gobi Desert in China. I didn't confirm that it was a Level 3 earthquake until we got to school the next morning.

A group of us are planning to go to Mt. Fuji in July or August. We will

hike up at night to see the sun rise over the mountain.

At church, I've joined the Japanese youth choir and the English-speaking church choir. It's lucky for me that they practice at different times.

Since arriving here, I've become a semi-regular watcher of sumo wrestling.

May

Konnichiwa! I hope you are doing well. I'm beginning to settle down again and take on more classes. Here's the way a typical day begins for me:

6:00 a.m. Wake up and get dressed.

7:00 a.m. Greet my house mother and make my lunch. She prepares breakfast for me. We chat in English.

7:30 a.m. Leave for work by saying "*Ittimatmasu*," which means "I'm leaving now." My house mother responds by telling me to take care and be safe.

7:45 a.m. Walk to Shinjuku train station and pass a silent army of workers along the way. Everyone dresses in dark suits. No one is sup-



posed to stand out. The only sound heard is the clack of the shoes on the pavement. I promise! It seems as if no one is talking to each other and no one is talking on the phone.

8:00 a.m. Walk from Harajuku train station to work. Dodge puddles of water on the way. Pass piles of Sakura Snow. (The cherry blossoms fall like snow and the petals create a delicate pink pile of beauty.)

8:10 a.m. Settle in and have my personal devotions and Bible study.

8:45 a.m. Begin writing scripts for Adventist World Radio. I've also helped translate some scripts. I usually simplify the English in other scripts so that it is easier to translate into Japanese. My co-host is Miyuki.

10:00 a.m. Have staff worship and get ready for classes.

June

I went with my house mother to watch the Japanese men's volleyball team play in the qualification round for the Olympics. We had a great time! My house mother is the perfect, modest Japanese lady, but she turns into a spunky cheerleader when it comes to sports.



Frenita with her house mother, Ayako.

I'm disappointed to learn that I missed the last sumo competition of the year.

October

Right now, I'm eating *nasu* and *miso*. *Nasu* is Japanese for eggplant. *Miso* is a kind of seasoning. It is made from soybean and fermented grains. Sounds *mazui* (yucky), but it's awesome! I'll have to cook it for you one day.

My house mother says my tongue is becoming Japanese. Mainly it's because I eat anything she cooks except *natto*, which is made from fermented soybeans. It's awful! Each meal is a mix of sensations: pickled and crunchy, soft and sour, and often salty. The fruit here is unbelievable! Right now we are eating persimmons. Chestnuts are also big right now. As I'm writing this, I realize that I'm hungry.

The time to return home is quickly coming. Now that I'm looking into my return ticket the homesickness is finally beginning to kick in. I can't wait to see you all!

December

I'm reading the news reports about the record earthquake and the subsequent tsunamis that hit Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, and Myanmar. Now the death count is more than 10,000 and that number will probably change. I can't even imagine such a thing. I'm praying for everyone whose lives have been affected, but I'm also

The people here are wonderful and kind. Each host is like a little grandmother, forcing you to eat.

Beautifully presented Japanese cuisine.



thanking God. Why? I had hoped to visit Thailand for my winter holiday, but it didn't work out, otherwise I would have been there.

Instead, I am spending the winter holiday with friends here in Japan and Okinawa. We'll be going to visit some hot springs. I won't leave until I look like a prune.

I'll be heading back to the States soon. How am I going to get a year's worth of stuff in two suitcases and keep it under the weight restrictions?!

January

Konnichiwa!

It's so good to be back home in the United States! But now I miss my friends and "family" back in Japan. I will think of them often, especially whenever I eat *tempura* or *soba*. The good thing is I've found a grocery store that sells a few Japanese items so I can keep enjoying the food I learned to love.

Living in Japan was truly a remarkable and wonderful experience for me. Sounds cliché, but it's absolutely true. I am very grateful for the blessings of friendship, hospitality, work, and the many lessons I learned while I lived there.

Love and blessings,
Frenita

Frenita Buddy is Production Director for Hope Channel's studios in North America. Hope Channel is the official television network for the Seventh-day Adventist world church.





His Shoes

In the days right after my dad died we found an expression of his life on the floor of his closet: half a dozen pairs of shoes lined up in the order of their age, laces methodically tucked inside.

He catered to the same style, with the oldest shoes relegated to leisurewear and the newest to preaching appointments. Travel and office shoes sat neatly in between. I know, because once when I complained that I felt tacky when I went to pastors' wives meetings, he explained how he organized his wardrobe to save his best clothes for the most important occasions.

He polished all his shoes to a high gloss every Friday afternoon he was home. When he traveled, he packed an extra pair in a green plaid seersucker bag I handmade for him when I was eight. A white shoestring closed the bag tightly, safely. Bumpy, green embroidery thread identified the bag with "DHB"—I guess to make sure no one would mistake his shoes for theirs. No shoe was safer than when tied in his shoe bag, tucked tightly into the same spot in a suitcase tagged

by his trademark handwriting: David H. Baasch.

I don't know if at his death Mommy sent his shoes to Goodwill, the local community service center, or the janitor's family he'd befriended. But I guess after he was gone, it didn't matter who wore them. Because he had already walked the paths here at Brazil Adventist University, where Larry and I are studying for three weeks in preparation for mission service in Lebanon.

In 1983, when the university was established, Daddy was an associate secretary for the Inter-American and South American divisions. This part of the world was his ministry, his burden. What an associate secretary does is just a small sliver of all that happens in the network of Adventist institutions and organizations, and most of it has to do with paperwork and editing, recruiting and processing. But his footprints are here with the people and countries he loved.

And now I'm here too, following him.

As part of our journey to Beirut, Larry and I have come to Brazil to attend a three-week conference hosted by the Institute of World Mission. The training will help prepare us for a new world. A new culture. A new way of living and working and appreciating. We'll take in lectures, group discussions, reading, field trips—and who knows what else—to help prepare us for the transition. We are already grateful for the opportunity to set our hearts toward this adventure—and it hasn't even begun!

I'm personally relieved for the chance to get away from the lists of things to do, the appointments, and the goodbyes so we can take time to consider what we're undertaking. This journey is both exciting and sobering for our entire family; we need the best support through the process. I feel I'll be reaping the benefits of what concerned Daddy the most about his work: the precious families he sent out.

I heard him worry about workers who had to leave their teenagers state-side; he knew what his invitation was costing "his" families. I saw him cry for the family of the bush pilot who flew a plane into a foggy mountainside; he felt the responsibility of recruiting a worker to a high-risk mission. He told us the story, his voice choking, of the mother who died in childbirth because she couldn't get proper medical care in time: he wondered if she could have been saved if they'd airlifted her.

The Institute of World Mission fosters and facilitates the cross-cultural outreach of the Seventh-day Adventist world church by providing training for all full-time, short-term and volunteer mission workers. In 2012 the Institute relocated from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, to the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Institute of World Mission instructors (left to right): Ronald Kuhn, Anne-May Wollan, Enid Harris, and director, Cheryl Doss.



In 1966, the year Daddy began his work as an associate secretary of the General Conference, the Institute of World Mission was formed at Andrews University in Berrien Springs. Even at that time, I knew the Institute was created to help prepare families for life in a different culture far away from home. I was proud of what Daddy did.

I remember him coming to Berrien Springs while we were in the seminary so he could spend time with the families he'd recruited. I remember attending a service with him at Pioneer Memorial Church where he challenged the group attending one of the institutes. I mostly remember, though, that he always left us his per diem. He usually hid the cash in a book from our little library with clues left on the kitchen table: "Look on page 129 of your Sears catalog."

If he generously invested himself in us,

he also invested himself in the very experience Larry and I are enjoying here in Brazil. He never knew what our family would need. He never knew we would benefit. He never knew we would follow the focus of his life. But he gave...and we're receiving!

Today is the 26th anniversary of his memorial service. Sixty-three is too young to die. But it's not too short to be a powerful influence for a long, long time. His footprints are still pressed into the red soil of Brazil and countless other countries of the Americas.

His life is still my blessing.

His Shoes was written by **Kathie Lichtenwalter**

while she and Larry were attending Institute in preparation for serving at Middle East University (MEU) in Beirut, Lebanon, where Larry is dean of the School of Theology and Philosophy and director of the Institute of Islamic and Arabic Studies. Previously, the Lichtenwalters served the Village Adventist Church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where Larry was senior pastor for 27 years and Kathie had a violin studio and was active in church life. They have five grown sons and two beautiful daughters-in-law.



Kathie's parents, Iva and David Baasch.



Kathie and Larry Lichtenwalter overlooking Beirut, Lebanon.





Kebe's Smile

Kebe greets me with a smile that seems to compete with the African sun above.

He's a Global Mission pioneer, serving in two remote villages in northern Botswana. He's the first pioneer I've ever met and I feel excited as I sit down to talk with him and a group of members from the Kasane Adventist Church who support his work.

Kebe looks down at the ground and is quiet for several moments. "I didn't want to be a Global Mission

"I feel so happy that I helped bring these people to Jesus."



pioneer at first,” he says softly, as if making a confession. “I thought I was too young and inexperienced.”

Elder Alex, who leads the two church plants Kebe started in Satau and Para Karunga, chuckles. “When Kebe started this work in 2010, there was no Adventist presence here at all. In just two years he’s baptized more than 30 people.”

“How’s that make you feel?” I ask Kebe. Kebe’s face erupts in a radiant smile. “I feel so happy to know that I was the one who helped bring these people to Jesus,” he says. “I thank God for that. But now I am praying for more.”

When Kebe began working in Satau, he moved into one of the village homes to live among the people. He doesn’t own a car so every day he walks a long way on hot, dusty roads to visit his neighbors. He studies the Bible and prays with them and asks about their families and struggles. He stops at the health clinic to share a Bible promise with the doctors and nurses and prays for the patients. The school children love him because he reads them Bible stories. Kebe even prays with the village chief.

“I also visit the local churches,” Kebe says. “I introduce myself to the members and worship with them and before long they invite me to preach!”

Global Mission pioneers venture into areas with no Adventist presence to plant new groups of believers. They’re laypeople who work within their own culture and speak the local language. Since 1990 they have helped establish more than 13,000 new congregations. To learn more about their unique ministry, visit www.global-mission.org.

We currently have **10 Global Mission projects** and **9 Global Mission pioneers** in Botswana. Please pray for each of them.

Kebe became a Seventh-day Adventist in 2008 and spent two years training in evangelism ministry. “I love the word of God,” he says. “I want to help people be ready for Jesus’ soon coming.”

Kebe lives in a small one-room building. He has no electricity so he burns a candle for light. He has no running water so he fills a jug at a local pump and carries it to his room. He has no closet so he hangs his few articles of clothing on nails in the wall. He cooks on a kerosene stove and sleeps on a blanket on a concrete floor.

His work is challenging. Many of the villagers are atheists and spiritualists. Others, who are Christians, feel no need to go to church. Kebe often walks 12 kilometers between the villages on roads frequented by elephants and other wild-life. Yet

his passion and enthusiasm for Jesus soar on.

Satau has a population of more than 200 people and an Adventist congregation of 20 some members. They’ve purchased a plot of land and are worshiping in a temporary structure until there is enough money to build a permanent church home. Para Karunga has a population of around 500 people and a congregation of 10 members. They also have a plot of land and a temporary church structure.

“Kebe has really revitalized our work here,” says Elder Alex. We have new visitors every Sabbath and both congregations are growing. Many people in this area have changed because of Kebe’s hard work.”

The Office of Adventist Mission where I work strives to “Put a face on mission,”—to help church members get to know the real people serving as Global Mission pioneers around the world. *So, here’s my first real face*, I think as I look at Kebe. And as I do, Global Mission begins to look like a slender young man with big brown eyes that radiate compassion and joy.

“I want to thank everyone who supports Global Mission so that I can continue to serve God here in Botswana,” says Kebe.

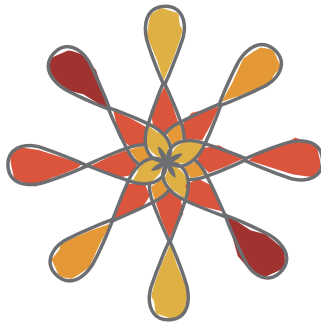
Please pray for Kebe and all our Global Mission pioneers around the world as they work every day to share Jesus’ love.

Laurie Falvo

Office of Adventist Mission



Life Hope centers



Centers of
Influence



Centers of influence are currently being established in cities around the world. Adventist Mission director, Gary Krause, recently answered some questions about this rapidly growing initiative.

Mission 360: Why is so much emphasis being given to urban mission at the moment?

Gary Krause: Well, the quick answer is that most people in the world now live in cities. More than 100 years ago Ellen White said the church had neglected the cities, and I'm afraid that didn't change in a hurry.

M360: What are Life Hope Centers?

GK: That's the

name we're giving to centers of influence that we hope to see in cities all over the world. It's a concept that comes from Ellen White, who had a vision to "establish in all our cities small plants which shall be centers of influence."

The idea is simple—start wholistic ministry centers in urban areas to connect the church to needs in the community. Ellen White envisaged centers including things such as lifestyle education, treatment rooms, bookstores/reading rooms, restaurants, literature ministry, lectures, instructions on preparing wholesome food, etc.

Today's Life Hope Centers may look different and offer some different services and ministries, but the principle remains the same—to connect with people's needs. In doing this, they're modeling the approach of Jesus, which Ellen White summarizes:

1. The Saviour mingled among people as One who desired their good.
2. He showed sympathy.
3. He ministered to people's needs.
4. He won confidence.
5. He bade them "Follow Me."

“More than 100 years ago Ellen White said the church had neglected the cities, and I'm afraid that didn't change in a hurry.”



M360: How big are Life Hope Centers?

GK: Ellen White opposed setting up huge urban institutions that would tie up the church's resources and personnel in just a few places. She felt that urban ministry should be distributed among many smaller centers.

"It is through the social relations that Christianity comes in contact with the world," she wrote. Life Hope Centers provide an opportunity for building that type of contact. She also urged Adventists to "strive to place themselves where they will come in direct contact with those needing help." That's exactly what Life Hope Centers do.

M360: What sort of building does a Life Hope Center require?

GK: In some parts of the world it may just be a rented room in a downtown area. In other places it may be more sophisticated. In some locations it might be a church hall. The shape or size of the center isn't so important—as long as it provides a platform for reaching out and meeting the needs of the surrounding community.

M360: Could my local church be a Life Hope Center?

GK: Absolutely. If it's located in an urban area it can be a springboard for community-based ministry. Of course, for many people in urban communities today the four walls of a church building are a looming barrier. In many



community and meet people where they are.

Unfortunately, many churches tend to spend more time and resources focusing on inward needs rather than on the community. A church that's following Christ's Method will focus outward, training and inspiring church members to mingle, show sympathy, meet needs, win confidence, and invite people to follow Jesus. If your church can do that, it can be a

Life Hope Center.

M360: How is the Office of Adventist Mission helping establish Life Hope Centers?

GK: We're providing some financial assistance, as well as on-going support for marketing, resources, and programming. We're developing a smorgasbord of expertly designed curricula that Life Hope Center leaders can download free from the Web. They include seminars on everything from cardiac health to birthing companion training—complete with PowerPoint slides, teacher notes, work sheets, etc. We're also adding many useful tools such as instructions on how to perform community assessment. There will be guides on how to plan various community events, and so much more. Everything can be adapted for the local context.

The idea is simple—start wholistic ministry centers in urban areas to connect the church to needs in the community.



cases a neutral space might be needed. But many churches could provide a base from which to reach out into the

In addition, we'll have Website design for local centers, templates for signage and branding, flyers, newspaper advertisements—all professionally designed to help local leaders put their center "on the map."

Where possible we want Life Hope Centers to have the same branding, but their look, style, and flavor will be shaped to local situations. Whatever their shape and size, the underlying philosophy and principles of operation will be consistent.

M360: How will they be financed and staffed?

GK: Apart from any help we or other church entities give to these

centers, the goal is for them to become self-sustaining financially. So where possible, they should be linked to some type of revenue-generating enterprise, such as a medical or dental clinic.

They utilize local Adventist workers, Global Mission pioneers, and volunteers—and partner with church departments, institutions, and lay organizations.

Church members can often feel frustrated with lack of opportunities to serve in ministry.

Life Hope Centers

provide an opportunity for involvement in ways that suit their gifts and interests. A church businessperson may never preach an evangelistic sermon, but she could run seminars on managing finances. Young people can run games and activities for community kids a few hours a week. The list goes on and on.

M360: So Life Hope Centers will be involved in all sorts of good things, but what's the ultimate goal?

GK: We want every center to have a plan to connect people in the community to Adventist small groups and urban church planting initiatives. This is key. We're not talking about just setting up more social service centers—as important as they are. Our care for the community is never conditional on people becoming Adventists—we'll still mingle, show sympathy, and minister to needs even if people never show any interest in our beliefs. But it's our goal to lead people to Jesus and to become baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Gary Krause is an associate secretary at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters and the director of the Office of Adventist Mission.



A Springboard for Urban Mission

The 1989 Global Strategy document, the blueprint for the church's Global Mission initiative, referred to the growing urban areas as just one of the church's biggest mission challenges. Today it's our biggest challenge.

Life Hope Centers provide an opportunity for wholistic ministry following the example of Jesus. They provide a springboard for all entities of the church to partner together in ministry to urban communities.

For further information visit www.MissionToTheCities.org or www.AdventistMission.org.

I See Light!

Meet Janie Yoo, an ophthalmologist serving as a medical missionary in Zambia.

Last week I had one of the nicest packages come in the mail. No, it wasn't a big care package filled with yummy treats from the U.S. It was something even better—a large Styrofoam cooler containing five precious fresh corneal tissues. And they were gorgeous in my sight!

Since I arrived in Zambia, I have been on a quest to find a steady source of fresh corneal tissues. My cornea transplant list continues to get longer by the day—even by the minute. As word has gotten out that I do transplants, patients have been coming to Lusaka Eye Hospital for evaluation. Some of them have been on a wait list for years. I insist that they come see me for an evaluation before we decide to put them on the final transplant list.

Receiving this package meant that five people would receive the gift of sight—a 34-year-old nun, a 49-year-old man, a 38-year-old woman, a 17-year-old girl in her first year of university, and a 39-year-old man with HIV whom I'll call Jon.

Jon was completely blind in his left eye due to some AIDS-related retinopathy, and upon examining him I found that his right cornea was perforated.

I told Jon he probably needed a PK triple (corneal transplant plus cataract surgery plus intraocular lens implantation). Since we didn't have fresh tissue



Clockwise from top left: Janie and her husband, Paul.; Janie opening her special package; Janie performing surgery; Janie Yoo with several of her patients.



removed the patch yourself. Jon was so excited. He kept saying, 'I see light! I see light!' as he looked around in wonder that he could see."

at the time, the best we could do was to stabilize the cornea with a glycerol transplant and try to obtain fresh tissue in the future.

Jon was so discouraged, he went to another ophthalmologist for a second opinion. That ophthalmologist sent him back to me, recommending I take the perfectly good cornea from Jon's blind left eye and transplant it into his right eye. I wasn't convinced that I wanted to do surgery on both eyes, especially as the right cornea had a big hole in it. Fortunately, a few days after Jon returned to my office, I was notified that Midwest Eye Banks was sending some fresh corneal tissues. We phoned Jon immediately and told him the good news.

The PK triple surgery on Jon was a success. The nurse who removed the patch told me later, "I wish you had



As an ophthalmologist serving in Zambia, Janie Yoo not only helps patients see physical light but the Light of the World as she shares Jesus' love every day in her office. She is originally from California, and her husband, Paul, who is a dentist, is from Hawaii. Both are graduates from Loma Linda University. Janie and Paul have been missionaries in Zambia for nearly two years.



It Can't Be Done

Volunteer mission service has been a vital part of the Adventist Church since its beginning.

I well remember my first experience with a volunteer. I was a twelve-year-old missionary kid living in Tanzania in 1964 when Lloyd Logan came from the United States as a volunteer to help at Heri and Kendu Bay Hospitals.

Lloyd often came by our mission station so we got to know him quite well. To us missionary kids, it seemed like there was nothing he couldn't do. He was a great trumpet player and said he got that way by practicing with his trumpet hung from a string so his lips just touched the mouthpiece. He could play any hymn at church and, wow! He even climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro by himself carrying a 70-pound pack. Lloyd was the first recorded student missionary to go to Africa. When he approached the General Conference administration about volunteering, he was told there was no procedure for sending volunteers and that it simply couldn't be done. However, the General Conference president saw potential in the use of volunteers and was able to work out the details. To Lloyd this was a miracle. You can expect to see his story in an upcoming issue.

Initially, volunteers were processed as full-time missionaries because there was no system for recruiting and sending them out. In 1996 the Adventist Volunteer Service (AVS) was established as an arm of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Secretariat. Today the AVS program combines some 800 requests from 78 countries with more than 1,300 volunteers coming from 72 countries. We are truly a global service impacting the world for Jesus.



The Thomas family in Tanzania in 1964: Elder Fred and Jean Thomas, and their four children (left to right) Dave, Peter, Fred, and John.

Today Adventist organizations with needs can post these opportunities through our system so that those wishing to volunteer can see them and apply. We always have many more needs posted (currently 435) than we have volunteers to fill them, so the opportunity is great. Perhaps you could fill one of these openings!

The volunteer demographics have been shifting in recent years. Historically, most volunteers came from North America. Now we see about half of the volunteers coming from other countries. This is the result of a rapid growth in Adventist higher education producing available student volunteers and graduates who are willing to serve. Some of the world divisions and colleges/universities are becoming very active in promoting volunteering. About half of the volunteers are university age with the balance being adult through retirement age.

The largest single group of volunteers is teaching English in Asia. The next group is elementary and secondary teachers serving in the Guam-Micronesia islands. Then there are all the volunteers who do a large variety of things from assistant deans to pilots, doctors, developers, IT programmers, communications, cooks, maintenance, accountants, and build-

ers. There is virtually no limit to what a volunteer can do!

Each edition of *Mission 360°* will feature stories from past and present volunteers. You will get to read about their experiences, struggles, and joys and see how God is still very active in missionary life.

If you have been a volunteer, we want your stories! Please send them to AVSpublications@gc.adventist.org. If you are thinking about volunteering, please visit www.AdventistVolunteers.org for more information.

Choose to become an active participant in mission—it is where Jesus becomes real to you and to the unreached thousands.

John Thomas is an associate secretary at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters and the director of Adventist Volunteer Service.





Dilemma of a Design Student

Usually when Boloro wanted something she would smile. But today she was serious.

My final exam is on Sabbath," she said. "Please, would you ask my school director if I can take my exam on Sunday?"

I was so happy that she had chosen to be strong and faithful to her God! But what would I say to the director? I had met her several times over the past four years of Boloro's course in clothing design. I had also

school only on this one day. There was nothing she could do to change that. I understood. This was an oral exam. Boloro could not do her exam apart from those teachers.

"There are 48 students to be tested on Saturday," the director told me, "and we allow an average of 15 minutes for each



Boloro at her graduation.

"I realize that it's impossible for you to do anything. But I will pray to my God and ask Him to fix this problem."

marveled at Boloro's ability to sew garments with such precision, especially the intricate Mongolian national dells she'd produced while living with us. She deserved to do well.

I claimed the promise in Exodus 4:12, "I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say," a memory verse I had learned as a child. I prayed constantly, "Lord, please give me the words to speak!"

The director was as friendly as usual. But when I explained why Boloro wanted to do her exam on Sunday she was adamant. It was just impossible. This was a government exam and totally out of her control. The examiners would come to the

one of them. I cannot really say when they will finish."

"So if they start at 9 a.m., maybe they won't finish until after sundown," I said, "Could she be tested last?"

"I really can't guarantee that," the director answered. "Can't she just do the exam this year and worship her God next year? It's impossible to change anything now."

"I realize that it's impossible for you to do anything," I said. "But I will pray to my God and ask Him to fix this problem." At this the director stood up and ushered me out of the room.

I continued to pray for Boloro and emailed many friends to support me – people from Australia, America, every-

where. In the meantime, Boloro's classmates could not believe her attitude. "What kind of God is this," they asked her, "who would not let you finish your course just because your exam is on Saturday?" On Sabbath morning Boloro sent a text message to her class teacher. It read, "I can't come today. Don't worry." Her teacher replied, "What? This choice is crazy. Come to school!" Boloro also sent her family a message saying, "I can't go to school today." Her sister was so upset, she rang me. "Boloro tells me she's not planning to do her exam today. Even if she did the exam next year, it might be held again on Saturday, then what?"

Boloro's sister is a very committed Christian who knows her Bible. I reminded her that God has promised that if we honor Him, He will honor us, like he did for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. But she still thought Boloro was making a mistake.

Boloro went to church as planned. After church she received many messages from her teachers and director, saying, "Come to school. We are waiting for you. Hurry!" Her teachers were very worried. They really wanted all their students to pass.

At 3 p.m., Boloro's class teacher sent her a message, "Come quickly! There is still time for you to do your exam." Boloro replied, "I really want to do my exam but I will come to school after sundown." At 6 p.m. her diploma teacher called her. This woman was known to be easily angered. "Where are you?" she asked. "I will come soon," said Boloro. The teacher hung up with an exasperated sigh.

Just after sundown Boloro went to school. She was amazed to find that 15 of her classmates had not yet taken their exam although it was already so late. Her friends could hardly believe it. Every year the clothing designers were examined first, and the shoe designers second. "Your God must be a strong God because this year the shoe designers were examined first," they told her. They were beginning to see what kind of God she had!

The Adventist Volunteer Service

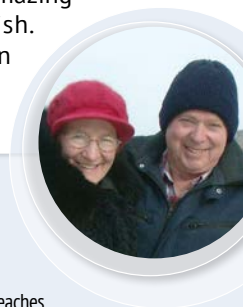
(AVS) is a non-profit, humanitarian organization that is designed to assist the Seventh-day Adventist Church in proclaiming the gospel to people everywhere through the ministry of Adventist Volunteers. Adventist volunteers may serve as pastors, ESL teachers, school librarians, computer technicians, orphanage workers, and more. If you are interested in serving as a volunteer, please visit our Website (www.AdventistVolunteers.org) to apply.



.....
Twenty years ago we had no members in Mongolia. Today we have more than 1,000.

"At 2 a.m., I did my exam," Boloro told me. "The government teachers had already gone home. They were just too tired. So now there were only the director and two other teachers to question me about my work. But my director didn't check my work. She spent half the time talking about religion. 'The Mongolian government allows religious freedom so if you want to believe in Christ that's okay,' she told me, 'but on examination day, if you don't do the exam, your work of four years will be wasted. Your belief is so strange. I don't want you to fail your exam, but I'm not happy. Next time you think about that!' I just smiled. It was a long ten minutes. I was so happy when it was all over."

At 3:30 a.m., the last student finished her exam. At 4:00 a.m., the students' results were announced just as the light of a new morning began filtering through the window. Boloro got a B, but more amazing than that, she had her wish. She had done her exam on Sunday. And God had done the impossible for her.



Originally from Australia, **Coral Camps** writes from Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, where she and her husband, Doug, have been serving as volunteer missionaries since March 2006. Doug teaches cabinet-making skills, while Coral divides her time between being his personal assistant and teaching conversational English to some of the locals.

Adventist Mission Stories on DVD

There is nothing like reading a great mission story, but some would say that seeing one is even better. Now you can watch up-to-date stories about real missionaries and hear life-changing testimonies from people who have met Jesus for the first time.

A free copy of the Adventist Mission DVD is sent to each Seventh-day Adventist church in the North American

Division. If you've never seen it, ask for it at your church office. This resource is produced by the Office of Adventist Mission at the world church headquarters.

"Many church members wonder whatever happens to their mission offerings," says Gary Krause, director of Adventist Mission. "This DVD will show how they are bringing hope



and changing lives around the world. We owe it to our church members to report back on what happens with their mission offerings."

To watch mission stories online, please visit www.AdventistMission.org.



TWO Taxi Drivers, One Tale



In the midst of chaotic traffic on a sunny day in Jakarta, Indonesia, a taxi driver picked up a passenger from a hospital near the Cideng district.

Why are you visiting the hospital today?" asked the driver. "I have been seeing a doctor for abdominal pain," replied the passenger. "I have just discovered that I have a tumor and will need surgery."

The driver was sympathetic. "Why don't you go to Club Sehat (Health Club) in Cideng? Maybe they can help you. It is a place where they teach you how to live healthfully." The passenger's curiosity was piqued. He could not wait a moment longer and asked to be taken there right away.

Inside Club Sehat, a health lecture was in full swing. He listened with interest and then made an appointment to see Liong Pit Lin, one of the principal health lecturers. She has devoted herself to lifestyle ministry after surviving three types of cancer. Liong Pit Lin recommended several lifestyle changes, and the man faithfully followed the new principles he had learned. Several months later, his doctor found that the tumor had significantly shrunk.

A second taxi driver, in another part of town, was a Protestant Christian. Though Fendy* had retired, he had decided to continue driving as a ministry to his passengers. He was a keen listener of the weekly Adventist radio broadcasts on health and became familiar with Club Sehat through them. Fendy started attending health

lectures and became so excited about the health message, he shared it with all of his passengers.

Fendy discovered that witnessing about health crossed all religious and cultural boundaries. Today he brings his passengers to Club Sehat on a regular basis.

What do these two taxi drivers have in common? For one, they are excited about Club Sehat. Second, they have both become ambassadors of Club Sehat. Their message is the same: if you wish to improve your quality of life, Club Sehat is the place to go. They have become ardent supporters because they themselves have followed the health messages and have seen their own health improve remarkably. There are no expensive advertising campaigns. By word of mouth alone, the news has spread.

Club Sehat is the brainchild of a group of laypeople from five churches who are committed to reaching out to the affluent living in Jakarta, a city of 12 million people. Since 2003 they have faithfully followed Ellen White's counsel on reaching the cities by making their churches centers of influence [see page 10]. They started a weekly radio broadcast on health topics, drawing a continuous stream of interested listeners to Club Sehat. The health lectures given on Sabbath and Sunday afternoons

are enthusiastically received. As of 2013, there are three Club Sehat locations. I have visited the clubs several times, and each time I am amazed at the receptive, excited audience.

After health presentations come 30-minute inspirational messages delivered by a pastor. Most guests stay for the sermon. Here the gospel and medical missionary work in concert.

"Medical missionary work is the right hand of the gospel. . . . As the right hand of the third angel's message, God's methods of treating disease will open doors for the entrance of present truth" (*Testimonies*, Vol. 7, p. 59).

To finance this unique ministry, our resourceful lay people pioneered the health food





Left to right: Liong Pit Lin, principal health lecturer and cancer survivor; The Healthy Grocery Store sells a wide variety of natural foods. Proceeds from the sales help finance the outreach program; Cooking demonstrations are always well attended; Some of the founding members of Club Sehat pictured with G. T. Ng, far right. **Below:** Radio health talk show; Bible study class.

grocery store located in each club. After attending the lectures, members of the audience patronize the stores after sundown on Sabbath and on Sunday afternoons. There are cooking demonstrations on Sundays, and the freshly cooked vegetarian foods are sold out quickly. Part of the proceeds from the stores is reinvested into the ministry, so these health club churches are self-sufficient. They do not depend on conference subsidies: the Jakarta Conference subsidizes the rent for only one year at the outset.

Club Sehat also offers health consultations for individuals and families. Liong Pit Lin shoulders the lion's share of the consultations. As health problems are often related to spiritual maladies, she brings biblical principles to the forefront. Here we can see Ellen White's stated formula of success at work. She says,

“Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with
m e n

as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, “Follow Me” (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).

Club Sehat is the place where mingling, showing sympathy, ministering to needs, and winning confidence are taking place.

All over Jakarta, the affluent are looking for answers. They have lived the “good life,” yet many are afflicted with debilitating lifestyle diseases. They know medication is not a permanent solution, so they come looking for alternatives.

One of the people looking for answers was a top fashion designer. Though well-heeled and well-educated, he was really a broken man. While on a business trip to Bali, he happened to be staying in the same hotel as Dewi, another Club Sehat health presenter. One day he chanced upon Dewi praying and pleaded with her to pray for his health. Dewi shared some health tips with him and invited him to attend the health lectures in Jakarta. After he returned to Jakarta, Liong Pit Lin and Dewi visited him in his

home. He followed their recommendations and couldn't help but notice the marked improvement in his health. Later, he attended health seminars at Club Sehat and quit smoking. Today he is a regular visitor and often brings his friends from the entertainment world.

Except for the church pastors, all workers in this specialized ministry are volunteers. Their health ministries are lay-initiated, lay-motivated, and lay-committed. The health and spiritual messages are presented side by side, the right hand and the left hand of the message collaborating together. There are no high-pressure tactics. In a quiet and sustained manner, Club Sehat serves its community.

Whenever Ellen White's counsel is taken seriously, God blesses abundantly. The service of Club Sehat testifies to this fact. We praise the Lord for prospering this ministry.

Acknowledgments: Arlaine Djim and Irene Tarigan have contributed to the contents and pictures of this article. Arlaine is one of the charter members of the Chinese Ministry Center (CMC), and Irene is one of the health educators of CMC.

* Not his real name.

G. T. Ng is the executive secretary at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.





Sharing the Privilege



CAMBODIA
Currency: riel



JORDAN
Currency: dinar



RUSSIA
Currency: ruble

Have you ever had a moment when it felt as though supporting the mission work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was a burden? When you thought your offerings and gifts would barely make a difference? Depending on where you live, it might even seem like “we” are raising all the money for mission work “over there.”

The good news is that church members around the globe share the same eternal values you do. We want Jesus to come soon! And instead of feeling weighed

down with responsibility, it is good to know that we share the privilege of supporting mission work.

In some countries the offering is collected by passing a pail, plate, basket, or an ornamental bowl. In other places the custom might be the use of a bag or wooden box attached to a pole. An usher would typically hold one end of the pole to guide the container from one person to the next across a long row of people.

One visitor to another country was surprised to observe a very inventive method of collection. Two ushers on either end of a row held a long piece of tape. As they moved slowly down the aisle, they carried the tape above the heads of the people in such a way that members could simply reach up and attach their offering to the sticky surface.

No matter how we give, it is a privilege to support the mission outreach of the church. When all of us do our part we can make sure that missionaries and Global Mission pioneers can continue to do their special work.

Thank you for sharing the privilege.



CAMEROON
Currency: Communaut Financiere Africaine Franc



Offering collection at Koza Adventist Church, Cameroon.

Nancy Kyte
Office of Adventist Mission



Four ways to give a mission offering:

- 1 Give to Missions during Sabbath School
- 2 Mark a tithe envelope “World Budget” at your local church
- 3 Give online at <https://giving.AdventistMission.org>
- 4 Call 800-648-5824



A Cannibal No More

Cannibalism is not dead. The practice of killing—and devouring—enemies sometimes raises its ugly head even today, even among what appears to be peaceful people.

Daniel is a Dayak, the main tribal group on the island of Borneo in Indonesia. Daniel had been baptized as an infant, but Christianity had not changed him. One day after he had been drinking, Daniel got into an argument with his wife. He picked up the Bible and challenged her. "If this Bible is really God's Word," he shouted, "then let God show me the right path, and I will follow it."

Several days later Daniel met his old friend Jaki. The two men had once been members of a gang, but Jaki had accepted Jesus as his Savior. Jaki challenged Daniel, "If you really want to follow God, then go with me to the Adventist church." Soon Daniel began attending church with Jaki.

A few months later war broke out between the Dayak and Madurese tribes. At first Daniel protected some Madurese people in his

home, but when his uncle was killed, he went crazy with anger. He sent the people he had been protecting out of his home and went to join the Dayak warriors.

But before the Dayak would fight, they visited the house of the ancestor spirits to ask for advice. Armed with assurance, Daniel and the other warriors took up their primitive knives and wooden shields and set out to fight their enemies.

For three weeks the Dayak warriors fought under the influence of the spirits. They ate nothing but the flesh of their enemies.

Daniel returned home when the fighting ended, but he was no longer the loving man his family had known. His wife was afraid that evil spirits had possessed him. She prayed that God would free him and bring peace to their home.

The weight of Daniel's deeds wore him down. He



wondered how God could forgive him. "Heaven is not mine anymore," he moaned.

The pastor visited Daniel and heard his confession. "You must confess to the church and to God," he said.

"Pastor," Daniel replied, "I've asked God many times to forgive me. But the weight on my heart grows heavier. I want to know that I am forgiven." Daniel took the pastor's advice and confessed his sin to the church. He asked those he had harmed to forgive him. Then he asked the pastor to baptize him.

Daniel offered his life to God. "If it is Your will, God, I am willing to work among the people whom I persecuted," he prayed.

Today Daniel's sword is the Bible, and his shield is his faith in God. He became a Global Mission pioneer and planted a church among his own people in an area not far from where he once lived. In the first six months of his work seven people were baptized and 20 more are now preparing for baptism.

From the darkest jungles to the biggest cities in the world, your donations help support Global Mission pioneers, such as Daniel, as they lead people to Jesus.

Charlotte Ishkanian
Office of Adventist Mission



The Adventist Church in Kalimantan has about **8,000 members**. Global Mission pioneers form a major outreach force in this area.



Sharing the “Gentle Message” in Armenia

First official Adventist radio programs broadcast in Armenia.

Adventist World Radio (AWR) recently began broadcasting programs in the Armenian language, the latest in a line-up of nearly 100 languages offered by the radio arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. A local radio station in the capital city of Yerevan and another in Vanadzor will carry programming on spirituality, health, and family.

“Many young people are moving to the capital for jobs and education since the nation is facing hard economic times,” says Vigen Khachatryan, media center director for the church’s Transcaucasus Union Mission in Tbilisi, Georgia. “Radio programs can help the church’s outreach efforts in Armenia because Armenians are more open to the gentle message from media than from so-called ‘sectarians.’”

This is the first time that official Adventist radio programs will be heard in Armenia. Knarik Petrosyan,

The new AWR radio production team in Armenia includes a businessman, a student, and an entire family.



a student at Yerevan State University, is heading up a production team from a studio built by AWR. The team includes businessman Tigran Stepanyan, who serves as a presenter and programmer, and the Mkhitarian family. Hovik is a journalist, and his wife, Gegecik, is a teacher. Their son, Joseph, is 10 years old.

Within the next few months Armenian programming will also be available

Left to right: Hovik, Joseph, and Gegecik Mkhitarian work together to produce Armenian programs for Adventist World Radio.



online—on demand at www.awr.org and as podcasts through www.awr.org and iTunes. Online access is particularly valuable as there are more than four million Armenians living outside of their home country.

Shelley Nolan Freesland

Communication director,
Adventist World Radio



Adventist World Radio is the official global radio ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its mission is to broadcast the Adventist hope in Christ to the unreached people groups of the world in their own languages. AWR’s programs can be heard in nearly 100 languages through AM/FM and shortwave radio, on demand, and podcasts at www.awr.org and iTunes.

Located at the foot of Mount Ararat, **Armenia is the oldest official Christian country in the world.** It has a population of some **2.5 million people** with **less than 1,000 Adventist church members.**

From Shepherd of Sheep to Shepherd of Men

Alex enjoys tending sheep. As a young man, he worked as a shepherd in the rugged hills of Serbia.



Here he learned what it takes to lead sheep down treacherous passes to cool running streams and fresh green pastures.

As Alex grew older, he felt the call to become a different kind of shepherd, a shepherd of men. He enrolled at the Adventist theological seminary several hours from home in Serbia's capital, Belgrade. Here he learned how to lead men and women to the word of God and to



Serbia

Adventist Membership: 6,623*

Adventist Churches: 168*

*Courtesy of the General Conference Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research Annual Statistical Report 2010.

develop a relationship with Christ Jesus. Alex felt he'd found his true calling.

Upon graduation five years ago, he felt a burden to gather a flock of new believers rather than pastor an established church. So the Adventist Church in Serbia asked him to plant a new congregation in Pirot, a region in southern Serbia where there were virtually no Adventists.

Most people in this region are firmly planted in their current faiths and are not open to Adventist beliefs. They're also reluctant to visit churches of other faiths. Alex felt that traditional evangelism would not work, so he took a different approach.

Pirot, like most Serbian towns, has a large city square filled with bustling

shops, crowded cafes, and lots of people. Alex thought this might be a perfect place to start his new church. He asked the shopkeeper of one of Pirot's most popular cafés—a sweet shop with a large outdoor sitting area—if he could hold an hour-long meeting in the evenings. The shopkeeper agreed because he thought it might add to his business.

Within a few weeks Alex had the café filled with people who were interested in what he had to say but who normally wouldn't have come to his church. Even the shopkeeper, who was a member of another faith, occasionally attended the meetings. Within six months two small groups formed that met several times a week in other locations.

As the group continued to grow, Alex looked for a place to meet on

Sabbath, but there were no halls in Pirot for him to rent. Then he happened upon a storefront that was available. It was on a major street in town with plenty of parking nearby. He rented it.

It didn't take long to run out of space in the storefront, however the large storeroom was conveniently empty. Alex turned the storeroom into an overflow sanctuary by setting up a video camera in the storefront and a video projector and speakers in the storeroom, creating his own closed-circuit television system. Now he has plenty of room for church on Sabbath.

In the past four years 37 people have been baptized. What seemed impossible when Alex arrived five years ago has become a reality.

Hans Olson

Office of Adventist Mission





Entering Persia

On May 18, 1911, two young men stood shivering somewhere in the Caucasus Mountains in what was then Russian Armenia. Frank Oster, 29, and Henry Dirksen, 21, were about to attempt to take the Third Angel's Message for the first time into the ancient nation of Persia.

Frank was born in Switzerland in 1881 and later emigrated to the United States with his family. Half a century later, a friend recalled that Frank “early had a desire to dedicate his life to God, and as a young minister he began preparing for mission service.”

As a student at Walla Walla College in 1909, Oster volunteered to go to “Persia” and sailed to Germany to undergo missionary training at the Adventist college. On the ship was another young American Adventist, Henry Dirksen. He had also studied at Walla Walla and then at the Foreign Mission Seminary in Takoma Park; he had been called to work in Germany.

In October 1910, Oster left Germany for Baku near the Russo-Persian border. Two months later Dirksen left Germany, having been called to join Oster. Their journeys were slow because of troubled political and social conditions in the Caucasus region of Russia. Once they arrived, they would spend the next six months in Baku.

Today Baku is the capital of Azerbaijan, which emerged from the breakup of the Soviet Union. Historically, Azerbaijan was split in two: a province in northern Persia and a province of the Russian Empire. Russian Azerbaijan was a good place to prepare for

entering Iran for many Persian-speaking tribesmen lived on the Russian side of the border. There was also a small community of Adventists in Russian Azerbaijan, dating back to 1906. The two missionaries worked with this group of believers who were drawn from across the Caucasus.

Oster and Dirksen waited on clearance to enter Iran and finally it came. They headed for the ancient city of Tabriz by way of Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, which was then part of the Russian Empire and where there was a small group of Adventist believers. They reported: “We spent five very profitable days with our people. . . . The Lord blessed our work, and hearts were melted by the Holy Spirit.” But this was just a brief stop before they moved on.

They finally crossed the Persian frontier on May 18, 1911, commencing Adventist mission in Iran. They sent a postcard to church leaders in the United States:



In fact, things did not go as smoothly as they hoped. Oster later described their arrival:

“Midnight found us in Julfa on the Russian side of the Aras River, the boundary line between



But in 1914 World War I broke out and the Ottoman Empire declared war on Russia and the other Allies. Iran remained neutral, but the Turks and Russians mounted major campaigns in the Caucasus region. Bands of Kurdish tribesmen raided and killed in the plains around Lake Urmia. Florence had just given birth to

only heard from family about once a year, and were, as Oster wrote, “cut off from all bank connections.” Twenty thousand people were sick with typhus and thousands died of starvation. Yet even now the Osters remained at their posts.

Ultimately, Frank served for 35 years in the Middle East, 27 of them in Iran, the rest in Turkey. He and his family seem to have had only two furloughs; but when they did return to the United States, they spent part of their time visiting camp meetings and churches to encourage young people to go as missionaries.

The Osters were the very embodiment of the bold, selfless missionary spirit that characterized this church

Until after the end of the war, they only heard from family about once a year, and were, as Oster wrote, “cut off from all bank connections.” Twenty thousand people were sick with typhus and thousands died of starvation. Yet even now the Osters remained at their posts.

Russia and Persia. In the morning after inspection by the customs officers we crossed in a small open rowboat in the midst of a heavy rainstorm to the Persian border. Here we loaded our baggage on donkeys and went to the automobile station. . . . We were informed, however, that the late rains had greatly damaged the road, so we were obliged, after a two-day’s wait, to drive to the next station.”

In Tabriz, Oster and Dirksen “began language studies, and made themselves acquainted with the manners and customs of the people by visiting the villages.” Dirksen returned to the United States, but in 1913 Oster’s wife, Florence, joined him and they settled in Maragheh, a town east of Lake Urmia. Florence put much effort into learning the language, including teaching English to local women as a way of learning from them!

her first child, Kenneth, but they, with thousands of others, became refugees, fleeing over the Sahand Mountains towards the safety of Tabriz. It was in the bitterly cold, snow-clad mountains that Frank, Florence, and Kenneth spent Christmas of 1914. They were then evacuated to Russia.

But by 1917 they were back in Tabriz, enduring difficult circumstances. Until after the end of the war, they

from its early days and that continues to inspire thousands to follow in their footsteps in service around the world.

Born to missionary parents in India, **David Trim** is the director of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters. Visit www.AdventistArchives.org.





Thank God for Bugs?



“Is Sammie okay?” I screamed.

The day started like all the rest. My sleep was disturbed by my young son’s cry for his morning nourishment. Half asleep, I tripped to the kitchen to make him a bottle. As I reached the filtered water container, I started to feel something – no, many things – crawling up my legs. Then they bit me! I screamed as I ran back to the safety of my room, not realizing that they were there, too. That Monday when I woke up, about 10,000 *almaze* or acid bugs, were all over my living room floor and front porch. It took about one and a half hours to sweep them out. They are nasty bugs that shoot a skin-burning enzyme when cornered. Red and black in color, they are only the size of an elongated ant, but the sore their bite produces takes a week to heal.

Tuesday should have been a better day, but it was worse. Instead of acid bugs, there were at least 100,000 biting black ants! Their half-inch wide trails came from the front porch (the door has a huge gap in it, of course) and led to the living room and two of the bedrooms.

My mind was in a whirl, remembering that last year a swarm of these ants came into our chicken house and stung and killed an adult chicken. I had thought

the chicken had died and they were eating it, but what really happened was that they had traveled up to the hen’s roost, covered her, and killed her. Binyam, our son-in-law, said that they were capable of even killing a small child, so my attention turned back to my little son, Sammie, who had wanted a bottle. He had stopped crying by then, and that is not like him.

“Is Sammie, okay?” I screamed to Dinqee, the eight-year-old wonder who reacts better than most teens I know. “Dinqee, ants in the house! Check Sammie and Henock; Hawii is okay!” I yelled, waking her out of the deep sleep she was enjoying at six in the morning.

My panic was quickly relieved when she assured me that both of the boys were untouched. I still don’t know why Sammie quieted down without his bottle. But I am glad he did, because Dinqee and I had our hands full.

Dinqee ran for the insect spray, bravely forging through the sea of biting ants barefoot! I scrambled for shoes and started sweeping as many of these pests out of the house as possible. Everywhere I turned there was a new trail of them; they were under the linoleum, behind the sofa, and along the wall toward the

My son Sammie with Dinqee who helped me with the bug extermination.



bathroom. The smaller ants didn't seem to attack, but the larger ones with big heads were out to get us. Kenny, our son, was unaware of our dilemma, and slept through it all. Dinqee and I had to do a dance with our feet to keep the bugs from climbing our legs while we were ridding the house of them. When these ants bite, they hold on for dear life and have to be picked off of your bleeding toes and feet.

By this time all the babies were awake and were wondering why we weren't fixing breakfast and playing on the porch, our normal morning ritual. Finally, we were able to awaken Kenny and he gladly carried each baby to the now-cleared porch. Dinqee and I sprayed, cleaned, and swept for over 3 hours, still finding stray biting ants between our toes every few minutes.

So, I hoped today would be an easier day. I woke up cautiously and checked the floor. No bugs so far. I checked the walkways to the front door and everything was clear.

"Yeah! Maybe we will finally have a normal day!" I said to Dinqee.

Then I heard Hawii cry from the bedroom. To my dismay, her eyes were almost completely swollen shut and

So what had seemed like an awful incident to me really did help us in the long run.

her face was beet red and swollen. I ran to my medicine chest looking frantically for some Benadryl but found only Children's Claritin. The label said that it was an antihistamine, so I gave her a dose. She seemed okay despite her ailment so I decided to fix breakfast and change diapers. I started to feed the babies when I noticed that Hawii was gagging on a pancake. Immediately I panicked, thinking that her airway could be compromised. Running up the hill to the hospital, I tried to find a doctor but all of them were doing patient rounds at the time. Hawii did not seem to be in distress at that point, so I patiently waited. The chaplain saw me and asked what was going on. She rerouted me to one of the other moms on campus who might have some Benadryl to share. I thought to myself, *Can't I have one morning this week where things go smoothly?* The mom helped me and reassured me of Hawii's recovery.

As I walked back down to the house, I held my daughter extra tightly. Through her distorted smile, I could see that she was feeling better. On examining the causes of her allergic reaction, only two seemed possible. Either acid bugs squirted their enzyme on the blanket she sleeps on or the very toxic bug spray we used those two mornings was more than she could handle. After receiving a visit from a physician, the reason became clear. The acid bugs were the culprits.

After the babies were all tucked into bed, I looked over at my comrade, Dinqee, and said, "Why do you think this all happened to us?"

She looked at me and smiled, "I think some of the ants and acid bugs have eaten a few of our cockroaches!"

I laughed. So what had seemed like an awful incident to me really did help us in the long run. Immediately I remembered a story from the life of Corrie ten Boom, a Holocaust survivor. She was in a concentration camp with her sister and the living conditions were atrocious. Corrie was upset at God and complained to her sister that she couldn't understand why God allowed lice to be all over them on top of everything else they had to endure. Her sister looked at her and explained that she had just heard the guards of the camp talking about coming into the barracks and hurting the women, but they didn't want to go into their barracks because of the lice. Our circumstances were not as dire as what these women had to endure, but the principle was the same. Sometimes the bad stuff in life that we have to endure is actually just the thing that helps us. Thank you, God, for the bugs. You know best!

Monica Barlow served as a volunteer missionary at Gimbie Hospital in Ethiopia. She had a myriad of responsibilities, including nurse staffing, malnutrition documentation, VBS and child evangelism. She helped start an orphanage, a street kids program, and an unwed mothers and widows program; organized several surgery projects; and helped build a church in the bush. Although she and her husband, Scott, have returned to the United States, they do short-term mission trips to the Gimbie area each year.

Monica and Scott Barlow with part of their family in Ethiopia.



The Want of the **World**



How can my church share the good news with our Buddhist community? What are the best ways to share Christ's love with my Hindu neighbor? How can I explain the hope of the Second Coming to my atheist co-worker? How do I help my Muslim friend understand what we believe?

Every day Adventists around the world struggle with these difficult questions, and if we're going to take Christ's commission seriously to "make disciples of all nations," we need relevant answers.

As a church we've been very successful at sharing the special truths of scripture with other Christians. But we've been reluctant to share the good news with people from non-Christian backgrounds, often because we just don't know where to start.

Global Mission has a lot to offer Seventh-day Adventists who want to share their faith and friendship with people from non-Christian backgrounds.

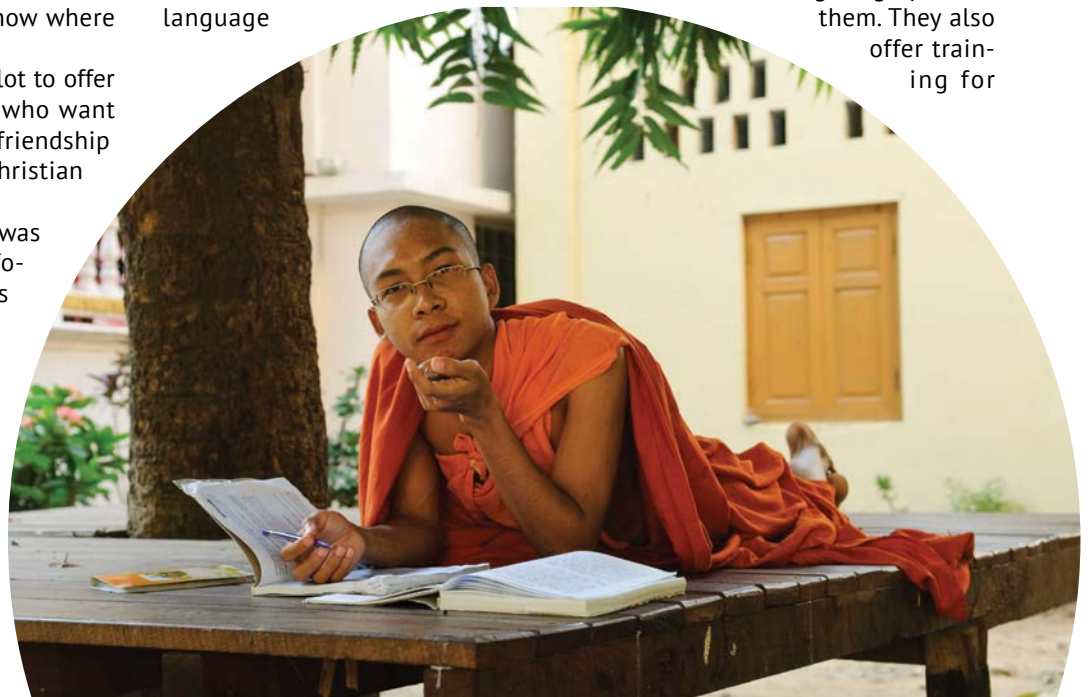
When Global Mission was established in 1990, it focused on three major shifts in how our Church traditionally thought about mission: 1) from reaching every nation to reaching every nation, tribe, language and people group 2) from where the growth was

easiest to where it is most difficult 3) from reaching mainly Christians to also reaching people from other religious traditions.

These shifts in focus resulted in two new approaches to mission. The first was to launch the Global Mission pioneer program. This program starts new groups of Adventist believers through the ministry of local church planters who are familiar with the language

and culture in an unreached area. Since 1990 these Global Mission pioneers have started more than 13,000 congregations with a presence in nearly every country of the world.

The second new approach was the establishment of Global Mission Study Centers. Their ministry helps Adventists understand the major world religions and their adherents and provides a wholistic approach to sharing the gospel with them. They also offer training for





The Global Mission Study Centers serve the Seventh-day Adventist Church by equipping leaders and members to effectively share the everlasting gospel and make disciples of Jesus among non-Christians.

They do this through many means including:

- promoting awareness of needs and calling for prayer and ministry for unreached people groups
- identifying bridges of communication through research and experimentation
- training in contextualized methods and models based on Christ's example of wholistic ministry
- providing relevant materials and resources for ministry, many of which are available at www.AdventistMission.org.

leaders, pastors, and members; produce outreach materials; and foster church planting in new areas.

There are six Global Mission Study Centers that help the church share

3. The Hindu Study Center
4. The Global Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations
5. The World Jewish-Adventist Friendship Center
6. The Urban Ministry Center

understand, there is an urgent need to share the Bible message in ways that meet people where they are. The express purpose of the Study Centers is to develop a witness that fosters communication. For more information



As a church we've been very successful at sharing the special truths of scripture with other Christians. But we've been reluctant to share the good news with people from non-Christian backgrounds, often because we just don't know where to start.

Christ intentionally with people from the major world religions and faith backgrounds:

1. The Center for East Asian Religions and Traditions
2. The Center for Secular and Post-Modern Studies

Each of the Global Mission Study Centers is committed to helping the Adventist Church and its members share the message of salvation in word and deed with a world that does not know much about Seventh-day Adventists.

Rather than presenting a message in terms that only Christians would

on how to reach people of other religious backgrounds, please visit www.AdventistMission.org.

Rick McEdward is the director of Adventist Mission's Global Mission Study Centers at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



The First Missionary Kid

Two weeks before her thirteenth birthday on September 29, 1874, Mary Andrews sailed from Boston, Massachusetts, with her dad, John Nevins Andrews, and her 16-year-old brother, Charles, for their mission assignment in Switzerland. Mary's father was the first official missionary sent overseas by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. But maybe you didn't realize that young Mary was also a missionary.

Mary's mother died when she was 10, so Mary did the grocery shopping, cooking, cleaning, and other housework once they settled in La Coudre, Switzerland. In addition, she and her brother studied French with a tutor for hours every day except Sabbath. The little family decided they would learn French faster if they spoke English between only 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. During that one hour she and Charles talked in English to each other just as fast as they could!

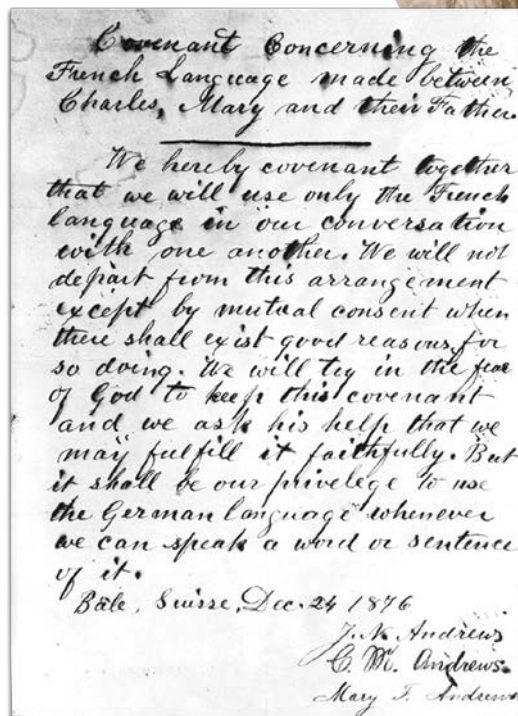
After the Andrews family had been in Switzerland about a year, the grocery money began to run out. Throughout the year Mary's dad had written six different tracts in French, and spent most of their funds printing those missionary journals. So in addition to all of Mary's other responsibilities, she began to pick grapes for vineyard owners in order to earn money for groceries. It was very hard work, but Mary was determined to do all she could to help the people of Switzerland learn more about Jesus and His soon coming.

In 1876 the Andrews family moved to Ba-

sel. With the rented house came a maid! Her assistance with cooking and cleaning gave Mary more time to help her dad with his publishing projects. Over time, Mary's French became so good that she was able to serve as copy editor for the French *Signs of the Times*. Professor Aufranc, who had been a French teacher, told people "Mary speaks French as though she were a French girl." Mr. Aufranc's praise made Mary hap-



The photos above are of Mary at different ages. The top picture shows her with her father, mother, and brother, Charles. At left is a copy of the promise Mary, Charles, and their father made to only speak French (and sometimes German) in their home.



py that she had studied French so diligently.

Unfortunately, Mary contracted tuberculosis and died when she was 17. She was the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary to give her life in mission service.

Adapted from *Mary Andrews: Companion of Sorrows* by Carolyn Byers. This article originally appeared in the August 2010 *KidsView*. Used with permission. Photos: Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University.



About our **cover photo** . . .

On a side street in Kinshasa, the booming capital city of the Democratic Republic of Congo, this curious little girl smiled at the sight of Adventist Mission photographer Ricky Oliveras and his camera equipment.

The city of Kinshasa is the second largest on the continent of Africa. There are 1,691 Adventist churches

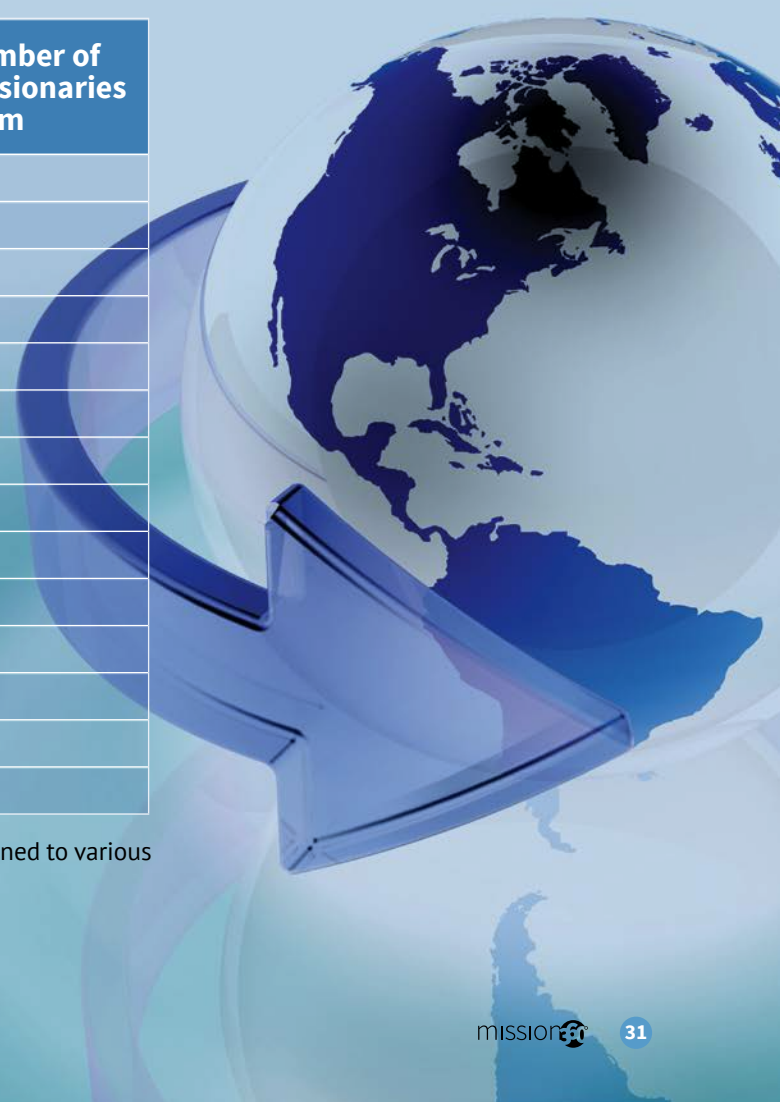
in this highly populated country of more than 68 million. Church membership is around 540,000.

Life is uncertain for countless children who live on the streets. However, citizens remain hopeful and remember that the star in the national flag symbolizes unity and a brilliant future for the country.

From **here** to **there** . . . Adventist missionaries still serve.

Region	Number of Missionaries Serving In	Number of Missionaries From
East-Central Africa	94	18
Euro-Asia	30	2
Inter-American	51	42
Inter-European	0	55
Middle East	51	2
North American	40	235
Northern Asia-Pacific	25	13
South American	14	86
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean	68	24
South Pacific	19	32
Southern Asia-Pacific	79	124
Southern Asia	16	9
Trans-European	15	36
West-Central Africa	49	16

In addition to this list, more than 100 missionaries are assigned to various General Conference institutions, services, and agencies.



Remember when mission work was the most important thing we did as a church?

It still is.

Every day nearly
1,000 Adventist
missionaries serve in more
than 200 countries around
the world. Some labor in remote
villages while others share Jesus'
love in the world's great cities.

Your prayers and support of the mission
offering and World Mission Budget help
give our missionaries the resources they
need to reach millions of people who are
still waiting to know Jesus.

Four ways to give a mission offering:

- Give to Missions during Sabbath School
- Mark a tithe envelope "World Budget" at your local church
- Give online at <https://giving.AdventistMission.org>
- Call 800-648-5824

ADVENTIST
MISSION

Thank you for being part of it!

