

mission360°

The official mission magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 4

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Editorial



At *Mission 360°* we continually receive stories from our volunteer missionaries, and as we read them, we see two phrases appearing again and again: “I came to the realization that I couldn’t do it on my own and needed God’s help” and “I needed to experience something more meaningful in my life.”

These phrases reveal the hollowness that many of us find in the messages that bombard us every day: that we’re capable on our own and that we can experience fulfillment without contributing to the positive welfare of others.

In “Ethan’s Evolution” (page 8), Lacy reveals how the self-reliance notion falls flat when she faces circumstances beyond her control—an unruly kindergarten student! When she reaches her earthly limit, she realizes that divine help has been available all along.

In “Mission on the Flip Side” (page 14), Jonathan decides to go as a volunteer to try something unusual before starting his “cubicle-dwelling career.” For him, the idea of doing the same old, same old every day offers few rewards for the heart. He discovers that service to others brings many surprises and blessings far beyond anything he could have dreamed.

In “The Blessing” (page 26), Jordan shares how God returned a greater blessing to her when she determined to help others and that these bountiful blessings can come from the most unlikely people, places, and events.

Volunteers often tell us that they needed something different in their lives, whether it be adventure, change, challenge, or service. They wanted to experience something that gave them a reason for being and found that special something in being volunteers.

Have you ever felt that there needs to be more to life than what you’ve experienced so far? If so, there are thousands of people longing for your helping hand and hundreds of options for serving. Please visit us at www.AdventistVolunteers.org to learn more.

If you have been a volunteer missionary, please share your stories with us so that we can share your experience with others.

John H. Thomas

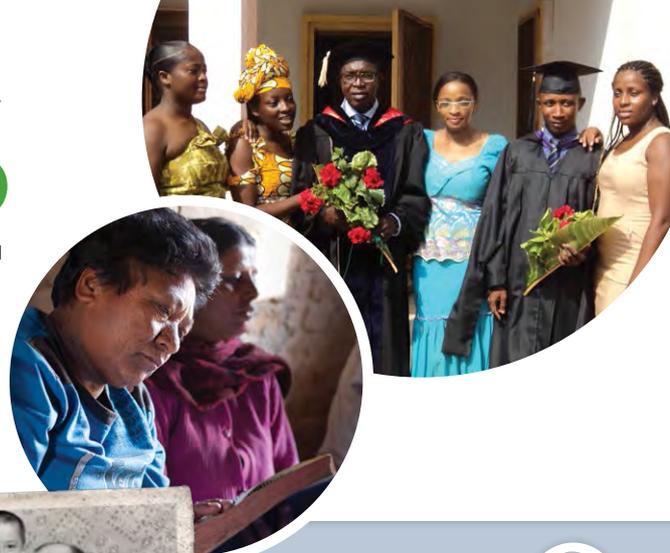
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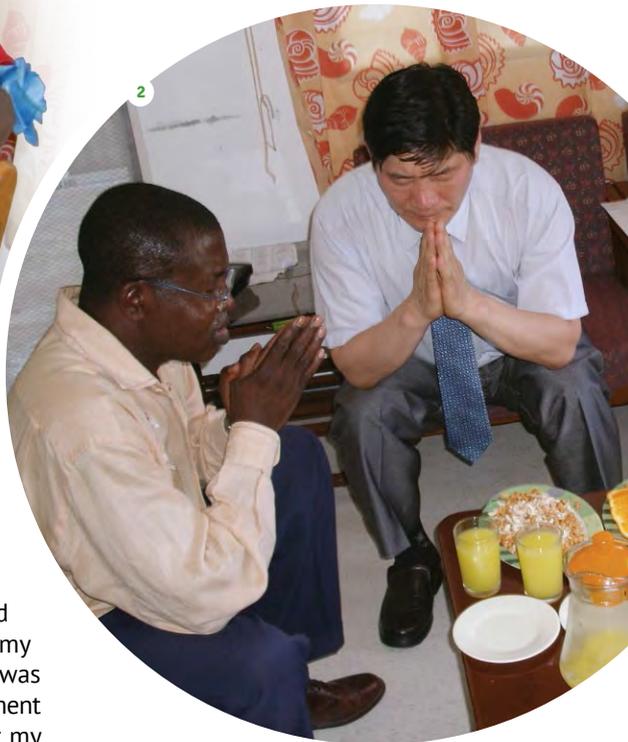
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He Called My Name



Do you remember the story in the book of Acts in which Saul becomes blind when he meets Jesus on the road to Damascus? In order to help Saul see again, God gives Ananias a vision, telling him to “inquire in the house of Judas for a man of Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying” (Acts 9:11, RSV). I love this story because it affirms my belief in God’s unlimited knowledge about us and His care for us. But there is another reason this story is special to me: God mentions Saul by name to Ananias and tells him to help Saul, and He did something similar for me.

My experience happened when I was a doctoral student at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in the Philippines. I was struggling to finance my education. My children, to whom I’m very grateful, were able to send me a little money from Africa to help buy food and pay rent. But they had families

of their own, and money was tight. I soon found myself indebted to AIAS for a semester of tuition and housing.

AIAS was kind to me. They bore with me, hoping that I could find a way to clear my debt. But my debt only increased. Eventually, I was summoned by the finance department and told that I must either clear my debt or leave the country. They explained that students with debt cannot register, and that without being registered, I was no longer eligible for a student visa.

I was asked to prepare a reimbursement plan so that they could allow me to stay. It seemed so hopeless. I walked home to my apartment that night and cried. I asked my wife and youngest daughter to join me in giving this burden to Jesus, and then crawled in bed.

But I couldn’t sleep. All through the night I tossed and turned, praying that God would help me. Finally, I

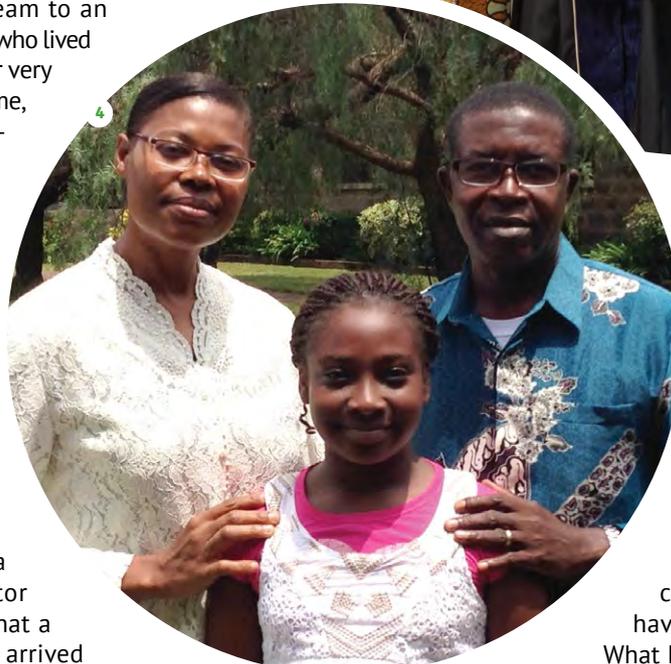
decided to ask my children in Africa to sell my vehicle and proposed that, since they were all living in our family home, they each contribute some money as if they were paying rent. They accepted my suggestion, enabling me to make a reimbursement plan for AIAS. They weren’t able to help immediately due to their own financial difficulties, but they were able to sell my car, and I put that income toward my reimbursement plan.

It was during that all-night prayer vigil that God had mercy on me.

- 1 Pastor Rodolfo Segorbe with his wife, Bernadette.
- 2 Pastor Joseph, center, praying for Pastor Rodolfo.
- 3 Pastor Rodolfo with his daughters, from left, Noemi, Sefora, Maria, and Sonia.
- 4 Pastor Rodolfo, Bernadette, and their daughter Hulda at Linda Vista University.



Amazingly, He gave a dream to an elderly woman named Yung who lived in South Korea. He gave her very specific information about me, just as He had given Ananias about Saul. He told Yung “There is an African student at AIIAS called Rodolfo who is facing serious financial difficulties with his studies. Go and help him.” Yung awoke from her dream, but she forgot about it as she went about her daily tasks. That night she had the very same dream.



The next week, a classmate named Pastor Kim called to tell me that a pastor friend of his had arrived from South Korea and wanted to meet me at my apartment. Pastor Kim told me that I should hurry because the pastor had to return right away—he had made a special trip to see me. The pastor also requested that I bring a letter of gratitude for Sister Yung.

Who is Sister Yung? I wondered. *And why should I write a letter of gratitude to someone I don't know?* I had many questions for Pastor Kim, but there was no time to explain.

When the two men came to my apartment, Pastor Kim introduced

Pastor Joseph. My wife and I served refreshments, then sat down, eager to hear their story.

“God has called your name to Sister Yung in a dream,” said Pastor Joseph. “He asked her to help you with your studies at AIIAS. Sister Yung is sick, so she asked me to bring you this envelope. I need proof that it was given to the right person, so please write a word of gratitude, acknowledging that you received it.”

Dumbfounded, I wrote a note of appreciation and thanked Pastor Joseph for coming. He offered a quick prayer for my family and studies, then left.

I’ve sometimes wondered whether Sister Yung and Pastor Joseph were real people or angels. I tried to contact them several times and have never received a response. What I do know is that the contents of that envelope allowed me to clear my debt with AIIAS for the semester and continue paying for my studies the next semester. Today, I have finished my doctoral program, and I am serving the Lord in one of His institutions in Mexico as a missionary with my family.

If you’re going through a hard time, I want to encourage you to continue trusting our Father. He knows us all by name as well as all our needs. As surely as He feeds the birds of the air, He will take care of us as we submit our petitions to His throne of grace.

Among many other things, your weekly mission offerings and world budget offerings help support more than 455 missionary families around the world. **Thank you!**

Born in Equatorial Guinea, Africa, **Rodolfo Segorbe Nach, PhD**, serves as associate professor of theology at Linda Vista University in Mexico. For the past 35 years, he has enjoyed a varied career as a pastor, administrator, and teacher.





A Song of Salvation

Daya was born in a small mountainside town in Nepal. When she was young, she followed her family's customs, including worshipping at a local temple. But as Daya grew, she began to feel conflicted about her worship experience. She didn't understand the reason behind the routines she performed and longed for something more.

Then one day, a group of travelers passed through Daya's town, and her life began to change.

"Some Christians came to my village and sang a song," says Daya. "I memorized the song and sang it every day as I worked in the fields."

The song Daya grew to love described the blessings that God gives us each day. It brought her comfort, and she longed to know more about this loving God.

At the time, Christian congregations were not allowed to meet in Daya's country. But she knew a relative who attended an underground Christian church. The problem was that the walk to where they met was more than 18 miles each way!

①





- ① Daya is a Global Mission pioneer in Nepal.
- ② The mountainside town where Daya lives.
- ③ The people in Daya's town hunger to learn of God's love.
- ④ More than 30 years later, a faithful group still worships in Daya's home.
- ⑤ Siyoin learned about Jesus through studying with Daya.

“I want everyone to know that if they accept Jesus as their personal Savior, they will experience peace and happiness that they cannot get otherwise.”

—Daya, Global Mission pioneer.

* Global Mission pioneers start congregations in areas or among people groups where there is little or no Adventist presence. To learn more about their ministry, please visit www.global-mission.org.

Daya walked the distance each Sabbath and gave her heart to Jesus. Then she became a Global Mission pioneer, reaching out to others in her community. Soon a group of new believers was worshipping in her home!

One Sabbath a young man named Siyoin walked passed Daya's home and heard singing. Like Daya, he had been raised in a non-Christian home. The beautiful melody piqued his interest, and he went inside.

The small group welcomed him with open arms. Week after week, Siyoin returned to the Adventist house church and eventually decided to become a Christian. Now, he is studying theology at Spicer Memorial College in India. His dream is to become an Adventist pastor and teach people about Jesus.

Global Mission pioneers face difficult challenges in sharing the gospel in such countries as Nepal. But thanks to their unique ministry, many people are developing a personal relationship with Jesus.

Please continue to pray for our pioneers. And thank you for supporting their mission!

Ricky Oliveras is a video producer for the Office of Adventist Mission. His wife, Stella, works for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists and photographed the images for this story.





Ethan's Evolution



1

As I turn to face my students, I'm horrified to see Ethan crawling across the desks. I can't believe this is happening in my class!

Panic alarms are going off in my head, my heart is beating fast, and I know I have to act before total chaos erupts. I walk over to Ethan, wrap my arms around his waist, and heft him to the ground. It's at this moment that I wonder why I ever volunteered to teach a kindergarten class.

I'm three months into my ten-month stay on Pohnpei, a steamy island in Micronesia covered with stunning

green foliage. On my daily jogs, I see islanders in T-shirts and shorts sitting under palm trees or ambling down the road. Everyone seems so relaxed here. Everyone except me, the 19-year-old college student who has come to teach their children. I'm scared to death!

What if something happens today that I can't handle? I wonder. What if two kids get in a fight? What if all my students start running around the room? What if the staff thinks I'm an incompetent teacher? I feel completely inadequate for this task. And yet, I am determined to do my best.

So each morning I muster up my strength as my students bounce through the door. I draw Bible characters on the chalkboard and act out the stories, and they absolutely love it. They are so cute with their soft little faces

5





- 1 Ethan
- 2 Lacy, left, with fellow volunteer teachers
- 3 Lacy's students
- 4 Beautiful Pohnpei
- 5 Pohnpei Seventh-day Adventist school

and eager eyes. Some mornings when I see them, I feel a little burst of joy.

But there is one student I am not happy to see. Ethan. He gives me more trouble than all the other students combined. He talks back, gets out of his seat, and makes fun of other students. One day, when I asked him to stand in line, he hit me.

When Ethan left the island for a few weeks, I hoped he'd never come back to class. He was too much for me to handle, and I knew it. So I did what I wish I had done long ago. I asked God for help and put Ethan in His hands.

When Ethan came back to school, I asked him to be my special helper. God gave me strength to deal lovingly

with Ethan, and he slowly began to respect me and behave in class. Now he was sitting still at his desk with his hands folded and his little lips pursed. I could give him one look from across the room, and he would be quiet. The transformation was incredible!

At graduation, my students marched like little grown-ups. They were adorable in their silky blue robes, and I realized how much I had enjoyed teaching them. After the ceremony, Ethan gave me a big hug and said, "Teacher, I love you!" It was a wonderful contrast from the "Teacher, I hate you!" that I had been hearing all year.

Even though I thought I was unqualified to be a teacher in Pohnpei, I believe God placed me there. I felt like I was making a mistake because I didn't feel like I could do the job on my own. But maybe that was the point. Maybe God put me in a place where I would have to call on Him. A place where He could use me to change a little boy and where a little boy could change me. The beautiful transformation in both of us was worth all the trouble.



Adventist Volunteer Service

facilitates volunteer missionary service of church members around the world. Volunteers ages 18 to 80 may serve as pastors, teachers, medical professionals, computer technicians, orphanage workers, farmers, and more. To learn more, please visit www.AdventistVolunteers.org.

Originally from Guam, **Lacy Edney** spent a year as a volunteer kindergarten teacher in Pohnpei, Micronesia. Currently, she splits her time between Italy and California working as a travel writer, Italian teacher, and Italian trip planner for her company, Italianissimo.





Run, Opio, Run!

The sun was slowly falling to the horizon as 13-year-old Opio ran through the field playing soccer—or, as he calls it, futbol—with his brothers and sisters. The moment was peaceful and filled with joy. But that was all it was, a moment. Before the sun would set that night, Opio and his siblings would no longer be freely chasing a futbol across the South Sudanese earth. They would be internally displaced persons (IDPs) and orphans.



- 1 Opio
- 2 Opio, left, with his siblings and their guardian.
- 3 At least 20 people sleep under this tree in the Tobek IDP camp.
- 4 Martha, center, cares for 14 children at the Tobek IDP camp.



As the futbol bumped along the ground, Opio saw someone running toward him, someone he didn't know. It was a worker from the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The man hurriedly explained that the nearby fighting was coming to their town and commanded the children to run to the UNMISS camp to avoid being killed.

Opio knew his father was in the barracks, but he didn't know where his mother was. All he and his siblings could do was run to the camp and hope and pray that someone might care for them there.

ADRA South Sudan is currently stationed in Nasir County in the Upper Nile State, one of the counties that borders Opio's home county of Unity. In Nasir County alone there are currently some 180,000 IDPs.

"The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is doing its best to provide food for the IDPs," says Thierry Van Bignoot, director of the Emergency Management Unit at ADRA International in Silver Spring, Maryland.

"However, ADRA South Sudan is only able to provide food for between 12,000 and 21,000 people at this point. With the rainy season descending upon the region, it is even more crucial to get supplies to refugees, yet more difficult at the same time. If nothing is done, the famine could claim many of their lives."

ADRA workers on the ground in South Sudan are without access to a vehicle at this time, making it especially difficult to reach some of the IDP locations during the rainy season. Many times their only means of transportation is by foot. Yet even with these additional complications, ADRA is committed to helping as many IDPs as possible.

"The number of IDPs is increasing as fighting in the area continues," says Jonathan Duffy, president of ADRA International. "ADRA South Sudan will need additional funds to provide them with the necessities of life. ADRA International is currently raising one million dollars to help refugees, IDPs, and other families in South Sudan and

around the world."

The additional funds will help pay for food, clothing, and education for IDPs who have no access to education while living at the camps.

ADRA is setting up six tent-schools with two classrooms in each for children in neighboring Maiwut County, which is also in the Upper Nile State.

In the future, Opio wants to work in a hospital to help others in need. "I am not very sure about my future and the future of my brothers and sisters," he says. "But I hope that one day God will give me an opportunity to go to school."

Suzanne Ocsai was a marketing intern at ADRA International in Silver Spring, Maryland, when she wrote this story. She is originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee.



The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

is the global humanitarian organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ADRA represents the unconditional love of Jesus through a broad spectrum of development and emergency relief programs in more than 120 countries. Your mission offerings and world budget offerings help support ADRA. To learn more about ADRA, please visit www.adra.org.





The Saturné family:
Lucette, Sarah, Bordes,
Joel, Jeremy, and Daniel.
Photo by Shelley Agrey.



Meet Our MISSIONARIES

Please meet the Saturné family: Bordes and Lucette and their children, Sarah (19), Joel and Jeremy (12), and Daniel (8).

They've been serving in Muak Lek, Saraburi, Thailand, for the past two years at Asia-Pacific International University, formerly known as Mission College.

Bordes and Lucette talked with *Mission 360°*, sharing a glimpse into what Bordes smilingly refers to as a real adventure—six people starting new lives in a completely different environment.

Mission 360°: Lucette and Bordes, why has your experience in Thailand been so rewarding?

Lucette: There are many reasons, but perhaps the greatest is that this is the first time we have served in a country where the majority of the population is Buddhist. Less than 1 percent of the Thai people are Christian. It is a great challenge, but the door is wide open for missionary work here.

Bordes: It is so rewarding to share God's love with young people in the 10/40 Window.* We have more than four hundred Buddhist students, and the majority have never seen a Bible before coming to our university.

M360°: How do the students learn about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian?

Bordes: We offer daily worship in the dorms, weekly chapel and vespers services, and weeks of prayer. All the students take Bible classes as part of their general education requirement. They're also involved in community outreach, such as participating in branch Sabbath Schools.

M360°: How have the students responded to these opportunities?

Bordes: We had thirty-nine students commit their lives to God through baptism this year and twenty-five last year.

Mission 360°: Tell us about your lives before Thailand.



Top to Bottom:
 Bordes baptizing a university student.
 Students en route to distribute leaflets in Muak Lek.
 Lucette, second from left, participating in a campus talent show.
 Harvesting papayas at a friend's farm.
 Bordes and Lucette at a cultural festival.

Lucette: Bordes and I were born in Haiti, but we are citizens of the United States. We were involved in ministry for twenty-three years in New York and Massachusetts before moving to Thailand.

M360°: What are your responsibilities at the university?

Bordes: I am an ordained minister, and I serve as vice president for student administration, chairing the Spiritual Life Committee and coordinating with the pastors and the chaplains the spiritual activities on and off campus. I supervise the six dormitories; the counseling and health services; and the community outreach, sports, recreation, and cultural activities on campus. I also teach a New Testament class in the Faculty of Religious Studies.

Lucette: I am the retention coordinator and in charge of the Learning Center. I also teach English as a second language in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Sometimes, I lead the Sabbath School class for the nine to twelve age group.

Mission 360°: It sounds like you're very busy and that you have many opportunities for touching lives for Christ.

Bordes: Every day God shows us new ways to share Him, but last year's experience was very special. We held our first public evangelism event in the town of Muak Lek. Our students and faculty worked together to share

the good news with our community and more than a hundred and fifty visitors attended the meetings.

Mission 360°: What do you enjoy about your life in Thailand?

Lucette: We like the great weather, the beautiful campus, and the many friends we've made. Our outreach and mission trips have been life changing. And it is a joy to see the students seek a deeper knowledge of God and a closer relationship with Him.

Bordes: For me the greatest joy is being able to personally baptize our students. It's a pleasure to share our faith and be able to make a difference in people's lives. We've also enjoyed the adventure of moving to a different country and meeting new people.

M360°: Is there anything in particular that you would like the worldwide church to pray for?

Bordes: Yes, please pray for peace in Thailand because there has been unrest here, for the protection of our family, and for our students and their families to accept God's love.

* The 10/40 Window encompasses an area between 10 degrees and 40 degrees north of the equator, covering North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. It is home to two-thirds of the world's population and most of the world's least-reached countries and people groups.

Your mission and world budget offerings help to make mission work possible. Thank you!

Four ways to give:

- ① During Sabbath School
- ② Securely online: Giving.AdventistMission.org
- ③ In North America, mark a tithe envelope "World Budget" at your local church
- ④ Call 800-648-5824



Mission on the Flip Side

Clockwise from left

Jonathan, right, with orientation class members at Gyeongbokgung Royal Palace.

Jonathan, right, models traditional Korean royal clothing with a fellow volunteer.

Jonathan, center, enjoying lunch with students at a traditional restaurant.



When I decided to volunteer as an English teacher overseas, I had no idea that it was going to change my life forever. At the end of my 14 months in South Korea, I returned home with a new relationship with God, a new perspective on life, and a beautiful fiancée!

If you're interested in being a volunteer, please visit www.AdventistVolunteers.org.



I was 25, finishing my graduate degree, and open to doing something out of the ordinary before starting a cubicle-dwelling career. My best friend was teaching English in South Korea at the time, and during a Skype conversation, he casually said, "Hey man, you should come to South Korea," and I casually answered, "Yeah, I think I will."

I did some research and discovered that the Seventh-day Adventist Church operates language schools in South Korea through which it works to share the gospel. I thought that it would be awesome to travel overseas, not just to teach English and explore a new country, but to be a missionary. I had no idea just how awesome it would be.

South Koreans are eager to improve their English skills. They view English as the language of business and travel, and being fluent in English can be a catalyst for a better job and career. The students are eager to talk with you and to get to know you, and

this presents many opportunities for sharing Jesus through what you say and how you live.

In a nutshell, you arrive in South Korea, get some training, and are assigned to a language school where you immediately start teaching. But you're also expected to promote and lead a Bible class and participate in a teacher-led Friday night service. The missionary team is handed a ripe mission field and basically told to "run this thing." It's because of this experience that I will never be satisfied being a pew warmer in church.

I remember seeing the faces of adult students light up as they learned about the life, miracles, and character of Jesus for the first time in my Bible class. I had never experienced anything like it before. It's a wonderful thing to see people doing research and coming to class with questions because they want to know the truth about this man named Jesus!

I will never forget all the cherished people and experiences that God allowed to impact my life as a volunteer. I have no doubt that there were times that I made mistakes and could have been a better witness. But I pray that I will see my students in heaven and that we'll sit back and talk about when our lives crossed in South Korea.

Originally from the United States, **Jonathan Griffin** volunteered in South Korea as an English as a second language teacher, where he met his future wife, Latasha, who was also volunteering. They currently live in Maryland, where Jonathan works at a CPA firm and Latasha is an elementary school teacher.



Glimpses of Albania



1 Leah first came to know Seventh-day Adventists when she started going to a language class that was part of a Global Mission project in the port city of Durrës, Albania. After taking the language class, she also studied the Bible, and before long she was baptized. Leah loves to share her faith, and recently she has been inviting young people in her apartment complex to come to church and join the Pathfinder Club. Here she is, second from right, with three young women who have been attending the church thanks to Leah sharing her faith.

2 In 1991, the collapse of the Communist regime in Albania opened the door for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to bring aid and the hope of salvation. We have 350 members worshipping in five Seventh-day Adventist churches in Albania, a country with nearly 3 million people.

3 This pyramid was built to celebrate Communist leader Enver Hoxha. After 1991, the Adventist Church held evangelistic meetings and baptisms here.

4 A meal for the stomach and the word of God for the soul. This group meets weekly to study the Bible.

5 Pastor Gentian Thomollari, one of two ordained pastors in Albania.

6 Luan Qosja has been blind from birth, but he has recently seen the light of the gospel and now uses his talents to praise and worship God through his piano.

7 The Kisha church and center of influence. Here the healing hands of Jesus connect with the community to show them love. To learn more about centers of influence, please see page 24.

8 The Albanian children pray that their people will have the means and the strength to share Jesus in a secular culture.



Earley Simon
Office of Adventist Mission



Spice Up Your Holiday Table

Every cook has a stash of tried-and-true recipes, but it's always fun to add a new dish to your collection, especially during the holiday season. Here are a few easy recipes you might enjoy serving to your family and guests.

MEXICO

Hearty Hominy Soup

(Serves 6–8)

This delicious hominy soup, called pozole (pronounced poh-SOL-leh) is a Christmas favorite in Mexico. The beauty of this soup is the wide range of toppings to choose from. *This recipe is in honor of Maggy Neyra.*

INGREDIENTS

1 tablespoon oil
1 medium onion, chopped fine
1 ½ cups chicken-style meat substitute, drained and rinsed, sliced thin
4 cups vegetable stock
1 cup water

1 15-oz. can hominy, drained and rinsed
1 cup green enchilada sauce

TOPPINGS

- Shredded lettuce
- Avocados
- Radishes
- Onions
- Cilantro
- Jalapeno peppers
- Lime wedges

PREPARATION

1. In a large pan, heat the oil and sauté the onion for 3 minutes.
2. Add the chicken-style meat substitute, frying until nicely browned.

3. Add the vegetable stock and water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium.
4. Add the hominy and enchilada sauce. Simmer for 5 minutes.
5. Ladle into individual bowls. Allow guests to add their own toppings to the soup.
6. Serve with warm tortillas on the side.



URUGUAY

Savory White Bean Salad

(Serves 6–8)

Quick and easy, these ingredients are probably already in your cupboard. If you don't have white beans on hand, simply substitute another kind of beans.

INGREDIENTS

3 cups white beans, cooked, drained, and rinsed
1 medium tomato, peeled and chopped
1 medium onion, finely chopped
2 stalks celery, sliced thin
¼ cup flat-leaf parsley, chopped
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
2–3 tablespoons olive oil

¾ teaspoon oregano
½ teaspoon basil
½ teaspoon paprika
¼ teaspoon salt

PREPARATION

1. Combine all ingredients in a bowl. Mix gently.
2. Refrigerate for at least one hour. Serve chilled.

FRANCE

Lemon-Glazed Carrots

(Serves 6–8)

Glazed carrots are perfect as a side dish. They taste great and add a splash of color to any menu. This recipe can be prepared ahead of time and reheated before serving.

INGREDIENTS

- 6–8 carrots, peeled and sliced into ¼-inch pieces
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar or honey
- 2–3 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- ¼ teaspoon salt

PREPARATION

1. In a large pan, add the carrots and cover with water. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium low and simmer until carrots are tender, about 6 to 8 minutes. Do not overcook; drain.
2. Heat olive oil over medium heat. Add the carrots, brown sugar, lemon juice, and salt. Stir gently until the sugar or honey is dissolved, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat and serve.

CANADA

Christmas Cherry Pound Cake

(Serves 10–12)

This pretty dessert takes its own sweet time in the oven, but the results are lovely to see and delightful to taste. Each slice sparkles with bright red cherries. *This recipe is from Lanea Walton.* The cake was devoured by our staff, who left no crumbs behind.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 1 8-oz. package cream cheese
- 1 ½ cups white sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon almond extract
- 1 cup maraschino cherries, drained and chopped
- ¼ cup flour

PREPARATION:

1. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Wipe oil or shortening over the inside of an 8-inch tube pan. Sprinkle the inside of the pan with flour, and then shake out the excess

2. In a medium bowl, mix together the 2 cups of flour, baking powder, and salt; and then set aside.
3. In a large bowl, cream together the butter or margarine, cream cheese, and sugar. Beat until the mixture is light and fluffy. Mix in the eggs, one at a time, and then add the vanilla and almond extracts.
4. In a separate bowl, toss the chopped maraschino cherries in the ¼ cup flour. Lift the floured cherries from the bowl and carefully fold them into the batter. Discard the excess flour. Evenly spread the mixture into the prepared tube pan.
5. Bake in the preheated oven for 75 to 80 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean. Let the cake cool in the pan for 10 minutes. Run a knife around the edge, and then turn the cake out of the pan onto a wire rack. Cool completely.
6. The cake slices are pretty enough to serve on their own, but you could also add fruit to the side, or top each serving with a drizzle of milk or cream.



ENGLAND

Spicy Apple Cider

(Serves 15–20)

Nothing makes a home cozier than the scent of cinnamon and nutmeg. Gather your family and friends together, serve this lovely hot drink, and count your blessings.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 gallon apple cider
- 2 cups cranberry juice

- 1 cup orange juice
- ½ cup sugar, optional
- 8 whole cloves
- 1 tablespoon allspice
- 1 two-inch piece of fresh ginger, peeled
- 1 tablespoon nutmeg
- 3 cinnamon sticks, broken in half

PREPARATION

1. Set a large crock-pot to its lowest setting. Add the apple cider,

- cranberry juice, orange juice, sugar (if using), cloves, allspice, ginger, nutmeg, and cinnamon sticks.
2. Cover, and then allow the flavors to meld together for 2 to 4 hours. Serve hot.
 3. Leftover cider can be cooled and refrigerated.

Nancy Kyte
Office of Adventist Mission





Counting Apples

The city of Almaty in southern Kazakhstan is known for its majestic snow-capped mountains, its multicultural flavor, and, of course, its apples, as its original name, Alma-Ata or Father of Apples, reflects. But for me, this city of my childhood is most memorable for the pioneers who gave their all to build a strong foundation for the Adventist Church in the heart of Central Asia.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been part of Kazakhstan since the early 1900s, when the first Adventist communities sprang up in the north. Not much is known about the early church presence in the south, but according to some pioneers, a congregation of some 40 people was established by 1934.

Stalin's repressions did not miss this corner of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), and as a result 35 Almaty church members were arrested in 1937. Many of them received ten-year prison sentences followed by five years of exile. Three church leaders were sentenced to death, and a church treasurer was arrested and never seen again. The majority of the members were sent

to labor camps, where 12 of them died from exhaustion, starvation, or mistreatment.



There are many stories of church heroes from Almaty who suffered for their faith. One such family was the Frolovs. One of 13 children, Alexander was born to Russian parents in northern Kazakhstan. He was arrested in 1939, just one month after his wedding to a young woman named Vera, and sentenced to ten years in Stalin's camps followed by seven years of exile. Alexander's family suffered as well. His father, an elder of the Adventist church in Bulaevo, died in prison. Two brothers were also arrested; one

was sentenced to death and the other vanished. Vera suffered much too. Two years before her wedding, her father had died in exile. Now her 21-year-old husband was being sent to the Komi Republic, where prisoners were working in lumber camps and building oil derricks.

But God was with these exiles in the cold tundra and performed miracles to help them. M. Stepovoy, a member of the Almaty church who had buried 12 believers and was himself close to starvation, was returning to his barrack one day after praying and found a sack of dry bread. Alexander Frolov, hungry and discouraged, was praying for help when he suddenly saw a deer. He had an axe with him and threw it at the target. The meat, stored in the snow, helped him and another church member survive the cold winter.





Left to right:

The families of Pastor Michael P. Kulakov, left, and Pastor Alexander Frolov, right.
The Almaty church string orchestra, 1950s.

The Almaty church choir in the 1970s. Third from left in front row: Lubov, Pastor Alexander Frolov, Benjamin, and Vera.

From left: Vera, Benjamin, Lubov, and Pastor Alexander Frolov.

Baptismal candidates, 1950s.



The church in Almaty went through many difficulties. Yet the believers remained faithful and continued to gather together, support each other, and share the light of God's love.

The beginning of World War II only increased the hardships and sorrows for the Adventist believers in Almaty. The repressions continued and new members of the congregation were arrested and sent to camps. In some congregations only women and children remained.

After ten years in prison, Alexander was exiled to northern Kazakhstan. Vera followed him, and during that time they had a son, Benjamin, and a daughter, Lubov. Later, they returned to Almaty, where Alexander helped Michael Kulakov, recently released from prison, to pastor the growing church and several new congregations nearby. Their son, Benjamin, served as a youth leader and choir conductor at Almaty for many years and later became a pastor and treasurer in one of

the Euro-Asia Division conferences. Two of Alexander's grandsons also became Seventh-day Adventist pastors.

Alexander Frolov died in Almaty in 1987 at the age of 69. Ten years after his death, he, one of his brothers, Vera's father and mother, and some other Adventist pastors and members were exonerated.

The church in Almaty went through many difficulties. Yet the believers remained faithful and continued to gather together, support each other, and share the light of God's love.

As a result, they lived to see the day when the Adventist Church in Kazakhstan could own and build several buildings in that city, including a union office, a book center, and several churches.

The Almaty church grew from a small group of 40 members to several congregations spanning the city. Many families, who played a distinctive role in the Adventist Church in the USSR or Euro-Asia Division, including two division presidents—Michael Kulakov and Artur Stele—were once members or pastors of this congregation.

From its small beginning, the Almaty church would produce many leaders, seminary professors, choir conductors, pastors, and members who faithfully continue in the footsteps of the church pioneers.

I was blessed to grow up in the Almaty congregation in the famous city of apples. The lives of our pioneers remind me of the saying, "Anyone can count seeds in one apple, but only God can count all the apples in one seed."

Galina Stele is the research and program evaluation assistant for the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



Sources

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REACH PHILADELPHIA

Remonde was searching for God. Her experience with church was not very positive, yet she felt she needed something more in her life. She shared her search with her friend Judy, whom she had known since high school. Finally, she asked, "Judy, can I go to church with you?"

Judy joined the REACH Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist church plant in 2011 after taking Bible studies from a classmate. At first, she was resistant to anything having to do with church, but over time, the Holy Spirit won her heart, and she became a committed member. When Remonde asked if she could come to church with Judy, she readily welcomed her

and introduced her to new friends. Remonde began Bible studies a couple weeks later.

Recently, Judy stood beside her friend in the water as Remonde dedicated her life to Jesus completely in baptism.

Remonde's experience illustrates the importance of building relationships with people, attending to their needs, and practically demonstrating the love of Jesus.

The birth of a mission

In September 2011, the mission-oriented church REACH Philadelphia was born in response to the Holy Spirit's leading to further share God's love in the city of Philadelphia. After much prayer, the REACH members committed themselves to creating a center of influence in West Oak Lane, a neighborhood in Philadelphia with no Adventist

Church presence. An internship program was created for young adults to live in the community and employ their God-given talents to make a positive impact.

REACH members aim to share Jesus' love by providing helpful services that connect people in relationships. In 2011, REACH began assessing community needs by visiting neighbors door-to-door. As a result, REACH was clear that they must help West Oak Lane to empower young people in greater academic achievement and provide them with access to healthy, fun activities.

From F to B

REACH opened a tutoring center for students from pre-K through 8th grade, under the leadership of intern Pastor Tiffany Brown. At the conclusion of the school year, REACH





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REACH Philadelphia is one of our church's many centers of influence around the world. It is an initiative of the Pennsylvania Conference and is supported by the Columbia Union, the North American Division, and your donations to Global Mission. Thank you!

To learn more about REACH Philadelphia, visit www.reachphiladelphia.org.

To learn more about centers of influence, visit MissionToTheCities.org.

Success had 17 volunteer tutors and 13 students, and the number continues to grow.

One student, Taea,* had been written off by both her teachers and parents. "You shouldn't waste your time with her," her parents stated, as they came to enroll her sibling. Volunteer tutor Twana Ambrose Caries convinced them to enroll both children and worked with Taea one-on-one to improve not only her math skills but

her confidence. By the end of the term, Taea experienced a dramatic change in her grades.

REACH intern Jane Takahashi started an urban agriculture project to teach organic gardening and health. Through a community partnership, REACH was given a long-term lease on a plot of land where vegetables now grow, and neighbors contribute time through the Community Garden Club.

Intern Angel Smith has developed a boot camp fitness class to combat obesity and promote community wellness.

Intern Pastor Nick Snell organized block parties with the support of Jason DeLisser, and more than 100

- 1 Tara VinCross with West Oak Lane children.
- 2 Remonde experiences the joy of full surrender to Jesus.
- 3 REACH Philadelphia is a vibrant church community where people of any background can encounter Jesus and be empowered as agents of restoration and hope. REACH embodies the core values of its focus: restoration, empowerment, action, community, and hope.
- 4 Jackie Torres gives weekly reading support to Naziah as she volunteers with REACH Success Tutoring.
- 5 Through community block parties, REACH builds relationships with neighbors and provides a fun place for kids to be.



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- 6 Josh Garcia painting faces at the community block party.
- 7 Tara VinCross, right, with intern pastors Tiffany Brown and Nick Snell.



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* Not her real name.

people attended! Other REACH members share hope in Jesus through weekly Bible studies, literature evangelism, and Vacation Bible School.

REACH originally met in a recreation center, transitioned to meeting in a store front, and has recently embarked on a new adventure to transform a former bar and nightclub into a more permanent center of influence in West Oak Lane. Please join us in praying for all God will do through this ministry center!

REACH has internalized the parting words of Jesus, "Go and make disciples of all nations." Go restore, go empower, go and call to action, go build loving communities, and go in the hope that all this can be accomplished in the name of Real Love.

Mission 360° TV hosts guests, such as Tara VinCross, from all over the world. Watch it on Hope Channel in North America or see it now at www.Youtube.com/AdventistMission.

Airtimes (Eastern Time)

Fridays	11 P.M. (PREMIERE)
Sabbaths	8 A.M. and 5 P.M.

Tara VinCross is the senior pastor of REACH Philadelphia, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is in her seventh year of service in this city. In addition to continuing with REACH, she has accepted a call to serve the Columbia Union, launching a new young adult urban evangelism training center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Jason DeLisser is a founding member and church board member of REACH Philadelphia and works for the United States Navy as an electrical engineer.



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.

Centers of influence, as Ellen White called them, 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.

Your Global Mission donations help support centers of influence. To learn more about their ministry or to support their work, please visit www.MissiontotheCities.org.

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gcsessionoffering.org

The Blessing

In the past few months, I've seen starving children and dirty hospital floors. I've tasted rice every single day. I've felt my head pounding and stomach clenching from malaria-induced fevers. I've heard French greetings, babies crying, and roosters crowing at 4:00 A.M. But of all the senses, today it was the smells that most captured my attention. I can still detect the faint scents of

bleach and soap on my hands as I sit down to write about the unforgettable events of this day.

I don't recall her name. It might have been in the local language. What I do remember is how terribly thin and old she looked. Cataracts had nearly blinded her eyes, and she could barely walk. She used to visit my missionary mom, Tammy





If you're interested in being a volunteer, please visit www.AdventistVolunteers.org.

Parker, to ask for food. But she hadn't come in a while, and today Tammy felt inspired to go see her. She asked if I and her daughter, Brichelle, wanted to join her, and we jumped at the opportunity... until we entered the woman's hut.

The rank smell of urine burned my nostrils. Trash from months, if not years, littered the floor. The water in her pot was fetid. Her mosquito nets were filthy. And her bed consisted of sticks, a straw mat, and a soiled blanket. The place wasn't fit for an animal.

This culture generally respects and cares for its elders, but this woman had been utterly forgotten. Sure, she had a hut within her family compound, but they didn't bother feeding her, washing her or her clothes, or helping her to move around.

Tammy and our translator, Naomi, helped the woman get up from her bed and shuffle to a straw mat under a tree. As soon as they had her outside, we started taking everything else out too. We disassembled the bed and moved the water pot, mosquito nets, and trash. Then Naomi swept the floor, creating a mini dust storm.

Next Brichelle and I cleaned the mosquito nets. Over and over we drew water from a well with a gasoline container tied to a rope. My back ached, but it was the first time I had felt so alive since I'd been here.

We soaked the nets in buckets of water with a small

amount of bleach. Then we rinsed them again and again until the water didn't turn brown. Finally, we scrubbed them with a big block of soap until they were almost white again. We did the same for her blanket and clothes.

Naomi cleaned the cement floor with bleach water and then carefully reassembled the bed, adding a clean sheet and pillow. We filled her disinfected pot with fresh water and retied the mosquito nets.

Now that the hut had a semblance of order, Naomi gently bathed the woman and helped dress her in a skirt and top that Tammy had brought.

Clean and fresh, the elderly woman shuffled back to her hut. Then, as she lay on the crisp white sheet, she began whispering a blessing for us, praying that God would always watch over us and give us a good life.

How could this woman, who had almost nothing, pray for God to bless us? I have everything that I need, while she didn't even have companionship or someone to love her. Yet she was so grateful for what we had done that she tried to bless us with the very things she did not possess. Tears were sliding down her wrinkled brown face, and I choked back tears of my own.

I had been part of something so much bigger than myself today. I thought I was going to be a blessing. Instead, I was the one who was blessed.

Originally from Tennessee, **Jordan Arellano** volunteered as a teacher at the Hospital Adventiste de Bere in Chad. She recently graduated from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, with a bachelor's degree in English.



- 1 Jordan with the elderly woman a few months after this story was written.
- 2 Sabbath school in the bush with children who have never heard of Jesus or seen a white person before.
- 3 Jordan on the morning that she left Chad, saying goodbye to the family that she lived with.





Matheo's Light Bulb Moment

Matheo Makuku stood in the empty Adventist church building and lifted his face to the ceiling. "Lord, please show me how to help the members want to come back to church," he prayed."

Matheo had just started working as a Global Mission pioneer in Grootlaagte, a small settlement in Botswana. Only a few years before, a congregation had worshipped in the church each Sabbath. But when the pioneer who started the church passed away, the members stopped coming.

When Matheo moved to Grootlaagte, he went from home to home,

visiting and helping his neighbors. He was delighted to see so many children in the village, but when he tried to be friendly, they ran away and hid.

"These kids made me work hard to win their trust!" Matheo says with a chuckle. "But soon we were playing games together, and I was teaching them songs about Jesus." Matheo invited the children to Sabbath School, and they came. But not a single adult came with them.

Matheo determined to do his best to help the children grow to love Jesus. He started a Pathfinder club, and 20 children joined. "We think of ourselves as a mission group," he says. "The kids invite their friends to church, and we go to people's homes to sing and pray with them."

For the entire first year of Matheo's ministry, only the children came to church. He felt discouraged, but he continued to visit the villagers and minister to their needs.

Then one day when Matheo was praying about how to reach the adults, he had an idea. "I realized that the wooden benches in the church must be uncomfortable because they provided no back support," he says. "So I used some of my stipend and bought metal chairs for the church. And some adults started coming!"

The congregation began to grow, and people wanted to be baptized. But there was no baptistery at the church. Neither the members nor Matheo knew how to build one, but they prayed for guidance and went to work. Soon they baptized seven members in their new baptistry, including several Pathfinders.

"I've seen major changes in these young people," says Matheo. "They've become more loving and take better care of themselves. And they're passing their exams at school now because they want to do their best."

When the members saw that Matheo cared about improving the church, they began cleaning up around the building. "This gave me an opportunity to talk to them about health," says Matheo. "Drinking and smoking are a big problem here, and many people suffer disease. I told them that their bodies are also God's house and that He wants them to take care of themselves."

Since Matheo came to Grootlaagte, many of the former members have returned to church, new members have been baptized, and others are preparing for baptism. The congregation has become excited about sharing God's love with their community.

Matheo feels that God has given him a special opportunity to serve in Grootlaagte. "I'm working with people whom many consider the lowest class of people in Africa," he says. "Please pray that God will help me to love them the way He does and that they will grow to love God."

Matheo wants to thank you for your donations and prayers. "I know my church family is praying," he says, "because the more they pray, the more I see doors open here."

Your support of Global Mission has helped reopen the doors of Grootlaagte's little church.

Global Mission pioneers are local people who dedicate at least one year to starting a new congregation in areas or among people groups where there is little or no Adventist presence. Many are volunteers, living on small stipends. They work in challenging conditions and some are the only Seventh-day Adventists in an area of more than one million people. To learn about or support their unique ministry, please visit www.global-mission.org.

Laurie Falvo

Office of Adventist Mission





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- 1 Global Mission pioneer Matheo Makuku.
- 2 The children were the first to come to church.
- 3 Matheo greets every member.
- 4 Matheo sees himself as a teacher. During church the members ask questions and grow in their knowledge of God's Word.
- 5 From newborns to the elderly, the church is filled every Sabbath.
- 6 "I used to practice traditional healings, but I became an Adventist when our pioneer came to teach us God's Word. Adventist people are very loving. When I came to this church, I realized that I was home."
- 7 "When our former pioneer died, I stopped going to church and praying," says the woman on the left. "I was discouraged. But when Matheo came, the light that I once had started shining again."
- 8 "Matheo helped me come back to God. I love this church!"
- 9 Matheo visits people in their homes to talk and pray and study the Bible with them.
- 10 The children ask their parents to come with them to church.



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CHILDREN'S STORY

Mother's Scars



Fire! Fire!" the neighbors shouted, alerting Ado's mother that her tiny thatched home was on fire. Flames shot from the roof and walls, and smoke filled the hut. Mother managed to escape, but then she realized that her baby boy was still inside the house. Ignoring the flames and thick smoke that billowed out of the doorway, she ran into the house to rescue her baby.

Neighbors held their breath as seconds passed and the flames grew brighter. At last, Mother emerged from the burning hut with her baby held close to her body. The little one was safe, but Mother had been burned on her arms and face. Over time, most of her wounds healed, but her once-beautiful face was forever scarred by the fire.

Ado grew to be a strong boy. He noticed that his mother's face did not look like other mothers' faces, but he did not ask why. Someone had told him the story of how his mother had

saved him from the fire when he was a baby, but he didn't realize that the scars on his mother's face had come because of her love for him.

One day when he was playing with his friends, someone made fun of Ado's mother's face. The boys laughed, but Ado ran home so his friends would not see the tears forming in his eyes.

Ado hurried into his hut and sat down. When his mother came in, she could see that her usually happy boy was quiet. "Is something wrong, my son?" she asked.

Ado thought for a moment and then asked, "Mama, what happened to your face?"

"Why do you ask, my son?" his mother questioned, stiffening a bit but trying to be calm.

"The boys—one of them told another boy that he was ugly, like Ado's mother," Ado blurted out. "What happened to your face?"

Mother was quiet for a moment. Then she stood up and walked to her drawer and pulled something out. She gave it to Ado. It was a photograph of a beautiful young woman. Ado studied the picture and then looked at his mother. "Is this you?" he asked.

"Yes. It was taken before the fire." Ado knew about the fire. He knew that his mother had pulled him from his bed and saved his life. But he had not thought about what her unselfish act had cost her.

Ado stood and hugged his mother. Now he understood. His mother had risked everything for him. Without her unselfish act, he surely would have died in that fire. He looked up into his mother's face. It was no longer scarred and wrinkled to him. It was beautiful; it was the face of love.

Ado squeezed his mother tightly. "To me, you are beautiful—even more beautiful than your picture."



Gina Wahlen works in the Office of Adventist Mission as the editor of the *Mission* magazines.

For more mission stories, please visit www.AdventistMission.org/mqa-home.

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About our cover photo

Photo by Ricky Oliveras

I met this happy old man in West Bengal, India. I think that a smile never left his face because he was such a proud father. His son is a Global Mission pioneer who is teaching people about Jesus. Global Mission pioneers start new congregations in areas or among people groups where there is little or no Adventist presence. Please pray for them as they touch lives for Jesus all around the world.



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