

mission360

The official mission magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist Church VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 3

4 **When God
Sent a Coconut**

6 **Haliwells' Half
Million**

10 **The Pancake
Church**

12 **The Sabbath
Sofa**

24 **The Good
Samaritan Inn**

Digital Issue Online at Mission360Mag.org

Editorial

On a dirty bridge spanning Bangkok's smog-drenched Sukhumvit Road, a mother cradles a rag-clad infant in her tired arms. Her empty begging cup mirrors my spirits as I look into the woman's eyes—from which all hope seems crushed. Beside her, a beautiful toddler with the face of an angel pats the ears of a homeless puppy. Commuters rush past.

I drop some Thai baht into the cup, enough perhaps to scrape together some food, but a mere token, a temporary Band-Aid. If I were Jesus, perhaps I would stay and cradle the family in my arms, but I just walk on, not knowing what to do.

Snapshots such as these play over and over again in various ways all over God's earth—where sometimes His presence seems to have disappeared. Fools may say in their heart that there is no God, but even the believer is sometimes tried in the face of poverty

and pain, monsters in government, and His children dying in wars and disasters like so many cattle.

And yet, only Jesus can, and will, rescue and restore this planet. Only Jesus, Name above all names, brings eternal hope. Only Jesus will one day wipe away all tears from our eyes.

This year Global Mission celebrates its 25th birthday. And there's much to celebrate. Since Global Mission was born, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has more than tripled in size. Millions of new believers have found life in Jesus and have joined the Adventist family. They've come from new countries, new people groups, different cultures. They've brought joy to heaven and strength to God's church.

We praise God for the thousands of new groups of believers planted in the past 25 years. We praise God that last year was a record year for church planting—with a new church

established every 3.5 hours, plus many more groups and companies.

And yet we look at formidable mission challenges that remain. Mothers still beg beside busy streets in Bangkok, Kolkata, Lagos, Manila, Paris, London, Toronto—around the globe. Millions still wake each morning in fear of the spirit world, trudging their way through days and nights that measure out hope in unsatisfying drips. Others navigate their lives with no reference to God. Megacities grow exponentially every year. Millions have never even heard the name of Jesus. Alternate philosophies and belief systems bury people in hopelessness.

We're still here. Our mission lies before us. How will we respond?

Gary Krause

Gary Krause

Director, Office of Adventist Mission



Photo: Mathew Karmel

About our cover photo...

Laurie Falvo

I met this smiling beauty at a country market in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

She's from the Padaung tribe, a subgroup of the Karen people, often referred to as longnecks. Girls start wearing the brass coils between the ages of four and six.



Features

THE OFFICIAL MISSION MAGAZINE OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® CHURCH

- 4 **When God Sent a Coconut**
- 6 **Halliwells' Half Million**
- 8 **Adventures of Junyong**
- 10 **Pancake Church**
- 12 **Sabbath Sofa**
- 14 **On the Road to Salvation**
- 16 **Tea Plantation School**
- 19 **Happy Birthday, Global Mission!**
- 20 **Six Feet**
- 22 **Sprouting English**
- 24 **Good Samaritan Inn**
- 26 **Global Mission Fun Facts**
- 28 **Thomas, the Miracle Man**
- 30 **Children's Story: The Honest Brothers**



mission360°

Chairman: G. T. Ng

Editor: Gary Krause

Managing Editors: Laurie Falvo, Nancy Kyte

Contributing Editors:

Adventist Mission: Gina Wahlen

Adventist Volunteer Service: John Thomas

Archives, Statistics and Research: David Trim

Global Mission Centers: Rick McEdward

Institute of World Mission: Cheryl Doss

International Personnel Resources and Services:

J. Raymond Wahlen II

Secretariat: Rosa Banks, Augustin Galicia, Myron

Iseminger, Karen J. Porter, Harald Wollan

Editorial Staff: Teen Nielsen

Editorial Advisors: Petras Bahadur, Paolo Benini,

Edison Choque, Jose Cortes Jr., Richard Elofer,

Kleber Gonçalves, Graeme Humble, Johnson

Jacobs, Kwon JohnGHaeng, Zakari Kassoule,

Elkana Kerosi, Viktor Kozakov Jr., Alex Ott, Justino

Paulo, Gerson Santos, Cliffmond Shameerudeen,

Samuel Telemaque, Paul Tompkins, Ernesto

Douglas Venn, Gregory Whitsett

Design: 316 Creative

Production and Digital Media: Hans Olson, Rick

Kajiura, Donna Rodill

Finances: Delbert Pearman

Mission 360° is a quarterly magazine produced and copyrighted ©2015 by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. All rights reserved. The contents may not be reproduced in whole or in part without written permission from the publisher.

12501 Old Columbia Pike

Silver Spring, MD 20904-6601, USA

Telephone: (301) 680-6005

Email: questions@mission360.org

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3

ADVENTIST and SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® CHURCH are the registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

Unless otherwise noted, Bible verses are quoted from the King James Version.





When God Sent a Coconut



We need to get off this mountain now! But which way should we turn? I wondered, attempting to stifle a surge of panic. I tried to get our bearings in the fading light, but the thick foliage and towering ridges blocked my view.

I glanced at Dad. He was lying in the bushes, unable to control his muscles. We had no idea what was wrong. We were hopelessly lost. And we were running out of time.

Dad had flown to Kosrae to visit me, where I was serving as a volunteer teacher at a school in Micronesia. He is fit and loves to hike, so we thought that climbing the mountain behind the school would be a perfect adventure. My fellow volunteers, Ryan Thorpe and Tyler Hissong, joined us, and we set off in the early afternoon for what we anticipated to be a three-hour hike.

As we started up the trail, I began to think we had been overly optimistic. It was slick and muddy from intermittent rain, and we were grabbing onto roots and ferns to maintain our stability.

Finally, we reached the summit of Mount Finkol, where we gazed on the awe-inspiring beauty of rainbows, rugged mountains, and a glorious sunset.

Sunset! We were supposed to be back by now. The realization of our predicament registered forcibly. The trail, steep and not always visible, had been difficult in daylight. In the dark, it would be treacherous. We quickly snapped a group photo and began a hasty decent.

We scrambled down the embankments in the fading light until

darkness descended on the mountain like black fog. Stopping to turn on my headlamp, I noticed that Dad was hydrating again. It seemed like he was drinking an excessive amount of water. I was about to ask him whether something was wrong when Ryan yelled from ahead, "I don't think we're on the trail anymore!"

As we searched for the trail in the dense thicket, the moon broke free from the clouds. We huddled together, volleying questions back and forth. "Was the moon on our left or right when we started?" "Did we accidentally cross a ridge?" "Are we on the correct side of the mountain?" Then Tyler lifted his finger to his lips. "Listen! Water."

"It's a stream," I said hopefully, knowing that water always takes the quickest path downhill. "We can follow it down the mountain." Dropping into a gully, we followed it several yards until we were engulfed in impenetrable vines.

Dad was walking slower and slower. "Hey, Riv, I don't feel so well," he called. "My muscles are cramping, and I feel nauseous. Do you mind if we rest for a second?"

We all welcomed the break, but as soon as Dad stopped, his condition escalated. He started shaking vigorously

We had no idea what was wrong. We were hopelessly lost. And we were running out of time.



River and his father at the summit of Mount Finkol, the highest point on Kosrae. Several of River's students.



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 AdventistVolunteers.org.



Top: The local families often invited River and his friends over for dinner. Here they are eating breadfruit and soup with Nelly-Sonia.

Bottom: Without a trail to follow, the hikers were in danger of stepping off hidden ledges.

and breathing quickly. His voice was soft and high-pitched. *What's going on?* I wondered. *Is he in shock? Dehydrated?* I searched my mind for anything I had learned in nursing school that would explain his symptoms.

"How is your pulse, Dad?" I asked frantically. "Do you feel like you're going to black out? Can you think straight? What's five times two?" His responses frightened me, and he was getting worse by the minute.

My friends and I formed a plan. Tyler would stay with Dad, and Ryan and I would bushwhack up the ridge to see whether there was a way down.

Filled with fear that I might lose Dad, I heaved the machete back and forth, clearing the vines from my path. Finally, we reached the top of the ridge, only to find the vantage point obscured by towering trees.

This was too much. Grabbing onto a branch, I prayed like I have never

prayed before. "God, we're in a helpless situation. Please don't let Dad die. Please get us off this mountain in time!"

With great difficulty, failing muscle function, and Tyler's help, Dad was able to join us on the ridge. But as soon as he did, he started hyperventilating. He was mumbling, and his arms were trembling. *Is this how it's going to end, God?* I asked.

"Dad, we have to keep moving!" I pleaded. "We need to get home." Slowly, he rose to his feet. He urgently needed hydration, but our water supply was gone.

It was then that Tyler did something strange. He wandered off as if he were searching for something. Then he stopped at the base of a coconut tree, where a single coconut hung in the fronds. Shimming up the tree, he knocked it to the ground. Realizing his intention, I hacked it open and held it up to Dad's mouth.

Coconut milk is a good source of electrolytes, and Tyler had felt impressed to find some for Dad in the hope that it would boost his muscle function. It worked! Soon he was able to get up and plod on.

"Lights!" Tyler exclaimed a few minutes later. It sounded too good to be true, but sure enough, we could see a light by the coast, promising a house and a road. We finally had a bearing and decided to surge toward it at all cost.

Then, with our headlights growing dim, we were hit by pounding rain. Ryan disappeared in front of me with a crash. "Cliff!" he warned from somewhere below. Vines caught our ankles, and the mountainside played tricks on

us as we slid down hidden drop-offs. Foot by foot we cleared the foliage with our machetes until we reached a flat banana grove. The light was shining just ahead. We had made it!

When we got home, I whipped up a tall glass of super-strength Gatorade for Dad, and we rinsed the jungle off our bodies. Then we heard a knock at the door. It was our pastor. "Tell me what happened, boys!" he urged.

We told him everything, and he nodded the whole way through. "I had the church members praying for you," he said. "People have died up there at night, walking off the top of waterfalls. Thank God you are safe!"

My mind raced back to the location of an 80-foot waterfall flowing off a sheer cliff on the side of the mountain where we were bushwhacking.

Our misadventure on the mountain was one of the few times that I have felt totally hopeless. When I prayed, I wished I had prayed more in my life, and I felt undeserving of any divine attention. But I asked for help anyway, and God heard me.

I learned many valuable lessons during my volunteer experience, including learning to trust that God is always in control. No matter how bad a situation may seem, God has an answer. He can even use a coconut.



River Davis spent a year as a volunteer teacher at Kosrae Seventh-day Adventist School in Micronesia. He is studying nursing at Walla Walla University and enjoys playing music, creative writing, and exploring the great outdoors.



Halliwells' Half Million

Fresh out of high school, 19-year old Leo Halliwell went to Southeastern Idaho to teach. It was 1909, and sometimes after class, he would walk down to the mighty Bear River to observe a giant electric plant. The hum of the generator and whoosh of the water strangely captivated the young man. A voice within him cried, "You can do this!" From those trips to the river, Leo resolved that he would bring light and power to whole cities of people.

Young Jessie woke up each morning excited to learn more about how to relieve suffering in her nurses' training course at the Nebraska Sanitarium. She knew what her purpose in life was when she saw the smile on patients' faces as their illnesses and pain abated. Her dream was to bring healing to as many people as she possibly could.

Leo and Jessie were married on October 3, 1916, in Mason City, Iowa. The couple longed to become involved in mission work, but they had no definite

plan. Then in 1920 the Halliwells accepted the church's call to Brazil, where Leo would superintend the fledgling Bahia Mission.

Unsure as to how they would fare in the mission field, Leo and Jessie sailed to the port city of Salvador in the state of Bahia. The odds were stacked against them. They were unable to speak the language. They had no money to speak of. And they had an infant son named Jack, who was prone to illness. But they were determined to make a dint for God in a country almost the size of the continental United States. As soon as they settled in, Leo, with fellow minister Gustavo Storch, began evangelizing Salvador. In a matter of years, the young evangelists and other dedicated workers had firmly established Adventism in the Bahia Mission.

Yet it wasn't until 1929, when the Halliwells traveled north to Belém on the Amazon River, that their life mission began to take shape. There, for the first time, they encountered the people who lived along the world's largest river.

They discovered a myriad of ethnic groups comprising a melting pot of cultures that could rival New York or London. They were a resilient people who had adapted well to the cycles of the river and the



forest. Yet millions of them suffered from profound poverty, unsanitary conditions, and painful disease.

Like Jesus, Leo and Jessie Halliwell looked upon the crowds and had compassion on them. In a short furlough to the States in 1930, they started to equip themselves for the monumental task of healing the people of the Amazon, both physically and spiritually. They took a course in learning Portuguese. They focused on learning Portuguese. They raised money and generated enthusiasm.

After much discussion on how best to physically reach the people, the Halliwells decided that the optimal way would be by water. So Leo set about building a boat. He had no boat-building experience, yet miraculously he constructed a craft that withstood the sandbars, shallows, rapids, whirlpools, tide pools, floating logs, and mudflats of the Amazon. It would bear the weight of thousands of people, yet would ever need only minor repairs. So ingenious was the design and the performance that the Brazilian government modeled their fleets after it, and 25 subsequent mission boats have born its name: *Luzeiro* (Light Bearer).



How the Halliwells slept when they were on land.



Clockwise from left: Querino, an Indian, accepted Christ after hearing the song "Jesus Saves." He acknowledged that he had murdered six people. A baptism near the *Luzeiro*. Jessie treating patients aboard ship. Jessie and Leo Halliwell.

For almost 30 years the Halliwells traveled up and down the Amazon River from Belém to Manaus. It is estimated that they covered some 12,000 miles a year and traveled more than half a million miles in all. With basic medical supplies, Jessie and her workers treated a quarter of a million people for malaria, typhoid, trachoma, smallpox, and numerous other tropical ailments.

Sometimes the *Luzeiro* team would enter a village of 3,000 or 4,000 people in which almost every person had malaria, and they would leave with everyone healed. Other times, the most basic of medicine would cure a disease that had claimed thousands of lives before the Halliwells arrived. Their son, Jack, contracted malaria early on, but amazingly, Leo and Jessie's

first bout came after 17 years. They suffered like everyone else, taking the medicine they had proffered to so many.

Leo and Jessie taught the Indians about God, the Bible, basic hygiene, sanitation, proper eating, and temperance. They trained health workers who would replicate their work when they left. They established clinics, hospitals, and schools. Jessie delivered countless babies, many of which would bear her name.

After nightfall, Leo would set up a screen on the banks of the Amazon, stringing wires from a generator on the *Luzeiro* to his slide projector. Dozens of canoes, filled with people listening to Leo's lectures, bobbed on the river. Wherever he went, he drew large crowds. All of this created

a ripple effect throughout the vast territory. Thousands were baptized, and many churches were established.

The work of the Halliwells shone like a bright light across the continent. The Brazilian government donated millions of dollars in money, supplies, personnel, and other resources to the missionaries. The government also awarded them its highest honor—the Cruzeiro do Sul, or the National Order of the Southern Cross. Their name is so renowned in the Amazon region that more than half a century later, it is still spoken with reverence. Children named Leo and Jessie have in turn named their children Leo and Jessie. The scenes of the boat of mercy and salvation, to which thousands flocked for love and healing, is indelibly imprinted in the collective memory of the people of Brazil.

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

Benjamin Baker, PhD, is the assistant archivist at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



The Adventures of Junyong

When five-year-old Junyong learned that he and his family were moving from their home in South Korea to serve as missionaries in Lebanon, he had mixed feelings about this big change in his life. In fact, he even created a little book about his experience!

①

There was once a happy little boy who lived in Korea.



② He liked to spend time with his grandma and eat rice cakes.



③

He liked to go with his auntie to buy Legos.



④

Then, one day, he had to leave his grandma and auntie.



5 He was going to a new country, Lebanon.



6 When he came to Lebanon he was sad and happy, sad because he had to leave Korea, but happy because he would get to see many new things.



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

7 In Lebanon, he made new friends!



8 He also found new, fun things to do!



9 Now he likes to go to the beach!



10 ...and go on a bus to the mountains!



11 So, even though he misses Korea, he has lots of fun in Lebanon too!



THE END!

Junyong is the son of Chanmin and Sukyoung Chung. Chanmin is the communication coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa Union.





The Pancake Church

Above: The young people at the pancake church enjoy being together and sharing their faith with others.
Below: Mrs. Shin enjoys making Korean pancakes called hotteoks.

It all started one Sabbath morning with a teen crying behind a locked bedroom door. Gently knocking on her daughter's door, Mrs. Shin asked what was wrong.

"I'm so sad," came the muffled response. "Sabbath is so sad. I don't want to go to church! There's no one my age."

Mrs. Shin had noticed for some time that her 15-year-old daughter, Bo Hwa, wasn't happy. During the week, Bo Hwa was away at school with many friends, but at home she was the only teen in church.

Mother and daughter prayed together about the situation, and before long Mrs. Shin had a plan. Every weekday morning, she arose very early and made 2,000 *hotteoks*—a popular sweet-filled Korean pancake. Mrs. Shin then took her hotteoks and set up shop directly across from the local high school.

Before school, through lunchtime, and after school, Mrs. Shin sold hotteoks to the hungry students. But she did much more than that—she befriended them.

"How's it going?" she asked.

This was the first time anyone had shown a genuine interest in many of her young customers. Sensing her trustworthiness, the students began opening up to Mrs. Shin. Many were having a difficult time at school and at home. Several came from broken homes or abusive situations. Some were living on their own.

As trust deepened, Mrs. Shin decided to take their friendship to the next level. "What are you doing on Saturday afternoon?" she asked her daily customers.

"Nothing," was the usual response.

"Would you like to come with me to visit some elderly people and cheer them up?" she asked.

Earlier, Mrs. Shin had visited the local government office, asking for the names and addresses of elderly people who had no family caring for them. Every Sabbath afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Shin, Bo Hwa, and numerous high school students visited the elderly. The activity was an instant success! Following the visits, Mrs. Shin invited the students to her home for a feast. The students loved the food and felt at home, sensing the warmth and caring of the Shin family. Bo Hwa was excited to have many new friends.

In addition to providing physical food, the Shins taught the students how to pray, sing Christian songs, and study the Bible. During the week, besides selling hotteoks, Mrs. Shin visited the homes of the students, bringing food to those who were living alone. When situations were especially challenging, the Shins would bring the





Every Sabbath Mrs. Shin and friends serve a fellowship meal.



Children enjoy helping each other at the pancake church.



The Seventh-day Adventist church that was planted with pancakes.

Planting Churches

In the past five years, Global Mission has supported 5,281 church planting projects with Global Mission pioneers working in 104 countries. Every 3.5 hours around the globe a new Adventist church is established and many more groups and companies.

To watch a video of Mrs. Shin and her work, please visit Mission360Mag.org.

young people into their home, caring for them as their own.

Attendance at the Sabbath afternoon meetings grew until the Shin's small 700-square-foot (65-square-meter) apartment couldn't hold any more people. The group then met temporarily in Mr. Shin's nearby electrical shop, until neighboring shopkeepers complained.

The Shins continued praying, and soon God provided an opportunity for them to move into a larger home, allowing them to "adopt" more young people and provide a larger place to meet on Sabbath afternoons.

After a while, it became clear that their "home church" had grown into a church plant. Realizing that it would be best for them to officially organize as a Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Shins prayed earnestly to find an affordable building that could serve as their church.

One day, Mr. Shin noticed an old, dilapidated home for sale on the

same street where he lived. Placing his hand on the building's wall, he prayed, "Lord, please give us this home for Your house, and we will turn it into a home for Your honor and glory."

The Lord answered that prayer, and \$5,000 was raised to purchase the house. The group then worked together repairing and renovating the building into a place for worship. However, they needed a pastor.

Wanting to encourage the young people to have a better life by continuing their education, Mr. Shin set an example. Although 45 years old, he told them he was willing to go back to school if they were. Mr. Shin was accepted at Sahmyook University, a large Adventist university near Seoul, where he enrolled in theology. He, Bo Hwa, and three of the "adopted" children completed university studies—all funded from the proceeds of Mrs. Shin's hotteok business!

Since this church plant began in 1998, more than 400 young people have been baptized. Members of the church, which consists nearly entirely of young people, have presented 39 evangelistic programs (as of April 2014). They have gone on mission trips to Cambodia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Taiwan, transforming thousands of lives in these Asian countries.

A portion of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the second quarter of 2015 will help to build the Saebyeoksei Mission Institute for Youth in Naju, South Korea, where these young members can receive additional training and continue the tradition of church planting. Thank you for your generous offering!

Gina Wahlen serves as the editor of the *Mission* magazines for the Office of Adventist Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



The Sabbath Sofa

Londoners walking their busy city streets have been encountering an unusual sight involving a white sofa. It's part of a unique social media project designed to share the gift of Sabbath rest with tired city dwellers.

Mission 360° recently met with Sam Gungaloo and Ana Costescu to talk with them about their Sabbath Sofa ministry.

Mission 360°: Ana, what is a Sabbath Sofa?

Ana: We take a sofa to one of London's busiest public areas to invite people to sit down and take a break from their hectic lives. It creates an opportunity

for us to share with them God's weekly Sabbath break.

M360: Where did the idea for the Sabbath Sofa come from, Sam?

Sam: I met with two pastor friends, Sam Neves and Vili Costescu, to brainstorm how we could share the concept of the Sabbath with urban people in a creative way. We thought, why not place a sofa in a busy area and invite people to sit down and experience Sabbath rest for themselves, even in a small way?

M360: How does the program work?

Ana: We go out about once a month with a team that includes a videographer, a photographer, an interviewer,

and people who hold signs that say, "Are you tired? Have a seat." We invite people to rest for a few minutes on the sofa, where the interviewer engages them in conversation.

M360: Where did you first try out the Sabbath Sofa, Sam, and what happened?

Sam: It was in a very busy area in central London called Marble Arch. I was initially very scared to do this. I thought people were going to reject me immediately. But the first person who came to sit down on the sofa was so receptive. I'm still in contact with her today.

M360: Fantastic! Ana, you've done this many times. Tell us



Sam meets people in London.

The Sabbath Sofa ministry is growing!

“We plan to take the sofa on tour to major cities in Great Britain and Europe,” says Vili Costescu, associate pastor for the Newbold Church in Binfield, England, and the Web and digital media manager for Mission to the Cities. “We also hope to open a Rest Cafe in London.”

SABBATH SOFA MEDIA

thesabbathsofa.org
thesabbathsofa



The Sabbath Sofa team: Ana Costescu, Pastor Vili Costescu, Pastor Sam Gungaloo, and Roland Dan.

about one of your experiences with the Sabbath Sofa.

Ana: One of the most rewarding things about this project is the relationships that we've been able to maintain with people we've met. Many of them write to us on Facebook and share their Sabbath experiences. The first person to sit on the sofa in Marble Arch wrote to tell us that she was so inspired about the Sabbath that she changed jobs in order to have Saturdays off. It's so rewarding to know that people are not only receptive to what we have to say, they're acting on it.

M360: What do you say to people once they sit down?

Sam: I break the ice by asking questions, such as, Are you tired? Or, What makes you tired? It's amazing how people open up and start talking. Then after a few minutes, I ask them to imagine a world where they could take a weekly twenty-four-hour break from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. I ask, How does that sound to you?

M360: How do they respond?

Sam: One hundred percent say, “That sounds amazing!” or “That sounds like heaven.” But then many of them add, “It's not feasible for me.” That's when I share that there are 18 million of us around the globe who do this regu-

larly. By our personal experience we can show that it is practical.

M360: Ana, what sort of things do you do to support your Sabbath Sofa encounters?

Ana: We have a strong social media aspect of our program to help create interest in the Sabbath and to keep those whom we've encountered engaged.

Sam: Our goal is to draw people with our social media and then bring them into our lives by developing loving relationships with them.

M360: Tell me another story of someone who had the Sabbath Sofa experience.

Sam: I was going through my little speech with a man in Soho, London. When I asked him if he had ever heard of the Sabbath, he said, “Yes, I have.” That took me by surprise because

approximately ninety percent of our contacts are unfamiliar with the Sabbath. “You have?” I asked again. “Yes,” he said, “I am a Jew.” I asked him to teach me about the Sabbath and was blessed when he summed it up as time for God and humanity to spend intentional time together.

M360: Ana and Sam, thank you so much for sharing with us about the Sabbath Sofa. I would love to see hundreds of these in cities around the world.

Growing secular and postmodern populations—particularly in Europe, Australia and New Zealand, North America, and cities worldwide—provide a huge mission challenge. Global Mission supports innovative new approaches, such as the Sabbath Sofa, to touch the lives of these urbanized people. To learn more about Mission to the Cities, visit MissionToTheCities.org. To support this ministry, please visit Global-Mission.org.

Mission 360° TV hosts guests, such as Sam and Ana, from the frontlines of mission all over the world. Watch it on Hope Channel in North America or watch it now at AdventistMission.org/videos.





On the Road to Salvation

Our incredible journey to Jesus



Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. What may have been just another capital city to visit on our travels became a place that we will remember for the rest of our lives.

We are Markus and Belinda, a Dutch couple who loves to travel. We started with short trips in Holland and to neighboring countries but, as time went on, we discovered overlanding—traveling over land with our own means of transport. No longer restrained by the fixed routes of public transport, we now journey longer and farther, driving wherever we want and stopping whenever we want. We absolutely love it, and it has become our passion!

In 2007, we quit our jobs and embarked on a 14-month journey. We drove from Holland to Cape Town, South Africa, and then shipped our car to India to continue our adventure. We visited countless fascinating places and were often stunned by the beauty of God’s creation. It was a dream come true.

However, being away from home also meant being away from everything familiar. We were strangers in places where we did not know our way and could not speak the language. We had no choice but to trust in God and the men and women He brought into our path.

It was an incredible experience. Never before had we felt so guided. Just as we were running out of water

in the Sudanese desert, God provided the best water we had ever tasted. In an area in Northern Ethiopia, where none of the villages had power, God led us to a Chinese construction site with generators and welding equipment where we could repair our broken shock absorber. Day in and day out, we experienced God’s providence and were often helped before we even asked.

In 2008, we returned home, and our lives continued much as they had before except for one wonderful difference.

Markus had become a Christian! We talked freely and at length about





- 1 Markus and Belinda in the Wakhan Valley, a remote area in Tajikistan on the border of Afghanistan.
- 2 Markus and Belinda visiting the supposed resting site of Noah's ark in Turkey.
- 3 Markus, second from left in back row, with the others who were baptized that Sabbath in Mongolia.
- 4 "This Sabbath was the most special day of our trip!"—Markus
- 5 Markus getting his baptism certificate from Pastor Folkenberg. The certificate is in Mongolian, and they're both laughing because neither of them understands what it says.

God and religion. We even joined a Bible study group.

The subject of baptism came up more than once at our meetings, but Markus wasn't ready. "Maybe I'll do that down the road when I have an opportunity," he replied, not knowing how God would lead.

In early 2014, we quit our jobs again to embark on a journey from Holland to Thailand. After five months on the road, we arrived in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, a week earlier than we had planned. Our timing turned out to be perfect. An evangelistic

series was taking place in the local Adventist churches as part of the Adventist Church's Mission to the Cities initiative.

We searched the Internet and found the address for the Seventh-day Adventist Central Church. It was the first church that we had decided to visit since leaving Holland.

Providentially, we found an English-speaking taxi driver who took us to the church, where we were made to feel like part of the family. For the first time since leaving home, we didn't feel like tourists.

When we entered the sanctuary, we discovered that we were just in time for the opening meeting of the series. We listened intently as Pastor Bob Folkenberg Jr. spoke about Jesus, the Holy Ghost, and baptism.

"That was no coincidence to me," Markus said. "It was as if God was saying, 'This is the opportunity you wished for, so stop running.'"

Ignoring the Holy Ghost speaking so clearly to our hearts wasn't an option anymore, and on Friday evening Markus asked Pastor Folkenberg if he would baptize him the next day. It was a special moment for all of us.

"It felt good having finally made the decision," Markus said, "but the freezing cold and the storm that rocked the car that night made me a bit nervous about getting into the icy river. Being baptized in nature with more than 100 Mongolian people, hearing some incredible stories, experiencing the warmth of the Adventist family we met, and receiving a baptism certificate in Mongolian, made that Sabbath the most special day of our trip!"

Markus and Belinda

Keizer have known each other since they were teenagers. They have visited some 70 countries together.



"It was a wonder to see how God had led Markus from Holland all the way to Mongolia to attend an evangelistic meeting conducted by someone from the United States serving in Asia. It was an honor to baptize him."—Bob Folkenberg Jr.



2

1

The Tea Plantation School



5

High in the mountains of northern Thailand, nestled among the tea plantations, is a small center of influence. Ten years ago, the presence of the missionaries who work there today would have been unthinkable. But exciting changes have taken place. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet these missionaries and learn the story behind their journey.

Years ago, Chinese soldiers moved their families to northern Thailand as they retreated from communist forces. As the Chinese population grew and assimilated into the Thai culture, the young people no longer knew the language of their ancestors.

Then about five years ago, two young Adventist women came from China to teach Chinese at a local school. Every morning, these missionaries prayed for their students and asked God to bless their work. As they taught, they shared their faith in Jesus, and several students accepted the Adventist faith. The school



Ten years ago, the presence of these missionaries would have been unthinkable.

4 To learn more about centers of influence, please visit urbancenters.org and MissionToTheCities.org.



administration was unhappy about this, so the women left their teaching posts and began offering classes in the evening. Before long, they had a small but successful Chinese-language school of their own.

That small school grew to become a center of influence, where a new group of Adventist missionaries from China is carrying on the work. Thanks to Global Mission donors, support from the Thailand Adventist Mission, and some generous Thai donors, they've been able to open dormitories where the new Adventist students can stay.

The addition of the dorms has been crucial to nurturing these young people. Not only do they learn Chinese faster, but they're free to pray and get to know Jesus.

Not long ago, two newly bap-

tized girls, Montana and Kayuda, came to the Chinese missionaries with a dilemma. The local school was going to administer its national exams on Sabbath. They were good students, but the school refused to accommodate their beliefs and told them that they would fail.

It was a tough decision for the girls, and in tears they asked the missionaries for advice. The Chinese staff members weren't familiar with Thai law, but they told the girls to pray and promised that they would pray too. "I will not take my exam on Sabbath," said Montana. "I will be true to Jesus."

- 1 The students have their chores, which keeps the dorms clean and in good condition.
- 2 In addition to their studies, the younger children get to sing songs and listen to Bible stories.
- 3 The missionary teachers always start their classes with prayer.
- 4 The dorm students usually walk from the nearby school, but on certain days they are picked up by the "school bus."
- 5 This dorm room is home to six boys.
- 6 A poster board features pictures from past dorm events, including a foot-washing service.





- 7 Currently, five Chinese missionaries are working at the center of influence's school and dorms: Chen Xiurong, Gao Tong, Zhou Yu, Wang Haiyuan, and Fu Juan.
- 8 The Chinese teachers and staff gather for worship and to pray for the students.
- 9 Students wait by the door for their parents to pick them up. Most of them leave on motorbikes.



A pastor and a prominent Thai Adventist doctor appealed to the school, but without success. Finally, the doctor was able to reach someone at the Ministry of Education, and the girls were allowed to take their exams on a different day. When the results came in, one girl did so well that she raised the average of the local school district.

Both China and Thailand are challenging mission areas. Yet if you

wonder how we will fulfill Jesus' commission to reach the whole world with His Love, ask yourself another question. Did you ever imagine ten years ago that Adventist missionaries from China would be sharing their faith in Thailand?

Rick Kajiura
Office of Adventist Mission



Watch *Mission Spotlight*[™]—the next best thing to being there! Thousands of Adventists are watching short mission stories on video every week. To see what the excitement is all about, visit AdventistMission.org and click on *Mission Spotlight*[™]. Enjoy!



Happy Birthday, Global Mission!

25 Years

Where have the years gone? Global Mission is celebrating 25 years of frontline mission service, planting new groups of believers in unentered areas and among new people groups.

Since birthdays are wonderful opportunities to express thanks, we thank church members for:

- Praying for Global Mission pioneers and church planters. They've started thousands of new congregations since 1990.
- Understanding that frontline work is often lonely and difficult.
- Supporting new ideas and methods that have resulted in new congregations in more than 200 countries and territories.

So, thanks for *everything!* It's because of you, along with God's blessing, that we're able to reach this important milestone.

**You can help
change lives!**

"Global Mission projects
wouldn't be possible without
the support of our donors." –

Gary Krause, director of the Office of
Adventist Mission

.....

.....



Nancy Kyte
Office of Adventist Mission

\$25 for 25 Years Birthday Gift Idea

If you would like to send a birthday gift to Global Mission, be assured that every dollar will go directly to the front lines of mission, reaching people who are still waiting to hear about Jesus.

THREE WAYS TO GIVE

- 1 Mail to Global Mission:
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904
- 2 Secure online: Giving.AdventistMission.org
- 3 Call 800-648-5824





Six Feet



Six feet beat the streets of Pretoria, South Africa. Their pace is brisk and purposeful, driven by a sense of urgency. They dodge traffic, navigate crowds, and climb seemingly endless flights of stairs in the city's towering apartment buildings. Then suddenly, they stop. For the three Global Mission pioneers that the six feet belong to have just encountered someone interested in learning about Jesus—the single purpose of their daily trek.

Meet Gift, Steward, and Moeketsi, an energetic pioneer team resonating with passion for Jesus and compassion for people. Every weekday from eight to five, they traverse the city by foot to talk with people, pray with them, and invite them to explore God's Word together. They have studied with more than 1,500 people, baptized more than 200, and started two branch churches.

"I feel so humbled and yet so happy when I see someone accept Christ," Gift says with a gentle smile. "Especially someone like Paul."*

Paul was an angry, violent man who had a reputation for never allowing any other man on his property. To make matters worse, Gift wanted to visit Paul's wife, Helen,* a member who was no longer attending church. "If I wanted to encourage the wife," Gift says, "I had to work through the husband!"

Gift prayed for guidance, then went to visit the couple. As he approached their home, he saw Paul digging in his garden. Their eyes locked for a moment, and then Paul slowly returned to his work. "Suddenly, I saw a shovel lying on the ground," Gift says, "and I felt impressed to pick it up and start digging next to Paul."

As the two men dug together, they began to talk, and eventually Gift asked Paul about Helen. "She is in the house," Paul replied kindly. "You may go visit her." When Gift left that day, Paul told him that he was welcome to come again.

Gift began visiting regularly, and Paul began to call him "son." He

- 1 Steward visits with a woman who lives in one of the city's many apartments.
- 2 Steward, Pollen, Gift, and Moeketsi.
- 3 Hospa Sibanda, supervisor of the pioneer team, with Pollen, Gift, and Maria. Pollen and Maria have finished Bible studies and want to be baptized.
- 4 Moeketsi and Steward have a Bible study with Pollen outside the gas station where he has just finished work.
- 5 Global Mission pioneers Moeketsi, Gift, and Steward meet with Welheminah for a Bible study.

listened intently as Gift talked to Helen about Jesus' love, and eventually he and Gift became friends.

Then one day Helen called Gift to tell him that Paul had left her. He had moved in with another woman from whom he'd contracted AIDS.



“The day you knocked on my door was the day I was planning to kill myself.”

Jesus. Please raise your hand to let me know that you want Jesus to be your Savior.” Paul was quiet for a few moments, then slowly lifted his hand. “I love Jesus,” he said, and as he did, Gift enfolded him in his arms.

A few weeks later, Gift told Paul he was going to camp meeting, and Paul insisted that he go, too. Gift arranged for a nurse to care for Paul during the event and he pushed Paul in a wheelchair to every meeting.

At the close of the camp meeting, the preacher made an appeal for anyone who wanted to be baptized to come forward. Paul asked Gift to push him to the front, where he announced that he wanted to be baptized before he died.

There is much suffering and despair in Pretoria, and Paul was only one of thousands of people struggling with AIDS. One day Gift knocked on the door of a man named Daniel,* who had recently discovered he was HIV positive. They talked for a while, and then Gift left him a Bible lesson about how much God cares.

A few days later, Gift knocked on Daniel’s door again. Daniel invited him in and, holding the lesson to his heart, began to cry. He told Gift that when he had learned he was HIV positive, he had quit his studies at the local university. “I had given up on everything,” he said. “The day you knocked on my door was the day I was planning to kill myself.”

Gift assured Daniel that Jesus loves him and shared how he could begin a new life in Christ. Since their encounter, Daniel’s life has changed. He has gone back to school, finished the Bible lessons, and is now attending church.

“People often tell me, ‘I’m so happy now,’” Gift says. “They say, ‘I was in the dark, but now I have found the light.’ That’s why I have such a passion for being a Global Mission pioneer.”

Gift sees many people in his city die without knowing Jesus. “I want to thank everyone who has supported the ministry of Global Mission,” he says, “because they’ve helped Paul and Daniel, and many more like them, know Jesus’ love before it’s too late.”

*Name has been changed.

He was very sick, and Helen thought he didn’t have long to live.

Gift prayed with Helen and tried to comfort her. Then he asked whether she could forgive her husband and bring him home to care for him. Helen chose to do so.

The next time Gift visited the couple’s home, he found Paul very weak. Standing beside his bed, Gift said to Paul, “Father, God loves you. You cannot die without accepting

Global Mission pioneers are local people who dedicate at least one year to starting new churches in areas or among people groups where there is little or no Adventist presence. They receive a small living stipend and work in challenging conditions. Some are the only Seventh-day Adventists in an area of more than one million people. Their ministry wouldn’t be possible without your support. Thank you!

To learn more about Global Mission pioneers, please visit Global-Mission.org.

To watch a video about Gift, Steward, and Moeketsi, please visit Mission360Mag.org.



Laurie Falvo
Office of Adventist Mission



Sprouting English

“Dad, Tom and Gladys Decker need a math teacher at Nile Union Academy in Egypt. Why don't you apply?” asked our daughter, Sylvia.*

“They wouldn't want me,” Chuck replied. Having said that, he applied.

Guess what? They *did* want him—and they wanted me, too!

Chuck is a born teacher who taught most of his working life and into his retirement years. I had never taught secondary school, and I had few illusions about starting at the age of 74.

“You can just go along and volunteer at whatever suits you,” Chuck assured me. It didn't work out quite like that. I was required to apply as a full-time volunteer as well. My assignments were to teach English as a Second Language half time and mentor the librarian and office workers the other half.

Why would we want to go to Egypt at our age? To understand that, you would need to understand Chuck. He can change gears at the drop of a hat and run off to some remote place

for the adventure of it. If teaching is involved, he's ready.

“If you don't want to go, we don't have to,” he assured me.

Right! I said to myself. *For the next ten months he'll be telling people he couldn't go to Egypt because his wife didn't want to.* “One can do almost anything for ten months,” I responded with a smile. “After all, it's not ten years!” With that, we were off.

It wasn't that I didn't know anything about teaching. I studied secondary education in college. I taught

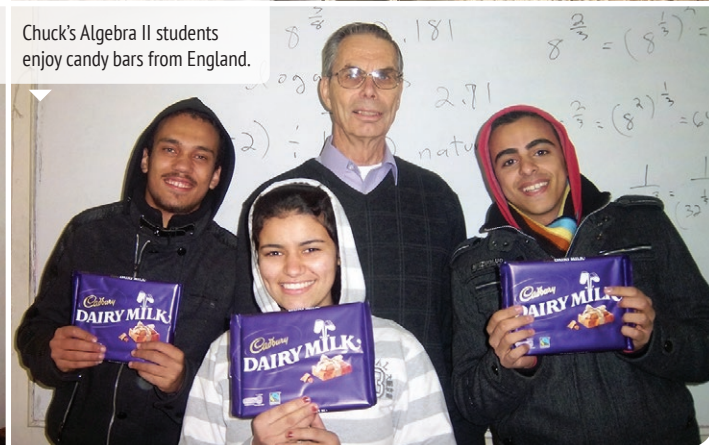
If you were to watch a line of Cairo residents walking past the Great Pyramid at the rate of one person every five seconds, it would take six days before you saw one Seventh-day Adventist.



Janet and Chuck visit the Giza pyramids near Cairo.



Visiting in the home of two students in Upper Egypt.



Chuck's Algebra II students enjoy candy bars from England.



elementary school for a short time after graduating. And in 2002, I qualified to teach English as a second language. But standing before a room full of rowdy, undisciplined boys who spoke no English was not something I had prepared for. For the first two months, every morning when I woke up I asked myself, *Janet, what in the world are you doing here?*

Planning my own curriculum, preparing lesson plans, getting a

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

Then another miracle occurred. Instead of getting under my skin, those kids began getting into my heart. Not only the ones in my classes

* Sylvia had roomed with Gladys in college. Gladys was the director of the English as a Second Language program at Nile Union Academy where her husband, Tom, served as principal.



Students "kidnap" Janet to lead her to her surprise 75th birthday party.



Students enjoying Janet's birthday cake.



Janet's birthday cake.



Janet and Chuck receive a final goodbye from students at the airport before returning to the United States.

handle on classroom management so learning could take place and I could retain my sanity—these were my daily challenges. Every few days I would cry on Gladys's shoulder, and she would encourage me that I was doing just fine.

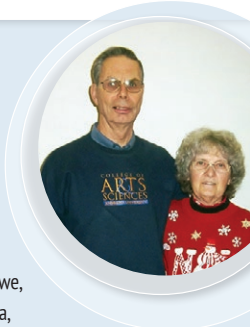
Guess what? About three months into the experiment, my students began sprouting English—honest-to-goodness meaningful sentences in English. It was amazing! It was exhilarating! It was miraculous!

but those in Chuck's classes as well. I learned to entertain them in our living room, which was also our dining room, our family room, our bedroom, and our study. In short, I learned to love them.

Would I do it again? Well, not right now. You see, three of them managed to get through the red tape at the United States Embassy to get student visas. They're currently living in our home while they go to college to follow their dreams.

Janet Wildman Schlunt

and her husband, **Charles**, have been married 55 years and have two daughters and one son, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Currently living in Indiana, they served as missionaries for 18 years in Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, England, Ghana, and Egypt. Since 1965 they've housed some 40 students in their home.





The Good Samaritan Inn

Meet Joyce, a 90-year-old woman who lives in Kingston, Jamaica, in a broken-down shack with a caved-in roof. Frail and poor, she never knew if or when she would have something to eat. Then Seventh-day Adventist Church members began bringing her food three times a week.

Joyce is only one of thousands of poverty-stricken people in Kingston who somehow manage to survive in spite of their meager access to the basic necessities of life.

Local church members began responding compassionately to their neighbors' hunger by distributing sack lunches. But as they got to know them, they discovered that their needs were greater than they had ever imagined.

The Adventists wanted to do more. The East Jamaica Conference purchased an old building, and the members fixed it up and called it the Good Samaritan Inn.

Now in its eighth year, this urban center of influence serves hot lunches four times a week to more than 900 people.

"It is the one-stop center for destitute people, where they can get a hot meal, a bath, and a change of clothing," says Pastor Adrian Cotterell of the Jamaica Union Conference.

In addition to its kitchen, shower, and laundry facilities, the inn offers haircuts, clothing, and educational assistance. It even provides an emergency refuge for women and children.

"Most of our clients are homeless people with a sense of hopelessness," says Pastor Carl Cunningham, chairman of the Good Samaritan Inn management committee. "They sleep on sidewalks and have no belongings except for a little luggage that they carry around. The Good Samaritan Inn reaches out to the suffering and marginalized and offers them hope and assurance."

The Good Samaritan Inn is open six days a week and draws hundreds of people each time. The staff always begins their ministry with a short worship. "We provide a wholistic ministry that reaches the physical, mental, social, and spiritual needs of the people in our community," says inn manager Vermont Murray.

Lloyd used to be a heavy drinker, but since coming to the inn his life has been transformed. He no longer drinks and now works as a security guard at the inn. "What I like about the inn," he says, "is that it isn't just about a meal—it's about the uplifting of people's lives. I don't know how we could exist without the Good Samaritan Inn."

Nema and her mother first came to the inn when Nema was a teen. "Once you walk through the gates, you can leave your problems because in



- 1 Joyce (left) is visited by a church member, who brought her a meal.
- 2 Since the Adventists came to visit her, Joyce has much more to smile about.
- 3 Church members deliver food to community members who are not able to visit the Good Samaritan Inn.



Christ's Method of Ministry

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men 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).



Pastor Carl Cunningham leads a group in worship at the Good Samaritan Inn.



Church members deliver food to community members who are not able to visit the Good Samaritan Inn.



The ministry of the Good Samaritan Inn helps to protect or reinstate people's self-respect through offering haircuts, showers, and laundry facilities and by sharing the good news that they are children of God.



Thank you for your support of projects like the Good Samaritan Inn!

here it's a new start," Nema says. "It's a place of worship and peace—a place to get help."

Nema is now pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing. "I had to stop because I couldn't afford the school fees, but the inn helped me get in school again. This place has become a home, a family, a rescue! I don't think I would have progressed this far in education, or spiritually, if it wasn't for the Good Samaritan Inn."

Olivia is 11 years old, and she has been coming to the Good Samaritan

Inn with her mother and sisters for seven years. She enjoys learning about God and was recently baptized. "If it wasn't for God," she says, "I wouldn't be in school, or woken up this morning, or have a roof over my head."

"We need to be in the community," says Pastor Cotterell. "The Good Samaritan Inn is one way that we can place the church in the community. We are planning to make the Good Samaritan Inn a national project, setting up similar inns in growing urban centers across Jamaica."

The Good Samaritan Inn received part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this year to help build a health clinic that will provide the community with dental, maternal, and basic medical care. There are also plans to establish a training center that will equip people with skills so that they can provide for themselves.

Thank you so much for supporting the Good Samaritan Inn with your donations and prayers. Many people have been led to Jesus and baptized as a result of its ministry.

"I praise the Lord that the mission to the cities initiative has captured the imagination of our people. It has taken city after city by storm. Our membership and leadership have risen to the occasion, and it's heart-warming to see substantial commitment of human and financial resources to cities."—G. T. Ng, secretary, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

To watch a video about the Good Samaritan Inn, please visit Mission360Mag.org.

Ricky Oliveras with **Gina Wahlen**. Ricky is a video producer for the Office of Adventist Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters, where Gina serves as editor of the *Mission* magazines.





Global Mission Fun Facts

There are currently 1,733 Global Mission pioneers, serving at 748 projects in 104 countries.

- When Global Mission began in 1990, there were 31,654 churches with a membership of 6.5 million people. A new church was organized approximately every 9.30 hours.
- In 2014, there were 78,810 churches with a membership of more than 18 million people. A new church was organized approximately every 3.5 hours, the fastest rate in our denomination's 152-year history.
- A record 1,167,796 people joined the church in 2014. That's 3,197 new members every day or 133 every hour.



“The increase last year in local churches is the most new local churches ever organized in any calendar year,” says David Trim, director of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research. “This is

partly a fruit of the church planting initiative organized by the Office of Adventist Mission and involving Global Mission pioneers.”

Source: The Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research.

The 10/40 Window One of the greatest needs of mission today is the 10/40 Window. This challenging area stretches from northern Africa, through the Middle East, and into Asia. It's home to two-thirds of the world's population, most of the world's least-reached countries and people groups, and the fewest Christians. Millions of people in the 10/40 Window have never heard the name of Jesus. It's a high priority for Global Mission church planting.



Global Mission Snapshots offers inspiring video stories about Global Mission pioneers and church planters around the world.

To watch, please visit AdventistMission.org/videos.

The Urban Challenge

For the first time in history, more than half the world's population lives in big cities. Yet secular cities are some of the most challenging places to share the gospel. Global Mission is working in hundreds of cities around the world, helping busy, and often lonely, people experience a loving God and caring church family.

Did you know...

- In 1800, 3 percent of the world's population lived in urban areas?
- In 1900, 14 percent lived in urban areas and only 12 cities had populations of more than one million?

- In 2009, the majority of the world's population lived in urban areas?
- In 2011, there were more than 20 megacities in the world with more than 10 million inhabitants?
- Today, there are more than 530 cities with populations of more than one million? Of these cities, 31 have not even one Seventh-day Adventist congregation—and 119 (represented by red dots on the map) have 125 Adventists or fewer.
- That it's predicted that by 2050, 70 percent of the world's population will be urban?¹

More than 100 years ago Ellen White wrote, "The work in the cities



is the essential work for this time" (Ellen G. White, "Go, Preach the Gospel," *Review and Herald*, November 17, 1910). Today the world's urban population is 13 times greater than when she was writing.

"Human Population: Urbanization," Population Reference Bureau, accessed May 12, 2015, <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Lesson-Plans/Human-Population/Urbanization.aspx>.

Centers of Influence

Centers of influence, as Ellen White called them, provide an opportunity for wholistic ministry following the example of Jesus. More than 300 centers have been established around in the world, and many more are in the planning process. For more information visit AdventistMission.org and urbancenters.org.

Tentmaking

Tentmaking is a way for every disciple of Jesus to be involved in the Great Commission. Many nations have closed their borders to church-based missionaries. Tentmakers are devoted believers who use their profession to support themselves to be a witness in areas where traditional missionaries cannot go. Total Employment is the Seventh-day Adventist Church program for encouraging and engaging those who want to become tentmakers.

There's an urgent need for thousands of people who are willing to use their profession in another part of the world for the purpose of sharing Christ. If you think God may be calling you to be a tentmaker, please visit te.AdventistMission.org.

Global Mission Centers

Global Mission Centers develop methods and models to enable Adventists to more effectively understand and share with people from major religious and people groups.

The six centers are Global Center for Adventist-Muslim Relations, World Jewish-Adventist Friendship Center, Center for East Asian Religions, Center for Secular and Postmodern Studies, Center for South Asian Religions, and Global Mission Urban Center. For more information, please visit AdventistMission.org/global-mission-centers.





Thomas, the Miracle Man

During morning hospital rounds I could smell something putrid even before I went into the room. It took self-control not to wrinkle or cover my nose. The man in the bed, whose skin should have been a deep, rich brown, was a sickly yellowish-gray. He was emaciated, and his head seemed too large for his body. The large gauze bandage wrapped around his protruding abdomen was insufficient to contain the weeping ooze that lay beneath, so it leaked onto the sheet.

“How you keepin’ today, Brother Thomas?” asked Dr. Sonii. In optimistic Liberian fashion, Thomas replied, “Tryin’ small small.” But, he did not smile.

Dr. Sonii tried to encourage him. Plans were progressing nicely to have him flown to Europe to treat the large tumor eating his abdomen. Seventh-day Adventist Cooper Hospital does not routinely refer patients for care out of Liberia (there’s no funding for that), but a former employer of Thomas had heard of his plight and arranged for care in Italy.

Dr. Sonii assured Thomas that the surgery technician would come soon to change the dressing. And that, hopefully, this time there would not be so much bleeding. Once outside the room, Dr. Sonii told the nurse to check another hemoglobin blood level after giving Thomas two more bags of blood. He shook his head and looked at me. “His depression is making him weaker. He can’t give up. He has this

fantastic chance to go for help, but I think we need a miracle!”

Currently, in Liberia, there is no cancer care other than surgery to remove tumors. At Cooper, we couldn’t even do a tumor de-bulking surgery because we had no surgeon and no idea of the reach of the cancer tentacles in Thomas’s belly. We were trying to keep him alive and stable long enough to get him to Italy. Several times we attempted to send him off, but each time something went wrong—the airline didn’t have a seat for medical transport, he needed more blood, or the flight was canceled. Every day he weakened. I could see that his flagging spirit was sapping what little energy he had left to fight. *Hold on! Hold on!* I cried in my heart.

Finally, the blood hemoglobin level was high enough and Thomas was scheduled for a Sunday morning flight. On Sabbath, I asked the nurses if they would be willing to join me in praying with Thomas, and they agreed.

When I arrived at the unit, I found them digging through the hymnal trying to find the “perfect blessing song.” They stopped their work, leaving one nurse’s aide to tend the nursing station, and we all trooped to Thomas’s room. He was so pale and tired that he didn’t speak. His wife sat on the other bed. Her eyes welled with tears when we explained that we came to send



- 1 Becky with her neighbors.
- 2 Becky with midwife Yah Venegar, the head of maternity services at Cooper Hospital.
- 3 Becky with her husband, Austin, and their baby, Cyrus.

him off with a “Seventh-day Adventist Cooper Blessing.” We sang, “God will take care of you, through every day, o’er all the way. Lean, weary one upon His breast. God will take care of you.” Then, the nurses and I prayed.

It was hard for me to pray. I knew that we were asking for a miracle.

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



We were also asking for strength to accept human frailty and rest in the belief that there is a purpose for each of our journeys that is beyond our understanding.

And so Thomas went to Italy. I admit that I didn't have much hope. I feared that he would arrive there only to be told that there was nothing they could do. I believe in miracles, but not that they happen whenever we want them to or that they always come in the form that we conceive. Prayed-for people often die. Still, the experience of singing and praying with the nurses and aides was powerful for me. I could only guess what it might have meant to Thomas and his wife.

Months of busyness gradually muffled the experience in my heart. Five months later I was in the crowded emergency room to monitor the nursing student I'd assigned there. In the bedlam, a man approached me, his face visibly brightening as he hastily extended his hand. He clearly knew me. I put out my hand reflexively but must have looked uncertain. "You don't recognize me—do you!" he said with a robust laugh. "I am Thomas!"

There was no resemblance in this man to the Thomas I knew. The man before me looked hearty. He looked as if he'd just come in after a nice brisk walk down the beach. My mouth fell open. I couldn't help myself. I hugged him. Thomas's wife stood behind him, laughing happily as he embraced the staff. "When Thomas got off the plane," she remarked, "he said, 'Take me to Cooper Hospital.'"

There are miracles! Sometimes God uses doctors and nurses and modern medicine to work them. And, sometimes, when a volunteer missionary's faith needs boosting, He uses the people the missionary came to serve to strengthen it.

Originally from California in the United States, **Becky Carlton Dice** met Thomas when she served as a volunteer nurse-midwife consultant at Seventh-day Adventist Cooper Hospital in Liberia.



CHILDREN'S STORY

The Honest Brothers

Duh and Yu live with their father in a tiny one-room apartment in a large city in Taiwan. The brothers' mother died when they were small. Their father feels bad that he can't work at a steady job and provide well for his boys. Often they go to school hungry. But the boys love their father and don't want to live with someone else.

After classes, Duh and Yu go to the after-school center in the Adventist church across the street from the school. There volunteer teachers help children with their homework and provide a hot meal.

"I like coming to the after-school center," Yu said. "It's fun to play games when our work is done, and the food is good, too."

Duh and Yu aren't Adventists. But on Sabbath the children from the after-school center return to the center to attend children's church. "I like learning about God," Duh says. "And we get lunch, too," he adds with a smile. The brothers stay at church all afternoon for worship, Pathfinders, and an after-sunset playtime.

They especially enjoy Pathfinders and are proud of the honors that they've earned. Although their father isn't a Christian, he gladly allows them to attend the church's programs because he knows that





- 1 This boy was lonely being home alone after school, but now he's happy that he can come to the Adventist church's after-school center where he meets with other kids his age, gets help with homework, enjoys nutritious snacks, and learns about Jesus.
- 2 Teacher Yvette is a Bible worker who helps the children at the center learn more about Jesus. They love it when she reads stories to them. Each week she reads to the children from *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*.
- 3 Brothers Duh and Yu.
- 4 Boys and girls enjoy coming to the after-school program. They appreciate the friendships they make, the music, and the activities. Often they'll come to Sabbath School and as a result, several children have been baptized.

they're learning to be good citizens. The lessons they learn at church and in Pathfinders have made a big impact on the boys.

Last year when Duh and Yu and two girls from the after-school program were walking to the library, Duh found a small cloth bag filled with coins. "It's not ours," one of the children said, so they took the money to the nearby police station.

The police officer listened to the children's story. He took their names and addresses, and then he emptied the bag to count the money.

It was more money than the children had ever seen.

The next day a newspaper reporter interviewed the children about the money they'd found. "We learned to be honest at the church and in Pathfinders," Duh told the reporter. "At church we are taught that Jesus is our example, and we want to be like Him."

No one claimed the money, so the police officer gave the money to the children's school to help pay their school fees.

Although the children are poor, they think of others who have even less. When Yu grows up, he wants to work in an after-school program such as the one the church operates. Our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering last quarter will help support the after-school programs in Taiwan as well as a center for elderly people. Thank for giving your mission offerings!



This story has been selected from a recent *Mission* quarterly, a communication resource that has served the church for the past 102 years. The weekly mission stories are an integral part of Adventist Sabbath Schools around the world. You'll find many more inspiring mission stories when you visit AdventistMission.org. Click on Sharing, then click on one of the *Mission* quarterly tabs, and choose a story.

Christ's method in the world's great cities

Showing sympathy
Ministering
to needs
Winning confidence
Bidding people
to follow
Jesus

Every dollar given to Global Mission goes directly to the front lines of mission, including big cities, reaching people who are still waiting to know Jesus.

THREE WAYS TO GIVE:

- Mail to Global Mission:
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904
- Secure online: Giving.AdventistMission.org
- Call 800-648-5824