

mission360°

The official mission magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 4

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Editorial

For the most part, I'm ready to jump in with both feet and work, ready to tell people of Jesus and the hope that only He can give in this time of despair, and ready to die if necessary. And yet, sometimes, I don't feel ready for any of this."

As I read Greg Shank's words, the man who wrote them suddenly becomes far more real to me than the dedicated missionary doctor whose blogs I've followed for years. He's just been asked to serve as one of the emergency personnel at a hospital fighting the deadliest virus on earth, and he's vulnerable and scared. Driven by compassion and conviction yet wrestling with reason and risk, he's

opened his heart to friends, asking for their prayers. He's a husband, a father, a son, and brother, facing a decision for life or death.

He's also a man of God's Word. "Today, in my morning devotions, I read the following in 1 John 3:16-18: 'This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth' (NIV). After reading God's word to me, I'm ready

again for whatever comes."

I'm overwhelmed. This man is willing to give everything, even his life, to help God's children in need. And he's not alone. He's joined by the likes of Dr. Gillian Seton, Bob Roberts, and the Prada family whose stories are told in this issue of *Mission 360*. It's a celebration of the love that inspires missionaries, church planters, and Global Mission pioneers to do whatever it takes to draw people into the arms of Jesus.

Laurie Falvo

Laurie Falvo
Managing Editor



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¿Hablas Español?

This past year I've had the privilege of serving as a volunteer Spanish teacher at Rogers Adventist School in Walla Walla, Washington. From start to finish, God has guided my journey, and it's been an unforgettable experience!

I was very apprehensive the first few mornings when I walked into the classroom. Everything was new—the challenges, the place, the people, even the language, which I wish I spoke better. But God gave me the tools to meet these challenges and to be successful.

I'd like to share a few stories from my experience that I found particularly rewarding.

If you've ever tried to learn a new language, you may identify with feeling nervous about mispronouncing words or not being able to understand what people are saying. Perhaps that's how Jackson felt. One thing was certain: he did not want to participate.

"I don't want Spanish," he announced loudly as I entered the room.

I decided to try to help Jackson as much as I could. Sometimes I sat by his desk, repeating the Spanish phrases over and over with him. Little by little he began to understand the assignments, and as his knowledge grew, so did his enthusiasm.

One day, to my surprise, Jackson raised his hand when I asked the students a question. He was still a bit shy, but he was sure of his answer. He even started to correct his classmates when they said something wrong! By the end of the school year, Jackson was fluidly translating English phrases into Spanish, and his progress gave me joy.

Sahara is another student of whom I'm very proud. Like her classmates, she was initially unfamiliar with Spanish. She had tried to learn the language before but had found it difficult. Now she arrived home singing and talking about her Spanish classes. Her mom

told me that she was happy to see her daughter excited about learning Spanish. Sahara's positive attitude and desire to learn have greatly encouraged me as a teacher.

Melody and Ethan are siblings who arrived during the school year, so they had to adapt to a completely different environment. Fortunately, our school offered something that would help them to adapt—Spanish! Their mom speaks Spanish so she had taught them some at home. She shared with me that her children had felt ashamed to show that they understood Spanish at their previous school and that she was so glad that we taught it at Rogers. I didn't understand why the children felt ashamed because I believe that having multi-language skills is a real asset in today's diverse world. But I was pleased to see that Melody and Ethan were happier, confidently speaking Spanish without fear or shame.

- ① The children loved ice cream. I (on left) loved hearing them ask for it in Spanish.
- ② I think they even loved me.
- ③ Teaching a Spanish Christmas song.
- ④ With Bailey, one of my most enthusiastic learners.



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.



One of my biggest challenges was teaching the junior high students, because they didn't want to learn Spanish. In previous years, parents had volunteered to teach Spanish and the class was optional for students. But now, it was part of the curriculum.

I did my best to create an interactive class and make learning fun. Some of my students appreciated my efforts and learned a lot, while others chose to learn less. But all of

them helped me learn a few lessons of my own:

- There will be challenges in the work that God sends us to do.
- Not all people are willing to accept what you have to offer.
- Always give your best despite the obstacles.

My volunteer experience made a deep impact on my life. I've met spectacular teachers, wonderful people who treated me like family, and

students who made me smile each day. I'll miss the children's eagerness to learn Spanish, but I'll leave satisfied that I've done my best to share Jesus with them and enrich their lives.

Karen Raquel Guerra Espinoza

lives in Costa Rica, where she is completing her education major at Central America Adventist University.





Staring Down

Ebola

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has a rich legacy of missionaries who have ventured into dangerous territories and situations for the sake of the gospel. Putting Christ first, others second, and themselves last, they've served as the hands and feet of Jesus

in loving and caring for those in need.

One such missionary is Gillian Seton, a young surgeon serving in Liberia during the outbreak of the most dreaded virus on earth.

Dr. Seton shared her chilling experience during the Church in Mission program at the General Conference

session in San Antonio, Texas. She was interviewed by Dr. Richard Hart, president of the Loma Linda University Medical Center in California, where many of our medical missionaries are trained. Dr. Hart has a history of extensive support for medical mission work and founded Adventist Health International.

Dr. Hart: Dr. Seton, you graduated from Loma Linda School of Medicine in 2008. After completing your general surgery training in 2013, you moved to Monrovia, Liberia, to serve at Seventh-day Adventist Cooper Hospital. What happened next?

Dr. Seton: I arrived at Cooper just weeks before Ebola was definitively identified in the country of Guinea, which is about a hundred miles away. The outbreak seemed to die down for a few weeks, and we thought things would be OK. But then it escalated. One sick person at a hospital would infect five or six others, and then the staff would die and that hospital would close. One hospital after another toppled until there were only three non-Ebola hospitals left open

in Monrovia to care for a population of three and a half million people.

We realized that we couldn't stand alone in this. We were desperate for supplies. Nothing was available for purchase, not even a pair of gloves. Thankfully, Loma Linda University, Adventist Health International, the General Conference, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, and some twenty other organizations came to our rescue, providing much needed medical supplies and volunteer personnel.

Dr. Hart: Tell us a little about Ebola and the risks involved in treating it.

Dr. Seton: The reason that Ebola is so much worse than all the other diseases that we know about is because it's that contagious and it's that deadly. It has

up to a ninety percent mortality rate. One cc of blood from an advanced Ebola case may have between one and ten billion copies of the virus in it. No one knows how much exposure is needed to become infected. However, with such a high viral load in a small amount of fluid, only a drop in the wrong place, such as in the eye or a cut in the hand, could lead to infection. This is part of the difficulty in controlling the spread: anyone who cares for an Ebola patient is at incredibly high risk of dangerous exposure, especially in the last stages of the illness.

One doctor embroiled in the Ebola crisis said, "Imagine that you were handed a gun and a vest and told, 'Stand over there and let us shoot at you, but don't worry, the bullets won't penetrate the vest.'" That's what people were asking

- ① Dr. Seton with long-standing patient and little friend, Divine.
- ② Some of the brave Cooper staff. Left to right: Robert Zlehn, Miatta Norris, Victoria Beddell, Precious Yekeh, N.S. Wesseh, Stephensen Suwo, and Tenneh Rogers.
- ③ Wearing personal protective equipment, Dr. Seton prepares a patient for surgery.
- ④ Seventh-day Adventist Cooper Hospital.
- ⑤ Dr. Seton and operating room nurse, Klubo Earley.



Blog from Dr. Gillian Seton

September 19, 2014

It doesn't jump out suddenly; it comes in small steps so that before you realize you're in trouble, it has surrounded you, found all your weaknesses, and had plenty of time to grow into your worst nightmare. Ebola outbreak. Hemorrhagic virus. Fifty to ninety percent mortality. Spread by contact with body fluids. It isn't quite match criteria for the zombie apocalypse, but it has come very close.

I came to work in a small mission hospital in Monrovia, Liberia, in February 2014. I had finished my general surgery training a few months prior and fulfilled my lifelong goal to work in developing countries to provide surgical and emergency care. I came knowing that I would face certain dangers, disappointments, and frustration at the lack of resources. I never once imagined that I would face an outbreak of a deadly hemorrhagic virus.

To watch our *Mission 360° TV* interview with Gillian Seton, please visit Mission360Mag.org.

of health care workers in West Africa. "You should put on these things that we're saying will protect you, regardless of the real risk, and then treat people who are extremely contagious."

Dr. Hart: I remember talking to you on the phone while your staff was facing a critical decision: Do we try to stay open or do we close and protect ourselves? Tell us what happened.

Dr. Seton: My staff got together for several hours to discuss the risks to themselves and their families. In the end, about seventy-five percent of them agreed that we couldn't close, that we had to do everything possible to save the lives of people with non-Ebola related emergencies.

Dr. Hart: We had recently decided to make Cooper a non-Ebola hospital. There were a few centers open for Ebola treatment, but you were trying to take care of everything else in the city.

Dr. Seton: Yes. People would go to four or five hospitals seeking treatment, only to learn that they were closed. Eventually, they would come to Cooper, which is off the beaten track and a smaller hospital. We had cars parked four or five rows deep and a huge

crowd of people waiting to be screened and to get help for their loved ones.

Dr. Hart: How did it go?

Dr. Seton: I don't like to remember those days very much. We were able to help a significant number of people, especially those with obstetric complications and children with severe malaria and anemia. Our biggest challenge was identifying those who were in the early stages of Ebola from those with other ailments because often the symptoms look exactly the same. Sometimes we were wrong; we

admitted at least five confirmed Ebola cases during September 2014. Yet God protected us every step of the way. The Lord facilitated things so that we could get help—personnel, equipment, and money—just at the last minute when we were desperate for it and enabled us to do everything we could to help some of the people who needed care.

Dr. Hart: We had several other missionary doctors, such as Doctors James Appel, Greg Saunders, and Greg Shank, who were willing to leave their families and assist you during this critical time.

Dr. Seton: Yes, and I am so grateful for them. Not only did their presence save my life on numerous occasions, their expertise enabled Cooper to provide care for many medical emergencies. And I'm thankful for your guidance, Dr. Hart, for you advised me to serve in Liberia, and it was absolutely the best fit for me. God clearly led me there.

Dr. Seton is also grateful for your prayers and donations. Your weekly mission offerings and world budget offerings help to support her ministry, Cooper Hospital, and Loma Linda University, as well as thousands of other Adventist missionaries and mission-driven institutions around the world. Their ministry wouldn't be possible without your commitment. Thank you!

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

Four ways to give:

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



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Serving Up Love

It's Sabbath morning at the Compass Communities church plant in Port Charlotte, Florida. You're just in time for worship, but just so you know, they do church a little differently here.

For starters, they meet in a soup kitchen where they serve up love to people who have fallen through the cracks of society. The jobless, the homeless, and those struggling with disabilities, addictions, or broken lives are all welcomed with a warm hug when they walk through the doors.

This ethnically and economically diverse church is the fruit of the Holy Spirit's leading in the lives of lay pastors Clarence and Donna Dunbar and cofounder Pastor Anthony Wagnersmith.

"We've always wanted to plant a church with the main focus of loving people like Jesus did," says Donna. "We're learning to follow His method of ministry—mingling with people in

our community, meeting their needs, showing them sympathy, winning their confidence, and inviting them to follow God. And as we do, we're growing!"

One of Compass Communities' top priorities is the homeless to whom they provide clothing, companionship, and help for numerous addictions. "It's really neat to see people break the chains of addiction and embrace living the abundant life that Jesus came to give," says Clarence.

Compass Communities also participates in the soup kitchen program. Their forte is Friday evening when the fare is extra special to remind diners of God's love for them. Church members personally serve each guest, and there's even a menu!

Another high-priority group for Compass Communities is the community youth. When Donna learned that there were 8,000 local children

who didn't know Jesus, she joined a ministry for middle-schoolers.

"My knees were knocking when I first became involved," says Donna. "I was totally out of my element. I prayed, 'Father, help me to reach Your kids for Your kingdom. Give me the words I need to say,' and He did!"

Donna learned the children's names and little things about them. She helped them raise money to go to camp, took them to the mall, and invited them to pool parties at her home. In time she became a trusted friend.

Now some of these children worship with the Compass Communities congregation each week. One such child is an autistic girl named Amber. "I watched Amber change before my eyes as she came to know Jesus," says Donna. She was baptized recently, and her mother was so overjoyed with Amber's transformation, she was baptized too!"

Another such child is Alivia. "Alivia used to have nightmares and wake



1



- 1 Clarence and Donna Dunbar's dream to start a new congregation came true six years ago with the establishment of the Compass Communities church plant.
- 2 Clarence with a new friend at Compass Communities church.
- 3 Believers from all walks of life meet each Sabbath to worship Jesus.
- 4 Compass Communities provides clothing, companionship, and help to their neighbors.
- 5 A caring environment helps build strong friendships.
- 6 Donna's new friends Cassidy, Fawn, Amber, Joseph, and Alivia have joined the church family.



2

Mission 360° TV hosts guests, such as Clarence and Donna Dunbar, 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.

To watch a video of Compass Communities Church called “#FollowMe,” please visit Mission360Mag.org.

up stabbing her pillow with her hand as if she held a knife.” says Donna. “When she accepted Jesus, the difference in her was like night and day; the demons were gone. She’s my little sunshine now.”

The Compass Communities members have loved quite a few people into their church family. But there’s so much more that they want to do, such as starting a Pathfinder club and hosting seminars. They long for a building of their own so that they can fellowship for more than just a

few hours each week and create a center of influence that ministers to the community in even more ways.

“I am so glad that God called me to Compass Communities,” says Donna. “When He calls you, He equips you. I don’t know where He is calling you, but I know that He will. When He does, just go with it. It will be the journey of a lifetime!”

Please pray for Donna and Clarence and all our church planters as they raise new groups of Seventh-day Adventist believers around the world.

Your global Mission donations help fund Global Mission pioneers, church planters, and centers of influence. Thank you for making their ministry possible!

Clarence and Donna’s dream to start a new congregation came true six years ago with the help of church planter Pastor Anthony Wagnersmith. They’ve been married for 22 years and live in Port Charlotte, Florida.



The House With No Flags

Deep in the mountains of central Asia, a small village clings to a rocky slope, dwarfed by an 18,000-foot mountain peak. At first glance, there's nothing remarkable about this town with its humble wood and stone dwellings that have Buddhist prayer flags fluttering from the roofs.

But then Pastor Kumar Adhikari and I spot something unusual: a house with no prayer flags. Finally, after bumping along winding roads for eight hours, we know we've reached our destination.

"Welcome! Welcome!" exclaims Yonten* as he ushers us into his cheerful home. "We have been waiting for you!"

Yonten is a gospel worker and the speaker for the Tibetan programs on Adventist World Radio (AWR). Since his baptism in 2006, he's bravely survived as a Christian in this border town, striving to share the message of God's love in Nepal and Tibet.

We've come to visit Yonten, not only to encourage him in his challenging work but to fulfill one of his deepest desires: the baptism of his wife, Jamyang*.

Together we carefully make our way over the boulders beside a deep river, and Jamyang and Pastor Kumar slip into the rushing current. The water is freezing, but the day is incredibly joyful for these isolated young believers.

After the baptismal service, about a dozen visitors crowd into Yonten and Jamyang's home for Sabbath worship. Several of them are former Sunday-keeping Christians, who have walked more than four hours to fellowship with their friends.

When Yonten first accepted Christ, he had to flee his home. Although Buddha forbade killing, the villagers wanted to murder him in order to protect their religion.



Today, he has secured the friendship of the villagers, and the community accepts him and allows him to live as a Christian.

Public evangelism is still forbidden in Tibet. So when Yonten visits his family and friends there, he shares Jesus with them privately. He's hopeful that the Christian presence he has brought to his village and his corner of Tibet can become more visible, and he is full of ideas.

Yonten has recently become a youth leader in his community, and

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



in this role, it would be appropriate to share Adventist health programs with the villagers. The community hall accommodates more than a hundred people and would be an ideal location for health lectures. "Adventists could come as health messengers," Yonten says, "and through their example they could share the gospel message without making people feel threatened."

Education is another significant need, particularly for the Tibetan children living on the Nepalese side of the border. They need better schooling, as well as care and love. Even the children of some of Yonten's relatives and friends would benefit

from a proper education program.

Despite its apparent remoteness, Yonten's town is slowly growing. Because it lies on a commercial and mountain-trekking route, visitors are becoming more frequent. Yonten envisions someday building a church there.

There are a few countries in the world where God's message has not gone, and Tibet is one of them. "Tibet has always been on the top of our priority list of countries we want to reach with the gospel message," says AWR president Dowell Chow. "Even though it is a small step, the nucleus of believers now meeting in Yonten's home is a flickering light that will grow as more people are exposed to God's love for them. Adventist World Radio is uniquely poised to reach into the homes and the hearts of the Tibetan people through our daily radio programs prepared and voiced by one of their very own."

With the baptism of his wife, Jamyang, Yonten's work is doubly blessed as they continue to share the love of Jesus with their neighbors and friends. Please keep this couple, AWR, and the Tibetan people in your prayers.

* Name has been changed.

- 1 Pastor Kumar Adhikari with Jamyang and her husband, Yonten.
- 2 Pastor Kumar baptizing Jamyang.
- 3 Visitors worship with Yonten and Jamyang in their home.

Bhaju Ram Shrestha is a retired librarian living in Nepal.



For inspiring stories about Global Mission pioneers and church planters around the world, watch Global Mission Snapshots at AdventistMission.org/videos.

Planting Hope in Sri Lanka's Tea Plantations

Meet Pastor Dhanaraja, the Global Mission director for the Sri Lanka Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. Recently, he took Doug Venn, the Adventist Mission director for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, and his son, Joshua, to visit two Global Mission projects in the highlands of Sri Lanka. Doug and Joshua met the pioneers in charge of the projects and witnessed some of the amazing things God is doing through their ministry.

“Many of the people living in the highlands drink heavily, smoke, and chew betel nut,” says Pastor Dhanaraja. “As a result, they suffer numerous health problems. Their families

become poor because it’s expensive to support these habits and to get medical treatment for the diseases that they cause. There’s a real need here, and our Global Mission pioneers are here to help meet that need.

“The pioneers help people to understand why these substances are harmful and show them how they can live healthy, happy lives. They encourage them in their struggles, and, over time, they introduce them to Jesus.

“Some of the villagers have overcome their harmful habits and have accepted Jesus as their Savior. God is really blessing our Global Mission work in Sri Lanka.”

“Please pray for the more than 21,416,000 people in Sri Lanka and for our Global Mission pioneers who work there,” asks Doug Venn. “And thank you for supporting Global Mission!”

To watch a video about the Global Mission work in Sri Lanka called “Healing and Teaching,” please visit Mission360Mag.org.

- 1 The tea pickers work long hours under the hot sun in Sri Lanka.
- 2 Pastor Dhanaraja, right, visits with Global Mission pioneer Mr. Sivayogam, left, and a neighbor.



Global Mission pioneers are lay people who volunteer at least one year to start a new church in areas or among people groups where there is little or no Adventist presence. They seek to understand the challenges and needs of the people whom they've come to serve and then minister to those needs through a wholistic approach.

Since 1993, they've helped thousands of people to experience abundant life in Jesus and started more than 11,000 new Seventh-day Adventist congregations. Their ministry wouldn't be possible without your donations and prayers. Thank you!

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

If you would like to support 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

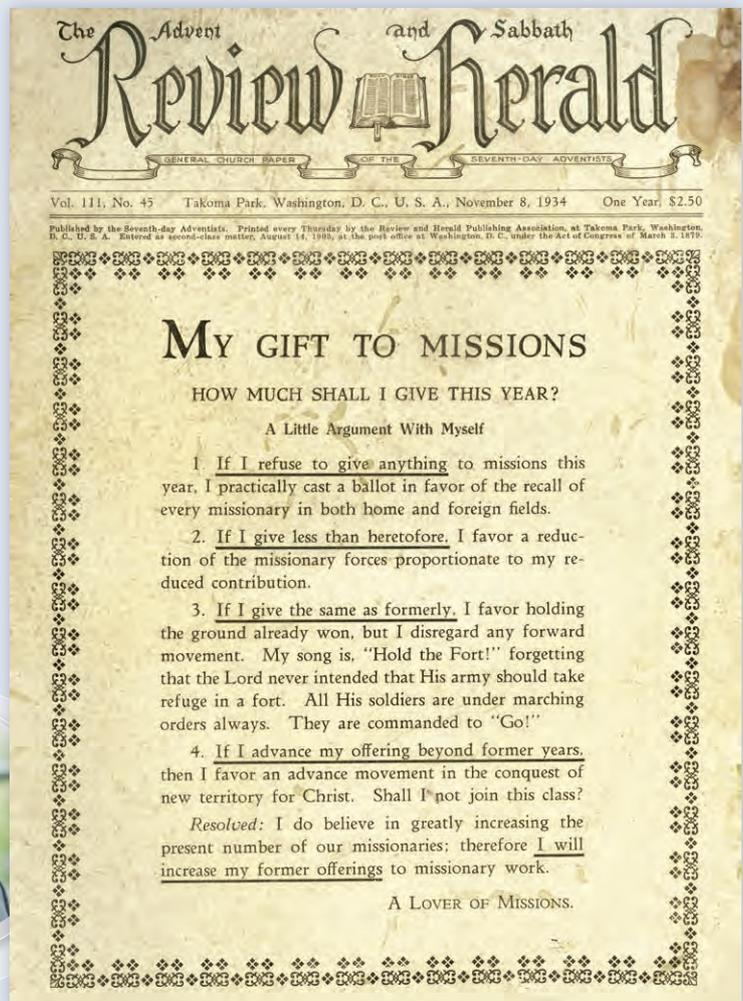
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Hear the Pennies Dropping

When this issue of the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* was published in November 1934, Adventist giving for foreign missions totaled \$1,640,110.88—one-sixth of all tithes and offerings that came to the world church. Last year, giving to worldwide mission was \$91,935,628—just one-fortieth of total global tithes and offerings. Mission giving in 1934 was \$4.05 from every church member, while today it is \$5.24. Yet \$4.05 in 1934 would be equivalent to at least \$71 today.

The truth is, we are giving less to worldwide mission today than our grandparents and great-grandparents gave. So we need to ask ourselves the questions they would have asked themselves in 1934: do we want to see fewer missionaries working for the billions of people in East Asia, Southern Asia, the Middle East, North Africa, and the great cities of Europe who don't know Jesus or biblical truth? Or do we “favor an advance movement in the conquest of new territory for Christ?”

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





1

MISSION to the CITIES

A Juice Bar and a Recipe for Success

If you wanted to open a center of influence in your city, what do you think it would take? A sizeable savings account or a major loan to secure a location and equipment? A hard-to-find team of volunteers with

plenty of free time to help out? Maybe years of experience in business?

Meet Jason Churchwell, owner of two juice bars in Atlanta, Georgia, and only six years out of college. Two years ago, he found a former coffee shop in the prosperous Buckhead area of Atlanta, available at a rate he calls “super cheap.” He negotiated a six-month lease—one that allowed him to haul out the espresso machines and sell them to help pay for it—and friends chipped in to help cover initial expenses as well. “We used pallet wood to decorate,” he recalls. “I made the recipes at

my house, and we were ready to go.” He dubbed the place “Press Together,” and he was in business.

Jason and his wife, Carrie, survived on her teacher’s salary and poured every extra dollar into expanding. A bit of income meant another juice flavor was added to the lineup. A few more dollars and he was able to add a professional blender for smoothies. When \$500 came his way, he bought a freezer. Within a year, he opened a second location.

Operating the juice bars has given Jason the opportunity to share health principles with clients and their business associates. At a major bank, he offered free juice to anyone who would attend a free, 30-minute health lecture. In his presentation, he referred to what has been called the “Blue



3



2

moving, and as we start moving, He opens doors, but sitting and waiting doesn't do it." Other ingredients are patience, hard work, willingness to sacrifice and use what you have, and commitment to keep putting income back into the business.

"Every time we get a little bit, we expand as much as we can," he says. And why not? Looking back encourages him to move forward. For Jason, one thing is clear: "God provided for us every step of the way."

Zones," places such as Japan and Loma Linda, California, where people live measurably longer lives. He shared the benefits of a vegan lifestyle, drinking more water, and following other natural health principles. He also has a contract with a well-known sports team. "We have a cooler in the players' locker room. We deliver straight to them." And he adds, tongue in cheek, "They were number one in the East last year, and I tell people it was because of our juice!"

His employees are outfitted with T-shirts that say, "Jesus' first miracle was making juice." That starts fun

conversations and gives customers something to think about. With juice in hand they go on their way, feeling a little more connected.

Now, two years in, he's in search of a third location that will include space for health classes, cooking classes, and more. "We've really just scratched the surface of what could be done with the classes," he says.

Jason believes that a person doesn't need a big bank account to do something similar. Instead, he offers a recipe for success that includes several ingredients. The first is faith, faith that takes action. "Praying for God to do something is not enough. We have to start

Karen Suvankham serves as communications coordinator for Mission to the Cities in the Office of Adventist Mission.



- 1 Jason at his first juice bar.
- 2 As the store name suggests, all their juices are cold pressed, to preserve nutrients.
- 3 Organic juices in ten flavors and counting!
- 4 Food for thought!

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 the world, and many more are in the planning stages. Some centers are established by mission-driven entrepreneurs such as Jason, while others are supported by your Global Mission donations. To learn more about centers of influence, please visit MissionToTheCities.org.



4

The Bloodstained Bible

Josué Prada was almost two years old when his parents opened their home to their Colombian community and started a small Seventh-day Adventist church. Soon 15 people were crowding into their small living room each Sabbath to fellowship and worship Jesus.

One day, a town leader learned about this small group of believers. “Who are these people who dare not to belong to the only acceptable church in our country?” he stormed. Determined to stop the Sabbath keepers, he hired mercenaries to kill them when they met again to worship.

The assassins made their way to the Prada home early one Sabbath morning, unaware that most of the members weren’t there. It was Josué’s second birthday, and his parents had decided to have church at a local park.

While the Prada family was getting ready, the assassins burst into their living room, where Josué’s father stood holding his Bible. With a single shot, the man collapsed, and as he did, his Bible fell open next to him to a page that had an underlined text: “The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life” (John 12:25, NIV).

Josué’s mother, who was in the bedroom with Josué and his younger brother, heard what was happening and quickly ran to the window and called her neighbor. She passed her children into the woman’s waiting arms and then ran to the assassins



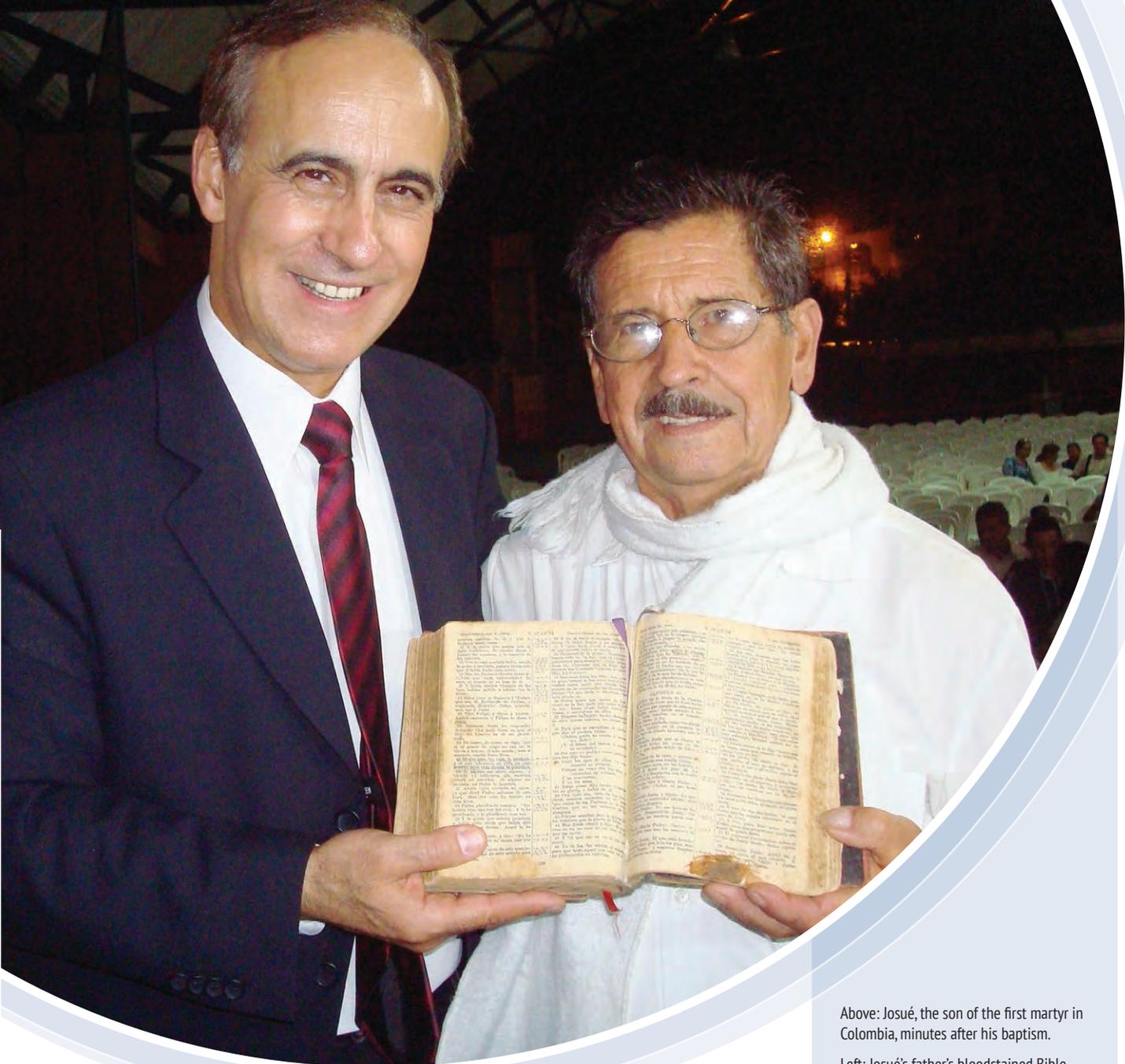
to plead for her life. But they showed the young mother no mercy.

The neighbor fled with the children with the assassins in hot pursuit. They were determined to exterminate the entire Prada family, but their search for their victims proved futile.

Josué and his brother were raised by relatives who didn’t know God, but they grew up knowing the tragic story of their father and mother. Eventually, Josué’s brother became a member of the church that had meant everything to his parents.

Josué had never committed his life to Jesus, but one day he decided that it was time to learn more about his parents’ faith. The Spanish telecast of *It Is Written, Escrito Está*, became his favorite show, and when he learned that the program would be holding revival meetings in Colombia, he decided that he would attend and be baptized.

As Josué entered the baptismal waters that Sabbath, the bloodstained Bible was lifted for the congregation to see, and the underlined text was read as a testimony of the sacrifice of



Above: Josué, the son of the first martyr in Colombia, minutes after his baptism.

Left: Josué's father's bloodstained Bible.

Josué's parents.

God never forgot the small, orphaned Josué. Nor did he forget the prayers that his parents made on his behalf 73 years before. He guided Josué and his brother into the knowledge of Jesus and His truth.

But the story doesn't end there. After Josué's baptism, a stranger approached him and said, "I am the son of the man who ordered your parents to be killed. My father deeply regretted the evil he had done, and now my family also belongs to the Seventh-day Adventist Church."

The two men embraced and vowed to win every one of their family members for Christ. Today, some 100 relatives have given their hearts to Jesus and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. And the initial group of 15 Adventists meeting in Josué's parents' home has blossomed into a church community that is 20,000 strong.

Even in heart-wrenching tragedy, Jesus' redemptive power thrives. We may not be able to see it now, but one day He will make everything clear to us, and we will see His perfect plan.

We trust that one day He will make everything clear to us and that we will see our loving God's perfect plan.

Nancy and Robert Costa live in Laurel, Maryland, United States. Nancy is the associate trust services officer for *It Is Written* television in the North American Division. Robert is the General Conference ministerial associate responsible for evangelism and church growth for the world church and is the speaker-director for *Escrito Está*, the Spanish telecast of *It Is Written*.



mission 360°

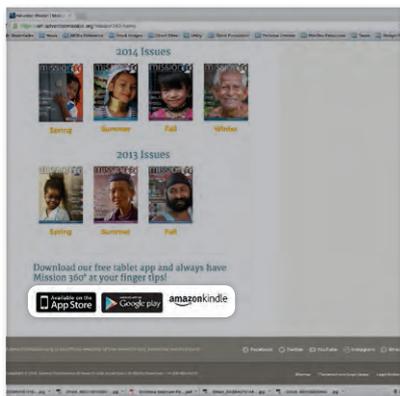
TABLET APP

Nearly 500,000 copies of this magazine have been mailed to Adventist churches and church members across North America. But *Mission 360°* is more than a traditional print magazine. It is also distributed electronically to tablets around the world. To date it is available on three of the largest e-reader platforms, Apple's iPad, Google's Android tablets, and Amazon's Kindle*, absolutely free.



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Hans Olson
Office of Adventist Mission





The Legacy of Eric B. Hare

Eric B. Hare is a name that is cherished worldwide by descendants of the Karen tribe of Myanmar. Eager to begin their mission work, Eric and his wife, Agnes, arrived in Yangon in 1915 to study the Sgaw Karen language. For six months they studied diligently, struggling to learn the high, low, descending, short high, short low, and singsong notes of this tonal language.

The Hares began their work in Ohn Daw by establishing the first Adventist

mission school in Myanmar. Despite the challenges of building on property that the villagers believed was haunted by evil spirits, the little school prospered and grew. More schools were built and the gospel began to spread throughout the jungle.

In July 2015, one hundred years after Eric and Agnes Hare went to Myanmar as missionaries, more than 650 Karen Adventists gathered at Andrews University for a centennial reunion. They reviewed how God had

led them in the past and how God is still leading them today.

Today there are more than two thousand baptized Karen Adventist members scattered throughout North America, worshipping in nearly every state and province. They are interested in reaching out to the many thousands of other Karen and Burmese-speaking immigrants and refugees.

If you would like more information about Adventist refugees and immigrants, please visit RefugeeMinistries.org.

About our cover photo...

Photo by Hans Olson

This happy little girl lives far away from city traffic. It would take a four-day boat ride just to get to a main road that could connect her to the outside world. Her home is in Peru, a country known for magnificent rainforests, exotic birds, ancient Incan civilization, and beloved panpipes.





1



My Sunrise Epiphany

On the afternoon that I called in sick to work because my eyes couldn't open from a night of crying, and my brain hurt from the never-ending change, and my heart was weary from loneliness, Nattawin asked about Jesus.

The morning of that same day, I had tiptoed into Josh's classroom, slid the door closed, and allowed myself to say what I'd been thinking for the past two months.

The words tasted strange, devoid of the emotion they seemed to hold in my long e-mails to my trusted mission coordinator and former missionary friends.

"I don't want to be here anymore," I said. The words hung in the air as I stared at the ceiling, furiously blinking back tears, fighting to stay collected as I explained everything. But before he could reply to my statements with his usual opposition that had made me

so angry at times, I answered myself.

"This is nothing like I thought it would be." Nothing ever is.

"All my training is irrelevant." Learn on your own.

"I'm not needed here." Then leave.

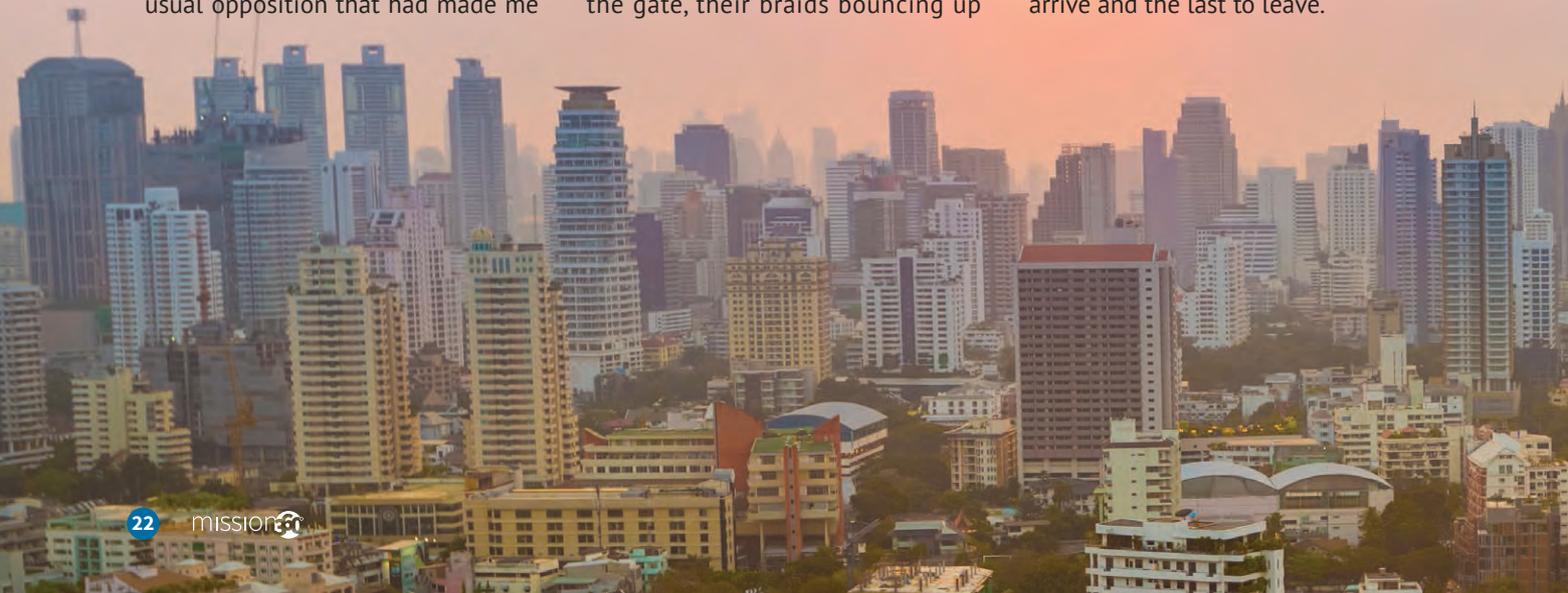
"But, I can't."

I can't leave because the young man with the faint scar on his forehead who sells fruit on the corner depends on me. Every time I catch his eye, he's reaching for a guava, his machete ready at hand. I give him at least 100 baht a week and if smiles were stories, his would make you cry. I can't leave because my Thai isn't good enough to talk to him and there are only so many times and ways your mouth can sputter *kop khun kha* (thank you) while your eyes are saying God bless you.

I can't leave because every afternoon my little students skip through the gate, their braids bouncing up

- 1 Karina with her Thai language teacher.
- 2 Karina with volunteer missionary teachers, from left, Jackson, Zachary, Dylan, and Seth.
- 3 Karina's "first sunrise" in Thailand.
- 4 Jingja and Gingpai fill Karina's afternoons with laughter, hugs, and kisses.
- 5 Karina's five o'clock class at the language school. Back row, left to right: Air and Gingpai. Front row, left to right: Ook, Tun, and Jingja.
- 6 Karina and Jackson participate in a cultural parade.

and down. I can't leave because they shower me with wet kisses and hold my hand and jump on my back while yelling, "Teasha, Teasha!" I can't leave because every day they work hard for their stickers only to insist on giving them to me, their little fingers carefully placing them on my shirt. I can't leave because Gingpai and Jingja call me Mama and are always the first to arrive and the last to leave.





I can't leave because Nattawin prays to Jesus even though his family is Buddhist. I've never heard him speak to anyone, but yesterday he held a 30-minute conversation on faith.

I can't leave because Pbang shares her food and spent nights crossing streets with me until it was finally safe for me to cross them alone.

I can't leave because despite all the loneliness, hurt, frustration, and 12-hour days, I love my students. From age 3 to age 48, I love them all. And I need to show them my love. I need to show them Christ's love.

I wake up the next morning before my alarm sounds, preparing to call in sick again. This time I really am quite sick, and nothing sounds better than a day of drinking water, eating guavas, and sleeping next to my rickety fan. I open my laptop to send an absence

note, but my tired eyes close and my body rejoices in lying still in the few hours of the day that are cool enough to use a blanket.

My five-thirty alarm screams at me from the shelf. As my finger reaches for the off button, my eyes catch sight of the sun, peeking through the Bangkok skyline. Tired but curious, I open the door and listen to the sparrows sing. Soft pink clouds float in a sea of pale blue.

The sun has risen every morning outside my window, but today I actually see it. God never ceases to speak to me, but today I understand Him.

If I get dressed fast enough, I can finally make it in time to see the monks on their morning feeding rounds. But I stay and watch the sunrise. Because I can see the monks tomorrow. Or maybe the day after. I'll have many days to choose. Because I'm staying.

Karina Hildebrandt Gomez

volunteered as an English as a second language and intensive English learning teacher at three Seventh-day Adventist language schools in Thailand. She is a senior business major at Walla Walla University in Washington, United States.





Passing the Torch

1

On April 9, 2014, tragedy struck Papua, Indonesia. What was a routine takeoff turned into a day of deep sadness. It took fewer than 30 seconds to devastate Adventist Aviation-Indonesia (AAI) and the hearts of those who loved Captain Bob Roberts. He will be missed by many.

Since Bob's death, his son Gary has picked up the torch to continue his father's work as a mission pilot in Indonesia.

Gary and his brother, Eric, also a mission pilot in Indonesia, recently spoke with *Mission 360°* about their father's legacy, the ministry of AAI, and Gary's decision to follow in his father's shoes.

"It's difficult and rewarding at the same time to come serve where your father has dedicated a large portion of his life," says Gary. "My wife, Wendy, and I had to see definite direction from God that this is where He wanted us because we were leading several

mission projects in Africa that we didn't feel right about leaving. We spent a lot of time in prayer, asking God to really open the doors for us to show us His will, and He did."

Eric was instrumental in keeping the Adventist Aviation program going after his father's death. When he learned that Gary was coming to work, he happily welcomed him to Indonesia.

"Gary had flown here a few times with Dad through the years, so he knew what he was getting into. It's been a real blessing having him here."

Hartley Sakul is the aviation base manager. "We're honored to have Gary as a pilot," he says. "We dreamed of finding another dedicated pilot like Bob. He was an amazing man. He was a hard worker, and when he went into the bush, he helped everybody. I thank God that Gary chose to join us in Indonesia to replace his daddy. I know he's a hard worker too."

Papua is a mountainous country with thousands of remote villages.

There are few roads, and it's impossible to navigate most rivers. "Adventist Aviation is the only way to reach thousands of people here," says Gary. "This ministry is crucial to Adventist mission."

Bob served as an AAI pilot for more than 20 years, transporting sick or injured passengers to medical facilities and delivering food, medicine, and other supplies.

He began his mission service in 1976 when he and his wife, Jan, and two-week-old Eric left the United States to serve in Ethiopia. Over the years the family would serve in several countries and grow with the addition of son Gary and daughter, Stephanie.

Like Dick Hall, the missionary who inspired Bob to become a mission pilot, Bob built many churches for new groups of Seventh-day Adventist believers.

"I can't remember exactly how many churches Dad has been directly



2



3



4



5

Photo credit: Rick Kajiura

- 1 Captain Gary Roberts returning from a flight to a remote village.
- 2 The only way to travel across the rough terrain is by plane.
- 3 The villagers appreciate the shipments made by the Adventist Aviation team.
- 4 The Adventist Aviation plane is welcomed by a group of villagers.
- 5 Global Mission pioneers, such as Roy Marten Repasi, front center, are starting congregations in the highlands of Papua.

responsible for building in Papua,” says Eric, “but a lot of them were built hauling loads on Sunday when everybody else was off. Dad juggled a lot of responsibilities. He kept the business side of things running as well as the mission side.”

Being a mission pilot in Papua is demanding, dangerous work. But Gary says the benefits far outweigh the challenges. “I could tell stories till the day is gone about the challenges,” he

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says, “but they create opportunities for God to work in amazing ways.

“So often I meet people who say, ‘Well, that’s great that you’re a missionary, but I haven’t been called to be one.’ I think everybody’s been called to be a missionary. We’ve been given the mandate to go into all the world. That’s our neighbors across the street, the people who live next door, and the people living in remote villages. You wonder how they’re all going to hear about Jesus? It’s going to be through the influence of an operation like this where you go in and meet people’s needs and then share the gospel with them. There are tremendous rewards for anybody who’s willing to trust God and to let Him be in control and do what He’s asked us to do.”

Ricky Oliveras
Office of Adventist Mission

To watch the “Passing the Torch” video, please visit Mission360Mag.org.





A Taste of Christmas

IRAN

Pistachio Date Balls (Makes 12 to 16 balls)

Since dates and pistachios have been around since ancient times, these tasty treats might have been served at royal banquets to kings and queens.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup dates, pitted
1 cup pistachios
¼ to ½ teaspoon cardamom, optional

Ingredients for Rolling

¼ cup pistachios, chopped very fine
¼ cup shredded coconut, unsweetened

PREPARATION

1. In a food processor, blend the dates into a paste. Add the pistachios and cardamom, if using.
2. Pulse the processor until a coarse mixture forms.
3. Use a tablespoon to measure the amount for each piece. Roll

firmly between your palms to form into small ball.

4. As a finishing touch, roll the balls in chopped pistachios or coconut, or make some of each.
5. The pistachio date balls can be stored in an airtight container for several weeks.



SWEDEN

Winter Fruit Soup (Serves 6–8)

For many Scandinavians, fruit soup is a winter tradition, especially on Christmas Eve. It may be served as a light meal, spread on toast, or ladled over ice cream. The taste and color varies according to the variety of fruits that are used.

INGREDIENTS

1 ¾ cups dried mixed fruit, chopped
½ cup dried cranberries
1 cinnamon stick
3 tablespoons rice
4 cups water

2 ¼ cups orange juice
½ cup lingonberry or cherry jam
¼ teaspoon sugar or honey

PREPARATION

1. Combine the dried fruit, dried cranberries, cinnamon stick, rice, and water in a large pot. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer uncovered for 30 minutes.
2. Stir in the orange juice, jam, and sugar or honey. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer covered for 15 minutes. Stir occasionally to keep contents from sticking.
3. Serve warm.



JAMAICA

Christmas Cake (Makes two cakes)

This holiday cake has many variations in the Caribbean, but a fruitcake for Christmas is a long-standing tradition. This version is made with Concord grape juice. *This family recipe is shared by Andrea Ashman.*

INGREDIENTS

2 cups prunes, pitted
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ cups raisins
4 cups Concord grape juice, divided
1 cup maraschino cherries, drained, chopped fine
1 cup butter
1 cup sugar
1 tablespoon browning sauce*
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 teaspoon almond flavoring
2 teaspoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon lemon or orange zest
6 eggs
3 cups breadcrumbs, dried, unseasoned
2 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups all-purpose flour
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking powder
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground cinnamon
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground nutmeg
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped nuts, optional

PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
2. In a food processor, blend the prunes and raisins with 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of grape juice. When smooth, stir in the chopped cherries. Set aside.
3. Beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Mix in the browning sauce, vanilla, almond flavoring, lemon juice, and zest.
4. Add eggs one at a time, beating well.
5. Add blended fruits and the remaining 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of grape juice to the butter and egg mixture and stir well.
6. In a small bowl, mix the breadcrumbs, flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, and nuts, if using. Stir the dry ingredients into the wet mixture until just combined.
7. Pour evenly into two oiled bundt pans. (If another type of baking pan is used, fill up to $\frac{3}{4}$ full.)
8. Bake for approximately 1 hour or until a thin knife or skewer comes out of the center of the cake clean.

* Browning sauce can be found in the gravy section of the grocery store. Common brand names are Kitchen Bouquet or Gravy Master. The caramelized liquid seasoning adds flavor and brings a rich, dark color to the cake.

Nancy Kyte

Office of Adventist Mission





The Rain Stoppper

My seventeen fourth graders raced into the classroom, each trying to be the first to sit down. As soon as they were seated, I asked them to quickly pack their books and pencils. School would be over in 15 minutes, and I could see dark, ominous clouds rushing in from the sea. I didn't want them to walk home in a storm.

But the children didn't listen. They were all talking at once, trying to tattle on who had misbehaved in a previous

class. I reminded them to respect all their teachers and then asked them to quiet down so that we could pray before they went home. Still, no one listened.

"Fourth graders, please look out the window toward the sea," I asked. A few of them turned to look. "Can you see those dark clouds coming closer and closer to our school? Do you want to get home wet?" Suddenly it began to pour.

That caught the attention of my little noisemakers. "No, Miss, we want

to go home dry," they responded loudly.

"OK, in that case, if you hear someone talking, please ask them nicely to be quiet. We are not going to pray until everyone is silent."

When all was quiet, I asked the children to bow their heads and close their eyes. Then, as I do at the end of each school day, I asked Jesus to keep them safe, help them with their homework, and bless their families. Then I asked Him for something that my students had never heard me ask



for before. I asked Jesus to stop the rain until they were all safely home.

When I opened my eyes, I saw two of my students laughing. “Why are you laughing, children?” I asked. Silence fell across the room. My fourth graders knew that it was rude to laugh, walk, or even open their eyes when someone was praying because that person was talking to God.

A shy smile crept across the face of one of the children who had laughed. “Miss, I was laughing because you asked Jesus to stop the rain for us. He

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



can’t do that. It’s impossible! He’s not even here to do it!”

I knew that most of my students wanted to believe in someone that they could see and not someone they only heard about each morning in class worship. “Children, remember the Bible story that we read yesterday?” I asked.

“Yes,” they responded.

“What happened when Jesus commanded the wind and the waves to be still?”

“They obeyed.”

“Yes, even the weather obeys Him. I believe that if we ask Jesus for something that we really need, He will give it to us. I asked Jesus to stop the rain because I believe we need that in order to get home safely. If you want the rain to stop, why don’t you ask Him too?”

I stood looking at the children, not sure what to do next. I was just about to dismiss them when one boy did something that surprised me. He bowed his head and said a silent prayer. When the other students saw what he did, they followed his example. I silently asked Jesus to stop the rain so that the children’s faith in Him would grow. When everyone finished praying, I dismissed the class.

The children who had rides dashed out into the deluge. But those who had to walk home decided to play a game until the storm stopped. I was busy arranging textbooks when I noticed that the downpour had turned into a light shower. I knew that God had answered our prayers. I said a quick prayer of thanks and then told the children, “You’d better go home now; Jesus has answered your prayers. Look—” I pointed out the window. “The rain has stopped!”

The children were overjoyed. Grabbing their bags they ran out of the classroom, yelling, “Miss, why you didn’t tell us that the rain had stopped!”

It didn’t rain again that afternoon for a couple hours, and then it poured. The next day, the children who had walked home from school told me that they had arrived just in time.

Many of my students come from non-Christian homes. I praise Jesus for this answered prayer because it helped the children to realize how much He cares for them. Their faith is growing, and they are learning to trust Him.

And they aren’t the only ones. I think that the greatest blessing of my volunteer service has been that I, too, have learned to trust Him more. I now know that, whatever my circumstances, He will always be there for me.

Viviana Gunua Damagoi

Kumbia is from Papua New Guinea. She has served as a volunteer teacher at Delap Seventh-day Adventist School and plans to earn a degree in primary education at Fulton College in Fiji.

- 1 Viviana helping her students with their science projects.
- 2 Viviana, right, with Marlene, a volunteer missionary from Southwestern Adventist University.
- 3 Viviana poses with the senior class of 2015.
- 4 Viviana, front center, with the other volunteers at Delap Seventh-day Adventist School.



CHILDREN'S STORY

Samantha's Dream Job

Ever since she was a little girl, Samantha loved to listen to the exciting stories about Leo and Jessie Halliwell, the first medical workers on the *Luzeiro* mission boat in her home country of Brazil. Fascinated, she imagined what it might be like to be a missionary nurse along the Amazon River. Little did she know, she would eventually find out!

Soon after her graduation, Samantha was invited to serve as a volunteer missionary for a year in northern Brazil. What an opportunity! But could she afford it?

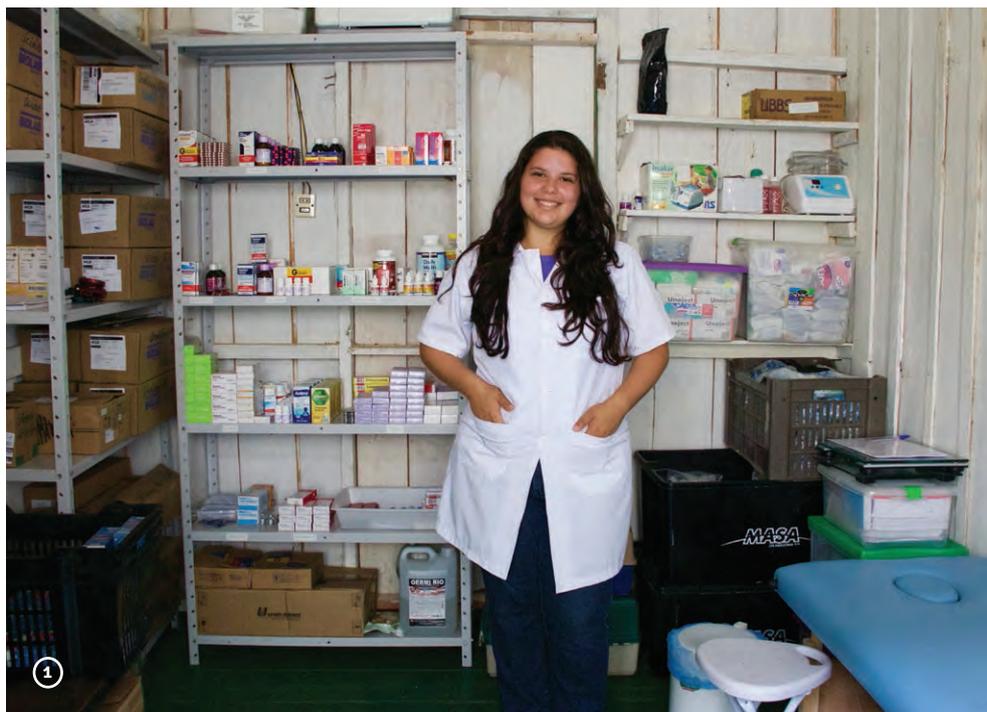
"Jesus," she prayed, "if you want me to go, please open all the doors for me. If you want me to go to the Amazon, I will go."

After her prayer, doors began opening quickly. "I was given money for the tickets, and people gave me everything I needed," she said. "I knew that Jesus had a plan for me."

Samantha could hardly believe it when she learned about her first job placement. She would live in a small village along the Amazon River, and she would be the *Luzeiro* nurse!

Every week Samantha goes on the mission boat, stopping at many villages along the Amazon River. Most of the time she is the only medical person available to offer health care to thousands of people.

Whether on the *Luzeiro* or in the village clinic, Samantha often faces



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, and then click on one of the *Mission* quarterly tabs, and choose a story.



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3

- 1 Samantha stands ready to help the many people who come to the clinic when she's not on the Luzeiro.
- 2 Samantha and her nursing assistant, Gloria, stand in front of the village clinic. Gloria is an expert seamstress and is able to do outstanding suturing work when needed.
- 3 Samantha explains how she believes God had a plan for her to come and help the people of the Amazon.

emergencies where she knows only God can help.

Early one evening, Samantha watched from the village clinic as a small boat headed to shore. As soon as the boat arrived, a man jumped out, holding his hand in bloodied bandages.

"What happened?" she asked the man.

"I was using a grinder, when my hand got caught in the blades," he replied. Samantha and her assistant, Gloria, carefully cleaned the hand, applied antibiotic ointment, and re-wrapped it tightly in clean bandages. As they prayed with the man, they knew that he needed a higher level of care than they were able to provide and asked God for help.

A few minutes later, a man and a woman showed up at the clinic with their ten-year-old son. The boy had been bitten on the foot by a venomous pit viper—one of the most poisonous snakes of the Amazon.

"How long ago was he bitten?" Samantha asked.

"About five hours ago," came the reply.

Samantha was shocked. According to all the medical literature, the boy should have been dead long before now. Quickly she provided emergency care, doing all she could to stop the spread of the poison.

The parents had tried to treat the boy themselves, but as he grew weaker, they decided to bring him to the clinic.

Samantha knew that the boy and the man with the injured hand needed to be taken to the nearest hospital—an eight-hour trip using a regular boat or a two-hour trip using ADRA's* fast boat—the *Jessie Halliwell*.

While the fast boat was clearly the best option, it also took the most fuel and would completely drain the clinic's reserve for the month. Knowing that two lives were in jeopardy, the decision was made to use the fuel and trust in God for protection.

It was dark and rainy by the time Samantha and her patients climbed into the boat for a fast two-hour ride to the nearest hospital. Samantha did her best to care for her charges and continued to pray that God would intervene. At last the little group arrived at their destination.

Samantha didn't see the man after that eventful journey, but she knows that the boy fully recovered. She knows that emergency attendance was crucial for their lives.

Looking back to that day, Samantha says, "Jesus is awesome! He put His hand on the situation and saved two lives. I am so grateful that Jesus can use me to help others."

* Adventist Development and Relief Agency

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



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