



VOLUME 25 • NUMBER 1

GLOBAL MISSION **frontline**

Stories and News From Our Pioneers



**“My fears had kept me
from speaking about
Jesus—until I went to jail.”**

The following story was shared with Frontline by a Global Mission pioneer serving in a veiled country in the 10/40 Window.*

“Lord, I will . . . speak of your mighty deeds,” (Psalm 77:12).

I’ve never been a very good storyteller. Maybe that’s why I’ve always been more dedicated to reaching people through acts of service than through preaching sermons. Showing God’s love was easier for me than telling people about it. And far safer when working in a country opposed to the gospel.

Christian author Ellen White wrote, “that which will be most effectual [in revealing Christ to the world] is the testimony of our own experience (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 347). I wanted to share how Jesus’ love had transformed my life, but my limitations and fears were holding me back.

Everything changed, however, when I ended up in jail. Don’t get me wrong. I’m not a criminal. One of the biggest difficulties workers face in the 10/40 Window is dealing with residency and visa documentation. I needed a certain form to resolve some issues with my residency papers, and I had tried in vain to get it. With no way to legalize my situation, I was stopped by the immigration police. Then they mistakenly sent me to a police station with a cell for foreigners instead of the immigration office.

Once I entered the cell, I prayed for peace and asked the Lord to send me someone who spoke English so I wouldn’t feel alone. By God’s grace, I found a few people, who could speak my language. One was Saleh,[†] a young man from a foreign country and another was Mr. Kim whom I would later learn was a pastor.

The cell, meant to hold about 25 people, was packed with about 60 men and two teenagers. Fed only bread and water, some had been there for more than two weeks without news from their families or contact with embassies or lawyers. Many didn’t have the resources to do so, as nearly all were refugees from nearby countries without visas or residency documentation.

God opened my eyes to see these men as He saw them, and I realized I was there to preach His love and give each one hope. So, I started talking, with Saleh translating. The power of the Holy Spirit led the conversation in such a way that many asked questions about Jesus and His second coming. Some asked for advice about family, business, and studies. Others told stories of their past. Mr. Kim privately shared his discouragement because he had been in jail for four days without much-needed medication and contact with his family. I understood that there were no acts of service required from me for these men. All I could do was listen and speak.

Later that day, we received word that we would be moved to another location. I discovered that these detention centers, commonly referred to as refugee camps, were actually deportation centers run by immigration officers. Handcuffed in the middle of the night, we were taken to such a camp. Before parting with Saleh and Pastor Kim, I prayed for the Lord to send His angels to watch over us inside.

The next day, I went to check on Saleh and Pastor Kim. They were sleeping in the hallway due to overcrowding. We sat together on a mattress and listened to Saleh’s story. The civil war in his land had claimed the lives of his entire family. Illegally in the country for two years, he had no documents to work or study and survived on informal jobs. People such as Saleh often remain in deportation centers



for months or even years, with no prospects for the future.

Finally, I received news that I was going to be released. Saleh looked deep into my eyes and said, "I know that you are going to leave today, and I know that I'm going to be here for a long, long time." My throat tightened and tears welled up in my eyes. What acts of service could I offer someone without hope? What good was my friendship to someone who might

never see me again? What could I do to help this young man?

"God can work miracles, Saleh," I began. "Believe me, He loves you very much and hasn't forgotten you." My words were all I had to offer, and sharing my hope was all that was within my power. That was God's message to Saleh, Pastor Kim, and many others there: "I have not forgotten you. I love you, and I want to perform miracles. Just trust Me."

I had learned many lessons in jail, but God made sure to demonstrate His love and power once more through miracles. When I was called to be released, so was Pastor Kim. Additionally, I received the document that I had been waiting for so long. I believe God had allowed the delay so that I could have this experience.

I had learned many lessons in jail, but God made sure to demonstrate His love and power once more through miracles. When I was called to be released, so was Pastor Kim. Additionally, I received the document that I had been waiting for so long. I believe God had allowed the delay so that I could have this experience.

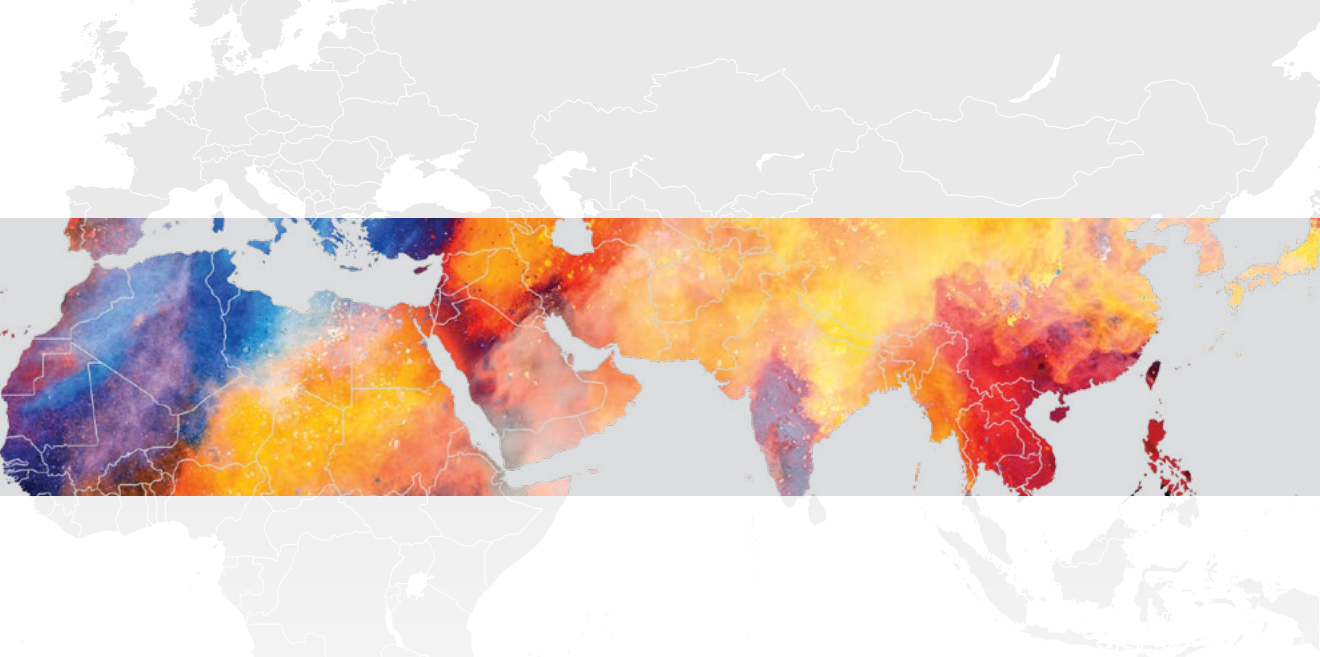
But the miracles didn't end there. I saw Saleh outside the cell accompanied by a guard. I heard the officer talking to him and handing him a document granting him humanitarian refugee status, a temporary visa, and indefinite residency. With these

documents, Saleh was assured he wouldn't be deported and could finally study, work formally, and lead a dignified life.

Today as you read these words, remember God hasn't forgotten the oppressed. Like Pastor Kim who needed to have his faith matured or young Saleh who needed a miracle, or like me who needed courage and power from heaven to share my testimony, God hasn't forgotten you either.

* A veiled country has shut its borders to organized churches and traditional missionaries.

† Names have been changed.



The 10/40 Window

The 10/40 Window stretches from North Africa through the Middle East and into Asia. It's home to some 60 percent of the world's population, most major

religions, and the world's poorest people. Most here have never heard the name of Jesus.

This region is one of Global Mission's greatest challenges. Please help us reach these people for Jesus.

Ways to Give

ONLINE

Make a secure financial gift quickly by scanning this QR code or visiting Global-Mission.org/giving.



PHONE

Call 800-648-5824

MAIL

In the United States:
Global Mission, General Conference
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6601

In Canada:

Global Mission
SDA Church in Canada
1148 King Street East
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8

Transform Lives, One Month at a Time: Join Our Recurring Donor Family!

Please remember Global Mission in your will and trusts. Visit **Global-Mission.org/PlannedGiving** or call 800.648.5824.

General Conference of
Seventh-day Adventists
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904

Christ's method in the world's great cities

Mingling
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:

1. Mail: Global Mission,
General Conference
12501 Old Columbia Pike,
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6601
2. Securely online:
Global-Mission.org/giving
3. Call 800-648-5824



Photo credit:
Earley Simon

GLOBAL MISSION