

# mission360°

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



Malaria X3 18

Donovan's 180° 22

Yiddish on a Soap Box 24

Learning to Trust 26

Six Feet 28

Digital Issue Online at [Mission360Mag.org](http://Mission360Mag.org)

# Editorial

**O**n a recent trip to New York City, I spent an afternoon walking among the skyscrapers in Manhattan. I saw crowds of people in Times Square lining up for concert tickets, hailing taxis, taking photos, and dining at their favorite eateries. They didn't seem to have a care in the world. I wondered, *Where do they all come from, and do they know God?*

A few days later, walking to my hotel in another part of the city, I saw a totally different picture. There were row houses with tiny front yards, and many homes had noticeable security systems. There were families doing normal, everyday activities, such as shopping or going to work and school. I wondered, *Do they know that Jesus is coming again?*

I also encountered people without shelter, sleeping on sidewalks and park benches. Some were pushing grocery carts full of things they had collected, desperate to find enough food. I wondered, *Do they know a*

*devoted Adventist who shows the love of God by caring for their needs?*

Millions of people live and work in New York City, but they're just a fraction of the 3.5 billion people living in cities around the world. For each of them to have an opportunity to know Jesus, it will take the energy and prayers of every church member.

In this issue of *Mission 360°*, you'll read stories about missionaries, Global Mission pioneers, and Life Hope Center teams, and discover what they're doing to reach cities with the message of Jesus' love and soon return. We hope that you'll enjoy these stories and that you'll be inspired to make a difference in your community, sharing Christ's love and message right where you are.

## **Rick McEdward**

Global Mission Centers, director  
Office of Adventist Mission



# Features

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

- 4 **Becoming the Perfect Volunteer**
- 6 **Glimpses of Russia and Ukraine**
- 8 **Christ's Method in Manhattan**
- 10 **On the Heels of Typhoon Haiyan**
- 12 **It's Time!**
- 14 **Meet the Cities**
- 17 **Global Neighborhood**
- 18 **Malaria X 3**
- 20 **Tentmaking: Mission Without Limits**
- 22 **Donovan's 180°**
- 24 **Yiddish on a Soap Box**
- 26 **Learning to Trust**
- 28 **Six Feet**
- 30 **Memoirs of a Student Missionary**



mission360°

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# Becoming the Perfect Volunteer

When I was a child, I loved hearing mission stories during Sabbath School. I'd listen intently with a faraway look in my eyes, dreaming of going to some remote place to preach the gospel or heal the sick. I'd learn an exotic language, eat unfamiliar fruit, and dress like the local people. To me, this was the model of a perfect volunteer missionary. But my life took a very different direction.

I studied to become a physical therapist at River Plate University in Argentina, and after I graduated, I still felt a desire to help those in need. But could I serve as a volunteer without being a pastor or doctor or nurse? Was there a need for someone with my particular training?

It was at this point in my life that I really felt the hand of God leading me, for He not only

guided every event that led to my becoming a volunteer, He guided my thinking as well.

He had to teach me that my model of a perfect volunteer wasn't what He had in mind for me. He helped me discover that a volunteer can be a secretary, a chemist, an architect, a graphic designer, and even a physical therapy teacher!



TRIVIA

What city is located at the highest elevation in the world?

SEE PAGE 31

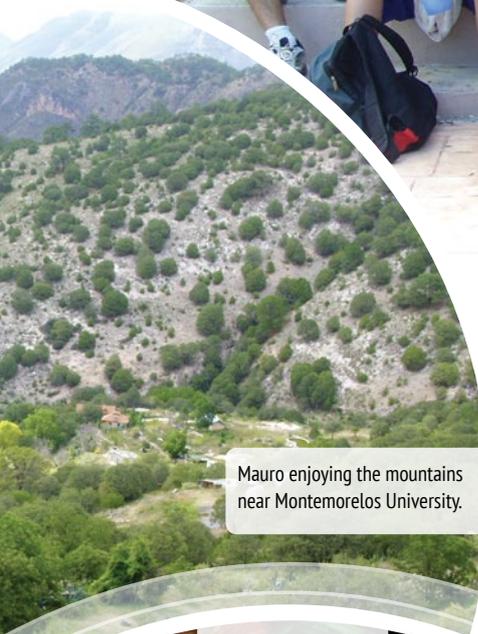
Below and left: Mauro and his students.



If you're interested in being a volunteer, please visit [www.AdventistVolunteers.org](http://www.AdventistVolunteers.org).



Mauro enjoying the mountains near Montemorelos University.



Below and left: Mauro at a Mexican festival.



When I began to make contacts to find a place to serve, I ran into difficulties. But God used several people to open doors for me, including the friendly team at Adventist Volunteer Service. And that's how I ended up in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Montemorelos in Mexico, where I teach health and sports classes.

More than once, thoughts of my inadequacy as a volunteer crossed my mind—thoughts like, *No one is going to be baptized because of my work here.* But, as I kept studying God's Word, I grew to understand that God can work in a million ways. I came to realize that volunteers don't always need to be evangelists or medical missionaries. Our job is to live

a consecrated Christian life so that people can see our happiness and be led by our good example. Our Christian walk can have a big impact on those who surround us if we're faithful.

I've made good friends at the university. Many of them have asked me why I decided to be a volunteer and serve in this particular place. I always have the pleasure of responding that I'm a volunteer because I love my profession and I have chosen to work for God. I chose to serve in Mexico because God impressed me to come here and worked out every detail so that I could.

If you'd like to grow as an individual, meet new people, learn about new cultures, and face new challenges, I highly recommend serving as a volunteer. Whatever your education or work experience, chances are, you'll make the perfect volunteer!

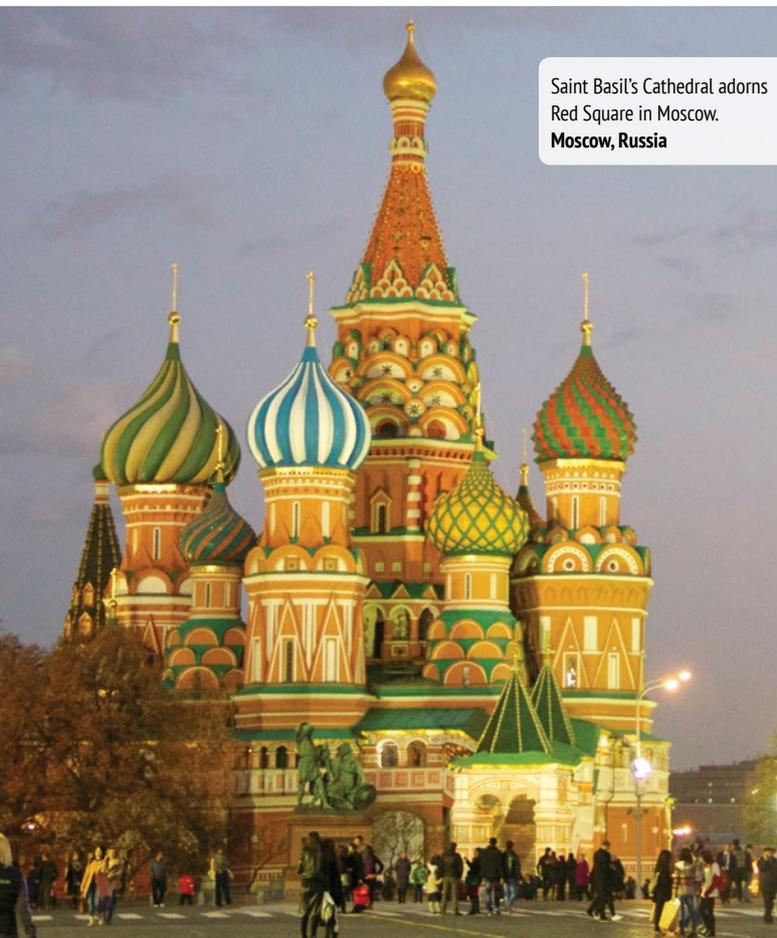
Originally from Argentina, **Mauro Aranda** served as a physiotherapy teacher at Montemorelos University in Mexico.





# Glimpses of Russia and Ukraine

Most people in Russia and Ukraine live in large cities such as Moscow, Kazan, and Kiev. We'd like you to meet some of the people that call these cities home, and those who are reaching out to them for Jesus.



Saint Basil's Cathedral adorns Red Square in Moscow.  
**Moscow, Russia**



Sharing a meal together is central to Russian hospitality.  
**Kazan, Russia**



Preparing for a live evangelistic broadcast on Hope TV, Ukraine.  
**Kiev, Ukraine**



Leonid Rutkovsky and Anna Gavelo lead more than 150 Mission to the City missionaries in Kiev.  
**Kiev, Ukraine**



Pretty in pink, this little girl is enjoying a day in the city with her family.  
**Kiev, Ukraine**



In the midst of a busy city, this boy has eyes only for his mother.  
**Kiev, Ukraine**



While economic prosperity for some has come to Ukraine, people long for something more.  
**Kiev, Ukraine**



Colorful potties sit outside the preschool classroom in Vinnitsa.  
**Vinnitsa, Ukraine**



Adventist schools play a key role in reaching city dwellers.  
**Lviv, Ukraine**

More than 150 literature evangelists, medical missionaries, and pastors are participating in the Kiev: City of Hope outreach, providing free health education, nutrition kiosks, books, concerts, and Bible studies. To learn more, please visit [MissionToTheCities.org](http://MissionToTheCities.org).

Please pray that our Mission to the Cities outreach will help people find true, lasting hope in Jesus. And thank you for your mission and world budget offerings—they help make mission possible!

**Gina Wahlen** and her family lived in Zaoksky, Russia, from 1992-1998. She works in the Office of Adventist Mission as editor of the *Mission* magazines.



- For more information about Mission to the Cities, visit [MissiontotheCities.org](http://MissiontotheCities.org).



# Christ's Method in Manhattan

Happy Hour talk

Lunch seminar

**M**any people find New York City an attractive tourist destination. But beyond the fine cuisine, upscale shopping, and entertainment, there are millions of people who call it home.

To connect with people in Manhattan, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has established a center of influence called Life Hope Center Bryant Park. In this *Mission 360°* TV interview, center director, Pastor Bledi Leno, shares how they're touching lives.

**Mission 360°:** Bledi, thanks for joining *Mission 360°* today. What are Life Hope Centers and what is their ministry?

**BL:** Life Hope Centers are centers of influence that are being established by our church all over the world. Their purpose is to connect with and meet the needs of people in urban communities. They offer a holistic approach to physical, emotional, social, and spiritual development and often accomplish this through free seminars, resources, and services.

**M360:** Tell us a little about Life Hope Center Bryant Park.

**BL:** New York City is an exciting place to live. But the people here experience heartache and need God in their lives just like people anywhere else. Our ministry is fueled by love for people and love for God. We want the center to be an open door to people searching for a meaningful and life-changing experience.

**M360°:** Where is your center located?

**BL:** We're in the midtown area of Manhattan, opposite the New York City library and Bryant Park, where thousands of people come to relax. And we're just a couple blocks from Times Square, so we're right in the heart of the city, where everything happens! It's a great location because we get to connect with people from all walks of life and areas of the world.



Upper Room church plant



**M360:** So you're using the center as a platform for ministry, where you mingle with people, show sympathy, minister to their needs, win their confidence, and lead them to Jesus. What are some of the first steps that you've taken?

“I love what you guys are doing here! It’s not just a seminar, you’re creating community.”

—Pete S., New York City

**BL:** We host a number of events at the center. One of our most exciting activities is what we call our lunch seminars. We provide a light lunch and a seminar on a topic such as healthy living, personal finance, spiritual growth, or family life. Another popular event is what we call our Happy Hour talks. We offer guests a healthy drink, a relaxing atmosphere so that they can unwind after work, and an interactive seminar.

**M360:** It’s wonderful to see this building that has been owned by the Adventist Church for years being used for community outreach. Do you have plans to redesign it to make it more compatible for ministry?

**BL:** Our goal is to create environments in which people can connect with each other. We want to open a vegetarian café and juice bar, establish a counseling center, and build multi-purpose rooms so that we can host activities simultaneously, such as fitness and cooking classes. One of the building’s best assets is the view from its rooftop. We’d like to develop this space into a place for events.

**M360:** We understand that you already have a small group meeting at the center on Sabbath afternoons.

**BL:** Yes, we call it the Upper Room. It’s a church plant that focuses on meeting the needs of postmodern and secular people. We’ve been meeting for about a year now.

*Mission 360° TV hosts guests from the front lines of mission all over the world. Watch it on Hope Channel in North America or see it now at [www.Youtube.com/AdventistMission](http://www.Youtube.com/AdventistMission).*

**Airtimes** (Eastern Time)

<b>Fridays</b>	<b>11 P.M.</b>
<b>Sabbaths</b>	<b>8 A.M., 5 P.M., and 8 P.M.</b>
<b>Sundays</b>	<b>7 P.M.</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>8 P.M. and 11 P.M.</b>

**M360:** Tell me about someone whose life you’ve touched for Jesus.

**BL:** I was able to connect with a young professional when she first came to one of our events. She was going through a rough time and she says the seminars addressed many of her needs. She’s been attending our church plant and has expressed a desire to be baptized. We’re planning a beautiful ceremony in the very near future!

**M360:** That’s fantastic, Bledi! Thanks so much for sharing with us today.

Audience, please remember Pastor Bledi Leno in your prayers as he touches lives for eternity in Manhattan.

Mission to the Cities is the church’s initiative to reach out to the world’s largest cities. A vital part of that initiative is establishing Life Hope Centers, wholistic ministry centers that put Christ’s method of ministry into practice. Your Global Mission donations help support Life Hope Centers. To learn more about their ministry or to support their work, please visit [MissionToTheCities.org](http://MissionToTheCities.org).

To discover how the Global Mission Urban Center can help you and your church connect with postmodern and secular people, please visit [Urban.AdventistMission.org](http://Urban.AdventistMission.org).

Originally from Albania, **Pastor Bledi Leno** pastored in São Paulo, Brazil, for eight years. He is the director of the Life Hope Center in Manhattan, New York, and pastor of the New Jerusalem and Ridgewood Seventh-day Adventist churches and the Upper Room church plant.





# On the Heels of Typhoon Haiyan

ADRA helps victims rebuild

In the first week of November 2013, the Philippines sat directly in the path of one of the most brutal typhoons ever to hit the archipelago. City officials knew Typhoon Haiyan was a severe storm, but many vulnerable Filipinos underestimated its impending devastation.

One such family was Juan and Amalia Bayot and their daughter, Joy, who live on Iloilo Island. Farmers by profession, they weather some 20 storms every year, and they didn't think Haiyan would be any different. Doing what they could to protect their property, they hunkered down to wait out the typhoon.

But hours before Haiyan finally hit, they heard a loud banging on their door. Outside stood a city official.

"He told us that if we stayed in our house, it could fall down on us and badly injure or kill us," said Amalia. "He insisted that we leave right away."

As the morning of November 8 dawned on the Philippines, Haiyan had already begun its massive devastation. Storm surge and rain flooded streets and homes, and cars were blown away by the wind. More than 4 million people were displaced, and 1.1 million had damaged or destroyed homes. Dead bodies lined the streets of major cities.

"When we returned to our house, there was nothing left," said Amalia with tears welling up in her eyes. "We have no home, we have no food. I don't know how we will start over."

Meanwhile, workers and volunteers at the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International office in Maryland, U.S.A., were sending and receiving a flurry of email updates on the status of the cyclone. The United States military's Joint Typhoon Warning Center in Hawaii recorded that the typhoon had sustained winds of 194 miles per hour and gusts of 236 miles per hour, equivalent to a category 5 hurricane. Forecasters also reported a storm surge of about 23 feet.

Among those responding was Denison Grellmann, former senior program manager at ADRA International and the new ADRA Philippines country director. Assigned to help the ADRA Philippines team, he prepared for the 30-hour trip to Manila.

"The ADRA Philippines workers had already been out in the field and seen the damage by the time I arrived," Denison said. "Together with Adventist Community Services volunteers, we conducted rapid assessments to find out what people needed most—food, water, and shelter—and

then immediately started meeting those needs."

Denison was startled by the degree of destruction caused by Haiyan. "We're seeing a greater frequency and intensity of disasters," he said, "and we know this will increase as time goes on. More and more people will be affected, and it's our responsibility as a church to make sure we minimize suffering."

Denison and ADRA workers coordinated with local government, United Nations organizations, and donors to begin distributing food and water purification kits to families, including Juan, Amalia, and Joy. "The food we're receiving really helps us," said Amalia.

The kind of work that Denison does through ADRA touches people all over the world during their most difficult times. "ADRA and the church as a whole need to be the first responders," Denison



TRIVIA

What is the coldest city in the world?

SEE PAGE 31



- ① The Bayot family with a temporary shelter they built with scraps from their destroyed home.
- ② ADRA Philippines has been leading in emergency response and development projects for the past 30 years.
- ③ Many women lost their husbands in the storm. They and their children received help from ADRA.
- ④ ADRA provided food, water, and sanitation kits to more than 2,000 households.
- ⑤ ADRA's food packs contained rice, sardine cans, cereal bars with added nutrients, beans, peanuts, noodles, and cooking oil.
- ⑥ Haiyan destroyed or damaged 1.1 million homes and left 4.1 million people displaced.
- ⑦ ADRA workers met these boys who desperately needed help.

said. "We help people because it's the right thing to do."

ADRA is committed to helping the victims of Haiyan rebuild their lives. "Even after many organizations have left the Philippines, ADRA will continue our work there," said Jonathan Duffy, president of ADRA International. "Our country office has been there for 30 years and will keep helping victims by assisting with building shelters, food for work programs, and clean water distribution. We're also identifying people who have lost their livelihoods so that we can help them

have the necessary materials to continue their businesses."

Denison believes that when people are hurting, they really want to know that someone cares. "Actions speak louder than words," he said, "and when people see that we truly care about helping them rebuild their lives, they will see a reflection of God in our service."

**Natalia López-Thismón** is a communications specialist at ADRA International in Silver Spring, Maryland.



The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is the global humanitarian organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ADRA represents the unconditional love of Jesus through a broad spectrum of development and emergency relief programs in more than 120 countries around the world. Your mission offerings help support ADRA. To learn more, please visit [www.adra.org](http://www.adra.org).

# It's Time!

## The Urgency of Urban Mission



### Where are we now?

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to make disciples of Jesus among all people, communicating the everlasting gospel in the context of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14. In many parts of the world, we've made significant advances toward that goal.

However, for the first time in history, more than half of earth's population lives in urban areas. By 2050, that number is expected to be 70 percent. Our volume and rate of ministry haven't kept pace with the global movement towards urbanization.

At times, the size and complexity of cities and their perceived negative influence on spiritual life have made some of us hesitant to engage fully in urban mission. Yet, we're continually reminded that Jesus said,

"This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14, NKJV).

Ellen White wrote in 1912, "God designs that the light of the gospel shall extend to every soul upon the earth. . . . His kingdom will not come until the good tidings of His grace shall have been carried to all the earth."<sup>1</sup>

### Where do we want to be?

In September and October 2013, church leaders from around the world met together for the It's Time: Urban Mission Conference. After several days of reviewing data, discussing ideas, and praying together, they adopted the following vision and goal for special emphasis through the next quinquennium:

### The vision

That every city will have an influential Adventist presence actively engaged in a comprehensive mission, using Christ's method of ministry.

### The goal

To engage the collective resources of the global church in establishing a Seventh-day Adventist presence and needs-based ministry in cities of 1 million or more people that have no Adventist congregation and, in all other cities of 1 million or more people, to improve the ratio of members to population.

The church draws its inspiration for mission from the teaching of Jesus. It must also look to Him for its model of ministry. Ellen White writes, "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.'"<sup>2</sup>

Well over a century ago, Ellen White appealed to church leadership to give special attention to the large cities of the world: "The work in the cities is the essential work for this time. When the cities are worked as God would have them, the result will be the setting in operation of a mighty movement such as we have not yet witnessed."<sup>3</sup>



She wrote more about working in the cities than about leaving them. She counseled that church members should be carefully selected and sent to the cities to minister; that churches, primary schools, day care centers, restaurants, and clinics should be established in cities; and that outposts—places of physical and spiritual refreshing—should be provided for those living there.<sup>4</sup>

It's time to refocus our attention on reaching out to the billions who live in the massive urban areas of the world.

## How will we get there?

The General Conference, in consultation with the 13 world divisions, will help facilitate cross-division support for ministry in at least 100 of the most unentered cities of 1 million or more. Every division, in consultation with its unions, conferences, and missions, will accelerate and strengthen its current Mission to the Cities strategy. Every church member will be encouraged to engage in personal evangelism and will be equipped to use his or her spiritual gifts in wholistic ministry. Practical outlets for member-based ministry will be established in every

city through small groups, churches, and centers of influence.

Ellen White says, "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work."<sup>5</sup> The immense challenge of reaching the cities calls for a united body of Christ to seek the power of the Holy Spirit through prayer, Bible study, and service.

Responding to the challenge of urban evangelism also will require careful and prayerful prioritization of the church's resources and sacrificial sharing of means by church entities and members.

As Seventh-day Adventists consider the world's vast cities, we are inspired by our Lord's passion for souls. We are moved by the billions of people living in large urban areas who have never heard of Jesus. And we resolve to proclaim the three angels' messages in every metropolis on earth—no matter the cost.

As church leaders, we commit ourselves to supporting the full use of the God-given talents of every church member in this pressing task, and we urge all Seventh-day Adventists to find ways to share Jesus in large urban areas. We encourage each member to ask God if He is calling him or her to

minister in one of the great cities of the world. We ask church members and leaders at every level to prayerfully consider what they can do to support workers in large cities through prayer and giving.

"The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening," writes Ellen White.<sup>6</sup> Our Lord's commission in Matthew 28 and John's prophetic vision in Revelation 14 are the heartbeat and hope of Seventh-day Adventists, and they urgently call us to recognize—*it's time!*

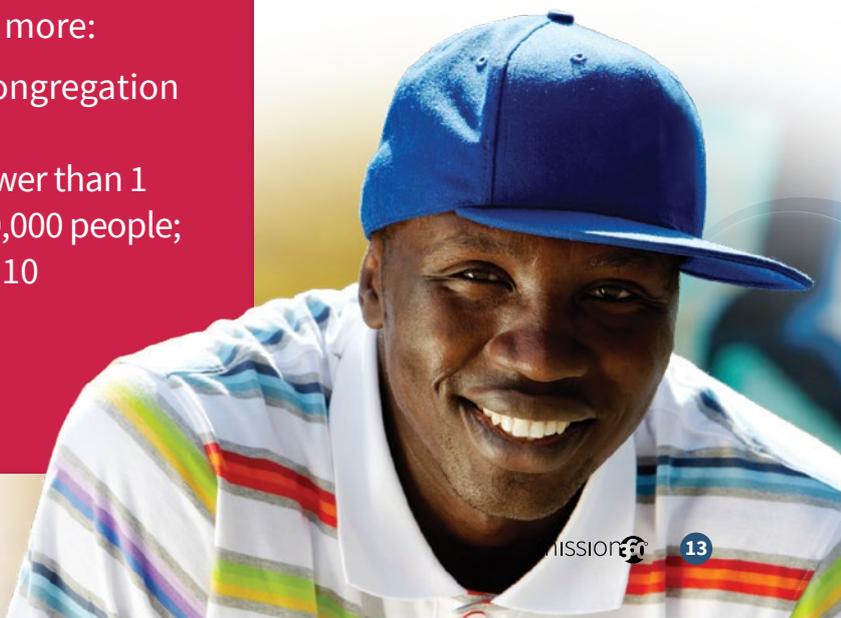
- 1 Ellen White, "For a Witness Unto All Nations," *Review and Herald*, November 14, 1912.
- 2 Ellen White, *The Ministry of Healing* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1942), 143.
- 3 Ellen White, *Medical Ministry* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1963), 304.
- 4 For further study, *Ministry to the Cities*, a new compilation of Ellen White's writings, has been prepared by the White Estate.
- 5 Ellen White, *Selected Messages* (Washington, DC: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1958), 1:121.
- 6 Ellen White, *The Great Controversy* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Pub. Assn., 1950), 611.

Adapted from the *It's Time!* urban mission document voted at the General Conference 2013 year-end meetings.

Did you know that there are more than 500 cities with a population of 1 million or more people, 236 of which are in the 10/40 Window?

That these 500 cities of 1 million or more:

1. have an average of 1 Adventist congregation for every 89,000 people;
2. include 100 cities where there is fewer than 1 Seventh-day Adventist for every 20,000 people;
3. include 45 cities with fewer than 10 Adventists; and
4. include 43 cities without even 1 Adventist congregation?





# Meet the Cities

For the past few years, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has focused attention on Mission to the Cities which calls on members to get involved in sharing Christ's love with people in the largest cities of the world. Let's take a look at some of the challenging areas that have been selected for wholistic outreach.\*

## Lagos

A port city, Lagos is located on the southern coast of Nigeria. It has an estimated population of 21 million people, and its economic success is attracting more people all the time. Yet here, in one of the largest cities of the world, there are only about 100 Adventist churches and 12,000 Adventist believers.

## Prague

The capital of the Czech Republic is also its largest city. Founded in the ninth century, Prague is a mix of contemporary and historical architecture. Although it has more than 1.4 million inhabitants, you'll find fewer than 10 Adventist churches here and only about 700 members. That's a fraction of 1 percent of the population.

## Mexico City

Built on the ruins of Tenochtitlan, on what was once an island, Mexico City is the most populous metropolitan area in the Western Hemisphere with 23.6 million people. There are more than 200 churches and nearly 54,000 Seventh-day Adventists here. That's less than a quarter of 1 percent of the population.

## Kinshasa

The city of Kinshasa is the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Here Adventists are using unique methods, such as street music, to reach people in their community. Kinshasa's population is approaching 10 million people. It has nearly 70 churches and about 8,000 Adventists—less than 0.1 percent of the population.

## Moscow

Moscow, the capital of Russia, is a showcase for Russian art and culture. One of the most recognizable buildings in the world, Saint Basil's Cathedral dominates the view over Red Square, which is itself a world heritage site. Moscow has a population of some 11 million people. Fewer than 3,000 Adventists worship in 15 churches.

## Kiev

Not far from Moscow is Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. A bustling city, Kiev is home to world-class art and architecture and is one of the oldest cities in eastern Europe. Recent events there introduced new challenges, but perhaps



TRIVIA

What city do many authorities consider to be the world's oldest, continually inhabited city?

SEE PAGE 31



new opportunities for sharing the gospel. There are some 3.2 million people living in Kiev and slightly more than 4,000 Adventists worshipping in 25 churches.

## Luanda

In the late 1500s the Portuguese founded Luanda, the capital of Angola. Located on the Atlantic coast, it has been rebuilding after years of civil war. Today, Luanda has a population of some 6 million people with 74,000 Adventists worshipping in 270 churches.

## Please pray for:

- church members and leaders who are working in these cities.
- the millions of people yet to be reached with the gospel.
- the world divisions as they seek new and creative ways to reach the large cities in their territories.
- the thousands of outreach activities and reaping events currently taking place.

## Sydney

Sydney, Australia attracts people from all over the globe. It has one of the deepest harbors in the world, and is known for the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the iconic sails of the Sydney Opera House. Sydney has a population of 4.7 million people, with some 9,000 Adventists worshipping in 85 churches and companies.

## Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, is one of the largest metropolitan areas in South America. First settled in the 1500s, Greater Buenos Aires now has a population of some 14.5 million people. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has been growing here, with more than 160 churches and more than 22,000 members. Yet, that's still less than 0.2 percent of the population.

## London

London, England, is well known for its historical landmarks and multi-cultural population. There are 95 Seventh-day Adventist churches here, but the growing challenge of secularism makes reaching people

difficult. Among the 13.3 million people of London, you'll find only 15,000 Adventists.

## Mumbai

India has a vast urban landscape and is home to some of the most populated cities on earth. The Mumbai metropolitan region, formerly known as Bombay, is one of the largest in India with a population of 21.2 million people. There are some 11,000 Seventh-day Adventists members worshipping in 74 churches. Christians are a minority in Mumbai and in many other cities in this region of the world.

\* This is a partial list of selected cities. Some locations are subject to change.

### Rick Kajjura

Office of Adventist Mission



- To watch the "Meet the Cities" video, visit [www.Mission360Mag.org/Videos](http://www.Mission360Mag.org/Videos).
- To learn more about Mission to the Cities, visit [MissionToTheCities.org](http://MissionToTheCities.org).



# New Stories Every Quarter, Same **GREAT** Mission!

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**ADVENTIST MISSION** IN ENGLISH, FRENCH, HINDI, AND URDU

**For Sabbath School**

- 1 April: Mission in Motion (7:56)
- 2 May: Meet the Cities (9:23)
- 3 June: With Open Bibles (7:36)

**For Church and School**

- 4 A Small Seed (2:40)
- 5 Probhat the Pioneer (2:51)
- 6 Discovering Truth (2:39)
- 7 Called to Fly (3:49)
- 8 Children's Story: Hands of Hope (2:02)
- 9 Music Video: Home (4:03)

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# Strawberry Celebration

One of the delights of late spring and early summer is the availability of fresh, locally grown strawberries. What a treat they are!

These tasty berries are grown in more than 70 countries around the world. When strawberries are in peak season in your area, gather your friends and neighbors for a sweet celebration.

Strawberries are luscious just the way they are, but you might enjoy these variations from other countries.



## Poland

### Strawberry Kissel

(Serves 4–6)

Kissels are simple desserts, popular in many Eastern European countries, made from fruit puree that is thickened with starch. The flavor varies according to the type of fruit used, but the basic recipe is the same.

#### INGREDIENTS

1 cup unsweetened white or red grape juice  
4 tablespoons cornstarch  
½ cup cold water  
3 cups fresh strawberries, crushed (reserve 6 to 8 strawberries for garnish)  
Half-and-half or cream, optional

#### PREPARATION

- In a large pan, bring the grape juice to a boil. Remove from heat.
- Stir the cornstarch in the cold water until smooth. Whisk the cornstarch mixture into the grape juice and bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat.
- Add the crushed strawberries, mix well, and then bring back to a boil. Remove from heat and cool slightly.
- Pour into individual dessert bowls or one large bowl.
- Serve warm or refrigerate until firm.
- Serve with cream if desired, and garnish with strawberry slices.

## Korea

### Strawberry Ginger Punch

(Serves 8–10)

Seasonal fruit is prized as a snack or dessert in Korea. The fresh ginger adds a refreshing flavor to this special punch.

#### INGREDIENTS

8 cups water  
½ cup sugar  
4 cups fresh strawberries, sliced thin  
1 inch fresh ginger, peeled and sliced  
2 tablespoons pine nuts, optional

#### PREPARATION

- Boil the water and sugar, stirring until sugar is dissolved, for about 10 minutes. Remove from heat and cool completely.
- Place the strawberries and ginger in a large pitcher, and then pour in the water and dissolved sugar.
- Refrigerate for at least two hours.
- Remove ginger pieces and serve the punch in glasses.
- Garnish with pine nuts if desired.

## France

### Strawberry and Spinach Salad

(Serves 4–6)

Much credit is given to France for its contributions to art and culture, but perhaps their greatest gift is the introduction of strawberries to the rest of the world.

#### INGREDIENTS

1 lb. fresh baby spinach, washed and patted dry  
2 cups fresh strawberries, sliced

#### DRESSING

1 cup strawberries  
1/3 cup olive oil  
1 teaspoon fresh lemon or lime juice

#### PREPARATION

- Lightly toss spinach and strawberries together. Serve in a pretty bowl or on individual salad plates.
- Place the additional strawberries, olive oil, and lemon or lime juice in a blender or food processor and blend until smooth.
- Just prior to serving, drizzle the dressing over the salad, or pour the dressing into a small pitcher for guests to serve themselves.

Nancy Kyte

Office of Adventist Mission



# Malaria X3



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If a malaria-infected mosquito bites you, you'll get malaria in about ten days. I had been in Chad for ten days when I got malaria.

I had just started my assignment as a volunteer chaplain at Bere Adventist Hospital when I was admitted as a patient to receive quinine treatments for a week. I was glad to get back to work.

Each day I gathered the hospital children together to tell them Bible stories. We sang worship songs in the local dialect, prayed, and ate mangoes. It was great! And each day I prayed that God wouldn't let me get malaria again.

Seven days later, I started shivering and experiencing terrible body pain. I had malaria again! I was so confused—it had only been eight days since I had gotten over the last bout. The doctors told me it was probably a relapse, and I started quinine treatment again. I was devastated.

The effects of quinine are almost as bad as the illness itself. I was vomiting continuously and had to be put on IV quinine at the hospital. Then it was discovered that I had parasites, so I started treatment

for that. Then I got a bad cold. It was a rough week.

After I recovered, I went back to telling Bible stories to the children and hanging out with the locals, laughing and cooking with them and learning their languages. I also had many plans, such as teaching English at the little Adventist school, giving Bible studies, doing presentations at church, and preaching. My health lasted for four very productive days. I'll never forget them. Then I got malaria, again!

Quinine is the most aggressive treatment for malaria, but it wasn't working. I started a new treatment, but it didn't work either. Soon I received news that I'd be going on IV again. This third round of malaria was the worst. I was already very weak from the first two bouts and needed people to do everything for me.

I had been determined to stay in Chad, but now I wasn't quite as



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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](http://www.AdventistVolunteers.org).



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- 1 Iriann preparing a salad.
- 2 The Chadian family who housed Iriann: (left to right) James, Dudje, Bond, Bobby, and Alimata.
- 3 A woman in Bere getting water from a communal well.
- 4 Eating *bulle* with *iri* sauce. *Bulle* is similar to rice pudding but isn't sweet. *Iri* is made from a plant. These words are spelled phonetically because the Nangere language doesn't have much of a written tradition.
- 5 Alfonsine, an extended member of Iriann's Chadian family, preparing rice.
- 6 Iriann making peanut butter. It's part of almost every meal.
- 7 *Iri* being cooked. Since Iriann's nickname is also "Iri," they made this a lot for her!

stubborn. Crying from sheer frustration, I decided to return home to recuperate. In the meantime, I lay in my hospital bed and asked God, *Why would You lead me all the way here just to let me get sick? Are You really that uncaring? Are You even there?*

I don't remember much from those days. But one thing I will never

forget. In the midst of my suffering and doubting, God reached me with just one electrifying realization.

This is how it happened. One night, I was lying in bed thinking, *I left my country, friends, family, and comforts behind and what did I get in return? Pain, sickness, loneliness, frustration, uselessness, fear, and heat!*

Then, out of nowhere, the thought hit me, *Jesus. The One who left so much more. The One who suffered infinitely more. The One who had the choice to go back home but decided not to. And then He died. For me.*

I was shocked. I had heard the story before. I had talked about it before. But I had never experienced it to this extent for myself.

I instantly felt ashamed for being so quick to doubt God's care. I was

overwhelmed by the presence of a loving God who gives peace, joy, and a sense of security in the worst of circumstances. More than anything else, I felt a deep appreciation for Jesus and His sacrifice. I thought, *Wow! Jesus must really love me!*

I understood that God had been intentional about teaching me a great lesson about His love. You see, I had been praying for Him to draw me closer to Jesus, to be able to appreciate His sacrifice and love, and to feel identified with Him. I wanted Jesus to mean more to me, but I didn't know how to make that happen. Well, I couldn't have changed myself. God changed me. And He did it in His timing and infinite wisdom. I don't think God gave me malaria, but I am certain that He took the situation and turned it into a blessing.

My assignment in Chad lasted two months; malaria took over most of it. Many people ask me if I think that it was worth it or if I would do it again. I don't remember much of it. I didn't get to do many amazing things. I don't even know how many people I may have helped. But I do know one thing: Jesus loves me. And I have experienced it for myself. And that is more than worth it.

Originally from Puerto Rico, **Iriann Irizarry** served as a chaplain at the Bere Adventist Hospital in Chad.





# TENTMAKING: Mission Without Limits

**W**hat do you think of when you see the word *tentmaking*? Does it conjure up images of canvas, sturdy thread, and large needles? In the world of mission, the term *tentmaking* has an association with these images, and in a moment, I'll show you why. But foremost, tentmaking is a way for every disciple of Jesus to be involved in the Great Commission.

As the world becomes more religiously polarized, many nations have closed their borders to church-based missionaries. Mission agencies call these nations "restricted access countries," a term that applies to places where it's politically or religiously challenging to share the gospel or worship openly.

## Using your profession to be a light

Simply put, tentmakers are devoted believers who use their profession to work in a restricted access part of the world for the purpose of sharing God's love in both word and deed.

## So what does tentmaking have to do with it?

Paul used his craft to support his passion for mission. In Corinth he stayed with Aquila and Priscilla and made tents because they were tentmakers. This work became his ticket to planting churches all over Asia. Paul spent years traveling among the major cities in Asia Minor and Europe, where he shared the message of Christ and planted churches.

Adventist Mission is using this same method to reach people for Christ who might otherwise never

hear the gospel. With tentmaking, there is no limit to mission, no place where God cannot be seen or heard.

Tentmakers work at legitimate jobs and support themselves entirely by their work just as Paul did in Corinth. But in the process they make friends and meet people's needs. They find ways of helping others understand important questions such as, Who is God? Did Jesus die for me? Will Jesus come again? They may even start a worship group in their home.

## From everywhere to everywhere

Today there is a need for tentmaking missionaries coming from every nation and going to every nation. There is a need for Africans, Asians, South Americans, Europeans, and North Americans. There is a need for people who speak English and Spanish, Arabic and Urdu, Mandarin and Bahasa.

TRIVIA

**What is the only city in the world located on two continents?**

SEE PAGE 31

## Who can be a tentmaker?

Anyone can be a tentmaker, but it takes a high level of commitment to leave your home, career, and extended family in order to live and work in a restricted access country. I know teachers, carpenters, engineers, doctors, nurses, housekeepers, and accountants who have chosen to be Christ's ambassadors

where traditional missionaries cannot go. Most tentmakers live and work in large urban areas of the world that are centers of commerce, industry, communication, and travel.

Today, as the church seeks to be faithful to its calling to prepare all nations for the second coming of Christ, there is an urgent need for thousands of tentmakers—men and women 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 [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org), type Tentmaker in the search box, and click on the link for more information.

**Rick McEdward**

Office of Adventist Mission



# Tentmaker Stories

*The following personal experiences were shared by two tentmakers. To protect them, we do not reveal their identities or locations.*

## Passing on Jesus' Care

I met a Turkish man who had a little sandwich business. He spoke no English and I spoke no Turkish. But over time, we began to understand each other and we became good friends. One day he asked me, "Why did you make friends with me?" I told him, "Someone who knows you told me to meet you." For months he left it at that. Whenever he'd ask again, I'd answer the same way.

About a year after we met, he asked me to pray for him because he was running into problems with his residence

visa; he would need \$1,000 dollars to renew it or he would have to leave the country. So I prayed. I told God that if He would give me \$1,000 dollars, I would pass it on to my friend. Not long after, I received a \$1,000 bonus at work.

That night my friend called and we agreed to meet. After I gave him the money, he asked me again who had told me to meet him. I responded, like always, "Someone who cares about you very, very much. Someone who knows you very well." My

friend pleaded with me, "Who?" So I finally told him, "It's my dear friend, Jesus." He started weeping, the tears running down his cheeks.

My friend went on to exclaim what a good person I am. "Don't think of me as good," I told him. "Jesus is good, and He gave you the money." My friend looked at me and said, "I believe in your Jesus!"



## Unplanned Guest

This past Christmas our family chose a different kind of celebration. First we went caroling. We sang at each home and offered to pray with each family before we left. It was a unique form of outreach for us. I could tell we blessed many families, and they blessed us too.

Then we wanted to eat out as a family treat. There was a lot of arguing as we tried to decide where to go. Finally, to end the discussion, I decided on a pizza restaurant.

As we waited for our order, I noticed a woman sitting behind us who was trying to get comfortable. After a while she stood up; it seemed she

wanted to move to another table. Our eyes met. I invited her to sit with us while she waited for another table to open up. She agreed and we began chatting. When the new table became available, she waved off the waiter and said, "No bother. I'll just sit with them!"

As we got acquainted, we learned that she was far from home and that the hotel where she had been staying had told her she would have to find another place. Like another Christmas story we all know, she had no place to sleep for the night. She was alone and she was a woman.

As we talked, I prayed, *Lord where can she go?* I knew the answer! I

invited her to sleep in our home. She gratefully accepted the invitation. She stayed with us that night and ate with us the next day. What struck me most was her comment as we parted. She said, "There are so many people who live in this city, but God sent me to you."

We had struggled to make plans for our meal, but God had a plan. That day the true meaning of love, mission, witness, and Christmas became real to us. We did not receive a stranger. We received an angel!





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# Donovan's 180°



With a full belly and a smile on his face, nine-year-old Donovan climbed in the front seat of Bekah's car. Bekah, one of our missionaries at the Simplicity Outreach Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania, was giving Donovan and some of his friends a ride home from a cooking class we had hosted.



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Donovan didn't pay much attention to the lively chatter in the back seat until someone cursed. Then he immediately turned around and said in a kind-yet-serious tone, "You shouldn't talk like that, we're in the presence of God!" Pretty incredible words for a boy who had only recently learned about Jesus.

We first met Donovan when he came to our children's brunch in October 2012. It was there that he heard his first Bible story. Two months later he joined our children's Bible study, where he learned that God loves him and wants

to give him eternal life. Donovan excitedly accepted the gospel invitation, and the change in his life has been dramatic.

The day Andrew, a Simplicity missionary, and Reyes, a local church member, knocked on Michelle's door, she had to force herself off the couch. Six days earlier she had been thrown in jail while her four children were forcibly removed from her home due to a false allegation. To say she was depressed would be an understatement.

Andrew and Reyes told Michelle they were taking a survey to discover how Simplicity could serve the needs of the community.

Michelle filled out the survey and then began to open up about what was happening in her life. Reyes, who is a mother herself, asked whether she could pray for Michelle.

Michelle told us later that she had only accepted Reyes' offer for prayer because she didn't want to be rude. "I wasn't a Christian at the time, and I didn't believe in prayer," she says. "But as Reyes prayed, I felt peace and a strong impression that I would get my children back." The next day that is exactly what happened. Michelle has been eagerly studying the Bible and volunteering at Simplicity ever since.

Donovan lived in the apartment below Michelle's for a while, so



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- 1 Donovan
- 2 Brian, a Simplicity missionary, working with children during a cooking class.
- 3 Michelle, left, and Lauren, Wes's wife, volunteering at a children's brunch registration.
- 4 Jesus Rivera, Allentown church member, doing crafts with children.
- 5 Simplicity missionaries: Bekah, Ryan, Carlos, and Andrew.
- 6 Baptized in July 2012, Al (center) and Gretchen (left) visit a friend in the community.
- 7 Donovan praying.
- 8 Simplicity missionaries (from left): Miram, Bekah, Keoki, and Andrew leading song service at a children's program.

Michelle knew him before he started coming to Simplicity. "I can't believe he's the same kid," says Michelle. "I never let my kids play with him before, but he's totally different now!"

Donovan and Michelle, and nearly all of the hundreds of people we've interacted with in the past year and a half, share a common experience in that they're unchurched. Most of them don't come from a background of faith and many have never heard the gospel.

It's easy to understand this lack of knowledge being true in Africa or Asia. But we've discovered that even within the United States there are significant population groups, especially in large urban areas, that have never heard the story of Jesus. All of the children who come to our programs are hearing Bible stories for the



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first time in their lives.

At Simplicity we believe the essence of Christ's method of ministry is to display the gospel before you tell the gospel. Ellen White wrote, "To reach people, wherever they are, and whatever their position or condition, and to help them in every way possible—this is true ministry" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 156).

In our attempt to emulate Christ's method, we place a high value on building relationships in our community. Sometimes when we knock on doors, we meet people who are interested in studying the Bible immediately. But even if they're not interested in Christianity, if we sense they need something, whether it's someone to talk to or help locating a food bank, we're ready and willing to invest ourselves in their lives.

As a result of this approach, we've had the privilege of leading two people to a decision for baptism and have 11 others who are taking Bible studies.

We currently have four small groups for elementary and middle school kids, one small group for high school teens, and two weekly cooking classes with 38 children attending.

We've expanded our community programs for 2014 with in-home lifestyle coaching and cooking classes as well as a community wellness group and recovery support group at the center. This summer we'll host a day camp for local kids as well as a summer mission intensive, offering others an opportunity to be involved in urban mission. In the fall we'll start after-school tutoring. Within three years we hope to expand to a second city in Pennsylvania. Thank you for



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helping to make the ministry of Simplicity possible and please remember us in your prayers.



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**Wes Via** is the director of the Simplicity Outreach Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania. Prior to accepting the call to Simplicity, he served as a Bible worker and evangelism coordinator for Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries and Generation of Youth for Christ.



Established in 2012, Simplicity is one of our church's many Life Hope Centers around the world. Six young adult missionaries work at Simplicity along with numerous volunteers from local Adventist churches and the community. Simplicity is an initiative of the Pennsylvania Conference and is supported by the Columbia Union, North American Division, and your donations to Global Mission.

- To learn more about Simplicity, visit [www.SimplicityMissions.org](http://www.SimplicityMissions.org).
- To learn more about Life Hope Centers, visit [MissionToTheCities.org](http://MissionToTheCities.org).





# Yiddish on a SOAP BOX

## Adventists' Apostle to the Jews

**F**rederick Carnes Gilbert was born to Russian Jewish parents in London, England, on September 30, 1867. Born in Russia, Frederick's parents were heavily persecuted by Christians in their country of birth, so they fled to Germany, only to encounter outright animosity from Christians. Virulent anti-Semitism forced the Gilberts from continental Europe. In England they found hope; an exciting era was opening for English Jews, for just months after Frederick's birth Benjamin Disraeli became Britain's first Jewish prime minister.

Gilbert had a strict Jewish upbringing and was strident in his hatred for Christianity. He related that when he passed a Christian church he would spit in revulsion and recalls that on several occasions when he encountered Christians, homicidal fantasies pressed to the fore of his mind, his fingers itching to throttle them.

Gilbert had somewhat of a turbulent childhood. With his father dying when Gilbert was an early teen, things were made even worse by his own poor health. Due to life-threatening asthma and lung disease, his physician recommended he sail to America, believing the climate there would be more conducive to his constitution. Gilbert was filled with trepidation at the thought of emigrating to America, for his father had warned him that it was a godless land. Nevertheless, he boarded the boat and sailed for New York City.

Gilbert did indeed judge America to be godless. He found a factory job but was persecuted there because of his peculiar Jewish beliefs. Although

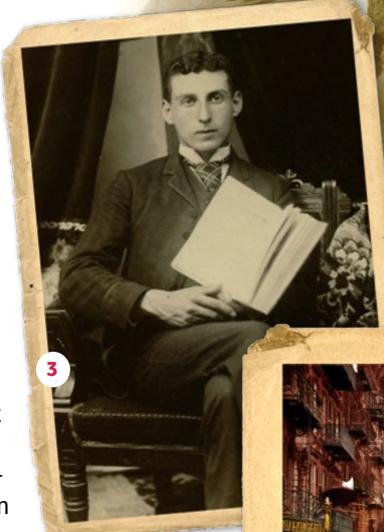
he joined a labor union and paid his dues, he was fired with no recourse from a promising job. The young immigrant went from one employ to another, often walking the streets at night with no food and inadequate clothing, shivering from the cold.

In hope for better prospects, the 21-year-old moved to Boston. There he obtained boarding with a Seventh-day Adventist family called the Fiskes. Initially intrigued by what he considered their bizarre fusion of Judaism and Christianity, he was ultimately won over by their lifestyle. He left the Fiske household two years later as a committed Seventh-day Adventist Christian.

After Gilbert converted to Christianity in 1889, the tough times continued. His relatives, including his beloved mother, disowned him. Hatred was heaved on him more than ever at work and on the street.

Employed at a shoe factory, Frederick quit to become a colporteur. After nine months of selling Adventist literature, he enrolled at nearby South Lancaster Academy, where he prepared himself for a ministry to all people, but with a special focus on reaching Jews.

After college, however, Gilbert labored among the goyim (Gentiles) of



New England for ten years. In 1896 he wed Ella Graham, to whom he was married for almost half a century. In 1898 he was ordained to the gospel ministry.

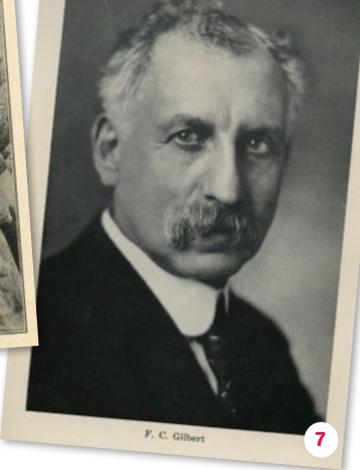
As the 20th century dawned, the rapidly growing Adventist Church was primed for reorganization, and new administrative structures were implemented from 1901 to 1903. Because of these dynamics, more deliberate methods of reaching people groups were being devised. Church leaders realized that the gospel needed to be translated, familiarized, and contextualized and that ministers, like Paul, had to become all things to all men so that they could by all means save some.



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- 1 F. C. Gilbert as a young man, c. 1890.
- 2 Gilbert Family c. 1905.
- 3 Gilbert as a student at South Lancaster.
- 4 New York City in the 1880s when Gilbert arrived.
- 5 A home for young Jewish refugees established by F. C. Gilbert, 1908.
- 6 Our first corps of workers for the Jews at the Mission in Boston that Gilbert established.
- 7 Gilbert c. 1925.

Gilbert embodied this. It was in the first years of the 20th century that he launched an out-and-out campaign to reach the 300,000 Jews of New England. Each of his methods was undergirded by a hands-on and communitarian approach to evangelism, born out of a love for humanity. You could find him in the ghetto, conversing with rabbis, preaching in Yiddish on a soap box, canvassing from tenement to tenement, taking in orphans, caring for the sick, finding the unemployed jobs, and lobbying against Sunday laws, which threatened religious liberty for Jews. Gilbert established a refugee center for Jews who had no means of support, spoke in synagogues and halls, and started the gospel magazines *The Good Tidings of the Messiah* and *The Messenger* in Yiddish.

True mission is always at a cost though. Gilbert was viciously accosted. He was the target of death threats and bottles filled with rocks. Sometimes his head was drenched in blood,

other times his body was wracked with pain from pummeling. Yet all this he counted joy, to suffer for his Messiah.

At his urging, the Central New England Conference created a Jewish department in 1907. Gilbert, its first director, developed strategies and raised funds to reach the Jewish population in New England, which was growing considerably in cities along the eastern seaboard. He was also the Jewish representative for the Atlantic Union Conference, a pioneer in this regard, for up to that point no systematic evangelization of the Jews had been undertaken in the church. But, like many trailblazers, he severely overworked himself. Ellen White wrote in 1908: "To Brother Gilbert I would say, You must be guarded. Do not tax your powers so severely. Hitherto the Lord has been with you, and He will continue to bless your efforts, and will lead others to unite with you in your work. But you are in danger from more sources than one. Your enemies will be incensed against you because this truth is being carried to the Jews."

In 1913, once again at Gilbert's behest, the North American Foreign Department established the Jewish Department Advisory Committee, Gilbert serving as superintendent. Five years later he became superintendent of the Jewish Advisory Committee at the General Conference.

Advancing in age and no longer able to labor in the ghettos, Gilbert

wrote books for Jews, showing the myriad similarities between Judaism and Adventism. His Christocentric masterpieces, *Practical Lessons from the Experience of Israel*, *Messiah in His Sanctuary*, and *Judaism and Christianity* present Jesus as the total realization of Hebrew cultural rites.

Jesus outlined an evangelistic sequence to his disciples after His resurrection: "Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). If Gilbert started in metaphorical Jerusalem, he then literally branched out to the uttermost parts of the earth. In 1922 as field secretary of the General Conference he employed his considerable energies on raising money and promoting foreign mission. He spent nine months evangelizing and growing the work in China and Japan, and a year in Western Asia and Europe. In 1939 he toured India, strengthening Adventists there, and then traveled to Central and South America in 1943. Totally taxed, his health collapsed, he had a severe stroke shortly after his Latin America trip. Frederick Carnes Gilbert died on August 31, 1946, just shy of 79 years old.

It is fitting to conclude with the words of F. C. Gilbert that encapsulate the very essence of his life, printed in *Ministry* magazine in 1928:

"Every person whom God calls to this light must remember that his business primarily is not to make money, or acquire real estate, or engage in banking, or anything else; his business is to see to it, under God, that this message is a living power in his own soul, and that he is doing all he can to help it get into other people's souls. That is our work."

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** is the assistant archivist at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.





KENYA

TRIVIA What city in the world has the largest Seventh-day Adventist population?

SEE PAGE 31

# Learning to Trust

I had been teaching at an orphanage in Rwanda\* for two months, and everything was going smoothly. The food no longer seemed strange, I had learned a bit of the language, I could navigate around town by myself, and I even enjoyed being woken up at six o'clock every morning by kids wanting to play. I had gotten past the initial struggles of loneliness and culture shock and was beginning to adjust to life.

Then suddenly, I was informed that the Rwandan government had changed their visa policy due to a new law that required incoming teachers to have a university degree. Since I didn't have a degree, I sadly prepared for my last month at the orphanage, understanding that

I would be allowed to stay in the country for three months.

However, when I double-checked my visa, I noticed that for some reason it expired the very next day! I called the president of the Rwanda Union Mission to ask what I should do, and he told me that I would need to evacuate the country immediately.

That evening I packed my belongings, trying to come to terms with the revelations of the past 24 hours. The children and I spent the remainder of our time enjoying each other's company—taking pictures, talking, and recalling some of the fun times we'd had together.

At five o'clock the next morning a car arrived to take me to the airport where I would fly to Nairobi. Holding

back tears, I hugged the children and said goodbye, trying to put a smile on my face and a positive spin on a situation that none of us understood.

I arrived at the airport with no ticket and very little money. When I approached the check-in counter, I explained that all I knew was that I was supposed to fly to Nairobi. The woman at the counter printed a

I had been relying on God completely, and now my faith that He had a plan for me was increasing.



If you're interested in being a volunteer, please visit [www.AdventistVolunteers.org](http://www.AdventistVolunteers.org).

## How to give your mission offering:

- During Sabbath School
- Secure online: [Giving.AdventistMission.org](http://Giving.AdventistMission.org)
- In North America, mark a tithe envelope "World Budget" at your local church or call 800-648-5824



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boarding pass and handed it to me. It was then that I realized that the union president had made arrangements for my flight.

When I went to check my baggage, I was informed that I would have to pay an excess baggage fee. I explained my situation and after a bit of pleading, they agreed to reduce the fee to \$20 dollars.

The plane whisked me away from Rwanda, my first experience out of the United States, and the place that taught me so many lessons about life, love, and trust. Arriving in Kenya, I was required to pay a \$50 visa fee to enter the country. I had \$55 in my pocket. I had been relying on God completely, and now my

faith that He had a plan for me was increasing.

As I walked out of the airport, I saw a group of people holding signs with names on them. Hopeful, I scanned the crowd and sure enough, a woman was holding a sign with my name on it! Breathing a huge sigh of relief, I told her how excited I was to see her. Then I asked her what the plan was. She led me to a taxi and told me that the driver would know where to take me.

When I asked the driver where we were going, his answer was, "SDA." That was enough for me. Exhausted, I fell asleep, awaking an hour later to hear the driver say, "You're awake just in time to see it! It's at the top of the hill. SDA." As we

1 Eric with a child in Kibera, a slum where Maxwell's volunteers do outreach.

2 & 3 AVS volunteers making friends at an orphanage.

4 AVS volunteers and students enjoying a Christmas gift exchange at a faculty family's home.

approached the crest of the hill, I saw the gate to Maxwell Adventist Academy.

Adventist Volunteer Service (AVS) had made arrangements for me to become part of the volunteer staff at the school, and I would spend the next several months teaching and tutoring and learning about a new culture. But most important, I learned to trust God even when I couldn't see the big picture for myself.

\* This position was not processed through the office of AVS.



4

Originally from the United States, **Eric Drab**, served as an academic tutor for math, science, and English at Maxwell Adventist Academy in Kenya.





# 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 endless flights of stairs in the city's towering apartment buildings. Then suddenly, they stop. For the three Global Mission pioneers they belong to have just encountered someone interested in learning about Jesus—the sole 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. In the past two years they've studied with 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, he was married to Helen,\* a member who was no longer attending church whom Gift wanted to visit. "If I wanted to encourage the wife," Gift says, "I had to get 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. "Your mother is in the house," Paul replied kindly. "You may go visit

her." When Gift left that day, Paul told him he was welcome to come again.

Gift began visiting regularly, and Paul began to call him "son." He 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, and was very sick. 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, "Father, God loves you. You cannot die without accepting 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 the dying man 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 pushed him in a wheelchair to every meeting at Paul's request.

At the close of the meetings, 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. Daniel\* had recently discovered he was HIV positive when Gift knocked on his door. 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 pioneer."

Gift sees many people in his city die without knowing Jesus. "I want to



Every year  
Gift wears  
out three  
pairs of shoes  
reaching  
people for  
Jesus.

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 is too late."

\* Name has been changed.

**Laurie Falvo**  
Office of Adventist Mission



1 Global Mission pioneers Moeketsi, Gift, and Steward meet with Welheminah for a Bible study.

2 Steward visits with a woman who lives in one of the city's many apartments.

3 Moeketsi and Steward have a Bible study with Pollen outside the gas station where he has just finished work.

4 Steward, Pollen, Gift, and Moeketsi.

5 Hospa Sibanda, supervisor of the pioneer team, with Pollen, Gift, and Maria. Pollen and Maria have finished Bible studies and want to be baptized.



**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 [www.global-mission.org](http://www.global-mission.org).



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CHILDREN'S STORY

# Memoirs of a Student Missionary



**F**ive years ago, I decided to take a semester away from college to be a student missionary. I wanted to get away from the daily routine of school and do something different. I was majoring in education, but I wasn't sure whether I wanted to be a teacher for the rest of my life.

So I took a break and accepted an opportunity to serve as a student missionary in Bangkok, Thailand. They needed English teachers, but they also needed documentary filmmakers. Who knew that a filmmaker could be a missionary!

When I arrived in Bangkok, I could not believe how busy the city was. Day and night there was constant noise and bustling traffic. The heat and humidity were unbearable.

I shared an apartment with other student missionaries in the heart of a concrete jungle. Sometimes weeks would go by before I noticed a patch of grass or a cluster of trees. I was surprised that Internet speeds in Bangkok were so much faster than I had back at college. I discovered the amazing fruit smoothies made by street vendors and

learned to love and appreciate Thai food.

To be honest, I didn't really suffer from homesickness. It probably helped that I was in Bangkok from January to July, so I wasn't away from home at Christmas. I missed Mexican food, sandwiches, and bread of any kind. I also missed cold weather, but that is because we were sweating nonstop in Thailand! I started to miss my friends and family just before I returned home, so everything worked out fine.

I made friends with several families on our street. We started Bible studies and spent a lot of time hanging out together. It was during this time that I realized that being a missionary isn't about where you are. It is about people and relationships. It's about showing love to others.

Student missionaries have different experiences when they choose to serve in another country. Some can be good, and some not so good. But if you keep your eyes on the goal, which is to serve others wherever you are, you will know for certain that you



have left a positive impact on the world around you.

When I was at the crossroads of my life in Thailand, I found what I was searching for. Instead of becoming a teacher, I became a journalism and communication major. And now



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- 1 Brandon with children at a Vacation Bible School that he helped with in Chang Mai.
- 2 Brandon (back left) enjoying a day of four-wheeling through the rainforest with fellow student missionaries and their Thai pastor (front left).
- 3 Brandon taking a break from photographing in northern Thailand.
- 4 Brandon visited the beautiful campus of Asia-Pacific International University in Muak Lek, Thailand.
- 5 Local children pose for a quick picture after playing together with student missionaries.
- 6 Brandon filming for a Thai documentary.
- 7 Student missionaries Ricky Oliveras, Cory Goodwin, Brandon Roberts, and Jorge Grenada on a short vacation to Ban Krut.

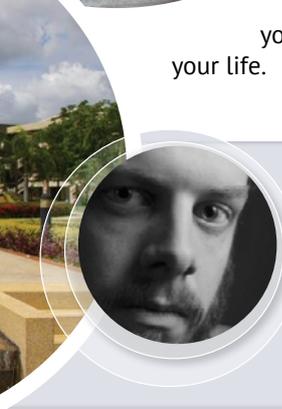


that I am back in the United States, I miss the people I met in Thailand.

Would I recommend that you consider becoming a student missionary? Absolutely! And who knows, you might just find what you are meant to do with your life.

3

**Brandon Roberts** is a video editor and producer for the communication department of the Seventh-day Adventist world headquarters.



## Trivia Answers

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<p><b>World's largest city?</b> Many sources consider metropolitan Tokyo to be the largest city with a population of between 34–37 million people.</p> <p><b>World's highest elevation city?</b> It's generally agreed that La Rinconada in the Peruvian Andes is the highest, with an altitude of more than 16,700 feet. That's three miles above sea level!</p> <p><b>World's coldest city?</b> Yakutsk, located in Yakutia, a republic in Siberia, is the world's coldest city. In January, the mean temperature hovers around -40 degrees Fahrenheit, but days in the -60s are not unheard of.</p>	<p><b>City on two continents?</b> Istanbul, Turkey, is the only city in the world located on two continents, Europe and Asia.</p> <p><b>World's oldest, continually inhabited city?</b> There is some debate, but Jericho is often cited as the oldest city in the world.</p> <p><b>City with the largest Seventh-day Adventist population?</b> Metropolitan São Paulo, Brazil, has the largest population with 115,825 Adventists. Lusaka, Zambia, is a close second with 105,884 Adventists. These are the only two cities in the world with more than 100,000 Adventist church members.</p>
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## About our cover photo...

Photo by Ricky Oliveras

Imagine being ten years old again! This smiling boy in Pune, India, uses his boundless energy as a street performer, helping to support his family. In the Western India Union, there are 242 Seventh-day Adventist churches, with a membership of more than 137,000. Spicer Memorial College was established in Pune in 1915, offering nearly 100 years of Adventist education to thousands of students.



# Christ's method in the world's great cities

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

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