



CHILDREN'S MISSION

2015 • **QUARTER 3** • SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION



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On the Cover: *Saumya was sad when both of her parents left her. But when she went to the Lakpahana Adventist School in Sri Lanka, she found “a little heaven on earth.” Story on p. 12.*

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Your Offerings at Work

The Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) would like to thank their brothers and sisters around the world for their generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering during the second quarter of 2012. Some of the funds received from this offering were used to purchase much needed medical equipment and to renovate the Adventist hospital in Medan, Sumatra. This hospital (pictured here) serves the needs of thousands of people in western Indonesia. Thank you for supporting mission through your prayers and generous gifts!



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter features the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, which includes the countries of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. Almost 800 million people live in this region, including 1.2 million Seventh-day Adventists.

The Stories—In Their Own Words

This quarter, many of the stories come directly from the people themselves—in their own words. I hope as you share these stories with the children in your class that they will be inspired by how God is working in the life of each person.

The Challenges:

Timor-Leste gained its independence in 2002. The entire area of this island country is spread over 15,007 square kilometers. The official languages are Portuguese and Tétum, but English and Indonesian are

more commonly spoken. The country is almost completely Roman Catholic. Seventh-day Adventists in Timor-Leste often face religious liberty challenges.

Sri Lanka is an island nation off the southeast coast of India. The most sacred mountain is Adam's Peak. Pilgrims climb to its peak by candlelight to stand in what they believe to be the footprints of Buddha. Sri Lanka has the highest literacy rate of the whole of South Asia at 92 percent.

Bangladesh has a population of 163 million people, making it the world's eighth most populated country. The capital city of Dhaka has an estimated population of 15 million people, making it one of the largest cities in the world. More than 30 percent of the population live below the poverty line, however, the economy and standards of living have been improving.

Offering Device

The special children's project this quarter will help provide school desks for children in Timor-Leste. Make a picture of an empty classroom and post it. Find and copy or draw and cut out pictures of simple wooden school desks and place one in the classroom for every week the children reach their mission offering goal.

Special Note: *If you plan to be at the General Conference Session in San Antonio, please come by the Adventist Mission booth to receive a beautiful and sturdy offering device. We look forward to meeting you!*

Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help:

- build the Timor-Leste Adventist International School (TAIS) in the capital city of Dili.
- build a church at the Lakpahana Adventist College and Seminary in Sri Lanka.
- construct a school of nursing building in Gazipur, Bangladesh.
- CHILDREN'S PROJECT: Desks for the school children at TAIS.



Ann Wahlen



TIMOR-LESTE | July 4

Febrina

Two Brave Girls

My name is Febrina. I learned about Jesus from my uncle Marcos. I'm proud of him because he's the one who brought me into the Adventist church. I studied the Bible with him when I was in the fifth grade and then was baptized. I felt happy and enjoyed reading the Bible, because it is true.

In my country, all the children must go to school every day except Sunday. After I was baptized, I no longer went to school on Saturdays, because I had learned that the Sabbath was God's holy day.

By the time I was in high school, the teachers were watching me carefully. One day I was taken to the school office. The teachers asked, "Why don't you come to school on Saturdays?"

"Because I go to church every Saturday," I told them. After I told them more about the Sabbath, the teachers became very angry and said that I would be expelled if I didn't come on Saturdays.

Afterward I went home and prayed about this problem. I asked the church to pray for my teachers. The next Sabbath I didn't go to school, and so I was expelled.

The Bible verse that helps me to always be strong in Jesus is Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." This verse really helps me a lot because it reminds me to make God first in everything and He will take care of me.

Going to Work

After being expelled, I stayed at home for a while. The church members kept praying, asking God to strengthen me. Then I was invited to work in a nearby shop that is owned by a Seventh-day Adventist, so every Sabbath we are closed.

In this shop we want to share Jesus with our customers. One way we do this is by not selling cigarettes or alcohol. When

the customers ask for these things we explain that we don't sell them because they're not good for our bodies, and that our bodies are the temple of God. Almost every day someone asks us about this.

I pray about my future education. Please pray that we will soon have an Adventist school in Timor-Leste. But whatever happens in my life, even if more challenges come, I have decided to always follow Jesus.

Expelled by Family

My name is Helena. I learned about Jesus from Adventist missionaries who

came to my village. The missionaries were very kind and did many things such as helping clean the village, the road, and people's houses. I was interested in what they were doing, so I went and joined them every day.

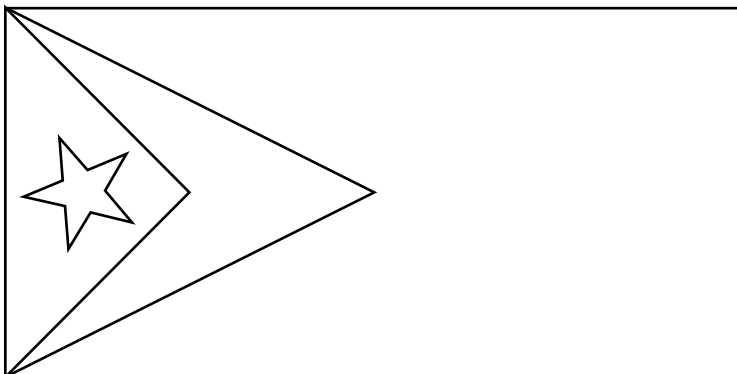
While we worked together, the missionaries invited me to study the Bible with them. We studied for two months and then I decided to be baptized. I was very happy to study the Bible, because I found new lessons for my life. The verse that encouraged me to study was Matthew 7:7—"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (KJV). It invites us to come to Jesus in prayer. When I have problems, I remember this verse.

Before I studied the Bible with the missionaries, my parents were kind to me, but after I accepted Jesus my parents became very angry and didn't want to see me anymore. Please pray for them, that someday they will come to know and love Jesus as I have. Also, please pray for an Adventist school here in Timor-Leste. Thank you. 🌐

Fast Facts

- Timor-Leste, also known as East Timor, is the world's newest democracy, having gained its independence in May, 2002.
- The currency of Timor-Leste is the U.S. dollar.
- The official languages of Timor-Leste are Portuguese and Tétum.

Color the flag of Timor-Leste



Field with Star: black
Star: white
Arrow-shaped field: yellow
Rest of flag: bright red



TIMOR-LESTE | July 11

The Best Students

Mariano and Maria

My friend Mariano and I have gone to school together for many years. When we were younger, Mariano was very naughty. He was always getting into trouble and wasn't friendly to anyone. But one year when we came back to school, Mariano had changed—something had happened to him! He now looked like a person with a kind heart.

Mariano and I always got the best grades in our class. Because of this, our teacher chose us to be the class leaders—Mariano was first leader, and I was the second. That meant that on the days when the teacher wasn't able to be in class, we were the ones in charge.

Whenever that happened, Mariano always shared stories about God with the class. I liked these stories and always asked him to share Bible stories with us when the teacher was away.

But after a while I became jealous of

Mariano. I noticed that even though he never came to school on Saturdays, he *always* got the very best score on all of the exams. I studied harder and always tried to do my best, but I was never able to beat Mariano—he always came in first!

Smartest Student

My grandfather is a magic man, so one day I asked him to do something that would make me smarter. He gave me some magic medicine and told me that if I took this special magic medicine, it would help me beat Mariano and get the best score on tests. But even though I tried this, I still never came in first—it was *always* Mariano who got first place.

One day I decided to ask Mariano why he had changed and was now the smartest student in the class. He told me that it was because God helped him and that he studied the Bible. When I heard that I was

very happy, because I knew that we had a Bible at our house—my mother’s Bible.

So I went back home and tried to read Genesis, chapter one. But I became tired of reading because I didn’t understand it. The next day I went back to school and asked Mariano how he could study the Bible. I told him that I tried reading it but didn’t understand what I was reading.

Studying Together

Mariano laughed and said, “If you really want to study the Bible, I’ll come to your house and we can study the Bible together.”

So after class we always went to my grandparents’ house where I was living and studied the Bible. Two weeks later, the neighbors asked what I was doing with my friend every day. “We’re studying the Bible together,” I told them. “If you want, you are welcome to come and join us.”

When they heard this, they became very angry. They told me to stop studying the Bible, but I kept studying anyway. During this time, my mother didn’t know about these Bible studies because she was away, working in the big city of Dili. When she heard that I had been studying the Bible and was even planning to be baptized, she became very angry.

I prayed a lot about this and asked the other Adventists in the church to pray for me. Then my grandparents told my mother that I had changed, and that I looked and acted better. My grandmother said that I had become a nice girl, with no more mean words in my mouth, and that I was no longer naughty. After my grandparents explained this to my mother, she was no longer angry with me.

Mission Post

- According to the ancient legends, Timor was formed after an ageing crocodile transformed into an island when a boy helped the crocodile when it was unwell. The boy’s descendants are supposedly the natives of Timor.
- The majority of the people in Timor-Leste are Roman Catholics, followed by Protestants, Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists.
- For more on this and other Thirteenth Sabbath projects, watch Mission Spotlight at www.missionspotlight.org.

Expelled From School

After I was baptized, my friends and classmates were mean to Mariano and me. And now, just like Mariano, I no longer came to school on Sabbath. Then the teachers decided to only give exams on Sabbath, and they wouldn’t let us take them on any other day. After that Mariano and I were expelled from school and were told that it was because we “didn’t follow the rules.”

But there was a nearby Muslim school where we were able to continue our studies without Sabbath problems because at this school there were no classes on Sabbath. Mariano and I were always the best students in the class—in fact, we even got higher scores than before!

After finishing high school I decided to become a volunteer missionary with the 1,000 Missionary Movement (see www.1000mm.info) and am working with a good partner from Indonesia. Please pray for me to always be a strong missionary, especially as we face challenges in the villages where we work. 🌍



TIMOR-LESTE | July 18

Linda

God Always Helps Me

My name is Linda and I am eight years old. I am a student in our local primary school. I have a brother, Oclesiu, and a little sister, Gabriela, and we all go to the same school. Every Sabbath we don't go to school, because our mother has taught us that that Sabbath is God's special day. Every Saturday our teachers look for us, but we are never there.

One day Oclesiu, Gabriela, and I were all told to go to the school office to meet with the teachers. We went there, and the teachers asked us, "Why don't you come to class every Saturday?" I said, "We are Adventists, so we have worship in the church every Sabbath day."

Then they asked us, "What is that?" I told them that the Sabbath day is God's day for all people, and that we must worship Him. When I said this,

the teachers became very angry and they wanted us to bring our church leader to meet with them at the school.

My classmates also ask me many things about the Bible and want me to tell them Bible stories, so I tell them all the Bible stories that I know. One friend asked me, "Why don't you come to class every Saturday?" I told him that every Sabbath we must stop working, because that is God's day. When He made the world He stopped on the seventh day and made it holy.

Even though my brother, sister, and I don't go to school on Sabbaths, we know that Jesus helps us to always get good grades on our papers anyway. In the Bible it says to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matt. 6:33, NKJV). So I believe that God has a great

plan for us to help us with our studies.

I just want to ask you, when you pray, please don't forget to pray for my teachers. They said they won't give us our final tests because we are always absent on Saturdays. So I just pray to God about that. God knows everything about us. Please also pray for the children. We will be very happy when we have our own Adventist school here, so we won't have any more problems about the Sabbath day in our school.

Ironia's Story

Here's another story from a girl in Timor-Leste:

My name is Ironia. I'm eleven years old and am in grade six. I want to be a Seventh-day Adventist member and am studying the Bible with my father. After I learn more, I will be baptized. I'm happy to be in an Adventist church family, because I can know Jesus better. I put Jesus in my everything.

I never go to school on the Sabbath day, because my father and mother have taught me the Bible, so beginning from the first grade, I haven't gone to school on Sabbath.

Sometimes my teachers hit me and punish me for not coming to school on Saturdays. When they ask me why I don't come to class every Saturday, I explain to them that the Bible says in Exodus 20 that the Sabbath day is when God stopped from His work and made that day holy, and that we are to worship Him. They listen, but then they always

Fast Facts

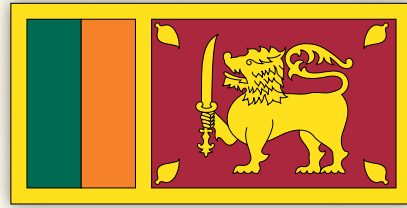
- Timor-Leste's natural resources are gold, petroleum, natural gas, manganese, and marble.
- Timor-Leste is a country filled with children! Forty-two percent of the population are 14 years old or younger.
- The country's main industries including printing, soap manufacturing, handicrafts, and woven cloth.

punish me.

But I always tell my father and mother about my problems at school, and they pray about it. Sometimes I have wondered, why don't we have an Adventist school in Timor-Leste? But then I heard that we will have an Adventist school here because of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering! Please pray for us here, and thank you so much for helping us to have an Adventist school—we really need one! 🌍

A child looks at the dedication plaque of the only Seventh-day Adventist Church in Timor-Leste.





SRI LANKA | July 25

Abilasha

Shining Lights

Abilasha comes from a Hindu family living in the northwest area of Sri Lanka. Her family didn't like Christians, and tried not to be around them. Abilasha's father liked alcoholic drinks, which made life at home and school very difficult. Because of this, Abilasha begged her mother to let her go to school somewhere else.

Abilasha had an uncle who was a Seventh-day Adventist and he would sometimes visit the family. Each time he came, he talked about an Adventist school called Lakpahana ("Light of Sri Lanka"). He explained what a good school it was, and described its beautiful rural setting on a coconut plantation.

After hearing about Lakpahana many times, Abilasha's mother decided that Abilasha should go to school there, even

though their family didn't like Christians or the God that the Christians worshiped. So Abilasha made the journey from her home in Puttalam on the northwest coast, to the center of the country, where the school is located.

A Change of Scenery

Once she arrived on campus, Abilasha loved the beautiful and peaceful setting of Lakpahana. There where she was introduced to the God of heaven and began to experience His love. She went to the worship services and became more interested in knowing God. Then she began to study the Bible for herself. She especially liked Psalm 23 and Psalm 115, which often help her when she is having problems.

Abilasha also likes to pray and prays for

Mission Post

- Buddhism came from India to Sri Lanka in 250 B.C.
- Sri Lanka has been home to many Buddhist schools and monasteries for centuries.
- Seventy percent of the people of Sri Lanka are Buddhist, 13 percent are Hindu, 10 percent Muslim, and 7 percent are Christians.
- Today there are 37 Seventh-day Adventist churches in Sri Lanka with a total membership of 3,932.

her family. She was especially happy to learn that her father is doing much better now. She is thankful to the Lord that she is getting good grades in school, and she hopes to one day become a doctor.

Abilasha enjoys helping with a branch Sabbath School near her school, and especially likes telling Bible stories to the children and teaching them songs about Jesus and His love. She's been helping at the branch Sabbath School for a year, and is looking forward to continuing.

Branching Out

One of the teachers at Lakpahana, Teacher Manjula, also helps at the branch Sabbath School. One day she noticed that in a nearby village the people seemed lonely and worried, and they felt that no one cared about them. She could see that they needed to learn about Jesus and so began holding a branch Sabbath School

there. The group sang with the children and with whoever else came.

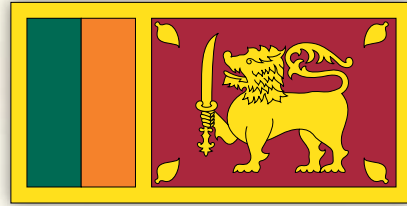
They noticed that a blind man was coming to their meetings. He enjoyed the songs so much, and two weeks after he started coming, he brought his mother to the meetings. He felt included in the singing and asked the branch Sabbath School team to record their music so he could listen and sing any time he wanted.

The Neighbor Children

Right in front of where they were holding this branch Sabbath School lived a family that was having problems. There was a lot of arguing and fighting in this family, and no one was happy, including the two children.

One day the two children saw that the branch Sabbath School was meeting right across from their house. At first the children watched from their window, then from their doorway, and then from their front porch. Finally, they felt comfortable enough to join the group. The children soaked up all of the songs and stories that were shared during the meetings in front of their house. They began to feel loved and safe and started smiling and singing with the other children.

Teacher Manjula and her team are certain that Jesus led them to start a branch Sabbath School right in front of this home. Happily, the boy and girl are now studying at Lakpahana because of this branch Sabbath School. Teacher Manjula encourages everyone to share God's love with whomever He leads them to. 🌍



SRI LANKA | August 1

Saumya

A Little Heaven on Earth

This is the story of a girl named Saumya. When Saumya was just a small girl, her father went to work in another country and her mother went to a different place, leaving Saumya in the care of some relatives. The father sent money home for his little daughter's needs, but sadly, the relatives just took the money and didn't use it to take care of her. Saumya felt very sad and lonely.

By the time she was ten years old, Saumya had heard about the Adventist school in Sri Lanka named Lakpahana. She had heard that there were many girls and boys who lived at this school and they were happy there.

When she was in grade six, Saumya had the opportunity to go to Lakpahana. At first, she didn't like the school because everything was so different. She came

from a Buddhist background so being in a Christian environment where everyone prayed to an invisible God was a shock at first. She missed the home she had come from even though her relatives weren't very nice to her. After all, it was still home, and the only place she knew.

Then one day, the girls' dean (who is like a mother to the girls in school) gave Saumya a Bible and prayed with her. The dean shared how much Jesus meant to her. That really touched Saumya's heart, and she started to pray and read the Bible that the dean had given to her. She continued reading her Bible and took Bible studies. After a while Jesus had become her friend, too, and she was baptized.

When her relatives heard about her baptism, they became very angry and would not accept her back into the family,

Fast Facts

- Because the country has a lot of waterfalls, most of Sri Lanka's electricity is powered by hydro-electric energy.
- The spice cinnamon originated in Sri Lanka and was discovered by the Egyptians.
- There are 11 universities in Sri Lanka.
- Ninety-two percent of people living in the country are literate, making Sri Lanka the country with the highest literacy rate in all of South Asia.
- Sri Lanka's national flag is said to be one of the oldest flags in the world.

because she was now a Christian and they were devout Buddhists. Even though this rejection hurt her, Saumya says that her life is so much better now since she has

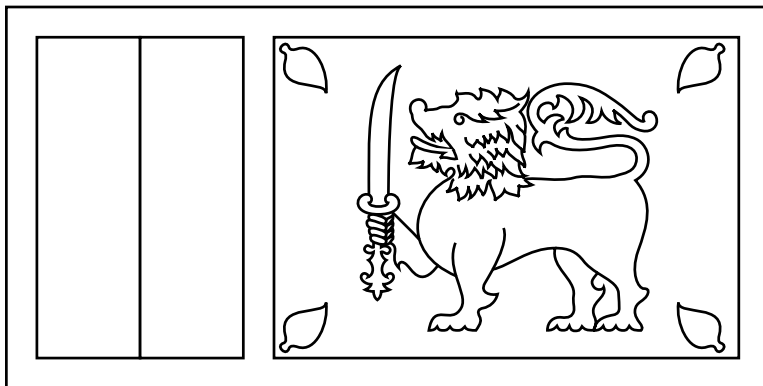
accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior.

One of Saumya's favorite Bible characters is Joseph. "He was without his family for so long," she says, "but God was with him through everything he went through and gave him the courage to face many trials. That story helps me to go through hard things too."

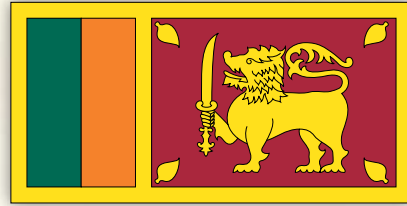
Saumya has learned that she can go to Jesus and His Word for wisdom and encouragement. One of her favorite Bible verses is Psalm 46:1—"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (NKJV)—because it says that God helps us at all times. This Bible verse has helped her through tough times.

Saumya is so happy that the Lord led her to Lakpahana—it has become like a little heaven on earth for her. She hopes to one day become a teacher so that she can help other children, who may also be facing tough times, to find Jesus. 🌍

Color the flag of Sri Lanka



Background: golden yellow/orange
1st vertical stripe: dark green
2nd vertical stripe: bright orange
Lion and sword: golden yellow/orange
Four leaves: golden yellow/orange
Field behind lion: dark red



SRI LANKA | August 8

By Eric B. Hare

The Big Yellow Truck Part 1

[This classic story, loved by Adventist children for many years, has been adapted for Children's Mission.]

Once upon a time not very long ago, Sabbath School mission offerings built a Christian school in the highlands of Sri Lanka. But the people in the nearby villages were not friendly. In one village they said, "We wish you had not built your school so near to us." And in another village the people said, "We won't ever send our children to your school."

A Trip to Town

Now the mission station owned a big yellow truck to carry supplies from Kandy, a town 12 miles away. The children on the mission station loved to ride to Kandy in the big yellow truck.

One day Mr. Juriansz, the school principal, hurried into his house and asked, "Mother, would you and the children like to take a ride to town in the big yellow truck?"

"Oh, yes!" said Mother.

"Oh yes, oh yes," chorused the three older children. Even the baby seemed to know that there was some big treat coming, for she waved her arms and legs and cooed and cooed.

"All right, get ready then," said Daddy. "Mr. de Silva and I have to go to town for supplies, and he's taking his family, too."

With squeals of delight, the children scrambled into the back of the big yellow truck.

In a few minutes Mother climbed into the truck with the baby,

But just as they went around that second little corner, they were horrified to see a great big passenger bus right in front of them.

and her husband started the truck. The engine rumbled to life, and the big yellow truck, filled with happy children, laughing and singing, started down the hill. It rumbled through the grove of coconut palms and past the school building. Out the gate and onto the road bounced the big yellow truck. Mother cuddled the little baby in her arms.

The big yellow truck jogged along the mountain road, through the village where the people had said, “We wish you hadn’t built your school so near to us,” and through the village where the people had said, “We won’t ever send our children to your school.” In the back of the truck the children laughed and sang, and the baby was happy in her mother’s arms.

The Wild Ride

The big yellow truck jogged along, around the corner, over the bridge, and down the little hill to another little corner. But just as they went around that second little corner, they were horrified to see a great big passenger bus right in front of them.

There was no time to stop, and no room to pass the bus. Mr. Juriansz jerked the steering wheel to the left. The children screamed as the big yellow truck turned suddenly; then they held their breath as the truck plunged over the side of the road and down a steep cliff. Bumpety, bumpety, bumpety-bump, down, down, down, over the small bushes and trees it went. Then suddenly, with an extra big bum-m-m-p, the big yellow truck came to rest.

Mission Post

- The Sri Lanka Mission (SLM) of Seventh-day Adventists was organized in 1950. It is an “Attached Field” of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.
- The SLM serves the people of Sri Lanka with three schools, one hospital, and one publishing house.
- Every community in Sri Lanka, no matter how small, has a public school, a place of worship, and a shop.

Mr. Juriansz jumped out of the truck and ran to the back; his face was as white as a sheet. “Are you all alive?” he cried.

“I think so,” said Mother shakily.

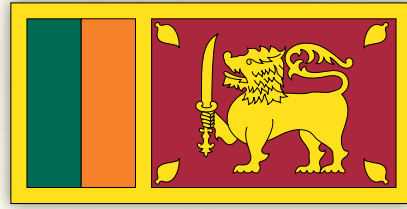
“And I am!” said each of the children as they realized that the danger was over.

The baby thought it was all a big game. She laughed and cooed.

Next week we will hear the rest of this exciting story. 🌐

A man transporting coconuts in Sri Lanka.





SRI LANKA | August 15

By Eric B. Hare

The Big Yellow Truck Part 2

Who remembers where last week's story happened? [*Sri Lanka.*] What happened when the big yellow mission truck met a big bus on a narrow road? [*The bus went over a cliff and bounced to a stop 150 feet below.*]

Mr. Juriansz, the driver, got out of the truck. He ran to check on the children who were riding in the back. Everyone was safe.

Angel Protectors

"We came down that steep 150-foot cliff and didn't even turn over!" said Mr. de Silva.

"And there are only a few small dents on the front fenders," said Mr. Juriansz. "I think the bushes and little trees helped hold us back."

"I do too," said Mr. de Silva.

"I think the angels held us in their hands," said Mother.

"So do I."

"So do I."

"And so do I," said the children. Then everybody was quiet for a moment, for you're always quiet when you know real angels are close by.

"It's a Miracle!"

The men from the passenger bus scrambled down the embankment. They were sure everyone in the truck was dead. But when they saw that the truck was standing on its wheels and the passengers were unhurt, they said, "It's a miracle! Your God must be a strong and good God, and He is with you!"

The truck had stopped among some coconut palms only ten feet from a

Fast Facts

- The country's official name is the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. In Sinhala, the language of the majority, *Sri* means “blessed” and Lanka is the name of the island.
- *Sinhala* means “lion’s blood” and the lion is the central image on the national flag.
- The main meal in Sri Lanka consists of a large serving of rice with twelve different side dishes of vegetables, egg, and meat stewed together with peppers, spices, and often coconut milk.
- When Sri Lankans say yes, they don’t nod their heads up and down but rather waggle it from side to side, so it looks as if they are saying no instead.
- The currency of Sri Lanka is the Sri Lankan Rupee.

river. A small road passed nearby. The men pushed and pulled, and soon the big yellow truck was on the little road. Then the children scrambled back into the truck. Mr. Juriansz thanked the bus passengers, and then he started up the engine. The big yellow truck rumbled to life and jogged along the garden road and onto the main road. Then away it went all the way to town. And the children laughed and sang and thanked God for their miracle.

At last the men had bought all the supplies and packed them into the truck.

The children climbed in and sat on top of the supplies. And off went the big yellow truck, through the village and down the hill and across the river and up the hill and around the corner and past the place where they’d had the accident.

“Stop! We Want to See!”

But when the big yellow truck came to the village where the people had said, “We won’t ever send our children to your school,” the people ran out into the street, waving their hands and saying, “Stop! We want to see the big yellow truck! We’ve heard what your God has done for you! Your God is a good God! We want to send our children to your school now!”

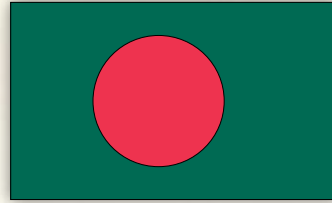
And when they came to the village where the people said, “We wish you hadn’t built your school so near to us,” the people ran out and waved and said, “Stop! We want to see the big yellow truck! We’ve heard what your God has done for you. Your God is a good God! We are glad now that you are living near us.”

And when they arrived back at the mission school and passed the students who were working in the garden, the students waved and said, “Did you have a good time?” And the children said, “Yes! And we had a miracle!”

And surely they did!

That big yellow truck served the mission for many more years, carrying coconuts to market and bringing back supplies for the school. 🌐

Eric B. Hare’s original recordings of this and many other of his most loved stories are available from Chapel Music and ChapelMusic.com. His books and CDs are also available at AdventistBookCenter.com.



BANGLADESH | August 22

Swapon

A Changed Life

My name is Swapon, and I live in Bangladesh. I was born into a Hindu family; everyone in our entire community was Hindu.

When I was a young child, some Christian people came to our village. They offered many things to us and asked us to accept their religion. Most of the people here are poor, so they became Christians in order to receive the nice things that were offered to them. After a few months, they went back to Hinduism.

A few years later when I was older, some more men came to our village. But this time things were different. Instead of offering us things, these men started preaching, and it was really interesting.

They talked about a man name Jesus, who loved and died for us. Their preaching touched my heart.

They talked about a man named Jesus, who loved and died for us. They also told about some of the things Jesus did while on Earth. Their preaching touched my heart.

These new people stayed for a while and visited our homes. Even though we were poor, they showed their love to us. Their preaching and the way they behaved helped me to know Jesus. During their last meeting, I told them that I wanted to learn more about Jesus and become a Seventh-day Adventist.

God Answers Prayers

Now I'm happy to know Jesus and to be a part of the Adventist family, but

Mission Post

- There are 121 Adventist churches in Bangladesh with a total of 28,681 members.
- The Bangladesh Union Mission has several schools, including the Bangladesh Adventist Seminary and College and Academy, the Kellogg-Mookerjee Memorial Seminary, the Monosapara Adventist Seminary, and the Seventh-day Adventist Maranatha Seminary.
- One of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering goals is to help build a new Adventist school of nursing building in Bangladesh.

before I became an Adventist, my friends in the village and I often did bad things and got into trouble. But after I became a Christian, my old friends were often mean and made fun of me. One day they came to my house and bullied me. They told me to stop telling others in our village about Jesus, and then they left.

I started thinking about what I could do for them, so I started praying for them. I remembered a verse in the Bible that says to “always keep on praying” (1 Thess. 5:17), so I kept praying that God would change their hearts and they would start doing good things. A few days later they came back and said they were sorry for being mean to me! I was so happy and thankful to God for answering my prayers. Now these friends are doing nice things and helping other people in the village. Our God is really powerful; He listens to

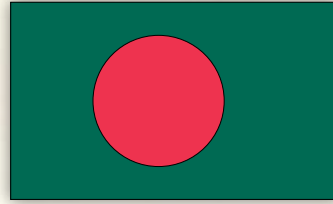
our prayers and I am very thankful to Him!

The people of my village are very poor. There is no one who can help with their needs, so I try my best to do what I can to help them. I teach the children of the village who are too poor to go to school. I don't have money to give them, but what I do have is God's love. If anyone gets sick or is having a problem, I visit and pray for them and share with them about Jesus—His love for us and how he gave His life on the cross. They are very surprised to hear this and are interested to learn more. I invite them to church, and they often come. The people are happy to hear about Jesus—it gives them light and hope.

No More Witch Doctors

I love to worship God because He loves me and protects me from evil. Once I became very sick, so my mother took me to the doctor, but he wasn't able to help me. Then my mother become very worried, and wanted to take me to the witch doctor. I told her that I didn't believe in that, and that only God could heal me and we should pray to Him. So my mother started praying and a few days later I was well again. The first thing I did was to praise Him for His care for me.

My favorite chapter in the Bible is Psalm 23. Every time I read it, I can feel God's love more. What a promise He has given to us—that He provides everything we need. This chapter helps me to think more about and love God more than anything here on earth, and that's why I love it so much. Please pray for me as I share about Jesus here in my village. Thank you. 🌍



BANGLADESH | August 29

Picture Roll Man

The Picture Roll Man Part 1

My name is Kelvin. Our family lives on a mountainside where we have no school and no church. One day while my friends and I were playing, another friend came up and said, “I saw a man with some big pictures telling stories to children. Let’s go see him!”

So we all left our games and went to find this man. We found him carrying a heavy bag in his right hand and several picture rolls in his left hand. He showed us the picture rolls and told us some stories. We liked it very much and were all happy as we went home.

This man continued to share the stories and pictures in our area and in neighboring villages. After a few days, he came back to our village and invited us to

“Who is Jesus?” I thought to myself.

watch a film about Jesus. “Who is Jesus?” I thought to myself.

I really wanted to see this Jesus film, so I hurried home and asked my dad whether I could go to a neighboring village to watch the film. He said I could go, so I hurried to this other village to see it. This was the first time I had ever seen a film, and it was so interesting! Afterwards, I asked the man, whose name I learned was Mr. Chiran, if he would show this movie in my village. He told me that he would come to my village the next week, but before then he would need to find a place where people could sit and watch the movie.

“You can come to my house!” I immediately told him. “We have a big house and many people can sit there.”



Bengal Tiger

The next day I asked my dad about it, and I was happy that he allowed my request.

The next Thursday evening many of our village people came to my house and we all were waiting to watch the Jesus film. The man came and set up everything. Before showing the movie, he gave a short speech about who Jesus is and why He came to this earth. Many of the villagers (including myself) wanted to know more about Jesus.

Mr. Chiran told us more about Jesus, and also introduced us to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He told my family about a primary school that was run by the Adventists, and I was so excited when I was able to go to this school!

While at the Adventist school I learned more about Jesus, and after two years I decided to accept Him as my personal Savior and was baptized. But then I was the only Sabbath keeper in my house.

Mr. Chiran, who is an Adventist minister, told me about an Adventist boarding school in the district of Rangamati. He told that me he would

Fast Facts

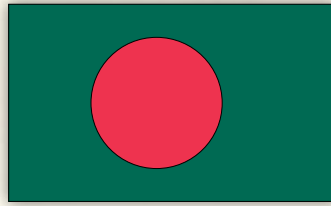
- The endangered Royal Bengal Tiger is the national animal of Bangladesh. You can hear its roar from more than 1 mile (1.6 km.) away!
- The Magpie Robin (aka Doyal or Doel) is the national bird of Bangladesh.

take me there so that I could continue my studies and live with other people who keep the Sabbath. I was so happy but had no money to pay my tuition fees. Somehow my dad managed to get some money and sent me to the Adventist Hill Tracts Seminary School (AHTSS). After a little while, by the grace of God, I got a sponsorship so I could continue my studies. But that was only the beginning . . . 🌍

To be continued next week.



Magpie Robin



BANGLADESH | September 5

Picture Roll

The Picture Roll Man Part 2

I was so happy to be able to attend the Adventist Hills Tracts Seminary School (AHTSS) in Bangladesh, where everyone kept the Sabbath. I'm thankful that God helped me to receive a sponsorship so that I was able to stay at AHTSS through grade ten, when I completed my senior school certificate (SSC).

After completing my SSC, I went to another Adventist school—the Kellogg-Mookerjee Memorial Seminary (KMMS). This school was very far from my home village—it took nearly two days to get there.

A Phone Call

One day when I was at KMMS, I received a phone call from someone in my village whom I didn't know. The unknown voice said, "Dear Brother Kelvin, your father is very sick. Please come as soon as possible, otherwise you

may not see him alive."

I got permission from the school principal and then rushed home. My family and I took my father to the hospital, but the doctor and nurses told us "We are sorry, but we can't help your father." We took him to other hospitals, but the doctors and nurses said the same thing—"Your father is not going to survive."

My heart was broken. I started wondering what our family would do without my father and I became very worried. After a while, my friend Milton came and put his hand on my shoulder. He told me, "Dear Brother, don't worry about anything because God is there to carry your burden."

Released From a Terrible Burden

I was crying and praying and had decided not to go back to school, but my

Fast Facts

- The national flower of Bangladesh is the white-flowered water lily, called shapla.
- Jackfruit (kanthal in Bengali) is the national fruit, and the mango tree is the national tree of Bangladesh.

friend Milton encouraged me and said, “We will see a miracle—you just trust God.” Then he gave me a hug, and I felt as if I had been released from this terrible burden.

Milton and I went back to school, and I started fasting every Sabbath and praying to God about my father. I kept fasting and praying for a while, and then one day I got another phone call: “Kelvin, your father is completely well!” I praised God with many tears and learned to trust Him more.

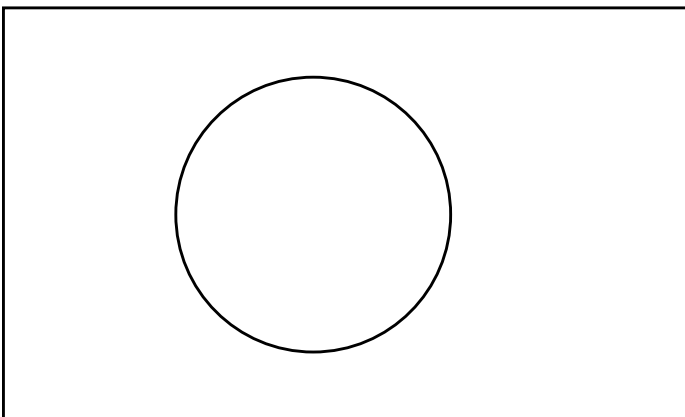
After recovering from his sickness,

my father decided to accept Jesus as his personal Savior. Today I am so happy that God has blessed me and my family by helping us to know Him. Now I’m studying education and religion at the Bangladesh Adventist Seminary School and College. Please pray for me, and for the many people here in my country who do not yet know who Jesus is. 🌍

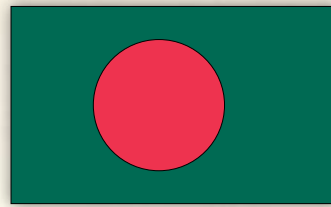


Jackfruit

Color the flag of Bangladesh



Circle: medium red
Flag: dark green



BANGLADESH | September 12

Whose God Is Stronger? Part 1

Hindu Temple

It was a sunny and hot in June day at the Adventist Hill Tracts School and Seminary (AHTSS) in Bangladesh. Next to the school is a Seventh-day Adventist church, and next to the church is a big Hindu temple. A Hindu priest lived in the temple and worshiped the idols every morning and evening.

One of the teachers at the Adventist school is Mr. Tripura. Besides helping students prepare for their exams at AHTSS, he is also in charge of looking after the church that is beside the school.

On this particular Friday morning, Mr. Tripura went with some of the students to visit some people nearby. When they returned to the Adventist church, they saw that someone had occupied the church's land and had put a fence around it. Mr. Tripura and the students went up to the fence and tried to pull it out of the ground.

Leave the Fence Alone!

Suddenly, the Hindu priest came out from his temple and started shouting at them, demanding that they leave the fence alone. Then the priest started calling Jesus very bad names and saying terrible things about him. Mr. Tripura asked him to stop using such awful language against our Creator and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Hindu priest became even more angry and told Mr. Tripura, "I will see you tonight. I promise in the name of my goddess that tonight you will die, and there is no one on earth that can save you from my hand!"

But Mr. Tripura had great faith in God and told the Hindu priest, "My God is a living God, and He will punish you before sunset tomorrow night. There is no one

in the world who can save you from my Almighty God's hand.”

A Big Surprise

Many villagers had gathered around and they all heard this conversation between Mr. Tripura and the Hindu priest. The villagers knew that the priest was a powerful man and that if he wished, he could destroy a man's life by the power of his goddess—so they were afraid of him. They were sure that Mr. Tripura would be killed by the priest that very night.

Early the next morning (on Sabbath), the villagers came back to see what had happened to Mr. Tripura. Going to his house, they were surprised when Mr. Tripura opened the door.

“Why are you all here at my house so early in the morning?” he asked the villagers.

“Sir,” they replied, “we love you as our neighbor, and we couldn't sleep the whole night because we were so worried

Mission Post

- The largest city and capital of Bangladesh is Dhaka. The city has an estimated population of 15 million people, making it one of the largest cities in the world. Dhaka is known as the “City of Mosques.”
- The majority religion in Bangladesh is Islam, with 86.6 percent of the population. Hinduism follows with 12 percent, and Buddhism with just 1 percent.
- Christians make up only 0.3 percent of the population.

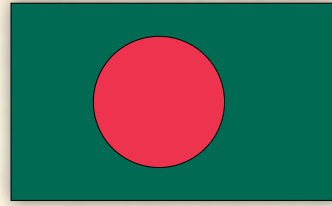
about you. We heard what the priest said to you yesterday, and we thought he killed you last night and we came here to pay our respects.” 🌐

To be continued next week.



A Hindu temple in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Photo Credit: Michael Stout via wikimedia commons



BANGLADESH | September 19

Whose God is Stronger? Part 2

By Romesh Ekka

Mr. Tripura's neighbors were surprised to find him still alive, after the Hindu priest had threatened to kill him.

Then Mr. Tripura told them, "I worship a God who is a living and powerful God, and you will see that He will punish the Hindu priest today before sundown."

"How will your God punish him?" asked the villagers.

"I don't know," said Mr. Tripura, "but I believe that He will punish him today."

All of the Adventists decided to make this a day of fasting. They had the regular Sabbath School and church programs as usual. In the afternoon they came together again and sang songs and had special Bible readings and earnestly prayed to God:

"Oh Lord, we praise Your name and surrender ourselves to You. Please forgive

our sins and accept our prayers. Lord, You know everything that has happened. We believe that You are a living God. Lord, please show Your mighty power so that this priest and the people will realize that You are a living and almighty God."

A Little Cloud

It was a very sunny and hot day, but the students and teachers continued to pray that afternoon. At about three o'clock, they noticed a little cloud in the sky, but they still didn't know what God was going to do.

After a while, more clouds gathered and it became darker. Then there was loud thunder and lightning. Soon, the Adventists could hear thunder very close to them and watched as lightning struck the Hindu temple twice within five

Mission Post

- Not all Muslim women in Sri Lanka wear burkhas.
- For Hindu women, there are many marriage symbols, including painting a red line on the head where the hair split is, and wearing two white bracelets and one metal bracelet.
- In Bangladesh, 33 percent of girls are married before they are 15 years old, and 74 percent are married before they turn 18.

minutes. The temple burst into flames and all of the idols were broken down. The students and teachers realized that God was answering their prayers.

Terrified, the Hindu priest ran out of the temple and went straight to Mr. Tripura. The priest asked forgiveness for what he had said and done against Mr. Tripura as well as his insults to God. Mr. Tripura completely forgave the priest, and within 10 to 15 minutes all of the thundering, lightning, and rain had stopped.

The villagers rushed to see the burnt temple and told Mr. Tripura, “Sir, we knew that you are a great magician. You have defeated the Hindu priest—a

powerful man—by your great magic!”

“No!” replied Mr. Tripura. “I am *not* a magician. I worship a true God who is alive. He simply answered our prayers.”

God is really almighty and powerful. There is nothing in the world that God cannot do for us. Let’s fully believe and depend on Him. If we do so, then God will save us and fight against our enemies, like He did for Mr. Tripura and the students at the Adventist Hill Tracts School and Seminary (AHTSS) in Bangladesh. 🌍



Photo Credit: Rick Kaijira

A boy sells fruits and vegetables at a market in Bangladesh.

Let's Cook

BANANA RICE PUDDING

1 medium banana, sliced
1 15-ounce canned fruit, sliced
1/4 cup water
2 tablespoons honey
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 1/2 cups cooked brown rice
1 cup rice milk

Thirteenth Sabbath Program

- Remind parents of the program and encourage the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 26.
- As you collect the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, remind everyone that one fourth of their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.
- If your class will not join the adults for a special program, present the following story promoting the special children's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering project during the mission time.

God Is Working in Southern Asia

Narrator: This quarter we've met children from three countries. Who can name them? *[Let children identify Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Point to each one on the map.]*

Today is Thirteenth Sabbath. That means it's the day when we give a special offering to help the people in Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh with their mission needs.

Speaker 1: At the beginning of this quarter we heard about two brave girls—Febrina and Helena—in Timor-Leste. You might remember that these girls had terrible problems at school because they refused to come to school on Sabbath. Their teachers didn't understand why they wouldn't come to school on that day and punished them. But the girls remained faithful to Jesus and kept His Sabbath day holy.

Narrator: There are so many Seventh-day Adventist children and parents who are praying that soon there will be an

Adventist School in Timor-Leste. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help to build a Seventh-day Adventist school in that country so that children will be able to go to school and not be punished for not coming to school on the Sabbath.

Speaker 2: The next country we learned about was Sri Lanka. Perhaps you remember the exciting story about The Big Yellow Truck, and how Jesus kept the mission school teachers and children safe as the truck was run off the road.

Speaker 1: We also heard from two children from the Lakpahana Adventist School in Sri Lanka. Lakpahana means "shining light," and it was exciting to hear how Jesus used the people at this school to shine the light of Jesus in the hearts of Abilasha, who came from a Hindu family, and Saumya, who had been abandoned by her mother. Both girls have given their hearts to Jesus and are happy to be students at Lakpahana.

Narrator: Lakpahana Adventist College and Seminary is a wonderful school, but unfortunately, they do not yet have an Adventist church on their campus. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will be used to build a church on the campus of this very important school in Sri Lanka.

Speaker 2: The third country that we learned about this quarter was Bangladesh—where we heard the exciting stories “Whose God Is Stronger?,” “Kelvin and the Picture Roll Man,” and “A Changed Life.”

Speaker 1: In these stories we were reminded how Jesus uses kindness to help us teach others about Him, and how He answers prayer and takes care of His people.

Speaker 2: Adventist schools are very important because so many students learn about Jesus there and give their hearts to Him. Adventist schools are also a place where students are trained to be missionaries and to help other people. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will be used to build a school of nursing building at the Bangladesh Adventist Seminary and College—the same school where Kelvin (from “Kelvin and the Picture Roll Man”) is a student.

Narrator: Now, before we collect the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering we have two short stories to share with you.

Speaker 1: These stories are about two boys who attended the Seventh-day Adventist Maranatha School (also known as “SAMS”) in Bangladesh.

Speaker 2: The first boy's name is Mohesh. Mohesh wasn't born into a Christian family, but when he was about ten years old, his parents learned about Jesus and became Seventh-day Adventist.

Speaker 1: They wanted to their son to receive an Adventist education, so they sent him to SAMS.

Speaker 2: While at SAMS, Mohesh learned more about Jesus and decided to be baptized. As he grew older, his love for Jesus continued to grow and he decided that he wanted to become a minister and tell others about God.

Speaker 1: So Mohesh continued going to school and he became a minister. He then returned to his village, but he was afraid that the people in his home town wouldn't accept him as a pastor.

Speaker 2: But a big surprise was waiting for Mohesh—the villagers warmly welcomed him! “There was no pastor there, before I went,” says Mohesh, “so they just loved me.”

Speaker 1: But not everyone was happy that Mohesh had come back as a pastor. Some of his old friends always made fun of him whenever they saw him and tried to make his life as miserable as possible.

Speaker 2: But one day one of those former friends became very ill so Mohesh went to visit him. Mohesh tells us in his own words what happened next:

Speaker 1: “He was so surprised to see me there! He said, ‘We have made fun of you, and have insulted you, but you still came to see me?’ He asked for forgiveness, and I told him that it's OK. He and I

became good friends, and then I became friends with the whole group. They all started coming to my church regularly, and amazingly, they are now all baptized! I thank God for all of these things!”

Narrator: The second story is about a boy named Anukul. Like Mohesh, Anukul also went to school at the Seventh-day Adventist Maranatha School (SAMS) in Bangladesh. While living in the dormitory he learned about Jesus and gave his heart to Him.

Speaker 1: Anukul loves to share his love for Jesus, and to help others whenever he can. One day he and a group of friends were walking together and saw an old man crying beside the road.

Speaker 2: They stopped and asked the man what had happened to him. The man responded that a thief had taken all of his money.

Speaker 1: Anukul and his friends were so sad for the old man and prayed with him, asking God to help him.

Speaker 2: The next day, Anukul and his friends went to visit the old man to see

how he was doing.

Speaker 1: The man was so happy to see his young friends and asked them, “You know what happened? The thief has returned all my money!”

Speaker 2: Anukul and his friends were so surprised and happy! Then they prayed together with the man, thanking God for His wonderful answer. After the prayer, the man said, “Your God is really a powerful God—I want to know about Him!”

Speaker 1: So Anukul told the man about the only true God, and shared his favorite Bible text: “Jesus wept” (John 11:35). “I love this verse because Jesus came to the world and sacrificed His life for our sins,” said Anukul.

Narrator: Today we have the opportunity to help many people living in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division through our Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings. Thank you for giving generously today. You may also give to this offering online at www.giving.adventistmission.org

[Offering]

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

Next quarter the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division will be featured. Special projects include an Adventist primary school in Botswana, an Adventist health center in Zimbabwe, and a dining hall extension at Solusi University in Zimbabwe. First quarter, 2016, will feature the South American Division, with projects in the Amazon region of Brazil, and in Paraguay and Uruguay.

Let's Cook

RECIPES FROM SRI LANKA VEGETABLE ROTI

3½ cups white flour
1½ cups fresh shredded coconut (or
½ cup dried coconut and ¼ cup
vegetable oil)
1 teaspoon salt

1 large carrot, finely grated
2 medium onions, chopped
1 cup shredded cabbage
½ cup shredded leeks (optional)
water as needed

INSTRUCTIONS

Mix everything together to form a dough, adding a small amount of water if necessary to make it easy to knead. Grease a cookie sheet or cupboard with a small amount of oil, and spread dough out. Roll or press to a thickness of about ¼ inch. With a large glass or cookie cutter, cut circles from the dough. Heat a non-stick pan (or lightly grease a metal pan) to low or medium heat and place roti in pan. Heat until spots of light brown appear on the dough; turn over and cook until light brown spots appear. Remove and lay separate on tray. Serve warm or cool. Rewarm in oven if necessary.

MOON KIRIBAHT

(MILK RICE—SIMILAR TO COCONUT RICE)

2 2/3 cups brown rice, uncooked
1 1/3 cups green lentil dahl (whole
lentils, not cracked)

3 cups water
2 cups coconut milk
salt to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

Boil rice and lentils in water until water is absorbed. Add coconut milk and salt to taste, and continue cooking until all liquid is absorbed. Place on a platter and serve hot with a little sugar, honey, or sliced bananas.

Let's Cook

RECIPES FROM SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC BRENJOL MOJUL

(EGGPLANT)

1 pound eggplant	½ teaspoon red chili powder
oil to fry	½ teaspoon salt or to taste
4 or 5 cloves of garlic, chopped	1 teaspoon sugar
1 medium onion, chopped	1 teaspoon white vinegar or lemon juice
½-inch piece of fresh ginger, chopped	
1 tablespoon soy sauce	

INSTRUCTIONS

Cube unpeeled eggplant and fry in oil until it turns golden and crispy. Drain on paper towel.

Remove all but a tablespoon of oil from frying pan and add garlic, onion, and ginger. Stir and cook until onion becomes transparent. Add soy sauce, salt, and sugar. Mix well and add eggplant back into pan. Remove from heat and add vinegar or lemon juice. Stir lightly to mix flavors; cover and serve hot with rice.

NYOM MISOOR

(SALAD)

3 1/2 oz. pkg. mung bean noodles	2 cups shredded cucumber, seeded
boiling water to cover noodles	2 tablespoons fresh mint leaves
2 cups grated cabbage	ground peanuts
1 carrot, shredded	1/4 medium red onion, sliced thin

Salad Dressing:

1 teaspoon lemon juice	salt to taste
5 cloves garlic (pounded with salt until it liquefies)	1 tablespoon brown sugar

INSTRUCTIONS

Soak mung bean noodles in boiled water for 2 minutes to soften; drain. Mix cabbage, carrot, cucumber, and mint leaves, and set aside.

Dressing: Place lemon juice and garlic in a small bowl, add 1/4 cup hot water; blend. Add salt and brown sugar. Pour salad in bowl and top with peanuts and onion for garnish.

Let's Cook

RECIPES FROM SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC SAYOR

(SPRING ROLLS)

1 package spring rolls
½ cup (2) carrots, finely grated

1 pound taro, peeled and finely grated
(may substitute white potato)
3 cloves garlic, minced or pounded

INSTRUCTIONS

Stir fry carrots, taro, and garlic in small amount of oil until tender (about 3 minutes). Remove from heat to prevent overcooking. Place a spoonful of filling in the center of a spring roll wrap. Fold bottom up and top down to cover filling, then roll remaining wrapper. When all have been rolled, heat a heavy skillet with about one inch of oil. When hot, place spring rolls in oil and cook until golden; turn over and brown on bottom. Drain on paper and serve hot.

CHHA SPAI PSET

(FRIED MUSHROOM AND MUSTARD GREENS)

1 pound mustard greens
(or any greens)
1 teaspoon salt
3 cloves garlic (1 tablespoon) minced
1 tablespoon oil for cooking

1 pound mushrooms, sliced
sprinkle of salt and sugar to taste
½ teaspoon cornstarch in small
amount of water to thicken
(if necessary)

INSTRUCTIONS

Boil water in a large pot. Add salt, and dip mustard in water for one or two minutes, just to soften. Remove from heat and drain. Fry garlic until it browns (one minute) then add mushrooms. Let fry two or three minutes. Add salt or sugar to taste. If using round mushrooms, add enough water to avoid burning. Add cornstarch and stir until clear, to thicken mixture.

Arrange mushroom greens on a plate and cover with mushroom mixture over top. Serve hot.

Free!

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

is back!



Starting in 2015, Adventist Mission presents “Mission Spotlight,” a DVD featuring Sabbath School mission reports from around the world. Like the old classic, the new Mission Spotlight DVD will include a video for each month of the quarter that focuses on:

1. Introducing the quarter’s featured division.
2. Highlighting Mission challenges, issues or past projects.
3. Featuring the quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath offering projects.

Plus short video mission stories for use before or during church, in classrooms, on lobby monitors, prayer meetings, or even embedded on your church website.

DOWNLOAD AT WWW.MISSIONSPOTLIGHT.ORG

Leader's Resources

For more information on the cultures and history of Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, visit your local library or a travel agency, or check out the websites listed below.

Timor-Leste: www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/timor_lete.htm

Sri Lanka: www.srilanka.travel; www.lonelyplanet.com/srilanka

Bangladesh: www.infoplease.com/country/bangladesh.html; www.factmonster.com/country/bangladesh.html

You may also visit the Southern Asia-Pacific Division website at: <http://ssd.adventist.asia>

Mission Spotlight DVD is a free resource that features stories from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division as well as the worldwide mission of the Adventist Church. Ask your Sabbath School superintendent for the *Mission Spotlight* that was mailed to your church, or download your copy at www.missionspotlight.org.

You may also wish to decorate the room with pictures of people and scenic places. Print out copies of the flags of Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh from the *Mission* quarterly and invite the children to color them. Post them as part of your decorations.

An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Ask your Sabbath School council to set a quarterly mission offering goal (set the goal a little higher than last quarter and divide it by 14, one part for each of the 12 regular Sabbaths this quarter and two parts for Thirteenth Sabbath). Chart the weekly progress toward the quarter's goal on your goal device. To focus attention on the school in Timor-Leste, draw a large school building on poster board. Photocopy silhouettes of children and place one around the building each week as the offering goal is reached.

Remind members that the ongoing work of the world church depends on Sabbath School mission giving every week, and that one quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage members to double or triple their normal mission giving on Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School. This immediate feedback will encourage members to continue their mission giving.

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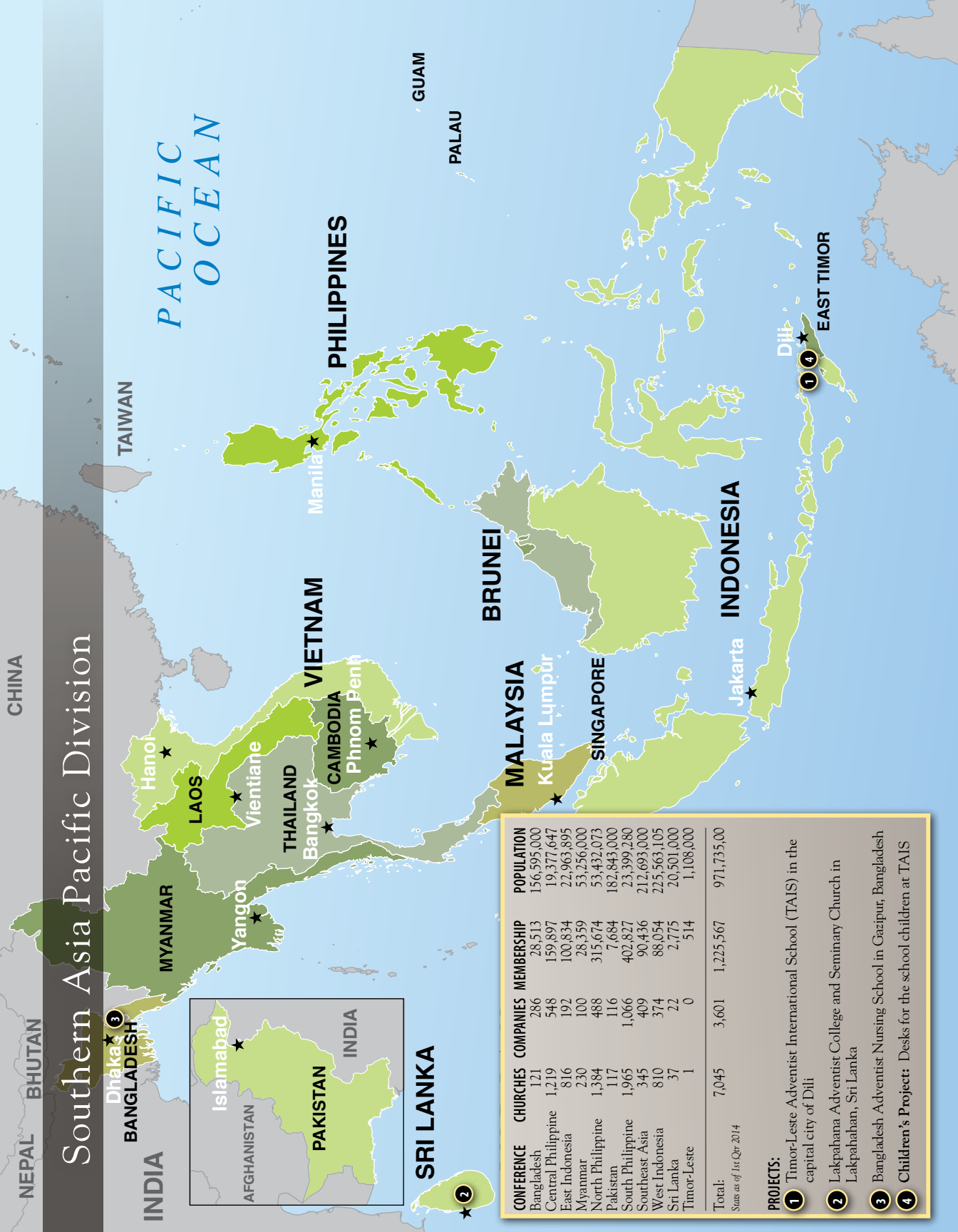
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Southern Asia Pacific Division

PACIFIC OCEAN



CONFERENCE	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Bangladesh	121	286	28,513	156,595,000
Central Philippine	1,219	548	199,897	19,377,647
East Indonesia	816	192	100,834	22,963,895
Myanmar	230	100	28,359	53,256,000
North Philippine	1,384	488	315,674	53,432,073
Pakistan	117	116	7,684	182,843,000
South Philippine	1,965	1,066	402,827	23,399,280
Southeast Asia	345	409	90,436	212,693,000
West Indonesia	810	374	88,054	225,563,105
Sri Lanka	37	22	2,775	20,501,000
Timor-Leste	1	0	514	1,108,000
Total:	7,045	3,601	1,225,567	971,735,000

Stats as of 1st Qtr 2014

PROJECTS:

- 1 Timor-Leste Adventist International School (TAIS) in the capital city of Dili
- 2 Lakpabana Adventist College and Seminary Church in Lakpabahan, Sri Lanka
- 3 Bangladesh Adventist Nursing School in Gazipur, Bangladesh
- 4 Children's Project: Desks for the school children at TAIS