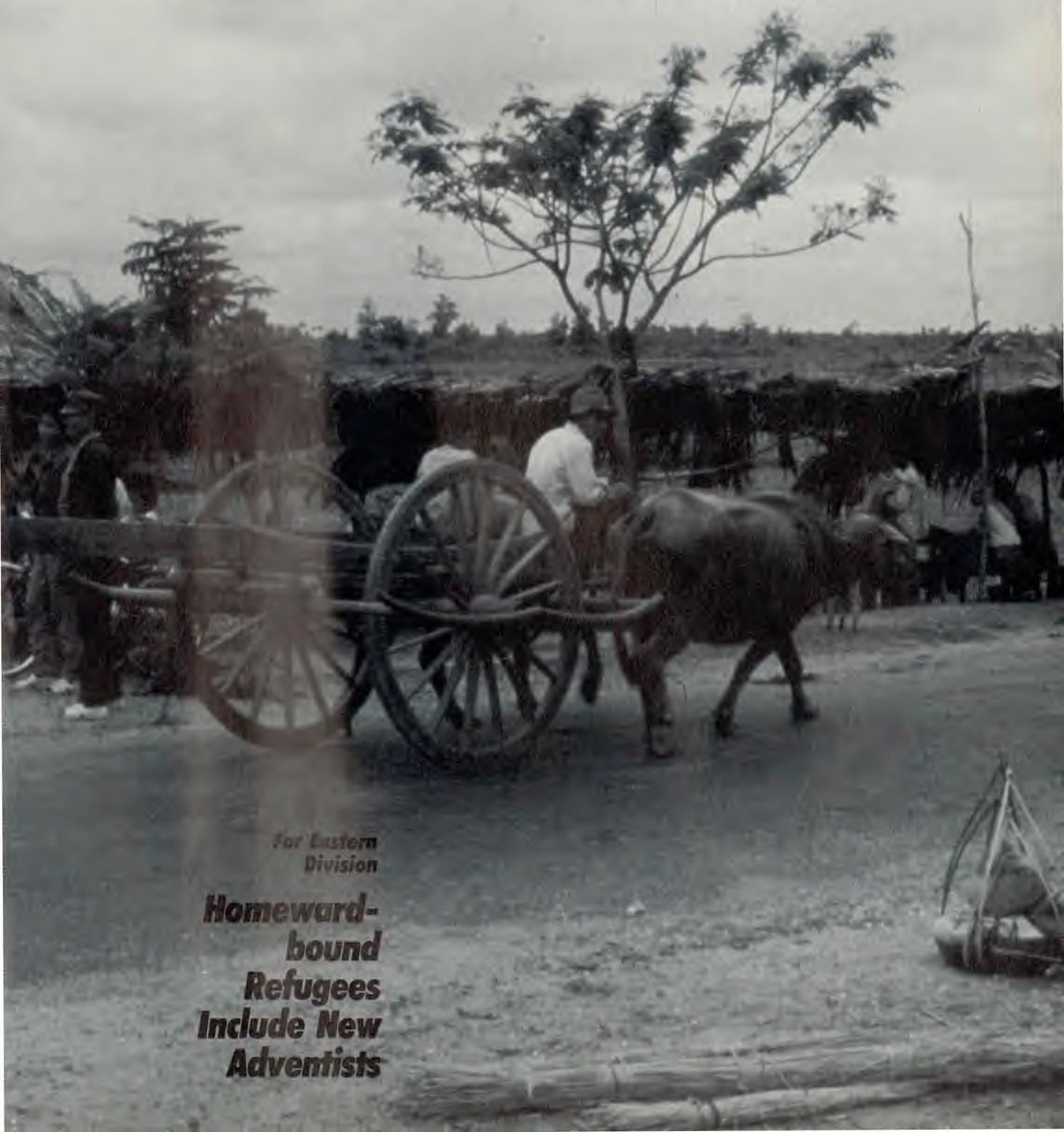


REACHING THE WORLD WITH THE GOSPEL

# MISSION

APR-JUN 1993



*Far Eastern  
Division*

**Homeward-  
bound  
Refugees  
Include New  
Adventists**

# REACHING THE WORLD WITH THE GOSPEL

# MISSION

APR-JUN 1993

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## MISSION

### Director

*Israel Leito*

### Editor

*Janet Kangas, Ph.D.*

### Designer

*Byron Steele*

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### On the Cover:

Refugees returning  
to Kampuchea  
(Cambodia) include  
500 new converts to  
replant Adventism  
once more.

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ADRA



The Editor ▶

# You Can't Tell Me!

## Editorial

**A**re Seventh-day Adventists not missionary-minded? You can't tell me! Does God not plan surprises as well as rescues for His missionaries? You can't tell me!

I was in Honolulu International Airport en route to visit the Far Eastern Division in preparation of this quarterly, and had just been informed by United Airlines of a day's delay in their scheduled flight to Micronesia. I scanned the little clusters of waiting people, trying to determine which one the clerk had waved me toward when he told me that shortly an airport van would shuttle us to the Pacific Beach Hotel, where the airline would put us up for a day.

Approaching the area, I spotted a lady somewhat aloof from the knot of people nearby and inquired of her. "Yes," she replied. "This is United's group for the hotel." Since she lacked the "touristy" look, I suspected she was on business. "Yes, my husband [pointing] and I are going to Majuro [Marshall Islands] on a one-year mission stint," she said. At that moment I noticed the absence of jewelry, and sure enough, my next question produced the answer "Seventh-day Adventist."

As the shuttle jostled us through the city toward the ocean, I found that Robert and Clarice Sweede—he a handyman, she an accountant—knew all the people who would be meeting me on the island stops. To my relief, I was assured of no need to worry about how to contact them regarding the delay.

"Isn't this wonderful!" I exclaimed. "Here we might have been on the same aircraft and never have discovered one another!"

When we arrived in the hotel lobby, a middle-aged man—tall, blond, and muscular—approached us. "I overheard you talking in the shuttle van," he said, "and I told my Adventist friends, 'There's some more of you on this flight.'"

Steve then drew us over to meet his nine Adventist friends he was accompanying. It turned out that this group of 10 from the Lahaina Adventist Church on the island of Maui, Hawaii was going to the island of Pohnpei to build a dental/medical clinic in Kittie (pronounced *kitchie*).

But that's not the end. When the Sweedes and I entered the dining room a few moments later after checking into our rooms, the 10 temporary construction workers had more news for us: "There's another group of us eating over there in that corner!" they beamed.

And so it was. Five students and two adults, Brad and Nadine Davis, from North Puget Adventist Junior Academy in Burlington, Washington, were headed for the island of Jeh, where they were to meet 33 more Adventists from Pleasant Hill, California, to build two class buildings.

Small wonder that the devil wanted to ground that aircraft—even to the extent of giving 20 missionaries a bonus day's vacation on Waikiki Beach! We also marveled at the idea that with so many of us God would surely keep the craft airborne.

A greater wonder is that four Adventist mission entities—two construction crews, an AVS (Adventist Volunteer Service) couple, and the MISSION editor—all found themselves on the same flight, and even discovered one another. None for tourism, business,

*Concluded on page 14*

# Leader's Planner

## Making Missions Meaningful

### ▲ **Watch for Mission Updates**

As we go to press (July 1992), the Kampuchean (Cambodian) refugees, featured this quarter, are returning to their homes. According to George Johnson, president of Southeast Asia Union Mission, the evacuation of the camps is underway, in spite of some protest demonstrations. Some of the Adventist refugees have already been hired to begin publishing work, work with ADRA, and assist with church growth.

Since a year will have passed before this issue is translated, published, and circulated, please watch for updated reports regarding the success of the church's mission thrust under this new arrangement. The Thirteenth Sabbath promotion that will appear in your union and division papers just prior to the June 26 offering will likely contain current news. Thank you for helping MISSION keep your members informed.

### ▲ **Firsthand Reports**

If you have any refugees in your congregation or community, they might be willing to share their experiences with your group. They need not necessarily be from Kampuchea in order to describe refugee life.

### ▲ **Thirteenth Sabbath**

The title, "A Forever Life Without Finale," is lifted from the closing sentence of the third refugee's vignette. Emphasize the contrast of this scene with what were the Killing Fields of Cambodia.

The mission update on Kampuchea mentioned above will fit nicely into the program script at the designated point.

Besides the hostess, three young men will be needed to portray Vin Keat, Norgn Van Sorannarom, and Yin Ya. They might enjoy wearing Eastern clothing. Consider inviting the adult members to support the kindergartners in singing the offering song.

You might plan a mission potluck featur-

ing Eastern food that Sabbath, followed by mission activities in the afternoon. You will find recipes in adult and teen MISSION. After lunch ask your youth to brainstorm ideas to raise their mission offering next Thirteenth Sabbath. Let each one leave with a definite plan clearly in mind.

Please pray with your participants beforehand and visit their divisions the following Sabbath to report how much the special offering surpassed the average of the other 12 Sabbaths. Thank them warmly for their participation.

### ▲ **Information on the Far Eastern Division**

For information on the Far Eastern Division territory featured this quarter, write to the corresponding tourist offices or embassies in your country. Tell them you are studying their nation and would like information about their people, climate, religion, agriculture, industry, and holidays.

In the United States, write to Embassy of Japan, 917 Nineteenth Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20006 (telephone: 202/939-6700). Embassy of Micronesia, 706 G Street SE., Washington, D.C. 20003 (telephone: 202/544-2640). Kampuchea does not have an embassy in the United States.

*National Geographic* articles of interest on this quarter's featured division that you might obtain from your library include descriptions of Japan (November 1989, April 1990, November 1991), Kampuchea (May 1982), Micronesia (October 1986).

### ▲ **Far Eastern Division Territory**

The territory of the Far Eastern Division includes Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Macao, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and islands of the Pacific north of the Equator, west of the International Date Line, and south of 50 North Latitude (excluding Kiribati north of the Equator).



Ken Wade ▶

# The Fourth Attempt

**The report sources are the Global Mission coordinator and the president of the Southeast Asia Union Mission.**

Ken Wade and George Johnson provided the basis for this report.

**April 3**  
*Kampuchea*  
*(formerly*  
*Cambodia)*

**G**reetings! And welcome to a brand new quarter and thirteen Sabbath morning tours through the Far Eastern Division. When the FED officers considered projects to benefit from the Special Projects Offering coming to the FED June 26, their attention was riveted on Kampuchea, formerly Cambodia. (See back cover for the other two projects.) It was the beginning of the very year, 1992, that the Adventist refugees would be returning to begin sharing in their former home areas the precious Bible truths they had found in the Adventist churches set up in the camps.

Prior to this homebound refugee movement in 1992, the Adventist Church had made at least three attempts to establish a permanent, recognized presence in Cambodia, with each attempt interrupted by political instability and war.

*First attempt.* The first missionary arrived in the area in 1930 but, unable to obtain government approval to build a church, moved his work to Vietnam, where he raised up a church of 32 Cambodian members.

*Second attempt.* From 1939 to 1941 the church operated a Bible school and then a maternity clinic in Phnom Penh in 1962, but political changes in 1965 led to the work being closed again.

*Third attempt.* In 1972 an overseas worker established an English-language school in Phnom Penh. By 1974 the Khmer District of the Southeast Asia Union Mission had two churches, one ordained minister, two licensed ministers, and 33 members. But when the Khmer Rouge overthrew the government in 1975 the Adventist work inside Cambodia closed again.

*Fourth attempt.* Now the church has an unprecedented opportunity to establish a strong nation-based work based on the groundwork laid in refugee camps in Thailand. Through the efforts of SAWS/ADRA workers and other Adventist organizations, these Khmer refugees (driven out by the

Vietnamese in 1979) in the camps came in contact with the gospel. Now they will return, scattering throughout their country the precious gospel seed.

Let us pause here to say that for most of us the thought of returning "home" would call up warm memories and eager anticipation. This, however, is not the case for many of the refugees, whose villages have been destroyed and for whom acceptability and lasting peace are still uncertainties. Be sure to not miss the first-person story of Pen Chenda next Sabbath.

A 1992 survey revealed approximately 400 to 500 Adventist refugees converted in the camps, and others who have moved to other countries and taken theological training. Several of the individuals living in Western countries have expressed a willingness, even an urgency, to return to Kampuchea along with those returning from the refugee camps to once again plant the gospel.

Among the returning Adventists are about 70 who have participated in a Lay Bible Worker Training Class that has provided several hours of instruction each week since September 1990. Several are well qualified as Bible instructors, English-language teachers, clinic administrators, and basic health-care personnel.

Part of this Thirteenth Sabbath's Offering June 26 for evangelism in Kampuchea will be used to provide three full-time workers. As we go to press the recommended individuals are Thy San Sam, a Cambodian refugee to the United States who has pastored a Cambodian church in Lowell, Massachusetts; Sivandeth Puth, a Cambodian refugee to France returning with the special ability to speak French; and Lim Pen, with a degree in religion from Columbia Union College.

FED leaders plan for Lim Pen to give ongoing Bible training to lay Bible workers. Sivandeth Puth's story you will hear the twelfth Sabbath this quarter. In order for you to appreciate the hardships, earnestness,

**The Adventist**  
*effort in*  
*Cambodia has*  
*been closed*  
*down three*  
*times. Will*  
*this fourth*  
*attempt be*  
*successful?*

and zeal possessed by these three potential full-time workers, let us share with you a little of Thy San Sam's story today.

### **Thy San Sam**

"I grew up in Cambodia, living a quiet life with my family. We had been Buddhists for centuries, and I never dreamed my life would be changed to become a Christian. Five years after I entered monkhood, disaster struck. The Khmer Rouge regime came to power, and I suffered severely, along with thousands of my people. My only obsession then was to keep my life—to remain living in the face of poverty, abuse, fear, and sorrow. That period of my life I would rather forget forever.

"When the Khmer Rouge government was overthrown by the Vietnamese, my wife and I fled to the Thailand border camps, seeking for freedom and peace. In the refugee camp, I saw the Christian church. To begin with, I was extremely skeptical of Christians, because I had heard they were disrespectful to their parents. I was curious, however, so I joined a Bible class in order to improve my English. There I learned of God's love. The life Jesus led, the peace and joy I felt after reading the Bible, and the hope Christ gave to me, all made an outstanding impact on my life."

Thy San was baptized one hot day in the Nong Samet refugee camp, a day he will never forget. When their small Adventist church was burned to the ground during a Vietnamese Communist attack, Thy San built another bamboo church, where he again began to teach men and women who themselves later began preaching the everlasting gospel. Eventually he received a call to pastor the Cambodian church in Lowell, Massachusetts, a city with more than 30,000 Khmer people. Now he is needed again in his homeland, and with the help of your special offering June 26, he will be able to return.

### **Prayers for Problems**

In addition to your offerings for Kampu-

chea, your prayers also are critically important. Although some returned Adventist refugees have already been hired to start publishing work, work with ADRA, and assist with church growth, there are problems. One is the potential bodily danger from the 4 million land mines that cover Kampuchea, a country not as large as the state of Texas. It is estimated that each month about 300 legs are amputated from accidentally stepping on the mines.

Another problem is economics. Housing is extremely expensive in Kampuchea. Not only are land and housing difficult to purchase, but rentals cost in the thousands of U.S. dollars a month. This is a major concern and a big obstacle when church leaders consider bringing in workers from outside the country.

But remembering that God can turn any obstacle into a blessing, the leaders and workers press on. English-language classes seem to be a well-received and appreciated contact with the church. In light of 12,000 to 17,000 people groups still without the Bible in their own language, it seems that when the Lord confused the languages at Babel in order to prevent universal apostasy He made the task of the Great Commission difficult indeed. But now God is reversing the curse back into a blessing, for the language schools—with the Bible used as the textbook(!)—are in many places the Adventist entrance into these people groups.

As you tour the Far East this quarter through the MISSION reports, it is true that each presentation is building toward a special offering for the Far Eastern Division June 26. But please be assured that it is your regular and faithful mission offering *each* of the first 12 Sabbaths that sustains around the world the ongoing Adventist mission program that you and your forefathers and foremothers have already established. One glorious day you will meet the treasures you have stored in heaven! 🌍



This Hindu temple signals to Christians the need for God in the Far East. ▶



# Pen Chenda Prepares for Home

**The author works among the refugees living on the Cambodia-Thailand border.**

Marc Coleman

**April 10**  
*Kampuchea*  
*(Cambodia)*

**H**is youthful eyes and ready smile could not hide the lines of fear that many long anxious years in a refugee camp had etched into his face. Thirty years old, thin but of sturdy build, he carried himself with a prudence that tells of an experience and practical wisdom beyond his years. I realized all too well that this wisdom had been gained by experiencing for the past eight years the rugged, difficult, hostile setting of refugee camp life.

As Pen Chenda begins to tell me of how he will soon be leaving what has by now become home, the refugee camp, his eyebrows lower with a tinge of anxiety. Though he will return to his homeland, I know from the reports coming back that it will be a long road. It will not be easy to build a life in a country that has been at war for the greater part of 30 years.

In fact, to many this step into the future seems a haunting step into a past that they have been trying to forget. Forcing out of his mind the memories of labor camps, shelling, killing, and starvation of loved ones, as well as the knowledge that the once beautiful tropical rice paddies are now covered with deadly land mines, will be a hard thing to do.

As Chenda and I sat quietly in his small thatched home contemplating what lay ahead, Chenda asked the question "Pastor, how can I be sure that this peace will be a lasting one?"

I thought for a moment. *How can anyone be sure?* While the world was heralding the peace plan, heavy shelling could be heard in Thailand from within the borders of Cambodia. For three days straight the soldiers seemed to ignore the fact that there even had been talk of peace. In a country with the highest per capita disabled population in the world, how can he be sure that he won't step on one of the 4 million land mines that now cover this little country, not larger than the state of Texas?

As if this isn't enough, the country also is impoverished; and it is this crumbled, broken homeland to which Chenda would return. Chenda continued, "Pastor, I'm concerned about the future in Cambodia. I'm scared."

My heart ached for him. His story was familiar. All I could do was to encourage him and be there for him. We continued to sit silently. In the background I heard the familiar sounds of the refugee camp: children running, women chatting, and every now and then a water truck rumbling by to bring relief to the dry, dusty, gritty air.

I noticed then that Pen Chenda's face began to change as he began to tell me of how he had become a Christian. Knowing him to be a wonderful Christian man, I was eager to find out how it all had begun. Here is what he told me.

## **Pen Chenda's Story**

"In 1979 my country went to a great war. Pol Pot's regime had killed many people, and many of my family died because there was not enough food to eat in Cambodia. I knew that I had to leave, because if I didn't, my wife and I would die also.

"So we escaped through the jungle and countryside to Thailand, where I was put in the refugee camp. I got a job working in a relief organization's tent, helping them in the hospital. I will never forget the kindness shown me by the SAWS medical workers when I worked with them in Obok Refugee Camp.

"As I listened to their daily worships and prayers, I began to learn about the God who created the world. I saw their love in caring for the sick and the people who suffer. I felt that God would love me also. I quit my old habits of smoking and drinking.

"That is what convinced my wife that Christianity was real, and she became a Christian also. God gives us hope, and we

**A** firsthand report of what goes through a refugee's mind as he faces the return to his homeland.

want to share it with those who are still living in Cambodia.”

Chenda and I talked long into the evening. His inner peace and happiness showed me that what this man talked of is all from the heart. The story of Pen Chenda, who lives in Site II refugee camp for Cambodian refugees, reflects an experience with God that enables him to rise above his fears. This, he has learned, is the secret to crossing through the difficult times he has so often faced. And yes, difficult times he’s seen plenty of.

It is stories like Chenda’s that give me encouragement to keep on working with these people. The confidence he has in God’s power would give the most feeble of God’s people courage to keep on, though there may be trials.

### **Facing Uncertainties**

In the refugee camps located along the border of Thailand are many people trying to adjust to the idea of going home to Cambodia. In my own mind, the thought of going home brings back fond memories. One would think it should for the refugees in the border encampments as well, but it does not.

As we have become better acquainted with our refugee church friends, the uncertainties often have surfaced, including fears, worries, and hopelessness. Together the refugees and I go to God in prayer with the burdens on our hearts, and confidence in God helps them rise above the difficulties and look with assurance into the future.

Although Chenda has fears when he thinks about the return to Cambodia, he is looking forward to having an opportunity to give the everlasting gospel message to his people. “I want to start a Bible class in Takhmau, Kandal Province, in my homeland of Cambodia,” he says. “I will teach Bible, English, and the Thai language. Please pray for me. The reason that I must go soon is because of Jesus Christ’s words in Matthew 28:19; ‘Go, then, to all peoples everywhere

and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit’ [TEV].\* Many of my people have known only Buddha.”

### **Progress**

As I think back over the past year that I have been involved in working with the refugees, and as I see how many members have been added to the church, I can only say *God is wonderful!* Last year there were 279 baptisms into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Many of these people never could have heard the story of Jesus or been won to Christ without your faithful support and prayers. Pioneering in unreached places and giving the gospel to refugees has produced lasting, exciting results.

This work has reached more Buddhists with Adventism than at any other time in history. In the past 12 years, more than 14,000 Cambodian, Lao, and Vietnamese people have been baptized.

Yet there are many more Buddhists who long to know about a God who gives hope and faith. It is going to take every bit of the manpower and means that we can muster to accomplish this task before us.

Among the 13 churches on the border there remains a work of soul winning to be done. I am presently teaching and preparing Adventist refugee teachers to spread the gospel to thousands who wait for it in the country of Cambodia.

Thank you for your continuing prayers and support during this critical time. 🌟

*Editor’s note:* Pen Chenda is in Phnom Penh working with ADRA, hard at work spreading the Adventist message.

\* Bible texts credited to TEV are from the *Good News Bible—Old Testament*: Copyright © American Bible Society 1976; *New Testament*: Copyright © American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976.





Andrea Steele,  
AWR public  
relations  
director. ▶

# AWR: The Voice of Global Mission

*The author is the public relations and development director for Adventist World Radio.*

Andrea Steele

**April 17**  
Guam

**H**ow will we ever do it?" "How will we ever fulfill the commission to 'go into all the world' with the gospel?"

Have you ever asked these questions? A simple examination of the facts of world population today seems to make the answers impossible.

Global mission strategy is going a long way toward a solution. More than 2,000 groups of a million or more people have been identified where the gospel has not been heard. All the world divisions are sending committed Christian Adventists into many of these areas, and already many unentered areas now have small groups of Adventists meeting where there were none before.

"But," you say, "what about all those areas that we cannot enter for political or other reasons? And even if we could enter every country on earth freely, could we keep up with the population growth?"

Probably not. Every single Seventh-day Adventist on earth today—and we are nearly 7 million strong—would need to reach nearly a thousand people with the gospel before the turn of the century!

"So how are we going to do it?"

"Radio," said H.M.S. Richards, Sr., more than five decades ago. And the Seventh-day Adventist Church agrees. As of this writing, Adventist World Radio is on the air around the world in 37 languages: 712 hours a week, broadcasting from stations in Costa Rica, Italy, Moscow and Siberia, Guam in the Western Pacific, and Gabon in Africa. These broadcasts are within listening range of nearly every person on the globe! And the results are phenomenal: baptisms and church groups where there were none before, changed lives, saved lives—new hope given to people who may not have heard about Jesus in any other way.

Here is just one of those stories:

## **Eliyas Subakir**

One day in February 1989, in the Indonesian village of Sarirejo, a 47-year-old farmer named Eliyas Subakir turned on his radio and happened to hear AWR-Asia's broadcast in Indonesian. He was surprised, and then confused as he listened to the program. It was different from anything he had heard before—the theme of the lesson was the Sabbath. After listening for a while, he took out his Bible, for he was a Christian, and began to look up the Bible texts quoted in the program—he found every one in his Bible, and was convinced about the Sabbath.

From that day onward, Eliyas listened to the broadcast, never missing a single one. He continued to read his Bible as he listened. Then he discussed the lesson with his friends in the Bethel Church (an unidentified Protestant church), which he attended in his village, and invited them to join him in listening to the radio program.

As this studying and sharing continued, the church pastor rebuked Eliyas for bringing false doctrine into the church. But Eliyas remained adamant in following the new-found truth, and finally the pastor banished him from the Bethel Church.

Eliyas didn't let that bother him; he decided to find an Adventist church, but didn't know where to begin. In May 1990 he asked his son, Stephanus Supadi, to write a letter to the Voice of Prophecy in Jakarta asking for the Bible course lessons.

Then in July 1990 an Adventist named Amos came to the village, and Eliyas met him. Eliyas asked him, "Where can I find an Adventist church? I have asked many people in nearby villages, and no one knows."

Amos answered, "There is a church in Bandar Lampung City. Let's go there, and I will introduce you to someone who can help you study the Bible." Amos took Eliyas to

**Radio**  
reaches  
unentered  
hinterland of  
Indonesia with  
gospel.

meet Ferdinand Wuysang, 63, a “lay shepherd” and church elder in the Adventist church in Bandar Lampung City.

On August 11, 1990, Mr. and Mrs. Wuysang went to Eliyas’s home to begin Bible studies with Eliyas and his sister, Ruth Sugirah. The Wuysangs went every Sabbath for the Bible studies for the next several months, and during that time the Bible study group grew to include several people from the Bethel Church as well as others in the village. Eliyas continued listening to the radio program every day, and inviting others to do the same.

### **Fifty-seven, Then Fourteen!**

On May 5, 1991, Eliyas and Ruth and 32 others joined their Saviour in baptism. Two weeks later 15 more people followed in their footsteps, and on September 7, eight more joined the church. Of this total of 57, 10 had been Catholics, 8 were from the Bethel Church, one had been a Hindu, and 38 were former Muslims!

But the sharing went beyond the village of Sarirejo: In early 1991, six of the people who had been studying with Eliyas moved to a village 12 miles (20 kilometers) away, Bangunsari. They began a Branch Sabbath School, and 14 people were baptized there on October 5, 1991.

On November 10, 1991, the South Sumatra Mission formally organized this group in Sarirejo into a church. Their meeting place on Sabbath? The Bethel Church!

Church members now long to have their own church building. One of the members has offered to give land for the church, and they are looking for a sponsor to build it. (The cost of building a church in this part of Indonesia is approximately \$3,500.)

### **Even More**

To plan their global mission strategy, the

Far Eastern Division had identified 278 groups of a million or more people among whom there is no Adventist presence. The unions of the division made plans to enter 10 of these 278 areas during 1991, and they were successful.

When the news of the new church in Sarirejo came to them, they looked at their map, and someone said, “You know, I believe that is one of the unentered areas—and not one we had planned to enter this year!” Excitedly, they investigated further and discovered that the area of Southern Sumatra where the villages in this story are located was an unentered area!

So it was that AWR-Asia planted the seed in a ready heart, and a local elder nourished it until it grew to fruition. And now, where there was nothing, there is a new light to shine in the darkness with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Appeal**

Our appeal today is twofold: One, please pray for the work of AWR around the world. Pray for the producers who make the programs, and pray for the listeners who hear. Why not choose a country that interests you, and in your daily prayers ask God to send the Holy Spirit to impress someone to stop and listen to AWR, the voice of hope, the voice of global mission.

Second, perhaps you live in a country where the Adventist message is heard on shortwave or on a local station. Be ready to reach out to a radio listener who comes to your church for the first time; be ready to give Bible studies to the seeker after truth. In this way, we will all be working toward that goal that is possible only through God’s intervention and blessing: “The gospel to all the world in *this* generation.”





Kuniko Saeki  
in 1991 ▶

# Encounter With a Missionary

**Forty years ago, but a timeless story.  
It can happen again, anytime, anywhere.**

Kuniko Saeki

**April 24**  
Japan

**F**irst I want to give thanks to the Lord. He brought a trivial twig to the tree (of life) more than 40 years ago. Re-viewing His wonderful work brings tears of gratitude.

I spent my sensitive teenage years amid the ruins from the bombardments during World War II. During the war I had seen many posters saying “English and Americans are evil savages!” And the teachers and politicians had warned us that they were a bunch of wolves wearing sheepskins.

After the war we often saw American soldiers walking on the streets. Parents told their daughters not to get close to them. So whenever those soldiers passed by I looked away with a feeling of disgust. The war had left deep scars on our hearts. Now we lived in barracks, barely surviving on food from the black market. Our basis for judgment, telling us right from wrong, was lost.

I was concerned about the future, and so I moved to Kobe for college. Without financial resources, I began job-hunting in cafés and bars. Insecurity was flashing in my heart like a warning signal.

## The Flier

And then one morning I found a flier in the newspaper: “Christian Meetings. Speaker: Pastor Leon Robbins. Topic: In the Cross Colored in Red.”

I was tempted to attend but mused, *Must be an American evangelist*, and I remembered how vulgar Americans were—their decadent lifestyles of eating thick chunks of meat and drinking strong alcohol. *Although we have lost the war, I’m not going to them with a wagging tail. No, I’m not going*, I decided. I shook my head again and again while I read the flier. But something hindered me from dispelling the idea. Finally I thought, *I should learn about what I don’t know. I can judge it after seeing for myself.* So I attended the first meeting.

The evangelist told us about the big statue

explained in the Bible, and the curious beast with wings. I was especially moved by the songs Pastor Robbins sang before the sermon, with full-blown chest and the gentle expression on his face. He sang them like prayers, as if he was calling on someone. *This is it!* I thought. And so I came every evening, sitting in the same seat, and wearing the same clothes, the one set I owned—the school uniform my mother had made me.

## Discovering Prayer

After a few nights, I learned to pray. In Buddhism, one must learn a *sutra* (discourse) to pray, but a Christian can pray with ordinary words. I also learned that a Christian can pray at any place and at any time.

*I can pray too. I’ll begin tonight*, I thought. And so I didn’t get on a tram that night. Instead, I walked on a hill, praying as I looked at the sky: “God, if You are really there, please answer my prayer. How should I join these people who believe in Christ?”

I continued to pray every night, looking into the sky: “God, please answer me.”

A week passed. One evening after the meeting I was stopped by a Japanese pastor at the door. “May I speak with you a moment?” He asked me to work for Pastor Robbins, who had come to Japan. I was surprised. “I didn’t learn any English at school because it was forbidden. I’m not sure how much of a help I can be for him if I don’t speak the language at all,” I replied.

“No need to worry. I’ll help you,” the pastor replied. *This could be the answer to my prayers*, I thought. Soon I believed that it was. With permission from my mother and brother, I moved into the evangelist’s home, bringing nothing but my clothes. Pastor Robbins’ three-story house was on a hill that overlooked the city of Kobe. It had a small sanctuary on the first floor and also

**U**pon receipt  
of this story,  
MISSION  
contacted  
Kuniko’s  
missionaries,  
Leon and  
Alice Robbins.  
Hear Alice’s  
surprise,  
delight, and  
recollections  
next Sabbath.

housed another evangelist and two Japanese pastors.

### **Didn't Know Much**

Once there, I realized that I really didn't know much about Americans. These people never ate meat, and they didn't drink alcohol, either. Their belongings were simple, and they never wore accessories. My image of Americans was totally destroyed. Singing hymns every morning started off the day. Mrs. Robbins played the piano, their 13-year-old daughter, Joann, played the trumpet, and Pastor Robbins sang along. They prayed on every occasion there was! I was fascinated by the strange way I comprehended the songs and prayers, without understanding the words. I was accepted into the family of God the moment I entered the world of these people.

### **The Robbinses Leave**

More than a year later, the day the Robbins family would return to the United States was approaching. A pastor told me, "Pastor Robbins is going to leave some money for you if you wish to go to the Adventist college in Chiba. You expressed a desire to *shingaku* [continue with higher schooling]. This is the real *shingaku*," he said, meaning theology. "Congratulations!"

The Robbins family returned to their home country before I entered Japan Missionary College in Chiba. However, I went to college with no concern, for the tuition was already paid.

This experience of living with the Robbins family completely changed the direction of my life—180 degrees. My thirst for knowledge was quenched and my vague dream of working for children was soon realized.

How amazing is His work! God had taught me that He will lead each one of us in our own path. Through an evangelist He picked up a small trivial twig on the ground in Japan, grafted it into the tree of eternal life, and nurtured me in His great work.

### **Thank You**

It has been more than 40 years now, and I have always wished to tell Pastor and Mrs. Robbins this testimony of their wonderful work. I wrote this testimony with the hope that someday they will read it in the MISSION quarterly and be happy to hear about me.

Pastor and Mrs. Robbins, thank you. From my heart I thank Pastors Ogura and Yasui, too. I praise the name of the Lord!

Sabbath School members, as the mission offering is received this morning, won't you praise the name of the Lord too!

And next Sabbath please listen for the response of Kuniko's missionaries to her letter. Hear Alice's surprise, delight, and recollections next Sabbath. The warmth between missionaries and converts can be repeated anytime, anywhere. Won't you be a missionary right in your neighborhood this very Sabbath afternoon? ●

**When the world  
Adventist family  
gets together, we  
are more than  
just "a drop in  
the bucket."**

**Let's "get together"  
June 26 for the  
Far Eastern Division!**



Kazuko Ervin  
from Japan.  
Try her recipe  
on page 20. ▶



# A Forty-Year Reunion!

**Last Sabbath the convert's story;  
this Sabbath the missionaries' story.**

Alice Robbins

**May 1**  
United States

**A** former missionary to Japan responds to a letter from the MISSION office, which purposed to reunite the missionary family with a convert they took into their home more than 40 years ago.

## **E**xcerpts From Letter of September 18, 1991

Dear Sister Haylock [MISSION secretary]:

Did you ever shed tears of joy when you received an unexpected, touching letter?

That's just what I did Thursday, Sister Haylock, when your letter arrived in the midst of canning peaches from one of our trees.

Thank you so much for Kuniko's story, along with your letter. I think the last time we had contact with her was when my husband was a pastor in New York City and I worked at *Faith for Today* there. When Pastor William Fagal visited Japan about 1959 I sent some money with him for her. Somewhere along the way she was married, and we lost contact with her.

So when we received that good letter from you with her story our hearts were thrilled anew. I can't say enough good about her. Oh, how we loved that girl! She lived with us from 1948 to 1950. My husband baptized Kuniko and about 30 other Japanese while in Kobe.

Kuniko was like a member of our family. She and our 13-year-old daughter, Joann, would laugh and talk back and forth in English and Japanese, each teaching the other. We trusted Kuniko to take Joann with her on the train about 400 miles away to a youth's meeting in Tokyo in order for Joann to visit a friend.

It was wonderful seeing Kuniko grow in grace and the love of the Lord. Just one small experience to show how honest and thoughtful she was. Before we returned to the States, she packed my sewing box very neatly. Back home, I couldn't find my razor blade for ripping seams. Some time later I opened a tiny cardboard box in my sewing box, and, lo and behold, there was the razor blade—carefully wrapped so that I wouldn't accidentally cut my fingers.

As she stated in her letter, we helped her financially through our Japan Missionary

College. What she failed to tell you was that she became a church school teacher. Also, when American missionaries arrived in Japan, she was assigned the honor of teaching them the Japanese language.

Our cup runneth over! My husband still can't get soul winning out of his system, and I'm so glad he can't, for neither can I! He retired in 1977 at age 65 and we moved back to our home in Yucaipa, California. He still carries on soul-winning work, such as teaching a Sabbath School class, doing missionary work, and preaching the gospel on Three Angels' Broadcasting Network.

Sister Haylock, because you were so kind as to share Kuniko's letter with us, I felt I wanted to share a few of our many blessings with you, as I loved being in the ministry with my husband these many years since 1934, winning many precious souls to Jesus.

## **E**xcerpts From Letter of November 17, 1991

Dear Sister Raquel [Haylock]:

Yesterday brought us a wonderful letter. What a happy surprise to receive a reply to the letter I had written to Kuniko several months ago! And also, she sent a few pictures, one of which I'm enclosing for you.

I'll quote part of her letter:

“Dear Pastor and Mrs. Robbins:

“Thank you very much for writing to me! I've been carrying around the letter with me in my Bible. I'm happy and thankful. It doesn't seem like more than 40 years ago.

“After spending a year at Japan Missionary College I was called to teach children at a San-Iku elementary school. I realized it was to become my lifework. I went back to JMC again and studied elementary teaching. I taught at several San-Iku church schools in Japan for 13 years. I married and raised three children.”

Then Kuniko goes on to say that two of her sons work for a newspaper, like her husband did. He was an editor of a magazine at a newspaper firm. Their youngest son came to America, graduating from Pacific Union College.

She further writes, "My oldest son has two daughters. I'm a grandma now! I'm 62 years old. My husband is now a curator in a photography museum. I work part time at Tokyo San-Iku Elementary. I spend my time as much as I can for the church activities, especially for the children. It makes me very happy to go to church with my husband every Sabbath.

"I'm remembering when you sent me to the Youth Congress up to Tokyo with Joann (the Robbinses' daughter). I made my decision to serve God at that meeting."

Then she goes on to say that she hopes to

visit us next year. She says, "I'm looking forward to seeing you, and thank you for what you did for me more than 40 years ago. Please take care, and God bless. Love, Kuniko Saeki."

### **Editor's Appeal**

Forty years hence, we should be in heaven. But should time linger, would your mission endeavors now have the potential for yielding equally exciting endings—more than 40 years of church service from one individual you meet? The reunion on this earth between Kuniko and the Robbinses is just one reunion. Can you imagine how many there will be in heaven between those saved and those who made the mission contact? For surprise reunions in heaven, begin the possibilities today! ●

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### Editorial, from page 3

furloughs, or committees—but all on a *mission!*

Adventists are not plentiful enough worldwide to have even one missionary on each of the approximately 40,000\* scheduled airline flights around the world during one 24-hour period, let alone four entities totaling 20. God knew that a day's delay in this case wouldn't cause any personal hardships, but the Lord must have been smiling to Himself as He arranged this surprise for all of us.

The delay did cause one hardship concern, however. When we eventually arrived at Majuro after midnight, we learned that the academy team of seven had missed the boat to Jeh, which had departed seven hours earlier. There would not be another boat leaving until Sabbath—two days later. Three days' delay was quite a cut from a one-week stay.

(A call to the Davises upon my arrival back in Washington revealed that the group were in Jeh from Sabbath until Thursday and built most of one class building and laid the foundation for the second. Much of their time was spent cleaning up coconut debris on the campus from a typhoon in January, conducting a Vacation Bible School for 139 children, and searching the beaches for more washed-up Brazilian mahogany, even going to another island to find wood. Actually, the group accomplished as much as it could with the wood available. The California group, Nadine says, is planning to return. Altogether, five class buildings are needed.)

The Lahaina crew, laboring in 100-degree heat, had the side walls of the clinic up before I left Pohnpei. As I glanced next door to the Kitti church the same group had built in 1989, and added onto in 1990, I had no question of its successful completion. That team, led by Bob Brath, D.D.S., had also built a classroom in Kosrae in 1991. This was trip number four!

As for the Sweedes, their one-year term will be completed by March of 1993, before this issue appears in the churches, and the fourth mission project born that day (March 18, 1992), you are holding in your hands.

Do you think God doesn't plan pleasure and surprises for His missionaries as well as for their rescues and escapes? You can't tell me!

—JLK

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\* According to the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) in Canada, there are 14,640,000 scheduled airline flights a year, which averages 40,109 a day.

# Gospel Moves Ahead in Vietnam

*The author is president of the Southeast Asia Union Mission.*

George Johnson

**May 8**

*Vietnam*

*Vietnam is not a Special Projects Offering recipient this Thirteenth Sabbath. It was the editor's belief, however, that the Adventist world family would like a firsthand report on the state of the church's work in Vietnam since the fall of Saigon.*

Vietnam has approximately 4,300 baptized members. About half of these worship in fellowship every Sabbath, with only about 500 worshipping in actual church facilities. In areas where the local authorities are lenient, the work goes forward, but where there are danger and adversity, the job is difficult. Let me explain the three categories of believers that compose the membership.

First, there are a number of churches in South Vietnam that are open and operating quite normally. Where there is a local provincial administration that is quite hospitable or tolerant, and where we have a church building in which to worship, we seem to have a measure of religious freedom to worship and to witness and to baptize.

The next category of believers exists in central Vietnam, in Danang or Nha Trang. The churches we had in those areas apparently were closed or razed during the past 15 years. The members try to worship in homes, but have met opposition. Various members have been jailed, fined, and even beaten or otherwise punished for trying to worship, baptize, and meet together.

Finally, we have church groups, with virtually no church buildings, in the mountain areas. Vietnamese authorities have traditionally looked upon these people as troublemakers and cooperators with Americans. Since the church has no recognition from the Vietnam government, the lot of these mountain members is especially difficult.

Our members have suffered persecution in these areas as well, being forbidden to meet together even in small groups of two families. But these people are the most receptive to the gospel.

Quite a number of mountain people are ready for baptism, but this is dangerous—for both the converts and the pastors. Once baptized, converts may be fined about US\$1. This may not sound like much, but for them it is a whole week's wages. One

Adventist family from HCMC (Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon) were jailed—the wife for more than three months—when they went to meet with the members in the mountains.

Any pastor who conducts a baptism will also be fined. One pastor has been a “repeated offender,” having conducted baptisms on several occasions. Each time he has been fined up to US\$12-15. He also has been beaten for conducting baptisms, once even suffering several broken ribs.

Baptisms continue, even under trying conditions. Near the end of 1991, 37 people were baptized about 40 miles (60 kilometers) from HCMC. This was newly entered territory for the church, and local authorities permitted the group to purchase a piece of land to use for a temporary building to house the group.

## **Opportunities**

What types of mission work have the potential to be effective in Vietnam? Let's consider this list of possibilities.

*Youth.* Students have tried to spread the gospel to their school friends. Now, however, this is difficult because becoming an Adventist involves missing school on Sabbath. In Ho Chi Minh, the government recently has changed the rest day and official holiday from Saturday to Thursday. Now students and teachers are expected to be at school on Sabbath.

This has placed considerable hardship on many Adventist teachers who work in government schools. There are many faithful Seventh-day Adventists who are leaving their jobs. Already they were making very little income. Now even that income will be denied them.

*Publishing.* Recently 1,000 copies of the old *SDA Church Hymnal* were published locally. This has been an encouragement to church members inside the country and to church leaders outside. Southeast Asia

Union Mission publishing director Rayburn Smith recently has been investigating possibilities of reopening some publishing work and making it possible for some of the members to sell health books.

*ADRA.* Meanwhile, ADRA/Vietnam—a good “entering wedge”—has been looking into various opportunities in both North and South Vietnam. We are moving ahead to register ADRA so that it is recognized as the arm of the Adventist Church in Vietnam, and encouraging mission workers to accompany ADRA relief workers in order to identify ADRA with its parent organization.

*Business.* The church is also encouraging Adventist lay members to enter the country and invest in business enterprises. Initially costs are low, but likely will rise as more and more foreign trade is established. The government is opening its doors to businesspeople, students, and professionals in various areas. Having businesses in Vietnam owned by Seventh-day Adventists could provide work for local church members and could be a tremendous encouragement to the church in Vietnam.

*Adventist World Radio.* We wish that a radio program from AWR in Guam could spread the message, but we are not presently able to produce the programs inside Vietnam, and our Vietnamese members in the United States have not yet been able to come up with a radio program. AWR, however, is willing to give us airtime if we can get the program together.

*English Language Schools.* A real need exists in Hanoi for an English language school. This need, an opportunity for the church, has been discussed with the Ministry of Labor, and a great interest was expressed in teaching Vietnamese workers to speak English in order to work in hotels and to serve Vietnam outside the country. This program by student missionaries and some other Adventists would provide a “base” in the north.

*Orphanages.* There is also a need for an orphanage in the north, which has been discussed a bit with the Ministry of Social Affairs. This is a good entering wedge for us to explore in the future.

*Ministerial Education.* The possibility of ministerial education for young pastors through an extension program has been discussed with leaders in HCMC. The government is telling us that our church leaders are “qualified.” I hope the seminary can help us with this challenge.

### **Prayer and Care**

Vietnam is not a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering recipient this quarter, but please remember that your regular weekly mission offerings help the World Mission Budget around the globe, including Vietnam.

And please remember to *pray* for the church in Vietnam. The members have suffered considerable persecution, but please pray that it may only serve to drive them closer to God. ☪

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**The price of a soul  
is not expensive.  
It's priceless**



**Far Eastern Division June 26**





▲ Adventists help otherwise destitute Bangladesh women support themselves by making beautiful cross-stitched projects.

# Nobody Came to Us

**The author is the district leader of the South Bangladesh Mission.**

**Benedict Baroi**

**May 15**  
*Bangladesh*

**N**estled near the border of India, beside the Kapotaka River, is the Bangladesh village of Sagardari. Sagardari is not far from the troublesome Bay of Bengal, famous for the Bengal tiger. Sagardari is also a renowned historical site because of the powerful poet Michael Madhusudan Datta born there in 1824 to a rich Hindu family. This family ostracized him when he became a Christian in his youth. He died early, at 49, and lived poor—his greatest fame was after his death.

The village just adjacent to Datta's birthplace is Kashipur, where Christianity has never penetrated. Catholic evangelists could raise no response whatever, and were virtually thrown out of town.

## **Adventists Arrive**

In November 1990 some Adventists visited Kashipur. We introduced ourselves as Christians and discussed spiritual and social issues with the people. While we were talking, a Hindu priest joined the circle, adding his analysis and voicing the futility of our purpose: "All religions are the same—every one says that all will go to heaven. Then why do we have to become Christians?"

Since the Hindu priests are well known for their drinking, we talked with the people about the harmful effects of drinking, smoking, betel-nut chewing, and also about unclean foods. About 50 very interested villagers pressed around us. Meantime, darkness had fallen. We were hospitably offered supper and a place to sleep. Our bedtime prayer appealed to the Monarch of the universe: "Please help us reach these villagers' hearts!" And God did help us.

The following morning, prior to leaving the village, we were anxious to know if these people would allow us to return to preach. Some said, "Don't come back!" But others said they were willing to at least listen. Our host, who had entertained us,

was an elderly man. He requested that we return to preach. With that encouragement we agreed upon a date to return.

On the arranged date, with the help of the local people our team set up tents. Not surprisingly, the Hindu priests protested: "You can't have Christian meetings here!"

Again we appealed to God, and again He responded. The chief, in whose compound we were erecting the tent, instructed us to proceed with our meeting plan. He even promised to take responsibility for any disturbance that might arise. *Thank You, God!*

## **Opposition**

Each evening 300 to 400 people attended our meetings. We showed films and Pastor S. K. Das preached. As the third evening meeting approached, demonstrators gathered and protested. They shouted slogans such as "Christians, get out of Kashipur village or we will kill you!" "We will remove the skins of all Christians!" "Tents will be burned." Still we continued with our meetings.

That night Mr. Robindro Dass, an interested Hindu, ate with us and then took a Bible home to read. Upon learning that he'd actually *eaten* with Christians, and brought a Bible right back home into the house, his father and brothers beat him mercilessly and then slashed him with a knife. Mr. Dass's shoulder was gashed, but he insisted, "I will read the Bible and become a Christian. Who can stop me?"

## **Political Postponement**

More problems ensued. Some of our team were also assisting with meetings a few miles away. When I returned to Kashipur I saw that our tent was down. My informers told me that the opposing Hindus had appealed to the Muslim upazilla (county) chairman, as well as to 60 other elders in authority. These VIPs (very important persons) had said that we could *not* conduct meetings.

**A**lthough the  
Special  
Projects  
Offering this  
quarter is not  
targeted for  
Bangladesh,  
please  
remember the  
churchless  
Adventist  
group in  
Kashipur in  
your prayers.

Behind the scenes, the upazilla chairman called Pastor Das and explained, "There will be an election for the upazilla chairmanship soon. It will be hard for me to get the votes if these meetings continue. Please come back—after the election—and I myself will help prepare your tent then."

So the meetings were interrupted, but the Holy Spirit continued preparing hearts. When we returned to Kashipur we baptized 20 people, and 60 others are preparing for baptism. These Kashipur members have no place to worship nor any land on which to erect a church. Although the Special Projects

Offering is not targeted for Bangladesh this quarter, please remember the churchless Adventist group in Kashipur in your prayers.

Some weeks after the initial meetings, church leaders again visited Kashipur. They questioned one of the new believers: "Since your country's famous poet was from your area—and he accepted Christianity 140 years ago—why are you and your villagers so late to accept it?"

He responded, "Nobody came to us with the message of Jesus."

Will your neighbors be able to say, "Somebody came to us"?

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*Special Song for Younger Children on Thirteenth Sabbath (see program):*

## Jesus Loves the Little Children of the East

Arranged by Dorothy Eaton Watts

*Note to leader:* Prepare signs with support handles for each of the following countries: Philippines, Burma, Indonesia, China, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Sumatra, Laos, Kampuchea, Sabah. As each country is mentioned, the child with the corresponding country raises the sign. During the last line of each verse, "Jesus loves the little children of the East," all the children raise their signs together.

Although this is a kindergarten song, it is suggested that because of the place names, it be performed by primaries. If you haven't enough children, ask one or two children to point to the countries on a map as the rest sing. The leader or one child may recite the nonsinging lines between verses.

**Speaking:** Jesus loves the little children.

From Sri Lanka and Hong Kong,  
Bangladesh and Vietnam,  
Jesus loves the little children of  
the East.

**Singing:** Jesus loves the little children,  
All the children of the East,  
Filipinos and Burmese,  
Indonesians and Chinese,  
Jesus loves the little children of  
the East.

**Speaking:** Jesus loves the Hindu boys and  
girls.

**Speaking:** He loves those who are Bud-  
dhists.

**Singing:** Jesus loves the little children,  
All the children of the East,  
From Sumatra and Laos,  
Kampuchea and Sabah,  
Jesus loves the little children of  
the East.

**Singing:** Jesus loves the little children,  
All the children of the East,  
From Korea and Japan,  
From Malaysia and Thailand,  
Jesus loves the little children of  
the East.

**Speaking:** Do you love them too?

**Speaking:** He loves the Muslim children,  
too.

**Singing:** Do you love the little children,  
All the children of the East?  
Will you give an offering,  
On this Thirteenth Sabbath day,  
Do you love the little children of  
the East?

**Singing:** Jesus loves the little children,  
All the children of the East,

**Speaking:** Do you?



Tetsuya Yamamoto ▶

# A Campus and Community Family

**The author is the past principal of Kitaura San-Iku Junior High School.**

Tetsuya Yamamoto provided the basis for this report.

**May 22**  
*Japan*

**The Kitaura San-Iku Junior High School (Adventist boarding academy) will receive part of this quarter's Special Projects Offering June 26 for a new girls' dormitory.**

**I**n the days when there were only a few thousand Seventh-day Adventists in Japan (we're speaking of 1969), it was not common sense to begin a private Christian boarding school with 29 students and six teachers.

But the founders cherished a vision of an evangelistic future, offered fervent prayers, and with sweat and precious sacrifice to God opened the doors of Kitaura San-Iku Junior High School as a preparatory school for Japan Missionary College.

Today this boarding academy has 120 students and 25 teachers. According to the new principal, Shohei Suzuki, 70 percent come into the academy as Adventists and 90 percent leave as Adventists, yielding 20 to 30 baptisms a year. About 90 percent of its graduates do go on to Japan Missionary College.

During the past 23 years about a thousand young people have graduated and gone out to spread the third angel's message to the world as pastors, elders, teachers, doctors, nurses, literature evangelists, health evangelists, farmers, industrial workers, office workers, welfare volunteers, students, and as fathers, mothers, husbands, and wives. They are fulfilling the dream of the founders.

## **Outreach**

Church evangelistic work is important. After Sabbath School and church worship every student participates in missionary work in the afternoon. They conduct Branch Sabbath Schools for children, visit hospitals and old-age homes with lay members and teachers, do welfare work, write letters for those who can't, perform sign language for the hearing impaired, and perform in musical services such as the choir, brass band, and handbell choir.

The students have a reputation for good manners, neat appearance, cheerfulness, and good witnessing.

## **Curriculum**

In addition to the regular curriculum required by the Japanese government, students attend five hours of Bible classes a week. It is especially important for missionary work to possess correct and beautiful Japanese language skills. The foreign language taught is English, difficult but useful for the Global Mission of the church as students become friends with foreigners.

The curriculum also includes mathematics, difficult but popular; social studies that include government, economy, history, geography, and good citizenship; health and physical education; music; art; housekeeping; and technical classes.

Work education is remarkable at Kitaura San-Iku Junior High School. The students clean the dormitories themselves, as well as caring for the school buildings, dining room, and chapel. They also grow vegetables such as potatoes, cabbage, and corn, and they plant flowers everywhere. They paint the buildings, do woodworking and repairing, and make signboards. They help with office work, and even cut their friends' hair.

## **A Family School**

These many kinds of work are accomplished through daily cooperation between students and teachers. Throughout the day the teachers and students are also studying the Bible and offering prayer together. The campus's style of teachers and students as one big family, working and praying and witnessing together as well as teaching and studying, makes it an unusual school in Japan. As they serve others by assisting the people in nearby communities, those helped become curious about this extraordinary school, where all seem glad to work together for the people and God.

One such activity is that on Sabbath afternoons Mr. Kato, science teacher at the acad-

emy, takes a group of his students and presents Branch Sabbath Schools for delighted children. Kato is so cheerful that the students and children can't help being cheerful with him. Kato, an accomplished trumpet player, also teaches the brass band club of a neighboring high school.

### **Different Today**

Kato and his two younger sisters all attended Kitaura San-Iku Junior High School after completing elementary school. Now Kato is teaching at his beloved old school, but the present state of affairs is very different now compared to his days there.

The school buildings, girls' dormitory, and teacher housing have become old and decrepit. During the rainy season the classrooms have high humidity and the dormitory is wet from leaks. The corridors are uneven and the heating system needs changing. The teachers' houses, first used as old dormitories, are near collapse.

But despite these bad circumstances the students and teachers are enduring the conditions, working, and studying hard to complete the mission given by our Lord for this age of the end.

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering June 26 will replace the girls' frame dormitory on its floating foundation with a solid concrete building void of water damage to the floors. The first building on the campus was the elementary school built about 45 years ago, and members raised the funds by making and selling grape juice, miso (a soybean seasoning paste), and mochi (sticky rice for sweet pudding). Are we any less creative or energetic for our young people today?

One after another, Japanese young people have inherited this evangelistic pioneer spirit, in spite of being small or poor, and have gone out from Kitaura San-Iku Junior High School. With me, please join in thanking God for them! 🌸

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### **Try a recipe from Japan:**

#### **Tempura Vegetables**

Kazuko Ervin



#### **Batter:**

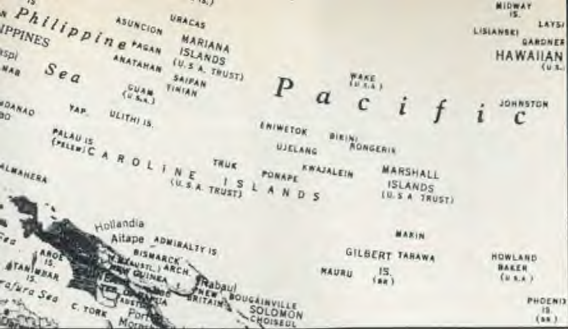
To 1 beaten egg add enough ice water to make 1 cup.  
Add 1 cup flour, stirring up from bottom of bowl.  
Leave lumpy; do not overmix.  
Heat at least 3 inches of oil for deep frying.  
When a drop of batter rises quickly, oil is ready.  
Into batter, dip raw vegetables:  
broccoli, onions, sweet potatoes, mushrooms.  
Fry a few minutes until vegetables are cooked and light golden brown.  
Remove and drain on paper towel.

#### **Sauce:**

Simmer together for five minutes:  
1 cup water  
¼ teaspoon instant dashi (stock flavoring)  
¼ to ⅓ cup shoyu (soy sauce)  
2 to 3 tablespoons sugar  
Dip fried vegetables into sauce. Enjoy!

Dashi and shoyu are available at Oriental food stores.

Kazuko Ervin works in the Treasury Department of the General Conference. Originally from Hokkaido, Japan, she came in 1979 to the United States, where she and her husband, Loyce, reside in Riverdale, Maryland. Kazuko has served in denominational work for 25 years.



# Fifteen Out of Ninety-one

The author is an AVS (Adventist Volunteer Service) missionary.

Marge Woodruff

▲ Micronesia calls.

## May 29 Guam- Micronesia

Picture an area of the Pacific Ocean about the size of mainland U.S.A. Now scatter through it 2,241 chunks of land that, stuck together, might be about half the size of Rhode Island. This is the Guam-Micronesia Mission territory.

These islands are grouped into the Northern Marianas and Guam, the Marshalls, the Federated States of Micronesia (Yap, Truk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae), and Palau. Of the 91 inhabited islands, only 15 have an Adventist presence. The others still wait for God's law and gospel with the news of the soon return of Jesus.

In most places daily life remains primitive, without electricity or running water. Cooks use open fires fueled with coconut husks to prepare the simple fare garnered from land and sea.

But the hardy islanders feel comfortable and have no desire to leave their homes. But when the young people are sent off for higher education, they become accustomed to the conveniences of modern living. They find jobs, and then they don't return.

### Breakthrough

One morning at the Guam-Micronesia Mission headquarters a message crackled over the shortwave radio at the usual 9:00 hour that gave the administration an important insight in how to evangelize these islands. Shirlene Stahl, secretary, jumped up from her computer and went to the niche in the wall that houses the radio.

"Guam SDA Mission. Shirlene speaking. Over."

"Good morning! Shirlene, this is Bruce Lane at Majuro. Do you read me? Over."

"Hi! Bruce, you're coming in pretty good today for a change. Over."

"I want to report 15 baptisms from the Bible studies the pastor gave over at Ailinglaplap on Jeh. Over."

"Wow! That's really great! I'll give the message to Elder Campbell. Over." (Camp-

bell is the mission president.)

"Tell him they are all people who came to the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking. Over."

"OK, but how come he went way over to Jeh to hold a Five-Day Plan? Over."

"Oh, the chief invited him. The students in our school there had been learning about good health habits, and you know how cigarettes are shipped in there by the ton. After the Five-Day Plan, they agreed to take Bible studies. Over."

"Well, George Yost (education director) will be interested in this, too. That school is only 1 year old. Thanks for calling. Over and out."

### The Meeting

Elders Campbell and Yost quickly called a meeting of the Global Mission Planning Committee, for they recognized in this report a useful key to opening work in other islands. But who could be sent?

All on the committee could see the immediate need for a training school of teachers and pastors. But where? Not on an island as developed as Guam, Saipan, or Palau. Ebeye is already too crowded. Others are too far out and lack transportation.

As the committee studied the map, all eyes seemed to focus on Pohnpei. Elder Yost jabbed his finger on the spot. "That's the perfect place!" he exclaimed.

This centrally located island is the capital of the Federated States of Micronesia and is a regular stop on the "Island Hopper" air route from Guam to Hawaii. Its higher hills attract more rain than other islands, with 200 inches a year producing streams and rivers for a stable water supply. Most other islands must depend on catching and storing whatever rain falls. And we have a large school in Pohnpei already, so we wouldn't have to begin by building a whole new campus.

### **Pleased Chief Advertises**

In the meantime, as plans progress for building the training school for evangelists and teachers, the mission is receiving requests from several other islands to operate schools for them. Evidently the pleased chief at Ailinglaplap has told other chiefs—maybe even bragged a bit—about Jeh’s good fortune.

When Elder Yost returned from visiting various islands to consider arrangements there for future graduates of the evangelism school in Pohnpei, his eyes gleamed and he smiled with satisfaction. He knows that after education comes physical improvement, fol-

lowed by spiritual growth. He envisions a group of enthusiastic teachers and pastors from these islands being trained at Pohnpei who will go back and work for God on their own islands.

The tithe envelope used throughout the Guam-Micronesia Mission includes a line for “New Work Fund.” Now the Global Mission Planning Committee eagerly looks forward to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to greatly increase this fund that will provide a training school on Pohnpei to serve the isles that wait.

Thank you, fellow Sabbath School members. ☪

## **Retiree’s Mission Project**



Louis Merkel, Sr., 82 years old, with his retirement mission project—making literature racks, shown here as they appear when both empty and supplied.

Merkel thought of this project to help fulfill Ellen White’s directive that the church’s literature should be spread like the leaves of autumn. “I am sure that the Holy Spirit is helping me,” he says.

Merkel may be contacted at 9085-1 N. Main Street, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103 U.S.A. Phone (616) 471-2156.



▲ In Pohnpei worshippers remove their shoes before entering church.

# The Senators' Children

**Adventist Schools Provide Inreach in the Islands to Achieve Outreach.**

Janna Quaile

**June 5**  
*Pohnpei*

*The proposed training school in Pohnpei to provide evangelists and teachers in outer islands is one recipient of this quarter's Special Projects Offering on Thirteenth Sabbath.*

In the vast northern Pacific area between the Philippines and Hawaii lie the numerous little islands that make up Micronesia. For decades these islands have been under the control of other nations but have recently been establishing their own independent governments. Four of the island groups—Yap, Truk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae—have united to form the Federated States of Micronesia.

The volcanic, tropical island of Pohnpei—near the center of the scattered islands of Micronesia—is the capital. Heavy rainfall created the gorgeous waterfalls and lush green foliage of this tropical paradise, where many state and federal government workers live.

### Senator Edward

Since the Adventist educational system represents the elite in elementary and secondary schooling throughout Micronesia, many influential people send their children to Adventist schools. Such was the case with Senator Bernell Edward's six children. Although the school staff at Pohnpei had to struggle with disciplining these students who wanted to try smoking, drinking, betel nut, and marijuana, God's Spirit was working on their hearts.

Mr. Edward's oldest child, Churchill, was baptized just one year following his graduation with the first graduating class of Pohnpei Adventist High School in 1985. Although his angry father told him he was no longer his son, he changed his mind when he began noticing the positive changes in Churchill's life.

A year later, three more of Senator Edward's children were baptized following another Adventist evangelistic campaign on the island. These four baptized children have all graduated from the Pohnpei Adventist school and three of them also have worked at the school!

Senator Edward's children know that their

parents believe many of the Adventist doctrines but hold back in making a decision for Christ because of their influential standing in the government and community. They do, however, look forward to the time when the whole family will be united in the truths and fellowship of the Adventist Church.

### Senator Panuel

In one of the atolls in the state of Pohnpei is the island of Ngatik, population 600. Goodyear Panuel was a Ngatikese teacher as well as a senator from his island to the state of Pohnpei. Unfortunately, his favorite activity was drinking.

Although Senator Panuel seemed not the least interested in the Bible, he knew a lot about religion, for his father was a Protestant minister on Ngatik and a missionary to several other islands. Sometimes Senator Panuel's father would be leaving on the state boat to do missionary work on another island and the senator would be leaving on the same boat to go to jail for something he had done while he was drunk.

Even getting married and starting a family did not seem to keep him from his drinking habit. Meanwhile, his father and wife kept praying for him.

God answered their prayers. An Adventist from Pohnpei, Smith Jack, traveled as a diesel mechanic on the boat that visited the various outer islands of Pohnpei. At each stop he would try to do some missionary work on the islands. Gradually he began holding services on Ngatik.

Senator Panuel somehow began studying the Bible for himself and became interested in Adventist teachings. This caused his father to become very upset. What an embarrassment it would be to both his position as church leader and as traditional leader in the community if his son joined this new religion! Despite the insult to his father, the senator was baptized in 1986.

Still continuing his own strong prayer

habits, the elder Mr. Panuel quietly watched the changes in his son's life, but still he could not consider giving up his leadership roles.

And then one day, while seated alone in the cookhouse across the road from his home, he noticed a light coming up the road. It stopped in front of his house, then turned and moved on again toward him. When the light came very close, Mr. Panuel struck a match and lit the lantern he had in the hut. As he did so, the light disappeared.

Soon afterward Mr. Panuel suffered a stroke and was unable to talk. As he lay recuperating, wondering about the meaning of that strange light, several Bible texts came to his mind. When he was finally able to talk, he asked his son to look up the texts for him. What a discovery it was to find that all the texts taught him about the Sabbath. In 1987, to his son's joy, Mr. Panuel was baptized.

### Schooling

Where are Churchill Edward and Good-year Panuel today? After serving as a youth leader and associate pastor following his baptism, Churchill Edward, his wife, and two children went to Walla Walla College to obtain more education. The Edward family often feels isolated and alone, and the

church in Pohnpei misses their fellowship and leadership.

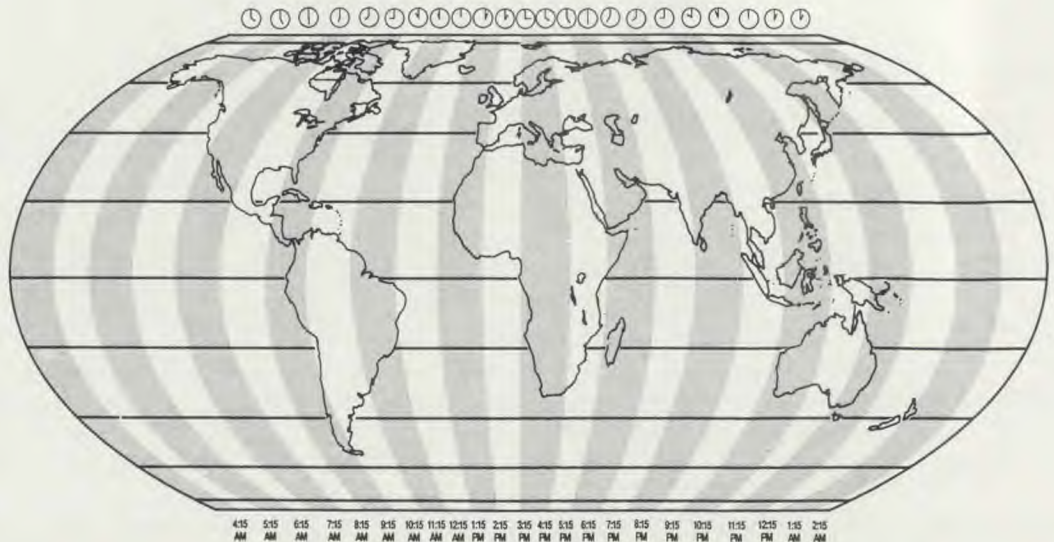
Goodyear Panuel became one of the leaders in the little Adventist church on Ngatik. But desiring further training for pastoring a church, he moved his family to Pohnpei, where he served as associate pastor of the Adventist church in Kolonia. Hungry for more education and desiring a firmer base on which to build his ministry, he took his wife and two young sons with him to Fiji in 1991 in order to study theology at Fulton College, leaving behind his four daughters. Being apart is hard for the Panuel family, but they hope that this time apart will better prepare Goodyear to work for the Lord.

The proposed Global Mission training center on Pohnpei would train Micronesian young people to effectively pastor and teach on their many home islands yet unreached. They would not fear being "stranded from home" by the lack of regular, dependable transportation between islands, for they would *be* home. Often when islanders go to other countries to further their education, they do not return to their home island.

How the islands need a school where their own young people can gain further education in their own land! Won't you support this outreach effort and help provide a training school that can minister to the needs of the Micronesian people? 🌐

## Prayer Fellowship Around the Globe, Around the Clock

Join the worldwide Holy Spirit Prayer Watch to keep prayers ascending continuously to heaven for the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Pray with those in your time zone at 6:15 a.m., or with those in another zone at 15 minutes past the hour of your choice.







# Who Will Take His Place?

**The author is the wife of the principal of the Pohnpei Adventist High School.**

Solomon Sumner—  
who will take  
his place? ▶

Janna Quaile

**June 12**  
*Micronesia*  
**The initial**  
*report of*  
*Solomon's*  
*death came to*  
*the attention*  
*of MISSION*  
*by one of the*  
*GC traveling*  
*staff as we*  
*were going to*  
*press first*  
*quarter of*  
*1991. Since*  
*then the*  
*leadership of*  
*that area has*  
*submitted a*  
*more accurate*  
*account,*  
*presented*  
*here.*

**S**olomon Sumner, born in New Bern, North Carolina, in 1959, was a dedicated worker for Christ. God came first, only, and always with him. Even before his baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the age of 10, Solomon practiced fasting at moments that he deemed critical in his own life or other Christians' lives.

After graduating from high school in 1978, Solomon attended several schools for higher learning, including Oakwood College, but never completed his training to become a medical evangelist. Instead, he became a student missionary to the island of Pohnpei, Micronesia, in 1988. In the mornings, Solomon taught high school Bible at Pohnpei SDA School. Afternoons found Solomon walking door-to-door giving Bible studies and encouraging the people.

After two weeks of working in this manner, Solomon, respectful and polite as always, spoke with Leonard Quaile, principal of the school:

"Good morning, Solomon. How are your classes going at school?"

"Fine, sir, just fine."

"Are you enjoying teaching the students?"

"Yes, sir, I am."

"How about your Bible studies. How are they doing?"

"Fine, sir."

"Good. How many studies are you giving now?"

"Oh, about 48, sir."

"You're giving Bible studies to 48 people every week?"

"No, sir. I'm giving 48 studies. Some of them are attended by 8 to 10 people."

And that's how Solomon worked! He would not accept rides from fellow workers, in case he might miss the opportunity of speaking about Christ to another person who might pick him up. He walked paved roads and rough mountain trails, rain or shine, to

share the gospel with others.

Many of the studies were given in languages that Solomon didn't know. If he could locate a Bible in that language, he would help the person look up a chain of texts that would lead him or her to an understanding of the concept being presented. To hear quiet, meek Solomon preach the Word of God was to observe a transformed person, on fire with the Holy Spirit, sharing his love for God.

The next year Solomon returned to Pohnpei to serve as the first full-time pastor to the outer island of Ngatik. Before leaving on the boat for Ngatik, Solomon assisted the new student missionaries at Pohnpei SDA School, organizing several Bible studies and Branch Sabbath Schools.

Once in Ngatik, Solomon soon had several Bible studies going with the people there. Shortly the Bible students were ready to join the small SDA church on the island. When the district pastor was unable to make the boat trip to Ngatik at the scheduled time for their baptism, Solomon baptized the candidates himself. The Ngatik members appreciated their new pastor, and lovingly built him his own parsonage—a comfortable thatch-roofed hut next to the church.

How pleased Solomon was when the Guam-Micronesia Mission Committee voted him to be the official pastor at Ngatik. Solomon made copies of the committee's minutes, which he passed out among his friends on Pohnpei and sent to his loved ones in the United States. The return address of the letters and packages he sent home all began to say "Pastor Solomon Sumner." Though otherwise humble, Solomon was proud to be working for his Master.

But Solomon was not to work long. While preparing for an evangelistic series on his island, Solomon fell seriously ill. Radio messages regarding his serious condition were sent to the main island of Pohnpei. While the church members met together to

pray in his behalf, the Quailes worked with the U.S. Embassy and local doctors to obtain help for him. A nearby ship was unsuccessfully rerouted to try to reach Solomon and bring him to Pohnpei. A nondenominational flying service took Mr. Quaile and a doctor to drop medicines over the island. Later they would learn that just at the time Solomon died, those attending him heard the plane overhead. It was too late. Solomon died before anyone could get to Ngatik to help him or even determine exactly what the problem was. Solomon fell asleep doing what he loved most—teaching men and women about the love of God.

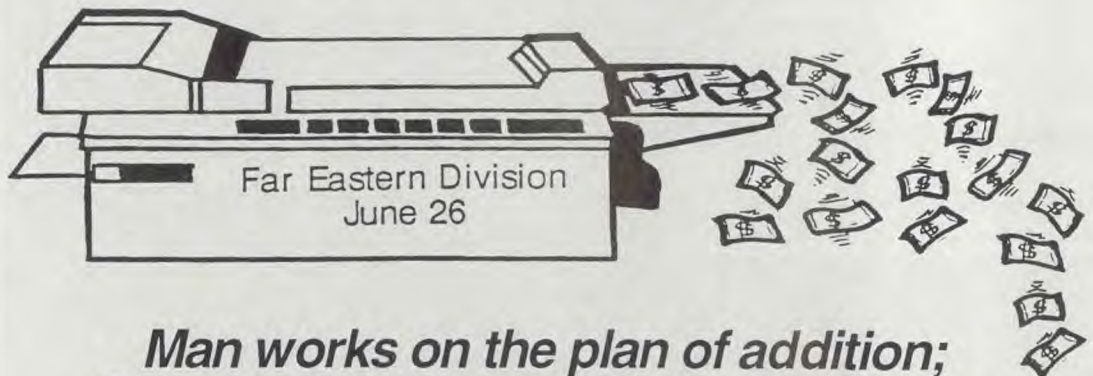
Since Solomon's death in February of 1990, the island of Ngatik has again been without its own pastor. How these Microne-

sian islands need more of their own workers!

The new Global Mission training center would educate the island people to pastor and teach on their home islands. Help the Adventist Church June 26 to more effectively reach the people of Micronesia.

*Editor's note:* Guam-Micronesia president James Campbell told MISSION of the church administrators' reluctance, especially since Solomon's experience, to place student missionaries on remote islands without airstrips and/or dependable ship transportation. By bringing in to the proposed training school a convert from his/her home island, the problem is less serious, for the new evangelist is merely returning home. ●

## God multiplies His money through His copy machine of blessings.



*Man works on the plan of addition;  
God works on the plan of multiplication.*

# Who Can Separate Us?

**A Cambodian refugee to France writes to the president of the Southeast Asia Union Mission about returning as a missionary.**

Sivandeth Puth

**D**ear Pastor Johnson: I'm not sure if you will recognize my name. I am the Cambodian girl you met at the General Conference session in Indianapolis. I remember you wore a Thai national outfit during the mission pageant on the last day. I was beside you, wearing a Khmer costume and carrying the Cambodian flag.

I was born in 1960 and raised in a Buddhist family, like most Cambodians. Later I was converted to Christianity and attended a Sunday church in Phnom Penh. In April 1975 I was planning to study in preparation for mission work when the civil war exploded in Phnom Penh. Since that day I have been separated from my family.

I spent four gloomy years in the Killing Fields, where death was cruel. Then I sneaked out into the Thai refugee camps where the shortage of food and complicated problems never ended. During my six years there I attended the Adventist church and served the Lord as a children's teacher. It was a real joy to be involved in caring for kids who needed love and teaching.

Finally I was accepted by the French Embassy to leave the camp, and I left for Paris on March 30, 1987. Although the lack of food did not follow me to France, the first few years were very rough. The frustration and difficulty of learning the language, the demands of modern European life, and many, many other problems intensified the struggle. I was seldom among my Khmer compatriots, and homesickness was deep in my heart. But because I lived among the French people, I learned French better than my fellow Khmers.

After a year and a half of attending the Adventist church in Paris, I was encouraged to take the theology course at the Adventist college at Collonges to become a Bible worker or an assistant pastor. I attended Collonges for one year, but the courses were above my level and I struggled. And since I

had no financial support, I walked 10 miles after my morning classes to work in a restaurant. When the restaurant went bankrupt one day, I was obliged to leave school.

I found a job in Switzerland as an *au-pair* girl (one who does home chores in exchange for room and board). As I walked from work each evening along the foot of Mount Salève, I looked up the mountain to catch a glimpse of my dormitory. Tears would trickle as I recalled the past fun I had had with my French and American friends in the boarding school. Now I was alone, and my dog, Dragon, was my only new friend. My new boss was cross, cranky, fussy, grumpy, and grouchy most of the time and didn't pay fairly. Dragon shared my loneliness and depression as I walked him every morning and evening through rain and snow.

Of course the Lord was close by. I felt His presence when I cried to Him every night, which comforted me. After sending Him my prayers, I was always much relieved.

After three hard months in this new boss's place, I asked her to take me back to the dormitory at the seminary. I could stay there two nights as a visitor. During that stressful time I practically lost my head! I didn't know what to do nor where to go next. But praise the Lord, He did not allow me to go on the street homeless; I was able to move into a little office in the village while the owners went on vacation. But I couldn't find a job that didn't require working on Sabbath.

Next a Cambodian pastor, Hem San, took me in to stay with his family for nine months while I was still jobless and homeless. My plan to save money to go back to college was dissolved. By now I nurtured the hope to become a missionary in my homeland.

Then I got the chance to fly to the United States, kindness of Laurie Woods, who paid my ticket. I stayed with Laurie 10 months in

**June 19**

*Cambodia*

**The author is one of three proposed full-time workers to be hired with part of next Sabbath's offering for evangelism in Cambodia.**

Lowell, Massachusetts. My heart still ached to serve the Lord in Cambodia sooner or later, so I thought of nursing school. With that intention, I attended adult education classes to learn English, and passed the TOEFL test on my third attempt. You can't imagine how disappointed I was the two times I failed, though.

My happiest day was attending the GC session in Indianapolis, where I met you and others, including Dr. Mary Anne McNeilus, who suggested I study natural remedies at Uchee Pines Institute. I thought for sure this would prepare me to serve in Cambodia! After all, the nursing school in Lowell required a \$2,000 deposit and I didn't have even \$100 in my purse.

Three months later I was accepted at Uchee Pines, but my visitor's visa had expired. Back to Paris. Seven months later the American consul looked at my papers from Uchee Pines and said, "Sorry, madam. You are not qualified."

I was sinking in despair and kept struggling to master the rising tears of bitterness. You can't imagine, Pastor, how much I hurt at that time. Oh, it hurt me so bad inside that I cried my tears out. In the subway on the way home I was shaking with sobs. I couldn't hold it anymore. Grief overwhelmed me. My hope of attending the American school and becoming qualified to be a missionary in my homeland was crushed. My dream was shattered. After seven months of waiting, the result had come to nothing.

I cried out, "Dear Lord, why would this happen to me? I don't understand You, but I keep trusting You. Please continue to lead me through this trial."

Then I remembered a place here similar to Uchee Pines that two friends had recommended, *La Chabrierie*. So I came here, and have read many books about nutrition, diet, drug avoidance, and healthful living. I've learned many new things that I might be able to teach people. I could also teach children. And I may cooperate with the other missionaries to spread the gospel in Phnom Penh.

I realize that my former plans were not God's plan. He knows what is best for me, and I've learned to be satisfied with what I have and to be content anywhere I live. If I'm exposed to endless trials, I can sing praises to God. I have the strength to face all conditions through the power Christ gives me. It is not me anymore, but Christ who lives in me. And I'm glad to claim the Bible promise "Who,

then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship, or persecution, or hunger, or poverty, or danger, or death?" (Rom. 8:35, TEV).\*

This beautiful verse has comforted me and fortified my faith. I am truly thankful to the Lord, who has chosen me, and who took me as His child so I could come to know the truth that set me free from all doubt. My heart burns with the desire to share Jesus—the Way, the Truth, the Life—with my country fellowmen.

So please, I entreat you, dear pastor, to accept me as I am and use me in the Lord's service in Cambodia. I will wait patiently for your decision. Your answer may mean a lot to me, and must be the highlight of my Christian life. I trust in the Lord to guide you in fulfilling the task for the Cambodians' sake.

My non-Christian family, after a few years of my encouragement, have been converted. My older sister joined Dr. Charles Tidwell in the Lord's service. She is active and faithful in serving the true God she has just found. The Lord has given her the talent to convert young people, and she has brought some of her friends to God. I am proud of her and filled with delight to see the result from the little seed I sowed. Praise the Lord for this!

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

With warm Christian love,  
Sivandeth Puth

*Editor's note:* Sivandeth's sister, Sovanna, was located by Pastor Thy San Sam (see first report), who rode a motorcycle several miles to find her. He found she had just bought a lot and built a home, and plans to build a small Adventist church on the lot as well! How encouraging this "find" was to the Adventist leaders! Sovanna is now learning children's Sabbath School songs to teach.

Remember, your offering next Sabbath will help Sivandeth fulfill her aching wish to return to her homeland and serve her people for Christ! ●

\* Bible texts credited to TEV are from the *Good News Bible—Old Testament*: Copyright © American Bible Society 1976; *New Testament*: Copyright © American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976.



# A Forever Life Without Finale

Janet Leigh Kangas

June 26

### Program

Congregational Song	“I Love to Tell the Story,” <i>The SDA Hymnal</i> , p. 457
Welcome	Hostess
Prayer	Youth or children’s division leader
Script	“A Forever Life Without Finale”
Special Song	“Jesus Loves the Little Children in the Far East” by primaries (see page 18)
Offering Song	“Jesus Loves the Little Children,” by kindergartners (traditional version) as they receive the offering
Offering	Kindergartners
Gratitude Prayer	A teen or junior

**Hostess:** Happy Sabbath morning! This is the day the Far Eastern Division has been waiting for all quarter. The Micronesians are eagerly awaiting their new evangelistic training center in Pohnpei so they can return to their home islands to witness for Christ, and the girls in the Adventist boarding school in Japan (Kitaura San-Iku High School) are watching for the blueprints of their new dormitory to become a reality, matching the new boys’ dormitory already occupied.

The third project recipient for today’s special offering, and the one we will focus on in Sabbath School this morning, is the Global Mission challenge in Kampuchea (formerly Cambodia). As you recall from an earlier report, Adventist mission work has opened and closed there three times in the past.

Now, with the return of the approximately 350,000 refugees, an event that began early in 1992, approximately 500 baptized Adventists are returning to scatter throughout their country the seeds of the new faith they found in the Adventist groups among the camps. Seventy of these participated in a lay Bible worker training class. Part of your offering today will help provide three full-time workers in evangelism.

*[Presenter: At this point please update your Sabbath School regarding the most recent developments and success of the Adventist mission program in Kampuchea since the preparation of this manuscript (May 1992), to be found in your local union or division paper containing the promotion for this offering. Thank you for helping MISSION keep your members informed of current mission events.]*

This morning we are going to hear three personal accounts of what it was like to survive in the Killing Fields during the political upheavels in Cambodia. These three individuals represent those converts who fled to the refugee camps and compose the fledgling churches being established in Kampuchea today. It is people of this fiber and fortitude who will be enabled by your special offering today to take the gospel to their villages. As you listen to their stories you will thrill with pride for your fellow Adventist believers!

**Vin Keat:** I am Vin Keat. I used to live with my Chinese father and my Cambodian mother on a small island in the ocean near Vietnam. My parents believed in obeying Buddha, and every time a full moon or half moon appeared, my parents took food to the

**P***prior to preparing this program, please refer to Leader’s Planner on page 4.*

pagoda for the monks' meal. They told me a lot of stories about Buddha.

One story in particular was that after the reign of Buddha was over, we would have another god. It would be the reign of "Our Saviour," and we called him *Preah Se Ametrrey*, or the Messiah, the Prince of Peace.

My childhood was interrupted, though, by the Khmer Rouge's attempt to return all the people to an agrarian society. I was sent to a labor camp where I stayed in a large bamboo building with dirt floors. Hundreds of other children shared my same fate of hard labor. Since the adults were put in other quarters, we were without their love and care.

I was given only one spoonful of rice a day. This starvation diet and the terrible living conditions caused me to become very sick. But my sickness and feebleness made it possible for my mother to get me and herself released from the camp.

Life was hard, and my father died before I was 15. And so I became a boat person in order to seek a better life. When I arrived in Thailand I told the interviewing officers I was Vietnamese. I was sent to a Vietnamese camp, where I was questioned. The officer there suspected I was a Khmer and bribed me into revealing my true identity by promising favors if I told the truth.

Well, I did. And then the officer cruelly went back on his word, beating me, and jailing me for three months. Then I was sent to a Cambodian camp and jailed three months longer.

When I was released I had no one to stay with. Pastor Sorn Sophat took me in. In his home I found Isaiah 9:6—"the government shall be upon his shoulder . . . The *everlasting* Father [not a temporary reign like that of Buddha], The *Prince of Peace*." It was just as my parents had told me earlier. Now I knew that I did believe in God. I am now going to college to prepare to serve as a minister in Cambodia.

Thank you and may God's grace be with us forever.

**Norgn Van Sorannarom:** I am Norgn Van Sorannarom. As a boy I attended the Buddhist temple with my family for many years. Although I didn't learn how to obey the religion, I always thought it was a very happy place to be, because there were a lot of cakes and food for me.

When I was 11 (1975) I lived under the

Pol Pot genocide regime, a regime without religion. It was very, very bad, and I worked hard in the fields. During those days I forgot all about Buddhism, except for the cakes and food.

From 1979 to 1986 I studied in the middle school in a refugee camp, and there I met a lot of foreign Christians who came to work there. After I learned a little English I wanted to practice it, so I always enjoyed going to the hospital to talk to the foreign Christians. They were very kind and gentle and they told me the story of Jesus.

One morning as I was walking by the side of the road on my way to school I forgot that the Thais drive on the left side of the road, and a taxi-bicycle ran over me. It was the first time in my life I had had an accident, and I was very frightened. All I could do was to lie there on the road. No one came over to help me; they just laughed and then laughed again.

Five minutes later another car was coming toward me. The people shouted at me to move, but I couldn't do it. My legs had been badly hurt and I couldn't move. In fact, I thought I was dying.

But fortunately that car held my Christian friends. They ran over to me quickly, saying, "Norg, don't worry. We will take you to the hospital." What a different feeling I had! It was then that I knew Christians are the best helpers of all.

In Camp No. 2 there were two Seventh-day Adventist churches. My family went to church every day. One day I visited with them and they told me about Jesus. This made me remember my Christian friends and the stories they used to tell me. After three months I finished the Way of Life Bible lessons and was baptized by Pastor Barolome in 1986.

After my baptism I continued to study, and then the Lord gave me the ability to preach. I am an engineering student and must work very hard and study a lot of subjects, but I always find time to read my Bible. In Cambodia only elders from 50 to 100 years old can become pure Buddhists, but the Adventist religion is different. I can teach the young people.

Christianity is the best religion in the world. I believe it is so.

**Yin Ya:** My name is Yin Ya. I was a Buddhist before I came to Campsite II. There I saw many people carrying a black Book, but I didn't understand what they did with it.

One day I went to school and some of my friends there said a very bad word about Jesus, and I questioned myself, *Why did they say that? What is the matter with them?*

Later I was feeling sorry for my life and thinking a lot about my family—how poor they were. *What can I do to help them?* I asked myself. Then I thought, *Never mind; they will soon be going to the United States.* At that moment a man stood in front of me and began speaking Cambodian.

“Hello! How are you doing?”

“I don’t know.”

“Are you unhappy?”

“No,” I answered, although I was unhappy.

“I would like to help you.”

“Yes, of course, help me.”

“God can help you with anything, if you only believe that He can.”

“God can help me?” I asked, full of surprise.

The man continued by saying that a doctor needs people who are patient, and so does Jesus Christ. Those who would like to follow Him and are willing to abandon everything for Him He will never give up. He loves all people. Then he said that no one can separate us from His love.

“So, right now you are gloomy and worried and impatient and with many sins as well. But God can help you. God can liberate you. God can forgive you if you only believe Him.”

“How can I believe in Him?”

“It is very easy to decide to believe in Him.”

“Can God help me to go and live in the United States?”

“God can do anything, because He Himself created everything.”

Then I got very angry with the man because he hadn’t answered my question. But now that I have studied *Good News for You*, I can understand the problems and appreciate the tact of my teacher and his wise explanation to my question. I have given up my old way of life, my former ambitions have disappeared, and I am a Christian now.

Today I am the happiest man alive because I live in close communion with God and I know that the new life that I have acquired is *a forever life without finale*.

**Hostess:** Stop with me, and contrast in your mind the two scenes: the Killing Fields of Cambodia, and Yin Ya’s “forever life without finale.” [Pause.] Did you hear the screams of people dying? Do you hear the screams of people lost when Jesus comes—crying for the rocks and mountains to fall on them? In contrast, did you hear Jesus say, “Come unto Me”? Do you hear Him asking you to help Kampuchians today, and also the Micronesians and the Japanese students? You will hear Him as you listen to the primaries sing this special appeal from the Far East.

**Special Song:** “Jesus Loves the Little Children in the Far East,” by primaries. See page 18.

**Offering:** Received by kindergartners as they sing the traditional version of “Jesus Loves the Little Children.”

**Gratitude Prayer:** A young person.

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### *Did you know that the Far Eastern Division has*

- \* 201 million of the world’s 945 million Muslims?
- \* 263 million of the world’s 316 million Buddhists?
- \* 24 million of the world’s 718 million Hindus?

To reach these special groups you gave the Far Eastern Division \$459,971.86 (25 percent of the total Thirteenth Sabbath Offering) during fourth quarter 1989. The Far Eastern Division gratefully says “Thank you!”

**Sabbath School members love Global Mission!**

**Let’s do it again today!**

# FAR EASTERN DIVISION



Unions	Churches	Membership	Population
Bangladesh	68	8,227	116,600,000
Central Philippine	572	124,178	11,056,460
East Indonesia	456	63,111	17,045,943
Japan	106	12,994	123,609,000
Korean	503	102,422	64,623,401
Myanmar	141	14,277	42,125,998
North Philippine	1,065	160,868	33,930,660
South China Island	58	9,960	26,517,486
South Philippine	989	241,977	17,312,880
Southeast Asia	266	49,149	159,151,470
Sri Lanka	26	2,043	17,400,000
West Indonesia	452	64,485	164,354,057
Guam-Micronesia Mission	15	2,539	240,000
<b>Totals June 30, 1991</b>	<b>4,717</b>	<b>856,230</b>	<b>793,967,355</b>

## Projects

1. Micronesia Mission training center, Pohnpei
2. Global Mission, Kampuchea (Cambodia)
3. Development of Kitaura San-Iku Junior High School, Japan