

GLOBAL MISSION

Frontline

STORIES AND NEWS FROM OUR TENTMAKERS | VOLUME 22 • NUMBER 3

**Sharing Jesus in
the Middle East**





Every Bicycle Needs a Bible

Reaching out to a security guard in the Middle East

The following story was written by a frontline worker in the Middle East and North Africa Union.

I wish you could meet Hussein, the security guard for the building where my wife and I live as tentmaker missionaries in the Middle East. From the time we first met him, we could tell he observed his faith carefully and lived with sincerity. I liked him.

Hussein has visited our home many times, and he has invited us to his. We

have often conversed about the simple things in life and even sometimes about spirituality. At our initiative, he has graciously joined us in prayer.

As our friendship grew stronger by God's grace, we sought to take a new step in our friendship. We began to pray for the right moment to give him a Bible.

One day, Hussein was upset. He impatiently explained that his bicycle, his only transportation to work, had been stolen. He was preoccupied with trying to find a bicycle to borrow. That day, I began praying for a bicycle for my friend.

Several months passed, and we received an unexpected gift of US\$40. I was puzzled. It seemed like God had sent the money directly from heaven. As I was praying a short time later, the distinct thought came to me, *Show Jesus to your friend. Buy a bicycle for Hussein.* I set aside the \$40 and began adding to it.

But the country's economy worsened by the day, and no matter how much money I saved, it wasn't enough to buy a bicycle. Still, I kept praying and saving. I also went to many second-hand bicycle shops. I began imagining what it would be like to give Hussein a bicycle for his birthday!

Celebrating Hussein's Birthday

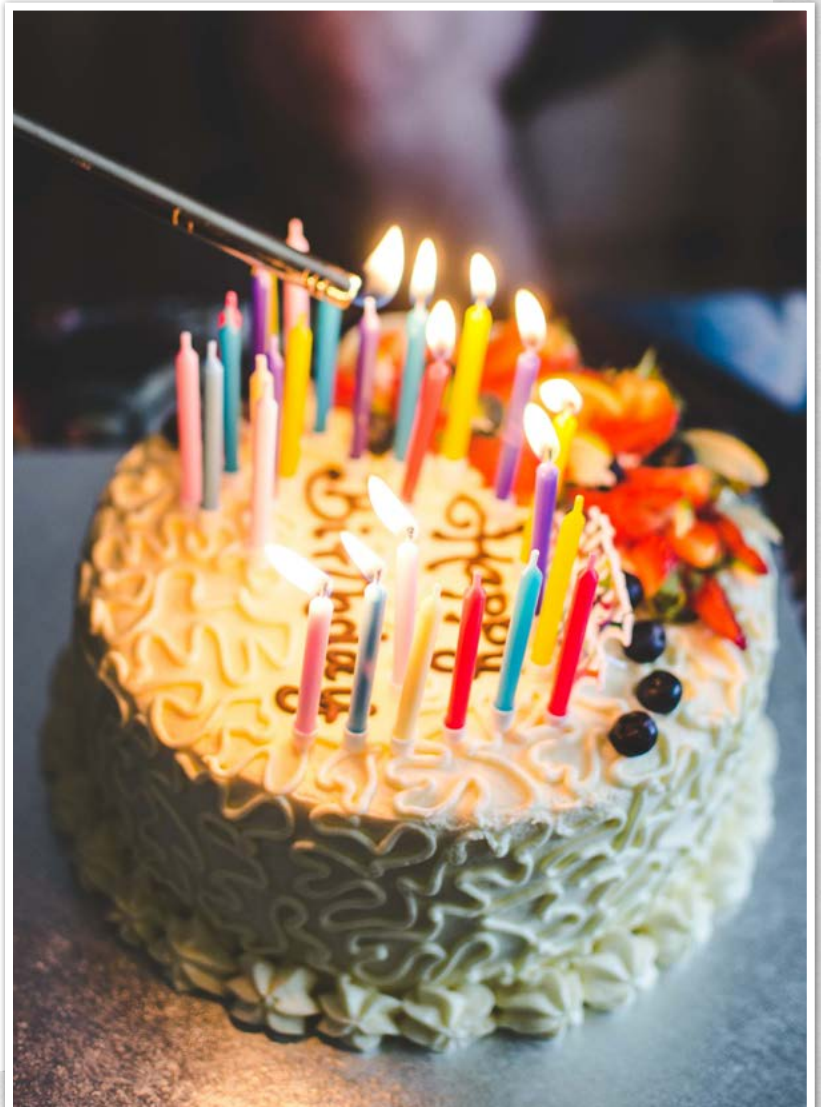
When Hussein's birthday came, my wife baked a cake, I planned a special menu, and we invited him to come for supper at 5:30 PM. Certain that God could still answer with a miracle, I went looking for the bicycle we had prayed about for so long. At 5:00 PM I returned home, unsuccessful and discouraged. My wife reminded me that God knew how much we wanted to help and how much we had prayed.

"He's taking care of the situation," she assured me.

The supper was a perfect surprise. Hussein was delighted! He told

us how blessed he was to have us in his life. We enjoyed the meal together, presented him with the cake, and had a special prayer for him, thanking God for his life. But we had no bike. No gift.

The next day, still searching for a second-hand bike, I was startled by an online post indicating that a Russian man had listed a bicycle for sale at a very good price only 10 minutes earlier. I couldn't believe the price, the photo, or the condition of the bicycle. Grabbing my phone, I contacted the owner and even bravely asked for a small bargain.





We made the deal and met for the exchange. As I lifted the bicycle into the back of my car, I knew God had answered our prayers. The bicycle cost the exact amount that I had saved over many, many months.

As my wife and I inspected the answer to our prayers, we wondered aloud, “What if we give Hussein a Bible with the bicycle?”

We wrote a card and wrapped the Bible that we had bought many months earlier. We prayed for the best moment to present him with the gifts. I carefully planned what to say. I knew that the bicycle would be meaningful, and I hoped that the Bible would be a sensitive step toward sharing truth.

Indescribable Joy

Hussein was overwhelmed with emotion when we arrived at his door with the bicycle. The bicycle looked impressive! But I never expected the expression on his face

as he gently held the Bible and carefully turned its pages. He was in awe. He was delighted. I don’t know who was happier—him or me. After two years of friendship, I was finally giving my friend and brother a Bible, the gift I had prayed about the most! My joy was indescribable.

A few days later, Hussein invited me to his home for tea. When I arrived, I found him reading the book of Genesis. His eyes sparkled. He explained that he had never read the Creation story before. I knew we had much to talk about, and I prayed for the Holy Spirit to give me the right words. That evening, we spoke of heaven and death. I showed Hussein some beautiful verses in his new Bible.

As we spoke, Hussein kept quietly leafing through the pages of the Bible. He seemed so engrossed with the Bible that I sensed God urging me to offer to study the Bible with him. I heard myself giving

that wonderful invitation, “Would you like to study the Bible together?” To my astonishment, he accepted—and with great eagerness.

That week, we began our Bible studies. God continued His amazing work, and He is still working. Hussein and I are both growing closer to God and each other.

My heart is filled with thanksgiving to God, and I am awed by the privilege of sharing God with Hussein. I am thankful to my wife for her kind and faith-filled support. I am thankful to relatives in my homeland who have prayed with us for Hussein. I am thankful for believing friends who have prayed for us during this experience. I thank God for sending us the money to buy the bicycle and giving us the courage to share His Word with someone who is thrilled to learn about God for the first time.

Is God Calling You to Be a Tentmaker?

Our church faces tremendous challenges in sharing Jesus in veiled countries, countries that have shut their borders to organized churches and traditional missionaries. But a tentmaker can bypass these barriers! Total Employment is the Global Mission tentmaker program.

A tentmaker is an Adventist professional who chooses to follow the example of the apostle Paul. Paul supported himself financially with his tentmaking trade, and as he talked with his customers, he looked for opportunities to lend a listening ear, meet a need, and share the good news of the gospel.

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Is God calling you to be a tentmaker? Hundreds of Adventist professionals of all types are needed. To learn more, visit **TotalEmployment.org**.

Like Paul, tentmakers mingle with people in the secular workplace while engaging in intentional, personal outreach. They form long-lasting relationships that enable them to touch hearts for Christ in ways they never could if they were official church workers.

Your donations to Global Mission help encourage and equip tentmakers by providing them with much-needed coaching, training, and spiritual support. Tentmakers are making a difference for Jesus, but they need your help. Please support their ministry with your prayers and donations.



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