

mission360

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EDITORIAL

Cities can be beautiful, especially at night when thousands of lights sparkle across the world's great urban skylines. But as we draw closer, we see more than just city lights. We see millions of people in these massive metropolitan centers. Today approximately four billion people—more than half of the world's population—live in cities.

When first starting out in ministry, I had the wonderful and challenging opportunity to pastor and serve in evangelism in the metropolitan New York area for seven years. It changed my life forever. Since that time, I've always had a strong burden for the cities. There is so much yet to do in mission to the cities.

One day while in New York, I saw graffiti that captures the challenge of living and working in the large cities of the world. It read, "Concrete jungle: A hard life." While there are many good and bad things about any large city, let's always remember the people living there—the rich in their penthouses, business people in their offices, merchants in their shops, young professionals in their lofts, students in their dorms, the poor in the streets—all who need

Christ and the hope of the Advent message.

I'm delighted that this special issue of *Mission 360°* focuses on urban mission and how Adventist Mission is reaching out to the people of the cities through the church's Mission to the Cities emphasis.

In the following pages, you'll meet Seventh-day Adventists who are making a positive difference in cities by finding creative ways to bring others to Jesus. One such person is Rony, who owned a successful recycling company in Brazil but is now using his unique skills in the ancient city of Cairo, Egypt, to turn the community dump into a beautiful park.

You'll read about Global Mission pioneers in Lagos, Nigeria, who are reaching business executives by offering health seminars and the unemployed by offering free medical services and job skills training. As follow-up, both groups are given spiritual opportunities and resources.

In the city of Ruse, Bulgaria, you'll meet Anton, a former martial artist who became a Seventh-day Adventist. After his conversion, Anton no longer wanted to practice martial arts, but he needed to find a new way to make a living. Today he is a successful artisan baker working at The Banquet Table—an Urban Center of Influence.

Across China, millions of people are hearing God's Word through an innovative radio program, *Good Morning, China*, run mainly by young people. And you'll read how two little missionaries in the city of Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan, are helping to make it possible for more children in their city to receive an Adventist education.

This and much more awaits you in the pages of this beautiful, dynamic, and engaging magazine, including an opportunity to become personally involved in reaching people who live in cities. In the section titled, "The Urban Top 10," listing the top 10 urban metropolises around the world, you'll have the opportunity to select a city that you can remember on a regular basis in special prayer.

May the Lord bless you as you come face-to-face with the people of the cities, and may He inspire each one of us in what we can do to reach these precious souls for Him in Mission to the Cities, Comprehensive Health Ministry, and Total Member Involvement.

Maranatha!

Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson
President, Seventh-day
Adventist Church



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ABOUT OUR COVER PHOTO . . .

Photo by Ricky Oliveras

As I wandered through one of the main city squares in Istanbul, Turkey, I encountered this woman selling cups of birdseed for feeding pigeons. I purchased two cups, taking one for myself and handing the other one to her. She was so surprised that I wanted her to join me in feeding the birds that she started laughing. Although we communicated only through gestures, I think it's safe to say we both enjoyed feeding the birds together.



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HAVE I Failed YOU?

I'd always said that I'd never go to Africa, that it wasn't my thing. But that didn't mean that it wasn't God's thing for me. In fact, as I settled into my new job as assistant girls' dean at Maxwell Adventist Academy in Kenya, I strongly suspected it was His thing because it seemed that everything was conspiring to make me grow!

One unpleasant experience in particular taught me several meaningful lessons. It happened one evening as I walked down the dormitory hall to make sure the girls had quieted down for the night. As I passed one room, I heard loud voices coming from inside. I paused to listen. I could hear every word as the girls

vehemently criticized someone. Then, to my horror, I realized they were talking about me!

Few things are as painful to me as being criticized behind my back. I was so upset that before thinking the situation over, I flung open the door and just stared at the girls. They sat in silence, staring icily at the floor. They may have felt ashamed for being busted, but they were definitely not sorry. At least not enough to apologize.

I don't remember much of the conversation I had with the angry girls that night, but I clearly remember the talk I had with God. He's the best listener I've ever known. It was hard to be far away from family and friends who shared my culture and mind-set,



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and through this experience and similar ones, I learned what it means to depend on Jesus as my Comforter and Counselor.

“What they said really hurt me,” I told Him, choking back the tears. “I’m doing my best to show them Your love, but no matter what I do, it’s never good enough for them. Have I really failed You and my mission here?”

As I knelt alone in my apartment, I felt God’s tender yet firm response. “It doesn’t matter what they think or say about you. What matters is what I think of you, and I love you. I’m proud of you.”

Sweet comfort washed over me and with it a strong impression to release my grudge in forgiveness.

That week I was responsible for school worship. I had prepared a topic for the next morning, but I felt that God wanted me to talk about forgiveness instead. I shared my hurtful experience without mentioning any names and my desire to forgive as Jesus forgives me. Before the day was over, both young women sought me out to apologize. According to some staff members, this was unusual for them. I was touched by the girls’ gesture and grateful that God’s leading in my life had touched their hearts.

To say that the girls and I became best friends or that we never had conflicts again would be a lie. We’re all sinners in need of grace. And the fact that God created us as unique individuals means our differences can create interpersonal challenges. But the experience helped me grow in dealing with these frictions in a more Christlike manner. They also helped me realize that it’s OK for me not to be liked by everyone. God created us to be different to enable us to reach different people for Him. Some people will be inspired by my life; others will be more inspired by someone else’s. He hasn’t called me to be popular but to be faithful in loving people.

In the end, I praise God that it’s not about me. It never was and never will be. It’s about Jesus.

Originally from Norway,

Tina Jeanette

Gustavsen spent a year as a volunteer assistant girl’s dean at Maxwell Adventist Academy in Nairobi, Kenya. She is currently living in Norway, studying biblical counseling.




adventist
volunteer
service

If you’re interested in being a volunteer, please visit **AdventistVolunteers.org**.

- 1 I loved being able to engage in community outreach!
- 2 My favorite thing about being an assistant dean was getting to hang out with the girls. These beauties dropped by my apartment to talk about their joys and sorrows.
- 3 Enjoying a little down time with fellow volunteer missionaries and contract workers.
- 4 It was wonderful to enjoy God’s creation in game parks such as Maasai Mara.





Taking Out the Trash

HOW RECYCLING TRANSFORMED A COMMUNITY



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“They keep throwing garbage on our wall.”

Day after day, the wall surrounding Nile Union Academy became the refuse dump for the community. “I’m sorry,” said the people, “but we have no other options.”

You see, in Cairo, Egypt, there are not many places to put trash. Throughout the city, piles of trash can be seen burning along the side of the road. It seemed that there were no good solutions. There was simply too much trash and nowhere to put it.

But God has special workers around the world, and He uses them in unique ways to His glory.

Rony owned a successful company that recycled electronic equipment in Brazil, but he felt that God was calling him to do something bigger.

“I have a passion for helping people, and I’m thankful that God gave me a wife who shares my desire,” says Rony. “Three years ago, we dedicated our lives to serving others and asked God to send us to a place where we could be a blessing.”

God led Rony and his wife to Nile Union Academy and gave them a passion for cleanup! Rony noticed that the campus wall had become the community dump, and he wanted to change that. Since the city workers cleared the area only every two months, he started his project by going out and cleaning around the wall every day.

Garbage continued to pile up, and people told him that he would never last and should give up this impossible dream. Nonetheless, Rony pressed on.

He began working closely with the academy students to educate and employ them to be stewards of the earth. “It’s fun to see the students come and say, ‘I want to work with you.’” No one wanted to work with the garbage before Rony started his program. The garbage was collected and burned inside the school. This was the least popular student job available, and it was almost always the last chosen.

“Now we have a line of students waiting to work with me next semester. They can see something good in this project, and it’s rewarding to see that they want to get involved,” Rony says proudly.

He has created a special system to teach the students the proper way to recycle or dispose of the trash left along their wall. Rony

explains, “We separate by color to make it easier for everyone to understand.”

Green means anything recyclable. Brown is for food waste or compost that can be used on the academy farm. And gray represents regular trash or anything unknown. They use this system on campus, teaching the students, workers, and teachers how to separate their waste. Slowly, this concept is being introduced to the local community.

Once the trash has been separated appropriately, all recyclables are brought to the campus sorting facility. Plastic, glass, and cardboard are then sorted for the next step: pressing. “We press them in this machine to sell. So we can clean the community, treat the garbage properly, and make money to improve human development for the community,” Rony says.

Since the beginning of the project, Rony and the student workers have already moved more than 250 tons of garbage! The program has earned the respect of city leaders who recognized Rony’s hard work. Now, they send trash pickup three times a week!

Rony doesn’t want to stop there. His next dream is to build a beautiful community park outside the academy walls. He wants to impact the community in positive ways to bring others to Jesus.

It may not be a glamorous calling, but Rony feels he is right where God wants him to be. “If I can help this community, learn to understand the people and improve their lives, I’m happy with that.”

Photos by Ricky Oliveras.

Kayla Ewert is a communication projects manager for the Office of Adventist Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



To watch a video about Rony, called “The Trash Transformation,” visit m360.tv/s1717.



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- 1 Rony and staff clean up the academy wall.
- 2 Rony and his student workers have moved more than 250 tons of garbage!
- 3 Rony explains his trash sorting process.
- 4 Bags of recyclables ready to be crushed and sold.
- 5 A model of Rony’s new dream: a community park.



Paving the Way

Welcome to Lagos, the second-most-populated city on the African continent. This sprawling metropolis has been called Africa’s hub of creativity, fashion, and business. Here, Global Mission pioneers are paving the way for God to work wonders in people’s lives.



Adiele

Adiele and his Global Mission teammate, Nathaniel, are reaching out to Lagos’ businesspeople. “We’ve learned that different methods are needed to reach different people groups,” he says. “The executives in Lagos are interested in a healthy lifestyle that can help them thrive in their careers and personal lives.”

Adiele and Nathaniel worked with their Global Mission director, Durodola, and the Lagos Atlantic Conference staff to create a seminar called Healthy Executive. The program offers attendees the opportunity to interact with renowned health and medical professionals to find solutions to their individual health concerns.



Nathaniel

“Lagos’ executives are busy and hard to access,” Nathaniel says. “We try to visit them at their estates, but they seldom welcome us, so we leave a brochure inviting them to the Healthy Executive seminar.”

Many of the professionals who attend the seminar invite their family and friends to join them. Some have even asked the pioneers to visit them in their homes. “This has given us an opportunity to pray with them and share some of Ellen White’s books on physical and

spiritual well-being,” Nathaniel adds.

When the health seminar is over, the pioneers invite their new friends to a series of meetings about Jesus.

The pioneers also reach busy professionals through a Bible study website they’ve created. They have staff members on hand to chat with people and answer questions.

“You’ve helped us reach many people for Christ,” says Nathaniel, “but there are still so many in this city who don’t know Him. Thank you for supporting our ministry, and please help us do more!”

Francis

Francis is planting churches in an area of Lagos where many people are physically disadvantaged and unemployed.

There was no Adventist presence in the area when Francis began his work. “I visited people in their homes to talk and pray with them and offered Bible studies to



Francis often shares Jesus with people on their way home from work.



Okonkwo (left) and Francis often read the Bible and pray together.

anyone who expressed an interest," he says. "Then, we held a series of evangelistic meetings and several people were baptized." Francis planted a church that now has 25 members and just keeps growing!

He is involved in a health empowerment program that offers vision tests, glasses, and other medical services at no cost. "The people love our church for doing this and ask about our beliefs," Francis says. "I've had many opportunities to talk with them about my faith and share Adventist materials with them."

Francis is also working with a team from the Lagos Atlantic Conference to create empowerment programs to equip the unemployed with job skills.

Okonkwo

Okonkwo recently gave his heart to Jesus and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "I did this because Francis spent one-on-one time with me, helping me understand the Bible," he says.

"I'm busy, and I don't have much time to study at home, so he walked beside me on my way to and from work, preaching the Word with every step.

"I've had some real challenges in my life," Okonkwo adds, "so I really appreciate that Francis prayed with me and my family and continually encouraged us. Our lives are improving small small (little by little), and I'm very happy now!"



Durodola

Durodola is the Global Mission director for the Lagos Atlantic Conference. "There are so many parts of Lagos where people don't know Jesus," he says. "Less than two percent of Lagosians have been reached with the three angels' messages. We need many more pioneers to work in this big city.

"I want to thank you for supporting our Global Mission ministry. You've made an incredible difference in the lives of many people. Please continue to help us, so that we can minister to many more people and share the good news of Christ's love and soon return."

Laurie Falvo serves as the editor of *Mission 360°* for the Office of Adventist Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



To watch the video story "Paving the Way," visit m360.tv/s1721.

Global Mission

The Global Mission program was established by the 1990 General Conference Session to reach the unreached people groups of the world.

Global Mission pioneers

- plant churches in areas or among people groups where there's no Adventist presence;
- are usually local people who already speak the language and understand the culture, enabling them to contextualize the gospel message for a lasting effect;
- receive a basic stipend, making them more affordable than traditional missionaries; and
- share the good news of Jesus through holistic ministry, such as providing medical care, teaching agricultural skills, offering literacy programs, holding evangelistic meetings, and giving Bible studies.
- In the past five years, pioneers have supported 5,281 church planting projects in 104 countries. Their ministry wouldn't be possible without your donations and prayers. Thank you!

If you would like to support Global Mission, be assured that every dollar will go directly to the front lines of mission, reaching people who are still waiting to hear about Jesus.

Ways to Give

- **Online**
Visit Giving.AdventistMission.org to make a secure online donation quickly.
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BREAK BREAD, NOT BOARDS,

Anton was fascinated by the martial arts. Karate, judo, kung fu, kickboxing—he loved them all. He became so skilled, he was selected to study in the prestigious Bulgarian National Sports Academy, where he started a sports club and competed in scores of tournaments.

Anton was pleased with his hard-won success, but he felt that something important was missing in his life. One day, he discovered what that something was when he learned about Christ. He fell in love with Jesus and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church family.

Anton was a changed man. He had never felt happier—or more unsettled. The tournaments he had once relished not only created a conflict with Sabbath keeping but also generated an internal sense of aggression that he found incompatible with his new life. But what was he to do? Martial arts competitions were the only way he knew how to make a living.

It was during this time of Anton's struggle that God answered a special prayer for a group of his Adventist friends, including a businessman named Chris and his wife, Gabriela. They had been praying for two years, asking God to show them how to reach their city of Ruse for Jesus. They had never heard of Urban Centers of Influence, as advocated by Ellen White, yet they felt impressed to start such a center in one of their rental properties.

Chris and Gabriela wondered what services they could offer to meet people's needs and form friendships with them. As they evaluated their community and the resources God had given them, they discovered some amazing possibilities. Their pastor was a psychotherapist who was willing to conduct weekly seminars. A church member was a masterful seamstress. Community members wanted to volunteer their talents to teach classes in fitness, English, and German. Gabriela could create



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The city of Ruse, with its universities, industries, major transportation hub, and cultural centers, is an ideal location for an Urban Center of Influence. Chris and Gabriela's building was perfectly situated as well—only a few minutes' walk from a university and the city center.

scrumptious pastries. All that was missing was for someone to bake delicious, healthful bread.

Anton, with his martial arts background, had always been interested in healthful living and wondered whether he could become a successful baker. With Chris and Gabriela's encouragement, he searched the Internet for recipes and hesitantly started to learn how to bake bread. Today, with God's blessing, Anton is a successful artisan baker, and the center sells every loaf of bread he can bake.

Thinking of Psalm 23 and the bountiful table God provides, Chris and Gabriela named their center The Banquet Table. "What a joy it is to see people become interested in the Bible!" says Chris. "For the past three months, a group has met here every Sabbath and some are preparing for baptism!"

There are plenty of incentives for guests to step inside, including a bakery, café, free classes and seminars, counseling services, a literature rack, concerts, and a playroom for children.

In The Banquet Table, visitors find excellent products and services and, best of all, new friendships with joyous Adventist Christians. They may even discover how God changed Anton from a competitive martial artist to a baker for the Bread of Life!

Pastor Brad Thorp is the assistant to the president for Evangelism Outreach at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters. He visited Bulgaria in preparation for the Total Member Involvement initiative in Eastern Europe.



Urban Centers of Influence

Adventist Mission supports wholistic mission to the cities. This includes a rapidly growing number of Urban Centers of Influence (UCIs), that serve as a platform for putting Christ's method of ministry into practice and provide an ideal opportunity for Total Member Involvement (TMI) in outreach that suits each person's gifts and passions.

From refugee assimilation centers, juice bars, and secondhand shops to cooking classes, cafés, and after-school childcare, UCIs provide long-term, on-the-ground ministry that connects with people on a local and personal level.

To learn more about UCIs, please visit UrbanCenters.org and MissionToTheCities.org. To learn more about TMI, please visit tmi.adventist.org.

Christ's Method of Ministry

"Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 143).



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- 1 Anton, martial artist turned baker.
- 2 Chris and Gabriela with Pastor Thorp in front of The Banquet Table.
- 3 A delicious, healthful meal served to customers.
- 4 Chris and Gabriela were delighted to see God at work when a friend donated a piano and then a local music academy asked if its students could perform concerts at The Banquet Table.
- 5 Attractive books and magazines are available to everyone.



My Ticket Home



I stepped off the plane in Pucallpa, Peru, and was greeted by a blast of wet heat. The air smelled like burning trash, and I could already feel sweat rolling down my forehead. It was 95 degrees Fahrenheit and 95 percent humidity.

It was about a 10-minute drive to my destination, the Ambassadors Medical Outreach and Relief (AMOR) Projects missionary clinic that would serve as my home base while I taught English at Ucayali Adventist Academy.

Always eager to take in new sights, I was surprised when all I wanted to do was rest my eyes in the car. *Maybe I'm just exhausted from the trip and stressed from getting ready*, I thought.

I went to bed that night on a mattress about a foot too short and tried not to touch the mosquito net that hung closely all around me. I was terrified of getting malaria and was certain I'd die

if a mosquito even touched me. I could hear the buzz of their tiny wings, even above the croaking of the frogs outside, jettisoning my biggest fear all around the room. By now, my head throbbed and my stomach churned.

I spent my first few days lying in a hammock, sweating, shoeing flies, and darting to the nearest bathroom. *Nice welcome*, I thought. Between bathroom trips, I watched longingly as planes flew overhead on their way out of Pucallpa. I'd never felt so jealous in my life.

The days passed slowly, hour by hour. My fear of getting malaria dissipated, but that had nothing to do with me settling in. I knew that if I got the "Big M," it would be my ticket home. It might be worth the risk.

I prayed earnestly every day for God to give me strength to meet the challenges in my path, and slowly things began to shift. I regained my health, made new friends, and even discovered where I could buy mac 'n cheese. Yet I still longed to go home.

Then something happened that helped me make a leap toward being happy in my new experience. I went to a Bible study one Friday night at Elder Matias' home, and he said something I'll never forget. He drew a parallel between growing as a Christian and the process of a refiner purifying unprocessed gold. He explained that God sometimes puts us in a fiery oven to remove our impurities. His goal isn't to hurt us. It's to make us the best that we can be.



If you're interested in being a volunteer, please visit AdventistVolunteers.org.



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- 1 Celebrating my birthday in typical Peruvian manner—smothered in eggs and flour and then sung to.
- 2 Departing the newly planted church with a motor-car full of my fellow student missionaries.
- 3 Playing with Pepe the smiling coati.

It was then that I understood that Pucallpa was my fire—something difficult and uncomfortable God was using to make me shine for Him. I'd been thinking that I was giving up necessities for my well-being, but I realized they were just impurities that kept me from growing in Jesus.

Elder Matias' words were the nudge I needed to change my perspective on my mission service. I took them to heart and began to soften to the idea of remaining in Pucallpa for the next nine months. Although it's blazin' hot most of the time and I feel like I'm literally melting, I know I'm melting spiritually and being molded into a beautiful work of God. I praise Him for the changes He's made and continues to make in my life.

I bought my ticket last week to fly home in five months. When

I got the confirmation e-mail, I couldn't help but feel sad. Five months isn't nearly enough now. I'm not ready to leave, and I don't think I ever will be. I still swat mosquitos and wipe sweat from my brow, but I'm not bothered by these things anymore.

I'm no longer envious of the people who fly out of Pucallpa each day. In fact, I know without a doubt that when I fly out, I'll look down at my new home and feel jealous of those who can stay.

Kainan Shaw served as a volunteer English teacher at Ucayali Adventist Academy in Peru. He is currently earning a business degree at Walla Walla University in Washington, United States, and plans to attend law school.



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The Refugees’ Mite

Twenty-seven Syrian refugee students and a few faculty members from the Adventist Learning Center (ALC) in Beirut piled into a tiny, rented bus. They were on their way to deliver sacks of clothing and food to refugees camping north of the city.

Their adventure was the result of a challenge presented to them by the ALC staff. Every year, people from around the world send donations to help provide for the students’ needs. Would the students like to help someone else now as a means of expressing their gratitude? The unanimous answer was yes!

The students immediately began asking friends and neighbors for donations. Then they dug into the limited supply of items that were meant for their own needs. One by one, they filled more than 30 large sacks with necessities such as winter jackets, rain boots, and shoes.

“Many of these students come from very poor homes without proper doors, windows, and walls,” says Alexis Hurd-Shires, ALC director. “Their parents are either unemployed or don’t have a steady source of income so sometimes they can’t pay the rent, buy proper clothing, or put food on the table. We think it’s important to

give the kids a chance to give back, but we make sure their needs are met too.”

This gesture of self-sacrifice from the refugee children touched Rick McEdward, president of the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission. “Sometimes I’m struck with how many times we share what we have at no sacrifice while others share what they need at great sacrifice,” he said. “The generosity of these kids is amazing.”

Finally, the little bus pulled into the refugee camp. The students, familiar with want and suffering, were shocked by what they saw. Children ran along the frozen ground with no shoes. Their homes, flimsy tents crumbling under the weight of rain, leaked icy water. Parents wearing thin, ragged clothing bore the brunt of bitter winds as they went about their daily tasks.

Moved with compassion, the students quickly distributed the food and clothing. Some of them visited the families in their tents while others started a game of football with the children under a nearby olive grove. They were sad to learn how long it had been since the young ones had seen a ball.

Some of the ALC students found a teenage girl trying to

“Sometimes I’m struck with how many times we share what we have at no sacrifice while others share what they need at great sacrifice.”

build a fire to heat water to wash clothes. They hunted for more wood and then helped her start a fire under her metal pot.

Ten-year-old Mohammad noted that there was no running water in the camp, no carpets on the floors, and no school for the children to attend.

Finally, the ALC group had to leave, and everyone gathered in a muddy field to say goodbye. “One older woman gave us the sweetest gift,” says Hurd-Shires. “She whispered to me that for a few hours, we had made them forget their circumstances.”

This story was shared with Mission 360° by the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission.



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Urban Centers of Influence (UCIs)
 More than 100 years ago, Ellen White championed an outreach model that she called centers of influence: small platforms for launching Christ’s method of ministry and connecting to city communities.
 Global Mission has helped to establish more than 45 UCIs, and many more are in the planning stages. To learn more about UCIs, please visit UrbanCenters.org and MissionToTheCities.org.

- UCIs**
- minister to people’s needs, lead people to Jesus, and plant new groups of believers.
 - present an ideal opportunity for Total Member Involvement in outreach that suits each person’s gifts and passions.
 - are staffed by local Adventist workers, Global Mission pioneers, and volunteers who partner with church ministry departments, institutions, and lay organizations.
 - are designed to become self-sustaining.



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- 1 An ALC student, middle, makes friends quickly with the refugee children.
- 2 Saying goodbye to new friends.
- 3 The ALC children helped the refugees start a fire.
- 4 A refugee child at the camp.
- 5 Inside one of the refugee tents.

MORE THAN NUMBERS

Want This City offers an unflinching look at the correlation between mission offerings and what happens on the front lines of mission.

In 1930, Adventists gave \$6.45 to the mission offering for every \$10 they returned in tithe. By 2008, that number had dropped to 36 cents for every \$10 given in tithe.*

In response to this steady decline, the Adventist Church produced *I Want This City*, a 13-part television series unlike any you've ever seen. The reality-style show follows Adventist missionary Pastor Doug Venn for nine months in Thailand's capital, Bangkok, one of the most unreached cities in the world.

"This TV show will make people upset," says Pastor Doug, who

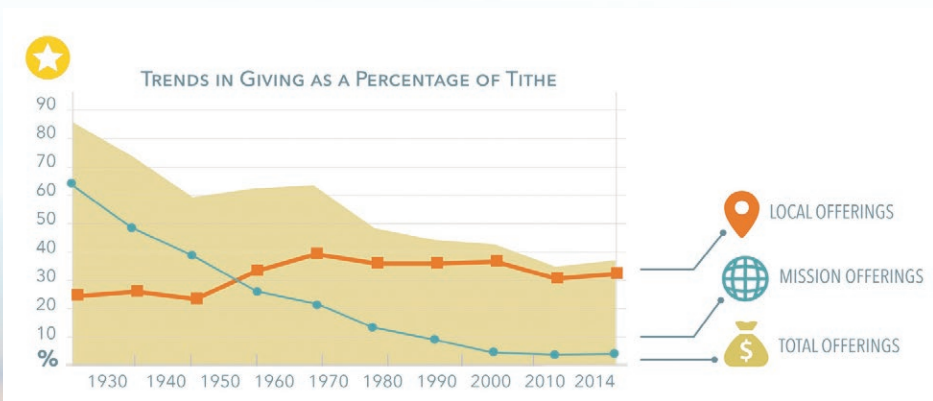
now oversees mission outreach to the world's cities as the director of Global Mission's Urban Center for the Adventist world church.

"Some people have expressed concerns about the TV show, asking, 'Is this really the face of foreign mission that we want to show church members?'"

"I tell them, 'Yes, it is.' The World Mission Fund offering, the mission offering collected during Sabbath School, has plummeted."

Recently, Pastor Doug was interviewed by *Adventist Review* in his office at the Adventist world church's headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, to discuss the television series and his passion for mission. He wept as he spoke about his longing to share Jesus in the world's cities and his desire for members to contribute more for mission offerings.

Below are several excerpts from that interview.



Data on worldwide Adventist giving from the GC treasurer's report at the 2015 General Conference Session.





Q: Why should I watch this TV series?

A: As Adventists, we believe that because we have received Jesus' amazing gift of grace, we should share it with the world. An important way to do that is

to give to the mission offering. But to some people that can feel like putting money into a black hole. They're not sure where it goes, who it supports, or what it achieves. This TV show explores how our giving and lack of giving actually affects frontline mission.



Q: How did the show come about?

A: *I Want This City* was commissioned by Gary Krause, director of the Office of Adventist Mission for the Adventist world church, in cooperation with Adventist filmmaker Jon Wood. They wanted to document the correlation between mission giving and what happens on the front lines of mission. From the United States, they reached out to me in Thailand, where I was working as a missionary.

Initially, I didn't understand the premise of the TV show. I was just trying to do my job as a frontline missionary, planting churches in Bangkok. I wondered why Jon kept asking about money when I was trying to do my work with impoverished people in the slums or the affluent in a mall. Jon was like a mosquito buzzing in my ear, asking, "Why don't we have money

"It is in working actively to supply the necessities of the cause of God that we bring our souls in touch with the Source of all power."

for this literature?" or "Why don't we have money to work in that area?" As the months passed, I gained an understanding of Jon's pointed questions.

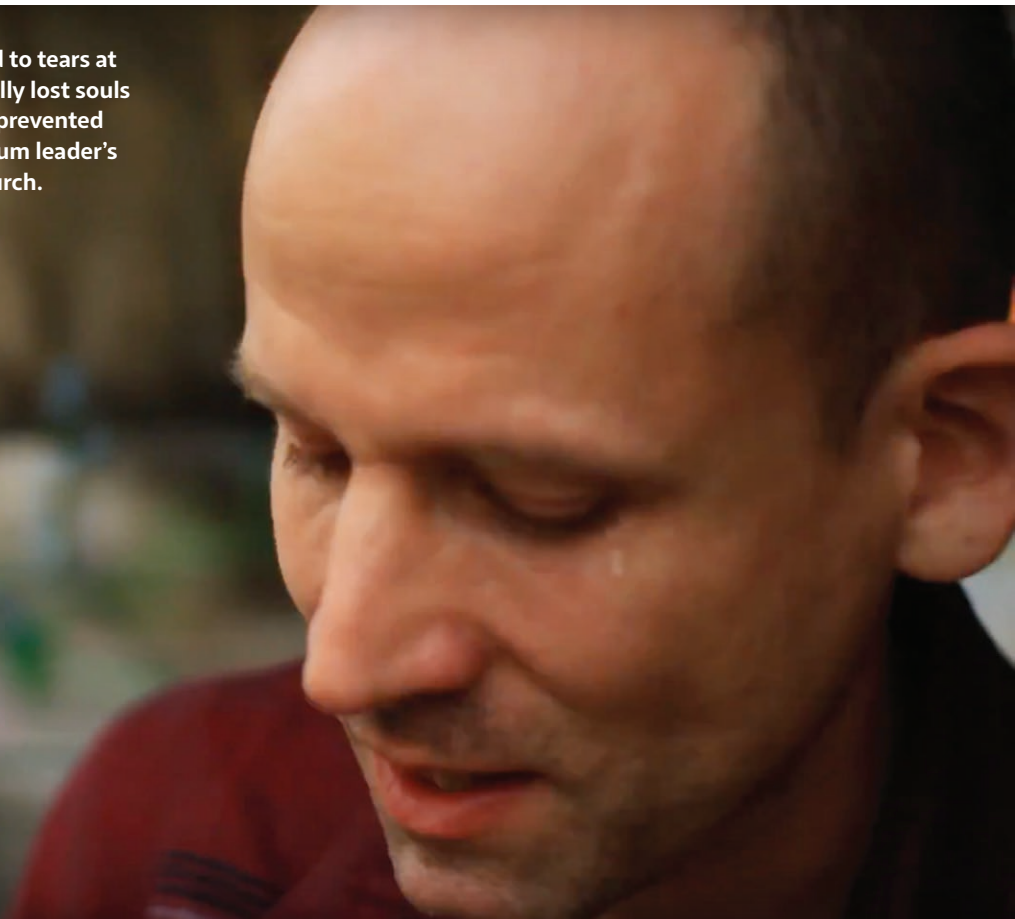
Q: Will I want to give money to Adventist Mission after watching *I Want This City*?

A: If you watch this, I think you'll be troubled. You'll feel proud watching some episodes

about what our church is doing. But in other situations you'll see that the work is truly languishing.

In Bangkok, I met a community of 80 families of trash pickers. They would go get plastic, paper, and aluminum cans to earn their rice money for the day. Then a flood came. Church members gave a mission offering for flood disaster response. We were able to directly impact that community of 80 families. As a result, the

Pastor Doug was moved to tears at the thought of potentially lost souls when a lack of funding prevented him from accepting a slum leader's invitation to build a church.



AdventistMission.org

community leader later accepted Jesus and was baptized. That led to us opening an Urban Center of Influence, a Sabbath afternoon Bible club for children in the neighborhood. This experience was a highlight—to see that lives are changed when God’s people pour out the money. I didn’t even ask for that money.

This TV show allows viewers to see how the gospel and the three angels’ messages of Revelation 14:6-12 impact neighborhoods. But then you’ll also see that church plants are being closed and publishing is closing because of a lack of money. The camera is in my face every day—both on the good days and the not so good.

After watching, we could pause to reflect on how God emptied heaven to give us grace and the three angels’ messages, and then say, “What can we do?” We are told by Adventist Church cofounder Ellen G. White that when we invest in foreign mission, we receive a blessing not only individually but also corporately as a world church. We need that blessing now.

Ellen White speaks about this in her book *Testimonies for the Church*, volume six, page twenty-seven, where she says: “The home missionary work will be farther advanced in every way when a more liberal, self-denying, self-sacrificing spirit is manifested for the prosperity of foreign missions; for the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries afar off. It is in working actively to supply the necessities of

the cause of God that we bring our souls in touch with the Source of all power.”

Q: How did your experience in Bangkok affect you personally?

A: It was thrilling to share hope with Buddhists in Bangkok. But I didn’t realize at first that the church as a whole is facing a major challenge because of declining mission giving.

You might say mission offerings are just numbers and everyone is doing what they can. But as a frontline missionary, I don’t see numbers. I see lives (Pastor Doug gestured toward a large photo of Bangkok’s cityscape in his office). When I look at this, I see a city where mission giving propelled us into new communities.

Q: How can viewers contribute?

A: The television series was commissioned by Adventist Mission, and people can go to Giving.AdventistMission.org to make a secure online donation.

You can support mission offerings during Sabbath School in your church every Sabbath.

Sometimes people want to see a compelling video or learn about a specific project before giving. We’ve lost sight of that ongoing sacrificial lifestyle where

we exclaim, “Wow, I have received God’s grace, and now I can share it through my giving!” We need to return to something that was called “Sister Betsy” in Adventist history: systematic benevolence. We’ve lost her.

I’m convinced that Christ’s coming is sooner than we expect. Many Adventists and people in the greater Christian community mistakenly think that we are done with missions. But that’s not the case. Foreign mission and home mission have such a great need right now. If we can break through that misunderstanding, I think we will receive greater joy. We will get to see lives changed—like those trash pickers in Bangkok.

** 2008 Annual Statistical Report of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The latest Annual Statistical Report, 2016, reveals that members gave 39 cents for every \$10 given in tithe in 2014.*



Just how unreached is Bangkok? Dedicate one Friday night or one Sabbath afternoon to finding out. Watch the series *I Want This City* at IWantThisCity.com.

Andrew McChesney

is the editor of the *Mission* quarterlies for the Office of Adventist Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters. Republished courtesy of the *Adventist Review*.



To learn about where your mission offerings go, please visit AdventistMission.org.

THE URBAN TOP 10

The 10/40 Window

The 10/40 Window, stretching from northern Africa into the Middle East and Asia, is home to two-thirds of the world's population, most of the world's least-reached countries and people groups, and the fewest Christians.



“I have many people in this city” —Acts 18:10, NKJV.

Take a look at the list below of the world's 10 largest urban metropolitan areas.* Many things could be said about them, but one of the most notable points for someone interested in mission is that 7 of them are in the 10/40 Window, which is where a huge majority of the world's unreached people live.

While 6.5 of 10 people on the planet live in this window, only 1.5 out of 10 Adventists are in that same window. We have work to do!

The good news about cities is that due to their diversity, those who live there are often more open to new ideas, including new ideas about God. So these top 10 metropolitan areas, with more

than 20 million people each, represent a tremendous opportunity for mission. With so many people in these places, we know that God's heart is drawn out to them. Is yours?

Will you pray or maybe even go? Will you give to support urban mission? Will you stake a claim for Christ where the need and opportunity are greatest?

1. GUANGZHOU METRO AREA

Country: China
Population: 48,600,000
Adventist members: 28,492[†]
Churches/companies: 146
Mission challenge:
Each church must reach 332,877 people.



China's Beijing-Guangzhou high-speed train travels the world's longest rail line with a total length of 1,428 miles.

Source: "Beijing-Guangzhou High Speed Train," TravelChinaGuide, travelchinaguide.com/china-trains/beijing-guangzhou.
[Photo credit] istock/huad262

2. TOKYO METRO AREA

Country: Japan
Population: 39,800,000
Adventist members: 2,385
Churches/companies: 11
Mission challenge:
Each church must reach 3,618,182 people.



Shibuya Crossing in Tokyo is the busiest pedestrian crossing in the world, accommodating as many as 3,000 pedestrians with each traffic signal change.

Source: Craig Fryer, "Shibuya Crossing," GoJapanGo.com, gojapango.com/places/tokyo/tokyo/landmarks/shibuya-crossing.
[Photo credit] istock/SeanPavonePhoto

3. SHANGHAI METRO AREA

Country: China
Population: 31,100,000
Adventist members: 7,531
Churches/companies: 37
Mission challenge:
Each church must reach 840,541 people.



Shanghai has the fastest elevator in the world. It travels at 45.8 miles per hour. Installed in the 2,073.4-foot tall Shanghai Tower, the tallest building in this photo, it travels 121 stories.

Source: "Fastest lift (elevator)," Guinness World Records, guinness-worldrecords.com/world-records/fastest-lift-(elevator).
[Photo credit] istock/zorazuhang

4. JAKARTA METRO AREA

Country: Indonesia
Population: 28,100,000
Adventist members: 21,742
Churches/companies: 86
Mission challenge:
Each church must reach 326,744 people.



With more than 10 million vehicles on the roads each workday, Jakarta has some of the worst rush-hour traffic on the planet.

Source: Joe Cochrane, "Gridlocked Jakarta Becomes Even Worse, at Least for a Week," The New York Times, April 10, 2016, nytimes.com/2016/04/11/world/asia/gridlocked-jakarta-becomes-even-worse-at-least-for-a-week.html.
[Photo credit] istock/Herianus

5. DELHI METRO AREA

Country: India
Population: 26,400,000
Adventist members: 3,520
Churches/companies: 42
Mission challenge:
Each church must reach 628,571 people.



Azadpur Mandi is the largest produce market in Asia. About 3,000 trucks bring fruits and vegetables to more than 30,000 vendors each day.

Source: Imamul Hassan, "What Are the Mind Blowing Fact About New Delhi?" September 24, 2015, Quora, quora.com/What-are-the-mind-blowing-fact-about-new-delhi.
[Photo credit] IndiaPicture/Alamy Stock Photo

* Source for metropolitan populations: Thomas Brinkhoff, "Major Agglomerations of the World," Internet Archive, accessed February 21, 2017, <https://www.citypopulation.de/world/Agglomerations.html>.

† Source for Adventist church statistics: "It's Time!" GC Urban Conference 2013 and the Seventh-day Adventist Church world division "Mission to the Cities" reports, 2015-2017.

Karen Suvankham is the communication coordinator for the Global Mission Centers and Mission to the Cities at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR CITIES

Mission 360° invites you as individuals and churches to pray for these 10 largest metropolitan areas in the world.

Fill in the name of your city of choice and tear out this page to tuck in your Bible or display on your bulletin board at church as a reminder.

I WANT THIS CITY!

I want _____ for Jesus.
NAME OF CITY

I'll pray that God's Spirit will be poured out on this city in a mighty way so that its people will have the opportunity to know and love Christ and be ready for His soon return.

6. SEOUL METRO AREA

Country: South Korea
Population: 24,400,000
Adventist members: 78,375
Churches/companies: 116
Mission challenge:
Each church must reach 210,345 people.



Residents of Seoul enjoy the fastest Internet speed in the world.

Source: "Which City Has the World's Fastest Internet in 2016?" Dospedtest, May 26, 2016, dospeedtest.com/blog/which-city-has-the-worlds-fastest-internet-in-2016.
[Photo credit] istock/AsianDream

7. KARACHI METRO AREA

Country: Pakistan
Population: 24,300,000
Adventist members: 2,899
Churches/companies: 65
Mission challenge:
Each church must reach 373,846 people.



Karachi, the largest city in Pakistan, is highly multilingual, multicultural, and multireligious.

Source: "Karachi," wiki voyage, last updated February 28, 2017, en.wiki-voyage.org/wiki/Karachi.
[Photo credit] istock/PPI-Images

8. MANILA METRO AREA

Country: Philippines
Population: 23,300,000
Adventist members: 11,552
Churches/companies: 126
Mission challenge:
Each church must reach 184,921 people.



Three of the 10 largest malls in the world can be found in Metro Manila. One even houses an Olympic-sized ice skating rink.

Source: Dhiram, "World's Ten Largest Shopping Malls," *Luxurylaunches*, July 8, 2008, luxurylaunches.com/travel/worlds_top10_largest_shopping_malls.php.
[Photo credit] istock/Simon Podgorsek

9. MUMBAI METRO AREA

Country: India
Population: 23,200,000
Adventist members: 10,000
Churches/companies: 74
Mission challenge:
Each church must reach 313,514 people.



Mumbai has only 11.8 square feet of open space per person. That's less per person than in New York, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Mexico City, and Tokyo, making Mumbai the most cramped city in the world.

Source: "Facts About Mumbai," Fact 4 All, August 16, 2016, facts4allblog.wordpress.com/2016/08/17/facts-about-mumbai-bombay.
[Photo credit] istock/Extreme-Photographer

10. MEXICO CITY METRO AREA

Country: Mexico
Population: 22,100,000
Adventist members: 58,629
Churches/companies: 176
Mission challenge:
Each church must reach 125,568 people.



Mexico City is the most populous metropolitan area in the Western Hemisphere and the largest Spanish-speaking city in the world.

Source: <http://worldpopulationreview.com/world-cities/mexico-city-population>.
[Photo credit] istock/erlucho



Finally Free



1



2



3

Seventeen-year-old Niang is a refugee. She and her family fled religious persecution in Myanmar when she was a child.

“We knew our journey to the border of Myanmar would be dangerous,” Niang says, “because the government didn’t want anyone to leave. We made it to a boat and were just about to cross the river into Thailand when we were caught by soldiers. With their guns pointed, they ordered my mom and the other adults to get off the boat, but for some reason they let me and my siblings go.”

Niang eventually settled in Clarkston, Georgia, a city just outside Atlanta. It’s home to thousands of refugees from around the world and has been referred to by *Time* magazine as the most diversified square mile in the United States.

Niang was grateful to come to the United States, but she soon found herself being bullied at school for her beliefs. She came home crying every day, and her grades suffered. She prayed every night for God to make it possible for her to attend an Adventist school.

It was about this time that Kelli Czaykowski, an Adventist living in Atlanta, discovered the plight of Clarkston’s refugees. “The children shared their stories of fleeing for their lives, being separated from their families, watching their homes being burned, and trying to survive in the wild. I couldn’t sleep for three nights.

“I saw the kids living in gang- and drug-riddled neighborhoods. They slept on the floors of run-down apartments infested with

rats and roaches. The burden on my heart was so great, I had to do something.

“God,” I prayed, “I’m only one person, but if you open the doors for me to make a difference, I’ll walk through them.”

Kelli founded a nonprofit organization called FREE, which stands for Friends of Refugees Providing Education and Empowerment. Through FREE, Kelli and a group of volunteers provide refugees with resources to become self-sufficient, thriving members of the community. They share basic necessities and used clothing, furniture, and mattresses. They provide in-home English as a Second Language classes for adults and one-on-one tutoring for students. They offer assistance with filling out forms, job searches, and training. They take refugees to medical and legal appointments, paint and repair apartments, and clean up neighborhoods.

Kelli helped Niang and dozens of other refugee children get scholarships to attend an Adventist school to prepare for a life of service and self-sufficiency. Niang is currently attending Atlanta Adventist Academy where she has earned a 4.0 grade point average. “I’m so thankful that God answered my prayers,” Niang says.

“When I see these kids succeed after being brought up in really tough situations, it makes me feel amazing,” Kelli says. “This is God at work. I’m just a little part of His plan.”

Volunteer Allen Clark helps Kelli make lunches for the refugee



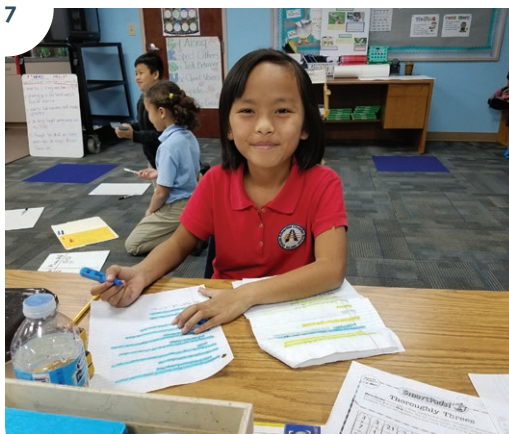
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- 1 Niang, right, with a refugee girl whom she helps.
- 2 Some of the children from the apartment buildings in Clarkston that house refugees.
- 3 Kelli and Kam Mer Saw on one of FREE's outreach days.
- 4 FREE donating used mattresses so the refugees don't have to sleep on the floor.
- 5 Three of Kelli's refugee girls are excited to receive a donated couch for their apartment.
- 6 Allen Clark, one of FREE's volunteers, holding Jaycee, for whom he provided a car seat.
- 7 Dim, one of the 61 students that FREE helped provide with scholarships.
- 8 One of the refugee boys was happy to find a bow tie and hat at an outreach event.

children who attend the local Adventist school. For many of the students, this is the only meal they get each day other than a bowl of rice at night. "I get so many hugs when I deliver the lunches," Allen says. "Sometimes the kids get so rambunctious they nearly knock me off my feet, but their pure joy and warm hugs are just indescribable."

Niang spends a lot of her free time welcoming and empowering fellow refugees in Clarkston. "Don't be afraid to go out and befriend a refugee," she says. "I'm pretty sure they'll be happy to have you in their life and, you never know, they might change your life too!"

Ricky Oliveras is a video producer for the Office of Adventist Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



To learn more about FREE, visit freerefugees.org.

Kelli, with her refugee project, is a perfect example of Total Member Involvement (TMI). TMI is a full-scale, world-church evangelistic thrust that involves every member, every church, every administrative entity, every type of public outreach ministry, as well as personal and institutional outreach. To learn more about TMI, please visit tmi.adventist.org.





Good Morning, China

Outside the windows of the small high-rise apartment, the predawn surroundings are pitch black. It's the middle of winter in northern China and bitterly cold. Zhang* leans into her microphone and welcomes her online listeners to the live Internet worship program, called *Good Morning, China*.

One by one, the names of group participants pop up on the chat screen. Some people are listening on their own, while others are gathered in small groups: families at home, youth groups, or clusters of people in their churches. They tune in through their computers or mobile phones every weekday morning.

The program is highly interactive. Some listeners queue up to read part of the featured Bible passage, while others submit questions to Pastor Jin as he presents the spiritual talk of the day.

"We decided that 5 A.M. is the best time to dedicate to God," Zhang says. "In big cities like this, it's easy for people to grow cold

spiritually, so we want to help them focus on God as they start their day. We have prayer time together and sing-alongs."

In the background of the tiny studio, another young woman is rapidly transcribing the program. By midmorning, a complete transcript will be posted online for those who wish to absorb the messages in written form. The audio recording is also repeated for listeners who can't quite make the early morning live broadcast. Last but not least, some of the recordings are aired by Adventist World Radio (AWR) as shortwave broadcasts, which can be picked up across China, much of Asia, and beyond.

Expanded Presence

This scene is currently duplicated in three other cities in China, and it represents a huge breakthrough in church outreach. AWR has broadcast to China through shortwave from the first day the station on Guam went on the air on March 6, 1987. But

The average age of radio team members here is 28. They're persevering despite considerable financial and personal sacrifice.

until recently, these programs were produced in Hong Kong and Taiwan, where church workers could operate with much more freedom.

"Some restrictions have been partially relaxed in recent years, so we approached AWR about setting up studios within mainland China itself," says media director John Chen. "We felt that producers who lived in the same communities as their listeners would be able to relate even better to the daily

issues and circumstances faced by listeners there.”

So AWR funded the equipment for four mini studios in 2012, and the new producers began quietly operating out of anonymous apartments in the selected cities.

Going on Faith

This broadcast ministry is largely driven by the keen dedication of young people. The average age of radio team members here is 28. They're persevering despite considerable financial and personal sacrifice.

Zhang, for example, is highly trained as a Japanese translator and could easily land a well-paying corporate job. But like her team members, she is living on an income that is 30 to 40 percent lower than the local average. Even these funds are not guaranteed because the young people are actually working on a self-supporting basis. This includes paying the rent on the apartment where the studio is set up.

“It's a struggle,” Zhang admits. “We feel guilty that we can't do more for our parents, who are working hard on farms far away from the city. Also, the reality is that many of us would like to get married, but it's not really possible at the moment. However, I choose to keep serving here. Radio is a good way to tell people about God.”

Chen regularly visits the teams to coordinate their work and encourage them. He says, “I come, see, and am blessed by these young people! I really respect them.”

Creative Outreach

These talented radio workers are using every means possible to share their message of hope and fund their ministry. Periodically, they collect their program transcripts into thick books and announce on social media that they're for sale. They also store their recordings on tiny MP3 players and sell those as well. Recently, they conducted a comprehensive audio-video training event, which other young people paid to attend.

“Through this training, young people can find their talents and their dreams,” Zhang says.

To appeal to young people who may not be interested in attending a traditional church service, Zhang's team members use their own money to rent a coffee shop on Saturdays and hold a Sabbath service there. They also fellowship with students at a nearby university and have established a second church there that focuses on young people. The student in charge is 20 years old.

Caution and Optimism

Alongside these highly encouraging reports, however, runs a continuous thread of caution. The degree of freedom varies greatly among the current studio locations. In some places, radio hosts and listeners feel free to use their real names; in other spots, everyone goes by pseudonyms. The size of the online chat groups must be capped to avoid scrutiny. And the radio topics are carefully selected to focus on God and specific needs in society but never politics or end-time issues.

Nevertheless, these modest studios and the faithful young people behind the microphones and keyboards are satisfying a real need in the hearts of listeners. Zhang says, “Up north, people have half a year of winter. It's very cold, with lots of snow, so it can be difficult for them to get to church. Other members can't attend because of handicaps or their professions. So even though the Internet is sometimes slow or our transmission is fuzzy, people are hearing the voice of hope through our broadcasts. Praise God!”

** All names have been changed.*

Shelley Nolan Freesland

is the communication director for Adventist World Radio at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



iStock.com/beijingstory



Adventist World Radio (AWR) is the official global radio ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its mission is to broadcast the Adventist hope in Christ to the unreached people groups of the world in their own languages. AWR's programs can be heard in more than 100 languages through AM, FM, shortwave radio, on demand, and on podcasts at awr.org and iTunes.

Thank you for supporting AWR through your mission and world budget offerings!

Fast Facts about AWR's work in China

- China is the church's largest mission field.
- Today, AWR's Mandarin shortwave programs are broadcast for 10 hours a day from Guam.
- AWR also serves China with programs in Cantonese, Min Nam, Tibetan, and Uighur.
- Mandarin is AWR's number one podcast language with more than eight million daily downloads.

Relieving the Sufferings of Humanity

EARLY ADVENTIST CITY MISSIONS

For its first two decades, Seventh-day Adventist mission reflected the largely rural nature of American society in which it had been founded. But in 1883, 20 years after the church was established, the General Conference Session took steps to found “city missions,” as they were called, in Chicago and New York City. Thereafter, city missions spread rapidly, thanks partly to the investment of considerable denominational resources. In 1884, the General Conference spent \$3,004.52 on the New York mission, 23 percent of its annual budget! The 1885 General Conference assigned three ministers to start a mission in New Orleans at a time when there were only three other Adventist ministers across the whole of the Deep South.

In 1888, the General Conference’s Home Mission secretary, E. W. Farnsworth, reported that there were 22 city missions in North America and 6 more overseas (2 in Scandinavia, 3 in England, and 1 in Australia). In the 22 American missions, there were “131 workers engaged in Bible work” who had “made 43,021 visits, with 10,353 families.” There had been 258 baptisms in the nine months leading up to June 30, 1888, and, according to Farnsworth: “Fully 1,000 persons have been converted since these missions began their work.”

1



In the 1880s “city work” meant systematic visitation to people’s homes, which contrasted with the public evangelistic campaigns regularly used in small towns. In addition to meeting spiritual needs, early Adventist city missions also met a range of social needs. For example, in 1884, “donations of bedding, fruit, flour, potatoes, etc.,” were solicited from church members. This trend toward a broadly conceived approach to city mission was to be reinforced by Ellen G. White.

In 1894, the *Review and Herald* published an article by Mrs. White entitled “Our Duty to the Poor and Afflicted.” She quoted Isaiah 1:17 (“Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow”) and then starkly declared: “Can we wonder that the curse of God is upon the earth . . . when his law is set aside as a thing of naught?” Here, defying God’s law is defiance of the repeated Old Testament injunctions to care for widows, orphans, and immigrants. White

drives the point home: “Through selfish pride, through selfish gratification, the blessing of God has been shut away from men and from his professed people, because they have despised his words, and have failed to relieve the sufferings of humanity.”

Dr. John Harvey Kellogg adopted “Our Duty to the Poor and Afflicted” as a blueprint for the Chicago mission, which he led. In 1896, the mission founded a maternity home for pregnant prostitutes; it later added a home for jobless working-class males. In 1897, the earliest Adventist welfare organization outside America was founded in Hamburg, Germany. By 1898, the Bow Bazaar Mission in Calcutta, India, directed by Dores Robinson, included a vegetarian restaurant, cooking school, and orphanage.

In 1900, Ellen White wrote approvingly of the “hygienic restaurant” and “also a food store and treatment rooms” in the San Francisco mission, and urged that this model should be emulated widely. In 1899, the

2



feeding the poor; on promoting wholistic health; on rescuing souls from “sin and degradation.” This is Christ’s method of ministry. It was also once the Adventist model of city ministry.

Photos courtesy of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research and the White Estate.

Born to missionary parents in India, **David Trim** is the director of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



3



“mission to the cities,” had in effect to start anew? What had gone wrong?

The answer is complicated and includes theological and organizational missteps in the early 1900s, especially by John Kellogg, who was disfellowshipped in 1907. He had been the most prominent leader of city work in the 1890s, and city missions seem to have been deemed guilty by association. Yet Ellen White rebuked church leaders for the failure to work in large cities and continued to tell them, as one veteran administrator acknowledged to the autumn council of 1910, “that it was not so much by public evangelists that the work was to be done, as by seeking out the people one by one through Bible work and canvassing effort, and medical missionary work.” It was Kellogg’s theology and ecclesiology that were the problem, not the urban methodologies that some associated with him (though widely used by Adventist city missionaries).

As the Seventh-day Adventist Church once again takes seriously the challenge of mission to the cities, Adventists would do well to rediscover and recover the methods used by our city-mission pioneers. Like them, we should focus on “relieving the sufferings of humanity”—on clothing and

General Conference president, George A. Irwin, spoke at length to that year’s General Conference about city work. He emphasized the meeting of socioeconomic needs and medical missionary work and stated, with satisfaction, that “this work has spread until now medical and rescue missions have been established, and are being successfully carried on, in nearly all the prominent cities in the United States. Thousands in this way are being clothed and fed, and souls are being rescued from sin and degradation.”

Why was it, then, that in 2010, the world church, in embracing

- 1 Ellen G. White sits for a portrait in 1899 in Australia. During her time there, Adventists in Melbourne opened a city mission, feeding the poor, housing the homeless, helping men find employment, and performing medical missionary work.
- 2 Missionaries and staff of the Bow Bazaar Mission in Calcutta, India. Dores Robinson is in the third row, second from the left.
- 3 General Conference president George A. Irwin emphasized the importance of city missions to the 1899 General Conference session.
- 4 Dr. John Harvey Kellogg was the most prominent leader of city work in the 1890s, and city missions were something for which he strongly advocated.





ASIA

NOTHING
TO DO BUT
PRAY

God can fix all kinds of problems, but could He—would He—“fix” a prize drawing? I didn’t know, but if I didn’t ask, I would never know!

It wasn’t for me. It was for Dan. Dan was a level-two student in an English class I taught in Asia. He was university age, studying English with the hopes of securing a good job after graduation.

On Dan’s first quiz he scored low—only a 2 out of 5. That was embarrassing for him, but when he got a 2 again the next time, he was *not* happy. As class ended, I tried to encourage him, but instead of listening, he stormed out angrily.

The next day he was still upset and began talking loudly with his classmates in his first language. Then he began drawing his classmates into the same behavior, which, for several days in a row, became progressively worse.

I couldn’t let things continue that way, but because I didn’t speak the students’ language and they spoke so little English, the problem was not easily solved. There was nothing to do but pray.

One of the blessings of living abroad is that you frequently encounter the most amazing circumstances and have nothing to do but pray. As a result, you more often see answers to prayer.

By the time I met Dan, I had seen what prayer could do. I had asked God for help when a community development worker I shared a home with had decided to raise chickens—in the kitchen. She was determined, and I didn’t speak the language. I had nothing to do but pray. I did, and the worker changed her mind—no chickens at all.

I had asked for help when I drove the organization’s van to a city two hours away. From almost the start of the trip, the steering wheel shook so violently that I could barely hold on. It was necessary that I reach my destination, so I drove until I thought



Adventist Volunteer Service facilitates volunteer missionary service of church members around the world. Volunteers ages 18 to 80 may serve as pastors, teachers, medical professionals, computer technicians, orphanage workers, farmers, and more. To learn more, please visit AdventistVolunteers.org.

my arms would drop out of their sockets. Finally, I had nothing to do but pray. I did, and the steering wheel immediately stopped shaking. I drove the rest of the trip in peace.

I had asked for help again when I discovered that the downstairs portion of my house had been rented out to a fortune-teller. *How can Christ and Satan share the same building?* I wondered. I had nothing to do but pray, so I did, and in short order, the fortune-teller moved out.

Now, once again, I had nothing to do but pray, and so pray I did. I prayed for order to be restored, I prayed for each member of the class, and I prayed especially for Dan.

The next day was mission day. Instead of having classes, students attended a worship service delivered in English and translated into the local language. At the end of the service, there was a drawing. I knew it was coming, and I knew the highest prize was a Bible printed in both English and the local language.

As I looked around the room at the 50-plus students, I thought, *I’d sure like for Dan to receive the Bible.* So, fair or not, I prayed for that very thing. A moment later, the pastor drew a slip of paper and read the name. “Dan.” Why was I amazed?

I was amazed again when Dan showed up at my translation club and surprised even more when one of my Bible class students announced she had invited Dan

to my Sabbath afternoon Bible study! He came too, and looked intensely interested.

For the class itself, I had prayed for order to be restored, but God gives abundantly more than all we ask or think. The attitude of the class began to change. I soon found that when I walked into class in the mornings, I was greeted with an enthusiastic chorus of hellos from around the room. This most difficult group became the warmest and closest class I had!

The class president took it upon himself to bring a tin can with him each day—so that he could collect money from anyone who spoke anything other than English in class! They continued to talk more than any other group, but now it was all in English—which of course was the whole point!

And Dan’s grades improved—I prayed especially for that. I was amazed again the day I could give him not a 2 or 3 but a 5!

What will God do when we have nothing to do but pray? Ask and see! “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7, NKJV).

Karen Suvankham is the communication coordinator for the Global Mission Centers and Mission to the Cities at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters. She spent more than four years with Adventist Volunteer Service, teaching English as a foreign language and Bible class in two Asian countries.



PLANE SALES TAKE OFF FOR MINI ENTREPRENEURS

1

Christian Müller was surprised to find his two young sons selling paper airplanes on the city street outside their home in Kyrgyzstan.

The boys—Lukas, seven, and Thomas, six—had dragged a table into the road, decorated it with colorful flowers, and filled it with the homemade planes that they were trying to sell for 10 Kyrgyzstani som (US\$0.15) each.

They wanted to donate the money for new classrooms at the Adventist-owned Heritage Christian School in Tokmok, located 90-minutes east of Kyrgyzstan's capital, Bishkek.

"The children became very excited about the project," said Christian, who serves as the school's development director and is raising money for the school. "So they decided to fundraise."

The boys had spent the previous month listening to their father speak about the project at churches

in their home country of Argentina, as well as in the United States and Spain, during the family's annual leave. The school, with 330 students enrolled in kindergarten through high school, turned away 40 students the previous year because of a lack of space and needed US\$400,000 to construct a new three-story building.

Christian said his sons appeared to have caught the mission spirit by listening to his fundraising presentations and his daily prayers to God for help during family worship. But he said he didn't want them to sell paper airplanes on the street, so he suggested that they try to sell them on the school campus.

The boys went straight to the school's cashier, a native of Kyrgyzstan. She agreed to buy two paper airplanes for 20 som.

Then they approached their father. "OK, I'll buy one," Christian told his sons. But the boys said, "No, no. For you, it's not 10 som. It's

20. You are a foreigner." (Foreigners in Kyrgyzstan are sometimes charged a significantly higher rate than locals.)

Another man at the school also met with rejection when he handed over 10 som for a paper airplane. The boys told him that the plane cost 100 som. "Why?" the man asked. "You sold the planes to the cashier for 10 som each." "This is a special plane," Thomas replied. "It flies better than the rest."

The boys' fundraising efforts didn't stop with paper airplanes. They built a cardboard box to collect money for the school at the local grocery store. Their father liked the idea but suggested that it might be better to place the box in the school.

When the boys received cash from relatives for special occasions, they contributed it to the school project instead of spending it on toys or candy. "I don't need to buy

Among many other things, your weekly mission offerings and world budget offerings help support more than 700 missionaries, such as the Müller family. Thank you!

Mission Fast Facts

- Heritage Christian School has raised nearly all the funds needed for the new classrooms, and the building is expected to open in time for the new school year in September 2017.
- The city of Tokmok is home to about 53,000 people.
- About 700 Adventists live in Kyrgyzstan, a predominantly Muslim country of 6 million people bordered by China and three former Soviet republics: Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.
- A portion of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for fourth quarter 2017 will go toward the construction of a multifunctional center at Heritage Christian School in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan, which is part of the Euro-Asia Division.

WAYS TO GIVE:

- During Sabbath School
- Securely online: Giving.AdventistMission.org
- Call 800-648-5824



- 1 Thomas and Lukas, left to right, sitting with their homemade piggy bank at home in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan.
- 2 The main building of the Heritage Christian School in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan.
- 3 A construction team working on the school building co-funded by Lukas and Thomas.
- 4 Thomas and Lukas making their first donation to the new school building.

more toys because God has blessed me with many toys," Lukas said.

Lukas lost two teeth and put them under his pillow at night. The Argentine peso bills that he found the next morning went to the construction fund in their homemade piggy bank. The boys, who love soccer, decided not to go to the stadium of their favorite team, Barcelona, while visiting Spain because they didn't want to spend any money that could help the school.

Christian says he was pleased that his children were putting mission first. "I'm happy that they understand the mission that we have as a family," he says. "It's special to me because I've realized that I'm not alone in my work. We're all committed to the same goal."

Lukas and Thomas have contributed about US\$150 to the classroom project, and they're continuing to look for new ways to raise money.

Thomas remembered hearing his father say that 40 children were turned away from the school last year. "I want to help so more children can come study in the school," he said.

The boys' enthusiasm for the school has built the faith of many, including Konstantyn Kampen, education director for the Southern Union Mission.

"When I saw how these children were sacrificing, I realized that we would finish this project," he said. "If God can touch the hearts of these kids, then He will touch the hearts of the adults too."

Andrew McChesney is the editor of the *Mission* quarterlies for the Office of Adventist Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters. You can read more stories at AdventistMission.org/mission-quarterlies.

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