

# mission360°

The official mission magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church VOLUME 6 • NUMBER 4

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# EDITORIAL

When we invited you to send birthday greetings to Dr. Irene Wakeham Lee, a former missionary teacher who was about to turn 106, I never imagined so many of you would respond!

For the next four months, Dr. Lee received cards and emails from around the world. Friends and colleagues, many of whom had lost touch with her through the years, reconnected and

reminisced. Former students, some of whom are now teachers, expressed appreciation for the positive impact she made on their lives. And many of you who have never met her thanked her for her years of service and shared how her life inspired you.

Thank you for bringing Dr. Lee so much joy! Your generous response has given me a glimpse into the countless lives a missionary can bless in a lifetime of

loving ministry. As you read the following stories, please prayerfully consider how you can support these missionaries so that they, too, can leave a legacy of lives touched for Jesus.

**Laurie Falvo**  
Editor

To read Irene Wakeham Lee's interview, "105 & Counting," visit <https://am.adventistmission.org/v6n2-16>.



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## ABOUT OUR COVER PHOTO . . .

Photo by Ricky Oliveras

No matter how cold it gets, it seems that kids all around the world love to play outside together. I met this boy on a story gathering trip to Austria while he was taking a quick break from playing with his friends.

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# The Runaway's Gospel

Even though I might get captured, I want to die with the hope of salvation.

**D**uring a Friday evening vespers service at my church, I saw a stranger slip in. She was about 30 years old with a tanned face and determined look. *Who is she?* I wondered.

When the program finished and nearly everyone had left, I sat next to her, quietly and respectfully.

She broke the silence first: "I escaped from North Korea," she said in a barely audible whisper, glancing around to make sure no one else had heard. "Please listen to my request."

I already knew what North Korean escapees needed, but I decided to let the conversation continue. Generally, they and I are on different wavelengths. I was a preacher of the gospel. North Korean escapees usually had no interest in the gospel, but they often pretended to show interest in order to get something from people like me.

"How can I help you?" I asked.

There was a heavy silence. Then she softly replied, "I know the assumptions that other people have about North Korean escapees." Her response surprised me. I had never heard an escapee talk like this before. They usually only wanted a temporary hiding place or money to flee to a neighboring country. The things we could do to help these runaways were usually limited to the particular

circumstances, so I was already prepared with my answer.

But what she said next shocked me even more.

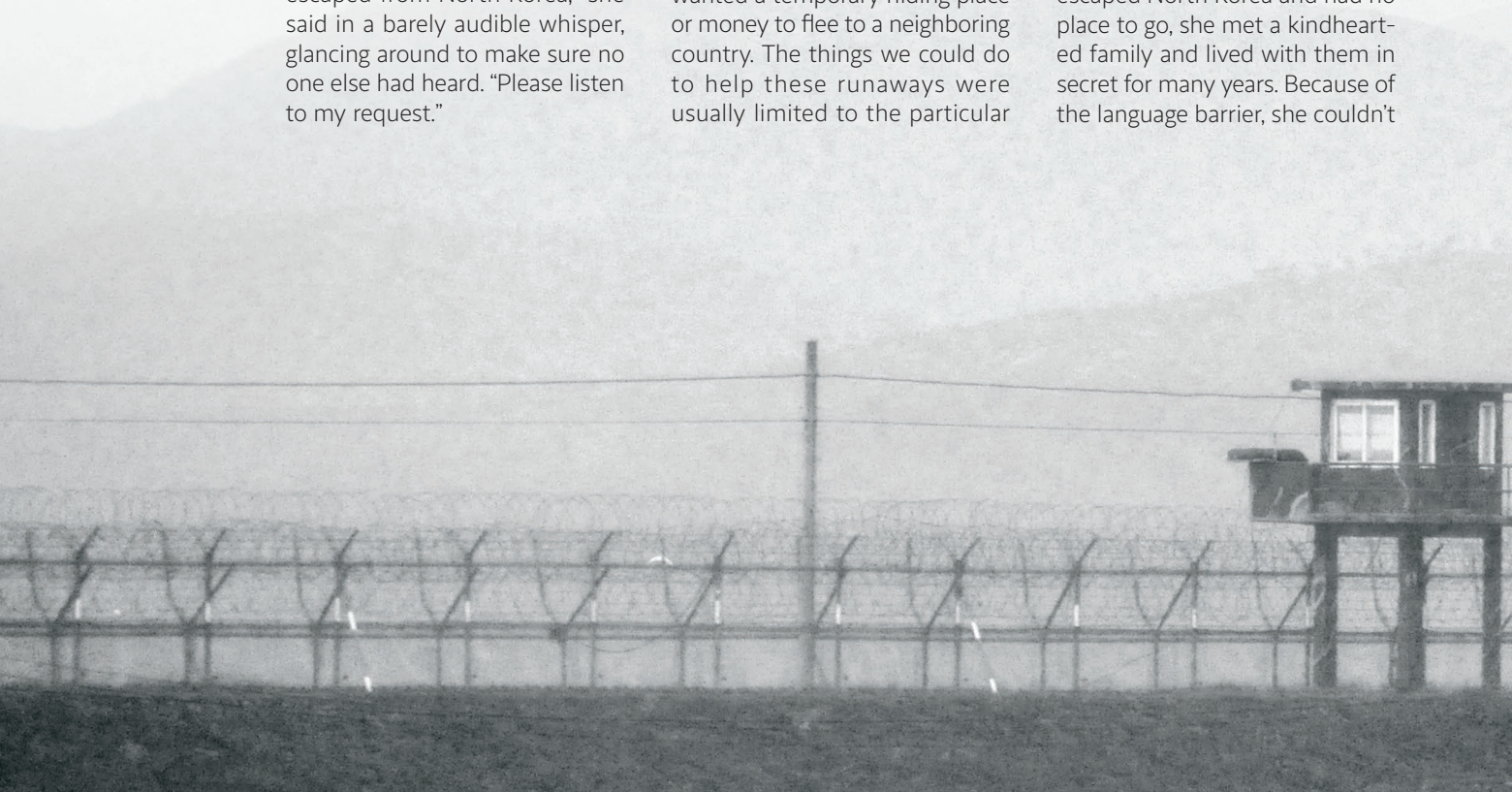
"I only have one request. Please, I want to be baptized."

Flabbergasted, I found myself replying, "We can't baptize someone without their studying the Bible first. Do you know the meaning behind baptism?"

"Yes," she answered. "While I was hiding during my escape, I learned about Jesus through radio broadcasts."

"Radio?" Her story made me more and more curious.

She continued telling her amazing experience. When she escaped North Korea and had no place to go, she met a kindhearted family and lived with them in secret for many years. Because of the language barrier, she couldn't



express her gratitude. She was deeply lonely and also anxious because she didn't know when she might be caught.

I could see all those days of anxiety and distress on her face.

One day, while scrolling through the stations on the family's radio, she thought she heard a little bit of Korean. Surprised, she dialed in to the *Voice of Hope*, an Adventist World Radio program produced by the Korean Union of Seventh-day Adventists.

At first, she didn't understand the presentations. But in time, they turned her loneliness and anxiety into hope, strength, and light to live by each day. Every morning and evening, she listened to the program, never missing an episode. Finally, she accepted Jesus as her Savior.

Now, all she wanted was to have the assurance of salvation through baptism.

Who could deny such a request? I asked her to stay put for one week before moving on, and we started Bible studies. She showed determined concentration and studied as if her soul were panting for water.

At the end of the week, we had a secret, tearful baptism. Then she departed on foot while we prayed that her journey would be safe.

Sometime later, we received a phone call. It was the woman from North Korea! I listened closely as she spoke. Though she was a bit anxious, there was also strength and hope in her voice, which still rings in my ear today: "I have safely arrived at the border. Please pray for me. Tonight is the night. My next phone call will be from South Korea."

My heart skipped a beat. As with many escapees, her route to South Korea would be long and dangerous. I couldn't do anything except pray for her with all my heart.

After several months, I received a call from an untraceable number. It was from a border guide, and I froze as I heard his report. The very night that the woman had called me, she failed in her attempt to cross the barbwire fences. She was captured, returned to North Korea, and executed.

I couldn't move. Time didn't move. In my mind, I recalled the scene of her baptism. I remembered plunging her underneath the water. I remembered wiping the water away from her face but not being fast enough to wipe away all her tears.

She had said, "Even though I might get captured, I want to die with the hope of salvation." She walked according to her word, and

we believe that we'll see her again at the resurrection.

In her loneliness and pain, this woman heard the voice of God through Adventist World Radio. *The Voice of Hope* program penetrated the darkness in her soul and became a source of eternal life.

To protect the missionary who wrote this story, we have withheld his name and the name of the country where he serves.



Adventist World Radio (AWR) is the international broadcast ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Programs are currently available in more than 100 languages via shortwave, AM/FM, on demand, podcasts, Call-to-Listen service, and solar audio players. AWR's mission is to bring the gospel to the hardest-to-reach people of the world in their own languages. The "AWR360" approach to outreach encompasses the entire journey of listeners from broadcast to baptism. To watch AWR mission stories, visit [M360.tv/awr](http://M360.tv/awr).

**Thank you for supporting AWR through your mission offerings and World Mission Budget offerings!**





THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA UNION MISSION

# Breaking a Curse



Sunny and Salma met during the orientation for first-year students at a university in the Middle East.

Sunny, who is from Asia, is a “Waldensian Student”—a young Seventh-day Adventist living, studying, and serving at a secular university in the Adventist Church’s Middle East and North Africa Union Mission. Salma is a local student who grew up in a non-Christian family.

The two women shared the same major and lived in the same city neighborhood, and they quickly became friends. Salma soon learned that her new friend was an Adventist Christian. She had been taught to be wary of Christians, but Sunny seemed very kind and honest.

As their friendship grew, Salma accepted an invitation to attend a Friday evening meeting in Sunny’s home. Salma met other young Adventists at the meeting, and she liked the friendly conversation. Soon she began to enjoy singing hymns and praying with the group every Friday evening.

Near the end of the first school year, Sunny invited Salma to visit an Adventist church where 95 percent of the members were international students. Salma accepted, but she faced harsh criticism from her family and friends for doing so.

“What did you do there?” one asked.

“Does this mean you’ve become a Christian?” another demanded.

Family members warned that they all would be cursed if she became a Christian.

“It was a hard experience for me, and it made me worry,” Salma said. But she didn’t stop going to church. She even joined the youth choir and participated in health seminars. Her Adventist friends prayed for her.

One Friday evening, the group watched a video about Jesus’ life, and Sunny noticed that Salma’s attitude began to soften. To Sunny’s amazement, Salma asked to

study the book of Acts.

“I was surprised because Salma hadn’t been interested in Bible studies for about a year,” Sunny said.

Salma studied the Bible weekly with Sunny, but she had no desire to be baptized. She was worried that her family would be cursed if she became a Christian.

One Sabbath at a women’s ministries retreat, Salma participated in an activity where each woman had to select a heart-shaped card and meditate on the Bible verse written inside. She prayerfully chose a card and opened it. Inside, she read, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you and your household will be saved” (Acts 16:31, MEV).

Salma immediately knew God had answered her prayer. She didn’t need to worry about

a curse falling on her family. She stood up and announced with a trembling voice that she wanted to accept Jesus as her Savior and be baptized!

It’s stories like Salma’s that inspire Sunny to continue serving as a “Waldensian Student.”

“After I finish my studies, I plan to stay in the Middle East to develop lifelong friendships with people like Salma,” Sunny said. “That’s about the only way we can touch the hearts of many people who don’t know Jesus in this region. Please pray that Salma will grow spiritually and that God will send more people like her to me.”

**Chanmin Chung** is the communication coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission.



Sunny participates in the “Waldensian Student” initiative, a frontline mission approach in which Seventh-day Adventist students live, study, and serve in secular universities in specific countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa. Following Christ’s example of outreach, they mingle with people, win their confidence, minister to their needs, and as opportunities arise, bid them to follow Jesus.

For information on how to become a “Waldensian Student,” contact [Questions@adventistmission.org](mailto:Questions@adventistmission.org).

To sponsor their unique ministry, visit [Global-Mission.org/giving](https://www.adventistmission.org/giving) and select the “Waldensian Student” program.

Your weekly mission offerings help support the ministry of the Adventist Church in the Middle East and North Africa. Thank you!



## NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



Vivian came to love Jesus through her brother's transformed life.  
Photo: John Vega



# The Unlikely Witness

**T**yphoon Soudelor hammered Saipan while I was on my way there to serve as a missionary through Adventist Volunteer Service. Many of the islanders suffered, but the disaster hit the poorest people the hardest. They had no homes, no jobs, no money, no food, and no hope.

I had accepted a call to serve as a Bible worker, but when I arrived in Saipan, my assignment was temporarily changed due to the emergency. I spent the first two months helping the Adventist Community Services (ACS) center distribute food and water in a warehouse. After work, I visited neighbors to help in any way I could and to pray with them. That's how I met my Joel.

The first time I saw Joel, he was standing in front of his demolished house with his girlfriend and their children, hanging cow legs from a metal wire and cooking them with a blow torch. He had gotten the legs for free from a local slaughterhouse; they were the only source of nourishment he could find.

I talked with Joel for a while and then gave him several cases of emergency meals. He was so happy to receive them. I told him that they were a gift from Jesus.

I visited Joel often during the next few weeks, and we became friends. We talked a lot about God, and when I invited him to study the Bible with me, he eagerly accepted.

When my services were no longer needed at ACS, I partnered with the elders at one of the local churches to begin my ministry

as a Bible worker. I loved my job! We planted a church, and I serve as the spiritual leader of this new group of believers.

Joel and I continued to study together, and one day, he told me that he felt his life was “no good.” He wanted a new life in Jesus, but the chains of addiction and a lifetime of sin wouldn't let him go without a struggle.

Greater hardship came when Joel lost his contract worker status and was forced to return to the Philippines without his children, who were United States citizens. I looked out for the children after he left, and often they would use my phone on Sabbath mornings on the way to church to say “Happy Sabbath” to their dad.

Joel and I stayed in touch, and I saw on Facebook that he was getting his life together. He quit drinking and was going to church with his siblings. But sadly, he became sick and died unexpectedly. It happened so fast; I couldn't believe it. I couldn't make sense of these events and wondered why God had permitted them.

More than a year later, I was at the Saipan Central Church one Sabbath when a well-dressed, smiling woman approached me and asked, “Are you Brother Kris?” She introduced herself as Joel's sister Vivian and told me that he had returned to the Philippines a changed man.

One of Joel's last acts, she continued, was to tell his family that he had found Jesus in Saipan. He had learned that God has a last-day church and that Jesus is coming soon. Vivian then came to

Saipan to visit her brother's family and to learn more about what had transformed his life.

It turned out that God had timed Vivian's arrival perfectly! Our church had planned a series of evangelistic meetings for the following week. She attended each night and was baptized, beginning a new life in Jesus and joining our church family. I could see hope in her smile and the peace of God in her eyes.

God did have a plan after all. He took Joel with all his struggles and made him a powerful soul winner for his family. I never want to forget this experience that taught me that He's always in control, turning the trials of this world into precious memories and successes.

There will be a day when I see Joel in the kingdom with Vivian and the rest of his family, smiling and happy together, never to part again. Come soon, Lord Jesus.

**Kris Akenberger** is a volunteer Bible worker living in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.



Hear from other volunteers at [m360.tv/avs](https://m360.tv/avs).



Adventist Volunteer Service facilitates church members' volunteer missionary service 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, visit [AdventistVolunteers.org](https://AdventistVolunteers.org).



# Blind Church



**Beth Thomas**

is a freelance writer living in Maryland, United States, with her husband and two children.

When Ralph and Patricia (Pat) Page and Charles Thomas began a small group for the visually impaired 10 years ago, they hardly dreamed that their vision of a church for the blind would become a reality.

The Pages and Charles worked for Christian Record Services (CRS) Canada, an organization dedicated to empowering the visually impaired. Each year, CRS and National Camps for the Blind sponsored a camp at Camp Fren-da, the Adventist summer camp in Ontario.

Feeling a need to continue nurturing relationships with campers who attended each summer, several CRS Canada staff created a monthly gathering

called Hope Vision Fellowship. The Pages invested heavily in the group by renting a conference room at a hotel in Scarborough, an eastern district of Toronto. Charles was the point person, and Kevin Avery, a blind camper who had recently been converted, organized the activities. Their goal was to eventually establish a church for the visually impaired. When the CRS Canada program ended in 2008, Hope Vision Fellowship continued meeting.

Unacquainted with the work of Hope Vision Fellowship, Theodore Sargeant, director of Compassion Ministries and Services for the Ontario Conference, and Mansfield Edwards, Ontario Conference president, sat down to discuss

the needs of various groups in their territory. It became clear that those with special needs or different abilities weren't being served the best that they could be.

During a routine visit to one of the churches in the conference, Elder Edwards learned of the small group meeting in Scarborough. He was invited to speak for their monthly Sabbath worship service and, after visiting with them, was so impressed with the concept that he commissioned Theodore to serve as group pastor, providing oversight and guidance.

In 2016, the conference was satisfied that the group had enough stability to be formally organized as a congregation and, on October 26, Hope Vision

2



3



Fellowship was recognized as the first church for the visually impaired in the North American Division (NAD). This special project received startup funding through sacrificial mission offerings, including your support of Global Mission, and the NAD's church planting initiative, Plant 1000.

Theodore shares that the church really is *for* the blind. He gives them as much time and opportunity as possible to influence what happens at Hope Vision Fellowship, from planning strategies to programming. Their disability doesn't define them; they all have a very important part to play.

"Hope Vision Fellowship has been a tremendous blessing to the blind in that they see it as their church. They regularly express how comfortable they feel when they're there," says Pat.

Two long-time members, Judy Leung and Earl Zwicker, say that their lives have been changed by attending Hope Vision Fellowship. Judy was a charter member of the original group that began meeting in 2008. She says, "I feel really blessed to be part of this group. I'm able to continue to learn the Bible and ask questions on my own time. I feel safe being able to share my thoughts, being able

to meet other Christians, and have discussions about God and the Bible. I love worshiping with others and, most importantly, am privileged to have volunteers who dedicate their time to help people like me grow emotionally, mentally, and spiritually."

Earl began attending the small group in 2009 before it was formally recognized. His daughter, his girlfriend, and her son now join him when he comes to church. "Hope Vision Fellowship really is a place where my entire family feels comfortable," he says. "The encouragement and support I've received from everyone mean more to me than I could ever hope to express here."

It's not only the blind in the little group who've been blessed; Pat, too, has continually been inspired by the people of Hope Vision Fellowship. "I love our group and all my blind friends across Canada. I come away refreshed from every meeting we have, and I know all the volunteers feel the same way. We all love 'helping the blind see Jesus.'"

Please remember this remarkable congregation in your prayers as they continue to reach out to the special needs groups in their region, paving the way for others to follow.

- 1 When the charter group outgrew the hotel conference room, they began renting this local Adventist church for their monthly meeting.
- 2 Talented church members contribute to the church service.
- 3 Membership at Hope Vision Fellowship continues to grow, filling the meeting room to capacity.



## GLOBAL MISSION

### Through your support of Global Mission, churches like this are planted

- ▶ in areas or among people groups where there's no Adventist presence.
- ▶ to share the good news of Jesus through wholistic ministry, such as providing medical care, teaching agricultural skills, offering literacy programs, holding evangelistic meetings, and giving Bible studies.
- ▶ To donate, visit [Global-Mission.org/giving](http://Global-Mission.org/giving).



Ipiranga Square, in downtown Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brazil, where a Seventh-day Adventist cab driver recently offered “prayer cab” rides. [Photo: Mateus Hidalgo]

# The Prayer CAB

Wilson Pinheiro, a Seventh-day Adventist cab driver in the city of Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brazil, decided to mark the end of the “10 Days of Prayer”—an annual worldwide church initiative of emphasis on prayer—by inviting passengers to allow him to pray for them at the end of their trip.

“Today, my cab won’t be a work cab,” said Wilson when

interviewed by Novo Tempo TV, the Adventist TV network in Brazil, minutes before starting an out-of-the-ordinary Saturday shift. “It will be a prayer cab, and people will ride for free.”

Wilson explained that when his customers were getting ready to pay at the end of their trips, he would surprise them by offering them the option of being prayed for.

Wilson’s idea was not only highly successful but also motivated at least one other cab driver to imitate him.

“I found it such a great project!” said Adailton Bispo, a cab driver who is an acquaintance of Wilson. “It’s a way of showing people that we love them and to share our wonderful God, Who is ready to pour down His blessings on everyone.”

Novo Tempo TV cameras

followed Wilson on his trips, recording what happened inside his cab.

“You can keep your money,” Wilson said to Rúbia Ceciliano, a middle-aged woman in the passenger seat, who at first wasn’t sure how to react. “I won’t charge you today; this is a special cab, a prayer cab.” A moment later, Wilson asked her whether he could pray for her and her family. Rúbia gladly accepted.

After Rúbia got out of the cab, she was interviewed by Novo Tempo TV. “I found it a very noble and Christian project,” she said. “It moved me to tears.”

“It surely caught me by surprise,” said César Augusto Santos, another passenger who benefited from the offer. “I was about to pay for his services, as you must, but then I found out that instead of money, I could pay by being prayed for,” he said.

At the end of the day, Wilson shared his feelings with Novo Tempo TV. “I’m so thankful to God,” he said. “I found a way of working for Him by carrying people in my cab. It makes me feel so happy and honored.”



Wilson’s outreach to the city of Cuiabá 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, and every type of public outreach ministry, as well as personal and institutional outreach. To learn more about TMI, visit [TMI.Adventist.org](http://TMI.Adventist.org).

By **Dayane Nascimento** and **Marcielen Campos**, Novo Tempo TV Network, Brazil. Adapted and reprinted with permission from *Adventist Review*.



# First Place Firsts



**Rachel Fortunato**

is from the Dominican Republic and is studying communication and media at the University of Montemorelos in Montemorelos, Mexico.

I couldn't believe the news. I had won first place in Adventist Mission's 2017 student film contest! I was so excited to travel to Asia and help produce a story for *Mission Spotlight*. Ever since I was a child, I had listened enthusiastically to mission stories told at church every Sabbath. To think that I now had the opportunity to film a mission story was a beautiful dream come true.

Our first stop was the outskirts of Battambang, Cambodia. There, we recorded the story of Marina, a girl who had been diagnosed with a cancerous tumor. She and her family had no money for treatment, so they took refuge in prayer, asking God to provide the financial help they needed to have the tumor removed. But God did more than provide the money. On the day of the surgery, the doctors repeated some medical testing on Marina and found that the tumor had miraculously disappeared! Today, Marina and her family are very grateful to God.

At Marina's church, I also met a man who encountered God in an unexpected way. When the church needed some construction, the man was one of the workers. He noticed that every Friday at sunset, his construction team and the church members stopped their work. Confused, the man asked why and then learned the truth about the Sabbath. Because of the church members' witness, he

now worships in Marina's church.

Our next stop was the Adventist International Mission School (AIMS) in Korat, Thailand. A medium-size, welcoming school, AIMS teaches kindergarten to 12th grade and houses several classrooms, a dining room, and two playgrounds. However, the school continues to grow, and the students are often cramped in their classrooms, so the administration plans to build a new, larger, and more modern school.

I was delighted to connect with the students and their families. From the spark of curiosity in their eyes, you could tell that the kids were eager to learn. I had the opportunity to preach to the students, and they were fascinated by the different miracles God had worked in my life. The *Mission Spotlight* team and I recorded the testimonies of some parents and students who shared how their lives had changed after studying at AIMS. I was very impressed to see how, despite their economic difficulties, they praised God in such passionate ways.

Traveling to Asia has forever impacted my life. I was inspired by the local Adventists' faith and their dedication to sharing the gospel in new ways. I was moved by firsthand experiences in mission work, seeing people show the love of Christ in their day-to-day lives. And I realized that it doesn't matter whether

- 1 Me with Marina and the translator after the interview.
- 2 Bonding with the students at the Adventist International Mission School (AIMS) in Korat, Thailand.
- 3 Me filming a testimony at AIMS.



someone is from the other side of the world or from your neighborhood; human beings all have the same needs and are full of stories that they must share. We can all be missionaries, listening to those stories and meeting those needs right where we are.



See the story Rachel helped film about the Adventist International Mission School in Thailand at [m360.tv/s1843](http://m360.tv/s1843).



## MONGOLIA

# The “Dream” Job



From Brazil, **Milena Mendes** serves as a volunteer English teacher at Tusgal School in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. She also cohosts a weekly news program there, the first Brazilian journalist in the history of Mongolian television.

**W**hat could be better than getting the job offer of your dreams?

That’s what I wondered two years ago when I received an invitation to work as a producer for a TV sports channel. I was just about to graduate with my journalism degree and couldn’t believe this amazing opportunity had fallen in my lap.

Because I had some experience in production and I loved sports, it seemed like the perfect job for me. However, I was hesitant to accept it because of another job offer I’d received. The Mongolian Mission, knowing I was an experienced teacher, had invited me to serve as a volunteer at their school.

For several weeks, I prayed about my two choices, feeling torn between pursuing my passion for

journalism and serving others. Then the Mongolian Mission communication director asked if I’d be interested in doing some reporting and video production in addition to classroom instruction. I didn’t have to choose; I could do both! I committed to serving in Mongolia and finally felt peace.

Then I received another amazing job offer, this time with the successful Brazilian singer and businessman Leo Chaves.

“Lord, do You want me to witness to Leo?” I prayed. “Or do you want me to teach in Mongolia? If You want me to teach, please have the e-tickets for my flight arrive by November 30.”

I received the e-tickets on November 28. The very next day, Leo called to see if I’d made a decision,

and I told him about God’s answer to my prayer.

After 40 hours of travel and on a freezing January day, I finally arrived at the Mongolian Mission. I could barely stay awake as I followed my host to the girls’ dormitory that would be my new home. I noted in my phone the access codes I would need to unlock the outer and inner doors to the dormitory and collapsed into bed.

The next day, I had lunch at the home of some fellow missionaries. I had a great time, but I decided to leave early to get some more sleep. I was halfway to the dormitory when I realized I hadn’t brought my phone with the codes to unlock the doors. “Lord,” I prayed, fighting a wave of anxiety, “I need to know You’ll be with me here no matter

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how big or small my problems are. Please help me get into my room!"

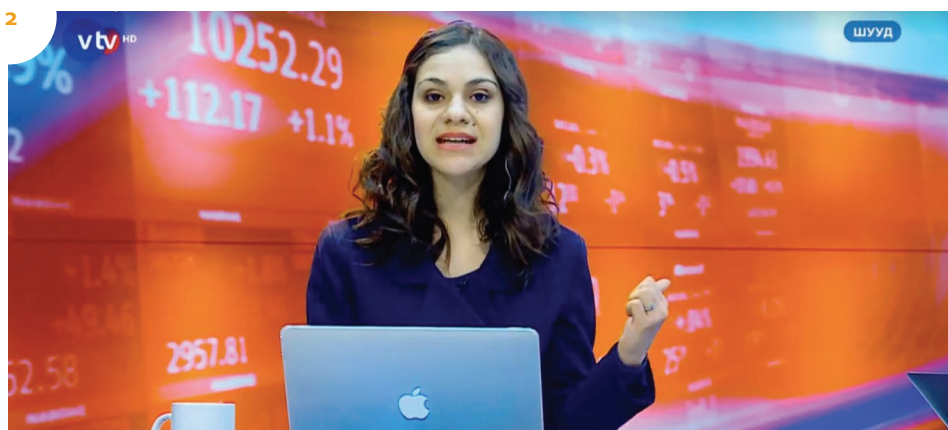
When I reached the dormitory building, I was amazed to see a man holding the outer door open for me. I thanked him and God and then approached the inner door. On it hung a sign that read, "Keep locked for safety." I tried to remember the code, but it wouldn't come to me. Suddenly, I heard a voice in my mind say, "Push the door." I did and discovered it was unlocked!

I've never seen the man again who opened the outer door or found the inner door unlocked again.

This past September, I started my second year at Tusgal School, where God has blessed me by allowing me to pray with the students, listen to their problems, and help them feel His love through our close relationships.

I've also been blessed with an unexpected surprise: an

2



invitation to cohost a Mongolian news program! Just think, God had this planned all along, and I had been reluctant to accept His call because I was looking for a "dream" job.

Serving as a missionary has been the perfect job for me. I'm not only happy; I've also discovered through answered prayer that God will always be there for me.

- 1 Me experiencing the Gobi Desert during my tour of south central Mongolia.
- 2 Cohosting the *DeFacto Review*, a weekly TV program focused mainly on Mongolia's economy and politics for foreigners.



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



# Population to Member Ratio Map

The Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to grow each year. In 2017 alone, about 1.4 million people became Adventists by baptism or by profession of faith. This means that throughout 2017, on average, a person joined the church every 23 seconds!

The global population to member ratio is also improving. By the end of 2015, there was 1 Adventist per every 384 people in the world. But by the end of 2016, there was 1 Adventist per every 371 people in the world. The church's presence is evident in much of North and South America, the southern half of Africa, and the South Pacific, where

there are 500 people or fewer for every Adventist.

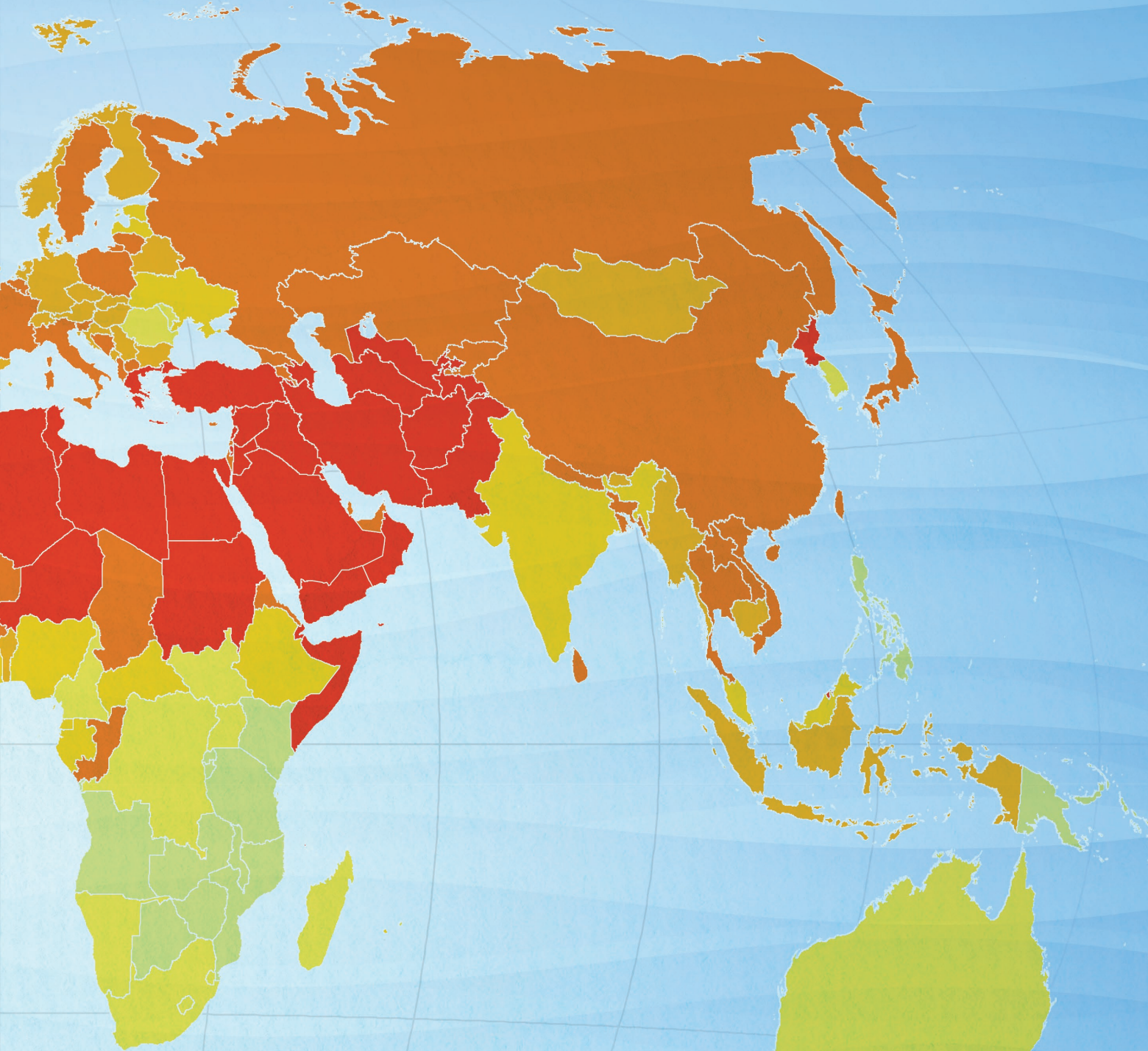
However, much work still remains to be done elsewhere in the world, particularly in the 10/40 Window, where the vast majority of the world's people live and where many of the largest cities are. In much of Asia, there are as many as 15,000 people per 1 Adventist. The ratio grows worse in the Middle East and northern Africa, where there are as many as 79.5 million people per 1 Adventist. This means that although most of the world's population lives in the 10/40 Window, the reverse is true for Adventists. In fact, the ratio of Adventists to population is 11 times

better outside the 10/40 Window than it is inside.

We celebrate the successes the church has had in sharing the Advent hope in Christ with the world! Thank you for all your support towards this end. But we also see the great work that remains before us. Please continue to support the ministry of Global Mission and Urban Centers of Influence with your donations and prayers so that everyone may hear the gospel.

Source: *2018 Annual Statistical Report* (Silver Spring, Maryland: Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research, 2018).





- ≤ 100
- ≤ 500
- ≤ 1,000
- ≤ 3,000
- ≤ 15,000
- ≤ 79,500,000



MIDDLE EAST NORTH AFRICA UNION MISSION

# MY SCHOOL, **My Sanctuary**





Receiving a call to mission service, especially when God asks us to go to another country, is an amazing honor. It's exciting and terrifying all at the same time! My family and I were called to serve at a school in the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission.

Despite our lack of experience in the international mission field, God has blessed us. As He did with many people in the Bible, He calls those with a willing heart, and He makes up the difference!

This school year, 11 of our students were baptized as

Seventh-day Adventists. Even more amazing, after the baptisms, our pastor asked how many more students wanted to be baptized in the future, and 20 students eagerly raised their hands! The following story was written by Karim,\* one of the 11 students who were recently baptized.

The Sabbath I was baptized felt unlike any other. I was excited yet anxious. The week leading up to my baptism was full of spiritual warfare and indecisiveness. My family supported me, but something held me back. Doubts crept in. Is this really the best decision? I asked myself countless times that week.

My spiritual growth started at our school. Throughout the year, my faith came together piece by piece like a house made of LEGOS®. But by baptism week, that house threatened to collapse. Questions flooded my mind. I felt as though I were drowning in uncertainty.

Thankfully, the school community is blessed with people who are more than willing to help someone through spiritual difficulties. It took long discussions with the history teacher, frequent talks with the pastor, books that showed up at just the perfect moments, and endless prayers to finally put my doubts to rest. After Friday vespers, I had a long talk with Christ, after which I felt confident in my decision to publicly give my life to Him.

On Sabbath morning, the school's week of prayer concluded with a beautiful church service in which I and some other students preached. At last, it was time for the baptisms. Despite my earlier confidence in my decision, I felt an inexplicable anxiety.

Soon it was my turn. The water felt warm and welcoming as I stepped into it and waded towards the pastor. Though it was just a few steps, it felt like the longest journey of my life. I was essentially leaving my old life behind and starting a new life in Christ. As I approached the pastor, I reflected on all I had gone through to get to that point, and realization hit me. *This is it*, I thought. *This is the reason why God brought me to this school—to come to know Him as my Lord and Savior.*

Looking back over the year and a half before I came to this school, I could hardly believe the differences that had been made in my life. I had always identified myself as a Christian, but my communication with God was nothing further than

the occasional "Oh, God" I uttered when experiencing difficulties. Despite all of this, God's plans prevailed. Not only am I attending a school that uplifts God, but I'm also enjoying it!

This school provided a conducive environment for my spiritual journey. To me, it's more than just a school. It's a sanctuary, an oasis that helped me quench my thirst for Christ—a thirst that I wasn't even aware of prior to my enrollment. Just being at this school brings an air of community and a sense of belonging. It's through this community that I managed to open my heart to Christ and truly learn what it means to be a Christian. The daily worship services, Bible studies, and the amazing vespers truly bless our student body. With all of these at my disposal, my heart could do nothing but open to Christ. I hope and pray that I keep the virtues I obtained at this school even after I graduate. I want to spread the good news that I've learned with those who haven't heard it.

Matthew 28:19 says, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Our school exists to promote God's work in the

lives of young people. Our mission is to educate young believers to use their heads, hearts, and hands for God. Please pray with us as God continues to bless the school, our staff, and our students.

\* Name has been changed.

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The authors' names have been changed and the school is not specified to protect their identities.



# The Chinese Railway and the Gospel



Born in Russia, **Galina Stele** is the research and evaluation manager of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research.



**Aleksey Oparin** is head of the Therapy and Rheumatology department of the Kharkov Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education in Ukraine. He is a church historian and the main editor of a medical journal and a journal on world issues in the Russian language.

Many events in history prove that God can use even the most tragic circumstances to save people. Such was the case when the Russian revolution in 1917 and the civil war that followed it triggered a wave of immigrants to different parts of the world, including China. One Chinese city in particular, Harbin, became an immigration center for those who supported the Russian czar.

Harbin was one of the central stations on the great Chinese Eastern Railway (CER) that connected the Russian and Chinese empires. By 1920, Harbin was flooded with Russian railway workers and Russian immigrants who had lost everything, including their hope for the future.

Then an Adventist pastor named Teofil Babienco came to this city of broken dreams. At the time, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Harbin consisted of 25 to 30 members who attended worship in private homes.

Babienco began a series of sermons on the three angels' messages in Harbin's theater. Notably, he received permission to conduct the meetings from the

police department director, E. I. Opanasenko, who later became an Adventist and whose son-in-law P. E. Kositzin became an ordained minister of the Adventist Church. The city's elite came to listen to Babienco's brilliant lectures and received typed summaries of his speeches. Babienco also organized simultaneous meetings for the church members, inspiring them to become more involved in the mission of saving the lost.

In 1923, Babienco organized a Bible school to prepare evangelists to work among the Russian population in Manchuria (the Northeast region of China, which was controlled by Japan at that time) and China as well as among the Mongols and Chinese. Learning the Mongol and Chinese languages was a mandatory requirement in the program. Babienco then sent graduates to key stations in the west and east branches of the railway to spread the gospel.

Results came quickly. After several months, Adventist churches were organized in station Buhedy, the city Hailar, and station Manchuria along the Chinese Western Railway, and in stations Hengtaohotze (Han Dao Hedze)

and Pogranichnaya of the CER. Babienco regularly visited these churches by himself. In addition, he and his workers made a trip on camels through Mongolia. For the first time in history, people in these lands heard the good news of salvation.<sup>1</sup>

As mission work continued along the railways, Babienco built a spacious church building in Harbin. He also opened a publishing house that began to regularly publish several magazines for Russians and Mongolians,<sup>2</sup> including *Istochnik Zhizni* (*The Source of Life*), *Golos Istini* (*The Voice of Truth*), and *Semeiniy Drug* (*Family Friend*).

God provided many helpers for Babienco. One of them was A. S. Brazhnikova who joined the church after one of Babienco's sermons. Fluent in English, she translated Ellen White's *The Great Controversy* and *Steps to Christ* into Russian. Her husband, A. Y. Brazhnikov (Brashnikoff), a former associate of Harbin's attorney general, was also baptized and became a licensed minister. In the course of time, members of the Adventist church began working and witnessing in Adventist hospitals in Shanghai, Mukden, and

Hankou (Hankow).

By 1926, Adventist work in Harbin was blossoming. The youth, women's, and music ministries were among the local church's most active ministries. Their choir became one of the best in the city and even featured soloist S. Isaeva, a famous opera singer. Before joining Harbin's choir, she was trained in Italy, performed in the La Scala opera house there, and sung many times before the Russian czar and his guests.<sup>3</sup>

The Adventist Church was known and respected not only in Harbin but also almost everywhere along the CER. Babienco's charity work among the various ethnicities in the community contributed much to that. As members of the church disseminated Adventist

tracts in the local languages, many people accepted the message. Thousands of Russians, Mongols, and Chinese heard the good news, and many of them were baptized.

When Babienco moved on to another field in 1927, he left behind a wonderfully equipped network of churches with 440 members who were united into the Sungari-Mongolian mission.<sup>4</sup> The total number of members in settlements along the CER was about 700.

The Russian churches Babienco founded would survive much turmoil: Japanese occupation and the time of the Muchukuo state, the Soviet invasion, the time of Mao Zedong, and other crises. But in each period, the seeds of faith that he nourished in these

churches remained strong. Later, many of the Russian-speaking members moved from Harbin, but the work they established in the city and the surrounding areas continued long after they were gone.

- 1 Preparing for a baptism in Harbin, circa 1924.
- 2 Harbin citizens stand on the frozen Sungari River that flows through the city.
- 3 Pastor Teofil Babienco, far left, and his workers on a missionary trip to Mongolia.
- 4 The first graduates of Harbin Bible School, circa 1925.
- 5 Harbin church, circa 1924.



<sup>1</sup> T. T. Babienco, "Our Work in Mongolia," *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, January 6, 1927, 8, <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/RH/RH19270106-V104-01.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> *Yearbook Seventh-day Adventist Denomination 1928*, 189, <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Yearbooks/YB1928.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> I. H. Evans, "Now Is the Time to Work," *Field Tidings*, November 5, 1921, 6-8, <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/FT/FT19211105-V13-38.pdf>. <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/FT/FT19211105-V13-38.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> *Yearbook of the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination 1928*, 188, <http://documents.adventistarchives.org/Yearbooks/YB1928.pdf>.



# Reaching for the Stars to Reach Hearts in the City

**K**yungsang Son dreamed of sharing Jesus with every student and teacher in the public schools of Seoul, Republic of Korea. A businessman and church deacon, he, like Jesus, had a heart for the cities, and he wanted to do something that would help meet the people's needs.

The Republic of Korea places a strong emphasis on STEM education: learning about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Elder Son wanted to provide the students and teachers with a hands-on learning experience that would take their education beyond the classroom. He also wanted to give them an opportunity to learn about the Creator God and develop a relationship with Him.

In 1999, Elder Son purchased land outside the city to build an observatory so community members could learn about creation. He called it the Nature Discovery Museum (NDM) and equipped it with telescopes and a nature center. Facilities were even provided for visitors to stay overnight in order to view the stars. All of the museum's educational values came from the Bible and the writings of Ellen White, which demonstrate God's love for humanity.

In recent years, NDM has partnered with the government to offer Creation-centric training for public school teachers as part of an official government educational program. The training focuses on various topics such as astronomy, ecology, brain science, and

nanoscience. In the past two years, 80 school principals have participated in this training supervised by the provincial educational office. The museum has also cooperated with the government office of education to provide public school students with scientific resources that point to a Creator.

The NDM is conscientious about offering continuing Creation science education to their staff. In 2015, they invited Dr. Ben Clausen, a professor at Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, California, United States, to provide further training. A subsidy from the government made this training possible.

Although the primary purpose of NDM is to share the Creator God with the population of Seoul, Seventh-day Adventists also benefit from its ministry. The museum is open to laypeople and institutional workers, such as those from Sahmyook Medical Center. NDM's resources help bolster their personal faith and understanding of God's creation.

The museum also supports Creation science and the seventh-day Sabbath in Adventist schools by training local teachers and providing them with classroom resources. Students from Adventist schools visit NDM, and as they observe the stars and planets, their belief in the Creator is strengthened. In 2017, NDM published Creation science textbooks in collaboration with the Korean Union Conference education and youth departments and local Adventist

teachers. The museum strengthens foundational beliefs for Adventists of all ages and professions.

The purpose of NDM is more than just providing Creation education; its purpose is to touch people's lives. Visitors who express an interest in learning more about the love of God are invited to visit a local Adventist church. Church planters also bring members of the community to explore the observatory. The museum staff follow Christ's method of outreach: mingling, sympathizing, meeting needs, winning confidence, and bidding people to follow God.

The NDM is an Urban Center of Influence (UCI) and part of a comprehensive, Seoul-wide approach to sharing the gospel, planting churches, and making disciples for Christ. This also includes an Adventist senior center and immigration center and Adventist restaurants.

"We are proud to have this Urban Center of Influence," says Pastor Si Young Kim, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. "We want to encourage more students, teachers, and church members to participate in the program to have a greater understanding of Creation and the loving Creator who brought the universe into existence."

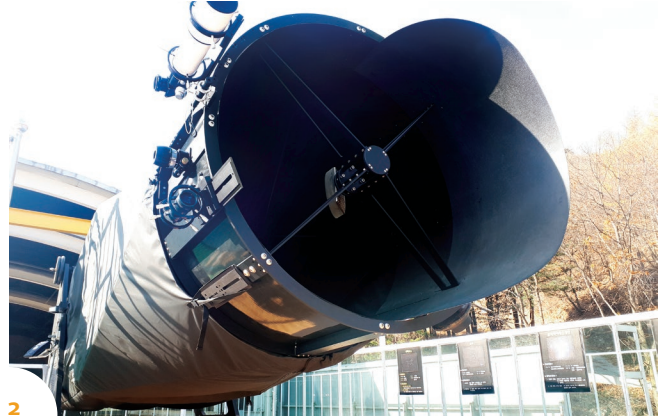
Please pray for this UCI as it seeks to reach for the stars in an effort to reach people's hearts for Jesus.

- 1 The Nature Discovery Museum in Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- 2 The largest telescope in the Republic of Korea, 48 inches across, is located at the Nature Discovery Museum observatory.
- 3 Principals from the Republic of Korea's public schools receiving Creation-centric training at the Nature Discovery Museum.
- 4 Students exploring the forest at the Nature Discovery Museum.
- 5 A student views God's creation up close using a telescope at the Nature Discovery Museum.

Story courtesy of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.



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# MISSION to the CITIES

The Mission to the Cities initiative outlines a wholistic, comprehensive, ongoing urban discipleship process that meets people’s needs and then offers opportunities to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This initiative is part of the General Conference’s “Reach the World” strategic plan. Global Mission plays a vital role in starting new groups of believers and Urban Centers of Influence. To learn more about UCIs and to financially support their important work, please visit [MissionToTheCities.org](http://MissionToTheCities.org).

## Seoul Metro Area\*

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

\* Data from fourth quarter of 2015, as reported by Northern Asia-Pacific Division Secretariat during the General Conference “It’s Time!” Mission to the Cities report, Oct. 2016; Citypopulation.de.



# Puerto Rico

Many things come to mind when one thinks of Puerto Rico: an island with a long and storied history, a rainforest teeming with life, and a warm and humid paradise that has survived the fury of tropical storms. For many, it's simply a place called home. Here are a few recipes that represent the melded culture of Puerto Rico.

## Fresh Pineapple Salsa

*(Serves 4 to 6)*

If you think you don't like pineapple salsa, this simple recipe might change your mind. Fresh ingredients and simple seasonings make all the difference. Try it with tortilla chips, or include it in a sandwich.

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups fresh pineapple, diced
- 2 medium tomatoes, chopped
- 1/3 cup red sweet onion, chopped
- 1/3 cup fresh cilantro, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon fresh lime juice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

### PREPARATION

1. In a medium bowl, combine the pineapple, tomatoes, onion, and cilantro.
2. In a small bowl, stir together the olive oil, lime juice, garlic, coriander, cumin, and salt, and then drizzle over the pineapple mixture.
3. Gently stir until all ingredients are mixed well.
4. Cover and chill until ready to serve.



## Iced Guava Lemonade

*(Serves 6 to 8)*

For an instant holiday escape to a warm and sunny island, close your eyes as you sip this perfectly refreshing drink. Easily increase or decrease the quantities in this recipe to your liking—just use equal parts guava nectar and lemonade.

### INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups guava nectar or juice
- 4 cups lemonade
- 1 fresh lime, sliced thin for garnish

### PREPARATION

1. Stir together the guava juice and lemonade in a large pitcher.
2. Add a few lime slices to the pitcher, or garnish each glass with a slice of lime.
3. Serve over ice for a very cold drink.





# Baked Black Bean Burgers

(Serves 6)

Black bean burgers have earned a spot on many restaurant menus in recent years, but you can make them at home. You might want to make a double batch and freeze the extra patties for another day.

## INGREDIENTS

- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 red or green bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 cups black beans, cooked, drained, and mashed
- 1 1/2 cups cooked rice
- 1/4 cup fine cornmeal or dried bread crumbs
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1 teaspoon paprika

## PREPARATION

1. Heat the oil in a skillet over medium heat. Add the onion, bell pepper, and salt. Cook until onions are translucent and the bell peppers are soft, stirring occasionally. Add the garlic, and continue to cook for 1 minute. Remove from heat.
2. Heat oven to 350 °F. In a large mixing bowl, mash the black beans. Stir in the rice, cornmeal or dried breadcrumbs, cumin, coriander, and paprika. Stir in the cooked onion and bell pepper. Let stand 5 minutes.
3. Use a 1/2 cup measure to scoop mixture for each patty. Press tightly, and form into patties. Place on oiled baking sheet.
4. Bake for 20 minutes, then flip the patties and bake for 10 more minutes. If you prefer, fry the patties in a small amount of oil until lightly browned on both sides.
5. Serve with your favorite sandwich fixings, such as lettuce, tomato, avocado, or salsa.



# Jicama Slaw

(Serves 4 to 6)

This tropical version of coleslaw is easy to prepare and offers a delicious variation to the usual cabbage salad.

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 medium jicama, peeled and shredded
- 1/2 head of napa cabbage, shredded
- 2 carrots, shredded
- 1/2 medium-size red onion, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh lime juice
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

## PREPARATION

1. In a large bowl, toss all ingredients together until combined.
2. Let the salad sit for at least 20 minutes before serving.
3. Stir again before serving.



Build your recipe repertoire at [m360.tv/recipes](https://m360.tv/recipes).

Now retired, **Nancy Kyte** served for 10 years as the marketing director of the Office of Adventist Mission.





# The DUMP BAG

“That won’t happen!” one of the students exclaimed. “It can’t be done!” another assented.

The students on my team of colporteurs continued to voice their skepticism. They couldn’t believe they could sell all seven books in their bags at one stop, what we called a “dump bag.” Their doubts started to weigh on me, even as I encouraged them to have faith. But inside, I was asking God to help me have faith too.

Just 11 days after graduating with a theology degree, I accepted a call from Adventist Volunteer Service to be the literature ministries coordinator for a college in the Middle East. I’d oversee a team of colporteurs, students who would be selling Adventist books on health and spiritual growth door-to-door in the city. I’d also get to work alongside my best friend, Karen,\* who had also volunteered at the college. I couldn’t wait to begin!

I did my best the first few months, and I could see God’s hand guiding us as we made contacts in the city. But we weren’t selling nearly as many books as I’d hoped. I felt frustrated because I couldn’t speak Arabic with the locals and disappointed that there wasn’t more interest in our literature.

Little did I know that God was preparing a winter of miracles for our team.

The first day of the school’s winter break, I felt impressed that I needed to pray much more than I had been. I shared this with the team and invited them to join me in asking God to help us sell a two-volume set of spiritual books.

Later that day, two of my students knocked on the apartment door of a young woman. They began to introduce themselves, but she didn’t let them finish. “Oh, you’re from the Adventist college!” she exclaimed. “My mom bought a health book from one of the students who came through last time. Let me see what you have today.” She eagerly bought a two-volume set of spiritual books. We were thrilled!

The next day, we prayed that God would help us sell a three-volume set of spiritual books. Karen and one of my students, Helen, were selling books on a street lined with businesses. I happened to drive by when they entered a restaurant and sat down with a man who looked like he might be the owner.

They were still there 30 minutes later, so I couldn’t help but wonder whether the man was wasting their time. It was time for lunch, and while I was calling everyone to meet up to eat, I received a call on the radio: “Mobile One, this is Helen: three-book set!” We praised God for continuing to answer our prayers!

During our second week, Karen decided to train the students to get a “dump bag.” They responded with uncertainty, and even I was wondering whether we could pull it off.

Monday morning, sales were slow, but that afternoon, God started to pour out His blessings. We sold three-book sets, four-book sets, and even our first five-book set! But the dump bag hadn’t come yet. Still, I was praying for it.

About 15 minutes before quitting time, I heard one of the girls call on the radio: “Sarah, are you there? Sarah, I got a dump bag! I sold all the books in my bag!”

Grabbing my radio, I exploded with joy. “Awesome! Praise the Lord!”

As we drove back to the university, I reflected on the past few months. I was reminded of the experience of the people in Jesus’ hometown. Because of their lack of faith, they didn’t get to see Him perform many miracles (Matthew 13:53–58). I thought to myself, *Have I been limiting God’s work in my life because of my unbelief?* I asked Him to forgive my past doubt and help me trust Him to do great things.

I believe God is using the colporteur ministry in the Middle East to open people’s doors and hearts. Please pray that my students and I will faithfully serve Him and that the people here will experience an ever-deepening knowledge of His love.

\* All names have been changed.



To see what’s happening in mission in the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission, visit [m360.tv/middleeast](http://m360.tv/middleeast).



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volunteer  
service

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please visit **[AdventistVolunteers.org](https://AdventistVolunteers.org)**.



# THAILAND



1



**Hannah Venn** is a freshman at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, United States. She and her family lived in Asia for 10 years as missionaries: 6 years in Thailand and 4 years in the Philippines.

# SAVED in the SLUM

**M**y family and I moved to Bangkok, Thailand, when I was seven years old and just starting the second grade. God called us there to plant new churches all around the city. About 69 million people live in

Thailand today, and only 14,000 are Seventh-day Adventist. That's less than 1 percent of the total population! In the city of Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, there are 17.4 million people and only 1,700 Seventh-day Adventists.

We partnered with one of our local Seventh-day Adventist schools, Ekamai International School (EIS), in giving to these poorer neighborhoods. The school had been collecting rice for a couple of months, and we were going to pass out the rice in a local slum community. On the designated Sabbath afternoon, we all met at the school. The trucks were already loaded to the brim with rice bags and other donations for the people.

During our six years serving in Bangkok, we led out or participated in various outreach activities around the city. Bangkok is built on a swamp, so the city has a big problem with flooding. This problem becomes quite obvious in the city's many slum communities. Open sewers and trash are everywhere, and people often don't have enough to eat.

When we arrived, we started setting up in a big space outdoors that looked like a parking lot, and we waited for people to arrive. The whole community came, several hundred people. Volunteers who spoke Thai taught the people about healthy living and about the Ten Commandments. We also had a program for the kids in which we sang, told stories, and played



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games. The children enjoyed the program, and so did their parents.

When we started passing out the rice, we gave each family one 5-kilogram (11-pound) bag. We also distributed baby formula to the mothers with young children and prayer cards and other literature to everyone.

After we distributed the rice, we put the leftover bags into wheelbarrows and walked through the slum. We stopped at the homes of the elderly and disabled people who couldn't make it to the giveaway location. As we gave out the rice, we sang songs and prayed with the residents.

I remember one woman's house we went to that was off the main concrete sidewalk. We had to walk on rocks or on wooden planks that had been laid down on concrete blocks to create a makeshift walkway over the dirty water. The water was a greenish color and had stuff floating in it, and the aroma attacked my nose. The rickety, wooden sidewalk was maybe one foot wide, so you had to be careful not to lose your balance because you'd be in for a very unpleasant swim. I wondered how some of these elderly or disabled people managed to get around such obstacles to travel to and from their homes each day.

When we went into the woman's house, our eyes had to adjust to the dimness of the room. It was a one-room house with no bathroom, no electricity, and barely any furniture. We gave her a bag of rice, and the pastor prayed for her. She was very grateful for what we were doing for her and her community, and she asked us to come back. This experience made me want to do more for missions and help those who are in need and who need to know Jesus.

We went back to that community several times. The sweet woman who lived in the one-room house was baptized and became a missionary to her neighbors. Now, there's also a church plant in her community, so they can all find the joy she found.



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- 1 One of the Thai slum communities we visited.
- 2 One of the truckloads of rice for distribution.
- 3 Hundreds of people lined up to receive rice and other resources.
- 4 We were excited to help out so many families.
- 5 I loved ministering to the local kids!

## I Want This City

*I Want This City* is a 13-part television series that offers an unflinching look at the correlation between mission offerings and what happens on the front lines of mission. The reality-style show follows Doug Venn, director of Global Mission's Urban Mission Center, for nine months around Bangkok, Thailand, one of the most unreached cities in the world. Watch the series at [IWantThisCity.com](http://IWantThisCity.com), where you can also come with Hannah to this slum in episode 4, "Service Is the Link."

# Heart for Mission

Just a few days later, Sarah was healed! Her heart was perfect! The doctor couldn't believe it.

*Editor's note: Joyce is a 25-year-old Global Mission pioneer serving in a country hostile to Christianity. She recently helped plant a church for young people in a city of 10 million people. Adventist Mission editor Andrew McChesney asked her why she decided to become a missionary, and this was her response.*

I have one sister, Sarah, and she was born with a congenital heart defect.

My grandmother was very worried, and she looked and looked for the best hospital. But the doctors couldn't help Sarah. So, my grandmother visited our traditional places of worship to ask for help, but no one there could help my sister, either.

Finally, the doctor told my parents that there was nothing more that he could do.

"Take care of Sarah as best as you can," he said. "If she wants something special to eat or a new toy, give it to her to make her happy."

One day, when Sarah was seven years old, a Seventh-day Adventist relative came to visit from far away. She saw that my grandmother was worried about Sarah, and she said, "If you believe in Jesus, you will be blessed."

So, the next Sabbath, my grandmother took me to church. I was three years old. Grandmother told the church members about Sarah's heart, and the church members gathered in a circle around us and prayed for us and for Sarah.

Just a few days later, Sarah was healed! Her heart was perfect!

The doctor couldn't believe it. He ran several medical tests, and he couldn't find any problems with Sarah's heart. It was a miracle!

The miracle changed my family. My grandmother and my parents started going to church every Sabbath, and soon they were baptized. Then my parents decided that they wanted to tell other people about Jesus. So they quit their jobs, received church training, and became Global Mission pioneers. When my sister grew up, she also became a Global Mission pioneer. Last year, I also decided to become a Global Mission pioneer.

As a missionary, I give Bible studies, I pray with people, and I preach. I work with a partner, another Global Mission pioneer who is 23 years old, and we just opened a new church for young people in this city.

Some of my relatives who aren't Christians don't understand why I am a missionary. They tell me to look for another job. My aunt even invited me to work with her, saying I could make good money and send some to my parents to help them.

Sometimes I feel discouraged when I hear such negative words, but my parents pray for me. My mother even fasts and prays for me on Sabbaths. My parents remind me that I am not working for man. I am working for God.

My parents are right. I am working for God. God was so wonderful and powerful in healing my sister. I believe He is leading me every step of the way!



**Andrew McChesney**  
Office of  
Adventist  
Mission



## GLOBAL MISSION

### Global Mission pioneers

Global Mission supports thousands of local people, called pioneers, in starting new groups of believers among people groups where there is no Adventist presence. Their ministry wouldn't be possible without your donations and prayers. Thank you for your support!

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Call 800-648-5824.

#### Mail

In the United States:  
Global Mission, General Conference  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6601

In Canada:  
Global Mission  
SDA Church in Canada  
1148 King Street East  
Oshawa, ON L1H 1H8

This story and others like it can be found in the *Children's Mission* magazine at [AdventistMission.org/mission-quarterlies](https://AdventistMission.org/mission-quarterlies).

TEACH HER THE VALUE OF GIVING

# in 5 quick steps...

Your child will have fun while learning the importance of giving to Jesus.

When you make it fun, it becomes easy to introduce your child to the concept of generosity and giving to missions. Each quarter, your child will enjoy an interactive project that is both sacred and fun. Here's how:

- 1 Download and print** the latest Mission Offering Bank coloring page from [AdventistMission.org/mission-offering-bank](http://AdventistMission.org/mission-offering-bank).
- 2 Cut** – trim the edges using scissors.
- 3 Color** – ask your child to use some fun colors to do the coloring-in.
- 4 Wrap** the finished coloring page around a tin can or similar container, using sticky tape (be sure there are no sharp edges).
- 5 Save** – encourage your child to place their dollars and pennies into the can.

When the can is full, help your child count the money, and then write and mail a check to Adventist Mission.

**Office of Adventist Mission**  
General Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904 USA

[AdventistMission.org/mission-offering-bank](http://AdventistMission.org/mission-offering-bank)



MARK THE DATE

NOVEMBER

10

ANNUAL SACRIFICE OFFERING



**“...We don’t have many resources, but we do what we can to help meet the people’s physical and spiritual needs. We want them to know that we love them.”** — Onifade,  
Global Mission pioneer

Taiwo and Onifade are Global Mission pioneers working in a city in southwestern Nigeria. Each day, they meet people, share food when they can, and help those who are ill or injured get medical care. Then they tell the people that Jesus has sent them to love and serve them in His name.

The pioneers face challenges that make their work difficult and wish that they had more Bibles and literature. But God is blessing their efforts to make friends for Jesus. When they arrived in this city, only a handful of Seventh-day Adventists worshiped there. By following Christ’s method of ministry, they have raised up a strong group of believers.

Global Mission pioneers continue to make great sacrifices to be laborers in God’s field. On November 10, your sacrificial offering will help equip them with much-needed resources to reach even more people with God’s love. Mark your tithe envelope “Annual Sacrifice Offering” or visit [Global-Mission.org/giving](http://Global-Mission.org/giving).



GLOBAL MISSION

[Global-Mission.org/giving](http://Global-Mission.org/giving)