

mission

STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

PRODUCED BY
THE OFFICE OF
ADVENTIST MISSION
VOLUME 10
NUMBER 1

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- 12** 100 Words a Day
- 14** Like Wildfire
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French, Spanish,
and Portuguese
available on issuu

EDITORIAL

The Seventh-day Adventist Church likes to count. Up. We enjoy announcing that we've crossed membership milestones such as 20 million, then 21 million. We're proud to note that we give US\$3 billion each year in tithe, that we operate 2,600 schools, nearly 200 hospitals, more than 300 clinics, and nearly 60 publishing houses. And when we run evangelistic meetings, we enjoy announcing how many people were baptized.

Counting up can be good. But I think maybe our love of counting up makes it hard for me to explain what Global Mission does. Call us odd if you like, but Global Mission likes to count down.

You see, there are more than 7,000 people groups around the world (if you divide them by language). The Seventh-day Adventist Church has some kind of presence in 974 of them. (And that's being generous with the definition of "presence" because it may only mean we have one pamphlet in a particular language, and no human presence at all.) If we subtract the 974 people groups from 7,000, that means more than 6,000 language groups in the world haven't heard a single word from Seventh-day Adventists about the soon return of Jesus. Those 6,000+ languages represent approximately 2.5 billion to 3 billion people.

It's fantastic that we continue to count up new members within the 974 language groups. The problem arises if we're not also counting down among the remaining 6,000. We're growing

membership numbers (which is good), but we're not lowering unreached people group numbers (which is bad). We're missing entire groups. Big ones!

This is why Global Mission counts down. Our task is to decrease the number of language groups around the world who've never heard the three angels' messages. We're the voice representing nearly three billion people, mostly in the 10/40 Window, calling to Seventh-day Adventists, "Don't forget about us!"

My challenge to every reader of *Mission 360°* is this: keep counting up, but start counting down as well. You'll discover that to count down, you must look closely at the groups in your community to determine which groups are missing. Start praying for them. Start looking for ways to bring them to Jesus. When you do that, you've just become a Global Mission pioneer in your community. Join us in counting down!

Jeff Scoggins, planning director
Office of Adventist Mission



The 10/40 Window

The 10/40 Window is an imaginary rectangle drawn on the world to show the area that is least reached by the gospel. It extends from 10 to 40 degrees north latitude and stretches from North Africa through the Middle East and into Asia. Nearly 60 percent of the world's population lives here. It's home to most of the major world religions and some of the world's fastest growing cities.



Mission 360° is on the issuu app. It's the perfect way to spend a Sabbath afternoon!

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ABOUT OUR COVER PHOTO . . .

PHOTO BY RICKY OLIVERAS

I was filming in Ethiopia when I met this girl at Sabbath School. She was having so much fun playing with felts and learning Bible stories that it was easy to catch her smile on camera.

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Design: 316 Creative

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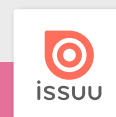
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VOLUME 10, NUMBER 1

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FOLLOW US ON





Thirteen Hours



As told to Kathie Lichtenwalter, Middle East and North Africa Union Mission

I looked at my phone and sighed. I was beginning another busy day as director of an urban center of influence in a large city in the Middle East. It was only my second week in my new assignment in a new city and unfamiliar culture, and a blast of notifications kept interrupting me.

The latest was from the receptionist at the front desk.

“A man is here asking for prayer for his headache,” it read. I hesitated for a moment, wondering whether this was a common request. Couldn’t the receptionist pray for him?

“This is for you,” the Holy Spirit nudged.

“OK. Will be down,” I messaged back.

As I rounded the corner on the stairway, I caught a glimpse of an elderly man wearing the customary clothing of the majority faith. Next to him was a slender woman.

I felt uncertain. Had they really come for prayer? I introduced myself and asked the receptionist to help with translation. I needed to be sure I understood what they wanted.

Mr. Mahmud’s story gradually unfolded through an exchange of questions and answers. He and his niece had traveled 13 hours from a small village in the countryside to find someone to pray for him. He explained that 20 years earlier, he had been a carpenter with a successful woodworking business until he began experiencing excruciating headaches after the other woodworkers placed a spell on him. The strong magic they used had affected him permanently. He couldn’t work and was forced to close his business.

Mr. Mahmud had sought healing from numerous doctors and religious leaders, yet pain remained his constant companion.

“I gave up,” he said. “I didn’t know where to turn.” His dark eyes, set deep into the wrinkles of years of stress, looked squarely into my eyes as the translator spoke for him. “But someone told me to go to the square downtown in the big city and ask where the church is. They said, ‘There is someone there who can help you.’”

After 13 hours of traveling, this man and his niece had searched the vast metropolis for a church on a square. They were sure they had found the place.

Keenly aware that I couldn’t pray while standing in the reception area because of the possibility

that the guards at the gate outside might see us, I invited Mr. Mahmud, his niece, and the translator into the privacy of the massage room.

Following my translator’s advice, I placed my hand on Mr. Mahmud’s head and prayed to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I prayed that He would heal Mr. Mahmud and relieve his pain so that everyone would know there is a God in heaven more powerful than magic spells. I prayed that Mr. Mahmud would learn more about God in this place. I ended my prayer by asking a blessing on him in Jesus’ name.

Silence enveloped us. Nobody moved. Nobody spoke. I looked up to see tears streaming down Mr. Mahmud’s face. When he finally spoke, the translator began crying.

“What is it? Please tell me,” I asked anxiously.

“Mr. Mahmud says his pain is gone,” the translator replied. “For the first time in 20 years, his pain is gone!”

Mr. Mahmud’s niece began chanting praise to God, and Mr. Mahmud grabbed me and held me close, still crying. I returned his tight grip, awed by God’s response.

I invited Mr. Mahmud to return for a medical consultation and massage therapy. Two days later, after another 13 hours of travel, he was back, his face beaming. “I am still free from pain!” he reported proudly.

After his appointments, I asked if I could share something special from the Bible, a book that I believed told us many things about the Creator God. Mr. Mahmud agreed.

I read Romans 8:38, 39: “I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons . . . will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (NIV). I shared with him that no spell, no magic power is strong enough to separate any of us from God’s love. Mr. Mahmud’s tears flowed freely. He asked whether he could come back and visit. I assured him he could come any time. But 13 hours is a long way to travel for a prayer.

I’m praying for Mr. Mahmud to experience the power of God in a life free of magic spells and pain.

But my greater prayer—one I ask you to pray with me—is that he will discover that he doesn’t have to travel 13 hours for my prayer. I want him to know the personal care of a God who hears his voice too and will answer his prayers as certainly as He answers mine!



Did you know that you can find *Mission 360°* on the issuu app or issuu.com?



GLOBAL MISSION

Global Mission is all about reaching the unreached for Jesus. We do this in various ways, including through the service of Global Mission pioneers, urban centers of influence, Waldensian Students, and tentmakers who use their careers to share Christ. Please support Adventist mission in the Middle East and North Africa Union with your prayers and donations at Global-Mission.org/giving.



To see what's happening in mission in the Middle East and North Africa Union Mission, visit m360.tv/middleeast.



Love Found in Mission

1

Six years ago, we arrived in Palau to serve as volunteer teachers. Now we're back, serving as a couple! Here's how it happened.

Javi's story

During college, I felt a tug on my heart to serve as a student missionary, but a couple of things held me back. As the eldest of three boys, I felt I should be

there for my family, and I was committed to finishing my degree without taking a year off from school.

As my graduation approached, I thought it would be nice to take a little time off for myself afterward. A short trip to Europe seemed a fitting reward. But as I began saving money for the adventure, God placed the thought of mission service heavy on my heart. I didn't want to ignore His call, so I researched Adventist schools that needed volunteer teachers. This process was especially challenging because I attended a state university with no connection to the Adventist Church and I had never heard of Adventist Volunteer Service, which facilitates church members' volunteer missionary service around the world.

I sent applications to several schools overseas and waited as the weeks of summer slipped by. As the time approached for the schools to start, I began to think no one would respond. Then, on July 25, Mr. Abner Sanchez, principal of the Palau Seventh-day Adventist Schools, invited me to join

Kyari Leen Alcantara Nava was born in the Republic of Palau to missionaries teaching at the Adventist elementary school and academy. She lived there with her family until they returned to the Philippines when she was eight. Kyari went back to Palau to serve as a volunteer teacher at Palau Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School from 2016 to 2017. Javier (Javi) Nava, arrived the same year from San Fernando, California, to serve as a volunteer teacher at Palau Mission Academy. In 2022, Kyari and Javi returned as a married couple to teach at Palau Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School.

the academy staff as the physical education and health teacher. Four days later, my bags were packed, and I was off to Honolulu, Hawaii, for orientation!

During the next 10 months in Palau, I grew in my teaching profession and, most important, in my relationship with Jesus. I loved exercising with my students and spending time with my fellow teachers, whom I consider family to this day.

Kyari's story

On July 31, 2016, I was on the escalator at the Honolulu airport, descending to the baggage claim area after passing through immigration. I couldn't believe that I was going to be a missionary.

My parents had both served as missionary teachers in Palau, and they had always encouraged me to do the same. But I didn't have a strong interest in following in their footsteps; I had other goals in mind. I was a communications major in the Philippines and planned to finish college, find a job, and start working.

Like Javi, I didn't have the benefit of a mission coordinator on campus. But I can see how God used my college dean and department chair to open my heart to the possibility of mission service. They asked me to speak during the university's week of prayer. I had to pray about my answer. I had never spoken in public before, let alone in front of the whole student body. God guided me to accept the invitation, and I grew closer to Him through the months that I prepared my presentation. During the challenges of my senior year, I felt impressed to submit my student mission application to the Southern Asia-Pacific Division of our church. God worked everything out, and soon I was teaching a class of third graders.

It was the first time I had been away from my family for an extended period, and I missed them terribly. The work was challenging, and I was out of my comfort zone. But God never left my side. I learned so much about His love through my students and coworkers. I gained so much from my year in mission work. Even something I didn't expect!

Our story (told by Kyari)

Do you know that point in a movie when you think you know where the story is going, but then comes a sudden twist in the plot? Our life's Scriptwriter wasn't done with us.

At the end of our 10 months of service, I returned to the Philippines and Javi returned to the United States. We were homesick for our island home and missed our students and our family of student missionaries. The missionaries all began spending time on video calls with each other, and soon Javi and I were calling each other every day. We grew close as friends that shared a love for what we had experienced in Palau.

While studying for my master of business administration degree, I started working in the administration building of the Adventist university in the Philippines, and Javi started teaching in California. We often look back and thank God for technology because not one day passed when we didn't send messages or FaceTime each other. Our friendship grew as we developed a deep admiration for who the other person was.



Five months after I returned to the Philippines, God provided an opportunity for me to visit the United States for two weeks through the help of a close family friend. Spending time with Javi and his family drew us closer. Before the two weeks ended, Javi called my family in the Philippines to formally ask permission to start a relationship with me. Then we put our faith in God's plan as we started our long-distance relationship.

Javi and I visited each other occasionally over the next two years, while I finished my degree.

Then we decided to take our relationship to the next level. I had family members in Los Angeles who opened their home to me for six months so that Javi and I could focus on growing our relationship in person. We were engaged in October 2019, and I applied for a fiancée visa, which usually takes about half a year to process.

But a few weeks after I returned home, COVID hit. The six-month wait for the visa turned into eight months and then twelve. We wondered, *Had we misunderstood God's leading? Was He closing the door to our marriage?* We began praying earnestly for Him to make His will clear.

In April 2021, Javi and I sent a message to Principal Sanchez and H. E. Surangel Whipps Jr., chairman of the Palau Seventh-day Adventist Schools, asking whether Palau needed teachers. They both sent enthusiastic replies. After more prayer, we felt convinced that God was leading us together for life. We would serve again in Palau, this time as husband and wife!

The school's administration advised me to fly out of the Philippines as soon as possible in case its borders closed due to COVID. Javi and I had to

Is God calling you to serve at Palau Mission Academy?

Every year, the operation of Guam-Micronesia Mission schools depends heavily on volunteers. To help them continue their mission, please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to serve. To find open positions, visit the Guam-Micronesia Mission website at gmmsda.org/missions/open-positions, and check back regularly for future positions.





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accept that we wouldn't have a big wedding. But God's plans are always better than ours, even if we don't see it at the time. We planned an intimate ceremony in less than two months, and on June 21 in Los Angeles, California, the moment for which we had prayed for so long finally arrived! Because we couldn't be legally married in the United States without the fiancée visa, we had another ceremony in Palau about a month later, at which time we signed our marriage contract.

Javi is currently teaching eighth grade, and I'm teaching fourth grade. Being back on our island home, where God brought us together, is proof of His love and care, not just for us but also for all those who seek His plans.

Adapted with permission from the stories on the Guam-Micronesia Mission's website.

- 1 Javi and Kyari on the island of Palau
- 2 Javi, right, with Carson during the 2017 Palau Mission Academy graduation. Family and friends place garlands of flowers around the graduates' necks
- 3 Javi, in back wearing a pink shirt, and Kyari, in front wearing a gray shirt, hiking to Ngardmau waterfall with fellow 2016–2017 missionaries
- 4 Some of Kyari's fourth-grade students
- 5 Kyari, left, with Chaplain Hannah, and some Pathfinders. Javi and Kyari serve as staff for the club



Would you like to help make a positive impact in the lives of others? If so, please consider volunteering through Adventist Volunteer Service, which facilitates church members' volunteer 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.

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NEPAL

Rescued and Saved



Jonathon Thorp is an internal medicine specialist serving at the Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic with his wife, Allison, a family nurse practitioner. When this story was written, they served at Scheer Memorial Adventist Hospital in Nepal.



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The early morning fog sparkled in the warming glow of the sunrays striking the frozen earth in central Nepal. In the distance, taxi horns blared and engines roared to life, and one could hear worship chants booming from the temple.

“Wahhh! Wahhh! Wahhh!”

What is that? Sandesh wondered. Is that a baby crying?*

Sandesh was walking down a path on his way to work at Scheer Memorial Adventist Hospital (SMAH). The piercing scream of a newborn baby was the last sound he expected to hear on this cold morning.

Stepping off the pathway, he approached a bush. What he saw next broke his heart: a beautiful newborn baby girl lay wrapped in a thin cloth. Born into a society where female babies are often unwanted, she had been abandoned. Sandesh picked up the wet, cold baby and called for help. Soon the police arrived, and a search ensued.

In the meantime, the baby was transferred to SMAH, where she was admitted into the neonatal intensive care unit. The staff named her Devna.

As I write these words, my newly born daughter lies beside me on the sofa, lovingly wrapped in a warm pink blanket. I can't imagine leaving her alone to die or hoping she would be rescued before it was too late. It breaks my heart to think of what could have happened to baby Devna.

For 60 years, SMAH has existed to fulfill one mission: to provide compassionate, international-standard care to all people regardless of their ability to pay. The SMAH physicians, nurses, social worker, chaplain, and administrators rallied around this helpless little girl, saving her and giving her hope and a future. Two of the staff requested to adopt Devna. However, the laws of Nepal do not allow hospitals to facilitate adoptions. Devna was safely transferred to a children's village that cares for abandoned babies.

Adoptees are incredibly special to me because my mother was placed in a care home at birth to wait for adoption because of circumstances in her biological family's home. My grandparents rescued her. As the acting chief executive officer at the time of Devna's transfer to SMAH, I immediately became aware of the circumstances, and my mind raced to what it could have been like for my mother more than 50 years ago. The one thought that continued to resonate in my mind was, *We all need a savior.*

As I thought about baby Devna today, the apostle Paul's portrayal of our struggle with sin came to mind. Paul writes, "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Romans 7:24,



25, NIV). Many try to save themselves through a myriad of self-centered self-help techniques. But all our efforts are just as helpless as the screams from a tiny, cold, abandoned baby. The only answer is a Savior—one who will rescue us from our sinful, corrupt nature.

Just as Sandesh reached down through the dew-covered grass to rescue a cold, helpless newborn, Jesus Christ came to this world to rescue helpless humanity.

All around us we hear the cries of a struggling world as people wrestle with unprecedented violence, looting, fires, hurricanes, locust infestations, plagues, pandemics, earthquakes, and climate change. Some secular and religious pundits argue that now is the time to extract oneself from the chaos and to live as a "prepper," someone who tries to prepare to survive a forthcoming economic and political apocalypse.

Jesus is our soon-coming Savior. We know not the hour of His return, but we are called to serve faithfully until He comes. In contrast to a self-centered "prepper" mindset, loving service is needed more than ever. We are called to be the hands, feet, and voice of our compassionate Savior.

*Name has been changed

Adapted with permission from *ALUMNI JOURNAL*, Fall/Winter 2020, Alumni Association, School of Medicine of Loma Linda University.

Rajesh Chand, a social worker at Scheer Memorial Adventist Hospital in Nepal, holds baby Devna, who was found lying in the cold on the side of a path

Your generous and systematic mission offerings help support the ministry of more than 400 missionaries. Please give at adventistmission.org/donate.





100 Words a Day



Ricky Oliveras,
Office of
Adventist
Mission

Nung was determined to learn English, so when an Adventist English language center opened in her town, she jumped at the opportunity.

She took her classes seriously and set a goal to learn 100 new vocabulary words per day. Nung didn't have a background in English but, through hard work, she quickly began to understand the language. She faithfully attended classes and practiced with native English speakers until she became fluent.

The English language center not only offered Nung the chance to learn English but also provided her with the opportunity to learn about Jesus. Nung and her mother were among the first to join the center's weekly Sabbath worship services. At first, only 7 people gathered in a small home. Today, that number has grown to more than 100 people every week! Like many others, Nung and her mother gave their hearts to Jesus.

Speaking English made it possible for Nung to go to an Adventist university in Thailand. She's currently enrolled in Asia-Pacific International University's education and psychology programs, and she hopes to use her new skills back home.

In 2018, a portion of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped expand this English language center. It has been a blessing to dozens of students, such as Nung, who have been able to explore new opportunities.

Now, you have the chance to contribute to another special school in this country through this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

Part of this nation has been very difficult for Adventists to reach. In 1957, Pastor Dick Hall and his wife and children came to a particular city in this country to introduce Jesus to the people. He worked for four years before they were forced to evacuate due to war. They left behind a handful of new believers who were still young in their faith. Today, there is only one Adventist left in this city.

The local mission plans to build a bilingual primary school in this city to help revitalize the Adventist presence there. With your contribution to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, they hope a new school can become an integral part of this community.

Please give generously to support the work in this part of the world by contributing to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter. You can do so at Sabbath School or by visiting adventistmission.org/donate.



Watch this story at
[m360.tv/s22113!](http://m360.tv/s22113)



GLOBAL MISSION

TOTAL EMPLOYMENT



Is God calling you to be a tentmaker?

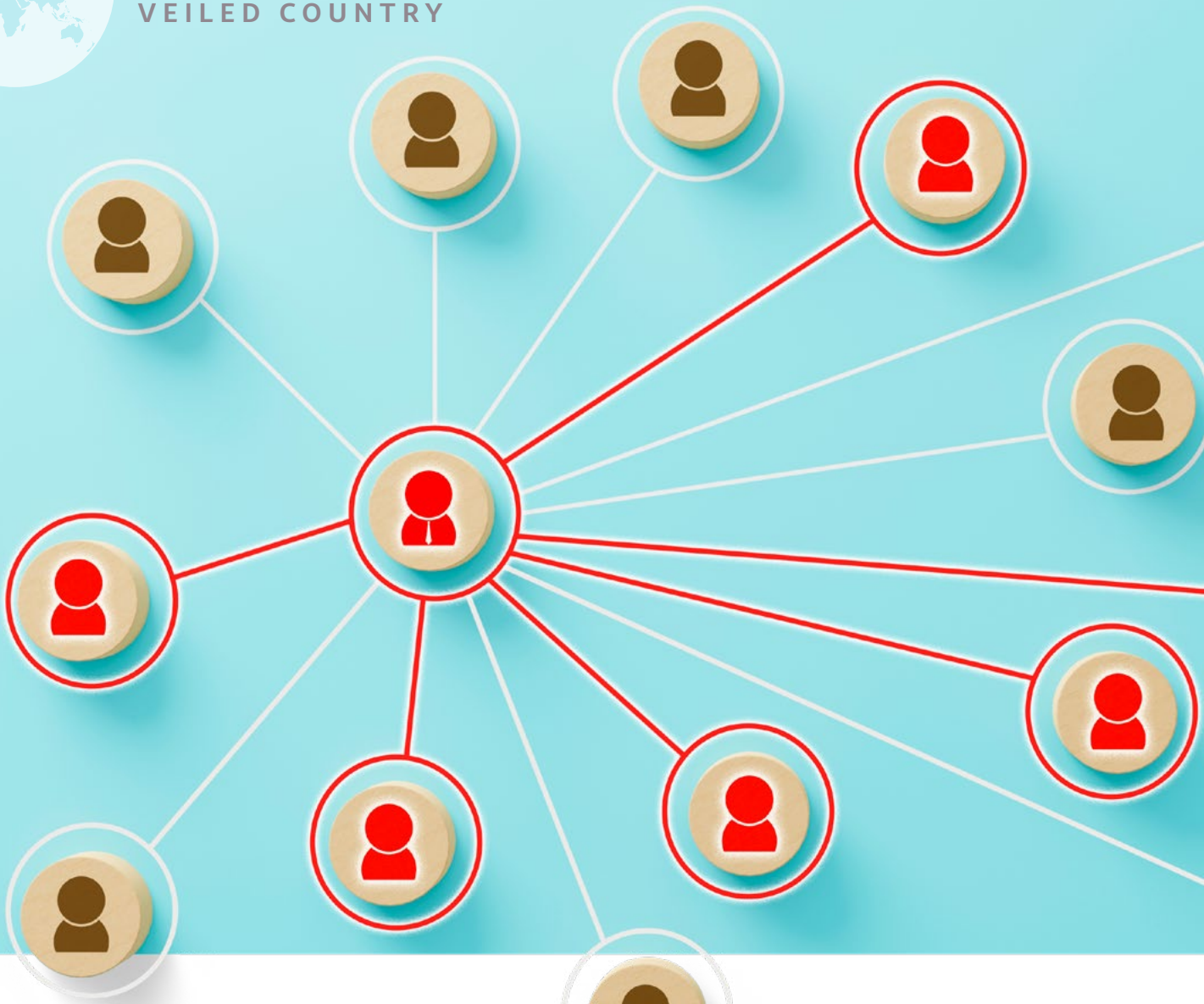
Our church faces tremendous challenges in sharing Jesus in veiled countries, countries that have shut their borders to organized churches and traditional missionaries. But a tentmaker can bypass these barriers! Total Employment is the Global Mission tentmaker program.

A tentmaker is an Adventist professional who chooses to follow the example of the apostle Paul. Paul supported himself financially with his tentmaking trade, and as he talked with his customers, he looked for opportunities to

lend a listening ear, meet a need, and share the good news of the gospel.

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

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



Like Wildfire

The following story was written by a volunteer serving in a veiled country. We've withheld her identity to protect her ministry and the Adventist work there.

Sixteen people from cities scattered across a country in the 10/40 Window sit on peeling beige chairs behind dark wooden tables. Bundled up, they smile warmly, despite winter's cold. They lean forward, ready to read a verse, respond to a question, or pose a question of their own.

My husband asks whether anyone wants to borrow his well-worn Bible. Immediately, two hands rise for the privilege of holding one for the first time. Bibles are forbidden in their country.

Others in the group follow along on a Bible app, an app they will delete before taking the long journey home. Before they board a bus, their bodies and belongings, including their phones, will be searched. They must not have incriminating evidence indicating they have been studying the Bible during their trip to the neighboring country.

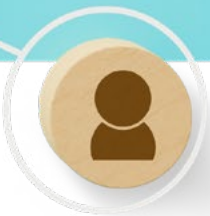
A young woman, her bright purple hair cut in a bob, sits with her husband in a corner. Before we bow our heads to pray, I sneak a peek at them. They clasp their hands tightly in front of them like little children learning to pray. Another couple listens carefully to every word. The husband is the first to find every verse I ask the group to read. After the seminar, the wife asks my husband whether she can keep his Bible for the evening. She wants to take it to her room to read. Only a few days before, the couple was sitting in an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting with one of my



I give presentations on prayer, how to study the Bible, Sabbath, and health. Despite the language barrier, the people still thank me for sharing. I realize that God has been preparing me for this service my whole life by pouring into me spiritual knowledge. Now it is my turn to share what I have learned with others. I feel woefully inadequate because I can't speak their heart language. I leave determined to study more so I can present one day in their native tongue.

Above all, I feel ever more urgently Jesus' call for workers to gather the harvest. The 16 people in this room represent just a fraction of the hundreds from their country who are studying the Bible. Each one shares a worker's number with a friend, a family member, or a work colleague, and the circle widens. Facilitators pass on Bible study contacts to other Bible workers, but they, too, are overwhelmed. One female Bible worker is studying the Bible with more than 50 women. There is limited religious material available in their language. They have no church building in which to meet with like-minded believers, no physical Bibles to read, underline, and hold in their hands. Yet the church continues to grow. The seed is being sown, and the harvest is multiplying like wildfire. Please join me in praying to the Lord of the harvest to send more workers.

*Name has been changed



husband's Bible study contacts.

As I look around the room, I realize that some of these people will never be able to tell their families about this experience for fear of severe consequences. The three young couples who came together are fortunate because they will travel this spiritual journey together. Then there is Ania,* who was eager to come to the seminar but needed a travel companion. Her mother, who had her first Bible study a week ago, came with her and sat in the front row, carefully taking notes and reflecting meaningfully on them when asked to share.

My heart aches as I study them. These eager students have only one week—about 30 hours' worth of seminars—to soak up as much information as possible. Then they will return to keep their little lights flickering, alone, in a constant state of alertness.



Would you like to help make a positive impact in the lives of others? If so, please consider volunteering through Adventist Volunteer Service, which facilitates church members' volunteer 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.

Veiled Country

Here at Global Mission, our priority is starting new groups of believers among unreached people groups. Often, this means that Global Mission pioneers, tentmakers, and urban centers of influence operate in challenging places. When we share a story from a sensitive area, you'll see it identified as a "Veiled Country" or a "Veiled City." Please pray for these special projects and support them by visiting Global-Mission.org/giving and selecting #5040 Veiled Projects.



Breaking Down Walls

This article was written by a Global Mission pioneer serving in a large city in Eastern Asia.

I'm grateful that some of the new believers in our church plant have introduced us to their non-Christian families and friends. This gives us an opportunity to share Jesus with them. Recently, a member named Qing Li* told us about her sister-in-law, Mei En.

About 20 years ago, Mei En gave birth to a little girl she named Ting Ting. Mei En was overjoyed with her beautiful baby and was devastated when doctors told her that Ting Ting had cerebral palsy and would need constant care for the rest of her life.

Over the past two decades, Mei En had provided for her daughter's every need, but she was beginning to develop health problems of her own. She was also exhausted and emotionally drained.

We told Qing Li that we would like to visit Mei En. Qing Li said she would let Mei En know but warned us that she might not be willing to accept visitors because her daughter's situation was so bad. A few days later, we were excited to learn that Mei En was willing to let us visit even though she knew we were Christians.

During our visit, Mei En opened her heart to us. She cried as she expressed the stress and pain that she had suffered for years and seemed grateful for our comfort. We knew she needed the support of loving friends, so we invited her and Ting Ting to come to our church plant to meet the other members.

Mei En accepted our invitation, and the next Sabbath, she and Ting Ting joined us for worship. They had never heard Christian music before, and Ting Ting expressed joy as she listened to us sing. Mei En couldn't believe this happy woman was her daughter!



Have you checked out the issuu app yet? Find past issues of *Mission 360°* magazine.

When Ting Ting went home, she invited her grandfather to join them in worship at our church plant.

Over time, we shared Jesus with Mei En, her daughter, and her father-in-law. They have all accepted Jesus as their Savior, and they now worship with us every Sabbath!

From the experience of reaching this precious family, we've learned that love can break through thick walls.

Please pray for our church plant. Currently, 13 people are taking baptismal classes. Pray that they will commit their hearts to Jesus and that our members will continue to share the love of Christ with everyone we can. Thank you for supporting Global Mission pioneers such as me!

*All names have been changed.



GLOBAL MISSION

Global Mission's priority is starting new groups of believers among unreached people groups. Often this means that Global Mission pioneers serve in challenging places. Please pray for our Global Mission pioneers and support their ministry by visiting Global-Mission.org/giving.



To watch video stories about pioneers, visit m360.tv/pioneer.

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Spiritual Sight for the Blind



Joshua Segala, Office of Adventist Mission

Mundari, a church member in Manado, Indonesia, decided to make a difference in his community by doing little acts of kindness for visually impaired people. He was the coordinator for the blind ministry at his church, but he wanted to do more.

After one busy day at work, he decided he needed a massage. He went to the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, which had recently offered its students a training course in massage. There, one of the students kindly offered to practice his new skills on Mundari.

During the massage, Mundari and the student talked. At first, they discussed general topics, but Mundari prayerfully steered the conversation to God and the Bible. By the end of the massage, the student wanted to learn more.

That simple massage began Mundari's friendship not only with this student but also with other residents at the rehabilitation center. It didn't take long for Mundari to start a ministry at the center to help meet their health needs and introduce them to Jesus.

"The reason we serve our visually impaired friends is that when Jesus was in this world, He cared for them," Mundari said. "He touched their eyes and healed them. Therefore, as Christ's followers, we extend compassion to our visually challenged friends."

Mundari learned from his new friend that the center allowed worship services for the students. This created an opportunity for Mundari and his church to minister to the students' spiritual needs.

Hendra Roge, a staff member at the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, is grateful for the activities conducted by the local Adventist church.

"They [the residents] need care and acceptance from society," he said. "The institution shouldn't be the only one responsible for their rehabilitation. This group of people also needs compassion and

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support from the community so they can live normally and be accepted by society. We aim to teach them to live independently after their training at this institution.”

Dr. Kamsiaty Rotty, the center director, also appreciates what the Adventist volunteers do. “I’m so happy because I understand that not all visually impaired individuals receive the same attention and care from the community,” she said. “We are glad to know that Adventists care for us. I know that there are some organizations and churches that visit us here once a year, but the Adventist church makes it a priority to visit us regularly.”

Outside the rehabilitation center, Mundari took his friendships with the visually impaired to another level. He invited them to worship at his church on Sabbath, and many accepted the invitation. He said it was a wonderful experience to see them singing praises and hymns.

“I know Adventists care for us, and based on our experience, I trust that Adventists are always ready to serve us and be with us,” said Alfrizt Madalise, a student at the Rehabilitation Center for the Blind.

Please pray for Mundari and the church members who are serving our friends in Manado, Indonesia. Pray for our visually impaired friends who recently joined this group and discovered love, truth, and community through this ministry.



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- 1 A visually impaired woman sings during the worship service at church
- 2 Mundari teaching the Sabbath School lesson to the visually impaired at church
- 3&4 Church members conduct health screenings for residents
- 5 The residents and church members (wearing green shirts) after a health expo at the center



Watch this story at
m360.tv/s2119.

MISSION to the CITIES

Mission to the Cities is an essential part of the “I Will Go” 2020–2025 strategic focus voted by the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Global Mission supports Mission to the Cities by making disciples among urban, unreached people groups. Through your sacrificial giving, funding is provided to support pioneers and urban centers of influence in starting new groups of believers.

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Eric Boehm: A Life of Service in Papua New Guinea

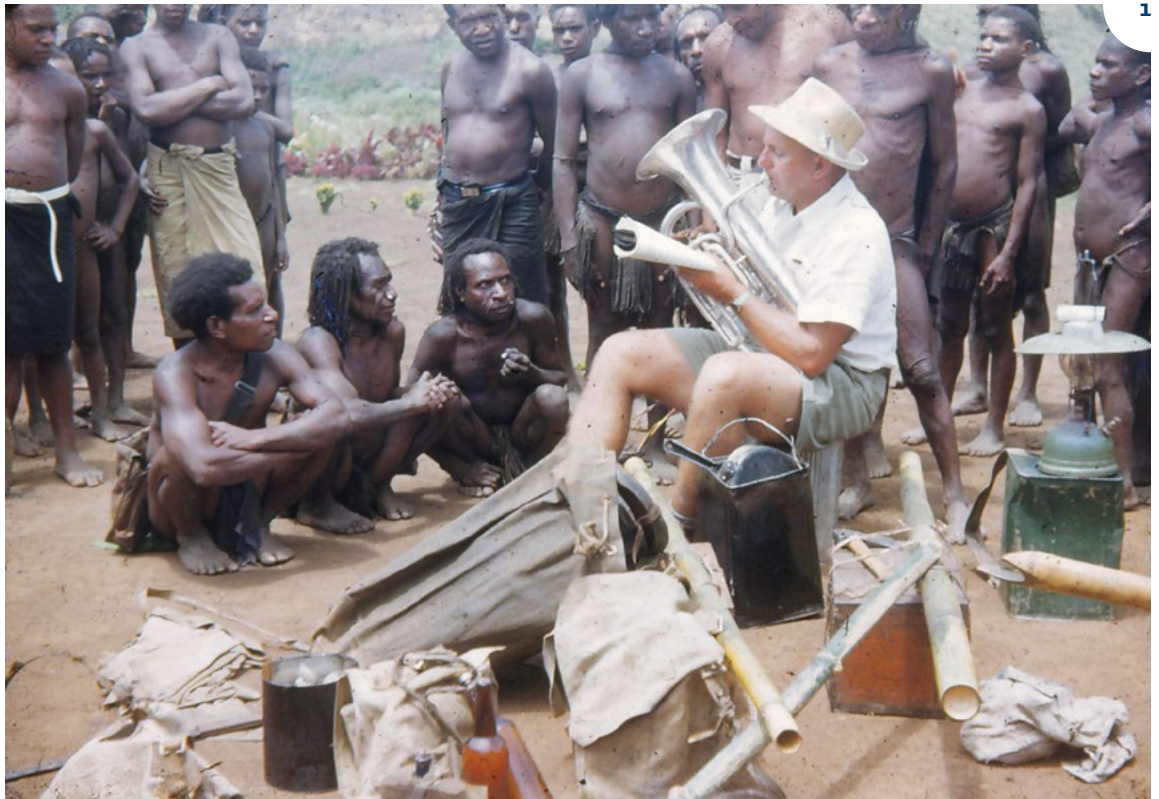


Now retired, **Lester Devine** served as director emeritus of the Ellen G. White/Adventist Research Center in Avondale, Australia.

Eric Alan Albert Boehm (1910–1984) was a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, missionary, church administrator, and the first president of the Bismarck-Solomons Union Mission based in Rabaul, in what was then called the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. The following story is adapted from his biographical article in the online Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists. We invite you to visit encyclopedia.adventist.org to enjoy more stories about Adventist missionaries.

Eric Alan Albert Boehm was born on July 3, 1910, in Hamilton, Victoria, Australia. He began school at the age of 6, traveling back and forth with his sister Leila in a horse-drawn cart driven by his mother.

At 14, in 1924, Boehm began work as an apprentice press machinist for Signs Publishing Company in Warburton, Victoria. He finished his apprenticeship in 1930, the same year he met a young woman named Dorothy Isabel Shelton. He then served eight months as a fully qualified



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press machinist before attending the Australasian Missionary College (now Avondale University) to prepare for pastoral and evangelistic ministry.

Boehm completed his ministerial training studies at the end of 1935. His first appointment was as an evangelist trainee in New South Wales. But after just one year, he was appointed to the Aroma mission station on the coast of Papua New Guinea. On December 1, 1936, just before leaving for Papua, he and Dorothy were married in Melbourne.

The young couple left Sydney aboard the SS *Montoro* on January 13, 1937, and arrived in Port Moresby on January 21, where they spent a few days at the mission headquarters at Mirigeda. Then they boarded the small mission ship *Diari*, arriving at Aroma on January 28.

In Papua New Guinea, the Boehms quickly learned the Motu language and some of the local village dialects. When the time drew near for their first child to be delivered, they returned briefly to the Mirigeda Mission. There Boehm, with the help of Lester Lock, the son of veteran missionary W. N. Lock, translated and printed the Papuan Advent Hymnal on the same press he had used in his printing apprenticeship at the Signs Publishing Company some years earlier. Dorothy gave birth to Kenneth Alvin in nearby Port Moresby.

Toward the end of 1939, the Boehm family returned to Australia on furlough, and their second son, Raymond Leighton, was born at the

Warburton Sanitarium near Melbourne. Unfortunately, Dorothy became ill after the delivery, and the local physicians, unfamiliar with tropical diseases, didn't diagnose her cerebral malaria in time. Ten days after giving birth, 29-year-old Dorothy died just before the antimalarial medicine she needed arrived at the hospital from Melbourne. Boehm's sister, Leila Hill, and her husband, Richmond, took the two young boys into their home on the outskirts of Sydney and temporarily looked after them.

With his sons well cared for, Boehm returned to Papua New Guinea in early 1941. He worked in the Gulf Province on the southern coast and dug air raid trenches as World War II approached. When Port Moresby was bombed, an evacuation order was given, and he accepted an offer of passage on the *Potrero* to Cairns, Australia. Once there, Boehm took a train to Sydney. When he walked into the church headquarters office at Wahroonga, there was all-around relief because the office had lost contact with him as a result of the lack of communication caused by the war.

In April 1942, Boehm began serving in pastoral evangelism in New South Wales. On September 23,



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1942, he married Grace Jean Reynolds, a registered nurse at Sydney Sanitarium and Hospital. A few weeks later, he was ordained to the gospel ministry. In 1943, his third son, Grace's first, Donalyn

Albert, was born at Sydney Adventist Hospital.

Before the war in the Pacific had officially ended, Boehm returned to Papua New Guinea, this time at Bisiatabu. There he served as the district

director and secretary-treasurer of the Papua Mission until the end of 1947. During 1948, Boehm and his family furloughed in Australia, and on his return, he was the district director for the Madana area. In March 1949, he was appointed the secretary-treasurer of the North-east New Guinea Mission based in Madang.

The following two incidents from Boehm's ministry illustrate both the hardships of mission work and God's providential care. In 1949, he visited Togoba Hospital and stayed with the Barnards, a missionary family. Late one night, the Barnards' house caught fire. Made of local bush materials, the structure burned quickly. Boehm lost everything, including his Bible, sermon notes, and briefcase that contained the union mission handwritten ledger. Consequently, there was much added work with



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the local missions to reconstruct the lost files. That same year, Boehm and Grace welcomed another son, Robert Bruce, into their lives.

Some 18 months later, Boehm took responsibility for the 45-foot mission vessel *Light*, and the family moved to Manus Island for three months. With the disruption of the war, there had not been any regular church program on the island. Some months were spent providing communion on all days of the week and conducting baptisms and marriages.

When visiting Wuvulu in the Western Islands, Boehm was ordered off the island by the locals. Fortunately, Grace noted several tuberculosis cases, and Boehm reported this to the district commissioner. A patrol brought a number of these ill people back to the mainland for treatment. Adventists visited these people in the hospital, sharing their food with them and doing their best to make them comfortable. In time, the patients came to believe that the good Adventist food and hospitality were what made them well. On hearing this, their chief demanded an Adventist missionary be located on their island.

In 1951, Boehm was appointed president of the Northeast New Guinea Mission in the Papua New Guinea highlands based in Goroka. In 1953, he was transferred to Rabaul on the island of New Britain to serve as the president of the newly formed Bismarck-Solomons Union Mission. He held this position until after the 1962 General Conference Session. Then the family returned permanently to Australia, and in January 1963, Boehm took up new duties as the district pastor for the five New South Wales Central Coast Adventist churches. It was a challenging role that, in time, led to new churches being built at Gosford, Erina, and Ourimbah and the establishment of an Adventist school, the forerunner of today's Central Coast Adventist School. Boehm retired on April 30, 1971.

In October 1983, Grace turned 70. Her family celebrated with her what would be her last birthday. She passed away on November 24, 1983. Boehm's last words to her were "Good night, Grace. I'll see you in the morning."

The next year Boehm had a heart attack and spent some weeks in the hospital. With continuing angina problems, he could no longer pursue energetic activities. He died on November 12, 1984, a little less than a year after Grace. They are buried alongside each other at the Point Clare Cemetery on the New South Wales Central Coast. These two missionaries, totally committed to the cause of Christ, await the resurrection.

Photos courtesy of Ray and Del Boehm.



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- 1 Eric Boehm plays an instrument for an audience of indigenous tribe members in Fore District, Papua New Guinea, 1950
- 2 Eric and Dorothy Boehm departing Sydney for Port Moresby, January 1937
- 3 Eric, Dorothy, and Ken Boehm
- 4 Eric Boehm at Mirigeda, circa 1939
- 5 The Boehm family in Australia, 1957. From left: Ken, Don, Robert, Grace, Eric, and Ray
- 6 Eric and Grace Boehm with Highland men, Papua New Guinea, 1952



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1

Church in a Yurt



Ricky Oliveras,
Office of
Adventist
Mission

The hills around Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, are covered with brightly colored houses and traditional yurts. A yurt is a type of elaborate, semi-permanent tent.

The concept of these structures has been used for many generations. They can be assembled and disassembled in only a few hours. They may not seem sturdy, but yurts can withstand severe storms.

In some areas of Mongolia, yurts are used as places to worship. They provide a perfect space to keep warm during the cold winter months.

Boonoo is the chief accountant for Mongolia's Adventist Development and Relief Agency. She uses her yurt home to host a small congregation and the country's only Pathfinder club.

Boonoo and her husband, Bumchin, planted a church as Global Mission pioneers several years ago. Boonoo began by starting a Bible story time, which quickly became popular with both the children and the adults because of her enthusiasm, creativity, and wonderful storytelling.

At that time, Boonoo and Bumchin attended the Adventist church in the city. As the neighborhood children became more involved in their lives, the couple took them along. That soon became a problem because their car could fit only so many children. The solution, they decided, was to start a Sabbath School in their yurt home. The weekly services were well attended, with parents often accompanying their children. This led to a growing Pathfinder club and then to church services.

Boonoo and Bumchin are a model church-planting team, connecting with their community in positive ways, meeting people's needs, and then inviting them to accept Jesus as their Savior. The people are responding, and the church



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is growing in Mongolia. Since the couple started church planting in their neighborhood, dozens of community members have accepted Jesus into their hearts and been baptized.

Please pray for the Adventist work in this country in the 10/40 Window. And please support church planters such as Boonoo and Bumchin, who are sharing a message of hope in challenging areas around the world.

- 1 A yurt in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- 2 Boonoo (*left in back*) and Bumchin (*second from right in back*) in their yurt with neighborhood children during Sabbath School
- 3 Boonoo
- 4 The church planters with their congregation and Pathfinder Club
- 5 Bumchin



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GLOBAL MISSION

Please help Global Mission pioneers reach the 66 percent of the world's population who haven't had the opportunity to experience Jesus. To learn more, visit global-mission.org.

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Watch "Church in a Yurt" at m360.tv/s21412.



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Mrs. Mulyati Meets ADRA

Indonesia consists of more than 17,000 islands, including Sumatra, Java, West Sulawesi, and parts of Borneo and New Guinea. It's home to the world's largest Muslim population, with an estimated 229.6 million Muslims comprising 87 percent of the population. These islands are frequently

struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis because of their location on the Ring of Fire, an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Ocean. In West Sulawesi, Indonesia, Mrs. Mulyati met the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) for the first time. This is her story.

It was Sabbath, January 15, 2021. Most people were tucked into bed, lulled to sleep by the rhythm of rain, unaware that their world was about to be rocked again, literally. A small earthquake had struck the day before, damaging homes but not extensively.

Suddenly, Mrs. Mulyati opened her eyes. Had she dreamed it, or had her bed moved? She glanced at the clock. It was just after midnight—way too early to be awake.

She was about to roll over when the realization suddenly struck her. Her bed *was* moving! Suddenly furniture began to slide. Mrs. Mulyati found herself on the floor scrambling for something to hang on to, but nothing was in its place. The floor began breaking into pieces right underneath her.

Desperately, she looked for a way to escape, but her bedroom door was blocked by a fallen roof beam. Mrs. Mulyati lunged for the window, opened it quickly, and hoisted herself out, thankful that she didn't live on an upper story.

Falling debris forced her to run away from the house. She could hear people screaming, calling for their family or loved ones. Mrs. Mulyati realized that many were trapped under structures. Others were running past her, bleeding or limping in pain. She turned around just in time to see her home crumble to the ground.

Gone. Everything Mrs. Mulyati had worked for all her life, gone. In a matter of minutes, maybe seconds. She didn't have a coat to shield her from the pouring rain. She didn't have shoes on her feet. It was like the earth had devoured everything in its way, swallowing some things and spitting others out.

"Go to higher ground!" Mrs. Mulyati heard some people urging as they swept past her in the dark. So, that is what she did. She slipped and slid and struggled uphill in the darkness. Only a few people had been able to grab flashlights.

Children were crying, adults were crying. It was hard to tell if Mrs. Mulyati was crying, whether the rivulets of water running down her cheeks were tears or rain. She silently, numbly followed the thousands of people in front of her.

"That night, the weather was not good," Mrs. Mulyati said later. "It was heavy rain, and the power was off. I heard our villagers crying and screaming as they tried to find their family members. With those conditions, they needed to find a higher and safer place. We really were not ready. At our evacuated place, there was no tent. Most of us were wet and cold. A few were injured from the walls that had fallen. With minimal lighting, the villagers tried to set up temporary shelters with whatever they could find. We waited for the morning wearing our wet clothes, hoping for help to come soon. It was a really sad and tough time for us."

Due to potential tsunamis, 8,658 people left their damaged homes and fled inland, where they lived in makeshift tents. This situation produced huge challenges for the elderly, disabled, and mothers with young children. The camps were overcrowded and unorganized.

Unknown to Mrs. Mulyati, help was on the way. Clinton Rapell, ADRA's country director for Indonesia, said, "Immediately after the earthquake, ADRA deployed a team from Central Sulawesi to West Sulawesi to decide on the activation of ADRA's National Emergency Management Plan. With the support of local staff and volunteers, ADRA had already started an initial response the day after the earthquake with its own resources to support emergency shelter intervention."

With relief and joy, Mrs. Mulyati and thousands of others watched as ADRA trucks rolled into their makeshift village. She didn't know what was in those trucks, but she could see the compassion and love on the workers' faces as they organized the crowds of people into groups for assessment.

ADRA distributed emergency tents for 2,200 families and multipurpose cash funds, a cash distribution approach to meet basic needs during a humanitarian response, for 2,360 families of earthquake survivors in West Sulawesi. The distributed items were enough for survivors to eat for two months.

That is how Mrs. Mulyati met ADRA. She expressed her appreciation in these words: "I am very grateful for the kindness of all those who have been willing to help us during this difficult time."

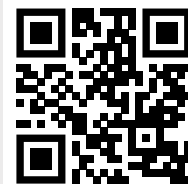


Crystal Earnhardt is a writer for Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International.



The Adventist Development and Relief Agency is the global humanitarian organization of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. ADRA delivers relief and community development assistance to individuals in more than 118 countries through an international network. Learn more about ADRA at [ADRA.org](https://www.adra.org).

Thank you for supporting ADRA through your weekly mission offerings and, in North America, by giving to the World Budget. To give, visit [adventistmission.org/donate](https://www.adventistmission.org/donate).



Watch ADRA mission stories at [m360.tv/adra](https://www.m360.tv/adra).



The Marshallese GLOW



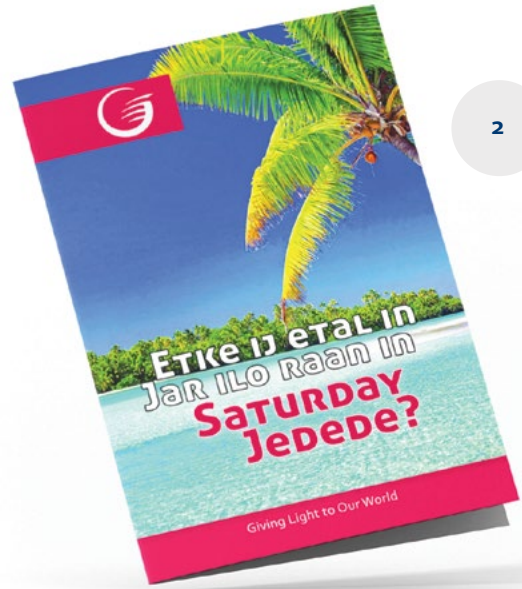
Gracelyn Lloyd is the communication director for the Guam-Micronesia Mission and editor of *The Tropical Isles*.

The Marshall Islands got a little brighter last summer with the arrival of the first GLOW tract* published in the local language.

It all began with a missionary named Elisa. Several years ago, she was searching for God's plan in her life when a friend suggested she serve as a volunteer teacher. Elisa liked the idea and, after much prayer, felt called to go to the tiny island of Ebeye in the Marshall Islands. There she taught pre-kindergarten and kindergarten-age children at Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist School. She loved the children and experience so much, she stayed for another year to teach second grade!

On Ebeye, Elisa shared a small living space with others. Yet, she felt spoiled when she saw the crowded living conditions of her students. When she visited their homes to meet their families, her eyes were opened to the environmental and emotional challenges that many of them face. This understanding deepened her desire to share Jesus with them.

One day, Elisa described the mission work on Ebeye to her mother, Desirée, who worked at



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GLOW Literature in central California. Inspired by Elisa's passion for reaching the Marshallese people, Desirée mailed English-language tracts to be distributed there. But she wondered, *Could we get the tracts to the Marshallese in their own language?*

Desirée shared her idea with Raian Villacruel, the school principal at the time. Her excitement grew as it merged with his own dream to produce Adventist literature in the Marshallese language.

Because less than 1 percent of the Marshallese population is Adventist, it was decided that "Why I Go to Church on Saturday" would be the first GLOW tract to be translated.

Kamlitha Bulles, a member of the Ebeye Adventist church, agreed to work on the translation along with Darrel Riklon, an Adventist teacher in Majuro, the capital city of the Marshall Islands. The completed transcript was delivered to Desirée, who had raised the entire cost of the printing herself. Finally, 23,900 GLOW tracts in Marshallese reached Majuro and the tiny island of Ebeye.

Desirée said, "It is my prayer that many will be led to the complete loving truth of the Lord. This tract is in honor of the Lord, as my daughter Elisa listened to His calling to her heart for mission. I pray that her story (His story in her) can be retold to encourage others to leave all and follow the Lord. May it be like the widow's mite when she gave all and God multiplied [her gift] throughout all time."



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And multiplied it has.

Pastor Selvin Intong and the youth on Majuro distributed the tracts as they invited families in their community to their Vacation Bible School. Pastor Alex Riano shared the tract with the king of Kwajalein Island when he visited his home. The king was delighted to discover that Saturday is the Sabbath day! On Ebeye, church members are distributing the GLOW tracts to their neighbors and colleagues.

Though this project took several years to complete and involved many people, it began in the heart of one missionary. Her motivation was no less than love. "No matter where I go or what I do, I have this never-ending desire to help, heal, love, and give of my time and service to those in need," Elisa said. "This is where my passion and heart lie."

Please pray that these tracts will spark the love of Jesus in the hearts of the Marshallese people. And pray that more GLOW tract topics can be translated into the Marshallese language.

Adapted with permission from the stories on the Guam-Micronesia Mission's website.

*GLOW stands for "Giving Light to Our World." The pocket-size tracts are produced by the Adventist Church and designed to share God's love with others. For more information, visit glowonline.org.



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- 1 Elisa during her interview with Adventist Mission
- 2 The first GLOW tract translated into the Marshallese language
- 3 Elisa and her students at Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist School
- 4 Kamlitha Bulles holds a package of tracts she helped to translate



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Is God calling you to serve in Guam-Micronesia?

Every year, the operation of Guam-Micronesia Mission schools depends heavily on volunteers. To help them continue their mission, please prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to serve. To see the open positions, visit the Guam-Micronesia Mission website at gmmsda.org/missions/open-positions, and check back regularly for future positions.



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



Watch Elisa's story "When God Sent Me Back" at m360.tv/s18213.



Hello, Goodbye, I Love You

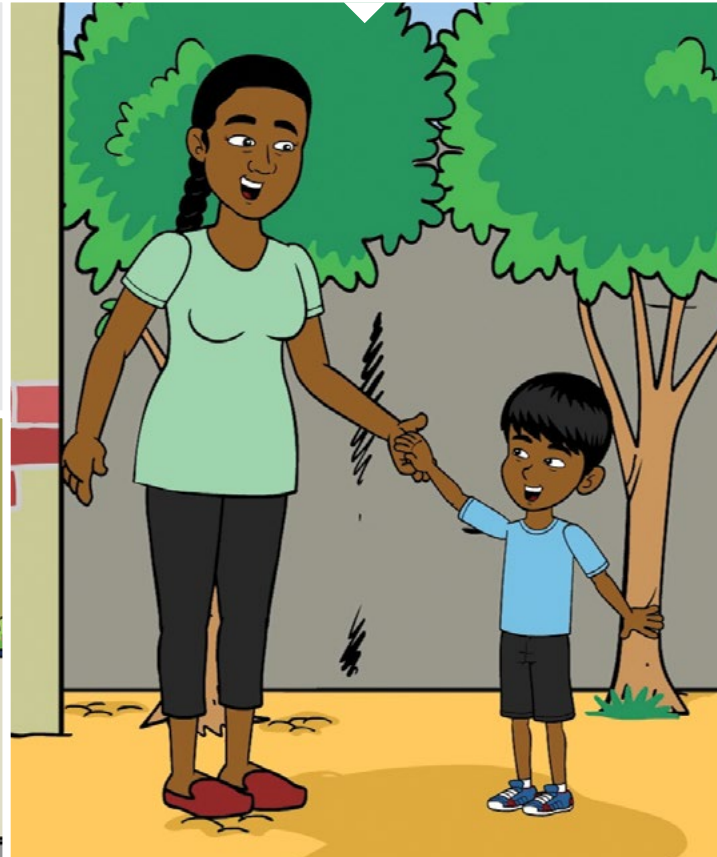
When Bino turned three, his mom decided that she wanted him to go to an international school in Timor-Leste.

An international school is not like a regular public school. Going to a public school in Timor-Leste doesn't cost any money, and the teachers speak Portuguese. However, going to an international school costs money, and the teachers speak English.

Bino's mom wanted him to learn English, so she asked his dad to find an international school in Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste, where they lived.

Bino's dad found several international schools, but they were all too expensive.

Then he walked past a Seventh-day Adventist church. He saw a sign on the church fence advertising the Timor Adventist International School. He called the phone number on the sign for more information. To his delight, he learned that they could afford to send Bino to the school.



Bino's parents weren't Adventists, but they had heard about Adventists before. His mom's uncle was an Adventist.

Bino started studying at the Adventist school. He quickly began to learn English, and because of him, his mom did too. Every day, when Bino came home from school, she asked him to teach her the English words he had learned.

"Hello," Bino said.

"Hello," his mom repeated.

"Goodbye," Bino said.

"Goodbye," she repeated.

As the weeks and months passed, their English lessons grew more complicated.

"I love you," Bino said.

"I love you!" his mom exclaimed.





English was not the only thing that Bino taught her after school. Every day, Bino heard Bible stories from his teachers, and he came home and told his mom about David and Goliath, Jonah and the big fish, and Jesus and the little boy whose lunch fed more than 5,000 people. She loved hearing her little boy tell Bible stories.



Bino's parents began reading the Bible. Sometimes they had questions about what they were reading, so they talked with the pastor of the Adventist church near Bino's school and an American missionary who also lived on the island. The pastor and the missionary visited Bino's house regularly. The day came that Bino's parents were baptized and joined the Adventist Church.

Today, not only Bino but also his parents go to the Adventist school. They work as the school's caretakers.

Because of the school, the whole family now speaks English, but more importantly, they love Jesus with all their hearts.

A few years ago, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped open the Adventist school in Dili. This quarter, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a dormitory so children from faraway villages can study and live at the school. Thank you for giving to this special offering! You can do so at Sabbath School or by visiting adventistmission.org/donate.



More Children's Mission Stories

Find dozens of inspiring mission stories for children at AdventistMission.org/childrens-mission-quarterly.



Watch this story in action at [m360.tv/s2213!](http://m360.tv/s2213)



Story by Nerida Koolik, a retired nurse and a mother of three who lives in Northern New South Wales, Australia. She and her husband, Peter, work as volunteers, coordinating church-building projects in various parts of the world.



Animation by Diogo Godoy



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