



mission 360°

STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



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EDITORIAL

Return of the Pioneer

There is nothing like the thrill of visiting a Global Mission pioneer. Even more exciting is seeing them meeting with their small group of fledgling believers. I remember doing this in a house church up a dusty road in a mountain village in Indonesia and sneaking into a small apartment in a concrete-block building in an eastern European country. I remember the rustling sound of a blue tarp underfoot and over our heads in southeast Asia and seeing a pioneer teaching the Sabbath school lesson under trees in rural Africa.

Yet the church I visited recently was totally different. The pioneers had left years ago. This time I saw a church building, with a school next door. The church has 125 members, and the school is considered one of the best in the city.

There were no Adventists in this city when the pioneers arrived. They started trying to sell books, canvassing door to door. They tried to rent a place to hold meetings, but people refused to rent to them. They got the message, they weren't welcome in this city.

Instead, they received an invitation to go to a nearby town. There, they were able to rent a hall and start work. Before long they had a small group started with five baptized members. Then they were invited to another town, and before long they had a group with 37 members.

It took years before they were finally accepted in the main city and were able to find a meeting place. They started a small group and soon they had 30 members. Since then, this church has given birth to four "baby churches." The small groups in those nearby towns have also grown into full churches, and each of them has started baby churches. One of the original pioneers who helped start these churches returned to visit the area with me. He is now the Adventist Mission director for the region and showed me how God had blessed his efforts through the years.

Pioneers are still going to unreached areas today. Pioneers such as Taguhi and Aghvan are working in an area with very few Adventists. You can read their story "Mission Matrimony" on page 15. Please pray for missionaries and Global Mission pioneers as they start new work in the 10/40 Window, the large cities of the world, and among post-Christian people. May God bless their work as they share the gospel and start new worshipping groups.



Rick Kajiura

Communication director,
Office of Adventist Mission

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About our cover photo

PHOTO BY CALEB HAAKENSON

Anthony Kent participated in an I Will Go Bike Ride, which he planned in partnership with the Adventist Church in Scotland. Joined by a team of pastors, Pastor Kent spent a week cycling across the Shetland Islands to tell people about Jesus. His story is on page four of this magazine.

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Cyclists (from left): Pastor Paul Tomkins, Pastor Anthony Kent, Pastor Wilfred Masih, and Pastor Fitzroy Morris

The Tour de Shetlands



Scotland



Caleb Haakenson

is a video producer for the Office of Adventist Mission.

Fierce wind. Freezing temps. Pounding rain. Nothing could stop these cyclists because they were driven by a purpose dear to their hearts.

They were part of an I Will Go Bike Ride organized by Anthony Kent, associate ministerial secretary at the General Conference, in partnership with the Scottish Mission. He and a team, composed mostly of pastors from the United Kingdom, spent a week cycling across the Shetland Islands to tell people about Jesus and share Adventist literature.

“We’ve come to the Shetland Islands because there are twenty-three thousand people here and not a single Adventist,” Pastor Kent said. “We want to reach them with the gospel.”

After an overnight ferry ride to reach the islands, the team set off to reach the unreached, riding through every inhabited street and stopping to talk to anyone they met.

“It’s cold!” Pastor Kent said. “But this is still really good fun, and people’s hearts are open.”

This wasn’t the first I Will Go Bike Ride. Pastor Kent led a cycling ministry trip from Washington, DC, to St. Louis, Missouri, in the United States and was instrumental in three rides in Australia as well.

“We’ve found it’s a wonderful way to generate significant but brief conversations and an opportunity to share the gospel,” Pastor Kent said.

There’s a special reason the Shetland Islands were chosen for this ride. In the 1800s, Philip Reekie emigrated from Scotland to Australia. As a literature evangelist, he rode his bike thousands of miles around the continent, sharing the gospel with anyone he rode past. One of those people was Pastor Kent’s great-great-grandfather.

“Philip Reekie rode up to him on a bicycle and shared *The Great Controversy*. It completely transformed his life. There are seven

generations of Adventists in my family because of his wonderful ministry.”

Pastor Kent’s dream was to take the spirit of Philip Reekie and his desire to lead people to Christ back to his homeland.

“We haven’t just stayed on the main roads,” Pastor Kent said. “We’ve deliberately ridden past homes. We’ve seen people out and about whether they’re cutting their grass, putting their washing out, walking their dog, or farming. We’ve gone to where people are available, and we’ve had wonderful conversations with them.”

Although this is not the way Pastor Kent and his bike team normally witness, they’ve seen the value of unique methods of ministry.

“These pastors aren’t cyclists,” he said, “but they’re willing to go to the ends of the earth, even if it means riding a bike in wet, cold, windy conditions if it may lead one person to Jesus. My hope is that people will look at unentered places, places where we don’t have any Adventists, and do what they can to reach them.”

Please pray for the hearts of the Shetland people and those around the world who are using unique methods of ministry to reach the unreached for Jesus.

Photos: Marcos Paseggi, *Adventist Review*



The I Will Go initiative is a rallying cry for total member involvement. It’s a call for every church member to become actively involved in reaching the world for Jesus using their God-given spiritual gifts in witness and service. Explore the I Will Go plan and find your place in this global movement!



iwillgo.org



Watch this story in action at m360.tv/s2429.



The I Will Go Bike Ride team (from left): cyclist Pastor Fitzroy Morris, cyclist Pastor Wilfred Masih, team cook Kanchan Masih, Scottish Mission president and team support and logistics leader Pastor Jimmy Botha, cyclist Pastor Paul Tompkins, and cyclist Pastor Anthony Kent. Not pictured: General Conference associate director of Health Ministries and cyclist Dr. Torben Bergland and cyclist Pastor Weiers Coetser

Exiled



Veiled Country

Ten-year-old Babur* watched curiously as the couple got off the train and were led down the street by a government official. The official rented a room in the home of Babur's uncle, and the couple moved in with their suitcases. For days, the little village buzzed with talk—everyone wanted to know who these people were and why they had come.

Slowly, pieces of their story emerged. The man was a famous violin maker with awards from around the world. He was also something called an Adventist. He had gotten in trouble for selling Christian books in the capital city, and the authorities had banished him to this small town for two and a half years.

The boys laughed as they repeated the story. "Imagine a heathen Christian being sent to our village. We'll see what happens if he tries to sell his books here!"

But the man didn't try to sell books. And he didn't attack their religion or talk about his. He just smiled at everyone, learned their names, and began to help them. The villagers noticed that the man and his wife didn't drink alcohol, eat pork, or smoke like other Christians they knew.

Before long, the community loved and respected the couple. They were like grandparents to all the kids in town. The villagers invited them to weddings, and they were involved in village decisions. When the time came for them to return to the capital city, the community showered them with gifts and hugs.

Can you imagine how the couple felt as the train pulled from the station? They had longed to share the gospel, but they had been exiled to a place where they couldn't talk about Jesus. Did they wonder whether the past 30 months had been a waste of time?



Homer Trecartin,

now retired, wrote this story while serving as the planning director for the Office of Adventist Mission.





The Army Calls

Ten years passed. Babur married his childhood playmate, Nadire, and went to the capital city to serve in the military. He loved to party, and for a while, he spent his ample free time doing so. However, he kept thinking of the loving man who once lived in his town.

Babur learned where the man lived and went to visit him. As they talked, Babur asked whether he could accompany him and his wife to their place of worship.

Babur began attending the Adventist church frequently, and soon, he quit smoking, drinking, and partying. He prayed like he had never prayed before. One night, he felt the power of God come over him and wept as he realized that Jesus had died for him and that his sins were forgiven.

Babur worried about how to tell his wife about the transformation he had experienced. After much prayer, he wrote her a letter explaining how his life had changed and that he was attending church with the couple they remembered so fondly.

Within days, an angry letter arrived. "Lies!" Nadire snapped. "You're just going to church to see Christian girls." She couldn't fathom that he was interested in the Christian's God.

Sentenced to Die

When Babur came home to visit, Nadire noticed that many things about him were different. He spent much of his time playing with their baby girl and caring for their parents. Nadire liked some of the changes, however, others irritated her. She loved to dance, but Babur wasn't interested in such things anymore.

When Babur returned home from military service, he shared with his family what he had been learning about God. The news spread like wildfire. People began gossiping about the couple. Babur and Nadire had problems with their parents because Babur wouldn't help in the fields on Sabbath. Finally, Nadire's father brought her and the child to his home to live and publicly declared, "Babur must die!"

Somehow, Babur and Nadire got messages back and forth. They packed what few belongings they could carry and met at a bus stop. Tears streamed down their faces as they sped away.

As the miles ticked by, Nadire remembered her dream the night before. In it, she and a friend were watching a storm approach. In the clouds, she distinctly saw a face she had seen in Babur's books—the face of Jesus. He smiled and said, "Don't be afraid."

Suddenly, gigantic waves began washing people away. She and her friend tried to run, but Nadire wasn't scared. She called out to her screaming friend, "Be quiet. He is the Redeemer, and He will save us!" Then, she woke and prayed to Jesus for the first time. On the bus, she whispered to Babur, "I will follow you wherever this experience takes us."

Approaching Uncle

Over the next two years, Nadire and Babur studied with the kind man in the capital city, and then they were baptized. One day, Babur told Nadire that he was going to see his uncle. "He's constantly looking to kill us," Babur said. "I must tell him we're not what he thinks we are."

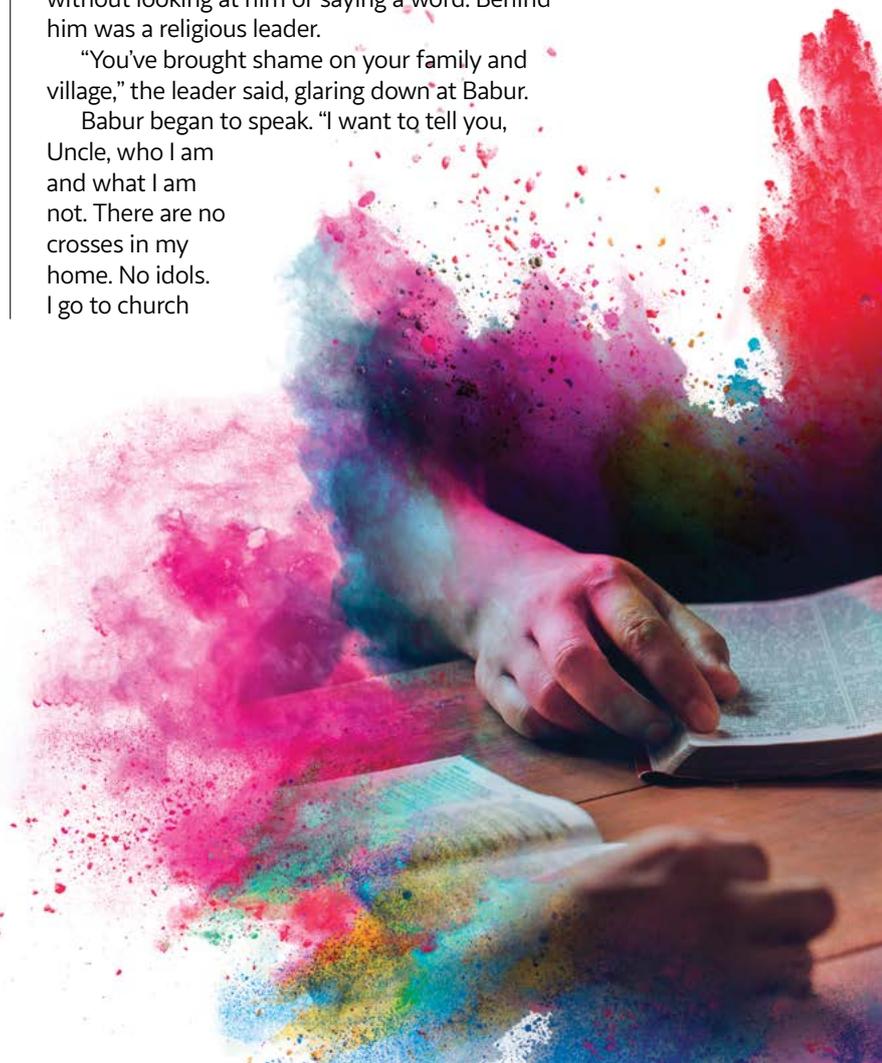
As Babur walked to his uncle's home, he saw people watching from their windows. He prayed and then knocked on the door. It was opened by his aunt. "Babur!" she hissed through clenched teeth. "Leave quickly. Uncle isn't here, but if he sees you, something bad will happen."

"Auntie," Babur answered softly, "I will come in and wait for him."

Finally, there was a noise outside. The door flew open, and Uncle stomped past Babur without looking at him or saying a word. Behind him was a religious leader.

"You've brought shame on your family and village," the leader said, glaring down at Babur.

Babur began to speak. "I want to tell you, Uncle, who I am and what I am not. There are no crosses in my home. No idols. I go to church



with the man we loved. You remember, the one who lived in your house?"

Uncle grunted but still refused to speak.

"What's in that book you're carrying?" the leader demanded. "Read something to me!"

Babur began to read from his Bible about the prophet Abraham.

"Hmmm," the leader said thoughtfully. "Read from another place."

Gaining courage, Babur read verses from several other chapters.

The leader turned to Babur's uncle. "I don't see any difficulties with this young man," he announced. "You've been exaggerating the problems."

Although Uncle still ignored Babur, the anger was gone from his eyes. He let Babur leave without making further threats.

With tears in his eyes, Babur says that God sometimes allows pain to come, but He always has a purpose. Years ago, God let a couple be banished to a remote village. They experienced loneliness and fear, but their quiet witness changed one young man's life. Then God allowed almost everything that young man cherished to be stripped away. He came close to losing his wife, his child, and his life. But through that experience, the villagers saw the tremendous change God can make in a person's life. Some of Babur and Nadire's relatives and friends have joined them in following Jesus.

I don't know whether the old couple ever learned what a difference their lives had made. But in heaven, they will see that their time in exile was not wasted!

*Names have been changed

Changed Feelings

Babur and Nadire stayed away from their home village for several years. When they returned, they tried to be like the couple who had come years before. They were friendly to everyone and helped them with their needs. In time, the villagers grew to love them.

Eventually, Babur and Nadire spent many years in a neighboring country serving the needs of others. When they returned to the village to visit, they were welcomed with open arms.

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



Kenya

“Whether You Like It or Not, You Will Deliver a Baby Today”



August 18

Hey! Leilani here!
I've just arrived at Kendu Adventist Hospital in Kenya with three other student missionaries: Logan, Gabe, and David. We'll be serving in many ways, including working in the hospital, helping kids at the elementary school, and hosting Vacation Bible Schools, plus a plethora of other tasks I've yet to discover!

August 28

Today was my first day working in the hospital. After eating a delicious breakfast, I donned my scrubs and reported to the labor and delivery ward. I had incredible experiences, including witnessing my first Cesarean section. I was filled with awe as I watched the doctor quickly cut open the patient, reach in, and take out the baby. I also witnessed the removal of an ovarian cyst and ingrown toenail. The most jaw-dropping experience was seeing a leg be amputated from the knee down.

The medical staff is eager to involve the student missionaries. I was told that I would be assisting with surgeries tomorrow and delivering babies at the end of my two-week rotation. I can't wait!

September 18

I love Kenya. I love the people and their kind, welcoming spirit. I love hearing the roosters crow, the people speak loudly in their native language, and the constant lilt of music.

I also love working in the labor and delivery ward, assisting the surgical team and caring for newborn babies. Three mothers have asked me to name their children!

The Nyaburi Integrated School for Disabled Students is a short walk from the hospital. This school is a place of great need, so the other

Leilani holding the baby she delivered



Leilani assisting with a Cesarean section



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 worldwide. Volunteers age 18 to 80 may serve as pastors, teachers, medical professionals, computer technicians, orphanage workers, farmers, and more. To learn more, visit AdventistVolunteers.org.

A service of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, VividFaith connects people with mission opportunities.



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Leilani Darnell, a nursing student at Southern Adventist University, served as a student missionary at Kendu Adventist Hospital in Kenya. The following content has been adapted with permission from her blog "Called to Africa," which can be found on Southern Adventist University's website.

student missionaries and I will go there weekly to minister to the kids and raise money to improve their lives.

November 6

Today was the most memorable day I've had during my mission in Africa. I wanted to help deliver a baby, but each time I worked in the maternity ward, there were so many students assisting that I didn't have an opportunity. This morning, I was the only student on duty, and two laboring mothers had been admitted at the same time. After assessing them, the nurse turned to me and said, "Leilani, whether you like it or not, you will be delivering a baby today."

That sent a thrill of excitement through me, and I sent a quick prayer to God, asking Him to guide my hands. I donned rain boots, sterile gloves, and a protective apron. After the mother did a bit of pushing, I saw the baby's head and knew it was time. The nurse instructed me while I guided the newborn's head and checked to make sure the umbilical cord wasn't wrapped

around its neck. I also had to manipulate the baby's arm and shoulder because it was slightly stuck. After that, the baby slipped out, and we placed it on the exhausted mother's chest. She was thrilled, and so was I!

I've had many rewarding experiences during my time in Kenya. But the highlight was helping bring a new little life into the world!

November 8

Stepping out of my house this morning, I enjoyed the crisp morning air before the sun's heat burned it away. I heard the shouts of laughter and the banging of pots and pans as my fellow Kenyans began their day bright and early.

When I entered the maternity ward at the hospital, a patient beamed and handed me her baby, wanting to take a photo of me holding her little one. Another patient, exhausted from her labor, asked me for my name and then christened her tiny newborn Leilani. Giving her hand a squeeze of encouragement, I knew that I had, without a doubt, found my passion and my calling.



We Need a Nurse!

Sierra and Florita, a child
living at the boarding school



Bolivia



Sierra Anderson is earning her bachelor's degree in nursing at Southern Adventist University. From the United States, she served as a registered nurse in Bolivia, where she started a clinic. She is the president of a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting children in need.

The following article was adapted with permission from the third episode of the Yours to Use podcast, a ministry of Southern Adventist University's student missions program.

As a missionary nurse serving at a boarding school and orphanage in Bolivia, I was often faced with medical emergencies I'd never had to handle before.

One time, a boy got a small cut on his leg. I repeatedly treated it with antibiotic cream and an adhesive bandage, and his house parents repeatedly took off the bandage, convinced it would cause an infection. Eventually, I told them to come see me if they wanted my help. A month later, the boy hobbled into the clinic in great pain. The wound had closed, but his leg was swollen and discolored. I knew there was a nasty infection deep under the skin and that I'd need to cut it open, drain it, and pack it with gauze. I'd never done this before, so I called several medical specialists and watched online tutorials. That evening, I did the procedure while the boy's friends watched nervously. It went well, and after a month of treatment and much prayer, his leg recovered!

Another time, two brothers stepped on rusty nails. The nails penetrated deeply into their feet, and I knew they needed tetanus shots. Only the government hospital could administer them, but when we arrived, the nurse told me they couldn't because the children weren't old enough to receive booster shots. I explained that the boys had been found living on the streets and probably never received their initial shots. My efforts made no difference, though, so I brought them home and prayed for wisdom to treat them.

I searched the internet for natural remedies and learned that high doses of vitamin C might help. The article recommended three times the adult daily dosage. Because the boys were three and five, I decided to treat them with the maximum child's dosage during the period they'd be at risk and continue researching other recommended treatments.

I administered their first dose, asked God to convict me if they needed more, and rushed to another children's home to see a patient. While I was there, the housemother told me that one of the infants refused to drink our baby formula. I took the giant tub of powder to use in the clinic and left. Then I remembered I'd forgotten something at the



Sierra working in her clinic

After hiking through the star-lit forest that night, we arrived at their home to find them gravely ill. Barely alert, they were vomiting and had rashes, high fevers, and coughs. Their breath was raspy, and their jaundiced skin left yellow smudges on our gloves. On a table lay intravenous fluids, antibiotics, and pain medications that a doctor had prescribed. We treated them as best we could and returned to our campus for a few minutes to get more supplies.

The remaining minutes of the night ticked by slowly as we cared for the men and earnestly prayed for wisdom to treat them. I'd never felt so helpless, nor had I ever felt such peace in God's control.

In the morning, we learned the men hadn't gone to a hospital because they couldn't afford to. Eventually, a family member offered to pay for an ambulance, and they were sent to a facility 10 hours away that was equipped to treat potentially fatal illnesses.

Helping these sick men wasn't the only crisis we faced that week. We also had outbreaks of hepatitis A and chickenpox at the school. I could have felt discouraged by the barrage of problems, but I was too busy being amazed at God's incredible power and mercy in every situation. I'm so grateful that every time I had to

do something I'd never done before, He looked out for me and every patient I cared for.

Photos: Treson Thompson

house where the boys lived. I returned there briefly and, with so much on my mind, left the baby formula there.

When I checked the boys the next morning, the housemother apologized profusely and explained they had eaten the entire tub of formula in bed that night. I checked the ingredients to ensure they'd be OK and discovered the powder contained tons of vitamin C. I don't know why the boys ate so much of the unpleasant-tasting powder, but I know they didn't get tetanus. If they needed more vitamin C, God knew I was busy and took care of it Himself!

I returned to the United States after my nine-month volunteer assignment and then returned to Bolivia a few months later to help train the nurse who replaced me. One day, we went to town to get medicine and were asked by a local to visit three men living in the jungle who urgently needed care.



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



Hear from other volunteers at m360.tv/avs.

Mission Matrimony



Armenia

When Aghvan and Taguhi met at church, they became instant friends because of their shared love for ministry. Over time, this love expanded into a love for each other, and they married.

Aghvan and Taguhi's shared goal was to make ministry a focal point in their lives. So, they jumped at the opportunity to become Global Mission pioneers.* They dream of starting a congregation of new believers in Yerevan, Armenia's capital city.

Yerevan is the largest city in Armenia, with more than a million inhabitants. The people are busy, and it can be challenging to make connections.

"Recently, people have started living lonelier, separated lives," Taguhi says. "Before, doors to people's homes were open, but now every house has gates. No one can get inside. It's difficult to get in touch with people."

Aghvan and Taguhi plan to model Christ's method of ministry by mingling with people, showing them sympathy, ministering to their needs, winning their confidence, and inviting them to follow Jesus. One of the ways they will do this is by organizing group activities for their community.

"In Armenia, a lot of young people want to learn new languages, especially English," Taguhi says. "This helps them find a good job and develop their career. That's why we will organize an English club for youth and kids."

Aghvan and Taguhi have just started their roles as Global Mission pioneers and are counting on your prayers.

"Please pray that we'll have the wisdom to understand what to do in each situation," Aghvan requests, "and please pray for the people we will meet."

Thank you for all you do to send Global Mission pioneers, such as Aghvan and Taguhi, to areas of the world that need them most.

*Global Mission pioneers are laypeople sent to start new groups of believers in unreached areas or among unreached people groups. They are paid a small stipend and often work within their own culture.



Taguhi (left) and Aghvan



Watch "Mission Matrimony" at m360.tv/s2421.

ARMENIA

POPULATION:
2,959,000

ADVENTIST MEMBERS:
797*



*Church membership as of 2022. Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research, *Annual Statistical Report, New Series, Volume 5* (Silver Spring, MD: General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 2022), 108.



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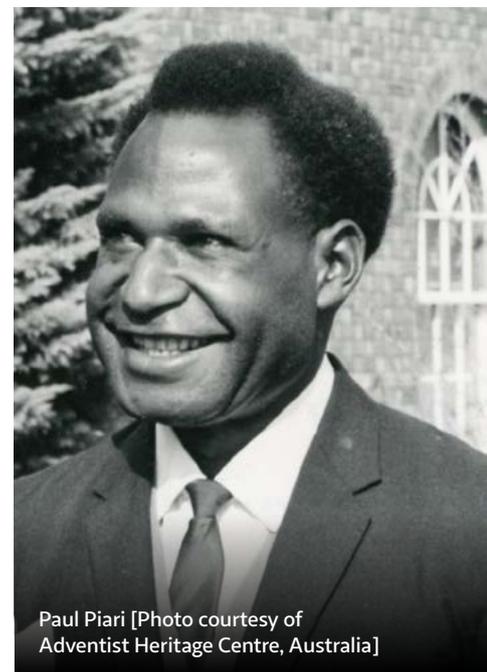
Global Mission's task is starting new groups of believers among unreached people groups. Often this means that Global Mission pioneers serve in challenging places. Please pray for our Global Mission pioneers and support their ministry by visiting Global-Mission.org/giving.



Transform Lives, One Month at a Time: Join Our Recurring Donor Family!

The Redemption of a Warrior

Paul Piari, once a tribal warrior in Papua New Guinea, served as a pioneer missionary for more than four decades. With the support of his wife, Dorcas, he started many new groups of believers, often in the face of fierce opposition. This 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.



Paul Piari [Photo courtesy of Adventist Heritage Centre, Australia]



Papua New Guinea

Piari was born in 1927 in Niunk, an isolated village in Enga Province, Papua New Guinea. His family was part of the Piolai clan of the Piapri tribe. In the way of their ancestors, his parents taught their children to respect God and His law, including not to fight or kill.

Piari rebelled against all of this. Although he was given the name Amusa at birth, he became known as Piari, which means “warrior” in the Engan language. He was feared for his fighting skills, with which he wounded and killed many in tribal wars.

When missionaries came to Piari’s village, he was surprised at how closely their beliefs resembled those of his now-deceased parents. He attended their worship services to learn more about their religion. Then, his brother, Piapin, attended a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school in Rakamanda. When Piapin visited home, he shared what he was learning with Piari, and Piari decided that he, too, wanted to attend an Adventist school.

Piari completed two years of education from 1956 to 1958 and

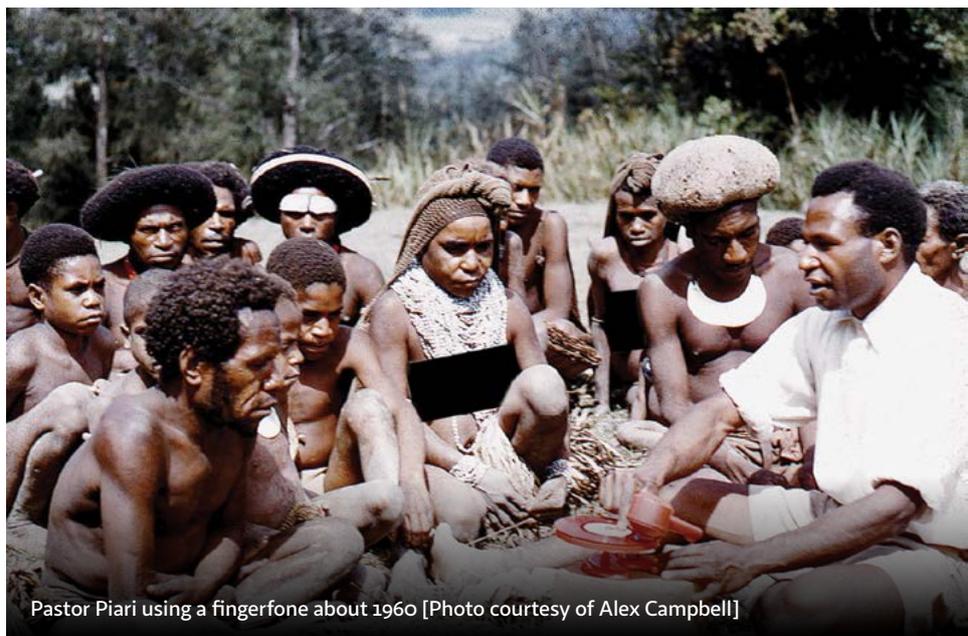
was baptized on September 1, 1958. He chose the Christian name Paul after the great evangelist missionary in the early Christian church. Piari also decided to keep the name his tribe had conferred on him because he saw himself as a “warrior” for God.

Also in 1958, Piari married a young woman named Dorcas and began his career teaching at an Adventist school in Tambai. In 1960, he was asked to start church work in an unentered area called Yakananda. There, he was attacked with sticks and stones by some 40 men. If a village leader had not intervened, Piari would have been killed. Covered in blood, he stood up and shook



Kenneth Vogel

is the associate secretary of the Australian Union Conference in Melbourne, Australia.



Pastor Piari using a fingerbone about 1960 [Photo courtesy of Alex Campbell]

Paul Piari at the 1966 General Conference Session, Detroit, Michigan [Photo courtesy of Ken Vogel]



Paul Piari at the 1966 General Conference Session, Detroit, Michigan [Photo courtesy of Ken Vogel]



hands with his assailants. People were often shocked by the violence perpetrated on Piari and amazed by his Christian responses.

In 1961, Piari started Adventist work in Sirunki. Here, he was also assaulted by an angry crowd, but he wasn't deterred. He continued sharing the gospel, using picture rolls and fingerfones. These small, plastic *record players could be operated using just a finger*.

Everyone wanted to spin the record and hear the story of Jesus in their language. As a result of Piari's labors, two churches were planted in this area.

Piari was then asked to work in Maramuni, about 25 miles away. He and Dorcas traveled on foot, encountering steep slopes, raging rivers, snakes, and leeches while carrying personal belongings and building materials for a home.

By this time, Piari was a well-known and respected pioneering missionary. Robert Frame, secretary of the Australasian Division, wrote of him, "Piari is a man of Christlike character who has repeatedly been beaten, stoned, jumped on and thrown into the swamp. When his enemies have done their worst he gets to his feet and extends his hand with a smile, suggesting, 'Now you have done what you wanted to, let's be friends.' In this spirit he usually disarms his opponents and gains permission to tell his story of the Saviour who loves them."*

During 1965 and 1966, Piari served beside missionary pilot Len Barnard, based in Piari's home village of Niunk. Together, they established more than 200 church congregations.

The Piari family was transferred to the Southern Highlands of Papua New Guinea in

1967, where work was started with the Imbongu- and Kewapi-speaking people. On October 28, Piari was the first Engan to be ordained as a pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

For the next 20 years, Piari continued expanding the work of the Adventist Church in various areas in Papua New Guinea. After retiring in 1987, he ran branch Sabbath Schools, preached in the marketplace with a picture roll, and visited churches. He died on September 3, 2010.

*Paul Piari Service Records, South Pacific Division of the General Conference Archives, folder: "Piari, Paul," document: "Workers' Service Record."

ESDA ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

More than 4,000 articles and 11,000 photographs featuring Adventist missionaries, evangelists, institutions, events, and beliefs.

encyclopedia.adventist.org

Prayer Missionaries Head Out for Their Third Prayer Journey Around the World



United States

In January 2024, Dale and Nancy Wolcott set out on their third “trip” around the world—their third prayer journey through the world’s cities that have a population of a million or more people. Since the Wolcotts first picked up a prayer map from Adventist Mission at an event a few years ago, they’ve prayed twice for each of the 500-plus cities, all while at home, and they are heading out, in prayer, again.

“The second time through,” Nancy said, “we started looking up the cities on the internet to find out what the population was, what country they were in, and where they were on the world map.” This became a part of the Wolcotts’ morning worship and prayer time.

The couple has put a checkmark beside the name of each city they’ve prayed for. This prayer routine has become a mission for them, allowing



Karilyn Suvankham

is the communication specialist for the Global Mission Centers and Mission to the Cities.



them to support God's work, even in cities that are inaccessible to missionaries. This means a lot to Dale and Nancy because they come from families with missionary roots. Nancy's parents spent part of their childhoods in China in the 1920s, and Dale himself spent some five years as a missionary kid. "We've grown up eating and breathing mission," Nancy said.

Years ago, Dale and Nancy served briefly in the San Francisco Bay area—their one experience in a major urban area. They couldn't stay long, but they told God then that they would like someday to be sent back to a city to serve. Instead, He took them to the far less densely populated land of the Navajo Nation in Arizona, where they work as a pastoral team. There, they see needs that mirror those often found in cities. Plans are underway to build a network of up to seven FM radio stations airing culturally relevant programming across the Navajo Nation.

Asked what keeps them motivated to continue praying for the cities, Nancy said, "It's a combination of feeling that we really need God in reaching those places and that it's impossible to do it in our own strength." She also commented on the power of hearing or reading stories about how God is working on behalf of others

This prayer routine has become a mission for them, allowing them to support God's work, even in cities that are inaccessible to missionaries.

when people pray. She is inspired by stories in Mission Spotlight and *Mission 360°* magazine. "Those stories are pretty impactful," she said.

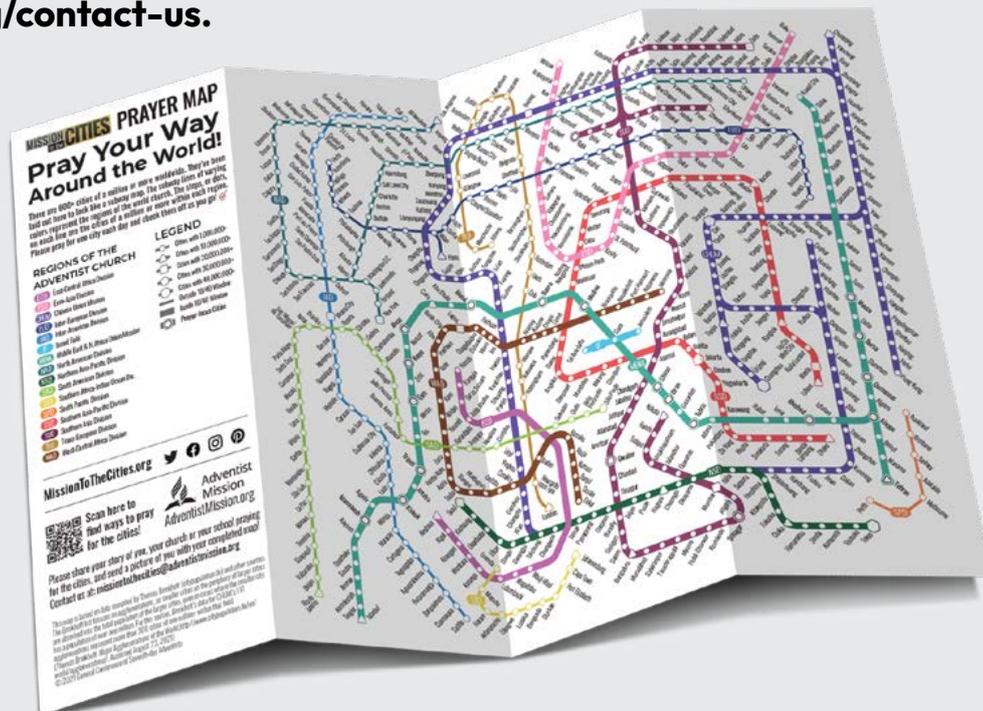
On January 23 of this year, Dale and Nancy finished checking off the cities on their second prayer map, finishing with Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has a population of 17 million. On January 24, they picked up a fresh copy of the map and began their third prayer journey with the city of Jerusalem.

Dale spoke of the past five years of actively praying for the large cities while also reading about the challenge of reaching them and seeing the church respond to this challenge. "It's been very gratifying, humbling, and overwhelming," he said.

Request pocket or poster-sized prayer maps at missiontothecities.org/contact-us.

Consider these ways to make your prayers for the cities more interesting and meaningful:

- Search the names of lesser-known cities on YouTube and watch short clips to get an idea of the place and people you are praying for.
- Team up with your Sabbath School class to pray for the cities.
- Help your kids learn geography and social studies as they pray for a different city each day.





**The Middle East
and North Africa
Union**

Gifty* lay in bed, wondering why she kept waking up at three o'clock each morning to the sound of crying. It was her third night working as a household helper for a non-Christian doctor's family. She breathed a quick prayer and began groping her way through the dark house toward a balcony from where the sobs seemed to be coming.

After months of the pandemic, jobs in the Middle East were scarce for international workers, so when Gifty was offered a position working for Dr. Zehra, she knew God must have a purpose for her.

Taking God to Her Workplace

In their first meeting, Dr. Zehra matter-of-factly described some of her family's needs. Her husband, also a medical doctor and the chief financial officer of their medical care business, had recently had two strokes following a severe case of COVID. He was left paralyzed on one side and had suffered almost complete memory loss. Their seven-year-old son needed attention as well. The family was under overwhelming stress.

On the balcony, Gifty spoke softly to the form huddled on the lounge. "Miss, how can I help you?" Dr. Zehra lifted her tear-stained face to Gifty and began pouring out her heart. She was trying to carry on the business alone. Her son needed a family, but he had only her. The brilliant man Dr. Zehra had married no longer recognized her. And that week, she discovered she had breast cancer.

Dr. Zehra talked on as Gifty silently prayed. The more Gifty heard, the more she knew what Dr. Zehra, a secular professional, needed.

"You must come with me to church this Saturday. We need to be there at eight o'clock." Even though services didn't begin until ten-thirty, Gifty always arrived early. Dr. Zehra thought a moment, took a deep breath, and suggested they leave at seven o'clock to ensure they were on time.

When Dr. Zehra stepped into the silent sanctuary that Sabbath morning, she entered a world she'd never experienced before. The rising sun burst through the tall east windows of the church and splashed gold across the old wooden pews. The stark white walls reflected the warmth. She had stepped into a place of peace.

Brother Aladin was already there. He always came to church early, too, guitar in hand. He began singing. Songs of praise, comfort, patience, and hope enveloped them for hours while they waited to worship with the congregation.

As Sabbath School time approached, more members began arriving, and Gifty introduced Dr. Zehra as if she were family. There was a Bible study group in which Dr. Zehra felt safe enough to open her heart, share her journey, and cry. She heard a sermon that comforted her. She and Gifty stayed by for a long and blessed afternoon. Dr. Zehra had never known anything like it. That night, for the first time in 10 months, she slept through the night.

That Sabbath was Dr. Zehra's first simple step in a journey of hope. Her challenges haven't changed much, but she is learning that everything is in God's hands and that He loves her family. Dr. Zehra still cries, but she doesn't cry alone. She has been adopted into the family of God. Her son has found "brothers."

Each week, Dr. Zehra meets with her new friends to learn about a Creator who cares for her well-being. She is also learning to live more healthfully.

Gifty didn't work for Dr. Zehra long after that Sabbath, but she accomplished the work God had for her to do. When she made her way to the sound of sobbing on the balcony, she was doing her part. That first Sabbath morning, when Dr. Zehra followed her to church, Gifty knew God would do His part. Today, as Gifty watches Dr. Zehra grow, her heart is satisfied that God will continue the beautiful work He has begun.

*Names have been changed.



**Kathie
Lichtenwalter,**
Middle East and
North Africa Union

Tentmakers

Our church faces tremendous challenges in sharing Jesus in closed 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 his ministry 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 workplace while engaging in intentional, personal outreach. They form long-lasting relationships that enable them to touch hearts for Christ in ways they never could if they were official church workers.

Your financial gifts to Global Mission help encourage and equip tentmakers by providing them with much-needed coaching, training, and spiritual support.

Tentmakers are making a difference for Jesus, but they need your help. Please support their ministry with your prayers and financial gifts.

Is God calling you to be a tentmaker?

Hundreds of Adventist professionals of all types are needed. To learn more, please visit TotalEmployment.org.

Caring for Ukraine's Refugees

The country of Georgia was the second nation in the world to officially adopt Christianity, yet Adventism has struggled to gain ground there. Home to some four million people, the nation has some 300 church members and only two Georgian Seventh-day Adventist pastors.

One of them is Pastor Grigol, who lives in the port city of Batumi. "We don't have many workers," he says, "so we have a lot of functions as pastors. It's a big challenge because we don't have enough resources."

Despite their small numbers, church members in Batumi have a heart for mission. Their work is difficult because Georgians tend to



Photo for illustration only



Georgia

distrust anyone who talks to them about God. Yet, the members have found practical ways to follow Christ's method of ministry and win hearts for the kingdom.

"We try to organize different social and humanitarian projects for people in need," Pastor Grigol says. "And when they get closer to us and start to communicate with us, then we have more trust from them."

Recently, the greatest needs have come from the influx of Ukrainian refugees. Adventists in Batumi welcome these displaced people to their church to attend a variety of classes and programs designed to meet their needs.

The classes enable Ukrainians to socialize and learn skills that help them integrate into Georgian society. The gatherings allow them to develop a community away from their homes in Ukraine and feel supported and cared for. And they provide opportunities to talk about Jesus.

"Sometimes, they ask questions about our church and our beliefs, and we can share," Pastor Grigol says. "We believe these projects will have influence, and maybe some of them will even start to attend our church."

The church in Batumi has been praying for funds to build an urban center of influence that will provide space for additional programs.

This quarter, a portion of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help them construct a facility to vastly improve their outreach.



Ricky Oliveras is a video producer for the Office of Adventist Mission.

"This is a big honor and a big joy that there are many people who care and are interested in supporting the mission in our country!" Pastor Grigol says.

Please pray for Pastor Grigol and the Batumi church members as they continue to meet the needs of their neighbors. And thank you for supporting the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering!

To support the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, give during Sabbath School at church or visit AdventistMission.org.



Urban Centers of Influence

Global Mission supports wholistic mission to the cities through the ministry of dozens of urban centers of influence (UCIs). UCIs follow Christ's method of ministry to meet people's needs and start new groups of believers. Please support urban centers of influence by visiting Global-Mission.org/giving.



Watch "Caring for Ukraine's Refugees" at m360.tv/s24212.



Pastor Grigol, center



Changing From the Outside In

Photo for illustration only



Middle East and North Africa Union



Kathie Lichtenwalter,
Middle East and North Africa Union

Youssef* was seven years old when he began after-school religious training. By the time he was 12, he was teaching others, correcting those who were reciting holy literature, and making followers wherever possible.

The routine was predictable for a boy growing up in the majority faith of a closed country in the Middle East. His father would kick him awake in the morning to pray. “If you don’t pray, your grave will be full of snakes,” he warned. “You won’t go to paradise. You’ll be punished.”

Guilt gripped Youssef, but so did his need. One day, he experienced an overwhelming situation and went to a place of worship to pray. “I asked God for assistance, but I received no answer,” Youssef said. “I concluded He didn’t want to help me.” This was only the beginning of Youssef’s disillusionment.

One night, Youssef dreamed he was standing before God. To his horror, he realized he hadn’t done enough to be saved from hell. Youssef awoke with a burden to try harder, but his forthcoming efforts weren’t enough to numb his sense of failure. He stopped his religious studies. He stopped praying. And more than once, he considered killing himself.

As the years passed, Youssef longed for change. He found it in the form of a cell phone. A tantalizing lifestyle, ungodly interests, and a new circle of friends were just finger taps away. Hoping to attract foreign women, Youssef set up a Facebook account under a false identity. A translation app bridged any language barrier he faced.

One woman began corresponding with Youssef regularly. She spoke Spanish, so he decided to learn her language. This new skill would be a bridge God would use.

The changes in Youssef had been mostly behavioral to this point, but that would change. He spent hours praying and helping others. He grew to love God's Word.

Youssef was working at his family's auto repair shop one afternoon when he noticed a Spanish-speaking couple waiting to have their car serviced. They were delighted when Youssef joined their conversation, and they treated him like a long-lost friend. Youssef shared his mobile number with the husband, Mateo, and hoped something would come of it.

Soon, the two men arranged to meet at a restaurant. "I waited a long time for him, but he didn't show up," Youssef said. Finally, Youssef texted Mateo and learned that he, too, was waiting but in the nonsmoking section of the restaurant.

Youssef admired Mateo and enjoyed his company. "He was different from other people I knew," Youssef said. "He was kind to me, and I felt accepted."

The two men began meeting weekly. The conversation often drifted to religious topics, and they agreed to study the prophets. During one visit, Mateo gave Youssef a Bible in his native language. To return the favor, Youssef searched out a bookstore and asked the manager for a holy book to share. "I have a Christian man I want to convert," he explained.

Mateo needed a translator, and Youssef agreed to do the job. As he worked with Mateo, he noticed that his new friend treated everyone with respect. Mateo was gentle with the poor and helped those in need.

Youssef's friendship with the woman on Facebook also continued to grow. When she expressed interest in his faith, he began strategizing how they could meet. He set up a phony bank account, secured fictitious employment papers, applied for a visa, and scheduled a visa interview. Then he wrote his family a goodbye note and boarded a taxi.

Youssef intended never to see his family again, but as the vehicle approached the capital city, relatives began leaving messages on his phone, demanding he return.

The next morning, he received a message from his family saying that his father would die if he didn't come back. Disheartened, Youssef skipped the interview and headed home.

Soon, Youssef met Mateo's pastor and began studying the unique beliefs of the Adventist Church. At that point, Youssef said, "I didn't feel a deep conviction to become a Christian, much less an Adventist. But I sensed I was relating to good people who had my best interest in mind."

Little by little, Youssef made changes in his lifestyle. His circle of friends changed, and he began enjoying the Sabbath. One Saturday, he called in sick at work so he could participate in a Sabbath retreat. It didn't register with Youssef that he was being dishonest. He only remembers the retreat was a beautiful experience of prayer and encouragement.

Youssef began translating for the pastor. He listened as the minister encouraged and taught others, and Youssef saw the kind of life he wanted to live.

The changes in Youssef had been mostly behavioral to this point, but that would change. He spent hours praying and helping others. He grew to love God's Word. "I realized He had done so much for me that I wanted to give my whole life to serve Him," Youssef said.

Youssef's family knew nothing about the outward changes in his life. They didn't know his new friends, that he attended a church, or even that he'd been baptized. But they couldn't help but see his internal changes.

"My heart overflowed with praise the other day when my mother said, 'You've changed. You're a kind man. I trust you.' God has reached into my soul and changed me inside, filling my heart with love, joy, and peace."

Youssef is thankful for his new friend Mateo, who introduced him to a loving God who completely changed his life—from the outside in.

*Names have been changed.

Global Mission is about reaching the unreached for Jesus in the 10/40 Window, which includes the Middle East and North Africa. 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 Global Mission in this region with your prayers and financial gifts at Global-Mission.org/giving.

Ingrid and the Transfer Project



Honduras

Ingrid placed a cool cloth on her young son's forehead. "Sweet boy," she cooed. "I hope this brings your fever down." She bent over to kiss him. He looked at her with such pitiful eyes that her heart wept for him.

Just then, the door opened, and her husband stormed into the house. "Fix me something to eat," he demanded. "I'm hungry."

"Edwin has a fever," she tried to explain. "I've been so busy that I haven't had time to cook, but there is rice in the pot and . . ."

He turned and glared at her, angry eyes flashing. "You are first my wife, then a mother!"

Ingrid guessed his intentions and quickly stepped away from the bed before her husband's fist contacted her head. Two blows later, she lay on the floor, afraid to move. He picked her up by the shoulders and jerked her around to face the kitchen. "I'm hungry!" he repeated.

Ingrid's husband ate silently and then left. By then, Ingrid had made a decision. She couldn't reason with her husband about his abuse because it only enraged him more. Maybe his own family could speak with him. She called his grandmother and appealed for help.

"I want nothing to do with that situation," the grandmother replied.

Fortunately, Ingrid's brother stepped in to help.

"Sis," he told her, "I don't have much, but you are welcome to live with me."

With her brother's help, Ingrid moved in with him. He made sure there was food in the house and sometimes watched her son so she could attend classes to become an accountant. The little family was able to live in comfortable peace until COVID-19 hit Honduras with a vengeance. Thousands died, including her brother.

Once again, Ingrid was in dire circumstances. Even though she had a job, she didn't earn enough to support herself, her young son, and now, her mother. The family lived in an area of Honduras that frequently suffered ruined crops from erratic weather. This led to chronic malnutrition.

Ingrid struggled in abject poverty until the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), with a funding partner, began the Transfer Project in her neighborhood. This project changed her life. The agencies' goal was to establish self-sufficiency and generate opportunities for trade. Through the project, Ingrid received health and nutrition programs and a cash voucher to meet her immediate needs.

ADRA gave Ingrid drought-tolerant seeds, such as sorghum, and taught her how to increase the yield of her crops, including preserving water for the garden and saving seeds for the next crop. The family can now grow most of their food, which allows them to spend the grocery money on other bills.

"We have learned that we can support our family with tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet chilies, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes," she says. "And if we go out to sell them, it is an extra benefit. . . . I also bake goods from the sorghum and sell them at the market."

"Thanks to ADRA's project, my life has changed for the better. My mom's and my son's [lives] also [changed] because ADRA supported us when we needed it most."

Ingrid's story is one example of how ADRA continues to help communities around the world with sustainable farming and support areas affected by climate change.



ADRA is a global humanitarian agency with more than 5,000 employees and 7,000 volunteers serving in over 120 countries. Besides supporting communities in long-term humanitarian crises and conflicts, ADRA responds to an average of two disasters per week. Although their country offices are spread across different continents and thousands of miles apart, ADRA works as a unified body to provide innovative solutions to a world in need. To learn more about ADRA, visit ADRA.org.

Thank you for supporting ADRA through your weekly mission offerings and, in North America, by giving to World Budget. To give, visit adventistmission.org/donate.



Crystal Earnhardt is a writer who lives in Hendersonville, North Carolina.



Travel around the world with ADRA at m360.tv/adra.



Ingrid and her son, Edwin. Photo courtesy of ADRA

Unlocking Hope in Malawi's Prisons

Photo for illustration only



Malawi

In a cell in Malawi, a remarkable story unfolds. It's the story of James, an inmate whose life was transformed not by the passage of time behind bars but by a message of hope that penetrated the concrete and steel of Kasungu Prison.

James had been serving a 10-year sentence for robbery, a path marked by frustration and conflict. But one day, his despair was interrupted by programs from Hope Channel Malawi. The stories of faith, redemption, and love differed from anything he had encountered before. Day by day, the teachings of Jesus began to replace his hopelessness with a sense of peace he had never imagined possible.

The changes in James were gradual but undeniable. Instead of participating in the frequent fights that often erupted between prisoners, he engaged in Bible study and prayer. He joined other inmates for Sabbath services, and soon, he wasn't just attending but leading.

James chose to be baptized, publicly declaring his commitment to walk a new path. To him, the water signified a cleansing not only of his past but also of his future—a future now filled with possibilities. He became a symbol of change within the prison community.

The Impact Spreads

James was able to watch the programming because of Hope Channel International's initiative called Hope in a Cell, which installed TVs in multiple prisons in Malawi. Thousands of inmates across the country were exposed to life-altering content.

In the overcrowded Maula Prison, the presence of Hope Channel brought a new atmosphere. Where there had been tension, there was now a sense of fellowship. Where there had been despair, a glimmer of hope began to shine.

The prison staff noticed a decrease in violence, fewer instances of theft, and a diminishing reliance on substances.



Hannah Drewieck

is a social media specialist for Hope Channel International.

Touching One Billion Hearts Across the Globe

Hope in a Cell is just one part of Hope Channel International's global outreach. Hope

Channel International operates through 83 channels in more than 100 languages, touching lives in every corner of the world. Whether in the bustling cities or within the prison walls, the goal is to share the love of Jesus as the ultimate source of eternal hope.

The initiative in Malawi's prisons is a significant milestone toward reaching Hope Channel International's vision of sharing the message of eternal hope with one billion people by 2030. It's a vision that sees beyond mere numbers, focusing instead on individual stories of redemption, such as those of James and the 121 other inmates who gave their hearts to Jesus.

A Mission to Continue Reaching

The Hope in a Cell project continues to grow, ensuring that more inmates have access to Hope Channel's programming and the opportunity for transformation.

We invite you to join in this mission of hope. It's a calling to support a movement that sees no one as beyond reach.

The mission of Hope Channel International is to bring hope into the darkest places—one story, one life, one broadcast at a time. To explore the various programs on Hope Channel, visit HopeTV.org or watch on DirecTV HOPE Channel 368, Roku, or the free Hope Channel app.



HopeChannel

Thank you for supporting Hope Channel International through your weekly mission offerings and, in North America, by giving to World Budget. To give, visit adventistmission.org/donate.





The Toddler Preacher



Rwanda

Have you ever preached a sermon? Juge is a boy in Rwanda. He preached his first sermon when he was two years old.

When Juge was very young, he received his own Bible. It was a picture Bible. Juge couldn't read, but he loved to look at the pictures. He listened while his mother read stories about brave children in the Bible.

Juge learned the story about the boy Samuel, who heard God's voice at night. He learned the story about the boy David who defeated the giant Goliath. Juge learned the story about

the boy King Josiah, who loved God and triumphed over his wicked grandmother. And He learned about the children whose mothers took them to Jesus so that He would lay His hands in blessing on them. Juge thought a lot about Jesus. When he slept at night, Juge often dreamed Jesus was laying His hands on him.

Juge got to know Bible stories well, and adults noticed that he was familiar with the Bible. When Juge was only two, they invited him to preach in church. When he got up to speak, Juge felt frightened and embarrassed when he saw everyone looking at him. He swallowed hard and told how Jonah was swallowed by a big fish. He was so nervous that he forgot parts of the story. But the Sabbath School teacher was pleased with the sermon. "You did a good job," he said.

Juge felt encouraged to continue. He studied the stories in his picture Bible and memorized them. Then, someone asked Juge to preach again. He spent time practicing the sermon. Juge filled the living room with every chair from the house and preached to them, pretending that he was preaching at church. That Sabbath, Juge felt much more comfortable while preaching his sermon.

One Sabbath, when Juge preached, someone made a video of the sermon and posted it online. Some journalists saw the sermon and made a video report about Juge titled "The Little Evangelist." Many people watched the report, and soon, Juge was receiving invitations to preach at various churches in Rwanda.

Juge loved speaking about Jesus. He loved meeting other children and making new friends. He especially liked seeing people raise their hands as they gave their hearts to Jesus at the end of his sermons.

When Juge was seven, someone invited him to give evangelistic meetings for a whole week



Story by
Andrew
McChesney,
Office of
Adventist Mission



Illustrations by
Diogo Godoy





in a faraway city. He would need to preach every evening for seven days.

At first, Juge was scared and thought that he wouldn't be able to preach evangelistic meetings. Then, he decided to take his fears to God.

"Dear God," he prayed, "please give me strength and give me many sermons to preach." Juge preached powerfully, and 24 people were baptized.

Today, Juge is nine years old. He has preached in more than 60 churches. More than two million people have heard his sermons in person or online.

Juge is one of many children in Rwanda who tells others about the love of Jesus: Some children preach, others sing, and others recite Bible verses.

Thank you for your Sabbath School mission offering, which helps children in Rwanda and many other countries around the world hear about Jesus.

More Children's Mission Stories

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



Watch "The Toddler Preacher" at m360.tv/s2313.



Remember when mission work was the most important thing we did as a church? **It still is.**

Thank you for being part of it!

Every day nearly 654 Adventist missionaries serve in 80 countries around the world. Some labor in remote villages while others share Jesus' love in the world's great cities.

Your prayers and support of the mission offerings help give our missionaries the resources they need to reach millions of people who are still waiting to know Jesus.

Four ways to give a mission offering:

- Give to Missions during Sabbath School
- Mark a tithe envelope "World Budget" at your local church
- Give online at giving. AdventistMission.org
- Call 1-800-648-5824



Photo courtesy of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research.



Adventist
Mission