



CHILDREN'S MISSION

2017 • **QUARTER 3** • SOUTHERN-ASIA DIVISION



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On the Cover: Niharika is a student at Nagaland Adventist School in northeastern India. See her story on page 22.

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Your Offerings at Work

Three years ago, part of Southern Asia Division's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped build a meeting hall and training center for Bhutanese people. The new training center, near the border of Bhutan in India, trains lay workers to serve among the Bhutanese people who cross the border into India. It also houses a worship center and children's Sabbath School class for new believers. Thank you for giving so that the work among the Bhutanese people can move forward.



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter features the Southern Asia Division, which includes the countries of Bhutan, India, and Nepal, plus the islands of the Maldives.

The Adventist Church in the Southern Asia Division has grown dramatically in the past few years, and today has almost 1.6 million members. That's a ratio of one Adventist for every 870 people. Much of the growth can be attributed to outreach initiatives such as Global Mission, but the foundation for growth was laid as Adventist schools were established throughout India. Thousands have been baptized while studying in Adventist schools.

While the long-established schools continue to grow and excel, several new schools have been formed in recent years. A portion of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will be used to help four of these schools enlarge their campuses with classrooms or dormitory facilities so that more children can attend and learn about God's love. Because these projects all focus on children, there is no special children's project this quarter. However, the relatively new school in Nagaland in northeastern India is a K-12 school, and project funds will go to help even the youngest students there.

Language Fun

Songs and words in several languages of the Southern Asia Division are featured throughout the quarterly and on our website, bit.ly/childrensmisson.

Special Features

Mission Spotlight DVD this quarter contains stories featuring the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects and other stories from southern Asia. If you don't have access to the DVD that is sent to churches, download or live stream the mission reports from bit.ly/missionspotlight. Share the website with your students and their parents.

Decorate the Room with pictures cut from magazines or travel brochures. Include hand-colored copies of the flags of the Southern Asia Division and garlands of paper flowers.

More Activities are available on our website, bit.ly/childrensmisson.

Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help:

- A training center for division-wide church meetings and training programs in Telangana state in central India;
- A girls' dormitory in Nagaland state in northeastern India;
- A girls' dormitory at James Memorial Higher Secondary School in Tamil Nadu state in southeastern India;
- Classrooms for Vellarada Adventist High School in Kerala state in southern India; and
- Classrooms for Alate Adventist High School in Maharashtra state in western India.



SOUTHERN INDIA | July 1

Lakshmi

Mother and the King Cobra

Seven-year-old Lakshmi [LAHK-shmee] and her mother scoured the forest near their home in southern India for firewood to sell in the marketplace. As Mother stooped to pick up a piece of wood, she saw an anthill nearby. Recognizing the ant hill as the home of a king cobra snake, who she worshiped as a god, Mother reached for her bottle of milk and poured some on the anthill. Then she stepped back, closed her eyes and began praying softly.

While she was still praying, a king cobra slithered out of the anthill toward Mother. Hissing, the snake curled around her left leg and buried its fangs into her leg. Only then did Mother scream.

Lakshmi came running and saw the snake on her mother's leg. She looked around and saw no one nearby to help them. She didn't know what to do, but she remembered that her teachers at

school encouraged the children to pray to Jesus whenever they needed help. "Mommy!" Lakshmi cried. "Pray! Say, 'Jesus, save me!'"

Mother stopped screaming and repeated, "Jesus save me! Jesus save me! Jesus save me!" As she prayed, the snake slowly slid down her leg and disappeared into the anthill.

Mother tore a strip of cloth off her sari [dress] and tied a tourniquet on her leg to help prevent the venom from spreading. Then mother and daughter hurried home.

The God Who Had Saved Her

When the two arrived at their small house, Mother sat down and examined her leg. She was surprised that the site of the bite wasn't red or swollen, and she didn't feel a lot worse after hurrying home. She had never heard of someone surviving a king cobra's bite before. But she actually

Fast Facts

- The king cobra is the world's longest venomous snake. It can grow to about 18 feet [5½ meters] long and lives in the forests of India and southern Asia. Normally it avoids contact with humans, and does not attack unless it feels threatened. Its venom is highly toxic and could kill a human if they don't get immediate medical treatment.
- King cobras may be best known as the snake of choice for the snake charmers of southern Asia. Although cobras can hear, they rely on ground vibrations instead of the sounds humans hear. The snake charmer's movement of his flute entices the cobra, not the music he plays.

felt well. She washed her wound and sat down to rest.

“How did you know to ask Jesus to save me?” Mother asked Lakshmi. Mother knew that the boarding school Lakshmi attended was a Christian school, but she knew very little about God. In fact, she hadn't known the school existed until she was riding on a public bus. A man had offered her his seat and then began talking. During their conversation the man said he was a pastor and mentioned James Memorial Higher Secondary School to her and even offered to help pay Lakshmi's tuition!

Mother agreed, and Lakshmi enrolled in a fine school. Now mother quizzed Lakshmi about the God named Jesus, who had just saved her from a deadly snake bite.

“He is the God of the universe,” Lakshmi said, excited. “It's good to worship God, who created our world,

rather than created beings who live in this world.” Mother nodded slowly.

Lakshmi shared everything she could remember about Jesus as the two rested in the shade.

Word spread of Lakshmi's mother's snakebite, and people were amazed that she had escaped harm. The fang marks on Mother's leg were proof enough that her life had been spared by a God who was more powerful than any of the gods they had worshiped before.

Lakshmi taught her mother to pray and read the Bible. Today Mother relies on God fully. Every Sabbath she invites her neighbors to join her as she walks to the little Adventist church in her village.

Lakshmi continues to learn more about God as she attends James Memorial Higher Secondary School. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new girls' dormitory to replace the old one that is no longer a healthy place to live. Please remember this school in your prayers and with your Sabbath School mission offerings. 🌐



photo: BigStockPhoto.com



SOUTHERN INDIA | July 8

Shanker

Shanker's New Life

Shanker was a troublemaker, even when he was little. Even he admits that he was out of control. He quarreled with anyone who opposed him and often got into scuffles even as a young boy. Then his parents caught him trying to smoke a cigarette when he was about 6 years old. They realized that Shanker was heading for disaster and they needed to do something without delay.

Shanker grew up in the city of Mumbai, the largest city in India. There were lots of gangs and troublemakers around, and Shanker seemed determined to get into his share of trouble. His parents felt they had no other option but to send their son away from the city. They talked to Shanker's uncle, who suggested they send him to a school that had dormitories for children his age.

Shanker's parents learned about James Memorial Higher Secondary School, a boarding school that teaches children from

kindergarten through high school. But it was far from his home. Shanker's journey to the new school took two days by train.

Shanker was alone and a little scared. He wondered how he would survive in this new school. Everything was new to Shanker. His teachers were kind to him, and his classmates didn't try to fight back when he argued with them. He was surprised when his dormitory monitor told him that he would be attending worship every day. A kindhearted teacher helped him with his math—a particularly difficult class for him—and encouraged him to take time to read his Bible every day before he began studying.

Shanker heard about Jesus for the first time. "As I learned about Jesus, my life started to change," Shanker says. "My classmates and teachers helped me know more about God, and I began to understand that the life I was leading would never bring me happiness. Only

Mission Post

- India is the largest country in Southern Asia. It stretches from the great Himalayan mountains—the highest in the world—to tropical plateaus and on to the Indian Ocean.
- India's history goes back 5,000 years. Its most famous landmark is the Taj Mahal.
- India has a population of about 1.3 billion people. About 1.6 million, or one person out of every 870 people in India, is a Seventh-day Adventist Christian.
- Since Adventists first started working in India more than 100 years ago, they have founded many schools. Adventist schools are located in every major population area, as well as a number of rural areas. They draw children from all kinds of homes to study to receive the best possible education. Every year, Adventist schools baptize hundreds of students who will become the leaders of tomorrow.

Jesus could do that.”

Good Influence

Now Shanker loves reading the Bible and praying, something he learned while at school. He still tries to influence people, but not through force or through insults as he once did. Now he tries to influence

them through kind words and a good example. He takes part in worship services and is a leader in his favorite sport. As team captain, he gathers his teammates together before a game with another school so they can pray that God will protect them from harm and help them be good examples to the other team.

Sometimes members of the opposing team try to rile Shanker's team up with insults, but they ignore the words and choose to follow God's example of leading with kindness. If they lose, they are good sports, and if they win, they praise God.

Shanker's parents are not Christians. They don't oppose his decision to become a Christian, but they are not interested in his faith. Shanker admits that he does try to influence his parents to not worship their gods, but he no longer argues with them. He hopes that his good example and lots of prayer will convince his parents that Jesus is the answer to all their needs and that one day they will give their lives to God, just as he has.

Shanker says, “My life changed completely after I accepted Jesus in my life. Now Jesus is my top priority.”

Boys and girls, we can make Jesus our top priority too, just as Shanker has. We do this by giving our heart to Jesus and asking Him to live in us. 🌍

Sing a Song in Marathi

JESUS LOVES ME

(MARATHI SPOKEN IN MUMBAI AND WESTERN INDIA)

ay shoo pree thee kuh ree thoh
 poor nah heh mee jah nah thoh
 shah struh ay sey kuh tee teh
 teh kahr reh chee sang ah tay

Chorus: ay shoo suhth pree tee
 ay shoo suhth pree tee
 ay shoo suhth pree tee
 bah leh vah ree kuh reel



SOUTHERN INDIA | July 15

A New Start

Sundar

Sundar's [SUHN-dahr] bashful smile hides the fact that he's experienced more sorrow than many young people his age. He grew up in a home filled with harsh language and violence rather than peace and love. His father and mother often argued, usually about money. When his father became frustrated, he often beat his mother. The only peace in the home came when Sundar's father left India to work in a far-away country. He was gone for three years.

When Sundar's father returned to India, he quit drinking and even attended an Adventist church when a friend invited him. But he went back to his old ways, and the shouting and violence started up again.

Unable to cope, Sundar's mother tried to kill herself by taking a lot of sleeping pills. Sundar cried, for he didn't know what to do.

His mother recovered, but Sundar was so worried about his parents' problems

that he couldn't concentrate on his studies, and his grades fell. That is when his mother decided that her son needed to get away from the trouble at home, to attend a school where he would be safe and could focus on his studies. She had heard about James Memorial Higher Secondary School from friends, and she decided to send him there, hoping that being in an environment without fear of violence would help him to make a fresh start.

Journey to a New Life

That is how Sundar found himself making the long trip from his home in Mumbai, India [*locate Mumbai in western India*], to his new school and home in southern India [*locate southern India*]. Although Sundar felt alone at the new school, he made a few friends and began to feel comfortable with his new classmates.

Sundar's life has changed since he's arrived at James Memorial Higher

Secondary School. He has started to feel that this life is like a normal child's now. He is learning about God, and has begun to trust Him with his problems. Sundar has learned to pray, and he prays for his parents every day. Smiling shyly, he says that he hopes that God will help his parents live together happily.

Sundar likes his new school and his new life. The students and teachers care for him and help him when he's feeling lonely or sad. His faith in God is growing stronger every day, and he hopes he can continue studying at this school.

Many students at Sundar's school come from homes that do not know Jesus. They are finding that there's a better way to live, a happier way to live, with Jesus in their lives.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new girls' dormitory at James Memorial Higher Secondary School. It will replace the old

Fast Facts

- Mumbai is India's largest city, with a population of 21 million in the greater metro area.
- Sundar attends James Memorial Higher Secondary School, a Seventh-day Adventist school in southern India. The school has more than 900 students.
- Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new girls' dormitory on the campus. Save your money this quarter so you can give a big offering to help this school provide the girls with a clean and healthy place to live while they learn about God.

dormitory that is no longer a healthy place to live. Please pray for Sundar and all the students at this school, and for their families who may not know that Jesus wants to be their friend and Savior. 🌐

Make Chapatis *(Indian Bread)*

To give your children a taste of India, cook these easy-to-make traditional Indian flat-breads for them to sample. If you wish, serve them with a bit of not-too-spicy curry or dal or the yogurt salad (see recipe on page 34) for them to dip.

1 cup whole-wheat flour	enough water to mix
1 cup white flour	vegetable oil to fry
1 teaspoon salt	

DIRECTIONS:

Mix flour, salt, and water into soft dough; let stand for at least an hour. Divide dough into egg-sized balls and roll into flat circles. Rub a little oil over the dough, fold into quarters, and roll out again. Fry in ungreased or lightly greased heavy pan over medium heat until light brown spots appear, less than a minute. Brush a drop of oil on top and turn over; fry lightly on other side and put on a plate. Cover with cloth to keep warm. Serve with curry and rice. Or use pieces like a spoon to scoop up the curry.



SOUTHERN INDIA | July 22

Guna

Guna Raj's New School

[Ask a teen boy to present this first-person report.]

I was born into a poor Seventh-day Adventist family with five children. That is, we called ourselves Adventists. But we did not attend church often, and we rarely prayed.

My father is a farmer and a driver in a large city in southern India. Because we were poor, my parents often quarreled about money. There was no peace at home.

When I was in the fifth grade, I began to steal money from my father to buy candy and other snacks. Although my father was quite unhappy that I had taken money from the family—money that we needed for food and housing—he was even more worried that I was developing a bad character trait. He wondered what to do with me.

My uncle told my father about an

Adventist boarding school some distance from our home. Uncle told my father that the school provides everything that a child needs, and it even helps children from poor families with their school fees.

This was good news for my father, who certainly could not afford to send me away to school. By God's grace I received help from Asian Aid, an Adventist charity organization that provides sponsorship to children from impoverished families.

Big Changes for Guna Raj

To be honest, I had no interest in God when I started sixth grade at the Adventist school. But as I began to hear more about God in Bible class and church and began reading the Bible, I wanted to know more about Jesus.

With the help of caring teachers and kind classmates, I drew closer to God.

I learned how to pray and to ask God for help. I started to put God first in everything that I do. God really has done a great work in my life!

Mother's Illness

God has answered my prayers for my family as well. Recently my mother was seriously ill with dengue [DEN-gee] fever, a painful disease carried by mosquitoes. My mother was hospitalized for three weeks, and my family prayed at her bedside for hours. God heard our prayers, and my mother was healed.

My whole family witnessed the powerful miracle that God performed. They recognized how He has taken care of us. From that day onward, my father and mother have given their hearts totally to God. The Holy Spirit is now present in our home. My parents no longer argue about money. Instead we praise God in good times and bad.

I'm grateful that God led my uncle to tell my parents about James Memorial Higher Secondary School. I love it here!

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new girls' dormitory at my school. The old

Mission Post

- Guna Raj's mother had dengue [DEN-gee] fever, an illness common to tropical climates. Dengue fever is caused by the bite of an infected mosquito. Symptoms include high fever, severe joint and muscle pain, headache, nausea and vomiting, a skin rash, and often bruising. Adults can be sicker with dengue fever than a child might be. If a person isn't treated by a doctor or at a hospital, he or she could die from the illness.
- James Memorial Higher Secondary School, where Guna Raj studies, has more than 900 students enrolled in classes from kindergarten through twelfth grade. It is a boarding school, so many students live on campus during the school year.

girls' dormitory is 65 years old and too crowded for the 100 girls who live there. It's no longer a healthy place to live. Thank you for helping to provide a better place for children to live while they study in this great school! 🌍

Sing in Tamil

JESUS LOVES ME

(SPOKEN IN TAMIL NADU STATE IN SOUTHEASTERN INDIA)

yay soo yehn dhen nay see ray
kahn dayn vay dheh noo lee lay
pah Lehr ah vehr sohn dhahm tahn
tahn geh ah vehr vah! loh thahn

Chorus: yay soo yehn nay sehr
yay soo yehn nay sehr
yay soo yehn nay sehr
may vay dhe vah koo-ee dhay



SOUTHERN INDIA | July 29

Janeesh

Standing Strong for Jesus

Janeesh [jah-NEESH] grew up in a small village in southern India. [*Locate southern India on a map.*] He loves God and wanted to become a pastor. So he went to a seminary to study the Bible. While there, some Adventist friends invited him to attend a worship on Friday evening. Janeesh agreed to go.

The pastor talked about the Sabbath and read Bible texts that prove that the seventh day is God's holy day. Janeesh had never heard this before, so after the meeting he asked the pastor many questions. Back at school, he asked his teachers about the Sabbath. "Why do we go to church on Sunday when the Bible says God's holy day is the Sabbath?" he asked. Janeesh showed the teachers some of the Bible texts that the Adventist pastor had given him. But his teachers had no answers.

Janeesh Makes a Choice

Janeesh began attending the Adventist church on Saturdays and his family's church on Sundays. After a while, he decided to be baptized in the Adventist Church, for it honored the Sabbath.

Janeesh loves talking about Jesus, the Sabbath, and Christ's Second Coming. He told everyone in his neighborhood about his new discoveries in the Bible and gave them books to read. Some of his neighbors were interested in what Janeesh was saying, so he decided to hold three days of meetings to talk about Jesus, the Sabbath, and the Second Coming.

Many people attended the meetings and asked questions. A pastor from a Sunday-keeping church invited Janeesh to visit his church and tell the people about the Sabbath. Janeesh went and shared his love for God and the Sabbath as well as

the promise of the Second Coming with the people. In time the church members decided to worship God on the Sabbath.

Opposition

But some people in the village did not like what Janeesh was teaching the people. They decided to have their own meetings. Janeesh went to those meetings and heard the preacher say that Sunday was the right day to worship. Janeesh prayed for a way to tell the people the truth. Then on the last day, the preacher asked if anyone had any questions.

Janeesh walked to the front of the hall and read aloud the Fourth Commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” Then he read other Bible verses about the Sabbath.

The people were amazed. The preacher had no answer to the Bible verses Janeesh read. After the meetings, some villagers asked Janeesh to study the Bible with them. Janeesh was so happy!

Sickness

But Janeesh began to feel ill. He had pain in his lower back and his belly ached with a pain that didn’t go away. Finally, Janeesh went to a doctor. After an examination and many tests, the doctor told Janeesh that he had cancer, and that it had spread to several parts of his body. “You have only about six months to live,” the doctor said. Janeesh went home feeling sad—not because he was going to die, but because he wouldn’t be able to share God’s love with more people.

Some people told Janeesh that God was punishing him for becoming an Adventist, or for arguing with the preacher. But Janeesh didn’t listen; he just prayed. Then he began a long treatment

Fast Facts

- India is the seventh-largest country in the world by area but the second-most populous, right after China.
- India’s most famous landmark is the Taj Mahal, built in the 1600s by a great emperor for his favorite wife.
- The national bird is the peacock, and the national animal is the tiger.
- India is one of just a few countries that still has elephants. The Indian elephant is somewhat smaller than the African elephant, and its ears are quite a bit smaller. The Indian people have trained elephants to do heavy work for hundreds of years.

for the cancer. When the treatments were finished, Janeesh returned home and held more meetings to talk about God and the Sabbath. Eight people were baptized.

Where Did the Cancer Go?

When Janeesh returned for a checkup, his doctors couldn’t find any signs of the cancer. Janeesh is healthy and strong. Many people say this is a miracle, and Janeesh agrees. “Jesus healed me so I can share God’s love with more people,” he says. Janeesh loves to tell people that Jesus loves them and will come again soon to take all those who believe in Him to a place where no one will ever be sick again.

Boys and girls, we can tell people that Jesus loves them, that He died so they could live with Him forever. We don’t have to be grown-ups to tell others about Jesus. Let’s do it this week! 🌍



SOUTHERN INDIA | August 5

The Real God

Muthal

[Ask a teen boy to present Muthal Raj's first-person report.]

My name is Muthal [MOO-thal] Raj. I was a mischievous boy who skipped school when I was young. My father was worried about the bad habits I was developing and decided to send me to a boarding school in southern India. He said it was for my own good, that I couldn't avoid classes if I lived in a dormitory.

My father is a farmer, and my mother takes care of my two siblings. They are not Christians. We are poor, and my mother often cried about our difficult financial situation. So sending me to a boarding school was an expense they couldn't afford. But my parents learned about an organization that helps people like us send their children to Adventist boarding schools. Adventist Child India agreed to sponsor me, even though my

family and I were not Christians. So, I was enrolled in James Memorial Higher Secondary School.

I arrived at my new school when I was 8 years old. Everything went fine. I focused on my studies and did well. I also learned about God—the real, living God who is our Creator.

Disobeying Dad

My father knew, of course, that I was studying at a Christian school. He told me many times, “No matter which school you are studying at, you must never change your religion.” But after being at James Memorial Higher Secondary School a while, I chose to accept Jesus as my Savior. But when I told my family, my father was furious. He told me, “Jesus is not the real God!”

I wasn't sure what to do, so I prayed a lot and read the Bible. I became even more convinced that I needed to accept

Jesus, no matter what my father said.

One day my father got into a terrible fight with our neighbor. He was injured seriously and was sent to the hospital. When I learned about my father's injuries, I cried and prayed to God to save him. God answered my prayers, and my father recovered from his injuries.

God has answered many of my prayers. I was always concerned about getting good enough grades to continue my studies. I prayed about this, and God has helped me. I am now taking baptismal classes in preparation for being baptized.

God is so great! I feel His presence in my life and in the lives of my family members. I am thankful to the teachers at James Memorial Higher Secondary School for introducing me to the Savior, Jesus Christ.

My school has a fine reputation. But it needs a new girls' dormitory. The one we have now is really old and no longer fit to live in. I'm glad that part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help James Memorial

Mission Post

- From the beginning of the Adventist presence in India, schools have played an important part in the church's growth. Besides training the children of Adventist parents, the schools welcome many children from non-Christian homes who want to receive a quality education in English.
- Many children are baptized each year as a result of attending Adventist schools in India. Even those who are not baptized during their school years take important lessons in faith with them.
- Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build new dormitories at two Adventist schools and classroom blocks at two others, making it possible for even more students to study there and learn of God's great love.

Higher Secondary School build a new dormitory that will be a brighter and healthier place to live for the girls who attend this school! 🌍

Sing in Hindi

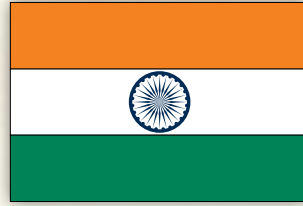
Pronunciation tips: Barely pronounce the *n* when in parentheses. Gently trill the letter *i* when it appears at the end of a syllable. *Th* is always vocalized as in "the" rather than "think," and sometimes sounds as though it is a soft *d*. The vowel written *ai* is pronounced like the *i* in "high."

JESUS LOVES ME

(SPOKEN THROUGHOUT INDIA)

yee soo moodj say kahr tah pyahr
 bai bl may hai sah mah char
 mai whoo(n) nirh bahl whah bahl wahn
 bahl coh(n) pur hai thai uh wahn

Chorus: pyahr khar tah moodj say
 pyahr khar tah moodj say
 pyahr khar tah moodj say
 hai sah thee yah sah mah char



SOUTHERN INDIA | August 12

Parisudha

God's Precious Child

Pari is 9 years old. Recently Pari learned that her name means “one who is holy.” It happened when she enrolled in an Adventist boarding school.

Pari hasn't been a student at her new school for long, but she's already learned to love Jesus. She loves reading her Bible, and Psalm 23 quickly became her favorite Bible passage.

Pari smiled shyly as she recited the psalm from memory.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want,” she said in her native Tamil language. “He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.” Pari paused partway through the recitation, her bashfulness causing her to forget the words. The school principal, who sat nearby, gently prompted Pari.

“He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake,” she continued. “Yea, though I walk

through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”

Walking Through the Valley

Pari knows what it means to walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Her father, a truck driver, was killed in a road accident when Pari was just a toddler. Sometime later her mother abandoned her, leaving her in the care of her grandfather.

Pari and Grandfather live in a little hut, and they have managed somehow. But Grandfather wondered why so many bad things happened to him. He wondered whether anyone heard his prayers. As he sought peace and answers to the reason for so much sadness, his daughter, Pari's auntie, told Grandfather about Jesus. Auntie is an Adventist, and she told him that Jesus always hears prayers.

Fast Facts

- Watch Pari recite Psalms 23 on YouTube at bit.ly/parisudha23
- Check out the special animated *Mission Spotlight* film about Pari on the website: M360.tv/s17311
- The currency of India is the rupee. About 68 rupees are worth one US dollar; 72 rupees are worth one euro.
- While Hindi and English are the two official national languages, the people of India speak hundreds of languages and dialects.

Pari's New School

Grandfather is getting old, and his eyesight is poor. He has very little money to support Pari. Some of his relatives suggested that Grandfather send Pari to study at an Adventist school. Grandfather agreed, and Pari enrolled in her new school, which is more than an hour from her grandfather's little home.

When Pari was asked if she likes studying at James Memorial Higher Secondary School, Pari smiled brightly. Yes, she loves her school, and she loves having so many new friends! She lives in

the girls' dormitory, where she now has 100 sisters. It doesn't matter much to Pari that the dormitory is old and the rooms are crowded and perhaps not as healthy as they should be. She's just glad she can live and study at such a good school!

Living for Jesus

Pari is learning to love Jesus at her new school. Recently she learned that her full name, Parisudha [pah-ree-SHOO-dah], means "one who is holy." She is glad that she is learning about Jesus, who wants her to be His child.

Since coming to her new school, Pari has seen several students baptized. When she visits her grandfather, she tells him about the baptisms and about her own new love for Jesus. "I want my grandfather to be a child of God, too," she says. "I tell him that he needs to be baptized! I know that Jesus hears my prayers for Grandfather and will answer them. I also know now that the way of Jesus is the way of Parisudha, the way of holiness. That's what my name means!"

Please remember Pari and her James Memorial Higher Secondary School in your prayers and when you give Sabbath School mission offerings. 🌍

Play Goli

Goli is a favorite marble game in India. It is best played by children nearly the same age and skill level.

On level ground, hollow out a small hole with the heel of one foot. About six feet away, draw a starting line. Players take turns shooting their marbles, trying to hit the hole or knock other players' marbles away from the hole. The art of goli is to do both at the same time. A game can take a long time to complete because the hole is small and easy to miss.



photo: BigStockPhoto.com



WESTERN INDIA | August 12

Arpita

Praying for a Miracle

Arpita's [ar-PEE-tah] life had a difficult beginning. Her father died when the ox cart that he was driving was hit by a truck. The shock of her father's death caused her mother to give birth to Arpita early.

Arpita spent the first few months of her life in the hospital with her mother, who couldn't hear or speak. Both she and her mother were very sick. The doctors didn't know what to do. The situation worried the rest of the family.

Arpita's family members were Christians; they did not believe in Jesus. One relative, Arpita's uncle Satish [sah-TEESH], visited the hospital every day. He tried to encourage Arpita's mother and make her smile. One Saturday, when Satish arrived at the hospital, he saw a stranger going from bed to bed. The man was praying with the patients. Curious, Satish approached the man and asked who he was. The man introduced himself as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor.

Even though Satish did not believe in Jesus, he really wanted to help Arpita and her mother. So he asked the pastor to pray for them. The pastor gladly agreed. He prayed for the mother, and then he prayed for little Arpita. During the prayer Satish used sign language to interpret the pastor's words to Arpita's mother.

The pastor visited mother and baby almost every day. He prayed for them every time he stopped by their bed. Soon mother and baby began to get well.

Satish was amazed. He asked the pastor to tell him more about Jesus. The pastor studied the Bible with Satish, and then Satish used sign language to explain the Bible to Arpita's mother.

Several months later, both Satish and Arpita's mother were baptized. Arpita's mother immediately wanted to dedicate Arpita to the Lord. The pastor prayed a special prayer that Arpita would always be a faithful Christian.

As soon as Arpita learned how to talk, her mother taught her to pray every evening at 7 o'clock. "Even now when I am far from home, every day at 7 o'clock I fold my hands and pray," Arpita says. "I've been doing this for as long as I can remember." Arpita is glad that the pastor stopped by her mother's hospital bed to pray for them both. Now she knows how much God loves her—so much that He died for her!

Recently Arpita followed Jesus' example and was baptized. Arpita says, "I decided to be baptized because I've seen how Jesus has blessed my family through the Seventh-day Adventist Church." She said she wants to follow Jesus because of how Jesus saved her mother's life as well as her own. "I've seen what Jesus has done for us," she continues.

Arpita also thanks God that she is able to study in an Adventist school in India. While her school is not well known and doesn't have a large enrollment, the teachers still love the students and teach them how to follow God. And for this Arpita is doubly glad.

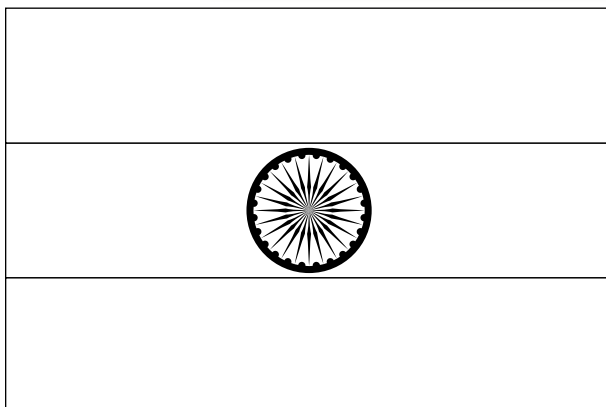
Part of this quarter's Thirteenth

Mission Post

- Watch the *Mission Spotlight* DVD or stream it online at bit.ly/missionspotlight to see how God is leading in the work in the Southern Asia Division and around the world.
- India is a family-centered culture. Often three generations live in the same house or in neighboring homes. Grandparents often care for children while parents work, either in the fields or in offices.
- Especially among Hindus, worship is generally observed in the home, where a room or a corner may contain statues of the family's god or gods.
- This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help strengthen the church in India to reach out to the billion people in India who have never heard the name of Jesus.

Sabbath Offering will help build 14 new classrooms at Arpita's school. The new classrooms will allow more children to study at the Adventist school and receive the same hope as Arpita. 🌐

Color The Flag



INDIA

DIRECTIONS

- Top stripe: orange
- Middle stripe: white
- Bottom stripe: dark green
- Wheel in center: dark blue



WESTERN INDIA | August 26

Sunita

God's Gushing Well

Sunita [soo-NEE-tah] is a farmer's wife. She is an Adventist Christian and loves to worship in the Adventist church in her village. But most Sabbaths she spends the day quietly worshipping at home because she doesn't want to anger her husband, who is not a Christian.

But when Sunita has a special prayer request, she takes it to God at church. Last year Sunita went to church and prayed for a well.

Praying for a Miracle

Times were tough on the family's farm. There had not been enough rain, and the two wells on the farm were nearly dry. The farm crops desperately needed water, which meant they needed to dig another well. Usually when a well needed to be dug, a well driller would have to drill several holes in different places to find

water. But Sunita and her husband had only enough money to pay the driller to dig one hole.

Sunita's husband wanted to perform a Hindu ritual in the field to find water. He believed that this was the only way to locate water.

But Sunita pleaded with him to not perform the ritual. She told him that God could help them find water without any ritual.

Then Sunita went to church to ask God for a miracle.

She asked that water would be found quickly when the hired well digger drilled a new bore hole.

The pastor and the other church members prayed with Sunita. They thanked God for Sunita's faithfulness, and they asked for God's help in finding water. They prayed that Sunita's husband would

see that God cares for His children and provides all their needs.

The Well Digger

The next day the well digger arrived at the farm. The pastor and the church members also came.

No one knew where to dig, and Sunita told those gathered that the family had only enough money to drill down to 150 feet [45 meters]. Once more the pastor prayed for guidance.

Then the church members walked across the farm and selected a random spot to dig. The pastor prayed, "Lord, bless this land, and may it yield sufficient water to meet the needs of Your children."

Then the well digger got to work.

THUMP. THUMP. THUMP.

He drilled to 50 feet. No sign of water.

THUMP. THUMP. THUMP.

He reached 100 feet. Still no water.

THUMP. THUMP. THUMP.

He hit 150 feet. He stopped drilling and went over to Sunita and her husband.

"I'm at 150 feet," he said. "It will cost more money if you want me to keep digging."

The church members prayed again. Then they pleaded with the well digger to drill just a few more feet. Reluctantly he agreed.

Moments later, water gushed from the ground.

Sunita's face broke into a big smile. "We prayed, and God answered our prayers! He blessed us!"

The well continues to provide all the fresh water the family needs for its farm. The neighbors marveled at the miracle. They ask, "Why are you so blessed?" Sunita says the answer is simple: God

Fast Facts

- Almost 80 percent (8 out of 10) people in India are Hindu. They worship gods and goddesses of stone or plaster or wood. In some festivals in honor of their god, the faithful walk to the river and throw the god into the water, where the plaster body dissolves.
- Hindus are vegetarians. They don't believe in eating meat because they believe any animal might be a god, even rats and snakes.
- Most Hindu families decorate a room or a corner of a room in their home to their god or gods. They often light candles or incense there and lay colorful flowers around the statue or picture of their god. Then they bow and pray there. They also have temples that they visit when they can to make offerings, give gifts, and ask for favors from their gods.
- Pray that the people of India learn that Jesus is the only true God. He loves them and wants to spend eternity with them.

honors those who honor Him.

God honored Sunita's prayer. When we honor God, He is also willing to provide us with an unlimited supply of the water of life.

Near Sunita's home stands Alate Adventist school. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will be used to build 14 classrooms at the school so that more children can attend and learn about the God who answers prayers. Please remember Sunita's family and the Alate school in your prayers and as we collect the Sabbath School mission offering. 🌍



NORTHEASTERN INDIA | September 2

Niharika

Teachers to the Rescue

Eleven-year-old Niharika [nee-har-EE-kah] lives with her Bible teacher in a remote corner of India. The teacher is not her uncle or her father or even a cousin. The reason she lives in his home is because her Seventh-day Adventist school doesn't have a dormitory.

Niharika is one of six children living in the homes of teachers near Nagaland Adventist School in northeastern India's border with the country of Myanmar.

Niharika, who is in the fifth grade, has lived with the Bible teacher's family for three years. Her parents, who are not Christians, live about 160 miles [250 kilometers] away.

Niharika loves Nagaland Adventist School. "This is where I learned to sing and to pray," she says. "I love singing for Jesus and listening to Bible stories. My favorite Bible hero is Joseph."

Like Joseph

Niharika felt a little like Joseph when her parents first sent her to the school. Her parents learned about the English-speaking school from a family friend. Since they wanted her to learn English, they decided to send her to the Adventist school. To Niharika, it was as far away from home as Egypt was to Joseph.

"The thought of leaving my parents and friends and living with another family made me sad," Niharika says. But she said she also was excited about attending a school where she could learn English.

Niharika's first year was difficult for her. She struggled with English, which made doing her homework difficult. Unable to communicate easily, she found it difficult to make friends at first.

But now she speaks well. She has made many friends at the school and actively

participates in Pathfinders and other children's activities. She says, "I am not afraid anymore and I have lots of friends."

No More Room

Nagaland Adventist School does not have dormitories to house children who live far from the school. This has proven to be a big problem, especially since teachers can take only a few students into their homes.

Teachers say the school has had to turn away many students who live too far from the school to travel there every day. One Adventist man living in Nagaland's capital city wanted to send his nephews to the school, which is a two-hour trip by car each way. But the teachers have no more room in their homes for additional students. The boys' uncle was disappointed. "I want my nephews to study in our Adventist institution. It is very difficult to keep the Sabbath when they study in other institutions," he says.

Although Nagaland is mostly Christian, many people misunderstand the seventh-day Sabbath. As a result, children from Adventist homes face

Mission Post

- Nagaland Adventist School is located in northeastern India near the country's border with the country of Myanmar.
- The school is relatively new, founded in 2007. It has 204 students, but it could serve many more if it had dormitories to house the many children from outlying areas who want to study here.
- Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a girls' dormitory on the campus. The school is raising funds to build a boys' dormitory as well.

difficulties in public schools.

So Niharika and the other children at Nagaland Adventist School were excited when their teachers told them that the school will begin building dormitories for children like her who live too far from the school to go home.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go toward building a girls' dormitory. The school, which opened in 2007, has 204 students. Soon it will begin raising funds to build a boys' dormitory as well. 🌐

Sing a Song in Hindi

Pronunciation tips: Barely pronounce the *n* when in parentheses. Gently trill the letter *i* when it appears at the end of a syllable. *Th* is always vocalized as in "the" rather than "think," and sometimes sounds as though it is a soft *d*. The vowel written *ai* is pronounced like the *i* in "high."

INTO MY HEART

(SING FOR JOY, NO. 125)

may ray dihl may-ah,
may ray dihl may-ah
ahdj dihl-l may ah ay yee soo

too ahb hee ah ah-orh rah seh dah
may ray dihl may ah krist yee soo



NORTHEASTERN INDIA | September 9

Panmeichung (Pan), and his wife

Mystery of the Handcuffs

Pan lives in a small village in Nagaland, a state in northeastern India. [*Locate Nagaland on the map.*]

Policemen were waiting when Pan came home from church one Sabbath. The policemen told Pan that he was under arrest for worshipping God on Sabbath. Pan's wife was scared. His children began to cry. Would you be scared if the police arrested you for coming to church today?

But Pan was not afraid.

"We have not done anything wrong," he told the police.

But the police said Pan had done something wrong. He had not listened to his neighbors, and now his neighbors were angry. Pan's neighbors went to church on Sunday, and they had told him that he must go to church on Sunday, too. But Pan and his family continued to worship on Sabbath in the little thatched-roof hut

that served as the Adventist church.

The policemen put Pan in the back of a police truck with two other Adventist men. The police put handcuffs on Pan's wrist. They put the other end of the handcuffs on the wrist of one of his friends.

Pan's wife felt sick to her stomach as she watched the police take away her husband. But she remembered Jesus' promise in Matthew 5:10, which says, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (NKJV).

The police truck bounced along the rough dirt road toward the main police station two hours away. Bump, bump, bump. Pan and his friends also bounced up and down in the back of the truck. Pan looked at the handcuffs on his wrist trying to make sense of his arrest. As he stared at the handcuff, something strange

happened. The handcuffs unlocked and fell off his wrist. He was free!

Pan could have jumped out of the truck and run back home. But he did not try to run away. He wanted to obey the police, even though he had not done anything wrong. So he showed his free wrist to the policemen. The policemen were shocked. “How did you open the handcuffs? Do you have a key?” they asked.

“We did nothing,” Pan said. “The handcuff just opened up by itself.” One of the policemen put the handcuffs back on Pan’s wrist and relocked them. He pulled a bit to make sure it was really locked this time.

The three men were sore from the long ride in the police van. When they finally arrived at the police station, Pan and his two friends climbed out and followed the policemen into the jail. The officers pointed to a jail cell and motioned for the three men to go inside. There the three men sat for two days. They prayed to God and encouraged one another.

Finally, on Monday, the police said they could go home.

When Pan returned home, the neighbors who had told the police to arrest Pan and his friends were not happy to see them. But when the neighbors heard the story of how the handcuffs had opened, freeing Pan, the neighbors changed their minds. They saw that God was with Pan. And as the neighbors watched Pan and the other Adventists, they realized that God was helping them in other ways as well.

Today the neighbors no longer bother Pan and his friends. In fact, many of them worship God with Pan in the Adventist church on Sabbath.

Fast Facts

- Nagaland is located in the far northeastern part of India. It shares a border with Myanmar to the east.
- Most people in Nagaland speak English.
- The Adventist school in Nagaland has just over 200 students, but many more people want to send their children to the school. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a girls’ dormitory at the school so that more students can study there and learn to serve their communities.

A portion of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a girls’ dormitory at the Adventist school in the same city where Pan was jailed for two days. The Nagaland Adventist School needs dormitories so more students from distant villages, such as the one we learned about today, can attend an Adventist school and learn to be good citizens and servants of God. 🌍



photo: BigStockPhoto.com



NORTHEASTERN INDIA | September 16

Ghukato

“I Want to Be an Evangelist”

Ghukato [goo-KAH-toe] can't stop talking about Jesus. He is always on the lookout for anyone who is interested in knowing more about God.

Ghukato is a student in Nagaland Adventist School in northeastern India. And not surprisingly, he wants to become an evangelist one day.

But he isn't waiting to grow up to share Jesus. Ghukato loves to tell his classmates about his love for Jesus and His Second Coming. He offers to study the Bible with them whenever he finds even a tiny interest.

When Ghukato's parents joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church a few years ago, his parents decided to send Ghukato and his younger brother to study at Nagaland Adventist School so they could learn more about God and avoid some of the problems that the boys would

encounter in public school.

Ghukato likes the spiritual activities on campus. He said he especially likes the first period of classes every morning when students sing, pray, and read the Bible. Ghukato helps other students with their homework and shares his faith with them whenever he can.

One of his teachers said, “Ghukato not only attends the church services regularly, but he also invites his non-Adventist friends to attend the church services. And often they do come.”

Overcoming Obstacles

Ghukato has found that it isn't always easy to share his faith. The parents of many of his classmates don't want their children attending the campus church on Saturday. But Ghukato keeps inviting them anyway.

Mission Post

- When missionaries first entered India, many of them went to the northeastern states. Today much of northeastern India is predominantly Christian, and English is widely spoken.
- Entire villages in northeastern India may be members of the same church. If a family becomes Seventh-day Adventist, the villagers sometimes make it difficult for that family to live peacefully in the village.

If one of the students says they can't come or don't want to come, Ghukato doesn't feel discouraged. He keeps the invitation open by saying, "It's OK. But if you change your mind, you are welcome to come!"

This seems to work well, and several of his classmates have come to church with him.

One of his friends asked to be baptized, and Ghukato studied the Bible lessons with him. But when the boy asked his parents for permission to be baptized, they refused.

Another friend went to church without his parents' permission and got into trouble for it. They refused to let him go again.

Of course, Ghukato was sad, but he simply said, "If you can come again, please come."

Ghukato isn't discouraged when his school friends can't come to church with him or don't want to come. He is making friends away from the school campus. At a local supermarket, he has befriended a worker named Albert. He and Albert have talked about Adventists and the

Sabbath. Albert has said he is too busy for church, but he happily accepts Adventist magazines and other religious literature.

Ghukato's love for God starts at home. When his mother became ill and was unable to clean the church, he urged her to stay in bed until she felt better. When she tried to get up and go to the church to clean, Ghukato hid the church key until he was able to go in her place and quietly clean the church for her until she was able to do it again.

A Great Need

When asked about the school's greatest need, Ghukato immediately answered dormitories for students who live far from the school. And the school agrees. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the school build a dormitory for girls. But the school also hopes to raise enough money to build a boys' dormitory as well.

Ghukato says both dormitories are important because he knows many boys who would like to study at the school but live too far away. Dormitories would give many children a safe and comfortable place to live—and give Ghukato a place to talk about his favorite topic: Jesus.

Ghukato's favorite Bible verse is Matthew 24:42, where Jesus says, "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming." Ghukato said he wants nothing more than to be ready and waiting when Jesus comes. In the meantime, he plans to help as many of his friends as possible get ready too.

Let's pray for the Nagaland Adventist School this week. And remember to save money so that we can have a big Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 30. 🌍



CENTRAL INDIA | September 23

Elisha and Solomi

The Stubborn Bride

Knock, knock.

Elisha opened the front door of his house in India. *[Invite a child to find India on a map.]* Outside stood a man and a woman Elisha had never seen before.

“We want to ask you something very important,” the man said. “We want you to marry our daughter. Her name is Solomi [soh-LOH-mee].”

Elisha was very surprised. He wanted to get married, but he never expected to find a wife this way! Elisha spoke with the two strangers for a few minutes. Then he shook his head. “No,” he said. “I cannot marry your daughter.”

Why did Elisha say no? Elisha said no because Solomi did not share his faith. She was a Christian, but she attended church on Sunday. Elisha is a Seventh-day Adventist. Which day do Seventh-day Adventists go to church? *[Wait for children to answer.]* That’s right, on Saturday.

Solomi’s parents were disappointed.

They really wanted Elisha to marry their daughter. They had been looking for a good husband for their daughter for a long time. And from what they’d learned about Elisha, they were sure that he would make a good husband. Solomi’s father looked up with new hope in his eyes. “We will tell Solomi to go to church with you!” he said.

Elisha met Solomi, and he liked her. They went to church together on Sabbath. And in time the two were married.

Disappointment

But after the couple had been married awhile, Solomi stopped going to church with Elisha. She went back to her own church on Sunday. She said it didn’t matter whether she went to church on Saturday or Sunday.

Elisha was very sad. He didn’t know what to do.

Solomi saw that Elisha was sad. She knew that he was sad because she went

to church on Sunday. She wanted Elisha to be happy again. So she began to pray. She asked God whether she should go to church on Sunday or Saturday.

A few weeks later, Solomi met a stranger who was giving away books about Jesus at her church. Solomi became excited when she learned that the stranger was an Adventist pastor. She told him that her husband was an Adventist. Solomi paused a moment and then asked the pastor, “Does God want me to go to church on Saturday or on Sunday?”

The pastor opened the Bible. He showed her the Fourth Commandment, which says, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” He read many other Bible verses. Solomi decided that God wanted her to go to church on Saturday.

Today Elisha and Solomi are very happy. They work together as Bible workers. They teach people about Jesus and the Sabbath from the Bible. But

Fast Facts

- It is still common in India for parents to choose the person their son or daughter marries.
- While the engaged couple spend some time together, they are seldom alone together until after they are married.

Elisha and Solomi are most happy that they go to church together every Sabbath.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will build a training and conference center near Elisha and Solomi’s home in central India. This center will be used to train pastors and lay workers, such as Elisha and Solomi, so they can serve God better.

Please remember Elisha and Solomi and the new center in your prayers and as we collect the Sabbath School mission offering. 🌍

Let’s Play a Game!

KABADI

Kabadi [KAH-bah-dee] is a favorite street game of children all over India.

Two teams, each with five to nine players, line up facing each other across an open area. Draw a line across the middle of the open area.

The captain of Team A selects one player to cross the line into Team B’s territory and attempt to tag a player from Team B. The Team A player must constantly repeat “Kabadi, kabadi, kabadi” while in Team B’s territory. Team B players try to tag the invading player. If the player from Team A successfully tags a player from Team B, they return to their team’s territory. The player who was tagged steps out of the game.

If the player from Team A is tagged or stops shouting “Kabadi,” they must step out of the game. After the player from Team A has either been tagged or has successfully tagged an opponent, Team B gets a turn. If during Team B’s turn a Team B player tags a Team A player, one of Team B’s players standing on the side may return to the game.

Teams continue taking turns until all members of one team are out of the game. The team with players remaining in the game, or the team with the most players remaining at the end of a predetermined time, wins the game.

Thirteenth Sabbath Program

If your class will present the Thirteenth Sabbath program for the adults:

- Practice one or more songs from the quarterly or the website (www.AdventistMission.org) to sing during the program.

If your class will not join the adults for a special program:

- Present the following story during the mission time. You can invite Juniors or Earliteens to help present the program if you wish. This will help older children to become more comfortable in front of an audience and give the younger children different people to watch and listen to during the presentation.

Before Thirteenth Sabbath:

- Send home a note to remind parents of the program and to encourage the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 30.
- Remind everyone that their mission offerings are gifts to spread God's Word around the world, and that one fourth of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to help the people of the Southern Asia Division build dormitories at two Adventist boarding schools, seven churches in India, and one meeting hall in Bhutan.

Helping Children Grow

[Ask three Junior-age children to present this program. They don't have to memorize their parts, but encourage them to read through their part several times so that their presentation is smooth and comfortable.]

Narrator: Southern Asia Division is made up of three main countries—India, Bhutan, and Nepal. India has more people than any country except China—almost 3 billion people. The Adventist Church has sent missionaries to India for more than 100 years. Today almost 1.6 million people in India are Adventists. That's one Adventist for every 870 people.

Since missionaries first went to India to share God's love with the people there, schools have been an important way to

lead people to Jesus. These schools have been a strong influence on entire families who never knew Jesus. Even today, many children from non-Christian homes study at Adventist schools because parents know their children will be taught well and will learn to be honest and kind. Let's meet Alia [ah-LEE-ah], whose life was changed because she attended an Adventist school.

Alia [a girl]: My parents weren't

Christians when I started school. But, after a difficult experience in the first grade, they sent me to the Adventist school, hoping that I would do better there. The teachers were kind and helpful to me, and I learned quickly.

I learned reading and math and geography, but my teachers taught me about Jesus too. My school doesn't hold classes on Saturday, and I realized that many of my classmates attend Sabbath School that day. So I went to Sabbath School too, for I wanted to know more about God. I liked Sabbath School a lot, especially the stories. I love stories, and my Sabbath School teacher told many stories about Jesus.

I told my mother what I was learning in Sabbath School, and she came to church with me. She attended the adult class, and before too many months Mother gave her heart to Jesus and joined the church. I gave my heart to Jesus too; and when I was old enough, I joined the church. My father hasn't given his heart to Jesus yet, but he comes to church with us sometimes.

I'm so glad that my parents sent me to an Adventist school. My whole life is different because of this school.

Narrator: India has two main languages, Hindi and English, and many other state languages. Adventist schools in India teach in English. Being able to speak and read English helps children do better after they finish high school.

Many children are being sponsored to attend Adventist schools throughout India. One of these children is Amol [AH-mohl]. He attends one of the schools that will receive new classrooms from our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today. Amol,

tell us about yourself and why you are studying at an Adventist school.

Amol [a boy]: My parents were Adventist Christians. My father died when I was 6 years old, and my mother got sick and died a year later. My younger brother and I went to live with our grandparents, but life was difficult. My grandparents loved us, but they were old and couldn't afford to send us to an Adventist school.

One day, a pastor came to our village and held evangelistic meetings. My grandfather asked the pastor to help me go to an Adventist school, and the pastor found a sponsor for me.

I really like my school. The teachers are nice, and the children are friendly. I just wish my little brother could study here, but he doesn't have a sponsor, and my grandparents can't pay his school fees.

I remember that my mother wanted me to be a pastor. If God calls me, I will be happy to obey.

Our school is new, and we need dormitories so that children don't have to walk long distances or stay with strangers in order to attend my school. Part of today's offering will help my school get a new dormitory. Thank you for helping children like me get a good education in a Christian school.

Narrator: Thank you, Amol. Four Adventist schools will receive help from our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today. But there is another project. It's to help build churches in India. Kevin is 9 years old and lives in western India. He is a child preacher. Kevin knows that when a child preaches, even adults listen.

Kevin [a boy]: I started preaching when

I was 7 years old. My Sabbath School teacher invited me to speak for Children's Sabbath in church. I couldn't read much yet, so my parents helped me learn my sermons. We children practiced our parts a lot, and we were prepared. God really blessed, and, though I was nervous, God used my friend and me to speak to many people that day.

Since then I've preached at many different churches in our area of India. I'm learning how to speak in front of other people, and this is a good skill for when I grow up.

I think that when a kid preaches, people relax and listen with their hearts. People have told me that when they know a child is preaching, they like to invite their friends who don't go to church. It's a neat experience for the visitors, and they're often surprised that children can speak in front of adults.

When I preach, I give an altar call. One time a woman came forward and asked for prayer. She said she was visiting the church and just learning about Adventists. She had planned to go

somewhere else that day, but God led her to church.

People in India are hungry to hear the good news that Jesus is the true and living God, that He loves them and wants to be part of their lives. The church in India has many programs to help members share God's love with their neighbors and family. But we need to learn how to reach them in more ways. Part of today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a training center where pastors and Global Mission Pioneers and lay people can learn the best ways to reach others for Jesus. I'm too young to go there to learn how to share my faith, but one day I hope to!

Narrator: Today we have the opportunity to help people in all parts of the Southern Asia Division learn about God through Adventist schools and a training center. Let's give a big help to them.

[Offering]

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects



- Multipurpose retreat building in Rezina, Moldova
- Mentoring Through Sports program for children and teens in Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- Multipurpose sports complex at Heritage Christian School in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan
- Serve and Shine Outreach Center in Rostov-on-Don, Russia
- Gospel Harbor Outreach Center of Influence in Vladivostok, Russia
- Children's Project: Children's Preschool Center in Kazakhstan

Fun with Hindi

Hindi and English are the most common languages spoken in India. Below are some greetings and words in Hindi. Vowels are pronounced as follows: *ah* as in father; *ai* as in eye; *ay* as in hay; *ee* as in bee; *eh* as in bet; *ih* as in tip; *oh* as in toe; *oo* as in boot; *uh* as in butter; *u* as in ewe. The accented syllables are written in capital letters. When you see the letter *n* in parentheses (n) at the *end* of a word, say it with a short nasal sound that is almost not heard; gently roll the *r*; and vocalize the *th* sound as in the words “then” or “the” rather than in the word “with.” It sounds almost like a *d*.

GREETINGS

Happy Sabbath
Hello (Goodbye)
Please
Thank you
Yes
No
God
Jesus

PRONUNCIATION

shoob sah-BAHT
NAH-mah-stay
krih-pai yah
THUN-yuh-wahdh
HAH
nuh-HEE
KOO-dah
YAY-soo

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

PRONUNCIATION

RUH-vee-wahr
SOHM-wahr
MUHN-gol-wahr
BOOD-wahr
GOO-roo-wahr
SOOK-wahr
SUH-nee-wahr

COUNTING

one
two
three
four
five
six
seven
eight
nine
ten

PRONUNCIATION

ayk
doh
theen
char
pahhch
chay
saht
aht
now
thus

Southern Asia Recipes

SAMOSAS (VEGETABLE CURRY PUFFS)

PASTRY:

2 cups all-purpose flour
pinch of salt

2 tablespoons butter
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup water

Sift flour with salt; cut in the butter until it resembles bread crumbs. Add water, a little at a time, until it forms a soft dough. Cover and set aside.

FILLING:

1 onion, chopped fine

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon curry powder

2 tablespoons oil

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup green peas

5 medium potatoes, boiled, peeled, cubed

salt to taste

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon turmeric powder

fresh coriander leaves, chopped

DIRECTIONS:

Sauté chopped onion in oil until golden. Add potatoes, turmeric powder, curry powder, green peas, salt, and coriander leaves, and stir gently. Cook on low heat until peas are tender. Divide pastry dough into 6 or 7 equal parts. Roll each into a thin circular shape; dust with flour to make rolling easier. Cut each circle in half and place a spoonful of filling on each semicircle. Fold the pastry edges toward the middle and bring up the circular edge. Moisten edges with water and seal carefully to make a triangular-shaped pastry. Heat oil for deep frying and fry the samosas on both sides until golden brown. Drain and serve hot.

YOGURT SALAD

1 cup yogurt

1 tomato, chopped

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup sour cream

$\frac{1}{2}$ onion, chopped fine

1 cucumber, chopped

salt to taste

DIRECTIONS:

Combine ingredients; serve chilled as a delightful complement to spicy curries.

Leader's Resources

Following are sources of information that may be helpful in preparing for the mission segment of Sabbath School. For more information on the cultures and history of the European countries featured in this quarterly, visit your local library or a travel agency, or visit the Web sites listed below.

Indian government website: bit.ly/IndiaGovtFacts

CIA's India Facts: bit.ly/IndiaCIA

Wikitravel: bit.ly/wikiIndia

Lonely Planet: bit.ly/PlanetIndia

Wikipedia: bit.ly/WikipediaIndia

Ducksters: bit.ly/DuckstersIndia

Cool Kid Facts: bit.ly/CoolKidIndia

Religions of India: bit.ly/IndiaReligions

Seventh-day Adventist

Southern Asia Division: sud.adventist.org

James Memorial Higher Secondary School: bit.ly/JamesSchoolIndia

Nagaland Adventist Church and School: bit.ly/NagalandSDA

Be sure to download your free Mission Spotlight video, featuring video reports from around Southern Asia and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at: bit.ly/missionspotlight.

Children's Mission contains additional material that can add flavor to your mission presentation, including words and phrases as well as songs in Hindi and several other major languages of India, crafts, and recipes. Find the *Children's Mission* online at: bit.ly/childrensmisson.

An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Ask your Sabbath School council to set a quarterly mission-offering goal; then chart the weekly progress toward the quarter's goal on the goal device. Since this quarter has 14 Sabbaths, divide the division-wide goal into 15 parts and aim to complete at least one part of the project each week and two parts on Thirteenth Sabbath, whenever it is celebrated in your church.

Since all projects this quarter focus on buildings, draw a school or even a brick wall on a large piece of poster paper. Draw a simple brick and make enough photocopies to fill in the wall on the poster. Assign a monetary amount to each brick, and each week count the mission offering and add the appropriate number of bricks to the device. Encourage Sabbath School members to "buy bricks" to help fill the wall.

Remind your Sabbath School members that their regular weekly mission offerings will help the missionary work of the world church and that one quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the Southern Asia Division. On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage members to double or triple their normal mission giving on Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School.

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Southern-Asia Division



UNION	CHURCHES	MEMBERS	POPULATION
East-Central India	2,516	967,972	137,544,009
Northeast India	198	44,690	48,842,394
Northern India	460	169,520	755,163,499
South-Central India	251	75,433	68,225,340
Southeast India	450	123,029	79,577,833
Southwest India	251	36,652	36,370,290
Western India	254	113,342	187,962,007
Andaman and Nicobar	1	289	412,627
East Himalayan	7	696	757,000
Nepal	26	9,035	28,039,000
TOTAL	4,414	1,540,658	1,343,241,000

Statistics as of December 2015

PROJECTS

- 1 Lay members training center, Ibrahimpatnam, India.
- 2 Girls' dormitory at Adventist high school, Dimapur, India.
- 3 Girls' dormitory at the James Memorial Higher Secondary School, Prakasapuram, Tamil Nadu.
- 4 Classrooms at Adventist high school, Vellarada, India.
- 5 Classroom building at Alate Adventist School in Hatkanangale, India.

