

{ Stories of Mission }



Philippine Publishing House  
Manila, Philippines

Copyright © 2023 Southern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists

Printed and published in the Philippines by Philippine Publishing House and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division of Seventh-day Adventists, Silang, 4118 Cavite, Philippines.

All rights reserved.

All stories are based on the Adventist Mission Magazine [Mission 360°], Adventist Volunteers, and Global Mission Pioneers stories.

Unless otherwise credited, Bible verses are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Verses marked KJV are from the King James Version.

Texts marked NASB are Scripture quotations taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved. [www.lockman.org](http://www.lockman.org).

Verses marked NIV are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture references marked NKJV are from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

NLT Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

To download a soft copy of this book, you may access [www.adventist.asia](http://www.adventist.asia).

This book was

Edited by Caroline Oliveira and PPH Editorial

Cover and interior design and layout by Evangeline T. Cailao

Typeset: Bembo Std 10/12

## PREFACE

Everyone loves a good story. And when we think of missionary stories, our hearts tend to surge with anticipation for inspiring accounts of people experiencing God’s amazing power and love.

Some people may think that mission is only done far away from us. Although this is also true, we have missionaries in almost every country in the world. We also have them very close to us.

They may be Global Mission Pioneers—people who have chosen to mingle with the locals to show them God’s love and principles using Christ’s method. They dress wounds, feed the hungry, show respect, and build strong and sincere relationships.

We also have missionaries who are volunteers, many of whom are working through the Adventist Volunteer Service (AVS), the official volunteer program of the Adventist Church.

The AVS program serves as a bridge between the needs of the mission field and the willingness of young people to serve.

Some families are frontline missionaries—fully paid by the church to encourage, train, and serve in areas of need.

It doesn’t matter what their job description is. These missionaries all have one goal: to share the message of Jesus until He comes, whatever it takes.

We sincerely hope that you and your loved ones will be inspired, motivated, and energized by these mission stories. May you always remember that the mission is done with the feet of those who go, the knees of those who pray, and the hands of those who send.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank those who have supported this project:

- To God be all the glory! All the stories you will read were written because the Holy Spirit moved through missionaries.
- The officers of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, for their kind support in spreading the good news of the mission in our fields.
- Philippine Publishing House, for their efforts in printing this devotional so that we can distribute copies on time.
- Pastor Jibil Simba and Sister Virgie Baloyo, for understanding the importance of this project in increasing mission awareness and faithfulness among SSD families.
- The SSD Adventist Mission Team, for their untiring work and desire to see Jesus return soon.
- All the missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers who have worked tirelessly to spread the gospel in various ways.

May the Lord be with you every step of the way.



WEEK 1

## Chosen to Serve

*“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.”*

*John 15:16*

Marian Yaqub couldn't remember praying to God and reading the Bible as a teenager. She was born into an Adventist family but didn't have a solid and meaningful relationship with God. Growing up, she had never imagined that the girl who showed no interest in religious matters would become passionate about helping others in any way possible many years later.

Marian comes from Pakistan. She lived a pretty comfortable life with her family in her home country. However, everything changed when she turned 20 years old.

Her uncle, a missionary in the Marshall Islands, had influenced and inspired her to follow in his footsteps as a missionary teacher on Ebeye Island. With a bachelor's degree in Education, she believed that teaching in another country would be a wonderful experience.

But things didn't turn out as planned. She taught for a year, but it didn't work. She lost her focus. She returned to Pakistan, thinking that God might not want her to be a missionary.

One day, Marian's father, Mr. Yaqub, posted a picture of his children on Facebook, and one of his friends contacted him to inform him about an Adventist school in Timor-Leste that needed some teachers.

“Do you want to teach in Timor-Leste?” Mr. Yaqub asked Marian.

“Yes!” she answered the question of her father outrightly.

God works in mysterious ways in His own perfect time. Marian rushed her papers through, and it only took her two weeks to process everything that needed to be done. She could feel how God had prepared and guided her path to a place that would be her mission field for five years.

“I did not choose Timor-Leste; Timor-Leste chose me,” Marian replied when someone asked once why she had chosen to teach in Timor-Leste.

“Becoming a missionary is not so much about saving other souls as it is about saving your own,” someone once told her, and she can assure this in her life daily.





Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** God has chosen each one of us to do specific tasks for Him. But maybe you still don't understand His plans for you. So, tomorrow set an hourly alarm on your cellphone or watch for you to stop and pray. Ask God to help you understand His plans for you and your family.



WEEK 2

## Future Overseas

*“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide.”*

*John 15:16*

David is a good man. Raised in the church, he has always been passionate about leading people to Christ and participating in the Great Commission of Jesus. This young man was happy in his church in Kenya but he felt something was missing.

He was about to start his third year in college and didn't feel he had achieved anything significant. He was stressed out and desperate to know what God had in store for his future.

David asked for God's answer through prayers. It didn't take long for him to know God's will for him. When he did some random research online, he came across the Vivid Faith website, the official Adventist website for volunteer service opportunities around the world.

He applied, and a month later, David received confirmation that he qualified to be a volunteer, but more importantly, a missionary.

His future unfolded before him while flying over 9,000 kilometers on a 12-hour flight bound for the Philippines.

Receiving the call to be a missionary was the best thing that had ever happened to him. As a digital evangelist, he has realized that life is not just about having a good job, lots of money, and much fun. Life is about being allowed to work for and with God full-time.

Being a worker in God's mission field, however, isn't the only blessing David has experienced in digital evangelism. His missionary journey took him to the southern Philippines, where he participated in digital evangelism training in the cities of Butuan and Davao. He had never



imagined that he would meet so many friends, train other evangelists, and share God’s love with people from all walks of life.

The life of a volunteer missionary isn’t always easy. Living far away from home and experiencing different cultures, languages, foods, and behaviors didn’t take away David’s desire to share Jesus with others through social media as a full-time job. Amazingly, he has seen his own spiritual life improve by doing so. After all, when we bring people closer to Jesus, we come closer to Him.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** As a family, create a simple spiritual post on your social media account to inspire and motivate others to become digital missionaries.



WEEK 3

## Everything Amiss

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5, 6, NKJV.*

Everything that could go wrong was going wrong. Ivonne and Wesley were exhausted, disheartened, and delayed in Mexico City for the second time. Their children were fast asleep, but the couple was anxious about what the next day would bring.

“Have we made a mistake?” Ivonne asked Wesley with a sigh.

He just looked at his wife pityingly. He understood her fully.

As they embarked on their first international mission assignment, they would take eight suitcases, four carry-on bags, and two children—a 1-year-old and a 3-month-old.

They had no way of knowing what their path would soon involve after arriving at the airport. There were forgotten strollers, a delayed flight leading to a missed connection, canceled subsequent flight, long hours of negotiating with various airlines staff members in two countries, rescheduled flights with short layovers, running through five different airports, and carrying all the above-listed items—with no strollers!



On top of that, they checked in a bag at the last minute and then realized on the flight that it contained most of their money—leaving insufficient funds for their visas on arrival.

Physically, mentally, and emotionally drained, they reflected a moment on the question, and the response came immediately: “Either we’ve made a huge mistake, or we’re exactly doing what God wants, and the enemy isn’t happy.”

Everything that seemed insurmountable was suddenly met with miracle after miracle—airline staff holding the departure of a plane, checking in all their hand luggage for free, leaving them with nothing but their children. There had been delayed flights that allowed them to make connections and visas for which they were charged half the advertised fee. The list goes on.

The family learned that when they put their trust in God, though they will still face challenges, He changes their reality and hearts.

After 13 years of service in their mission field, the Szamko family can ensure that we can put everything in the hands of God and find ourselves carried through in peace.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** A family member or someone in the neighborhood may be too busy and unable to balance work, family, and faith. Offer your help and pray for their ability to trust God in directing their decisions.



**WEEK 4**

## The Girl No One Wanted

*“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:40, NIV*

**M**ore than two years ago, a bright-eyed, slender 9-year-old girl named Malee\* was offered refuge at Keep Girls Safe (KGS), a shelter in Chiang Rai, Thailand, that partners with ADRA.

“Her mom didn’t want her, and local villagers couldn’t keep her,” said Sunita, the KGS project coordinator.





Since 2004, KGS has served as a temporary means of protection for girls age 8 to 18 who have been abused, orphaned, abandoned, or are at risk of being trafficked.

During their stay, the girls are assigned household chores, given fun projects to work on, and encouraged to attend school. Malee keeps busy sweeping floors, washing dishes, and gardening. She also goes to school and especially enjoys its Japanese club.

Before coming to KGS, Malee's life was difficult and unsettling. Her mother had no money and no home. To ensure her daughter's survival, she resorted to prostitution until she eventually moved in with a boyfriend.

When Malee's mother became pregnant, she asked an older couple in a local village to adopt Malee, but the couple had seven children and didn't have enough food to feed Malee.

Realizing Malee's misfortune, the village leaders pleaded with KGS to take her in.

In the beginning, Malee was very unhappy in the shelter. She hit the staff and other girls, wouldn't take baths, and refused to clean her room.

Still, the staff worked tirelessly to understand Malee and show her love, despite her behavior.

Today, Malee is well-behaved. She has grown attached to KGS and looks up to her school teachers. The people at the shelter, the school, and the local Adventist church make sure that Malee receives a good education, care, and love.

ADRA Thailand is training caregivers at KGS to help meet the physiological needs of girls such as Malee. Additionally, plans are under development for KGS to establish educational scholarships so that more at-risk youth can receive an education.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** You can be a Sending Missionary if you donate to ADRA, which has many projects in countries with many refugees. Pray for ADRA and find ways to send your help.

\*Names changed to protect identity





WEEK 5

## A Good Samaritan

*“Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him. Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”  
Luke 10: 36, 37, NIV.*

**G**lobal Mission (GM) is the frontline mission arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its people-first approach to church planting is founded on Christ’s method of ministry.

GM missionary workers are called “pioneers.” They are laypeople who volunteer or are employed to plant a church in unchurched areas. In their associations as GM pioneers, they learn about other cultures, speak foreign languages, and live with the locals.

The pioneers share the Good News by caring for the sick, teaching agricultural skills, running literacy programs, holding evangelistic meetings, and leading Bible studies.

One Global Mission pioneer couple went to Monywa City, Myanmar. When they first arrived in their mission field, they didn’t know anyone around.

Given that the people were strangers to them, the couple didn’t know who to seek help during an emergency; especially since the wife was expecting a baby.

Early one evening, the wife had labor contractions. She knew that her baby would come soon. Not long after, her water broke at 8:00 p.m.

The couple was in a difficult position when they had to choose between giving birth in their house or the hospital. The problem was that they could risk arrest and prosecution for breaking the curfew hours if they decided to leave their house. The local government and the army forbid anyone to go out after 6:00 p.m.

On the other hand, Mala, a very kind Buddhist teacher, lived near the couple’s house. She had heard that her pregnant neighbor was about to give birth. She advised the couple to call a nurse. Unfortunately, the nurse lived a bit far from their house.

Running out of time and options, the couple went to a midwife’s place with Mala. But they hadn’t gone far when the army and the local police stopped them. During the interrogation, the wife had to endure each contraction that got stronger and stronger.



By God's grace, they made it to the midwife's house, and the baby was born healthy. Even if she wasn't like her neighbors in faith, Mala didn't hesitate to show kindness to them by risking her life.

The couple and Mala have been good friends until now. God had raised a "Samaritan" to help our GM pioneers in their hours of need!



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Google Buddha images. Many Buddhists bow and pray to them. Prepare a family 13<sup>th</sup> Sabbath offering to support the mission in unreached and hard-to-reach countries.



**WEEK 6**

## Swimming Against the Current

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I fear no evil, for You are with me. Psalm 23:4, NASB.*

Jessica\* comes from a Buddhist village. She had never heard of God until the day her parents decided to send her to an Adventist school.

Along with her other academic subjects in school, she learned about a God who loves her and made Himself human. She discovered that the God of most of her classmates had died a cruel death to save her and everyone else who believes in His saving grace.

Having understood God's plan for her and upon experiencing the transformative power of the Bible, she wanted to be baptized but her parents didn't allow her. She had a tough decision to make: obey God or honor her parents.

She was disheartened. After some time, she discovered more about God during an evangelistic meeting at school. Oh how she longed to accept and receive Jesus Christ as her personal Savior! She hoped that her parents would agree to her wish this time; but once again, they said no. Her heart broke again.

After watching her friends get baptized in a beautiful ceremony, she asked God to give her peace and another chance. At the end of a special week of prayer at school, she finally went against her traditions and was baptized without her parents' consent. Although she was happy with it,



she had to face her parents and tell them the truth.

Their reaction was exactly what she predicted. Jessica's mother declared her that she was no longer her daughter. Her father got so angry that he said he would stop paying for her school. He even ordered the other family members to lock Jessica up in her own bedroom, while her mother threatened to drown her in the river.

Jessica's parents bullied and treated her like she wasn't their own. They told her that unless she abandoned her Christian faith, she would have to leave their house.

It was a long night. She prayed that Jesus would help her even in the valley of death. Despite persecution and abandonment, she made up her mind never to renounce her faith. With all her heart, she believed that her God was most powerful and would never leave her alone.

The answer to her prayers came unexpectedly. Her grandmother convinced Jessica's parents to let her live in peace, go to school, and continue her studies. She knew it was only by God's grace that the unthinkable happened. She is a living testimony of what God can do for His children.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Say a big “Thank You” to your parents as you give them a tight hugs for bringing you to church and helping you grow in faith. Pray for girls and boys who continue to live their Adventist faith against their parents’ will.

\*Names changed to protect identity.



WEEK 7

## The Long Necks

*But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you.*

*Romans 8:9, NLT.*

**I**n a village in Myanmar called Kone Thar, Global Mission Pioneer missionaries Salai and Kukupaw, his wife, are spreading hope among a tribal group called “Kayan,” also known locally as *the Long Necks*.

Salai and Kukupaw follow Jesus' example as they minister to the people



in their mission field. They visit every family in their neighborhood to get to know each member personally. Eventually, they become close friends with the village people.

Kukupaw's nursing background proves helpful in their missionary work. Aside from promoting education for the village children, they are able to provide basic health care to the community.

It's not always easy, however, to convince the Kayan parents to allow their children to go to school. Since most are farmers, parents need their children during cultivation and plantation time.

Aware of this situation, the missionaries spend more time with the families. They labor hard to win the confidence and trust of the parents so they can let their children attend school.

Since enrollment costs can be challenging for the village people, the Global Mission Pioneer missionary couple ensures that education is available to every family. Shortly after, parents start to appreciate the education their children receive since they return home with much better attitudes.

In Myanmar, 77 percent of the population is Buddhist, but the teachings of this insistent working couple have been fruitful.

Muo, one of the parents, can testify to that. She became a Seventh-day Adventist because of what her children learned at Central Myanmar Adventist Seminary.

“The Adventist school taught my children many good things, like the truth of Scripture and the love of God. As I learned from my children, I became convinced that I should become an Adventist like them, and now I am,” she said.

Seemingly small but vitally important beginnings like this encourage Salai, Kukupaw, and other Global Mission Pioneer missionaries to continue their work.

Salai and Kukupaw have served among the Kayan tribe for more than three years. They truly believe that sharing the love of God and the truth of His word with the Kayan people is the only reason they are there.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Google Myanmar and the Long Necks of the Kayan Tribe. Many of them have become Christians. Pray that more Global Mission pioneers can share the Gospel with them and lead them to follow God.





WEEK 8

## Motocross for Jesus

*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31, NIV*

Seyha lives in the ancient city of Siem Reap, Cambodia. Less than five miles from his home lies a vast Buddhist temple that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has declared a World Heritage Site. Two million people visit the Angkor Wat every year.

The Holy Spirit impressed him to start a business to reach out to the many tourists who visit Siem Reap. So he started a company combining three of his greatest loves: Jesus, people, and motorcycles.

In his business, he meets hundreds of tourists of various backgrounds, and he's been finding many opportunities to share his faith with them.

Seyha is well respected by those in the local tourism industry. They know he has specific requirements for his trips. Each of his clients knows he is an Adventist—he doesn't go to parties and keeps the Sabbath.

“My business is a way of reaching out to people who would never enter a church and who don't even like Christians,” he said.

Seyha is known for his integrity. Once a tourist asked him to reserve a room in a particular house. When Seyha informed the guest of his bill, the guest was surprised to find out that he would only have to pay USD13. He had booked the same house before and paid USD25 per room.

“Why are you different from the other tour guides?” a tourist asked him once.

*What's wrong with me that he would ask me that?* He told himself.

An awkward silence ensued between the tourist and Seyha, for he didn't have a ready answer to the question.

“I hate Christians,” the tourist went on a few moments later—more awkward silence.

“But I like you,” he said, breaking the silence.

Seyha was able to share a little bit about some things he believes in and about being a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. After returning to his home country, the tourist sent Seyha a message telling him he was reading a Bible.

This dialog is just one of the many conversations Seyha has had with his guests. Some of them are avowed atheists and have told him that he was the reason they were reading the Bible.



Seyha shares Jesus as a personal Friend, and he has felt God's love and power to do good works for Him. He is a Global Mission pioneer in Cambodia, using his motocross tourism business to reach hearts for Jesus.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Take a piece of paper and write five practical things you can do in your work, school, and neighborhood to share Jesus' love. After writing, made a circle and, with the paper in the middle, ask God for helping you experience those things.



WEEK 9

## From Darkness to Light

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5*

After passing through places he had only heard about on the news, Brandam Monnett, an American from Arizona, finally arrived in the Philippines.

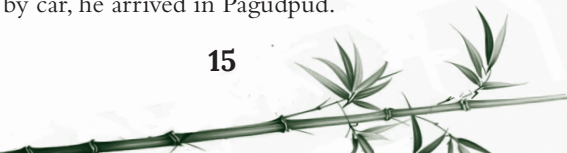
As an Adventist Volunteer Service (AVS) missionary, he would be going to Pagudpud, a town on the north coast of Luzon Island, to help renovate an Adventist wellness clinic.

Though he didn't exactly know how God would use him in His cause, he knew He was the One who brought him there. Without any doubt, he believed that He would be with him the way He had drastically changed his life. Oh, if it wasn't for God's amazing grace!

Despite his absolute dependence on God, Brandam couldn't help but feel anxious since it was his first time traveling abroad. Not that he wasn't excited to serve the Lord; he was and couldn't wait to arrive in his mission field.

Aside from renovating a wellness clinic, Brandam would visit the sick and the poor with the local pastor. Thinking of all his missionary assignments, he recalled how he was impressed to renew his passport and save some dollars, even though he had no plans of going anywhere.

The first adjustment he had to get into was the humid weather. It felt like being wrapped in a hot and wet blanket! After two hours of traveling by car, he arrived in Pagudpud.



He was shocked! He needed to adjust to sights, sounds, smells, culture, and food. After all, merchants everywhere sold dragon fruits, avocados, chicken feet, bananas, and many kinds of soups.

As he helped with the renovation work, his excitement began to fade. He was warned about the poverty of the local people, but nothing could have prepared him for the degree of poverty he met along the way.

On one side of the street, he saw a mother sitting on a dirty piece of cardboard, changing her baby's diaper. Many lived in houses without windows, doors, air conditioning, stoves, or refrigerators. He visited people who slept in makeshift beds, many of whom were sick and dying.

He was choked with emotion and felt sorry for everyone.

Despite what seemed like a hopeless condition, Brandam went on to work among the *least of these*, his brothers and sisters, for he knew very well how it was to live like them.

Eighteen months ago, Brandam lived in a cave in the Arizona desert. He was a former atheist and addict, depressed and without hope.

Now, he is feeling complete after God had reached out to him. With His power and grace, Brandam is actively sharing his faith and hope with others.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** The best antidote to sadness is to serve others. Being a light to them brings lightness to your heart. Plan to wear your best smile to a sad-looking friend at school or workplace today. Watch them smile back.



WEEK 10

## Warrior for Jesus (Part 1)

*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7, NIV.*

It was early morning and, as usual, Jaslene\* had risen before dawn to make breakfast. The sun filtered through the fronds of the palm tree in the front yard as she prepared rice, vegetables, and dried fish. It seemed like a perfect day on the island of Mindoro in the Philippines.





Antonio,\* Jaslene’s husband, was enjoying the view from their small veranda when, suddenly, the peace was shattered by rapid gunfire coming from all sides.

Antonio jumped to his feet and rushed inside, grabbing his assault weapon. He was no stranger to war. As communist guerilla fighters, he and his wife had seen some fierce battles. The constant spray of bullets could mean only one thing—the government soldiers had attacked their village.

Antonio ran out the front door, and Jaslene grabbed the children and escaped through the back door, making a dash for cover in the jungle.

As a communist rebel fighter herself, Jaslene usually felt no fear about these repeated encounters. But on this day, the bullets came thicker and faster than ever before, and she couldn’t help but wonder whether her husband would survive.

Finally, when all was quiet, Jaslene and her children returned home. To their dismay, the village was in a terrible situation. They found out that Antonio had been killed and carted off by the government soldiers. Oh, how Jaslene hated them! She had seen so much suffering in her village and people before—but now, her husband is dead. Her anger boiled, and she decided to raise her children to be the best fighters to avenge their father’s death.

The oldest boy was only 10 when this massacre happened. And three years later, he was introduced to the guerilla lifestyle. Jaslene couldn’t be more proud of herself and her son. After all, she wanted revenge and wouldn’t want to see that kind of suffering again in her family.

She also taught the younger children how to sneak through the jungle without making a sound, forage for food, and be sharpshooters. They looked forward to the day when they could fight in real battles.

But one day, the unexpected happened . . .



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** There are many people who don’t know about Jesus and His desire to save them. Sing a song of encouragement and mission such as “Till the Whole World Knows” to get you motivated. Pray for those who need to hear about God’s love and grace.

\*Names changed to protect identity.





WEEK 11

## Warrior for Jesus (Part 2)

*“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”  
Matthew 5:16, NKJV.*

Jaslene\* was ready to be a guerilla leader in her family! Her oldest child was already being prepared to fight. The younger boys were well-trained to escape whenever it was necessary.

But one day, when Jaslene was home listening to her small FM radio, she turned the dial and paused on an unfamiliar station. The strains of a song she didn't know (but found strangely appealing) filled her small hut: *“Coming again, coming again, Jesus is coming again!”*

Then, a man's voice went on air, and he began to talk about a man named Jesus. This Jesus was kind, loving, and all-powerful. He could heal the sick and even raise the dead. This was news for Jaslene. She had never seen or heard anything like this before. She was fascinated!

Jaslene began tuning in daily to this new station called Adventist World Radio (AWR). Her heart began to melt as she heard of a God who loved her and offered her care and forgiveness. A desire grew within her to experience a new kind of life. She decided to accept Jesus as her Savior, lay down her weapons, and try to forgive her enemies.

Soon, her children began listening to the program with her. All of them are now baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

When Jaslene met Pastor Robert Dulay, the speaker for Adventist Radio on the island of Mindoro, she asked him with tears in her eyes—

“Pastor, why did it take you so long to come and tell us this good news about God and His will for our lives? If only you had started broadcasting sooner, my husband would have given up his rebel-fighting ways before it was too late. He never had the chance to learn this beautiful truth.”

Then, she added, “This broadcast must go to other villages all over the mountains! They, too, need to hear about Jesus before it's too late for them!”

Jaslene and her children have found joy and forgiveness to replace the hatred in their hearts. AWR financial assistance has helped this little family to start a small business. They make brooms and sell them in the market to support themselves. They encourage their friends to trade



their bullets for Bibles. They tell them that Jesus brings true joy and meaning to their lives.

Now, Jaslene and her children are warriors of a different order. Their new weapons are faith, hope, love, and prayer, as delivered to them on the airwaves of AWR.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Your faithfulness in returning your tithes and offerings supports all frontline initiatives of the Church like AWR. Have you prepared your tithes and offerings for next Sabbath? If you haven't already done so, remember that we don't have time to waste. Someone needs to know Jesus right now before it's too late.

\*Names changed to protect identity.



**WEEK 12**

## **A Different Kind of Life**

*“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*

*Matthew 25:40, NIV*

Each year, hundreds of people worldwide step away from their studies or jobs to become full-time volunteers for one or two years through the church's official missionary program, Adventist Volunteer Service (AVS).

Among them, Helen Margaret Hall is unique. She is both the longest-serving and oldest active missionary for the Adventist church.

Helen, who is 80 years old, has been serving for more than 40 years. Her service includes years as an educator in four countries.

During a bus trip from Nepal to London, England, Helen saw the considerable needs of the Nepalese and other Asian children. As a result, she requested a one-year leave to teach Karen children in Thailand.

She left Australia in 1982 for that leave and never got back. She is still serving on the Myanmar–Thailand border.

During the turmoil in Myanmar, she found herself and her school in



the middle of a war. She shared that, more than once, the town where her school was located came under gunfire.

In another instance, Helen and the children had to hide in large, open pits as war stormed overhead. Later, when she and the students had to flee to Thailand, they were fired upon as they crossed the river by boat. By God's grace, they made it safely.

The school named Eden Valley Academy (EVA), started with approximately 80 students. Over the years, thousands of young people have enrolled in this refugee camp school, and more than 1,500 have been baptized. EVA has become a home for the students, and many graduates have continued as staff.

In addition to EVA, Helen helped establish the Karen Adventist Academy in Myanmar.

Today, many refugees, once helped by EVA, live in the United States and around the world and are doing very well because of the education they received at Eden Valley. They longer face the struggles and challenges of illiteracy that many other refugees who did not have the advantage of this Christian education face today.

Helen has dedicated her life to changing the lives of others, and many will be in the kingdom because of her efforts.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Ma'am Helen and so many other missionaries have dedicated their lives to preaching the gospel in various ways all over the globe. Please pray for them right now.



**WEEK 13**

## **Sabbath School in a Foreign Temple?**

*"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."  
Matthew 18:20, NIV.*

**T**he Cahum\* family was happy to serve in a country of the 10/40 window. It was an incredible challenge for the family, and each one of them was thankful to undertake it.



Although everything was going well, the government of that country denied them a working visa. This situation led the family to think about their situation. What would they do?

Should they to return to their home country—the Philippines? After all, their eldest son was already studying there. Or should they continue serving the Lord wherever the Church sent them? The family chose the latter option.

In January 2023, Jorge Cahum and his family were sent to work in another country where the majority of the people weren't Christians.

After some time in their new home and in their school, the religious leader of a large community near the school asked for a meeting.

Jorge and his wife didn't know what to think. Had they done something wrong? Were they being disrespectful?

They prayed and attended the meeting.

The interesting fact is that the leader, Grundladri,\* had heard that the services at the school were all in English and, as the world is becoming globalized, he decided to ask the missionaries a fascinating thing: he wanted the missionary couple to teach English songs and tell stories in English so that the children of his community could learn the language.

Jorge and his family were so surprised to hear this invitation that they immediately told Grundladri they could do it. But there was one obstacle: They only had songs and stories about Jesus, which seemed inappropriate to teach in their community. The religious leader told them that he knew that Adventists were people of love and peace, and although the name of God was different, they all believed in the goodness of humankind.

Immediately, the missionary couple began to prepare for the meeting. But here was a new fact! The weekly meeting day would be the Sabbath, and they would be welcomed into the community temple.

On the first Sabbath, they had 50 children and their mothers. So far, they had a Sabbath School branch. The local Adventist members had worshipped with them and participated in teaching about Jesus each Sabbath afternoon in a temple with a big statue of the community god.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** We have three great non-Christian religions in SSD territory—Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. What do you know about their main beliefs? Choose at least one of these religions and google it. Know more about its teachings and doctrines. What does it have



in common with our faith? How can you start a conversation with one of its believers?

\*Names changed to protect identity.



WEEK 14

## From Tragedy to Blessing

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”  
Romans 8:28, NIV*

On April 9, 2014, tragedy struck Papua, Indonesia. What was a routine takeoff turned into a day of deep sadness. It took fewer than 30 seconds to devastate Adventist Aviation-Indonesia (AAI) and the hearts of those who loved Captain Bob Roberts. Many will miss him.

Since Bob’s death, his son Gary has picked up the torch to continue his father’s work as a mission pilot in Indonesia.

“It’s difficult and rewarding at the same time to come to serve where your father has dedicated a large portion of his life,” says Gary. “My wife, Wendy, and I had to see definite direction from God that this is where He wanted us because we were leading several mission projects in Africa that we didn’t feel right about leaving. We spent a lot of time in prayer, asking God to open the doors for us to show us His will, and He did.”

Eric was instrumental in keeping the Adventist Aviation program going after his father’s death. When he learned Gary was coming to work, he happily welcomed him to Indonesia.

“Gary had flown here a few times with Dad through the years, so he knew what he was getting into. It’s been a real blessing having him here.”

Papua is a mountainous region with thousands of remote villages. There are few roads, and it’s impossible to navigate most rivers. “Adventist Aviation is the only way to reach thousands of people here,” says Gary. “This ministry is crucial to Adventist mission.”

Being a mission pilot in Papua is demanding and dangerous work. But Gary says the benefits far outweigh the challenges.

“I could tell stories till the day is gone about the challenges,” he says, “but they create opportunities for God to work in amazing ways. I think everybody’s been called to be a missionary. We’ve been given the mandate to go into all the world. That’s our neighbors across the street,

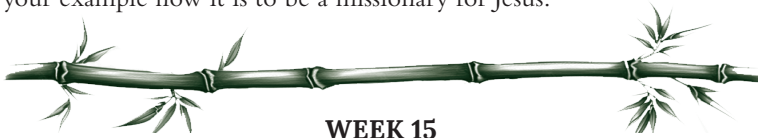


the people who live next door, and those living in remote villages. There are tremendous rewards for anybody willing to trust God and to let Him be in control and do what He's asked us to do."



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Parents are responsible for passing on the torch of mission to their children. The challenge today is to reconsecrate your lives to Jesus without reservation. Choose one missionary activity that you can do with your children to teach them by your example how it is to be a missionary for Jesus.



WEEK 15

## Bound to a Post

*"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."  
Colossians 4:2, NIV.*

**A**. G. Biton, a Filipino missionary, and his family were called to work in Laos in 1968. In 1975, all Adventist contacts were cut off because of political issues until 1984, when the border with Thailand was reopened.

Nearly 10 years had passed, but two churches were still worshipping the Lord despite all the challenges.

This legacy continued burning in the hearts of the members. Although they had this beautiful legacy, Pastor Padua Lee\* didn't want to follow the request from the church leadership to reach out to the Oudomxay region, one of the last provinces of Laos without a Seventh-day Adventist presence.

When he decided to move to this out-of-range region, he and his wife had to face an unusual winter. The local temperature dropped below freezing. The house they rented was with no bed, refrigerator, or blankets. It was good that a few neighbors were gracious enough to bring over some blankets.

But the weather was the least of the missionary's worries. It was difficult to begin work in a region where people opposed the gospel.

For the first time, he and his wife had to worship without fellow church members. They felt lonely, and the loneliness turned into frustration. They



didn't know how to share the gospel. And to add to their difficulties, the authorities investigated their arrival. They were not only frustrated but also afraid.

"Pray," the church leader suggested when Pastor Lee asked for help.

The missionary followed the suggestion, walked around the village, and prayed. He went to a hill overlooking the village. In the dust, he knelt and prayed for the city, asking God for wisdom to approach and reach those people to Jesus.

He began to visit the villagers on Sabbath afternoons. During those visits, he heard about a woman who was demon-possessed and went to take a look. Sure enough, the woman was chained to a post in her own house.

The mother of five had been bound naked for two months. She lived like a dog. The villagers had reported that she had become demon-possessed shortly after the death of her husband. He asked the village elders for permission to pray for the widow. They allowed Pastor Padua Lee to pray for the woman since all their attempts to help had failed.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Not everybody will be called to preach the gospel in difficult areas. Everybody, however, is called to support the mission by praying and giving. The challenge today is to separate a special mission offering for next Sabbath. In doing so, you show your happiness and gratitude for being part of the ministry of those whose mission field we cannot go.

[To be continued next week]

\*Names changed to protect identity.







WEEK 16

## Unchained

*“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.” Romans 8:26*

The missionary life of Pastor Padua Lee\* and his wife wasn't a bed of roses. All they wanted was to serve the Lord, but their mission field was challenging: terrible winters, suspicious authorities, and hostile villagers.

The missionary couple felt isolated and abandoned in the mountainous region of Oudomxay Province in Laos. When all else seemed to fail and nothing seemed to work, they spent more time in prayer.

Pastor Lee started walking through the village. He prayed for the people to be open to the message. Eventually, he saw himself visiting the villagers on Saturday afternoons.

During one of his visits, he found out about a widow who was bound to a post in her house. The pastor discovered that she had been in such a pitiful condition—naked and chained—for two months.

The woman's miserable situation touched Pastor Lee's heart, so he asked the village elders if he could visit and pray for her. As they had already tried to cure her with all kinds of treatments and nothing had helped, they thought it would do no harm if they would let him.

Pastor Lee laid his hand on her head and prayed. He returned the next day and the next to pray. A week passed, and she began to eat and drink normally. She could even hold short conversations.

One day, she gave her heart to Jesus. The once-chained woman was now unchained from the enemy's hands. She was given clothes to wear.

Her family members, however, were afraid of her. They did not feel safe with her around. They thought the demons could possess her again any time. Because of this, the widow moved into the house of the missionaries together with her five children until her relatives deemed her safe to return home.

After Bible studies, the widow and her two oldest children were baptized. The family was among the first Adventists in the province.

News about what Jesus had done for the widow of Oudomxay spread far and wide. Many villagers came to Pastor Lee for help and healing. Many embraced the gospel message and accepted Jesus as their personal Savior.



Today, the widow is making a living by helping neighbors plant rice in exchange for some rice for her own family.

The widow's family and the village people learned about Jesus through Pastor Padua Lee and his family because they desired to serve the Lord wherever He sent them.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** With a rope (or a string), tie both hands of your children. Ask them how they feel? Explain that Satan does the same thing with us through our sins. Jesus, on the other hand, had delivered us (start untying the rope), forgiven us, and given us freedom in Him.

\*Names changed to protect identity.



WEEK 17

## Finding Life's Essentials

*“Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.” Romans 8:26, ESV.*

Even before the first brick was laid, the Lord had His hands on the Essential Life Center (ELC), an urban center of influence in Battambang, Cambodia's third largest city.

A man named Phon was hired to do welding. Phon liked having a day and a half off each week in the ELC construction to relax rather than the demanding seven-day weeks he had to put in at other companies. He also enjoyed the morning worship led by Gary Rogers, a missionary who was also in charge of the construction project.

One day, as Phon sat down to take a break, he overheard Gary talking on the phone about not taking on a particular job on Saturdays. Phon knew Gary wanted to get the project done quickly, but he couldn't figure out why he wouldn't nudge about that one particular day.

“Why is Saturday so important? I've been to church for over 10 years, and no one has told me not to work on Saturdays?” Phon asked.



Gary seized the moment to give Phon a brief Bible study on the Sabbath day. He also invited Phon to engage with him in a more in-depth study.

Phon believed the Bible to be the Word of God, so when Gary opened the Scripture and showed him about the Sabbath, tithe, the health message, and the true meaning of baptism, he accepted the Bible's teaching. He began keeping the Sabbath day holy from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown. He also decided to be baptized and join the Adventist Church.

His conversion, however, wasn't enough for Phon.

"I wanted to bring my whole family to this newly discovered, wonderful truth!" he said.

A few months after Phon's baptism, he brought his wife to church. She clearly didn't enjoy it, yet, over time, something inside her began to change.

Before the pandemic, more than 100 people attended the Adventist music center in Cambodia for language and music classes and its vegetarian restaurant. The Adventist music school is the only school in the province that teaches classical music.

Parents, especially the wealthy ones, boast on social media by posting pictures and videos of their kids playing on the center's grand piano.

The building stones of the ELC have brought Phon and many others to Jesus. Musical instruments, vegetarian food, and language and music classes have helped bring souls to Jesus.

What's in your hand that you can use for Jesus?



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Discuss with your family different ways to share Jesus' love to others. If you have a friend at work who isn't an Adventist, pray for him/her and think of a testimony you can share about how good the Lord is in your own life.





WEEK 18

## A Difficult Decision to Make

*“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7*

**M**elissa is a young American woman who decided to volunteer in Thailand. She was excited about her upcoming trip. While waiting for her flight at the Orlando International Airport, she noticed two siblings in front of her speaking in Thai who seemed distressed.

While preparing to volunteer in Thailand, she learned Thai and couldn't help listening to their conversation. She asked them, “*Mee arai hai chuay mai ka?*” (Can I help you with anything?).

They were surprised to hear someone speaking in their language. Then, the woman expressed concern about her brother, Wanchai,\* who didn't know how to find the terminal and gate for his connecting flight to Los Angeles (LA) as he didn't speak English.

Melissa told the lady that she was also going to Thailand, that her connecting flight was also through LA airport and that she would be happy to help Wanchai.

While waiting in line, they heard an announcement that their flight was delayed. She did the math and was worried because they would only have an hour to catch the other flight. She prayed and asked God to help her reach her gate on time.

When they finally disembarked at the LA airport, she felt the Holy Spirit telling her to take care of Wanchai.

She only realized how difficult it would be to follow God's command when she saw that Wanchai's gate was in a different terminal. She began to argue with God because this request didn't seem reasonable. After all, Wanchai had a seven-hour layover, while she only had a few minutes to get from one plane to the other. The Lord abruptly interrupted their argument, urging her to take care of Him first so He could take care of her.

She obeyed God's voice. She took Wanchai to his gate, and they both went to her gate to find she had missed her flight. Instinctively, she complained to God and asked Him to show her His plans.

The next flight was not until the following day. She then invited Wanchai to eat at one of the restaurants there. For the next three hours, she had the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with him. What a joy it was to see the light in his eyes as he heard the gospel!



The following day, when Melissa arrived at the airport to catch her flight, she was told that the flight was overbooked and she wouldn't have a seat. As she waited at her gate, she recalled God's promises.

God did give her a seat that day. But not just any seat. She had a window seat in the first-class section that unfolds into a bed.

She decided again to put God's sheep first for the rest of her life and live out His mission for her.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILIES:** Melissa lived an amazing experience when she placed her life in God's hand. Your family can also be a blessing to others. Pray that God may use your family powerfully in His mission. Pray, too, that you'll be sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit when He speaks to you.

\*Names changed to protect identity.



WEEK 19

## Ordinary Is Not an Option

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new."  
2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV.*

Rhonda Bowen is originally from Toronto, Canada, and her journey of service began a year before her flight to Thailand. After a simple conversation with a missionary couple, she felt an intense sense of purpose that wrapped around her heart in a way she had never experienced before. She knew God was calling her to leave everything behind—her job, car, family, and friends. It took a few months to do all this before she landed in Thailand.

Her experience in the Southeast Asian country was unlike anything she had imagined. She thought it would be easy. It was not. It took a lot of courage and flexibility to open up to the students and let them see her.

More than the time she spent teaching English to her students, she remembered her time before and after classes playing hide-and-seek with them or chasing them around the schoolyard.



She thought she was the one teaching others, but the truth is that she was the student—the children led her to appreciate the simple things in life, like the time spent in conversation over a meal, the value of a smile, and the joy of giving of oneself to others.

This was supposed to be the best year of her life. But instead, she gave her whole life because the woman who returned from Thailand was not the woman who had left 11 months earlier. Her time in Thailand changed how she sees others, God, and His plans for her life.

“I thought I was doing something for God, but God did something in me. As I watched my Thai friend, with whom I had been praying and sharing the Bible, get baptized, I realized that God could use someone as imperfect as I to do His perfect work.”

God helped Rhonda see that every person in this world is a child He wants to use for His kingdom. She already knew this message in her head, but it was during her years in Thailand that she began to live her relationships intentionally.

She decided not to live an ordinary life anymore. Now, she depends completely on Him—to live an extraordinary experience.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** God wants to use all people. Grab some paper and pen, and write down all the qualities of each member of the family. With this paper in your hands, pray that God can use you through your qualities and strengthen your weakness by His strength.



WEEK 20

## Cheerful Joy

*“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.  
Live as children of light.” Ephesians 5:8*

**A**lvin Muaji had a huge challenge ahead of him: to go to the mountains of Malaysia to start an Adventist church.

Although he had already surrendered to God, he felt he needed Him most this time. Alvin knew that an Adventist family was already living in the area, but the villagers weren't even interested in being friends.



Overwhelmed by his situation, Alvin kneeled to pray to the only One who could touch the people's hearts.

When Alvin went to the village for the first time, he saw that God was already at work and that the Holy Spirit was moving freely among the people. This mountain village began to get to know him. He did what Jesus would do—mingle with the people.

Alvin began to help the villagers with their work—harvesting, crafts, housework, etc. He did everything he could to build relationships with the locals. But he also knew that if he wanted to reach the hearts of the parents, he had to be assertive with their children. That's why he decided to teach as many children as he could basic English sentences.

As a result, the parents were thrilled that their children could at least say “good morning” in a foreign language.

Even though the Global Mission Pioneer was doing so many things simultaneously, there was no stopping him. He started teaching the children marching and drilling exercises—like a scout troop. The children were so disciplined in their training that they participated in a competition among seven local schools.

Thanks to Alvin, the children won first place!

Since Alvin began his ministry, a small but vibrant Adventist church has sprung up on the hill overlooking the village. More than 20 people gather there every Sabbath for joyful worship, and their numbers continue to grow.

The children's laughter echoes throughout the new church building. They smile more than they sing when Alvin strums his guitar. Even their families enjoy the songs with their playful gestures.

There is joy, but it isn't as great as the joy Alvin feels every time he sees more and more villagers coming to know Jesus.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Joy! We must have joy even when our situation is not good; even when the challenges we face seem to squeeze us. As a family, sing a song that can bring joy and lift up the spirit of each family member. Pray to God to give you that kind of joy that He alone can give.





WEEK 21

## A Place for Healing

*“Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens.” Psalm 68:19*

Kalay, also known as Kale, is a town in western Myanmar. It’s close to the border with India, which has led to drug trafficking between the two countries. Worse, many children in the city are dying from drugs.

This urgent situation prompted the Adventist Church to establish the Agape Villa, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center.

There are currently 19 residents or campers as the staff call them and most of them are young.

Concerned family members who are desperate to get help for their loved ones often bring the campers to the center. The programs usually run for five months.

One of the campers is Lalthakima. He is 37 years old but started drinking when he was 17. Things got even more complicated after his divorce. Lalthakima had once been at peace with God and longed to experience that peace again.

He lost everything because of alcohol, but at the center, he learned that God accepted him. He was able to have peace of mind again.

What he likes most about the center is reading the Bible and praying every day. This is how change comes to the hearts of those trying to have a new life. Lalthakima prays that his family will be reunited after his months at the center.

An average day begins with group worship. Work time follows right after. This may involve working in the garden, where the campers grow much of their food, prepare meals, or make bricks to build additional structures at the center.

In the afternoons, they participate in various exercises and group Bible studies. They also attend seminars to help them experience better mental, spiritual, and physical health.

The staff love the campers and do their best to look after them, but their work is challenging. The campers can be very angry and uncooperative, especially during the first few weeks of detox. Progress is slow, and setbacks are common.

Just as this center reaches this particular demographic, many other urban centers of influence are a reality of Global Mission’s work around





our area. Myanmar is part of the 10/40 Window, and initiatives like the Agape Villa are the strategy to reach those who would never otherwise hear of Jesus.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Many people suffer from alcohol addiction. Their brain is affected and their decision-making ability is impaired. Pray for these people. Ask for the Holy Spirit to help these individuals win against Satan's attacks.



WEEK 22

## Finding True Healing

*"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV.*

Faith healing has been heavily favored and practiced in non-Christian Asian countries, wherein cultures have a long history of alternative medicine.

Due to this, the government drafted a law to regulate practitioners of traditional and complementary medicine. "Because our people are practicing and subscribing to faith healing, we felt the need to control it to prevent abuse, and we wanted to ensure that practitioners are qualified," said one of the health ministers of the country, which is under the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD).

With this in mind, evangelistic meetings in September 2022 were conducted in the region where some faith healers reside. The preparation was intense; it was like preparing for a war. By God's leading and guidance, everyone—pastors, leaders, and members—was united. Everyone showed that they were true disciples of Jesus.

The evangelistic meetings began with powerful messages and biblical truths, but there were also many challenges along the way; some were discouraging. It was only through prayer that the church overcame these things and that we did not lose the will to push through.

Pastor Belly Cossini\*, one of the pastors in charge, was overseeing the area. After the first meetings, nine people decided to be baptized and



follow God's desire for their lives. Of these nine precious souls, eight were from other religions.

Pastor Cossini chose to stay in the community even after the evangelistic seminar, visiting the locals and encouraging the new believers to be strong in faith. His initiative and leadership were essential to the nurture of the spiritual children.

The efforts of the church members and Pastor Cossini resulted in the repentance of many people, including faith healers, and the acceptance of our Lord Jesus Christ in their lives.

It is no longer the faith healers but the only true God who brings healing to the region.

Praise God as He continues to work in this region.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Pray as a family for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers who are in the frontlin—preaching and teaching about God's amazing love and grace.

\*Names changed to protect identity.



WEEK 23

## Personal Care

*"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, ESV.*

Woody Joyaen\* had many aspirations and dreams while studying Theology at Bangladesh Adventist Seminary & College. He had no idea how God would direct his life five years later.

Today Pr. Joyaen is creating a nurturing environment in his church. Through care groups, members find the courage to visit the church families every Sabbath evening.

His personal care group consists of five people. Once, they went to a church in a village called Bapornee\* near the city. Of the 3,000 people who lived there, 70 percent are Muslims, 20 percent are Hindus, and 10 percent are Christians. Most of the villagers are poor and live a miserable life.



Pr. Joyaen's care group visited one of the low-income families—a family of four. Moya Tita,\* the patriarch, was a tailor. He and his family did not consider themselves Christians but believed in one God. They always opened up about their family's plight.

After a series of visitations, they became close to Pr. Joyaen. They knew him as a pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

When religion would be the topic of the conversation, Pr. Joyaen would introduce Jesus as the Messiah, who died for humankind but gained victory over death. He shared that he believed in the Holy Scripture, angels, and prophets. He always carried some copies of a book that could help the family understand more about the Bible.

One day, Moya's wife was injured while working in the field. They were worried about praying to God since they could not go to the local temple. It was the opportunity for Pr. Joyaen to teach them about prayer and that God hears their petitions. He reminded them that they could pray to God to heal Moya's wife.

Three days later, Moya's wife was healed! He became eager to learn more about Jesus, so Pr. Joyaen gave Bible studies.

Now, Moya and his family attend Sabbath worship services twice a month.

Let us pray for Moya's family and everyone in that village that they will get to know more about Jesus and accept Him as their Lord and Savior.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** People in need are all around the world begging for food, money, and attention. As a family, reach out to those in need. Prepare some delicious food and give to a homeless. If he/she allows you, pray for him/her. Pray for God's guidance to know who to approach.

\*Names changed to protect identity





WEEK 24

## The Real Sacrifice

*“He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.” 1 John 2:2*

Nhihar Bindu Chakma is a Global Mission Pioneer missionary in a country where people are Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu.

When he first arrived in the village where he was to work, he introduced himself to the villagers. Since he was an outsider, the village people were suspicious of him.

In no time, Nhihar made friends with his neighbor. Every day they built their relationship and became good friends. Through his neighbor, he was able to connect with other people in the village.

From that day on, Nhihar regularly visits the homes of the villagers. He prayed with them and study the Bible with those who allow him to do so.

In this village, the people have become so good and cooperative with Nhihar’s work. They now see him as a friend and helper. Whenever they have problems, they share them with him.

Many of the needs of the villagers go beyond financial problems. The community has formed a support group to extend help to those in need. Under Nhihar’s influence, the villagers are willing to help each other. The Global Mission Pioneer missionary is now a trusted person in the village. He can give them advice for their families and children.

One of the villagers, who is now a friend of Mr. Chakma, had a bad habit of drinking, but after Nhihar’s help and intervention, he’s now free of his addiction and is sharing the message of Jesus’ return with others.

One day, in a hilly area of the region, the missionary met a man who owned a piece of land where some of the villagers worked. They began to build a relationship. It wasn’t easy at first, but little by little, brick by brick, Nhihar gained his trust. Several times he was invited to his home, and sometimes Nhimar would invite his new friend and his family—a wife and a 7-year-old girl—to his home.

One day, the landlord’s child fell ill, and no medicine could cure her. He was told to take the daughter to the village doctor, but the treatment suggested didn’t make a difference. Since the girl didn’t get better, they decided to take her to the village sorcerer, who told the family that the girl would only be cured if he sacrificed a hen. And so, the family did. But the sacrifice didn’t cure her. After all this, Nhihar visited the family



and when he heard about it, he said that only the real sacrifice could cure the villager's daughter. Nihihar prayed for the little girl who was lying in bed, and she was healed to the glory of the name of Jesus.

The family was so amazed by the miracle in their own family that they asked to know more about the Healer who sacrificed Himself. After studying the Bible, the family came to know Jesus Christ and by God's grace they are now followers of Christ.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** It takes time and sincere effort to build a relationship. Make an intentional plan to connect and develop a good relationship with your neighbors and community leaders. Invite them to a special family event (birthday, anniversary, etc.) to start with!



WEEK 25

## A Tireless Worker

*“May the favor[a] of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us —yes, establish the work of our hands.”*  
*Psalm 90:17*

**G**olendro Tripura has been a Global Mission Pioneer (GMP) missionary for 16 years. His greatest passion is visiting and interacting with local people. As much as possible, he makes new friends at every opportunity. More than a missionary job description, it is something that he enjoys doing—praying for the people and getting to know them on a personal level.

Once he has built and strengthened relationships, he's able to share Bible stories. It's not easy to be a GMP in a country where 99 percent of the population is unreached. The percentage of Christians is less than 0.4 percent. It's a huge challenge indeed.

Although this might discouraged him from working, this situation has fueled his passion for Christ and to reach as many people as possible.

Whenever he goes out to visit, he uses the health message as an open door to access people's hearts. He doesn't miss a chance. He takes the blood pressure and glucose monitors with him.



Most of the villagers don't know how important it is to check these values. Some of them have found Golendro to be a genuinely caring person. They can see that he is genuinely interested in their wellbeing. After taking care of their health, Golendro invites them to join a health group. They meet every week and after a few meetings they're able to sit together and seek their interest in spiritual matters.

This method works in our GMP work because Golendro works with people from their own tribe. He knows how these villagers think and act. They are good and innocent people. Sometimes people from other denominations spread some untruths about him and his work.

Though some malicious actions from people who opposed his ministry had closed some doors for Golendro, he was determined to finish what he started. Knowing that most of the people in the area live from jhum cultivation, Golendro saw this as an opportunity to get closer to the villagers. Before the harvest he goes around and prays for them and their crops.

The actual village where Golendro works has no church building. Although there were 16 recorded Adventists, there weren't even half of that number in church. He went after those who were registered as Adventists, but who were not meeting weekly. He started visiting them in their homes, really caring for them, and many of them came back to church.

During one of these visits, he met George\* in a nearby house. He was one of the pastors of a local Baptist church. After many discussions about Bible truths, the pastor and two other Baptist members decided to follow the Bible and accepted to be baptized. This former Baptist pastor is now the leader of the village church—all through the influence of our Global Mission Pioneer missionary.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Global Mission Pioneers are sustained by our offerings and tithes. Do you have a systematic amount separated to give as offerings to the Lord? Why don't now, as a family, decide an amount to give to God as a demonstration of gratitude for what He has done? The Lord isn't interested in how much you're giving; he wants to know where your families heart is placed!

\*Names changed to protect identity.





WEEK 26

## Shantimor Market

*And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it: because that in it  
he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*

*Genesis 2:3*

**M**r. Abraham\* is a sincere Christian, although he lives in a non-Christian country. Since he owns the local village market, he can meet many people. He knows all his customers well and has gained their confidence.

One day, someone new came to his market. The man caught Mr. Abraham's attention because he had never seen him before.

Shantimor market is known for its vegetables, so people from nearby villages go there to buy fresh produce. This was the reason behind the two-kilometer journey of Bablu Hembrom,\* a Global Mission Pioneer missionary.

Mr. Abraham started conversing with his new customer as he paid his bill. Bablu knew that the Holy Spirit guided their conversation.

Bablu began visiting the Shantimor market weekly. Whenever Bablu was done shopping, Mr. Abraham would invite him to his home for a small talk.

One day, Mrs. Abraham suddenly fell ill. News traveled to the nearby village where Bablu and his wife lived. When they heard about the sad news, they visited their newfound friends and found Mrs. Abraham feverish. They immediately took the sick lady to the nearest clinic.

Since the Abrahams' daughter was too young, she couldn't prepare food for her parents yet. Upon learning of the couple's predicament, the Hembroms decided to cook a meal and took the food to the clinic so Mr. and Mrs. Abraham could enjoy nutritious food.

The Global Mission couple cared for the sick woman and her husband for three days, visiting and praying with them morning and evening. This incident brought the two families closer.

After being discharged from the clinic, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham felt very thankful for all the care they received. This friendship opened the door for them to start studying the Bible together.

Three months after that first contact in Mr. Abraham's market, his family stepped inside an Adventist church for the first time.

That day, the preacher talked about the importance of the Holy Sabbath. The discussion about the holy day continued during lunchtime. Mr.



Abraham realized that, even after being a Christian for many years, he and his family had never learned about the Sabbath as the true rest and worship day.

The family left behind their previous denomination and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

From that Sabbath on, they continued studying the precious truths found in the Bible. A month later, Mr. Abraham decided to be baptized. Now, the Hembroms continue to visit and study with the Abrahams.

The Holy Spirit can turn simple interactions, such as buying in the market, into salvation experiences.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Abraham was reached by a simple conversation. As a family, choose someone in your community to create an intentional relationship with this person. It may take days, weeks, or even months to see some results, but for now, you can start praying for them and asking God to lead your actions.

\*Names changed to protect identity.



WEEK 27

## Just Like in the Bible

*And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. Mark 5:25–27, NIV.*

**Y**ou have probably heard this Bible story since you were a child. Jesus was on his way to the house of Jairus because his daughter was very sick. In the middle of the crowded street was a woman who had spent all her money on doctors and medicine. She had lost her youth and perhaps her family. Her faith was the last thing she had left.

Breaking the religious rules of the time, she walked among the people and touched the lowest part of Jesus' cloak. Immediately, she was healed.





More than 2,000 years later, the same Jesus who walked this earth and performed miracles is still doing wondrous things.

In one country within the 10/40 Window, there is a small village of about 4,000 people where two of the world's major non-Christian religions dominate. South of this country lived a tireless Global Missions pioneer who didn't waver in adversity.

James\* regularly visits all 42 members of his church every week. Of these, six are still not Adventists. In the last few years, because of his hard work and through the Holy Spirit, 28 precious people have been baptized, and eight more are studying and preparing to live for the Lord.

His ministry, however, extends beyond church members. He also visits the villagers of other faiths—those who don't even know he is an Adventist.

It is not easy at all. James has been rejected and ridiculed many times. Many people do not listen to him and close their doors to him. These precious people do not know they are missing out on their opportunity to hear God's true message!

But, by God's grace, the response James receives is not always negative. He mingles with those who allow him to do so—building relationships, working in their fields, and teaching their children for free. And when they're sick, he visits the families with their consent.

During one of these visits, as he went from house to house and prayed for people, he found a 12-year-old girl who was very sick. Like the woman in the Bible story above, the family had spent all their fortune on her treatment.

When James saw the girl's condition, he asked if he could pray for her because Jesus could heal her. Even though they were from a non-Christian religion, the parents allowed him to pray.

James told them that if they believed that God could heal their daughter and if they had faith the size of a mustard seed, God could heal her.

The Global Mission Pioneer missionary prayed fervently for the little girl before moving on to the next house.

He witnessed a modern miracle when he revisited the family the following week. The girl was healed!

As a result, her family asked James to teach them more about Jesus. Now, they warmly welcome James to their house and desire to serve the true God.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.



**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Pray for the sick in your family prayers. Better yet, if you know of someone who is unwell, visit them and offer a special prayer for them if they would let you.

\*Names changed to protect identity.



**WEEK 28**

## Do Not Worry

*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” Matthew 6:25, 26, NIV.*

**A**dventist Volunteer Service (AVS) is the official volunteering program of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Worldwide, each year, hundreds of church members, 18–79 years old, leave their regular duties for a year or two and go wherever the Church needs them.

In 2023 alone, within the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) territory, more than 80 young people were serving through the AVS. Many more are sent from SSD to other parts of the world.

AVS acts as a bridge connecting the local needs of churches with the desire of young people to serve and follow God’s call. Among those who heeded this call were five young people from the south of the Philippines: Mary, Kath, JT, Farrah, and Noniel.

Despite apparent financial challenges, these five young people volunteered to go and teach at Timor-Leste International School.

Although they had never met, they stayed together at the 1000 Missionary Movement campus while processing their visa application. Here, they could share their dreams, needs, and concerns. Their arrangement also proved financially beneficial as they could help each other prepare and cook food.

However, processing their travel requirements took longer than expected, and their expenses grew beyond what they had estimated. They needed additional funds.

In their humanity, they started to worry about how they could make it through another week. Still, they believed that God would never leave them.

Mary Rubio, one of the AVS volunteers, had previously worked at Brown International School. She was soon invited to speak during the hour



of worship at that school. She thought of asking her new friends to go with her.

Kath, JT, Farrah, and Noniel sang during that worship service. For those precious moments, they forgot about their financial crisis and simply enjoyed worshipping God with their Korean brethren. They felt grateful for the opportunity to serve God by sharing His word in message and song.

After the Church served a sumptuous lunch, Pastor Bruce Choi, the chaplain, approached Mary and handed her an envelope, saying, "This is for you, a help from the school, especially from Ma'am Grace, the owner, for your missionary journey as AVS."

The unexpected gift shocked all of them. They proceeded to the campus where they stayed and reflected on what had just happened.

In tears, Kath admitted that she had felt frustrated the previous days because she borrowed money to process her papers and needed to repay the loan immediately. She was amazed at how God gave her the amount and even doubled it for her pocket money.

These young missionaries praise God for their incredible experience of God's unfailing love.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Many young people are looking for ways of serving God, but they may not have the income. Let's separate a special offering and take it to the church tomorrow as a symbol of the commitment of your family with the mission.



WEEK 29

## Anita's Sabbath Adventure

*How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head. Psalm 133:1*

Anita stirred in bed when she heard her mother greet her, "Happy Sabbath!"

Her father, poking his head into the room, was also there to wake her up. It was still four o'clock in the morning, but it was already time to get up.



After breakfast, Anita put on her favorite Sabbath dress. Then, she slipped her bare feet into flip-flops. Anita gave her Sabbath shoes to her mother to put in a bag.

Anita climbed into the back seat of the family's white van. Her father, Pastor Kamu, Anita's mother, and five university students joined them. Her parents were missionaries and traveled to several churches across Indonesia to speak about Jesus every Sabbath.

At five o'clock, the van left the campus of Klabat University, where Anita's father and mother taught as missionaries. The sky was dark, and few cars were on the street.

Anita got back to sleep on her mother's lap, and about an hour and a half later, she awoke as the van stopped.

She liked this part of the trip to church. They boarded a small motorboat and were soon cruising on the ocean. The light was just beginning to pierce through the horizon as the sun rose. Warm, humid air rushed against her cheeks as the boat navigated through gentle waves.

After an hour, the boat docked on an island, and the group transferred to another boat for a 30-minute ride. Then, they landed on yet another island dotted with coconut trees amid a lush green jungle.

About 45 minutes later, they arrived in a small village with a Seventh-day Adventist Church. Sabbath School was just about to begin, but the church was already crowded.

The members were so happy to welcome the visitors, for they knew that it had taken almost five hours to reach their village.

Little children waved excitedly at Anita and clustered around her. One little girl who ran up to Anita pinched the white skin of her arm. A little boy nervously reached out his hand to tug on her red hair. The village children had brown skin and black hair; it was the first time they had ever seen a person with white skin and red hair.

Inside the church, Anita's mother brought her shoes out of the bag and gave them to her. Now, she felt ready to worship God.

Later that afternoon, Anita put her flip-flops back on for the long trip home. She was tired but happy.

Missionary kids are part of their parents' ministry, and thanks to mission offerings, the Adventist Church can send missionary families around the globe where there is need.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Anita and her family are just one of the many families that need to make long journeys to go to church.



But they are there united, praising the Lord. As a family, now, to close this moment, choose a song of praise and worship the Lord thanking Him for the opportunity to be able to adore Him.



WEEK 30

## Learning More Than English

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. Proverbs 9:10*

When Bino turned 3, his mom wanted him to attend an international school in Timor-Leste, their country in Southeast Asia.

An international school is different from a regular public school. Going to a public school in Timor-Leste costs no money, but the teachers speak Tetum and Portuguese. In contrast, attending an international school costs money, but the teachers speak English.

Bino's mother wanted him to learn English, so she asked his father to find an international school in Dili, the capital city of Timor-Leste.

His father found several international schools, but they were too expensive. One day, while walking around the neighborhood, he passed by a Seventh-day Adventist church. He saw a sign on the fence advertising the Timor Adventist International School.

He called the phone number on the sign for more information. To his delight, he learned that they could afford to send Bino to this school. Bino's parents were not Adventists, but they had heard about them because his mother's uncle was one.

Bino started studying at the Adventist school. He quickly began to learn English, and because of him, his mom did, too. When Bino came home from school every day, she asked him to teach her the English words he had learned. "Hello" and "Goodbye" were the first ones they knew.

As the weeks and months passed, their English lessons grew more complicated, but they kept learning new phrases, such as "I love you."

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

Bino's parents began reading the Bible. Sometimes, they had questions about what they were reading, so they talked with the Adventist church pastor near Bino's school and an American missionary who also lived on the island.



The pastor and the missionary visited Bino's house regularly until the day came when Bino's parents were baptized and became Adventists.

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



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Many of the young teachers at Timor Adventist International School are volunteer missionaries from various countries. They miss home so pray that they will continue to be healthy and happy while leading students and parents to Christ.



WEEK 31

## Help From the Unknown

*He will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me." Matthew 25:45*

**I**t was Sabbath, January 15. Most people were still tucked in bed, sleeping to the rhythm of the rain, unaware that their world was about to be rocked again, literally. A minor earthquake had struck the day before, damaging homes but not extensively.

Indonesia has more than 17,000 islands, including Sumatra, Java, West Sulawesi, and parts of Borneo and New Guinea. These islands are frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis because they are within the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines surrounding the Pacific Ocean.

Suddenly, Mrs. Mulyati opened her eyes and tried to understand if she was dreaming or felt the bed move. She was about to roll over when the realization unexpectedly struck her. It was just after midnight, and her bed was indeed moving.

The furniture suddenly slid, and she found nothing to hang onto. The floor began breaking into pieces right underneath her.

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



Falling debris forced her to run away from the house. She could hear people screaming, calling for their family members. Mrs. Mulyati realized that many were trapped beneath the destruction.

She turned back to her house and saw that everything she had worked for over many years had crumbled to the ground—in a matter of minutes, maybe even seconds.

She didn't have a coat to shield her from the pouring rain. Neither did she have shoes on her feet. It was like the earth had devoured everything.

Children were crying; adults were desperate. It was difficult to tell if the streams of water running down her cheeks were tears or rain. She silently followed the thousands of people in front of her.

Due to potential tsunamis, 8,658 people left their damaged homes and fled inland, living in improvised tents. The camps were overcrowded and unorganized.

Unknown to Mrs. Mulyati, help was on the way. Immediately after the earthquake, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Indonesia deployed a team from Central to West Sulawesi to support the local staff and volunteers.

With relief and joy, Mrs. Mulyati and thousands of others watched ADRA trucks roll into their makeshift village. She didn't know what was in those trucks, but she could see the compassion and love on the workers' faces as they organized the crowds of people into groups for assessment. The items ADRA distributed were enough to feed 2,360 families for two months.

That was how Mrs. Mulyati met ADRA, the global humanitarian organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Through an international network, ADRA delivers relief and community development assistance to individuals in more than 118 countries. You can learn more about ADRA at [www.adra.org](http://www.adra.org).



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** As a family, access Youtube and search for ADRA testimonies. You may watch one or two testimonies even with captions in your language. Pray for these volunteers who work through ADRA sharing Jesus' love with those who are in need.





WEEK 32

## Sabbath Troubles

*“I am the Lord your God; follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. Keep my Sabbaths holy, that they may be a sign between us.” Ezekiel 20:19, 20*

**H**ave you heard about the 10/40 Window? The rectangular area covers North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, approximately 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude.

The 10/40 Window is often called “The Resistant Belt” and includes most of the world’s Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists. This area is home to some of the largest unreached people groups in the world.

Jewel\* lives in a religiously strict non-Christian country within the 10/40 Window. She has been working as a lecturer at one of the universities in this country.

Being the only Seventh-day Adventist in her workplace was not always easy. Her beliefs often clashed with a society that didn’t give much attention to the Sabbath. While her company usually operates Mondays to Fridays, there were times when they organized events over the weekends and expected employees to participate.

At first, she would occasionally attend events on Saturdays, rationalizing that it was all right. But over time, she started feeling a void inside.

During this inner struggle, she turned to prayer for guidance and strength. Prayer helped her see clearly and gave her the courage to choose what aligned with her faith. She knew she had to honor God’s Sabbath, dedicating that day to worship, rest, and renewal.

With hope in her heart, she prayed that the department head would understand and grant her the freedom to observe the Sabbath according to her beliefs. She was even prepared to accept any potential deductions from her salary or bonus due to her non-attendance at work on Saturdays.

God answered her prayer. Miraculously, after a heartfelt conversation with her, the department head acknowledged her commitment and expressed genuine understanding. He even assured her that there would be no deductions to her salary. He agreed to ensure her schedule would be free on Saturdays so she could attend church and keep her religious convictions without compromise.

Since embracing this change, her life has been transformed in ways she never imagined. Honoring the Sabbath has brought profound blessings to her soul. Regular worship has reignited her spirituality, giving





her purpose, clarity, and hope. But it did not stop there. Her decision to honor the Sabbath also radiated into her daily life.

The joy that now fills her heart has become contagious, spreading to her interactions with colleagues, friends, and family. She has discovered that setting aside time for God brings an inner transformation that naturally flows into every aspect of life, leading to stronger relationships, improved focus, and an overall sense of balance.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** It's not easy to worship the Lord alone, even more in a place you're not allowed to do it. Pray now as a family, asking the Holy Spirit, to comfort and strengthen those thousands of people who want to be faithful to the Lord in difficult situations.

\*Names changed to protect identity.



WEEK 33

## Breaking the Title

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9*

**M**adison Kamarad is a young American woman finishing her International Relief and Assistance studies at Union College in Nebraska. She decided to take a year off from her studies and dedicate herself to serving as a volunteer medical assistant at the Pagudpud Adventist Wellness Center in the Philippines.

This dream has been alive since she was a little girl, as she grew up listening to Eric Hare's tapes telling stories of what it would be like to be a missionary. This background encouraged her to travel the world, leave the USA, and go to the Philippines.

Upon arrival, her serving heart believed she would convert every person she met or heal every sickness she found. The first month passed, and the reality struck her.

She asked her mentor why she was in the Philippines if the clinic was fully staffed and could work efficiently without her.



He then answered that sometimes, volunteers must be humbled and realize the world can go on without them. What they must do is step back and learn.

She didn't want to hear that. Madison thought she would go to the mission field and be like a superhero. She later understood that her service was what made the difference. "What would Jesus do?" was her constant guide throughout her service.

She resolved to be humble, learn as much as possible, build relationships, and show people she cared about them.

She started involving herself more and more in the community. During breaks, she would teach English at a nearby school. On local market days, the clinic would set up a booth to offer people free blood pressure and blood sugar tests. On Thursday and Sabbath evenings, they host Vacation Bible School programs in three locations. The volunteers also taught ukulele, piano, and violin lessons.

Madison registered to be a medical assistant, but God knew she could do and be much more. The Lord taught her not to limit her service to the definition of her title but freed her to help others in various ways.

Whatever title you have, don't limit yourself to your label. Let God surprise you and use you as He did with Madison Kamarad.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Madison knew she could do more! And also we can! As a family now, decide to do a different activity in the coming Sabbath. Maybe it will demand from your family to go beyond your comfort zone. Do it for Jesus!



**WEEK 34**

## Hope to the Big Cities

*"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."  
John 15:12*

As a young medical student, Carmichelle Flores dreamed of sharing the gospel with her fellow students. She would introduce herself to her classmates, and then they would know where they were from and where they had attended university.



Somehow, she would always find a way to insert her religion into the conversation. They would look at her weirdly as if she were an alien, but she didn't notice this. She kept on sharing her beliefs and some Bible passages to prove what she believed was right.

She invited her classmates to church and expected them to be interested, convinced, and converted. The effect, however, was the opposite. Her direct approach repelled her classmates, who quickly looked for someone else to talk to.

Her soon-to-be-husband, Pastor Reylourd Reyes, talked to her about the issue. They started to pray. Eventually, Carmichelle made some friends in medical school. They hung out together in cafes or restaurants, just talking about life. Through the relationships they built, her friends started opening up about their deepest burdens and even voluntarily asked for advice and prayers. Their growing relationships led to an idea.

Carmichelle and her boyfriend invited young adults to hang out with them after work in a common place with a relaxed atmosphere. The relationships grew, and eventually, they went from meeting just one night a week to eating meals together, playing sports, and being there for each other through their trials.

Their friends observed the couple's Christian lifestyle and asked how they could have joy and contentment as the two. Soon, they began to ask about their faith, leading them to start small groups to deepen their relationships with God and build a community.

Carmichelle and her boyfriend finally had a strategy that worked to reach out to the unreached in the metropolis. But God showed them that more could be done.

The couple started Urban Centers of Influence to create more opportunities to interact with and reach different groups. The first center was an office space used by many young adults to do their work and run start-up businesses.

Another center was Simply Foods, where friends were provided healthy vegetarian food and a program called "Eight Weeks to Wellness." Connecting with friends in medical school and opening centers of influence grew into a vast network. Later, they were able to plant a church.

Establishing Urban Centers of Influence is a strategy the church has been using to reach the unreached in big cities, putting Christ's method of ministry into practice. There are still so many unreached people groups around us who need to know Jesus.

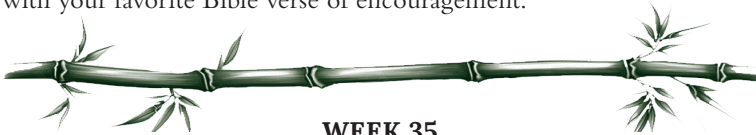
All God needs is the desire of His sons and daughters to make more disciples for Him!





Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Carmichelle saw an opportunity and took advantage of it. Do you know of a family member, a neighbor, a coworker, or a classmate who doesn't know about God? As a family, choose this person to pray for her and share with him/her a small card with your favorite Bible verse of encouragement.



**WEEK 35**

## **A Life Redirected**

*“I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Genesis 28:15*

**G**abriel approached the remote mountain village for the first time. He didn't know what he was getting himself into, but he had heard a still, small voice impressing him to go.

He had taken a year off school because of health issues. When a friend told him about a village where people had never heard of Jesus, and even though his health was getting worse, Gabriel felt compelled to go.

“When I went to the village, I knew my health was feeble, and I might even die,” Gabriel said. But his passion to take the gospel to the unreached was stronger. He asked God to make him a light and care for his health issues.

After arriving in the village, Gabriel rested and prayed for a week. Then, he traveled a long distance to see a doctor. A blood test revealed that his health had been restored! With his prayer answered, Gabriel returned to the village, ready to put all his energy into serving the community.

He quickly realized the challenges facing him, however. The high altitude made the village cold. He also had to hike long distances up and down steep terrain to get water. Moreover, the villagers still needed to learn about basic health principles.

Although Gabriel had permission from village leaders, many opposed his presence. It was difficult for them to accept him. Since no school was in the area, he turned his house into one.



Soon, Gabriel started to get invited into people's homes. When he was finally accepted as a part of the village, it was a day of celebration!

The villagers began to ask Gabriel what he had in his life that made him so happy. That was the opportunity he was waiting for to share Jesus and His love. It was a liberating concept they had never heard before.

Excellent doors were opening, but Gabriel still became discouraged sometimes. He felt lonely, and the conditions were harsh. Still, Gabriel never gave up! After some time spreading the gospel among the villagers, he decided that the only thing he wanted to do was to follow God's will for his life.

Today, Gabriel happily studies at Spicer Adventist University in the School of Theology. His dream is to become a full-time church planter. This dream will soon become a reality thanks to a missionary family sponsoring his studies.

Global Mission supports the ministry of hundreds of church planters such as Gabriel. Living on a basic stipend, they follow Christ's method of ministry: mingling with people, meeting their needs, and lovingly guiding them through the process of becoming disciples.

But they can't do it without our help—with our financial gifts and prayers. Thank you to all who have helped reach 66 percent of the world's population that still has not had an opportunity to experience Jesus.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Gabriel went until the unreached and lived among them. It's not easy to live everything behind to do so. Look at a map now and, as a family, choose one country to pray for the missionaries who are serving there.



WEEK 36

## Help in Ho Chi Minh

*"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." Isaiah 58:10*

Several years ago, Ho Chin Minh, the capital city of Vietnam, experienced a financial crisis. Tran Quoc Khoi, the country's Adventist Mission director, recalls how a young woman in his church suggested that the members provide a meal for the public every Thursday during that challenging time. Tran Quoc Khoi said they prepared something simple but delicious for only 50 people.

The church members worked together to serve a home-cooked meal to a packed crowd of children, students, retirees, and people seeking employment. They saw it as a way of doing a simple act of kindness to people living in their city.

The first lunch outreach event went so well that the church members are now preparing for more than 200 people each week.

In total, the meals cost about four million Vietnamese dong or USD180. The menu consists of rice, tofu, beans, pumpkin soup, tomatoes, and bananas: a perfect combination to fill an empty stomach!

As the size of the hungry crowd increased, maintaining the project became more challenging. More and more people were coming, and the members even considered stopping the project due to insufficient funds.

Eventually, the program gained recognition and financial support from the community. Local leaders from other religions, shops, and individuals joined to keep the project going.

People who sold vegetables at the market asked why they were buying so much, and when director Tran Khoi explained the purpose of their big purchase, the vendors gave them free rice and vegetables.

Local authorities have also expressed gratitude for the positive impact charity meals create in the community.

Goi\* was passing by the building one afternoon and saw the free meal advertisement. After eating for some weeks there, he said that he now knows there is a God who loves him.

Aside from the meals, everyone is invited to join other church programs.

Please pray for our members around the cities who use Christ's method to approach those who would never enter a church building.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Get inspired by the people from Vietnam! Prepare some food you can share with someone tomorrow. Maybe something already prepared or maybe some fruits and snacks. Fill someone's stomach and his/her heart with Jesus' love!

\*Names changed to protect identity.





WEEK 37

## Hope to Hanoi

*“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” Mark 9:23*

In 2018, Jannie Bekker, a genteel South African, was deployed to Vietnam’s capital city, Hanoi, with two million US dollars and the momentous task of establishing the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s first urban center of influence in this Southeast Asian country.

Jannie, however, struggled to find a suitable property in the city. The asking price for a vacant lot topped USD2 million and often approached USD3–4 million.

He prayed as he made trip after trip to Hanoi from the Southeast Asia Union, where he worked. Suddenly, someone offered a prime plot of land with a new seven-story building for only USD1.8 million—the rest is history!

Jannie beamed joyfully on May 22, 2018, as the community center was inaugurated. Nowadays, the urban center of influence called “Forward Venture” provides an opportunity to reach more people for Christ. Unfortunately, Jannie Bekker passed away in April 2021 without seeing what Forward Venture has become.

On the first floor is a bookstore that is open to the community. The center of influence also has an English language school, where the workers can build relationships with children and adult students. The church also meets regularly in the building.

From healthy cooking classes to a running club that meets every Sunday morning, the staff at Forward Venture has a lot of fun with their community. The Religious Affairs Committee of Vietnam opened a door, and the Center of Influence is responsible for teaching English to its 28 staff members.

Through these activities, the center’s workers and volunteers hope to be a shining example of Christ’s method of ministry. They want to share and introduce Christ’s love to everyone.

With the growing demand for their services, this ministry also faces serious challenges. Despite challenges and setbacks, God still uses His workers to bless others.

Some students in the center’s English class have gotten a glimpse of Christ’s character through their teachers. Students said they had never seen the teachers’ patience and care in other language centers in the city.



For example, an English student, Gary, feels refreshed after each class because the teachers are friendly and generous.

When the volunteers and workers from Forward Venture see their students going to church, they know that God can work miracles despite all the challenges they're facing.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Google Vietnam and learn more about this progressive country where it is difficult to hold public evangelism meetings. Pray for our pastors and missionaries in the Center of Influence in Hanoi.



**WEEK 38**

## Knock on the Door

*Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16*

Sasaha Kount\* arrived at his location in 2019, full of plans to work in the countryside of a 10/40 Window country.

In the first year, he was able to contact members. They were few but very faithful. Each month, his network grew. In his small village, about 1,000 people are living within a 10-kilometer radius.

Although Sasaha is a Christian, most people in his area don't worship the Lord because theirs is a Buddhist country.

Although the first year was usually spent getting to know the villagers, Somsuck was already pleased with the results. There were a few who were interested in studying the Bible because of the friendships they made.

But 2020 came with the terrible COVID-19. With it, the Laos church had to adapt to the new way of meeting. Phone calls replaced the warm welcome from the church, and Bible studies by computer or cell phone replaced friendly face-to-face studies. Worship services were hosted via Zoom. Although technology replaced physical presence, it didn't displace the people's faithfulness. The church remained faithful to God's principles.





Months went by, and the restrictions due to the pandemic were still in place. But since they lived in a small village, the regulations were loosened, and people were allowed to see each other again. It was a welcome development as Sasaha had many plans to care for these precious people God had given him.

To raise new believers, he decided to do it like a tree planter: Prepare, take time to nurture, see it grow, and then harvest the fruit. He returned to visiting neighbors, praying with them, and helping them in their activities.

His work became known in the community, and many people came to know him as the village apostle. Once, when he was resting at home, he heard someone knocking on his door. Usually, people knock once or maybe twice, but the knock sounded desperate this time. Sasaha and his wife looked at each other, wondering what was happening.

When they opened the door, they saw one of the neighbors holding her daughter. She was devastated. Her daughter was sick and had been taken to the local doctor, who had injected her with adult medicine, poisoning her. Her heart rate was now very low.

“My daughter is dying. Please, Mr. Kount, pray to your God! I know He will heal her.”

Sasaha and his wife began to pray. Without stopping.

Suddenly, by God’s power, the girl opened her eyes. Her mother couldn’t believe it! She embraced her child and began to praise the Lord Jesus. God used this opportunity to make Himself known to this family.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Is there a family member, relative, or neighbor who needs the ministry of healing? Plan to visit them. Bring a basket of fruits if you can.

\*Names changed to protect identity.



WEEK 39

## Good Listener

*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:13*



**B**angkok is a very modern city with many welcoming colors and smells. Buddhists, ethnic religions, and many others can be found in this big city. Constantly developing, Bangkok has many factories that attract people's attention. The average gross salary of factory workers in Bangkok is higher than in other parts of Thailand. They also get a bonus now and then. This has effectively lured people from all over the country and abroad to work in Thailand's capital.

Anong and Arthit\* decided to try a better life in Bangkok. The factory where they got a job gave them decent living conditions. Among other things, they continued to practice their traditional religion.

One day, Anong, Arthit's wife, began to feel unwell. Maybe it was something she ate that day, but she got worse as the days went by.

Anong began to have frequent hallucinations without a known cause, although her friends reported that a jealous employer claimed she cast a spell on her.

One of Arthit's relatives, a Seventh-day Adventist living abroad, heard about the story and the symptoms she was experiencing. She somehow contacted Pastor Alvin Paul, the local Global Mission pioneer in charge of the region.

The pastor arrived at the couple's home to pray for her as she lay unconscious in bed. The more Pastor Alvin prayed, the more she regained consciousness.

Over time, this encounter led to Bible studies at the couple's home. Anong studied the Bible constantly, and the more she learned, the more she became convinced that God was the One who had healed her from Satan's influence.

Her complete recovery surprised the people around her, especially her husband. In all the Bible studies Anong attended with Pastor Alvin, her husband was beside her, listening to everything to verify what the pastor was teaching her.

Four months later, Anong decided to be baptized on the next Sabbath afternoon. It was a great joy! Pr. Alvin was so happy that the once-possessed woman was full of the Holy Spirit.

While discussing the ceremony's details, Arthit, who was just a listener, told the pastor that he also wanted to follow God. He saw the change in his wife's life and believed that only God could have done it.

They were both baptized that Sabbath afternoon with tears flowing from the joy of being born again in God.





Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Are you a good listener? Dad, whisper to every member in the family, “God loves you. I do, too.” And watch him/her recite what he/she heard. End with a BIG group hug.

\*Names changed to protect identity.



**WEEK 40**

## Arrested Just Like Paul

*“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11, 12.*

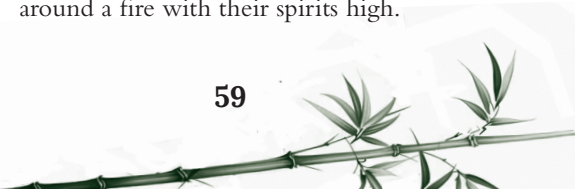
Pastor Peter,\* an officer from the Laos Attached Region, arrived at a small village in the northern part of the country on a Friday night. Church members, including new converts of about 17 families from an ancestor worship religious group.

Pastor Chong,\* a local tribal church pastor from one of the provinces, also traveled there to assist Pastor Peter.

Everyone enjoyed a sumptuous welcome dinner hosted by the church elder, who is also the deputy chief of that village. After enjoying the dinner fellowship, one of the active church elders, a former leader in the area, informed Pastor Peter about three families who were willing to accept Jesus.

These families were overjoyed to know of Pastor Chong’s arrival. They were excited to be paid a visit so they could ultimately end their spirit worship and set their accessories on fire, a gesture to honor the true and living God. This excellent news truly put a fire on Pastor Chong’s feet, that he urged everyone to visit that house and waste no time!

On their way, the group stopped by one household to pray for another family interested in knowing Jesus. The team Pastor Chong led finally reached the appointed house. Faces beaming with joy greeted them despite the chilling weather. To keep them all warm, they gathered around a fire with their spirits high.



It was a gathering of pure surrender to the Master, with all family members attending. The first elder did the honors of introducing Pastor Chong's team in the vernacular. Then, the second elder made an appeal of full surrender to Jesus. He emphasized that Pastor Chong's team was there to help make that happen.

The head of the family, an elderly man, quickly declared that his heart, together with his whole family, was ready to accept Jesus as their Savior and put their faith in Him.

Suddenly, while this full surrender was unfolding, a young man burst into room without prior notice. He boldly approached Pastor Chong and summoned him to a meeting with the head of the Chong\* Clan.

Pastor Chong responded gracefully and followed the young man to the clan's house. After a long while, the rest of the team felt that the situation was rather suspicious.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Wow! Can you imagine being arrested for being a Christian! This is not easy; but it's a reality many of our brethren and missionaries face. They are sustained by our offerings and tithes. Decide as a family, today, to separate a sacrifice offering and give it tomorrow – as a commitment from your family to help in the spreading of the Gospel.

[To be continued next week]

\*Names changed to protect identity



**WEEK 41**

## **Jail time**

*“Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.” Mark 13:11, NIV*

Despite the disturbance of Pr. Chong\* being called in such a hurry to attend a meeting with the head of the Chong\* Clan, the rest of the church members continued encouraging the interested family. The Holy Spirit worked ceaselessly.



The elderly head of the family firmly reiterated their full surrender and commitment to their new faith. He said that they would walk in the Light, with Jesus taking the lead and not the worldly spirits. Later that evening, the team departed from the family's home.

After much waiting, however, the team started to worry over the fact that Pastor Chong's meeting with the clan leader had taken so long. Soon, the team received information that Pastor Chong was locked up in the house of the clan's leader.

Leaders and members of the local church tried several ways to reach out and negotiate for Pastor Chong's release that night, but they all proved futile. The last option was to send two strong sons of the church elder to retrieve Pastor Chong.

Unfortunately, they were forced to engage in a physical fight, which was very common in tribal disputes. Still, they couldn't bring the pastor back.

Like apostle Paul, Pastor Chong was arrested and locked up because he was bringing many souls to Jesus. This fact angered the head of the clan.

That night, the local church prayed without ceasing. In the very early hours of the Sabbath morning, at 2:30 a.m., the church members decided to evacuate the other two pastors who were with them—Pastor Peter,\* who was visiting them, and a young pastor who escorted him.

It was later confirmed that the head of the clan conspired with police authorities to have Pastor Chong arrested as soon as he arrived on that fateful Friday night. By Sabbath morning, the police authorities indeed came to arrest him, along with the two sons of the church elder. They were transported to the Police Detention Center where they were to be kept during the initial investigation of the case. The detention cell was cold, as in the time of apostle Paul.

This was actually the second time Pastor Chong was arrested in that village for the same reason—bringing precious souls to our Lord. The first time he was arrested a couple of years ago, a police officer accepted Jesus as his Savior through his faith sharing.

The devil is working hard because he knows that his time is short, but God is with His people. After four days, the local police released Pastor Chong.

In the same village where he was arrested, there are now over 100 people who call themselves Christians, and efforts are being made to build a house church there.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.



**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Our God is a winner God! Praise be the Lord! Choose a hymn that express your praises to Him as a might, powerful, and wonderful God!

\*Names changed to protect identity



**WEEK 42**

## **From Gambler to Saved**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17*

**R**olie, a civil engineer, left his stable career behind to live out God's dream for his life. He enrolled at Central Philippine Adventist College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Theology.

Together with Ruen Jim, a former licensed teacher who also took up Theology, Rolie is now a full-time Global Mission Pioneer in the central Philippines.

The two are diligent workers who love training and creating new methods to reach out to those who are in their area. Their strategies are wide-ranging: community exercises, sports ministry, community services, and sometimes, serenades for birthday celebrators.

Once they gain the trust of the community, they start to cater to their spiritual needs with family, health, and Bible seminars in people's homes, at church, or wherever they are needed.

That's exactly what happened to Joseph Distrito, a 50-year-old man from Negros Occidental. Unknown to him, his wife, Marieta, had responded to God's invitation and joined the local Adventist church.

The main reason he was unaware of this was because he was addicted to gambling and drinking. He was often either caught up in his games or drunk. For him, his addiction was not so much about money but rather the satisfaction of winning and getting drunk.

Marieta started praying for her husband the moment she learned about the power of prayer.

One sunny day, she invited him to join the health, family, and Bible seminar that would be held in their own place. It seemed like God was giving Joseph a sign to pause and examine the miserable life he was living.

Despite her husband's initial rejection, Marieta persisted in inviting him to attend the seminar. The Holy Spirit must have continued working in Joseph's heart for he eventually sat down on the third night.



Through the faithfulness and daily visitation of the Global Mission Pioneers, Rolie and Ruen, Joseph understood the love of God and His offer of salvation.

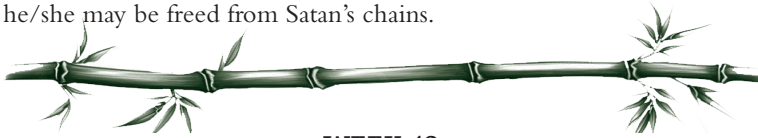
Joseph decided to change his life. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, he overcame temptations and was baptized on May 20, 2023, at the Negros Occidental Conference Evangelism Center.

God fulfills His promises. He doesn't give up on His children. By God's grace and the work of the Global Mission Pioneers, Joseph Distrito now lives happily with his family.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Do you know any family in your community that has someone suffering from drinking or money issues? Pray now for this person. Ask the Holy Spirit to touch his/her heart that he/she may be freed from Satan's chains.



**WEEK 43**

## Woman for Christ

*“And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I will do for you all you ask. All the people of my town know that you are a woman of noble character.” Ruth 3:11*

Working alone in a Buddhist-dominated country has been challenging. Often the religious leaders of this village, with the help of other Protestant pastors, go from house to house, telling people not to receive Qm Zunani,\* a Global Mission pioneer, in their homes because what she has to say is a lie and she should not be listened to.

This was quite an interesting situation, but no power can close doors that the Lord has opened. Qm worked tirelessly to spread the gospel through prayers, door-to-door visits, children's activities, and health care. Soon, great interest was aroused, and many started to follow Jesus through the villagers' testimony.

After all these people heard about God's love, they started coming to her to learn more about health. The children of the villagers also attended Qm's regular Bible school and programs intended to start a children's club.



It was through this door-to-door contact that Lejchami, who hadn't been able to walk for three months, heard about the lady who prayed for the sick in their homes.

Qm received a request to visit and pray for Lejchami. The missionary and another Adventist sister went to the sick woman's house to heed her request. During prayer, Qm was told that something had changed in the sick lady's body. They continued to pray, talk about God's healing power, and pray again, before leaving for the other appointments of the day.

The next morning, just after sunrise, Qm received a message about Lejchami on her phone. The first thing that came to her mind was that something worse had happened to her. After all, she had been very ill and bedridden for three months.

But that was not the message. Instead, Lejchami was now able to stand and even go to the toilet by herself. This was a very beautiful and powerful testimony for the community. After her full recovery, Lejchami asked to receive another visit from Qm, not only for prayer but to learn more about this God who heals.

After studying and learning about the Bible and the principles of love that God has for His children, Lejchami was baptized on the last day of 2022.

Qm Zunani may be a woman, but with God, there is no power in hell that can stop her.

The same goes for all of God's children. By ourselves, we are just ordinary people. But with God, extraordinary things can happen.

Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission Pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Your mom is an ordinary woman who is able to do extraordinary things, powered by the Holy Spirit. Pray for her health and work and give her a 10-second bear hug!

\*Names changed to protect identity.







WEEK 44

## Persecuted by Christians

*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.  
Romans 12:14*

When the word persecution is used, the last thing that often comes to mind is Christians persecuting Christians, but this is the reality in Timor-Leste.

Nataniel Pereira, the Global Mission pioneer who lives in the Aturo region, started activities to reach out to the local people through health care. He offered free services like blood pressure checking, uric acid and blood sugar testing, and information on healthy living through the NEWSTART program.

At first, everything went smoothly. Many were friendly to him and very excited to receive all the new information he offered. They were happy to have Nataniel and his work partner in their homes. But then came a turning point.

Someone heard his religious leader claim that the Adventist Church is a cult and the church of the antichrist.

Misled by false information, many locals did not even want to walk on the same sidewalk as Adventists or shake hands with them. They feared that if they did, they would receive the mark of the beast, 666, on their foreheads.

Nataniel once attended a funeral and was forced to listen to a religious leader proclaim that there were only two religions in Aturo, and neither was Seventh-day Adventist.

This was a very difficult situation. Nataniel was even thrown out of his house because the person who rented it later found out that he was working for the Adventist Church!

But none of these challenges discouraged him. He knew that the people did not know what they were doing. They were forced to do it simply because they were afraid of the eternal consequences they thought they would face.

Although it was very difficult to preach and hold public evangelistic meetings, five families have agreed to open their homes so that Nataniel can study the Bible with them and hold seminars in their homes.

Many neighbors do not agree, but Mr. Cornelious and his family were happy to welcome the Global Mission pioneer and learn more



about Bible truths, while Teacher Natersia taught the children Bible stories



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Studying the Bible is one the activities Nataniel does in Timor-Leste. You need to decide today which Bible topic you're going to study tomorrow as a family to get strength from the Holy Spirit by reading God's holy Word.



WEEK 45

## Opportunity in a Corn Plantation

*“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 13:35*

Lian Cung is a Global Mission pioneer working in one of Southern Asia-Pacific countries. Mingling with people has been his main activity. He works with them in their labor activities. He helps local people in their funeral services. He has also been called in to take care of those who are sick. Even his conversations on the street are full of missionary intentions.

The last years had been very challenging worldwide due to COVID-19 virus. It was no different there. Lian used this opportunity to share God's love, not through words, but through loving actions, such as distributing food to those who were in need. Through his humanitarian work, Lian obtained opportunities to know more people and their needs.

This was how God opened doors for him so he could build a trusting environment, make friends, help those in need, and stand together with them when their loved ones died.

At every occasion, the pioneer presented the power of prayer. Many who got in touch with him were blessed by his prayers.

One particular Monday morning, as Lian was walking to the community, he met a man with a bag on his shoulder. Impressed by the Holy Spirit, he began conversing with the man, who answered him with a smiling face.



They kept walking together for a while until he expressed his desire to finish planting corn on a hilly farm. The problem, however, was he had been cultivating the farm alone since his wife ran away from him.

Lian recognized the divine appointment. He offered to help the man cultivate his corn plantation. While they were walking, the missionary realized how lonely the man had been and how he missed his wife. They started talking about the reason for her leaving.

The conversation went on to other topics, and while they were cultivating the land together, Lian began to share the love and forgiveness that only God can provide. He suggested calling for the man's wife. On that hilly farm, they prayed together about the issue.

By God's grace, the wife got back home, and the couple was reunited. They both are now joining the care group worship service and studying the word of God.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Many people won't accept receiving a Bible study or even hearing about God, but what about trying the SERVICE language? As a family, choose one person or family that you could help. Maybe doing some cleaning, taking some food or even, helping in their ongoing activities. We can share Jesus' love by many ways. Pray now for this person/family and ask the Holy Spirit to work on his/her heart since today!



WEEK 46

## Open Doors

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8*

Juidy\* is a devout man. A meeting with an Adventist awakened his interest in learning the message of the Church.

He already believed in similar things, but the biblical truths were mind-blowing for him. There were so many new things he was learning in the Bible that he had never heard before.



While deciding on what path to take, he started having some dreams. Everything he studied was shown to him from a wider perspective. Every day he woke up, his decision to follow Christ and the truth grew stronger.

His parents and extended family, however, strongly opposed his decision, since he was not continuing in the family tradition. Even his wife decided to leave him because of the new beliefs he was professing.

His family beat and hurt him, until the only family member who remained with him was his small daughter, whom he had to raise alone.

Years of despair passed, but he remained faithful to the new truth he had found. He worked hard and tried his best to raise his child. He even took her with him to church.

Despite his efforts, however, the little girl got sick. His family grabbed this opportunity to take the girl from her father and she ended up being raised by her grandparents.

Abandoned and alone, Juidy tried a new profitable job, but he was deceived and ended up failing at it.

Sometimes, in despair, he would be tempted to think of leaving Jesus to return to his family tradition. It seemed the easiest way out.

But the support and encouragement of church members and Global Mission Pioneers sustained his enthusiasm about continuing in life and sharing his faith, even if these meant isolation and insults.

The enthusiasm and faith that Juidy has keeps him loyal and motivated to share his story of faith with others who may be facing the same situation.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Many people are left alone when they decide to follow Jesus. Do you know someone with a similar background story with Juidy? As a family, pray for those people who are disowned and abandoned by their own families because of their faith. May they continue to trust in the Lord who will never forsake them.

\*Names changed to protect identity.





WEEK 47

## Mingling With the Locals

*To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.*  
1 Corinthians 9:22

**R**obles Makatika\* is a Global Mission pioneer who loves to mingle with people to share Jesus' love. That's how Eben Janis got to know more about Christ and His abundant grace.

Eben was once an Adventist, but he had wandered far from Jesus for many years. One day, he met Robles. While they were talking, God's fire rekindled in Eben's heart, and they started to dream of having an Adventist Church in Nanas, the village where Eben was from.

Eben decided to donate a piece of land for the church. Now, they can plan the construction of a place of worship, but the blessings didn't stop there.

After his decision to return to the Lord, Eben started sharing God's love with his wife, children, and several neighbors.

Meanwhile, since fishing and coconut farming are the main sources of income of the people in Nanas, Robles thought of buying coconuts and fish to resell to the local villagers. This was his way to start communicating the Adventist message to the people in the village.

Sometimes, he even sleeps in people's houses after they buy supplies from him. These sleepovers are, of course, intentional.

This is what Global Mission Pioneers do. They talk to people, mingle with them, and provide for their needs.

While staying at the houses of the locals, Robles reads his Bible and asks his hosts if he can share what he has learned.

Several months later, some of the people Robles has contacted while selling coconuts and fish invited him to stay with them to discuss more about the Bible.

The locals now see the Adventist Global Mission pioneer as one of them, who understands their needs, culture, and way of doing things.

Aside from helping Robles establish a church in Nanas, Eben also wants to show Jesus' love in a practical way. So, he bought some fields in an area where many villagers pass by. Now, locals have come and asked permission to stay temporarily on his land.

Eben lets them build wooden houses on the field without any charges for he considers the land an evangelistic tool. Afterwards, he invites locals to join him in care groups to learn Bible doctrines.



God has provided various opportunities to communicate His love and grace to people so they can decide to have a true relationship with the Lord.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Global Mission pioneers, volunteers, and missionaries are sustained by our offerings and tithes. Set aside your offerings you plan to give tomorrow at church. While holding these in your hands, pray for the people whom our missionaries will meet through your giving.

\*Names changed to protect identity



**WEEK 48**

## Music School

*Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.*

*Ephesians 5:19*

Lucy\* lives in a country that has strict rules about religious practices. As such, the usual evangelism or witnessing work cannot be done there easily. More important, the brethren themselves are thirsting spiritually. The community is composed of members from Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, and other nationalities. Almost all of them are foreign workers.

For years, they had been praying for a pastor or some lay Bible worker to minister to them. Finally, God has answered their prayers.

Now that they have a pastor, they meet during midweek prayer meetings, group Bible studies, vespers, and Sabbaths. The pastor also supports their online meetings. From one house church, they now have three worship venues.

Although they were happy with the growth of the church, they still worried about how to reach those around them who have never heard about Jesus. Soon, they realized that the most effective way was to be intentional in their relations at work and in the community.

That's exactly what the Indonesian members decided to do. They reached out to other Indonesian migrant workers in the country.



An Indonesian couple was once invited to visit a very sick lady who was also unable to pay her medical bills. The couple prayed with her at the hospital and, after discussing the situation with the group of believers, the music school ran by a Global Mission pioneer, donated the necessary amount. The lady was not only able to pay her bill. She was also able to return to Indonesia where she can afford to have medical care.

There were also church members ministering to the Chinese community who reached out to two Chinese sisters, giving them a Chinese New Year gift.

During the pandemic years, also in the name of the music school, the church members were able to deliver food and essential groceries to more than 80 people, including three church members, who were in need.

All members were encouraged to pray with the recipients of their aid before they left—all in the name of the music school and God.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** To close your worship, sing two of your family's favorite songs that make you happy. Pray afterward. Record your singing and share a video to your relatives and missionary families.

\*Names changed to protect identity



WEEK 49

## Muthukarupan Ravichandran

*"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you." Psalm 32:8*

Sri Lanka, a country in the south of India, is exposed to cultural influences from various Asian civilizations. Home to several ethnic groups, the island nation is a vast cultural landscape. Most of its people are poor, live in rural areas, and depend on agriculture for their livelihood. This is the picture Muthukarupan Ravichandran faces every day while he reaches people for Christ.



Muthukarupan is a Global Mission pioneer in a sparsely populated village in the inland part of the country. Within a 10-kilometer radius, there are only 397 people.

He often spends his time in garages, schools, hospitals, and bus stops. Where there are people, he is there. While spending time in places like these, he mingles with different kinds of people.

Soon, he was able to identify major problems in the community, such as the prevalence of non-communicable diseases, parents abandoning their children or not sending them to school, and children marrying at a young age.

He thought that perhaps education was a good way to help the people and speak to their hearts. So, he developed and started giving writing classes. He went house to house teaching children how to write properly.

Since many young teens were already married, he started counseling young people about relationships and marriage. This way, he was able to establish good relationships. The people grew to regard Adventists positively after witnessing the sincere interest of the Global Mission pioneer in their well-being.

Not content with this ministry, Muthukarupan decided to add another approach. Even though many are illiterate, he noticed a growing interest in the English language. So, he looked for a talented teacher nearby and started an English class for children and adults. The class became another open door for the people to learn of God's love.

Muthukarupan, however, wanted to do more. He wanted the villagers to see the efficacy of prayer and that they can count on the Lord. This initiative started small. Each day, he prayed for someone during his door-to-door visits.

Gradually, people saw that the God Muthukarupan worshiped answered his prayers without the need of gifts to any gods or religious leaders. The fathers in the village soon started asking the Global Mission pioneer to come to their house and pray for them.

What a pleasant surprise it was for the villagers when they realized that God answered not only Muthukarupan's prayers, but their prayers, too.

Mr. Muthukarupan never misses an opportunity to share Jesus. Anywhere and anytime, he talks of his loving and gracious Father in heaven.



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.





**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** There are many ways of reaching out to the people around you. As a family, choose one Bible verse that each member knows by heart. Take a video of yourselves memorizing the verse and send the video to a relative, friend, coworker, or classmate who doesn't know about Jesus yet.



**WEEK 50**

## Living By Faith

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.  
Philippians 4:13*

**Y**oyo, a high school teacher from India, used to have a lucrative job in Bangkok, Thailand's capital. Although he was happy with his job, he did not feel the same way about his marriage.

His Filipino wife, Carla, taught at a Seventh-day Adventist school in Korat, a city located five hours away from the capital. His young son lived with her, too.

At first, Yoyo agreed to the arrangement. He made good money teaching computer classes at a private school in Bangkok, while also doing IT seminars on the side. After a while, however, Yoyo realized that he was no longer happy. He got tired of working five days a week in Bangkok and commuting to Korat on weekends.

This feeling of discontent prompted him to look for a job in Korat. For some reason, however, he could not find a job even when he felt highly qualified. He was inundated with teaching job offers in Bangkok, but nobody gave him a job in Korat.

Nothing worked for three long years.

Finally, Yoyo prayed, "Lord, I can't do it on my own. Please help me."

He quit his job in Bangkok and moved to Korat. For the first time, he was dependent on his wife's income from the Adventist mission school. He prayed fervently for a job, but two months later, he was still jobless. He grew increasingly discouraged, frustrated, and irritated. He felt useless and disappointed with his decision.

Just then, the principal of the Adventist International Mission School told Yoyo that they were looking for a computer teacher. Yoyo had the right qualifications for the job, but there was a catch. The position was for an unpaid volunteer. Yoyo didn't think twice. He gladly volunteered to teach.



After three weeks, the principal hired Yoyo to work full-time as the computer teacher and IT manager. Today, Yoyo is the sole breadwinner of the family. His wife quit her job after their second child was born so she can homeschool their children.

Interestingly, the family has considerably less money than before, but Yoyo has never been happier.

“I’m the only one who is earning, but we always have food on the table,” he said. “It makes me wonder where my faith was before.”



Please pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** Write to friends or relatives who work away from their families to encourage them to remain faithful. Share the Bible verse in Philippians 4:13. Pray for them, too.



**WEEK 51**

## Beaten for His Faith

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:10, NIV.*

**B**andara hated Christians. He didn’t like that they believed God created the world and could forgive sins. He thought both were impossible. But one day, everything changed for him. “God had a plan for me and used a Christian to change me,” Bandara said. “That person helped me with my difficulties. I understood God’s grace and love through him, so I became Christian.”

After accepting Christ and being baptized, Bandara wanted to share the light he received with others. With this commitment, he decided to become a Global Mission pioneer. He planned to introduce people to Jesus and eventually start a new congregation.

The change in Bandara’s life was evident to his family and friends. They noticed that he went around the city, sharing the love of Christ and His message of forgiveness.

Bandara’s actions eventually got the whole community’s attention, but not always for good reasons. His regular visits alarmed some young men who feared Bandara’s actions might harm the community.



The men plotted to beat Bandara to stop his visits. A large group waited for him one day as Bandara returned home on his usual route. They blocked his path and beat him. Bandara considers the beating the deadliest struggle in his Christian life.

“I covered my face to protect myself,” Bandara related. “At least two people had been beating me for so long that I could sense their exhaustion. They used a helmet to hit my head.”

During the ordeal, Bandara prayed that God would protect him from being seriously hurt, and God answered that prayer.

And He did so more than once. Bandara was beaten several times; each time, he stood firmly for his faith and survived without critical injuries. When people heard that the missionary was so committed to his beliefs that he was willing to be beaten for them, they stood by him. They realized that he only wanted to help the community.

Bandara’s passion to bring more people to Jesus grows every day. “God chose us and called us, saying, ‘Who is going to work for Me?’ Bandara said. “So, we have to go!”

Let’s pray for those around the world who serve despite t



Please, pray for our missionaries, volunteers, and Global Mission Pioneers. Your faithfulness sustains their ministry.

**CHALLENGE FOR THE FAMILY:** It’s not easy to love those who harm us, but it’s an important teaching that Jesus Christ has left for us. Talk among the member of your family about anyone who you may have been experi-encing some challenges to be relate to. Pray for this person and may through your actions, he/she Jesus’ love in you.



WEEK 52

## The Power of Prayer

*Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17*

**I**t was a normal day for Myon Min Than and Aung Win—Global Mission pioneer in a Buddhism-dominated country.

They are skillful men and very friendly, making it easy for them to mingle with people. They visit their designated area every week, pray with the families, have worship services, and teach Bible classes.



All these activities have made them known in their area. These two tireless workers' strategies include home visitation for daily witnessing and sharing, and distributing food and medicine as an assistance to local people.

As they mingled with the local people, they became known as men of prayer. People also started to see that the God of the Global Mission Pioneers is true. People felt the warmth of God's love and experienced personal development through their teaching and knowledge.

One day, Myon was at home, getting ready for the day when two women approached him. They were both from a village next to where he lived and ministered.

One of the women, Say Kay\* had tears in her eyes when she asked the pastor to go to his house and pray for her daughter Margot.\* She had been taken from their house, and she didn't know where she was. Say Kay asked Myon to pray for her safe return.

Pastor Myon quickly took the Bible, put it into his bag, and followed her.

When they arrived at Margot's home, the woman was in tears and begged the missionary to pray for the girl.

Before praying, Myon opened the Bible and read some of God's promises of protection for His children.

This Buddhist family didn't seek comfort from their leaders or religious divinities. They wanted the God of heaven and earth to help them.

After reading the Bible, the Global Mission pioneer prayed fervently for Margot's safe return.

This routine of remembering God's promises in the Bible and praying with much hope happened for three consecutive days.

On the third day, Myon felt a strong impression from the Holy Spirit that the young woman would be back that day, at around 1 p.m. He felt compelled to say it to the family, and he did. So, the whole morning, they waited, trusting in God.

Around 1 p.m., the stranger who took Margot drove her back to the village.

The incident was a powerful demonstration of God's power and answer to prayers.

The Buddhist family was able to testify that the God of heaven and earth is strong and mighty to save.

\*Names changed to protect identity









