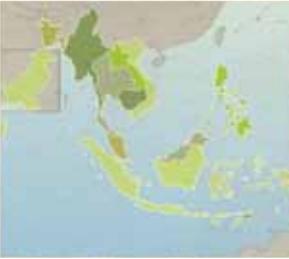




YOUTH AND ADULT MAGAZINE

# ADVENTIST MISSION

2012 • QUARTER 2 • SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION



[www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org)

# Contents

**On the Cover:** Oo Jyaw rides home after worshipping at a house church in Myanmar.

## CENTENNIAL SPECIAL

- 4 The First Mission Project | April 7 

## INDONESIA

- 6 God's Healing Hands | April 14  
8 A Crowd of Witnesses | April 21  
10 The Little Literature Evangelist | April 28   
12 Mission Outside the Walls | May 5   
14 The Headhunter | May 12 

## MYANMAR

- 16 Meeting the Loving God | May 19

- 18 A School for Edel | May 26  
20 Someone Who Loves Me | June 2  
22 Burma's Pure Gold | June 9 

## MISCELLANEOUS

- 24 Light in the Darkness | June 16  
26 A Gift of Love | June 23 

## RESOURCES

- 28 Thirteenth Sabbath Program | June 30  
31 Leader's Resources  
32 Map

 = stories of special interest to teens

## Your Offerings at Work



The children, their parents, and the teachers at Zamboanga Adventist School in southern Philippines say a big thank-you to all who gave to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2008 to help expand their school. Now even more children can learn in a safe and Christ-filled environment.



SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST CHURCH®

© 2012 General Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists. • All rights reserved.  
12501 Old Columbia Pike,  
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6601  
800.648.5824 • [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org)

## Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter features the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, which includes the countries of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, East Timor, and Vietnam, and islands of the Pacific, including Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and Wake Island. Almost 800 million people live in this region, of which almost 1.1 million are Seventh-day Adventists. About one person out of about 700 is an Adventist.

### Special Yearlong Celebration

This year marks the centennial of the mission quarterlies, which were first produced in 1912. Throughout the year we will feature at least one story that appeared in *Children's Mission* over the years, and some additional stories relating to the history of the mission offerings. Look for these special features each quarter.

### Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help:

- enlarge the Adventist hospital in Manado, Sulawesi, in eastern Indonesia
- provide medical equipment for a hospital in Medan, Sumatra, in western Indonesia
- enlarge the Yangon Adventist Seminary (a K-12 school) in Yangon, Myanmar
- CHILDREN'S PROJECT: Bibles for children in southeastern Asia

### The Challenges:

**Indonesia** is made up of more than 13,000 islands stretched along the equator between the Indian Ocean in the Pacific Ocean. Many distinct cultures and religions developed among the different ethnic groups living in Indonesia. Although Indonesia is not officially an Islamic state, more than 85 percent of Indonesians are Muslim.

The Adventist Church serves the people of Indonesia through several schools and medical facilities. Hospitals and medical clinics offer valuable services to Indonesians, and many have come to know Christ through them.

**Myanmar (Burma)** is the second-largest country in Southeast Asia, with a population of about 54 million. But years of military rule and civil war have isolated the country from global and economic influences and left many of its citizens in poverty. However this same isolation has helped preserve some of Myanmar's traditional culture and customs.

Religion usually follows ethnic lines, and ethnic groups haven't mixed well in Myanmar. While a small percentage of Myanmar's population is Christian, the majority (more than 80 percent) is Buddhist. Because they don't interact easily, they don't yet know of Christ's love for them.

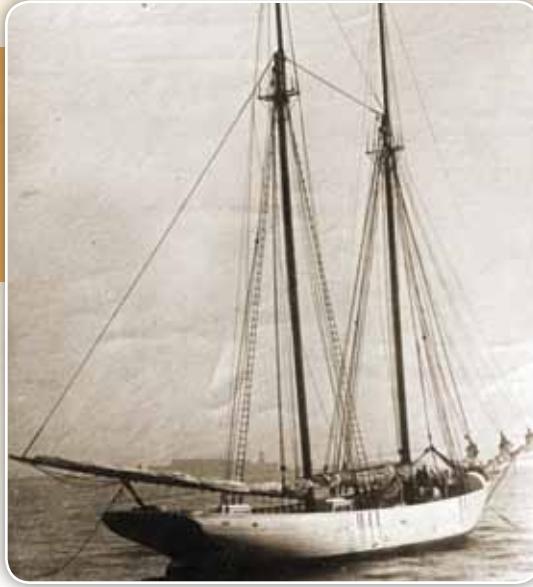
Yours for the kingdom,



# Setting Sail

## The First Mission Project

Pitcairn



Catherine and Elisha\* sat in the stiff wooden pew of their small-town church on Sabbath morning. Catherine clutched three coins. Her brother fingered the coins in his pocket. The children had worked hard all week to earn 16 cents<sup>†</sup> to give to the special mission offering. Catherine had helped her mother bake bread, and then had sold it to their neighbors. Elisha had washed windows and delivered purchases for the owner of the general store.

At last the pastor announced the mission offering. As the children slipped their offering into the special box, the pastor reminded everyone that the offering would help build a mission ship. “We’ve earned enough to buy a board!” Elisha told the pastor, his eyes shining.

Others came forward too with their offerings. “My offering can buy some nails!” one boy said excitedly.

“Maybe my offering can help buy some canvas for the sails,” a little girl added. Coin by coin the offering box grew heavier.

### United to Tell the World

Adventist Church members were excited. Mothers baked bread and cakes for their children to sell. One boy helped his mother pop popcorn over the family’s wood-burning stove to make hundreds of popcorn balls to raise \$15 for the *Pitcairn* fund!

Everyone worked hard to raise money to build the ship. It was almost impossible to imagine raising the \$12,000 needed to build the missionary ship.<sup>‡</sup>

### A Boyhood Dream

Many years before there was a ship called the *Pitcairn*, a young man named John Tay heard the story of a rebellious crew on a British ship who had mutinied and put their cruel captain and a few of his crew aboard a lifeboat and sailed away on the mother ship, the *Bounty*. The mutineers had then taken refuge on a tiny island in the South Pacific called Pitcairn. It was so small and so far from shipping lanes that the mutineers were sure they would never be found.

But life wasn’t as secure as the mutineers and the women they had brought with

them had hoped. Within a few years alcohol nearly destroyed the islanders as the men fought among themselves. Eventually only one of the mutineers, John Adams, remained alive to care for the four women and 23 children on the island. He gave up alcohol and turned to the Bible for guidance. Soon he and all the women and children on Pitcairn became Christians.

## Discovery

After some time news of the discovery of Pitcairn reached the world, and John Tay vowed to visit the island and share the Adventist message with the people there. He traded his skills as a carpenter for passage aboard a ship that took him to the South Pacific. Four months and six ships later John Tay arrived on Pitcairn.

Tay showed the islanders Bible truths they hadn't known. Some people recognized the truths from tracts that had been shipped to the island years earlier. By the time the next ship docked at the

## Mission Post

- The ship *Pitcairn* was built with the first mission offerings taken in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It took six months to raise the funds. Adults and children alike worked to raise money for the first mission ship.
- After the *Pitcairn* left Pitcairn Island, it sailed to other islands of the South Pacific. John Tay and his wife stayed in Fiji to share God's love with cannibals living there. Sadly, he died five months later and is buried on the island.
- Today one out of every 26 people in the islands of the South Pacific is an Adventist Christian.

island, virtually everyone on Pitcairn was keeping the Sabbath.

"Please baptize us!" the people begged. But John Tay wasn't a pastor and felt he couldn't baptize these people. He promised to send a pastor to baptize them.

## Sharing the Passion

Tay returned to San Francisco and told the story of Pitcairn. His passion inflamed believers, and eventually church officials voted to raise funds to build a ship that would sail to Pitcairn and other South Pacific islands to share the gospel with the people there.

Sabbath School members across North America—for that's where most Adventists lived at the time—united to raise money to build the mission boat that was fittingly named *Pitcairn*.

In 1890, four years after Tay had first visited Pitcairn Island, the *Pitcairn* sailed toward Pitcairn Island with a crew and three missionary couples, including John and Hannah Tay. One month later the little ship approached Pitcairn. How warmly the Adventist visitors were greeted, especially John Tay!

Within a few days 82 Pitcairners were baptized, and the Adventist Church was established on Pitcairn. Just 100 years after the mutineers had stepped onto Pitcairn Island, virtually the entire population of Pitcairn Island had become Adventists.

Our mission offerings continue to reach around the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, just as they did 100 years ago. 

\* Children's names are fictional, as records of individual donors were not kept.

<sup>†</sup> A little more than US\$3.50 today. For comparison, in 1886 a loaf of bread sold for less than five cents.

<sup>‡</sup> The final cost of the ship, including furnishings and a pump organ, came to about \$19,000.

# God's Healing Hands



INDONESIA | April 14

**Dr. Eddie Antou**

"His tonsils are infected," she said. "The doctor will help him feel better."

The doctor greeted Paku with a smile. Then he looked into Paku's mouth. "Those are really swollen tonsils you have, Paku. I bet your throat hurts a lot." The doctor turned to Ana and said, "I'll order some pills that will help Paku feel better. But his tonsils need to come out, or he will keep getting infections. Can you come to the hospital in Manado in three weeks?"

Ana's face twisted. "Doctor, I can't pay for—I-I don't—."

"Don't worry," the doctor said. "Just bring Paku to the hospital. Once those tonsils are out, he'll feel a lot better."

Ana left the clinic marveling that these doctors and nurses had treated her son and given her medicine without asking for money. For the first time in months she felt hopeful.

## Manado Adventist Hospital

Manado Adventist Hospital has grown from a medical clinic to a highly respected 95-bed hospital in just four years. Quality care and a staff dedicated to being God's hands and heart have led a number of former patients to ask to know more about Adventists. Nurses and doctors pray with patients when they are permitted, and the chaplain visits every patient daily. "Prayer

**T**he line of villagers shuffled slowly toward the village hall. Ana's son, Paku, moaned in his half-sleep as Ana shifted him in her arms. Paku often was sick, and Ana hoped that the doctors and nurses who had come to her village could help him.

At the front of the line a smiling woman asked Ana a few questions and wrote Paku's name on a paper. She directed Ana to some chairs inside the building. Ana sat down and nestled her son's head against her shoulder.

A nurse squatted in front of Ana. "Is this Paku?" she asked. "I need to take his temperature." Ana nodded, and the nurse slid the thermometer into the boy's mouth.

"He has fevers and sore throats," Ana said.

"May I look at his throat?" the nurse asked. Ana urged Paku to open his mouth.

is an intimate part of our ministry,” says Dr. Antou, director of the hospital. “We pray over every patient in Jesus’ name, every decision, every treatment we perform. And most patients appreciate that.”

## Close to Home

Even staff members are blessed by the hospital’s caring mission. Corry came to Manado Adventist Hospital asking for a job. She had worked overseas as a housekeeper to support her family until she learned that her husband had given the couple’s children to her mother and had spent the money she’d sent on gambling and alcohol. Corry wasn’t an Adventist, but she was a dedicated Christian. She applied for work and was hired.

“I feel a sense of peace here,” she says. “The workers have a joy I had not seen before. The chaplain often stops to chat. I have been a Christian and a student of the Bible for years, so I enjoyed these conversations. I began to learn what Adventists believe, and during a Week of Prayer held at the hospital I asked to join the Adventist Church.”

Corry loves working at the hospital. “I could get a better-paying job elsewhere,” she says. “But I love working here. Although my job is lowly, I’m treated as a daughter of the King.”

## Effective Outreach

Paku and his mother arrived at the hospital, and Paku’s surgery went well. Before Paku and Ana returned home, Ana found Dr. Antou and thanked him for helping her son have a better life.

The hospital’s charity clinics have proven to be an effective outreach. Twice a month hospital staff members volunteer a day to hold a free medical clinic in a

## Fast Facts

- Indonesia is a country made up of thousands of islands stretching along both sides of the equator from the Indian Ocean in the west to the Pacific Ocean in the east.
- More than 80 percent of the people living in Indonesia are Muslim, making Indonesia the world’s largest Muslim country.
- Several Adventist hospitals serve population areas across Indonesia. In addition, hundreds of simple medical clinics serve the needs of people in more isolated areas.
- For more on this and other Thirteenth Sabbath projects this quarter, see the Adventist Mission DVD.

town or village outside the city. They offer health talks, provide medical screenings, dental, eye, and medical check-ups, and treat common medical problems. If a client, such as little Paku, has a medical problem that the staff cannot treat on site, they are invited to receive the treatment at little or no cost in the hospital.

These medical clinics open doors for outreach efforts in the area. In three years some 360 people have been baptized as a result of the outreach sponsored by the Adventist hospital. Reaching out to the community and being Christ’s hands of healing and love have helped make Manado Adventist Hospital a lighthouse in Indonesia. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help extend the hospital’s care to thousands more who need physical healing and Christ’s love in their lives. 

# A Crowd of Witnesses



WESTERN INDONESIA | April 21

## Manado Adventist Hospital

Adventist hospital. He said that Haji had told him about the Adventist hospital. Abdul needed surgery. When Chaplain Ferdy introduced himself to Abdul, the man smiled. “Haji told me you’d come,” he said. Ferdy asked permission to pray with Abdul, and the man eagerly agreed.

One day when Chaplain Ferdy entered Abdul’s room he found several family members visiting. Abdul greeted the chaplain and said, “Don’t talk—just pray. I want my family to know that Isa—Jesus—has power to heal.”

Abdul’s surgery was successful, and he was able to leave the hospital on his way to health. A few days later he called the chaplain and announced that already he was back in the office and working. “It was your prayers,” Abdul said, “and the healing power of Isa.”

### Dirk

Dirk scowled when the chaplain visited him in his hospital room. When Ferdy asked permission to pray for him, Dirk resisted. “Pray for my wife, but not for me.” When Ferdy asked Dirk about his religious beliefs, he responded, “I have no religion.”

Every day Ferdy visited Dirk; he prayed for Dirk’s family, but Dirk refused to allow him to pray for him. Ferdy talked with Dirk’s wife, Emily, and learned that she was a Christian but that Dirk was

Haji\* [HAH-jee] had money. He could go to any hospital that he wanted for treatment. He chose the Adventist hospital in Manado, Indonesia.

Every day Chaplain Ferdy prayed with Haji. When Haji left the hospital, he told the chaplain, “I’m impressed that the nurses always prayed with me when they gave me my medicines. And I didn’t have to worry about being given unclean meat since the hospital serves only vegetarian food. In fact, I’m learning to like vegetarian food!” He paused a moment, and then added, “I’ve never been prayed for before. I appreciate your prayers for me. When I get home, I’ll tell the people about this hospital!”

And Haji did tell others.

### Abdul

A few months later Abdul came to the

an atheist. Ferdy prayed that God would touch Dirk's heart.

After Dirk was released from the hospital, he stayed with his wife's family while he recovered. With time on his hands he began reading the Bible. One day he told his brother-in-law, "You should read this Book and follow it!"

When Dirk had recovered enough, he and Emily flew home to Europe. One day several months later, Dirk called his brother-in-law and told him, "I've become an Adventist! I'm following God. Now it's your turn."

## Thomas

When Thomas was admitted to the hospital, the chaplain visited him. He learned that Thomas was a leader in a Protestant church. Thomas welcomed the chaplain's visits, Bible promises, and prayer. One day Thomas asked Ferdy for Bible texts about the Sabbath. Ferdy hadn't mentioned the Sabbath to

## Mission Post

- The Manado Adventist Hospital began as a medical clinic several years ago and quickly grew. It became a full-fledged hospital in 2008. Its up-to-date facilities and caring, praying staff set it apart from other medical facilities in the area.
- Because the hospital serves only vegetarian food, Muslims, who follow similar health laws as Adventists, come to this hospital for treatment, for they know they will receive food that meets their dietary needs.
- See how this hospital is sharing God's love. Watch this quarter's Adventist Mission DVD.

Thomas, but he gladly wrote down several Bible texts that spoke about the Sabbath.

Thomas mentioned that his home was near an Adventist church, so he knew that Adventists were honest-hearted believers who worship on Sabbath. But he had never been to a worship service. He added that every time Adventists held evangelistic meetings, his own church held meetings, so he couldn't go. "But I want to know about the Sabbath while I have the chance," Thomas said.

Ferdy explained the beauty of spending a full day with God once a week. "Pray for us," Thomas asked as he left the hospital to return home. "We'd like to keep the Sabbath, but it will be difficult for us."

## More Hungry Souls

In addition to serving patients who come to the hospital, the hospital staff reaches out to towns and villages for miles around through free medical clinics that are tied into evangelistic efforts being planned in the same areas.

"The hospital provides wonderful opportunities to minister to people we wouldn't otherwise meet," Chaplain Ferdy says. "It's a powerful way to introduce others to God's plan of salvation and the beautiful message we love."

This quarter part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help fund outreach clinics sponsored by the Manado Adventist Hospital to towns and villages in eastern Indonesia. Your mission offerings and your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will make a difference in thousands of lives. 

---

\* Names have been changed  
Ferdy Malomda is chaplain Manado Adventist Hospital.

# The Little Literature Evangelist



INDONESIA | April 28

## Cecilia

**C**ecilia is just 11 years old, but she's an experienced literature evangelist.

Cecilia lives with her father and her younger sister in Manado, Indonesia. When she was 8 years old, her friend Christy invited her to become a literature evangelist. "What's a literature evangelist?" Cecilia asked.

"It's someone who sells Christian magazines and books to people so they will learn about Jesus," Christy said.

Cecilia loved telling others about God, so the idea of selling books to share God's love appealed to her. Cecilia asked Christy to explain to her father what she does. Father saw Cecilia's determination and eventually agreed to let her become a literature evangelist.

### A Budding Evangelist

Christy took Cecilia to a government

office building, where Cecilia watched as Christy talked to the people. "This book is about God and how He works in people's lives," Christy said. "And this one is about Jesus' great sermon on the mountain. I also have books on health and other spiritual books." Christy took orders for several books and promised to bring them the following week.

Next it was Cecilia's turn to talk to the people. Eagerly she told some people about the wonderful books the girls were selling. One afternoon as the girls collected money for the books they were delivering, Cecilia had an idea. *Maybe I can sell enough books to help pay my tuition to the Adventist school!* Cecilia's father couldn't afford to send his daughters to the Adventist school. Perhaps Cecilia could earn the money and attend the Adventist school after all. Cecilia began saving her money toward her next year's school fees.

### A Special Customer

Christy's brother began working with Cecilia. One afternoon the two met after school and prayed about where they should go to sell books that day. They started walking down the street and soon passed a soft-drink company. "Let's try this business," Cecilia said. The two walked

inside and saw a security guard standing near the entrance.

The children greeted the security guard and explained who they were and what they wanted to do. "We're on school holiday and are selling books to help pay our school tuition," Cecilia said. "Do you have a few minutes to let us show you our books?" The children hoped that the guard would allow them to talk to a few people before sending them on their way.

The security guard told the children, "The company owner is in. Wait here while I get him." The children were surprised and a little afraid to meet the owner of the company, but the security guard had hurried away, so they waited.

## The Big Surprise

A few minutes later the company's owner appeared and greeted the children. He listened as they talked to him about God's love and the books they were selling. They explained that they were earning money to help pay their school tuition.

"Where do you go to school?" the company's owner asked. Cecilia's friend told the man that he attended the Adventist school, and Cecilia named the school she was attending.

## Fast Facts

- Half the population of Indonesia live in cities; the other half live in more rural areas. Because much of Indonesia is the result of volcanic activity, land is fertile and crops grow easily.
- For more on the Adventist work in Manado and across the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, watch this quarter's Adventist Mission DVD.

"Why don't you study at the Adventist school too?" the man asked Cecilia.

"My father can't afford to send me," Cecilia said simply. "But I'm saving my money, and maybe by next year I'll have enough to enroll at the Adventist school."

The man looked into Cecilia's eyes and saw her sincerity. Then he asked a surprising question. "If I pay your school fees, would your father let you study at the Adventist school?"

Cecilia's eyes grew large. "Oh, yes!" she said.

"Then ask your father to come and see me this Friday," he said, smiling. Cecilia was so excited that she couldn't speak, so she hugged the man.

## A Double Surprise

The children thanked the man and left the building, completely forgetting about selling more books. That evening Cecilia told her father the good news. On Friday Father went to the soft-drink company to meet the man who had offered to pay Cecilia's tuition. When the man learned that Cecilia had a younger sister, he offered to pay her tuition as well.

"Just imagine," Cecilia says. "I was selling books to earn my tuition, and God sent someone to pay my tuition and my sister's!"

Cecilia still sells books, even though she doesn't need the money to pay her school fees. "I just want to find more people who need to know about Jesus," she says.

This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help expand the outreach of the Adventist hospital in Manado, Indonesia. In just a few years hundreds have accepted God's message of love and salvation through the medical efforts of the hospital staff. 

# Mission Outside the Walls



INDONESIA | May 5

Rudy Sitepu

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

I'm Rudy, and I love sharing God's love with others. One day a member of my church asked me to help her. "My neighbor wants to know who Adventists are, but I'm not sure how to tell him. Can you come and talk to him?"

I agreed to go with the woman to talk to her neighbor. We made our way toward the village. Although it's not far from Medan, a major city in western Indonesia, most of the people are poor farmers. They don't have access to education or health care. Most of them worship spirits. I want to teach them how to live better through simple health habits. But even more, I want to tell them about Jesus.

We found Mardan, the woman's neighbor, out in his field. He watched suspiciously as we approached. "People

in the village hate Mardan because he threatens to curse them unless they give him money," my friend whispered. "He's probably surprised to see us here."

When we introduced ourselves, Mardan relaxed. We chatted for a few minutes and asked if we could visit him the following week. He agreed. Then I invited him to church on Sabbath. He frowned. "I don't have any nice clothes," he said.

"You just come," I said. "You'll be welcome." He came, and the church members welcomed him.

On Tuesday we visited Mardan in his humble home. The family lived in a poorly constructed house with a dirt floor and no electricity. His son had broken his leg, but without proper medical attention it had not healed properly. We began teaching the family about simple health practices that could improve their lives.

When it grew late, we promised to return the following week to share more. "May I invite others?" Mardan asked. We encouraged him to invite anyone he wished.

The next week many others came, eager to learn how to live healthier, more meaningful lives. Word spread that we were teaching about health and about God, and even more people asked to come. We divided into three small groups so everyone could learn.

After meeting together for several months, we held public meetings in the village center. After the meetings 24 people asked to be baptized.

## From Fear to Faith

Residents of nearby villages heard about the small-group meetings and asked us to come and teach them. Their urgent plea surprised us until we learned that people were dying under strange circumstances. They believed that someone in their village would die next.

When we arrived to hold a meeting, the host's house was crowded. We met with the people for a week and then formed a small group of about 20 persons. No one in this village died that week, but the next week someone in a neighboring village died.

People living in two nearby villages begged for us to come and hold nights of prayer and Bible study to prevent the death of someone in their village. We agreed, and we began meeting weekly with people in each of these villages. We were running out of nights to meet with people!

Two months later we held evangelistic meetings in a central location and baptized nine more people. The villagers formed several small groups to meet and study the Bible.

## Charity Clinics

The Adventist hospital holds as many as 30 charity clinics a year. Often these are held in connection with evangelism. We teach simple health practices such as teaching children how to brush their teeth, wash their hands, and bathe to prevent illness. Adults learn how a clean house and healthful food help keep a family healthy. After the seminars volunteers from the hospital offer medical

## Fast Facts

- Medan is a large city in northern Sumatra, an island in western Indonesia. More than 90 percent of the people living in the region follow the religion called Islam. It's hard to talk to these people about Jesus, but they do appreciate the health message that Adventists teach, and that opens a door to sharing God's love with them.
- The hospital needs modern medical equipment to serve the people of Medan and the surrounding area. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide medical equipment so that this mission hospital can serve the people in Medan.

and dental services and refer those in need of further medical care to the hospital.

We now have 33 members in this cluster of villages. This area is mostly non-Christian, with less than one Adventist for every 10,000 people. So we are grateful for each person who gives their life to Christ. We're building a simple church in the central village that will serve this cluster of villages.

As local Adventists learn how effective health evangelism can be, they become excited to share in the work and the ministry of being God's hands to people who have never met Him before.

This quarter part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide urgently needed medical equipment to upgrade the services offered at the Adventist hospital in Medan and expand the work in the villages and towns nearby. 

---

*Rudy Sitepu is vice president for medical services at Medan Adventist Hospital in Medan, Indonesia.*



# The Headhunter

Daniel and family

*[This story originally appeared in 2002.]*

*Cannibalism is not dead. The practice of killing—and devouring—enemies sometimes raises its ugly head even today, even among what appear to be peaceful people.*

Daniel is a Dayak, the main tribal group on the island of Borneo, in Indonesia. Daniel had been baptized as an infant, but Christianity had not changed him. He often spent his earnings on alcohol. One day after he had been drinking, Daniel got into an argument with his wife. He picked up the Bible and challenged God and her, saying, “If this Bible is really God’s Word, then let God show me the right path, and I will follow it.”

## An Old Friend

Several days later Daniel met an old friend, Jaki [JAH-kee]. The two men had once been members of a gang, but Jaki had changed. When Daniel offered him some wine, Jaki asked for water instead. “What has gotten into you?” Daniel asked.

Jaki explained that he had accepted Jesus as his personal Savior. Jaki challenged Daniel. “If you really want to follow God, then go with me to the

Adventist church.” Daniel was startled, for Jaki’s words mirrored Daniel’s challenge to God just a few days earlier.

Daniel began attending church with Jaki. He invited his wife to go with him, but she refused. “I want to stay in my church,” she told him. Eventually, however, Daniel’s wife agreed to go to church with him.

## War

A few months later war erupted between the Dayaks and the Madurese [mah-door-EEZ], another tribe living in the area. Over the years the tribes had experienced sporadic fighting and made several treaties. But the fighting had broken out again.

At first Daniel protected some Madurese in his home so they would not be killed. But when his uncle was killed, Daniel went crazy with anger. He sent the people he had been protecting out of his home and went to join the Dayak men who were

preparing to fight the Madurese.

But before the Dayak warriors would fight, they visited the house of the ancestor spirits to ask for advice. Should they go to war? The spirits' answer came: "Go to war." Armed with assurance, Daniel and the other warriors took up their primitive knives and wooden shields and set out to fight their enemies.

For three weeks the Dayak warriors fought under the influence of the spirits. They ate nothing but the flesh of their enemies.

## A Different Man

When the fighting ended, Daniel returned home. He was no longer the loving man his family had known. He was restless, and often his eyes glazed over. She realized that he was possessed by a demon, and feared that the spirits that had possessed him to kill strangers would turn on her and the children. She prayed that God would free her husband from the demon spirits and bring peace to their home.

Daniel knew that something was wrong.

## Mission Post

- The Dayak people live throughout the island of Borneo. Before their conversion to Christianity or Islam, Dayaks were known for their head-hunting practices and their animism, including worship of ancestors and spirits.
- In Kalimantan, the Indonesian portion of the island of Borneo, the Adventist Church has about 8,000 members, or one out of every 1,600 people. Global Mission pioneers form a major outreach force in this area.

The weight of his deeds wore him down. He felt that he was cursed by God. Daniel's wife urged him to go to church, and he tried. But he had no peace in his heart. Day and night he wrestled with his guilt. He wondered how God could ever forgive him for what he had done. "Heaven is not mine anymore," he moaned.

The pastor visited him and heard Daniel's confession. "You must confess to the church and to God," he said.

"Pastor," Daniel replied, "I've asked God many times to forgive me. But the weight on my heart grows heavier. I want to know that I am forgiven." Daniel took the pastor's advice and confessed his sin to the church and to individuals whom he had wronged. He asked those he had harmed to forgive him. Then he asked the pastor to baptize him.

## Redeeming the Time

Daniel offered his life to God to bring hope where once he brought death. "If it is Your will, God, I am willing to work among the people whom I persecuted," he prayed. Today his sword is the Bible, and his shield is his faith in God. He is working as a Global Mission pioneer, planting a church among his own people in an area not far from where he once lived. In the first six months of his work seven people were baptized and 20 more are preparing for baptism.

Your mission offerings travel to the darkest jungles and the largest cities to lead people to Jesus. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of millions around the world through your mission offerings. ☸

---

*Daniel Batuah lives and works for God in a village near Pontianak, Kalimantan, on the western coast of Borneo.*

# Meeting the Loving God

Kay Kay Zin



*[Ask a teenage girl to present this first-person report.]*

I sat cross-legged on my bed. My stomach ached with fear. How could my father leave my mother, my little sister, and me? How would we manage? My mother's worried face told me that she didn't know the answers to my questions either.

"Kay Kay, I must talk to you," Mother said. Obediently I went to her.

"Kay Kay, with Father gone I must earn money to support you and your sister. But there are no jobs here. I must go away to find work." Mother's eyes glistened with unshed tears, but her face remained steadfast.

"No, Mama," I begged. "Please don't go!" Sobs threatened to overwhelm me.

Mother continued speaking as if I hadn't spoken. "Little Ee will go live with your aunt, and you can stay with the Adventist pastor and his family. They will give you a home and help you attend the Adventist school."

I tried to speak, but my words found no voice.

"You will like living with the pastor and his family," Mother continued. I knew the pastor, and I liked his family. But I couldn't bear the thought of losing my mother and my baby sister, Ee. Tears slid down my cheeks.

## Happier Times

I sat on my bed thinking about happier times. The memory of children's voices singing sweet songs about Jesus floated through my mind. Several months earlier I'd heard those voices coming from a nearby church, and the music drew me in. When some friends had invited me to attend the worship service in the little church, I'd agreed.

I'd enjoyed learning the songs and hearing the Bible stories for the first time. I'd learned that Jesus is a living and a loving God. I'd invited Him to live in my life. Now I hoped that His love would go with my family while we were apart.

## New Home, New Future

I settled into my new home and enrolled at Yangon Adventist Seminary, the church's 12-grade school. I enjoyed the

school and the warm atmosphere there. The teachers were so kind to us! I missed my mother and my little sister, but I enjoyed living with the pastor's large and noisy family.

When my sister was old enough to go to school, the pastor asked my aunt to allow her to live with him and attend the Adventist school with me. My aunt agreed, and I was overjoyed! At last we could be together again as sisters!

The more I learned about God, the more sure I was that I wanted to follow Jesus all of my life. One day I asked the pastor to baptize me. His face beamed with happiness! I felt so loved. When I told my mother of my decision, she said she was glad, though she couldn't come back to Myanmar for my baptism.

I love singing and worshipping God at school and in church. I feel at home with God's people. His love warms my heart.

## Hope Amid Uncertainty

Last year my aunt came to see the pastor with whom Ee and I have lived. My auntie asked us to return to her home and live with her. Reluctantly we agreed. She is not an Adventist, and she doesn't like it when I want to go to church. Sometimes she allows me to go just for Sabbath School, then I must hurry home. But I'm glad that Ee and I are together and that I can help my little sister learn about God.

My aunt and uncle don't have much money, and it's difficult for her to support my sister and me. My mother has sent money when she can, but she isn't well and may not be able to work overseas much longer.

The tragedy that tore my family apart when I was 10 years old has resulted

## Fast Facts

- Yangon is Myanmar's largest city, with more than 4 million inhabitants.
- The official language is Burmese, but large segments of the population speak other languages, most notably the Karen [kah-REHN] people, who speak Karen.
- The vast majority of people living in Myanmar (more than 80 percent) follow Buddhism; about 12 percent follow traditional beliefs such as ancestor or idol worship, and about 6 percent are Christians, mostly Protestants. Fewer than 30,000 Adventists live in Myanmar, a ratio of one Adventist for about every 1,800 people.
- See this quarter's Adventist Mission DVD for more on Myanmar.

in many blessings for me. Because the Adventist pastor and his family took me in, I have received a Christian education. And now my younger sister is learning about God as she studies at the Adventist school.

## Dream Deferred

My dream is to become a teacher like the wonderful teachers I've had at Yangon Adventist Seminary. I love working with children, and I want to make a difference in their lives. I want to help them learn about Jesus as I have.

Our school is very crowded, and hundreds more children want to study there. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help expand Yangon Adventist Seminary so that many more children can learn to love and serve God and become good citizens of our nation. Thank you for helping our school grow and serve others. 



# A School for Edel

## Edel

public schools favored the dominant non-Christian religion.

Mother knew of some private schools in the city, but they were not religious schools. She wanted Edel and his younger brother and sister to get a Christian education and learn the values taught in the Bible. *Please, God, tell me where I can send my children to school.*

## The Students

A few days later Mother was on her way to the market when she saw some students waiting for a school bus. They weren't wearing the school uniform for the public school. Mother stopped to talk to the children. "Where do you go to school?" Mother asked them.

"We go to Yangon Adventist Seminary," one of the older girls said. Mother had never heard of Yangon Adventist Seminary and asked what kind of school it was. "It's a Christian school," the girl answered politely.

"A Christian school—in the city?" Mother asked with excitement in her voice. "May I see your textbooks?" The girl opened her backpack and pulled out her textbooks for Mother to see. One textbook caught her attention. It was a Bible textbook. Mother flipped through the pages and smiled. "Do you have the school's telephone number?" she asked the girl. The girl recited the

**E**del walked home from school looking as if he had lost a friend. "What's wrong?" Mother asked.

"Teacher gave me a failing grade today," he said, his voice wavering. "She saw that I didn't bow to the idol when the other children did. And she told me I must bring the offering for the idol to school." Tears clouded the boy's eyes.

"Son, I've explained to you that we give our offerings to Jesus. The money your teacher demands that you bring buys flowers for the idol and robes for the boys to wear when they want to become monks."

Edel nodded. He understood. But he hated it when his teacher reminded him that he hadn't brought his offering.

## Mother's Prayers

*God, what can I do?* Mother prayed. Edel's family was Christian, and Christians are a small minority in the country of Myanmar [MEE-ehn-mahr, also called Burma]. Long ago the government had closed all Christian schools. And the

## Mission Post

- Yangon Adventist Seminary is the Adventist Church's only kindergarten-to-twelfth-grade school in Myanmar. It was built to accommodate about 100 students, but today houses 450. Classes are crowded, and teachers work hard to maintain a high standard of education at the school.
- In spite of the school's challenges, many parents are waiting for an opportunity to enroll their children in the school. Even many Buddhist parents want their children to study in the Adventist school.
- Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a large addition onto the school to accommodate the growing enrollment.

school's telephone number while Edel's mother jotted it down. Mother thanked the children and hurried on toward the market. *A Christian school!* She thought, hardly able to keep her excitement in check.

When Mother returned from the market she called the number the girl had given her and spoke to the principal, who answered her questions about the school. Mother arranged to visit the campus that week. When she arrived at the school, she realized that it was located far from their home. But then she remembered that the children she had met were waiting for a school bus. *Perhaps we can send Edel on the same bus,* she thought.

Mother met the school principal and walked with him through the school. It was smaller than she had imagined, and the classrooms seemed crowded. But she noticed how attentive the teachers were and how disciplined the children

seemed to be. *This is the school for my children!* Mother thought. And then she remembered how expensive other private schools in the city were. She asked about tuition costs and was surprised that it was so affordable.

That night Mother told Father of her discovery. He agreed that Edel should enroll in the Adventist school for the next school year.

### Edel's New School

When the new school year started, Edel and his younger sister, Blessing, were ready. Mother went with them on the school bus the first day to be sure they knew their way. That afternoon Mother waited at the bus stop for her children's arrival. When the bus rounded the corner and stopped, Edel jumped off and ran to his mother. "How was school?" she asked.

"It was great!" he said, smiling. "I love my teacher! We prayed to Jesus instead of an idol, and we had a Bible lesson, and I learned some new songs about Jesus!"

Edel and his sister have blossomed at the Yangon Adventist Seminary, where they're learning leadership skills and Christian principles that match what their parents are teaching them at home.

Mother has told many of her neighbors about Yangon Adventist Seminary, and several are sending their children to the school now. The school has grown to more than 450 students and is quite crowded. But more families want their children to study there, for Jesus is the heart of everything.

This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help enlarge Yangon Adventist Seminary so that more children can prepare for a bright future with a solid Christian education. 

# Someone Who Loves Me



MYANMAR | June 2

Naw Zar Mon

make new friends in a new place.

She paused to stretch as she emptied boxes in their new home. Her eyes fell on a picture the previous tenants had left hanging on the wall. She had been told it was a picture of Jesus, the God of Christians. Although Naw Zar Mon wasn't a Christian, she felt drawn to the picture. She stepped closer and studied the Man's face. Was that love she saw in His eyes? she wondered. Every day she looked at the picture. *Surely the Christians' God is loving*, she thought.

When she learned her neighbor, U Chin, was a Christian, Naw Zar Mon asked him, "Is the Christian God loving?"

"Oh, yes!" U Chin said. "He is a loving God!" U Chin opened a Bible to Psalm 23. "Read this," he said. "This is what God is like."

Naw Zar Mon's eyes moved over the comforting words. "The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, . . . Surely your goodness and love will follow me" (NIV).

"Please keep the Bible," U Chin said. "Read it for yourself." As Naw Zar Mon read Psalm 23 over and over, she found herself drawn to Jesus, the kind shepherd. *Jesus is the someone who loves me*, she thought. Naw Zar Mon stopped bowing to the images in her home. When her husband understood her desire to worship

**N**aw Zar Mon knocked at the door of the tiny house and waited as the fortune teller opened the creaky door. With a nod the man invited her in. She sat down at the table and waited for the man to look into her future.

The man wrinkled his eyes and told her, "Someone cares for you."

"Who?" Naw Zar Mon asked urgently, leaning toward the man.

"I don't know the person," he said thoughtfully, "but I see the love."

As Naw Zar Mon returned home, loneliness seemed lighter. "Whoever you are," she whispered to the unknown someone who loved her, "please look after me."

## The Picture on the Wall

Naw Zar Mon's husband serves in the military, and they move frequently. Naw Zar Mon hated moving. She hated saying goodbye and having to

only Jesus, he removed the images from their home.

## Opposition and Welcome

But not everyone was sympathetic toward Naw Zar Mon's desire to follow Jesus. When her husband was assigned to a dangerous post, he urged her to take their children and go live with her parents in the capital city. Her parents welcomed her until they learned that she was worshipping God rather than their gods. They sent her away.

She went to live with her husband's parents, but her father-in-law refused to allow the Bible in his home.

Naw Zar Mon found an empty house and asked about the owners. "They are worshipping in the house church over there," a neighbor said, pointing to a nearby building. Naw Zar Mon was puzzled, for it was Saturday. *Don't Christians worship God on Sunday?* she wondered. But she returned later and rented the house.

She began attending the house church near her new home. There Jesus became very special to Naw Zar Mon. The more she studied the Bible, the sweeter God's love became.

When Naw Zar Mon's husband was reassigned to a new base, she and their children joined him. He welcomed his family back and supported Naw Zar Mon's faith. But life on the military base was difficult. When Naw Zar Mon was told to work on Sabbath, she refused to give up her faith. "I must leave again," Naw Zar Mon told her husband, tears glistening in her eyes.

Naw Zar Mon's husband took his family to her parents, but when they learned that she still followed Christ, they told her to

## Fast Facts

- Myanmar is a country in southeastern Asia. It shares its borders with India, Bangladesh, China, Laos, Thailand, and the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. Its commercial capital and largest city is Yangon, which lies in the southern mainland of the country.
- Myanmar is rich in wildlife. Jungle animals such as the tiger, leopard, elephant, water buffalo, rhinoceros, gibbon (a monkey), and several species of deer and antelope still roam the highlands. Elephants are still tamed and used for heavy work.

leave. Her husband's family agreed to take her two sons, but not her or her daughter.

## Homeless but not Hopeless

For months Naw Zar Mon was virtually homeless in the city. She could sleep in her in-laws' home only when her husband was present. But her faith continued to grow.

Today Naw Zar Mon and her children stay in a single room at the Adventist school. Naw Zar Mon hopes to complete her high school education and provide a Christian education for her children as well.

"I've found the Someone who loves me, and I'm not willing to let go of Him," Naw Zar Mon says. "It's difficult right now, but I want my children to know that they can trust God's love to sustain them, just as I have."

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help enlarge Yangon Adventist Seminary, the church's primary and secondary school in Yangon, Myanmar. Then even more students can experience God's incredible love. 

# Burma's Pure Gold



MYANMAR | June 9

## Burma Gold

Aye May's mother agreed to let Aye May study at the Adventist school.

### Unexpected Opposition

At school Aye May learned more about God and gave her heart to Jesus. When she returned home, she eagerly told her family what she had learned at school. But her relatives were not happy to learn that Aye May was following the Christian God. They tried to convince her to give up her new beliefs, but Aye May refused. Even some of the villagers opposed her new beliefs. When it came time to return to school, her uncle threatened her. "If you return to that mission school, I will kill you!" he said.

### Shining Light

Aye May turned to her mother for support, but her mother feared her relatives and dared not oppose them. So she forbade Aye May to return to the mission school. Mother wasn't sure that the teachings at the mission school were such a good influence on Aye May. So Aye May was forced to stay home from school.

Throughout the year Aye May tried to be true to what she had learned at the mission school. She prayed and hoped that her relatives would allow her to return to the mission school for the next year.

The months passed, and soon it was time for another school year to begin. Aye

*[This story originally appeared in the April 1933 edition of Mission.]*

Aye May lived in a village in Burma, now called Myanmar. When Adventist missionaries held meetings in this village, Aye May attended. One thing they talked about was the evils of tobacco, betel nut [a narcotic seed that is chewed as a mild stimulant], and alcohol. The missionaries invited those who wanted to give up these habits—or never start them—to sign temperance pledges.

Aye May signed the temperance pledge. A lay member in the village saw her interest in spiritual matters and encouraged her to attend the Adventist mission school. He even offered to help pay her school fees. Aye May's father was dead, and her mother couldn't afford to send the children to a good school. So

May asked her mother for permission to return to the mission school. Then she added, "I'd like to take Cho Cho with me." Cho Cho was her little sister.

Mother replied, "One Seventh-day Adventist in the family is enough." But eventually Mother allowed Aye May and Cho Cho to go to the mission school. Still fearing their uncle, the two girls left secretly for the school.

The girls had no one to help with their school fees, so Aye May worked hard to pay their tuition and other expenses. God blessed her work and study, and both girls did well in school. They studied the Bible together, and before the school year ended the girls were baptized.

## Mother's Bad Habit

Aye May and Cho Cho invited their mother to visit the school, and she came. She was pleased with her daughters' progress and curious about the religion that had made such a difference in their lives. She attended church services and

even joined in some Bible studies. Before long she was convinced that her daughters had found the right path to truth. But she loved tobacco and refused to give it up.

Aye May and Cho Cho prayed for their mother, but as the Holy Spirit worked on her heart, Mother seemed to smoke more than ever.

One day Aye May went into her mother's room and found it filled with smoke. Her mother was puffing on a huge cigar! Aye May burst into tears and threw her arms around her mother, "Oh, Mother, Mother, can't you stop smoking?"

Tears streamed down Mother's cheeks as she struggled with her daughter's plea. After several minutes Mother cried out, "I am finished! I am done with tobacco!" Mother laid her cigar down, and with a big knife she chopped it into pieces. Then she threw it out. God gave Mother the victory. From that moment on, Mother never smoked again.

## Spreading the Good News

The next school year Aye May's two other sisters joined Aye May and Cho Cho at school. Within a few months Aye May watched as her mother and sisters were baptized.

Aye May's influence has extended beyond the family circle as others in her village became Adventists. And the old uncle who had threatened to kill Aye May even sent his daughter to the Adventist school.

Our mission offerings continue to reach people in Myanmar (Burma) and around the world with the gospel of Jesus. Your world mission offerings make a life-saving difference for thousands. ☩

## Mission Post

- More than 80 percent of Myanmar's population is Buddhist. Only a small percentage of the people in Myanmar are Christian, are Muslim, or follow traditional religions.
- Before 1966 Adventists operated schools in several parts of Burma, but all Christian and private schools were closed and turned over to the government. Many who made a decision to follow Christ were forced to flee the country during civil wars that spanned decades.
- Pray that the Christians remaining in Myanmar will continue to share their faith with others.

*When he wrote this story, J. F. Ashlock was acting Sabbath School secretary of the Southern Asia Division, to which Myanmar (then called Burma) belonged.*



# Light in the Darkness

**Paulraj and Maria**

**P**aulraj [Paul raj] stepped into the circle of migrant workers sitting under a streetlight in the city of Singapore. He reached into a bag and pulled out a bottle of juice for each person. Then he sat down among them, opened his bottle, and took a sip. It was time to worship God.

The men were tired and lonely. Most had traveled to Singapore from their homes in India to earn money to support their families. They hadn't come to the streetlight for the free juice. They thirsted after God.

## Mission by the Lamp Post

Since 2007 Paulraj has been a Global Mission pioneer working among the thousands of migrant workers in Singapore. Most live in huge dormitories that house 10,000 workers. Paulraj finds ways to befriend these people. He asks them about their lives, their families, their challenges.

One evening Paulraj strode down the street at dusk. The streetlights flickered on as the tropical evening darkened to night.

He noticed a man squatting near a lamp post reading a book. Paulraj slowed and stopped near the man. He squatted down beside him and saw that the man was reading a Bible. "May I share a verse from the Bible with you?" Paulraj asked quietly.

The man's eyes widened. He hesitated a moment before giving Paulraj the book. Paulraj turned to Isaiah 48:17 and read: "This is what the Lord says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: 'I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go'" (NIV).

Martin, the man squatting in the lamplight, looked at Paulraj. "I've never heard of God's commands before," he said. The two men talked briefly about God's commandments. Then Paulraj asked about Martin's family and any personal issues he faced. When the conversation seemed to end Paulraj stood to say goodnight and started toward home.

*Turn around, a voice said. Ask the man to pray with you.* Paulraj recognized God's voice. He retraced his steps and invited Martin to his home. Martin accepted the offer, and the men walked together to Paulraj's home for a cold drink and more conversation. Before the evening ended, the two men had prayed together.

## Mission Post

- Paulraj and his wife, Maria, are Global Mission pioneers serving in Singapore, a large city-state on the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula with a population of about 4.7 million people.
- About 1,200 Global Mission pioneers serve in 86 countries around the world. Some work in primitive areas while others, such as Paulraj and Maria, serve in modern urban regions. Pray for the Global Mission pioneers around the world.
- For more on this story see this quarter's Adventist Mission DVD.

Paulraj visited Martin often after that, and eventually Martin asked to be baptized into the Adventist family. He became Paulraj's first convert.

### Meeting People's Needs

The government of Singapore doesn't allow open evangelism among the migrant workers. So Paulraj makes friends for Christ through English and computer classes, health services, and family counseling. He even celebrates national holidays with the workers.

"Why do you do this?" some workers ask. "Because God loves you and so do I," Paulraj answers simply.

Now he can hold programs on Saturday nights outside the large dormitories. He includes short morals-based videos, singing, and even prayer. The workers often stop and listen or take part.

### "I Must Go Back"

One man named Sankar noticed a group of people praying as he walked past one day. He stopped and watched for a few minutes. When Paulraj saw him he waved

an invitation to join the group. Sankar stepped closer and was drawn into the friendly conversation.

Sankar returned the next week, and Paulraj engaged him in conversation. He didn't preach to him, but asked questions that showed he cared. Sankar continued attending the meetings and gave his life to Jesus.

Then Sankar was seriously injured in an accident that killed two other men. Paulraj visited Sankar in the hospital. Sankar's eyes deepened in intensity as he told Paulraj, "I must go back to India and share what I've learned about God's love with my people there."

Sankar has returned to his homeland, where he's studying to prepare himself to spread the gospel.

### Sharing the Vision

"Among the migrant workers in Singapore there are workers from almost every city and town in India," Paulraj says. "If we can lead them to Christ, imagine what they will do when they return to their homeland!" Paulraj has begun training converts for just such a ministry.

Paulraj praises God that more than 50 migrant workers are among those who have given their lives to Christ through his ministry. They meet in small groups in his home and even under streetlights, singing, studying the Bible, and praying for one another. "I'll do anything I can to introduce someone to Jesus," he says.

Our missions offerings help establish churches around the world through the work of more than 1,200 Global Mission pioneers such as Paulraj and his wife. ☩

---

*Paulraj Masillamony and his wife, Maria Jeeva, are a Global Mission pioneer team working among the Indian people in Singapore.*

# A Gift of Love



CHILDREN'S PROJECT | June 23

## Discovery

Mai saw a group of people sitting in the shade of a thatched building one day. They were listening to a man talking. The man held up a large picture, but Mai couldn't quite make it out. She slipped to the front of the gathering and sat down on the warm dirt. From there she could hear the man and see his picture.

Mai studied the picture. It was of a man dressed in a long robe and holding a lamb. The man looked so kind! *I wonder who he is*, she thought to herself. As she listened to the speaker, she realized that the man in the picture was called Jesus. Mai had never heard of Jesus before. The speaker told the people that Jesus is the Son of the living God, that He loves them and wants them to live with Him forever in a place called heaven.

The speaker told stories of how Jesus healed people just by touching them or speaking to them. As Mai listened to the man's stories, she wished she could meet this Jesus. But then the man said something that shocked Mai. "Jesus came to this world to show people what God is like. But some people didn't like what He said, and they had Jesus killed."

**M**ai [My] lives in a jungle village in a country in southeastern Asia. We can't say which country she lives in, but we can say that most of the people living there aren't Christians, and many have never heard of Jesus. They worship idols in temples, touching their heads to the ground when they kneel to pray. They place gifts of flowers and food and sweet-smelling incense before their special gods in the temple.

The country has some Christians and several thousand Adventists. Some worship in churches, as we do, and others worship in small groups that meet in houses in the countryside. The believers are very faithful and try never to miss a worship service. They are hungry to know more about God.

*Now I'll never get to meet Jesus!* Mai felt a lump of sadness in her throat.

## Hope

"But Jesus is God," the speaker continued, "and God cannot die. Jesus rose from the dead and walked the earth for many days, showing Himself to those who had believed in Him and followed Him. Then he returned to His Father in heaven. He's still there, sitting on a throne beside His Father, telling His Father how much He loves us—you and me and everyone! When we ask forgiveness for things we do that are bad, Jesus reminds His Father that He died for us. He wants us to live with Him forever in heaven. But to do that, we must allow Him to make us into a new person, pure and clean."

*A flame of hope glowed in Mai. I want to know more about Jesus! I want to be clean and live with Jesus forever.*

## A Gift of Love

When the meeting ended, Mai ran home to tell her mother what she had heard. "I want to know more about Jesus," she said with excitement bubbling over in her heart. "Please, may I go tomorrow and hear more about Jesus?"

Mai's mother said nothing for several minutes as she pounded grain into flour. But Mai knew that she was thinking. Mother was always silent when she was thinking. Then she said softly, "Yes, you may go. You're old enough to decide for yourself who shall be your God."

Mai murmured a thank-you and quietly walked away. She knew that her mother's permission was not easily granted.

The next day Mai returned to the shade tree where she had heard the man speak. Others gathered, but there were fewer than there had been the previous day. Mai listened carefully as the man held a book, the Bible, and talked more about Jesus and the Christian way. She returned every day for a week, drinking up the love that God was pouring out.

Mai wished she could read God's Word for herself, but she didn't know where she could get a Bible. Few people in her country have Bibles, and certainly few children. So Mai waits for an opportunity to read God's Word, to hold it in her hand.

This quarter the children are giving their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to help provide Bibles for children such as Mai, so they can learn about Jesus and share what they are learning with their parents and friends. Let's give a large offering on Thirteenth Sabbath so that Mai and many others in her country can learn that Jesus loves them. 

## Mission Post

- Children in many countries don't have access to a Bible and cannot read God's Word for themselves. This quarter in a country that we must not name, certain children will receive a Bible as part of their studies. They will be taught how to find the most important texts, and then they will be allowed to take the Bible home to study it with their parents. As the children share what they know about God, their parents may respond and want to know more as well.
- Our special children's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering goal is to buy thousands of Bibles for children in one country in southeastern Asia.

# Thirteenth Sabbath Program

➤	<b>Opening Song</b>	“Rise Up, O Church of God” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , no. 615
➤	<b>Welcome</b>	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher
➤	<b>Program</b>	“Lead Them to Jesus”
➤	<b>Offering</b>	
➤	<b>Closing Song</b>	“Lead Them, My God, to Thee” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , no. 653
➤	<b>Closing Prayer</b>	

**Participants:** Two narrators and a storyteller. [Speakers don't need to memorize their parts, but they should be familiar enough with the material to present it confidently.]

**Props:** A large map of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. (Scan the map on the back page of the quarterly or download the map from [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org) and project it onto a screen. Or draw a map on a large piece of paper.)

**Narrator 1:** The Southern Asia-Pacific Division is made up of 13 countries and several island federations. While some of these countries are open to the gospel and membership is strong, other countries present difficult challenges to the church. Today our focus lies on two countries, Indonesia and Myanmar, or Burma.

**Narrator 2:** Indonesia is a country made up of thousands of islands that stretch along the equator between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. These islands gave rise to hundreds of different cultures, each with its own history and religious practices.

Colonialism united most of the islands into the nation of Indonesia, and Islam

became the dominant religion. Today more than 80 percent of the people in Indonesia are Muslim. But others are Christians or follow traditional religions such as animism. This religious diversity creates challenges to reaching the people of Indonesia with the message of Christ.

The Adventist Church has 217,000 members in Indonesia, or one member for about every 1,100 people. One of the most effective ways to reach people in Indonesia is through medical facilities.

This quarter two Adventist hospitals in Indonesia will receive help to expand their services to their communities and beyond so that more people can come for medical care and receive spiritual care as well.

**Narrator 1:** The first of these hospitals is on the westernmost large island of Indonesia, Sumatra. [Point to Sumatra on the map.] The hospital began as a clinic in the city of Medan about 50 years ago and has grown into a hospital that serves people from the city and the surrounding region. One woman tells how the hospital's ministry changed her life.

**Storyteller:** Ida is a Christian, but she had never heard about Adventists until her husband, John, became seriously ill with liver failure. "I was really impressed with the staff," Ida said. "Dr. Supit [SOO-pit] came every day to pray for John." But John's liver was too damaged from alcohol to recover, and he died a few days later. Ida returned home alone and a widow.

Dr. Supit continued visiting Ida and encouraging her. Dr. Supit invited Ida to attend evangelistic meetings with him, and there she learned what it means to be a Seventh-day Adventist. As a result she asked to become an Adventist. "I thank God for sending Dr. Supit and the staff of the Adventist hospital into my life," Ida says.

Today Ida spends her days working as a volunteer at the Adventist hospital, where she has found a new family and a joyful ministry.

**Narrator 2:** Medan Adventist Hospital works hard for the people of northern Sumatra. But the hospital lacks needed medical equipment. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today will help provide medical equipment to help this hospital expand its ministry.

**Narrator 1:** On the eastern side of Indonesia lies the large city of Manado. [Locate Manado on the map.]

The Adventist hospital here has been operating for only four years and is making a big impact on people's lives. But besides treating patients who come to the hospital, volunteers go out to towns and villages to provide medical care for people who otherwise wouldn't get it.

**Narrator 2:** Last year more than 400 people gave their hearts to God through the work of the staffs of these two Adventist hospitals. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help expand and improve facilities at these hospitals so that even more people can experience God's healing touch and learn of His love.

**Narrator 1:** Myanmar (also called Burma) is the second-largest country in Southeast Asia. Nearly nine out of 10 people living in Burma is a Buddhist.

In 1976 a small Adventist school opened in the capital city as a seminary. It was designed to hold about 100 students, but today 450 students are enrolled. Every class is crowded, but parents still want to enroll their children in this school where teachers are kind and students learn to help one another. The children learn to love God and make Jesus their best friend. One of the parents tells us what the Adventist seminary means to her family.

**Storyteller:** I have two children, ages 8 and 10. They were not happy in school and sensed that their teachers treated children unfairly.

One day I met a neighbor who told me that her daughter studies at Yangon Adventist Seminary, a kindergarten-to-twelfth-grade school. She told me that the teachers treat the children with respect and strive to teach well so that children don't

need additional tutoring outside of class.

I learned that the school is operated by Adventists, who once operated a hospital in the city. I'm a nurse and remembered working with a team from Loma Linda University Medical Center who came to perform heart surgeries for those in need. I decided that if this school was operated by the same church that operated such a fine hospital, I wanted my children to study there.

Because we're Christians, I was glad to find a school that glorified God. I visited the school and decided to enroll my children there. We immediately noticed that our children were happier and at peace. They are more interested in their lessons, and they're no longer shy and afraid to speak in front of people.

I am impressed at how the teachers discipline children with love, and the children respond with willing obedience.

I like to see my children studying several

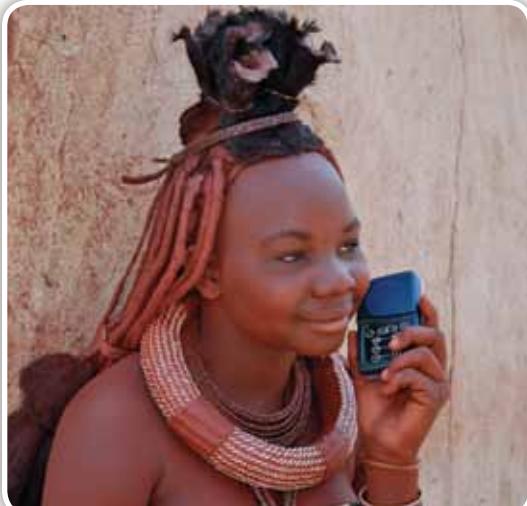
courses in English. I know that when they complete their high school education, they will qualify to study at a wide range of schools. I'm so glad that we found Yangon Adventist Seminary. It's made a world of difference for our children.

**Narrator 2:** Yangon Adventist Seminary needs to make room for its growing enrollment. But parents cannot afford to pay higher tuition in order to enlarge the school. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today will help Yangon Adventist Seminary build additional classrooms so that up to 700 children who want to study there can get a good Christian education.

**Narrator 1:** You've heard the challenges in Southern Asia-Pacific Division. Ask God what He would have you do to help our brothers and sisters there advance the gospel of Christ.

[Offering]

## Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects



Next quarter will feature the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the following projects:

- Zurcher University in Madagascar
- Himba people of northern Namibia
- Riverside School in South Africa
- A church and children's worship center in South Africa

Fourth quarter 2012 will feature the South American Division. Special projects will help west-central Brazil and northern Peru.

For more information on the cultures and history of Indonesia and Myanmar, visit your local library or a travel agency.

**Online Information.** The Adventist Mission website contains additional material that can add flavor to your mission presentation. Look for words and songs in Burmese and Karen (kah-REHN), languages of Myanmar, and Indonesian as well as recipes and other activities from the Adventist Mission site. Go to [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org). Click on “Resources” and “Children’s Activities” in the pop-up menu. Click on “fourth quarter” and select the activity you want.

An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Ask your Sabbath School council to set a quarterly mission offering goal (set the goal a little higher than last quarter and divide it by 14, one part for each of the 12 regular Sabbaths this quarter and two parts for Thirteenth Sabbath). Chart the weekly progress toward the quarter’s goal on the goal device.

To focus attention on the school in Myanmar, draw a large school building on posterboard. Photocopy silhouettes of children and place one around the building each week as the offering goal is reached.

Remind members that the ongoing work of the world church depends on Sabbath School mission giving every week, and that one quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in Southern Asia-Pacific Division. On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage members to double or triple their normal mission giving on Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School. This immediate feedback will encourage members to continue their mission giving.

#### EDITORIAL

Charlotte Ishkanian Editor

Alita Byrd Contributing Editor

Esther Lipscomb Contributing Editor

Hans Olson Managing Editor

Emily Harding Layout Editor

#### OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION

Gary Krause Director

Rick Kajlura Communication Director

Nancy Kyte Marketing Director

Rick McEdward Study Centers Director

Delbert Pearman Planning Director

#### COMMUNICATION

Laurie Falvo Projects Manager

Charlotte Ishkanian Mission Editor

Hans Olson Projects Manager

Ricky Oliveras Video Producer

Daniel Weber Video Producer

Website: [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org)

*Mission* (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2012 by the Office of Adventist Mission, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.

Printed in U.S.A.

Second Quarter 2012

Volume 101, Number 2

ADVENTIST® and SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® are the registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

Scripture quotations credited to NIV are from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Permission is granted to reproduce material from this quarterly for use in local Sabbath Schools and children’s ministries programs. Permission to reproduce any portion of this material for sale, publication in another periodical, or other commercial use must be authorized in writing by the editor at the above address.

For subscription inquiries, e-mail Steve Hanson at [shanson@rhpa.org](mailto:shanson@rhpa.org) or call 1-800-456-3991 or 1-301-393-3247. Annual subscription rates per edition: domestic, US\$7.50; international, US\$14.50.

