



YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

2018 • **QUARTER 4** • SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION



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On the Cover: Saengsurin “Ann” Phongchan is principal of the Adventist International Mission School-Korat, a 13th Sabbath project in Thailand. Stories, pages 26-30.

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Your Offerings at Work



Three years ago, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped open Timor-Leste Adventist International School in East Timor’s capital, Dili. Read a story from East Timor on page 22.



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

Andrew McChesney
Editor



This quarter we feature the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in 14 countries: Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, East Timor, and Vietnam, as well as Pakistan.

The region is home to 1 billion people, including 1.4 million Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for 707 people.

This quarter's seven Thirteenth Sabbath projects primarily represent "centers of influence," places used by Seventh-day Adventist church members to connect with the local community. A center of influence can be a bookstore, a vegetarian restaurant, or a reading room.

In this Mission quarterly, we are highlighting two centers of influence in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: Adventist International Mission School – Korat in the Thai city of Nakhon Ratchasima, and the Essential Life Center in Battambang, Cambodia.

You also will meet a business owner winning souls in East Timor and a pilot who flew helicopters for the U.S. military until he felt convicted to keep the Sabbath — and now he flies for God in the Philippines. You won't want to miss stories about a floating hand in Cambodia and a healing lime in Indonesia.

Special Features

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive this quarter, visit our Facebook page at the link: facebook.com/missionquarterlies. Every week, we post additional photos, videos, and activities to go with the mission stories. You could show the photos on your computer or mobile device while you read the mission story, or you could print the photos to decorate your Sabbath School room or church bulletin board.

This quarterly contains just a sample of the latest mission stories from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. For more stories, visit bit.ly/ssd-archive. At this link, you can also search for stories by country and theme.

If you have found especially effective ways to share mission stories, please let me know at mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org.

Thank you for encouraging others to be mission-minded!

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will build or expand:

- Better Living health center, Lahore, Pakistan
- Adventist International Mission School, Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand
- Essential Life Center, Battambang, Cambodia
- Namthipsavan Language School, Laos
- Youth outreach centers, Peninsular Malaysia
- Literacy training center, Lake Sebu, Philippines
- Children's project: Eleven children's Sabbath School classrooms, Sarawak, Malaysia

Knowing the Right People

MYANMAR | October 6

Samuel Saw



Connections are essential in Myanmar. It's not who you are or what you have. It's who you know that counts in this Southeast Asian country.

But connections didn't seem to be working for local Seventh-day Adventist leaders who needed authorization to build a larger school in Myanmar's capital, Yangon. Enrollment had reached 650 children in two small buildings used since 1975, and teachers had no choice but to turn away new students.

Church leaders approached Yangon city authorities for permission to construct a brand-new building, but no one seemed to want to sign off on the paperwork. The leaders reached out to their personal acquaintances in the city government for help, but again nothing happened.

In the United States, the General Conference, the administrative body of

the Adventist world church, recognized the need for the new school building and approved a request from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, whose territory includes Myanmar, to allocate part of a 2012 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for its construction.

The money was collected, but local church leaders still couldn't find the right connections in the city government to approve the project. Three years passed.

Then new church leadership was chosen during regular elections. The new leaders didn't have any connections in the city government, and they threw up their hands in dismay. The situation seemed impossible.

Samuel Saw, president of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division and a Myanmar native, gently reproached the church leaders.

"Yes, you don't have the connections and don't know the right people," he said. "But we have God. If we ask Him, He will get us through."

Story Tip

- Find photos for this story at the link: bit.ly/fb-mq

Mission Post

- Myanmar has 233 churches and 30,920 members. With a population of 52,414,000, that's one member for every 1,695 people.
- Myanmar has two seminaries for training pastors, a publishing house, and a Voice of Prophecy correspondence school.

He suggested that the leaders pray and file a new request for a city building permit.

The leaders prayed and went to the city office, where a woman greeted them at the front desk. Her face lit up when she heard that they represented Yangon Adventist Seminary, as the grade 1-12 school is known.

“You’re from that school!” she exclaimed. “I studied at that school. I like their values and their education so much that two of my children are studying there right now.”

Learning about the school construction plans, she immediately declared that she would make sure that all necessary documents were approved.

“I will help you,” she said. “I will work for you.”

And she did. In a short time, construction started on the school building.

The new, six-story school building was dedicated to God at a 2017 ceremony attended by Adventist world church president Ted N.C. Wilson and dozens of teachers, students, and church leaders.

Wilson urged the teachers to always

keep Jesus at the heart of education and described the school was an important “center of influence” in Yangon, a bustling city of 5 million people.

School treasurer Wesley Doe expressed gratitude to church members for giving to the school on the Thirteenth Sabbath of second quarter 2012.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering provided \$300,000 toward the building’s cost of \$1.3 million. Another \$425,000 came from private donors and a land sale in the Myanmar Union Mission, while \$400,000 came from the General Conference’s unusual opportunities fund and \$200,000 came from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. ADRA gave \$50,000.

The school aims to be a beacon of light to the community, said principal Saw Lay Wah. The new building will accommodate 800 children, and even more students can attend if the older buildings continue to be used, he said. The school currently has 648 students, 28 percent of whom come from Adventist homes.

Samuel Saw, the division president, who attended the ceremony, called the construction of the school building an absolute miracle.

“We may not have connections with the authorities, but we have the most important connection of all—with God,” he said.

“Ellen White says, ‘God will do the work if we will furnish Him the instruments,’” he said, citing a passage from the book “Testimonies for the Church Vol. 9,” p. 107. “When we trust in Him, have faith in Him, and seek Him, He will guide us through. God is always here because this is His work.” 🌐

By Andrew McChesney

Water of Life

Tranqui Vergara, 44



This is the story of how a small act of kindness paved the way for the opening of a Seventh-day Adventist school in a hostile village in Myanmar.

A group of 32 student missionaries arrived on the Thailand-Myanmar border for a one-week visit in January 2016. The young people—from Hong Kong Adventist College and the Korean Advanced Preparatory Academy in South Korea—came to teach music to schoolchildren, install a cement floor in a kindergarten, and find other ways to help Myanmar refugees at the border.

At the beginning of the one-week visit, a student missionary from Hong Kong joined two missionaries from Thailand and their photographer for a one-hour motorcycle trek into Myanmar. The four people wanted to access the needs of a small village of 14 families, said Tranqui, one of the Thai missionaries who went on the trip.

At the village, the visitors witnessed a daily struggle for drinking water. The

nearest source of water was a reservoir located 1 mile (1 kilometer) away, and the villagers walked back and forth with buckets.

The student missionary, Janiz Shuk Ching Li, felt compassion for the families.

“She really pitied them, and her heart was touched by their condition,” Tranqui said.

When Janiz returned to the refugee camp at the border, she told the other student missionaries about what she had seen. The students decided to donate 50,000 baht (about U.S.\$1,500) to lay a water pipeline from the reservoir to the village. The money was what remained from funds that the students had raised for the mission trip through bake sales and other fundraisers.

The students were back home in Hong Kong and South Korea when work finished on the water pipeline a month later. Tranqui e-mailed photos of the pipeline to the delighted students.

But the pipeline ended up providing

more than water. It opened the way for the village children to receive the Water of Life, Tranqui said.

“The villagers weren’t Christians, and they didn’t want anything to do with Christianity,” Tranqui said. “But when they saw this simple act of kindness by Christians, they wanted a school for their children.”

At the invitation of the villagers, the Seventh-day Adventist Church opened a school in the village in June 2016. The school now has 40 students—every school-age child in the village attends, as do several children from neighboring villages.

“Now this village is so happy,” Tranqui said. “They have a water system and an Adventist school through the kindness of those students.” 🌍

Tranqui, 44, does regular mission work on the Thailand-Myanmar border. He also is the physical education and art teacher at Adventist International Mission School – Korat, a K-9 school in Thailand that will receive part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Thank you for your mission offering.

By Andrew McChesney



A villager using a faucet at the end of the new water pipeline.

Story Tips

- Pronounce Tranqui as: chran-KEE
- Find photos for this story at the link: bit.ly/fb-mq

Fast Facts

- Myanmar was known as Burma until 1989, when the military junta renamed the country Myanmar. The capital, Rangoon, became Yangon.
- Both men and women in Myanmar use a yellow paste from the bark of the Thanakha tree as a cosmetic. Applied to the face, it is an effective sunscreen that also tightens the skin and prevents oiliness.
- A typical meal in Myanmar includes steamed rice, fish, meat, vegetables, and soup served at the same time. Locals use their fingertips to mold rice into a small ball and then mix it with various dishes.
- The traditional Burmese dress is the longyi, a wraparound skirt worn by men and women. Men tie theirs in the front and women fold the cloth over and secure it at the side.
- The Intha people on Inle Lake grow vegetables on floating islands, which are a collection of floating weeds and water hyacinth. These floating garden islands can be cut, rearranged, and moved by boats and even sold like a piece of land.
- The Water Festival of Myanmar (also known as Thingyan) is a four-day water fight that takes place throughout the country to celebrate New Year. Thingyan is the country’s biggest event and is a popular festival for both locals and tourists alike.
- The mountains in Myanmar are home to many precious stones. Around 90 percent of the world’s rubies come from Myanmar. Sapphires and jade are also abundant.



Floating Hand

Sorn Som An, 40

Sorn Som An, an only child raised by a single mother on a farm in Cambodia, started attending church because he hoped to win over a girl.

But it took more than a girl for him to break free from family religious tradition. It took the vision of a floating hand.

As a teen, Som An followed his girlfriend to her church every Sunday in their hometown of Doun Kaev, located about 45 miles (70 kilometers) south of Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh.

"I was not interested in the good news," he said. "I was interested in a good girl."

One Sunday, a Seventh-day Adventist gospel worker spoke to the congregation at the invitation of one of the church's 30 members. The Adventist's message intrigued the members, and they invited him to speak again the next week. After the third sermon, the church members unanimously agreed to become Adventist, and they asked Som An to travel to

Phnom Penh to inform Adventist leaders about their decision.

The 30 church members were later baptized. Som An also was baptized, but he didn't really believe in God.

"I was born into a non-Christian family, and change didn't come easily," he said.

After his baptism, he moved to Phnom Penh to study at a university. With little money of his own, he asked church leaders for help. He was given the keys to a small one-room house, where he could live rent-free.

Som An fell terribly ill during his second year of studies. His body burned hot, and he could barely move on his bed. He thought he was going to die. Then he remembered hearing that Jesus was a powerful God. He thought, "Why don't I try to pray and ask God for help?"

He tried to get out of bed to kneel, but he collapsed back on the mattress. He tried again to get up, but failed.

Mustering all his strength, he finally managed to push himself onto his knees on the third attempt.

Closing his eyes, he said, “Dear Lord, would you please help me?”

As he began to speak, he saw a spark of light emerge from his forehead, burn brightly for a few seconds, and vanish. Startled, he thought, “This is the power of God!”

But he didn’t pause his prayer. “I heard that you are a powerful God,” he said. “In the Bible, you healed many people. I hope that you can help me and heal me. Thank you for everything that you helped me with. Amen.”

Som An sank back into bed. At that moment, with his eyes still closed, he saw an outstretched hand and arm appear above his feet. The form appeared to be made of pure light, and it slowly floated from his toes to his knees. As the hand passed over his legs, the fever left that part of his body. Then the hand moved up to his stomach. Whatever the hand passed over was healed. When the hand reached his head, he felt completely well.

Overjoyed, he sprang out of bed and ran outdoors. He ran and jumped around the small house, exclaiming again and again, “Thank you, God, for Your power! Thank you, God, for Your power!”

He was 20 years old.

Today, Som An is 40 and a theology teacher at a private university in Battambang, the second-biggest city in Cambodia. He is active in the local church and readily tells everyone about God’s power.

“My heart is so stubborn, like Thomas,” he said, referring to the biblical disciple who refused to believe that Jesus was resurrected until he saw evidence.

Story Tips

- Pronounce Som An as: sohmn ANN
- Watch Som An at the link: bit.ly/Sorn-Som-An
- Find photos for this story at the link: bit.ly/fb-mq

Mission Post

- Cambodia Mission has six churches and a membership of 6,719; with a population of 15,797,000, that’s one member for every 2,351 Cambodians.
- The first Seventh-day Adventist worker to enter Cambodia, then a part of the Indo-China Mission, was Fred L. Pickett, who arrived in January 1930. When the government refused to give him permission to build a church, he established a church of 32 Cambodian members at Tinh Bien, a village near Chaudoc, in neighboring Cochin China (now Vietnam).

“I really believe that God used His power to change my heart,” he said. “If God had not performed the miracle, I probably wouldn’t believe in Him today. Now I strongly believe in God. No matter how difficult life gets, I will still believe in Him.” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a community center at Som An’s church. The “center of influence” will feature a medical and dental clinic, a vegetarian restaurant, an organic produce shop, a juice bar, and a fitness center. Thank you for your mission offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Experiment in Church

CAMBODIA | October 27

Yin Pheara, 20



Pheara decided to test God at the age of 19.

The teenager had been attending the Seventh-day Adventist church for several months in Battambang, Cambodia's second-largest city. He had heard the pastor read the promise of Malachi 3:10, which says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it" (NIV).

So, when the offering bucket came around on Sabbath, he dropped in a 1,000 Cambodian riel banknote (about 25 U.S. cents). It was all the money that he had in the world.

The next day, his older brother Phirun inexplicably gave him 10,000 riel (\$2.50). His brother sometimes gave him money

on special occasions like the Cambodian New Year or a traditional celebration of the dead. But he had never handed Pheara money for no particular reason.

Pheara was stunned.

But even then he wasn't ready to believe that it was a gift from God.

The next Sabbath, he decided to test God again. When the offering bucket stopped by him, he put in another 1,000 riel. This time, he had 5,000 riel in his pocket, but he needed every bit of it to fill up his motorcycle with gasoline during the next week. After giving the 1,000 riel, he didn't have enough money for gasoline.

"But it turned out that I wasn't short at all," he said. "During the week, friends and relatives suddenly decided to start giving me money, so I always had enough for gas. I never had to ask anyone for money."

A few weeks after that, Pheara got into serious trouble. The church organized a

Story Tips

- Pronounce Pheara as: pee-RA
- Pronounce riel as: ree-el
- Watch Pheara at the link: bit.ly/Yin-Pheara
- Find photos for this story at the link: bit.ly/fb-mq

Fast Facts

- Apart from Afghanistan's national flag, the national flag of Cambodia is the only other national flag in the world to incorporate an actual building on it.
- Khmer, the national language, is spoken by about 95 percent of Cambodians. French is the second language and is often used in business and official circles.
- Cambodia's economy has been based traditionally on agriculture. About 85 percent of cultivated land is devoted to the production of rice, while rubber trees account for most of the rest.

Christmas program, and Pheara invited 15 friends to attend. But he had to ferry them in threes on the back of his motorcycle to the church.

As he neared the church on one trip, a police officer pulled him over. None of his passengers were wearing helmets, a requirement under Cambodian law.

But the police officer did not talk about helmets. Instead, he asked for the motorcycle ownership papers. Pheara called his brother, who owned the vehicle, and was told that the documents had been lost long ago.

Pheara was worried. The police could confiscate the motorcycle and charge him

with theft. He didn't know what to do.

"Then I remembered that the pastor had taught me to pray," he said. "I prayed."

Another police officer walked over and asked what was happening. Pheara explained the situation, and the officer said, "Well, just give me 20,000 riel, and you can be on your way."

Pheara had no money, so he could not be on his way. But he did have an old computer in his backpack that he had unsuccessfully tried to sell for several weeks. He left his motorcycle with the police and walked to a nearby pawnshop. The shopkeeper immediately gave him 40,000 riel for the computer, and Pheara paid the police.

The incident strengthened Pheara's faith.

"This was evidence to me that God exists," he said. "God helped me and answered my prayer when I was in trouble."

His friends without helmets, who were watching to see how he would deal with the situation, expressed their surprise once they arrived at the church Christmas program. "Your God really helped you with the police," they said.

Pheara borrowed helmets from church members before riding off to fetch the rest of his friends for the Christmas program.

Today, Pheara is the only baptized Christian in his family. He also is a university student and teaches weekly computer classes at the church. His classes will move into a new community center that will be funded by part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Thank you for your mission offerings that help people like Pheara reach out to their communities. 🌍

By Andrew McChesney



Flying for God

Dwayne Harris, 39

Dwayne Harris never imagined leaving the U.S. military to become a mission pilot in the Philippines.

But then he lost everything in a house fire.

Dwayne, raised in a Seventh-day Adventist family in the U.S. state of Montana, loved airplanes as a boy and wanted to become a mission pilot. Finishing high school, he enrolled in flight school at church-owned Walla Walla University in the neighboring state of Washington.

After a year, however, he returned to Montana, where he earned an aircraft mechanics license and finished getting his pilot's license. He purchased a damaged airplane, rebuilt it, and joined the Army National Guard, which sent him to flight school for helicopters.

But he was lukewarm in his Christian experience.

One day, a relative put him in touch with a mission pilot who was visiting the United States. Dwayne flew his plane to Kentucky for a meeting with the pilot, who wanted to discuss his ideas for a helicopter ministry in the Philippines.

But the night before the meeting,

Dwayne's sister called to say that their parents' home had just burned down in a fire. No one was hurt, but Dwayne, who was living there, lost everything that he owned, including expensive toys such as scuba gear and snowboards.

While listening to the mission pilot talk the next day, Dwayne thought, "God has removed all my worldly material distractions." Turning to the pilot, he made a promise. "If I can get free of my contract with the Guard, I would be willing to start something in the Philippines," he said.

New Priorities

Dwayne had no idea how he would get out of the contract. He had about four years left on a six-year commitment with the Army National Guard. He began to pray about the matter.

"When the house burned down, it got me thinking about priorities in life," Dwayne said. "It made me realize that the material things that we collect on Earth are nothing compared with eternity. The only thing that matters is our own salvation and the salvation of others."

For the first time, he started to read the Bible and pray daily.

"As I did that, God started to change me," he said.

After praying for several months, Dwayne became convinced that he needed to stop compromising the Sabbath. Every month

he was required to participate in a three-day drill, from Friday through Sunday, and he had been violating the Sabbath for the past four years.

Dwayne asked his company commander for permission to fly on Friday and Sunday and make up for Saturday on another day of the week. The commander refused. So, when Dwayne reported for the drill on the next Friday, he announced that he would miss Saturday and return Sunday.

“I can’t give you an excused absence,” the commander said, sternly.

“You do what you have to do, and I will do what I have to do,” Dwayne replied, respectfully.

The commander wasn’t sure what to do. Up to that time, Dwayne had a flawless military record.

Dwayne only came in on Fridays and Sundays for several months. He kept praying, “Lord, put me where You want me to be. If it is here, fine. If it is in the Philippines, I will go there.”

Answer to Prayer

Finally, the commander called him in.

“I spoke with the battalion commander, and we have decided not to waste any time or resources pursuing negative actions against you,” he said. “We will give you an honorable discharge.”

Dwayne was shocked. Thanking God, he immediately organized a trip to the Philippines to assess the situation there. Everything fell into place after that. Within months, someone helped him buy a small helicopter. He used what savings he had, and contributions came in from unexpected sources for other needs, including shipping and duty fees for the helicopter.

“God had everything lined up,” Dwayne said. “I didn’t do any fundraising.”

Story Tip

- Find photos for this story at the link: bit.ly/fb-mq

Mission Post

- Seventh-day Adventist work started in the Philippines in 1905 with the arrival of Australian colporteur R.A. Caldwell, who successfully sold Spanish-language health and religious books.
- In 1915, for the first time, the people of the Philippines heard the Adventist message preached in their own native tongue, Tagalog, by a Filipino, Bibiano Panis. As a result, early in 1916, 104 people were baptized, and a church was organized with 116 members.

Today, Dwayne, 39, and his wife, Wendy, a missionary nurse whom he met in the Philippines, are the directors of Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS), a supporting church ministry that uses aviation and medical assistance to spread the gospel.

“It’s been 10 years since I came here, and God has been faithful in providing for our needs one month at a time,” Dwayne said. “We have been able to continually expand.”

From the honorable military discharge to his current aviation ministry, Dwayne has seen Romans 8:28 in action. The verse reads, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (NKJV).

“God has put everything in place to work things out,” Dwayne said. “We just have to take hold of His promises by faith.” 🌍

By Andrew McChesney

Preaching Physicians

INDONESIA | November 10

Jay M. Tombokan



This is an update about Manado Adventist Hospital, which received part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2012.

Every year, Jay takes several weeks from his busy schedule as a physician and the president of the Indonesian hospital to lead an evangelistic series.

He encourages his hospital staff to do the same.

Doctor Jay has found that public evangelism keeps both him and his coworkers united in their mission of treating patients and preparing them for Jesus' return.

"Evangelism is my breakfast and my lunch," Doctor Jay said in an interview in his office at Manado Adventist Hospital, a 150-bed facility on the island of Sulawesi.

The hospital's 2017 evangelistic campaign, organized in cooperation with local conference, resulted in 69 baptisms. Another 53 people were baptized in 2016. Only doctors preached at those two series of meetings.

That changed in 2018, with the hospital expanding to three campaigns: one led by doctors, a second led by nurses, and a third led by hospital administrators.

"We need unity before we treat the outside world, and we become united in our vision when we participate in public evangelism," Doctor Jay said.

That was Doctor Jay's experience as president of Bandung Adventist Hospital on the Indonesian island of West Java. In five years, 4,000 people were baptized through that hospital's evangelistic meetings. The Adventist Church operates

four hospitals in Indonesia; the other two are Bandar Lampung Adventist Hospital and Medan Adventist Hospital, both on the island of Sumatra.

Manado Adventist Hospital had 50 beds when it opened in the church union's former headquarters in December 2007. With the help of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering collected in 2012, the hospital expanded to 150 beds in 2013.

Doctor Jay said the hospital faces a serious shortage of qualified full-time specialists, particularly doctors. It has 384 staff members, 90 percent of whom are Adventist, and it cares for 700,000 patients every year.

Doctor Jay, who moved to the Manado hospital in 2015, never expected to work for the Adventist health system. An OB/GYN doctor, he worked for seven years for the government but then faced a Sabbath conflict. He left his job and was soon hired to work at Bandung Adventist Hospital, where he made public evangelism a major part of its outreach efforts.

Doctor Jay praises public evangelism as a way to not only share the gospel but also to strengthen the faith of hospital workers. His staff members preach or participate in free medical clinics and health seminars offered simultaneously with the evangelistic meetings.

"When we go outside and strengthen others, the benefit comes directly back to us," he said.

The Manado hospital itself has four chaplains, and they oversee a dynamic spiritual program, including two Weeks of Prayer every year, a 10-days-of-prayer initiative, and daily morning worship in every department. Nine patients were

Story Tips

- Find photos for this story at the link: bit.ly/fb-mq

Fast Facts

- Indonesia is enormous, with 17,508 islands covering about 1,192,700 square miles (1,919,440 square kilometers). The country has three time zones, and it takes more than 12 hours of flying time to get from one end of the country to the other.
- The Indonesian side of Timor is known to be home to the last remaining headhunting villages.
- Indonesia exports 3,000 tons of frogs' legs to France each year.
- Bahasa Indonesia is the national language of Indonesia, but there are more than 700 indigenous languages. Most Indonesians are bilingual—they speak their indigenous language as their mother tongue and Bahasa Indonesia for school and work.

baptized in 2016, and two more were baptized in 2017.

"Matthew 28:19, 20 is our priority," Doctor Jay said, referring to Jesus' command, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you."

"We recognize that Jesus is coming soon," Doctor Jay said. "Jesus is coming soon." 🌐

Thank you for your mission offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Healing Lime

Ceren Wuysan, 27



Ask a young man to share this first-person account.

The mission plane dropped off my friend and me at the foot of a mountain in Papua, Indonesia.

We went into town to do some last-minute shopping before climbing high up the mountain for our year of student missionary work. We didn't have much money, but we saw one thing that we wanted at the main market: a bag of green limes. We loved limes, and we knew that we wouldn't find any on the mountain.

Two weeks later, we found ourselves in the mountain village of Tinibil, and we were unsure how to share Jesus. We had received training from the 1000 Missionary Movement organization, which had sent us to the village, but we couldn't figure out how to interest the villagers in the gospel.

We remembered that if we don't know what to do, we had been trained to pray. So, we prayed.

One day as we were hiking between villages, a man from our village asked us to take a look at a blind relative named Marius. We went to Marius' home and asked Marius what had caused him to go blind two years earlier.

"I don't know," he said, shaking his head. "It happened all of a sudden."

The other villagers, however, had no doubt about what had caused the blindness. They blamed evil spirits.

Marius and his family begged for help. They asked for medicine and for prayers.

My friend and I didn't know what to do. We returned home and prayed, "Lord, if this is the way for our missionary work to begin, please perform a miracle."

We remembered the bag of limes that we had purchased down the mountain. We weren't doctors, but we knew that limes had medicinal qualities. So, we took a lime when we went to Marius' home the next morning. We sliced the lime in half and prayed. Then we squeezed a few drops of

lime juice into his eyes and prayed again. In the afternoon, we returned to Marius, prayed, and squeezed a few more drops of lime juice into his eyes. We prayed again.

We did this every morning and evening for a week. Nothing happened, and we considered giving up. But after the second week, Marius told us that he could detect light for the first time in two years.

We felt encouraged and prayed even more.

A month passed, and Marius announced one day that he could see a little.

That same day, we ran out of limes. We didn't tell Marius that we had no more limes. We just told him, "For now on, we have a new treatment. We are just going to pray."

Several weeks later, we arrived to find Marius gazing at a field near his home. He was walking around freely. He could see! Marius told us that he didn't have perfect vision, but he could see enough to live a normal life.

Marius was overjoyed, and he told the other villagers that Jesus had restored his sight by defeating evil spirits.

This opened the door for us to share the gospel. The news about the miracle spread across the mountain, and people began to contact us for prayers and medical help. They insisted on calling us "pastor" and "doctor," even though neither of us were pastors or doctors. They wanted Bible studies. This was an answer to prayer. Seven people were baptized. 🌍

Thank you for your mission offering that helps spread the gospel to the farthest corners of the world, even to a mountaintop in Indonesia.

By Ceren Wuysan, as told to Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Pronounce Ceren the same as the English name Karen.
- Ceren served as a student missionary in 2016. He is now a theology student at Universitas Klabat near Manado, Indonesia.
- Do not try lime juice as an eye medicine at home
- Watch Ceren at the link: bit.ly/Ceren-Wuysan
- Find photos for this story at the link: bit.ly/fb-mq
- Read another story about Ceren at the link: bit.ly/chief-breaks-vow

Mission Post

- The Adventist Church in Indonesia is comprised of the East Indonesia Union Conference, with headquarters in Sulawesi, and the West Indonesia Union Mission, with headquarters in Jakarta.
- Adventist work in Indonesia began in 1900, when R.W. Munson, formerly a missionary for another denomination in Singapore, opened a mission at Padang, on the west coast of Sumatra. One of his first converts was Tay Hong Siang, a Chinese Christian preacher, who as an orphan had been in Munson's orphanage in Singapore years earlier. In 1903, the East Indian archipelago was made a mission field of the Australasian Union Conference.
- In 1905, Immanuel Siregar, from Batakland, accepted the Adventist faith after Bible studies with R.W. Munson and became the first Indonesian convert. He then returned to the uplands of North Sumatra, land of the cannibal Bataks, taking the message to his own people.

Life-Changing Garbage

INDONESIA | November 24

Petrus Tobolu, 50



Farmer Petrus Tobolu was furious when he learned that his 19-year-old daughter, Monika, had been baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

He had served as the lay pastor of the Soahukum village church on the Indonesian island of Halmahera for 35 years. He didn't understand how the Adventist pastor could baptize his daughter without seeking his permission, and he worried that the Adventist teachings were satanic.

So, he raised a big stick and beat Monika.

"Denounce your convictions!" he yelled.

Monika wept but didn't say a word. This confused her father, and he wondered why she wasn't angry.

Monika was one of four young people who were baptized after Bible studies and an evangelistic series on Halmahera island. They were the island's first four

Adventists, the result of the work of two student missionaries.

One day, Monika came home with a box of Adventist books. Enraged, Petrus seized the box and threw it into the garbage hole in their backyard. But as the box crashed to the ground, it burst open, spilling out its contents. A book caught Petrus' eye: "The Almost Forgotten Day" by evangelist Mark Finley. He secretly fished the book and two Adventist World magazines out of the garbage.

The next morning, he took the book and magazines with him to the field. But he couldn't concentrate on his work. He worked until 10 a.m. and then read the book and magazines for the rest of the day. The same thing happened the next day. He compared the Bible verses in the publications with the verses in his Bible. He studied the materials for eight months.

"I noticed that what was written there was actually also in the Bible," Petrus said. "I kept studying and I was impressed with what I learned about the Sabbath."

After he understood that Saturday was the biblical Sabbath, he began to preach about the Sabbath in his church.

"Why don't we worship on Saturday?" he asked. "If we don't follow what the Bible says, then why do we have the Bible?"

After the sermon, startled church members approached him.

“No one has preached like this in a long time,” said one.

“Maybe you want to bring is a new doctrine?” said another.

Petrus hadn’t thought that he was introducing Adventist teachings to the church. He understood the biblical truth, and he was only trying to preach what he had learned. Eventually, he decided to worship on Saturday.

When Petrus’ older sister heard about his convictions, she suggested that he join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She had heard about the church from her daughter, who had studied at the Adventist-owned Universitas Klabat on another island.

Sometime later, Petrus invited several visiting Adventist pastors to worship at his church. His church members, however, attacked the building with stones while the pastors were inside, and Petrus had to whisk them out of the village to safety.

The villagers were waiting for Petrus with sticks when he returned, but he somehow managed to evade them and leave the village. He decided to be baptized into the Adventist Church.

Petrus took his family to Manado, a city near Universitas Klabat, and was baptized during an evangelistic series there.

When he and his family returned home, they found their house occupied by other people. They moved to a small hut in their field, and lived there for two months. Petrus’ two other children, boys aged 13 and 17, also were baptized during that time.

But the villagers forbade the family from worshipping on Sabbath, so they moved to Manado to deepen their understanding of the Bible.

Story Tips

- Watch Petrus at the link: bit.ly/Petrus-Tobolu
- Find photos for this story at the link: bit.ly/fb-mq

Fast Facts

- Of Indonesia’s 17,508 islands, only about 6,000 have people living on them.
- Indonesia is home to thousands of different flora and fauna, making it the country with the second-highest level of biodiversity in the world after Brazil.
- Indonesia is the only place in the world to see a Komodo dragon in the wild. Sumatra is the only place outside of Borneo to see orangutans in the wild.

Indonesia is situated on the Pacific Ring of Fire and is home to about 150 volcanoes. They’re mostly dormant, but the country does experience around one volcanic eruption and one powerful earthquake per year.

Two years later, they returned home and renewed their friendships with the villagers. The villagers’ attitude toward the Adventist family changed.

“We mingled in the community and shared,” Petrus said. “We started with my relatives. In three years, we had 27 baptized members and organized a church.”

Today, Petrus is 50 and serves as church elder. He led the first evangelistic series in the village in September 2017, and three people were baptized.

“The villagers, starting with me, persecuted Adventists at first,” he said. “But today eight families worship together every Sabbath.” 🌍

By Andrew McChesney

Poisoned by a Mother

INDONESIA | December 1

Desi Natalia Ango, 21



Eighteen-year-old Desi Natalia Ango was thrilled when she and a fellow female student were assigned to spend a year as missionaries in Limbong in the south of the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

Desi thought it would be a good placement in a big city.

But when she and her friend arrived at the local conference office, they were directed into a car for a three-hour drive. Then they transferred to motorcycles for a five-hour trip up a mountain. The road was slippery, and Desi kept falling off the motorcycle.

When the road ended, the young women learned that they would have to hike another eight hours. But first, they had to stop by the local government office at the end of the road to receive permission to climb the mountain. Several people from Limbong were at the office, and they excitedly beat Desi to the

village and announced the big news.

When the young missionaries arrived, the villagers welcomed them with a traditional ceremony. A young chicken with black feathers and black feet was roasted, boiled, and offered to the visitors. The villagers themselves ate regular chicken.

“We didn’t speak their dialect and didn’t know what they were saying,” Desi said. “We didn’t know what to do.”

More important, she had no idea how to share her love for Jesus. She and her friend fasted and prayed for two days.

Charcoal and Papaya

On the second day, a village woman asked for help. She led the two missionaries to her mother, Indo Reko, who was ill in bed. The elderly woman was suffering from a flow of blood, much like the woman whom Jesus healed in Mark 5:25-34. The missionaries didn’t have any medical experience and didn’t know what to do. But they did have some charcoal, and they mixed two spoonfuls with water and asked for permission to pray.

“We prayed, ‘Lord, we believe that you can heal this woman with this charcoal,’” Desi recalled. “But we were thinking, ‘What else can we do?’”

They decided to call the campus of 1000 Missionary Movement, the organization that had dispatched them to the village. To get cellphone reception, they had to climb another hour up the mountain. The phone

Story Tips

- Watch Desi at the link: bit.ly/Desi-Natalia-Ango
- Find photos for this story at the link: bit.ly/fb-mq

call went through, and a campus nurse advised the young women to mash a small papaya—seeds and all—with a regular-sized banana and feed it to Indo.

Back at Indo's house, Desi told the woman, "We are Christians, and we believe that Jesus will help you. If you eat this, you will get better."

The missionaries fed the papaya-banana mixture to Indo daily for 30 days. They also taught her not to eat unclean meat. When the month ended, the blood flow had stopped and Indo was her normal self.

The other villagers were amazed and asked the missionaries to care for their ill relatives. The missionaries relied on much charcoal and prayer.

Warning About Poisoning

The villagers appreciated the assistance, and they offered their own advice. One after another, they told the missionaries to stay away from a certain village house.

"Don't go there because you will be poisoned," they warned.

The missionaries ignored the advice, believing that the Lord had sent them to visit every village family.

When they knocked on the door, a woman in her 30s greeted them with joy and immediately offered food and drink.

Desi looked at the cassava and purple corn and turned to her fellow missionary.

"You first," she said.

Her friend nudged her and said, "No, you first."

Desi asked the woman, known as Mama Wandu, if they could pray together before eating.

"We are Christians," Desi said. "We believe in praying for everything that we do."

After praying, the young women ate the food—and nothing bad happened.

Mama Wandu invited the missionaries back the next day and fed them again. They prayed and again nothing bad happened. This happened every day for two weeks. Finally, Mama Wandu told the other villagers, "These missionaries are not ordinary people. I have been poisoning their food for two weeks, and they never get sick!"

The story spread that throughout the village that the missionaries were immune to poison, and many people came to them to hear about their God.

Desi is now 21 and an education and English major at Universitas Klabat, an Adventist school on the northern tip of Sulawesi island. She hopes to return to the village after she graduates and open an elementary school. She has visited the village several times since her yearlong stay, and she is thrilled that Mama Wandu is now studying the Bible.

"One thing from the Bible that really strengthened us during that year is Job 42:2, which says, 'I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You,'" Desi said. "God really can do everything." 🌍

Thank you for your mission offerings that support the gospel work of missionaries around the world.

By Andrew McChesney



Baffling Bible

Zelindo João Lay, 42

Zelindo was a troublemaker in East Timor. He loved to drink, smoke, and gamble. He got tattoos and started a street gang.

He went to church every Sunday but felt miserable.

At the age of 21, he suddenly was overcome with an irresistible desire to read the Bible. He didn't own a Bible, so he texted his sister in Surabaya, an Indonesian city located 900 miles (1,400 kilometers) to the west.

"Can you buy a Bible and send it to me?" he asked.

Two weeks later he received the Bible, and he read it from Genesis to Revelation in a month. But he didn't understand what he read. He read the Bible a second and a third time, but still he didn't understand it.

Frustrated, he knelt and prayed, "God, I want to understand Your Word, but I don't know how. Please send Your Holy Spirit to guide me."

Then he read the Bible a fourth time—and prayed for the Holy Spirit every time

he read. To his astonishment, he began to understand the Bible. He stopped at the second commandment in Exodus 20:4, 5, where God says, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them."

"Why do we have carved images in my church?" he wondered.

He kept worshipping on Sundays and reading the Bible every night for three years. He also got married and opened two shops.

One day, a Seventh-day Adventist, Thomas Lopes, entered one of his shops and sold him a book called "The Almost Forgotten Day" by evangelist Mark Finley.

Zelindo was shocked to read that Saturday is the biblical Sabbath. He found Thomas' phone number written in the back of the book and asked him to return to the shop.

When Thomas arrived, Zelindo

Story Tips

- Watch Zelindo at the link: bit.ly/Zelindo-Bible
- Find photos for this story at the link: bit.ly/fb-mq
- Read another story about Zelindo at the link: bit.ly/wife-miracle

Fast Facts

- The national dish of East Timor is Ikan Pepes (Ikan means “fish,” and pepes is the cooking technique), fish steamed with chili sauce in a banana leaf.
- According to legend, Timor was formed after a crocodile transformed into an island as compensation to a boy who helped the crocodile while it was unwell. The boy’s descendants are supposedly the natives of Timor.

Wildlife in East Timor includes the cuscus (a species of marsupial), monkeys, deer, civet cats, snakes, and crocodiles.

immediately demanded, “Why does this book say Saturday and not Sunday?”

Thomas didn’t give a direct answer.

“Read the Bible, and allow the Holy Spirit to answer you,” he said.

Zelindo read the Bible again. When he reached the New Testament, he read in Matthew 28:1, “Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.”

Then he had his answer. The Bible describes Sunday as the first day of the week. The next Saturday, he closed his shops and attended the Saturday morning service at his church.

After a few weeks, the priest

approached Zelindo after the Saturday morning service.

“Why do you come to church on Saturday instead of Sunday?” he said. “I see your wife and child on Sundays.”

“My understanding is Saturday is the right day of worship, not Sunday,” Zelindo said.

“No, it’s Sunday,” the priest said.

Zelindo felt increasingly uncomfortable at his church. Every time he entered, he passed carved images. He knelt before them and asked, “God, is it OK to have these in church? Do you allow carved images?”

One day, he read Isaiah 42:8, which says, “I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor My praise to carved images.”

The words filled him with fear. He realized that God forbids the worship of carved images, and he decided not to worship them anymore.

He telephoned the priest, “I need your help. If you don’t help me, I will leave the church.”

When the priest arrived at his home, Zelindo asked many questions about carved images and the Sabbath.

“Brother, just believe,” the priest said. “That’s enough.”

Zelindo wasn’t convinced. After reading the Bible so many times, he understood that belief must be backed up by action. He became an Adventist.

Four years later, he is a prominent church member in East Timor, and he has led many people to baptism. 🌍

Part of a 2015 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped build the first Seventh-day Adventist school in East Timor’s capital, Dili. Thank you for your mission offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Living by Faith

THAILAND | December 15

Yoyo Shimray, 33



Marriage can be messy. Take the case of Yoyo, a high school teacher from India who worked in Thailand's capital, Bangkok.

His Filipino wife taught at a Seventh-day Adventist school in Korat, a city located a five-hour drive away. Their young son lived with her in Korat.

Yoyo supported the arrangement at first. He made good money teaching computer classes at the private school in Bangkok. He also taught IT seminars on the side, bringing in even more money. So, he decided to stay in Bangkok when his wife, Carla, announced that she had been offered a job as a kindergarten teacher at the Adventist International Mission School in Korat.

But after a while, Yoyo realized that he didn't like the messy marriage. Even

though he had plenty of money, he didn't like working five days a week in Bangkok and commuting to Korat on weekends. He dreaded the drive back to Bangkok on Sunday evenings. He decided to find a job in Korat.

But for some reason he couldn't find a job. Yoyo felt that he was qualified for nearly any job, and he was inundated with teaching job offers in Bangkok. But nobody gave him a job in Korat.

Once, a school in Korat even called Yoyo's school in Bangkok with a job offer but was told, "No, he's already signed a contract with us."

Nothing worked out for three years.

During that time, Yoyo began to think hard about his priorities. He had been raised in an Adventist pastor's home in India but had started compromising the

Story Tips

- Watch Yoyo at the link: bit.ly/Yoyo-Shimray
- Find photos for this story at the link: bit.ly/fb-mq
- Korat is the commonly used nickname for the city of Nakhon Ratchasima.

Mission Post

- Thailand Mission has 52 churches, with a membership of 15,385. With a population of 65,323,000, Thailand has only one member for every 4,245 people.
- The early work in Thailand was conducted mostly among the Chinese. The first Thai convert was a young man who was baptized in 1925 and later became the assistant business manager of the Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital.

Sabbath after finishing college. He had moved to Thailand at the invitation of his sister, who lived there. Then he had met and married Carla, an Adventist woman from the Philippines. He attended church out of guilt as a pastor's son, but he didn't have any love for God.

Finally, Yoyo prayed, "Lord, I can't do this on my own. I want to come back to You."

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. Yoyo prayed fervently for a job.

Two months passed, and he grew increasingly discouraged.

"I was frustrated and irritated," he

said. "I was used to working and feeling important. It was a very disappointing time of my life."

Then the principal of the Adventist International Mission School told Yoyo that the school had an opening for a computer teacher. Yoyo had just the right qualifications for the job. But, the principal said, the position was for an unpaid volunteer.

Yoyo didn't think twice. He gladly volunteered to teach.

After three weeks, the school principal hired Yoyo to work full-time as the computer teacher and IT manager.

Today, Yoyo is the sole breadwinner in the family. Carla quit her job after their second child was born and homeschools the children. The family has considerably less money than before, but Yoyo said he 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 was my faith before?'"

His favorite Bible text is Philippians 4:13, which says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

"I am very happy," he said. "I am very content that I am working for a greater cause." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the Adventist International Mission School construct a new campus. The new classrooms will allow the K-9 school to expand to the 12th grade and to accept more students. Thank you for your mission offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Praying for Missing Sister

THAILAND | December 22

Ann Phongchan, 38



Ann never intended to become a Christian.

Raised by a single mother, Ann meditated regularly at the temple in a Thai village on the border with Laos. She participated in temple activities. Sometimes she slept in the temple.

Then she decided to attend Mission College (now Asia-Pacific International University), a Seventh-day Adventist institute located 15 hours by bus from her home. She heard about the college from a visiting graduate and learned that its work program covered tuition costs.

“We have no money, and I need to study,” Ann told Mother. “I want to go to this place.”

At Mission College, Ann immersed herself in her studies and work. She had no interest in God. She attended Sabbath School to improve her English—and heard for the first time about the power of prayer.

“God can perform miracles for anyone,” the teacher said. “You just need to trust in Him. If you trust and obey, and you pray, He will bless you.”

Ann didn’t believe him.

“If you pray with all your heart, God will answer,” the teacher said.

Ann still didn’t believe him.

First Prayer

During summer vacation, Ann got lost at a new shopping center near her home village. She was supposed to meet Mother at 4:30 p.m. to go to the bus station to catch a bus to Mission College. But she couldn’t find the meeting spot. Ann frantically searched for Mother until 5 p.m. and, overwhelmed with worry, remembered the Sabbath School teacher’s words about prayer. She tried to pray.

“Lord, if You really want me to go back to Your place and want me to know You more, show me my mother,” she said.

When she opened her eyes, Mother was standing in front of her.

Ann didn’t miss the bus. When she arrived at the bus station, she learned that its departure had been delayed because of mechanical problems.

“I was amazed,” Ann said. “That was the first time that I experienced God’s power.”

But Ann still didn’t want to become a Christian.

Second Prayer

Mother moved to Bangkok to be closer

to her daughter, and she arrived with Ann's younger sister, a young adult. One day, Mother called, weeping.

"Your sister is missing," she said. "I don't know what to do."

Ann received permission to miss an exam, and her teacher prayed before taking her to the bus stop. "Keep praying and trust in God, and He will make a way for you," he said.

Ann prayed nonstop during the ride to Bangkok. When she arrived, she learned that her sister had disappeared after an argument with Mother.

"Can you go out and look for her?" Mother said. "I have been looking everywhere for her all day."

Ann searched for three days. By the end of the third day, she had given up all hope, but she didn't want to arrive home too early and upset Mother. Walking home, she paused to look at some clothing at an outdoor bazaar. An elderly woman with curly hair tapped her on the arm.

"I'm going home," Ann said.

"You don't have to look for that person whom you are seeking," the stranger said.

Ann looked at her. "I am not looking for anyone," she said. "I'm walking home."

The woman was silent for a moment. "In two or three days, she will come home," she said. "You don't have to look for her."

"I'm not looking for anyone," Ann insisted.

The woman smiled and sat down on the sidewalk.

Two days later, Ann returned from her search and found her sister already at home. Ann rushed to the outdoor market to look for the stranger. She was nowhere in sight. Ann returned to the

Story Tips

- Ann's full name is Saengsurin Phongchan
- Watch Ann at the link: bit.ly/Ann-miracles
- Find photos for this story at the link: bit.ly/fb-mq

Fast Facts

- Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country that was never colonized by a European country. In the Thai language, the name of the country is Prathet Thai, which means "land of the free."
- Thailand is where you'll find both the smallest and the largest creatures. The smallest mammal in the world is the bumblebee bat, and the largest fish is the whale shark.
- Thailand's capital is Bangkok, with a population of nearly 15 million people.

market the next day but again couldn't find the woman.

The remarkable answers to prayer softened Ann's heart, and she later was baptized and became a mission teacher. Today, she is the principal of the Adventist International Mission School, a K-9 school with 150 students in the Thai city of Korat. 🌐

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the school construct a new campus, allowing it to expand to the 12th grade and to accept more students. Thank you for your mission offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Temper Trouble

13th SABBATH | December 29

Ann Phongchan, 38



Note: The narrator doesn't need to memorize the story, but he or she should be familiar enough with the material so as not to have to read it. Remember, you can supplement the story with photos from the Mission quarterlies' Facebook page and a short video at the link: bit.ly/Ann-temper.

This quarter we have met people from Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, East Timor, and Thailand. Today we will hear one more story from Thailand.

From a young age, Ann was stubborn and struggled to control her temper.

She chose to get an incomplete in a high school class because she despised the teacher. She sawed the chain of her mother's motorcycle when her mother forbade her from riding it.

So, when she moved across Thailand to study at Mission College (now Asia-Pacific International University), it was no surprise that her mother followed to make sure she stayed out of trouble.

"Mother didn't trust me," Ann said. "I had temper issues, and I tended to do whatever I wanted. She was afraid that I would end up in jail because of my temper."

Ann learned to pray at the college, and God answered her prayers in remarkable

ways. After graduating, Ann gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized.

Her friends, who weren't Christian, mocked her decision.

"You are so stupid," said one.

"You have joined a cult," said another.

"I am not stupid," Ann replied. "I don't want to waver over my beliefs anymore. I have chosen to be a Christian, and I will be one."

The biggest trouble came at home. Mother was angry that Ann had abandoned her childhood faith, and she tried to convince Ann to return. She banned Ann from going to church. She forced her to sleep at the temple.

Ann put down her foot when Mother ordered her to write a letter to the family god.

Thirteenth Sabbath Program

➤	Congregational Song	“A Quiet Place” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 503
➤	Welcome	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher
➤	Prayer	
➤	Program	“Temper Trouble” and “A Lesson in Anger”
➤	Offering	
➤	Closing Song	“Have Thine Own Way, Lord” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 567
➤	Closing Prayer	

“I have only one God now,” she said.

Furious and frustrated, Mother locked her in their house in Bangkok.

“You stay home,” she said. “I can feed you. You don’t have to go anywhere.”

Ann could have escaped by opening a window or picking the door lock. But she didn’t. Unlike her old self, she didn’t lose her temper. She did chores around the house and calmly read the Bible. She didn’t understand much of what she read, but she found the words strangely comforting.

One day, Mother asked, “Are you going return to our god?”

“No,” Ann said. “I already trust in the Lord. I’m sorry, Mommy.”

“Fine,” Mother said. “You can go to your church.”

Ann joyfully went to the Adventist church—and was surprised when Mother asked to accompany her.

Gone was Mother’s anger. She was

smiling and happy. Later Mother told Ann the reason for her happiness.

“I don’t know who to thank, your college teachers or God,” she said. “I have been given a new daughter.”

Ann said it was the power of God.

“I used to be hot-tempered, but Mother didn’t see this in me anymore,” she said.

(See another story about Ann on the next page.)

Today, Ann is the principal of Adventist International Mission School, a K-9 day school with 150 students in Korat, Thailand.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the school construct a new campus on recently purchased property, allowing it to expand to the 12th grade and to accept more students. Thank you for your generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today. 🌍

By Andrew McChesney

A Lesson in Anger

In Ann Phongchan's own words:

God loves me a lot. A friend moved to Australia and asked me to visit her parents once in a while here in Thailand.

The parents' home turned out to be some distance from my own, and I had to look up directions on how to get there. For my first visit, I filled my backpack and both hands with bags of groceries and hailed a tuk-tuk taxi to take me to the bus station.

Partway through our trip, the taxi driver suddenly said, "I can't take you. Can I call you another taxi?"

A second taxi picked me up, but the driver took me to the wrong place. I got into a third taxi.

It took nearly two hours to reach the bus station. I was so upset when I arrived that I didn't want to talk to anyone.

A bus station worker asked me, "Where are you going?"

I replied, "I'll talk to you later."

After calming down, I bought a ticket and waited for the next bus.

During the trip to my friend's parents' house, we passed a badly damaged bus. Our driver stopped to take pictures, and he told us that several passengers had died in the crash.

"This is the bus that left right before us," he said.

At that moment, I realized that I should have been on that bus. I had missed the bus because of the many taxi delays getting to the bus station.

The parents were relieved to see me.

"We were so worried because we thought you were on that bus," the mother said.

"God is so good," I said, and told my story to the parents, who aren't Christians.

The father said, "Wow, the God or angel who protects you is really great!"

God really loves me. 🌍

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will assist two countries next quarter. It will help to:

Mozambique

- Expand the food and nutrition department at Mozambique Adventist University, Beira
- Establish an orphanage for children who lost parents to HIV/AIDS, Nampula
- Construct an elementary school, Milange

São Tomé and Príncipe

- Set up an alcohol and drug rehabilitation center, São Tomé
- Build a new church, São Tomé
- Construct an auditorium for K-12 school, São Tomé

Children's Project: Portuguese Bibles for children from needy families in Mozambique and São Tomé and Príncipe

Leader's Resources

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

Online Information

Following are sources of information that may be helpful in preparing for the mission segment of Sabbath School. For more information on the cultures and history of the countries featured in this quarterly, visit the websites listed below.

Myanmar: government website Lonely Planet	bit.ly/GovMyanmar
Cambodia: government website Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LPMyanmar bit.ly/CambGov
Philippines: government website Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LPCambodia
Indonesia: government website Rough Guide	bit.ly/GovPhil bit.ly/LonPlanPhil
East Timor: government website Wikitravel	bit.ly/IndoGov bit.ly/RGIndo
Thailand: government website Tourism Thailand	bit.ly/TLGov bit.ly/WikiTET bit.ly/ThaiGovt bit.ly/ThaiTour
Seventh-day Adventist Southern Asia-Pacific Division Myanmar Union Mission Central Philippine Union Conference Southeast Asia Union Mission Thailand Mission West Indonesia Union Mission	adventist.asia adventistmm.org cpucsa.org saum.org.sg adventist.or.th adventist.or.id

An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Determine a goal for your class's weekly mission offering. Multiply it by 14, allowing a double goal for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

Remind your Sabbath School members that their regular weekly mission offerings will help the missionary work of the world church and that one quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the Southern Asia-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.

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Thanks to the following organizers and interpreters: Teresa Costello (SSD), Ray House (East Timor), Lim Teng Pheng (Cambodia), Saengsurin Phongchan (Thailand), Larry Raranta (Indonesia), Gary Rogers (Cambodia), M.C. Shin (Cambodia), Wesley Szamko (SSD), Max Wauran (Indonesia)

Website: AdventistMission.org

Mission (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2019 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.

Fourth Quarter 2018
Volume 107, Number 4

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SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Bangladesh Union Mission	123	292	30,394	162,911,000
Central Philippine Union Conference	1,262	554	182,568	20,659,232
East Indonesian Union Conference	893	260	118,153	26,749,089
Myanmar Union Mission	233	106	31,570	52,414,000
North Philippine Union Conference	1,480	407	358,156	56,965,924
Pakistan Union Section	118	68	12,041	203,447,000
South Philippine Union Conference	2,047	1,033	511,563	24,946,844
Southeast Asia Union Mission	358	433	90,343	217,712,000
West Indonesia Union Mission	843	351	104,201	232,698,911
Sri Lanka Mission	37	21	3,116	21,163,000
Timor-Leste Mission	1	2	573	1,266,000
TOTAL	7,395	3,527	1,442,678	1,020,933,000

PROJECTS

- 1** Better Living health center, Lahore, Pakistan
 - 2** Namthipsavan Language School, Ngoy, Phonsavanah, Laos
 - 3** Adventist International Mission School, Korat, Thailand
 - 4** Essential Life Center, Battambang, Cambodia
 - 5** Youth outreach centers, Peninsular Malaysia
 - 7** Literacy training center, Lake Sebu, Philippines
- CHILDREN'S PROJECT**
- 6** Eleven children's Sabbath School classrooms, Sarawak, Malaysia