



YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

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




Contents

On the Cover: Snehal, 15, studies at Alate Adventist School in western India because an Adventist pastor gave her mother a Bible study. See story on page 12.


CENTRAL INDIA

- 4 India's New Training Center | July 1
- 6 The Wife Beater, Part 1 | July 8
- 8 The Wife Beater, Part 2 | July 15




WESTERN INDIA

- 10 Blessed by a King | July 22
- 12 4 Pastors, 4 Students | July 29 
- 14 Prayer Yields a Gushing Well | Aug 5

NORTHEASTERN INDIA

- 16 "I Want to be an Evangelist" | Aug 12 
- 18 Shunned for the Sabbath | Aug 19
- 20 How the Village Accepted Adventists | Aug 26

SOUTHERN INDIA

- 22 Sweet, Happy Home | Sept 2 
- 24 Lost and Found | Sept 9 
- 26 Wayward Father Finds Jesus | Sept 16 
- 28 Challenged and Victorious | Sept 23
- Online: 13th Sabbath Program | Sept 30

RESOURCES

- 29 Special Offering Appeals from India
- 30 Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects
- 31 Leader's Resources/Masthead
- 32 Map

 = stories of special interest to teens

Your Offerings at Work



In 2014 part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped build a meeting hall for Bhutanese people. The new training center, located in northeastern India near the border of Bhutan, is now training lay workers to serve among the Bhutanese people who cross the border into India. It also houses a worship center and children's Sabbath School class for new believers. Thank you for giving so that the work among the Bhutanese people can move forward.



© 2017 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® • All rights reserved
12501 Old Columbia Pike,
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6601
800.648.5824 • AdventistMission.org

Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter features the Southern Asia Division, which includes the countries of Bhutan, India, and Nepal, plus the islands of the Maldives. The mission reports featured in this quarter come from India.

The Challenges

With a population of more than 1.3 billion people, and almost 1.6 million Seventh-day Adventists, the Southern Asia Division has one Adventist for every 870 people. Most of this growth has occurred in the past 20 years. In 1995, the division had a membership of fewer than 200,000.

The foundation for this tremendous growth was laid over the past 100-plus years as Adventist schools were established throughout the region. Thousands of non-Christian students enrolled in Adventist schools, where they could study in English, one of the primary languages of India. They learned far more than just English, however. Bible classes and daily and weekly worship were part of every

curriculum. Many of these children were baptized while studying in Adventist schools. Many more thousands who were not baptized were influenced by new Christian values.

Today, Adventist schools continue to have a reputation for academic excellence and a caring and safe environment for children. Student applications continue to exceed enrollment capacities. Enlarging four schools in India will help more children receive excellent educations while they learn how much Jesus loves them.

As the church in Southern Asia continues to grow, the need for a centralized division-wide training center with conference facilities has become urgent. The training center already under construction in Ibrahimpatnam [EE-brah-heem-PAHT-nahm], a large city in the heart of India, will serve that need. The facility will enable pastors, Global Mission Pioneers, and lay workers to receive the training they need to make a major difference in the lives of those to whom they minister. The training center will include dormitory rooms and a cafeteria, which will cut down the costs of holding such training sessions throughout the year. The facilities will also be used as a centralized conference center for church leaders throughout the year.

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will go to help provide:

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

Special Features

The mission quarterlies are now on Facebook. Visit Facebook and like us at [Facebook.com/missionquarterlies](https://www.facebook.com/missionquarterlies).

Take advantage of the Mission Spotlight videos, which feature mission reports from around the world and special focus on this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering recipients. You can sign up to receive an e-mail that includes descriptions of each video and links to download or view the videos online. Sign up at [MissionSpotlight.org/subscribe](https://www.MissionSpotlight.org/subscribe).

Check out the Leader's Resource page (31) in this quarterly for helpful sources of additional information to enhance your mission presentations throughout the quarter.

India's New Training Center

CENTRAL INDIA | July 1

Vara Prasad Jacob



Construction work is under way on the Seventh-day Adventist Church's first major training and conference center in India.

The three-floor facility will make it easier for church leaders to organize major meetings. Schoolchildren say it will allow them to invite non-Adventist friends to church.

The center is one of five projects that will receive money from this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

The full name of the center is the Pioneer Memorial Discipleship Training Center.

It is named after the first Adventist missionaries who entered central India about 100 years ago. Those missionaries did not come from the United States or Europe. They were the first generation of Indian Adventists. They laid the foundation for the Adventist work in central India today.

The Pioneer Memorial Discipleship Training Center will contain a large auditorium, seminar rooms, a cafeteria, and guestrooms. It is located on the sprawling compound of the Adventist Church's South Andhra Section.

The training center will be available to church members throughout the Southern Asia Division.

Vara Prasad Jacob, president of the South Andhra Section, is thrilled about the training center.

He says, "We do not have a training facility in the entire division. We have colleges and schools, but not a training center."

He is especially excited that the facility will be equipped with a meeting hall with 1,000 seats, guestrooms, and a dining area. Currently, church members who meet for training sessions have to stay in hotels and travel to a conference hall and to a restaurant to eat, adding greatly to the expense of any large meeting.

The cost of building the first two floors of the training center is being covered by a private donor. That portion of the building is scheduled to be completed by the end of this quarter.

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build the third floor, which will include guestrooms and complete the center.

In all, the training center will cost 50 million rupees [about US\$730,000] to build.

Church leaders say the location is ideal for the training center. The South Andhra Section compound covers 60 acres (24 hectares) in a part of India that is relatively open to Christianity. Church leaders say a lot of evangelism takes place in this part of the country. It is easy to preach here compared to some parts of India.

The compound is located about an hour's drive from a major city and is easily accessible by bus, train, and airplane.

The church plans to keep the training center open year-round.

School Students Benefit

Perhaps children at a school located on the same property are among those most eager to welcome the training center.

The school of 700 mostly Adventist students doesn't have a church building large enough to contain all the children.

The current church building seats only 250 people. Another 250 students squeeze into the school's cafeteria to worship every Sabbath.

The training center would have room for all the children to worship together when it isn't being used for training meetings.

Students say it will be easier to invite their non-Adventist friends to the big auditorium.

John, who is 16 years old and in the tenth grade says, "I want us all to worship together."

John wasn't always an Adventist. He learned about God and the Sabbath at the Adventist school. He is one of the 450 students at the school who live in the dormitory.

John told his father about what he

Fast Facts

- India is the seventh-largest country by size, one-third the size of the United States. But it is home to more people than any country but China, with about 1.3 billion people.
- India has 10,000 large cities, including 50 with a population of more than a million people. Yet many people still live in the nation's more than 600,000 towns and villages.
- Although India's economy is growing fast, many people still live below the poverty level. Almost half the people in India cannot read and write. Many suffer from disease and poor-quality food.

was learning at school during his visits home. When he was in the eighth grade, his father decided to be baptized. John himself was baptized a year later.

John isn't the only student who wants to worship in the new training center. Seventeen-year-old Vinutna [vee-NOOT-nah], loves to sing.

She says the current church is so small that the choir director has to limit the number of students who can sing in the choir on Sabbaths to 35 students because there isn't room for more. But when the students can meet in the new training center, many more can glorify God with their voices.

"I am very happy to know that a community hall is being built," she says. "We will be able to have a bigger choir, singing and praising God on Sabbath."

Please remember the Pioneer Memorial Discipleship Training Center in your prayers and with your Sabbath School mission offerings. 🌍

The Wife-Beater, Part 1

CENTRAL INDIA | July 8

Chadamla, 42



Chadamla (chah-DAHM-lah) stopped outside the Seventh-day Adventist church in his town on a Sabbath morning.

His life was not going well.

He made good money driving a three-wheeled taxi. But he was worried that his marriage was falling apart. He was beating his wife several times a month, and he couldn't seem to stop.

He heard the pastor's voice from inside the church and stopped to listen.

The pastor was telling the Sabbath School class about Jacob.

He described a ladder of angels stretching into the sky and told of Jacob's pledge to give 10 percent of his income to the Lord in exchange for blessings.

After the Sabbath School class ended, Chadamla entered the church and asked the pastor where the story he had told came from.

The pastor gave him a copy of the adult Sabbath School lesson quarterly and a Bible.

Chadamla thanked the pastor and started home.

Chadamla's Problem

That afternoon Chadamla thought about what he had heard in the church. He thought about how he had become such a cruel husband.

The beatings began about three months after Chadamla, who was 22 years old at the time, married his 18-year-old wife. Both he and his wife had deep Hindu roots.

Chadamla was named in honor of the Hindu god of the wind. His wife was named after a Hindu goddess.

Even before they were married, Chadamla's wife had known that she had been chosen by the spirits.

She would become possessed by spirits during religious rituals, losing control of her body, dancing, and tearing her clothing.

Villagers invited her to attend spirit meetings in their homes.

When she was in a trance, they could seek advice from the spirits, and she would speak.

Although he was a Hindu, Chadamla strongly disliked his wife's participation

in the spirit meetings.

He was particularly disturbed by how each spirit meetings ended; his wife would leave the home where the ritual had been held and dance wildly in the street on the way to the nearest shrine, where she would sacrifice a rooster or small goat. The sacrifice would leave her face and clothing splattered with blood. Shortly after the sacrifice, she would come to her senses and return home.

“I didn’t like those rituals,” Chadamla said.

“I didn’t like to see my wife possessed. I would yell at my wife and beat her, telling her not to go any more.”

The Devil’s Influence

He felt bad after each beating, but he couldn’t stop himself. Only later

did he realize that the same evil spirits that possessed his wife were manifesting themselves in his actions as well.

“I did not know that it was the devil’s spirit that was provoking me to beat my wife,” he said.

“But after reading the Bible for some time, I realized that the spirit of arrogance is from Satan.”

His wife glared at him during the beatings and she snarled defiantly, “Who do you think that I am that you are beating me?”

Sometimes she fled to her parents’ house until Chadamla had calmed down.

But she always returned, and she continued attending the rituals.

Twice she suffered miscarriages during the rituals.

That’s when Chadamla walked by the Adventist church near his home.

He heard the pastor’s comments about Jacob and wanted to know more. Chadamla had no idea how much that meeting would change his life.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help finish building a training and conference center about 20 miles [30 kilometers] from Chadamla’s home in central India.

This will be the first major training and conference center in the entire Southern Asia Division. It will be available for use by local church members such as Chadamla, and pastors and lay workers from around the division.

Please remember this project and the Adventist work in central India in your prayers and with your Sabbath School mission offerings. 🌍

To be continued.

Mission Post

- India has a population of about 1.3 billion people. The Adventist Church has a membership of almost 1.6 million. This represents slightly more than one Adventist for every 870 people.
- Much of the church’s membership growth has occurred in the past 25 years, thanks to the help of Adventist schools and lay evangelism efforts.
- The Southern Asia Division has had no place in which to hold large division-wide meetings except conference centers and hotels, which can be prohibitively expensive.
- Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help complete a training center and conference center in central India that will serve the entire subcontinent of Southern Asia.

The Wife-Beater, Part 2

CENTRAL INDIA | July 15

Samuel, 42



The story so far:

Chadamla's wife often visited spirit meetings and allowed herself to be possessed by the spirits. Chadamla hated it that his wife allowed spirits to possess her and demanded that she stop. But when he learned that she was going to spirit festivals he became angry and beat her for disregarding his demand that she not allow herself to fall under the spirits' powers. He always felt sorry that he had hurt her, but he couldn't seem to control his anger.

Then one Sabbath he passed by a Seventh-day Adventist church near his home and heard someone inside speaking about a person named Jacob. He stopped and listened for several minutes. When the program was over, he entered the church and asked to speak to the man who had been talking about Jacob. When

he met the man, he discovered he was the pastor of the little church.

Chadamla told the pastor that he had listened from outside to the message and asked for more information. The pastor offered to give him a copy of the Sabbath School lesson study guide that the congregation was using, as well as a Bible.

Tell Me More

In just a few days Chadamla had read the entire lesson-study book. He looked up every Bible text mentioned. Then he returned to the church. "Tell me more about the God talked about in this lesson and the Bible," he pleaded.

The pastor said he would be happy to tell him about God, and the two men began to study the Bible together.

During the studies, Chadamla discovered 1 Corinthians 3:16: "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (NKJV).

He thought about this verse and reasoned to himself, *Since the body is the temple of God, no one has the right to inflict harm on it. If I am beating my wife, it is the same as causing harm to the church, the temple of God.*

He realized that it was wrong to beat his wife.

New Life, New Name

A few months after he entered the

Fast Facts

- India's fast-growing membership has stretched the resources it has to train pastors, lay workers, and specialized ministries such as women's and children's ministries, stewardship training, lay evangelism, and many others.
- The new Pioneer Memorial Training Center will provide everything needed to house large and small training and conference services to the church in Southern Asia. It includes housing, cafeteria, and a 1,000-seat meeting hall year-round.
- When the training center is not in use, the nearby boarding academy hopes to use the conference center as a much-needed church and large-group meeting facility.

church for the first time, he was baptized. He changed his name to Samuel.

Samuel told his wife what he was learning and invited her to join him in his Bible studies with the pastor. At first she refused, but as she saw the changes in her husband, her resistance softened. Her husband, who had yelled at her angrily when she went to the spirit rituals, became humble and kind to her. He stopped beating her. She saw how calm he was when he read the Bible and noticed that he prayed to this new God every day. Her own heart began to soften as well, and she began to attend Bible studies.

Studying the Bible, his wife slowly became convinced that it really was wrong to be possessed by spirits. She came to know God and decided to stop going to people's homes to participate in those rituals. But people kept calling her to participate in rituals. When she refused

to participate anymore, they often cursed her. But she stood firm, faithful now to God rather than the spirits.

A United Family

Two years after Samuel's baptism, his wife was baptized as well. She changed her name to Ruth.

One day Samuel heard the pastor appeal for more Bible workers. His heart was touched, and he decided to leave his job as a taxi driver to become a Bible worker. But Samuel felt he needed more Bible studies before he could be a Bible worker. The pastor enrolled him in a four-month program to prepare him for his new work. After that, Samuel joined the training program for Amazing Facts India. Then he took pastoral training.

Today Samuel is 42 years old and the pastor of a village near his hometown. He and his wife, who lost two children to miscarriages while she served as a spirit medium, now have been blessed with two sons, 8 and 10 years old.

Samuel regularly distributes copies of the Sabbath School lesson quarterlies in his town. He hopes that someone, like him, will accept Jesus.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help complete construction on a training and conference center about 20 miles [30 kilometers] from Samuel and Ruth's hometown in central India. This training and conference center will serve the entire Southern Asia Division. It be available for use by local church members like Samuel and Ruth, as well as by other people from around the division. Please remember this project and the Adventist work in central India in your prayers and with your Sabbath School mission offerings. 🌍



Blessed by a King

Manohar Karnad

A Seventh-day Adventist school in western India was founded because of a missionary's vision and the kindness of a king.

Alate [ah-LAH-teh] Seventh-day Adventist School is now praying for the kindness of church members worldwide.

It hopes that this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will provide a much-needed classroom block for its young students.

The principal of the Alate Seventh-day Adventist School, Manohar Karnad [MAN-oh-har KAR-nad], said the school faces the same problem today that it faced in 1960, when it closed for two decades. Its infrastructure is old.

Mr. Karnad said, "Without infrastructure, there are no students. Without students, there is no school. This vicious cycle must be broken."

The school is located on 17 acres [7 hectares] of parched dirt just up the road from a luxury private school. The other school is located on 150 acres [60 hectares]

of hills and green meadows.

Mr. Karnad said the luxury school and other newer schools in the area make it difficult for the Adventist school to be competitive.

But he pointed out that the school has something that the other schools don't have: a uniquely high standard of education.

He said: "Our education prepares children for a life of service, not just to work as professionals."

The school, which has 260 students, is known for helping children whose families cannot afford tuition.

Blessed Friendship

The Adventist Church obtained the land where the school stands in 1920, when King Shahu, ruler of the local region, struck up a friendship with an American missionary named S.O. Martin.

One day the king asked the Adventist missionary, "What do you want from me?"

The missionary replied that he would like a piece of land.

The king stretched out his hand and said, "Take what you need."

The king had one requirement: that the missionary build a medical clinic and school on the land.

A medical clinic was built on the land and operated there until 1981. The school opened in 1943 but closed in 1960. The

Fast Facts

- The Alate Seventh-day Adventist School is located in Maharashtra state in western India.
- Students are expected to work two hours a day, cleaning classrooms, tending the garden, or helping in the cafeteria. Such a work program helps students learn responsibility as they develop a growing pride in their school.
- A new 14-room classroom block, scheduled to be built with funds from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, will replace an aging structure that is too small to accommodate more students. The new structure is one step in updating facilities and enlarging enrollment at this Adventist outpost in western India.

school's closing took a toll on Adventist work in the area.

"But," the principal said, "God helped us to reopen the school in 1981," and it has continued since then.

Today, five buildings dot the school's campus. Mr. Karnak and his wife live in the missionary's old house.

A section of the house is walled off for the girls' dormitory.

Boys live in a dormitory on the other side of the campus.

All students are expected to work two hours a day. Some work in the vegetable garden, while others cook and wash in the cafeteria.

These work-study jobs help students learn practical skills and the value of physical labor as well as studying.

"We are not afraid of hard work," Mr. Karnad said.

What the school really needs, he said, is the 14 new classrooms.

About 30 percent of the students are Adventist.

Another 30 percent have other Christian backgrounds, and the rest come from other religious traditions.

The principal took *Adventist Mission* on a tour of the campus. Standing outside his office, he said: "We are waiting for good people to take notice of God's work going on in this area."

Please remember the Alate school and its students in your prayers and with your Sabbath School mission offerings. 🌐



Students studying in one of Alate's old classroom blocks.

4 Pastors, 4 Students

Siyon, Snehal, David, Abhishek



Do Seventh-day Adventist pastors play an important role in Adventist schools?

If it weren't for Adventist pastors, thousands of children would not be attending an Adventist school in India. Let's meet four of them.

Siyon

Siyon [SY-awn] first met an Adventist pastor when he was 10 years old. Once a week, the pastor would come to his home and give Bible studies to his parents. The pastor would pray with his parents and then leave. A short time later, another pastor from a different church would come to his home. He also read the Bible and prayed.

This went on for some time. Finally, Siyon's parents decided to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. But they faced a dilemma: "We couldn't decide who would tell the pastors about our decision," Siyon said.

The parents had many issues to work out, but they had no trouble deciding where Siyon would attend school. When

the pastor spoke about an Adventist boarding school about 40 minutes from their home, the parents told their son to pack his bags.

When Siyon first arrived at the school he felt sad, for he knew no one at the new school and felt alone. But he studied hard to learn English and made new friends. Now he speaks English well and loves his new school. He has learned to be a leader and enjoys leading song services and assisting in prayer meetings and Sabbath School at the school.

Relatives and friends have noticed the difference in Siyon. When he comes home for vacations, they gather in his home and ask him to lead prayer meetings. They want to send their own children to his school—and several already have. Five children are now studying at the school because of the changes his family and friends have seen in Siyon's life.

Siyon is one of 260 students studying at the Alate [ah-LAH-teh] school in western India. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the school build a new classroom block to replace the old classrooms. It will allow the school to accept more students, some from Adventist homes, but many from families who know little or nothing about Christ and His offer of eternal love and life.

Snehal and David

Snehal [SNEH-hall] is a 15-year-old girl who has been studying at Alate Adventist School for five years. She is an active leader in Sabbath School and other worship programs. “I started reading the Bible and taking an interest in church when I arrived at this school,” she says. “I’m so happy to be here!”

Eleven-year-old David also enrolled in the school through the influence of a pastor.

“My father is a bricklayer, but for several weeks he couldn’t find work, and we didn’t have much food to eat,” David said. “Then a stranger came to our house and gave him a Christian leaflet. Dad began to read it out of curiosity.

“A short time later my father saw several well-dressed people looking at a construction site. He walked over to the group hoping to find work. He was surprised to recognize one man in the group as the man who had given him the leaflet. Gathering up his courage, my father mentioned the leaflet to the man and told him he had been reading it. Then he asked for more information. The man introduced himself as an Adventist pastor and invited Father to study the Bible with him.

“Father did study with the pastor, and

he asked to be baptized. Eventually the rest of the family joined him. Now I’m studying in the fifth grade at Alate School and I’m happy to be here where I can learn more about Jesus while I prepare for a better future.”

Abhishek

Abhishek’s [Ah-BIH-sheck] mother calls it a miracle that her son is attending the Adventist school. A drought had ruined the family’s crops. She and her family had sat at home, starving and wondering what to do. Then an Adventist pastor came to her door and offered to pray for the family.

The family was not Christian, so Abhishek’s mother sent the pastor away. But the pastor came back day after day. Finally, she allowed him to pray for her family.

Today Abhishek’s mother believes that the Holy Spirit arranged those visits. The pastor helped the family obtain food. He later gave her Bible studies, and she joined the Adventist Church. Abhishek was able to enroll at the Adventist school through a scholarship two years ago.

“I like the education that my son is receiving at this school,” she says. “He is a good influence on our neighbors. His honesty and kindness have caused the neighbors to ask for information about the Adventist Church and the Sabbath.”

Adventist schools are filled with similar stories of students who have been able to grow in an Adventist environment. Please remember the Alate school in your prayers and with your Sabbath School mission offerings. Let’s also remember to pray for the Adventist pastors who play an important role in Adventist education. 🌍

Mission Post

- The Alate Seventh-day Adventist School was established in western India in 1943. While it was closed for some time, it reopened in 1981.
- Today the school serves an enrollment of 260, including 35 who live in dormitories. Enrollment could increase if the school can upgrade its facilities.

Prayer Yields a Gushing Well

WESTERN INDIA | August 5

Sunita Hegde



Sunita [soo-NEE-tah], a farmer's wife, would love to attend worship services more often, but she doesn't want to anger her husband, who is not a Christian. So, she usually spends Sabbath worshipping quietly at home.

However, she goes to her church whenever she has a special prayer request.

Last year Sunita went to church and prayed for a well.

Sunita grew up in a Sunday-keeping home, but she stopped attending church when she married her husband. However, she continued reading her Bible.

And as she studied the Bible, she felt drawn to the Adventist church.

Sunita asked that water would be found quickly when they hired a well-digger to drill a new bore hole.

Praying for a Miracle

Times were tough on the family farm. There was little rain, and the two wells on the farm nearly dried up. The farm needed water desperately. But Sunita and her husband didn't have much money.

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

But Sunita objected to the ritual. She told him that the only solution was to pray to God.

So Sunita went to church to ask God for a miracle. She asked that water would be found quickly when they hired a well-digger to drill a new bore hole. The couple

could not afford to pay the well-digger to drill several holes.

The pastor and the other church members joined with Sunita praying for her family's farm.

They thanked God for Sunita's faithfulness and her love for the Sabbath, and they asked for God's help in finding water.

The next day the well-digger arrived at the farm. The pastor and the church members also came. They wanted to pray again.

No one knew where to dig. Sunita had only enough money to drill down to 150 feet [45 meters].

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

Then the well-digger got to work.

THUMP. THUMP. THUMP.

He drilled to 50 feet. Nothing.

THUMP. THUMP. THUMP.

He reached 100 feet. Nothing.

THUMP. THUMP. THUMP.

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

"I've hit 150 feet," he said. "You must pay more money if you want me to keep digging."

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

Moments later, water gushed out of the ground.

Sunita smiled, "I was so happy!" she said. "By faith we prayed, and God answered our prayers! He blessed us."

To this day, the well is providing an unlimited supply of fresh water.

The neighbors are still marveling at the miracle.

Mission Post

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

They say to Sunita, "You are poor. Why are you so blessed?"

Sunita says the answer is simple: God honors those who honor Him.

God honored Sunita because of her faithfulness; the well continues to provide an unlimited supply of water. When we honor God, He is also willing to provide us with an unlimited supply of the water of life.

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

“I Want to Be an Evangelist”

NORTHEASTERN INDIA | August 12

Ghukato Yeptho, 16



Sixteen-year-old Ghukato [goo-KAH-toh], a student in northeast India, wants to become an evangelist one day.

But he isn't waiting to finish school to share Jesus' love with others. Ghukato uses every opportunity to tell his non-Adventist classmates about his hope in Jesus' Second Coming. He offers to study the Bible with them if they're interested.

Ghukato says he hasn't been able to stop talking about Jesus since he was baptized when he was 13.

“I want to become an evangelist,” he says with an eager smile.

The Young Lighthouse

Ghukato's parents joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church after attending evangelistic meetings when Ghukato was 9.

Both he and his brother, who is two years younger, study at Nagaland Adventist School, a K-12 day school in a remote

corner of northeastern India.

The school has 204 students, many of whom come from Christian families who are not Adventist.

Ghukato likes the spiritual activities on campus. He especially likes the first class every morning when students sing, pray, and read the Bible together.

Ghukato's teachers are impressed when they see the boy helping other students with their homework and sharing his faith with them whenever the opportunity arises.

One teacher said, “He not only attends the church services regularly, but he also invites his non-Adventist friends to attend the church services with him, and many do.”

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

Despite the rejections he sometimes receives, Ghukato keeps the invitation open by saying: “It's OK. But if you can come sometimes, please come.”

The open invitation has brought several friends to church, including one who asked to be baptized.

Ghukato said, “I gave him Bible studies, but his parents refused to let him be baptized.”

Another friend got into trouble for visiting

Mission Post

- Adventist education is an important part of evangelism in Southern Asia Division. Since the church's beginning, schools have been soul-winning entities. With a high standard of education in English rather than local languages and a prominent religious factor, hundreds of students in Adventist schools give their lives to Christ and are baptized every year.
- This religious emphasis spills over to families as well. A large percentage of students in Adventist schools are not from Adventist homes. Children take home what they've learned at school, and entire families often choose to become Christ's followers.
- Nagaland Seventh-day Adventist School in northeastern India is a K-12 day school with 204 students. It has been approved to expand into a boarding school, but it needs dormitories. This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a girl's dormitory while the school raises funds for a boy's dormitory so that students from a wider area can receive the advantages of an Adventist education.

the church. When his parents found out, they refused to allow him to go again.

Helping Others

Refusals don't discourage Ghukato. He just finds others with whom he can be friends, sometimes away from the school campus.

At a local supermarket, he befriended a worker named Albert.

He and Albert have talked about Adventists and the Sabbath. Albert has said he is too busy for church, but he happily accepts the *Adventist World*

magazine and other religious literature that Ghukato offers him.

Ghukato's love for God started at home, and Ghukato continues to make home a priority.

When his mother became ill and was unable to clean the church on the school's campus, he urged her to stay in bed until she was well.

When she again tried to get up and go to the church to clean, Ghukato hid the church key until he was able to go in her place.

He quietly cleaned the church for her until she was able to do it again.

Helping His School Expand

Asked about the school's greatest need, Ghukato immediately declared that students need their own dormitories, and that's true.

At this point the school is a day school. But if it had dormitories, many more students could come to study there. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the school build a dormitory for girls. But the school plans to raise enough money to build a boys' dormitory as well.

Ghukato says both dormitories are important because many children who would like to study at the school cannot make the daily commute.

Ghukato said he wants nothing more than to be ready and waiting when Jesus comes. His favorite Bible verse is Matthew 24:42, where Jesus says, "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."

Please remember the Nagaland Seventh-day Adventist School in your prayers and give generously to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. 🌐

Shunned for the Sabbath

NORTHEASTERN INDIA | August 19

Panmeichung Panmei, 75,
and wife, Makukhonna, 75



Six Seventh-day Adventist families remained faithful to God amid death threats, police arrest, and other harassment in northeastern India.

As a result, 30 percent of the residents of their small village are now members of the Adventist Church.

The story began when the six Sabbath-keeping families moved to the village to escape an insurgency crisis in their native region in 1966.

For the first four years, life in the new village was normal. Then the adults in the families decided to officially join the Adventist Church through baptism. Almost immediately, the other villagers began to cause problems. They told the new Adventists to recant their faith or leave.

Most of the villagers belonged to another Christian faith, and they wanted nothing to do with Adventists. They threatened the believers, broke into the

little thatched-roof hut that was the Adventist church building, and built a traditional stove of three stones in the center of the hut, saying that it should be a house for living in, not a church.

Several villagers made death threats against the Adventists, but the little group remained faithful to their beliefs. When nothing worked, the villagers convinced a local government official to sign an edict that the Adventists had to give up their faith or leave.

Under Arrest

The next Sabbath several police officers stood waiting for the Adventists at their homes after church. The police told the three adult men in the group that they were under arrest.

The women were afraid, and the children began to cry. One of the adult men, Pan, told the police, “We have not committed any crime deserving arrest. If you want to kill us on religious grounds, we are ready to give our lives.”

“We don’t want to kill you,” one police officer said. “But since the villagers do not want you here, we are taking you away.”

The police handcuffed Pan to his friend Amunang [ah-muh-NANG] and placed them and the third man in the

open back of a police truck.

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

The police truck drove off to the region's main police station, more than two hours away in the city of Dimapur (DEE-mah-poor).

Partway to the police station, Panmeichung watched in surprise as the handcuffs slid off his wrist, unshackling him from his friend.

He showed his freed hand to the police officers, who asked how he had gotten the handcuffs off.

"We did nothing," he said.

The policeman relocked the handcuffs, and the group continued on to the police station.

The three Adventist men were led to a jail cell, where they spent the next two days.

On Monday, the police said they could go if they agreed to move to another village.

The Adventists protested, saying: "You have not given us a reason for why you arrested us without an investigation and without any charges."

The police could not reply and finally freed the men.

Home for Good

Back at home, the Adventists filed an appeal with the local authorities. They asked to be allowed to live in peace in the village. Three months later, the authorities said the Adventists could stay in the village and told the other villagers to leave them alone.

Only six Adventist families moved to this village, but today 84 families are

Fast Facts

- Nagaland is located in far northeastern India. It borders Myanmar (Burma) on the east. Most of the people living in Nagaland are considered "tribal" people—individual ethnic groups distinct from the main part of India.
- Christianity is the dominant religion in the region, and English is widely spoken as a result of 19th-century missionary work in the region. Although these Christians change denominations at will, it is often not without objections from the majority Christian denominations in the territory.
- Nagaland Seventh-day Adventist School is located in Dimapur, the state's largest city.

Seventh-day Adventists. That's almost one third of the village's 1,500 residents who now belong to the Adventist Church.

Panmeichung never found out why the handcuffs fell off his wrist. But he said the incident reminded him in his hour of trouble that God was near. He said, "It was like a miracle, a kind of a sign that showed us that God was with us."

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

(continued next week)

How a Village Accepted Adventists

NORTHEASTERN INDIA | August 26

Amunang Gonmei, 77



“Maybe God answered the prayers of the Adventists.”

Last week we learned about a small village in northeastern India that tried to force six Seventh-day Adventist families to leave. The villagers made death threats and vandalized the small Adventist church building. They got the police to arrest the Adventists briefly. After the believers’ release from prison, the local authorities demanded that the villagers leave the Adventists alone. But that wasn’t the end of the story.

Tensions continued for months after the arrest of the three Adventist men. It peaked when a well-respected villager joined the Adventist Church.

The other villagers worried that this man’s decision to be baptized would have a big influence on the rest of the village.

They didn’t want the Adventist Church to grow, so they falsely accused the new Adventist of practicing black magic.

Several young people climbed onto the

roof of the new Adventist’s house. They shouted insults about Adventists and their faith.

Then they tore down the building and a nearby barn.

Then they went out to the man’s field and harvested the man’s crops and took his produce home.

Death Stalked the Village

Then something odd happened.

Some of the young people who had participated in the harassment began to die. Several succumbed to illnesses. One man’s nose started to bleed while traveling, and he died on the way back to his home.

Amunang [ah-muh-NANG], a local church deacon who witnessed the event, said, “Those who destroyed the house and mocked the church and its members all died within a short period of time and without explanation.”

Mission Post

- The only Adventist school near this village is Nagaland Seventh-day Adventist School in Dimapur, the region's largest city.
- Nagaland Adventist school serves kindergarten through grade 12. Founded in 2007, it has 205 students.
- Many students from outlying areas have asked to attend Nagaland School. At present, faculty members have taken students needing accommodations into their homes. But they cannot accept everyone who has asked to study as a boarding student. Dormitories at the school will enable students from outlying areas to have access to quality Christian education.

Military Command

A second unusual incident also occurred that year.

The village received notice that the military needed help moving supplies. It was customary for the military to ask villagers for help in carrying food rations and equipment.

This time, however, the military wanted help on a Saturday.

The Adventists immediately appealed to the local authorities. They explained that Saturday was the biblical seventh-day Sabbath, and they would not work.

The authorities, however, showed no sympathy.

Then without explanation, the military leadership announced that the workday had been changed from Saturday to Sunday.

The rescheduling caught the villagers by surprise.

Many began to say to one another,

“Maybe God answered the prayers of the Adventists.”

Tragedy struck during the Sunday work. As the villagers carried supplies across a bridge, the bridge collapsed under their feet.

Several people were injured, but the Adventists were spared.

The villagers really began to talk then. They admitted that they had tried to make the Adventists break their Sabbath, but they had ended up working on Sunday. They started to think that God favors Adventists.

The news spread across the region, and the harassment of the Adventist believers stopped.

Local church leaders are quick to say that they do not believe God causes death or suffering. But they say that God does protect and reward those who are faithful to Him.

A Growing Church

Today, 30 percent of the village's 1,500 residents belong to the Adventist Church. A local church elder said he has no doubt that God blesses people who are faithful to Him.

“The church now bears a good name, and the villagers respect it,” he said. “I hope that this joy of the Lord will continue to spread and bless the community.”

This village is a little more than a two-hour drive from the city in which the Nagaland Adventist School is located. A portion of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a girls' dormitory at the Adventist school so that the children who live in outlying villages can attend an Adventist school and reap the blessings God heaps on those who love Him and obey His commandments. 🌍



Sweet, Happy Home

Ranjith Kumar, 17

His mother committed suicide, and his family disowned him. But Ranjith still has the hope that was born from advice that he received when he was a boy.

Ranjith [rahn-JEEth] who grew up in a poor family and often went hungry.

But he says the advice came from the Seventh-day Adventist owner of the house that his parents rented saved his life.

The man told him, “Pray daily, read the Bible, and Jesus will guide you.”

The man cared for Ranjith and even enrolled Ranjith in an Adventist school and paid for his education.

But when Ranjith was in the fifth grade, the landlord moved to another country, and Ranjith had to enroll in a public school.

Another Unexpected Blessing

Then Ranjith learned that he would be allowed to return to the Adventist school on a scholarship provided by Adventist Child India, a nonprofit organization

“To me, my dormitory is my sweet, happy home. The church is the only place to be safe.”

founded to cover tuition and boarding costs of deserving schoolchildren in India.

Ranjith said he owes his life to people who have sponsored his Adventist education.

During his seventh-grade year, Ranjith moved into the boys’ dormitory at James Memorial Higher Secondary School in southern India.

It was then that he began to follow his former landlord’s advice to pray and study the Bible. He also started to attend church services regularly.

He said the school became a haven away from his home, where his parents quarreled frequently.

“I felt my life was safe here,” he explained.

Tragedy Strikes

Tragedy struck when Ranjith was in the eighth grade.

His parents were arguing, and his mother set herself on fire. She died of her injuries.

“That was the worst part of my life,” Ranjith said, tears forming in his eyes. “But thanks to those who care about poor young students, I still had a home at my school.”

As he mourned his mother’s death, he resolved to serve Jesus faithfully. He volunteered for various duties at the school’s church, including being responsible for the keys.

But as Ranjith embraced his new faith, his family disowned him.

“I lost my father’s love and my relationship with our relatives,” Ranjith said. “I have tried to speak with my family about God, but I can’t even get close to them. They avoid me.”

The difficulties intensified when his father remarried and his new wife refused to accept Ranjith.

During this time, he struggled to focus on his studies, and his grades dropped. He made new friends who had a negative influence on him. He considered rejecting Jesus.

But then he attended a week of prayer at his school and told his story to the week of prayer speaker, an Adventist pastor.

“He prayed for me, and I prayed about all my needs and sufferings,” Ranjith said.

New and Stronger Faith

Ranjith’s faith returned. Today Ranjith is 17 years old and in the 11th grade. He prays daily, reads the Bible, and is seeking Jesus’ will as he prepares for baptism.

He said: “To me, my dormitory is my sweet, happy home. The church is the only place to be safe.”

James Memorial Higher Secondary

Fast Facts

- James Memorial Higher Secondary School is a boarding academy located in Tamil Nadu state in southern India. Established in 1941. The school includes classes for kindergarten through twelfth grade. Enrollment is 936, including 243 who live in dormitories.
- While 80 percent of the students come from Adventist families, a baptismal class is held every Sabbath and is open to students of all faith. Between 50 and 60 students are baptized every year.
- Even more students wish to attend James Memorial Higher Secondary School, but the dormitories can’t accommodate more students. A new girls’ dormitory will be built with help from this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

School is a home and haven as well as a school to hundreds of students. Over the years, thousands of young people have studied here and learned who Jesus is and how much He loves them. Lives have been changed by this school and hundreds of others throughout India.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new girls’ dormitory at James Memorial Higher Secondary School. The current girls’ dormitory is 65 years old and has only five toilets and five showers for about 100 girls.

The new dormitory will accommodate more students and provide a healthier environment in which to live and study.

Please remember this school in your prayers and with your Sabbath School mission offerings. 🌍



Lost and Found

Sneha, 14

Sneha [SNEH-hah] is a 14-year-old student at a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school in southern India. [Ask a teenage girl to present this first-person report.]

My father was a fisherman, and my mother worked as a nurse.

They were both happy when I was born. But after the birth of my younger sister, my father began to drink alcohol.

It was like he became a different person. Nobody could stop him from drinking.

My father would arrive home late at night, screaming and shouting at us for no reason.

My mother would cry and cry, but no one came to help her.

Orphaned

One day, when I was 10, my mother dropped my sister and me off at school and went home.

She found my father so drunk that he could not speak properly. She didn't say a word to him, but when my father finally noticed her, he demanded money to buy alcohol.

My mother replied that she didn't have any money.

My father was furious, and they began to quarrel. My father beat my mother savagely.

She was helpless. Nobody came to help her.

Then my father took kerosene, poured it over my mother, and set her afire. My mother was badly burned. When he sobered up a little, my father took my mother to the hospital.

But the burns were so severe that the doctors said she would not survive. My father ran away.

Nobody knows to this day what happened to him.

My sister and I were left with our poor mother in the hospital. She died 15 days later.

My sister and I mourned the loss of our mother for months. Our grandmother took us in and cared for us as best she could.

Found!

One day a Seventh-day Adventist pastor visited grandmother.

The pastor comforted us. When he learned that we were orphans, he told us about James Memorial Higher Secondary School.

He offered to help us find a way to

Fast Facts

- James Memorial Higher Secondary School is located in Tamil Nadu state in southeastern India. The state is densely populated and well developed.
- The region is semi-arid and relies on the monsoon rains to grow its crops. Failure of the monsoons can cause drought.
- The official language of Tamil Nadu is Tamil, one of the longest-surviving classical languages in the world.

attend. He helped us receive assistance from Adventist Child India. *[Editor's Note: Adventist Child India is a nonprofit organization that provides sponsorship to schoolchildren in India.]*

When I first arrived at the school, I had never heard about God. But new friends and teachers began to tell me about God, the living Savior. I started reading the Bible and praying.

Today I am 14 years old and studying in the 10th grade. My sister is

12 and in the eighth grade.

I am thankful to the Lord for His blessings and for making me who I am today.

Even though I lost both my parents, I know that I have a heavenly Father who takes good care of His children. He will never leave us if we believe in Him and accept Him as our Savior.

I love my school!

But the dormitory where I live is very old. It doesn't have enough bathrooms for the 100 girls who live here.

I'm glad that part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new girls' dormitory at James Memorial Higher Secondary School.

The new dormitory will make it possible for more students to attend this school.

Some may come from difficult home situations like mine, but they will learn how much God loves them and wants to be their Heavenly Father.

Thank you for giving to mission, and especially on Thirteenth Sabbath, so more children like me can have a Christian education. Glory to God! 🌍

"A LIBERAL SOUL SHALL BE MADE FAT"

A message from G. Nageshwar Rao, communication director for the Southern Asia Division

Thank you for supporting mission projects in the Southern Asia Division. Many schools and churches have been built through your generosity in the past. These projects have become a source of joy to those who had no hope of studying in a good school or worshipping in a church building.

By giving liberally to this quarter's five projects in India, you will help bring many students and church members to the foot of the cross. As the Word of God says in

Proverbs 11:25, "The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself" (KJV).

This is my personal experience. I am a convert from Hinduism who studied at an Adventist school that has been blessed through mission offerings through the years. Today I am a soldier for Christ.

You have the chance to strengthen many people like me for the Lord's kingdom. May the good Lord bless you as you support His mission through your liberal offerings.

Wayward Father Finds Jesus

SOUTHERN INDIA | September 16

Vaishali Papa, 15



Vaishali [VY-shah-lee] is a 15-year-old student at a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school in southern India. [Ask a teen girl to present this first-person report.]

Some of my earliest memories are of my mother crying as my father brutally beat her. Sadly, this happened often.

My father was a vegetable seller, but he drank heavily and lived in a drunken stupor for much of my childhood.

When I was 8 years old, neighbors introduced us to a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. He prayed for my family and told us stories about Jesus. He said Jesus could save us and take away our burdens. He said Jesus could comfort the broken-hearted.

That sounded wonderful to my mother and me. We gave our lives to Jesus and accepted His forgiveness for our sins. We joined the Seventh-day Adventist family.

My father, however, refused to join us.

He kept drinking and beating my mother. Seeing my desire to obey Jesus, my father took his anger out on me as well.

Flee from Danger

My father's anger was affecting me badly. I could not focus on my schoolwork, so I stopped going to school for three months as I tried to stay away from my father.

Finally, my mother took me to a town some miles distant to get away from my father. Mother wanted a new beginning for both of us. We moved into the home of friends.

But my father found out where we were living and actually moved in with us! He stayed for only three days before something bad happened. My father stole from the owners of the house. In the middle of the night, he left the house with steel buckets and other equipment that he sold to buy alcohol.

My mother decided to take me far away where my father wouldn't find me. She sent me to live with my grandparents for a while. Then she learned about James Memorial Higher Secondary School in southern India. Deciding that the school was the best place for me, she took me to this school to live and study. She works as a janitor to pay for my school fees.

This school has really helped my education. It also has increased my knowledge of God and given me peace of mind. I am now 15, and I am glad to be living here.

Mission Post

- Of James Memorial Higher Secondary School's enrollment, 243 live in dormitories. About 100 of these live in the aging girls' dormitory, which was designed for far fewer residents. It contains only five bathrooms, making it inadequate for those who live there.
- Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new dormitory that will house more girls in a far more healthful and livable environment.

Praying for Father

But I haven't forgotten my father. Every day I prayed that he would give up alcohol and give his heart to Jesus. Then last year the most amazing thing happened! My father confessed his sins and repented of his bad ways. He stopped drinking and stealing and was baptized. He is now a Seventh-day Adventist.

I am so happy! I still pray every day that my father will never drink again.

God is answering my prayers. My father is a new man!

I don't know what will happen in the future. But I am sure of this: Life without Jesus is a disaster. Life with Him is peace and happiness.

I love this school, where young people like me can study and learn together. Some are Seventh-day Adventists when they arrive, others are Christians but not Adventists, and some don't even know who Jesus is. But we live and learn together, and many of my new friends find Jesus here. That makes me so happy!

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new girls' dormitory at James Memorial Higher Secondary School. The current girls' dormitory is old, and the bathrooms can't serve the 100 girls who live with me there. The new dormitory will make it possible for lots more students to live and study at this school. Please remember this school in your prayers and with your Sabbath School mission offerings. Thank you. 🌍

FIVE SPECIAL PROJECTS

A message from Hidayat Masih, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director for the Southern Asia Division

On the behalf of Southern Asia Division officers, workers, and dedicated lay members, I would like to thank you for your generous support to complete Thirteen Sabbath Offering projects in the past.

With the help of Almighty God, the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work is growing in India.

To help it grow further, we have chosen five special projects for this quarter's Thirteen Sabbath Offering. We would like to construct new classroom blocks

at two schools so we can educate more children. We also would like to build girls' dormitories at two schools. Girls will live in these dormitories, obtain an education, and become faithful Adventists working for the Lord. We also need a training center where our workers and volunteers can learn to be more efficient and dedicated workers.

This quarter, please give generously to complete these life-changing projects in the Southern Asia Division. God bless you as you share God's blessings for His work.

Challenged and Victorious

SOUTHERN INDIA | September 23

Janeesh Kumar, 30



When Janeesh [Jahn-EESH] was diagnosed with cancer and given only six months to live, his neighbors said they knew why: It was because he had become a Seventh-day Adventist. And he had dared to argue with a Sunday-keeping pastor.

Two years later, Janeesh is alive and well in southern India. People listen with astonishment as he speaks about Jesus. “When I tell them about the truth as it is written in the Bible, they eagerly listen because I am speaking from my own experience,” says 30-year-old Janeesh.

Janeesh grew up worshipping in a Christian church in a rural village. As a young adult, he studied at a seminary. While studying, Adventist friends invited him to attend a Friday evening worship service. The pastor spoke about Bible prophecy that evening, and Janeesh took careful notes. He asked many questions

and then asked his seminary teachers for more information.

When he heard about the seventh-day Sabbath, he wanted to prove it wrong. He again went to the seminary teachers and asked for Bible verses to prove that Sunday was the correct day of worship. The teachers could not help him. So, he attended the Adventist church on Saturdays and his home church on Sundays. After a time, he decided to be baptized and left the seminary in which he had been studying to enroll at an Adventist seminary.

A New Mission Field

A year later his father died, and Janeesh returned home to care for his mother. He shared his faith with neighbors and friends. He and several Adventist friends gave away tracts to every person in the village. The young people organized a three-day meeting to discuss the three angels’ messages. Many people attended the meetings and asked questions. A Sunday-keeping pastor invited Janeesh and his friends to discuss the seventh-day Sabbath at his church. The pastor and his church members ended up accepting the Sabbath.

But other Christians in town fought back. They organized their own three-day meeting. They brought in a young pastor to speak against the seventh-day Sabbath.

Janeesh and his friends attended those meetings and took notes. On the last day,

Mission Post

- Vellarada [Vehl-ah-RAH-dah] Adventist High School is located in Kerala State in southernmost India. It serves children from kindergarten through tenth grade.
- The school was founded in 1982 and accommodates 300 students, most of whom are Christians.
- A new classroom block will provide room for more students and accommodate government requirements.

the preacher asked whether anyone in the audience had any doubts about the holiness of Sunday.

Janeesh and his friends stood and walked to the front and read aloud many Bible texts about the Sabbath. The congregation was amazed, and the young pastor was speechless. He promised to invite a senior pastor to explain everything.

After those meetings, many villagers looked at Janeesh with astonishment and respect. Some started taking Bible lessons.

A New Challenge

That is when Janeesh was diagnosed with cancer. Some Protestant pastors and church members said God was punishing Janeesh for becoming an Adventist. They also said he was being punished for openly arguing with the pastor. They predicted that God would punish anyone who preached against Sunday.

Janeesh struggled with his faith. He grew discouraged and stopped talking about Jesus for several weeks. His friends urged him not to lose heart. He underwent 36 chemotherapy sessions as church members prayed for him.

While still taking chemotherapy, Janeesh started to give Bible studies again. Sunday-keeping pastors told him to stop teaching about the Sabbath or his illness would get worse. But Janeesh didn't listen to them. Instead, he and his friends decided to conduct meetings about the Sabbath. Eight young people were baptized after the meetings. This doubled the number of Adventists in his village.

Janeesh rented a small room and started giving Bible studies twice a week. He organized prayer meetings in the room too. Twenty people could sit on the floor during the meetings. When more showed up, they sat outside the door to listen.

A Living Witness

Doctors have not declared Janeesh to be free of cancer. But they admit that they were wrong when they said he only had six months to live. Today he looks healthy, and he says he feels healthy. Janeesh and many villagers say this is a miracle.

"I am a living witness that God cares for me," Janeesh says. "As a living witness, it is easy to tell the truth to others."

While few Adventists live in Janeesh's village, the number of believers is growing. Soon there may be an active church in this village, a church with children who need a solid Christian education in a school with high standards and teaches in English.

In a town about 90 minutes' drive from Janeesh's village is an Adventist school that will receive part of this quarter Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to help build a classroom block. These additional classrooms will make it possible to serve more children. There they will not only receive a high level of education but will learn about God, who is their Father and Savior. 🌍

PUT THE SPOTLIGHT BACK ON MISSION WITH **Mission Spotlight!**

Produced each quarter by the Office of Adventist Mission, this DVD is a complete package—featuring action-packed mission stories from around the globe, including Thirteenth Sabbath Mission Offering projects. Available in short weekly or longer monthly segments.



Mission Spotlight is great for

- Sabbath School
- Children's stories
- Before Church
- School and family worships
- Pathfinders
- Prayer Meetings

Cost is **Absolutely Free!** The DVDs are sent to every church in the North American Division.

DOWNLOAD OR STREAM STORIES FROM WWW.MISSIONSPOTLIGHT.ORG.

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects



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

Leader's Resources

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

Indian government website: bit.ly/IndiaGovtFacts
CIA's India Facts: bit.ly/IndiaCIA
Wikitravel: bit.ly/wikiIndia
Lonely Planet: bit.ly/PlanetIndia
Wikipedia: bit.ly/WikipediaIndia
Ducksters: bit.ly/DuckstersIndia

Religions of India
bit.ly/IndiaReligions

Seventh-day Adventist
Southern Asia Division: sud.adventist.org

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

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

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

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

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

YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

EDITORIAL

Andrew McChesney Editor
Charlotte Ishkhanian Editorial Assistant
Emily Harding Layout Editor
Dhormo Kamei Contributing Writers
Manohar Karnad
Hidayat Masih
Jienpui Panmei
Jose Prakash
G. Nageshwar Rao

OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION

Gary Krause Director
Rick Kajjura Communication Director
Jeff Scoggins Planning Director
Homer Trecartin Global Mission
Centers Director
Doug Venn Global Mission Urban
Center Director

COMMUNICATION TEAM

Kayla Ewert
Laurie Falvo
Ricky Oliveras
Earley Simon
Karen Suvankham

Website: AdventistMission.org

Mission (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2017 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.

Third Quarter 2017
Volume 106, Number 3

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

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 Veronica Cenicerros at Veronica.Cenicerros@pacificpress.com or call 1-800-447-7377 or 1-208-465-2560. Annual subscription rates per edition: domestic, US\$7.50; international, US\$14.50.

Southern-Asia Division



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

Statistics as of December 2015

PROJECTS

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



MALDIVES

INDIAN OCEAN

SRI LANKA

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS