



youth & adult **MISSION**

**Strange
Noises
At Night**

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 = stories of special interest to teens

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 11 countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. The region is home to 682 million people, including 1.7 million Seventh-day Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for every 404 people.

Part of a special offering collected on the last Sabbath of this quarter will go to support four projects in Brunei, Myanmar, and Indonesia. Those Thirteenth Sabbath projects are listed in the sidebar.

Special Features

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive this quarter, we offer photos, videos, and other materials to accompany each mission story. More information is provided in the sidebar with each story.

You also can download a PDF of facts and

activities from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division at bit.ly/ssd-2025. Follow us at facebook.com/missionquarterlies. Download the PDF version of the youth and adult *Mission* quarterly at bit.ly/adultmission and the *Children's Mission* quarterly at bit.ly/childrensmision. *Mission Spotlight* videos are available at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

Thank you for encouraging others to be mission-minded!



Chhaina posing for a photograph at Asia-Pacific International University in Thailand. Read how he stopped hating the name of Jesus on page 4.

Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will support four projects in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division:

- Preschool, Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary, Myaungmya, Myanmar
- Life Hope Center, Yangon, Myanmar
- Health Clinic, Brunei
- Papua Adventist Theology College, Nabire, Indonesia

From Unlucky to Loved



THAILAND | April 5

Chhaina

“You should never have been born,” said another.

Chhaina was 18. He felt very alone.

Then a friend invited him to guitar lessons at a Seventh-day Adventist church. Chhaina felt torn. He knew that Adventists loved Jesus. He hated Jesus. But he loved the guitar, and he really wanted to learn how to play.

He went to the Adventist church.

After that, he didn’t miss a guitar lesson at the church. He immediately liked the pastor and his wife. They spoke about a Jesus who was very different from the Jesus whom he had heard about from his parents. They said Jesus didn’t only love people who loved Him; Jesus also loved people who hated Him. His love was so big that He died so that even people who hated Him could live eternally.

Chhaina began to go to church every Sabbath. A love for Jesus grew in his heart, and he was baptized. He prayed to be reunited with his parents. He wanted them to accept him without worrying that he was unlucky. “I want my family back,” he prayed every day. “I promise to serve You for the rest of my life and not serve any other god.”

But Jesus seemed so silent. Chhaina didn’t have a full understanding of the role of faith in the Christian life. His family’s traditional religion put a major emphasis on works. So, as he prayed, he decided to prove through his works that he was worthy of a response. He volunteered for One Year in Mission, a church initiative in which he spent a year in mission service. Then he helped a French missionary distribute Bibles in Cambodia. He

Chhaina grew up hating the name of Jesus Christ. Chhaina belonged to a major world religion in Cambodia, and he and his family hated Christianity.

But then Chhaina’s family began to hate him.

It all started when Chhaina’s grandfather died suddenly. Chhaina loved his grandfather and had spent a lot of time with him. But in their religion, if you spend a lot of time with someone, and something bad happens, you are considered responsible. Chhaina’s family wondered if the boy was unlucky.

Then Chhaina’s uncle died suddenly. Chhaina had spent a lot of time with his uncle. Now his family really began to wonder if he was unlucky.

Then Chhaina’s parents went bankrupt. They sold everything that they owned but, still deep in debt, moved across the border to Thailand to work at a television factory. Chhaina was told to stay behind.

“Your life has not brought peace but only destruction,” one family member said.



hoped that his church work would convince Jesus to answer his prayers. But Jesus seemed so silent. At times, Chhaina felt upset, and he prayed, “I’m doing so much for You. Why aren’t You doing anything for me?”

After five years, Chhaina’s parents returned to Cambodia. They had no choice. The authorities in Thailand didn’t renew their work visas. With no land or home, they accepted an invitation from Chhaina to stay with him in his rented home. It no longer mattered if he was unlucky. They had nowhere else to go.

On Sabbath, Chhaina invited his parents to church. “You don’t have any money, but we will find food for all of us there,” he said.

The church members warmly welcomed his parents, and his parents enjoyed the fellowship meal. The next Sabbath, they returned for more food and fellowship, and their hearts began to soften. The Jesus whom they heard about at church was very different from the Jesus whom they had hated for so many years. A year passed, and Chhaina’s parents were baptized.

It was the biggest miracle that Chhaina could have imagined. Jesus not only answered his prayer to bring his parents back to Cambodia, but He also won their hearts. Jesus had done much more than he had asked. With astonishment, he realized that Jesus had answered his prayers not because of anything that he had done but because of who Jesus is.

Today, Chhaina no longer feels unlucky. He feels loved. He has not forgotten his promise to serve Jesus for the rest of his life. Today, he is studying theology at Asia-Pacific International University in Thailand in preparation for a life of mission service. 🌐

Chhaina is among thousands of students who have studied at Asia-Pacific International University because of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Part of that 1988 offering helped build the campus of what was then called Thailand Mission College. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

Story Tips

- Show on the map the locations of Cambodia and Thailand. Then show the Thai town of Muak Lek, where Asia-Pacific International University is located.
- Pronounce Chhaina the same as the country of China.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Chhaina at: bit.ly/Chhaina-SSD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/ssd-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, “To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions”; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives”; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, “To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Mission Post

- Seventh-day Adventist teachings were introduced into Thailand in 1906 and 1907.
- The early work in Thailand was conducted mostly among the Chinese.

continues to bless Chhaina and many others 36 years later. Thank you for being faithful with your mission giving.

By Andrew McChesney

The Only Living God



THAILAND | April 12

Surachet

Editor's note: Today's mission story is about a man in Thailand whose life was touched by two Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings that were collected 27 years apart.

Surachet arrived at a Seventh-day Adventist high school in Thailand with a promise. He told himself, "I'll stay in the dorm, but I'll never change my religion."

Surachet had been raised in a non-Christian world religion. The majority of Thailand's population belonged to the same religion. He chose the school because it had a dormitory for students who were far from home. He lived more than 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) away in northern Thailand.

At the Adventist school, Surachet was fascinated by world civilization class. In Bible class, he was astonished to hear a prophecy about the rise and fall of major world civilizations in the book of Daniel. He wondered, "How do I harmonize the information about world civilizations that I'm hearing in these two classes?"

Around the same time, he noticed headlines in newspapers about the 1967 Six-Day War, which had recently ended with Israel defeating neighboring Arab countries. He wondered how Israel, a small country established in 1948, could defeat larger and much older neighbors. He wondered about the origin of the Jewish people.

"Is this the same Israel as in the Bible that we are studying in Bible class?" he thought.

He searched for more information and found a book about the Jewish people written by a Thai philosopher. The author, who like Surachet wasn't a Christian, recorded Israel's history over several thousand years.

Surachet thought about his own family's religion and wondered, "Is the God of Israel the true God?"

Reading the Bible, he learned that the God of Israel had pleaded with His people thousands of years ago not to bow down to images of stone and wood. Surachet's religion bowed down to images of stone and wood.

He learned that the Bible taught that the God of Israel was the only living God not formed by human hands. Jeremiah 10:10 says, "But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King" (NKJV).

Surachet signed up for Bible lessons from the Voice of Prophecy. At the time, the Voice of Prophecy had a flourishing presence in Thailand after receiving a building in Thailand's capital, Bangkok, with the help of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering several years earlier in 1961. Surachet finished the Bible studies in just a week and decided to give his



heart to the true and living God.

His father was furious when Surachet asked for permission to be baptized. “If you want to be a Christian, go to the Christians,” he said. “You don’t have to come back home.”

Surachet said he would come back if his life didn’t improve under the living God.

Surachet has no regrets. He went on to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees in theology and a doctorate in missiology. He has worked as a pastor, communication director for the Adventist Church in Thailand, and regional director for Adventist World Radio. His desire is to teach others about the living God. Today, he is teaching at Asia-Pacific International University, whose campus in Thailand was built with the help of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 1988.

He tells his students that Christianity entered Thailand more than 200 years ago and the Adventist Church arrived when a literature evangelist began to sell books in 1906. But despite a more than 100-year presence, the church’s membership is no more than 16,000 people, or only 0.02 percent of Thailand’s population of 71 million. “This is one of the most difficult countries in the world,” Surachet said. “In some places, Satan is doing his work through resistance and opposition. But here, Christianity is welcome but cultural belief in satanic agencies is strong. We are not fighting against flesh and blood. We are fighting with evil spirits. We are fighting with Satan himself. We need more workers in Thailand.” 🌐

Thank you for your faithful Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings that have had a major impact on the lives of people like Surachet Insom. Asia-Pacific International University, where Surachet teaches, has provided a Christian education to thousands of students since a 1988 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped build its campus. Every year, students from non-Christian homes are baptized at the university. The Voice of Prophecy building, which opened in Bangkok with the help of a 1961 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering,

Story Tips

- Show Thailand on the map.
- Pronounce Surachet as: SOO-RA-chet.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Surachet at: bit.ly/Surachet.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/ssd-2025.
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Mission Post

- A permanent mission opened in Thailand in 1919, with E. L. Longway and Forrest A. Pratt settling with their families at Bangkok. By 1921, five converts had been baptized. By 1926, church membership had reached 88.
- Work in the interior of Thailand was begun in 1924 by young Thai men. In 1925, two mission schools were opened, in Bangkok and Ban Pong.

has since been demolished. But other church buildings have taken its place, and its influence continues to reverberate through the lives of Surachet and others. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on June 28 that, with God’s help, will also have a long-lasting impact.

By Andrew McChesney

Missionary or Vacationary



THAILAND | April 19

Renato

couple invited Renato over to their apartment every day. “Come here, and have tea with us,” the woman said.

“Let’s hear what you have in mind for the next day,” the man said. “Do you need anything?”

On the fifteenth day, the man asked Renato a new question, saying, “Did you come to Thailand to be a missionary or a vacationary?” Renato didn’t know what to say. He didn’t reply.

The man asked the question again. “I need you to think,” he said. “Did you come here to be a missionary or a vacationary?”

Renato understood what he wanted to know. Thailand is a wonderful place. Not only does it have beautiful beaches in the south, but it also is known as “the land of smiles.” Visitors are treated very well. Missionaries could be distracted by opportunities for fun. Renato couldn’t answer the man.

On the sixteenth day, a Sabbath, Renato went to church and greeted the elderly couple, whom he now saw as his adopted parents. He wanted to chat, but he didn’t have time. First, he had to participate in the church worship service. Then he was leading a potluck for a young adult group. After that, he planned to go home for a nap at 3:30 p.m. He was exhausted.

While taking the nap, Renato got a phone call. It was the daughter of his adopted parents.

“Please pray for Dad,” she said. “He isn’t feeling well.”

Renato stretched in the lobby of his apartment building as he got ready for an early morning run in Bangkok, Thailand. The 36-year-old Seventh-day Adventist volunteer had arrived a day earlier to serve as a missionary teacher at an Adventist school.

An elderly woman walked up to him and asked, bluntly, “Who are you?”

“A new teacher,” Renato said.

“Where are you from?”

“Brazil.”

“You are far from home. Will you teach at the school?”

“Yes.”

“Then from this day, you will be my son. I will take care of you.”

The next day was Sabbath, and the woman introduced Renato to her husband at church. “So, you are my new son,” the man said. “Don’t worry about your house or your food. Just do your best at work, and we will take care of you.”

For the next two weeks, the elderly



Renato left the apartment in his pajamas. He saw two ambulances come and go. Then he heard the news that his adopted father had died. It was all so sudden. He wondered, “What will happen next? What will happen to Mom?”

Renato had a heart-to-heart talk with God during the funeral. “Give me strength to answer the question that my adopted father gave me,” he prayed. “Did I come here to be a missionary or a vacationary?”

After the funeral, Renato made a promise to his adopted mom. “I came here to be a missionary and not a vacationary,” he said.

He knew that it was a decision made through trauma. But it was the trauma that had given him the strength to make the decision. He wished he had made the decision much earlier.

After resolving to be a missionary, everything seemed to fall in place. Before, Renato had wondered if he was starting mission work late in life. He was 36, and many mission volunteers were in their twenties. He had wondered, “Why did I start now?” He also had been confused when people asked, “How long will you serve as a volunteer?” He had not been able to answer. When he had arrived in Thailand, he hadn’t been sure if he was a missionary or a vacationary. But not anymore. Now he would be a missionary in Thailand and anywhere God sent him.

“Even if I leave Thailand, I pray that God keeps me connected to Adventist Volunteer Service or any other ministry that will allow me to serve as a missionary and not a vacationary,” he said. 🌍

Pray for missionaries like Renato at Ekamai International School in Bangkok, Thailand, as they proclaim Jesus’ soon coming. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help spread the gospel in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, which includes Thailand.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Brazil and Thailand on the map. Then show Bangkok, Thailand, where Renato works as a missionary.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Renato at: bit.ly/Renato-mission.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/ssd-2025.
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Fast Facts

- Thailand was known as Siam until 1939, when the government officially changed its name to Thailand.
- Thailand is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy. The Thai currency is the Thai baht. The official language of Thailand is Thai.
- Bangkok is not only the capital of Thailand but also its main port and largest city. Bangkok is located on the delta of the Chao Phraya River.
- Bangkok is called the Venice of the East for its 83 canals and the 10,000 boats full of fruits, vegetables, and fish that crowd the canals, creating a floating market.

Setting Prisoners Free



THAILAND | April 26

Renato

On a Friday night, Renato was reviewing the sermon that he had prepared to preach the next day for his 37th birthday.

A native of Brazil, he was in the middle of his first year as a missionary teacher in Thailand, and he had asked the pastor if he could preach for his birthday.

"I'm far from home," he had said. "I don't know what to do for my birthday. Please let me preach. That is the only way I can celebrate my birthday."

But as Renato was looking over his sermon notes, he got a phone call from the headquarters of the South American Division in Brazil.

It seemed that God had something else in mind for Renato's birthday.

"Could you go to the Bangkok airport?" asked the caller. It was a departmental director at the South American Division. "A former Seventh-day Adventist member has been arrested there for drug trafficking."

Renato's heart was touched by the caller's concern. Brazil was far from Thailand, but a

Brazilian church leader was worried about a former church member who had been arrested in Thailand.

"We need a missionary to visit this boy and pray with him," the departmental director said. "Maybe you can give him a Bible. We need someone to hug him."

Renato put aside the sermon notes and went to the airport. He didn't understand the Thai language very well and wasn't sure how he would communicate with the police. He also felt anxious and even a little afraid about going to the police to talk about someone whom he didn't know.

At the airport, the police said he had arrived too late. The young man had already been transferred to another location.

There was nothing he could do at the airport.

Several weeks passed, and Renato received another phone call. This time it was from the young man's lawyer in Brazil.

She said her client was in a prison not



far from Bangkok and asked if Renato could visit him.

Renato went.

It was the first of what became many regular visits to the prison.

Sometimes the young man needed food. Pork and seafood, which are popular dishes in Thailand, were served often at the prison, but the young man didn't eat unclean food. The young man's mom called Renato and together they looked for food that Renato could bring to the prison.

The young man acknowledged to Renato that he had made a big mistake, and he expressed a desire to make things right with God. The two spoke about God and his love.

After some time, the young man's lawyer asked Renato to visit another Brazilian prisoner who was also her client in the Thai prison. So, Renato, who had arrived in Thailand to teach 100 fourth-grade children at an Adventist school, also became a missionary to two Brazilian inmates in a Thai prison. Today, he visits the two men every month and is ready to meet with other foreign inmates if God provides the opportunity.

"I pray for their hearts to be changed," he said. "Maybe in the future we will see the fruit of these prayers."

He asked church members worldwide to join him in prayer.

"Pray for these two guys and also for every foreigner in prison in Thailand," he said. "It would be wonderful if they had the chance to meet God." 🌍

Pray for prisoners in Thailand and around the world — including every person who is chained to the burden and guilt of sin. Pray for Adventist missionaries like Renato as they proclaim the good news that Jesus died to set prisoners free from sin. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help spread the gospel in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, which includes Thailand.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Brazil and Thailand on the map. Then show Bangkok, Thailand, where Renato works as a missionary.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Renato at: bit.ly/Renato-prison.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
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Fast Facts

- Bangkok is listed in Guinness World Records as the world's longest place name. Its full name is Krungthepmahanakhon Amonrattanakosin Mahintharayutthaya Mahadilokphop Noppharatchathaniburirom Udomratchaniwetmahasathan Amonphimanawatansathit Sakkathattiyawitsanukamprisit, which means, "City of angels, great city of immortals, magnificent city of the nine gems, seat of the king, city of royal palaces, home of gods incarnate, erected by Vishvakarman at Indra's behest."
- Thailand has 1,430 islands; the largest, Phuket, is located in the southwest on the Andaman Sea. The tallest mountain is Doi Inthanon and is 8,415 feet (2,565 m) high.

Long Walk to God, Part 1

THAILAND | May 3

Pada



Twelve-year-old Pada couldn't understand why his older brother had left the family faith to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Thailand.

"Why have you become an Adventist?" he asked his brother, Morja.

"Come live with me, and you'll see," Morja replied.

Pada moved in with Morja.

The boy was the youngest in his family, and he really wanted to know why Morja had become an Adventist.

Morja was the oldest child and the family leader after their father's death when Pada was three months old.

Mom, who had six children to raise alone after Dad's death, was glad that Morja could help care for Pada.

Pada quickly saw that life was very different at Morja's house. Morja was 11 years older than Pada. He was already married and the father of three young boys.

Morja and his family did not eat pork, snakes, and mice like other mountain people living on the border of Thailand and Myanmar. Mountain people were very poor,

and they ate whatever they could find. Morja and his family were not rich, but they only ate what Morja called "clean food." Morja explained that the Bible forbade people from eating unclean food such as pork, snakes, and mice.

On Sunday, Pada helped on his brother's farm. He watched the water buffalo when Morja wasn't using them to plow the rice paddy. He watched the water buffalo again on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

On Saturday morning, Morja woke up Pada at 5 o'clock. It was still dark outside.

"It's time to get up and get ready for church," Morja said.

Pada wasn't happy. He wanted to sleep. But he respected his brother and needed to listen to him. He also remembered that he had wanted to know why Morja had become an Adventist. Maybe he would find out at church.

Pada got up and joined his brother and the rest of the family for a simple breakfast of rice and vegetables. Morja's wife had prepared the meal on Friday.



After eating, Pada accompanied Morja, Morja's wife, and their three children on a long walk to church.

There was no Adventist church in their small town, and they needed to walk eight miles (13 kilometers) to the nearest church in another town.

Morja picked up one small son and carried him in a cloth wrapped around his back. Morja's wife picked up a second son and carried him in a cloth wrapped around her back.

Pada walked with their oldest boy, who was 6.

The family of six walked for three hours. They climbed mountain paths. They trooped through rice paddies. They navigated rivers. Finally, they arrived at the Adventist church in time for Sabbath School.

Pada liked the worship service. The Adventist pastor had three daughters who were about his age. The girls played the guitar and sang beautiful songs about Jesus.

After the worship service, Pada enjoyed a delicious lunch at the church. He especially liked a delicious pumpkin soup prepared by the pastor's wife.

While Pada's first visit to church was a good experience, he wasn't thrilled when his brother woke him up at 5 o'clock again the next Sabbath. He wanted to sleep, and he didn't look forward to the long walk to church. But once he arrived at church, he was happy to be there.

This is how it went every Sabbath after that. Pada grumbled in his heart as he got ready for church and took the long walk. But he always enjoyed the music and the food. 🌍

Thank you for your Sabbath School mission offerings that help proclaim the good news about Jesus' soon coming in Thailand and around the world. Find out next week how Pada decided to follow his brother's example and become a Seventh-day Adventist.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Thailand on the map.
- Pronounce Pada as: PA-da.
- Pronounce Morja as: MORDG-a.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
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Fast Facts

- In Thailand, the head is considered a sacred body part, so one must not touch other people's heads. The soles of the feet mustn't be shown, as they are considered the lowest part of the body.
- Stepping on Thai currency is illegal because the face of the monarch is printed on it.
- Some popular Thai dishes include *pad thai* (stir fried noodles with fried egg); *tom kha gai* (spicy coconut soup with chicken and lemongrass); *khao pad* (fried rice that is not too spicy and is enjoyed by children); and *khao neaow mamuang* (rice cooked in coconut milk and served with fresh mango slices).

Long Walk to God, *Part 2*

THAILAND | May 10



Pada

Last week: Twelve-year-old Pada wondered why his big brother, Morja, left the family religion and became a Seventh-day Adventist in Thailand. Morja invited him to find out for himself by moving in with him, his wife, and their three sons.

Weeks and months passed as Pada accompanied Morja and his family on the long eight-mile (13-kilometer) walk to church every Sabbath.

Pada continued to wonder why Morja had become an Adventist. He didn't have any immediate answers. But he noticed that Morja was very faithful about going to church on Sabbath. It didn't matter if it was raining or cold, the family always got up before dawn and took the long walk to church. He also noticed that Morja was very faithful with tithe and offerings. Every Sabbath, he put some money in the collection plate. Morja explained to his younger brother that the money actually belonged to God.

"I'm returning to God what already is His as a thank-you gift," he said.

Pada had lived for the first 12 years of his life with his mother in a very poor home. He didn't understand how Morja could afford to

give away money. But he noticed that Morja never seemed to lack money. There always was enough food and other necessities.

A year passed. Two years passed. Three years passed. Morja's three sons grew older and went to an Adventist school in another town. Morja was not rich, but somehow he found the money for his sons' tuition.

Pada had never gone to school. Now he was 15, and he wished that he also could go to school. As he thought about his predicament, he wondered, "Could it be that this is why Morja became an Adventist? He isn't rich, but he never needs anything. He has food and clothes and can send his sons to school. He loves the God of heaven, and the God of heaven provides for all of his needs."

A love for God took root in Pada's heart. He longed to live for the God who provided for all of his brother's needs. He longed to live for the God who had been providing for all of his needs even before he knew Him. He gave his heart to God and was baptized. Even though Pada didn't have any family who could help him, he entered first grade at the Adventist school when he was 17. He studied hard. He worked hard to pay for his studies.

When he finished school, he decided to



teach others about the God who provides for everyone's needs. He went to Mission College (now Asia-Pacific International University) and became a pastor.

Today, Pada is a pastor and a leader of the Adventist Church in Thailand. He has a wife, whom he met at the Adventist school, and they have three daughters. He has a good education. He drives a nice car. He earns a comfortable salary, and he faithfully returns tithe and offerings. His family always has enough food and clothes.

More than anything, he loves telling others about the God of heaven. He returns to the village of his childhood in the mountains on the border between Thailand and Myanmar. The mountain people who live there remain very poor, and few believe in God. Pada always stuffs 50 or more envelopes with 50- or 100-baht banknotes to give to the villagers. It isn't a lot of money, but it's a valuable gift in their eyes. When he hands out the envelopes, the villagers greet him with big smiles. He hears them saying to one another, "Pada is one of us. He grew up here, but he has a good education, a nice car, and a comfortable salary. His God is taking care of him. Maybe his God can also take care of us."

He prays that the mountain people, his people, will know one day that his God is already taking care of them and wants to save them for eternity. 🌍

Part of a 1988 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to help build a dining hall and second building at Asia-Pacific International University, where Pada trained to become a pastor. As a student, Pada helped construct the dining hall. Just as the impact of that Thirteenth Sabbath Offering is still being felt through the lives of Pada and many who have studied at Asia-Pacific International University, this quarter's offering will also have a long-lasting influence with God's blessing. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Thailand on the map.
- Pronounce Pada as: PA-da.
- Pronounce Morja as: MORDG-a.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/ssd-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, "To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Fast Facts

- Muay Thai is Thailand's national sport and is referred to as "the art of eight limbs" because of its use of fists, elbows, knees, and shins in combat.
- Thai forests are home to elephants, leopards, tigers, wild ox, and the Malayan tapir, which is covered in black fur on the front half of its body and white fur on the rear.
- Thailand is where you can find the smallest mammal and the largest fish in the world. The bumblebee bat weighs only 0.07 ounces (2 g) — about the same as two paperclips. The whale shark, which can be found in the ocean around Thailand, weighs about 20 tons (18,144 kg) and can be 62 feet (18.8 m) long.

Does God Answer Prayer?



THAILAND | May 17

Somsak

Somsak first heard about praying to the God of heaven when he was a little boy in kindergarten at the Seventh-day Adventist school in Korat, Thailand. Like most people in Thailand, he came from a non-Christian family and didn't know anything about the God of heaven.

At the start of kindergarten every morning, Thailand's flag was raised high on a flagpole in the yard of Korat Adventist International School. Then all the children from kindergarten and the higher grades stood near the flag for the playing of the Thai national anthem. After all, the teachers led the children in singing "The Prayer Song" — a beautiful song that asks the God of heaven to bless their day.

When Somsak grew a little older, he learned to pray all by himself. His second-grade teacher taught him how. At the beginning of class every day, the teacher started a prayer and invited Somsak and the other children to add to it. The teacher would

say, "Dear God." Then one child would say, "Please make me smart." Another would say, "Please keep me safe." And a third would add, "Please help me to be good." The teacher would end the prayer by saying, "In Jesus' name, Amen."

After learning how to pray at school, Somsak began to pray on his own in the second grade. But he didn't pray every day. He didn't even pray every month. He only prayed as a last resort. Usually, he felt smart. Usually, he felt safe. But sometimes he worried that he wasn't smart or that he wasn't safe. Then he prayed, "Dear God, Please make me smart. Please keep me safe. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Somsak also prayed on his own as a last resort in the third grade and in the fourth grade. After that, he prayed in the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth grades.

Today, he is a strong 16-year-old teenager in the tenth grade. He may not have prayed every day, but he has prayed for many years. How many of his prayers do you think God has answered? One hundred? Fifty? Perhaps 10 or 15? If you ask Somsak, he will tell you none. Zero.zilch.

"I haven't felt that God has answered my prayers," he said. "I trust more in myself."



Somsak may not have prayed every day. He may only pray as a last resort. But do think that it's possible that God hasn't answered even one of his prayers? What do you think? If you said that God surely has answered at least one of his prayers, then you are right. In the Bible, God says that He answers people even before they pray. He says, "It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear" (Isaiah 65:24, NKJV).

So, why does Somsak think that God hasn't answered his prayers? Could it be that God has answered and Somsak simply hasn't noticed? Could it be that we also pray and have not noticed that God has answered?

Teachers at Somsak's school are praying that he knows the God of heaven who hears and answers prayer. It can be difficult for a boy or a girl to believe in the God of heaven when no one else in their family does. The teachers are praying that Somsak and all the other children at Korat Adventist International School see that God really does hear and answer prayers.

Would you like to join the teachers in praying for Somsak and the other children? Let's pray. 🌍

Dear God, Thank You for the Korat Adventist International School where Somsak studies in Korat, Thailand. Thank You for the many children around the world who gave generously to a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that helped build the school. Now, please help Somsak and the other children at the school who don't know You to see that You love them and do indeed hear and answer prayers. Help them — and us — to notice Your answers to prayer. Please also bless this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that will help other children in Asia learn about You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Korat (also known as Nakhon Ratchasima), Thailand, on the map.
- Know that Somsak is not the boy's real name. Adventist Mission is not publishing his name for his own privacy.
- Know that the photo with this story depicts Korat Adventist International School. Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in fourth quarter 2018 helped Korat Adventist International School, formerly known as Adventist International Mission School, expand to become a K-12 school and move into a larger school building on a new campus.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/ssd-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, "To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Fast Fact

- Thailand is the biggest producer and exporter of cut orchids in the world. Around 1,300 orchid species are grown in Thailand's orchid farms, and Thailand exports more than 50,000 tons a year.

Strange Noises at Night



PHILIPPINES | May 24

James

one year of service on a remote island in the Philippines. The house was painted light gray, and it had a green roof. James slept in the bedroom, and the other missionary slept in the living room. The kitchen and bathroom were outside. No one in the community, including James and his friend, had electricity or running water. To charge their cell phones, they paid 10 pesos (about 17 U.S. cents) to hook them up to a generator at night. The town's mayor lived on the same street.

The island was mostly populated by non-Christians. But Christians lived on the island as well, and James' mission assignment was to reach out to former Adventists. He was to meet them and to seek to renew their faith.

The next-door couple who spoke about spooky spirits belonged to another Christian denomination. Even though they weren't Adventist and therefore part of the assignment, James and his friend tried to reach out to them by offering Bible studies. But the couple refused. They wouldn't even accept a religious booklet.

So, James and his friend decided to share their daily devotions with the neighbors. They reasoned that if the walls of their house were so thin that the neighbors could hear strange noises at night, then the neighbors surely could hear their morning and evening devotions. The neighbors' house also had thin walls, so the two missionaries could hear when the couple was awake. They timed their devotions accordingly. When they sang, they sang with all their hearts. When they read the Bible, they spoke loudly enough to be heard by a crowd.

Shortly after James moved into his rented house, a next-door couple informed him that it was haunted.

"There are spirits living in your house," said the husband.

"We have heard them many times at night, and we can't sleep," added the wife.

The couple spoke about hearing unusual voices, mysterious footsteps, and strange objects being dropped on the floor at night.

James felt funny when he heard the reports about spirits. No one had lived in the house for quite some time, but he wasn't worried. He was a student missionary and didn't fear haunted houses or restless spirits. He had read in the Bible that the dead are sleeping in the ground until Jesus wakes them up, and he was sure God would protect him from any unexplainable noises.

James thanked the couple for coming over.

"I haven't experienced anything like that," he said.

James and a fellow student missionary had moved into the small wooden house for their



Story Tips

- Show Philippines on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video with James on the campus of the 1000 Missionary Movement near Manila, Philippines, at: bit.ly/James-SSD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/ssd-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples"; Mission Objective No. 2, "To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach ... across the 10/40 Window"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives." For more information, go to the website: IWILLGo.org.

Mission Post

- In 1905, G. A. Irwin, president of the Australasian Union Conference, visited the Philippines on his way to the General Conference, where he recommended that Seventh-day Adventists begin work on the islands by sending colporteurs to Manila.
- R. A. Caldwell, from Australia, arrived later in 1905 and sold Spanish-language health and religious books.
- In the mid-1920s, there was a shortage of Bibles in the Filipino languages because the Christian publishing house in Japan that printed them had been destroyed in an earthquake in September 1923.

James prayed for the couple's salvation.

As the months passed, James didn't notice anything unusual about his rented house. He didn't sense any strange presence when he was alone. He didn't hear any strange noises. The only sounds at night came from crickets, frogs, and other nocturnal creatures of God.

James and his friend spent the year praying with and encouraging former Adventists. They rejoiced to see the small community grow in its faith.

Baptisms were not part of the mission assignment but, as James and his friend wrapped up their stay, two young people asked to be baptized. James was stunned. Both young people came from non-Adventist homes, and he thanked God for touching their hearts.

As for the next-door couple, James couldn't tell if the loud singing and Bible discussions had had any impact. But as he prepared to leave, the couple begged him to stay.

"We have been able to sleep peacefully at night after you guys moved in," the husband said.

"Please stay," the wife said.

At that moment, James realized that God really was working on their hearts. 🌍

Pray for the precious people of the Philippines, and especially unreached people groups in remote areas. Pray also for the missionaries who are trying to reach them with life-saving truth. James went to the island as part of the 1000 Missionary Movement, an organization that is part of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, the recipient of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. The 1000 Missionary Movement seeks to train and send 1,000 missionaries across the division every year. The 1000 Missionary Movement center where James was trained to be a missionary was constructed near the Philippine capital, Manila, with the assistance of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 1996. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division on June 28.

By Andrew McChesney

So Many Rules

INDONESIA | May 31

Febiola



Tragedy struck Febiola's life before she was born in Indonesia.

Mom was three months pregnant with her when Dad died.

Then Mom died when she was 18.

Two years later, Grandmother died.

Grandmother's death hurt the most. Febiola had lived with her grandmother for most of her life, and she couldn't imagine living without her.

Febiola was studying to become a nurse when her grandmother died. She was living in a dormitory at Klabat University. Her older sister had recommended the Seventh-day Adventist university.

"You can stay in the dorm," her sister had said. "There are rules in the dorm, and rules are good."

Febiola wasn't so sure that the rules were good. The university seemed to have so many rules. It was almost overwhelming compared to her old life with her grandmother. Febiola felt so oppressed!

One rule stated that dorm students had to attend dormitory worship in the morning and evening. Another rule stated that students had to go to worship services every

Sabbath at the university church.

Febiola had no interest in God or the Bible, and she complained to her sister about the rules.

"Just continue," her sister replied. "You won't regret it. Rules are good."

Febiola still wasn't so sure that the rules were good. But she decided to give the university a chance.

Febiola shared a dorm room with three Adventist roommates, and they invited her to join them in praying and worshiping together in their room. They invited her to welcome the Sabbath together on Friday evenings.

Febiola wasn't thrilled about mandatory attendance at evening and morning worships in the dorm and Sabbath services in the church. She couldn't understand why her roommates not only enjoyed the worship gatherings but also wanted to extend them in their dorm room.

Curiosity rose in her heart.

"Why should we worship on Sabbath?" she asked her roommates.

"If you would like to know more about worshiping on the Sabbath, we could



ask the pastor to teach you more,” a roommate replied.

Febiola said she didn’t feel ready to discuss the Bible with the pastor.

“That’s fine if you don’t feel comfortable,” the roommate said. “You’re required to take six religion classes at the university. You can learn more about the Sabbath there.”

All students at Klabat University are required to take six religion classes, and Febiola found answers to her Sabbath question during those classes. When she finished the last class, which was about the book of Revelation, she told the teacher that she wanted Bible studies.

The next semester, the Bible studies began in earnest. The dormitory dean, Delly, and her husband studied the Bible with her.

In time, Febiola decided to accept Jesus as her personal Savior. She gave her heart to Him and was baptized.

In the months since her baptism, a new joy has filled her heart. Despite losing her father, mother, and grandmother, she has gained a new family at the university. The dormitory dean and her husband are like parents, and her roommates are like sisters. In addition, she no longer feels oppressed by the university rules.

“Now I think that rules are for my own good,” she said with a smile. 🌍

The Edelweiss dormitory where Febiola lives at Klabat University near Manado, Indonesia, was built with the help of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 1981. Febiola is among a number of young women whom the dormitory dean and her husband have led to baptism. With God’s blessing, the impact of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will be as long-lasting as the offering that built the dormitory at Klabat University about 44 years ago. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on June 28.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Indonesia on the map and find the city of Manado on northern tip of the island of Sulawesi. Klabat University is located near Manado.
- Pronounce Febiola as: feb-i-OLA.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Febiola at: bit.ly/Febiola-SSD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/ssd-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, “To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach ... across the 10/40 Window”; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives”; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, “To increase accession ... of ... young adults”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Mission Post

- The first Seventh-day Adventist to visit Indonesia was Abram La Rue, who was in Java sometime between 1888 and 1903.
- Adventist work in Indonesia began in 1900 when R. W. Munson opened a mission at Padang on the west coast of Sumatra.
- The first Adventist school for the training of workers in Indonesia, called the Opleidingschool der Advent-Zending, was opened in 1929 in Java. It is now Indonesia Adventist University.
- World War II forced the Opleidingschool der Advent-Zending to close in 1942. Several teachers were placed in concentration camps, and two died.

Squid or Dog Meat?



INDONESIA | June 7

Jhon

Jhon had a busy preaching schedule in Indonesia. A pastor of a Sunday-keeping church in Papua, he had just finished a series of meetings on one island and needed to return home for another series of meetings. He was supposed to fly, but the plane was fully booked. So, he bought a boat ticket for the three-day voyage.

It was a decision that would change his life.

Jhon bought the cheapest ticket on the economy deck, a long hall where scores of passengers slept side-by-side on the floor. While awake, passengers passed the time by chatting.

Jhon chatted with a woman seated nearby. As a kind gesture, Jhon offered her part of one of his meals.

She shook her head as he held out a plastic container of steamed squid seasoned with a sprinkle of oil.

“I’m sorry,” she said. “I don’t eat that kind of food.”

Jhon thought that she didn’t like squid, so

he pulled out another container. This one had dog meat that he had bought from a street vendor just before boarding the boat.

But the woman refused it, too.

“I don’t eat that kind of food,” she said.

Jhon was surprised.

“Why don’t you eat these kinds of food?” he asked.

“It’s because I’m an Adventist,” she said.

The only thing that Jhon knew about Seventh-day Adventists was that he had taught an Adventist student at a mission school where he had worked before becoming a pastor. But he respected the woman’s desire to be faithful to her beliefs. So, he put away the food, and the two talked about other things. He learned that her name was Ingrid.

Now, when Jhon had boarded the ship, he hadn’t told anyone that he was a pastor. But Papua is a predominantly Christian island, and Indonesians who live there have a sailing tradition. At some point on a voyage,



the ship captain always asks, “Is there a pastor on board? We want to ask you to pray for us and to have a worship service.”

On the last day of Jhon’s voyage, the ship captain raised the question. Jhon made known his position and led the passengers in prayer and worship.

Ingrid was surprised to learn that he was a pastor, and she didn’t seem certain that she wanted to keep talking to him.

But when the ship docked, Jhon insisted that they exchange phone numbers. When he asked to see her again, she invited him to the Adventist church.

Every Sabbath for the next month, Jhon attended worship services with her.

Then something unusual happened. He began to feel uncomfortable worshipping on Sunday. He felt so uncomfortable that when he was asked to preach at his church, he made excuses about needing to go somewhere else.

When he told his church that he intended to become an Adventist, he was offered a higher position with a higher salary.

But he wasn’t tempted. In his personal study of the Bible, he had grown convinced that the seventh-day Sabbath was God’s true day of worship. He also had accepted the biblical prohibition on unclean meat like squid and dogs.

Three years after the boat trip, Jhon and Ingrid got married.

Today, Jhon is wrapping up his studies as a theology student at Klabat University on Sulawesi island. He is glad that Ingrid rejected his food. Through her witness, he ended up learning about the seventh-day Sabbath.

He is looking forward to returning home to Papua and teaching others about the Lord of the Sabbath. 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help spread the gospel on Jhon’s home island of Papua. The funds will go toward the construction of classrooms, an administrative building, a library, and an auditorium for Papua Adventist Theology

Story Tips

- Show Papua, Indonesia, on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Jhon at: bit.ly/Jhon-SSD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/ssd-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Fast Facts

- Indonesia is made up of more than 17,000 islands, including Sumatra, Java, Sulawesi, and parts of Borneo and New Guinea, making it the world’s largest archipelago.
- Indonesia was ruled by the Netherlands until 1945.
- Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in the world.
- Indonesia is a presidential republic with an elected legislature.

College in Nabire, Papua. Incidentally, Klabat University, where Jhon is studying, on Sulawesi island, received part of a 1981 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on June 28 to continue to support the proclamation of the gospel in Indonesia.

By Andrew McChesney

Praying for Churchless Town



INDONESIA | June 14

Jerry

As a boy, Jerry traveled with his father from town to town to visit church members on the Indonesian island of Papua. His father, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, would stop from time to time outside a town that didn't have an Adventist church.

"Dear God," Father prayed. "Please bless this town by giving it an Adventist church one day."

Jerry saw God answer those prayers. In one town, a church was established five years after his father prayed. In another town, a church opened 20 years later.

Jerry followed in his father's footsteps and became a pastor in Papua. As he visited church members around Sentani Lake on one occasion, he was inspired to see a number of churches that had been planted in towns that his father had prayed for years earlier.

But then he saw a town on Sentani Lake without any Adventist church and without any Adventists. His small boat passed the

town of Yoboi as he sailed to another town with church members.

Jerry remembered his father's habit of praying for towns without churches, and he asked the boatman to slow down. He wanted to pray for Yoboi.

Bowing his head, he said, "Dear God, Please bless this town by giving it an Adventist church one day."

What happened next, he only learned about later.

A prominent resident of the town happened to travel to Israel for a Holy Land tour two months after Jerry's prayer. The man, whose name was Thonce, looked out the window of his Jerusalem hotel as the sun set and noticed unusual activity on the street. A siren blasted, and buses sped to their stations. Then everything fell quiet.

Thonce looked at his watch and saw that it was Friday evening. He realized that the Jewish people were stopping their work for the Sabbath.



Then he remembered that he worked with several Adventists in Papua who also stopped their work from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday to keep the Sabbath. He wondered, “The Adventist Church worships on the same day as the people of Israel. Why doesn’t my church, too? My church claims to worship the God of Israel.” He resolved to find answers when he returned home.

Back in Papua, he went to an Adventist church in a neighboring town and learned that it was holding evangelistic meetings. The church’s pastor, Jerry, invited Thonce to attend.

At the meetings, Thonce found biblical answers to all question about the Sabbath. He decided to keep the Sabbath, and he and his wife became Seventh-day Adventists.

Not long after their baptisms, Jerry visited their home in Yoboi and helped organize a house church. It was an answer to his prayer and the continuation of his father’s legacy.

“I’m very grateful for the heritage that my dad has left me,” said Jerry Jacobs, who is now pastor of the Adventist church at Klabat University. “Let’s continue to pray that a church building will open in this town one day.” 🌍

Pray for the town of Yoboi in Papua, Indonesia. Pray that the gospel will reach more places on the island and more churches will be built there. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help spread the gospel in Papua through the construction of classrooms, an administrative building, a library, and an auditorium at Papua Adventist Theology College. The college moved to its current location in Nabire after its old campus in another part of Papua was destroyed by a flood in 2019. Currently, students meet in classrooms that are on loan from an Adventist academy. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to support the training of pastors and Bible workers at the college.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Papua, Indonesia, on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Jerry at: bit.ly/Jerry-SSD.
- Know that Jerry’s father, Jimmy Jacobs, passed away of kidney failure at the age of 74 in 2020.
- Know that Jerry has adapted his father’s practice of praying for towns to apartment buildings. While living in Singapore for five years, he prayed for many apartment buildings with locked entrances and found the God provided ways for him to witness to residents inside. Several residents became Adventists afterward.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/ssd-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Fast Facts

- The national flower of Indonesia is Jasminum sambac, while the national animal is the Komodo dragon.
- The Komodo dragon is the largest living lizard in the world. The largest ever seen was 10.3 feet (3.13 m) long and weighed 366 pounds (166 kg).
- Komodo dragons are limited to a few Indonesian islands, including, of course, the island of Komodo.
- The endangered Sumatran tiger is native to the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The Bali and Javan tigers are now extinct.

Jungle Miracle, Part 1

INDONESIA | June 21



Armi

A little girl studying at the jungle mission school told her teacher, Armi, about a mother who couldn't walk.

Armi hadn't come to the mountains of Papua, Indonesia, to treat anyone. He wasn't a doctor, and he didn't know much about medicine. He was a missionary who had come to the jungle mission school to teach children about Jesus, the Master Physician. But his heart was touched when he heard about the mother who couldn't walk. He and a fellow missionary decided to hike eight hours up the mountain to visit the woman in her remote village.

Armi and his friend found the mother in a small grass hut. She was crying in pain on a bed. Her right knee had an open wound and it was swollen.

Armi and his friend couldn't understand much of what she said. She couldn't understand much of what they said. They spoke different dialects. But, through hand gestures, the mother explained that she had fallen out of a tree seven years earlier and hadn't been able to walk since. The village was so remote that doctors and hospitals were not an option. After the fall, her

husband abandoned her, leaving her to raise four children.

The mother was glad for the visit. She had lost all hope. She made it clear that she was placing her new hope on Armi and his friend.

"Help me to walk again," she pleaded.

Armi and his friend stepped outside of the hut. They needed to pray to the Master Physician.

"Lord please give us wisdom," Armi said. "Show us how to help this woman even though we don't know much about medicine."

Back inside the hut, Armi and his friend carefully cleaned the wound. Beads of sweat broke out on their faces. They were worried about making the wound worse. Neighbors gathered in the hut to watch, and Armi and his friend really began to sweat. They wondered if their lives might be at risk with the neighbors watching their every move.

Then Armi spoke to the woman about Jesus.

"Only one Person can heal you," he said, using hand gestures to help her understand. "That one Person is Jesus."

The mother had never heard of Jesus. None



of the neighbors had ever heard about Jesus. They practiced a form of mysticism.

“I don’t know anything about your Jesus,” the mother said. “But I’ll accept whoever can restore my health.”

After cleaning the wound, Armi offered the only natural remedies that he had in his backpack: charcoal and Vitamin C tablets. He then invited the mother and neighbors to pray. Opening his eyes, Armi saw that the mother and neighbors were crying. He panicked, wondering what was wrong. The neighbors, who also didn’t speak his dialect, explained the prayer had moved their hearts.

“It was like someone was interpreting your prayer into our ears,” one said.

“We could feel a presence surrounding us while you were praying,” said another.

Then Armi turned and saw the mother’s face. It had changed completely. Once a picture of pain and suffering, it now was glowing with joy and peace.

Armi promised to return the next week to check on her progress.

Armi and his friend hiked the eight hours back home. As they hiked, they prayed. How could they make a phone call to get medical information to help the mother? Where could they find a cell-phone signal? They were living in the mountains and had not received a cell-phone signal in months. 🌐

Pray for the unreached people of Papua, Indonesia. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct classrooms, an administrative building, a library, and an auditorium for Papua Adventist Theology College. The college moved to Nabire after its previous campus was destroyed by a flood in another part of Papua in 2019. Currently, students meet in borrowed classrooms at an Adventist academy. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to support the college next week. Find out the rest of Armi’s story next week.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Papua, Indonesia, on the map.
- Know that the eight-hour hike to the mother’s village only partly conveys the remoteness of Armi’s work as a missionary in Papua. To reach the village with the jungle school where he lived, he had to fly in a mission plane to a jungle airstrip and then walk 12–14 hours, depending on the weather and other factors.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Armi at: bit.ly/Armi-SSD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/ssd-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, “To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples”; Mission Objective No. 2, “To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions”; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Fast Fact

- Some of the most common dishes in Indonesia include, *nasi goreng* (a fried rice dish), *karedak* (raw vegetables in peanut sauce), and *gado-gado* (a salad made with boiled eggs, boiled potato, fried tofu, and a peanut dressing).

Jungle Miracle, Part 2

13th SABBATH | June 28



Armi

Last week: Armi, a missionary teaching children at a jungle mission school in Papua, Indonesia, made an eight-hour trek up a mountain to visit a single mother who hadn't walked after falling out of a tree seven years earlier. He and a missionary friend told the mother that her only hope was in Jesus, the Master Physician. Then Armi and his friend prayed for a cell-phone signal. They desperately needed medical advice on how to treat the mother's leg. But they were in the middle of a mountainous jungle and hadn't received a cell-phone signal in months.

Then a miracle happened. Just a few days after visiting the mother, Armi's phone rang while he and his friend were visiting another far-off place in Papua, Indonesia. At first, Armi thought it was his phone alarm and ignored it. But the phone kept ringing, so he pulled it out of his pocket and saw that he had received an email. That meant that he had a cell-phone connection.

Armi immediately bowed his head and prayed, "Lord, thank You, thank You! Please help me to call the right person for information on how to treat this mother."

Armi quickly scrolled through his phone contacts, worried that the cell-phone signal might disappear. Then he found a friend who was a nurse, and he called her.

The call went through!

Armi described the situation, and the nurse offered advice on how to clean the wound on the mother's right knee. She also suggested that Armi take anti-infection antibiotics that he had in his mountain home and give the pills to the mother.

The phone call lasted only two minutes. Then the signal disappeared. But it was enough time to receive the precious advice.

For the next two months, Armi and his friend visited the mother in her grass hut every week. Every time, they cleaned the wound and gave her antibiotics against the infection that had caused her knee to swell. They urged her to pray regularly.

"Who should I pray to?" she asked the first time.

"Pray to the One whose name is Jesus," Armi replied.

She was not familiar with Jesus, and Armi introduced her to Him through Bible stories. As he cleaned her wound, he spoke about



how Jesus had healed the sick and gave sight to the blind. Neighbors came to watch, and they listened to the stories.

As the weeks passed, the swelling slowly went down and the wound healed. Armi and his friend gave thanks to God. Everything that was happening was beyond their medical skills.

Then the two missionaries had commitments in other parts of Papua and weren't able to visit the mother for a month. But they sent healthy food and natural remedies to her with the assistance of the children whom they were teaching at the jungle mission school.

When the missionaries finally managed to hike the eight hours to her village again, they found her standing outside her grass hut. Armi started to cry. He couldn't believe his eyes. The mother who hadn't been able to walk for seven years was standing with the aid of a walking stick outside her hut. As he and his friend drew closer, she used the walking stick to take halting steps toward them.

Then Armi's friend began to cry. "How can this be?" he said.

The three sat down inside the hut. The mother's face shone with joy and health as she spoke. "I kept praying, and the pain went away," she said, using hand gestures to help them understand her dialect. "I believe that it's because of Jesus. Even though I don't understand who He is, I'm grateful that you have brought Him into my life."

"This is not the end," Armi replied. "If you believe that Jesus has healed you, you must continue to believe and obey Him."

Another month passed, and the mother was able to walk without the walking stick. She wasn't completely healed, but she could resume her normal activities at home and in the field where she grew crops.

The neighbors were astounded. They began to pray to Jesus with her.

Shortly before Armi finished his time as a missionary in Papua, he met with the mother one last time. She confided that she no longer felt at peace with her traditional

Story Tips

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Before 13th Sabbath

- Remind everyone that our mission offerings are gifts to spread God's Word around the world, and that one-fourth of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help four projects in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. The projects are listed on page 3 and on the back cover.
- 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. Alternatively, children and adults can act out the story.
- Before or after the story, use a map to show the places in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division — Brunei, Myanmar, and Indonesia — that will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

way of worship.

“May I join your worship?” she asked.

“You’re very welcome, Mom,” Armi replied. “But our church is so far away. How will you be able to walk eight hours?”

“Jesus is the One who healed me,” she said. “I have to worship Him. He has helped me to walk again, and I will walk to church to worship Him.”

The mother made the long walk, and she attended worship services every Sabbath after that. She also sent all four of her children to the jungle mission school.

To Armi’s surprise, not only did her children come to the school but so did all the other children from her village. The neighbors had witnessed the power of Jesus, and they wanted their children to know Him, too. “Things that are impossible for me are not impossible for God,” Armi said. “I pray that the mother will remain faithful.” 🌍

Part of today’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go to Papua to help construct classrooms, an administrative building, a library, and an auditorium for Papua Adventist Theology College. The college moved to Nabire after its campus was destroyed in a flood in another part of Papua in 2019. Currently, students meet in borrowed classrooms from

Fast Facts

- There are about 400 volcanoes in Indonesia, and around 130 of them are active. From 1972 to 1991, there were 29 eruptions, mostly on Java.
- The largest eruption in recorded history was at Mount Tambora on Sumbawa Island in 1815. It was so loud that it could be heard more than 1,200 miles (1,930 km) away.
- Puncak Jaya (“Glorious Peak”) is located on the island of New Guinea. At 16,024 ft (4,884 m) tall, is the highest mountain peak on an island in the world.
- The largest flower in the world, the corpse flower (*Rafflesia arnoldii*), is found in the rainforests of Sumatra and Borneo. It can grow to more than three feet (1 m) across and weigh 24 pounds (11 kg). It has the strong smell of rotting flesh.

an Adventist academy. Today’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering also will support two projects in Myanmar — a preschool and a center of influence — and a health clinic in Brunei. Thank you for your generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Future 13th Sabbath Projects

The Southern African-Indian Ocean Division will be featured next quarter, and the Thirteenth Sabbath projects will include:

- New secondary school, northern Zambia
- Staff housing, Yuka Adventist Hospital, Kalabo, Zambia
- Boat for mission work on Lake Bangweulu, Zambia
- Kitchen and laundry, Chitanda Lumamba Adventist Hospital, Chibombo, Zambia
- Health and wellness center of influence, Umhlanga, South Africa

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:

Websites

Indonesia: government website	indonesia.go.id
Wonderful Indonesia	bit.ly/IndoTrav
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LP_Indo
Philippines: government website	gov.ph
Tourismo Filipino	tourismo-filipino.com
Trip Advisor	bit.ly/TripAdvPhil
Thailand: government website	bit.ly/Thai_Govt
Amazing Thailand	bit.ly/AmazeThai
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LP_Thailand

Seventh-day Adventist

Southern Asia-Pacific Division	bit.ly/SDA_SSD
East Indonesia Union Conference	sdaeiuc.org
North Philippine Union Conference	npuc.adventist.ph
Southwestern Philippine Union Conference	bit.ly/SDA_SPUC
West Indonesia Union Mission	bit.ly/SDA_WIUM
Southeastern Asia Union Mission	seumsda.org
Thailand Mission	adventist.or.th

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, which will be collected on June 28. Remind listeners that their regular weekly mission offerings 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 June 21, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage church members to double or triple their normal mission giving on the upcoming Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School.

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youth & adult MISSION

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Mission (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2025 by the Office of Adventist Mission, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.

Printed in U.S.A.

Second Quarter 2025

Volume 114, Number 2

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SOUTHERN ASIA - PACIFIC DIVISION

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Central Philippine	1,404	576	219,955	30,039,305
East Indonesia	1,033	137	130,441	15,946,559
Malaysia	303	157	60,801	33,849,000
Myanmar	246	95	37,741	55,425,000
North Philippine	1,631	459	404,500	49,834,717
Southeastern Asia	93	305	39,512	189,398,000
Southeastern Philippine	1,294	759	406,549	18,753,908
Southwestern Philippine	1,128	568	281,877	18,709,070
West Indonesia	917	323	100,326	262,749,441
Attached Fields				
Singapore Conference	7	0	3,437	5,826,000
Timor-Leste Mission	2	2	812	1,361,000
TOTAL	8,058	3,381	1,685,951	681,892,000

PROJECTS

- 1** Preschool, Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary, Myungmya, Myanmar
- 2** Life Hope Center, Yangon, Myanmar
- 3** Health Clinic, Brunei
- 4** Papua Adventist Theology College, Nabire, Indonesia