



children's **MISSION**

**Scary
First Day**



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On the Cover: Shim-Shim was scared and nervous on her first day of school at Korat Adventist International School in Thailand. Then she prayed to God for help. Story, Page 16.

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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 thirteenth 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 *Children's Mission* quarterly at bit.ly/childrensmisson and the youth and adult *Mission* quarterly at bit.ly/adultmission. *Mission Spotlight* videos are available at bit.ly/missionspotlight. A mission bank image, which children can color, can be downloaded at bit.ly/bank-coloring-page.

Please keep in mind that you do not need to read the story exactly as it is published. These children's stories are meant for a wide age range of 6 to 12, so feel free to adapt the language and content to the level that suits the age group in your Sabbath School class.

Thank you for encouraging children to be mission-minded!

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



Serene, 5, shows a game to Andrew McChesney at Korat Adventist International School in Thailand. Read how she learned about God on page 14.



THAILAND | April 5

April

Best Birthday Gift

April lost her tablet. The 8-year-old girl needed it very much because she had to do her homework. Every evening, she met online for three hours with a teacher who helped her with her homework. The teacher helped her do her assignments in Bible. The teacher helped her do her assignments in social studies. The teacher helped her do her assignments in grammar, reading, and science. April especially needed help in science because it was her most difficult subject.

But on this evening, April couldn't find her tablet anywhere. Making matters worse, the next day would be her ninth birthday. How could she celebrate her ninth birthday when her tablet was missing?

Usually, April put the tablet in her bedroom to charge in the afternoon. But this time, she didn't do that, and she didn't know where it was.

April looked in her parents' bedroom. Nothing. She looked in the living room and kitchen. Nothing, nothing.

It was almost 6 o'clock, and she needed to meet online with her teacher. What could

she do? April went to Mom for help.

"I can't find my tablet," she said.

Mom knew that it was time for April to meet online with her teacher. So, she gave her cellphone to April. But she also gave April a warning that she couldn't watch television until she found her tablet.

"If you don't find the tablet, you can't watch TV," she said.

April wasn't too worried about not being able to watch television. She was more upset that she had lost her tablet and had had to ask Mom for her cell phone.

That night, after finishing the three hours of online tutoring and before going to sleep, April prayed to the God of heaven. She asked Him to help her find her tablet.

"Dear God, please help me find my tablet because I need it for my studies," she said.

Then April fell asleep.

As she slept, she had a dream. In the dream, she saw her tablet lying under the couch in the living room.

In the morning, April woke up early and immediately remembered her missing tablet. Then she remembered that it was



her birthday. How could she celebrate her birthday when her tablet was missing?

April went to the kitchen to get a drink of water. As she drank, she glanced around the kitchen. Nothing. No tablet. Then she filled her water bottle and grabbed a few snacks for school. At the same time, she kept looking around the kitchen for the tablet. Nothing.

Suddenly, April remembered her dream from the night before. In the dream, she had seen the tablet lying under the couch in the living room.

April ran to the living room and crouched down to look under the couch. Then she saw it! There it was! The lost tablet was found!

April was very happy. She smiled as brightly as the morning sun outside the window. God had answered her prayer. This was the best birthday gift ever!

She straightaway prayed to God and thanked Him for helping her find the tablet.

“Dear Jesus, I know that you are the real living God,” she said. “Thank You for helping me to find my tablet. Please help me to be a good girl and not to forget anything.” 🌍

April first learned about the God of heaven at Korat Adventist International School in Thailand. Many children at the school come from families who have never heard about God, but they come to the school for a good Christian education. April, who is in the fourth grade, learned how to pray from her teacher in Bible class. Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped build April’s school several years ago. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

Story Tips

- Show Korat (also known as Nakhon Ratchasima), Thailand, on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video with April at: bit.ly/April-SSD.
- Know that 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: 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.

this quarter that will help other children in Asia also learn about the God of heaven who hears prayers.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION RECORD

Adventist Rescued Children’s Care in Chiangmai, Thailand, takes in “orphaned, abandoned, abused and destitute children” and gives them a safe and happy home and a good education through university or vocational training. The organization also helps children in refugee camps on the Thailand-Myanmar border.



THAILAND | April 12

To Help, Or Not

Kaopan

Have you heard the story about the Good Samaritan from the Bible?

Kaopan heard about the Good Samaritan for the first time when he was 4. He didn't own a Bible. He had never heard Bible stories at home because his family wasn't Christian. He heard about the Good Samaritan at his Seventh-day Adventist kindergarten in Thailand.

Little Kaopan listened with rapt attention as the teacher told the story about a certain man who was traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by robbers and left half-dead. Then a priest happened to come down the road. When the priest saw the hurt man, he didn't stop to help but passed by on the other side. After that, a Levite came down the road. He looked at the hurt man and also passed by without helping. But then a Samaritan came down the road. He felt sorry for the hurt man. He wrapped bandages around the man's wounds, put him on his donkey, and took him to an inn. There, he cared for hurt man all night and paid the innkeeper to take care of him the next day.

Kaopan wasn't surprised that the priest and Levite hadn't stopped to help the hurt man. Why should they? They didn't know him, and they were busy. But the Samaritan surprised him. He wondered, "Why would this man help even though he didn't get anything back for himself?"

Kaopan finished kindergarten and began studying at the Adventist school that was located in the same building as the kindergarten. He heard the story about the Good Samaritan several more times. Every time, he was amazed that the Samaritan had helped even though he didn't get anything back for himself.

Then one day, when he was 8, he saw a man asking for money at a gas station. Kaopan and his dad stopped at the gas station to fill up the car, and then they went inside the gas station's store to buy something. As they were coming out, Kaopan saw the man sitting outside the door. The man's clothes were torn and dirty. He didn't say anything to Kaopan. He was looking at a cardboard box on the ground in front of him. Inside the box were a few coins.

Kaopan remembered the story of the



Good Samaritan. He thought, “The Good Samaritan helped the man even though he didn’t get anything back for himself. I’ll give it a try. It might be a good decision, or it might be bad decision. Let’s find out.”

Turning to his dad, Kaopan asked, “Can I have some money? I want to give it to the poor man.”

“Sure,” Dad said and gave the boy a green paper bill. It was a 20-Thai baht banknote worth about 50 U.S. cents.

Kaopan put the money in the box.

The man in the torn, dirty clothes smiled. He had yellow, crooked teeth. Then he put his hands together to say, “Thank you.” In Thailand, people put their hands together to say thank you.

Kaopan replied by putting his own hands together. The man was older than him, and children show respect to older people in Thailand by putting their hands together.

Kaopan felt good. He had made the man happy, and now he also felt happy.

At that moment, he realized that he had made a good decision. In giving money to the man, he hadn’t expected anything in return. But he had gotten something back. He had seen the man’s happiness, and that happiness had made him happy. By blessing the man, he had received a blessing back.

Today, Kaopan is getting to graduate from Korat Adventist International School, where he learned about the Good Samaritan. He will always remember the Good Samaritan.

“There are people who need our help,” he said. “You can help them or not, but it’s good to help.” 🌍

Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering



MISSION RECORD

A permanent Adventist mission was set up in Thailand, then known as Siam, in 1919. By 1921, five converts had been baptized. By 1926, church membership had grown to 88.

Story Tips

- Show Korat (also known as Nakhon Ratchasima), Thailand, on the map.
- Pronounce Kaopan as: COW-paan.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Kaopan at: bit.ly/Kaopan-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.

helped build Korat Adventist International School in Thailand several years ago. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help other children in Asia also learn about God and the happiness that comes from helping others.

By Andrew McChesney



THAILAND | April 19

Penny

Praying to See Dad

Penny lives with her mom in Korat, Thailand. Her mom and dad don't live together. Penny always wanted to see her dad. She wondered what he looked like. She wondered what he was like.

Then one of her friends asked, "Where's your dad?"

"I don't know," said Penny, who was 8.

"Why don't you know?" her friend said.

"I don't know," Penny said.

"Go and ask your mom," the friend said.

"OK."

Penny went to her mom. "Where's my dad?" she asked.

Mom paused for a long moment. "He's far, far away from here," she said.

"Then where is he?" Penny said.

"Far, far away," Mom said.

Penny sensed that Mom didn't want to talk about Dad, so she said, "Never mind." She decided to ask Mom later.

Two years passed. When Penny was 10, she asked Mom again. She wasn't planning to ask, but she had been thinking about Dad for two years, and it just happened one afternoon.

It started when Mom asked Penny to do her homework. Penny didn't want to do her homework because she planned to do it in the morning. So, she made an upset face. Mom didn't like the upset face.

"Stop doing that," Mom said.

Penny didn't say anything, but she kept making the upset face.

"If you don't stop, I won't talk to you," Mom said.

Penny didn't want that.

"Sorry," she said.

"It's OK," Mom said.

"Next time I'll listen to you," Penny said.

"OK," Mom said.

But inside, Penny still felt upset about being told to do her homework. So, she blurted out, "Where's my dad?"

Mom looked surprised, but she answered right away. "Dad is in Bangkok," she said. "I'll try to get his email, and we'll see if he answers."

With a bright smile, Penny ran off to do her homework. She was happy because she was sure that she would finally see her dad. But as she began her homework, a worrisome thought crossed her mind. *What if Dad doesn't*



get the email? What if he doesn't answer?

Then Penny remembered that she had learned at school that she could talk to the God of heaven about anything and He would answer. She bowed her head and closed her eyes.

“Dear God, please find my dad,” she prayed. “I want to see him.”

The next afternoon, Mom said that Dad had sent an email that said he would come to watch Penny take part in a big school event called Sports Day.

Penny smiled widely.

“I’m really happy!” she exclaimed.

Mom also smiled. “I’m happy, too,” she said.

“I can’t wait for Sports Day!” Penny said.

But she had to wait a whole week for Sports Day. Every day that week, she prayed, “Dear God, please help me to see my dad.”

Dad came to Sports Day, and Penny ran over to greet him. “Hi, my name is Penny,” she said. “It’s nice to meet you.”

She gave him a gift that she had made—a small box that she had folded from brown paper.

“Hi,” Dad said. “I’m your dad.”

Dad watched while Penny played games of “Capture the Flag” and “Chair Ball” with her classmates. Then the two ate lunch together. Penny ate a school lunch of noodles, and Dad ate noodles that he had brought with him. Penny gave Dad some of her noodles, and Dad gave Penny some of his noodles. Then Dad gave Penny his telephone number.

“I miss you all the time,” he said.

“I miss you, too,” Penny said.

“I love you all the time,” Dad said. “I’ll come to visit you again.”

Now Penny talks with her dad every day on the phone.

She also talks with God every day on her knees. She tells God, “Thank You for letting me see my dad.” 🌍

Penny studies at Korat Adventist International School in Thailand, where many children, like her, come from families

Story Tips

- Show Korat (also known as Nakhon Ratchasima), Thailand, on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Penny at: bit.ly/Penny-SSD.
- Watch a YouTube video of Thai children playing “Chair Ball”: bit.ly/chair-ball.
- Know that 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.
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who have not heard about God. Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering several years ago helped build the school. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help other children in Asia learn about God.

By Andrew McChesney



THAILAND | April 26

Peipei

Kid Without a Home

Where are you from? Peipei wasn't sure where he was from.

You see, Peipei's dad was from India, and his mom was from the Philippines. But he didn't feel like he was from India. He didn't feel like he was from the Philippines. Instead, he could imagine himself coming from a country that was half India and half the Philippines. The imaginary country could be called Indippines or Philippia. But no such country existed in the world.

Peipei also wasn't sure where he was from because he had never lived in India and he had never lived in the Philippines. Peipei lives in Thailand. He is a missionary kid, and he has lived his whole life in Thailand. His dad works as a missionary teacher at a Seventh-day Adventist school in the big city of Korat. His mom also works as a missionary teacher at the school.

One Sabbath afternoon, Peipei grew quite confused when he had to decide where he was from. He and the other kids in their Pathfinder club were supposed to form groups and sing a song in their own language. The Pathfinder club had kids from many

countries: India, the Philippines, Thailand, and other places. Peipei didn't know which group to join. Children from India were singing in the Hindi language. But Peipei didn't speak Hindi even though his dad was from India. Children from the Philippines were singing in the Tagalog language. But Peipei didn't speak Tagalog even though his mom was from the Philippines.

Peipei knew how to speak English, which he spoke at home and at the mission school. He also knew how to speak a little Thai, which he had learned at the mission school.

"What should I do?" he asked his mom.

"Go and join the kids singing in the Thai language," his mom said.

Peipei joined the Thai children in singing a song about Jesus in Thai. But he didn't feel very comfortable. Thai didn't feel like his language. His eyes became sad, and his shoulders sagged.

A teacher saw his sad face and went over to him.

"What's wrong?" she asked.

"Teacher Ann, I don't know where I'm from," Peipei said.



“What do you mean?” she said.

“I’m half Indian, but I don’t know how to speak Hindi,” Peipei explained. “I’m half Filipino, but I don’t know how to speak Tagalog. I live in Thailand, but I only know a little Thai. Of these three languages, I know Thai the most, but I’m not comfortable being in any of these groups. I don’t know where I’m from.”

Teacher Ann wrapped a comforting arm around Peipei’s shoulders. She had been born in Thailand, and her first language was Thai. But she spoke to him in English.

“I’m from Thailand,” she said. “Today, I’m adopting you and officially making you a citizen of Thailand. Today, you are from Thailand.”

Peipei straightened his shoulders. His eyes brightened, and a smile spread across his face. Today, he officially had a homeland. Today, he was from Thailand.

Peipei returned to the group of singing Thai children. He was at home. He opened his mouth and joined the Thai children in singing joyfully about the Jesus who would one day soon take them to their new home, heaven. 🌍

Peipei is a missionary kid studying at Korat Adventist International School in Thailand. While his parents are Seventh-day Adventist, many children at the school come from families who have never heard about God. Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering several years ago helped build the school. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help other children in Asia also learn about God.

By Andrew McChesney

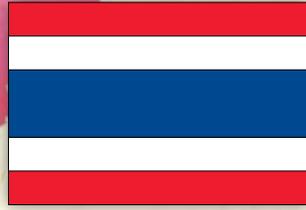
Story Tips

- Show Korat (also known as Nakhon Ratchasima), Thailand, on the map.
- Pronounce Peipei as: PAY-pay.
- Ask the children where they are from. Find their hometowns on the map. Tell them that God, like Teacher Ann, adopts them into His family. “God was kind and decided that Christ would choose us to be God’s own adopted children” (Ephesians 1:5, CEV).
- Know that 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.
- Read a 2018 mission story about Peipei’s father, Yoyo, at: bit.ly/yoyo-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: 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 RECORD

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.



THAILAND | May 3

A Cupcake to Share

Peipei

Peipei loves his little sister, Shim-Shim, very much. He loves her so much that he wants to include her in all the good things that happen in his life. When he is smiling, he wants her to smile. When he is laughing, he wants her to laugh. And when he gets a special treat, he wants her to get a special treat. So, when a friend had a birthday and celebrated by giving Peipei a cupcake at school, Peipei also wanted for her to have a cupcake.

On the big day of the birthday, the birthday boy brought a bunch of yummy-looking cupcakes to Peipei's school in Korat, Thailand, and put them on a classroom table. They looked so delicious with frosting on top. Each boy and girl took a cupcake from the table. They eagerly peeled off the wrappers and began eating. Peipei also took a cupcake off the table. He also wanted to eat. But then he remembered his little sister. He wanted her to enjoy a cupcake, too. He looked back at the table and saw that a few extra cupcakes remained. He wondered if he could take one of those cupcakes to give to Shim-Shim at home.

He went to the teacher. "Could I please have one of those cupcakes?" he asked.

The teacher looked at Peipei. She didn't understand that he wanted a second cupcake to give to his little sister. She thought that he wanted a second cupcake for himself. But if he took a second cupcake, maybe the other boys and girls in the class also would want a second cupcake. There weren't enough cupcakes for all the boys and girls to have a second cupcake.

The teacher shook her head. "No, there is only enough cupcakes for every boy and girl in our class to have one," she said.

Peipei looked down sadly. Then he looked at the other boys and girls in the classroom. They were still enjoying their cupcakes. He looked at his cupcake. He wanted to enjoy it, too. But he loved his little sister so much. He decided to save his cupcake for her. He took the cupcake to his desk and carefully set it in a corner where it would be safe and sound until he could take it home.

The teacher saw the sad expression on Peipei's face. She saw him go to his desk. She watched as he carefully set aside the cupcake without eating it. She went to Peipei.

"Why aren't you eating your cupcake?" she asked.



Peipei explained that he was saving it for his little sister. He wanted her to enjoy the birthday celebration, too.

Now the teacher understood why Peipei had asked for a second cupcake. It wasn't because he wanted to eat two cupcakes. It was because he loved his little sister and wanted to share the treat with her. When he couldn't take a second cupcake, he had decided to give his cupcake to her.

The teacher's heart was touched by Peipei's sacrificial spirit. She went to the table with the cupcakes.

"Peipei, you can take a second cupcake to give to your little sister," she said.

Peipei's face lit up like the sun. He smiled radiantly as he took a second cupcake from the table. Now he could enjoy a cupcake — and his little sister could enjoy one, too!

Now, whenever one of Peipei's friends has a birthday party at school, the teacher always gives Peipei an extra treat so he can take it home to his little sister. 🌍

Peipei is a missionary kid studying at Korat Adventist International School in Thailand. Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering several years ago helped build the school. Just like Peipei showed a sacrificial spirit in being willing to give his cupcake to his sister, we can show a sacrificial spirit by giving up something for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Ask a grown-up for ideas on what you can do (see Story Tips sidebar).

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Korat (also known as Nakhon Ratchasima), Thailand, on the map.
- Challenge the children to consider sacrificing something for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. A child could set aside part of his or her allowance instead of spending it on candy. Or the child, with the parents' consent, could skip dessert and the cost of the dessert could go for the offering.
- Pronounce Peipei as: PAY-pay.
- Read a 2018 mission story about Peipei's father, Yoyo, at: bit.ly/yoyo-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 Peipei's sacrificial spirit illustrates the principle of Mission Objective No. 1 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: "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." His missionary family's work in Thailand illustrates 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." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.



AMAZING COUNTRY

Siamese cats are native to Thailand, where they were once revered as royal pets in the Kingdom of Siam.

BigStockPhoto.com





THAILAND | May 10

Serene

A Good Example

Serene loved her big sister, Nehe. Whatever Nehe did, Serene followed. Nehe was everything to Serene. Serene was 2 years old, and Nehe was 6.

One night, Serene crawled into bed with Nehe as she always did. The two little girls lay in the dark bedroom in their home in Korat, Thailand. Serene looked at Nehe and saw that she had closed her eyes. That wasn't unusual. Nehe always closed her eyes when she wanted to sleep. But Nehe wasn't lying still as usual. She was folding her hands.

"What are you doing?" Serene whispered. Nehe opened her eyes.

"I'm going to pray," she said.

"What does it mean to pray?" Serene asked.

Serene and Nehe's family were not Christian. Like many people in Thailand, they worshiped other gods. But Nehe had started going to a Seventh-day Adventist school, and she was learning at the school how to pray to the God of the Universe.

Nehe told her sister that prayer was talking to the God of the Universe.

Serene liked the sound of that. "I want to pray, too," she said. "Show me how to pray."

Nehe told Serene to close her eyes and fold her hands. She said this was how she prepared to talk to the God of the Universe.

Serene folded her hands and closed her eyes.

Then Nehe said she was going to call on the name of the God of the Universe and talk to Him silently.

"When you finish talking to Him, you say, 'Amen,'" she said.

Then Nehe closed her eyes and folded her hands again, and she fell silent as she talked to the God of the Universe in her heart.

Serene couldn't hear what Nehe was saying. But she knew that Nehe was talking to the God of the Universe, and she also wanted to talk to Him. So, she closed her eyes and folded her hands. Then she prayed for the first time in her life.

"Dear God," she said, speaking silently in her heart where no human ears could hear. "Please help me to be kind to my friends and family. Amen."

Serene smiled happily when she finished. She liked talking to the God of the Universe. She decided to talk to Him every day.



And she has.

Today, Serene is 5 years old and is studying in kindergarten at the same Adventist school where her big sister learned to pray. She talks to God every night when she goes to bed. She asks Him to help her to be kind to her friends, family, and kindergarten teacher. She also asks Him to forgive her sins. "I'm sorry for the bad things that I did today," she says. "Please forgive me. Amen."

Then she falls sleep.

In the morning, when she wakes up, she often thinks about God right away. She loves to think about God. As she lies in bed, she wonders if God is watching her. She wonders if God is looking at her right at that very moment. She's sure that He is. The Bible says, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good" (Proverbs 15:3, NKJV).

Before jumping out of bed for her favorite breakfast of noodle soup, she whispers, "Thank You, God!" 🌍

Serene studies at Korat Adventist International School in Thailand, where many children, like her, come from families who have never heard about God. Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering several years ago helped build the school. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help other children in Asia also learn about the God of the Universe.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Korat (also known as Nakhon Ratchasima), Thailand, on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Serene at: bit.ly/Serene-SSD.
- Ask the children if they, like Serene, talk to the God of the Universe every night and morning. Encourage them to pray regularly and to also imagine that God is always watching them and caring for them.
- Know that 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"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.



AMAZING COUNTRY

The national animal of Thailand is the Thai elephant, the national fish is the Siamese fighting fish (pictured), and the national bird is the Siamese fireback (a kind of pheasant).



BigStockPhoto.com



THAILAND | May 17

Shim-Shim

Scary First Day

Do you remember your first day of school? Was it scary? Were you nervous? What can you do when you are scared or nervous?

Shim-Shim was a missionary kid who was scared and nervous on her first day of school in Korat, Thailand. She had been homeschooled for first grade. But now Mom said she was a grown-up girl and should study with the other girls and boys at the Seventh-day Adventist mission school. Mom was a missionary who taught fifth grade at the school, so she wouldn't be too far away if Shim-Shim needed help.

Mom saw that Shim-Shim was anxious, and she reminded her that God was always nearby if she needed help. "God will always be your friend," Mom said. "He will always be there for you when you need Him."

Shim-Shim was glad for the reminder. But she still felt scared and nervous. She felt wiggly all over as she put on her school uniform for the first time. She liked the white-and-blue uniform. She felt shy, and she was glad that all the children at the mission school wore the same white-and-blue uniform. That way, she wouldn't stick out.

After breakfast, Shim-Shim went to school.

The first thing that she learned was that no one wears shoes into the school building. Shoes carry dirt, and the new school building, which was built with the help of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, was very clean. So, all the kids took off their shoes and put them into a cupboard. At recess time, the children put their shoes back on to play on the playground. Then, when recess ended, they clapped their shoes together to get rid of the dust and put them back into the cupboard until school was over.

Shim-Shim slipped off her shoes and put them into the cupboard. Then she joined other children walking to their classrooms. She walked very slowly toward the second-grade classroom. She felt so scared and nervous as she neared the door. Before opening it, she stopped and prayed.

"Dear God," she said. "Please help me to be kind so I can be a nice girl in class. Amen."

Inside the classroom, the teacher called Shim-Shim to the front. Shim-Shim was a new student, and she needed to meet her classmates. Even though Shim-Shim knew



God had heard her prayer, she felt nervous as she went up front. Her fingers trembled.

“What’s your name?” the teacher said.

“My name is Shim-Shim,” Shim-Shim said. She smiled and waved to the other children.

“Class, this is Shim-Shim,” the teacher said.

“Hello!” all the children exclaimed together.

Shim-Shim liked the greeting, but she still felt a little scared and a little nervous. What would happen next?

The morning hours passed quickly as Shim-Shim studied grammar, English, and geography. She liked playing outside for PE.

By lunchtime, Shim-Shim felt like she had been studying at the school for a whole year. She was no longer scared. She no longer felt nervous. The other children were nice, and she had made many new friends. God had answered her prayer, and Shim-Shim was super-super happy! 🌍

Even missionary kids get scared and nervous at times. While Shim-Shim’s parents are Seventh-day Adventist, many children at Korat Adventist International School in Thailand come from families who haven’t heard about God. When they get scared and nervous, they don’t know that they can pray to Him. Part of a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to this school to help more kids learn about God. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter also will help children learn about God.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Korat (also known as Nakhon Ratchasima), Thailand, on the map.
- Encourage the children to be like Shim-Shim and pray to God if they are scared or worried.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Shim-Shim at: bit.ly/Shim-Shim.
- Know that 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.
- Read two stories about Shim-Shim’s big brother, Peipei, elsewhere in this *Children’s Mission* quarterly.
- 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: 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”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, “To help youth ... place God first.” For more information, visit: IWillGo.org.



AMAZING COUNTRY

In the jungle of Thailand are carnivorous (meat-eating) plants like the insect-eating pitcher plant.



BigStockPhoto.com



THAILAND | May 24

Naomi

Distance, Acceleration, and Velocity

Thirteen-year-old Naomi thought that she was going to fail her science test at her school in Thailand. She looked at her notes on her tablet at home. Nothing made sense. She saw words like “distance,” “acceleration,” and “velocity.” She felt worries growing inside of her. She just had to get a good grade on the test. Her future depended on it. She wanted to grow up to become a scientist. But how could she become a scientist if she failed the science test?

Naomi looked at the clock. It was late. She needed to go to bed. But the test was the next day. She looked back at her tablet. Again, she only saw confusing words like “distance,” “acceleration,” and “velocity.”

“Aghhhh!” she exclaimed in despair.

She felt desperate. What could she do? Her parents were asleep, so she couldn’t ask them for help. She couldn’t ask her friends for help because they also didn’t understand distance, acceleration, and velocity.

Then an idea popped into her mind. “Why not pray?” she thought.

Naomi had learned at school to pray in the morning and at night. Now it was night, so why not pray about her science test? Naomi closed her eyes and folded her hands. “Dear God,” she said, “please help me pass this test.”

Then she explained to God that she wanted to pass the test so she could become a scientist. When she finished talking to God, she felt better. She still was a little worried, but she was glad that she had been able to tell God about her worries. She studied a few more minutes and went to bed. She felt peaceful after praying and fell asleep quickly.

In the morning, Naomi still felt peaceful, but she also felt also a little worried. Dad reassured her that everything would be fine.

“It’s OK,” he said. “It’s just a grade, and grades don’t matter in the real world.”

But Naomi still wanted a good grade on the test.



After breakfast, she quickly reviewed her notes one last time on her tablet, and she went to school.

When it came time for the test, something seemed different. Naomi understood the meaning of words like distance, acceleration, and velocity. The test wasn't easy, but she felt comfortable as she took it.

When she received her grade, she saw that she had passed with flying colors. She was shocked and very happy.

That night, before going to sleep, she prayed gratefully in her bed.

"Thank You for helping me get a good grade," she said.

These days, Naomi loves to pray to God about everything. She has found that praying is much more fun than worrying.

"Don't worry about anything but pray for everything," she said.

Naomi is right. After all, the Bible says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6, 7; NKJV). 🌍

Naomi studies at Korat Adventist International School in Thailand, where many children come from families who have never heard about God. Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering several years ago helped build the school. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this

Story Tips

- Show Korat (also known as Nakhon Ratchasima), Thailand, on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Naomi at: bit.ly/Naomi-SSD.
- Know that 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.
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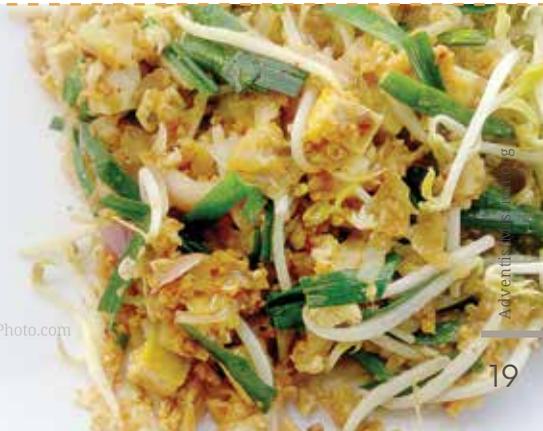
quarter that will help other children in Asia also learn about God.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING COUNTRY

Popular Thai dishes include *pad thai* (stir fried noodles with fried egg, pictured); *tom kha gai* (spicy coconut soup with chicken and lemongrass); and *khao neaow mamuang* (rice cooked in coconut milk and served with fresh mango slices).





THAILAND | May 31

Mafuang

No Cake, No Pancakes

When Mafuang was 4, she was given an animal cookie. Grandma had bought the cookie at a mall in Thailand, and she gave it to Mom to give to Mafuang.

The little girl happily ate the cookie. It tasted so sweet and good!

But then something scary happened. Her eyes got red and puffy, and she couldn't breathe.

Mom was very scared, and she rushed Mafuang to the hospital.

The doctor said Mafuang was allergic to wheat gluten. That meant she couldn't eat any more animal cookies. It also meant that she couldn't eat anything made with flour.

That was hard for the little girl. But her health depended on it. Before she ate anything, she had to check first to see if it contained flour.

So, after that, when Mafuang wanted a hamburger at a fast-food restaurant, she only ate the patty and the cheese. She couldn't eat the bun, and she put it in the trash. When she ordered a pizza, she only ate the cheese and other toppings. She couldn't eat the crust, and she put the crust in the trash. At birthday

parties, she ate the frosting off the birthday cake and put the rest in the trash. Once she licked the frosting off a doughnut and asked her friends, "Does anyone want a doughnut?" No one did, so she put it in the trash.

One day, when Mafuang was 9, she decided to play a prank. She was sitting at the table for supper with Grandma and Grandpa in the dining room of their house in the city of Korat. Mom was in the kitchen, and Dad wasn't home. On the table was a meal of rice, fried eggs, and thin, stuffed pancakes. Mafuang knew that her supper was only the rice and fried eggs. She needed to stay away from the pancakes because they contained flour. But she wanted to see what Grandma and Grandpa would do if she ate a pancake. So, she grabbed a pancake with her hand and bit off part of it.

Grandma and Grandpa were shocked.

"What are you doing?" Grandma cried.

"Don't swallow it!" Grandpa exclaimed.

At that moment, as Mafuang grabbed and ate part of the pancake, Mom came out of the kitchen. She looked on with horror at what was happening.



Mafuang thought that her prank was funny. But she didn't have a plan on what to do next. Suddenly, a strong desire overcame her to spit out the pancake. She had never felt that way before. She felt like the pancake was a disgusting piece of garbage in her mouth, and she wanted to put it in the trash.

Mafuang jumped out of her chair. She ran across the room to a trash bin in the corner. Standing over it, she spit the pancake out of her mouth.

Mom, Grandma, and Grandpa heaved a sigh of relief. They were so glad that she had spit it out.

"Never do that again because you could get really sick," Mom said.

Mafuang didn't say anything. She didn't know what to say.

But she thought a lot about the unusual desire that had overcome her to spit out the pancake like a piece of garbage. She pondered it for a long time. She wondered, "What happened? Who gave me the desire to spit out the pancake?"

Then she remembered her school, where she was studying in the fourth grade. She had learned at the Seventh-day Adventist mission school about the God of heaven who created all people and cares for them. She had learned at the school to pray to God in the morning and in the evening. Mafuang had her answer. The God of heaven who created her and cared for her had filled her with the strong desire to spit out the pancake. God had saved her life.

"I know that it must be from God," Mafuang said. "If I had swallowed the pancake, I might have been sent to the hospital. I think God is nice because He helps anyone who needs anything." 🌍

Mafuang studies at Korat Adventist International School in Thailand, where many children, like her, come from families who do not know God. Part of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering several years ago helped build her school. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter

Story Tips

- Show Korat (also known as Nakhon Ratchasima), Thailand, on the map.
- Pronounce Mafuang as: MAF-lang. There is no "L" in her name, but it is pronounced with an "L" sound.
- Know that Mafuang's name means "starfruit." She doesn't like starfruit because she thinks it is too sour.
- Watch a short YouTube video with Mafuang at: bit.ly/Mafuang-SSD.
- Know that 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.

that will help other children in Asia also learn about God.

By Andrew McChesney



THAILAND | June 7

Renato

Rich Kids

Renato moved far, far away from his home in Brazil to become a missionary in Thailand. He teaches 100 children in the fourth grade at a Seventh-day Adventist school in Bangkok.

While Renato was still at home in Brazil, he prayed and prayed about becoming a missionary. When he received an invitation to become a missionary teacher in Thailand, he thought that God had answered his prayers. But when he arrived in Thailand, he wasn't sure. He had always thought that missionaries were supposed to teach poor people about Jesus. But the children at his new school weren't poor. They were rich kids. All of them came from wealthy families. Their daddies and mommies were ambassadors, models, and soccer players.

Renato was confused. Why had God allowed him to come to Thailand? He prayed, "God, did You want me to travel 10,000 miles to serve rich people? There are many poor people in Brazil who need my help. Why did You bring me here?"

Then came Renato's first day as teacher at the school. He felt a little scared. He felt

a little nervous all over. But somehow, he managed to get through the day.

The next day, he decided to eat with the children in the school cafeteria. He wanted to hear what the children were talking about. He wanted to make new friends.

Renato went through line and received a bowl of noodles. Then he sat down at a table with a group of fourth graders from his class. But before eating, he closed his eyes to pray.

Usually, Renato also folded his hands to pray. But on this day, he stretched out his hands with the palms facing up. He wasn't sure why he prayed that way. He just did.

"Dear God," he prayed silently. "Thank You for this food. Please bless it."

When he opened his eyes, he saw that one of his new students, a 9-year-old girl, was staring at him intently.

When she saw that he was looking at him, she spoke up.

"What were you doing?" she asked.

"I was praying," he said.

The girl looked puzzled.

"But you can't pray like that," she said. "You need to fold your hands."



The girl, like many of the 1,500 children at the school, came from a non-Christian home. No one prayed to the God of heaven at her home. Everything that she knew about praying to God had been taught at the school. Her previous teacher had taught her to close her eyes and fold her hands when she prayed, and now she couldn't understand why Renato had closed his eyes but hadn't folded his hands.

"Does God listen to this kind of prayer?" she said.

"For sure!" Renato said with a big smile. "He listens to everyone. I have prayed driving a car with open eyes."

Shock and amazement flashed across the girl's face.

"Can you pray with open eyes?" she said. Renato's smile grew bigger.

"I've prayed while cooking," he said. "I've prayed while working out."

The girl's shock and amazement grew even bigger. Renato decided to have some fun. He said that he had even prayed to God in the bathroom.

"What?" the girl exclaimed. "Can God hear you there?"

"God can hear you everywhere," Renato said. "He is just waiting for you to talk to Him. Sometimes, He talks to you even if you don't talk to Him. But You can pray to Him everywhere, even with open eyes and open hands."

The girl didn't say anything. She was so shocked and amazed that she didn't even blink. After a long moment of silence, she got up and left the table. She had a lot to think about.

At that moment, Renato realized why God had sent him to Thailand. Rich kids also needed to know God. Being a missionary wasn't only about sharing the God's love with poor people. Being a missionary was about sharing God's love with everyone, everywhere. 🌍

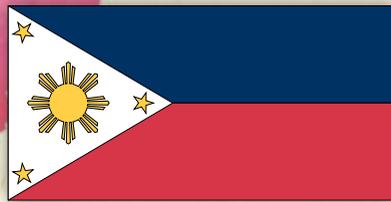
Pray for Adventist missionaries like Renato at Ekamai International School in

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-prayer.
- Encourage the children to aspire to become, like Renato, a missionary in another country when they grow up. Tell them that they don't have to grow up to share God's love at home and school.
- 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"; 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.

Bangkok, Thailand, as they share God's love with everyone around the world. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help more kids know about the God who hears prayers everywhere.

By Andrew McChesney



PHILIPPINES | June 14

A New Heart

Hannah

Hannah loved her twin brothers, Zechy and Jerry, but they could be so annoying. As their older sister, she felt like she needed to make sure that they controlled themselves and were well-behaved.

So, she spoke up at lunch when the boys loaded their plates with food.

“Save some for Mommy and Daddy,” she said.

“It’s fine,” Zechy said, without putting back any food.

“Mommy and Daddy already ate,” Jerry chimed in.

But it seemed to Hannah that the boy had taken too much food, and she wanted them to put some back.

“No, they haven’t eaten yet,” Hannah insisted, her voice rising. “Save some for them.”

“Really, it’s fine,” Zechy declared, his voice also rising.

Overhearing the growing disagreement, Daddy and Mommy sought to restore calm.

“It’s fine,” Daddy said.

“Let the boys eat,” Mommy said.

But that wasn’t all that Hannah found annoying. The twins also liked to go into her

bedroom and play with her toys. She was alarmed one day when they took her teddy bear and began to play-fight with it. She worried that they might accidentally tear it apart. She grabbed the teddy bear. “Play with your own things,” she whispered, fiercely.

She whispered because she didn’t want to disturb Daddy and Mommy. The family was living in an apartment on the campus of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines. Daddy was in another room, studying to become a missionary, and Mommy was working.

The twins weren’t bothered that Hannah had taken the teddy bear. They found another teddy bear in her room and started to play-fight. “Stop!” Hannah whispered. “Take your own things to play-fight with.”

And so, it went on and on and on. It was so annoying. Hannah didn’t know what to do.

Then Hannah and her family went to the week of spiritual emphasis at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies. Hannah listened carefully to the speaker. Her heart was touched as she heard about Jesus’ great love. When the speaker asked who would like to give their hearts to Jesus and be



baptized, she looked up at her parents.

“Daddy and Mommy, should I go?” she whispered.

Daddy and Mommy saw that Hannah loved Jesus very much. They saw that the Holy Spirit was speaking to her heart. They nodded their heads that she could go. Hannah made her way to the front. Zechy and Jerry joined her, as did other children.

The church pastor prayed a special prayer for the children and invited them to study the Bible with him. Then, on a bright, happy Sabbath, Hannah and her brothers gave their hearts to Jesus in baptism.

Something happened after her baptism. Hannah began to wake up 30 minutes earlier to have her own morning worship. As she read, she felt that God was really with her. She liked being with God, and she prayed. “Dear Heavenly Father,” she whispered. “Thank You for this day. Please help me to understand this devotional. Help me to understand what I hear today. Please bless my parents and brothers.”

As Hannah prayed, things began to change at home. She found that the things that once annoyed her were no longer annoying. She was no longer annoyed by anything, and she only had kind things to say to her brothers.

Today, Hannah is happy all the time, and she is sure that God is making her heart to be like His.

“God is changing my heart,” she said. 🌍

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help children in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, which includes the Philippines, learn about the God who changes hearts to be like His. Thank you for

Story Tips

- Show the Philippines on the map.
- Pronounce Zechy as: ZAK-i.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Hannah at: bit.ly/Hannah-SSD.
- Explain to the children that God is changing Hannah's heart. Ephesians 4:31, 32 says, “Stop being bitter and angry and mad at others. ... Instead, be kind and merciful, and forgive others, just as God forgave you because of Christ” (CEV). Ask the children if they want God to change their hearts.
- Encourage the children to be like Hannah and have morning devotions with prayer every day. Morning devotions with prayer is a key step toward receiving a new heart.
- 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: 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.

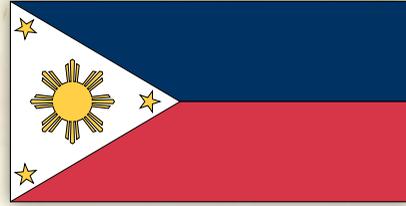
planning a generous offering on June 28.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION RECORD

The Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS), located outside Manila, offers a master's program in public health and master's and doctoral programs in education, business, and theology.



PHILIPPINES | June 21

Little Boy

Scratch, Scratch, Scratch

Little Boy felt so sad. His hands itched, his feet itched, and he didn't know what to do to make the itching go away.

Little Boy and his family lived far away from any hospital. They lived far away from any doctors and nurses. They lived in a village high up in the mountains of the Philippines. The other boys and girls in the village also had itchy hands and itchy feet. No one knew what to do about it.

Then one day two young women came to the village. Little Boy heard them say that they were missionaries from far away. He heard them say that they would live for a year in his village. Then one of them looked directly at him and invited him to hear stories about God.

"Come to the mountain river that flows beside the village, and be sure to invite your friends," she said with a bright smile.

Before long, Little Boy and a dozen other children were sitting on the rocky bank of the river with the two missionaries. Little Boy listened with interest as one missionary opened a book with colorful pictures and began to read a story about God. But then his hand began to itch. He scratched it. His foot

began to itch. He scratched it, too. Then his other hand and foot itched, and he scratched them. The other children also felt itchy, and they all scratched and scratched and scratched. It was hard to listen to the story about God while they were scratching.

The missionaries noticed that the children were distracted by their itches, and they looked closely at their hands and feet.

"I have an idea," said one of the missionaries. "I saw a similar rash when I was a small girl in my village. We boiled guava leaves in water, and then bathed our hands and feet in the water. Let's try it here."

The two missionaries asked the children if they had guava trees in the village. Little Boy eagerly pointed out a guava tree. The missionaries picked leaves and told the children to fetch basins or buckets or bowls at home. Little Boy scampered off.

When he returned, he found the missionaries boiling guava leaves in a large pot of water. Then the missionaries removed the pot from the fire and waited for the water to cool down. While they waited, the missionaries taught the kids happy songs



about God. Then the missionaries poured water into the children's basins and buckets and bowls. "Let's pray to God for help," one said. The other showed the children how to close their eyes and fold their hands. She prayed, "Dear God, please heal these children. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Little Boy and the other children put his hands into their containers and waited 20 minutes. Then they changed the water, put their feet in the containers, and waited another 20 minutes. The time flew by as they sang merrily about God.

Every day after that, the missionaries boiled leaves, prayed, and bathed the children's hands and feet. They showed all the mommies how to do the same. After two weeks, the white bumps left the children's hands and feet. Everyone was so happy!

Then the missionaries invited the children to come back to the riverbank to hear stories about God. Little Boy went. Now he could listen attentively because he was no longer distracted by itchy hands and feet. He wanted to know more about the God who had heard the missionaries' prayers and healed him. 🌍

The two young women who helped Little Boy were trained to be missionaries at a center built with the help of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 1986. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on June 28 that will help more children know about Jesus in Asia.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show the Philippines on the map. Then show the Sierra Madre, the country's longest mountain range, where Little Boy lives.
- Know that Little Boy belongs to the Dumagat tribe, an unreached people group whose traditional faith is animism. The missionaries in the story are Filipino volunteers with the 1000 Missionary Movement, which received part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for its training center in Silang, Philippines.
- Watch a short YouTube video with one of the missionaries, Bam-Bam, from this story: bit.ly/Bam-Bam-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 ... among unreached and under-reached people groups"; 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.



AMAZING COUNTRY

The national bird is the Philippine eagle, the national flower is Sambac jasmine, and the national tree is the *narra*, or Philippine mahogany. The endangered Philippine eagle (pictured), which eats monkeys, is barely surviving deforestation.



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13th SABBATH | June 28

Jukung

Miracle at Sea

This is a story about a miracle on a *jukung*. A *jukung* is a traditional Indonesian boat. It looks like an ordinary canoe — it is long and narrow and often made of wood. On each side of the boat are long floats called outriggers. The outriggers help the boat keep its balance on the water and not tip over. In the back of the *jukung* is a powerful outboard engine that propels the boat forward.

The *jukung* in this story looked like any regular *jukung*. It wasn't a special color. It wasn't a special length. It didn't have a special outboard engine.

But it had a special passenger.

Pastor Eduard saw the *jukung* arrive at the island where he lived. He saw government medical workers get off the boat and visit his village. Then he saw the medical workers preparing to leave on the *jukung*. He asked where they were going and learned that they were traveling to an island where he wanted to go. On the island lived three Seventh-day Adventist families who didn't have their own church. They also didn't have their own boats to travel to an island with a church. They met in one of their homes to worship

on Sabbath. But now it was the end of the quarter when they would wash each other's feet, drink grape juice, and eat unleavened bread to remember Jesus' death as part of the communion service. They wanted Pastor Eduard to come and worship with them.

Pastor Eduard didn't have a boat of his own, so he asked the medical workers if he could travel with them on their *jukung* to the island.

They agreed, and the *jukung* set off on Friday morning.

Rooooooooooooooooooooarrrrrr! The *jukung* sped across the surface of the water. The wind felt good on Pastor Eduard's face. He looked forward to worshiping with the villagers.

But then a storm struck. The rain fell in torrents. The wind blew fiercely. But the boat kept speeding through the rough waters.

Rooooooooooooooooooooarrrrrr!

Suddenly the *Rooooooooooooooooooooarrrrrr!* stopped. The engine fell silent. Pastor Eduard and the medical workers and the boat captain looked at one another. All they could hear was the pounding of the rain and the howling of the wind.



The boat captain yanked on a cord to try to restart the engine. Nothing happened. He tried again. *Yank! Yank!* Nothing happened.

The jukung stopped speeding across the water. Now it was at the mercy of the wind and the waves. It tossed back and forth like a cork on the water. An hour passed. Then two hours. Three hours. Four hours.

The medical workers were very scared. All were crying. They had heard stories about boats sinking in storms, and they were afraid that they were going to die. One woman abruptly cried out, “The blood of Jesus! The blood of Jesus!”

Pastor Eduard turned to see who was calling on Jesus for help. He was astonished to see that it was a woman who wasn’t even a Christian. She didn’t believe in Jesus. But in her fear, she was calling on Jesus.

The woman saw Pastor Eduard looking at her. She remembered that he was a Christian who believed in Jesus, and she begged him to pray for the jukung.

“I have done my part to call upon the name of Jesus,” she said. “Now you, as a pastor, call on Jesus so we can be saved.”

At that moment, Pastor Eduard heard another voice. The voice was soft and gentle. Yet he could hear it above the roar of the rain and wind. It said, “Tell the boat captain to connect the fuel hose to the other fuel tank.”

On the jukung were two fuel tanks, a regular fuel tank and a back-up fuel tank for emergencies. The tanks provided fuel for the boat engine to run.

Pastor Eduard was surprised to hear the voice, but he didn’t argue. He felt like he had to obey. Even though he didn’t know anything about boats, he went to the captain and told him to remove the fuel hose from the regular fuel tank and connect it to the back-up fuel tank.

The captain had already tried connecting the hose to the back-up fuel tank. But he didn’t argue. He also felt like he had to obey. He immediately pulled the hose out of the regular fuel tank and connected it to the back-up tank.

Story Tips

- Show Indonesia on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Pastor Eduard: bit.ly/Eduard-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, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions,” and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Before 13th Sabbath

- Remind everyone that our mission offerings are gifts to spread God’s Word around the world, and that one-fourth of our 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.

Then Pastor Eduard called the captain and medical workers to join him in praying to Jesus. The medical workers stopped crying as they strained their ears to listen to



Pastor Eduard

the prayer.

“Lord Jesus, our lives really are in Your hands of mercy,” the pastor prayed. “Your will be done.”

Then he turned to the captain. “Start the engine,” he said.

The captain pulled the cord to restart the outboard engine. *Yank!*

A split second passed, and the engine sprang to life. *Chuff-chuff-chuff-rrrOOOAAARRR!*

All the medical workers, including the woman who did not believe in Jesus, exclaimed at the same time, “Praise the Lord!”

The rain didn’t stop, and the wind didn’t die down. But the engine kept roaring, and

the jukung reached the island safely.

The medical workers immediately told everyone on the island that Jesus had saved their lives.

“It’s because of the name of Jesus,” said the woman who didn’t believe in Jesus. “When we called upon the name of Jesus, God helped us to get through this.”

She told Pastor Eduard that now she believes in Jesus.

“Now I know that Jesus is not only a teacher and a prophet but that He is God and has control of nature. Jesus is the One who brought us safely home.”

That Sabbath was an extra-special day for Pastor Eduard. Not only did he celebrate communion on the island, but he also had his own special mission story to tell. 🌍

Today is also the end of the quarter, and part of today’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help people in Indonesia know about the God who hears prayers. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open Papua Adventist Theology College in Nabire, Indonesia. It also will go toward a preschool in Myanmar, a Life Hope center of influence in Myanmar, and a health clinic in Brunei. Thank you so much for your generous offering today.

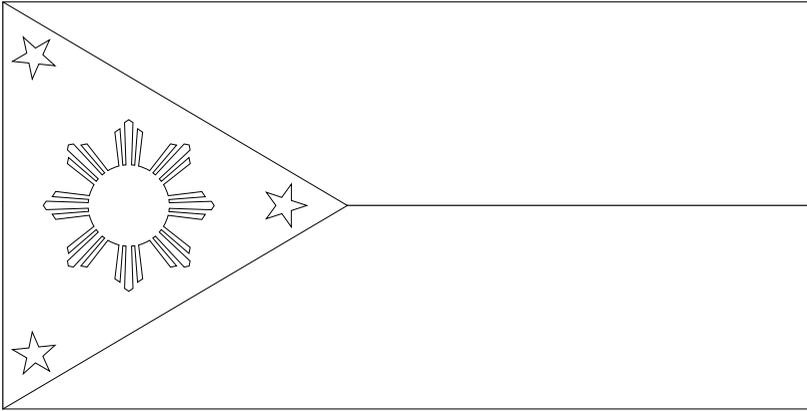
By Andrew McChesney

Future Thirteenth 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
- Kitchen and laundry, Chitanda Lumamba Adventist Hospital, Chibombo, Zambia
- Staff housing, Yuka Adventist Hospital, Kalabo, Zambia
- Children’s projects: Animated stories based on the fruit of the Spirit, and distribution of Adventurer’s Bibles, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division
- Mission boat, Lake Bangweulu, Zambia
- Health and wellness center of influence, Umhlanga, South Africa

Color The Flag



PHILIPPINES

DIRECTIONS:

Leave the triangle on the left white. Color the sun and three stars yellow. Color the top band dark blue. Color the bottom band red.



THAILAND

DIRECTIONS:

Color the top and bottom bands red. Color the wide middle band dark blue. Leave the other bands white.

Let's Play a Game!

INDONESIA

INJIT-INJIT SEMUT

Two or more people stand in a circle. One person puts out a hand into the center. The next person stacks one hand on top while pinching the hand beneath theirs. Each person continues to stack a hand on top of the other hands while pinching the hand beneath them until all the hands are stacked. Everyone starts chanting the chorus over and over. After each line of the song, the hand on the bottom goes up to the top of the stack.

*Injit-injit semut, siapa sakit naik di atas
Injit-injit semut, walau sakit jangan di lepas
Injit-injit semut, siapa sakit naik di atas
Injit-injit semut, walau sakit jangan di lepas*

Step up — a bit — like an ant
If it feels too hurt — just move it up
Step up — a bit — like an ant
Even if it's hurt — don't ever let go.

Watch the game on YouTube: bit.ly/Injit.

Sing a Song

PHILIPPINES

PA-A TU-HOD BA-LI-KAT U-LO (MY FEET, MY KNEES, MY SHOULDERS, MY HEAD)

TAGALOG:

*Pa-a Tu-hod Ba-li-kat U-lo
Pa-a Tu-hod Ba-li-kat U-lo
Pa-a Tu-hod Ba-li-kat U-lo
Puma-dyak ta-yo at Mag-palak-pakan*

ENGLISH:

My feet, my knees, my shoulders, my head
My feet, my knees, my shoulders, my head
My feet, my knees, my shoulders, my head
We slap and clap our hands together.

Watch the song on YouTube: bit.ly/Pa-a.

Make a Craft

INDONESIA - JAVA BATIK PAINTING

When making batik cloth, melted wax is poured from a special kettle in patterns onto plain cotton cloth. When the cloth is dyed, the unwaxed parts take on the color and the waxed patterns remain white.

YOU WILL NEED:

Washable liquid glue – blue gel glue is easy to see on the fabric
Plain white cotton fabric
Paper and pencil to practice the pattern
Acrylic or fabric paint
Paint brush, water, and a towel to dab the brush
Wire hanger for hanging



BigStockPhoto.com

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Sketch a simple design on the paper, and then sketch the outline of your design on the fabric.
- Draw over the lines with the glue.
- Let the glue dry completely.
- Paint over the designs with the paint. Let dry completely.
- Wash the fabric in hot water to remove the glue. Be sure to wash it separately from other laundry.
- When it is dry, attach your painting to the hanger and hang it on the wall.

Let's Cook!

THAILAND

TOFU SATAY WITH PEANUT SAUCE

INGREDIENTS:

16 oz (450g) extra-firm tofu (two 8-oz [225g] blocks)

Marinade:

2 tbsp soy sauce
1 tbsp peanut butter
1 tbsp light brown sugar
1 tsp dried basil
1 tsp garlic powder

Peanut Sauce:

½ small onion, finely chopped
1 tsp crushed garlic
1 tsp sesame oil

1 tsp red curry paste
1 tbsp light soy sauce
1 tsp tamarind paste
2 tbsp light brown sugar
½ cup (120 ml) coconut milk
⅓ cup (83 g) peanut butter
Juice of ½ small lime

For Serving:

fresh cilantro
fresh lime
crushed peanuts

INSTRUCTIONS:

Whisk soy sauce, peanut butter, brown sugar, dried basil, and garlic powder in a dish.

Cut each block of tofu into 5–6 strips and place them in the marinade sauce, turning a couple of times to get both sides covered. Leave the tofu in the marinade sauce for at least 30 minutes; overnight is even better.

Preheat oven to 430°F (220°C).

Place the marinated tofu onto a parchment lined baking tray. Bake for 25 minutes, turning over halfway through the bake.

While the tofu is baking, add the chopped onion, garlic, sesame oil, and red curry paste to a saucepan and sauté until the onion is slightly softened.

Add the soy sauce, tamarind paste, brown sugar, and coconut milk and stir well.

Then add in the peanut butter and stir until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and stir in the lime juice.

Remove the tofu from the oven and allow to cool for a few minutes.

Serve with peanut sauce, fresh cilantro, fresh lime, and crushed peanuts.

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	sdaeiu.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 the children 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 the children 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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children's MISSION

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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, Myaungmya, Myanmar
- 2** Life Hope Center, Yangon, Myanmar
- 3** Health Clinic, Brunei
- 4** Papua Adventist Theology College, Nabire, Indonesia