

**Children's Mission**

**First Quarter, 2022**

**Southern Asia-Pacific Division**

## **1-22 Mission**

**On the Cover:** KK was 8 when she learned that her mother was ill. She also was 8 when she learned that Jesus was her Friend and that she could pray to Him. Story, p. 14.

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*\*A "veiled country" is a country that Adventist Mission has chosen not to identify because of regional sensitivities involving Christianity.*

## **Your Offerings at Work**

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped the Adventist International Mission School expand into a high school and to construct a complex of classrooms and other buildings at a new site in Korat, Thailand. Read related stories on pages 12–17.

[Insert photo here.]

Dear Sabbath School Leader,

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

The region is home to 1.1 billion people, including 1.7 million Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for every 636 people.

This quarter's four Thirteenth Sabbath projects are in four countries: Pakistan, Laos, Vietnam, and Timor-Leste. See the sidebar for more information.

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive this quarter, we offer photos and other materials to accompany each mission story. More information is provided in the sidebar with each story. For photos of tourist sites and other scenes from the featured countries, try a free photo bank such as [pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com) and [unsplash.com](http://unsplash.com).

In addition, you can download a PDF of facts and activities from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division at [bit.ly/ssd-2022](http://bit.ly/ssd-2022). Follow us at [facebook.com/missionquarterlies](https://facebook.com/missionquarterlies).

You can download the PDF version of the *Children's Mission* magazine at [bit.ly/childrensmision](http://bit.ly/childrensmision) and the youth and adult *Mission* magazine at [bit.ly/adultmision](http://bit.ly/adultmision). The Mission Spotlight videos are available at [bit.ly/missionspotlight](http://bit.ly/missionspotlight). A printable mission bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at [bit.ly/bank-coloring-page](http://bit.ly/bank-coloring-page).

If I can be of assistance, contact me at [mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org](mailto:mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org).

Thank you for encouraging others to be mission-minded!

Andrew McChesney  
Editor

—Box—

## Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help the Southern Pacific-Asia Division to establish:

- Health center in northern Pakistan
- Elementary school in Luang Namtha, Laos
- Children's learning center in Long Thanh, Vietnam
- Student dormitory at Timor- Leste Adventist International School in Dili, Timor-Leste

—End Box—

## **Bald and Scared**

**Thip**

**Laos**

**January 1**

Thip was a beautiful girl with long black hair in Laos. She didn't know Jesus, and she didn't care.

At school, she became friends with a girl who spoke often about Jesus. The girl was a Seventh-day Adventist.

"Jesus created all things, including you," the girl said. "He lives in heaven."

Thip didn't really understand what her friend was saying. She honored an image of stone at a temple, and she wasn't interested in hearing about Jesus.

Then Thip fell ill. It was a strange sickness. Everything was fine during the day, but when the sun went down and the sky grew dark, she began to hurt herself. She hit herself with her hands all night. She didn't stop until the sun rose in the morning. Then she acted like normal.

Father and Mother were worried. Thip wasn't sleeping at night, and she had cuts and bruises all over her body. They took her to a witch doctor, but he couldn't do anything. They took her to a fortuneteller, but she couldn't help. Thip visited many witch doctors and fortunetellers, but no one could heal her. Father and Mother spent a lot of money, selling a car and other valuables, but Thip grew worse. When the sun went down and the sky grew dark, she hit herself all night. When the sun rose in the morning, she returned to normal.

Father and Mother decided that their only hope was the stone image at the temple. They shaved off Thip's hair and left her at the temple. Thip was bald and scared. She worked hard to memorize the teachings of the stone image, hoping that it would save her. But nothing changed.

One day, Thip remembered her friend who had told her about Jesus. She sent a text message to her friend about her sad situation. The friend wrote a prayer and sent it back. Thip had never prayed to Jesus. But when she read the texted prayer, she gathered all her courage and prayed for the first time in her life. It was evening. The sun was going down, and the sky was growing dark.

"Help me, Jesus," Thip pleaded. "Please come into my life and save me."

That night, when the sun went down and the sky grew dark, Thip didn't hit herself. She slept for the first time in months. When the sun rose in the morning, she woke up feeling like a new person. She never again had trouble from evil spirits.

Father and Mother were amazed at Thip's healing, and they asked what had happened. She told them about Jesus. Father and Mother called an Adventist pastor and asked him to teach Thip more about Jesus. Thip was happy. Now she wanted to know more about Jesus.

Not long ago, Thip gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized. She knows Jesus has made her beautiful inside and out. Jesus has given her a new heart, and she wants to live with Him forever.

*Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a school in Laos where more children can learn about the Jesus who created all things, including children. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.*

By Andrew McChesney

### **Story Tips**

Find Laos on the map.

The photo shows Thip (a pseudonym) holding her Bible.

Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: [bit.ly/ssd-2022](https://bit.ly/ssd-2022).

This mission story illustrates the following components 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"; 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." The construction of the school will help fulfill Mission Objective No. 4, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God." Learn more about the strategic plan at [IWillGo2020.org](https://IWillGo2020.org).

## **Book Goes to Hospital**

### **Somphone**

### **Laos**

### **January 8**

*Steps to Christ* went to the hospital. No, the book was not sick. The reason that *Steps to Christ* went to the hospital was to save people.

All people who go to the hospital go because they are sick and want to be healed. People in the hospital have headaches and stomachaches. They have broken arms and broken legs. They have problems with their hearts, lungs, livers, or kidneys. They are worried and in pain, and they want to get better.

*Steps to Christ* cannot heal a headache or a broken arm or a bad liver. It cannot be swallowed like a pill or wrapped around the arm like a bandage. But the book is good medicine. It can give hope. It explains how to become friends with Jesus and learn more about Him by reading the Bible.

Noah took *Steps to Christ* to a hospital in Laos .Nobody in the hospital was a Christian. Nobody in the hospital had ever heard about God. But the people in the hospital welcomed Noah gladly. They were happy that someone wanted to talk with them. They were happy that someone wanted to pray for them. They were happy to receive his gift of a book.

Nobody was happier than Somphone, a little boy of about 8. Somphone was in agony when Noah stepped into his hospital room. His left arm and part of his chest were covered with burns. He was moaning softly in pain as Mother and Father sat anxiously beside the bed.

Looking sympathetically at the forlorn child, Noah said, “Can I pray for you? I would like to ask the wonderful and loving God of heaven to take away your pain and heal you.”

Somphone had never heard about God. Nobody had ever prayed for him before. But he liked the sound of a wonderful and loving God in heaven who could take away his pain and heal him.

“Yes, please pray to God,” he said.

Noah prayed for the boy. He asked God to take away his pain and to heal his burns. He prayed for Somphone’s parents. He prayed that Somphone would be able to return home soon.

The next day, Noah returned to the hospital, and Somphone greeted him with a beaming smile.

“God took away my pain!” he announced, proudly, so everyone in the hospital room could hear. “And my burns dried up overnight.”



Mother and Father smiled. Their son was no longer in pain, and his burns were healing nicely. It was a true miracle! God had answered Noah's prayer.

Noah gave the boy's parents a copy of *Steps to Christ*. "You can read how to become friends with the God who hears and answers prayer," he said.

Then he prayed again for Somphone. "Thank You wonderful and loving God of heaven for taking away Somphone's pain and healing him," he prayed. "Amen."

When he finished praying, everyone in the hospital room wanted him to pray for them. They had seen Somphone's pain and how God had taken it away.

Noah prayed with each of the other people in the hospital room. Everyone eagerly took a copy of *Steps to Christ* to read. They wanted to become friends with the wonderful and loving God of heaven who had helped Somphone. They wanted to be saved by God.

*Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a school in Laos to teach children about the wonderful and loving God in heaven. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.*

By Andrew McChesney

### **Story Tips**

Show the children a copy of the book, *Steps to Christ*, at the beginning of the story.

Find Laos on the map.

Pronounce Somphone as: som-FO-ni. Somphone is a pseudonym.

Know that just a few years ago there was no complete Bible in the Lao language, much less other Christian literature like *Steps to Christ*. Now the Bible and other a several Ellen White books are available in the Lao language and are being distributed across the country.

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This mission story illustrates the following components 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, and to non-Christian religions"; and Mission Objective No. 3: "To make developing resources for mission to non-Christian religions and belief systems a high priority." The establishment of the elementary school will help fulfill Mission Objective No. 4: "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God." Learn more at [IWillGo2020.org](https://IWillGo2020.org).

**Fire! Help!**

**Amy**

**Laos**

**January 15**

*Crack!* An odd noise woke up little Amy late at night. Lifting her head, she smelled a foul odor in the air.

In another bedroom of the house, the noise woke up Father and Mother, and they smelled the foul odor. Amy's elder brother also woke up and sniffed the air.

But no one wanted to come out of their rooms to see what was happening. Burglars often broke into homes in their village in Laos, and they did not want to be attacked.

Finally, Amy's curiosity got the better of her, and she decided to take a look. Peeking out of the door, she saw that the television set was engulfed in a ball of fire. The television set was in a wooden cabinet in the living room. On top of the cabinet was a big flower vase.

Now everything seemed to be surrounded by a big, hot fire. Orange flames were licking at the ceiling. The fire was quickly spreading toward the kitchen and garage.

"Fire!" Amy screamed. "Help! Help!"

But the fire was so hot that no one dared come out of their rooms. Her father, mother, and brother quickly ran to a window at the back of the house and jumped out. But Amy did not run. She fell on her knees.

"God, please save us," she prayed.

At that moment, the big flower vase fell over on the wooden cabinet and into the fire. The flames decided to stop racing up the ceiling, and to the kitchen and to the garage. The fire immediately died out.

Several neighbors had seen the fire and were trying to help. They were in the garage, trying to reach the fire by breaking through a car window. No matter how hard they hit the window, it would not break. Then they saw that the fire had gone out, and they stopped trying to break the window.

It was a good thing that the window did not break because it would have cost a lot of money to replace it.

Why did the fire go out? Why didn't the car window break? Those weren't the only strange things that happened. Mother and the children were Christians and loved the God of heaven, but Father did not know God. He allowed Mother and the children to go to church on Sabbath, but he wasn't interested in going with them. Like many people in Laos, he had wooden images of his dead great-great-grandfathers and great-great-grandmothers in a corner of his house, and he honored them. Strangely, the fire did not destroy anything in the house except the wooden images of his dead great-great-grandfathers and great-great-grandmothers. The wooden images were burned to ashes.

Amy's family repainted the living room after the fire, and they dedicated their home to God. They realized like never before that their home and everything that they owned actually belongs to God. Father gladly joined Mother and the children in the prayer of dedication for the house. He saw that the God who had answered Amy's prayer was more powerful than his wooden images.

*Thank you for your Sabbath School mission offering that will help spread the gospel to the people of Laos. This quarter's Thirteen Sabbath Offering will help open an elementary school in Laos.*

By Andrew McChesney

### **Story Tips**

Find Laos on the map.

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This mission story illustrates the following components 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, 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." The construction of the school will help fulfill Mission Objective No. 4, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God." Learn more about the strategic plan at [IWillGo2020.org](https://IWillGo2020.org).

## **Praying for Parents**

### **Singkham**

### **Laos**

### **January 22**

Can you imagine having a Father or Mother who didn't know Jesus? What would you do?

Singkham's Father and Mother did not know Jesus. Like many people in Laos, they were not Christians, and they had never gone to church. Singkham, however, loved Jesus and wanted his parents to know Him, too. But how?

He began to pray. He asked people at church to pray. Everyone prayed for Father and Mother.

"Please, help Father and Mother to know You," Singkham prayed every day for a whole year.

Then Father fell ill with a terrible pain in his belly. At the hospital, the doctor said Father had a kidney stone. A kidney stone is a small stone that forms in the kidney, which is in the belly. It hurts a lot.

The doctor said Father needed an operation. Father didn't want an operation. He was scared. What if the operation didn't help?

But Singkham wasn't worried. He knew Jesus, and he knew that Jesus would help. Singkham told Father about Jesus, and he prayed for him. Father realized that Jesus was his only hope, and he and Mother began to read the Bible.

The operation was a success! The kidney stone was removed, and the pain went away.

Father was so happy that Jesus had saved his life! Mother also was happy! They decided to read the Bible every day because they wanted to know more about Jesus.

Singkham was especially happy! Jesus had answered his prayers, and his parents were beginning to know Jesus.

But just as Father and Mother got to know Jesus better, Father fell ill again. Something hurt in his belly. The doctor looked for another kidney stone, but he couldn't find one. For one and a half months, the doctor looked, but he couldn't find the cause of the pain.

Singkham didn't know what to do. He couldn't understand why Father was ill again. He prayed for Jesus to heal Father.

Finally, the doctor said he wanted to perform an operation.

“We cannot find the cause of your sickness,” he told Father. “So, I want to open up your belly to see what is causing the pain.”

The doctor came out of the operating room after 30 minutes.

“I’m sorry,” he said. “We cannot help Father.”

He said Father was very sick, and nothing could be done to treat them. He didn’t even want to sew Father’s belly shut after the operation.

Singkham kept praying.

Two weeks passed, and Father’s pain suddenly disappeared. His belly didn’t hurt anymore! The surprised doctor sent Father home. A month passed. A year passed. Father grew strong and healthy, and his belly healed shut.

The doctor asked Father to come back to the hospital for an examination. He could not believe his eyes when Father walked in. Father was in perfect health!

“How can this be?” the doctor exclaimed.

Father knew how it could be. Mother knew how it could be. Singkham knew how it could be. God had done a miracle.

After the miraculous healing, Father and Mother gave their hearts to Jesus. The rest of Singkham’s family saw what had happened to Father, and they also gave their hearts to Jesus.

Singkham loves Jesus with all his heart. He had prayed for Father and Mother to know Jesus, and now his whole family knew Him. Jesus really does answer prayers!

*Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a grade school in Laos to teach children — and parents — about the wonderful and loving God in heaven. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.*

### **Story Tips**

Find Laos on the map.

Pronounce Singkham as: SING-kum.

Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: [bit.ly/ssd-2022](https://bit.ly/ssd-2022).

This mission story illustrates the following components 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, 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.” The construction of a grade school in Laos will help fulfill Mission Objective No. 4, “To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God.” Learn more about the strategic plan at [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## **Father of the Fatherless**

**Pradeepa Lakmali Fernando**

**Thailand**

**January 30**

A small girl believed in God, but she had a big question: Can God really do miracles? Perhaps the girl, Pradeepa, had a good reason to wonder. She didn't think that she had seen any miracles in her short life in Sri Lanka.

Pradeepa was born into a Christian home, but her father died when she was 9. Without Father, Mother had to work hard to raise the girl. Pradeepa saw how difficult life was for Mother, and she wondered, "Can God really do miracles?"

One day, Mother told Pradeepa that they would worship at a new church. Instead of going to their usual church on Sunday, they would go to a Seventh-day Adventist church on Sabbath. A friend of Mother's had invited them.

Pradeepa liked the new church. She enjoyed learning about God in Sabbath School. She loved listening to stories from the Bible. She heard about Jesus turning a boy's five loaves and two fish into a huge meal to feed more than 5,000 people. She heard about Jesus raising a 12-year-old girl from the dead. She wondered, "Can God really do miracles?" Even though she wasn't certain that God could do miracles, she knew that she loved Him. She gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized. Mother also was baptized.

As Pradeepa grew older, she decided that she wanted to become a teacher. But she had a big problem. She couldn't pay for college. Although Mother worked hard, she didn't have enough money to help. Pradeepa wished that she still had a father. She prayed, "Dear God, if You really are my Father, and if You really want me to go to college, please raise up someone to help me."

Nothing happened. Nothing happened the next day, even though Pradeepa prayed again. Nothing happened for a year, but Pradeepa kept praying. Her prayer, however, changed. She stopped asking God if He really was her Father. She realized that God was her Father, and she was His child. "Dear Heavenly Father," she prayed. "You are my Father. If You want me to go to college, please raise up someone to help me."

Then someone called on the telephone.

"Hello," said the unfamiliar voice. "Do you want to go to college?"

Pradeepa didn't know who was calling, but she knew that she wanted to go. "Yes," she said, slowly. "But Mother and I don't have enough money. Only God, who is my Father, can help."

Two days later, the caller called again.

“Get ready to go to college,” the voice said. “I will help you.”

At that moment, Pradeepa knew that God really can do miracles! Tears flowed down her cheeks as she thanked Him. “I may not have a father on earth, but I have the most wonderful Father in heaven,” she prayed.

Today, Pradeepa is a teacher at a mission school in Thailand. Many children do not come from Christian homes. Many may wonder whether God really can do miracles. Pradeepa loves introducing the children to her Heavenly Father. “He loves you,” she says. “And, yes, He really can do miracles!”

*Three years ago, your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped the school where Pradeepa teaches, the Adventist International Mission School in Korat, Thailand, to move to a new campus so even more children can learn about the God who does miracles.*

By Andrew McChesney

### **Story Tips**

Find Thailand on the map.

Pronounce Pradeepa as: pra-DEEP-a.

Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: [bit.ly/ssd-2022](https://bit.ly/ssd-2022).

Read one of Pradeepa’s favorite Bible verses: “Sing to God, sing praises to His name; extol Him who rides on the clouds, by His name Yah, and rejoice before Him. A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, *is* God in His holy habitation” (Psalm 68:4–5, NKJV). Ask the children why she might like the text. (Answer: She sings praises to God for being a father to the fatherless, like her, and a defender of widows like her mother.)

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## **Trusting in God**

**KK**

**Thailand**

**February 5**

When KK was 8, she learned that her mother was ill with cancer.

The little girl didn't know what to do. As Mother suffered, she longed to help. She spoke with Teacher Lynn at the Seventh-day Adventist school where she studied in Thailand. Teacher Lynn gave KK a big, sympathetic hug.

"Pray and trust in God," she said, softly.

KK came from a family that was not Christian, and she had never prayed.

Teacher Lynn taught KK to pray.

"You talk to God in the same way that you would talk to your father or to your mother or to a friend," she said.

She suggested that KK repeat a prayer after her.

"Dear God," she said.

"Dear God," KK repeated.

"Thank You for giving me a wonderful and loving Mother," she said.

"Thank You for giving me a wonderful and loving Mother," KK repeated.

"Now Mother is sick. Please help her," she said.

"Now Mother is sick. Please help her," KK repeated.

"Amen."

"Amen."

Teacher Lynn also showed KK how to read the Bible.

KK prayed with Teacher Lynn every day for four months. Whenever she felt sad and wanted to pray, the two knelt down and prayed. Sometimes KK's whole class prayed for her mother and her.

Mother heard that KK and people at school were praying for her. She didn't say anything, but KK could see that she was happy that everyone at school loved her.

The children did more than pray. They made greeting cards out of colorful paper and gave them to KK and her mother. KK's favorite card read, "Cheer up!"

Mother grew weaker, but KK refused to doubt in God. She knew that God had a special plan for both her and Mother.

"If it is God's plan for Mother to go away and for me to live without her, I have to believe and trust in Him," she told her classmates.

Then Mother died. KK cried. She did not understand why God had allowed Mother to die, but she trusted Him.

Today, KK prays when she wakes up and before she goes to bed. She prays during the day at school. She prays "without ceasing," as the Bible teaches in 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

"God really knows what's best for me, and He knows what will happen in my future," KK says. "I trust Him."

*Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped KK's school, Adventist International Mission School in Korat, Thailand, to construct a new campus so it could expand into a high school. The new school buildings were constructed just in time for KK to stay for high school.*

By Andrew McChesney

### **Story Tips**

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This mission story illustrates the following components 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." The expansion of Adventist International Mission School helps fulfill 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"; and Mission Objective No. 4, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom,

wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God.” Learn more at [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## **Bowing Only to God**

**DJ**

**Thailand**

**February 12**

Six-year-old DJ saw a shrine as she walked down the hall of her school in Thailand.

Do you know what a shrine is? A shrine is a place with a religious image. At DJ's school, the shrine was a place with an image of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

DJ remembered that her teacher had told her and the other children to bow to the image of Mary when they saw it. So, DJ carefully bent her knees in front of the image. Then she continued on her way.

She didn't know it, but someone saw her bow.

Far up on the fourth floor of the school, Father happened to glance down, and he saw his little girl bow to the image. Father was a Seventh-day Adventist, and he didn't bow to images. At first, he thought that DJ was one of the many children at the school whose parents bowed to images. But then he saw her face and realized that she was his own daughter.

At home, Father and Mother sat down for a talk with DJ.

"Today, I saw you bend your knees to the image at school," Father said. "Why did you do that?"

DJ looked at Father and Mother with wide eyes. She didn't think that she had done anything wrong.

"Teacher said we should do that," she said.

Father and Mother looked at each other. While they had taught DJ that they were Seventh-day Adventist, they had never explained that there were other religions in the world and that some of them bowed to images.

Father opened his Bible to Exodus 20 and told DJ about the Ten Commandments. "Listen, to the first commandment, DJ," he said. "It says, 'You shall have no other gods before Me.' That means that God wants us to worship only Him. We bow only to God. We do not bow to anyone else."

Then Father read the second commandment, which says, "You shall not make for yourself a carved image."

He explained that the image at school was a "carved image."

"God says we should not bow down to them," he said.

DJ understood. She loved God, and she promised not to bow to anyone but God.

But it was difficult to go to a school where the other children bowed to the image. It was difficult when Teacher told the children to bow. DJ wanted to be like the other children, and she didn't like disobeying Teacher. But even more she wanted to make God happy, so she didn't bow to the image again.

Meanwhile, Father and Mother were praying earnestly. They saw that it was difficult for DJ. They wanted her to be able to study at an Adventist school.

Then God answered their prayers. Mother, who is a teacher, got a new job teaching at Adventist International Mission School in another part of Thailand. Father, who also is a teacher, got a job at the school as well.

DJ loved her new school. Many of the children were not Christian, but all the teachers were Adventist, and they loved God with all their hearts.

At the school, DJ learned more about the Ten Commandments, and she even memorized them all.

*Three years ago, your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped the school where Dorothy Jeanne studies, Adventist International Mission School in Korat, Thailand, to move to a new campus so more children can learn about the only God worthy of worship. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter to help even more children learn about God.*

By Andrew McChesney

### **Story Tips**

The photo shows DJ with her younger siblings. DJ's mother is a fourth-grade teacher at Adventist International Mission School in Korat, Thailand, while her father teaches high-school students. The family is from the Philippines.

Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division: [bit.ly/ssd-2022](https://bit.ly/ssd-2022).

This mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: 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." The construction of new classrooms at Adventist International Mission School also helps fulfill 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"; and Mission Objective No. 4, "To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist

institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God.” Learn more at [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## **The Real Jesus**

**Arta Dasmasea**

**Indonesia**

**February 19**

Arta, a young student missionary, felt a little sad when he arrived on the Raja Ampat Islands in Indonesia. He was supposed to teach school for one year in a village where no Seventh-day Adventists lived. But he was all alone.

“Why am I alone?” he prayed.

But was Arta really alone? No! Almost immediately after he prayed, he realized that Jesus was with him. So, he prayed a new prayer, asking for help to tell the villagers that Jesus is coming soon.

Soon Arta learned that the villagers thought that Jesus had already come. A man who once lived on the island had claimed that he was Jesus. After he had died, the villagers began worshipping him.

Arta knew that the man couldn't be Jesus. The Bible teaches that the real Jesus warned that some people would falsely claim to be Him. Jesus said, “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘Look, He is there!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. But take heed; see, I have told you all things beforehand” (Mark 13:21–23, NKJV).

On Sunday, two of Arta's new friends took him to their church. When the pastor asked him to introduce himself, Arta said, “I am the new teacher at the school. I also can help you if you are sick.” It was true. In addition to being a teacher, Arta had learned how to help sick people.

But the pastor was not interested. He wanted to tell Arta about the man who had claimed to be Jesus. “He was a great man,” the pastor said. Arta prayed. He did not know what to do. When the pastor saw that Arta did not praise the man who had claimed to be Jesus, he became angry. Everyone in church became angry.

Arta sadly left the church. He didn't know how he would be able to tell the villagers about the real Jesus.

Outside, an old woman came up to him. “You said that you can help the sick,” she said. “Can you help my husband?”

In her home, Arta checked her husband's blood pressure. It was very high. Arta suggested that the man eat healthy foods that lower the blood pressure, and he prayed with the couple. As he left, he heard the old man yell at his wife, “What can that child teach me about health?”

Back at his house, Arta fell onto his knees and prayed. “Lord, I surrender all to You,” I said. “Please help me.”

A few days later, the old woman appeared at Arta’s door. Her husband had been eating healthy foods, and he wanted his blood pressure to be checked again.

Arta was so happy! Someone in the village wanted to talk. Someone in the village needed help.

“Thank you, God,” he prayed silently. “Thank you for answering my prayers.”

The old man’s health improved every day after that. He began to like Arta. Soon he and his wife loved Arta as if he were their own grandson. When the other villagers saw their love, they began to be kind to Arta, too. Arta soon had many friends in the village, and he was able to tell them about the real Jesus.

Arta’s favorite verse in the Bible says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). The real Jesus can help us do everything!

By Andrew McChesney

### **Story Tips**

Find Indonesia on the map. Find Raja Ampat Islands just off Papua to the east.

The photo shows Arta teaching at the village school.

Know that Arta was a student missionary from Mount Klabat University, a Seventh-day Adventist University outside Manado on Sulawesi Island. He served as a student missionary with the 1,000 Missionary Movement.

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## **Anita's Sabbath Adventure**

**Anita**

**Indonesia**

**February 26**

Happy Sabbath!" Father's voice cut through the darkness.

Anita stirred in her bed.

"Rise and shine, Sunshine!" Father said, poking his head into the door of Anita's bedroom.

It was 4 o'clock in the morning.

Anita's eyes popped open. It was time to get up!

After breakfast, Anita put on her favorite Sabbath dress. Then she slipped her bare feet into flipflops. She gave her Sabbath shoes to Mother to put in a bag. Now she was ready for the trip to church.

Anita climbed into the backseat of the family's white van. Father slid behind the steering wheel, and Pastor Kamu took a seat beside him. Mother sat with Anita in the back, and they were joined by five university students.

At 5 a.m., the white van left the campus of Mount Klabat University, the Seventh-day Adventist school in Indonesia where Father and Mother taught as American missionaries. The sky was dark, and few cars were on the street. But Father still had to take care as he drove. He carefully steered around dogs, and sometimes he had to stop for cows to cross the road.

Anita slept on Mother's lap.

About an hour and a half later, Anita awoke as the white van came to a stop. She liked this part of the trip to church. She and the others boarded a small motorboat, and soon they were sailing on the ocean. Anita looked across the dark-blue water. Light was just beginning to crack on the horizon as the sun rose. Warm, humid air brushed against her cheeks as the boat navigated gentle waves.

After an hour, the boat docked on an island, and the group transferred to another boat for a 30-minute ride. Then they landed on yet another island dotted with coconut trees and lush green jungle. Anita was glad that she had worn flipflops and not her nice Sabbath shoes. She had to walk along a muddy trail. The mud between her toes felt good.

About 45 minutes later, Anita saw a small village with a small Seventh-day Adventist church. Sabbath School would begin soon, and the church was crowded already with people. The people

greeted Anita and the others with delight. Grandfathers and grandmothers smiled broadly. Fathers and Mothers beamed with joy. They were so happy to welcome the visitors. They knew that it had taken an effort to reach their village.

Little children waved excitedly at Anita and clustered around her. A little girl ran up and pinched the white skin of Anita's arm. A little boy reached out a daring arm and tugged on her red hair. The village children had brown skin and black hair, and this was their first time to see someone with white skin and red hair.

Anita smiled back. She didn't like the children touching her, but she didn't do anything. She understood that they were curious.

Inside the church, Mother pulled Anita's Sabbath shoes from the bag, and Anita slipped them on. Now she was ready to worship God.

Late in the afternoon, Anita put back on her flipflops for the long trip back home. She was tired but happy. Every Sabbath, Father and Mother went to a new church to share Jesus. Every Sabbath, the trip was a new adventure. Best of all, every Sabbath they got to worship God. Anita liked being a missionary kid!

By Andrew McChesney

### **Story Tips**

Find Sulawesi Island, Indonesia, on the map.

Know that this story occurred nearly 40 years ago, but missionary kids still make adventurous trips going to church today. Nearly every Sabbath during their five years in Indonesia, Anita's parents, Robert and Marja McChesney, traveled from Mount Klabat University, where they taught, to a new church, sometimes speaking to multiple congregations in a single day.

Ask the children what they think about their trips to church on Sabbath morning. Would they like to get up at 4 a.m. for the trip? What advantages and disadvantages do they see between their trips to church and Anita's trip?

Encourage the children to be missionary kids. They do not have to live in a foreign country or have missionary parents to be a missionary kid. They only have to share Jesus with others.

Ask the children how Anita shared Jesus. Possible answers: She showed love to the children who pinched her and pulled her hair. She shared Jesus simply by going to church. Jesus went to church every Sabbath: "And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day" (Luke 4:16). Anita could have stayed at home, but she followed Jesus' example.

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## **Kind Stranger**

**Tony**

**Singapore**

**March 5**

When Tony was 7 years old, he moved with Mother to Singapore from their home in another country. Father, who stayed at home, couldn't speak English. Mother couldn't speak English. But they both wanted Tony to live in Singapore so he could learn to speak English.

Tony started first grade in Singapore. It was hard to speak English, but he tried his best and started to make new friends. But he felt very sorry for Mother. While he was at school, learning English and playing with friends, Mother was all alone at home. Mother didn't have schoolwork to keep her busy. She didn't have any friends to play with. She missed Father.

One morning, Tony and Mother stood at a bus stop, waiting for the bus. Mother began to miss Father, and she began to cry. Tony didn't like to see Mother crying, and he also felt sad.

Tony and Mother were not alone at the bus stop. Another woman was waiting for the bus, and she saw the forlorn boy and his weeping mother. "What's wrong?" the stranger asked in English.

Mother didn't understand. Tony didn't speak English very well, so he also didn't understand. The woman saw their confused faces, and she switched languages.

"What's wrong?" she asked again but in another language.

Mother's face lit up. The woman was speaking her language. Mother was so happy! "I'm feeling sad because I miss my husband," Mother said.

The woman nodded her head, understandingly. She had an idea.

"I know something that might cheer you up," she said. "I belong to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and we are having a special program for children right over there this afternoon."

The woman pointed to a building across the street from the bus stop. It was a Seventh-day Adventist church.

Tony and his mother had never heard about Seventh-day Adventists. They were not Christians and had never gone to church before.

Tony smiled with delight. He wanted to go to the children's program and make new friends. Mother liked to see Tony smile, and she was pleased to meet the kind woman who spoke her language. Tony and Mother went to the children's program on that Sabbath afternoon.

Tony and Mother liked the program. Someone invited them to return the next week for Sabbath School and church.

Tony and Mother returned the next Sabbath and every Sabbath afterward. They also participated in other Sabbath afternoon programs. As the weeks passed, they learned about Jesus and His love, and they began to love Him, too.

When Tony finished first grade, Mother moved him to the Adventist school near the church for second grade. She wanted him to learn both English and the Bible at the Adventist school. Tony also wanted to go to the Adventist school. Then he could play with his friends from Sabbath School every day of the week.

Soon Tony was able to speak English as if he had spoken it all his life. Father was very happy. He knew knowing English would open up new opportunities for Tony. He knew that Tony would grow up to be successful. Mother also was happy that Tony could speak English — and she was particularly happy that she had made many good friends at the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Tony especially was happy. He didn't know whether or not it was important to speak English, but he was glad that Mother was no longer sad.

Even more, he was happy because he had made a new best friend, Jesus. He loved Jesus with all his heart, and he wanted to live with Him always.

*Thank you for your Sabbath School mission offering today that will help spread the gospel in Singapore and other countries in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, which will receive this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.*

By Andrew McChesney

### **Story Tips**

Find Singapore on the map.

The photo shows the Adventist school, right, and church, left, in Singapore.

Know that Tony and his family come from a “veiled country,” a country that Adventist Mission has chosen not to identify because of regional sensitivities involving Christianity.

Ask the children whether the kind stranger became a missionary. A missionary is someone who brings others to Jesus. The stranger may not have told Tony and his mother about Jesus by name, but she directed them to the church, where they learned about Jesus.

Read more about Tony next week.

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## **Missionary Boy**

**Tony, 10**

## **Veiled Country**

**March 12**

*Last week, we heard about Tony, who moved with his mother to Singapore to learn English. While in Singapore, he and Mother also learned about Jesus after making friends with a kind Seventh-day Adventist woman at a bus stop.*

When Tony finished second grade at the Seventh-day Adventist school in Singapore, he spoke English as if he had spoken it his entire life. Father asked Tony and Mother to fly home.

Tony said good-bye to his friends at the Adventist school. Mother said good-bye to her friends at the Seventh-day Adventist church near the school. Tony and Mother said good-bye to Singapore and returned home.

Tony was 10 years old, and he and Mother were happy to be home. They were happy to see Father again. But they both missed going to the Adventist church every Sabbath. So, Mother looked for an Adventist church in their city. After six months of looking, she called the kind woman whom she had met at the bus stop in Singapore.

“Can you help me find an Adventist church?” she said. “Tony and I miss going to Sabbath School and church.”

The woman didn’t know where to find an Adventist church, so she asked her pastor for help. The pastor found the telephone number of an Adventist leader in Tony’s city, and soon Mother received the phone number.

A short time later, Tony and Mother met with the Adventist leader and heard an amazing story.

Three years earlier, about the time that Tony had moved to Singapore to learn English, a foreign missionary moved to his city. The missionary arrived to share Jesus’ love, but he couldn’t speak the language. So, while Tony was learning English in Singapore, the missionary was trying to learn Tony’s language. But it was very hard for him, so he prayed to God, “Please send someone who speaks English to help me.”

Tony and Mother met the missionary, and they liked him a lot. When Mother saw that the missionary couldn’t speak her language very well, she said, “Tony speaks good English. He can help you.”

The missionary liked the idea. For three years he wanted to preach on Sabbath, but he couldn’t because no one could understand him.

The next Sabbath, he and Tony stood up to preach. The church members were surprised. But when they heard Tony interpret the missionary's sermon in their own language, their eyes lit up with joy. They were hearing the Word of God through the mouth of a child.

Tony and Mother were happy to be able to go to church again on Sabbath. But the missionary felt sorry for Tony. He was the only boy in the church. So, the missionary created a Sabbath School class just for him. Tony liked the class so much that he invited his friends to come, and he helped the missionary translate the lessons so his friends could understand. Soon 15 children were attending Tony's Sabbath School every week.

God is changing the lives of people in a big city through a little boy who loves Him. What can God do through you?

*Thank you for your Sabbath School mission offering today that will help spread the gospel in Singapore and other countries in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, which will receive this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.*

By Andrew McChesney

### **Story Tips**

Know that Tony and his family come from a "veiled country," a country that Adventist Mission has chosen not to identify because of regional sensitivities involving Christianity.

The photo shows the Adventist school, right, and church, left, where Tony learned about Jesus in Singapore.

Ask the children whether Tony is a missionary. A missionary is someone who brings others to Jesus.

The missionary told Adventist Mission: "Tony is very special. Without him, I think it would be very different. That boy changed our ministry. I kept praying to God, 'Send me someone who speaks English. I feel so alone here.' Then God sent a boy to help me understand that I needed to work with children. I realized that when he showed up. Now I am working with children in the Sabbath School and elsewhere. I am really glad to be able to work with the next generation."

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to non-Christian religions”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first.” Learn more at [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## **Life-Changing School**

### **Bino**

### **East Timor**

### **March 19**

When Bino turned 3, Mother decided that she wanted her little boy to go to an international school in Timor-Leste.

An international school is not like a regular public school. Going to a public school in Timor-Leste doesn't cost any money, and the teachers speak in Portuguese. Going to an international school, however, costs money, and the teachers speak in English.

Mother wanted Bino to learn English, so she asked Father to find an international school in Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste where they lived.

Father walked up and down the streets, looking for an international school. He found several international schools, but they were all too expensive.

Then Father walked past a Seventh-day Adventist church. He saw a sign on the church fence advertising the Timor Adventist International School. A phone number was on the sign, and Father called for more information. To his delight, he learned that he could afford to send Bino to the school.

Father and Mother were not Adventist, but they had heard about Adventists. Mother's uncle was an Adventist. Before he had become an Adventist, he had smoked cigarettes and drank alcohol. His language had been rough, and he had eaten unhealthy food. Because of the unhealthy food, his legs had been covered with sores. But after being baptized, he had stopped smoking and drinking, and he had become healthy. He read his Bible, and he encouraged Mother and Father also to read the Bible. Mother and Father liked the new Uncle. He was jolly and pleasant to be around.

Bino started to study at the Adventist school. He quickly began to learn English. Mother also began to learn English. Every day, when he came home from school, she asked him to teach her the English words that he was learning at school.

"Hello," Bino said.

"Hello," Mother repeated.

"Good-bye," Bino said.

"Good-bye," Mother repeated.

As the weeks and months passed, their English-language lessons grew more complicated.

“I love you,” Bino said.

“I love YOU!” Mother exclaimed.

English was not the only thing that Bino taught Mother after school. Every day, Bino heard Bible stories from his teachers, and he shared those stories with Mother. As Bino grew older, he told Mother about David and Goliath, Jonah and the big fish, and Jesus and the little boy whose lunch fed more than 5,000 people.

Mother loved hearing her little boy tell Bible stories. She and Father began reading the Bible. Sometimes they had questions about what they were reading, and they sought answers from the pastor of the Adventist church near Bino’s school and an American missionary who also lived on the island. The pastor and the missionary visited Bino’s house regularly. The day came that Father and Mother were baptized and joined the Adventist Church.

Today, Bino not only goes to the Adventist school, but Father and Mother go to the school, too. Father and Mother work as the school’s caretakers.

Father is happy that Bino goes to the Adventist school. Mother is happy that Bino goes to the Adventist school. Bino is happy that he goes to the Adventist school. Through the school, the whole family speaks English — and loves Jesus with all their hearts.

*Six years ago, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped open the Adventist school in Dili. This quarter, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a dormitory so children from faraway villages can live and study at the school. Thank you for planning a generous offering.*

By Nerida Koolik

### **Story Tips**

The photo shows Bino with his mother and sister.

Find Timor-Leste on the map.

Pronounce Timor-Leste as: TEE-mohr LEHSH-tay.

Download photos on Facebook: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq).

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worldview.” The construction of a dormitory at Timor-Leste Adventist International School will help fulfill Mission Objective No. 4, “To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God.” Learn more about the strategic plan at [IWillGo2020.org](http://IWillGo2020.org).

## **Thirteenth Sabbath: Miracle Orphan Boy**

**Basti**

**Timor-Leste**

**March 26**

High in the mountains of Timor-Leste comes the story of Basti.

Basti, a shy boy who was small for his age, was happy living with Father and Mother in majestic mountains covered with thick, green jungle. From his village home, he could see the peak of Mount Tatamailau, which, at 10,000 feet (3,048 meters), is the nation's tallest mountain.

But 11-year-old Basti wasn't thinking about Mount Tatamailau. He wasn't thinking about the mountains covered with thick, green jungle. He wasn't thinking about his village home. He was thinking about Father and Mother, and he felt sad. His parents had died suddenly, and now he needed to move away from the mountains to live with his aunt and uncle in the big city of Dili.

As Basti got ready to move down the mountain, he had a dream. In the nighttime dream, he saw a shining white angel with a very kind face. The angel came to him and soothed his aching heart and his dark future with words of calm and peace.

"Do not be afraid," the angel said. "God will take care of you."

When he woke up in the morning, Basti was confident that God would take care of him. He didn't know how, but he was sure that God loved him and would help him.

A short time later, he was living in the big city with his aunt and uncle. He missed his village home. He missed the mountains. He especially missed Father and Mother. But he knew that God would take care of him.

As the days passed, he enjoyed playing with his young cousins in the street outside his new home. He also made a new friend, a neighbor girl who sometimes joined them in their street games. The girl came from an American missionary family who lived on the same street. Basti learned that the girl and his cousins were classmates and studied at the same school.

When the missionary parents heard about Basti, they wanted him also to study at the school, the only Seventh-day Adventist school in the country. They prayed, and amazing things began to happen. First, money was found to pay for Basti's studies at the Adventist school. Then his aunt and uncle decided to give their hearts to Jesus and were baptized. Basti enjoyed going to church with them every Sabbath.

After that, a missionary family decided to adopt Basti. Basti's aunt and uncle loved him, but they didn't have much money to take care of him and their own children. The missionary family already had a young son, Jira, and they were happy to take care of Basti, too.

Today, Basti is a happy, active boy with many talents. He has never forgotten the dream with the angel. God promised to take care of him, and He has!

*Without the assistance of the Seventh-day Adventist church and school in Timor-Leste, Basti's story could have had a much different ending. Six years ago, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped open the Adventist school in Dili. Today, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a dormitory so children from villages in Basti's mountains and elsewhere can live and study at the school. Thank you for giving a generous offering so this project and the other important projects in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.*

By Raymond House

### **Story Tips**

Find Timor-Leste on the map.

Pronounce Timor-Leste as: TEE-mohr LEHSH-tay.

Pronounce Tatamailau as: tata-MAY-laow.

Know that the premature death of Basti's parents was probably connected to a tradition of marriage contracts in Timor-Leste. When a husband cannot pay the required dowry to the family of his wife, he must provide money or animals for funerals and holy days for many years after the wedding. The tremendous pressure from debt obligations and the threat of curses from the inability to pay, drive people to live frugally, often to the point that they are malnourished and susceptible to further health complications. This is probably what happened to Basti's parents.

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## **Before Thirteenth Sabbath**

Send home a note to remind parents of the program and to encourage the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on March 26. Remind everyone that their mission offerings are gifts to spread God’s Word around the world, and that one-fourth of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to help projects in the four countries of 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, the children can act out the story, playing the roles of Basti, the angel, the uncle and aunt, the American missionary girl and her father, and Basti’s new family of the missionary father, mother, and brother, Jira.

Before or after the story, use a map to show the four countries in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division — Timor-Leste, Laos, Vietnam, and Pakistan — that will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Describe the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects.

—**Box**—

## **Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects**

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering next quarter will help the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division to establish:

- Church and elementary school, Belize, Angola
- Men’s dormitory, Bongo Adventist Polytechnic Institute of Higher Learning, Huambo, Angola
- Domestic violence and counseling center, Lombe, Angola
- Sequele elementary school, Luanda, Angola
- Community outreach and leadership development center at Mzuzu campus of Malawi Adventist University, Malawi
- Better Living Center and FM radio station, Mayotte

—**End Box**—

## 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](http://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

Laos: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovtLaos">bit.ly/GovtLaos</a>
Trip Advisor	<a href="http://bit.ly/LaosTripAdv">bit.ly/LaosTripAdv</a>
Lonely Planet	<a href="http://bit.ly/36iPEUP">bit.ly/36iPEUP</a>
Thailand: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovtThai">bit.ly/GovtThai</a>
Amazing Thailand	<a href="http://bit.ly/ThaiTourism">bit.ly/ThaiTourism</a>
Indie Traveller	<a href="http://bit.ly/ThaiIndie">bit.ly/ThaiIndie</a>
Timor-Leste: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovtTimor">bit.ly/GovtTimor</a>
Wikitravel	<a href="http://bit.ly/TLWikiTravel">bit.ly/TLWikiTravel</a>
Lonely Planet	<a href="http://bit.ly/TLLonelyPlanet">bit.ly/TLLonelyPlanet</a>

### Seventh-day Adventist

Southern Asia-Pacific Division	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDA-SSD">bit.ly/SDA-SSD</a>
Southeast Asia Union Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDA-SAUM">bit.ly/SDA-SAUM</a>
Laos Region	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDA-LaosMiss">bit.ly/SDA-LaosMiss</a>
Thailand Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDA-ThaiMiss">bit.ly/SDA-ThaiMiss</a>
AIIAS	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDA-AIIAS">bit.ly/SDA-AIIAS</a>
Asia-Pacific International University	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDA-APIU">bit.ly/SDA-APIU</a>



An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Determine a goal for your class's weekly mission offering. Multiply it by 14, allowing a double goal for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Remind your Sabbath School members that their regular weekly mission offerings will help the missionary work of the world church and that one-quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage members to double or triple their normal mission giving on Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School.

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## **Masthead**

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## Fast Facts and Mission Posts

### Timor-Leste

1. Timor-Leste Mission was organized in 2009 and is attached directly to the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. There are 696 members worshipping in one church and two companies. In a population of 1,318,000, that's 1,874 people for each Adventist.
2. The official name of the country is the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and it is a semi-presidential republic. The capital is Dili.
3. The currency of Timor-Leste is the US dollar.
4. Timor-Leste covers the eastern half of the island of Timor, an area called Oecusse (on the northwestern coast of Timor), and two small islands, Atauro and Jaco. The western side of the island is part of Indonesia. The total area of Timor-Leste is 5,743 square miles (14,874 square kilometers).
5. Most of the people are of Papuan, Malayan, and Polynesian origin and nearly all the population is Roman Catholic, with tiny Protestant and Muslim minorities. There are about 40 different Papuan and Malayan languages or dialects spoken in the country, but the two official languages are Tetum, spoken by most people, and Portuguese, which is only spoken by a small percentage. English and Indonesian are "working" languages.
6. Dutch and Portuguese traders were the first Europeans to arrive in Timor, around 1500, and both countries struggled for dominance in the area until 1906, when they decided to divide the island, with the western half going to the Netherlands, and the eastern half going to Portugal. Although the Japanese occupied the country during World War II, it again became a Portuguese colony after the war. In 1974, Portugal pulled out of East Timor and, shortly after, it was invaded by its neighbor, Indonesia. The country wrestled with strife and unrest as rebels tried to hold off the Indonesian invasion until, in 1999, an Australia peacekeeping force entered the country and ended the violence. East Timor became an independent country, Timor-Leste, in 2002. Although the violence of the conflict destroyed much of the country's infrastructure, it has been slowly rebuilding.
7. About 60 percent of the people live in rural areas and most work as farmers, growing cassava, coconuts, coffee, corn, rice, and sweet potatoes, as well as some livestock. The industrial sector produces clothing and bottled water and there are reserves of oil and natural gas offshore.
8. Timor is mainly mountainous and dry. In hilly areas, sandalwood trees grow, and in the lowlands, coconut palms, and eucalyptus trees can be found. Wildlife includes civet cats, crocodiles, deer, monkeys, and snakes, as well as marsupials called cuscuses

### Laos

1. Laos Region is in the Southeast Asia Union Mission. It only has 1,908 members worshipping in two churches and three companies. With a population of 7,242,000, there are 3,796 people for each Adventist.
2. The territory of Laos is a part of the Southeast Asia Union Mission in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. The first Seventh-day Adventist mission station was opened by Richard C. Hall and his family in 1957 at Nam Tha, in one of the northwestern provinces. A short time later, Nai Mun Lansri and Abel Pangan and his wife joined them, and, by 1961, a church with 44

members, mostly from the Maeo tribe, had been organized. Unfortunately, in 1962 all mission personnel were evacuated from Laos because of war. Shortly after the missionaries left, military forces overran Nam Tha, and the mission buildings were destroyed.

3. The work was reopened in 1968 when A. G. Biton, a Filipino missionary, and his family were called to Laos, but in 1975, because of Communist advances in Southeast Asia, all Adventist contact with Laos was cut off until 1984, when the border with Thailand was reopened. Two churches were still worshipping, despite having been cut off for nearly 10 years.
4. The official name for the country is Lao People's Democratic Republic and it has a communist government. The capital is Vientiane (or Viangchan as it is known locally). The area of Laos covers 91,429 square miles (236,800 square kilometers) with a population of 7.2 million.
5. The official language is Lao, and the currency is known as the Kip.
6. In 1353, a Lao prince named Fa Ngum made himself king of a new country he called Lan Xang, "the Kingdom of a Million Elephants."
7. Laos is the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia.
8. Nearly 75 percent of Laos is covered in mountains and forested hills too steep to live on. Travel by land is difficult. Only 10 percent of the country lies below 600 feet (183 meters) elevation. The highest peak in the mountains, Phu Bia, is 9,242 feet (2,817 m) high. The lowland areas are the most fertile, as the flooding of the Mekong River provides the soil with the nutrients to grow rice and other crops.
9. Most of the population of Laos lives along the Mekong River, which stretches more than 2,600 miles (4,180 km) from China, through Laos, and empties into the ocean in southern Vietnam. The Mekong is important as a route for both cargo and passengers, for generating electricity, for irrigation of crops, and as a source of fish, which features heavily in Laotian cuisine.
10. Laotians, as well as other people in Southeast Asia, play a sport called *kataw*, which is like a cross between volleyball and soccer. Players must get a small hollow bamboo ball over a high net without using their hands. Rhinoceros-beetle wrestling is also popular; people bet on which beetle will stay standing the longest.
11. One of the world's most dangerous snakes, the 14-foot-long (4.2 m) king cobra lives in Southeast Asia and can be found in Laos. It is the longest venomous snake in the world.
12. The Laos flag is striped horizontally; red represents the blood of Laotians who fought for freedom and independence, blue represents prosperity and the Mekong River, and the white circle in the middle is an homage to Japan's flag, as the Japanese encouraged the Lao independence movement in World War II.
13. The UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Plain of Jars is comprised of more than 2,100 stone jars that were used for funerals during the Iron Age (from 500 BC to 500 AD).

## **Thailand**

1. Thailand Mission is in the Southeast Asia Union Mission. There are 54 churches, 75 companies, and 15,137 members. With a population of 66,534,000, there are 4,395 people for each Adventist.
2. The first Adventist to visit Thailand was R. A. Caldwell, who canvassed in Bangkok for a few weeks in late 1906 or early 1907. More than 10 years later, colporteurs from the Singapore mission school, working in Bangkok with Chinese books, reported discovering a group of Sabbath-keepers there. This led to a permanent mission being established in 1919; E. L.

Longway, Forrest A. Pratt, and Tan Thiam Tsua, who had accepted SDA teachings in China, settled in Bangkok.

3. The first Thai convert was a young man who was baptized by Pratt in 1925 and later became the assistant business manager of the Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital.
4. The official name of the country is the Kingdom of Thailand and it is ruled by a constitutional monarchy. The official language is Thai, although more than 60 languages are spoken in Thailand. English is a mandatory school subject.
5. The Thai language has five tones and is called a “tonal language,” like Chinese and Vietnamese. The Thai alphabet has 44 symbols for consonants and 16 symbols for vowels.
6. The currency is the Baht.
7. The area of Thailand is 198,115 square miles (513,115 square kilometers). Cambodia and Laos are its neighbors on the east and northeast, and Myanmar to the northwest. On the west lie the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand. The long region in the south connects with Malaysia and is mountainous and forested, but the highest mountains in Thailand are in the north.
8. About 95 percent of Thai are Buddhist, although around three million Muslims live in the south near the border with Malaysia.
9. Thailand means “land of the free” and was known as Siam until 1939. Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country never to have been colonized by a European power. In 1932, a revolution led to a constitutional monarchy, where the king is the head of state, but a prime minister is chosen from among members of the House of Representatives and appointed by the king.
10. The national symbol of Thailand is the Garuda (a mythical figure that is half bird and half man), the national animal is the elephant, and the national colors are red, white, and blue
11. The most important industries in Thailand are agriculture and tourism.
12. The most popular sports in Thailand are volleyball, football (soccer), and rugby. Thailand is also known for *Muay Thai*, a Thai style of boxing.
13. The traditional Thai greeting is called *wai*. Younger people greet older people first to show respect. Male speakers say “*sawatdi khrap*” and female speakers say “*sawatdi kah*” while bowing their heads, pressing their hands flat together, and touching their fingertips to their head.
14. Speaking badly of the Thai royal family can send you to jail, regardless of where you are from. In 2015, a Thai man was charged with making a “sarcastic” internet post about the king’s pet dog. In 2012, an American was jailed after he insulted the Thai king. Tourists are advised to not mention the king at all.
15. Thai children attend elementary school for six years; they can then attend high school for another six years, but their families must pay for their education. Boys begin military training in ninth grade.
16. Chinese and Indian cultures have influenced Thai cuisine. Most Thai dishes are spicy; many dishes include hot chilies, ginger, lemongrass, basil, and coconut milk.
17. Thai farmers cultivate mulberry trees and feed their leaves to silkworms. The worms create silk fibers, which are made into silk clothing around the world.
18. Bangkok is called the Venice of the East because of the many canals. Thousands of boats selling fruit, vegetables, and fish fill the canals and create floating markets.
19. The forests deep in Thailand are home to tigers, leopards, elephants, wild ox, and the Malayan tapir, whose fur is black on the front half of its body and white on the back half. Crocodiles can also be found in Thailand.

## Indonesia

1. The Adventist Church in Indonesia is comprised of the East Indonesia Union Conference and the West Indonesia Union Mission. There are 1,841 churches, 495 companies, and 220,757 members. With a population of 271,739,000, that's 1,231 people for each Adventist.
2. The first Seventh-day Adventist to visit Indonesia may have been Abram La Rue, who is reported to have been in Java sometime between 1888 and 1903. Adventist work in Indonesia began in 1900, when R. W. Munson, formerly a missionary for another denomination in Singapore, and able to speak the language, opened a mission at Padang, on the west coast of Sumatra. One of his first converts was Tay Hong Siang, a Chinese Christian preacher, who had previously been an orphan in Munson's orphanage in Singapore.
3. Indonesia is an archipelago located off the coast of mainland Southeast Asia in the Indian and Pacific oceans. It lies across the Equator and stretches a distance equivalent to one-eighth of the Earth's circumference. Its islands are grouped into the Greater Sunda Islands of Sumatra, Java, the southern part of Borneo, and Celebes; the Lesser Sunda Islands of Bali and a chain of islands that runs eastward through Timor; the Moluccas, between Celebes and the island of New Guinea; and the western extent of New Guinea (Papua). The Indonesian capital, Jakarta, is located near the coast of Java.
4. Indonesia is the largest archipelago in the world, the largest nation in Southeast Asia by size, and the fourth most populous country on earth, with more than 270 million people. Only China, India, and the United States have more people.
5. Indonesia is thought to derive from the Greek *indos* ("India") and *nesos*, ("island"). It was formerly known as the Dutch East Indies (or Netherlands East Indies); Indonesia did not become the country's official name until its independence from the Netherlands in 1945.
6. Bahasa Indonesia is the official language, and Javanese, with over 84 million speakers, is the second most prominent language. However, there are more than 700 languages and dialects spoken across the archipelago. Papua alone has over 270 spoken dialects.
7. More than 50 percent of the country is covered by forests.
8. Indonesia has more volcanoes than any other country in the world, outranking even Japan and the United States, and 127 of them are active. Indonesia is so populous that millions of people live within eruption zones at any given time. The volcano Gunung Agung, on the popular tourist island of Bali, erupted in 2017 and 2018. In 1883, Krakatoa, between Java and Sumatra, erupted and produced one of the loudest sounds in history, rupturing the eardrums of people over 40 miles away and producing tidal waves that were measured as far away as the English Channel. The blast created airwaves that circled the earth seven times and were still being recorded on instruments that record air pressure five days later.
9. No one really knows just how many islands there are in the archipelago that makes up Indonesia. Some islands appear only at low tide. The Indonesian government claims 17,504 islands, but other counts over the past 20 years have come up with numbers between 13,466 and 18,307 islands. There are about 8,850 islands that have been named, but fewer than 1,000 are believed to be permanently settled.
10. Indonesia is the only place in the world to see the endangered Komodo dragons in the wild. The best places to spot them are Rinca and Komodo Islands, which are in a national park in the East Nusa Tenggara province. Komodo dragon bites are very dangerous and for decades it

was assumed that their saliva, which is highly bacterial, was solely responsible. However, in 2009 researchers found what they thought could be venom glands.

11. Sumatra (entirely in Indonesia) and Borneo (shared between Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei) are the only places in the world to see wild orangutans.
12. Lorentz National Park, on the island of Papua (one of Indonesia's Unesco World Heritage sites) is huge—covering 9,674 square miles (15,569 square kilometers). Its highest point, Puncak Jaya, (16,024 feet [4,884 m]) is the tallest mountain between the Himalayas and the Andes.
13. *Rafflesia arnoldi*, native to Sumatra, produces the largest individual flower on Earth. But it is said to smell like decaying flesh, earning it the nickname “corpse flower.”
14. The rare Javan rhino, which can only be found on the island, has 50 or fewer individuals left.
15. The Garuda (a mythical bird) is the national bird of Indonesia.

### Flag Coloring Instructions

#### Singapore

Color the top half of the flag red, and leave the bottom half white. Leave the moon and the stars in the top half white.



#### Indonesia

Color the top half of the flag red. Leave the bottom half white.



#### Laos

Color the top and bottom stripes red. Color the wide middle stripe dark blue. Leave the circle in the middle white.



### **Thailand**

Color the top and bottom stripes red. Color the wide middle strip dark blue. Leave the stripes in between white.



### **Timor-Leste**

Color the smallest triangle on the left black—leave the star white. Color the chevron next to it yellow. Color the main part of the flag red.





## **Recipes**

### **Indonesia**

#### **Nasi Tumpeng (Yellow Rice)**

Tumpeng is often served in Indonesia at celebrations like weddings, birthdays, baby showers, and anniversaries.

It is made by cooking rice with coconut milk and turmeric, to give it color. It is then turned out in a cone shape onto a platter and surrounded with side dishes of meat, vegetables, noodles, or eggs, and decorated with carved vegetables.

#### **Ingredients**

2 cups (400 g) white rice  
2 cups (475 ml) coconut milk  
1 3/4 (425 ml) cups water  
1/2 (2.5 ml) teaspoon salt  
1 tbsp (15 ml) turmeric powder  
1 inch (2.5 cm) of fresh, peeled ginger, grated (optional)

#### **Instructions**

Put rice, water, coconut milk, and the rest of the ingredients in a pot and set over a medium-high to high heat. Stir occasionally until it begins to boil. Cover with a lid and turn the heat down to low.

Let simmer, with the lid on, for 15–20 minutes, checking towards the end to make sure that it does not boil dry. When most of the liquid is gone, take it off the heat and let it sit, covered, for 5–10 minutes to let the rest of the liquid absorb.

Make a cone out of paper or kitchen foil. While the rice is still warm, but is cool enough to work with, spoon it firmly into the mold and then let it cool completely. When ready to serve, turn it upside down on the serving platter and carefully remove the mold. Surround with whatever accompaniments you would like.

#### **Possible side dishes**

Boiled eggs, cut in half lengthwise  
Veggie meatballs  
Fried tofu cubes  
Various vegetables, fresh or cooked  
Fried noodles

*[Optional side-dish recipe to go with the Nasi Tumpeng]*

**Potato Patties (Perkedel Kentang):**

2 lb (1 kg) potatoes  
1 teaspoon (5 ml) salt  
1 teaspoon (5 ml) sugar  
1/2 teaspoon (2.5 ml) grated nutmeg  
1–2 finely chopped scallions/spring onions/chives  
1–2 eggs, lightly beaten  
oil for frying

Peel and cube the potatoes. Fry them in some of the oil until golden, put them in a mixing bowl and then mash them with a fork while they are still hot.

Add salt, pepper, sugar, nutmeg, and scallions/spring onions/chives and mix well.

Divide mixture into 16 patties. Lay out on a baking sheet and chill in the fridge for 1 hour.

Heat the rest of the oil in a pot, at least 2 inches (5 cm) deep. Once the oil is hot, dip and coat the patties in the lightly beaten egg, and deep fry until golden brown. Drain the excess oil on a wire rack or kitchen paper.

## Games

### Thailand

A fun toy that children in many parts of the world, including Thailand, like to play with is a paper helicopter.

All you need is an empty cereal box, a straw, scissors, a ruler, tape, and something to punch a hole with.

Cut a strip of cardboard from the box, around 2 inches (5 cm) wide, and 9 inches (23 cm) long.

Fold it in half, bringing the short sides together, to make a crease in the middle.

Starting at one of the short ends, cut a  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (1 cm) wide strip off the long side, ending about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (1 cm) from the middle crease, and then turn over and repeat from the opposite end. About one inch (2.5 cm) from each end, fold wing up slightly

Cut a hole in the middle of the uncut section.



Slide the straw through the hole about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (1 cm) and wrap some tape around it above and below the propeller.

To make it fly, hold the straw between your hands, pull one hand back so your fingertips are on the straw and then push them forward, spinning the straw along your other hand until the helicopter flies off the fingertips of the second hand.

You can adjust the way it flies by making the propellers longer or shorter, or by twisting them slightly in opposite directions.