

YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

2015 • QUARTER 2 • NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION



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주님 = 복역을
안식일 = 복역을
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 = stories of special interest to teens

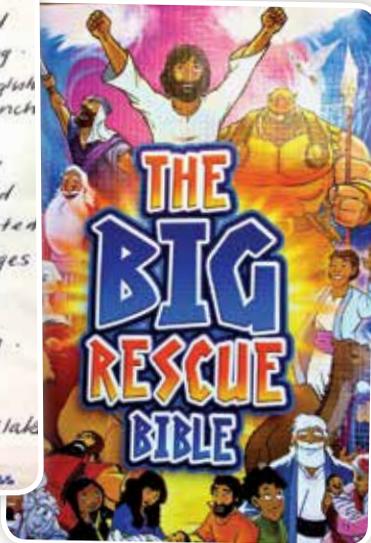
Your Offerings at Work

Here is a copy of the children's Bible we purchased with the 13th Sabbath offering.
32,000 children's Bibles English
1,000 children's Bibles French

Thanks so much. They have been dedicated and are starting to be distributed to children in remote villages. My Directors are very excited to have them.

Blessings
June Westlake

Reach Up . Reach Out . Reach Across



Thanks to your generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2012, thousands of children living in the islands of the South Pacific Division are receiving their very own Bible.



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter features the Northern Asia-Pacific Division which includes China, Japan, Mongolia, North and South Korea, and Taiwan. The region is home to almost 1.6 billion people, with an Adventist membership of only 650,000—a ratio of one Adventist for every 2,440 people.

The Challenges:

Japan is a modern, secular society. Only about 1.5 percent of the population claim to be Christian, and little more than 15,000 are Adventists.

Japan is home to a growing number of immigrants from South America. Decades earlier, people from Japan were encouraged to move to South America, where they found work, married, and established families. Today, many Japanese-South American people are moving to Japan. These immigrants are especially open to the gospel, and Adventists have had some success in reaching them.

Mongolia is a young church with more

than 1,600 Adventist believers. Most of the believers are young people with passion and talent. One of the most effective ways to reach children and young families is through Christian education. The Adventist school in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar is currently filled to capacity.

Korea is known as the most “Christian” of Asian countries, yet millions still haven’t heard of Christ and His soon return.

In **China**, it is very difficult to obtain permission to build churches, so most Adventists in that country meet in house churches, often situated in large apartment buildings. Apartments in large unreached cities in China are needed.

And in **Taiwan**, people are responding to centers of influence that provide them with hope now and for the future. More of these centers are needed.

Through this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, we have the wonderful opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division with these needs. Take a look at the opportunities box to the left and please encourage your Sabbath School members to give generously to this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Your gifts will help Adventists in NSD reach masses of people in their territory as they offer the hope found only in Christ.

Thank you for your strong support of mission!

Gina Wahlen, editor

PS: Just a reminder that mission giving is always available online at www.adventistmission.org/give.

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help provide:

- four classrooms and a library at the Adventist school in Mongolia
- an international evangelistic center for the immigrant population in Japan
- a youth evangelism training center in South Korea
- house churches in 16 large cities of China
- three centers of influence in Taiwan
- Children’s Project: Books for the school library in Mongolia

The Pancake Church

SOUTH KOREA | April 4

Mrs. Shin



It all started one Sabbath morning, with a teen crying behind a locked bedroom door. Gently knocking on her daughter's door, Mrs. Shin asked what was wrong.

"I'm so sad," came the muffled response. "Sabbath is so sad. I don't want to go to church! There's no one my age."

Mrs. Shin had noticed for some time that her 15-year-old daughter, Bo Hwa (BO-wah), wasn't happy. During the week, Bo Hwa was away at school with many friends, but at home she was the only teen in church.

The Pancake Plan

Mother and daughter prayed together about the situation, and before long Mrs. Shin had a plan. Every weekday morning, she arose very early and made 2,000 hotteoks (HOE-tocks)—a popular sweet-filled Korean pancake. Mrs. Shin then took her hotteoks and set up shop directly

across from the local high school.

All day Mrs. Shin sold hotteoks to the hungry students. But she did much more than that—she befriended them.

"How's it going?" she asked.

For many of her young customers, this was the first time someone had shown a genuine interest in them. Sensing her trustworthiness, the students began opening up to Mrs. Shin. Many were having a difficult time at school and home. Several came from broken homes or abusive situations. Some were living on their own.

The Next Level

As trust deepened, Mrs. Shin decided to take their friendship to the next level. "What are you doing on Saturday afternoon?" she asked her daily customers.

"Nothing," was the usual response.

"Would you like to come with me to visit some old people and cheer them up?" she asked.

Earlier, Mrs. Shin had visited the local government office, asking for the names and addresses of elderly people who had no family caring for them. Every Sabbath afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Shin, Bo Hwa, and numerous high school students visited the elderly. The activity was an instant success! Following the visits, Mrs. Shin invited the students to her home for a feast. The students loved the food and felt at home, sensing the warmth and caring

of the Shin family. Bo Hwa was excited to have many new friends.

In addition to providing physical food, the Shins taught the students how to pray, sing Christian songs, and study the Bible. During the week, besides selling hotteoks, Mrs. Shin visited the homes of the students, bringing food to those who were living on their own. When situations were especially challenging, the Shins often brought the young people into their home, caring for them as their own.

The Sabbath afternoon meetings continued growing until the Shin's small 700-square foot (65 sq. meters) apartment could hold no more. The group then met temporarily in Mr. Shin's nearby electrical shop, until neighboring shopkeepers complained.

The Shins continued praying, and soon God provided an opportunity for the family to move into a larger home, allowing them to “adopt” more young people, and provide a larger place to meet on Sabbath afternoons.

Pancake Church Plant

After a while, it became clear that their “home church” had grown into a church plant. Realizing that it would be best for

them to officially organize as a Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Shins prayed earnestly to find an affordable building that could serve as their church.

One day, Mr. Shin noticed an old, dilapidated home for sale on the same street where he lived. Placing his hand on the building's wall, he prayed, “Lord, please give us this house and we will turn it into a home for Your honor and glory.”

The Lord answered that prayer and US\$5,000 was raised to purchase the property. The group then worked together repairing and renovating the building into an acceptable place for worship. However, they needed a pastor for their new church.

Wanting to encourage the young people to have a better life by continuing their education, Mr. Shin set an example.

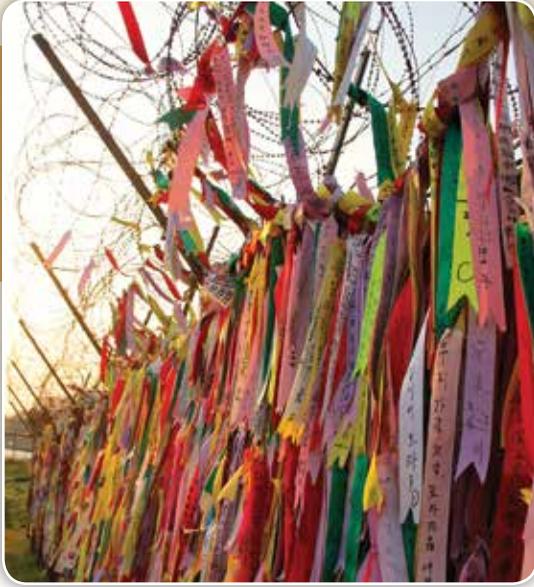
Although 45 years old, he told them he was willing to go back to school if they were. Mr. Shin was accepted at Sahmyook University, a large Adventist University near Seoul, where he studied theology. He, the Shin's daughter, Bo Hwa, and three of the “adopted” children completed university studies—all funded from the proceeds of Mrs. Shin's hotteok business!

Since this church plant began in 1998, more than 400 people have been baptized. Members of the church, which consists nearly entirely of young people, have presented 39 evangelistic programs. They have gone on mission trips to Cambodia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and Taiwan, transforming thousands of lives in these Asian countries.

Your offerings will help to build the Saebyeoksei Mission Institute for Youth in Naju, S. Korea, where these young members can receive additional training and continue church planting. 🌍

Mission Post

- The Korean Union Conference (KUC) was organized in 1919 and reorganized in 1984.
- The KUC consists of 5 local conferences, 1 mission and 1 attached field.
- There are 714 Adventist churches with 234,584 members in the KUC. The population of the KUC territory of North and South Korea is 74,940,000.



Journey to Freedom

Ana*

The bell on the shop's door tinkled, and Ana* looked up to see a Chinese woman enter the small store. The woman smiled at Ana and chatted about everyday matters as she looked around the shop. She avoided topics that could cause trouble if reported to the police.

Ana and her parents lived in North Korea, near the Chinese border. She knew better than to trust anyone. This woman could be a spy for the government. Ana had heard whispered stories of people who had been arrested because someone accused them of criticizing the government. Even aged family members and neighbors might be arrested. It wasn't safe to trust anyone.

Mrs. Lee's Gifts

The woman visiting the shop introduced herself as Mrs. Lee, from China. She chatted happily as she made her purchases and bid Ana goodbye.

*Not her real name.

Mrs. Lee returned to the shop several times. She always smiled and made pleasant conversation. Then one day when Mrs. Lee was paying for her purchases, she laid a small bag in front of Ana. She smiled and nodded toward the bag. Ana looked inside the bag and gasped at the fine cosmetics inside, items that weren't available in North Korea. Ana looked at Mrs. Lee, a question on her face. *Do I dare accept these gifts?* she wondered. *Is this a trap?*

Mrs. Lee smiled as she slid the bag toward Ana, and then turned to leave the store.

The Prayer

Mrs. Lee sometimes spoke of God during her visits. Ana knew nothing about God. One day Mrs. Lee gave Ana a piece of paper with the Lord's Prayer written on it. "Share this with your family," she whispered.

That evening Ana showed the paper to her mother, who read it with deep interest. Her mother began praying the prayer that Mrs. Lee had given Ana and then added her own request to it. "Please

bring my son home,” she prayed. Ana’s brother was in the military and hadn’t been home in eight years.

A month later, Ana’s mother answered a knock at the door and found two soldiers standing there. For a moment she feared what might happen next. Then she realized that one of the soldiers was her son. He had come home at last!

Ana told Mrs. Lee what had happened. Mrs. Lee smiled and slipped a tiny piece of paper into Ana’s hand. “If you ever visit China, call me,” Mrs. Lee whispered.

Escape

Ana decided to leave North Korea. She knew that people caught leaving North Korea were subject to prison or death, but the desire for freedom had taken root in her heart and would not die.

Ana had heard that border guards sometimes accepted a bribe to allow someone to cross into China. One day Ana walked to the border between China and North Korea and approached a young

border guard, her heart pounding.

“What must I do to cross the border?” she asked innocently. The guard looked at Ana and said, “Give me 100 Chinese *yuan* [about US\$16], and you can cross.” He told her the date she should return with the money.

Ana told no one of her plans. On the given date, Ana walked up to the guard, paid the bribe to the guard, and walked across the border into China. She didn’t stop until she was several miles inside China. Then she pulled out a cell phone from Mrs. Lee and called her number.

Ana stayed with Mrs. Chee, a Christian friend of Mrs. Lee, for several days. Harboring a North Korean was dangerous, but Mrs. Chee hid Ana while she shared her faith with the young woman. Ana knew nothing about Jesus, but as she learned she realized Jesus was God. She accepted Jesus as her Savior and eagerly learned more. But she had to continue her journey. Every day she stayed in China she was in danger of being caught and sent back to certain imprisonment and perhaps death.

A New Home

Six months after Ana left her homeland, she entered South Korea, the country she had thought of as the enemy all her life. There she was introduced to the Adventist Church. Ana rejoices in her new freedom—freedom from oppression and freedom to share her love for Jesus with others.

No one knows how many Adventists live in North Korea. But the church members in South Korea pray and prepare for the day when they can share God’s love with their neighbors to the north. 🌍

Fast Facts

- North Korea and South Korea were once part of the same country. But from 1950 to 1953 a war tore the country apart. North Korea is still a Communist country, and religion is strongly discouraged.
- The official name of North Korea is “The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea” (DPRK).
- The picture on the left was taken from the south side of the Korean border.
- Names of friends and loved ones in the North are on the ribbons.

The Banner Man

SOUTH KOREA | April 18

Song Sung Sub



Song Sung Sub* lives in one of the most densely populated areas of the world—the Seoul Capital Area in South Korea. He serves as Assistant Secretary of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Living and working in such an area, Sung Sub wondered how to reach the millions of people around him with the important Three Angels' Messages found in Revelation 14.

“I wanted people to see the truth, so my strategy was to come up with a way for them to immediately see the heart of the Three Angels' Messages—which is the Sabbath,” said Sung Sub.

Creative and Bold

Before long, a very creative and bold idea came to him. Sung Sub contacted a

* In Korea, names are written with the family name first, followed by the first, or given name(s).

local advertising company, and designed a customized backpack advertising banner proclaiming in large yellow letters on a blue background that the “Sabbath Day = Saturday = Seventh-day.” The banner included more details in smaller print surrounding the main message.

As he considered this unique form of evangelism, Sung Sub had two biblical examples in mind: 1) Jonah, who was sent to walk around a large city, proclaiming the need for repentance, and 2) the children of Israel who were a silent witness as they marched around Jericho.

“By wearing the Sabbath banner, I'm able to proclaim the Sabbath truth effectively and conveniently,” he said.

Surprising Encounters

Sung Sub wears his banner as he rides his bicycle to and from work, and often wears it as he walks in the park.

“When people see the banner, they are curious and they read it with a loud voice. There are always people around, and they talk about the words on the banner. The Sabbath is an important message, a testing truth. There are many ways to spread this message, but this is my strategy.”

When he first started wearing the Sabbath banner, Sung Sub worried that people might feel negative toward him, or think that he was judging them. Instead, he was delighted to see that many were interested in learning more about the message that he carried on his back.

“One day I took the subway while wearing the banner, and a person kept following me. Finally the person approached me and said, ‘I know this is the truth. Is there a church that keeps the Sabbath day?’”

Another time Sung Sub was walking with his banner through a park on a Sabbath afternoon when he was approached by two couples. “Oh, you

must be from the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” they told him. “We haven’t attended church in a long time. Where is it? We have been looking for one!”

Sometimes Christians who worship on Sunday approach Sungsub with appreciation for the banner’s message, often exclaiming, “I didn’t know that!”

Children enjoy seeing the unusual sight and will frequently follow the banner man for as long as they are allowed to do so by their parents.

A Character Building Experience

“Sometimes people ask me how I can survive carrying this banner around,” Sung Sub admits. “My heart isn’t brave enough to carry this on my own. And I need to behave very well because I’m carrying this important message. My mind should be peaceful. I pray and pray—then I feel at peace and filled with the Holy Spirit’s power. I know that God’s angels are walking right beside me. I find the whole experience to be very much a character changing and building experience.”

The banner idea is catching on. Not long ago an elder in Sung Sub’s church asked for a copy of the design. “I also felt that I needed to do some type of evangelism” said the elder, “and this is the one that I need to do.” The elder had an even larger banner made, and he uses it as he distributes literature. Already his banner has attracted a lot of attention.

“I feel very happy,” said Sung Sub. “I am seeking lost sheep. My strategy is: Just one glance, and the message is forever recorded in their minds. And whenever people ask for more information, I share some literature with them. This is just a pilot project—who knows what the results will be?” 🌍

Fast Facts

- The official name of the capital of South Korea is “Seoul Special City.” The Seoul Capital Area is the second largest metropolitan area in the world, with more than 25.6 million people. Half of the country’s population live in the capital area.
- The population of the city of Seoul itself is 10.44 million (2013), with a density of approximately 45,000 people per sq. mile (17,000/sq. kilometer).
- Seoul’s population density is almost twice that of New York City, and eight times higher than the density of Rome.

The Reluctant Angel

MONGOLIA | April 25

Jagana



Jagana sat down in her usual seat in the Adventist church. Worshipping God had once filled her with joy. But sometime during her busy years of university she had lost touch with God. She still loved God, still believed in Him. But she felt that she was no longer living a life that honored Christ.

The church will be better without me, she thought. For the sake of all that I love, I must leave.

Jagana had worked hard to do well in school; she had high grades and looked forward to graduating with honors. She had been so busy working on her degree that she hardly noticed that she was losing touch with God.

She thought back to when she had first met Jesus. She was studying English with some Adventist young people. If her parents had known that she had become a

Christian, they would have objected. Jesus became more precious than anything in her life.

But when she entered the university, the glow of success drew her eyes from her Savior, and slowly she drifted away from God. Worship had become routine. As she sat in church that Sabbath, she thought, *This is my last worship service. It's better to leave than to live a lie.*

But God had other plans for Jagana.

Golden Angels

That evening her phone rang. "Jagana, I have good news for you!" Pastor Joshua's familiar voice soothed her. "You've been chosen to be part of the Golden Angels!"

Jagana was stunned. Ever since she had first heard the Golden Angels sing, she had wanted to be a part of this select group of young Adventist singers. They traveled across northern Asia serving God for a year.

"N-no, Pastor," Jagana stammered. "I can't." She quickly recited her reasons. "I'm graduating; I'd lose my scholarship if I took a year off school. I can't sing well enough to be a member of the Golden Angels." Jagana thanked her pastor and said goodbye. She didn't mention that she was spiritually dying.

Fast Facts

- Mongolia has about 2.8 million people, a million of whom live in the capital city, Ulaanbaatar.
- The first converts after the fall of Communism in Mongolia were baptized in 1993. Today more than 1,600 Adventists in Mongolia worship in 10 churches, companies, and groups. Seven of these church groups are located in the capital city.
- Most of the Adventists in Mongolia are under 30 years old.

Pastor Joshua called again a few days later and again invited Jagana to join the Golden Angels. Again she said no. Pastor Joshua called back a third time. But before she could answer, he said, “Jagana, stop saying no. Just pray about it for 24 hours.”

Jagana agreed to pray. But in her mind she recited all the reasons why she couldn’t join the Golden Angels.

The Fleece

She prayed as she had promised. “God, I thought You were smart; I thought You knew everything. How could You choose me to be a Golden Angel? But . . . if You really want me to do this, give me a sign. Let my parents—and my teachers—agree to it. Then I’ll know that You want me to go.” Jagana smiled. She was sure that her parents would be angry, and her professors would never agree to let her leave school.

Dutifully she called her parents to tell them of the offer. “Ask your father,” her mother said, and she gave the phone to Jagana’s father.

“Ask your teachers” her father said. “If they agree, it’s OK.”

Stunned by her father’s answer, Jagana hung up the phone. Even though her primary professor was a Christian, she knew he distrusted her religion and wouldn’t agree to allow her to take a year off from her studies just to sing. He wanted her to win the medal for top student as much as she wanted it. But when she told him about the Golden Angels, he said, “Congratulations! Go!”

As Jagana waited for Pastor Joshua’s phone call that night, she wondered what to tell him. Then she realized that God was calling her to serve Him. *He still loves me*, she realized. *He still wants me*.

Joyfully Serving the Lord

Jagana joined the Golden Angels. She was not a trained singer, and she struggled through the difficult practices. She felt God helping her to sing beyond her ability.

As the group began its ministry, Jagana saw how God was using the Golden Angels to reestablish her faith. And during an evangelistic series in Mongolia, Jagana’s mother gave her life to God. “God has shown me that He loves me and will never leave me,” says Jagana. “I’m thrilled that He sought me out at the very time I was planning to leave Him.”

Jagana completed her studies and is teaching in Mongolia’s first Adventist elementary school. She finds her greatest joy in reaching out to family and friends and her students to introduce them to her wonderful Savior.

Mongolia is a young mission. The first believers were baptized a little more than 20 years ago. Our mission offerings will help provide a library at the Adventist elementary school in Mongolia. Thank you for giving. 🌍



Standing Strong

Boldroo

Boldroo's chest tightened as she stared at the exam schedule. "Final exams will be held on Saturday," it read. She had worked so hard to graduate from the university, taking whole semesters off to work so she could pay her tuition and pleading with teachers to allow her to take her exams on days other than the Sabbath.

As graduation neared, she had allowed her heart to soar with the joy of accomplishment. Soon she would graduate. But as she read the final exam schedule, she felt as if she had been punched in the stomach. Her final exam was scheduled on Sabbath.

A Plea Refused

"What can I do?" Boldroo asked her friend Coral later that evening. "I've heard stories of how God blessed students who refused to take their exams on Sabbath. But I've also heard of students who couldn't graduate because they missed part of their exam."

"Let's talk to the director," Coral

suggested. "Maybe he'll make an exception."

The next day Boldroo and Coral stepped into the departmental director's office. Boldroo was worried when she saw the scowl on his face. "Why are you asking for a change in the schedule?" he demanded. "You must take your exam the same day as your classmates. Now leave my office!"

"God has a plan." Coral whispered as they left the director's office. Boldroo nodded, but she couldn't imagine what God's plan was. Boldroo vowed that she would not take the exam on Sabbath, no matter what.

The Longest Day

On Sabbath, while her friends went to the university to take their final exam, Boldroo went to church. She struggled to keep her mind on worship, but found her thoughts slipping away to the exam room where her friends were defending their theses. She forced her mind back to God by repeating His promise, "I will never

leave you nor forsake you” [Hebrews 13:5, NKJV].*

Late that afternoon as Boldroo walked home, her cell phone rang. “Your documents are ready for you to take your exam,” the office secretary said. Boldroo thanked the woman and hung up. Several times that afternoon fellow students, and even some teachers called, urging Boldroo to hurry to the department office to report for her exam.

Boldroo fought the temptation to go to the school. She knew that the exams usually finished about 8:00 in the evening, before the summer sun would set. Boldroo pleaded with God for peace and strength to resist the temptation to go to the school during God’s holy hours.

Boldroo waited until the twilight was fading to darkness before she left her home for the school. With a prayer on her lips, she hurried to the university. Maybe it’s not too late, she hoped.

“Your God Is Great”

It was dark before Boldroo entered the office where the exams were being held. She was surprised to find students still waiting to make their presentations. She signed her name on the exam register and gave her thesis to a teacher to give to the committee. Then Boldroo waited.

Some students asked Boldroo why she had waited so long to come for the exam, and she explained her faith in God and her desire to keep His Sabbath holy. The exams plodded along, and Boldroo struggled against sleep. Finally, long after midnight, she was called into the exam room. She made her presentation and prepared to answer the teachers’ questions. But instead of asking questions about her project, her

teachers asked her about her faith.

“This is the first time we haven’t finished the exams by 8:00,” one of the teachers said. “Your God must be great to allow you to still take your exam.” Boldroo nodded and shared her faith with her instructors. Although they were tired, they attentively listened.

When the exam results were posted, Boldroo passed. Some of her classmates asked to attend church with Boldroo. They wanted to know more about her faith.

Telling Her Story

Boldroo remembers the trials she faced while completing her education. As she recalls the stories of others who kept their faith and honored the Sabbath, she smiles. Now she has her own story to tell, and she tells it whenever she has an opportunity.

Thank you for sharing as together we support mission in Mongolia. 🌍

Mission Post

- The first Adventist missionaries to Mongolia were Russians who began working there in 1926. But Communism entered Mongolia a few years later, and the work stopped.
- In 1991 missionaries again entered Mongolia, and two years later the first Adventist Christians were baptized. Today more than 1,600 Adventists worship in 10 churches and companies in Mongolia. The majority of believers are young people.
- Several years ago a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped several congregations buy buildings to serve as churches or enlarge existing buildings so congregations can grow.

More Precious Than Money

JAPAN | May 9

Ruth and Diana



Finding Truth

At church, Ruth was delighted to meet Diana, who was Brazilian. Diana offered Bible studies to Ruth, who readily accepted. When the two met again, Diana brought a gift—a DVD titled *The Great Controversy!* Convinced this was more than coincidence, Ruth watched the DVD, and as she studied the Bible with Diana, she was convinced that she had found the truth.

When Ruth learned that the seventh-day Sabbath was God's holy day, she immediately quit working on Sabbath. "Are you crazy?" her co-workers asked. "You get paid a higher rate on Saturdays. Why don't you earn the money and give it to your church?"

"There is something more precious than money," Ruth replied. "Such as going to church each Sabbath and learning new things, such as the Ten Commandments and how God Himself wrote them. That's important."

Soon Ruth was ready to make a full commitment and was baptized. When her co-workers realized that Ruth was serious about her new-found faith, they turned against her. "You've changed," some told her. "I can't work with you," said another. Nevertheless, her supervisor still valued Ruth and allowed her to take every Saturday off.

"Many things have changed in my life," Ruth explains. "The way I think, my

Originally from Ecuador, Ruth moved to Japan with her Japanese-Ecuadorian husband in 2004. Before moving, however, she visited a Seventh-day Adventist church and found that "the people were kind and the pastor treated people equally." She received a DVD titled *The Great Controversy* featuring presentations on Revelation by Pastor Luis Gonçalves. But she set it aside and soon forgot about it. Sometime later Ruth and her husband moved to Japan where they found work in manufacturing.

Although she was doing well at work, Ruth felt something missing in her life. One day she noticed a newspaper ad for a Seventh-day Adventist church. Remembering her friendly encounter with Adventists in Ecuador, Ruth called the local pastor, who invited her to visit.

habits, my relationships with people—everything. Before being baptized, I had a hard heart, but now I'm more sensitive—rich in emotion and empathy.”

Helio's Search

Ruth is one of the many South American immigrants in Japan. Helio is another who came in search of a better life. He shares his story here:

My father, a Japanese immigrant to Brazil, was Buddhist. My mother, who was of Japanese descent, was raised a Roman Catholic. When I was 14, my father died of tuberculosis. He longed to be healed, and perhaps that was why he didn't reject having Christianity in the house. He prayed every day.

He had a small watchmaking business, and after his death I had to take over. It was difficult to accept his death and suddenly become the breadwinner. I started reading the Bible and found a passage that stayed with me: John 14:6—“I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Life was difficult, and at age 26 I went to Japan. But things only got worse! I had terrible back pain and spent much money trying to find relief, but nothing helped. Then my three-year marriage fell apart.

A New Direction

My life had lost direction until an Adventist—Silvio—began working at the factory where I worked. What caught my attention was Silvio's composure and good humor in all circumstances, although he suffered from severe pain from an accident. I knew about pain, so I really admired Silvio's attitude.

I was a member of a Japanese spiritualist



sect, called “Mahikari.” We believed in a “god of the universe,” and a “god of the earth.” Every time I bowed down to these gods, I remembered John 14:6, and wondered where Jesus Christ was.

Some months later, Silvio invited me to his church. We became good friends, and he told me how Jesus could change my life. It was because of Silvio's testimony that I wanted to know more about Adventists. I began attending church regularly, and took Bible studies with the pastor. Soon, I was baptized.

That was 10 years ago. Today I'm a literature evangelist. I also lead out in a newly formed Adventist church in the city of Yaizu. I'm married to a Japanese Adventist nurse, and we have a two-year-old child. I praise the Lord for how He has guided and transformed my life.

Many thousands of South Americans of Japanese descent are living and working in Japan. One of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects is to help build an international evangelistic center in Japan. 🌐

New Life From Death

JAPAN | May 16

Masaaki



As a mortician in Japan, I am surrounded by death every day as I prepare bodies for burial and direct funerals. For years I have watched people mourn the death of a loved one and go through the ceremonies their religion requires in order to assure that the deceased have a peaceful and speedy journey from this life to the next.

Fearing the Spirits

Japan is largely secular, but most people honor their ancestors by prayers, elaborate ceremonies, and worship rituals. Most believe that the deceased person's spirit doesn't go directly to the afterlife, but resides in its former home for up to seven weeks after death. The family avoids leaving their home, fearing that it will offend the spirit of their loved one.

During this time the family performs

ceremonies that they believe will help the deceased move on to the next realm of reincarnation. The mourners pay their priest to perform a ceremony during which he gives their loved one a special name that will ensure entry into the afterlife. Only then can the spirit leave its former home and enter the afterlife to be reincarnated as a human or animal or even an insect, depending upon the person's deeds during the life they have just left. People are resigned to enduring many lifetimes before they will finally build up enough good works to merit paradise.

Which Way After Death?

As I watched leaders of various religions conduct funeral ceremonies, I noticed that most funerals involved great sadness and weeping, but Christians tempered their sorrow with hope. They seemed to have faith that they would see their loved ones again. No such hope existed for most people.

I began watching Christians more closely, examining the differences between their beliefs and those I had known since childhood. Christians faced death with a deep-rooted faith in their God. Their pastors showed great compassion toward the grieving family and spoke of the hope

of seeing their loved one again.

One day I was in charge of a funeral in an Adventist church. After my preparations were completed, I sat down alone in the empty church and let the peacefulness of the sanctuary wrap around me. I thought about when death had come close to me—the time when I almost drowned in the ocean, and the time I should have died in a terrible motorcycle accident. As I remembered these near-death experiences, I was surprised that instead of feeling fear, I felt a deep peace. I sensed at that moment that I was not alone.

A few nights later I dreamed about Jesus. I awoke thinking about Him, and I couldn't go back to sleep. The next morning I visited the Adventist pastor. We talked about God for quite some time. The pastor assured me that Jesus wanted to be part of my life. I asked him to help me learn the principles of Christianity. I was eager to know how the Christian faith could give its followers such hope. We started with the basics, for I knew almost nothing.

I was amazed to learn that the same God who created the earth, came here to live and die so that fallen human beings could live with Him forever. I had never heard of such love!

I thought of the sinful things I had done, and rejoiced that I could ask Jesus Christ to forgive my sins and accept me as His own. I prayed my first prayer to the God of Creation, and He filled my heart with a peace and joy I had never known.

Sharing the Faith

I wasn't sure how to tell my family about my new faith, so at first I said nothing. Soon I realized that I didn't have

to tell them; they saw the changes in my life. Happiness shone on my face and in my expressions. They noticed that I no longer drank alcohol, and they saw other bad habits slip away.

To my surprise, my family supported me. They attended my baptism and rejoiced with me in my new-found faith in God. My colleagues and friends noticed the differences too, and asked what had happened. I told them that I had met the living God, Jesus Christ, and had accepted His gift of salvation.

Now when I conduct a funeral for someone who isn't a Christian, I want the grieving family to notice a difference in my life. Some people do notice, and they ask what makes the difference. I tell them I'm a Christian, and God has given me peace. I continue studying the Bible so I can answer people who ask about my faith, and to better know how to encourage the sad families I meet every day. 🌍

Mission Post

- Japan is one of the most difficult countries to reach for Christ. The culture discourages people from reaching out to share their faith with others.
- The Japanese people are deeply traditional and feel honor-bound to observe ancient religious festivals, including ancestor worship. But they are not deeply religious. Only four people out of every 100 in Japan are Christians, and only one person out of every 8,361 is an Adventist.
- Watch the *Mission Spotlight* story about Adventists in Japan by going to www.MissionSpotlight.org. It's free!



Divine Encounters

Tang Yue and Zhang Wei

Finding the Church

Amazed by this strange, brief encounter, Tang Yue went home and searched the internet for answers to the questions the strangers had raised. To her surprise, she came across a website—in Chinese—that gave clear answers about the seventh-day, Saturday, being God's true Sabbath. The site also offered easy-to-follow Bible studies. Learning that the website was from a Seventh-day Adventist ministry called "Amazing Facts," she wondered if there might be an Adventist church nearby.

After a little searching, Tang Yue was happy to find an Adventist church in her city. *Surely there must be something special about this church*, she thought to herself.

Finding her way to the church the following Sabbath, Tang Yue looked for the two men who had approached her on the street, but she didn't see them. In fact, she never saw them again.

Tang Yue keeps returning to the Adventist church and believes that she has found her spiritual home. "[This church] is teaching what the Bible says," says Tang Yue. "It's very different from the other church. I believe that what the Adventists are teaching is the truth, and that Jesus is coming soon." Tang Yue continues to worship regularly with Seventh-day

Taking her six-year-old son by the hand, Tang Yue didn't expect anything unusual as she walked from her home to the nearby market. Little did she know that she was about to experience a divine encounter.

Tang Yue believed in God, and on Sundays she met with other Christians, but at the moment she was thinking about what she needed at the market. As she walked down the street, two kind-looking men approached her and stopped.

"You know," said one, "keeping Sunday is not from the Bible." He held up a Bible and showed the astonished Tang Yue texts regarding the seventh-day Sabbath. Encouraging her to see for herself, the other man told her, "You can search the internet, and see what day is really the Sabbath day." Then the men concluded their brief presentation by telling Tang Yue that "Jesus came to this world, and 'the Saturday church' is really God's church." Then as quickly as they had come, the two men disappeared into the crowd.

Adventists who meet together in an apartment within a city in central China.

Zhang Wei's Encounter

Zhang Wei was no ordinary citizen. He had served well in the Chinese army, and as a highly respected person, served as mayor of his village. Eventually, however, he decided to move to a large city where he could earn more money in construction.

One day as we was walking along a city street, something caught his attention—music coming from the ground level of a large apartment building. Peering through the windows he could see people singing.

Soon, someone came up to Zhang Wei and invited him to come inside the apartment. Although somewhat reticent to go in the building, yet curious to learn more, Zhang Wei entered the Adventist house church.

Noticing that several people had Bibles, he was curious to see this unusual book. Happily the Adventists shared with Zhang Wei some of their most treasured Bible passages and prayed with him.

Zhang Wei returned often to the Adventist house church. One day the subject of healthy living came up, including diet. Explaining the Biblical laws of clean and unclean meats, the members told Zhang Wei that pigs were unclean and that often the animal was infested with worms. Thinking the Adventists couldn't be right about this, Zhang Wei decided to conduct a little experiment.

The Pig Experiment

Many people worked at the same construction site as Zhang Wei, and the company cook sometimes purchased an entire pig to feed the crew. One day when pork was on the menu, Zhang Wei quietly

went up to the carcass to see if the pig was really “unclean.” Making sure no one was watching, Zhang Wei quickly took a knife and sliced the animal open. He found the swine's flesh crawling with worms from head to hoof. Shocked and disgusted, he never ate pork again. Before long, Zhang Wei accepted all of the Bible truths he was learning at the Adventist church and was baptized.



Following his baptism Zhang Wei returned to his home village where he began an Adventist house church with just one person—himself! But he started sharing the things he had learned from the Bible with others, and the church grew. Today, the county where Zhang Wei lives has six Adventist churches, and three neighboring counties each have churches—due to the prayers and powerful witness of Zhang Wei.

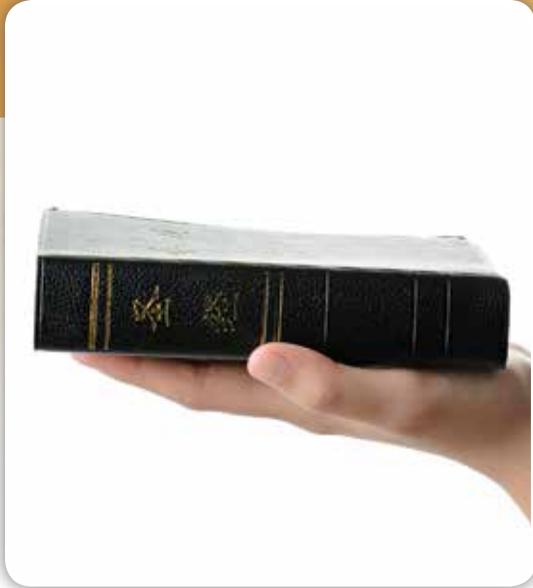
This quarter, part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help to establish more house churches in China. Thank you so much for your generous support! 🌍

The “Under-the-Ground” Bible

CHINA | May 30

Pastor Wang Weo*

photo: iStockPhoto.com



Following is a first-person account of one Adventist pastor ministering in China today.

During the time of China’s cultural revolution, it was very dangerous to own a Bible. Someone we knew, however, was able to obtain one. Since it was such a rare and precious book, this man wanted to share it with as many people as possible, so he carefully took the Bible apart and gave one or two books to various Seventh-day Adventist families. Our family received the books of 1 and 2 Samuel and we read them over and over again, treasuring every word. As a child, I enjoyed the many exciting stories contained in those two books! My older brother could write, so he copied the books by hand to share with others.

A few years later someone else found a very small Bible that had been put in

a plastic bag and buried in the ground. Because of poor eyesight, the man wasn’t able to read the small print, so he gave the Bible to me when I was 18. I was so excited! Here was a complete Bible that I was holding in my hands for the very first time!

A Precious Gift

This “under-the-ground” Bible became very precious to me, and I read it from the first chapter to the last more than ten times. I spent a lot of time with it, marking important passages, and writing down some of my thoughts. I remembered when I was young my great-grandmother telling me about Noah, but here I was at 18, reading about the flood for the first time.

As I read the Bible, I learned more about Jesus and His teachings. I discovered truth in the Bible. The more I read, the more interested I became.

Two years later I visited an area where most people knew nothing about the Bible. I was invited to speak to groups in various homes. I showed them my little Bible and shared what I had learned from it.

While sharing, I noticed that young people were especially interested. They were so eager to learn that I wrote out 1,000 Bible texts and gave them to the young people, who memorized the texts. I found this was an excellent way for them to learn the Bible!

* Not his real name.

Mission Post

- In 1888, Abram La Rue, age 65, was the first Adventist to take the gospel to China. For 14 years he worked among the Chinese people and was well-loved.
- Jacob N. Anderson and Emma Anderson-Thompson were the first *commissioned* missionaries to China sent by the Adventist church. They worked in that country from 1902 to 1909.
- Adventist medical missionary work began in 1903 after a letter of appeal from J.N. Anderson was read to the delegates at the 1903 General Conference Session. As a result, four Adventist doctors and two nurses went to China later that year as the first medical missionaries to that country.

“I’ve Been Waiting For A While”

Since the 1990s, we’ve been allowed some religious freedom and now have a few Adventist church buildings in China. One church is located near a large factory of an import/export business. The business owner has an Adventist friend. One day the subject of faith came up and the Adventist shared her belief in God, the Bible, and what it means to be a Seventh-day Adventist.

The business woman was impressed and told her friend, “You have a good church. Your doctrines can really help people. Would you be willing to talk to my employees?” The Adventist considered the invitation, but felt intimidated. *All of the employees are non-believers, even atheists*, she thought.

After some time, the business owner brought it up again. “Hey, I’ve been waiting for a while. Why didn’t you send someone?” The church member realized

that this was an opportunity, and let the pastor know about it.

When the Adventist pastor arrived at the factory, the owner invited the department heads to a meeting. The pastor spoke about Jesus and His teachings, and the presentation was well received. “This is a good message and can help our employees have a better, more positive life,” the department heads told him. “Why don’t you come and speak to our employees?”

Factory Evangelism

A date was set and the pastor returned. About 60 employees came to the voluntary meeting, and were excited about the presentation. The factory owner invited the Adventist pastor to give presentations to her employees every two weeks. After six presentations, 30 employees accepted Jesus as their Savior.

In December the Adventist church organized a big event for all 200 employees of the factory. The factory owner also invited other nearby companies to join them. When they were together some of the other business men and women mentioned that they noticed a difference in the factory owner’s employees.

“After your employees believed in God, they seem very nice,” they told her. “We also want to encourage our employees to do the same.” Now the Adventist pastor is meeting with employees from the other factories every Sunday evening.

Following the Christmas event, the business woman came to the Adventist church and attended the communion service. Her friend warmly welcomed her and encouraged her to continue coming. She plans to be baptized soon, along with 30 of her employees. 🌍

Searching for Peace Part 1

CHINA | June 6

Tan Yuen



photo: iStockPhoto.com

Tan grew up in a small city in southern China. Plagued with shyness, he found it difficult to talk to others and often felt intensely lonely. He thought religion was just superstition, and yet he somehow felt a spiritual longing. He decided to set out on an pilgrimage in search of peace.

He journeyed to a distant city where he met a Christian pastor who introduced him to the Bible. For several days the two studied together, and Tan felt drawn to the God of the Bible. However, he decided to search further before committing himself to one philosophy, so moved on in his search.

Two months later Tan returned, wanting

Would he ever see Tao again—or would he hear that the gang member had died in a fight?

to learn more about God. The pastor helped Tan find work, and the two resumed their Bible studies. This time Tan's heart was touched and he decided to become a Christian. Now Tan wanted to work for

God. He learned of some meetings being held in a distant city and decided to go. When he could earn a little money, he took the train, but for most of the trip he walked. It took him a month to arrive at his destination.

Tan stayed in the city several months and worked with another Christian man. Then he decided to return to his hometown to share the gospel with his family and friends.

An Unwelcome Home

When he arrived in his village, he began sharing his faith, but the villagers were not eager to hear. Some rejected his message; others made fun of him. Tan fasted and prayed. “God, is there no one here who will listen?” Tan found no one—except a local troublemaker named Tao Yeh.

Tao Yeh belonged to a gang that terrorized the town. Four members of the gang were jailed and another was killed during some of their more violent activities. Although Tao had a reputation as a hardened gambler, fighter, and drinker, Tan talked with him about his spiritual condition and offered to pray with him. But Tao laughed and said that if he ever needed God, he would let Tan know.

Impressed to Pray

No one will listen, Tan thought. He decided to leave town and find some believers with whom he could study. As he started out, Tao saw him and fell into step beside him. As the two walked down the road, Tan felt impressed to pray for Tao. Tao tried to brush aside Tan’s request to pray, but finally he agreed. They stopped along the road, and Tan prayed.

Before they parted, Tan gave Tao a small Bible, hoping he would read it. Then they said goodbye. Tan wondered if he would ever see Tao again—or would he hear that the gang member had died in some fight?

Tan set off for a large city where he had heard there was a group of active Christians. When he arrived in the city, he was warned that he should return to his home province or risk being arrested. Although he bought a train ticket home, Tan decided to remain and try to find the

Christians he had heard about.

He got a map and began searching. He found an Adventist church and met Pastor Xo [shoh] and several young people who were studying to become lay church leaders. Tan was delighted when Pastor Xo invited him to stay and study the Bible.

Tan didn’t plan to stay for long, but since no one sent him home, he stayed. As he and the elderly pastor studied the Bible together, Tan learned new truths about God. He had heard about the Sabbath, but had thought that Sunday was the Sabbath. Other Christians worshiped on Sunday; why did this group worship on Saturday? He was curious to learn more. 🌐

To be continued.

Fast Facts

- China has almost 1.4 *billion* people—one out of every five people on the earth, making it the most populous country in the world.
- The traditional religions of China are Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism. In 1949 the Chinese Communist government officially disbanded organized religion, but in recent years some rules have become more relaxed.
- Few Christians live in China, and many were imprisoned for their faith during the most difficult years of Communist rule.

Searching for Peace Part 2

CHINA | June 13

Tan Yuen



photo: iStockPhoto.com

Patently Pastor Xo studied and prayed with Tan. Tan prayed too, asking God to show him His truths. Little by little God opened Tan's mind to what he was learning from the Bible, and he accepted it.

Tan stayed and studied with Pastor Xo for seven months. During this time he was baptized and dedicated himself to work full-time for God. Pastor Xo assigned Tan to work in a village nearby, where there was a small congregation of believers.

A Surprise

One day Tan answered a knock at his door and found Tao standing there. "I had to find you," Tao said. "I want to know your God." Surprised, Tan invited him in and learned that three days after he had

"I had to find you . . . I want to know your God."

left town, Tao and his friends were in a fight with a man who was the leader of a powerful gang. The young man managed

to escape, but the next day someone told him that the gang leader was searching to kill him. Distraught, Tao's mother begged him to leave town.

While packing to go, Tao found the Bible Tan had given him. He picked it up, and it opened to Matthew 6. Tao began to read, "Do not worry about your life. . . . But seek first [God's] kingdom. . . . Do not worry about tomorrow. . . . Each day has enough trouble of its own (verses 25-34, NIV)." Tao remembered Tan's peace and wished he knew God as Tan did, so he determined to find his Christian friend.

From Gang to God

Tan introduced Tao to Pastor Xo. Pastor Xo helped Tao find work, and in the evenings they studied the Bible together. Tao absorbed the truths and accepted Christ as his Saviour and was baptized. Now a new desire burned in Tao's heart—he wanted to become a Bible worker and lead others to Christ.

He decided to return home and share his new faith with the people there. His first convert was his mother, who saw the deep change in her son's life. But few others were interested enough to listen. Tao's mother feared that if he remained in the village, he might fall back into his old ways. She urged him to return to the city and continue studying, but Tao explained



Mission Post

- China received part of one of the first Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings in 1912 to help provide housing for missionaries. In the next 35 years China received part of 19 Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings to help transport new missionaries to their fields and built mission posts, schools, a publishing house, and several medical clinics.
- Work in China moved forward quickly during the early years. A report dated 1915 indicated that more than 11,000 magazines and 3,000 tracts had been sold in one region, prompting requests from towns and cities for the missionaries to come and share God's Word with the people.
- Besides the millions of people in China, millions more Chinese-speaking people live around the world.
- Mandarin Chinese is the world's most widely spoken language.

Our offerings will help plant house churches in 16 of China's largest cities.

to her that Jesus changes lives forever.

After a time, Tao did return to the city to receive more training. He knows that it is by God's grace that he is alive, and by God's grace he wants to live for Him. Both Tan and Tao are grateful for how God has led in their lives and they continue to share their faith with others as lay pastors in southern China.

This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go to help establish house churches in some of China's largest cities. Thank you for giving generously to support this wonderful opportunity. 🌍

A New Life

TAIWAN | June 20

Lee, Fong Lan



I was flipping through TV channels one day when something caught my eye. I usually don't pay much attention to TV advertisements, but this one grabbed my attention. A man was talking about healthful living and all of the factors that go into it. He was urging viewers to find out more about a health program called NEWSTART.

I knew instantly that my mother needed what this program promoted. Recently she had undergone two surgeries for cancer, and she needed to live as healthfully as she could. I called the number on the screen and was connected to the Taiwan Adventist Hospital. I enrolled both my mother and myself in the NEWSTART program.

I found just what I needed in the program's focus on total health, including diet and nutrition, exercise, prayer and more. After two weeks my life had completely changed. I felt more energetic and stronger.

But my mother did not discover what seemed so obvious to me. She was sick and convinced that her life was all but over. She resisted changes that could make her life so much more enjoyable. "I'm old, and I've done things this way for many years," she said. "Why should I change now?"

Example by Living

Most of us attending the NEWSTART program were not Christians. We worshiped our ancestors or various gods. But I discovered that three Christians were enrolled, and I found myself watching them carefully. I noticed that they seemed peaceful and happy. The NEWSTART staff also brought a sense of peace with them. They didn't receive much pay for their job, yet they were clearly devoted to what they were doing. I was deeply touched by their example, and began wondering what kind of God could make His children so devoted to serving Him. I wanted the peace that these Christians had, and I wanted my mother to experience that peace, too, in spite of her poor health. I decided to learn about this God so my mother would have a chance to learn about Him as well.

A New Start

I asked one of the Christian women in the class to help me understand the Christian God. We began to study the Bible together, and soon I realized that the God in Heaven was the true and living God. I realized that worshiping idols was nothing more than a

Fast Facts

- Taiwan is a small but highly industrialized island nation off the eastern coast of mainland China. The official language is Mandarin Chinese.
- Buddhism is the largest religious faith.
- While the tribal peoples living in the mountains of Taiwan have accepted Christianity, the Christian faith has struggled to gain a foothold among the ethnic Chinese in Taiwan, where only one in 25,000 are Seventh-day Adventist.

tradition. The gods we had worshiped could do nothing for us. They offered no hope for the future.

I was amazed to learn that the Christian God was not only powerful, but kind and loving toward His people. He offered hope for eternal life through His Son Jesus. Finally I understood what love and forgiveness were. We loved and forgave others not just because it was the right thing to do, but because God loved and forgave us. It made sense.

The more I learned, the more convinced I was that I must become a Christian—an Adventist Christian. My mother was too sick to attend my baptism, but I invited my husband and my father to attend. They supported my decision, though they said they did not understand it.

Mother's Decision

I talked to my mother a lot about giving her life to God, but she said she was not interested. Then her cancer returned, and she realized her life would soon end. She became more receptive to my words. I cared for her full-time, making sure she had good food to eat, sunshine every day, and a walk when she was able to go outside. But her cancer was too

advanced; she continued to weaken.

One day when she was moaning in pain, I knelt and prayed silently beside her bed. I knew she would not live much longer, and I did not want to lose her forever. I prayed that God would send His Spirit to open my mother's heart. Before I finished my prayer, my mother asked, "What day is it today?"

"Today is Wednesday," I replied.

"I want to be baptized on Friday," she said.

I was stunned. Did I really hear correctly? Did God answer prayers that quickly?

Mother and I spent the next two days discussing God and His love. On Friday I helped a caretaker transport her to a sanitarium that had a bathtub large enough to baptize her. What a joy to witness my mother's old life buried in baptism. I dedicated myself to work for God as a medical missionary, sharing His love with everyone I meet.

My mother died a month later. Tears of joy mixed with tears of sorrow, for I knew that I would see her again in the resurrection.

A New Job

After Mother's death, I took up my new work as a medical missionary, helping others understand the principles of NEWSTART that had helped me so much. I visit people in their homes and answer questions about the principles of health. If someone wants Bible studies, I arrange for that. I am a volunteer, so my pay is the joy of knowing that God has used me to change people's lives.

My father has taken the NEWSTART program, and my husband follows its principles with me. He has lost 30 pounds (13.6 kg). I encourage my husband and father to eat healthfully; get exercise, sunshine, and fresh air; and to trust in God. I hope that one day they, too, will accept Christ as their Lord. 🌍

Thirteenth Sabbath Program

➤	Opening Song	“Christ for the World,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 370
➤	Welcome	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher
➤	Prayer	
➤	Program	“Reaching the Billions in Northern Asia”
➤	Offering	
➤	Closing Song	“Soldiers of Christ, Arise,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 616
➤	Closing Prayer	

Participants and Props: Two narrators, six youth to present the projects; six younger children to carry the flags across the platform and hold up the appropriate flag as that country’s project is being presented. If you don’t have enough children to take these parts, ask two more narrators to alternate reading the youth parts. They don’t need to memorize their parts, but they should be familiar enough with the material to present it confidently. (*Note that a simplified version of this program appears in the children’s quarterly.*)

Narrator 1: The Northern Asia-Pacific Division is made up of six countries. Each presents its own challenges to finishing our God-given mission.

Narrator 2: [*Child 1 carries Chinese flag across the platform and stands at the far side.*] China, the world’s most populous nation with almost 1.4 billion people, is opening its borders to the world. But with a little more than 400,000 Seventh-day Adventists, only one in every 3,400 Chinese is an Adventist. May God use His children to light the lamps of faith

throughout this vast nation.

Narrator 1: [*Child 2 carries Japanese flag across the platform and stands next to child 1.*] Japan is rich and increased in goods, but most people have never heard of Jesus. The church in Japan has a little more than 15,000 members, one Adventist believer for about every 8,300 people. Most of the believers are elderly, and only a few people are baptized each year. But church growth is occurring among the immigrant population. Pray that the Lord will continue to reach those who have moved to Japan as well as those born in

the land of the rising sun.

Narrator 2: *[Child 3 carries Mongolian flag across platform.]* Mongolia's first new believers in generations were baptized just over 20 years ago. Most of the country's 1,600 believers are young people who are eager to share their faith with others. Pray that they will grow strong in faith and mighty in church leadership in one of the oldest cultures in the world.

Narrator 1: *[Child 4 carries North Korean flag across platform.]* No one knows how many Adventist believers live in North Korea. But the few who have made their way out of this closed nation give reason for hope. Pray that the doors of North Korea will open so that the gospel may flood in and feed hungry hearts with the bread of life.

Narrator 2: *[Child 5 carries South Korean flag across platform.]* South Korea is the most "Christian" nation in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Still, just a third of the population of South Korea professes to be Christians, and about one person in every 250 is a Seventh-day Adventist. But in spite of their best efforts, Adventists still are often misunderstood. Pray for our brothers and sisters in South Korea.

Narrator 1: *[Child 6 carries Taiwan's flag across platform.]* Taiwan is a small island off the coast of China. Most of the country's Adventist members come from the original tribes who live primarily in the hill country. Only one in every 25,000 ethnic Chinese in Taiwan is an Adventist. Pray that God will touch the hearts of the millions of people in Taiwan who need to know Him.

Narrator 2: Today our Thirteenth

Sabbath Offering will help strengthen the hands of our brothers and sisters in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division by providing some vital tools to lead others to know the hope that Jesus provides, and to encourage those who believe.

Youth 1: *[Child holding Japanese flag steps forward and holds the flag high.]* A multi-cultural evangelistic center for reaching out to the large immigrant population of Japan.

Youth 2: *[Child holding Mongolian flag also steps forward and holds the flag high.]* Four additional classrooms and a library for the Adventist school in the capital city of Mongolia. This school is a strong link for bringing families into the church.

Youth 3: *[Child holding Korean flag steps forward and holds flag high.]* Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today will help establish an evangelistic training center for youth. Started as the "Pancake Church" plant, this center will continue to nurture and train youth for multi-cultural evangelism.

Youth 4: *[Child holding Taiwanese flag steps forward and holds flag high.]* One of the most effective ways of reaching people in the cities is through a center of influence. Part of today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go to establish or support a daycare for the elderly, after-school programs for children, and a health education program.

Youth 5: *[Child holding Chinese flag steps forward and holds flag high.]* Several Global Mission Pioneers are working in China to plant churches in 18 large cities that currently have no Adventist presence. Part of today's offering will be used to help

purchase one apartment in each of these cities to be used as a local church and training center.

Youth 6: *[Child holding North Korean flag steps forward and holds flag high.]* We don't know how many Christians live in North Korea, but we know there are some. We know from people who have lived there that at least a few of these Christians are Seventh-day Adventists. Life is hard for them. Let's pray that God will protect and bless His children in this country where Christianity is a foreign religion.

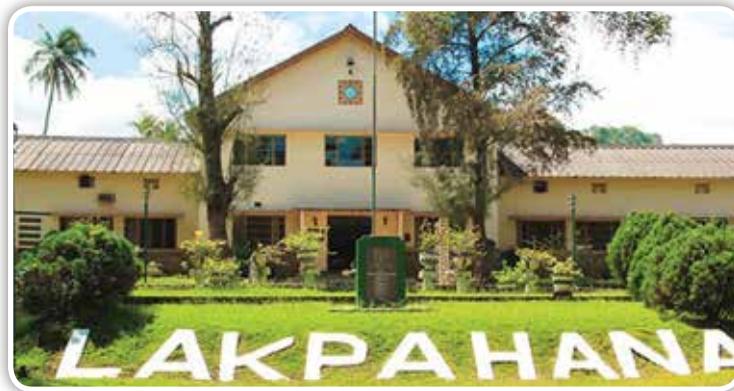
Narrator 1: We can help reach and support the people living in the countries of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division as we pray and give mission offerings. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will make a big difference for the young people in South Korea who are eager to share their faith with others, *[point to South Korea on a map]*; to the immigrants living in Japan *[point near Mt. Fuji, Japan]*; to the young

people studying at the Adventist school in Mongolia *[point to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia]*; and to the many Chinese who will be blessed through a center of influence or by attending an Adventist house church *[point to Taiwan, and China]*. Let's do our part today to share God's love with our family members in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

[Offering]



Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects



Next quarter the Southern Asia-Pacific Division will be featured. Special projects include a Seventh-day Adventist international school in Dili, Timor-Leste; a church for the Adventist college and seminary in Sri Lanka (pictured here); and a building for the Bangladesh Adventist Nursing School in Gazipur, Bangladesh.

Leader's Resources

YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

Mission Spotlight is back!

Download your free Mission Spotlight programs absolutely free at: www.missionspotlight.org.

Each quarter Mission Spotlight features stories from the highlighted division and stories from around the world, music videos and a children's story. Excellent for use in Sabbath School, before church, school worship, Pathfinders, prayer meetings, family worships and more.

Adventist Regional Websites:

Northern Asia-Pacific Division: www.nsdadventist.org
China Union Mission: www.chumadventist.org
Japan Union Conference: www.adventist.jp
Korean Union Conference: www.adventist.or.kr
Taiwan Conference: www.twcadventist.org.tw

For more information on the history and cultures of the Northern Asia-Pacific region, visit your local library or a travel agency, and/or explore the websites listed below.

China: www.countryreports.org/country/China.htm
Japan: www.countryreports.org/country/Japan.htm
Mongolia: www.countryreports.org/country/Mongolia.htm
N. Korea: www.countryreports.org/country/KoreaNorth.htm
S. Korea: www.countryreports.org/country/KoreaSouth.htm
Taiwan: www.countryreports.org/country/Taiwan.htm

The Adventist Mission website contains additional material that can add flavor to your mission presentation. Look for words and songs in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Mongolian as well as puzzles, recipes, and games on the *Children's Mission* page. Go to www.AdventistMission.org. Click on "Resources" and "Children's magazine" in the pop-up menu. Click on "second quarter" and select an activity.

Remind members that the ongoing work of the world church depends on Sabbath School mission giving every week. 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. This immediate feedback will encourage members to continue their mission giving.

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Northern Asia-Pacific Division



CONFERENCE	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Chinese Union	1,284	3,303	419,378	1,368,462,000
Japan Union	102	47	15,236	127,301,000
Korean Union	714	185	237,418	74,940,000
Mongolia	4	6	1,992	2,792,000
Taiwan	56	30	6,367	23,361,000

Total: 2,160 churches, 3,571 companies, 680,391 membership, 1,596,856,000 population
*As of 1st Qtr. 2015, the church, company, and membership stats are from the beginning of 2014. But the population stats are from June 30, 2013.

PROJECTS

- 1 Japan: Japanese International Evangelistic Center in Shizuoka
- 2 China: Large City Church Planting in Chongqing, Hengyang, and Nanning
- 3 S. Korea: Saehyeokkisel Mission Institute for Youth in Naju
- 4 Taiwan: Three Centers of Influence in Taipei, Taichung, and Kaohsiung
- 5 Mongolia: Three classrooms and a library in the capital city of Ulaanbaatar