



# YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

2018 • **QUARTER 3** • NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION



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**On the Cover:** Bumchin Erdenebat converted a Sunday church when he was in the eighth grade in Mongolia. Today, he is a Global Mission pioneer. Story, page 18.

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 = stories of special interest to teens

## Your Offerings at Work

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2015 helped the Tusgal School, the only Seventh-day Adventist school in Mongolia, expand its classrooms and open a library in Ulaanbaatar. This photo shows fifth-grade students in an expanded classroom.



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## Dear Sabbath School Leader,

Andrew McChesney  
Editor



This quarter we feature the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, which includes China, Japan, Mongolia, North and South Korea, and Taiwan. The region is home to 1.6 billion people, making it the church's largest in terms of population, but also among the least reached with the gospel, with only 3 percent identifying themselves as Christian. The other 97 percent are Buddhists, Shintoists, Muslims, Shamans, Taoists, and atheists.

The Northern Asia-Pacific Division has an Adventist membership of about 704,000. That's a ratio of one Adventist for nearly every 2,292 people. Division president Jairyong Lee has set a five-year goal of increasing membership to at least 1 million by 2020. That's an ambitious goal for a territory that grew by 77,841 members over the previous five-year period, from 2010 to 2015. "We still have many mission opportunities in our territory. However, the opportunities will not always remain," Lee said in announcing the 1-million-

member plan in late 2015.

"We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day; night is coming when no man can work' (John 9:4)."

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects were chosen to help reach that goal of 1 million members.

### Special Features

If you want to make your Sabbath School or church come alive in a new way this quarter, contact me directly at [mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org](mailto:mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org) for high-resolution photos to accompany the featured stories. You could show the photos on PowerPoint, your computer, or a mobile device while you read the mission story, or you could print the photos to decorate your Sabbath School room or church bulletin board.

This adult and youth *Mission* quarterly contains just a sampling of the thrilling mission stories that we have collected from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. For more great stories, visit [bit.ly/nsd-archive](http://bit.ly/nsd-archive), which will take you to all the division stories. At this link, you can also search for stories based on country. You can download the PDF version of the *Mission* quarterly at [bit.ly/adultmission](http://bit.ly/adultmission) and like us at [Facebook.com/missionquarterlies](https://www.facebook.com/missionquarterlies). Download *Mission Spotlight* videos at [bit.ly/missionspotlight](http://bit.ly/missionspotlight). The Leader's Resources are on page 31.

If you have found especially effective ways to share these mission stories, please let me know at the e-mail address above. Thank you for encouraging church members to be mission-minded!

### Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help provide:

- A holistic inner-city church plant in an unnamed country
- The first Adventist church in Sejong, South Korea
- A boarding academy in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- A youth evangelism training center at Tokyo's Setagaya Church in Japan
- Six city health centers in Taiwan

# Possessed by 20 Spirits

SOUTH KOREA | July 7

Si-Woo Noh, 55



Si-Woo [pronounced: SHE-oo] suffered chronic headaches as a child in Daegu, a large city in South Korea.

She completed college, got married, and had a baby daughter. But life was a constant struggle because of the headaches. Doctors didn't know what to do. She visited Buddhist temples, hoping to become a nun and find relief, but the monks always sent her home.

Then Si-Woo visited a shaman, a person believed to communicate with good and evil spirits. The shaman told Si-Woo that a ghost child had entered the room right before her. The shaman said the spirit was Si-Woo's brother and she was suffering headaches because he had died of a head injury.

Si-Woo did have a brother who had died, but she knew little about him

because he had died before her birth. Back at home, her mother confirmed that her brother had died of a head injury.

Si-Woo returned to the shaman to seek advice about the headaches. The shaman said Si-Woo had to be possessed by a spirit and become a shaman. If she refused, the shaman said, her young daughter would be tormented by the spirit.

Si-Woo became a shaman. To be possessed, she was required to recite a 100-day prayer and make a pilgrimage to the mountains where she, her husband, and the shaman were born. She also had to pray three hours every night and two hours early every morning and to take cold-water baths to purify her body.

Si-Woo ended up being possessed—not by one spirit but by 20 spirits. She opened a shrine for the 20 spirits and spent the

next 20 years offering to tell fortunes, heal diseases, and be possessed by the spirits of the dead. By all appearances, she was good at her job. If someone came with a stomachache, she diagnosed it by also having a stomachache. If someone had heart trouble, she had heart pain. She prescribed amulets, prayer, and exorcism, and the symptoms vanished.

Si-Woo made a fortune, but she wasn't happy. Her headaches were gone, but she suffered continual body pain and growing psychosis, a mental disorder where thoughts are so impaired that a person loses touch with reality. Her husband and her children deserted her. She tried to commit suicide several times.

Then someone hit her car from behind in an accident that left her hospitalized for a month. The accident perplexed her. She wondered why she could foretell other people's futures but not prevent her own misfortune.

"Why can't the gods that I served for 20 years protect me?" she thought. "If these gods can't keep me safe, how I can trust them?"

Si-Woo prayed for her faith to be strengthened, but nothing happened. Frustrated, she set fire to her shrine and announced that she would not serve the gods anymore. The 20 spirits left her.

Without the shrine, Si-Woo felt empty and afraid. She wondered whether a more powerful God existed than her former gods. She remembered a Seventh-day Adventist woman who had once told her about Jesus, and she called for help.

The Adventist woman introduced Si-Woo to a retired pastor. As they studied the Bible together, Si-Woo learned about the true state of the dead and realized that she had been serving Satan. She was baptized in 2016.

Si-Woo is determined that Satan won't have a foothold on her life ever again. She has taken to heart Luke 11:24, where Jesus said, "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left'" (NKJV). She prays and reads the Bible every morning. She is experiencing peace and joy for the first time.

When Jesus cast demons out of a man in Mark 5, He commanded, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you" (verse 19). Likewise, Si-Woo is proclaiming all that Jesus has done for her at Adventist churches across South Korea. And all who hear her story are marveling. 🌍

*By Byung Ju Lee, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director of the Korean Union Conference.*

## Fast Facts

- Koreans love kimchi, a traditional fermented Korean side dish made of vegetables. From cabbage kimchi and radish kimchi to cucumber kimchi, there are about 250 different types of this delicacy.
- Instead of air heaters, South Koreans have heated floors. Called "ondol" (warm stone), the heat is passed through pipes under the floor. It's an ancient technology, but more than 90 percent of Korean houses still use it today.
- The number "4" is considered very unlucky in Korea. In elevators, the button for the fourth floor is often shown as the letter "F" or is missing altogether.



# Loving Two Pastors

Hee-Sook Kim, 64

*[Ask a woman to read this first-person testimony.]*

Two literature evangelists and I were going door to door in a town near South Korea’s capital, Seoul. As we walked down a street, we saw a large banner advertising a retreat for seminary students from a Sunday-keeping denomination. We decided to see what was going on.

The address printed on the banner led us to the home of a married couple who both served as pastors for one of South Korea’s largest Sunday-keeping denominations. But we did not know that when they opened the door.

“We are from the Korean Publishing House, and we are here to share some literature,” I said.

To my surprise, the husband recognized the name of the Seventh-day Adventist publishing house. He immediately asked, “Why do you go to church on Saturday?”

I related the story of Creation from

Genesis. I explained how God had created the world in six days and then rested on the seventh day, Sabbath, and made it holy. I gave the couple a Bible correspondence lesson and promised to bring them a second lesson in a week.

As we spoke further, I realized that the man, Ki-Jo Moon [pronounced: kee-jo moon], knew a lot about the Bible. Then I learned that he had served as a pastor for about 30 years and his wife had pastored for about a decade. So, I didn’t bring a Bible lesson the next time that I visited. Instead I presented the couple with the “Conflict of the Ages” series by Adventist Church cofounder Ellen G. White. The attractive boxed set of five books—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, *Prophets and Kings*, *The Desire of Ages*, *Acts of the Apostles*, and *The Great Controversy*—usually costs 300,000 Korean won, or about U.S.\$265. But I told them that they could have the books for free.

The pastor expressed a special interest in the book of Daniel and asked whether I

could share any information about it. On the next visit, I brought commentaries on the books of Daniel and Revelation.

Sometime later, the pastor sent me a text message. “It seems that I have been studying the Bible on a very superficial level for my whole life,” he wrote. “Would it be all right if I visited your church?”

The pastor seemed to enjoy the church services, and he returned a few times. But then he stopped. I wondered what was going on. Every time I called to ask, he gave various excuses about being too busy or not feeling well. Later I found out that his wife had forbidden him from going to the Adventist church. She had scolded him, saying, “You are a pastor. Shame on you! You should not be doing this.” Still, I kept inviting him to church.

About seven years after our first meeting, I called the pastor and invited him to attend a series of health seminars at an Adventist church. The seminars included special detox sessions where attendees could sip various freshly made juices aimed at cleansing their bodies.

When I told the pastor about the detox sessions, he said, “It would be better if you spoke with my wife about this.” So, I called his wife, and she agreed to come with her husband. This was the first time that she had shown any interest in the Adventist Church.

Then the couple accepted an invitation to attend an evangelistic series. The husband seemed convicted by the message, but he still wasn’t sure that he wanted to join the church. So, I invited him and his wife to a second evangelistic series. They came every evening and declared, “We are melting into this message.”

Eight years after we first met, in

## Fast Facts

- South Korea has 715 churches and a membership of 247,143. With a population of 75,916,000, that means there is one Adventist for every 307 people.
- More than 50 percent of people in Korea do not claim membership in any organized religion, while 28 percent are Christian and 16 percent are Buddhist.
- Seoul’s metropolitan area known as the Seoul Capital Area is home to more than 25 million people, making Seoul the world’s third-largest city.

February 2017, the husband and wife were baptized together into the Adventist Church. The Word of God and our health message changes lives! 🌍

*By Hee-Sook Kim, as told to Andrew McChesney*

*Hee-Sook Kim [pronounced: hee-sook kim], 64, is a full-time literature evangelist in South Korea. We’ll read the husband’s side of the story next week.*

*Hee-Sook Kim with Ki-Jo Moon and his wife.*



# Converting an Adventist



SOUTH KOREA | July 21

Ki-Jo Moon, 71

*[Ask a man to present this first-person report.]*

**M**y interest in the Seventh-day Adventist Church started long before an Adventist literature evangelist knocked on my door in South Korea.

As a pastor with a major Protestant denomination, I sought to understand religious viewpoints other than my own, and I compared literature from the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Adventist churches. I noticed that all the Adventist books seemed to have been written by Ellen White. I wondered why so much attention was given to a woman who had died long ago.

At the same time, I felt like something was missing from my church. I asked a prominent pastor why we didn't teach seminary students about Daniel and Revelation. He replied, "Because we don't

know much about those books."

As I sought answers, I engaged in a fight against religious cults. Most Christians in South Korea categorize three groups as cults: Jehovah's Witnesses, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and a South Korean group called New Heaven and New Earth. I knew a young man who had joined New Heaven and New Earth and couldn't be persuaded to leave, so I went to their headquarters and gave them a Bible lecture. Then I tried to convert a group of Jehovah's Witnesses. After that, I decided to learn more about the Adventists so I could refute their teachings.

It was then that an Adventist literature evangelist, Hee-Sook Kim [pronounced: hee-sook kim], visited my home. When she introduced herself as a representative of an Adventist publishing house, I immediately prayed, "Thank you, God! I am curious about Adventists, and you have brought one to me."

Ms. Kim gave me a pamphlet, and I usually throw away such things. But this time I thought, "Maybe there's an inkling of truth in there. If there is, I want to learn it to connect with her spiritually and then convert her."

## Is This a Cult?

Afterward, I wanted to visit Ms. Kim's church to see if Adventists really are a cult as my denomination teaches. I went secretly for a while, but somehow

## Mission Post

- With a population of 51 million and a land area of 38,000 square miles (100,000 square kilometers), South Korea has one of the highest population densities in the world at 1,300 people per sq. mile (500 people per sq. km.). Compare this to the United States, which has a population density of 86 people per sq. mile (33 per sq. km.).
- In Korea, when you are born, you are considered to be one year old already.
- Sahmyook University was founded in 1906 as a small school called Euimyung College by American Adventist missionaries to improve the education of church workers in Korea. It had to close twice, once during Japanese rule of Korea and again during the Korean War. Today it has 5,787 students, 86 percent of whom are non-Adventist.

my wife found a church bulletin among my possessions, and a conflict erupted between us. I was pondering how to attend church without angering my wife when Ms. Kim invited me to health seminars at her church. I thought the seminars might interest my wife, so I suggested that Ms. Kim speak with her.

I knew that my wife would never agree to go to a sermon, but a low-key seminar seemed like a good way to introduce her to the Adventist Church. I wanted my wife to see that Adventists are friendly and always say, “Hello.” I wanted her to observe the fellowship meals. In my denomination, the pastors always sit at the head table and are served at lunch. But the Adventist pastors carry their own plates and have to look around for a place to sit.

The health seminars softened up my wife toward the Adventist Church. Later,

we attended evangelistic meetings about Daniel and Revelation. I thought to myself, “This is so different. We have a lot of fluff in my church, but the Adventist pastor is serving me a hot spiritual meal.”

After the meetings, the evangelist recommended that I consider baptism. But my wife urged me to wait. She reminded me that I was not only a pastor but also a senior church leader. I heeded my wife’s advice to serve out my term as president of my denomination’s local union and then get baptized.

The Sabbath after I decided to postpone my baptism, my wife skipped church services because she wasn’t feeling well. That afternoon, a church member came to our home to encourage my wife. As we spoke, he told us, “You need to be baptized!”

I looked at my wife warily and replied, “I’ll pray about it. If it is God’s will, then I’ll get baptized.”

My wife, however, was looking at the calendar. “Feb. 4 looks like a good date to get baptized,” she said.

I couldn’t believe my ears! My wife had dissuaded me from being baptized just a week earlier and now she wanted to be baptized!

My life has been filled with joy after our baptism in February 2017. I look forward to hearing the sermon every Sabbath.

I wanted to convert the Adventist literature evangelist, but she ended up converting me. 🌍

*By Ki-Jo Moon, as told to Andrew McChesney*

*Ki-Jo Moon [pronounced: kee-jo moon], 71, served as a pastor with a Sunday-keeping denomination for 37 years. We’ll read his wife’s side of the story next week.*

# Sabbath Fills Emptiness

SOUTH KOREA | July 28

Soon-Ae Byun, 64



*[Ask a woman to read this first-person testimony.]*

God has helped me plant churches in South Korea for years. I would preach to a small group; it would grow to about 40 people and become a congregation; and then God would lead me to start a new church elsewhere.

But even as I was doing God's work, I felt something was missing from my heart. Joy filled me while I preached or participated in revival meetings, but it was followed by a deep emptiness afterward. Hoping to fill that emptiness, I studied theology and became a full-time pastor just like my husband. But I still felt empty.

Then one day a Seventh-day Adventist literature evangelist showed up at our home. She gave us some literature, and my husband began attending an Adventist

church. At first I thought he was going to another Sunday church, and I found it odd that he was gone on Saturdays. Once while cleaning his office, I found an Adventist church bulletin and realized what he was doing.

I didn't say anything that day. The next day was Sunday, so I remained silent again. On Monday, I confronted my husband. "You are a minister!" I told him. "How can you go to that cult?"

"You don't understand," my husband replied. "They are not a cult. They have the truth."

After hearing those words, I secretly began to read the Adventist books that my husband had lying around the house. We had received several Ellen White books from the literature evangelist.

Reading the books hurt my pride as a pastor, so I read them whenever my

## Mission Post

- The first Adventist missionary to Korea, Son Heung Cho, was actually a Korean who had been converted while living in Japan in 1904.
- The Korean Union Conference oversees the church's work in South Korea and is comprised of the East Central Korean, Midwest Korean, Southeast Korean, Southwest Korean, and West Central Korean conferences.

husband wasn't home. I quickly returned the books to the bookshelf when I heard my husband's car pull up outside.

### Interest Grows

My interest in Adventist teachings grew. Then the literature evangelist invited me to attend health lectures at an Adventist church. I thought, "This is my opportunity to see whether Adventists really are part of a cult."

The health seminars lasted several days. On the third day, a Chinese-Korean woman approached me and said, "Pastor, people say this church is a cult. What do you think?"

I wanted to say, "This is a cult." But I found myself saying, "No, this is not a cult. This church has the truth, including the biblical Sabbath." I had no idea why I said that.

The Chinese-Korean woman was impressed. "In that case, I want to come to your church with my daughter," she said.

"No, no, my church is far away," I said. "Just come to this church. They'll take care of you here."

I later found out that the Chinese-

Korean woman was baptized. She became my first convert to the Adventist Church even though I wasn't a member!

After the health seminars, I attended a Sabbath service for the first time. I wanted to find something—anything—that would allow me to declare that the church was a cult. But I couldn't find anything. I was surprised to see that Adventists follow the Bible closely.

### Message From Jesus

I wanted to be baptized, but I had been baptized with my husband years earlier. I prayed, "Why do I need to do this again?" God seemed to reply, "You need to figure this out for yourself." Finally, I decided I should be baptized again because I had sinned by not keeping the Sabbath.

Around that time, an Adventist church member was visiting our home on a Sabbath afternoon. As we spoke, he told my husband and me that we should be baptized. My husband said he would pray about the matter, but I didn't see any reason to pray anymore. I suggested that we get baptized together in February 2017—and we were!

My dream now is for my seven siblings to accept the Sabbath. I also want to travel into the deep countryside where people don't know the Adventist message and teach them about the Sabbath. Please pray for us and our hope to plant Adventist churches.

Nowadays, I no longer feel empty. What was missing from my life was the Sabbath truth. My heart is filled with joy in Jesus! 🌍

*By Soon-Ae Byun, as told to Andrew McChesney*

*Soon-Ae Byun [pronounced: soon-a p-yun], 64, served as a pastor with a Sunday-keeping denomination for 15 years.*

# Forgive Me, Father

Horita Risa, 24



*[Ask a young woman to read this first-person testimony.]*

I wasn't raised a Christian. I never even thought about God growing up, just like many of the 127 million people in my home country of Japan. But I had many thoughts about my father. I didn't like him.

My parents divorced when I was young. I ended up living with my mother but visited my father on weekends. When I was 14, my father fell ill, and I had to care for him on weekends. I didn't want to be his nurse. It was very stressful, and I was young and had many other things to do. I complained, "Why me?" Whenever I saw my father, I told him, "I hate you." I cried a lot. I think that my father cried, too. After a while, he died.

I decided to move to the United States to study animation. Before I started school in Los Angeles, I visited some cousins in Chicago who are Seventh-day Adventists.

They invited me to go to church on Sabbath, and I really liked it. This was my first time in a Christian church.

But I didn't have time for church after I started studying. For six months, my cousins asked me whether I had found an Adventist church in Los Angeles. Finally, I went to the Glendale Filipino Seventh-day Adventist Church. My plan was to listen to the sermon and then go home to talk to my mother on Skype. But the church was filled with young people like me, and they stopped me when I tried to leave. We ate lunch together, and they invited me to hang out with them in the afternoon.

My new friends called me the next day and wanted to hang out again. They called every day. I wondered why they were so kind to me. After a while, I realized that God shows His love through Christians, and my friends were showing me God's love. I wanted to know more, so I asked many questions about God and the Bible.

One of my friends was a Bible worker, and she gave me Bible studies.

I loved my friends and wanted to be baptized, but I couldn't forget how I had treated my father. I wished that I could ask his forgiveness.

One night, I had a dream. I saw my father lying on the floor. His face was very white, as if he were close to death. He stared at me and didn't say a word. I was stunned to see him looking at me like that, and I thought, "Oh no, he will never forgive me."

The next night, I had the same dream. Again, I saw my father lying on the floor. But this time he smiled at me and said, "Thank you." I thought, "My father has forgiven me, and this is what God does for us! Even though we don't always act the right way, God forgives us and loves us."

When my father said, "Thank you" in the dream, I sensed the joy of salvation for the first time. The heaviness in my heart disappeared. I knew I was forgiven. When I woke up, I prayed, "Thank you, God. Jesus has forgiven me. I can feel Jesus' love."

The dream eliminated the last barrier to baptism. I realized that God could forgive, and I felt His love through the people at church. I understood 1 John 4:12, which says, "If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us" (NKJV).

My cousins flew from Chicago to celebrate my baptism three months after the dream. They were surprised but happy about my decision.

Now I am 24 years old and working for a nongovernmental organization near Tokyo. I decided not to work in animation because animation is used

## Fast Facts

- Japan is an archipelago, or string of islands, on the eastern edge of Asia. There are four main islands: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. There are also nearly 4,000 smaller islands.
- Three of the tectonic plates that form Earth's crust meet near Japan and often move against each other, causing earthquakes. More than 1,000 earthquakes shake Japan every year. Japan also has about 200 volcanoes, 60 of which are active.
- Shinto is the largest religion in Japan, practiced by nearly 80 percent of the population, yet only a small percentage of these identify themselves as Shintoists in surveys.

mostly for video games in Japan. I don't want to make video games. So, I work as an art therapist for children. My organization uses art therapy to help children overcome trauma such as a 2011 earthquake in northern Japan.

I am praying for my mother to accept Jesus. I also am praying for my church in Tokyo. The Setagaya Church is training Japanese Adventist young people like me to spread the gospel across Japan. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the church expand its work with young people. 🌐

By Horita Risa, as told to Andrew McChesney

Watch a 50-second video of Risa sharing her testimony at the link: [bit.ly/forgive-me-father](https://bit.ly/forgive-me-father)

# Jesus Catches Fisherman

JAPAN | August 11

Kurihara Kimiyoshi, 39



*[Ask a man to present this first-person report.]*

My heart filled with joy as I saw Sadayuki [pronounced: sada-YUKI], a 48-year-old fisherman, get baptized on the remote Japanese island of Tsushima [pronounced: tsu-shim-a].

After working as a fisherman since he was 15, he had just been caught by Jesus.

I first met Sadayuki when he asked me for a cigarette in a supermarket parking lot. My wife and I live with our two young daughters on Tsushima, an island of 30,000 people located partway between Japan and South Korea. We are Global Mission pioneers—lay people who volunteer at least a year to establish a congregation in an unentered area within their own culture. We were the only

Seventh-day Adventists on the island when we arrived seven years ago.

Sadayuki tapped on my car window, startling my two young daughters and me.

“Could you give me a cigarette?” he asked.

I immediately replied, “I’m sorry. I do not have any cigarettes.”

That is how I usually respond to such requests. But the stranger looked so sad and hopeless. As he walked away, I told my daughters that we should pray for him. After praying, I thought, “What if I gave the man an Adventist tract?” But I didn’t have any tracts left in the car after passing out a pile two days earlier. So, I prayed again for God to do something.

When I opened my eyes, I saw a lone tract lying on the car floor. It was tattered after having been stomped on by my little daughter’s feet. But the words were legible, and I had nothing else to share. I grabbed my two daughters’ hands, and we ran after the man.

When caught up with the man, a Bible verse popped into my mind. It was

## Fast Facts

- Japanese cuisine includes lots of rice, fish, and vegetables, but little meat. With little fat or dairy, this diet is very healthy, which may explain why Japanese people live, on average, longer than any other people in the world.
- Sumo wrestling is Japan's national sport. To win at sumo, the wrestler must either force his opponent to step out of the ring or force him to touch the ground with any part of his body other than the bottoms of his feet.
- Christianity was first introduced into Japan by Jesuit missions in 1549. Today, 1 percent to 2.3 percent are Christians.
- There are 97 churches in Japan, with a membership of 15,151. With a population of 125,310,000, there are 8,270 Japanese for each Adventist.

the words of the apostle Peter, when he told a beggar, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you” (Acts 3:6, NKJV).

I told the man, “I’m sorry. I do not have a cigarette to give you, but I do have this.”

I wondered whether the man would accept that tattered tract. He took it without hesitation and read it as I stood there. Then he thanked me profusely. “To tell you the truth,” he said, “I was just preparing to visit a nearby church to ask what hope is left in life. But you came to me before I could go there.”

When I heard this, I was shocked. It was as if our meeting had been divinely arranged. I invited the man to study the Bible with me every day and asked whether he needed something to eat. We could give him food every day, too. The man introduced himself and happily agreed to

come to my home for Bible studies.

Sadayuki showed up the next day, and we studied together for three months. I learned that Sadayuki had struggled with depression and alcoholism. He had tried to commit suicide twice by overdosing on pills, but doctors had saved his life miraculously both times. I told him that God would never allow him to die without first knowing Jesus’ love.

Sadayuki was baptized in 2015—becoming the second of three people who have accepted Jesus through baptism since my family moved to this island. He doesn’t drink anymore, and he dreams about opening an Alcoholics Anonymous program to help other people suffering from alcoholism.

Some days, my wife and I are tempted to feel discouraged about the great difficulties we face in sharing the gospel among a population that follows Buddhist and Shinto traditions. But Sadayuki and his smiling face remind us that God’s ways are not our ways and He can direct us to people who are seeking truth. 🌍

By Kurihara Kimiyoshi

*Kimiyoshi, known to friends as “Kimi,” is among more than 2,500 Global Mission pioneers who have established more than 11,000 new Seventh-day Adventist congregations since 1990. Kimi never planned to be a Global Mission pioneer. He has a pilot’s license and wanted to be a flying missionary, but God had other plans. Still, he plays with airplanes. Watch Kimi play with a paper airplane in his classroom at the link: [bit.ly/praying-for-students1](https://bit.ly/praying-for-students1). Read two more stories about Kimi in this quarter’s Children’s Mission quarterly, which can be downloaded at: [bit.ly/childrensmision](https://bit.ly/childrensmision)*

# Mother to Hundreds

Mayumi Nagano, 58



Mayumi [pronounced: may-UMI] is one of the most influential Seventh-day Adventist women in Japan. But she nearly wasn't. She nearly died twice before the first grade.

Mayumi grew up with an alcoholic father and a mother who suffered mental illness. Neither kept an eye on the little girl, and she twice knocked a kettle filled with boiling water off the stove—first at the age of three and then again at age five. Both times, hot water drenched her body, leaving her with permanent scars.

“God saved my life twice,” Mayumi said.

When she was nine, her mother disappeared, never to be seen again.

Mayumi's first glimmer of hope came in the sixth grade. An American moved next door and taught her to speak English and read the Bible. She couldn't believe her ears when she read the Golden Rule in Matthew 7:12, where Jesus said, “Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them” (NKJV).

“When I heard that verse, I know that I

had found a way forward,” Mayumi said. “I could not change my past, and my scarred skin would never be the same as before. But I realized that I could give to other children the love that I wanted from my parents.”

It was then that the idea began to form in her mind that she would take care of children.

But several difficult decades passed first. She married at the age of 21 and divorced 10 years later. She became an alcoholic and a heavy smoker. She tried to commit suicide. Then she remarried at 38 and began to build a new life. She was horrified at what she saw when she began working at a day-care center. The day-care center set strict rules, and desperate parents had to work around them.

A turning point came when the day-care center rejected a one-year-old baby with a fever. The mother was desperate to return to work because she wasn't allowed time off. The next morning, the mother returned and pronounced the baby

## Fast Facts

- It was customary in ancient Japan for women to blacken their teeth with dye as white teeth were considered ugly. This practice persisted until the late 1800s.
- There are three Adventist nursery schools in Japan, all bearing in their name the word Saniku. The name “Saniku” (三育), is a combination of 三 (*san*, “three”) and 育 (*iku*, “to nourish, to bring up”), means “to make people whole” in physical, intellectual, and spiritual attributes.

well. Mayumi couldn’t understand how the child had recovered so quickly. She found the answer when she changed the baby’s diaper. The mother had inserted a suppository to keep the fever down.

“I thought, ‘No, it should not be this way,’” Mayumi said. “So, I started my own day-care business with a customer-first policy. I would take children without any conditions, even those with a fever.”

The day-care center, located in Mayumi’s home, was open 24 hours a day, year-round. Five hundred families flooded her with applications for the 10 available spots. It was 50 times the number she could handle. If a child had a fever, she sent a babysitter to the child’s home so the other children wouldn’t be infected.

While Mayumi was taking care of other people’s children, she was having trouble with her own. She had two daughters, and the younger child refused to go to her fourth-grade classes. The daughter complained that the public school teachers called her “stupid” and punished her by hitting her on the shoulder or arm.

The music teacher once struck her on the head with a tambourine.

Mayumi looked for other school options and found an Adventist school nearby.

“The Adventist school was like paradise in comparison to the public school,” Mayumi said. “The teachers were very nice.”

Her daughter quickly adapted to the new school and, several years later, was baptized. Soon Mayumi, her husband, and their other daughter were baptized as well.

After being baptized, Mayumi began to change. Once overweight, she became trim and fit. She was happy all the time. Friends, parents, and even former day-care children asked her what had happened, and Mayumi boldly told them about Jesus. Because of her influence, about 30 of her former day-care children, now teens and young adults, are studying in Adventist schools today.

“I advised my former babies to go to Adventist schools long after they had left the day-care, and many agreed!” she said.

About 45 of her former day-care children and their parents have been baptized over the past four years. That’s more baptisms than many pastors have had in Japan!

Today, Mayumi and her staff run a large Tokyo day-care center with 50 children, mainly from non-Christian families. Next, she plans to open a lifestyle center for children with mental challenges such as ADHD and Asperger’s Syndrome.

How do we use our influence? Let’s pray for a gentle boldness, like Mayumi’s, to win people to Christ. 🌍

By Andrew McChesney

Watch a 16-second video of Mayumi at the link: [bit.ly/mother-to-hundreds](http://bit.ly/mother-to-hundreds)

# Stranded at Adventist College

JAPAN | August 25

Yasuki Aoki, 42



Aoki [pronounced: AO-ki] had never met a Christian or opened the Bible when he enrolled in the Seventh-day Adventist Church's sole college in Japan. He didn't even know that Saniku Gakuin College was a Christian institution when his parents paid upfront for two years of tuition. Aoki just knew that he wanted to learn English, and the college had a good reputation.

Eighteen-year-old Aoki was surprised when he heard the loudspeaker announcement on his first night in the men's dormitory. "It's time for evening worship," a voice said. "Please gather in the meeting room."

Aoki followed the other students to the meeting room. He had never seen a Bible or hymnal in his life and certainly didn't own either. He listened awkwardly as the other students sang and then opened their Bibles.

"Everyone knew the hymn except me," he said. "Everyone knew how to find the Bible verses except me. I did not understand anything."

When worship ended, Aoki was ready to go home. But then he remembered that his parents had paid for his tuition for two years, and he resolved to wait it out.

"This was my very first contact with Christianity," Aoki said.

Many Japanese people, like Aoki, have never met a Christian. Just 1 percent of Japan's population of 127 million are Christian, and of those only 15,151 are members of the Adventist Church. The country is largely Buddhist.

Aoki was not a Buddhist when he entered the Adventist college. He just didn't have any interest in spiritual things.

But his classmates and teachers were kind. They explained Christianity to him.

“And because they befriended me, my impression of Christians became good,” he said.

He enjoyed attending church and conversing with his new friends. He began dating an Adventist woman. But he saw no reason to be baptized.

After two years, he received an English-language teaching license and decided that he wanted to teach at the Adventist college. But he knew that he would have to become a Christian first—and that meant that he needed to study the Bible.

Aoki promptly signed up as a theology major. He didn’t want to become a pastor; he just wanted to study the Bible so he could teach. As soon as he filled out the paperwork to study theology, the college’s chaplain called him into his office. “What are you thinking?” the chaplain asked. “What is your plan for the future? Do you want to become a Christian?”

“Maybe I will become a Christian someday,” Aoki replied. “But not now.”

The chaplain looked at Aoki closely. “If you are going to be baptized someday, you must be baptized now,” he said. “Why put it off? No one knows what the future holds. You must be baptized now.”

He and Aoki discussed the issue for several hours. Aoki understood the chaplain’s stance. He finally said, “Please give me more time. I need to think.”

The chaplain wouldn’t let Aoki off easily. “When you come back next week, you must decide the date of your baptism,” he said.

Aoki called his Adventist girlfriend, who was teaching at an elementary school in another city, and explained the situation. He asked when she would be able to attend his baptism. She had only

## Mission Post

- The Japan Union Conference comprises the East Japan and West Japan conferences and the Okinawa Mission.
- There are 97 churches in Japan, with a membership of 15,151. With a population of 125,310,000, there are 8,270 Japanese for each Adventist.
- Japan’s literacy rate is almost 100 percent.

one free day over the next few months, so Aoki made that his baptism day.

Today, Aoki is 42 years old and a leader of the Japan Union Conference. He also is the pastor of the country’s only Adventist youth church, Tokyo’s Setagaya Church, which trains young people to be gospel workers. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the church expand its youth work.

Aoki said the secret to introducing Japanese young people to Christ is love—the same principle that attracted him to Christ at the Adventist college.

“It wasn’t the Bible that first taught me that God is love,” he said. “My friends and teachers taught me that God is love through their loving words and actions.” 🌐

By Andrew McChesney

Watch a 40-second video of Aoki sharing his testimony at the link: [bit.ly/stranded-at-adventist-college](http://bit.ly/stranded-at-adventist-college)

# Eighth Grader Converts Church

MONGOLIA | September 1

Bumchin Erdenebat, 27



**E**ighth grader Bumchin [pronounced: BUM-chin] wanted to go to church when his family moved to a mountainous town in rural Mongolia.

But his new town didn't have a Seventh-day Adventist church. Many of the 10,000 residents were Buddhist, just like his parents. He found one Christian church that met on Sundays—in the home of his new math teacher.

Bumchin was scared to go to his math teacher's home.

"I was a bad student in math, so I was worried to go to her church," he said.

Not many people in Mongolia have heard about the Adventist Church, but Bumchin knew the church well. He had worshipped at the Adventist church in his old town at the invitation of an Adventist relative. Then the pastor had taken him to an Adventist youth conference in Mongolia's capital,

Ulaanbaatar. Bumchin realized at the conference that missionaries were needed in Mongolia, and after moving to the new town, he wondered how he could be a missionary. As Bumchin pondered his next move, he began climbing up a mountain near his home every morning. At the top of the mountain, Bumchin sang Christian songs and prayed to God to guide him.

"Please, God, use me," he prayed.

One morning after prayer, he charged down the mountain and went straight to the Sunday church. He felt a little awkward when he walked inside and saw that he was the only child in a room of 20 adults. But he soon forgot about his discomfort as he listened to the adults talk. The church was about to close forever.

"This is the last meeting of our church," a church member said. "Why go on with so few members?" said another one.

The church members were discouraged that many people had stopped coming to worship on Sundays.

Bumchin stood up and opened his Bible to 1 Corinthians 15:58. He read, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (NKJV). He then gave a Bible study on how Christians shouldn't lose hope. The church members listened intently as the boy spoke, and when he finished, they exclaimed, "This is no longer our last

## Fast Facts

- The traditional Mongolian home is known as a “ger,” better known in the West by the Russian term “yurt.” The ger is a tent-like structure made of a wooden frame covered with felt; the materials are very lightweight so that they are easily transported.
- Mongolia is known as the “Land of the Horsemen,” and horses outnumber people in Mongolia. Horses are used for transportation, milk, and meat.
- Russian missionaries began the Adventist work in Mongolia in 1926. Following communist rule, Adventists returned in 1991.
- The first Adventist publications in Mongolian consisted of a hymn, mimeographed at the Russian Mission press at Harbin, Manchuria; and sometime later, four small tracts.

meeting! This will be our first meeting as we start out new!”

A few days later, several church members joined Bumchin in climbing up the mountain to pray.

Bumchin contacted the pastor of his old Adventist church and invited him to preach Adventist beliefs at the Sunday church. The pastor agreed if Bumchin helped him, and the two gave Bible presentations once a month for the next six months.

“I didn’t try to convince the church members to become Adventists,” Bumchin said. “I just joined them in worshipping and praying.”

But he changed his mountaintop prayer. Instead of only asking God to use him, he prayed, “Please use me to turn the church members into Adventists.”

The church’s membership grew to 27,

and Bumchin’s classmates also began to attend the services.

At the end of the year, all 27 church members traveled to the Adventist pastor’s church to pray with the Adventist members at a special Christmas program. When the church members returned home, they voted unanimously to turn their church into an Adventist church. It is the only time that a whole church has been converted in the Adventist Church’s 27-year history in Mongolia.

The new church grew to 40 members by the time that Bumchin moved to Ulaanbaatar as an adult. But Bumchin, now 27, hasn’t stopped planting Adventist churches. Today, he is a Global Mission pioneer and the leader of Mongolia’s only Pathfinder church, which he and his wife opened in 2012 in their home, a traditional Mongolian yurt. The Khutul Seventh-day Adventist Church has an average Sabbath attendance of 60 people, including 45 Pathfinders. The Adventist Church in Mongolia recognized it as an official church in March 2017, and its first 10 baptisms took place in June 2017.

Bumchin’s eighth-grade math teacher, meanwhile, still teaches math. But now she lives in Ulaanbaatar and teaches at Tusgal School, the only Adventist school in Mongolia and a recipient of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2015.

What does Bumchin want to do next?

“I want to plant churches around Mongolia,” he said. 🌐

By Andrew McChesney

*Watch Bumchin Erdenebat sing a Christian song that he loved to sing on the Mongolian mountaintop when he was in the eighth grade. Video link: [bit.ly/eighth-grader-converts-church](http://bit.ly/eighth-grader-converts-church)*

# World's Best Job

Mandakh Bold, 28



*The Seventh-day Adventist Church is young in post-communist Mongolia, with a married couple from Adventist Frontier Missions becoming the first Adventist missionaries to enter the country of 3 million people in 1991. The church's membership of 2,177 also is young, and most members are the first in their families to be baptized. This has led to several challenges, including member retention, as illustrated by the story of a 28-year-old Global Mission pioneer in Mongolia's capital. Mandakh [pronounced: maan-dakh] was baptized as a teen but left the church seven years later. This is his story.*

I was a very hard man and judged people. If someone made a mistake, I always let him know what he had done wrong. I wanted him to be punished. I thought that God likes to punish us.

I grew unhappy and eventually decided that believing in God was pointless. Something was broken in my life. I stopped going to church. I stopped keeping the Sabbath. I stopped giving tithes.

My wife was sad, and she prayed for me.

In the back of my mind, I lived in dread

of punishment from God. I thought that God had blessed me for seven years and now was going to punish me for turning my back on Him.

A year passed, and nothing happened. Instead of punishing me, God loved me and blessed me more than before. I got a well-paying job as an editor with a Mongolian television channel.

This shocked me. My thoughts returned to God, and I wondered, "What is the point of life if all I do is earn money and spend it, earn money and spend it. The only person who is benefiting is the television channel's owner, who is getting richer. What is the best job that I could have?"

I concluded that the best job would be a missionary. I rededicated my heart to Jesus and prayed, "If You want me to be a missionary, I am ready to go."

After several months, the leaders of the Adventist Church in Mongolia offered me the position of Global Mission pioneer. I would lead a dying house-church on the first floor of an apartment building in Mongolia's capital and teach English at a nearby public high school. My wife would oversee the children's Sabbath School and teach Chinese. I prayed for a week and then quit my television job.

I've only been a missionary for six months so far, and I love it! There is

nothing more thrilling than seeing a life change through God's power.

The first Sabbath, a former member who hadn't attended in three years showed up for Sabbath School. I didn't know him, and he didn't know me. I tried to connect with him, and I encouraged him to return the next Sabbath. He didn't seem happy about the invitation. I found out why when he called me during the week and said he wanted to talk. I went to his workplace and learned that he was cheating on his wife. He said his wife had found out and wanted a divorce. He said, "What should I do?"

I asked him, "What do you want to do?"

He didn't know. I shared with him the biblical principle that divorce is not allowed except in the case of adultery. I told him to ask God's forgiveness and to stop cheating on his wife. I said, "Tell your wife the truth and then promise her, 'From now on, I will be a man of God. I be faithful to you.'"

We prayed together, and I left.

A week later, the man told me that he had ended the affair by announcing to the other woman that he had recommitted his life to Christ. He also told the truth to his wife and, fortunately, she had forgiven him.

Today, the man comes to church every Sabbath and is an active church member.

Another miracle happened with a disabled man whose only income is a disability payment of 160,000 Mongolian togrog (about U.S.\$65) a month from the government.

One Sabbath, I said to him, "Please, give your tithe to God. He will bless you."

The man refused.

Sometime later, the man called me, and we spoke on the phone about his life and

## Fast Facts

- The vast Gobi Desert takes up much of southern Mongolia, but rather than sand dunes, it is mostly a barren, rocky wilderness and temperatures range from minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 40 degrees) Celsius in winter to 104 F (40 C) in summer.
- The Mongolia Mission is located in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar. It comprises six churches, with a membership of 2,177.
- Mongolia has a population of 3,095,000, so there are 1,422 people for every Adventist in the country.

health. He told me that the government would give him two months' payment at once that month. I said, "Please, give your tithe. If you want to see God's power, test him. In Malachi 3:10, God says, 'Test me with your tithe money.'"

The next Sabbath, the man came to church and gave tithe for the first time! A week later, he called me and said excitedly, "I gave this tithe last Sabbath, and today I got a letter from the government saying that my monthly payment has been increased by 50 percent!"

I'm not an emotional person, but I become so happy when I see God's love transforming lives. I cannot express this feeling with words. I want everyone to know about God's love, and that's why I'm a missionary. Being a missionary is the best job in the world! 🌍

*By Mandakh Bold, as told to Andrew McChesney*

*Watch an eight-minute video of Mandakh sharing his testimony at the link: [bit.ly/worlds-best-job](https://bit.ly/worlds-best-job)*

# I Don't Want to Teach

MONGOLIA | September 15

Tserenpil “Ogie” Otgontuya, 40



*Today's mission story is a first-hand testimony by Ogie [pronounced: Oj-i], the 40-year-old principal of the only Seventh-day Adventist school in Mongolia.*

When I had to choose an area to study at the university in Mongolia, I immediately thought, “I will never be a teacher.” My mother was a kindergarten teacher, and I had no patience for noisy children.

At church, the pastor asked me to teach the children's Sabbath School class. I said, “No, I don't like children.” He encouraged me to try and showed me some felts of Bible stories. The felts intrigued me, but then I saw the children. “No, no, I can't teach them,” I said.

I married a university professor, we had a child, and we moved to a small Mongolian town to work as missionaries.

My husband asked me, “What do you want to do in this small town?”

“I don't know,” I replied. “But I don't want to teach.”

After university classes, my husband invited students to our home, and I cooked simple, healthy food for them. In Mongolia, meat is a vital part of every meal, and the students were surprised to see our table filled with dishes made of grains, fruits, and vegetables. They asked, “What kind of food is this? Why don't you eat meat?” I found myself teaching them the biblical health message.

At the same time, I made friends with other mothers in the neighborhood, and when they visited, I told Bible stories to their babies. I thought I would never teach, but I seemed to be teaching all the time.

My husband planted a church in the town, and then he was asked to further his education at the Adventist University of the Philippines. I prayed to God, “Please help me. What should I do in the Philippines?”

I was still praying that prayer several months later when a university professor visited our new home in the Philippines. He asked me what I wanted to do for the 2 ½ years that it would take my husband to complete his studies.

“Maybe study accounting or nursing,” I said.

“Let's pray together, and maybe God

## Fast Facts

- Among Mongolians aged 15 and above, 53 percent are Buddhists, while 39 percent are non-religious. Christians make up only 2.1 percent of the population.
- Mongolia is a landlocked country between Russia and China. Nearly half the population of Mongolia live in the capital, Ulaanbaatar.
- Mongolia is mountainous, with an average altitude of 5,183 feet (1,580 meters) above sea level, which makes it one of the highest countries in the world.

will show you His plan,” he said.

I checked out the university’s nursing program and learned that it would take five years to graduate. I went to the business department and found out that an accounting degree would take four years. I was thinking about taking accounting when I passed by the education department.

An education teacher and I began to talk, and we immediately established a connection when I learned that he had been to Mongolia. He was the first person whom I had met in the Philippines who had visited Mongolia, and I was eager to talk with him! After a few minutes, the teacher suggested that I study education.

“Hmm, maybe,” I said. I didn’t want to give an emphatic “No” because he was so kind.

The teacher said, “Since you have a daughter, why not try elementary education?”

We talked and talked. Eventually, the teacher had to go to a class, but he

suggested that I visit a kindergarten run by the university. I was surprised by what I saw. The children seemed calm and happy. The female teacher looked so comfortable.

I made further inquiries and learned that I could obtain an education degree in three years because I had taken general education classes in Mongolia.

My husband and I had a long conversation that night. The Adventist Church didn’t have a school or even an Adventist teacher in Mongolia. I wasn’t sure what to do.

My husband said, “Maybe it’s God’s plan for you to become a teacher for Him.”

“Hmm, maybe,” I said. But all my distaste for teaching had disappeared.

I graduated in 2 ½ years—at the same time as my husband. Back in Mongolia, I helped establish the first Adventist school. A few years ago, I became the school principal. I love children and teaching!

Today, the Tusal [pronounced: TUS-gal] School has 124 students, mostly from non-Adventist families. They study from kindergarten to 12th grade. Thank you for giving to a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2015 that helped us expand our classrooms. Enrollment is growing fast, so we plan to open a boarding academy for the ninth- through 12th-grade students. This quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build that boarding school.

Looking back, I really praise the Lord. Sometimes relatives ask, “But you said you would never be a teacher. Why are you a teacher?” I tell them, “You never know who you will become. Only God knows. When we are patient and obey, God plans our lives for us.” 🌍

*By Tserenpil “Ogie” Otgontuya, as told to Andrew McChesney*

# A Second Life

CHINA | September 22

Peter, 40



Pixabay

Peter spent the first 24 years of his life pursuing a single goal: to become a math teacher so he could care for his impoverished parents in a village in rural China.

But then a health crisis upset his plans. Peter lost everything in one moment.

“Without such a situation, I would never have come to God,” Peter said. “This is the way that God guided me to Him and to the truth.”

Upon graduating from college, Peter was assigned to teach math at a middle school. His new future and the hope of financial security excited him. But before he and the other students in his graduating class could teach, they needed to pass a medical checkup ordered by the provincial education department.

“I played a lot of basketball and soccer in college, so I thought it wouldn’t be any trouble to pass the medical checkup,” Peter said.

When the medical results came back, the students learned that two people had not passed—Peter and another young man. But Peter remained confident that he was in good health and took a second medical checkup at the college’s request. This time, the hospital found that only one of the two young men had failed—Peter. The doctor said Peter had a serious liver ailment that likely was untreatable.

The college disqualified Peter from teaching.

“At that moment, I lost everything,” Peter said. “I had worked very hard for many years to rise above the poverty of my parents. It seemed that I had finally reached my goal, but everything disappeared in an instant. I felt so hopeless.”

That night, Peter stood on a bridge and shouted into the dark sky, “Laotian!”—[pronounced: LAO-tain], which in Chinese means, “Higher Power”—“Laotian! You are so unfair to me!” He wept bitterly and briefly considered committing suicide by jumping off the bridge.

At his parents’ insistence, Peter checked into the village hospital for treatment. The hospital conditions were poor; the family could not afford to send Peter to a better-equipped city hospital.

After three days, Peter’s mother went to church to ask the pastor to pray for her son. She sometimes attended the church on Sundays, and she thought in her grief that it was Sunday. But it was

## Fast Facts

- More Christians live in China than in Italy, and China is on track to become the largest center of Christianity in the world.
- The population of China is 1.387 billion people. This makes up 18.47 percent of the world's population.
- According to Christian tradition, Christianity was first brought to China by the apostle Thomas, but the first historically authenticated evidence of Christianity dates from the middle of the seventh century.

Saturday, and the Seventh-day Adventists who shared the church with the Sunday worshippers were startled to hear her wailing in the sanctuary when they arrived for Sabbath School. An elderly woman asked, “Why are you so sad?” Upon hearing about Peter, the woman said, “Don’t worry. Ask your son to trust God. God will save him.”

Later that day, the elderly woman visited Peter in his hospital room and offered him the same advice. “Young man, trust God,” she said. “God will save you.”

The advice was difficult for Peter to accept. His teachers had taught him since first grade that God does not exist.

At that point, two paths lay before Peter: to stay in the hospital, spending money and putting a bigger burden on his parents, and finally to die, or to trust God.

“I didn’t want to put a bigger burden on my parents,” Peter said. “So, I said, ‘I will try to trust God. I choose to trust God rather than the doctors.’”

That afternoon, Peter decided that since God exists and could be trusted

to provide healing, he would leave the hospital. He rejected his mother’s appeals to take his medicine home.

“We trust God,” he said. “Let’s leave everything here.”

The elderly Adventist told Peter about a church-owned sanitarium in another village, and he decided to go there. The sanitarium staff welcomed him warmly.

“When I was sick and hopeless, I needed comfort, but everyone left me,” Peter said. “But when I reached that sanatorium, all the people there knelt with me and prayed for me. When they prayed, they cried, ‘God, please help this young man.’ They accepted me and loved me.”

Peter had never experienced such love before and sensed that it was more than human. It was divine. He stayed at the sanitarium for two months, praying, studying the Bible, and learning a healthy lifestyle. “I forgot that I was sick,” Peter said. “I was very happy.”

After two months, he asked the sanitarium director for permission to return to the hospital for a checkup. The results shocked him—and his doctor. He received a bill of clean health. The doctor couldn’t understand how the poor medicine that he had prescribed had cured him. But Peter had not taken the medicine. He had trusted God.

Peter’s was baptized, and his parents and grandparents also were baptized. Today, Peter is a 40-year-old Bible worker in China.

“Since God gave me a second life, I have devoted this life to Him,” he said. 🌍

By Andrew McChesney

## Thirteenth Sabbath Program

➤	<b>Congregational Song</b>	“Don’t Forget the Sabbath” <i>Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 388
➤	<b>Welcome</b>	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher
➤	<b>Prayer</b>	
➤	<b>Program</b>	“Sabbath Over Bicycles”
➤	<b>Offering</b>	While the offering is being taken, ask the children to sing “Jesus Loves Me” in Chinese (see page 34 in the <i>Children’s Mission</i> quarterly, which can be downloaded at: <a href="http://bit.ly/childrensmision">bit.ly/childrensmision</a> ).
➤	<b>Closing Song</b>	“I’d Rather Have Jesus” <i>Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 327
➤	<b>Closing Prayer</b>	

**Participants:** Narrator and a speaker to present the story.

[Note: participants do not need to memorize their parts, but they should be familiar enough with the material that they do not have to read everything from the script. Practice so that participants can feel comfortable adding inflection where appropriate.]

### Sabbath Over Bicycles

**Narrator:** This quarter we have met people from South Korea, Japan, Mongolia, and China, which are all countries within the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Today we will meet a man from Taiwan.

**Speaker:** Grinding and polishing metal bicycle frames doesn’t command a high salary at a factory workshop in central Taiwan, but it comes with a major benefit: no Sabbath work.

Jin Rong Gao [pronounced: jin rong gow] and his wife joined the 16-member workshop team when they moved to the town of Shih-kang [pronounced: shih-kang] several years ago. The married couple, who left their previous jobs because of a Sabbath conflict, started off with a combined monthly income of about 15,000 Taiwanese dollars, or U.S.\$500.

“At that time, there wasn’t much work to do,” said Jin Rong. “But we were happy because we didn’t have to work on Sabbath.”

After a few months, he began to think about his brother, four sisters, and other family members, who still faced Sabbath work conflicts. He asked his boss to hire his relatives, but his boss refused, saying, “We don’t have enough work.”

Jin Rong persisted, and eventually seven relatives received jobs.

Jin Rong struggled with the small salary for the next three years and considered looking for another job. But he feared that he would be forced to work on Sabbath elsewhere, so he stayed. “I wanted to keep my faith more than I wanted a higher salary,” he said.

God must have seen Jin Rong’s needs because suddenly the workshop saw a spurt in bicycle frame orders from the factory that assembled the bicycles. Jin Rong and his wife began to earn up to 70,000 Taiwanese dollars, or \$2,300, a month. Jin Rong also was promoted to workshop foreman. He was grateful for the additional money, but he worried that he might be required to work on Sabbath to keep up with the orders.

His fears were realized on a Friday afternoon when the boss announced at a workshop meeting that all 16 employees would need to start working on Saturdays.

Jin Rong immediately declared, “I can’t do this.”

The boss replied, “It depends on you. If you want to keep the Sabbath, you will lose your job.”

Jin Rong had trouble sleeping that night. Not only his job was at stake, but so were the jobs of his wife and the other seven relatives at the workshop. He told God about the situation. In the morning, he and his relatives went to church. “We decided that we would keep our faith, not



*Jin Rong Gao standing beside bicycle frames in his workshop in central Taiwan.*

our jobs,” he said.

The boss was furious. More than half his workers were at church instead of filling an urgent order. He angrily told the seven other employees to take the day off. He said they had to work after sundown Saturday and on Sunday as well. He told them to share the new work schedule with Jin Rong. The Adventist employees gladly worked after sunset Saturday and on Sunday.

Three days passed before the boss returned to the workshop. On Tuesday, he went straight to Jin Rong and asked, “Would you like to earn more money?”

Jin Rong was shocked. “Didn’t you say that I would lose my job if I chose the Sabbath?” he said.

The boss said demand for bicycle frames had grown so large that he had decided to open a second workshop. Jin Rong would be placed in charge of the new workshop, a promotion that included hiring and training new employees and a significant pay increase. The only catch was he would be required to work on Sabbath.

The job offer represented a promising opportunity, but Jin Rong remembered Psalms 37:5, which says, “Commit your

way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass” (NKJV). He decided to commit his way to the Lord and reject the offer.

Rather than being upset, the boss announced a permanent change to his workshop’s schedule. He didn’t want to lose a good worker like Jin Rong, so he said the workshop always would close on Sabbaths and operate after sunset and on Sundays.

“No one works on Sabbath, not even my boss,” Jin Rong said.

Coworkers are impressed by Jin Rong’s strong faith, and four of them have been baptized.

Jin Rong sometimes grows exhausted working weekends, but he wouldn’t have

it any other way.

“Although it’s tiring, we thank God that He allows us to keep our faith,” he said. “I thank God for listening to our prayers and allowing us to live peacefully.”

**Narrator:** People across the Northern Asia-Pacific Division are praying to be faithful and for help to share the good news that Jesus is coming soon! Let’s give a big Thirteenth Sabbath Offering so more people can learn the good news.

*By Andrew McChesney*

*[Offering]*

## Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

- A health center in Lahore, Pakistan
- A health center in Cambodia
- A language school in Laos
- An Adventist international mission school in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand

## Leader’s Resources

Be sure to download your free **Mission Spotlight** video, featuring video reports from around the Northern Asia-Pacific Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at [bit.ly/missionspotlight](http://bit.ly/missionspotlight).

**Children’s Mission** contains additional material that can add flavor to your mission presentation. Find the *Children’s Mission* online at [bit.ly/childrensmisson](http://bit.ly/childrensmisson).

### 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 your local library or a travel agency, or visit the websites listed on the following page.

**China:** government website [english.gov.cn](http://english.gov.cn)  
Travel China Guide [bit.ly/TravelChinaGuide](http://bit.ly/TravelChinaGuide)

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<b>Japan:</b>	government website Lonely Planet	<a href="http://japan.go.jp">japan.go.jp</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/LonelyPlanetJapan">bit.ly/LonelyPlanetJapan</a>
<b>Korea:</b>	government website Visit Korea	<a href="http://korea.net/index.jsp">korea.net/index.jsp</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/VisitingKorea">bit.ly/VisitingKorea</a>
<b>Mongolia:</b>	government website World Travel Guide	<a href="http://zasag.mn/en">zasag.mn/en</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/TravelMongolia">bit.ly/TravelMongolia</a>
<b>Taiwan:</b>	government website Rough Guide	<a href="http://taiwan.gov.tw">taiwan.gov.tw</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/RoughGuideTaiwan">bit.ly/RoughGuideTaiwan</a>
<b>Seventh-day Adventist:</b>		
	Northern Asia-Pacific Division:	<a href="http://nsdadventist.org">nsdadventist.org</a>
	Chinese Union Mission:	<a href="http://bit.ly/ChineseUnionMission">bit.ly/ChineseUnionMission</a>
	Japan Union Conference	<a href="http://adventist.jp">adventist.jp</a>
	Korean Union Conference	<a href="http://adventist.or.kr">adventist.or.kr</a>
	Mongolia Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDAMongoliaMission">bit.ly/SDAMongoliaMission</a>
	Taiwan Conference	<a href="http://twcadventist.org.tw">twcadventist.org.tw</a>

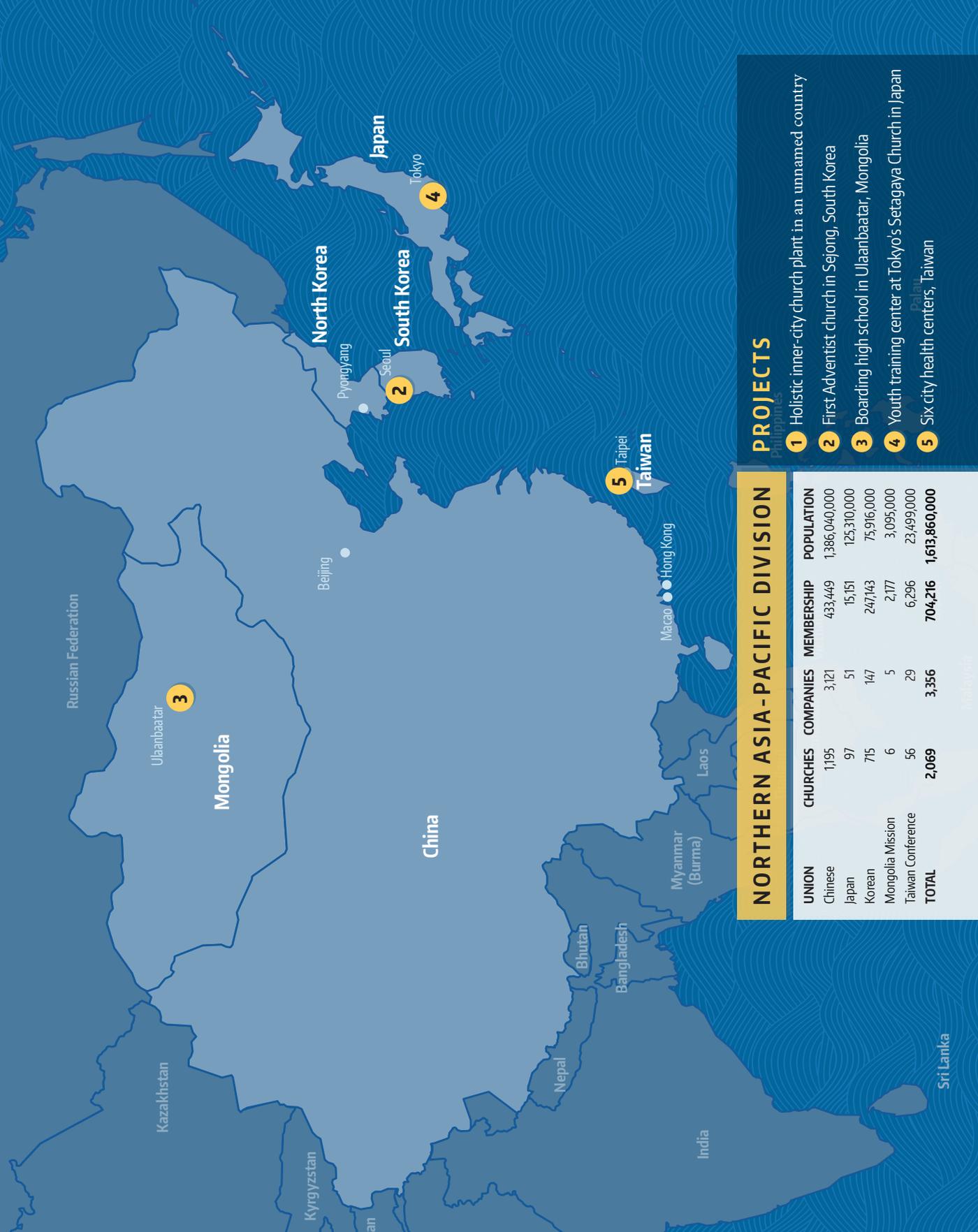
An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Determine a goal for your class's weekly mission offering. Multiply it by 14, allowing a double goal for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

Since this quarter features the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, you might want to use a drawing of a panda, China's symbol, from page 31 of the *Children's Mission* quarterly, which can be downloaded at the link: [bit.ly/childrensmision](http://bit.ly/childrensmision). Enlarge the drawing to fit the largest paper available (11 x 17-inch paper would require a 400 percent enlargement). In pencil, make 14 marks along the side, one for each week, and two for Thirteenth Sabbath's offering. Then each week after Sabbath School, color in that portion of the panda to indicate the progress your class is making toward your goal.

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 Northern 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.

**Get your FREE Thirteenth Sabbath Offering Bank.** Send an e-mail to: [missionquarterlies@gc.adventist.org](mailto:missionquarterlies@gc.adventist.org). Please indicate the number of offering banks you need and include a complete mailing address.

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## NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Chinese	1,195	3,121	433,449	1,386,040,000
Japan	97	51	15,151	125,310,000
Korean	715	147	247,143	75,916,000
Mongolia Mission	6	5	2,177	3,095,000
Taiwan Conference	56	29	6,296	23,499,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,069</b>	<b>3,356</b>	<b>704,216</b>	<b>1,613,860,000</b>

## PROJECTS

- 1 Holistic inner-city church plant in an unnamed country
- 2 First Adventist church in Sejong, South Korea
- 3 Boarding high school in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- 4 Youth training center at Tokyo's Setagaya Church in Japan
- 5 Six city health centers, Taiwan