



YOUTH & ADULT
MISSION

2014 • **QUARTER 2** • SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION



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On the Cover: After Manusha was orphaned at 4, she lived with relatives and in orphanages. But at Flaiz Adventist College she found a loving family.

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 = stories of special interest to teens

Your Offerings at Work



Thanks to your generous Thirteenth Sabbath Mission Offerings during the first quarter of 2011, the Southern Asia Division received \$701,980.38 to build classroom blocks at these secondary schools: the James Memorial Higher Secondary School in Tamil Nadu, the

Kottarakara Seventh-day Adventist Higher Secondary School in Kerala, and the Lasalgaon Adventist Higher Secondary School in Maharashtra. The funds were also used to provide eight new churches, and the children's project provided Sabbath School classrooms and supplies for each of the new churches.

Thank you for your generosity!



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter features the Southern Asia Division, which includes the countries of Bhutan, India, and Nepal, plus the islands of the Maldives.

The Challenges

With a population of almost 1.3 billion people and more than 1.6 million Seventh-day Adventists, the Southern Asia Division has one Adventist for every 804 people. Most of this growth has occurred in the past 16 years. In 1995 the division had a membership of fewer than 200,000.

The foundation for this tremendous growth was laid over the past 100-plus years as Adventist schools were established throughout the region. Thousands of non-Christian students enrolled in Adventist schools, where they could study in English, one of the official languages of India. They learned far more than just their classroom lessons. Many

of these children were baptized while studying in Adventist schools. And many more thousands who were not baptized were influenced by the Christian values that were introduced to them while they studied in Adventist schools.

Today Adventist schools continue to have a reputation for academic excellence and a caring and safe environment for children. Student applications continue to exceed enrollment capacities. Enlarging three schools in India will help more children receive excellent educations while they learn how much Jesus loves them.

Churches in India fulfill the adage “Build it, and they will come.” On any given day some 3,000 congregations of believers need a church in which to worship. As quickly as a church is built, it’s filled with those wanting to know about Jesus. Other congregations continue to form as evangelism spreads across the division, and more simple churches are needed to house them.

Often in southern Asia a congregation without a church is ridiculed or shunned by their neighbors. “You say your God is so mighty; why can’t He build you a church?” they ask. And they point in any direction to temples made for gods of stone. But when the congregation completes even a simple church, those same people come to hear the message of God’s love.

Let’s let our lights shine for Him!

Gina Wahlen, Editor

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will go to help provide:

- seven churches in India
- men’s dormitory at Flaiz Adventist College, India
- boy’s dormitory at Karmatar Seventh-day Adventist School, India
- classrooms at the Kollegal Adventist School, India
- meeting hall in Bhutan

Global Mission Pioneer Brings Hope

INDIA | April 5

Immanuel



Immanuel, 29, lives in a village of 2,000 people, about 12 hours by bus from Chennai.

Knock, knock, knock. Immanuel tapped politely on the door of the house. Nobody came to the door, so he knocked again, a little louder this time. He had just decided that there must not be anybody inside when the door opened to reveal a woman with tears streaking her face.

Immanuel was surprised, but after a short pause he told the woman his name and that he was a Global Mission pioneer pastor. He told her he was planning some prayer meetings in the village, and was knocking on all the doors to invite the people to come. He was also planning some meetings for children, with singing and storytelling.

When he said that, the woman began crying again, so Immanuel gently asked

her what was wrong, and if there was anything he could do to help. It took a little coaxing, but pretty soon the woman began to talk.

“There are so many problems, I hardly know where to start,” she said. “But maybe the biggest is that my husband and I have not been able to have children. That has made us very sad. It is amazing that you knocked on our door when you did, because my husband and I were just preparing to commit suicide. We have been having such troubles, and my husband heard a voice that told him to kill himself, and me too. We are preparing to die.”

Immanuel listened carefully to the woman’s story, then he said: “I am so glad that I was in time to bring you good news. Did you know that God loves you and has a bright future planned for you? I don’t know what is in that future—only

God knows—but I do know that He can help you and make you feel joyful and happy in your life.”

The woman invited Immanuel into the house, and he spent a long afternoon talking to her and to her husband, reading the Bible and praying with them, and talking about his work.

The next day he went back to visit again, and he continued to visit the couple. They became happy in their newfound faith. While they still wished for a child, they forgot the deep despair they had felt previously. After a while they began knocking on doors with him, visiting neighboring villages, giving Bible studies, and sharing the story of how hope had come into their lives at the very last minute.

Children First

Immanuel has been a Global Mission pioneer pastor for about a year. When he first came to the village where he lives, there were only two families of elderly people who said they were Adventists. It

is a poor village, without many options for jobs. People grow food in their gardens, but the rain isn't consistent. There is a scarcity of water. Some villagers travel to another town to work in a cotton mill.

Immanuel could see there was a lot of work he could do, bringing hope into the lives of the people in the village. While he could not give them all jobs, he could introduce them to a heavenly Father who cares for them.

He started by inviting the children to listen to Bible stories and sing. He believes that children are central to evangelism—not only are they the next generation of believers, they can also help to reach their parents when their hearts have been touched.

For six months Immanuel just held meetings for the children. As he got to know the children, he began to get to know their parents, too. He was able to help some of them who had difficulties, which he had learned about from the children.

The families were grateful for his help and his prayers, and they began to tell their friends about the power of God. Soon Immanuel was hosting Bible studies and prayer meetings for adults too, until there was a large group of believers in the village meeting in a coconut grove.

Immanuel works hard every day to make a difference in the lives of the people he works among. He knows that God is always present, guiding him as he spreads the good news of Jesus' love.

Our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build churches in India so that believers such as these will have a church in which to worship. Please plan to give liberally on June 28. 🌍

Fast Facts

- India is the seventh-largest country in area and has one sixth of the world's population, more than a billion people. Only China has a higher population.
- India has 10,000 large cities, including 50 with a population of more than a million people. Yet many still live in the country's more than 600,000 towns and villages.
- Although India's economy is growing fast, many people still live below the poverty level. Almost half the people in India cannot read and write. Many suffer from disease and poor quality food.

INDIA | April 12

No Longer Alone

Manusha



Manusha Parisapogu is a student at Flaiz Adventist College in India.

When I was 4 years old my mother committed suicide by burning herself, and my father left. I never saw him again. I was left with my grandmother, but I didn't live with her very long. I was sent to live at a government school for orphans when I started the first grade, and studied at that school through the tenth grade.

My grandmother died when I was 13, leaving only my uncles to care for me. It's a tradition in India for uncles to provide some support to children of dead parents, but my uncles never really took part in my care. However, when I was 13, I went to my uncles' homes during school vacations to work to pay

for my textbooks and other needs.

I was a good student and earned high marks in school, but my uncles' children didn't receive such high marks. This created some jealousy with my uncles, and when I finished the tenth grade, they didn't care about me anymore. They expected me to work and make my own way, but my school principal helped me to go on to higher secondary school. I completed that, again with good marks.

My best friend, Mobina, and I often studied together. Mobina was from a Christian family, and one day her uncle suggested that I study at Flaiz Adventist College. Knowing I was a good student, he thought I should go to college and had heard that financial help was available to those who were in need. Mobina's uncle brought me to Flaiz Adventist College,

and we met with the principal. After listening to my story, the principal agreed to find a sponsor for me.

I'm studying math, physics, computer science, and English. I had studied English in higher secondary school, but most of my classes were in Telugu, so I didn't know English well when I came here, but I'm learning! I write most of my exams in English now, and my grades are still good.

When I came to Flaiz, I knew nothing about Adventists. I had never been to school worships or to church on Sabbath, so I just followed my classmates. I enjoyed the daily worships in our dormitory, the special worships on Wednesday and Friday nights, and Sabbaths in church.

I began helping with song services, and then I started presenting special features. We have Week of Prayer two times a year, and during this past year I was especially touched. I had never really surrendered my life to Jesus, so I surrendered to Him

and asked to be baptized here at Flaiz during the Week of Prayer.

Most students who are baptized have family members who come, but I didn't, so the school has become my family. Now I'm a member of the family of God—a far larger family than I could have ever imagined! I was an only child of my earthly parents, but I have many brothers and sisters now. And when I was baptized, all my sisters in the dormitory stood as my family. That was beautiful.

During summer I have no place to go, but I signed up to go with other students to two village churches to hold meetings. Each place had five days of meetings, all conducted by students. I enjoyed helping with the music.

I've just finished my first year at Flaiz. I hope to be a math and Sanskrit teacher one day. Sanskrit is related to many Indian languages and is the combination of Telugu and Hindi.

My testimony is one filled with thankfulness. Before I really knew Jesus, He made a way for me. He provided me with an education and a place to live. He gave me all I needed and more. God used a friend's uncle to lead me to Flaiz, where I could give my life totally to Him and learn so much I had not known.

Pray to God. He's the answer to your problems, and He supplies all your needs. I, who had no family, now have a huge family. I want to use the gifts God has given me to bless other young people who come into my life, and thus share God's love with them.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new dormitory at Flaiz Adventist College in India. Please plan now to give liberally on June 28. 🌐

Mission Post

- India has a population of about 1.2 billion people. The Adventist Church has a membership of about 1.6 million. This represents slightly more than 1 percent of the population.
- Adventist schools have played a big part in the church's growth in India. Many children from non-Christian homes have attended Adventist schools in order to receive a quality education in English.
- Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build two new dormitories in India so that even more students can study there and learn of God's great love.

Law and Testimony



INDIA | April 19

Geetha and Kalaivani

Geetha, 33, worked in Chennai until she lost her job due to Sabbath issues.

My father was a Catholic, and my mother a Hindu, but as a child I went to the charismatic church near our home. I received a New Testament, and as I read the book of Revelation, I wondered what it all meant.

Then I was invited to a meeting being held by some Adventists. The pastor talked about Revelation. Every Friday I went to these meetings and learned more about this fascinating book. At first my parents didn't mind, but when I refused to eat meat and took off my jewelry, they objected.

My family ate meat, and in Indian culture jewelry is a sign of beauty. My father wanted me to marry a Catholic man, and they knew that no Catholic man

would want an unadorned vegetarian.

I was working as a receptionist in a law firm that was open six days a week. I asked to have Sabbaths off, but the manager refused, saying I must choose between work and God. "I'll follow God," I told him.

My parents were upset that I quit my job, for they relied on my salary. But I prayed that God would help me find work that I could do without breaking the Sabbath. Six months later I found work as a typist in an Adventist company. I praise God for this. My father considered becoming an Adventist, but he is too concerned about his work to follow the faith I love.

Before leaving the law firm, I was able to share my faith with one of the lawyers. Here is her story:

Kalaivani, 29, a lawyer working in Chennai

When I was in the tenth grade, a classmate told me about Jesus. After passing the national exams following the tenth grade, I had more faith that God cares even for me, but there was no money for me to continue my studies. I prayed that God would help me continue my studies, and He provided the means. I finished twelfth grade and went on to complete my bachelor's degree in math.

My Sunday church encouraged me to continue my studies, so I earned a law degree and joined a law firm as a junior partner. I was able to help my family, and even my senior partners helped my family.

I had worked in this firm for three years when our receptionist, Geetha, joined the Adventist Church. Geetha began telling me about Adventists. She invited me to visit her church, so I went. In my own church the pastor would find a Bible text and weave stories around it to make a

point. But these Adventists were different. The pastor backed up everything with Bible texts. But I was used to the loud and energizing music that really pumped me up at my church. The Adventist service was far simpler with no rousing music to pump up adrenaline. At first that bothered me, but Geetha invited me again. This time as I learned more about what Adventists believe, I was drawn to it. I especially liked the temperance message—no coffee or tea, and favoring a vegetarian lifestyle. I was also introduced to Ellen White's writings, which made a lot of sense to me.

It took me a long time studying what the Bible says and what my former church and the Adventist Church taught before I finally asked to be excused from work on Saturdays. My legal firm refused.

I threatened to quit if they wouldn't give me Saturdays off. My senior partner told me that if I left, I'd have to repay all the favors they gave my family. It would take me 14 years to repay this, but I wanted to follow God's requirements, so I quit this law firm with the promise to repay them an amount every month. Two days later I found work with another law firm with Sabbaths off, and with a similar salary!

I'm now in the church's baptismal class and hope to be baptized soon. I thank God for working this out for my good, for making a way for me to follow Him in all truth.

I still live with my parents, who have fought with me over changing jobs. In Indian culture a single woman lives with her parents until she's married. Whatever she earns becomes the family's money. I trust that God will make a way to honor my parents and still be faithful to God. 🌍

Mission Post

- As many as 3,000 congregations in southern Asia have no decent place in which to worship. Many non-Christians mock believers whose God hasn't provided them with a place to worship. When churches are built, the membership increases rapidly.
- Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build seven churches for existing congregations in India.
- For more information about the Thirteenth Sabbath Mission Projects, go to www.AdventistMission.org and click on DVD.

Trading Guns for God

EASTERN INDIA | April 26

Rajendra



Rajendra Ram, 48, from Bihar, was an activist in eastern India before learning about the true God.

Rajendra Ram was a poor farmer from a village in eastern India. He did not have a lot of education, money, or resources, but he cared about his family, his neighbors, and the people around him. He grew angry when he saw how oppressed the poor people around him were.

Rajendra decided to do something about the situation, so he and nine friends formed a gang that tried to fight against the oppression. As time went on, the gang became increasingly violent. Rajendra and his friends felt their mission justified the violence. Sometimes they even killed people. Because of their crimes, they were hunted by the police, and they had

to hide in the jungle. Rajendra was only able to see his wife and children on nights when he could sneak into his village.

Strangers in Town

One day Rajendra heard that some strangers were holding meetings in his village. He decided he had better find out what was going on. So the next evening Rajendra sat in the back as a pastor talked about Jesus. Rajendra narrowed his eyes. It sounded to him like these men were trying to enslave the villagers to their religion, just like foreigners had enslaved the Indian people politically in the past.

Rajendra listened for only a few minutes before slipping out of the tent to rejoin his friends in the jungle. He told the other men what he had seen, and they decided to break up the meeting the next night and force the strangers out of the village.

The next evening Rajendra marched into the tent in the middle of the meeting and walked right up to the front, followed by his gang.

“Grab these men!” Rajendra shouted. “Let’s take them to the jungle.”

The pastor looked right at Rajendra and spoke calmly: “Brother, we aren’t doing anything wrong. Sit down and listen to what we are saying. If you don’t like what you hear, you can do what you like to us. But first, please listen.”

Rajendra was subdued by the pastor’s words. He sent his team away and sat down to listen to the rest of the message.

“Jesus came to this world to die for our sins,” the pastor said. “One day soon He will come back to take His people home to heaven.”

About-face

Rajendra was interested in spite of himself. As he listened to the pastor’s words, he stopped thinking about what he could do to stop the meetings and started thinking about all the terrible things he had done in the past few years. Something in his heart changed. He felt his conscience talking to him.

After the meeting was over, Rajendra returned to the jungle. But he could not sleep that night. *How could I have done all those things?* he thought to himself. *Can I ever be forgiven for all the violence?*

In the morning Rajendra got dressed, feeling as though he would never get out of the pit of sin he had dug for himself. In despair he walked to the house where the pastor was staying.

When the pastor opened the door, a look of surprise crossed his face. Rajendra knew he was wondering whether the man from the jungle had come to kill him. But the pastor invited him in nonetheless.

“I would like to join your group,” Rajendra said humbly. “Will your God accept me?”

A wide smile came across the pastor’s face. “Of course God will accept you. He

will accept anyone who comes asking for forgiveness from their sins.”

The pastor and Rajendra talked and prayed together. Rajendra felt his heart melt with the love of God, and he knew that he had been made into a new man.

God’s Newest Child

When Rajendra left the pastor’s house, people passing by looked at him fearfully. They knew he was a dangerous man. Some men rushed into the house to see if the pastor was dead. “I’m fine,” the pastor told them, smiling. “It is the old Rajendra who is dead. The man you just saw was the new Rajendra, God’s newest child!”

Rajendra began studying the Bible regularly with the pastor. The more he learned, the more he was convinced that this religion did not mean slavery—it meant freedom.

The next time the pastor held a baptism in the nearby river, Rajendra stood with the 39 other candidates—including his wife—ready to be dipped into the water. But before he could be baptized, he saw police surrounding the area. He did not resist when they grabbed his arms. Before they took him away, Rajendra told the people: “I promise that as soon as I am freed, I will be baptized in this very spot.”

Rajendra spent six months in prison. To this day he still does not know why he was released so quickly. He immediately went to the pastor so he could be baptized as he had promised, and so that everyone would know he was a new man in Christ.

Rajendra became a lay evangelist, trading his guns for the Bible, and working in the same villages where he once terrorized many of the people. God had changed his life. 🌍



Finding Truth

Samuel

Samuel, 30, lives in Chennai and enjoys sharing his faith.

I was raised in a Muslim family, but I didn't really practice the faith. In fact, I didn't practice any religion. I enjoyed the pleasures of life, but I found that these pleasures didn't bring lasting happiness. I ended up feeling that I was a failure, and nothing meant anything to me anymore.

I looked at nature and realized that there was a power in nature, something supernatural. There must be a god, but I didn't know which god was truly God—or if any of them were truly God. I wavered between atheism and God—whoever that was. In books some people wrote in favor of God; others wrote in favor of atheism. I wasn't sure what to think. I didn't have any friends I could ask—there was no one I could trust.

I was not at peace. I felt lost—without direction, without a course in life. I had so many questions. Something inside me said there is a God, but then I'd see something bad and think, If there's a God, why is this happening? As I wavered, my bad character traits continued.

I tried to improve my character, stop the bad habits, but I felt powerless to accomplish this. I went to Hindu temples, several mosques, and even Christian churches searching for a god to help me improve my character. In the Christian churches I learned about Jesus, the God who could save me, and I accepted Him as my Savior. I read the four Gospels and was impressed that God was willing to change me; I just have to be willing to be changed.

A guy I worked with named Saviour, an Adventist Christian, became my friend.

I was not at peace. I felt lost—without direction, without a course in life. I had so many questions.

Mission Post

- More than 80 percent of the people in India are Hindus, a religion that began in India. Other religions in India include Islam (13 percent), Christianity (2.3 percent), Sikhism (almost 2 percent), and Buddhism (less than 1 percent).
- Hindus don't have a set of beliefs as Christians do. Each follower is encouraged to find their own spiritual or moral truth. Hindus often worship a variety of gods and don't designate one as superior to another. There is no savior, no single God to be worshipped, as there is in Christianity.

Whenever we had free time we'd talk about God. I was eagerly seeking, and Saviour had answers. We read the Bible together and talked for hours about religion. One day he explained to me that most Christians worship on Sunday, but God never ordained Sunday as a day to worship Him. He wanted us to worship on Sabbath—Saturday. I hadn't heard this before, and I thought Saviour was trying to separate Christians. I urged him to go only by what the Bible says. Saviour agreed, and I began searching for what was really true. I listened to sermons on TV and read lots of books and magazines in search of the truth. Saviour gave me some books, and when I read them, I began searching for collaborative truth. But wherever I searched, I ended up at Adventism. It rang true.

I began attending church

with Saviour and in time asked for Bible studies to prepare for baptism. I was baptized in 2010 and changed my name to Samuel. Lots of the people I had questioned ask me why I joined this church, and I tell them I have found the truth and don't want to go away from this truth. I try to share as Saviour and other Adventists have shared with me.

I shared my faith with one family, and they've now been baptized. Raj, with whom I'm working, has also come to the Adventist Church because of my testimony. He was a Christian of another denomination, and I was able to explain the Sabbath beauty to him. Soon, he will be baptized.

My entire family is Muslim. They're unhappy with my decision, but they don't understand how bad my lifestyle was before and how good it is now. They allow me to live in the house, but they have told me they won't support me. That's OK. God is my support, my family, my hope. I hope that one day my loved ones will see the positive changes God has made in my life. 🌍

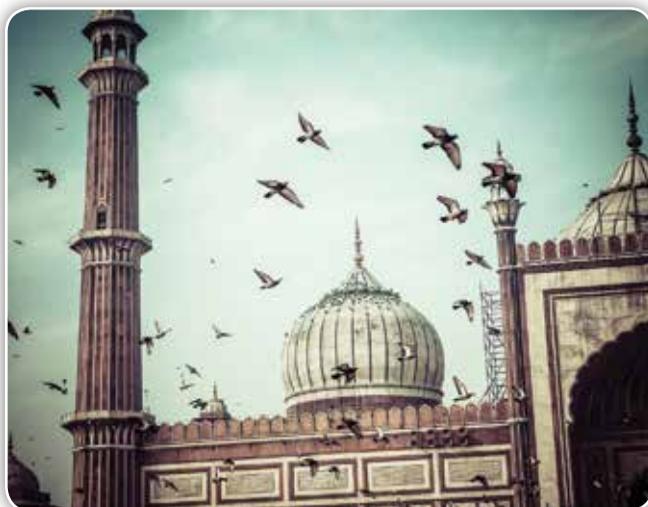


photo: BigStock.com

From Pigs to Pioneer

EASTERN INDIA | May 10

Asha



Asha Dukpa, 37, is a Global Mission pioneer.

In the church where I grew up, we often celebrated holidays by killing several pigs and eating them. We danced around the pigs' heads, and our pastor made alcohol and drank it. When I became an adult, I also made alcohol and sold it.

I now have four children. When my oldest was 9, he attended a little Adventist school—the only school in our area. One day my son came home with some literature about the Sabbath. I read and reread it and felt a strong desire to learn more about this Sabbath. I had never heard about it.

My son continued bringing other pamphlets home. I became more and more interested in what he was learning, so I decided to visit the teacher and ask

questions. The teacher happily agreed to give me Bible studies. When he came to my house, my husband and children met with him as well. We studied together twice, and then were invited to meet with the pastor. After studying the Bible with the pastor, my husband and I and four other relatives were all baptized into the Adventist Church.

We came home and started visiting our neighbors, telling them about the Sabbath and other truths we had learned. Several were interested in knowing more, so my husband and I held evangelistic meetings in our little village. Eight more people were baptized. This was just six months after our own baptism.

My husband and I have worked together as Global Mission pioneers, and in the past 10 years we've established five Adventist congregations. We make

friends with someone or go to people we know and start with them. We don't go to a strange village where we know no one. We go to a place where we have a relative or a longtime friend, and share the message with that person or family, and then from there we share the message with their friends and families. In this manner we have baptized 65 people.

I met Namgey while walking to visit another family. He was smoking, and when he saw me, he threw away his cigarette. I asked him why he smoked, and he said that he had some family matters troubling him. His father is always sick, and Namgey spends a lot of money on his father's care and making sacrifices to gods, hoping that his father will get better. "When I worry, I smoke more," he said.

"Do your cigarettes bring you peace of mind?" I asked. He agreed that they didn't. "I can tell you of One who can bring you peace of mind, if you want to know." He asked me to come to his home that evening. So I went, met his family, and began telling them about Jesus. I noticed that his house was filled with pictures of various Hindu gods and Buddha. I told him that Jesus was the only true God, and that these gods couldn't give peace. His wife argued, "Do you think our gods can't give us peace? I've not heard of the God you're telling us about."

I pointed out that they had tried all these gods, but they hadn't helped. If you'll try praying to Jesus, I told them, you will find peace and help. "But you can't waver between gods and God. You must make a decision." I challenged them to get rid of their gods and pray only to Jesus, and gave them a New Testament.

Three days later I visited this family.

Mission Post

- More than a million people in India have become Adventist Christians in the past 20 years. Often entire Adventist congregations have been formed as people learned of the power and love of God. But many new believers have no church in which to worship. Many worship in private homes or under a tree.
- Watch the Mission 360 DVD for more great stories at www.adventistmission.org

The husband was much happier, and his father was getting better. The man's wife asked for Bible studies, so I stayed with them for four days. When we had evangelistic meetings, they came, studied, and were baptized.

Namgey's younger brother, Jigmi, had a gambling problem. He found work in a factory where my son, Stephen, works. Stephen told him about Jesus. Later, I met Jigmi and gave him Bible studies. In time he was converted. He has reconciled with his family, and because of his testimony, the brothers' parents are planning to be baptized.

I am so happy to work for the Lord. I used to make alcohol and sell it to people, but now I share the love of Jesus with them all.

Your weekly mission offerings help support Global Mission pioneers who bring hope to those who do not yet know Jesus. Thank you for supporting this vital work through your regular mission offerings. 🌍

I Hated Adventists

EASTERN INDIA | May 17

Bildash



Bildash Sangma, 78, from a village near Guwhati, northeast India

I hated Adventists. I was a member of another Protestant denomination, and I felt that there was no better religion than my own. But in spite of my hatred of Adventists, I decided to send my two daughters to an Adventist boarding school. Although I didn't like their religion, I knew that young people who studied in Adventist schools were disciplined and better prepared to face the future. However, I never considered that my daughters would actually become Adventists. But after being at the boarding school for three years, they both decided to be baptized as Seventh-day Adventists.

When they came home for a break, I learned what they had done. I was so

angry I didn't know what to do. I scolded them, but they didn't budge. However, I was sure that I'd be able to talk them out of their nonsense before they went back to school. I laid a plan to bring them back to the faith of their parents. I didn't threaten to take them out of the school. In fact, after graduating from academy, my eldest daughter, Mercy, studied at Spicer College under a special scholarship.

Later, a literature evangelist missionary was sent to the area of India where I live. Amazingly, the missionary came and asked to live in my house while he worked in the area! I definitely did not want an Adventist missionary living in my home, but because I respect my daughter (who was now married) and son-in-law, I agreed to let the man stay in my home.

As the days passed, I went with the missionary while he sold books. I found

this man diligent and faithful in his work, and I enjoyed leading him around and finding where he wanted to go. So I went with him to 12 villages. As I listened to him talk to people and sell books, I began to understand a bit more about Adventist beliefs. I didn't tell him, but I kept the new information in my heart.

One day this literature evangelist meekly asked if he could host some Bible studies in my home. I agreed. My family was invited, of course, as well as some friends who regularly come to my home. I decided to listen in on the Bible studies and learned some interesting things. I'd been a member of my church for 57 years and hadn't known anything about what Adventists believed. I only knew that they have a good educational system.

The mission worker finished his Bible studies, and then two more mission workers came to hold studies with people. They met in a hall in town. But some people in the village didn't want them to hold meetings, and some threatened to make them sorry if they insisted on having their meetings in our area.

Then another pastor came and asked for anyone who was willing to give their life to Christ to stand for what they had learned in the Bible studies. I stood up. I had been a Christian, but now I realized that Adventists accept the full truth of God's Word.

My wife was delighted with my decision and willing to join me in my decision. We were baptized with six others. Some

Although I didn't like their religion, I knew that young people who studied in Adventist schools were disciplined and better prepared to face the future.

of my former church members mocked us at the baptism, but God has silenced them.

We're getting old now, but our faith in God is strong. I'm delighted that God was patient enough with me to let me see the light, even though I had fought against His truths for years.

I am now leading a small group of 35 people, and although we are not large, our group leads the entire area in tithe giving. We didn't have a place to build a church, so we met in my home. Then I gave a piece of land to build a small church.

A portion of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go to build much needed churches in India, in addition to dormitories at Adventist schools. Please plan now to give a liberal Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on June 28. 🌐

Fast Facts

- The average life expectancy for a man in India is 66 years.
- The average life expectancy for a woman in India is 68 years.
- In India, nearly 30 percent of the population is aged 0-14 years old, 18 percent are 15-24 years, 40 percent are between 25-54 years, almost 7 percent are between 55-64 years, and 5.7 percent are 65 years old or older.

Facts from *The World Factbook*, www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html

The Sword and the Spirit

WESTERN INDIA | May 24

Joseph



Joseph felt his heart pounding as the mob of angry men pushed and jostled him. Their angry voices rose as they accused him of stirring up trouble by introducing a new God to the village. “Let’s beat him!” said some. “Kill him!” yelled others.

A Zeal for Christ

Joseph had not been a Christian long. In his zeal to share his new faith with others, he had come to this village as a Global Mission pioneer to teach others about Christ. He’d found a man who wanted to know about Christ, and the two men studied the Bible together. Soon the

villager had given his heart to God.

But others in the village were angry that a Christian had come to stir up the people. They had marched toward the home where Joseph was visiting and demanded that he come out of the house.

Joseph prayed silently as the mob

pressed around him.

Then he stepped toward the leader, who stood brandishing a sword. Gently Joseph put his hand on the man’s shoulder and spoke to him. “Brother, I’ve come in peace and in the name of Jesus, who is my God and my friend. He wants to be your God and friend too.”

The leader looked

The leader pointed to his little girl, Kamala. Joseph realized that only a miracle would save her life—and his. He knelt by the bed and prayed.

into Joseph's eyes and grew calm. The crowd quieted a bit. Then the leader challenged Joseph.

The Challenge

"I have a daughter," he said. "She's 10 years old and has been paralyzed for six years. She can't move, and she can't speak. Come and ask your God to heal my daughter. If He heals her, then we will leave you alone. But if she isn't healed, then we will kill you." The man touched the sword at his side in a threatening manner.

The man turned to walk to his home, and the mob made sure that Joseph followed him. When they reached the leader's home, the mob stayed outside while Joseph and the leader entered the house.

The leader pointed to his little girl, Kamala. Joseph realized that only a miracle would save her life—and his. He knelt by the bed and prayed. He asked God to forgive his sins, and then he asked that if it was God's will, little Kamala be healed. "Help those in this room to understand that You are the all-powerful God who made the earth and everything that lives here," he prayed.

Seeing God's Power

Joseph finished his prayer and stood to his feet. The girl's father nodded to two men who stood in the room with them. They tied Joseph up to be certain that he didn't escape. Joseph continued to pray for the child, and within minutes he saw a slight movement.

Had he imagined it? No. Kamala moved again. She stretched out her leg! Joseph encouraged her to keep moving, and the girl stretched her other leg and

then her arms. Joseph praised God as he encouraged the girl to move.

Slowly Kamala sat up. Then as the family watched, speechless with joy, Kamala slowly pulled herself up on her once-withered legs and took a step. And then another.

"My daughter!" Kamala's mother whispered. The girl smiled and walked slowly toward her mother. Tears filled the father's eyes as he hugged Joseph. The men who had tied Joseph up stood silently as Kamala walked around the room. Her hands straightened out and grew strong as they watched.

Opening the Door of Faith

The door behind them opened, and Joseph's wife entered. Her face reflected her confusion. "What happened?" she whispered. "I was told terrorists planned to kill you." She looked at Joseph, still tied up, and then at the joyful faces of those surrounding him.

"I'll tell you later," he told her. "But God has just revealed His mighty power to these unbelievers."

The leader of the mob untied Joseph and apologized for causing him trouble. "I want to know about your God, who has restored my daughter to health," he said.

Joseph spoke to the crowd who waited outside the man's house. Several asked to know more about the God Joseph worshipped. Within a year 15 people in the village were baptized, and Joseph and his wife are working with others who want to know about God.

The leader of the mob who had planned to kill Joseph now works with him to teach others about the living God. 🌍

From Hindu High Priest to Global Mission Pioneer

WESTERN INDIA | May 31

Sadorai



Sadorai Reang, 63, former Hindu high priest

In our Indian state of Tripura, many offer sacrifices to Durka, Loki, and Kali, as well as many minor gods. They worship Kali with sacrificed goats, buffalo, pigs and chickens. For Durka they sacrifice goats and buffalo. They give Loki flowers, fruits, coconut, and rice mixed together with sugar.

Every year we held *pujas* (special Hindu ceremonies) where we sacrificed to our gods, asking for blessings on our houses and village. Every god had their job—Kali protected us from our enemies; Loki brought us happiness. Another god helped

us have wisdom, and another god helped those who wanted children.

As a Hindu high priest I knew Christianity existed, but knew nothing about what they believed. There were a few Christians in our village, but I paid no attention. I had my gods, and didn't need another one! But one day some new Christians came to our village and invited us to their meetings. Many came, but most of us came drunk. We villagers often drank alcohol, so this wasn't unusual. Though we didn't absorb everything, some things pierced our minds through the alcoholic fog, and we wanted to hear more. These Christians—Adventists, they called themselves—showed a movie each night, and that was a big draw, because we didn't have electricity or access to television.

Then one night the preacher read from Isaiah 66:15-17, and this text touched me. It spoke of people sacrificing and purifying themselves being burned by God's fire. I realized that this great God would destroy my man-made gods, along

Fast Facts

- The people of southern Asia are quite diverse. While Hindi and English are the two official national languages, the people of India speak hundreds of languages and dialects.
- All the world's major religions are practiced in southern Asia, including Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, and Buddhism. Hinduism and Buddhism originated in India. Hinduism is practiced by about 80 percent of the population. Islam is second with about 13 percent. Christianity is practiced by about 2 to 3 percent of the population of India. Buddhism is practiced by less than 1 percent of the population.

with those who worship them.

I asked the pastor, “Are you saying that your God will destroy us and our gods because we sacrifice to our gods and eat unclean foods?” The pastor pointed me to the same Bible text and read it again. I realized that the Christian’s God was more powerful than any other god, and Jesus would save me if I asked Him. That night I gave my life to Jesus. My family also became Adventists, but others in the village were angry that we had left them without a high priest.

I had been the only one in a wide area who could sacrifice a buffalo to Durka, the goddess of long life. Hindus believe that the priest must cut the head off the animal with one chop, or the god or goddess wouldn’t accept the sacrifice. I received good money for this service. However, when I gave up my position as high priest, I had to support my family in other ways.

Several months after becoming an Adventist, I was invited to study at the

local church headquarters to learn the Bible better and become a Global Mission pioneer. Returning home, I taught the new believers what I had learned, then went with the pastor-evangelist to other villages to translate for him. Wherever we go, people know that I was a Hindu high priest. Many wonder why I became a Christian, so they come to the meetings and listen to the message.

It’s difficult to work in this area, and there are not nearly enough workers to cover the huge territory, so we have to rely on new believers to teach one another and encourage each another in their growing faith. We have many Adventist congregations in Tripura, but only one district pastor in the whole state—and he cares for 40 congregations.

Every January thousands of people gather from throughout the state to hold a puja and sacrifice buffalo to the gods. One year we went to this puja and held meetings, singing and sharing our faith among the Hindus who had come to sacrifice. Because I was once a high priest, I went to the chief high priest and befriended him. I invited the conference pastor to come with me and introduced him to this priest. We shared our faith and invited him to give His life to Jesus. He agreed with what we were telling him, but he hesitated because he gets a lot of money from sacrificing during this puja. He had too much to lose, he felt. But his son became an Adventist with his father’s blessing. Now his son is one of our Global Mission volunteers.

Please pray that God will provide workers for this field, and give liberal mission offerings that help support Global Mission pioneers. 🌍

Friends Take a Stand

WESTERN INDIA | June 7

Sonneo and Jangboi



Sonneo Haokip, 21, and Jangboi, 22, from a village in Manipur

Sonneo (Soh-NEE-yoh) and Jangboi (ZANG-boi) were friends. They went to the same Christian secondary school in their village in India. They studied together. They went to the same church and were Sunday school song leaders together. They fasted and prayed together with a prayer team. They talked about the Bible often.

Sonneo's father was a pastor in the church. Sonneo taught his younger brother and sisters their memory verses even before they went to school.

Jangboi's mother told him stories from the Bible from the time he was a baby. He never missed a worship service at the village church, and was devoted to God.

Third Friend Leads the Way

Sonneo and Jangboi had another friend, named Manboy. During their last year of high school, Manboy attended a series of evangelistic meetings and became a Seventh-day Adventist. The three friends frequently discussed God and religion, and Manboy began trying to convince the other two that Saturday was God's holy Sabbath and that Adventists taught the truth. Sonneo and Jangboi tried not to listen to what Manboy told them. They decided to stop spending time with Manboy—they were worried that if they were not careful, he would lure them away from their church.

But one evening the three had homework to work on together, so Sonneo and Jangboi had to go to Manboy's house. They went after their church's Sunday-

evening meeting. While they were there, the Adventist lay evangelist dropped by for a visit. He asked the boys if they wanted to join him for a prayer. Sonneo and Jangboi could not say no to praying with someone, so they all knelt together. After the prayer they all began talking about the Bible. When the topic of the Sabbath came up, Sonneo sighed. It seemed to him that these Adventists were stuck on an unimportant Old Testament teaching that had no relevance after Jesus' time on earth and the New Testament.

"You Adventists are always trying to convince everyone that your hard way to heaven is the only way," Sonneo told the lay evangelist. But the man just smiled and kept talking. They talked about all the Ten Commandments, and the evangelist went through all the Bible verses about the Sabbath. They discussed Peter's vision in Acts 10 and clean and unclean animals. On each topic the evangelist was able to clearly explain texts that had never quite made sense to Sonneo and Jangboi. He knew his Bible very well, and Sonneo and Jangboi began to question beliefs they had long held. They began to wonder if keeping the Sabbath really was important, the way the Adventists believed.

A week later they went to the lay evangelist's house, where they began to study the Bible systematically. Every night for a week they studied and prayed. Finally Sonneo and Jangboi were convinced. They thanked their friend Manboy for being persistent in leading them to the truth. They asked to be baptized.

Tough Consequences

When an Adventist pastor visited the village, the two were baptized together.

But deciding to leave the church of their families had drastic consequences. Their church told them they were making a huge mistake. Their families were very angry with them.

"You have disgraced me and our family," Sonneo's father told him. When Sanneo's older brother heard what had happened, he stopped paying Sonneo's school fees. Sonneo did not have enough money himself to pay his exam fees, and he was forced to quit school just before graduating. His family told him he could no longer live in their home if he insisted on sticking with this crazy religion.

Then the village council summoned Sonneo and Jangboi, and the village chief told them they could no longer enter the village. They made a resolution that no one in the village was allowed to become Adventist. The boys were forced to stay with a lay evangelist in another village because they had nowhere else to go. They missed their families, but they felt that giving up their previous life for God's truth was a trade worth making. They began helping the evangelist, and speaking at meetings. They help with Bible studies, and many people from neighboring villages have asked to be baptized.

Now Sonneo and Jangboi are planning to study theology at Flaiz Adventist College in Andhra Pradesh. They feel that God is calling them. They know that the people in their village and the surrounding communities are searching for God. They want to be workers for God, change the discrimination against Adventists, show that religious freedom is important—and help the people find what they are looking for. 🌍



Jacob's Story, Part 1

Jacob

Jacob Kunthara, 23, is working on his master's in engineering in Trivandrum, India.

My family was Catholic, but when the charismatic Catholic movement came, people in the church started reading the Bible. My father began reading the Bible and convinced my mother to do so as well. A colleague of my father's told him that the Catholic system of worship was wrong, and my father began attending a more charismatic church. We were still Catholics, however.

When I was 12, my father went to work in Saudi Arabia. While there he got a digital TV and was flipping through the channels. He came across a religious station and stopped to listen. The speaker talked about the Sabbath, and my father thought he knew more about this subject than the television speaker. My dad decided to take notes on the man's lecture and disprove the man's theology. But as he

studied the texts the man had given, Dad realized that he was wrong and the speaker was right. He continued listening to this Adventist station, and often took notes on the sermons.

When he returned home for vacation, he told us what he had learned from the TV programs. He looked up "Adventists" in the phonebook and discovered that there was an Adventist school and church in our area. We didn't go there to worship, but Dad returned tithes to this church when he'd come home. The church pastor visited us from time to time, but I wasn't too interested in what he had to say.

I joined a band at school and became quite interested in music. We created some of our own music and recorded CDs. My interest in music was so intense that I didn't spend much time studying. My grades showed it, and my parents were worried that I wouldn't get into any

college when I finished high school.

I wasn't into religion, but I knew that the Sabbath was true. My dad had told us that. Sometimes on Saturdays I would remember it was Sabbath and feel guilty for doing some things, but not enough to take a stand.

As my high school graduation approached, my dad returned home permanently. Now he had more time to talk to us about the faith that was becoming more precious to him. We began attending the Adventist church as a family. Mostly only my father was convinced that this was the right church, but the family went with him to church because he asked us to.

I had taken my twelfth-grade exams, and the scores were not good, so I knew I would have to take entrance exams to get into a decent college. So I went to a special school that would prepare me to take entrance exams. This was a year filled with coaching classes. During this time I was expected to be in the dormitory when I wasn't in class. We were awakened to study early in the morning and then again after classes. This wasn't a social time at all. We were there to study.

My dad decided to take notes on the man's lecture and disprove the man's theology. But as he studied the texts the man had given, Dad realized that he was wrong and the speaker was right.

I couldn't listen to music or hang out with friends. I missed my friends and family, my free time. And I was bored.

I had taken my Bible with me, and I began spending a lot of time reading it. Starting with Genesis and Matthew I began reading through the Bible. With no entertainment allowed, I spent hours reading the Bible. At the end of the course I was near the top of my class—I credit that

to reading the Bible. Still, I didn't go to church. Saturdays were exam days, so it would have been terribly difficult to go to church. And I wasn't ready to fight to go to church yet. 🌍

(To be continued next week)

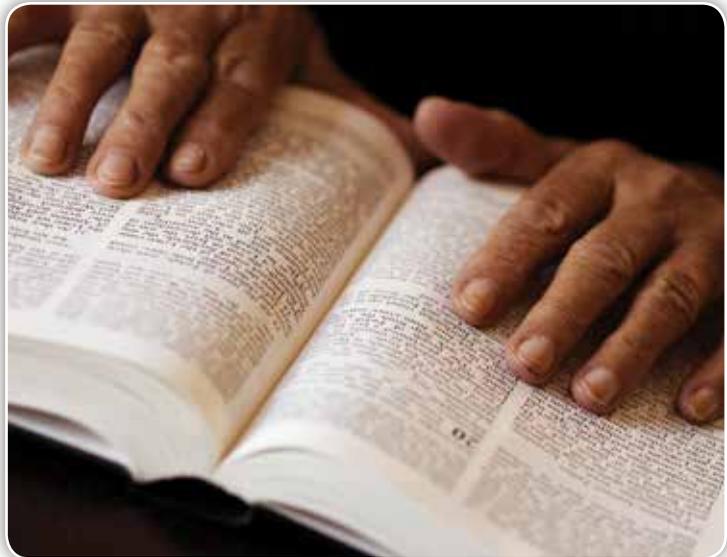


photo: BigStock.com

Jacob's Story, Part 2

Jacob

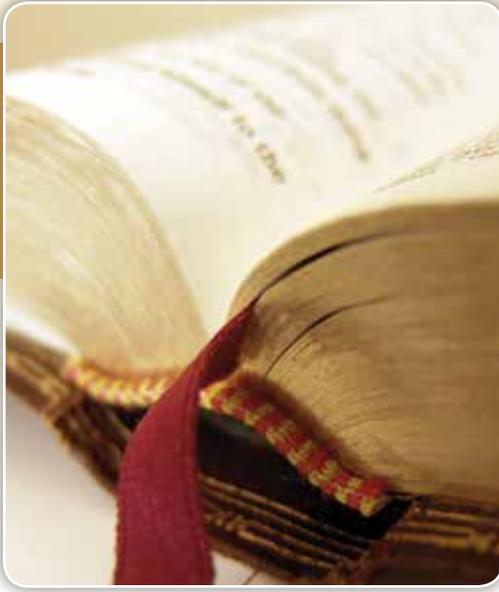


photo: BigStock.com

Jacob Kunthara, 23, is working on his master's in engineering in Trivandrum, India.

At the end of the school year I took my mock exams and had a bit of free time on Saturdays, so I found the Adventist church in the city and began attending. It felt like heaven to worship with these people. The mission stories really impressed me, showing how God is the same God all around the world.

During the school year the time I spent reading the Bible had showed me that God is a very personal God. I didn't understand some classes, but after I prayed about it, God showed me how to understand it.

I sometimes shared

what I was discovering in the Bible with another guy from a Sunday church, and he came to believe as well. I didn't know how to explain the prophecies very well to show that our former church was not the true church, so I just prayed and explained as well as I could, and the boy understood and accepted it. His family warned him to stay away from my church and me.

I returned home and asked to be baptized. My parents were so happy that God had become such a part of my life. I stopped composing music for my friends in the band, and my mom and I were baptized together.

My father would record sermons from the Adventist television programs, and that

I'm amazed at how God reveals things to us. Sometimes the revelations come slowly, and at other times He reveals things quite rapidly.

Fast Facts

- India is a family-centered culture. Often three generations live in the same house or in neighboring homes. Grandparents often care for children while parents work, either in the fields or in offices. The senior generation usually exercises authority in the family.
- Especially among Hindus, worship is generally observed in the home, where a room or an alcove may contain statues of the family's god or gods.
- The Adventist Church is working to provide church buildings for as many congregations as possible. Even simple church buildings build credibility in the community and encourage people to investigate the church's teachings.

summer I listened to many of them. They taught me so much about what Adventists believe.

I'm amazed at how God reveals things to us. Sometimes the revelations come slowly, and at other times He reveals things quite rapidly. I met with the youth in this church, and we grew in faith together.

I enrolled in an engineering school in Thrissur, where I first attended the Adventist church. I was so happy about that. I attend church in Thrissur whenever I wasn't home for the weekend. We don't have a church near our home, so we travel about 17 miles (28 kilometers) to go to church.

My sister hadn't been all that serious about religion either until the end of her twelfth grade. I was worried

about her, because she was still living a secular life. She thought I was strange for going from my love for secular music to being such a "God nut." When her government exams schedule was announced, two of her exams were on Sabbaths. To our surprise, she stood firm and refused to take these exams. This meant that she must study two more years to take her exams again.

She enrolled in the Adventist higher secondary school and has become so much stronger in her faith. Now she shares her faith with her friends and has led some to Christ. This situation changed her life in so many ways. God has become real to her, and she is strong in her faith. Often she calls me to ask for books that she can give to others.

I love to see how God is working in our lives. He has allowed us to share our faith with others—classmates, cousins, even my grandfather. Several people have studied the Bible with us and are now convinced to follow Christ and His will for their lives. 🌍

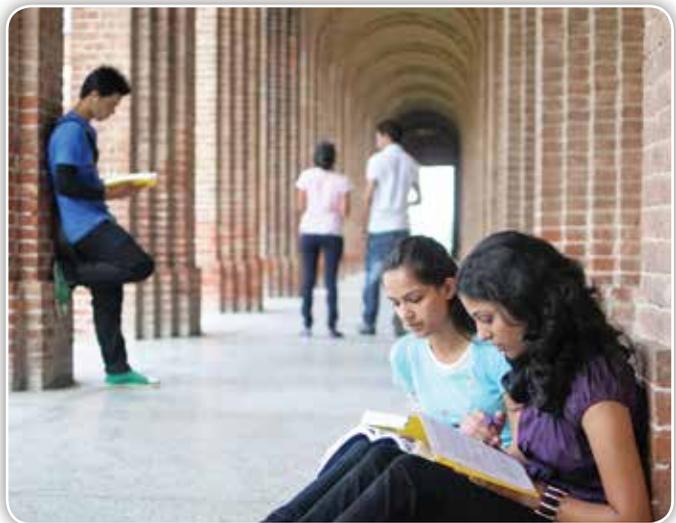


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Thirteenth Sabbath Program

➤	Congregational Song	“Far and Near the Fields Are Teeming,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 358
➤	Welcome	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher
➤	Prayer	
➤	Program	“The Future Is Now”
➤	Offering	While the offering is being taken, ask the children to sing “Jesus Loves Me” in one or more of the languages of India.
➤	Closing Song	“In the Heart of Jesus,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 577
➤	Closing Prayer	

Participants: Three speakers and a narrator, including, if possible, at least one teen. If your group is small, two speakers can give the reports. *[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.]*

Narrator: The Southern Asia Division covers three countries, Bhutan, India, and Nepal, plus a number of islands. India, the most populous country in the division, has more than 1.2 billion people. It’s the second-largest country in the world.

About 80 percent of the people in India follow Hindu beliefs. Muslims number about 13 percent, and Christians come in third at about 2.3 percent of the population. About 1.6 million people, just more than 1 percent of the population, are Seventh-day Adventists.

For the past 100 years Adventist education has laid the foundation for evangelism. Our schools are highly respected throughout the country, and many who aren’t Christians send their children to Adventist schools so that they will have the advantage of a quality education. Other parents are invited to enroll their children in an Adventist school by a friend or relative. But when children learn the stories of God’s love, they share them with their families, and lives change.

Reporter 1: Alisha is from a non-Christian home. When her parents allowed her to study in a large Adventist boarding school in India, they didn't know that the school was Christian. Alisha arrived knowing little about Jesus. She didn't understand English, the language in which classes are taught. But slowly she learned.

At first she wasn't sure what the daily worships in the school dormitory were about. But little by little Alisha learned about Jesus and began to love Him. She discovered that worshipping God was at the heart of her new school.

Often Alisha's friends talked with her about God. Alisha knew that if she became a Christian, her parents might disown her. In spite of this Alicia and one of her friends took their stand for Christ and were secretly baptized.

When the girls go home for school holidays, they meet together to talk about God and share what they've read in their Bibles. They're careful to speak in English so that their families won't know what they're talking about. Alisha hides her Bible so her parents won't see it.

Alisha knows that she will face many challenges in the future because of her decision to become a Christian. But she knows that God will lead her. She thanks God for leading her and her friend to a school where they could learn about the living God and His precious Son, Jesus.

Narrator: Adventist students have many opportunities to share their faith with their classmates. Sometimes they share one on one, and other times their faith shines through their actions. Recently some students faced a Sabbath challenge, even while studying in an Adventist school. Their faithfulness helped many

others see that God does answer prayers.

Reporter 2: Jincy [Jin-see], Cibin [see-BEEN], and Remya [REM-yah] are students in southern India. At the end of the tenth grade students who want to continue their studies must take a government-administered exam.

The government exam date was on Sabbath, and the principal worked hard to get an alternate date. It looked hopeless, but the three students insisted that even if they had to repeat the year, they would not dishonor the Sabbath. The principal went to court on behalf of the students, and finally the judge agreed that the students could take the exams after Sabbath.

On the day of the exam, while non-Adventist students entered the classroom where the exam was to be given, Jincy, Cibin, and Remya went to church. After church the three presented themselves to an exam supervisor who placed them in a classroom so that they couldn't talk with any students who had already taken the exam. The three faithful students spent the afternoon singing, praying, and reading their Bible. "It was the best Sabbath I've ever had," said one of the students. "We felt God's presence with us, and we knew He was with us."

Then, after sundown, the three students filed into the exam room and sat down to take the test. The students should have been tired, but they felt refreshed as they completed the exams. When the exam results were issued, the three faithful students learned that they had scored higher than the other students who had taken the exam earlier in the day.

God blessed these students' faithfulness. The local newspaper printed a story about

the three faithful students, and many people learned about the Sabbath who might otherwise have never heard of God’s command to keep the Sabbath holy. Some people have asked them why the Sabbath is so special, and the three young people can explain the precious blessings of the Sabbath to them.

“My parents supported my decision to keep the Sabbath,” Remya said. “They promised to pray for me during the exam. As a result, we all did well, and the outcome was honorable to God.”

The school plans to build a classroom block on their campus that can accommodate the special government program in which these students are enrolled. Then all Adventist students in the program can study on an Adventist campus and take their exams on days other than Sabbath. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build this classroom block.

Narrator: Outreach in southern Asia is

moving forward at an amazing rate, thanks to lay evangelism and Christian education. These two evangelistic efforts account for much of the growth in this division.

Our weekly mission offerings help people around the world learn of Jesus, people who might never hear if we don’t help them hear. But today, on Thirteenth Sabbath, we have an opportunity to help one area of the world—Southern Asia Division—strengthen its members to reach out to others. Today our offering will help dormitories at two schools so that more students can study there and learn of God’s love for them. It also will help build seven churches in India and a meeting hall in Bhutan. Let’s do all we can to help lift up the arms of our brothers and sisters throughout the Southern Asia Division today. Let’s give generously so that more can hear the gospel for the first time in their lives.

[Offering]

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

Next quarter the Euro-Asia Division will be featured. Special projects include a church in Kazan, Tatarstan, Russia; schools in Cherkassy and Lvov, Ukraine; an Educational complex in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine; and a secondary school in Vinnytsia, Ukraine. The children’s project is a playground to be used as a community outreach for young children and their parents in Kazan.



Leader's Resources

For more information on the culture and history of Bhutan, India, and Nepal, look in the travel section of a local library or visit their national portals online at: india.gov.in, bhutan.gov.bt, and nepal.gov.np.

Visit www.AdventistMission.org for additional photos, recipes, and more. Click "Resources."

Mission 360 DVD is a free video that features stories about the Thirteenth Sabbath Mission Offering from the featured countries as well as the worldwide mission of the Adventist Church. This DVD is also available from live-streaming or downloading at www.AdventistMission.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

Embassies and Tourism Offices sometimes can provide interesting information on their country. In North America, contact:

Embassy of India, 2536 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008 (202-939-9839), or contact the Government of India Tourist Office, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, Suite 15, North Mezzanine, New York, NY 10112 (212-586-4901).

Royal Bhutan Embassy, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the UN, 763 United Nations Plaza (1st Ave.) New York, NY 10017 (212- 682-2268/682-2312/682-2371/682-2752)

Embassy of Nepal, 2131 Leroy Pl., Washington, D.C., 20008, (202-667-4550).

Remind Sabbath School members that the ongoing work of the world church depends on the weekly Sabbath School mission offerings. On the twelfth Sabbath report on mission giving during the quarter. Explain that one fourth of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering is dedicated to the special projects featured this quarter. The remaining three fourths goes into the world mission fund to support the worldwide mission work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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TAJIKISTAN

Southern-Asia Division

AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTAN

CHINA

New Delhi

NEPAL

Kathmandu

Thimpu

BHUTAN

BANGLADESH

INDIA

MYANMAR

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

MALDIVES

INDIAN OCEAN

SRI LANKA

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
East-Central India	2,516	1,593	950,956	131,852,478
Northeast India	192	320	49,611	46,821,310
Northern India	445	1,402	152,401	723,915,049
South-Central India	250	212	72,848	65,402,195
Southeast India	428	822	119,872	76,284,925
Southwest India	227	101	36,169	34,865,298
Western India	232	507	143,099	32,021,552
TOTAL	4,324	5,069	1,534,593	1,291,678,000

Statistics as of December 2013

PROJECTS

- ① Boys' dormitory for boarding school in Karmatar, Northern India
- ② Men's dormitory for seminary students at Flaiz Adventist College, Andhra Pradesh
- ③ Classrooms for Primary School in Kollegal Karnataka, India
- ④ Meeting hall in Bhutan and seven churches in India.

CHILDREN'S PROJECT: Children's rooms with furnishings in each of the churches built. 