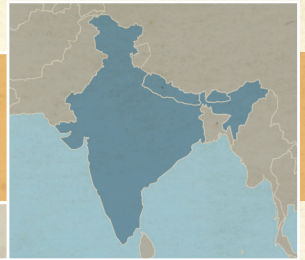




CHILDREN'S MISSION

2024 • QUARTER 1 • SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION



AdventistMission.org



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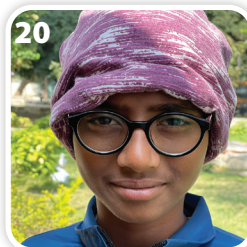
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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

Andrew McChesney
Editor



This quarter we feature the Southern Asia Division, comprised of four countries: Bhutan, India, The Maldives, and Nepal. The region is home to 1.4 billion people, including 1.1 million Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for 1,246 people.

Reaching 1.4 billion people is an enormous challenge that can only be accomplished with God's help. As part of the effort, the Southern Asia Division has chosen 10 projects in India to receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter. The projects are listed in the sidebar.

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will support 10 projects in the Southern Asia Division:

- Construct classrooms and labs at school, Palakkad, India
- Construct English church, Lowry Adventist College, Bengaluru, India
- Construct Central English Church, Bengaluru, India
- Construct high school, Aurangabad, India
- Construct girls' dormitory, school, Thanjavur, India
- Construct girls' dormitory and children's auditorium, school, Pasighat, India
- Reconstruct church, conference center, and dining hall, youth training center, Manginapudi, India
- Reconstruct school building, Anni, India
- Construct classrooms at school, Namunagar, Andaman Islands, India
- Construct classrooms and administrative building at school, Nepal

Special Features

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive, we offer photos and other materials to accompany each mission story. More information is provided in the sidebar with each story. For photos of tourist sites and other scenes from the featured countries, try a free photo bank such as pixabay.com or unsplash.com. You could show the photos to the children on your computer or mobile device while you read the mission story, or you could print the photos to decorate your Sabbath School room or church bulletin board.

In addition, you can download a PDF of facts and activities from the Southern Asia Division at bit.ly/sud-2024. Follow us at facebook.com/missionquarterlies. You also can download the PDF version of the *Children's Mission* magazine at bit.ly/childrensmision, and Mission Spotlight videos at bit.ly/missionspotlight. A printable mission-bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at bit.ly/bank-coloring-page.

If you have found especially effective ways to share mission stories, please let me know at mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org.

Thank you for encouraging children to be mission-minded!



INDIA | January 6

Christmas Miracle

Anurag

Four-year-old Anurag couldn't walk. He couldn't stand. He couldn't even sit.

Mother didn't understand what was wrong with her little boy. He had been born a healthy baby boy in Kolkata, India. But then he had grown weak.

Mother went to the doctor for help. She didn't understand what the doctor said was wrong, but she understood that Anurag needed help. She took him to the hospital for treatments, but they didn't seem to help.

Mother didn't know what to do. How could she help her precious boy?

On Christmas Day, Mother and Anurag were at home beside the big Ganga River. Then Mother heard some beautiful music. She wondered where the music was coming from, and she looked out the window. She saw people sitting on the grass near the river and singing. She really liked the music. She had never heard anything like it before. The people were singing about Jesus. "They must be Christians," Mother thought.

Mother wasn't a Christian. She wondered if the Christians might be able to help her son.

Mother left the house and walked over

to the group. She was carrying her small 4-year-old boy in her arms.

"Please, pray for my son," Mother said. "Pray that he will be able to sit, stand, and walk."

The leader of the group was a Global Mission pioneer named Sumanta. Global Mission pioneers are people who share the gospel. Sumanta was an Indian sharing the gospel with other Indians. He had gathered people to the river for a picnic to celebrate Christ on Christmas Day.

He was touched by the Mother's request for prayer for her boy. "I am nothing. God is everything," he said to her. "If you know Jesus Christ, then your faith will increase, and your faith will save your son."

Mother realized that she needed to have faith in the God named Jesus. She had worshiped many gods during her lifetime, but she had never worshiped Jesus.

"If Jesus can heal my son, then I will accept Him," she said.

The Global Mission pioneer prayed for little Anurag along the big river on that Christmas Day. He also invited Mother to join an online Bible study group that met every day. Mother joined the Bible study group.

One month passed. Two months passed. Three months passed.

Mother faithfully studied the Bible with the group every day at 10 o'clock at night. While little Anurag was sleeping, members of the Bible study group prayed for him and his health. The Global Mission pioneer prayed for him and his health.

When six months had passed, Mother had a big announcement to make to the Bible study group.

"Anurag is able to sit up on his own!" she said.

She was so happy. A smile as bright as the sun filled her face. God was hearing their prayers.

Mother's faith grew when she saw that Anurag could sit up. She decided that she not only wanted to worship Jesus, but she also wanted to give her heart to Jesus.

On a fine April day, Mother entered the waters of the Ganga River. This was the same river where she had heard the beautiful music about Jesus on Christmas Day. As she went under the water, she gave her heart to Jesus. She no longer wished to worship any other god. There was only one God whom she wanted to worship: Jesus, the God who was helping her son.

After Mother gave her heart to Jesus, Anurag kept on gaining strength. Today, he is 6, and he can sit, stand, and walk like any other 6-year-old boy. Mother is so happy! She is glad to worship Jesus every Sabbath with Sumanta and other people who love Jesus.

"This is one of the greatest miracles that God has done for us," Sumanta said. 🌍

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of India on the map. You can also show them the location of Kolkata, where Anurag lives in northeastern India.
- Pronounce Anurag as: AA-nu-raag.
- Find more information about Global Mission pioneers online at: bit.ly/GMpioneers.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, "To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions," and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

Thank you for your Sabbath School mission offerings that help spread the gospel in India around the world.

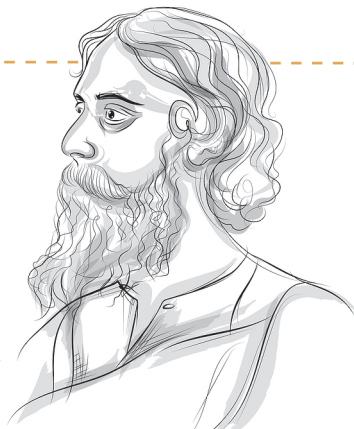
By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
COUNTRY

Rabindranath Tagore was a Bengali poet who wrote the national anthems of India and Bangladesh and won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913.

BigStockPhoto.com





INDIA | January 13

Joshua

Happiest Boy in India

A 10-year-old boy wanted to go to school so badly that he actually got sick.

Joshua lived in India, and he had never gone to school. He had a good mind. Whatever he heard, he remembered. His parents tried their best to give him a good childhood, but they couldn't afford to send him to school.

Joshua lived in a city where he was surrounded by boys and girls just like him. The boys and girls had poor parents who couldn't send them to school. So, while their parents worked in factories or on farms, the children played the whole day.

Joshua liked to play. But more than playing, he wanted to learn. After a while, Joshua stopped coming out of his house to play. He became sick as he sadly sat at home, wishing to go to school.

Father grew worried. Mother grew worried. Even the neighbors grew worried.

One day, Father and Mother took Joshua to the market to buy food. As they were walking to the market, they passed the gate of a Seventh-day Adventist school. Joshua

saw children gathered for morning worship. The boys wore the school uniform of navy-blue pants and white shirts, and the girls wore navy-blue skirts and white blouses. They held schoolbooks in their hands and were singing about Jesus.

Joshua stood by the gate to listen. His face filled with longing to be with them, to wear the uniform that they were wearing, to carry the books that they were carrying, and most of all to sing the songs they were singing. Father and Mother saw his longing gaze. They went inside to ask about the school.

A teacher told them that the school was Christian and that there also was a church on the campus. He introduced them to the church's pastor.

Father and Mother were not Christian. They did not know Jesus. But they knew about prayer because they prayed to their own gods. Father asked the pastor to pray to his God for Joshua.

"Ask your God to help our son go to school," Father said.

The pastor prayed, "Dear Jesus, please help

Joshua to obtain a good education. Amen.”

After the prayer, the pastor told Father, Mother, and Joshua about the God to whom he had just prayed.

“Jesus is the God who created the heavens and the earth,” he said. “Jesus created you and me. Jesus created Joshua.”

Father asked if Joshua could study at the school even though the family didn’t have any money. He said the boy was sick because he wanted so much to go to school.

The pastor said that he would speak with the school principal.

Joshua’s eyes lit up with hope. He had listened carefully to the pastor’s prayer, and now he resolved to pray to the pastor’s God for help. “I will pray to Jesus to let me go to school,” he said.

The pastor was impressed. “God answers prayers of faith,” he said.

And God did.

Today, Joshua is 13 and perhaps the happiest boy in India! He wears his navy-blue and white uniform proudly and joins the other children in singing loudly and happily. The principal found someone to pay for his schooling, and Joshua is studying hard. He dreams about becoming a pastor when he grows up.

“The pastor and the principal were so kind to us,” he said. “They introduced us to Jesus. I’m so thankful that Jesus answered my prayers.” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a high school at Joshua’s school in Aurangabad, India. Thank

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of India on the map. You can also show them the location of Aurangabad, the city in the central Indian state of Maharashtra where this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a high school.
- Know that the Adventist Church’s North Maharashtra Section sponsors many children at Joshua’s school and helps others find sponsors.
- Download other photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives”; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, “To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

The first Adventist worker, D. A. Robinson, came to India from the United States in 1895.

Gerald Christo became the first division president from India in 1980.

Oriental Watchman Publishing House, the division’s only publishing house, is located in Salisbury Park in Pune and prints materials in 20 languages.



INDIA | January 20

Daniel

Much-Awaited Child

More than anything, a man and his wife wanted to have a child in India.

They went to many doctors for help. But no child was born.

“We can’t go to the doctor anymore,” the man told his wife. “He said he can’t help.”

But he had an idea. “Let’s just pray for God to give us a child,” he said.

The man and his wife prayed and prayed. But no child was born.

A year passed. Two years passed. Twelve long years passed, and no child was born.

Friends grew worried. Some tried to give advice to the man and his wife. Others teased them for not having a child.

But the man and his wife kept praying. They knelt on their knees at 3 o’clock every morning and told God about their desire for a child. They spoke to God as if they were sharing a heavy burden with a friend.

“Dear God, we are being ridiculed,” the man said. “People are laughing at us. We need a child.”

“Please help us,” the woman said.

Then the man’s brother and his wife had an idea.

“We already have two children,” the brother said.

“We would be happy to have a third child and give the child to you,” his wife said.

The idea was a big surprise to the man and his wife. They were so happy that they cried. They thanked God for giving them such a wonderful brother and his wife.

Nine months later, little Moses was born. The man and his wife grinned from ear to ear when they saw the baby for the first time in the hospital. The wife had never been happier in her life.

But then her happiness doubled. That same day, she learned that she was pregnant with a baby of her own. “Finally, God has heard our prayers!” she said. “God has given us not one child but two!”

The man also was very happy. He was so happy that he couldn’t sleep all that night.

Nine months later, little Daniel was born.

Today, the man and his wife are father and

mother to not one but two little boys. Moses and Daniel have brought much joy into the home. The boys are growing up together. The boys have gone through sicknesses and good health together. Most importantly, the boys are learning about the God who hears prayers together. 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a high school on the campus of the Seventh-day Adventist school where Moses and Daniel are attending kindergarten in Aurangabad, India. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
COUNTRY

Maharashtra has several nature reserve parks, including two special tiger reserves: Melghat Tiger Reserve and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve.



Story Tips

- Show the children the location of India on the map. You can also show them the location of Aurangabad, the city in the central Indian state of Maharashtra where this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a high school.
- Know that the photo depicts Daniel and his father, Solomon. His mother's name is Manisha.
- Know that the Adventist Church's North Maharashtra Section sponsors many children at Moses and Daniel's school and helps others find sponsors. Moses and Daniel are among the recipients of the aid.
- Download photos on Facebook bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.



NEPAL | January 27

Karan

Loving Heavenly Father

Karna was born in remote mountain village in eastern Nepal.

He doesn't remember his mother very well. He remembers that Mother was sick all the time. Whenever she felt really bad, she fainted. She would suddenly fall down to the ground and lie very still. It was like she was asleep.

At first, Karna felt scared when he saw Mother lying on the ground. But then Mother would wake up.

The doctor couldn't figure out what was wrong with Mother. The doctor gave many medicines to her, but nothing helped. Then one day, Mother fell down and didn't wake up again.

Karna no longer had a mother. He felt very sad.

Father also felt very sad. He no longer had a wife.

Father felt so sad that he began to drink alcohol. He drank a lot. He drank so much that sometimes he fell to the ground and lay very still. It was like he was asleep.

At first, Karna felt scared when he saw Father lying on the ground. But then Father would wake up.

During the day, Father worked in the field, growing crops. But he began to drink instead of growing crops. He stopped coming home in the evening.

Karna sat at home, waiting for Father to come and give him supper. But Father didn't come. Karna waited for Father until it was late, and then he fell asleep with an empty stomach.

Many times, Karna cried himself to sleep. He wished that he had a father who loved him. He wished that he had a mother who loved him.

But he had goats. In the morning, when he woke up, he took Father's goats to the pasture. Then he rushed back to the house to eat whatever he could find for breakfast and ran off to school. After school, he returned home and took care of the goats again. The goats were his friends. He had no other friends. Karna wished that he had friends.

An auntie saw how Karna was living and felt sorry for him. She lived in a nearby town and couldn't take care of him. She had two children of her own. But she mentioned the boy to the pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

The pastor also felt sorry for Karna. He told the auntie about an Adventist orphanage that cares for children just like Karna. He offered to take Karna to the orphanage to live.

Auntie liked the idea very much. When Karna heard that he could live at the orphanage, he also liked the idea very much. Now he would be able to eat every day. Maybe he would even be able to have friends.

Karna's life began to change as soon as he arrived at the orphanage. He made friends. He began to get to know God. He learned that God is a wonderful Heavenly Father who loves. Not so long ago, he gave his life to Jesus.

"I never thought that my life would change like this," he said. "My life is good."

Karna is a happy boy today. He has friends and he has a Heavenly Father who loves him very much. 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help establish a school where children like Karna can study in Nepal. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Nepal on the map. You can also show them the location of the Gadhi Rural Municipality in eastern Nepal where this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help a kindergarten expand into an elementary school.
- Pronounce Karna as: KAR-na.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
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MISSION
RECORD

Nepal closed its borders for many years, and Seventh-day Adventists were not allowed to enter. However, Nepalese who traveled outside of the country heard the church's message and returned home to share it with their friends and families.

In 1936, three Adventist missionaries visited villages in Nepal and preached to them in the Hindi language. It was the first time many of them had ever heard about Jesus and the Bible.



NEPAL | February 3

Asmita

Once Poor, Now Rich

Five-year-old Asmita lived in a very poor family in Nepal.

Her parents were so poor that sometimes they couldn't give her breakfast, lunch, or supper. They didn't have enough rice or potatoes or cabbage to feed her. Sometimes Asmita spent the whole day hungry. Sometimes she went to bed hungry.

Asmita's parents were so poor that they couldn't give her warm clothes in winter. Winter gets very cold in Nepal, and snow and ice cover the hills and mountains. Asmita's parents didn't have enough money to buy Asmita a nice thick coat, wooly socks, or warm boots. Asmita shivered in the cold in the winter.

One day, Asmita's mother left home. She left Father and Asmita and married another man. Asmita was very sad. She never saw Mother again.

Father didn't like living without a wife. So, a few months later, he got married again. Asmita was very happy that she had a new mother. But her happiness didn't last long. Her new mother already had two children,

and she loved them more than she loved Asmita. Making matters worse, Father also loved his two new children more than he loved Asmita. So, when the family had food, the two other children got to eat first. When the weather turned cold, the two other children got warm clothes first. And the two other children didn't have to do household chores. But Asmita did. Mother made Asmita work hard around the house. Asmita washed dishes. She helped cook food. She cleaned the house. She tried to do her best to please Mother, but Mother always seemed to be annoyed.

When Asmita was 8 years old, a neighbor told her parents about a Seventh-day Adventist orphanage that cared for children who had no parents or had parents who couldn't take care of them.

Father and Mother looked at each other. They liked the sound of the place. Without even discussing the matter with Asmita, they sent her off to the orphanage.

Moving into a new home was a little scary for the little girl. But she quickly

adjusted to life at the orphanage. She liked it. She liked being fed breakfast, lunch, and supper, and being given warm clothes in winter. She also liked going to school and learning new things every day. She hadn't been able to go to school every day before. She especially liked going to church and learning about God. She had never gone to church or heard about God before.

Six years have passed since Asmita moved to the orphanage, and today she is a very happy girl. Once she was poor, but now she is rich in Christ.

"I am very thankful to my Heavenly Father who brought me here," she said. "If I were not here today, I would not have known God. Now I know who my Savior is."

She is studying hard and hopes to help other little girls with difficult childhoods one day.

"I would like to help people like me in the future," she said. "So, I ask you to pray for me. I want God to use my life for His purpose. May His will be done in my life. Thank you for your prayers." 🌐

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help establish a school where children like Asmita can study in Nepal. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Nepal on the map. You can also show them the location of the Gadhi Rural Municipality in eastern Nepal where this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help a kindergarten expand into an elementary school.
- Pronounce Asmita as: as-MEE-ta.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.



AMAZING
COUNTRY

Nepal has eight out of 10 of the world's highest mountains, including the very highest, Mount Everest, which is 29,031 feet (8,848 meters) high.

BigStockPhoto.com





NEPAL | February 10

Sudip

Home for a Boy

Eleven-year-old Sudip was frightened when Father suddenly fell ill and was rushed to the hospital in Nepal. What was wrong with Father? What would happen next?

The doctor carefully checked Father's liver. It wasn't working properly. The doctor carefully checked Father's kidneys. They weren't working properly. The doctor carefully checked Father's lungs. They weren't working properly. Then the doctor carefully checked Father's heart. It wasn't working properly.

"This is very bad," the doctor said. "Father's organs are failing because of his drinking."

Father worked as a builder who built homes. But he also had drunk a lot of alcohol in his life. When he got off work, he drank. At home in the evening, he drank. Sometimes, when he woke up in the morning, he drank. Alcohol had poisoned his body, and he was in very bad shape.

Sudip wondered what would happen next. Mother also wondered what would happen next. Father was the only person who earned money in the family.

The doctor said he was doing all he could to help Father.

"We are doing the best that we can," he said.

But the treatments didn't help. Father's liver stopped working. His kidneys stopped working. His lungs stopped working. Then his heart stopped working.

It was a very dark day for Sudip and Mother when Father died. Sudip cried and cried. Mother cried and cried.

Several days passed. Sudip stopped crying, but Mother kept on crying. She was worried about how she would feed Sudip. She was worried about who would pay for his school supplies and new clothes.

Sudip didn't know how he could help Mother. He was only 11. So, he cried with her. There was nothing else he could do. Mother and son cried and cried.

Just when everything seemed hopeless, Mother heard about an orphanage where poor children could live and study. The orphanage was operated by Seventh-day Adventists from South Korea.

Mother had heard about Adventists many months earlier, and she had wanted to go to an Adventist church on Sabbath. But Father had forbidden her from going.

He had said to her, “My father was not a Christian, and my grandfather was not a Christian, and our ancestors were not Christians. We are not Christians. We worship our own god, and we will not go to a Christian church.”

But now Father was gone. The Adventist orphanage seemed like the only answer. Mother sent Sudip to the orphanage.

Two years have passed since Sudip arrived at the orphanage, and today he is a happy boy.

“I’m very happy because now I am growing up in a Christian orphanage,” he said. “I know who my Savior is, and I want to know more and more about Him. I want to become a pastor and serve the Lord for the rest of my life.”

Every day, Sudip prays and thanks God for His blessings.

Every Sabbath, Sudip goes to church. Mother also goes to church every Sabbath. But some of Father’s relatives are angry that Sudip and Mother are going to church. They are trying to persuade them to stop going to church.

“Please pray for my relatives,” Sudip said. “I hope and believe that one day they will come to God. Thank you for your prayers.” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help establish a school

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Nepal on the map. You can also show them the location of the Gadhi Rural Municipality in eastern Nepal where this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help a kindergarten expand into an elementary school.
- Pronounce Sudip as: SOO-dip.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives”; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, “To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

where children like Sudip can study in Nepal. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
COUNTRY

Nepal is home
to nearly 6,000
flower species.

BigStockPhoto.com





NEPAL | February 17

Asmita

Peace in a Tin House

Asmita lived in a small tin house on a small piece of land in a small town in eastern Nepal.

Five people lived in the small house: Father, Mother, Grandmother, Asmita, and Asmita's little brother. Many families grow their own food on the land around their houses in Nepal. But the small piece of land around Asmita's house was too small to grow enough food to feed her family.

So, Father and Mother had to work extra hard to feed the family. Father and Mother had never gone to school, so they couldn't read or write. They had never studied to work as a bus driver or a plumber or a teacher. So, they worked with their hands — picking things up, putting things down, and moving things around. Sometimes, they carried bricks or dug ditches. Other times, they planted and harvested crops.

It was difficult to pick things up, put things down, and move things around every day. After a long day of work, Father and Mother were very tired when they came home.

They wanted to relax. They tried to relax by drinking alcohol.

But when Father and Mother drank, they began to argue. When they drank, they began to fight. The more they drank, the more they fought. The more they fought, the more they drank. Soon Father and Mother seemed to be drinking and fighting all the time.

Neighbors heard the fighting and came to the small tin house to try to help. Then the leaders of the small town tried to help. Even the police came and tried to help. But nothing changed. Father and Mother kept drinking and fighting.

Then Mother left. She got tired of drinking and fighting. She wanted a better life. She moved away to India to work. Asmita was left at home. Now only four people lived in the small house: Father, Grandmother, Asmita, and Asmita's little brother.

With Mother gone, Asmita was put in charge of the house. She cooked the meals and cleaned up. It was hard work to pick things up, put things down, and move things

around all day. It also was difficult living with Father. He kept on drinking. When he drank, there was no peace at home.

It seemed like life would never get better.

Then Grandmother started going to church on Sabbath. Asmita had never heard about church. But Grandmother was happy when she returned home from church on Sabbath. Asmita liked to see her smile. Grandmother told her stories about the God of heaven whom she had heard about at church. Asmita had never heard of this God. Her family worshipped gods of stone and wood. Asmita liked the stories.

One Sabbath, Asmita decided to go to church with Grandmother. She left her housework and took her little brother by the hand. They went to church together.

Other children warmly welcomed Asmita to the children's Sabbath School. The teacher gave her a big smile. Asmita immediately knew that she wanted to go to church every Sabbath.

Today, Asmita is 12 years old, and every week she sings songs and recites Bible verses in Sabbath School. She is so happy. Life has become so much better with God.

Every Sabbath, Asmita asks Father to come to church, too, and she is praying that he will agree. "I think that if Father comes to church, he will stop drinking, and we will have peace at home," she said. 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help establish a school where children like Asmita can study in eastern

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Nepal on the map. You can also show them the location of the Gadhi Rural Municipality in eastern Nepal where this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help a kindergarten expand into an elementary school.
- Pronounce Asmita as: as-MEE-ta.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

Nepal. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
COUNTRY

A lot of Nepali food is vegetarian because many religious groups avoid violence toward all forms of life.

BigStockPhoto.com





INDIA | February 24

Papaya Prescription

Joylin

Seven-year-old Joylin was playing blocks with Father in the living room of their home in India. She liked using the yellow, blue, green, and red blocks to build tall towers and then hitting the towers and watching them fall down.

As Joylin and Father played with the blocks, he told stories about when he was a little boy. He told about how he used to play with his brothers and sisters. It was fun playing with Father.

But Joylin didn't feel quite well. She felt a little warm, like she had a slight fever. She also felt a little tired. But she didn't want to go to bed. It was fun playing with Father.

Then Father's cell phone rang. He listened to it for a moment and got serious. He turned to Joylin.

"We have to go to the hospital," he said.

Joylin didn't know what was happening. She didn't realize that it was serious. A doctor had called from the hospital and said that she needed to be hospitalized immediately. She had dengue fever. Dengue fever is an illness that comes from mosquito bites. It isn't difficult to treat the illness if it is caught early.

But the doctor had not noticed that Joylin had dengue fever earlier, and now it was important to treat the illness quickly.

Father called to Mother for help, and she quickly packed a suitcase with clothes, medicine, and food. She packed lots of papaya, kiwi, and raw beets. Joylin didn't like papaya. She thought that the red fruit tasted disgusting. She also thought that red beets tasted disgusting. But she liked sweet green kiwis. Mother packed papaya, kiwi, and raw beets because the doctor said they were a good medicine for Joylin.

Then Joylin, Father, and Mother got into the car and drove to the hospital.

Joylin felt uneasy when she arrived at the hospital. She was surrounded by people she didn't know. She didn't like the smell of the hospital air. Someone put an IV drip into her arm, and it hurt. Then a nurse took her to a bed in the hospital ward.

Joylin looked around. She couldn't understand why she was there. She saw children who looked much sicker than her lying in the beds.

Mother saw that she looked confused and tried to encourage her.

"You are strong," she said.

For the next six weeks, Joylin stayed at

the hospital. Mother gave her lots of papaya and beets to eat. She didn't want to eat them, but she had to. She wrinkled her nose and swallowed them, hoping not to taste them as they went down. She also ate lots of kiwi. She enjoyed the kiwi much more. They tasted so sweet and yummy.

Mother and an aunt took turns staying with Joylin. Many people from church visited and prayed with her.

Sometimes she was bored.

But she was never all by herself.

Finally, the day came when Joylin could go home. She was so happy! She was tired of lying in the same bed in the same room for so long. She was happy to return home.

When she arrived home, a teenage cousin was waiting to welcome her with a gift of delicious red pomegranates. Joylin was happy that it wasn't papaya. She loved pomegranates.

Today, Joylin is 14, and she still doesn't like papaya, even though it helped her get better when she was sick. She said it was God who completely healed her.

"God healed me," she said. "I was too young at the time to realize who had healed me. But as I grew up and came to know God more, I realized that it was He who had healed me. He is a mighty healer." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a church near Joylin's school in Bengaluru, India. Joylin's school is on the same campus as

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of India on the map. You can also show them the location of Bengaluru, in south-central India, where this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a church on the campus of Lowry Adventist College.
- Pronounce Joylin as: JOY-lynn.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives," and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

Lowery Adventist College and several other Adventist schools. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
COUNTRY

Cows are sacred in India and cannot be harmed. They are allowed to wander through city streets, which often causes traffic jams.

BigStockPhoto.com





INDIA | March 2

Judah

Banged-Up Bike

Judah usually walked to church. The church was just up the road from his house, and it only took five minutes by foot. Usually he walked with his parents.

But one day, while he was waiting for his parents to get ready, Judah had a bright idea. He would ride his bicycle to church. Father and Mother had told him not to take his bicycle to church. They said he didn't need to go by bike because the church was so close. They also were worried about an accident.

But Judah loved to ride his bike. It was a marvelous bike painted yellow with black trim. He thought, "If I go now, they won't know. They won't see me." He didn't stop to think what would happen when his parents saw the bike at church. He just wanted to go.

Judah went outside and very, very quietly pushed the bicycle to the front gate. Once outside the gate, he got onto the bike. He felt excited. He felt like he should go very fast to church, so he pedaled as fast as he could. He didn't understand why his parents had forbidden him from riding the bike to

church. The road went straight up a hill from his house to the church. He didn't even need to turn. It didn't seem dangerous.

As Judah pedaled as fast as he could up the hill, he quickly got tired. He stopped for a moment at an intersection to catch his breath. At that moment, he heard the roar of a big motorcycle.

The motorcyclist didn't even try to stop. He was coming too fast. Just as Judah stopped his bike, the motorcycle slammed into him.

The yellow bike with black trim was crushed. Judah felt OK. He looked over at the motorcyclist. He hadn't been wearing a helmet, and his head was bleeding.

Judah saw the blood and was scared. "If he dies, I'll go to jail," he thought. "If I go to jail, my parents will kill me."

Neighbors came running. Someone gave water to the motorcyclist. Someone washed his head and asked how he felt. Then someone asked Judah how he felt.

"I'm fine," Judah said.

Then he heard the neighbors arguing

over who had caused the accident. Some said Judah was to blame. Others said the motorcyclist was at fault. Someone ran to Judah's house and told his parents.

Father came and helped clear the crowd.

"Why didn't you listen to me?" he asked Judah.

The boy didn't say anything.

"If something happens to you, what will your mother and I do?" Father said.

Judah hung his head.

"I'm sorry," he said.

Father picked up the mangled bike and carried it home. Mother met the pair on the way. At the house, Father, Mother, and Judah prayed. "Thank You, God, for saving my son," Father said.

Then Mother treated Judah's cuts. She declared that he was fine.

That night, however, Judah woke up with a pain in his arm. He went to the hospital the next day and learned that he had a fractured elbow. It was painful, but he got better after a while. The motorcyclist also recovered.

After the accident, Judah was banned from riding bicycles until he is 16. Now he is 13, and that seems like a long time to wait. He remembers the accident every time he walks to church. He wishes that he had obeyed his parents. He misses his bicycle. But he is grateful to God for protecting him.

"God saved me," he said. "It could have been a lot worse. Everyone who looks at my wrecked bike says, 'God saved you.'" 🌐

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of India on the map. You can also show them the location of Bengaluru, in south-central India, where this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a church on the campus of Lowry Adventist College.
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- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives," and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a church near Judah's school in Bengaluru, India. Judah's school is on the same campus as Lowry Adventist College. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
COUNTRY

The beautiful Mysore Palace, in Mysore, Karnataka, is one of the most famous tourist attractions in India, after the Taj Mahal, with more than 6 million visitors every year.

BigStockPhoto.com





INDIA | March 9

Praying All Day

Jennifer

Jennifer is 12 years old and lives in northern India. More than anything, she likes to pray.

At home, Jennifer prays as soon as she gets up in the morning. “Thank you, Jesus, for the good night’s sleep,” she said on a recent morning, sitting on the brown-and-pink bedsheet on her bed. “Thank You for the new day,” Jennifer said, praying in Hindi, her native language. “Please bless me throughout the day. Please also bless my uncle, my aunt, my cousins, and our neighbors. Please especially bless Father and Mother. Amen.”

When Jennifer sat down for breakfast, she prayed. “Dear Jesus, bless this food. Amen,” she said, again speaking in Hindi.

Then she eagerly ate her breakfast of rice, dahl lentils, and chapati flatbread. She is an only child, and she eats breakfast with Mother. Father eats later.

When Jennifer was ready to leave for school, she prayed, again in Hindi.

“Dear Jesus, please bless the day,” she said. “Please help me as I learn in school today. Help me to remember what I have studied for my quiz today. Amen.”

Then she picked up her backpack filled with textbooks on Math, English, Social Studies, Sanskrit, and Handwriting. The backpack also contained pens, pencils, notebooks, and her lunchbox.

At school, 450 children gathered in a big room for morning worship. Jennifer often leads the children in prayer from the stage, and she did again that day. All the school classes are in English, and she prayed in English. “Our Father in heaven,” she said and then paused so the other children could repeat after her. “Our Father in heaven,” the 450 children repeated in chorus.

“Hallowed be Your name,” Jennifer said, and all the children repeated after her.

Together, Jennifer and the children completed the prayer, saying, “Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen” (Matthew 6:9–18, NKJV).

At 1 p.m., Jennifer unpacked her lunchbox in the school classroom and prayed. “Dear Jesus, bless this food. Amen,” she said, again in English. She had been studying in

English all day, so it was easy to also pray in English. Then she ate her lunch of cabbage, cauliflower, potatoes, and chapati flatbread.

In the afternoon, she had a math quiz. She prayed, “Dear Jesus, please help me to remember what I have studied and to get a good grade.”

At home, Father prayed for supper. He joined Jennifer and Mother for the meal of rice, paneer cheese, and vegetables. Jennifer liked to hear Father pray. “Dear Lord, please bless this food,” Father said in Hindi. “Bless the hands that prepared it. Bless those who have provided us with the food, and please give us good health as we eat. Amen.”

At bedtime, Jennifer prayed with Father and Mother at family worship. “The Creator of heaven and earth, we thank you for keeping us safe throughout the day,” Jennifer said in Hindi. Then she prayed for the family, for relatives, for neighbors, and for a good night’s rest.

After that, she lay down under her brown-and-pink bedsheet and closed her eyes to sleep. It had been a good day. It had been a day spent talking to Jesus. 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a new school building for Jennifer and the other students in Anni, India. The 450 students now study in an old building that was built by a German missionary who founded the school in 1976. Thank you for helping give Jennifer and her classmates a new school building.

By Andrew McChesney

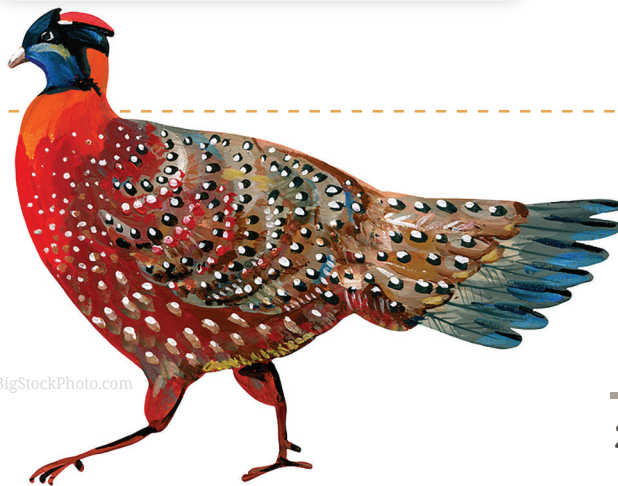
Story Tips

- Show the children the location of India on the map. You can also show them the location of Anni, the city in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh where this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new school to replace an old structure built in 1976.
- Challenge the children to be like Jennifer and pray about everything. Remind them that the Bible teaches us to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives”; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, “To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.



AMAZING
COUNTRY

The state bird of Himachal Pradesh is the Western tragopan, locally known as the jujurana — one of the rarest pheasants in the world.



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INDIA | March 16

Kalvin

A Unique Name

On Calvin's first day at the new school, Teacher saw something was different about him. Calvin sat quietly and listened respectfully while the other children talked and shouted. But that wasn't what caught Teacher's attention. It was Calvin's name. Calvin is not a common name in India. It is a Christian name.

At the beginning of the class, Teacher asked all the new students to introduce themselves.

When it was Calvin's turn, the boy said with a big smile, "My name is Calvin."

Teacher looked surprised.

"Why is your name Calvin?" he asked.

"It's because I'm a Christian," Calvin said.

Teacher looked even more surprised.

Other Christian children studied at the school, but they had Hindi names. This new student had a Christian name. Teacher liked Calvin's name. Every time he saw the boy after that, he called Calvin by his name.

"Hello, Calvin," he said.

He liked to say Calvin's name. It wasn't a common name in India, and he liked

how it sounded. So, he said, "Hello, Calvin. Hello, Calvin."

Kalvin always smiled when he heard Teacher's greetings. He was happy.

Soon other teachers also learned Calvin's name. They also learned that his name was Calvin because he was a Christian. They also liked his name, and they greeted him whenever they saw him.

"Hello, Calvin," they said. "Hello, Calvin." "Hello, Calvin."

Kalvin always smiled when he heard their greetings. He was happy.

How did Calvin get his name? When he was born, his parents asked the church pastor to name him. In India, Christian families think that it is a good thing for a pastor to name a child.

"Let's call him Calvin," the pastor said.

The name Calvin comes from a famous Christian theologian named John Calvin.

The pastor also gave Calvin a second name. He saw that the baby smiled a lot, so he gave him a nickname. "Let's also call him

Joy,” he said. In India, all boys have a first name and a nickname. So, from that day, Calvin was nicknamed Joy.

When Calvin was old enough, he started going to an Adventist school. He loved the school. He started in kindergarten and studied all the way through eighth grade. It was at the Adventist school that he learned to sit quietly and listen respectfully.

When he graduated, he felt sad. He could no longer attend the Adventist school because it didn’t offer ninth grade. He had to go to public high school. It was on his first day of public high school that the teacher asked all the new students to introduce themselves and Calvin gave his name.

Today, Calvin is the only Calvin at school. He also is the only boy nicknamed Joy.

Calvin is a witness at the school. The teachers call him Calvin when they see him. When they say his name, they remember that he is a Christian. His name reminds them that he is a Christian. His friends call him Joy when they see him. When they say his nickname, they remember that he is filled with joy. His nickname reminds his friends that he is filled with joy.

But his names are not the only witness. Calvin’s actions also are a witness. Teachers remember that Calvin is a Christian because he sits quietly and listens respectfully. His friends remember that he is filled with joy because he is always smiling.

“I feel good being the only Calvin and the only Joy at school,” Calvin said. “I’m a Christian, and I’m happy.” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a new school building for Calvin’s old school in Anni, India. The 450 students at the Adventist school now study in an old building that was built by a German missionary in 1976. Thank you for helping give a new school building to the children.

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of India on the map. You can also show them the location of Anni, the city in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh where this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new school to replace an old structure built in 1976.
- Know that Calvin is a Christian name that means “the bald one.” It became popular after the 16th-century French theologian John Calvin.
- Ask the children what their names mean. Ask the children if people know their characters through their names just like Calvin’s teachers and friends knew his character through his name. Remind them that actions speak louder than words and encourage them to display a Christ-like spirit.
- Tell the children that names are very important in the Bible. The names that parents gave their children reflected the characters that the parents hoped their children would have. For example, Joshua means “God is salvation,” Daniel means “God is my Judge,” and Solomon means “peace.”
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives,” and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.



INDIA | March 23

Kashish

Really Hard Exam

Kashish is only 13 years old, but she is already learning one of the oldest languages in the world. Kashish is learning Sanskrit at a Seventh-day Adventist school in northern India.

Sanskrit is the ancient language of India. No one knows exactly how old it is, but people were using the language in India at least 1,500 years before Jesus was born. Today, all Indian schoolchildren have to learn Sanskrit because Hindi and many other languages in India are based on Sanskrit.

But Sanskrit is a hard language to learn. The words are difficult to pronounce. The way a word is pronounced depends on if there is a dot below the word, a dot above the word, or a dot at the end of the word. A child has to look at the word very carefully to see where the dot is in order to know how to pronounce the word correctly.

Not many people speak Sanskrit. It is usually only spoken by Hindu priests when they recite chants for religious rituals.

Kashish comes from a Seventh-day Adventist family. She never heard anyone speak Sanskrit except in school. It was hard!

But then Kashish fell sick the day before a big exam in Sanskrit. She needed to study for the exam when she came home from school. But her forehead felt really hot. She felt too weak to stand. She didn't feel any better lying in bed. She could only think about the dreaded Sanskrit exam. She decided to pray.

"Heavenly Father, please heal me soon," she prayed. "Please help me to pass the exam and get a good grade tomorrow. Amen."

As soon as she finished the prayer, she felt better. She opened her textbook and studied for the exam as best she could. She also reviewed notes that she had taken in class. She wasn't able to study much, just a few things here and there.

The next morning, Kashish felt strong enough to go to school. But she felt nervous. She knew that she wasn't ready for the exam. Before leaving the house, she prayed to God for help.

At school, the teacher gave Kashish a piece of paper with a list of questions written in Sanskrit.

Kashish looked at the questions. She looked carefully to see if there was a dot

below the word, a dot above the word, or a dot at the end of the word.

She blinked.

She looked again.

She couldn't believe her eyes.

The questions on the exam were exactly what she had studied the previous day. She knew all the answers! God had heard her prayers.

Kashish was so happy!

An hour later, Kashish finished the exam and handed it in.

Two days later, she got the results back. The teacher had given her 13.5 points out of 15 points. It was a very good grade.

Kashish smiled.

After that experience, Kashish wants to encourage other boys and girls to pray.

"I would like to say that there is power in prayer," she said. "Once I had an exam in Sanskrit. It is a really hard language, and I wasn't ready. I didn't prepare well. But I prayed, and God gave me a good grade on the exam." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a new school building for Kashish and other students in Anni, India. The 450 students at Kashish's school now study in an old building that was built by a German missionary in 1976. Thank you for helping give Kashish and her classmates a new school building.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of India on the map. You can also show them the location of Anni, the city in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh where this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new school to replace an old structure built in 1976.
- Pronounce Kashish as: KASH-ish.
- Challenge the children to be accept Kashish's challenge and pray.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.



AMAZING
COUNTRY



The game of chess is said to have come from India 1,500 years ago.

BigStockPhoto.com

AdventistMission.org



13th SABBATH | March 30

Amira

School of Smiles

When Amira turned 6, Father began to look for a good school for his daughter in India. He didn't want Amira to go to just any school. He wanted the little girl to go to the best school. But where could he find such a school for her to start first grade?

The question bothered Father as he ate breakfast. The question bothered Father as he went to work. The question bothered Father as he got his hair cut after work.

"What is a good school where I can send my daughter?" he asked the barber.

"Send her to the Seventh-day Adventist school," the barber said. "It's a good school."

Father had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists. He was not a Christian. He had been raised in another world religion. But he was impressed that the barber had recommended the Adventist school.

He sent Amira to study at the Adventist school.

Amira loved the school. She came home after school every day, talking about Jesus. She sang joyful Christian songs that she had

learned. She told Father about the stories that she had heard from the Bible. She showed Father how she was learning to pray.

Father liked to hear about what Amira was learning at school. But what amazed him most was Amira's smiles. He had never seen her so happy. Before she had started going to the school, she had always looked sad. But now she was smiling as brightly as the sun.

Father was delighted that his little girl was so happy. He wished that he could be as happy as her. But he couldn't because he didn't feel well. His stomach often hurt, and the pain made him feel very sad.

Amira noticed that Father wasn't smiling like her. She wanted him to be happy. Even though she was only 6, she had an idea.

"Come to the school," she said. "Someone will pray for you."

So, the next time Father took Amira to school, he followed her inside. Would someone pray for him?

Near Amira's classroom, Father saw the school accountant. The accountant helped

count the school's money.

"Would you pray for me?" Father asked.

The accountant gladly prayed for Father. He asked God to give Father good health and happiness.

After the prayer, the accountant told the school pastor about Father. The school pastor contacted Father and asked if he would like to study the Bible. Father agreed, and he and the pastor began to meet to study the Bible.

Father was amazed as he learned about Jesus. Amira had told him some things about Jesus. But now he was reading things that he had never known.

"Did you know this all your life?" he asked the pastor. "I wish that I had known this many years ago."

Father began to grow happier and happier. He smiled more and more. He and Amira read the Bible together. They went to church on Sabbath together. Soon, he and Amira were perhaps the happiest Father and daughter in India.

But Mother wasn't happy. She didn't know Jesus, and she didn't want to know Jesus. She belonged to another world religion, and she didn't want Father and Amira reading the Bible or going to church on Sabbath.

"Stop going to church," she told Father. "Stop reading the Bible."

Father didn't know what to do.

As Mother complained, Father's stomach pains grew worse. Adventist friends took him to the hospital and cared for him there. The doctor said Father needed an operation.

Something amazing happened as Father waited for the operation. As he lay in bed, he had a dream that he saw Jesus.

Father had never seen such a kind face. It was so beautiful. One look at His face filled Father with peace and calmness.

"Do not be afraid," Jesus said. "I am with you."

In the dream, Father also saw the pastor. He understood that the pastor was a good man who was bringing him closer to Jesus.

After the operation, Father had another

Story Tips

- Know that Amira is a pseudonym. The accompanying photo is a stock image.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Asia Division: bit.ly/sud-2024.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, "To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions," and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

dream. This time, he saw Jesus smiling reassuringly at him.

After that, Father had no more doubt about what to do. He wanted to give his heart to Jesus.

When Mother heard the news, she became very angry. She was so angry that she went to another room to sleep at night.

Alone in bed, Father couldn't fall asleep. He wondered if he had made the right decision in giving his heart to Jesus.

Then he felt like Jesus came into the room. He didn't see Jesus. But it was like Jesus came in and touched him on the shoulder. He felt complete peace. Father decided to follow Jesus no matter what.

When Mother saw that Father had made up his mind to follow Jesus, she began to calm down. She remembered that Adventists had helped care for Father in the hospital, and she decided that they must be good people. When the Adventist church offered some free medical care, she went with

Father to the church for the first time.

Mother was impressed with the people that she saw at the church. She saw that they were kind and loving. She stopped being angry with Father and Amira.

Today, Father is praying for Mother to accept Jesus. Amira is praying for Mother to accept Jesus. They want Mother to be happy like them.

Father is happy that he sent Amira to the Seventh-day Adventist school. Amira is happy that she goes to the school. It changed Amira's life. It changed Father's life. And they believe it will change Mother's life. They think it is the happiest school ever. 🌍

Thank you for your Sabbath School mission offering today that will help spread the gospel in India and Nepal. Seven of the 10 Thirteenth Sabbath projects involve Adventist schools like the one where Amira studies. Thank you for your generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Before 13th Sabbath

- Send home a note to remind parents of the program and to encourage the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on March 30. Remind everyone that their mission offerings are gifts to spread God's Word around the world and that one-fourth of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help 10 projects in two countries of the Southern Asia Division. The projects are listed on page 3 and on the back cover.
- The narrator doesn't need to memorize the story, but he or she should be familiar enough with the material so as not to have to read it. Alternatively, the children can act out the story.
- Before or after the story, use a map to show the two countries in the Southern Asia Division — India and Nepal — that will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. You can download a mission map with the projects on Facebook at bit.ly/fb-mq.

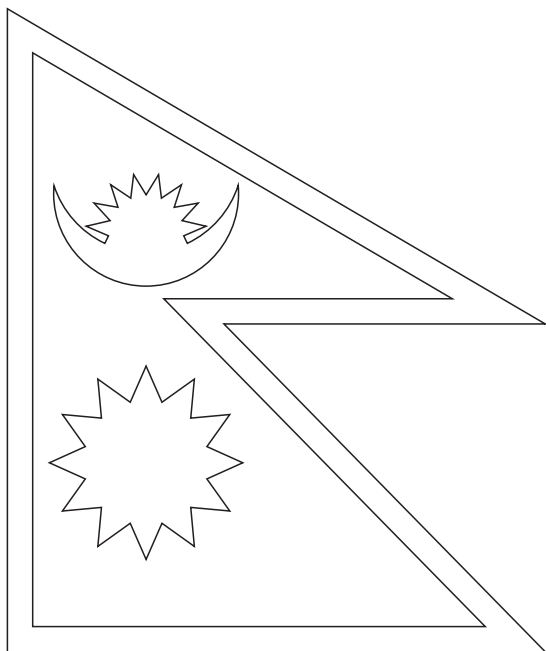
Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects



The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will support five projects in the Euro-Asia Division:

- Center of influence for families, Yerevan, Armenia
- Center of influence for youth, Minsk, Belarus
- Health center, Tskaltubo, Georgia
- Spiritual and social center, Salekhard, Russia
- Elementary school, Tashkent, Uzbekistan

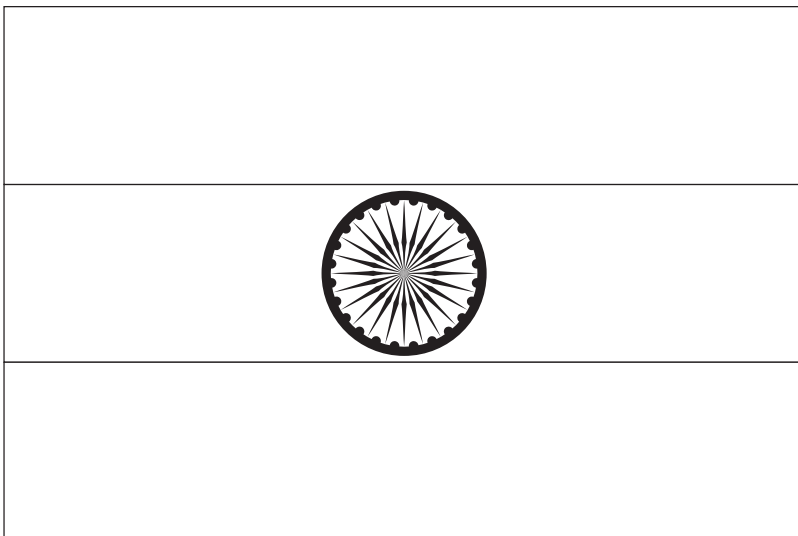
Color The Flag



NEPAL

DIRECTIONS:

Color the border dark blue. Color the inside of the flag red. Leave the two figures white.



INDIA

DIRECTIONS:

Color the top stripe yellow. Leave the middle stripe white. Color the bottom stripe green. Color the wheel, spokes, and hub in the center dark blue.

Let's Play

FOUR CORNERS

(INDIA)

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is often played by elementary schoolchildren. Four corners are designated, and a player is chosen as "it." The rest of the players go into the corners. At a signal, the players have to swap corners without being caught. If a player is caught by "it," he or she becomes "it."

LANGDI

INSTRUCTIONS:

Langdi is played by two teams. Toss a coin and the team that wins the toss defends first. The teams face each other, and the opposing team sends a player to tag as many defenders as he or she can, while hopping on one foot. The team that tags the most defenders wins.



Let's Create

TIGER MOBILE (NEPAL)

SUPPLIES:

Paper
Crayons, colored pencils, or colored markers
Scissors
Two 8–10 inch (20–25 cm) wooden rods or unsharpened pencils
Paints
String
Tape

INSTRUCTIONS:

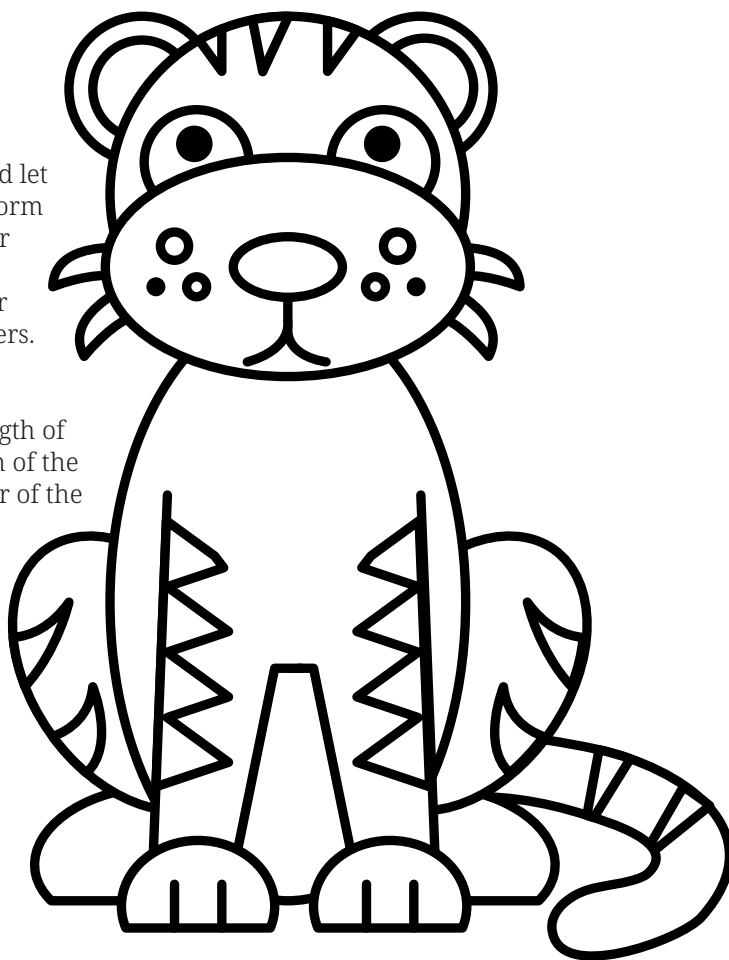
Paint the wooden rods and let them dry. Cross the rods to form an X, and bind them together securely with string.

Print off or trace four tiger figures onto paper. Color tigers. Cut out figures.

Cut five 18-inch (45-cm) lengths of string. Tie one length of string to the end of each arm of the mobile, and one to the center of the X to hang the mobile from.

Attach each of the dangling ends of the strings to the back of a tiger with a piece of tape.

Hang up mobile and enjoy!



Tiger Printable Template by SuperColoring, available under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 License at <https://www.supercoloring.com/paper-crafts/tiger-printable-template-0>.

Let's Cook!

MANGO LASSI (INDIA)

INGREDIENTS

1 cup (240 ml) plain yogurt, chilled
1/2 cup (65 g) powdered sugar
1 cup (240 ml) mango puree

1/2 tsp (2.5 ml) cardamom powder
2 tbsp (30 ml) fresh cream, chilled

INSTRUCTIONS:

Mix yogurt and powdered sugar in a bowl until the sugar is dissolved. Add mango puree, and mix well. Add cardamom powder and cream, and mix until you have a thick, creamy, and smooth texture. You can add a little water or milk if it is too thick to drink easily.

Pour into a glass and serve chilled.



BigStockPhoto.com

Leader's Resources

Be sure to download your free Mission Spotlight video, featuring video reports from around the Southern Asia Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

Online Information

Following are sources of information that may be helpful in preparing for the mission segment of Sabbath School. For more information on the cultures and history of the countries featured in this quarterly, visit:

Websites

Nepal: government website	bit.ly/GovtNepal
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LP_Nepal
National Geographic Travel	bit.ly/NatGeo_Nepal
India: government website	bit.ly/GovtIndia
CNN Travel	bit.ly/CNN_India
National Geographic Travel	bit.ly/NatGeo_India
West Bengal	
Rough Guide	bit.ly/RG_WBengal
Himachal Pradesh	
Himachal Tourism Official Website	bit.ly/HimachalTourism
Karnataka	
Karnataka Tourism Official Website	bit.ly/KarnatakaTourism
Maharashtra	
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LP_Maharashtra

Seventh-day Adventist

ADRA Nepal	bit.ly/ADRANepal
Oriental Watchman Publishing House	bit.ly/FB_OWPH
Spicer Adventist University	bit.ly/SDA_SpicerAU
Pune Adventist Hospital	bit.ly/SDA_PuneAH
Adventist Media Centre-India	bit.ly/SDA_AMCAWR

An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Determine a goal for your class's weekly mission offering. Multiply it by 14, allowing a double goal for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, which will be collected on March 30. Remind the children and their parents that their regular weekly mission offerings help the missionary work of the world church, and that one-quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the Southern Asia Division. On March 23, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage the children and their parents to double or triple their normal mission giving on the upcoming Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School.

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Children's Mission (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2024 by the Office of Adventist Mission, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.

Printed in U.S.A.

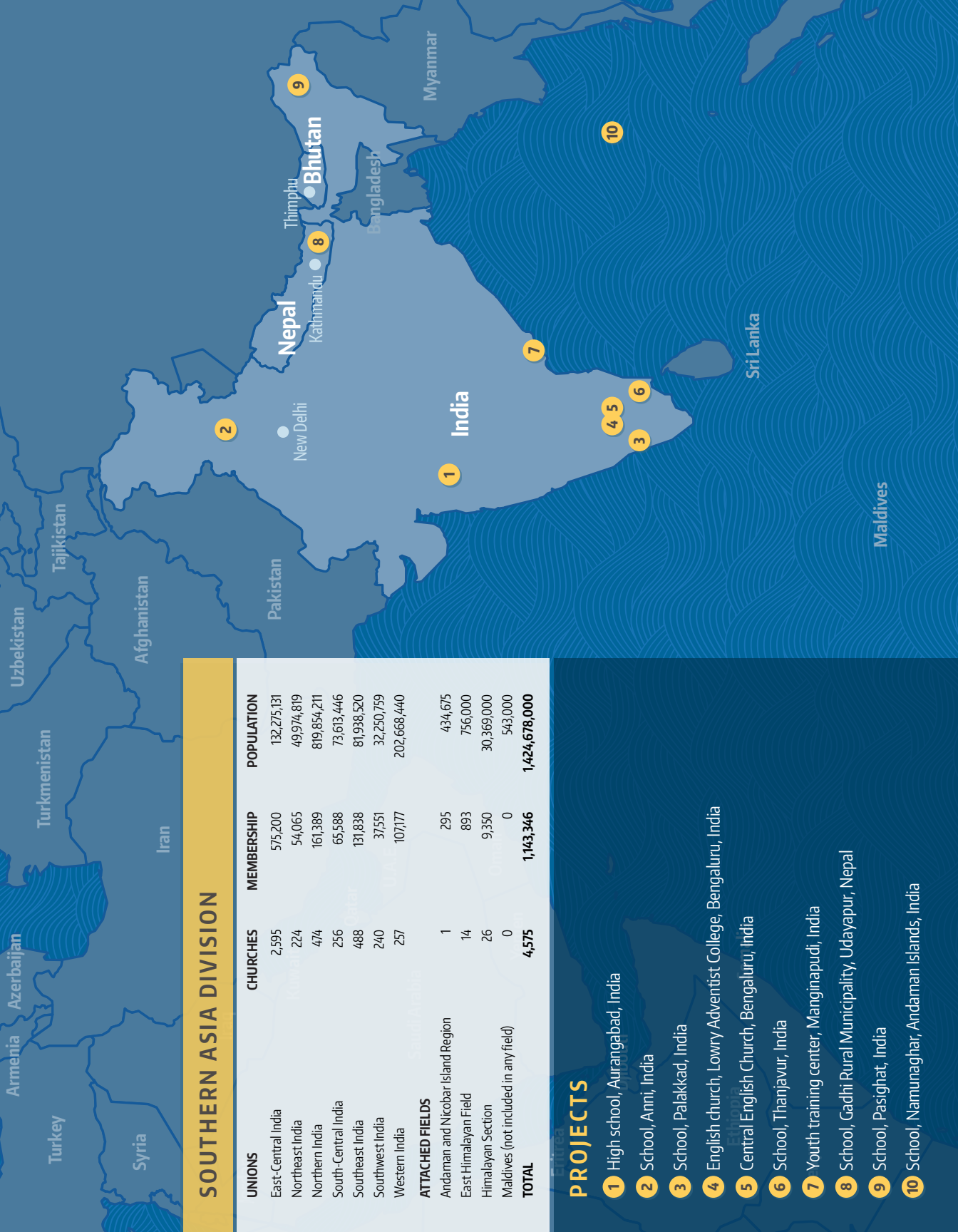
First Quarter 2024

Volume 113, Number 1

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SOUTHERN ASIA DIVISION

UNIONS	CHURCHES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
East-Central India	2,595	575,200	132,275,131
Northeast India	224	54,065	49,974,819
Northern India	474	161,389	819,854,211
South-Central India	256	65,588	73,613,446
Southeast India	488	131,838	81,938,520
Southwest India	240	37,551	32,250,759
Western India	257	107,177	202,668,440
ATTACHED FIELDS			
Andaman and Nicobar Island Region	1	295	434,675
East Himalayan Field	14	893	756,000
Himalayan Section	26	9,350	30,369,000
Maldives (not included in any field)	0	0	543,000
TOTAL	4,575	1,143,346	1,424,678,000

PROJECTS

- 1 High school, Aurangabad, India
- 2 School, Amni, India
- 3 School, Palakkad, India
- 4 English church, Lowry Adventist College, Bengaluru, India
- 5 Central English Church, Bengaluru, India
- 6 School, Thanjavur, India
- 7 Youth training center, Manginapudi, India
- 8 School, Gadhi Rural Municipality, Udayapur, Nepal
- 9 School, Pasighat, India
- 10 School, Namunaghar, Andaman Islands, India