

A woman with dark hair tied back, smiling broadly, stands in front of a large, ornate wooden door. She is wearing a teal-colored traditional Chinese dress with a high collar and a wide, patterned belt. To her right is a large, white, cylindrical object, possibly a barrel or a large pot, wrapped with blue straps. The background is a light-colored wall with a large, faint compass rose design. In the top right corner, there is a small map of Northern Asia-Pacific.

YOUTH & ADULT MISSION



2021 • **QUARTER 4** • NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION



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 = stories of special interest to teens

Your Offerings at Work



Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped establish a youth evangelism training center at Setagaya Seventh-day Adventist Church, pictured, in Tokyo, Japan.



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This quarter we feature the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in Japan, Mongolia, South Korea, and Taiwan. The region is home to 230 million people, including nearly 286,000 Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for every 806 people.

Opportunities

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

- Adventist Lifestyle Center in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- Care center for immigrant children in Ansan, South Korea
- Yeongnam Mission Center in Daegu, South Korea
- Three urban centers of influence in Taipei, Tainan, and Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- Internet evangelism program reaching the Internet generation in Japan

This quarter's five Thirteenth Sabbath projects are in each of the four countries of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. See the sidebar below for more information.

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

In addition, you can download a PDF of facts and activities from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division at bit.ly/nsd-2021. Follow us at facebook.com/missionquarterlies.

You can download the PDF version of the youth and adult Mission magazine at bit.ly/adultmission and the Children's Mission magazine at bit.ly/childrensmission. The Mission Spotlight videos are available at bit.ly/missionspotlight. A printable mission bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at bit.ly/bank-coloring-page.

If I can be of assistance, contact me at mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org.

Thank you for encouraging others to be mission-minded!

Hook-Man's Two Miracles

MONGOLIA | October 2

Erdenebat Budragchaa, 59



I worked as a hook-man on construction projects in Mongolia.

When an apartment building was under construction, a tall crane used a big metal hook to lift building materials and swing them over to me, waiting on a high wall. I took the building materials off the hook.

One day, I was nearly finished unhooking a load on the third floor when the hook abruptly moved. I took a big stick and tried to push the hook back into place. But the hook came back and hit me hard, knocking me off the wall. I remember hitting the ground three floors below. Then I lost consciousness.

The nearest hospital was far away, so a physician rushed to the construction site.

Sometime later in the afternoon, I woke up and learned that my leg was broken and my spinal cord had been injured.

"We cannot take you to the hospital

because of your injuries," the physician told me.

At that time, Mongolia was not as developed as it is now, and the country lacked good medical equipment. The physician didn't know exactly what had happened to me. He said my back was broken, but that was all he knew.

I lay paralyzed in bed for two years. I could not move. During that time, several foreigners visited my town. I didn't know it at the time, but now I know that they were missionaries, spreading the gospel.

I have eight children, and the eldest was in the eighth grade. All of my children went to the foreigners' meetings. Although we were not religious people, I never forbade them from going. My children brought the foreigners to my home. At the time, I didn't understand what was happening, but now I know they were praying for me. Because of their prayers, I was healed quite quickly.

I grew stronger and started physical therapy. I put bars and ropes above my bed and started exercising. Lifting my head hurt at first, but my children's prayers worked. Soon I was hobbling with a cane.

My children became very active in the Seventh-day Adventist church and liked singing there. I enjoyed Sabbath worship services as well. As I studied the Bible, my life began to change. I used to drink a lot, but now I stopped drinking. It was a big change. I wanted to be faithful to God. My

wife and I were baptized and joined the Adventist Church.

Several years after regaining the ability to walk, I started suffering pain in both legs. Fear set in. I worried that I might become paralyzed again.

After a medical checkup, the physician looked grim.

“You have to undergo surgery, but it will be risky,” he said.

He explained that my spine was damaged and required medical attention.

My family was asked to sign a waiver releasing the hospital from any responsibility if the operation went awry.

My wife and I prayed a lot. The church pastor prayed for me. I think that the surgery was successful because of those prayers. Even the surgery wounds healed quickly. I was allowed to go home after just a week.

Today, I am well and healthy. My family is Christian, and we want our friends to become Christians, too. We invite them to our church, and some have come. But none of my friends have given their hearts to Jesus. I am not worried because I believe that God can reach them. After all, God reached me on my sickbed. My job is to invite, and the Holy Spirit’s job is to convict. I have invited more friends recently to church, and I hope that they will come. 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help open an Adventist lifestyle center in Mongolia’s capital, Ulaanbaatar, where people can receive support to stop drinking and learn to make other important lifestyle decisions.

By Erdenebat Budragchaa, as told to Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Ask a man to share this first-person account.
- Pronounce Erdenebat as: erden-e-BOT.
- Know that “Erdene” means “treasure” and “Bat” means “strong, firm, loyal.”
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/nsd-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, “to revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors, but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples” through “increased number of church members participating in both personal and public evangelistic outreach initiatives with a goal of Total Member Involvement (TMI)” (KPI 1.1); and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “to disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives.” Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Mission Post

- The first Adventist work in Mongolia was carried out by Russian missionaries, in 1926, operating out of Hailar in Manchuria, China. They issued the first Seventh-day Adventist publications in Mongolian: a printed hymn, and four small tracts. Political changes made it impossible to work directly in the country, so work was started in 1930 for Mongols in Inner Mongolia (in northern China). In 1931, Otto Christensen established mission headquarters and a hospital in Kalgan.



Perfect Trust

Boonoo Purvee, 29

What's the most important year of high school?

In Mongolia, the most important year is the last year. That is the year that students not only graduate but also take special exams to determine whether they can go to a university.

The last year of high school was extra special for Boonoo because she got baptized. Two missionaries came to her small town and taught a class at her high school on how to stop smoking. Boonoo didn't smoke, but she attended the classes anyway because she had nothing more interesting to do. She liked the missionaries, and she happily accepted an invitation to study the Bible in their home. Soon she fell in love with Jesus and was baptized.

After baptism, Boonoo got serious about preparing for her university entrance exam. If she got a high score, she could choose which university to attend.

Many classmates hired private tutors to help prepare for the exam. Students who wanted to major in history studied

for a history exam. Students who wanted to major in nursing studied for a medical exam. Boonoo loved math, but she didn't have money to hire a tutor for the math exam. So, she prayed for help. "Dear God, I'll teach myself, and I'll prepare by solving five math problems every day," she prayed. "Just help me, please."

Finally, exam day came. All high school graduates from across the province gathered in the town's main school. Nearly 600 students joined Boonoo for the math exam. Whoever got the highest test score would be allowed to choose a university first. Boonoo prayed, "God, be with me."

Then the exam started. The teacher locked the door and told the students that they couldn't leave until after they had finished and their exams had been graded. After students finished the exam, they waited. And waited. Some parents passed food in through the window.

Finally, the teacher reappeared and announced that the test results would only be released the next day. He allowed everyone to go home for the night.

When Boonoo woke up in the morning, she saw that it had rained. Everything was clean, and the sun was shining. In her heart, she heard the words of a song that Mongolian Adventists love to sing,

“Your love is higher than the sky. Your love is wider than the sea.” Boonoo wasn’t worried about the exam. She praised God.

At school, she saw students clustered around a bulletin board with a list of the test scores. She could not get close enough to see, so she asked a boy for help.

“Can you see my name?” she said. “Is my name there among the top 10 names?”

Her heart sank when the boy said, “No.”

But when she got closer, she saw that her name was in fifth place. She couldn’t believe it! Later, the teacher handed back the graded exams, and Boonoo noticed that she had missed only one of the 40 math equations. Then she looked closer and realized that the teacher had made a mistake. She had given the correct answer. She pointed out the mistake to the teacher, but he refused to change her grade. He said that if he changed it, then he would have to double check all the tests.

Boonoo was upset. She wanted a perfect score. Then she remembered that she had prayed and God had helped her. The final grade was in His hands.

Then it came time for the students to choose their universities. The student who had the top score selected a university. Then the next student chose. Finally, it was Boonoo’s turn. No one had yet picked the National University of Mongolia, so she got to choose it.

“This was God’s will,” said Boonoo. “God knew I didn’t have to get a perfect grade to enroll in the university. I just needed to trust in Him perfectly.”

Today, Boonoo is 29 and uses her math skills to work as ADRA’s chief accountant in Mongolia. She and her husband also opened the only Pathfinder church in Mongolia. The church meets in their

Story Tips

- Pronounce Boonoo as: bo-NO.
- Download photos on Facebook bit.ly/fb-mq.
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Fast Facts

- The national drink of Mongolia is *airag*, fermented mare’s milk. The climate and traditionally nomadic lifestyle have influenced the cuisine of Mongolia — meat and dairy products are staples, but there are few fruits and vegetables.
- *Khoomei* is a variant of “throat singing” traditional in Mongolia, originating among herders. Throat singing can produce more than one tone at a time from the vocal cords.

home, a traditional Mongolian yurt. 🌐

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped open the first Adventist high school in Mongolia. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help open a lifestyle center in Mongolia’s capital.

By Andrew McChesney

Connecting With Heaven

MONGOLIA | October 16

Cathie Hartman, 55



Ask two people to present this interview during the mission-story time.

Narrator: Cathie and her late husband, Brad, were the first post-Communist Adventist missionaries to Mongolia when they arrived in 1991 with Adventist Frontier Missions, a supporting ministry. She still serves God in Mongolia today. Tell us, Cathie, how do you pray?

Cathie: When we arrived in Mongolia in 1991, I felt that God was calling me to be a prayer warrior. But I said to God, “I pray all the time. How am I not a prayer warrior?” I argued with God.

After my husband died, and I remarried, we moved to another Asian country for a while. I sensed God calling me again to be a prayer warrior. I relented and said, “OK, I’ll put ‘pray three times a day’ on the schedule.”

Miracles began to happen as my husband, three young daughters, and

I prayed three times a day as a family. We had been looking for months for a place to live, and God provided a home. My husband and I lost our job teaching English, and God provided a new teaching position that was even better.

That was the first step where God took me in prayer. The second step came when I began to ponder Jesus’ repeated instructions to “watch and pray” in the New Testament. I wasn’t sure what He meant. I looked for passages in Ellen White’s writings about watching and praying, and I condensed them into one document. I learned that “watching” means that we are supposed to watch our emotions, watch our words, and watch whether we have an indifferent attitude.

Whenever my daughters had struggles in their early teens, I asked, “Have you watched and prayed?” Usually, they acknowledged that they had not. We set aside a prayer room in our home where each of us, three times a day, privately confessed our sins and weaknesses and asked God to replace them with a loving, humble spirit. This really helped smooth our family relationships.

Narrator: *How do you read the Bible?*

Cathie: After I read that church pioneer William Miller went through the Bible one verse at a time, I decided to try that, too. It was exciting to compare each verse

with the original Hebrew or Greek.

Currently, I am trying to improve my Mongolian language through the Bible. With a notebook nearby, I read a verse in English and then in Mongolian. It's a very slow process, but I try to do a chapter a day.

Reading in Mongolian has given me a new perspective because different words are used. One morning I read Deuteronomy 33:1, which in English says, "Moses, the man of God." But in Mongolian, the description is, "God's person Moses." I wondered, "Can I say, 'God's person Cathie?'" That was all that I needed for that day.

Narrator: *How do you witness?*

Cathie: Laws in some countries where I've lived make it difficult for foreigners to share openly. But you can create opportunities for people to ask questions, and it's perfectly acceptable to answer questions.

As an English teacher, I took class attendance by asking students to write something on a slip of paper. I took the time to respond to each note. Some students opened up their hearts.

Often, it's simply a matter of being friendly and inviting people over to your home. People open up their hearts in one-on-one conversations. That's why I want to improve my Mongolian.

My daily prayer echoes the words of Saul when he saw Jesus on the road to Damascus. He said, "Lord, what would You have me to do?" God reveals His will when we ask, "What would You have us to do?" in each situation every day. 🌍

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help open an Adventist lifestyle center in Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar.

Story Tips

- Download a sheet of Watch and Pray cards that Cathie uses to enrich her prayer life: bit.ly/watch-and-pray-list.
- The photo shows Cathie, right, with a Mongolian friend.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
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Fast Facts

- A traditional festival in Mongolia, *Naadam*, is known as "the three games of men," and includes archery, horse racing, and Mongolian wrestling, *bökh*, which is similar to the *sumo* of Japan.

Three Mysteries



MONGOLIA | October 23

Batzul Ganbold, 30

Three questions puzzled Batzul. As a young boy, he wondered why horses are called horses, why dogs are called dogs, and why wolves are called wolves. But no one could tell him who had named the animals.

On a street in Mongolia's capital, he saw billboards warning against smoking. He asked his father why people lit up cigarettes if they knew they were dangerous. Father just smiled. He could not explain why people smoked.

The boy's thoughts turned to death when his father died of kidney failure. He wondered what happens next. But no one could tell him what happens after death.

Life changed drastically after Father's death. Sixteen-year-old Batzul found a job at an outdoor market to help feed his mother and three younger siblings. He started smoking.

One day, an elder sister called from South Korea, where she had moved, and suggested that Batzul go to church. She had started attending a church.

"Go to the U-B church," she said.

Mongolians refer to Mongolia's capital, Ulaanbaatar, as "U-B."

Batzul was not a Christian, and he had never considered becoming a Christian. But he called the phone operator for help.

"Please give me the address of the U-B church," he said.

She gave him an address, and he began to attend church services.

Several months later, his sister asked whether he was going to church. She was pleased to hear that he was attending regularly. "How do you find the time to go every Sunday?" she asked.

"Sundays?" he said. "I go on Saturdays."

His sister was shocked. "Which church are you attending?" she said.

Batzul explained that he was going to a Seventh-day Adventist church.

At church one Sabbath, someone gave him a book about giving up bad habits. As he read, he grew convinced that smoking was a sin. He read in 1 Corinthians 3:16 that his body was the temple of the Holy Spirit. But he couldn't stop smoking.

One day, at his family's home, he locked himself in a storage shed, pulled out a pack of cigarettes, and prayed desperately,

“If there is a God, please help me to quit smoking.” He flung the pack of cigarettes at the locked door. Taking a deep breath, he felt joy and peace flood over him.

The next day, Batzul reached into his pocket for something and pulled out a cigarette lighter. He suddenly realized that he hadn’t even thought about smoking for an entire day. He lost the desire to smoke.

At the church, he pulled out the lighter and excitedly told the Bible study leader, “I haven’t used this lighter in four days.”

“You have found Jesus,” she said.

Batzul began to study the Bible earnestly. In Genesis, he read that Adam had named the animals. He read about the great controversy between Christ and Satan and realized that Satan tempts people to smoke because he wants to destroy Christ’s handiwork. He learned that death is like a dreamless sleep and, when he died, he would lose consciousness until Jesus’ second coming. It was all so logical. He found all the answers in the Bible. He gave his heart to Jesus.

Today, Batzul, 30, and his wife are Global Mission pioneers in Mongolia. He tells fellow Mongolians that the answer to all of life’s mysteries can be found in the Bible.

His favorite verse is Jeremiah 29:13, where God says, “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” 🌐

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped open the first Seventh-day Adventist high school in Mongolia. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help open an Adventist lifestyle center in Mongolia’s capital, Ulaanbaatar.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Pronounce Batzul as: butt-ZAL.
- Recognize that Global Mission pioneers are laypeople who volunteer for at least a year to establish a congregation in an unentered area within their own culture. Global Mission pioneers have the advantage of knowing the culture, speaking the language, and blending with the local people. More than 2,500 Global Mission pioneers are now working around the world. Since 1990, pioneers have established more than 11,000 new Seventh-day Adventist congregations.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/nsd-2021.
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Tasty Gospel Message

JAPAN | October 30

Hasegawa Harue, 65



I wanted to open a restaurant in Japan where people could become healthier, just as I had become healthier at an Adventist health resort in the U.S. state of Alabama.

You see, my husband and I flew from our home in Japan to Alabama to seek treatment for his cancer. I was a Seventh-day Adventist, and I had heard that Adventist doctors working at a health resort might be able to help. My husband wasn't a Christian.

As we ate vegan food and exercised, our bodies began to change. I lost a lot of weight. My husband quit smoking. He also began to read the Bible and was baptized at the institute.

My husband died a week after his baptism. He was only 56. I was sad, but I was also happy because we had agreed to meet again in heaven.

Returning to Japan, I counted my savings and realized that I had more than enough to live on. I wanted to use my money to spread the gospel in Japan, where only one percent of the population is Christian. So, I started praying, "Dear God, what should I do?"

One day, I read Isaiah 55:13 during my devotions. This verse says, "Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off" (NKJV).

At that moment, I knew that I wanted to open a restaurant where I could help people become healthier and feel better just as I had in Alabama. Maybe I also could win their confidence and point them to Jesus. I decided to name the restaurant Myrtle after that verse in Isaiah.

That same day, I walked down a street in my hometown just outside Tokyo and saw a plot of land for sale. It was a perfect location, near three Adventist churches. I bought the vacant lot and paid for the restaurant to be built.

To be honest, I knew nothing about the restaurant business, so I attended an Adventist vegetarian cooking school to get some ideas and then created my own meals for the restaurant.

A good-sized crowd showed up on opening day, but it was chaos inside. I still knew nothing about running a restaurant. One of the diners, a former insurance client, knew someone who owned a nearby café and asked the owner to help me. She helped a lot!

Business has been good. Myrtle is one of the few totally vegetarian restaurants in the Tokyo area. I go to my insurance job in the morning. Then I go to the restaurant at 11 a.m. and serve lunchtime customers until 2 p.m. After that, I return to my insurance job. The restaurant is closed on Sabbath, of course.

This restaurant has given me the opportunity to do more than provide healthy food. One regular diner has breast cancer, and she asked for information about a healthy lifestyle. I shared some Adventist literature with her. Another diner, a single woman, told me that she was looking for new friends. I invited her to visit my church, and she has come several times. The main goal of the restaurant is to lead people to Jesus. Ellen White says, “Our restaurants must be in the cities, for otherwise the workers in these restaurants could not reach the people and teach them the principles of right living” (*Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, p.

Story Tips

- Pronounce Harue as: HAA-ruw-eh.
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Mission Post

- The first Seventh-day Adventist to visit Japan was Abram La Rue, a self-supporting U.S. missionary working in China. As early as 1889, La Rue made a number of trips to Japan, distributing Adventist publications in Yokohama and Kobe. Stephen Haskell (1833–1922) visited in 1890 and reported in the *Review and Herald* (August 26, 1890) that there had been a baptism and several people were interested in keeping the Sabbath.

142). That’s why I started this restaurant. This is God’s restaurant. God is helping me run it, and the owner is Jesus. 🌐

By Hasegawa Harue, as told to Andrew McChesney



Curried Rice Gospel

Sara, 14

Sara goes to a Seventh-day Adventist church in Japan every Sabbath. She is not an Adventist. Her family is not Adventist. No one in her family is even a Christian.

The reason that Sara goes to church every Sabbath is to eat at a children's restaurant that operates on its premises.

The 14-year-old teenager enjoys eating sushi, but she especially likes the Sabbaths when the restaurant serves curried rice, which is a popular dish among Japanese schoolchildren. After lunch, she joins other children in listening to Bible stories, singing songs, and playing games.

Sara started coming to the church when she was 6. Her single mother sent her to the church for a healthy meal.

Sara and her mother may not seem poor. Japan is viewed widely as an affluent country. But the government's economic policies and the effects of globalization have created a growing gap between those who have and those who do not

have. The result is not absolute poverty, where children starve to death, but rather relative poverty, where children live well below the average standard of living and get left behind the children who live in more affluent families. One in seven Japanese children now lives in this condition. Relative poverty has hit hard the homes of single parents like Sara's mother. These parents cannot afford to provide decent meals for their children or to send them to after-school activities such as music lessons or sports. The parents have little time to help children with homework and no extra money to hire a tutor like more affluent families do.

Members of a Seventh-day Adventist church noticed the relative poverty in their community and began to provide free lunches on Sabbaths and tutoring on other days of the week. When the city government in Kashiwa, a city of about 410,000 people in the greater Tokyo area, decided to offer financial assistance to organizations that feed the impoverished children, the church applied for and received an ongoing grant. Ten to thirty children began to regularly show up at the church every Sabbath for a healthy

lunch served by church members and other volunteers.

Sara was shy when she first arrived at the church to eat lunch and to play with the other children. But she loved the food and the Bible activities. She enjoyed the attention that church members showered on her, and she returned Sabbath after Sabbath. As she grew older, she began to help lead the afternoon program for the younger children. Then she was invited to a church summer camp. At the camp, she decided to give her heart to Jesus.

She broke the news to her mother when she returned home, but her mother was not pleased.

“You’ll have to wait until you are old enough to make up your own mind,” Mother said.

That meant Sara had to wait four more years to get baptized. Under Japanese law, a child cannot make such a decision without parental consent before the age of 18. Sara is 14. Church members were saddened when Sara told them about Mother’s response, but they were not surprised. It was a typical reaction from a Japanese mother who was not a Christian.



Please pray for Sara, her faith, and her mother. Please pray for the other children who eat, play, and learn about Jesus every Sabbath at Kashiwa Seventh-day Adventist Church, an urban center of influence that seeks to share Jesus’ love in the East Japan Conference. Thank you for your mission offerings that help spread the gospel — with and without sushi and curried rice.

By Yasuki Miyamoto

Story Tips

- Sara is a pseudonym used for her privacy.
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- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/nsd-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following component 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 ... and to non-Christian religions.” Learn more at IWillGo2020.org.

Mission Post

- The first official Seventh-day Adventist workers sent to Japan were W. C. Grainger (1844–1899), former president of Healdsburg College (later Pacific Union College) in California, and T. H. Okohira, a Japanese-born, former Healdsburg student. They arrived in Tokyo on November 19, 1896 and began the Shiba Bible School, which soon had 60 young men attending.
- Teruhiko H. Okohira (1865–1939) was born into an influential family in Satsuma Province, Japan. While attending business school in the United States he was converted first to Methodism and then, in San Francisco, he became a Seventh-day Adventist. He began to attend Healdsburg College and, in 1894, at the end of the school year, he made an appeal for someone to go back to Japan with him to spread the Adventist message. The president of the college responded and, in 1896, they were sent by the General Conference to Tokyo, Japan. In 1907, Okohira and another Japanese minister, H. Kuniya, were ordained as the first Japanese Seventh-day Adventist ministers.

Lost Lamb



JAPAN | November 13

Chie Chinyama, 43

I have been very encouraged during the coronavirus pandemic. My husband and I run an English-language school in Osaka, a city of about 2.7 million people in Japan. The school was closed because of the pandemic. But before the Japanese government declared a state of emergency, we finished setting up online lessons and, amazingly, have managed to retain 90 percent of our students.

But I have been even more astonished by a former student, a 60-year-old woman named Chikako, who contacted me at the height of the pandemic in Japan. We have known each other for 13 years but lost touch about two years ago. Then one day as I was heading home from my office, I received a note from her on Facebook Messenger.

"I want to attend your church even though the pandemic is spreading," she wrote.

Chikako was not a Christian. I was surprised that she wanted to know more about Jesus, and we briefly texted each other about Christianity and how I became a Christian. We agreed to meet on Saturday after Sabbath worship services.

At our meeting, I told her the parable of the lost sheep. She listened carefully to Jesus' words: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance" (Luke 15:4-7; NKJV).

Chikako immediately identified with the missing sheep. She said Jesus had been calling her to follow Him for many years, but she had wanted to make the decision in her own time. Her next words stunned me.

“I know that Jesus has been calling me as a lost sheep, and I have been ignoring Him,” she said. “But now I have stopped ignoring Him, and I want to be baptized.”

It seemed clear to me that the Holy Spirit had been working on her heart, especially during the pandemic, and I was happy to share the teachings and love of Jesus.

We met several more times after that. One Sabbath, as we talked about why Jesus died on the cross, she was moved by the story of the thief on the cross who, at the very last minute, chose to die as a true believer of Jesus. Chikako was very touched by the fact that Jesus always loves and is ready to forgive. She realized that even though she had tried hard to find joy and peace on her own, she was unsatisfied.

“I would like to be like the thief on the cross and accept Jesus,” she said.

The coronavirus pandemic might disrupt our lives, but it cannot stop Jesus from drawing people to Him. He says, “And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd” (John 10:16).

Jesus is working in our lives even when we don’t see or feel it. Jesus calls us by name and will save us when we surrender to Him. 🌐

COVID-19 has made online work such as Chie’s virtual English classes even more essential in sharing the gospel. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go to a project to help Japanese people, especially the youth, learn about Jesus over the Internet. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Chie Chinyama

Story Tips

- Ask a woman to share this first-person account.
- Pronounce Chie as: CH-iy-EH.
- Pronounce Chikako as: CH-IY-kaa-kow.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/nsd-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, “to revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples”; and Mission Objective No. 2, “to strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities ... and to non-Christian religions.” Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Fast Facts

- The national sport of Japan is *sumo*, a type of wrestling where the two competitors try to push each other out of the ring (the *dohy* is 15 ft [4.5 m] across), or force the other to touch the ground with any part of the body other than the soles of the feet.
- Seafood and rice or noodles make up the traditional Japanese cuisine. One variation that has become most popular around the world is sushi: rice seasoned with vinegar and served with a variety of seafood or vegetables.
- Japan is part of the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” with more than 100 active volcanos, making it prone to earthquakes and tsunamis.

Business Owner's Prayers



SOUTH KOREA | November 20

Kiyong Kwon, 56

When Kiyong prays, amazing things happen.

While praying, the owner of a prosperous accounting practice in South Korea felt impressed to plant a Seventh-day Adventist church. Church leaders gave him a former church building not far from his home, and 40 people were baptized in the first year.

As he kept praying, the number of baptisms grew to 98 in 2 ½ years.

Kiyong decided to pray for 100 baptisms.

"Please give 100," he prayed,

When he opened his eyes, he suddenly remembered a woman whom he had not seen in three years. He asked around and learned that the woman had opened a children's art school. He bought a bouquet of colorful flowers and presented them to her at the school.

As the two spoke, Kiyong described

his church plant. He spoke about how 98 people had given their hearts to Jesus.

"You should be the 100th person," he said.

"Sure, I will be the 100th person," the woman said.

"Great!" Kiyong said. "But you need Bible studies first. I'll come to your home at 7:30 tomorrow evening to teach you the Bible."

He paused and added, "Make sure your husband is there!"

Kiyong mentioned her husband because he needed two people to reach 100 baptisms.

After he left the art school, the woman called her husband on the phone.

"Kiyong will come to our house tomorrow to teach us the Bible," she announced.

Her husband, like Kiyong, was a successful business owner. But he was not a Christian. Instead, he worshipped in shrines to ancestors and gods. Recently, he had decided to improve his English to further prosper his business, and he had purchased a stack of English-language

books to help with his studies. One of the books was a Bible.

But the Bible was confusing. The man was reading the Bible in his office but was struggling to understand it. He understood the English words, but he could not understand what they meant. Finally, in desperation, he decided to pray to the God of the Bible.

“If You are the real God, then send me someone to teach me to understand the Bible,” he said out loud.

At that moment, his phone rang. It was his wife.

“Kiyong will come to our house tomorrow to teach us the Bible,” she said.

He was stunned. He sat without moving for a long moment. He felt like a lightning bolt shot through his body — from his head, down his spine, and to the soles of his feet.

The next day, Kiyong arrived at the couple's house and was surprised to find them eagerly waiting to receive Bible studies. Their two adult children were with them, also wanting to learn about the God who had answered their father's prayer so quickly.

The family studied the Bible with Kiyong and embraced everything that they learned. They gave their hearts to Jesus. In answer to Kiyong's prayer, God did not give 100 baptisms. He gave 102. 🌱

Part of this quarter's Thirteen Sabbath Offering will help spread the gospel in South Korea through two projects: a care center for immigrant children in the city of Ansan and a mission outreach center in the city of Daegu. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Pronounce Kiyong as: KI-yawng.
- Know that Kiyong has planted a total of three churches in South Korea.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/nsd-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "to revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples"; and Mission Objective No. 2, "to strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities ... and to non-Christian religions." Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Mission Post

- The first Koreans to become Seventh-day Adventists, Lee Eung Hyun and Son Heung Cho, were converted in 1904, in Kobe, Japan, where Lee Eung Hyun saw a signboard in Chinese (which uses common ideographs with Japanese and Korean) on the street, which read "The Seventh-day Sabbath Jesus Second Coming Church." He was already a Christian and was intrigued by the sign. After investigating, and speaking to Hide Kuniya, the evangelist, he invited Son Heung Cho to visit the church with him, and the two men were soon baptized. Son Heung Cho then returned to Korea where he began to spread the message. Later that year, he invited Hide Kuniya to Korea to teach the converts.



Help from Heaven

David Kim, 53

David drove his Toyota Camry off the freeway and entered a remote stretch of road. He was following his GPS navigator to an important speaking appointment at a church in the U.S. state of Utah.

Suddenly, a warning message popped up on his mobile device. The road ahead was dangerous. Only all-terrain vehicles should risk traveling on the road.

David had driven quite a far distance in his midsize car, and he could not simply turn around. How bad could the road be? He determinedly stepped on the gas pedal.

A few minutes later, the warning flashed again. He ignored it.

Then the asphalt ended abruptly, and he began to drive on dirt. After driving uphill for a short distance, the car engine stopped. He turned the key to restart the engine, but no response. He turned the key again. And again. No response.

Stretched out below he could see a vast

plateau of sand and shrubs. His cell phone was out of network, and no other cars were in sight. Suddenly David felt scared and alone in the middle of nowhere. He was a computer programmer from South Korea stranded on the side of a sandy hill in the United States.

“What if I encounter wild animals?” he thought.

David knelt down in the dirt and prayed.

“My Lord,” he said. “Please forgive me for ignoring those warnings and driving here. I didn’t know that this would happen. But I have to give a seminar this Sabbath. What did I do wrong?”

His heart was filled with a mix of depression, fear, and irritation. He forgot that God had been leading him as he had traveled for periods of three months at a time, giving seminars about how to evangelize over the Internet and social media.

About five minutes after his prayer, he saw a pickup truck climbing the hill.

An elderly couple stepped out when they saw him.

“What’s wrong?” the man asked.

David told them about the stubborn engine that refused to start. The elderly man slid into his car and turned the key. No response. He handed the key back to David and offered to drive him six miles to an area where his cell phone would work. Gratitude welled up in David’s heart. He could call a tow truck for help.

But suddenly the elderly man asked for the car key again. Motioning for David to sit beside him in the passenger seat, he turned the key. David was sure that he was wasting his time. Both men had already tried to start the engine and failed.

Vroom, vroom!

The sound was like music to David’s ears. The engine revved to life. The elderly man stepped on the gas pedal, and the car smoothly moved forward. David could not believe his eyes. “Thank you! Thank you!” he exclaimed.

Waving good-bye, he turned the car around and returned to the main road, praising God the whole way. Even though he had disregarded the warnings, God had provided help from heaven so he could reach his next speaking appointment on time. 🌐

David Kim is among many Seventh-day Adventists from South Korea who serve as missionaries around the world. This quarter, the world church has an opportunity to assist with two Thirteenth Sabbath mission projects in South Korea: a care center for immigrant children in the city of Ansan and a mission outreach center in the city of Daegu.

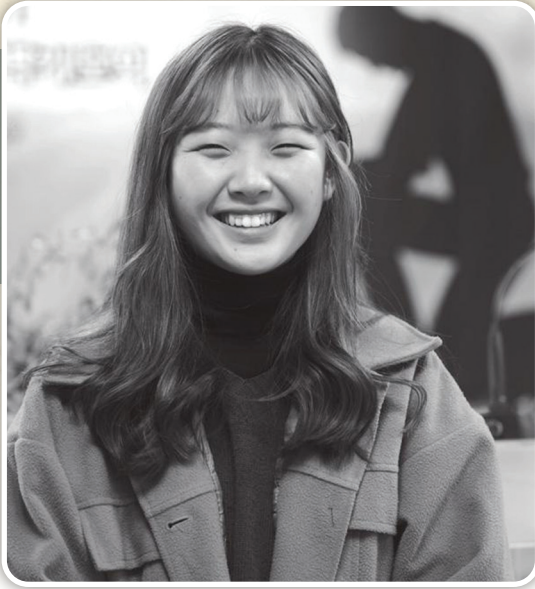
By Youngsuk Chae

Story Tips

- Know that David operates two websites, 3AMS.com, which offers Ellen White’s writings in Korean, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Dutch, Russian, Romanian, Japanese, and English; and sabbathtruth.or.kr, which collects the truth about the Sabbath.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/nsd-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following component of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, “to revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples.” Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Mission Post

- In February 1943, during World War II, the leaders of the church in Korea were arrested by the Japanese police and held in prison until the end of the year. One died as a result of torture inflicted on him in prison, two others died soon after being released, and another later on. Altogether, about 40 Seventh-day Adventists were imprisoned for their faith. Many others fled to the mountainous regions of Korea and only returned to their homes once the war was over.
- The headquarters of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division is located in Goyang, a city in the metropolitan area of Seoul, the capital of South Korea.



SOS Missionary

Jang So-hee, 19

As a teenager, I dreamed about becoming a missionary. But how?

My father died when I was young, and my mother was about the only Christian whom I knew. Our other relatives were shamans and worshipers of our ancestors in my homeland of South Korea.

One day Mother announced that she had good news. “I know a professor who is sending missionaries to other countries, and he wants to talk with you about your dream,” she said.

I was thrilled, and I made an appointment with the professor. Walking to the appointment several days later, I passed a group of teenagers wearing T-shirts with the letters “SOS” on them. They invited me to an evangelism meeting for students at a nearby Seventh-day Adventist church. I love church, and I readily accompanied the students to their pretty wooden church.

When the pastor learned that I was a Christian, he asked what I knew about the Sabbath. I worshiped on Sundays. The

pastor explained the seventh-day Sabbath to me. As he spoke, my heart began to burn.

At that moment, my cell phone rang. It was the professor, and he was waiting for me. It was strange. I had wanted so much to speak with him, but the pastor’s words had touched my heart even more. I postponed our appointment until the next day.

That evening, I learned about the Sabbath, the Second Coming, judgment, God’s salvation, and the great controversy. My heart overflowed with joy.

The next day, I returned to the pretty wooden church to learn more about the Bible. While there, the professor called, and I said I was busy studying the Bible at a Seventh-day Adventist church. He angrily said real Christians did not follow the same doctrines as Adventists and explained his doctrines to me. The pastor, seated nearby, could not help but overhear the conversation. He said the professor’s doctrines sounded like those taught by a Christian offshoot group that holds that its leader is the Holy Spirit Himself. We did some checking, and it turned out that the professor belonged to the offshoot group. My mother belonged to the group as well.

I was sad and upset that my mother had tried to trick me into joining the group. I begged her to study the Bible with the Adventist pastor, but she angrily refused. I

wasn't sure what to do next.

The pastor suggested that I enroll at Sahmyook Adventist University. "You could study the Bible more and lead your mother to the truth," he said.

Mother's anger softened while I studied at the university. I told her what I was learning and purposely left various Bible study materials around the house. Little by little, she watched Adventist messages on YouTube and read Adventist magazines. By the grace of God, I graduated from the university in 2020.

Then a gathering of her offshoot group turned into a coronavirus super-spreader, resulting in one of the worst outbreaks in South Korea. Thousands of people, including Mother, got infected. Thankfully, she recovered quickly, but the group's church was closed and its meetings were banned. I believe that God is leading Mother to a fuller knowledge of Him.

I love Jesus' words, "For the Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). This is about me. Looking back, I can see that, through providence, I met those SOS missionaries and realized the truth about Mother. SOS stands for "Salvation, Only Jesus, Service," and I plan to become an SOS missionary to my mother and the world. This plan is the answer to my dream. 🌍

So-hee is among many Seventh-day Adventists from South Korea with a heart for mission. This quarter, church members from around the world have an opportunity to have a heart for mission in South Korea. Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help establish mission centers in two cities.

By Jang So-hee

Story Tips

- Ask a young woman to share this first-person account.
- Know that SOS (Salvation, Only Jesus, Service) is a South Korea-based youth missionary movement aimed at helping young people reach their own generation. The movement started in 2015 among youth in the Southeast Korean Conference. For a week during vacation time, SOS teens approach fellow teens on the street, invite them to church, give them Bible studies, and ultimately invite them to give their hearts to Jesus in baptism.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/nsd-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "to revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "to disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "to help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Fast Facts

- South Korea was once home to numerous Siberian tigers but, as the population grew, they were hunted nearly to extinction and are now only found in North Korea.



Vaccine of Love

Jang Dong-woon, 65

Beep, beep. Several times a day, emergency text alerts pop up on my cell phone. The messages contain information about coronavirus and warnings against leaving the house.

The South Korean region where I live earned the distinction of being a COVID-free zone amid the COVID-19 pandemic. But then Patient No. 31 brought the virus to my region by attending the gathering of an offshoot Christian group. The event turned into a super-spreader. My town rapidly became the most infected in the country, with hundreds of new confirmed cases every day. The number of confirmed cases topped 6,000 less than a month after the event. As the national media pumped out daily reports about my region, people across South Korea looked down on us as the main culprit for spreading coronavirus across the country.

Everything seemed to stop in an instant. There were no people in supermarkets, outdoor markets, and restaurants. No one

bought or sold. Few cars drove on the streets. The invisible virus quickly turned the visible world upside down.

My church also was affected. I freely have shared my love for Jesus for decades, but my worship and missionary activities came to a standstill. I wondered whether God's church should be forced to close its doors. Should we quietly give up our calling to spread the gospel and wait for the situation to improve? I couldn't. While the world was closing, I was praying.

"My Father, I know that the global crisis is Your opportunity. What opportunity will You give me?" I prayed again and again.

A bright light flashed in the pitch-black darkness. I remembered learning how to make hand sanitizer with the church conference's health ministries department.

"One of the things that people need now is hand sanitizer," I thought.

With the help of the health ministries department, members of my church made about 1,000 bottles of hand sanitizer and distributed them at outdoor markets. We

put on masks and gloves to give away the hand sanitizer. People responded as if hand sanitizer were one of the most valuable gifts in the world. They showed heartfelt gratitude. We did not disclose the name of our church, but many people asked, “Where do you come from?” or “Which organization to you represent?” Then we replied that we were with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

A crisis turned into an opportunity. God’s love as revealed through our sharing melted hearts frozen by COVID-19.

Then God gave me another idea. South Korea experienced nationwide panic when masks sold out. Long lines of people waited to purchase scarce masks at shops.

“How can I help these struggling people?” I wondered.

As I thought about it, I remembered learning to use a sewing machine when I was young. I started to make cloth masks at home. As I slowly made mask after mask, other church members heard about the initiative and volunteered to help. Their involvement gave me courage and strength. Most of all, I rejoiced to see church members who had withdrawn from outreach work because of COVID-19 regaining their vitality for Christ.

Our God is a God of reversal, and He turns crises into opportunities. People separated by social distancing drew close through hand sanitizers and masks. My church has become a place to share the vaccine of love, the best vaccine in a crisis. We have distributed 3,000 bottles of hand sanitizer and hundreds of masks.

Through this sharing effort initiated and powered by God, I pray earnestly that the earth will be filled not with COVID-19 but with “the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:9; NKJV). 🌐

Story Tips

- Ask a woman to share this first-person account.
- Know that Jang Dong-woon serves as a deaconess and director of the mission department of the Gyeongsan Central Seventh-day Adventist Church and also directs the women’s association of the Adventist Church’s South East Korean Conference.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/nsd-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, “to revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples”; and Mission Objective No. 2, “to strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities.” Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Fast Facts

- The most popular and well-known element of Korean cuisine is kimchi: a dish made of various fermented vegetables and seasonings, including chili powder.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a mission center in the South Korean region where Jang Dong-woon’s church is located.

By Jang Dong-woon

A Village Church

TAIWAN | December 18

Gao Xiu-yue, 68



This story about Xiu-yue, a 68-year-old indigenous woman in northern Taiwan, reflects the realities of indigenous people in Taiwan. Three years ago, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to help spread the gospel among the indigenous people, and this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open three urban centers of influence aimed at the indigenous population and others in Taiwan. Thank you for supporting the spread of the gospel to all people groups.

I don't own a car. I don't know how to ride a motorcycle or even a bicycle. The only way to get to church on Sabbath is by taxi.

My Sabbath outings caused big problems in my marriage. My husband, who was not a Seventh-day Adventist, got upset when I left him in order to worship at the church in my home village.

We lived in a big city without an Adventist church in northern Taiwan. My home village was located on a mountain some distance away. My husband was sickly and did not want to go with me. He also did not want to be left at home. One Sabbath when I returned home and offered him lunch, he threw the food on the floor.

"You only care about the church!" he roared. "You do not care whether I live or die!"

I did care about the church, but I also cared for my husband. I did not know what to do. It seemed that whenever I sought to be faithful to the Lord, I came under attack from the enemy.

My son was seriously injured in an accident while in mandatory military service. I left home to care for him and, while I was gone, my husband died suddenly. I felt responsible for his death because I might have been able to help him if I had stayed at home. Grief overcame me, and I felt like I could not pray or read the Bible for a month. Slowly, however, I realized that God was in control and had a beautiful plan for me.

I also saw that God had a wonderful plan for our village church. We needed to carry out renovations on the church, and we estimated the cost at 100,000 New Taiwan dollars (about U.S.\$3,550). It was a huge sum for us villagers, members of the Atayal indigenous people group.

Our repair work ran into many problems.

First, a female church member was rushed to the hospital after an accident, and we lost two valuable volunteer workers — her and her husband — in a single day. Then our sole hired worker, who was not a church member, fainted from heat stroke. Fortunately, he awoke after a few minutes and, saying he was all right, returned to work. After that, my brother became discouraged, worrying that we had miscalculated the cost of the repairs.

“We will never be able to cover the costs,” he said.

I encouraged him to trust God and to keep working.

At that low point, a man who attended another Christian church in our village passed by our church building. He stopped and offered to help with the repair work.

“Life is too short to stop a Christian from another denomination from working for God,” he said.

As night fell, he handed me a package.

“I want to make a donation,” he said.

Opening it up, I was surprised to find a pile of bills amounting to the enormous sum of 6,000 New Taiwan dollars (about U.S.\$215).

When the hired worker heard about the donation, he was so touched that announced that he no longer wanted to be paid for his work. “I want to work for the church for free,” he said.

Witnessing all this, my brother gained confidence in our efforts and praised the Lord.

After six years, the renovation of the church has not been completed, but I believe that God will take care of His church and the needs of His people. He always does. Keep praying for us! 🌐

By Gao Xiu-yue

Story Tips

- Pronounce Xiu-yue as: ZI-eye-you HU-ay (“zi” is pronounced with a short “i” sound as in “zip”).
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/nsd-2021.
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Mission Post

- The first Seventh-day Adventist known to enter Taiwan was T. S. Wang, a colporteur from South Fujian, China in 1907. Despite persecution and imprisonment, he carried on his work and, by the time he left, in 1912, he had ten converts. Work was difficult in the area and, when work came to a standstill in 1942, during World War II, the membership was only 14. In 1948, after the war, the Taiwan Mission was established, and the first Seventh-day Adventist church on the island was organized in early 1949.
- The Taiwan Conference has 58 churches, 28 companies, and a membership of 6,956. In a population of 23,593,000, that is only one church member for every 3,392 people.

Unequally Yoked



13th SABBATH | December 25

Chang Zeng-Mei, 50

This story about Chang Zeng-Mei, an indigenous teacher, reflects the realities of indigenous people in Taiwan.

I didn't want to marry my husband because I was raised a Seventh-day Adventist and he belonged to another Christian denomination. But both of our parents wanted us to get married, and I had to obey our parents.

So, I went to my future husband, Ming-Huang, and said, "We can get married, but I will not change my religion." He didn't have a problem with that.

But then we started to discuss the wedding. I wanted it to be held in an Adventist church, but he said, "No! Because I am the husband, it should be in my church."

I tried to find a compromise. "Let's

have the wedding outside," I said. "But," I added, "an Adventist pastor must officiate the wedding."

One of my cousins was a pastor in Ming-Huang's church, so he said, "Let's ask your cousin to officiate the wedding."

"No, it must be an Adventist pastor," I said. "Your brother-in-law is an Adventist pastor, so let's ask him to officiate the wedding."

We argued back and forth.

Finally, I said, "If it is not an Adventist pastor, then I will not marry you."

"Fine," he replied. "I'll ask my mother what to do."

His mother had been a member of the Adventist Church. But her husband was not an Adventist and, after getting married, she had joined his church.

After speaking with his mother,

Ming-Huang told me, “OK, my mother said we can have an Adventist pastor.”

But that was not the end of our troubles. It turned out that his mother liked me because she wanted me to change her son. He drank and didn’t go to church on Sundays. She thought I would make him behave. She also thought that I would join her church after the wedding.

I felt uncomfortable with the idea of marrying outside my faith. Ming-Huang knew that I felt uncomfortable, but by this time the whole village knew that our parents wanted us to get married. If we split up, he would lose face. It would be very embarrassing. In addition, many people praised me to him, saying, “She is a good girl. You have to marry her.”

He decided to become an Adventist so I would marry him and he wouldn’t lose face. A month before the wedding, he took Bible studies and was baptized. I’ll never forget that day. He wept as he came out of the water. He wanted to marry me, but he didn’t want to leave his old life. He didn’t want to stop drinking.

Six months after our parents decided that we should get married, we had an outdoor wedding with an Adventist pastor.

I felt a lot of pressure after the wedding. I felt like I had to change my husband. I had to bring him to church every Sabbath. I had to teach him to share Jesus with others.

Ming-Huang was a beaten man. He lost a great deal of self-esteem because he gave up so much to marry me. Then I informed him that he also had to wait to have a baby.

“You have drunk alcohol and eaten unclean food for a long time,” I said. “Your body is polluted.”

We waited seven months. During that time, I taught my husband how to eat

Story Tips

- Ask a woman to share this first-person account.
- Pronounce Chang Zeng-Mei as: chang JENG-may.
- Pronounce Ming-Huang as: MING-khwong.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division: bit.ly/nsd-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, “to revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples”; and Mission Objective No. 2, “to strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach ... among unreached and under-reached people groups.” Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Fast Facts

- Although Taiwan is the Chinese name for the island, it was popularly known as Formosa since the sixteenth century, when Portuguese sailors glimpsed it from the sea and marked it on their maps as *Ilha Formosa* (beautiful island).
- Baseball is Taiwan’s national sport.
- The largest percentage of Taiwan’s population (95 percent), according to the government, is made up of Han Chinese, mostly the descendants of waves of migration from the mainland beginning in the eighteenth century. Mandarin is the most common language used in Taiwan.

healthy food and live a healthy lifestyle. Our neighbors noticed that he had changed and praised him as a new man.

But he didn't want to be a new man. After our daughter was born, he began drinking again. I was sad and upset, but I couldn't leave him.

Ten years passed, and we had a second daughter. We had many conflicts. One day I realized that we could no longer follow this path. I suggested that we separate, but he didn't respond. So, I took our two children, the baby and 10-year-old girl, to the home of friends. I wanted my husband to be alone at home and think about life without his family. Ming-Huang didn't want a divorce. He searched for me for three days and found me at the friends' house. He agreed to change his ways.

I love my husband dearly, but I wouldn't agree to marry him again if I could do it all over. I got married because I thought I could change him with God's help. Before our wedding, I even prayed, "If You want to save this man, You must help me to change him." But the Bible is right when it says, "Do not be unequally yoked" (1 Corinthians 6:14; NKJV). It's better to marry a spouse of your own faith. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived,

learned this lesson the hard way.

If an Adventist woman is married to a non-Adventist, I recommend that you be a good example to your husband in your faith and lifestyle. Pray for him, cook for him, and show him your faith through your life. As Jesus said in Matthew 10:16, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

Praise God that He saves us in spite of ourselves. My husband has become a caring husband and father. He also is a good church worker and an elder. God is good! 🌍

Three years ago, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to help spread the gospel among indigenous people in Taiwan, and this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open three urban centers of influence aimed at the indigenous population and others in Taiwan. Thank you for helping spread the gospel to all people groups in the Northern Pacific-Asia Division with your generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today.

By Chang Zeng-Mei

Offering

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

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

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

Leader's Resources

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

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

Japan: government website	bit.ly/JapanGov
Japan Visitor	bit.ly/JapanVisitor
Japan Travel	bit.ly/Travel-Japan
Mongolia: government website	bit.ly/MongoliaGov
Visit Mongolia	bit.ly/VisitMongolia
World Travel Guide	bit.ly/WTG-Mongolia
South Korea: government website	bit.ly/SKoreaGov
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LP-SKorea
Visit Korea	bit.ly/Visit-Korea
Taiwan: government website	bit.ly/Taiwan-Gov
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LP-Taiwan
World Travel Guide	bit.ly/WTG-Taiwan

Seventh-day Adventist

Northern Asia-Pacific Division	bit.ly/SDA-NSD
Japan Union Conference	bit.ly/SDAJapan
Korean Union Conference	bit.ly/SDAKorea
Mongolia Mission	bit.ly/SDAMongolia
Taiwan Conference	bit.ly/SDATaiwan

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

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YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

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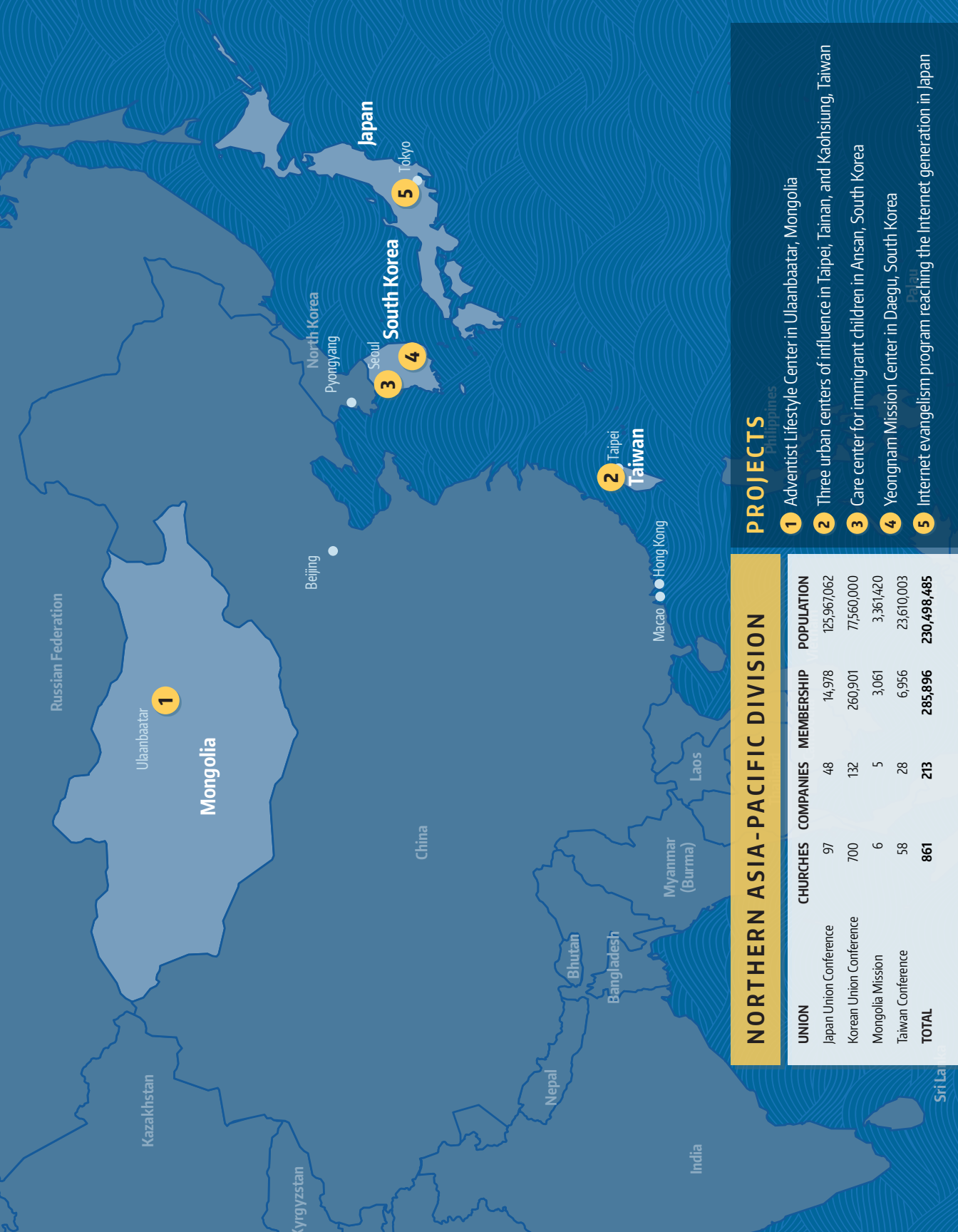
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NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Japan Union Conference	97	48	14,978	125,967,062
Korean Union Conference	700	132	260,901	77,560,000
Mongolia Mission	6	5	3,061	3,361,420
Taiwan Conference	58	28	6,956	23,610,003
TOTAL	861	213	285,896	230,498,485

PROJECTS

- 1 Adventist Lifestyle Center in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- 2 Three urban centers of influence in Taipei, Tainan, and Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- 3 Care center for immigrant children in Ansan, South Korea
- 4 Yeongnam Mission Center in Daegu, South Korea
- 5 Internet evangelism program reaching the Internet generation in Japan