

mission360

The official mission magazine of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church VOLUME 4 • NUMBER 2

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EDITORIAL

Surfing is big in Brazil. And so is mission. It was a joy to see these two passions of my homeland come together in the ministry of Pastor Vinícius Metzker.

Pastor Vini is an avid surfer who has a burning desire to share Jesus with other surfers. Several years ago, he began offering free lessons to anyone who expressed an interest. He gets so many requests to join his classes, he can't accommodate them all.

Pastor Vini spends a lot of time forging friendships. He mingles with people, lends a listening ear, and tries to help them with their needs.

The local Adventist conference has embraced this mission as well, buying surfboards for people to borrow during their lessons.

The results? Amazing! People who may have never come to know Jesus any other way are discovering the Creator of the waves they love and the Friend they've been longing for. Many have requested Bible studies, started going to church, given their hearts to Jesus, and even been baptized!

You can read about Pastor Vini's unique mission in a story called "Waterproof Faith" on page 26. I hope it inspires you as much as it inspired me.



Earley Simon

Earley Simon,

Video and TV producer
Office of Adventist Mission
Seventh-day Adventist Church world
headquarters

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The official mission magazine
of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church

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Mission Madness

I was only a teenager when I sat in church one Sabbath morning staring cold truth in the face. The pastor's message hit home, and I finally understood that if I didn't share Jesus with others, my own spiritual life would languish. That wasn't an option for me, so I started making ministry a serious matter of prayer. "Lord," I prayed, "I feel so un-gifted and useless. Please show me something that I can do for You."

God answered that prayer and wonderfully blessed me. By the time I was 31, I was involved in numerous church activities, including conducting an orchestra that I had organized four years before. Even my personal life was flourishing. Yet, despite these blessings, I was deeply depressed. I had the constant feeling that I was wasting my life and that something essential was missing.

Later that year, I joined a small group meeting with some of my church friends. We read the book *Christian Service* together, and one of them suggested that we start visiting the elderly at the local nursing home. My mouth answered "Yes!" but my mind was thinking, *Oh, no! I don't like this stuff! I'm pathologically shy; I normally don't like talking to people, never mind preaching to complete strangers!*

The next Sabbath afternoon, I was standing in front of the nursing home door. Ironically, I'd been assigned to read from the Bible and say a few words. I remember thinking, *This is the first and last time I will go through this door.* But thank God I was wrong!

While I talked about Jesus that day, I noticed my listeners were fascinated by the topic of His love. Despite my poor speaking skills, I



felt the power of the Holy Spirit as I never had before. I felt energized and motivated.

Now very different thoughts were whirling around in my mind. *That's what's missing! I need to serve outside the church, too. And I need to do more of it!*

A few weeks later our group was visiting two nursing homes, two orphanages, and one hospital every week! I was happier than ever. But something was still missing.

It was then that a crazy, new thought entered my mind. *If only 2 hours of outreach each week could make such an improvement in my spiritual life, what could 24 hours do? What if I did it 7 days a week? What if I became a missionary?*

"Nooooo, this is madness!" I told myself. "I'm too old for that; I have a career to develop; a retirement plan to grow. It's time to have a family, a dog, and a nice car."

I fought the Holy Spirit's leading for the next year. Many of my friends confirmed my doubts by telling me that I would probably be ruining my life if I went. But I finally decided to take the risk and applied to be a volunteer Bible teacher in the Marshall Islands for one year.

That first mission experience completely transformed my heart and my relationship with God. When the year was up, I knew I wanted to be a missionary for the rest of my life.



ADVENTIST VOLUNTEER SERVICE facilitates volunteer missionary service of church members around the world. Volunteers ages 18 to 80 may serve as pastors, teachers, medical professionals, computer technicians, orphan-age workers, farmers, and more. To learn more, please visit **AdventistVolunteers.org**.

- 1 I loved sharing Jesus with my students at the Delap Seventh-day Adventist School in Majuro, Marshall Islands.
- 2 Some of my students in Lebanon who were visiting an Adventist church for the first time.
- 3 Our nursing home ministry team.
- 4 I made great friends with the other missionaries in the Marshall Islands.
- 5 My wife and I both fell in love with mission service.



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I married a missionary named Rafaela and spent two years teaching Bible in Lebanon. Today, we're serving as volunteer missionaries in Austria.

I never felt as fulfilled in my other jobs as I do working for the Lord. Living to help others find rest has helped me find rest too, and my depression is gone.

I love my job, and I love God's mission. Rafaela and I have no plans to go "back" but only forward, until that mission is accomplished!

Originally from São Paulo, Brazil, Dalton Rocha has served as a volunteer missionary in the Marshall Islands, Lebanon, and Austria.



Angels Are Better Than Satellite Phones

Sometimes, when things seem impossible, God does the impossible just to show us He's Lord. My trip to southern Papua was tangled in impossibilities.

I couldn't fly with Adventist Aviation Services, my usual source of transport, due to the death of pilot Bob Roberts some months before. So I called his son Eric, who flies for another company in Indonesia, to see whether he could help me make alternative plans.

Accommodating my itinerary would be a tall order. Within the next three days I needed to get Global Mission pioneers Jerry and Melky to the remote villages where they'd be planting new churches; visit Fernando, a pioneer

whom I had no idea how to find; and be home by Friday in time for other appointments.

Fernando and his wife, Marie, and their three-year-old son, David, had moved to Sengge 10 months ago, a village so isolated, it had no means of contact with the outside world. Normally, they would have received supplies from Adventist Aviation three or four times by now. It was urgent that I let Fernando know why they weren't being delivered and that I support him in any way that I

could. "Lord," I prayed, "I need a miracle."

Eric connected me with a pilot in southern Papua, and within two hours he was able to get us our tickets. That may not seem like a big deal, but it's amazing when you understand the challenges of traveling here.

That afternoon a strong wind began to blow, and we received news that our flight would be canceled if it didn't let up. "Lord," I prayed, "You've already worked one miracle to make this trip possible. We know you can work another if it's Your will." The wind gradually died down, and Tuesday morning Jerry, Melky, and I flew to Kepi.

We were warmly welcomed by a small group of Adventists who had been trying to start a

church there for years. They were so grateful to finally have a pioneer of their own. I helped Jerry settle in and then looked for a speedboat driver to take Melky and me to Bade.

During the first hour of our trip, we skimmed along the relatively calm Kepi River. But then we met the mighty Digul. Known for its high waves spurred on by the incoming tide, the river was

even more treacherous than usual. Towering whitecaps, one to two meters tall, slammed against our small craft, threatening to sink us in crocodile- and python-infested waters.

"Lord, we need a miracle," I prayed, grasping the bars on the edge of the boat. "Please keep us safe!"

Finally, after more than four hours of crashing against the

bottom of the boat and being pummeled by cold rain, we rounded a bend in the river and spotted our destination. We stepped on shore with thankful hearts and made our way to the only hotel in town, eagerly anticipating hot showers and soft beds.

But the hotel was full—all three rooms. "Lord," I prayed, "we need another miracle." No sooner had I said "Amen," a man approached us who was a friend of an Adventist doctor in town. "I noticed you praying," he said. "Do you need a place to stay?" Graciously, he invited us to come to his home.

I praised God for providing us with a refuge. Yet tomorrow's challenge still weighed heavily on my mind. How was I going to find Fernando's village? All I had to help me locate it were approximate coordinates, and guesswork on the Digul can be a dangerous thing.

1. Jerry Samokari (left) is our new pioneer for Kepi. There are 14 Adventist members in this town of some 20,000 people.

2. Melky, me, and Jerry in front of the temporary church structure in Kepi.

3. On the calm Kepi River, we had no idea how treacherous our journey was about to become!

4. Our Global Mission pioneer Fernando in the Kepi church.



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After giving our sore bodies a rest, Melky and I asked our host whether we could borrow his motorcycle to go get something to eat. As Melky navigated the winding roads, I prayed that God would direct us to someone who knew the way to Sengge.

Suddenly, I noticed a heavily bearded man running almost even pace with our motorcycle. He was shouting "Pastor! Pastor!" *Who is this guy?* I wondered. I didn't recognize him. Then I realized it was

Towering whitecaps slammed against our small craft, threatening to sink us in crocodile- and python-infested waters.

The next morning the couple walked down to the river. When Fernando saw the two-meter swells, he told Marie about his dream. She looked at their little log canoe with its strapped-on, home-made propeller and said, "Your dream is impossible. You'll have to go another day."

Fernando walked to the river every hour to see whether the waves



Fernando! I had never seen him with a beard before.

I pulled on Melky's sleeve and said, "We'd better stop and see what Fernando has to say." It was Melky's turn to be surprised. "Fernando!" he shouted. "How did he get here just when we needed him?"

"I don't know," I replied, "but you'd better stop before he drops dead from trying to keep up with us."

After a few moments of excited hugs and slaps on the back we got down to the all-important

question. "How did you know we were in Bade and that you needed to come guide us to your village?"

"It's a long story," Fernando replied. "Let's go get something to eat, and I'll tell you." Over plates of steaming rice, vegetables, and fried tofu, the story of God's amazing leading unfolded.

In the middle of the previous night Fernando had two dreams in which an angel stood before him and said, "Go to Bade." Both times Marie awoke to see him praying beside their mat in their jungle hut.

had diminished, and each time he felt the impression to go to Bade. Finally, around noon, the urge was so insistent that he decided to go. He fought the waves for five hours.

When Fernando arrived in Bade, he didn't know what to do, so he called the district pastor. "Have you met with Pastor Darron yet?" he asked Fernando. *Ahh, so that's what this is about!* thought Fernando.

With some 5,000 residents in Bade, Fernando had no idea how to find me. "I bowed my head in

prayer," he told us, "and when I said Amen you passed in front of me on the bike. I said, 'Lord, slow them down so I can catch up.' And just then Pastor Darron turned toward me with the most confused look on his face!" We rejoiced at how God had brought us together.

The next morning we chartered a boat and made it to

Sengge through more incredible waves, where I had the privilege of meeting some of the people who had been baptized since Fernando started his ministry 10 months before.

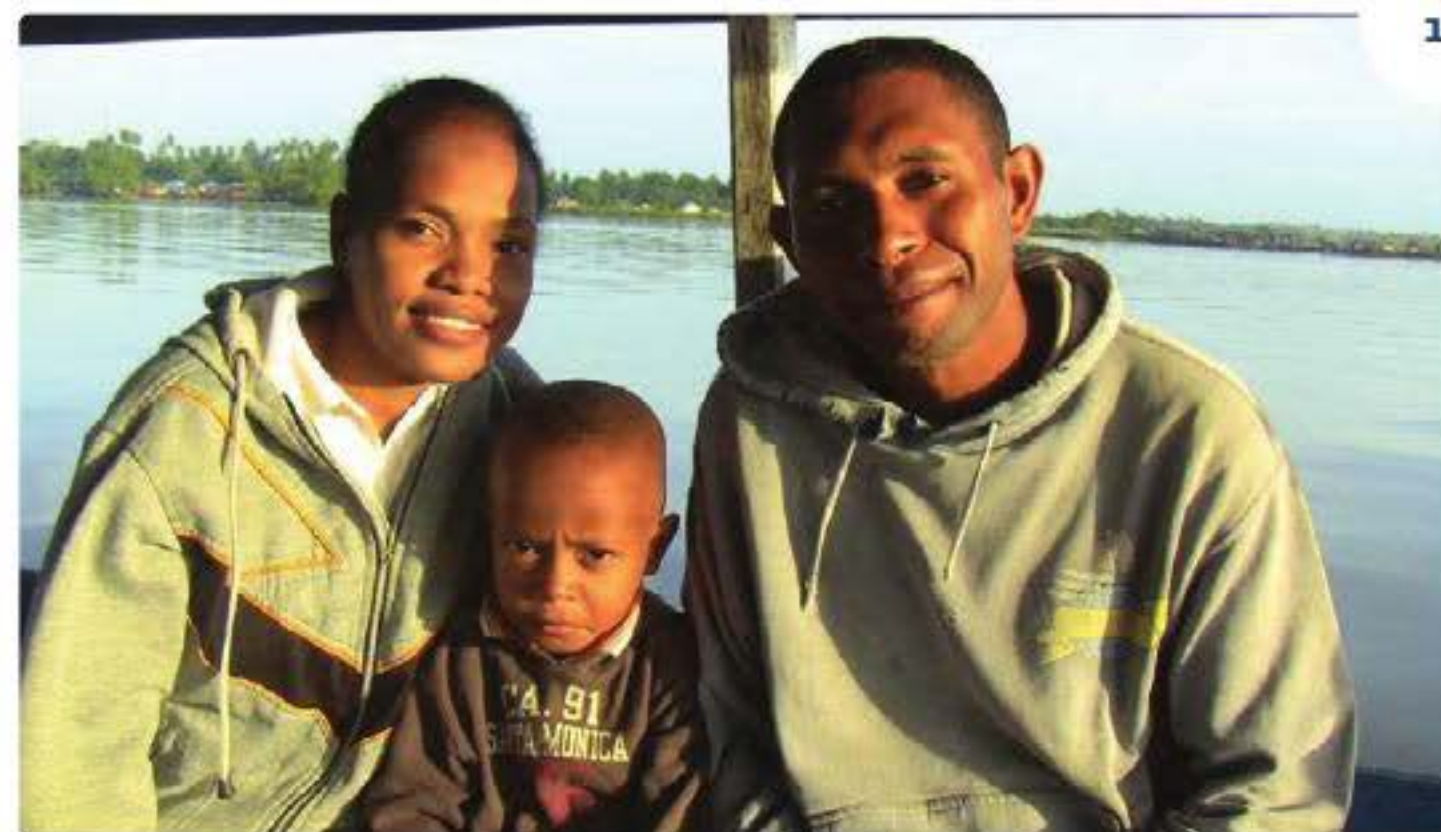
What an incredible trip! I had no idea how I was going to accomplish my tasks, but God had everything in control. There's no

doubt, that when it comes to impossible missions, angels are better than satellite phones.

Pastor Darron Boyd serves as the Adventist Mission coordinator for the Papua and West Papua Missions for the East Indonesia Union.



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5. Fernando's home was made possible because someone donated enough fuel to cut some boards with a chainsaw. Thank you!
6. Fernando had taught the villagers to grow pumpkins, root crops, tomatoes, and greens. They had become much healthier during the past 10 months.
7. Antlers from the deer that provided food just when Fernando's family needed it most.
8. Inside the church with Fernando (back row, second from right) and a few of the members.
9. The temporary church and school in Sengge while we await funds and materials to build a more permanent structure.
10. Fernando and his family on their way to Sengge to work among the Auyu tribe.

To learn more about Global Mission, please visit global-mission.org.

To read Darron's blog, visit pastordarronboyd.blogspot.com.

Global Mission pioneers are lay people who volunteer to start new churches in areas or among people groups where there is little or no Adventist presence. They seek to understand the needs of the people whom they've come to serve and then minister to those needs through a wholistic approach.

Since 1993, they've helped thousands of people to experience abundant life in Jesus and started more than 11,000 new Seventh-day Adventist congregations. Their ministry wouldn't be possible without your donations and prayers. Thank you!

If you would like to support Global Mission, be assured that every dollar will go directly to the front lines of mission, reaching people who are still waiting to hear about Jesus.

THREE WAYS TO GIVE

- Mail to Global Mission:
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904
- Secure online: Giving.AdventistMission.org
- Call 800-648-5824



Pray for

Your city's leaders

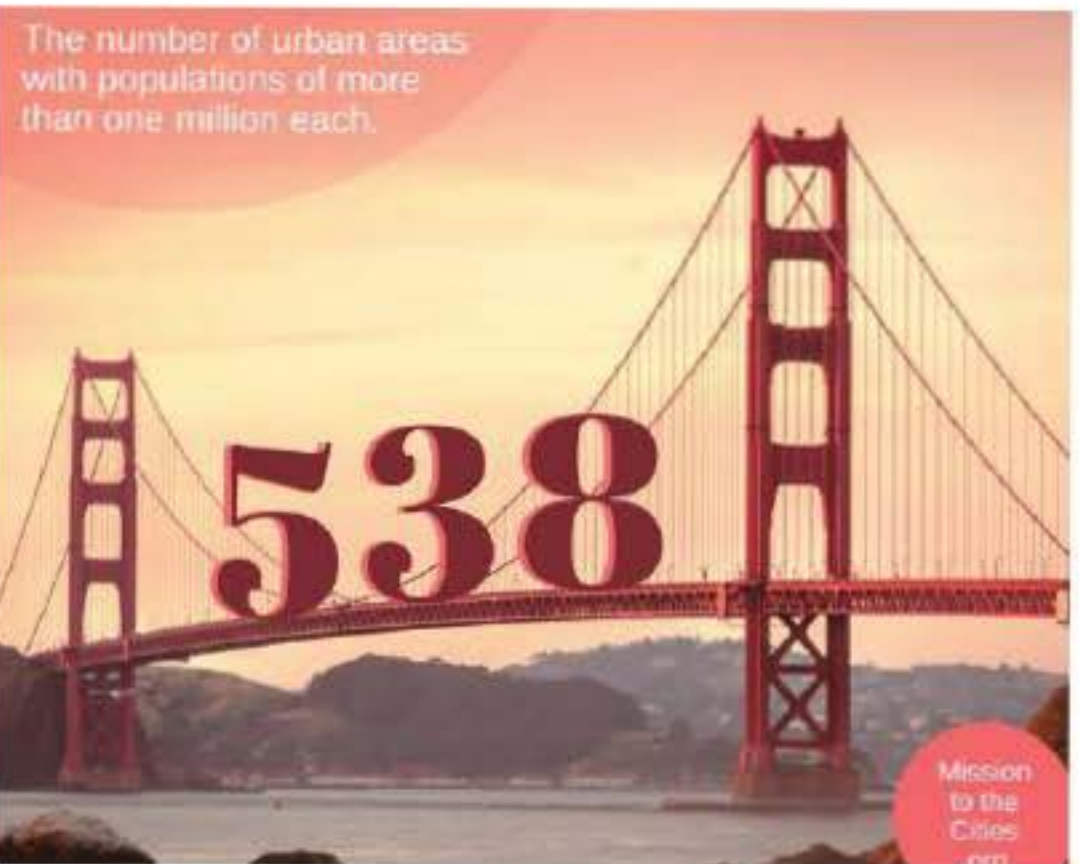
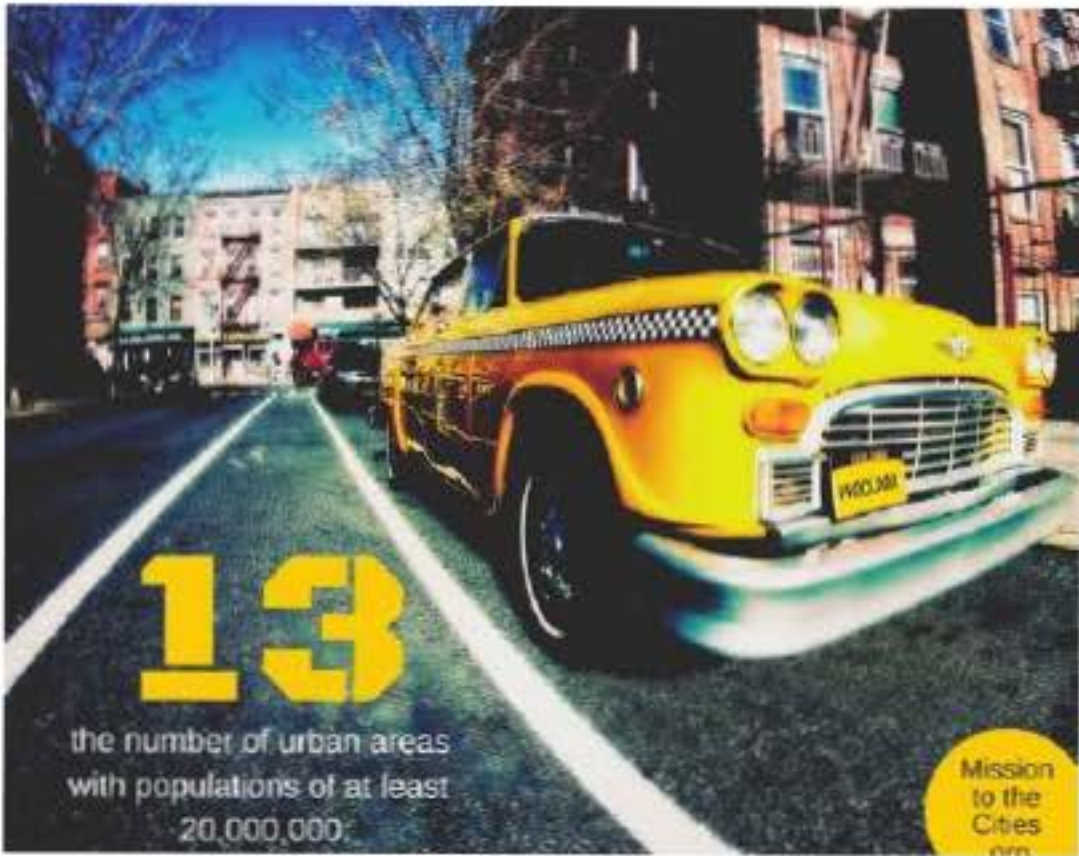
Your neighbors

Those without a home or job

Love for anyone you don't feel like helping

Willingness to answer God's call

God's Spirit to work in and through you



FYI Mission to the Cities

4 out of 5

The number of Americans living in metropolitan areas.

Less than 1 in 3

The number of Adventist churches located in metropolitan areas.

1 in 6

The number of Americans living in the Boston to Washington urban corridor.

13

The percentage of Adventist congregations that are located in urban areas with populations of a million or more.

89,167

The average number of city dwellers for every urban Adventist congregation.

70

the percent by which the urban population is expected to grow by 2050.

Like us on Facebook,
[Facebook.com/MissionToTheCities](https://www.facebook.com/MissionToTheCities),
 and visit MissionToTheCities.org.

Karen Suvankham is the communication coordinator for Mission to the Cities at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.





Mile 71 Village



1

He says, “I worry about the people in Peter’s village. Their diet is poor—mainly rice. For income, their only options are to cut bamboo for a few cents apiece or work in the rice paddy. To get to the government school, the children must walk an hour each way.”

We quickly see for ourselves that the nearest water supply is an open well behind Peter’s house that yields buckets of sludgy water. When we ask how the people access medical care or purchase items they can’t make, we learn that the nearest town is 16 miles away—reached by foot, bicycle, or bus.

But the challenges don’t have to be insurmountable. For instance, in the absence of electricity or easy access to batteries, listeners use a solar panel to charge batteries for their radios. Their much larger goal of constructing a church building was a longer process. The members saved for 10 years until they had the US\$7,000 needed to purchase land in the village. They were fortunate to receive US\$15,000 for construction materials from a generous

A baby slumbers in a net hammock, swaying gently as patches of sunlight flash across his face. Several women and teens chatter nonstop as they chop lunch ingredients and stir them over an open fire. Across the yard a pair of water buffalo slowly amble by, pulling a rough wooden cart.

This is Mile 71 Village, one of several communities I’ve visited while gathering Adventist World Radio (AWR) stories in Myanmar. We’ve nicknamed it Mile 71 Village because there were no road signs indicating its location, and the AWR producers who escorted us had to carefully watch the mile markers lining the highway from the city of Yangon, and turn off at exactly number 71. This village is home to 250 people and is by far the remotest settlement I’ve ever been to.

We’re given a warm welcome by Peter, the leader of a group of about 40 Adventists. “While I was looking for the BBC station, I found AWR’s programs in the Karen language,” he tells us. “Our radio is our friend, our helper, and our only source of entertainment. We connect it to a loudspeaker so everyone in the village can hear AWR. The people enjoy learning about Jesus and how to live healthy lives.”

The main AWR Karen producer, Victor Than, has visited the village several times.



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Canadian donor. The church building is awaiting a few final touches, but the congregation is already looking ahead to building a house and well for a pastor.

Peter's group has good relations with the village's head man, so their next dream is to build a school in the village. I can't help but wonder whether they'll have

to save for another 10 years to achieve this goal.

Shelley Nolan Freesland is the communication director for Adventist World Radio at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



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ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO (AWR) is the official global radio ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Its mission is to broadcast the Adventist hope in Christ to the unreached people groups of the world in their own languages. AWR's programs can be heard in more than 100 languages through AM/FM and shortwave radio, on demand, and on podcasts at awr.org and iTunes. Thank you for supporting AWR through your mission and world budget offerings.

➤ For more photos of our visit to Mile 71 Village, please visit awr.org/impact/stories/.

➤ To view an exciting 360° video, visit 360.awr.org.



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- 1 People of all ages in this remote village look to the radio for information and entertainment.
- 2 The domesticated water buffalo is often described as "the living tractor of the East."
- 3 In Myanmar, half of the population has no access to electricity; solar panels bridge some of the gap.
- 4 Adventists in Mile 71 Village saved for 10 years to purchase land for a church.
- 5 Some of the Adventist church members in Mile 71 Village. Peter is second from the end on the right.

A LOCAL FACE

Myanmar producer Chit Hnin Yee Shwe's parents also live in Mile 71 Village. It took outstanding determination and focus for Chit Hnin to achieve her dreams of a college education. For six years, she worked in a sewing factory, often in shifts that stretched from 8 A.M. to 10 P.M., six days a week. Today, she loves making Bible stories come alive for listeners.



AWR MYANMAR FAST FACTS

- AWR Myanmar celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2015.
- Staff in two studios currently produce programs in Burmese, Chin, Kachin, Karen, Mon, Poe Karen, and Shan.
- Some of these language groups represent very few Adventists: only five within the Shan tribe, and fewer than a hundred in Kachin.
- Most listeners are under 30 years old.
- Podcast programs are downloaded 300,000 times a day by listeners around the world.
- The team's dream is to add a local FM station, and AWR is raising funds for that outreach.



Looking Out for Me

Yesterday, I went to Monrovia's central market to look for fruit and cucumbers. This violated my rule of only going to market when I'm in a cheery mood, but I needed produce, and I was already downtown.

I was hot, tired, and thirsty after teaching nursing students all day and primed to get embroiled in my "not so cheery mood" quandary.

The stress results from my conflicted feelings about shopping here. On the one hand, I feel sorry for the women who sit all day with piles of greens in front of them, hoping that someone will buy 10 cents worth before they wilt. I want to buy something from each of them, and there are so many vendors.

On the other hand, I intensely dislike bargaining.

But if I'm completely honest, I have to admit that I'm afraid of

being taken advantage of. I know the vendors are only trying to make a meager living, but they often ask me to pay more than the locals do. (As if it's some horrible injustice to pay fourteen cents instead of seven for some sweet potato greens.)

I scouted the aisles for cucumbers and fruit, but they were in short supply. Or I simply couldn't find them among the scads of dried fish, chicken feet, eggplants, dried beans, rice, and unfamiliar roots. I bought a cabbage for US\$1.67, eight onions and three potatoes for US\$1.33, two ugly cucumbers for US\$0.53, some okra and hot peppers for US\$0.40, and a pot-scrubber from a little girl for US\$0.07.

Some of the vendors tried to pressure me into buying things I didn't want, but most of them smiled at me and tried to initiate conversation. They seemed

interested in me, and I got the impression that not many foreigners come to the market.

I tried to be open and cheerful, but I was struggling. My prickly heat rash was chaffing under my sweat-soaked blouse, and the smell of seafood simmering under a hot tin roof was making me nauseous. I finally gave up on finding nice produce and made my way between the stalls, careful not to step into any deep mud puddles, and stepped out into the warm afternoon sunshine.

Beside me on the busy road hundreds of taxis whizzed by, all honking furiously. I hoped to get home quickly.

One taxi stopped at the curb where I was walking. I watched as two people got out and three people got in. I counted only five people in the taxi and thought, *What a waste of space!* The driver saw me do the mental math and asked, "Where you going?"

When I told him, "Twelfth Street," he motioned for me to get in. The people in the back weren't



2

- 1 Not all bananas are created equal.
- 2 Mango for your bus trip, Madam?
- 3 Sales are slow for the little mud pie vendor.
- 4 Now, those are some cucumbers!
- 5 My favorite curbside spice vendor.

small, but they patiently moved over as much as they could so that I could cram in. My back was wedged against the window crank, but I was pleased to be heading home. We pulled away in the billow of smoke from the vehicle in front of us.

Once on the main road, I felt a little alarmed when the driver turned in the opposite direction of where I wanted to go. *Is he taking us on a long route so he can charge us extra?* I wondered. I had, so far, never been charged more than US\$0.28 for a taxi from downtown to Twelfth Street, and I certainly didn't want to pay more because he wanted to "take us for a ride." But, we merely pulled into a filling station for a gallon of gas before going on our way.

As we approached Twelfth Street, I asked to be let off, pulled

out my ratty twenty-dollar bill, and braced myself for the bargaining. The man motioned away my money. I tried to insist. He said, "No, ma'am, I just wanted to help you out!" and gave the money back.

I stood alone by the side of the road as the taxi pulled away. Chastened. Humbled.

Becky Carlton Dice and her husband,

Austin, most recently volunteered at Seventh-day Adventist Cooper Hospital in Liberia as a nursing/midwife consultant and accountant, respectively. Previously, they were stationed in Gimbie, Ethiopia. They are currently in the United States working and keeping busy with their two-year-old son, Cyrus.



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If you're interested in being a volunteer, please visit AdventistVolunteers.org.



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Top 10

Adventist Mission Video Picks

If you've ever been inspired by a story on the Adventist Mission DVD, you've witnessed the creative talents of our former video producer Dan Weber and our current video producers, Ricky Oliveras and Earley Simon.

We asked Ricky and Earley to pick 10 video stories that were popular with our viewers.

1 | The Little Church Planter —Brazil (3:49)

Ten-year-old Vitoria stole people's hearts as they watched her brave the Amazon River in a small canoe to share her faith with her young friends. Vitoria says she uses a canoe because she's too small to handle a bigger boat, but she's still able to pick up friends and bring them to her Bible study group. Watch it here: m360.tv/S934

2 | A Cowboy's Tale —Argentina (2:36)

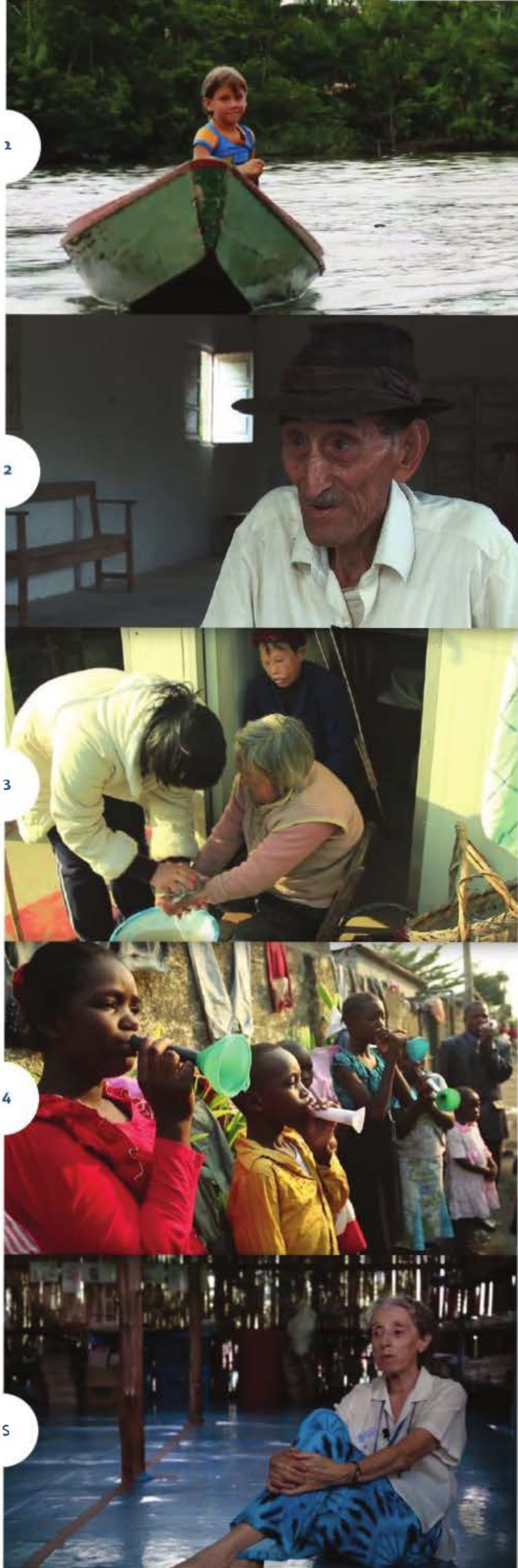
In northwest Argentina, Manuel Ledesma has been working and living on the same farm for 87 years. He and his wife started a small church on their property with 20 members. Each week, Manuel and his grandson visit the church to prepare it for Sabbath. Watch it here: m360.tv/S625.

3 | Another Communion —China (4:47)

In a leper colony in China, Adventist volunteers are literally touching the lives of people. Their hands-on approach is giving the villagers a glimpse into what it means to love like Jesus. Watch it here: m360.tv/S1214.

4 | The Trumpet Family —The Democratic Republic of the Congo (3:08)

In the heart of the capital city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, an Adventist family has come up with a unique way to get their neighbors' attention. Homemade trumpets and vibrant music attract swarms of people to their street. It's a great way to share the gospel message in the busy city! Watch it here: m360.tv/S1327.





6

5 | **A Daily Mission** —Southeast Asia (5:33)

Helen Hall is the longest-serving volunteer in the Adventist Church. We found her commitment to sharing Jesus with the students and faculty of her rural school very humbling. Her life is a perfect lesson in service. Watch it here: m360.tv/S1312.



7

6 | **Called to Fly** —Indonesia (3:49)

We took to the sky for a journey in Indonesia with Capitan Bob Roberts. His work and his life were a blessing to countless lives around the world. He served with great skill and willingness to share Jesus' love with everyone around him. Watch it here: m360.tv/S1427.



8

7 | **Devotion in New Delhi** —India (4:03)

Global Mission pioneers are some of the hardest working people on earth. In this story, we share a glimpse into the life of Kamala, a Global Mission pioneer in India. The effect she's had on her community is astounding! Watch it here: m360.tv/S1529

8 | **Goats and Friends** —Portugal (2:11)

An immigrant family moves to a small village in Portugal. They look foreign and don't speak the language. But through acts of kindness, they quickly make friends and even lead someone to Jesus. Watch it here: m360.tv/S1338.



9

9 | **A Pioneer's Heart** —Botswana (4:20)

There is something unique about Global Mission pioneers. Why do they care so much about the people they serve? Meet a creative pioneer who used oranges to pave the way towards new friendships. Watch it here: m360.tv/S1435.

10 | **Waterproof Faith** —Brazil (4:20)

Pastor Vini takes his faith and his waterproof Bible to the beach, where he shares with surfers how an intimate God created the sea and the waves for their enjoyment. Watch it here: m360.tv/S1548, and read the story on page 26.



10

Ricky Oliveras
visits a mission
school in
Thailand



Earley Simon
on assignment
in Prague,
Czech Republic



Ten Years of the Adventist Mission DVD

Ten years ago, the average price of gas was US\$2.60, Adventist Church membership was nearing 15 million, and the first Adventist Mission (AM) DVD was sent to churches across North America to help connect members with the people and places of mission.

Today, the AM DVD is known as *Mission Spotlight*®, named after the programs produced by Oscar Heinrich and his family for many years. Until now, free copies of the DVD have been sent to every church in the North American Division each quarter. But starting next year, churches that want to continue receiving the DVD in the mail will be encouraged to sign up.

"The *Mission Spotlight* videos are available for download online at AdventistMission.org/videos," according to Ricky Oliveras, *Mission Spotlight* producer. "The online videos are HD, a higher quality than it's possible to put on a DVD. Many churches are downloading or streaming the videos, but we recognize that some will still want to receive a DVD. Therefore, we will continue to send DVDs to those who request them."

The new *Mission Spotlight* features two sets of videos:

- Weekly videos, usually 3–5 minutes—to show one short video each week.
- Monthly videos, usually 8–10 minutes—to show one longer video each month.

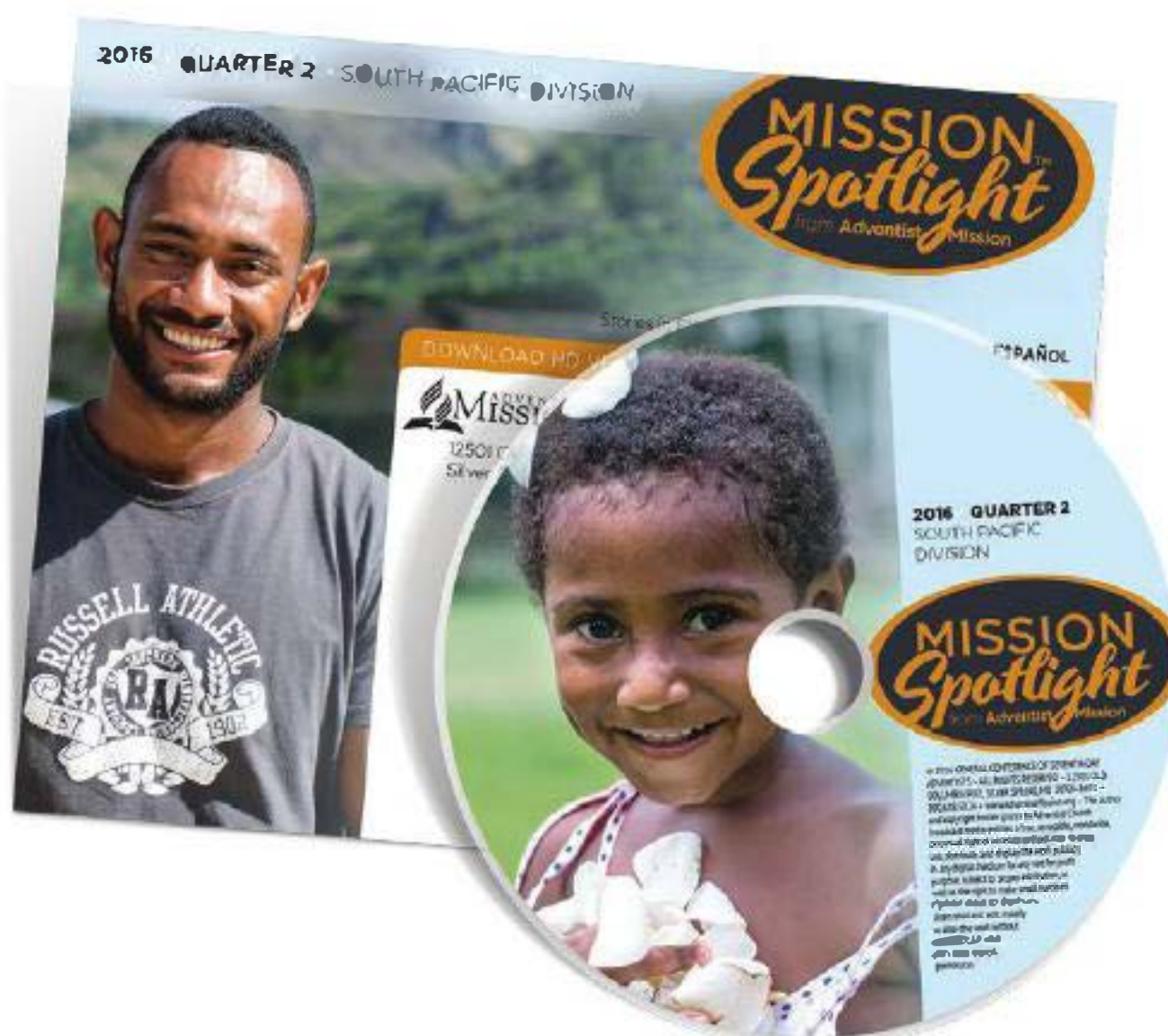
"The videos are great to use in Sabbath school, just before the church service, for prayer meetings, and even in schools," says Oliveras. "People can sign up at MissionSpotlight.com/subscription if they want to continue getting the DVD, or they can choose a new option, an email with links to the online videos."

Adventist Mission also produces the *Mission 360°TV* program, shown on the Hope Channel, and *Global Mission Snapshots*, shown on 3ABN. These videos may also be viewed or downloaded at AdventistMission.org/videos.

The first Adventist Mission DVD, second quarter 2006.



The Adventist Mission DVD, second quarter 2016.



Rick Kajiura is the communication director for the Office of Adventist Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



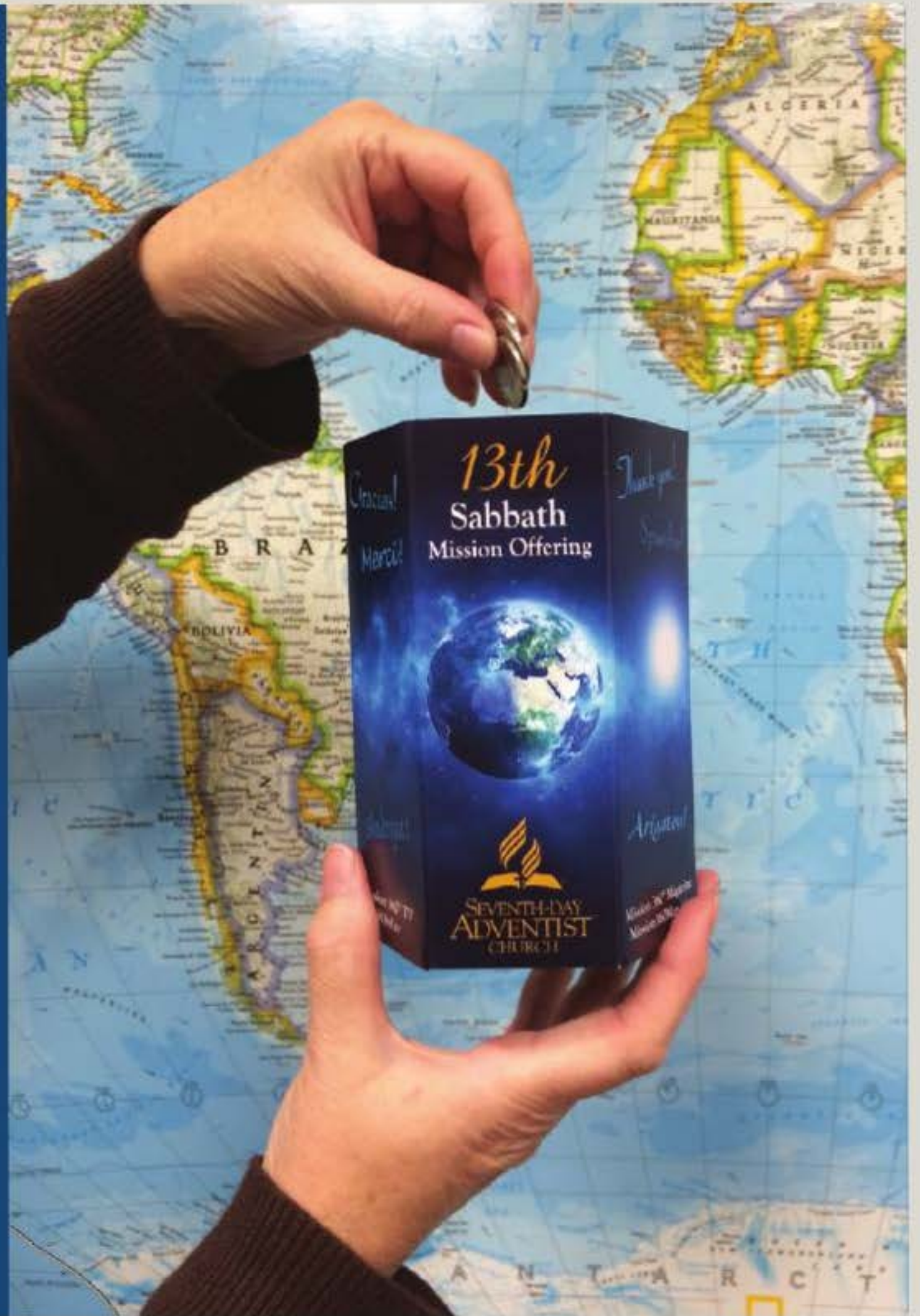
The bank is back!

Remember when you were a kid and mission offering banks were a big deal? Remember how you saved your money, looked for ways to earn cash, and gathered abandoned coins at the bus stop and old phone booths?

Now you can revive that spirit of generosity by setting aside money for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering with an eco-friendly pop-up bank.

Here's how to order:

- Call 800-648-5824. Ask for your FREE offering bank.
- Go to AdventistMission.org. Follow easy directions to request your FREE offering bank.



About our cover photo...

Photo by Ricky Oliveras

On my first trip to Korea, I had the pleasure of filming for a youth-driven Thirteenth Sabbath offering project. The youth were very active in their community. On this day, the group was gathering fruits and vegetables to give to their elderly neighbors. This boy is only one of the amazing members of this youth church.



SOUTH AFRICA



Diamonds Are Forever

1

Johannes and Anna Wessels and their 10 children were among the earliest South Africans to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Dutch farmers, they reportedly sold a diamond field to the De Beers diamond company for about US\$1.7 million. They generously supported the mission of the church in South Africa, Australia, and America.

Pieter Wessels (1856–1933), the eldest child of Johannes and Anna Wessels, had been an earnest Christian from an early age. One day, he was challenged by his brother John to observe the seventh-day Sabbath as a test of his spiritual sincerity.

Pieter studied the issue and soon became a Sabbath keeper, unaware that there were others of like faith in the world. Later, on hearing of Seventh-day Adventists, he and several other Sabbath keepers contacted the church headquarters in Battle

Creek, Michigan, asking for workers and enclosing a donation to help meet expenses.

Pieter personally met the first Adventist missionaries when they arrived in Cape Town in 1887. Four years later another group of workers arrived, led by A. T. Robinson. Soon the first conference was formed, and the work of the young church in South Africa grew rapidly.

The Wessels family's loyalty to the church inspired them to give liberally of their fortune to progress its work in South Africa and internationally. They assisted with

the costs of establishing Avondale College in Australia with a donation of US\$5,000 while visiting Cooranbong. John Wessels was called by Ellen White to come to Australia and use his business skills to help the young church grow, and this he did, contributing generously of his own money to the cause. He is particularly remembered for finding the site, then hidden in the bush of Wahroonga, for the Sydney Sanitarium, which later became the Sydney Adventist Hospital.

Back home, Pieter was largely instrumental in working with Cecil Rhodes in 1894 to secure the 4,856-hectare (12,000-acre) land grant, which today is the Solusi University property, receiving much opposition in the process from American church leaders who initially feared the grant had violated the principles of separation of church and state. Ellen White's counsel was of vital importance in

resolving this property issue favorably. She argued powerfully in her letters from Australia that it was not really an issue of separation of church and state as many in America thought at the time.

However, money does not solve all problems. The Wessels family admired the Battle Creek model, prompting them to strongly support the development of similar large institutions in South Africa, generously giving many thousands of dollars to those programs. But the rapid growth of these large institutions outpaced that of the church membership, and in time some had to be sold or their activities downsized.

Regardless, Pieter Wessels was a powerful personal worker, particularly among the Dutch people, winning to the faith a number of people who were to become church leaders in South Africa and beyond.

Photos courtesy of the Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research and the White Estate.

Lester Devine is director emeritus of the Ellen G. White/Adventist Research Centre at Avondale College of Higher Education.



- 1 Pieter's mother, Anna, and three of his younger brothers, (from left) Daniel, Andrew, and Francis, in the mid 1890s. Daniel and Andrew traveled with Anna to visit Ellen White in Australia in 1894 and to attend the 1895 General Conference session in Battle Creek, Michigan.
- 2 Pieter was 34, and his wife, Maria Elizabeth, 30, when this photograph was taken around 1890. The couple married in 1878 and had seven children.
- 3 Pieter Wessels in the early 1900s. In 1893, he helped obtain the land in South Africa where Solusi University operates to this day.

- 4 South African field workers, 1890. Pieter and Maria Elizabeth are seated in the center of the front row. In 1889, four years after Pieter became a Seventh-day Adventist, South Africa had two licensed ministers and was considered part of the church's Foreign Mission Field. In 1933, the year Pieter died, the Southern African Division (now the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division) comprised the southern half of the African continent and encompassed an area of 4,914,765 square miles.
- 5 Pieter, 77, and Maria Elizabeth, 73, spent many years supporting the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pieter died in 1933, several months after this photograph was taken. Maria died in 1942.



Among many other things, your weekly mission offerings and world budget offerings help support more than 455 missionary families around the world. Thank you!

FOUR WAYS TO GIVE:

- During Sabbath School
- Securely online: [Giving. AdventistMission.org](https://giving.adventistmission.org)
- In North America, mark a tithe envelope "World Budget" at your local church
- Call 800-648-5824



SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Serve the Sheikh or Observe the Sabbath?

“**L**ord, did we come here for nothing?” I prayed. “Is it really your plan that we leave?”

My wife, Sylvia, and I had moved to the Middle East two months ago so that I could participate in the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Total Employment program. I loved the idea of working in a country while sharing Jesus in my everyday life. But I couldn’t find a job, and without one, I couldn’t renew my visa. Time was running out.

Feeling discouraged, I shared my predicament with a friend. “Don’t give up yet,” he urged me. “I’ve just learned about a job opportunity working as a personal secretary for a sheikh. It might be God’s answer for you.” He handed

me the contact information and said he’d pray for me.

The idea of me working for a sheikh seemed improbable, but I’d told God many times that I’d take whatever employment He provided. So, I applied for the position and within a short time I was called in for an interview.

I found the sheikh to be a man of few words, but he seemed kind, and I could tell that he was well-educated and well-traveled. To my amazement, he offered me the job, even suggesting that we could negotiate the pay! I promised him that I’d consider his offer overnight and give him an answer in the morning.

That evening I told Sylvia about the offer. “God is answering

our prayers!” she said, wrapping her arms around me.

“I hope you’re right,” I responded, “but Sabbath observance has prevented me from being hired so far, and I can’t imagine that a sheikh would schedule his life around my needs.”

“If God wants you to have this job, He’ll provide a solution,” she encouraged. I knew she was right, but I held my excitement in check.

“Sir, I would like to accept your offer,” I told the sheikh the next day, “but I observe sundown Friday to sundown Saturday as a holy day, and I can’t work during this time.” I explained my faith to him as simply as I knew



how and waited for his response.

"And if I can't give you Saturdays off?" he inquired without looking at me.

"I'll have to turn down the job."

"And return to your home?"

"Yes, sir." The silence seemed interminable. "Lord," I prayed, "Your will be done. Only You can make this possible."

"You can take Saturdays off."

It took me a moment to register the sheikh's off-handed response. Then relief flooded through me. My job search was over. Sylvia and I could stay!

At home that night, my wife and I cried together for joy. This really was where God wanted us. He had opened a door just in time.

As I lay in bed, I wondered what God would do through my presence here. I didn't have long to find out. Within a couple of weeks the sheikh sent an e-mail to his entire staff announcing that

I would have every Saturday off, and I became an instant curiosity.

My coworkers began to watch my every move, scrutinizing my

conversations, lifestyle, and character. It was an opportunity only God could create.

"What kind of influential person is behind you that the sheikh granted your request?" one colleague asked me.

"God is behind me," I replied. "I respect my employer, but the Lord is above the sheikh."

As time went by, the staff began to ask me questions about the Bible and my faith, and eventually they requested that I get them Bibles of their own.

I'm looking forward to the day when I'll see more clearly how God was able to use

this experience to influence my employer and colleagues. I know how it changed me. I'm ready to serve Him with everything I have, wherever He leads. Even when I have to plead my case to the one "above the sheikh."

Total Employment is an initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to recruit, train and place "tentmakers"—self-supporting professionals with a desire to share Jesus—in restrictive access countries.

The church has an urgent need for tentmakers in the 10/40 Window, an area that stretches from northern Africa through the Middle East and Asia. This is home to two-thirds of the world's population, most of the world's least-reached countries and people groups, and the fewest Christians. If you think God may be calling you to this unique mission service, please visit te.adventistmission.org.

Tentmakers can work as entrepreneurs, computer technicians, public relations specialists, graphic designers, engineers, agriculturalists, international development workers, artists, teachers, and health-care professionals, among other professions.

**HUNGARY**

Spring Radish Salad

(Serves 4)

Radishes are rarely seen as the main ingredient in salads in North America, but they are highly regarded in the cuisine of Hungary and other European countries. This salad is lovely and so delicious, you'll wonder why you haven't tried it before.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups (about two small bunches) red radishes, chopped
- 1/3 cup plain yogurt or sour cream
- 1 tablespoon fresh dill, snipped

PREPARATION

1. Wash the radishes and trim both ends. Pat dry.
2. Chop the radishes into coarse pieces. Reserve one or two radishes, and cut these into very thin slices; set aside.
3. Add the yogurt or sour cream and fresh dill to the coarsely chopped radishes; toss gently.
4. Garnish with thin radish slices and small tufts of fresh dill.
5. Chill until ready to serve.

PUERTO RICO

Tropical Trio

(Serves 4-6)

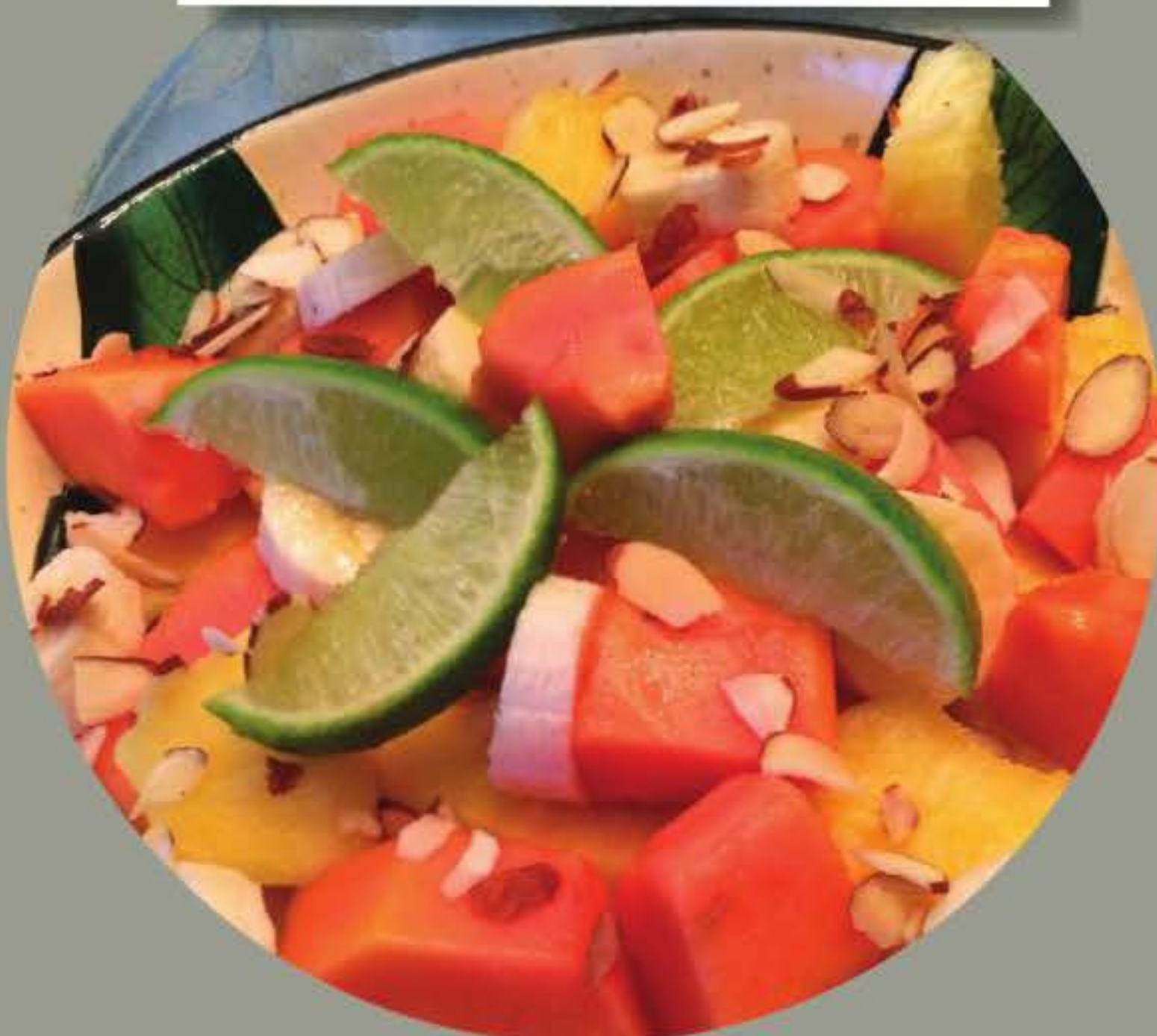
Need a vacation, but don't have time to get away? No problem! A plate of tropical fruit can provide a pleasant respite until your holiday plans take shape.

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 fresh pineapple, peeled, cored, and cut into chunks
- 1 small papaya, peeled, and cut into chunks (discard the seeds)
- 2 bananas, sliced
- 2 tablespoons sliced almonds, or other nuts
- 1 fresh lime, cut into wedges

PREPARATION

1. In a medium bowl or on a large plate, layer the pineapple, papaya, and bananas.
2. Sprinkle almonds or other nuts over the top.
3. Squeeze the juice from the lime wedges over the fruit.
4. Chill or serve immediately.





TANZANIA

Golden Bean and Coconut Stew

(Serves 4–6)

Here is a quick version of a traditional slow-cooked stew, perfect for an evening meal after a long day of work. The coconut milk creates a rich and silky texture, and the turmeric adds bright color.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped fine
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon turmeric
- 5 cups of cooked (or canned) garbanzos or white beans, drained
- 1 2/3 cups of canned coconut milk
- 2 cups of canned petite tomatoes, undrained
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon of chili pepper, optional (add gradually, according to taste)

PREPARATION

1. In a large pan, add the oil and onion. Lightly sauté for three minutes. Add the garlic and turmeric, and stir for one minute.
2. Add the garbanzos or white beans, coconut milk, tomatoes, salt, and chili pepper. Heat just until it begins to boil. (If you prefer a thinner consistency, add water.)
3. Serve immediately. May be made a day ahead and reheated.

SERVING SUGGESTION

Ladle over rice or couscous for a hearty meal.

UNITED STATES

Best Ever Bran Muffins

(Makes 22–24 muffins)

These moist bran muffins are nice for breakfast, and they work well as an accompaniment to fruit, salad, or soup.



INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups of raw wheat bran
- 1 cup boiling water
- 3 egg whites
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2 cups low-fat buttermilk
- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup raisins, currants, or chopped dates
- 1 teaspoon vanilla or almond extract
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking soda

PREPARATION

1. Preheat oven to 375°. In a large bowl, add the bran and boiling water, stirring briskly with a fork. Set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, combine the egg whites, sugar, buttermilk, oil, raisins or other dried fruit, and the vanilla or almond extract.
3. In a small bowl, mix the flour and baking soda.
4. Add the liquid mixture to the bran and mix well.
5. Add the flour mixture to the liquid and bran, stirring until just combined.
6. In lightly oiled muffin pans, add 1/4 cup of batter to each muffin mold.
7. Bake for 18–20 minutes, until done. Remove from the oven and let the muffins rest in the pan for three minutes. Gently loosen and lift the muffins and place them on a cooling rack.
8. These muffins freeze well.

Nancy Kyte
Office of Adventist Mission





B R A Z I L

Waterproof Faith

Meet Vinícius Metzker, an Adventist pastor in Brazil who shares God's love with his community through a surfing ministry.

Surfing is huge in Brazil, and so is Pastor Vini's commitment to reaching surfers for Jesus. Several times a week he goes to the beach to teach free surfing classes, to mingle with people, and to give them an unusual gift—a waterproof Bible! So many people have requested lessons with Pastor Vini that he can't accommodate them all. But for the hundreds of people he teaches, the experience has often been life changing.

I caught up with Pastor Vini on a recent video shoot for *Mission 360°TV* to see his ocean outreach in action. I noticed that before heading out to the breakers, the class had a short worship and prayer together. "When I meet with a group for the first time," Pastor Vini told me, "I talk with them about the things they're most familiar with—in this case, the sea. I tell them that God made the waves, and when they see that He had them in mind when He created the world, it begins to make sense to them that they're part of His creation too. It becomes easier for them to accept that God made us and loves us."

After the lesson, Pastor Vini paddled up to some of his students. "Check this out!" he invited, dunking a small book in the water. "It's a waterproof Bible!"

"Seriously?" one guy asked. "That's awesome. Let me see it!"





"It's yours to keep," Pastor Vini told him. "And I have plenty more if the rest of you want one."

When Pastor Vini's not in the water, he's busy walking the beach, catching up with friends and making new ones. It's really important to him to show people that God is a true friend. "In order to communicate His love to people's hearts, I need to be that kind of friend myself," he said. "I can't just talk about it. I have to live it."

As I watched Pastor Vini that day, I thought of a comment Ellen White wrote about Jesus' method of ministry. She said, "The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me'" (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 143). Pastor Vini is following Jesus' example, and the results are amazing!

- 1 Pastor Vinícius Metzker with the Bible he can take to the place he loves best.
- 2 Pastor Vini begins each class with worship.
- 3 Pastor Vini with some of his church helpers gearing up to teach.
- 4 So many people want lessons from Pastor Vini that he can't accommodate them all.
- 5 A strong component of Pastor Vini's mission is forging friendships.
- 6 As the surfers grow in their relationship with Jesus, they enjoy worshipping and praying together.

"I have so many beautiful stories of people who have come to know and love Jesus," Pastor Vini shared, "people who may not have been reached for Him any other way. Here at the beach they begin to discover Jesus in nature. And in time, they tell me, 'I want to learn more. Please tell me more about this God!' Then we study together in their homes. They come to church, where they participate in worship and prayer and begin to have a real connection with God. Many of them have given their hearts to Jesus and been baptized!"

I was so inspired by what I saw and heard that day with Pastor Vini. His love for Jesus propels him to reach out in love to others. *Just like a wave moves a surf board,* I thought as I watched him catch his last wave of the day.


Earley Simon is a video and TV producer for the Office of Adventist Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



To watch the video "Waterproof Faith," please visit m360.tv/S1548.

mission

Mission 360° TV presents features on missionaries and church planters from all around the world. Watch it on Hope Channel in North America or watch it now at M360.tv.



Relief flooded their faces. “Thank you! Thank you!” she said as we sat down to await the boarding announcement.

Take Care of My Sheep

“**M**ee arai hai chuay mai ka?” (Is there anything I can help you with?) I asked the Thai man and woman standing near me as I waited for my flight in the Orlando International Airport. They looked surprised that I had understood their conversation and then proceeded to share their predicament.

“My brother is flying to Thailand alone” the woman told me, “and I’m concerned about him finding the terminal and gate for his connecting flight in Los Angeles because he doesn’t understand English.”

“I’m going to Thailand too!” I told her. “When we get to LAX,[‡] I’ll help him find his gate.”

Relief flooded their faces. “Thank you! Thank you!” she said as we sat down to await the boarding announcement. “His name is Wanchai.”[†]

There was an announcement soon, but it wasn’t one that I wanted to hear. Our departure would be delayed due to mechanical problems, and by the time we arrived in Los Angeles, I’d have only one hour to catch my connecting flight. *Please, Lord, I prayed. Help me to get to my gate on time.*

When we finally disembarked at LAX, I felt a strong impression from the Holy Spirit: “Take care of My sheep, and I will take care of You.”

Lord, I prayed, I am taking care of Wanchai. But it wasn’t until I realized that Wanchai and I had to go to different terminals that I understood the impact of God’s command.

Lord, this doesn’t seem reasonable, I argued. *Wanchai has a seven-hour layover. I’ll have him*

come with me to my terminal first and find out whether I can still catch my flight. If so, I’ll have someone escort him to his terminal and . . . The Lord abruptly interrupted. “Take care of him *first*, Melissa! Take care of My sheep, and I will take care of you.” I obeyed my heavenly Father.

Wanchai and I walked to his terminal and learned his boarding gate number. Then we walked to mine. But I was too late! I would have to wait until the next morning to fly.

For a few moments I felt cold panic. Then I breathed deeply and prayed, *Lord, You promised to take care of me. I’m all yours. Please show me Your plan and help me to follow it.*

I smiled at Wanchai and asked whether he was hungry. “Yes!” he replied. “I was hoping to eat at one



of the cafes here. Would you like to join me?"

For the next three hours I had the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with Wanchai. What a great joy it was to see the sparkle in his eyes as heard the gospel!

As I left the hotel the next morning I prayed, *Father, since I didn't get a wink of sleep on my last flight, would you please grant me a window seat so I can lean my head against the wall and on empty seat beside me so that I can stretch out for the 11 hour flight?*

At the airport I discovered the flight was packed and that I wasn't even guaranteed a seat. As I waited at my gate, I reflected regretfully on my morning prayer. *Father, if it would glorify You more for me to stay another day in order to share the gospel with someone,*

then let me remain, I prayed. But if it would glorify You more that I go, then please give me a seat on today's flight.

Cod did grant me a seat that day. But not just any seat. I had a window seat in the first-class section that folded out into a bed!

As I reclined in my comfy accommodations, I meditated on Jesus' earthly mission. I thought about how He didn't live to please Himself but to do the will of His Father; how He denied Himself to put others first even though it cost Him dearly.

I thought again of His admonition: Take care of them first. *Thank you, Jesus, for taking care of us first and for the special lesson You taught me with Wanchai. May I put your sheep first for the rest of my life.*



If you're interested in being a volunteer, please visit **AdventistVolunteers.org**.

* Los Angeles International Airport

† Name has been changed.

Originally from Toronto, Canada, Melissa Miranda has served as a volunteer missionary in several Asian countries, including Thailand, where she taught Bible and English as a second language at Ubon Ratchathani Seventh-day Adventist Language School. She is currently attending La Sierra University in Riverside, California, and plans to become a missionary dentist.





Soon after Mrs. Torres moved into her tiny, rundown house in the old section of town, she began to notice them. *Oh no*, she thought, *just what I need—a couple of troublemakers*.

She watched through her window as 10-year-olds Dante and Lana once again tore flowers from the stems in her yard. And once again, she yelled, “Stop doing that!” But nothing ever changed, and they continued to disregard people and property in the crime-ridden neighborhood.

One day, as they threw torn petals on the little patch of grass and weeds, Mrs. Torres went outside to confront them. “Do you know how long it takes a flower to grow?” she asked sternly. “Have you ever planted a garden?”

more flowers. They diligently took care of their own plants, but they also took pride in the rest of the little garden. Under their watchful eyes, the plants and flowers began to thrive. The tiny patch of ground in Mrs. Torres yard became a bright spot in their neighborhood.

Soon other children began to stop by and ask whether they could have their own plants, but there wasn’t any more space in her garden. Mrs. Torres decided to ask some of the neighbors whether they would allow her to teach the other kids how to plant flowers in their yards and learn to take care of them. Everyone had noticed the pretty garden Mrs. Torres had, so they readily agreed to let the children turn their forlorn dirt patches into something lovely to look at.

CHILDREN’S STORY

The Garden Gang

Dante and Lana had never given it much thought. Mrs. Torres hesitated for a moment, but then she heard herself asking whether they would like to help plant a garden in her yard. To her surprise, the troublemakers agreed to help her.

Newly divorced, Mrs. Torres was having a difficult time. She had started a new job, and she had put all of her money into this worn-out little house. She really couldn’t afford a garden, but she sensed that this was really important. She asked Dante and Lana to come back in the afternoon so they could get started.

Mrs. Torres bought several inexpensive plants and gave each of the children one plant that would be their very own. From now on, she explained, Dante and Lana would be responsible for their plants. She showed them how to dig the holes and set the plants in place.

Every day after that, the children would come by to work in the yard. They weeded, watered, and planted

As word spread about these industrious children, adults began to lend a helping hand. Some donated plants and seeds from their own overgrown yards so that the kids could continue to learn and to beautify their spaces. An apartment manager offered to give them 50 trays of flowers for their gardens if they would help him clean up his property.

By the next spring, more than twenty children, who called themselves the Garden Gang, had transformed their depressed neighborhood into a place where people were proud to live. Under the vigilance of Dante, Lana, and their friends, trash and weeds were no longer part of the landscape. Together they would continue to transform trouble and ugliness into treasures and beauty.

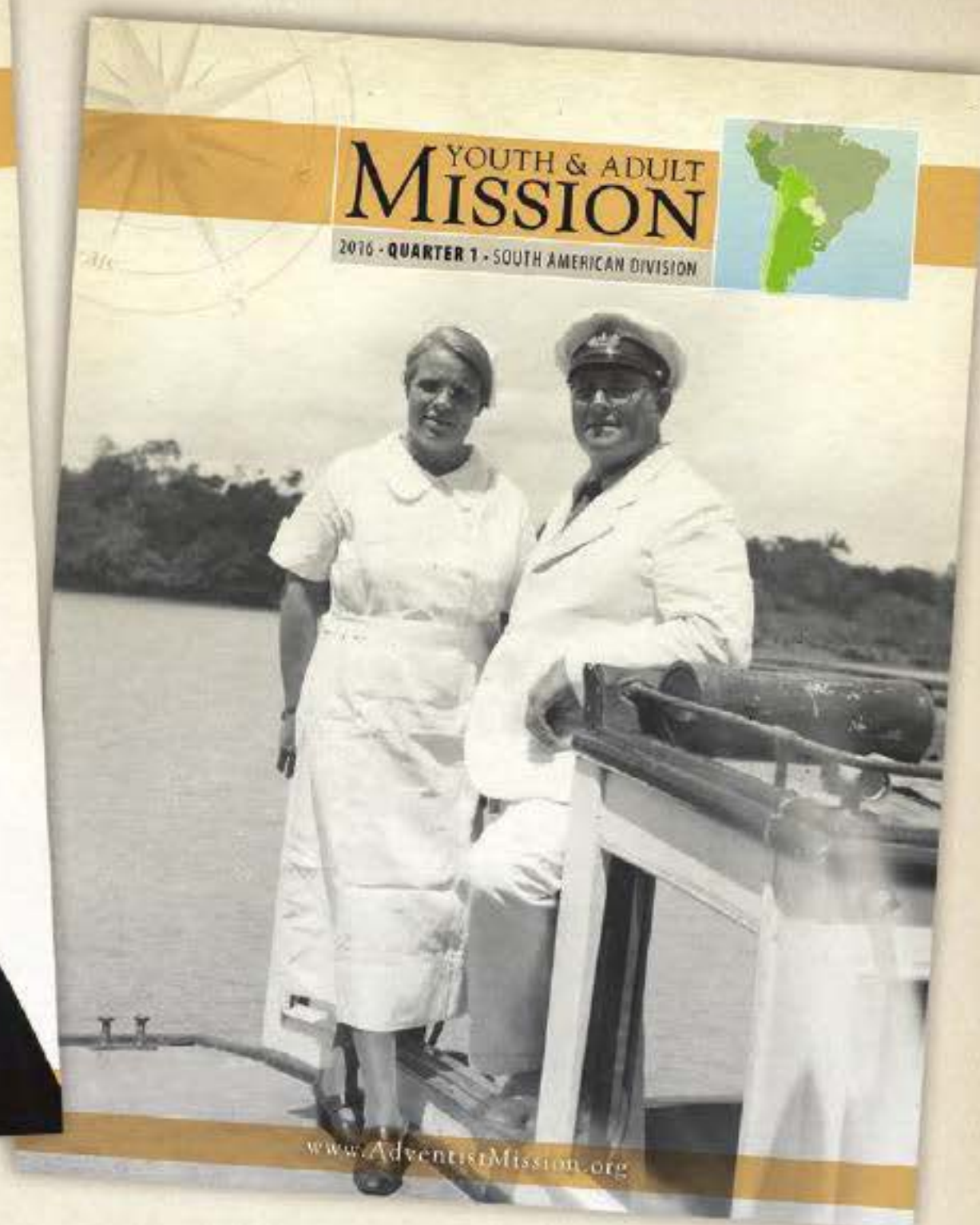
Nancy Kyte is the marketing director for the Office of Adventist Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Church world headquarters.



Mrs. Torres hesitated for a moment, but then she heard herself asking whether they would like to help plant a garden in her yard.



TELL ME A STORY



We're never too young—or too old—to enjoy a good story!

Each week your *Mission* quarterly contains exciting and inspiring stories featuring people around the world. These stories can be shared just about anywhere, anytime—Sabbath School, children's stories, worships, Pathfinder meetings, prayer meetings, and more!

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