Dear [[First Name]],

Happy New Year from Adventist Mission!

When I first visited Mongolia more than 10 years ago, there was only one Adventist meeting place in the entire country—the church office in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. Other church members met in homes, and in an Ulaanbaatar apartment purchased with Global Mission funds. It was a young church in two ways: the first Mongolians were baptized in 1993, and all the members were young. In fact, when I visited in 1999 the average age was about 22, and I witnessed the first baptism of anyone older than 25.

Today the church has nearly 1,500 members. One of the biggest challenges facing the church is finding places for believers to worship, according to Paul Kotanko, director of the church in Mongolia—a missionary from Australia, who is supported by your tithes and offerings. Pastor Kotanko told me that real estate prices are exorbitant—far out of the financial reach of the church.

We discussed the New Testament model of churches meeting in people's homes. Perhaps under God's guidance a church planting movement like we see in the book of Acts will occur in Mongolia as apartment after apartment is opened up for worship.

I asked Paul about Bold Batsukh—one of the first Adventists in the country, baptized in 1993 by Pastor Mike Ryan. I recalled being in Ulaanbaatar the day that Bold and his wife, Otguh, packed their car and headed for Darhan—a major industrial city with more than 80,000 people, and no Seventh-day Adventist

HOW YOU CAN HELP

One hundred percent of your donations to Global Mission go to establish new Seventh-day Adventist congregations in previously unreached areas of the world. Make a secure donation online.

FORWARD TO A FRIEND

Know someone who would enjoy Mission Minute? Forward this email (edit link)
believers. They had one purpose: to establish a Seventh-day Adventist church. And that's exactly what they did. Paul told me that Bold and his family are now back in the capital and providing tremendous leadership in the church.

Please continue to pray for the church in Mongolia. And thank you again for your continuing financial support for Global Mission, which continues to help build God's kingdom in the world's most challenging areas.

I pray that you're inspired by the following Global Mission stories from around the world.

Blessings,

Gary Krause
Adventist Mission Director

SIBERIA

"If I hadn't found Christ, I would be dead."

The first time Alexander set foot in the Seventh-day Adventist house church in Tomsk, Siberia, he was there to cause trouble. His wife had started attending regularly, and Alexander was determined to rescue her from what he considered a dangerous cult. To his amazement, Alexander was greeted with a huge outpouring of love, and his troubled heart began to melt.

"I was battling alcohol and despair," says Alexander. "If my wife and I had not found Christ, I would be dead. I came to this church as an enemy. But God showed me His love through these brothers and sisters."

Alexander accepted Jesus, was baptized, and is now an elder at the Tomsk house church, one of only two Seventh-day Adventist congregations in this city of a half million people. He shares Jesus' love with others, but his tiny church is already overflowing. There is no room for new members.

Lack of churches throughout Siberia makes evangelism very challenging. Please pray that the church will be able to provide permanent worship homes for new members so they can continue to grow in Jesus and touch others with His love.

To help provide church homes in the Euro-Asia Division, such as those needed in Siberia, please support Fund 6210.

JORDAN

"You Are Welcome Here"

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As thoughts of safety and security whirled through her mind, Jane* prepared for a business trip to Jordan. She determined to be cautious, use her best judgment, and try not to make any cultural blunders.

Before exiting the airport in Amman, she was welcomed by the immigration officer and the cashier where she exchanged dollars into dinars. Every interaction after that was the same. The taxi driver said “You are welcome here.” The shopkeeper said, “You are welcome,” as soon as she stepped across the threshold. The host in the dining room said “Welcome,” whether she was starting or finishing her meal. The hotel staff said “Welcome, madam,” even if she stepped outside for a moment of fresh air. And when she visited a local Seventh-day Adventist church, she was welcomed again and again.

By the time Jane returned home, she decided that “welcome” was one of the most beautiful words in the English language.

This February, please pray that the Middle East will be a welcoming place for new opportunities as Global Mission pioneers find practical ways to be involved in their communities.

*not her real name

India

Arutha’s New Career

Arutha was a teacher in an isolated village in Maharashtra, India. One night she felt a strong impression to quit her job and work full time for God, teaching the gospel. She retired and began to study her Bible as never before.

When a Seventh-day Adventist pastor visited Arutha, she asked many questions. Excited about the new truths she was discovering, Arutha was baptized and became a Global Mission pioneer so that she could share these truths with others.

Arutha was the only Adventist in her town of some 20,000 people. She went to the fields to pray with the workers for their crops. She went to the markets to share God’s love.

"Whenever I can, I tell people about Jesus dying for our sins and that He is coming soon to take His children home," says Arutha. "Then I invite them to follow Jesus and keep His commandments."

In the past five years Arutha has raised up four churches that now have a total membership of about 450. She isn’t retired; she has a second career!

To support Global Mission pioneers in countries in the Southern Asia Division, such as India, please support Fund 7240.