



YOUTH AND ADULT MAGAZINE

ADVENTIST MISSION

2012 • QUARTER 1 • NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION



Happy Birthday, *Mission!*






www.AdventistMission.org

Contents


On the Cover: *In 2012 Mission and the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering celebrate 100 years of ministry to the Adventist Church.* (© 2012 iStockPhoto)

- 2 Your Offerings at Work
- 4 *Mission Celebrates 100 Years* | January 7

MONGOLIA

- 6 *The Runaway* | January 14 
- 8 *In God's Time* | January 21 
- 10 *Binderya's Tears* | January 28 


JAPAN

- 12 *A Child Again* | February 4
- 14 *A Place to Grow* | February 11
- 16 *Searching for the Savior* | February 18 

CHINA


- 18 *God's Hands* | February 25 
- 20 *Finding the God of Hope* | March 3 
- 22 *The Power of Forgiveness* | March 10

KOREA

- 24 *Throw Open the Doors* | March 17
- 26 *Journey to Freedom* | March 24 

RESOURCES

- 28 *Thirteenth Sabbath Program* | March 31
- 31 Resources
- 32 Map

 = stories of special interest to teens

Your Offerings at Work



The last time the Northern Asia-Pacific Division received your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, part of it helped to build a recording studio in Taiwan, where programs are produced to reach the Chinese-speaking people of the world. Thank you for giving so that others can know our precious Jesus.



© 2012 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. - All rights reserved.
12501 Old Columbia Pike,
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6601
800.648.5824 • www.AdventistMission.org

Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter marks the 100th anniversary of the mission quarterlies and the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. To commemorate these anniversaries, *Mission* will feature stories and challenges from the past in the printed mission quarterlies and online at www.AdventistMission.org.

Northern Asia-Pacific includes China, Japan, Mongolia, North and South Korea, and Taiwan. The region is home to almost 1.6 billion people, with an Adventist membership of almost 650,000. That's a ratio of about one Adventist for every 2,440 people.

The Challenges:

Japan is a modern, secular society. Only about 1.5 percent of the population of Japan claim to be Christians, and a little more than 15,000 are Adventists. The Adventist Church in Japan struggles to grow in this secular environment.

A small congregation on the island of Amami Oshima [ah-MAH-mee OH-shee-

mah] in southern Japan struggled for years to grow. Japan called a pastoral family from Korea to lead this group. The congregation has grown to more than 30 members and has many visitors. Now the church's greatest challenge is to find a suitable place to worship.

Mongolia is a young church with more than 1,600 Adventist believers. Most of the believers are young people with passion and talent. They need leadership training so they can take over leadership of the church in their homeland.

Korea hosts many foreign workers and students. More than 1 million foreign-born people live, study, and work in Seoul, Korea, alone. A multicultural congregation is reaching out in unique ways to the foreigners living in Seoul, and it needs to expand to carry on its ministry. The field is ripe for harvest, and the believers are eager to gather it in, but they have no place to welcome new believers.

Mandarin Chinese is the world's most widely spoken language. Three years ago an offering helped equip a recording studio in Taiwan, where radio and television programs are being translated into Chinese. Now the challenge is to produce programs for television and the Internet specifically for Chinese-speaking people.

With God's blessings, we, the church members, can help grow the church in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division this Thirteenth Sabbath.

Yours for the kingdom,



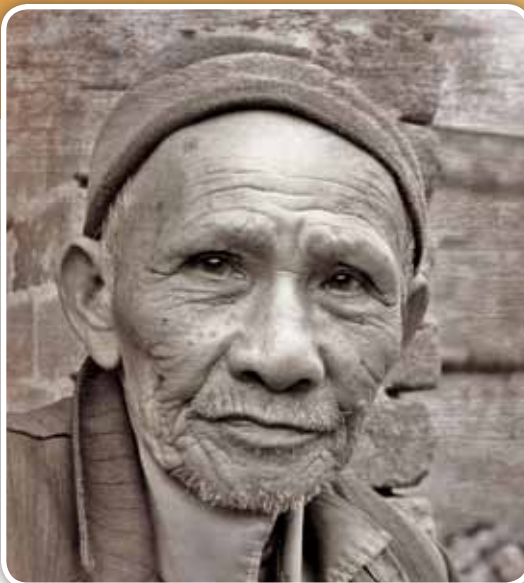
Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide

- a youth training center in Mongolia
- a church for an existing congregation in Amami Oshima, Japan
- a multicultural outreach center in Seoul, Korea
- Chinese-language programming for radio, television, Internet
- CHILDREN'S PROJECT: Children's programming in Chinese

Mission Celebrates 100 Years

January 7



(© 2012 iStockPhoto)

This year marks 100 years since the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering and the mission quarterlies were created. To commemorate these centennials, special mission reports from the past 100 years will be included in each of the mission quarterlies this year.

China

China, one of the countries featured this quarter, received part of one of the first Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings in 1912 to help provide housing for missionaries.

Work in China moved forward quickly during the early years. A report dated 1915 said: “The Spirit of God is doing a marvelous work in the hearts of the people, preparing them to receive the last message of warning and invitation to a perishing world.”*

But the need for more missionaries was evident in another report, describing the

work in the Szechuan region of China. “This great field . . . is without doubt, the most needy field that Seventh-day Adventists have as yet occupied. . . . In this vast field, with its 88,000,000 people, the third angel’s message is represented by only two ministerial workers. . . . It is as though all the [missionaries] in the United States [were] withdrawn, except two.”†

An Earnest Seeker

A Chinese man named Min had sensed his need for salvation for several years. He built a temple and moved there. He lived alone, burning incense to his god and fasting and praying for hours a day. But he had no peace and felt no hope of salvation.

Finally he gave up his vigil and returned to the village. There he learned about evangelistic meetings being conducted by an Adventist missionary. He attended the meetings and gave his heart to God.

Following his conversion, Min’s temple stood empty; but his heart was full of love for God.‡

The Power of Prayer

An elderly believer known as “Old

Mr. Djang” led the church in a mission outpost in the countryside of China.

When the spring rains failed, threatening the rice crops, farmers gave offerings and prayed to the gods in the local temples, but still the skies remained cloudless.

Then old Mr. Djang called a village meeting. He told the story of Elijah’s prayer for rain (see 1 Kings 18:42-45) and challenged those present. “We must have faith that the God in heaven will send us rain.” Then Mr. Djang invited those present to pray to the living God for rain.

After the prayer meeting, the villagers returned home and watched the sky for signs of rain. Toward evening someone saw a small cloud in the sky and spread the news—God had heard their prayers. That night rain fell in torrents.

The next day was Sabbath—Thirteenth Sabbath. Many villagers joined believers at the little church to thank God for sending rain. Brother Djang invited everyone present to give a big mission offering to thank God for the life-saving rain. The people responded, including many who were not believers. In addition, several villagers asked to learn more about the God who answers prayer in such a remarkable way.[§]

The Story Since Then

When Communists overthrew the government in China, mission properties were seized and missionaries were forced to flee the country. For almost 40 years, beginning in 1951, the world didn’t know what had happened to Christians in China. Then China began opening again, and church members heard inspiring stories of faith under the most difficult circumstances.

Some 50 years after the 1948

Fast Facts

- Of the almost 1.6 billion people living in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, almost 1.4 billion live in China and Taiwan.
- The Adventist message first entered China in 1888 when Abram LaRue, lay worker and literature evangelist, traveled from Hong Kong to Canton in southeastern China and sold several magazine subscriptions.
- During Communist times, and especially during the period known as the Cultural Revolution, Christians were persecuted, and many Adventists spent years in prisons and labor camps.

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for China, another Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 1998 helped provide Chinese-language programming for eastern Asia. Ten years later, in 2008, another Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped establish a recording studio in Taiwan that is producing programs for Chinese-speaking people around the world. This quarter part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help make hundreds of video programs in Mandarin to be broadcast around the world via Hope TV and the Internet.

More than 1.4 billion Chinese-speaking people live in China and Taiwan; millions more are scattered throughout Indonesia and North and South America. Celebrate 100 years of giving to special mission projects around the world; make your birthday gift this March 24 your best ever. 🌐

^{*}*Mission Quarterly*, vol. 4, no. 16, 1915, p. 10.

[†]*Mission Quarterly*, vol. 4, no. 16, p. 19.

[‡]*Mission Quarterly*, vol. 4, no. 16, pp. 27, 28.

[§]*Mission Quarterly*, vol. 4, no. 16, pp. 29-31.



The Runaway

Jagana

Jagana sat down in her usual seat in the Adventist church. Worshipping God had once filled her with joy. But sometime during her busy years of university she had lost touch with God. She still loved God, still believed in Him. But she felt that she was no longer living a life that honored Christ.

The church will be better without me, she thought. For the sake of all that I love, I must leave.

Jagana had worked hard to do well in school; she had high grades and looked forward to graduating with honors. She had been so busy working on her degree that she hardly noticed that she was losing touch with Jesus.

She thought back to when she had first met Jesus. She was studying English with some Adventist young people. If her parents had known that she had become a Christian, they would have objected. Jesus became more precious than anything in her life.

But when she entered the university, the glow of success drew her eyes from her

Savior, and slowly she drifted away from God. Worship had become routine. As she sat in church that Sabbath, she thought, *This is my last worship service. It's better to leave than to live a lie.*

But God had other plans for Jagana.

Golden Angels

That evening Jagana's phone rang. "Jagana, I have good news for you!" Pastor Joshua's familiar voice soothed her. "You've been chosen to be part of the Golden Angels!"

Jagana was stunned. Ever since she had first heard the Golden Angels sing, she had wanted to be a part of this select group of young Adventist singers. They traveled across northern Asia serving God for a year.

"N-no, Pastor," Jagana stammered. "I can't." She quickly recited her reasons. "I'm graduating; I'd lose my scholarship if I took a year off school. I can't sing well enough to be a member of the Golden Angels." Jagana thanked her favorite pastor and said goodbye. She didn't mention that she was spiritually dying.

Pastor Joshua called again a few days later and again invited Jagana to join the Golden Angels. Again she said no. Pastor Joshua called back a third time. But before she could answer, he said, “Jagana, stop saying no. Just pray about it for 24 hours.”

Jagana agreed to pray. But in her mind she recited all the reasons why she couldn’t join the Golden Angels.

The Fleece

She prayed as she had promised. “God, I thought You were smart; I thought You knew everything. How could You choose me to be a Golden Angel? But . . . if You really want me to do this, give me a sign. Let my parents—and my teachers—agree to it. Then I’ll know that You want me to go.” Jagana smiled. She was sure that her parents would be angry, and her professors would never agree to let her leave school.

Dutifully she called her parents to tell them of the offer. “Ask your father,” her mother said, and she gave the phone to Jagana’s father.

“Ask your teachers” her father said. “If they agree, it’s OK.”

Stunned by her father’s answer, Jagana hung up the phone. Even though her primary professor was a Christian, she knew he distrusted her religion and wouldn’t agree to allow her to take a year off from her studies just to sing. He wanted her to win the medal for top student as much as she wanted it. But when she told him about the Golden Angels, he said, “Congratulations! Go!”

As Jagana waited for Pastor Joshua’s phone call that night, she wondered what to tell him. Then she realized that God was calling her to serve Him. *He still loves me*, she realized. *He still wants me*.

Joyfully Serving the Lord

Jagana withdrew from school and joined the Golden Angels. She was not a trained singer, and she struggled through the difficult practices. She felt God helping her to sing beyond her ability.

As the group began its ministry, Jagana saw how God was using the Golden Angels to reestablish her faith. And during an evangelistic series in Mongolia, Jagana’s mother gave her life to God. “God has shown me that He loves me and will never leave me,” she says. “I’m thrilled that He sought me out at the very time I was planning to leave Him.”

Jagana completed her studies and is teaching in Mongolia’s first Adventist elementary school. She finds her greatest joy in reaching out to her family, friends, and students to introduce them to her wonderful Savior.

Mongolia is a young mission. The first believers were baptized fewer than 20 years ago. Our mission offerings help expand the message of God’s great love throughout Mongolia. Thank you for giving. 🌍

Fast Facts

- Mongolia has about 2.8 million people, a million of whom live in the capital city, Ulaanbaatar [ooh-lahn-BAH-r].
- The first converts after the fall of Communism in Mongolia were baptized in 1993. Today about 1,660 Adventists in Mongolia worship in 25 churches, companies, and groups. Seven of these church groups are located in the capital city.
- Most of the Adventists in Mongolia are under 30 years old.

In God's Time

MONGOLIA | January 21

Boldroo



Boldroo's [BOLD-roo] chest tightened as she stared at the exam schedule. "Final exams will be held on Saturday," it read. She had worked so hard to graduate from the university, taking whole semesters off to work so she could pay her tuition and pleading with teachers to allow her to take her exams on days other than the Sabbath.

As graduation neared, she had allowed her heart to soar with the joy of accomplishment. Soon she would graduate. But as she read the final exam schedule, she felt as if she had been punched in the stomach. Her final exam was scheduled on Sabbath.

A Plea Refused

"What can I do?" Boldroo asked her friend Coral later that evening.

"Let's talk to the director," Coral sug-

gested. "Maybe he'll make an exception."

The next day Boldroo and Coral stepped into the departmental director's office. Boldroo's heart tightened as she saw the scowl on his face. "Why are you asking for a change in the schedule?" he demanded. "You must take your exam the same day as your classmates. Now leave my office!"

"God has a plan." Coral whispered as they left the director's office. Boldroo nodded, but she couldn't imagine what God's plan was. Boldroo vowed that she would not take the exam on Sabbath, no matter what.

The Longest Day

On Sabbath, while her friends went to take their final exam, Boldroo went to church. She struggled to keep her mind on His promise, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" [Hebrews 13:5, NKJV].*

Late that afternoon as Boldroo walked home, her cell phone rang. "Your documents are ready for you to take your exam," the office secretary said. Boldroo thanked the woman and hung up. Several times that afternoon fellow students, and even some teachers called, urging Boldroo

to hurry to the department office to report for her exam.

Boldroo fought the temptation to go to the school. She knew that the exams usually finished about 8:00 in the evening, before the summer sun would set. Boldroo pleaded with God for peace and strength to resist the temptation to go to the school during God's holy hours.

Well after sunset, Boldroo left her home for the school. *Maybe it's not too late*, she hoped.

"Your God Is Great"

It was dark before Boldroo entered the office where the exams were being held. She was surprised to find students still waiting to make their presentations. She signed her name on the exam register and gave her thesis to a teacher to bind for the committee. Then Boldroo waited.

Some students asked Boldroo why she had waited so long to come for the exam, and she explained her faith in God and her desire to keep His Sabbath holy.

The exams plodded along, and Boldroo struggled against sleep. Finally, long after midnight, she was called into the exam room. She made her presentation and prepared to answer the teachers' questions. But instead of asking questions about her project, her teachers asked her about her faith.

"This is the first time we haven't finished the exams by 8:00," one of the teachers said. "Your God must be great to allow you to still take your exam." Boldroo nodded and shared her faith with her instructors. Although they were tired, her teachers listened.

When the exam results were posted, Boldroo passed. Some of her classmates asked to attend church with Boldroo. They

Mission Post

- The first Adventist missionaries to Mongolia were Russians who began working there in 1926. But Communism entered Mongolia a few years later, and the work stopped.
- In 1991 missionaries again entered Mongolia, and two years later the first Adventist Christians were baptized. Today more than 1,600 Adventists worship in 10 churches and companies in Mongolia. The majority of believers are young people.
- Several years ago a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped several congregations buy buildings to serve as churches or enlarge existing buildings so congregations can grow.

wanted to know more about her faith.

Telling Her Story

Boldroo remembers the trials she faced while completing her education. As she recalls the stories of others who kept their faith and honored the Sabbath, she smiles. Now she has her own story to tell, and she tells it whenever she has an opportunity.

Boldroo is one of many young people who have found Christ in their teens. They are prepared to take their place as leaders of the Adventist Church in Mongolia, but they need training. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide a youth training center in Mongolia so that these young people can receive the training they need to become the leaders the church needs in the coming years. Thank you for sharing their vision to strengthen the Adventist church in Mongolia. 🌐

Binderya's Tears

MONGOLIA | January 28

Binderya



Open up! Police!” The sudden demand frightened Binderya [bihn-DEHR-yah], who ran to her father.

“What’s wrong?” she asked. Father touched her head and whispered, “Go to your mother,” as he walked quickly across the floor to the door.

Binderya clutched her mother’s skirt as Father opened the door and talked to the police officers standing there. One of the police officers took Father’s arm and urged him outside. Father glanced back at his wife and daughter before the police hurried him away.

“The police think Father stole the cow that he brought home yesterday,” Mother whispered.

“But Father didn’t steal the cow,” Binderya said tearfully. “He would never do that.”

By bedtime Father still hadn’t come

home. Binderya looked at the book of Bible stories that her friend had given her. She and her father had been reading them together. But tonight there would be no story. Father was still in jail.

Will I ever get to see Father again? Binderya wondered as she lay on her hard bed.

God Answers Father’s Prayer

The next day Father returned home. “I didn’t know how long I would be in jail,” he told Binderya. “I remembered that Jesus taught His friends how to pray. So I knelt down and prayed that the police would learn the truth so I could go home. This morning the police let me go, saying that the people who had reported their cow stolen had really sold it in the marketplace. I know God answered my prayer.”

That night Binderya and Father enjoyed another story from the Bible book. The family knew almost nothing about Jesus or God until they began reading the Bible stories. Now Father was convinced the stories were true. After all, hadn’t God answered his prayer in the jail?

Two Invitations

Binderya's family moved to another city in Mongolia, and there Binderya met a new friend named Anojin [AH-noh-jihn]. "Would you come to a special program at my church?" Anojin asked Binderya. "There will be lots of singing and music."

Binderya enjoyed the program. She began attending Sabbath school with Anojin, too. There she learned new songs and more stories from the Bible. She tried to teach her mother the songs and stories.

When Father came home from working in another city, Binderya told him about Sabbath School. "Do you think I could go with you?" he asked with a grin.

"Oh, yes!" Binderya said. From that week on Father went to church with Binderya. But Binderya's mother didn't go. A hearing problem made mother shy around people. So Father and Binderya invited Mother to join them at story time, and Mother did.

Some people from the church visited

Mother and invited her to attend worship with the family. But still Mother wouldn't go. She feared that the people at church wouldn't accept her.

The Illness That Saved

Then Father became very sick. Doctors weren't sure he would survive. Binderya prayed that Father would get well. "I need to learn to pray for Father too," Mother said. "May I go to church with you so I can learn?"

Binderya hugged her mother tightly. "Oh, yes!" she said. On Sabbath Binderya and her mother attended church together. The church members welcomed Mother and showered her with love and prayers. They prayed for Father during worship time too.

In time Father recovered and joined the family worshipping God together in church. A few months later Binderya watched as her parents were baptized together.

When the church started Mongolia's first Adventist school, Mother offered to clean the church to pay Binderya's tuition. Binderya often helps her mother clean the church after school.

"I am so glad that my friend invited me to church," Binderya says. "Now Father and I invite lots of people to church. So far none of my friends have come to church, but someday someone will accept."

Ten-year-old Binderya is learning to be a leader in school. One day she will be a leader in the church. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a youth training center so that the young church in Mongolia can train leaders for tomorrow. Thank you for helping grow the church in Mongolia with your Sabbath School offerings. 🌍

Mission Post

- Most people in Mongolia follow the Buddhist faith or no religion at all. Buddhists don't worship gods, but they often do bow and pray before the image of Buddha in a temple. They believe that they must live a good life so that when they die they will be reborn into a better situation.
- The church needs to train its young people to become leaders in the church. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a youth training center at a church-owned campground in the countryside of Mongolia.



A Child Again

Kikue

Kikue [kee-KOO-ee] can't seem to stop smiling. "I'm so happy!" she says. "I'm 94 years old, but I feel like a child again. I've discovered the meaning of life, and it's wonderful!"

A Lonely Life

Kikue lives on the island of Amami Oshima [ah-MAH-mee OH-shee-mah] in southern Japan. Life hasn't always been happy for Kikue. Her marriage was troubled, and she's lived alone since her husband died eight years ago. Many of her friends had died, and her children lived far away. She felt lonely.

Kikue had worshipped her ancestors and prayed to them every year on certain holidays. But it was more of a custom than a religion. And it brought her no peace of mind.

Two literature evangelists from neighboring Okinawa [oh-kee-NAH-wah] stopped to visit. She'd met them several times over the years and had even bought some books from them. They were so

pleasant that she looked forward to seeing them. "I especially liked it when they prayed for me before they left," she says.

Feeling the Love

"They invited me to visit the little Adventist church in town, as they often had before. But I always said no. I wasn't sure the people would accept me, and I couldn't stand to be rejected again. I still wasn't sure I wanted to go, but these two gentlemen said, 'The people will love you! Let's go to the church together. You'll see for yourself that they love you!'"

"Then let's go!" she said. Kikue went with the literature evangelists to the church that meets on the second floor of a bakery in the heart of the small city. She was nervous as she entered the room, fearing that people might reject or ignore her. "They welcomed me as a lost family member," she says. They loved me from the start. I needed friends who would help make life meaningful, and these dear people did that. I felt the love immediately."

Kikue didn't know much about what Adventists believed, but she knew that she had found a safe haven. She relished the love she felt, a love that is difficult to find in Japanese society, where people often don't reach out to others. She sensed that she had found God's people and God's will for her life. Little by little she learned who Jesus is and how much He loves her. She studied God's Word with the Korean pastor and his wife, who until recently led this flock of believers and had worked hard to teach them by example how to love. And last year at age 94, Kikue was baptized in the sea, becoming the newest—and oldest—member of the Adventist church in Amami Oshima.

Forgiving and Forgiveness

“My marriage wasn't easy, and my husband wasn't faithful to me. Sometimes the memories left me depressed and sleepless. But God has taken all this anger, this sadness away. I've forgiven my husband, because God has forgiven me. And now I have peace in my heart. I just

wish I had known Jesus while my husband was alive. Perhaps he would have gotten to know Jesus as well.”

Today the church and its members are Kikue's whole life. She has a new family who loves her and cares for her. She thanks them by cooking her best food for the church's fellowship dinners.

“I feel safe in the church, and I am filled with joy as the believers greet me in church and visit me in my home during the week,” she says.

The church in Amami is small but growing. A few years ago only eight members worshipped together. Today more than 40 members and lots of visitors crowd into the upper room they call their church.

“I'm 95 now, the oldest member of the Amami church,” Kikue adds. “But I feel so much younger. Maybe that's because I'm just a babe in Christ.”

People who have known Kikue for many years have noticed the change in her. She looks and acts younger and happier. “I tell them that I've found the secret to youth and happiness. It's Jesus! I've invited my friends to learn more about Jesus, but they hesitate. I try to be patient. After all, it took me 20 years to find God's people.”

The little church in Amami, Japan, could grow even faster if they could meet in a more accessible location. The stairs are a challenge to the older members, and some can't attend worship because it's difficult for them to walk or climb. This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide a more accessible and appropriate place of worship for this growing church in southern Japan. Thank you for sharing so that others can find Jesus. 🌍

Fast Facts

- Japan is an island nation off the eastern coast of the Korean Peninsula. The largest city in the world, Tokyo, is in Japan. It is a modern city with many tall buildings. About 35 million people live in the metropolitan Tokyo area.
- The Japanese people are deeply traditional and feel honor-bound to observe ancient religious festivals, including worship of their ancestors. But they are not deeply religious. Only four people out of every 100 in Japan are Christians, and only one person out of every 8,300 in Japan is an Adventist.



A Place to Grow

Pastor Lee and family

Amami Oshima [ah-MAH-mee OH-shee-mah] is an island in the southernmost part of Japan. The island is known for its pleasant tropical climate and beautiful beaches. But in spite of years of effort, it has proven frustrating to establish an Adventist presence there.

For more than 40 years literature evangelists from the nearby island of Okinawa have sailed to Amami Oshima to sell literature and introduce people to Jesus. But few Japanese people responded.

Truth From the River

However one woman, Kazuko [KAH-zoo-koh], welcomed the literature evangelists. She was a Christian, but she knew little about the Bible.

The literature evangelists showed her some books and magazines they had brought. Kazuko jumped up and took a book from the shelf. It was warped, and its pages stuck together. “My son found this book floating in the river,” she said. “He brought it home and dried it. I’ve read the

book, and I believe what it said is true.”

The literature evangelists looked at the book and smiled. “This is an Adventist book,” they said, showing her a copy of the book, *Steps to Christ*. Kazuko asked to study the Bible, and in time she was baptized. She became the first Adventist on the island.

A Struggle to Grow

Kazuko opened her home for worship services, and a few others came to study the Bible. Evangelistic meetings eventually added to the number of believers. Occasionally the mission president visited the congregation, but without a regular pastor, most of the new believers stopped attending. Sometimes Kazuko worshipped alone.

A lay pastor came to serve for a year, and another came to work for two years. The congregation grew, and they rented a large room in a building that houses a restaurant and a bakery. At last they felt as if they really were a church. But when the lay pastor left, the believers struggled

on alone with only an occasional pastoral visit from a mission official. It seemed that they would never grow beyond eight or nine believers.

Then in 2005 Pastor Lee and his family were called from Korea to lead the church in Amami Oshima under a program called Pioneer Missionary Movement, a program sponsored by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

New Beginning

Pastor Lee and his family realized how different the Japanese culture is from their own Korean culture. “The Japanese are quite reserved,” Pastor Lee says. “They keep their beliefs to themselves and hesitate to invade their neighbors’ privacy, even to share God’s love.”

The church members were cautious of him and his family too. “We didn’t want to be pushed into doing things we weren’t comfortable with.”

The pastor and his wife set out to love the members any way they could. “We did everything we could to let the members know that we loved them and were there to serve them in Christ.” Pastor Lee said. “We held cooking classes, taught Korean, and showed people how to give massages. And we prayed over every member every day.”

In time their prayers and efforts began to pay off. Some former members returned to the church, and current members began inviting family and friends to attend church programs. Members began to realize what a blessing it was to share their faith with others and to love those who came into their midst as Jesus did.

In the five years that Pastor and Mrs. Lee served the Amami Oshima church 15 new believers were baptized, and two people

Mission Post

- Japan is one of the most difficult countries to reach for Christ. The culture discourages people from reaching out to share their faith with others.
- Every year pastoral families volunteer to serve as missionaries or church planters in another country within the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. They serve in their appointed field for five years. Many of these volunteers have had significant success raising up new congregations and strengthening existing ones.
- Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on March 24 will help provide a church where the believers in Amami Oshima can worship God and bring their friends to learn about Jesus.

who had left the church years earlier have returned. Currently the church in Amami Oshima has about 30 members, and several more who are preparing for baptism. It doesn’t sound like many, but in Japan 15 new members is a lot.

A New Dream

The church continues to meet in its room above the bakery. But now they have a new dream, a dream to have a simple church on the ground floor where everyone who wishes can enter. Sister Kazuko, who helped start the church in her home, cannot walk or climb stairs. She’d be so pleased to worship with the little group that has grown into a full-fledged church.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide the believers in Amami Oshima with a place in which to worship, where people can enter easily and learn that Jesus can make a difference in their lives. 🌍

Searching for the Savior

JAPAN | February 18

Pan Xiao Ming



I hated riding the bus. Every time I rode the bus in my hometown in China, I became sick to my stomach. I'd bite my lips hard and lean on my mother, but the nausea wouldn't go away. "Mama, I feel so sick," I'd tell her.

"Hold on," Mama said. "We're just two stops from home."

A Stranger's Prayer

"Excuse me," a strange woman bent over to speak to my mother. "I notice that your son isn't feeling well. May I pray for him?"

Mother looked at the woman and then at me. "Yes, you can pray for him," Mother said.

No one had ever prayed for me before. I didn't even know what prayer was about. The woman's voice was kind and soothing. She leaned closer to Mother and me, closed her eyes, and started talking

to someone we couldn't see. "Father, You love this little boy, and it makes You sad to see him suffer. Please help him to feel better soon. Thank You, God."

I was watching the woman as she talked, but I couldn't see anyone she was talking to. Her prayer didn't frighten me, but it puzzled me. Mother and the woman spoke for a few minutes. Suddenly I realized that my stomach no longer was upset.

"Mama, my tummy is better," I whispered shyly.

Mother looked at me and then at the woman. "Thank you," she said.

"You're most welcome," the woman said, smiling warmly. "Would you and your son like to visit the church I attend this Saturday? You can learn a little more about the God who loves you and wants to be your friend."

Mother looked at me. Color had flowed back into my pale cheeks, and she knew I was feeling better. "Yes," she said. "I'd like that."

Introduction to Christianity

On Saturday morning Mother and I walked to the simple church several

blocks from our home. Our new friend greeted us and sat with us during the church service. I was shy, but I enjoyed hearing the people singing with such joy.

Mother attended church every week, but I had school most Saturdays and couldn't go. As I grew into my teens, I was more interested in spending time with my friends than worshipping in church.

I completed my secondary education and applied for permission to study business in Japan. I passed the Japanese language test, but still I struggled with studying in Japanese.

Lonely for God

I missed China and my friends and family—everything that was familiar. In my loneliness I remembered attending church with my mother. I remembered the peace and warmth I felt among the church members. I looked on the Internet for an Adventist church in Tokyo.

I found an Adventist church near the university. To my surprise, it was a Chinese church! I telephoned the church and spoke with the pastor. "I'm so glad you called," he said. "Please visit us this Saturday. We are a small group, and you are most welcome!"

I found the church and was welcomed warmly on Sabbath morning. We studied the Bible and sang songs that I remembered from my childhood. Soon I was friends with everyone there.

I studied the Bible and the Sabbath School lessons, and I asked the pastor to prepare me for baptism. I was the first new member of the Chinese church in Tokyo!

I must tell others, I thought. But what can I do? I was drawn to study theology. When I told my mother about my desire, she was thrilled. But I knew that my father, who

Fast Facts

- While work among the Japanese people is difficult, the Adventist Church is growing among other ethnic groups such as the Spanish, Portuguese, and Chinese.
- Three years ago part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped provide a worship hall for a small group of Chinese living in Tokyo, Japan. This group has since divided into two worship groups, and the number of Chinese believers in Tokyo has more than doubled.
- See the Adventist Mission DVD for more information on this previous Thirteenth Sabbath Project.

wasn't a Christian, would be angry about my decision. So I didn't tell him.

Step by Step in Faith

I have finished my business degree and am studying theology now. My focus has changed from doing business to doing God's business. I'm sharing my faith with others and want to reach as many Chinese students as possible. I understand their loneliness while living in a foreign culture, and I have the answer—Jesus.

I want you to know that you had a part in bringing me to Jesus. The little Chinese Adventist church plant received part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago. We've grown from just a handful of lonely Chinese searching for a Savior to two congregations that meet in separate locations in Tokyo. Thank you! Your mission offerings do make a difference—a *big* difference! 🌍



God's Hands

Yan Jin

Yan Jin slipped into church and bowed her head in prayer before the worship service began. Life was good for Yan Jin. She lived in northern China with her Korean-Chinese parents, who had brought her up to love and honor God. She was studying cosmetology and would soon have a job she loved. What more could she want from life?

Life-changing Sermon

That day a special speaker had worship. Mr. Kim, from Korea, spoke passionately about the people in China who suffered from leprosy. Yan Jin listened as Mr. Kim described people, who had been abandoned by their families for fear of catching the disease. They lived as cast-offs, forgotten by society, living lives of desperation and need.

Mr. Kim doesn't even speak Chinese, Yan Jin thought. Yet he loves the lepers in China and lives among them to minister to them. God has done so much for me; I must do something for these, His children!

After church Yan Jin talked with

Mr. Kim about the needs of the victims of leprosy among whom he worked. A conviction grew in her heart that God wanted her to help Mr. Kim in his ministry. *He needs a translator, she thought. The least I can do is translate for him!*

Yan Jin told her parents of her conviction regarding the people with leprosy. "I feel God is calling me to spend some time translating for Mr. Kim in a nearby leper village," she said. Her parents agreed. A few weeks serving those in need would be a good lesson, and would provide great satisfaction in serving others. But as others learned of Yan Jin's plans, they worried that she would become infected with leprosy herself. "Don't go," some pleaded. "You have such a promising future!"

Hope in a Desperate World

But Yan Jin went. When she arrived at the leprosy village, she was horrified by the conditions she found. Until that moment leprosy was just a name.

Mission Post

- Christians in China are lay led. Many large churches have a pastor, often a woman, who shepherds hundreds or even thousands of believers. From the large worship centers laymen and laywomen go out to establish daughter congregations. Sometimes as many as 200 satellite congregations fall under the leadership of one ordained pastor. These congregations are usually led by layworkers or Global Mission pioneers.
- Pray that the people of China will respond when they learn of God's sacrifice for them. Pray for strength and wisdom for the lay leaders of the churches in this vast nation.

She followed Mr. Kim from room to room in the tumbledown building that was home to these people—people whose bodies were so disfigured by the disease that Yan Jin struggled against nausea. Leprosy had eaten away their fingers and toes and even parts of their face. She wanted to leave. But as Mr. Kim moved easily from person to person, shaking hands, touching shoulders, examining wounds on feet or legs or face, she knew she couldn't go.

A woman held out her hand to Yan Jin. *These people may not have fingers or toes, but they have a soul and a heart, just as I do,* she told herself. *If I'm going to help them, I must treat them as God's children.* Timidly she reached out to shake the woman's disfigured hand.

She translated for Mr. Kim as he spoke to his friends with words of love. A great peace settled over Yan Jin.

Serving in Love

Mr. Kim taught Yan Jin how to treat the wounds that ravaged these people's bodies. Together they recruited more volunteers to clean, paint, and repair the people's rooms. Yan Jin and Mr. Kim taught them to care for the residents. Some hadn't had a bath in years. The volunteers learned to bathe them, dress their wounds, and love them.

They shared their faith with the residents, read the Bible to them, sang with them, and introduced them to Jesus.

Several people in the leprosy colonies have given their hearts to God and been welcomed into the Adventist family.

Today, four years after Yan Jin joined Mr. Kim in his work, about 55 people minister in several leprosy colonies throughout eastern China.

Infectious Caring

Yan Jin has not been infected with leprosy as many feared; instead she's been infected with God's love for these forgotten people of China.

"This is a ministry I want to do for the rest of my life," she says. "I've given up my plans to be a cosmetologist for a far more meaningful career, helping people whose hearts are beautiful even if their bodies aren't.

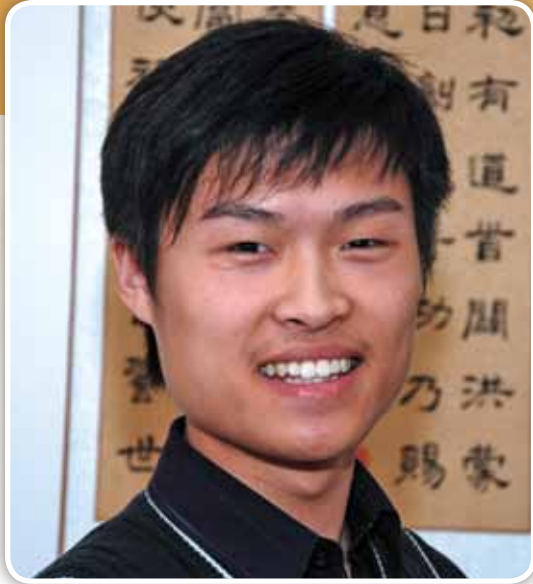
"This is God's work, and I am honored that He has called me to do it. I love being His hands to meet the needs of these dear people."

Our mission offerings help minister to all classes of people in China and throughout northern Asia Pacific. More than 1.5 billion people need God's message of hope. Let's not stop giving until every one of them has had a chance to receive Jesus as their Savior. 🌍

Finding the God of Hope

CHINA | March 3

Feifei



[Ask a young man to present this first-person report.]

Mother sat with her head in her hands, weeping. Dark circles under her eyes spoke of sleepless nights. Her small business in northern China had gone bankrupt, and she couldn't pay her debts. I knew we were in trouble.

Our neighbor saw my mother's sadness too and offered Mother words of comfort and hope. Then she invited Mother to attend her church.

When Mother told me that she was going to attend a Christian church, I wasn't sure what to think. I knew nothing about church or God or faith. But the glimmer of hope in her eyes told me that this was important to her. So I went to church with her.

Soon my mother's shoulders, which had been bent in despair, straightened with hope and faith in God. Two years later I

decided to follow the God of hope, just as my mother had.

School Challenges

In China special programs and exam preparation classes are often held on Sabbaths. God began to convict me that I must honor His commandments. It wasn't an easy decision, for my classmates and teachers wouldn't understand why I was not in school one day a week.

With much prayer I explained my faith to my teacher and asked for permission to miss classes on Saturday. The teacher thought long and hard, and then told me that I could miss the classes as long as I kept my grades up. I was thrilled! I knew God was working on my behalf.

Other teachers, however, tried to pressure me to take the extra classes. They warned me that if I didn't do well on my government exams, it would make the school and the teachers look bad. But God blessed, and my grades actually improved after I started honoring God's Sabbath.

There were times when I felt the pressure to attend classes on Sabbath. But through it all my mother encouraged me to be faithful

to God; she asked the church members to pray that I would be faithful to my commitments to God and that God would bless me. The church pastor and many members stood beside me, encouraging me and strengthening my faith.

Victory in Jesus

Before each exam I prayed that God would help me to honor Him and do well. I never took any of the mock exams that were given on Sabbath. My grades remained high, and my teacher gave permission for me to continue skipping Sabbath classes.

As the day of the government exams neared, I studied hard and prayed for God's blessings. On the day of the exam I entered the exam room and received my exam. Once more I prayed that God would bless my efforts. The exam wasn't easy, but I felt God's presence with me. Then we waited for the exam results.

When the scores were posted, I learned that I had done well, scoring among the top 10 out of 800 students in my class. The teacher who had given me permission to miss the special classes on Sabbath was pleased, and so was I. God had surely proven His power!

As high school graduation neared, I wrestled with what to study in the university. I asked my pastor for guidance. "The church needs dedicated doctors," she said.

What About the Future?

I struggled with her answer, for I had never imagined becoming a doctor. I am a little shy, and sometimes I fear challenges. I knew I was good in math and science, which are important in the study of medicine; but I was not sure I was meant

Mission Post

- Besides the millions of people in China who speak Chinese, millions more Chinese-speaking people live around the world. In the United States Chinese is the fourth-most-common language.
- Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help make video programs that can air on television and over the Internet so that the Chinese-speaking adults and children in every land can know that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend forever.

to be a doctor. "I am putting it in Your hands, God," I prayed.

God gave me peace and the assurance that He wanted me to become a doctor. I enrolled in medical courses and soon realized that I had found my calling. As I entered my final year of studies, the university invited me to do my internship at the university's hospital, an honor offered to just a few students in my class. Still, I struggled with whether this was God's will, because the position wouldn't allow me time to work with the church's Pathfinders, which I love.

But God has given me peace. I know He is leading in my life. I have seen that God is a God of hope who longs to bless His people as they honor Him.

I want others to know that Jesus loves them. I'm thankful that part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help Chinese-speaking people around the world hear the gospel that has brought hope to my life. Thank you for your gift of love to Jesus through the mission offerings. 🌍

The Power of Forgiveness

CHINA | March 10

Lin



Lin* crossed her arms and glared at her husband. The anger inside her burned too hot to let this fight go. As a lawyer in China, Lin was used to fighting for what she thought was right, even in her family. Life was about power and strength and being right.

But she felt powerless to make her husband love her the way she wanted him to. *What good are success and power and money and strength if there's no love?* she asked herself.

Defeat

Lin's marriage ended in divorce, but the anger against her husband only grew stronger. *It's his fault our marriage failed, she thought. He's ruined my life; I hate him!* But deep in her heart she knew that her own anger and demands had made their marriage miserable.

Lin returned home to her silent

apartment. Her husband was gone, and her son was away at school. She was alone. Alone. Her anger again threatened to overwhelm her. She slumped into a chair, exhausted.

A New Beginning

A friend invited Lin over one day. Lin usually didn't accept such invitations, but she needed to get away from the office, to relax a bit. So she went. The mood was peaceful and warm, so different from the atmosphere in her home and office. Young people greeted her warmly and seemed genuinely interested in her. *Something is different about these young people, she thought. Is it just good manners? They seem to care—to love—one another. What makes them so different?* Lin joined the conversation and really enjoyed it. When one of the young people invited her to attend a meeting the next Friday evening at a little Adventist church, she agreed.

She found the little church off a busy street in the large city and joined the young people in a small auditorium on the second floor. The friendly greetings of those around her warmed her heart.

As the meeting began, the young people sang heartily. Lin didn't know the songs, but the messages they portrayed gave her food for thought. Then a young pastor spoke fervently of the love of God.

Lin had never heard such words before. She felt the cold and harshness drain from her body and warmth and relaxation flow in. She thought about how she had treated people, how she thought she knew so much and had accomplished so much in her life. Suddenly she realized that there existed a whole world of information she didn't know about. She had so much to learn, but best of all, she was willing to be taught.

Finding God's Power

Lin returned to the Friday night meeting the next week and began attending church on Sabbath as well. She felt a power in the church that she hadn't found in any courtroom. It wasn't the power of being right or arguing a case; it was the power of love—and forgiveness. She realized that she needed to forgive others, but even more important, she

needed God's forgiveness in her own life.

Hatred had weighed her down for so long. But as she took her first steps toward God, she felt peace and lightness and joy. She asked Jesus for forgiveness, and He freely gave it. She realized that she must forgive herself and her husband for the anger and hatred that had destroyed their marriage. As she prayed, her heartbeat grew calm, and her breathing was easier.

Lin was amazed at the changes in her life, and others noticed them as well. In place of her impatience God gave peace; in place of her anger He gave joy. And when others asked what had happened, she told them, "I've met Jesus. Come to church with me and see for yourself!"

Sharing God's Forgiveness

Lin invited her friends, her son, and a nephew to attend the Friday evening worship with her. Her son now attends church with her when he is home from school.

Lin began preparing for baptism. She shed many tears as she realized the power of God's love and forgiveness for *her*. Her discoveries brought joy and healing.

Lin wants to help others know that happiness isn't about power or money or being right; happiness is a gift from God. She wants to share God's love and forgiveness with her ex-husband and her fellow lawyers, so they will know the peace she has found. "My prayer is to reflect God's image in my life and change my heart to the heart of Jesus," she says.

Our mission offerings help build up the church in China. Thank you for giving so that others can experience the power of forgiveness and hope in Jesus. 🌍

Mission Post

- More than a billion people speak Chinese (Mandarin). While most of them live in China and Taiwan, millions live in other countries around the world, especially in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the United States.
- Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help make possible the production of Chinese-language programming for television and the Internet. In this way millions can learn the message of salvation in Christ in their own homes.

* Not her real name



Throw Open the Doors

Vladimir

The doors to the multipurpose room open early on Sabbath morning, but people are always waiting to get in. They come from several different countries, but they all come to worship and enjoy the family of God. Welcome to the multicultural Adventist church in the heart of Seoul, Korea.

Few of the members and visitors are Korean; most come from the Philippines and are in Korea to work and support their families back home.

Vladimir

Vladimir [VLAH-dee-mihr] has worked in Korea for five years. He works to support his parents and save for his future. He had attended a Christian church from his childhood, but he sensed that something was missing in his life. He just wasn't sure what it was.

"I visited a number of churches and even some non-Christian temples," Vladimir said. "I knew that somewhere out there was a religion that teaches pure truth, but I hadn't found it yet." Vladimir began

asking people, "Who is Jesus?" He learned about a lot of false religions and faiths that were built on one idea from the Bible, but Vladimir wanted more.

Then he met a man who invited him to the multicultural Adventist church. Vladimir eagerly agreed to attend. "Once I began coming to the Adventist international group, I knew I had found God's true church," Vladimir says, smiling. "I was eager to know more about God."

"It's wonderful fellowship for us all, the best fellowship I've found anywhere," he adds. We're an active congregation and try to let everyone practice being leaders so we'll grow. We learn how to introduce others to Jesus and live a life that is pleasing to God."

Vladimir shares what he's learning with his family in the Philippines. His mother was so impressed by what he's told her that she attended evangelistic meetings and was baptized as a result of her son's testimony. "As far as I'm concerned," Vladimir says, "I'm home!"

Mission Post

- More than a million people from outside Korea live, work, and study in Seoul, Korea.
- The multicultural church in the heart of Seoul, Korea, focuses on reaching these foreign-born residents. The members provide a warm and welcoming spiritual home for others far from their homeland. Their success means that they need a larger spiritual home in which to carry on their ministries.
- Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide a place for this congregation to reach out to others new to the country.

Rad

Rad is a graduate student in international studies in Seoul. He's been worshipping with the Adventist international congregation for two years, even though he wasn't an Adventist. "I love this church!" he says. "We come from all over the world and from so many different professions and lines of work. It doesn't matter where we're from or what we do for a living. We just love worshipping God together."

The international congregation isn't a typical modern church where people attend a worship service and then go home. "We're a family," Rad says. "We love to spend time together during the week. We have spiritual times and social times, just like any family. We have picnics and basketball games as well as Bible studies. We're just a spiritual family."

A Growing Problem

But the international congregation has a growing problem. "Our worship hall seats only about 80, and we're so crowded

that it gets uncomfortable," Rad says. "We don't have room to add any more chairs, and some people must stand during the worship service."

The church members have many outreach activities, and they need space to minister to those who want to join them. "We have a building fund, and we dream of having our own church," one member adds. "It won't just be a church, but will include a dormitory for migrant workers and those traveling through Korea who need a place to stay for a night or a week or longer. This dormitory is based on a successful outreach ministry in another part of Seoul, the capital city of Korea. Many have found Christ and discovered the Adventist lifestyle while staying in secure and affordable housing. More than a million foreigners live and work or study in Seoul."

"I love this church," Rad adds. "It's so open and welcoming. I want to invite my college friends to come and experience worship here. But I hesitate, for they might be intimidated by the crowded conditions. So many people are waiting to hear that God loves them. There's just no time to lose!"

In spite of the crowded conditions and less-than-ideal worship situation, members of the multicultural Adventist church can't imagine worshipping anywhere else. "This is where I belong," Rad says. "We are one in Christ in worship and fellowship, breaking down barriers. We are eager to grow, to help more people experience our wonderful Savior and worship Him together in love."

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help this multicultural church reach more of the 1 million non-Koreans living in one of the largest cities in the world. 🌍

Journey to Freedom

KOREA | March 24

Ana



The bell on the shop's door tinkled, and Ana* looked up to see a Chinese woman enter the small store. The woman smiled at Ana and chatted about everyday matters as she looked around the shop. She avoided topics that could cause trouble if someone reported the conversation to the police.

North Korea

Ana and her parents lived in North Korea,† near the Chinese border. She knew better than to trust anyone. This woman could be a spy for the government. Ana had heard whispered stories of people who had been arrested because someone accused them of criticizing the government. It wasn't safe to trust anyone.

The woman visiting the shop introduced herself as Mrs. Lee, from China. She chatted happily as she made her purchases and bid Ana goodbye.

Mrs. Lee returned to the shop several

times. Then one day when Mrs. Lee was paying for her purchases, she laid a small bag in front of Ana. She smiled and nodded toward the bag. Ana looked inside the bag and gasped at the fine cosmetics inside, items that weren't available in North Korea. Ana looked at Mrs. Lee, a question on her face. *Do I dare accept these gifts?* she wondered. *Is this a trap?*

Mrs. Lee smiled as she slid the bag toward Ana, and then turned to leave the store.

The Prayer

Mrs. Lee sometimes spoke of God during her visits. Ana knew nothing about God. One day Mrs. Lee gave Ana a piece of paper with the Lord's Prayer written on it.

That evening Ana showed the paper to her mother, who read it with deep interest. Her mother began praying the prayer that Mrs. Lee had given Ana, and then added her own request to it. "Please bring my son home," she prayed. Ana's brother was in the military and hadn't been home in eight years.

A month later, Ana's mother answered a knock at the door and found two soldiers standing there. For a moment she feared

what might happen next. Then she realized that one of the soldiers was her son. He had come home at last!

Ana told Mrs. Lee what had happened when her mother prayed the prayer Mrs. Lee had given Ana. Mrs. Lee smiled and slipped a tiny piece of paper into Ana's hand. "If you ever visit China, call me," Mrs. Lee whispered.

Escape

Ana decided to leave North Korea. She knew that people caught leaving North Korea were subject to prison or death, but the desire for freedom had taken root in her heart and would not die.

Ana had heard that border guards sometimes accepted a bribe to allow someone to cross into China. One day Ana walked to the border between China and North Korea and approached a young border guard, her heart pounding.

"What must I do to cross the border?" she asked innocently.

The guard looked at Ana and said, "Give me 100 Chinese *yuen* [yoo-EHN, about \$15], and you can cross." He told her the date she should return with the money.

Ana told no one of her plans, not even her parents. On the given date, Ana walked to the border, paid the bribe to the guard, and walked across the border into China. She didn't stop until she was several miles inside China. Then she pulled out a cell phone that Mrs. Lee had given her and dialed.

Ana stayed with a Christian friend of Mrs. Lee for several days. Harboring a North Korean was dangerous, but the woman hid Ana while she shared her faith with Ana. Ana knew nothing about Jesus, but soon she realized Jesus was God. She accepted Jesus as her Savior and eagerly learned more. But every day she stayed in China she was in danger of being caught and sent back to certain imprisonment and perhaps death. She had to continue on her journey.

A New Home

Six months after Ana left her homeland, she stepped onto South Korean soil. There she was introduced to the Adventist Church. Ana rejoices in her new freedom—freedom from oppression and freedom to share her love for Jesus with others.

No one knows how many Adventists live in North Korea. But the church members in South Korea pray and prepare for the day when they can share God's love with their neighbors to the north. Our mission offerings help train believers to share the gospel with those who have never known Jesus. 🌐

Fast Facts

- South Korea is located on a beautiful mountainous peninsula east of China. The people speak Korean.
- North Korea and South Korea were once part of the same country. But just a little more than 50 years ago a war tore the country apart. North Korea is still a Communist country, and religion is strongly discouraged.
- We have no idea how many Adventist believers live in North Korea, but South Korean Christians pray constantly that God will make it possible for them to share their faith with relatives and friends across the border.

* Not her real name

† Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Thirteenth Sabbath Program

➤	Opening Song	“Christ for the World” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , no. 370
➤	Welcome	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher prayer
➤	Program	“Let Them See Jesus”
➤	Closing Song	“Soldiers of Christ, Arise” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , no. 616
➤	Closing Prayer	

Participants and Props: Two narrators plus six children to present the projects; six younger children to carry the flags across the platform and hold up the appropriate flag as that country’s project is being presented. If you don’t have enough children to take these parts, ask two more narrators to alternate taking the children’s parts. These people don’t need to memorize their parts, but they should be familiar enough with the material to present it confidently. (Note that this program is the same as that which appears in the children’s quarterly.)

Narrator 1: The Northern Asia-Pacific Division is made up of six countries. Each presents its own challenges to finishing the work of God.

Narrator 2: [*Child 1 carries Chinese flag across the platform and stands at the far side.*] China, the world’s most populous

nation with almost 1.4 billion people, is opening its borders to the world. But with a little more than 400,000 believers, only one in every 3,400 is a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. Pray that God will use His children to light the lamps of faith throughout this vast nation.

Narrator 1: [*Child 2 carries Japanese flag across the platform and stands next to child 1.*] Japan is rich and increased in goods, but the people don’t know that Jesus died for them. The church in Japan has a little more than 15,000 members, one Adventist believer for about every 8,300 people. Most of the believers are elderly, and only a few are baptized each year. Pray that God will raise up an army of youth who will share their faith in Japan.

Narrator 2: [*Child 3 carries Mongolian flag across platform.*] Mongolia’s first new believers in generations were baptized just

18 years ago. Most of the country's 1,600 believers are young people who are eager to share their faith with others. Pray that they will grow strong in faith and mighty in church leadership in one of the oldest cultures in the world.

Narrator 1: *[Child 4 carries North Korean flag across platform.]* No one knows how many Christians or how many Adventist believers live in North Korea. But the few who have made their way out of this closed nation give reason to hope. Pray that the doors of North Korea will open so that the gospel may flood in and feed hungry hearts with the bread of life.

Narrator 2: *[Child 5 carries South Korean flag across platform.]* South Korea is the most "Christian" nation in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. Still, just a third of the population of South Korea professes to be Christians, and about one person in every 250 is a Seventh-day Adventist Christian. But in spite of the best efforts to evangelize the masses, Adventists still are misunderstood. Pray for those who suffer for their faith in South Korea.

Narrator 1: *[Child 6 carries Taiwan's flag across platform.]* Taiwan is a small island off the coast of China. Most of the country's Adventist members come from the original tribes who live primarily in the hill country. Only one in every 25,000 ethnic Chinese in Taiwan is an Adventist. Pray that God will touch the hearts of these people who need to know that Jesus died for them.

Narrator 2: Today our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help lift up the hands of our brothers and sisters in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. A portion of our offering today will help provide

some vital tools to lead others to Jesus and to strengthen those who believe.

Child 1: *[Child holding Japanese flag also steps forward and holds his/her flag high.]* A church for a congregation of new believers on the island of Amami Oshima [ah-MAH-mee OH-shee-mah] in southern Japan.

Child 2: *[Child holding Mongolian flag also steps forward and holds his/her flag high.]* A youth training center at the new Adventist youth camp located outside the capital city of Mongolia. This youth training center will be dedicated to teaching young people to be leaders in the church and in society.

Child 3: *[Child holding Korean flag steps forward and holds flag high.]* Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today will help a special group of people living in Korea to have a church of their own. These are people who have come to Korea to live and work. They don't understand Korean well, but they can speak English. They want to worship God in a language they can understand. Let's help them build a church so that they can reach out to others like them who still need to know that God loves them.

Child 4: *[Child holding Taiwanese flag steps forward and holds flag high.]* Three years ago part of our special Thirteenth Sabbath Offering was used to establish a recording studio in Taiwan where programs are prepared in Mandarin Chinese for radio and television.

Child 5: *[Child holding Chinese flag steps forward and holds flag high.]* Today part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will be used to prepare more television programs

that can be broadcast on TV and through the Internet to the Chinese-speaking people around the world.

Child 6: *[Child holding North Korean flag steps forward and holds flag high.]* We don't know how many Christians live in North Korea. But we know there are some. We know from people who have lived there that at least a few of these Christians are Seventh-day Adventists. Life is hard for them. Let's pray that God will protect and bless His children in this country where Christianity is a foreign religion.

Narrator 1: We can help make a difference in the countries of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. When we give our mission offerings and when we

pray, it helps the people who know Jesus to share God's love with their friends. And part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will make a big difference for the people who attend the international church in Seoul, Korea *[point to Seoul, Korea, on the map]*; to the new believers on the island of Amami Oshima in southern Japan *[point to the islands of southern Japan]*; to the young people in Mongolia *[point to Mongolia]*; and to the Chinese-speaking people around the world *[point to China and Taiwan, then sweep your hand over the rest of the map]*. Let's do our part today to share God's love with our family members in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

[Offering]

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects



Next quarter the **Southern Asia-Pacific Division** will be featured. The special projects will help enlarge a hospital in Manado, eastern Indonesia; provide medical equipment for a mission hospital in Medan, western Indonesia; and enlarge an Adventist school in Myanmar. The special children's project will buy Bibles for children in an unnamed country in southeastern Asia.

Third quarter 2012 will feature the **Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division**. Projects will focus on Madagascar, Namibia, and South Africa.

Resources

For more information on the cultures and history of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, visit your local library or a travel agency.

Online Information. The Adventist Mission website contains additional material that can add flavor to your mission presentation. Look for words and songs in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Mongolian as well as puzzles, recipes, and games from the *Children's Mission* site. Go to www.AdventistMission.org. Click on "Resources" and "Children's Activities" in the pop-up menu. Click on "fourth quarter" and select the activity you want.

An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Ask your Sabbath School council to set a quarterly mission offering goal (set the goal a little higher than last quarter and divide it by 14, one part for each of the 12 regular Sabbaths this quarter and two parts for Thirteenth Sabbath). Chart the weekly progress toward the quarter's goal on the goal device.

To focus attention on the Chinese-language programming, enlarge the map of the world and place a radio or television tower (or a microphone or computer) on the island of Taiwan. Sketch in arcing lines to represent radio waves that radiate outward from the tower and go around the world to reach Chinese-speaking people everywhere. Color in one of the arcing lines every time a week's mission goal is reached.

Remind members that the ongoing work of the world church depends on Sabbath School mission giving every week, and that one quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in North America. 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. This immediate feedback will encourage members to continue their mission giving.

ADVENTIST MISSION

EDITORIAL

Charlotte Ishkanian Editor
Esther Lipscomb Contributing Editor
Hans Olson Managing Editor
Emily Harding Layout Editor

OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION

Gary Krause Director
Rick Kajjura Communication Director
Nancy Kyte Marketing Director
Delbert Pearman Planning Director

COMMUNICATION

Laurie Falvo Projects Manager
Charlotte Ishkanian Mission Editor
Hans Olson Projects Manager
Daniel Weber Video Producer

Website: www.AdventistMission.org

Mission (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2012 by the Office of Adventist Mission, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A. Printed in U.S.A.

Printed in U.S.A.

First Quarter 2012
Volume 101, Number 1

ADVENTIST® and SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST™ are the registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

Texts credited to NKJV are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission is granted to reproduce material from this quarterly for use in local Sabbath Schools and children's ministries programs. Permission to reproduce any portion of this material for sale, publication in another periodical, or other commercial use must be authorized in writing by the editor at the above address.

For subscription inquiries, e-mail Steve Hanson at shanson@rhp.org or call 1-800-456-3991 or 1-301-393-3247. Annual subscription rates per edition: domestic, US\$7.50; international, US\$14.50.

RUSSIA

NORTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC DIVISION

KAZAKHSTAN

Ulaanbaatar

★

①

MONGOLIA

Beijing

★

NORTH KOREA

Pyongyang

★

Seoul

★

SOUTH KOREA

JAPAN

Tokyo

★

②

C H I N A

NEPAL

BHUTAN

BANGLADESH

INDIA

MYANMAR

LAOS

MACAU

Hanoi

★

HONG KONG

④

TAIWAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

THAILAND

VIETNAM

CAMBODIA

	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Chinese Union Mission	1,211	3,708	404,110	1,370,000,000
Japan Union Conference	107	43	15,354	127,400,000
Korean Union Conference	712	190	222,404	71,700,000
Mongolia Mission Field	4	6	1,664	2,800,000
TOTALS	2,034	3,947	643,532	1,571,900,000

PROJECTS:

- ① Mongolia: Youth training center
- ② Japan: church for existing congregation in Amami Oshima
- ③ Korea: Multicultural outreach center
- ④ Chinese-language programming for television and Internet