



YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

2021 • **QUARTER 3** • NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION



AdventistMission.org

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 = stories of special interest to teens

Your Offerings at Work



Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped kickstart a new gym and health center called New Life Center at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School. Your offering this quarter will help finish the second phase of the center. Read stories from Holbrook on pages 4-15.



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This quarter we feature the North American Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in the United States, Canada, the French possessions of St. Pierre and Miquelon, the British overseas territory of Bermuda, the U.S. territories of Guam, Wake Island, and Northern Mariana Islands in the Pacific Ocean, and three nearby states in free association with the United States—Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The region is home to 367 million people, including 1.25 million Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for every 293 people.

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects are in the U.S. state of Arizona, in the Canadian territory of Nunavut, and

on Palau, an archipelago of more than 500 islands that is part of the Micronesia region in the western Pacific Ocean. A fourth project aims to assist refugees in the North American Division. See the sidebar below for more information.

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive this quarter, we offer a variety of photos and other materials to accompany each mission story. More information is provided in the sidebar with each story.

For photos of tourist sites and other scenes from the featured countries, try a free photo bank such as pixabay.com and unsplash.com.

In addition, you can download a PDF of facts and activities from the North American Division at bit.ly/NAD-2021. Follow us at facebook.com/missionquarterlies.

You can download the PDF version of the youth and adult *Mission* magazine at bit.ly/adultmission and the *Children's Mission* magazine at bit.ly/childrensmission.

The Mission Spotlight videos are available at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

A printable mission bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at bit.ly/bank-coloring-page.

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

Thank you for encouraging church members to be mission-minded! 🌐

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help the North American Division to construct:

- Staff housing, Palau School, Palau
- Second phase of multifunctional gym, Holbrook Indian School, U.S.A.
- Churches for refugees and to grant scholarships, Canada and U.S.A.
- Church and community center, Igloolik, Canada

Happy to Be Back



ARIZONA, U.S.A. | July 3

Adrain Wiles, 20

since his twelfth-grade graduation. Here is his story in his own words.

I graduated from Holbrook Indian School in 2018. I had given my life to Jesus, and He helped me overcome drugs and alcohol and find a purpose in life. Following in the footsteps of one of my uncles, I decided to become an engineer. I enrolled at Union College, an Adventist school in Nebraska, and began a new journey as a college student.

Everyone at the college was so nice and friendly and happy. Even strangers greeted me.

I made friends in classes, choir, and intramural sports. I was invited to study the Bible with religion students and loved all of the spiritual programs the school had to offer, including the After Glow vespers program on Friday evenings.

Everything was going great until I found out that my education was going to cost a significant amount of money. I had no idea. When I received the bill, I was shocked.

The next year I decided to go to the school on the Navajo Reservation. After doing some online research, I saw that a technical college in New Mexico had a good engineering program. I was excited to continue my education there without

Adventist Mission featured Adrain for a children's mission story in second quarter 2018. He was just finishing twelfth grade at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School, a mission school for Native Americans, in the U.S. state of Arizona.

Adrain did not know his father, and his mother often drank. When he was 7, an older brother taught him how to drink alcohol and use drugs. Adrain didn't think anything was wrong with his life, and he didn't want to live at Holbrook when he was enrolled there for the third grade. But he learned many new things at the school, including the importance of taking baths and washing his clothes. He stopped drinking and using drugs. He found that playing basketball in the gym helped cheer him up when he felt sad. In the seventh grade, he studied the Bible with the pastor and gave his heart to Jesus.

Let's find out what has happened to Adrian

having to worry about the high cost of a private Christian school.

After I arrived, however, I quickly realized that the school didn't have any other Christian students with whom I could socialize. The temptation to drink and use drugs was overwhelming. I was able to avoid getting caught up in that lifestyle, but I was lonely.

By the second semester I was so lonely that I couldn't take it anymore. I spoke with staff at Holbrook Indian School who had kept in touch with me. Amazingly, a position had just opened up, and they wanted me to come back to Holbrook to work as a taskforce dean and to continue my education through the school's college transition program.

The difference between the atmosphere at the technical college and Holbrook Indian School is huge. Holbrook is my home. I am happy to be back.

I would like to return to Union College to finish my education, and I am praying that God will provide a way for me to return without going into debt. I know God has a plan for my life. Please pray for me as I continue to follow Him wherever He leads me. 🌍

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By Adrain Wiles

Story Tips

- Ask a young man to share this first-person account.
- Read Adrain's full story from 2018: bit.ly/Adrain-2018.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the North American Division: bit.ly/NAD-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6 "to increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults," and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7 "to help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview" by encouraging "youth and young adults [to] embrace the belief (FB 22) that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, recreational use of drugs and other high-risk behaviors, and embrace church teachings (FB 23) on marriage, and demonstrate sexual purity" (KPI 7.2). Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Mission Post

- Holbrook Indian School was opened in 1946 in Holbrook, Arizona. As well as teaching the regular curriculum of English, history, math, and science, classes are held in vocational subjects such as auto mechanics, horsemanship, welding, and woodworking. The school also works to preserve Native American culture by teaching the traditions of pottery making, Navajo language, and government. Currently the school is funded 20% by the Pacific Union Conference and 80% through donations.



Guarded Journey

Jodi Opitz, 39

My husband, Derek, and I were making the three-hour drive from Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School to Arizona's capital, Phoenix. I work at Holbrook as registrar and administrative assistant, while Derek is the maintenance assistant. On that Sabbath afternoon, I was driving our jeep, and Derek was taking a nap in the passenger seat.

We were running late. We were headed to Phoenix to listen to a Sabbath-afternoon sermon at a church, but we first needed to pick up my mother so she could go with us.

It rained heavily on and off during the drive. The wet road ran through many mountain ranges, and I navigated many curvy corners. Yet, I was pushing down on the gas pedal. A number of cars were speeding beside us on the road.

About halfway into the trip, our vehicle started to hydroplane. In just seconds the jeep spun 180 degrees around and slammed into a mud hill on one side of

the road. Then it rolled onto Derek's side and slid down the highway backward, stopping about 75 yards (75 meters) from the initial point of impact. Somehow the jeep stopped upright on all four wheels.

Derek and I sat in complete shock. Then Derek struggled to open his door. It wouldn't budge. It was jammed into the car frame. Derek smelled smoke. Fearing that the vehicle was going to catch on fire, he exclaimed, "We have to get out of here!"

At that moment, my door opened.

"Are you OK?" asked the woman who had opened the door.

The woman had witnessed the entire accident and had stopped to help.

Minutes later a small crowd of people surrounded our vehicle. They asked whether we had called for a tow truck. We had not but, before we could reply, a tow truck stopped right in front of us. The driver, who owned a towing company, was traveling from a dentist appointment.

"Can I help?" he asked.

Then, without us calling the police, a police officer showed up to direct the steady flow of traffic whizzing past us. His help was much needed because our vehicle, located around a curve and on a

downslope, was not clearly visible to the oncoming traffic.

In just minutes our jeep was loaded onto the tow truck and ready to go. We inspected the damage. The jeep had two working wheels and an undamaged hood and roof. Everything else was ruined. The vehicle was totaled.

Derek and I sat in the tow truck, trying to put together the pieces of what had happened. We had intended to take a friend with us to Phoenix that day, but the plan had not worked out. Normally we traveled with our dog, but it she wasn't with us that afternoon. The opposite side of the road, away from the mud hill that we had initially hit, had a steep drop-off. Derek and I had survived the accident with only cuts, sore muscles, and a few bruises.

How was it possible that we had not hit any other cars? How did we end right-side up? Why did we not hit the guard rail and plunge down the 100-foot (30-meter) drop-off?

The only possible answer is that God spared our lives. He took care of everything even before we set off on the journey. Later we learned that three friends and families had felt impressed to pray for us that day. God answered their prayers. Less than an hour after the accident, friends from Holbrook Indian School picked us up and took us home.

Psalm 94:22 says, "But the Lord is my refuge; my God is the rock of my protection" (CEV). God has protected us many times at Holbrook Indian School. We truly thank God for his continual watch over us. 🌍

Thank you for your generous
Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years

Story Tips

- Ask a woman to share this first-person account.
- Download photos on Facebook bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the North American Division: bit.ly/NAD-2021.
- Know that Jodi tells her mission story to "help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview," which is Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan. Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Fast Facts

- After The Long Walk, the government tried to compel the Navajo to enroll their children in Western-style education, in particular boarding schools, which were designed to not only educate but to "Americanize" them, which some have subsequently called "cultural genocide."
- If you cut down a cactus in Arizona you could end up in jail for 25 years. The saguaro cactus can grow up to 50 feet (15 meters) tall, but it grows very slowly, and it can live for up to 200 years.

ago that helped kickstart plans for a new gym and health center called New Life Center at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School. Your offering this quarter will help finish the second phase of the center, allowing the school to address high rates of obesity, heart disease, diabetes, depression, and suicide among Native American children and youth.

By Jodi Opitz

You Aren't Alone



ARIZONA, U.S.A. | July 17

Aliandra, 17

Throughout my childhood I've experienced things that I don't feel children should have to go through. I saw people drinking and losing their minds over drugs. I saw people smoking marijuana in hope of feeling good for a short time.

My mother is Navajo, and my father is Mexican. My family once was so good and loving, and we attended church every Sunday. But then my mother began to drink alcohol, and everything seemed to fall out of place. As a small girl, I saw my father beat my mother with his bare hands and sometimes with a pool stick. I was scared because I felt weak and helpless. I didn't have the strength to do anything about it.

My mother went in and out of jail on charges of domestic violence, drinking

while driving, and other things. It hurt me so much inside.

At the same time, my father wasn't at home much. He was deported to Mexico many times, but he kept coming back to the United States. He's never even wished me a happy birthday. But somehow God gave me strength every day to keep moving forward. Even though I didn't have an earthly father who cared, I had a Heavenly Father who loved me.

I got used to hiding my feelings and acting as if everything was all right. People sometimes asked me how I kept all my feelings bottled up inside. It's hard, but you get used to it when no one listens to how you feel.

As I grew older, I changed and became a different person. I became overprotective of my younger siblings. I got into multiple

fight, skipped school to be cool, and started smoking marijuana.

Then, when I was 12, I realized that I didn't want to become like my parents. But I didn't know what to do.

A year or two later, I came to Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School to start ninth grade. At the school, I grew to love Christ, and I realized the kind of love that He has for me. Despite all that I had gone through, God had a plan for me that included coming to Holbrook.

My understanding of life has changed. Now I know that God has been with me my entire life. I just didn't realize it. He has always been right beside me, giving me the strength to keep going forward regardless of what I experienced. To this day, He continues to give me strength with everything that I do, every decision I make, and every time I feel like giving up.

My favorite verse is Exodus 14:14, which says, "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still" (NIV).

God will give you victory over anything you're going through if you allow Him to take care of it. He has you in His hands, and He is going to fight for you.

You are not alone.

I am not alone. 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped kickstart plans on a new gym and health center called New Life Center at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School. Your offering this quarter will go toward the center, helping the school address high rates of obesity, heart disease, diabetes, depression, and suicide among Native American children and youth.

By Aliandra, as told to Diana Fish

Story Tips

- Ask a young woman to share this first-person account.
- Adventist Mission does not identify people under age 18 by their full names.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the North American Division: bit.ly/NAD-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following component of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7 "to help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview" by encouraging "youth and young adults [to] embrace the belief (FB 22) that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, recreational use of drugs and other high-risk behaviors, and embrace church teachings (FB 23) on marriage, and demonstrate sexual purity" (KPI 7.2). Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Fast Facts

- The United States of America is the world's third-largest country in size (after Russia and Canada) and the third-largest in terms of population (after China and India).
- Arizona is the sixth-largest U.S. state in terms of territory and the fourteenth in terms of population. It is located in the southwestern United States, and it borders the states of Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, California, Colorado.
- Arizona is famous for the Grand Canyon, which is more than a mile (1.6 km) deep, 227 miles (365 km) long, and up to 18 miles (29 km) wide.

Surrounded by Love



ARIZONA, U.S.A. | July 24

Shanel Draper, 24

Even though I grew up with family in a small town, I saw alcoholism, drugs, and violence almost every day. It was common. I remember seeing people put up fences outside the schools, but that didn't stop the alcohol, drugs, and violence from entering the classrooms. Gangs started fights and brought in drugs and alcohol. This was in middle school. Sometimes even walking home from the bus stop wasn't safe for me alone. Maybe these are some of the reasons that my mother and aunt decided to pull me out of public school and send me to a private school.

My mother's first choice was private school in the U.S. state of New Mexico, but I was put on a wait list. Then we considered another school in New Mexico. But I wasn't able to attend because it was

a day school and didn't have a dormitory. Finally, my mother saw that a couple of our relatives had children at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School in Arizona. The school was some distance from home, but my mother and aunt decided that it would be best for me.

I entered the ninth grade in August 2010. It was tough at first being away from family. I had no problem doing things on my own like laundry, cleaning my room, and basically taking care of myself. The only thing I wasn't ready for was Bible class. I had attended church with several aunts, but I only went because I wasn't allowed to stay home alone. My aunts had taken me to various churches and even to Vacation Bible School. Still, I didn't know how to read the Bible.

At Holbrook, it was embarrassing not knowing how to read the Bible at a

Christian school. But slowly I started to learn about Jesus and how He works in our lives. I gave my heart to Jesus.

Four years later, I graduated from Holbrook Indian School. I studied in college for two years but then moved on to other things. My life became busy, and I lost sight of Jesus and being a Seventh-day Adventist.

While visiting a friend in Texas, I heard that my aunt, who was like a mother to me, had gotten really sick and was in and out of the hospital in Phoenix, Arizona. I caught a flight from Texas back to Arizona on my birthday to surprise my aunt. I spent time with her before she passed away a few days later.

After her passing, I ran away from home and back to Texas. But I wasn't happy. When a friend from Holbrook informed me about a job opening for a taskforce worker at the school, I jumped at the chance. When I returned, I worked closely with the students, and it brought me so much joy. The following year, the school asked me to return as the scholarship coordinator. Being back at Holbrook has changed my life in so many ways, and it feels amazing to be surrounded by love. 🌍

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By Shanel Draper

Story Tips

- As a young woman to share this first-person account.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the North American Division: bit.ly/NAD-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6 "to increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults," and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7 "to help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview" by encouraging "youth and young adults [to] embrace the belief (FB 22) that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, abstaining from alcohol, tobacco, recreational use of drugs and other high-risk behaviors, and embrace church teachings (FB 23) on marriage, and demonstrate sexual purity" (KPI 7.2). Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Mission Post

- The Arizona Conference, where the Holbrook Indian School is located, has 78 churches and 20,692 members. With a population of 7,052,954 in the state, there is one Adventist for every 341 people in Arizona.
- Oakwood University, in the state of Alabama, is the only educational institution attached directly to the North American Division.
- The Navajo Nation is located in parts of the states of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah and is comprised of over 27,000 square miles (71,000 km²) — larger than ten of the fifty states in the U.S.

Caregiver for the Cure-Giver



ARIZONA, U.S.A. | July 31

Nannette Ortiz, 53

Many girls who come to Holbrook Indian School arrive with extra emotional baggage. They have experienced many forms of trauma even at an early age. I remember a second grader, Rose, tell me that she had witnessed her father's murder. One night, as I prepared to leave my dormitory desk go to bed, the little girl ran to me and jumped into my arms.

"I can't sleep," she said. "I see my Dad smiling at me through the window."

I took her back to her room and sang and prayed with her. I had trouble sleeping myself, thinking about what the girls were going through.

Two months into the school year, Lily confided how she was tormented by terrible nightmares. When she started describing the nightmares, I understood why I had come to the school. You see, I had experienced the same kind of nightmares when I was a teenager. God wanted me to develop a special relationship with Lily so I could assure her that she, too, could overcome those nightmares with God's help. I told her that God had set me free of the nightmares with His power and that He could do the same for her.

Some students would rather stay at the school than go home during vacation. This happens because the environment at home is toxic. I remember, Rose, the second grader, returning from a short vacation

What is it like being girls' dean to a group of several dozen girls and young women at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School?

I met Lily when I first came to Holbrook Indian School. The 17-year-old girl immediately adopted me as her grandmother. She was eager to help me around the dormitory. "Can I help you bake the muffins this week?" she would say, or, "Can I help you write the Bible verse on the chalkboard?"

I clearly remember another question that she asked me at the beginning of the school year. "Do you know that I had to be put on a contract twice last year?" she asked.

What was she talking about? I learned that she had been so depressed the previous school year that she had been deemed at risk of harming herself. She had signed the contract as a promise to seek help before doing anything to harm herself.

with her mother. As I opened the door for her to enter the dormitory, she looked around the place. Then she sighed.

“It’s good to be home,” she said.

Lily tried to avoid going home. To this day, I do not know what kind of trauma she had experienced that had inflicted so much emotional harm. But that is not my job. My job is to show unconditional love to all the girls, understanding that I am their caregiver and God is their Cure-giver.

Just this week, as we studied the story of Creation, I asked Lily, “Did you know this story before you came to this school?”

“No,” she replied.

“What about the Bible? Did you see a Bible at home or in your *shimasani*’s [maternal grandmother’s] house?”

She shook her head. The first time that she had seen a Bible was when she came to Holbrook Indian School.

I explained to Lily that many people in the world regard the Creation story as a tale.

“What do you think about this story?”

I asked.

Lily had no doubt.

“Mr. Hubbard, the math teacher, always starts his class with a little devotional,” she said. “Just today, he made us think when he told us how things can’t come up out of nothing. There needs to be a Creator!”

The conversations with Lily and the other girls remind me of 1 Corinthians 3:6, where Paul says, “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow” (NLT). 🌱

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped kickstart plans for a new gym and health center called New Life Center at

Story Tips

- Ask a woman to share this first-person account.
- Students’ names have been changed to protect their privacy.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the North American Division: bit.ly/NAD-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6 “to increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults” by encouraging “all members and yet-to-be-baptized young people [to] embrace and practice stewardship principles regarding time, spiritual gifts, and tithes and offerings” (KPI 6.5) and “church members [to] exhibit cross-cultural understanding and respect for all people” (KPI 6.6). Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Fast Facts

- The name Navajo is derived through Spanish from the Tewa (spoken by the Pueblo people) word *navahū* “fields adjoining a ravine.” The Navajos call themselves *Diné*.

Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School. Your offering this quarter will help finish the second phase of the center, where the school will address high rates of obesity, heart disease, diabetes, depression, and suicide among Native American children and youth.

By Nannette Ortiz, pictured with her husband in the photo



Beach or Desert

Diana Fish, 56

My husband, Loren, and I had our dream jobs. He had a successful counseling practice, and I worked in development at AdventHealth. We loved living the beach life in Florida.

But something seemed to be missing. We began praying for God to lead us into working in full-time ministry together. In truth, however, we weren't open to being led anywhere except to Tennessee, where our children and grandchildren lived.

On a whim, I attended a conference organized by the North American Division's Women's Ministries. It was a time of powerful prayer and surrendering of self to God. I happened to walk by the Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School booth in the conference's exhibition hall, and I noticed some beautiful student-made pottery. I bought three pieces of horse-hair pottery.

As I made the purchase, a woman at the booth asked about my work. When I told her that I worked in development,

she excitedly pointed at the other woman in the booth. "She is our development director, and she is retiring," she said.

She told me that Holbrook was located in Arizona. "There is no chance that we are moving there," I thought.

My husband and I were partial to water. Arizona's desert was not on our list of places where we wanted to live.

Six months passed, and Loren and I continued praying. A friend alerted Loren about an opening for a social-work professor at Southern Adventist University in Tennessee, and we began to dream about a move.

Loren made a last-minute decision to attend the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas. While there, he saw horse-hair pottery off in the distance of the exhibition hall, and he soon found himself at the Holbrook Indian School booth. A woman at the booth noticed his badge with the letters "LCSW." "Does that stand for 'licensed clinical' something?" she asked.

Loren nodded his head. "Licensed clinical social worker," he said.

"We need one of those!" the woman exclaimed excitedly.

Loren smiled nervously, looking to make his escape, but the woman asked about his

wife's job. He responded that she worked in development at Florida Hospital.

"We need one of those, too!" the woman said, waving at her husband, who happened to be Holbrook's principal.

Later Loren told me about what had happened. "Uh-oh," I replied.

Weeks later, we decided to visit Holbrook at the end of a vacation. Before arriving, Loren received a call from Southern Adventist University. He had not gotten the job. Panic set in. I sensed that God was testing me to see whether I was willing to go wherever He led.

Loren and I spent more than nine hours talking with Holbrook staff about the school's mission to Native American children and youth. We learned that the staff dreamed of having Christian counseling available around the clock for students dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues. I struggled to sleep that night.

But before I opened my eyes in the morning, thoughts began racing through my mind about how wonderful it would be to work at Holbrook. Jumping out of bed, I noticed a familiar book on a bookshelf. I reached into my backpack and pulled out the same book, which Loren had received at the General Conference Session. I had packed it at the last minute. The book was titled, "Follow: Anytime, Anywhere, at Any Cost" by Don MacLafferty. At that moment, I knew God was calling me to Holbrook Indian School. I told God that He would have to put the same impression on Loren's heart. I prayed and waited.

Several days later, as we entered our home in Florida, Loren announced that he felt convicted that God wanted us to move to Holbrook. That evening we

Story Tips

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submitted our resumes and began packing. Two weeks later we were hired. We are so glad that we followed God to Holbrook. 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that kickstarted plans for a new gym and health center called New Life Center at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School.

By Diana Fish

A Special Friendship



MARSHALL ISLANDS | Aug. 14

Raijan, 15

A 15-year-old missionary kid in the Marshall Islands formed an unlikely friendship by mail with a 77-year-old retired missionary in the faraway U.S. state of Texas.

The friendship started when the retired missionary, Grandpa Bob, learned about the missionary kid's family through mission stories in the *Mission* quarterly. The boy's father was the school principal and his mother taught at the Seventh-day Adventist mission school on the remote island of Ebeye, and Grandpa Bob wanted to do something special to support the family. He already contributed to the Sabbath School mission offering every week, and he gave something extra when a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering was collected to help the school in 2018. But he wanted to do more. So he decided to send monthly care packages containing toys, food, and

school supplies for the family and other missionaries on the island.

Raijan was 13 years old when the first packages arrived, and he and his family knelt and thanked God before opening each one. But before he could play with a new toy or taste a treat, Father said he had to write a thank-you letter to Grandpa Bob. That is how the unlikely friendship by mail began. Grandpa Bob sent packages, and Raijan replied with handwritten letters.

For three years, Raijan received many packages and sent many letters. He wrote about his joy in receiving the packages. He described his struggles at school. He expressed fear of death when a schoolmate died unexpectedly and basketball star Kobe Bryant died in a helicopter accident on the same week.

Soon after sending the letter about death, he received a reply from Grandpa Bob. It was the first and only time that Grandpa Bob sent him a personal letter.

Three weeks after that, Grandpa Bob was in the hospital and, a short time later, he returned home on hospice. During his two weeks on hospice, Grandpa Bob prepared eight more packages for Raijan and his family. His son mailed the last packages after Grandpa Bob died.

The death of Grandpa Bob dismayed Raijan, but he continued writing letters. He sent the following letter to Grandpa

Bob's son in response to a package:

Condolences. The day we heard about Grandpa Bob's death, I was shocked, even though I knew that he had a few days left to live. I had hoped otherwise. Early February this year I wrote to him about how death can come so easily to us humans and about the recent deaths of a fellow teen and the famous basketball star Kobe Bryant. A week later, he replied with a letter saying that though it is sad when someone dies, we should not fear death because our God has overcome it. He said we should live our life as if we were to die tomorrow while also expecting to live another 100 years. Grandpa Bob encouraged me to move on with my life or else I would miss the new opportunities tomorrow may bring, while also using each day as a fresh opportunity to witness to people about God and potentially win their lives for Him. I am very thankful for his encouragement and comfort because now I am less grieved than I would have been if not for his letter. Though I may not have known him personally, I have been influenced and encouraged by him to be a more kind, friendly, and loving person. And though I will never get to know him personally in this world, I firmly believe that I will see him when we all get to heaven someday. I may not know how much grief you may be feeling, but I know that God understands whatever circumstances we go through and that we can find comfort in God. 🌍

Thank you for your weekly mission offerings that help support the work of missionaries in the Marshall Islands and elsewhere around the world. Thank you for considering doing a little extra to further God's end-time work.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Pronounce Raijan as: RAY-jahn.
- Grandpa Bob is Robert McChesney, a retired missionary who taught at Seventh-day Adventist institutions in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, and the United States for 40 years. He is the father of Adventist Mission editor Andrew McChesney.
- Watch Raijan on YouTube: bit.ly/Surprise-Box-NAD.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the North American Division: bit.ly/NAD-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, "to increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults" by encouraging "all members and yet-to-be-baptized young people [to] embrace and practice stewardship principles regarding time, spiritual gifts, and tithes and offerings" (KPI 6.5) and "church members [to] exhibit cross-cultural understanding and respect for all people" (KPI 6.6); and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "to help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Mission Post

- Delap Seventh-day Adventist School, where Raijan now studies, is a K-12 school run by the Guam-Micronesia Mission in Majuro, capital of the Marshall Islands. It was founded in 1978 and is operated mainly by student missionaries.

Soccer, Soup, and God



NUNAVUT, CANADA | Aug. 21

Sakhile Sibanda Kamera

challenges with high levels of homelessness and domestic violence. What can Adventists do?

Sakhile: When we arrived in Pond Inlet, an Adventist family from Jamaica lived there. After they left, we were the only Adventists, and we lived in the heart of the community. My husband worked for the municipal government, and I was the only nurse in town. If we had not been doing our jobs, things would not have happened in the community. As a result, you could say that we held positions of influence. That made it difficult to witness. Some people were willing accept anything that we said as fact, and we did not want to take advantage of their trust. We also did not want to be seen as using our positions to impose our beliefs on others. So we were very careful. But there were certain things that we did. We started a soccer club for 9- to 12-year-old girls. Pond Inlet didn't have any girls' soccer clubs, and our club had a good influence on the community. Adults started noticing that young girls were no longer roaming the streets aimlessly. The girls had a purpose. They came to the soccer club for training, snacks, and friendship. We also taught the girls to fundraise for the club. It wasn't just me baking a cake to sell. It was mentoring. We taught the girls to take ownership for the club so they could continue without us.

Another way that we had an impact on

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

Narrator: Nunavut is the newest, biggest, and most northerly territory of Canada. Nunavut, which was created in 1999, is an immense, sparsely populated territory with tundra, rugged mountains and remote villages that are only accessible by boat or airplane. It also is the home of a small group of Seventh-day Adventists. Today we will meet one of those Adventists. [Turn to the interviewee.] Would you please introduce yourself?

Sakhile: My name is Sakhile. I am a wife and the mother of two children, a boy and a girl. I work as a nurse in the capital city of Nunavut, Iqaluit, which has about 8,000 people. We moved here a year ago from Pond Inlet, a small community of 1,800 people way up north in Nunavut.

Narrator: The territory of Nunavut faces

the community was through my children's friends. Their friends asked to come over to our house to play on Friday evenings and Saturdays. We had our Sabbath worship at those times, and we invited the children to join us.

Narrator: How does Iqaluit compare to Pond Inlet?

Sakhile: Several Adventist families live in Iqaluit, and the fellowship has really helped us to grow spiritually. I can call other church members and ask them to pray for us. I feel that there is a safety net.

In Iqaluit, I teach the Junior PowerPoints Sabbath School class, and I am making plans for the children to get involved in helping the elderly and doing other acts of kindness.

Narrator: What is your dream for the Adventist Church here?

Sakhile: We need our own church building. Our witnessing initiatives are really limited by our inability to have a place that we can call home. When I first visited Iqaluit several years ago, we had a dedicated place for Sabbath worship where we served soup to the homeless during the week. Although we did not operate the soup kitchen on Sabbath, homeless people knew that they could come to the building on Sabbath for a fellowship meal. The smaller space that we now rent is not big enough for meals. My Sabbath School class meets in the living room of my house. The Primary class meets in someone else's living room, and a third children's class meets in another home. The adults meet in our rented church building. It would be wonderful if we could worship and have other gatherings in one place.

Story Tips

- Ask a man and a woman or two women to present this interview during the mission story time. The volunteers do not need to memorize the text but should be familiar enough not to have to read it.
- Pronounce Nunavut as: NUUN-a-vut.
- Pronounce Iqaluit as: ee-KAL-oo-it.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the North American Division at: bit.ly/NAD-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following component of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1 "to revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors, but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples" through "increased number of church members participating in both personal and public evangelistic outreach initiatives with a goal of Total Member Involvement (TMI)" (KPI 1.1). Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Narrator: Thank you for providing a glimpse of the remote Canadian territory of Nunavut. [Turn to the congregation.] Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a new church and community services center to witness for God in one of Nunavut's communities. Thank you for planning a generous offering for Thirteenth Sabbath. 🌐

By Patience Chimhanda

Angel at the Gas Station

NAD REFUGEES | Aug. 28

Lamphai Sihavong, 64



Lamphai stared in bewilderment at the confusing maze of highways around and above her in the U.S. city of Chicago. She had no idea how to find her husband. She looked at the four children seated in the car and wondered what to do next.

The couple had arrived in the United States as refugees from the Southeast Asian country of Laos, and they were driving with their six children across the country to find work. Leaving Sacramento, California, the family first traveled 1,400 miles (2,250 km) to Grand Island, Nebraska, where they had heard about a factory hiring people with limited English-language skills. But when they arrived, they learned the jobs were filled and the company was no longer hiring. There they were, in the middle of the United States with six children, no home, no jobs, and only limited English.

Complicating matters, Lamphai didn't dare to drive on U.S. highways. She had just learned to drive and received her driver's license in California, and two friends from California had accompanied the family to Nebraska, one driving the family car and the other driving a moving truck. But the friends could not stay.

Calling everyone whom they could think of for advice, Lamphai and her husband finally heard about a possible job opening in Holland, Michigan, another 750 miles (1,200 km) away. Lamphai decided to brave U.S. highways and trust God to be with her, and the family started out on the 12-hour journey to Michigan. Her husband led the way, driving the moving truck with two of the children and all their belongings. She followed with the other four children in the car.

All went well until Chicago. Lamphai tried to follow her husband closely, but she got stuck in heavy traffic and lost sight of his truck. Overwhelmed and confused in the maze of roads, unable to decide which way to go, she stopped at a gas station. Neither she nor her husband had cell phones. She had no way to contact him, and she had no idea how to find their destination. Her only hope was God. She was glad that missionaries had visited their refugee camp in Thailand to tell them

about God. Together, she and the four children prayed earnestly to God for help.

As they opened their eyes, they saw a pleasant-looking man walking toward them.

“Let me guess,” he said. “Are you looking for your husband, Veuy?”

“Yes!” she acknowledged with surprise.

She wondered silently, “How does this total stranger know my husband’s name?”

“Get in your car and follow me,” the man said, turning to get into his car. “I’ll help you find him.”

Obediently, Lamphai followed him back onto the road and through a maze of Chicago highways until suddenly, just ahead, she saw her husband’s moving truck.

Gratitude washed over her and the children. They turned to wave their thanks to the kind stranger, but he was gone. His car had vanished before they could even wave good-bye.

The family arrived safely in Holland, Michigan, and Veuy and Lamphai found jobs in a local boat company owned by a Seventh-day Adventist family. They began attending the Holland Seventh-day Adventist Church. Soon they invited new Lao friends to join them, and the church gave the small group a room where they could worship in their own language. The group grew and today has its own church where Lamphai joyfully introduces people to the God who sent an angel to a gas station to help her find her way. 🌍

Several Lao congregations have sprouted up across the North American Division as a result of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2011. With this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, you will help provide pastors and resources to groups

Story Tips

➤ Pronounce Lamphai as: lum-PIE.

➤ Pronounce Veuy as: VOO-ee. (oo as in “look”).

➤ Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the North American Division at: bit.ly/NAD-2021.

Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2 “to strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions” through KPI 2.9, which says, “Each conference and mission outside the 10/40 Window has a five-year plan to achieve a measurable and significant increase (e.g., 30% over five years) in the number of newly planted worshipping groups”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6 “to increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults” through two KPIs — “church members exhibit cross-cultural understanding and respect for all people” (KPI 6.6) and “evidence that local churches and Adventist schools are responding to the opportunities that mass migration offers for ministry, and that immigrants are being integrated into local Adventist communities” (KPI 6.7). Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

like Lamphai’s. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

By Terri Saelee
Coordinator, Adventist Refugee and Immigrant
Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s
North American Division

The Dilemma

An Iraqi Family



photo: BigStock

Someone told Father about Jesus in Iraq. Father fell in love with Jesus and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Mother, however, decided to remain with her traditional religion.

After some time, life became difficult for the family in Iraq. Father, fearing for the safety of Mother and their two young daughters, moved the family to live as refugees in the United States.

After living in Michigan for a year, the family moved to California. Father could not bear the cold winter in Michigan. The bitter temperatures caused pain to wartime injuries that he had sustained in Iraq.

In California, Father and Mother sent their daughters to public school. But Father prayed that the girls would be able to study at an Adventist school. He did not have the money to pay for church school and, even if he did, he did not know any Adventists who could tell him where to find one. Still he prayed. "Please, God," he prayed, "help my daughters to receive a Seventh-day Adventist education. Help me to find a

Seventh-day Adventist."

One day, Father visited a food bank that distributed supplies to needy families. While waiting to receive food, Father began talking with a volunteer and discovered that the man was a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. Moreover, the volunteer told him that the food bank was organized and run by a Seventh-day Adventist church that happened to own a church school.

At home, Father told Mother the good news. He and Mother had been carefully saving money so that they could return to school and get better jobs to support their family. They decided to use their precious money to pay for their daughters' tuition.

A short time later, Father arrived at the church school with Mother and their 9-year-old and 11-year-old girls. They sat in the principal's office, their faces shining, as they waited for information about what to do next.

The principal and church pastor, who sat across from them, glanced at each other, and then looked at Father, Mother, and the girls. The eagerness on the faces of the parents and the girls tugged at their hearts. But the money that Father and Mother had saved up was not enough.

"We very much want the girls to study here," the principal said. "But,

unfortunately, there is not enough money to cover the tuition.”

The principal paused and glanced at the pastor again. She saw compassion in his eyes and felt encouraged to continue.

“We will enroll the girls in the school,” she said. “Let’s step out in faith and trust God to somehow provide help with the tuition.”

The four adults and two girls knelt on the floor and bowed their heads.

“Dear God, we need Your help,” the pastor prayed. “Please provide money for the education of these two precious girls.”

Shortly after the family left, the principal received a phone call. It was from the coordinator of the Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s North American Division. She was calling to announce that she had money to help pay for the tuition of refugee children who might want to study at the church school. The money, she said, came from Seventh-day Adventists around the world who had given to a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2011.

The principal could hardly believe her ears. Quickly, she called Father to announce that money had been found for his daughters’ tuition. “I knew God would answer our prayers!” Father exclaimed. 🌐

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help refugees in the North American Division again. May God use your gifts to answer more prayers like Father’s. Imagine meeting someone in heaven who learned more about God and decided to serve Him because you gave.

By Terri Saelee
Coordinator, Adventist Refugee and Immigrant
Ministries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s
North American Division

Story Tips

- Adventist Mission is not revealing the names of the family members or their location for privacy reasons.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the North American Division at: bit.ly/NAD-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2 “to strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions” through KPI 2.7, which says, “Each division identifies all significant immigrant/refugee populations in their territories [and] has initiatives in place to reach them”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5 “to disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives” through KPI 5.9, which says, “Increased number of children from Adventist homes and churches attending Adventist schools.” Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Mission Post

- The North American Division is made up of eight union conferences, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada, and Guam-Micronesia Mission.
- There is no official language of the United States. Almost everyone speaks English, and almost all government, education, and business is carried out in English. Spanish is the second most widely spoken language and is the most widely taught second language.



Rescinded Resentment

Jimmy Shwe, 51

Imagine being 7 years old and running for your life in a jungle. How might that affect you?

This was Jimmy Shwe's life in the Southeast Asian country of Myanmar, previously known as Burma.

As a boy, Jimmy developed a deep resentment toward the authorities because of his experiences. At one point, lost in the jungle, he thought he would die.

He decided that if he ever survived, he would join an armed resistance movement to get revenge.

After two years of separation, Jimmy found his father in a refugee camp in Thailand.

But his father did not agree with Jimmy's plan, saying it would not help to take up weapons. Instead, he urged Jimmy to become a pastor and tell his people about the love of God and the hope of eternal life.

It was not easy for Jimmy to give up his anger and deep resentment.

But he saw his father's peace and joy as they attended a Seventh-day Adventist church in the refugee camp. He read about the conflict between Christ and Satan in the Bible. He realized his father was right and decided to forgive those who had wronged him.

Jimmy became a Seventh-day Adventist pastor and later resettled in the United States.

He soon discovered that many Adventist refugee families whom he had known in refugee camps in Thailand were now scattered across North America. They were trying to find Seventh-day Adventist churches but did not know enough English to understand the messages or participate in the services. Many were becoming discouraged.

Jimmy longed to visit and encourage them in their faith. He wanted to help them to organize small groups so they could worship the God of heaven in their own language.

With much prayer, Jimmy planted three churches.

But, working full time to support his family, he did not have time or funds to travel to help any more of the 2,000 Karen Adventist refugees scattered across the continent.

“But God knew my heart and my needs,” said Jimmy Shwe, who now serves as a pastor in the Carolina Conference and as a Karen church-planting consultant for the North American Division’s Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Ministries.

“God had been leading all the time, and He already had a plan,” Jimmy added.

A Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that was collected in 2011 provided funds to reach out to refugees in North America. The funds allowed Jimmy to visit refugee families scattered throughout the United States and Canada, helping them to organize congregations in their own language and to serve their communities. Through his work, 55 Karen churches have been planted across the continent over the past decade.

All this was possible because church members gave and Jimmy and others like him allowed God to replace their resentment with forgiveness and love. 🌍

This quarter, your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will again help share the gospel with refugees in North American Division. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Terri Saelee
Coordinator, Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Ministries
for the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s North American
Division

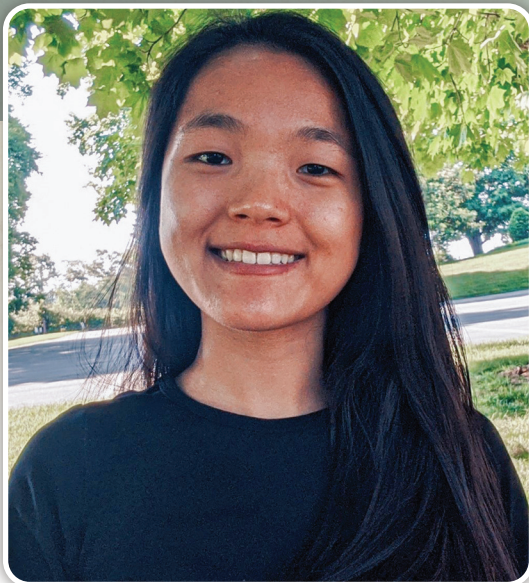
Story Tips

- Pronounce Karen as: Ka-REN.
- Know that there are nearly 10,000 Adventist refugees among the various language groups in the North American Division. Pastor Jimmy is specifically reaching out to refugees who speak the Karen language, of whom there are slightly more than 2,000 active members.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the North American Division at: bit.ly/NAD-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2 “to strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions” through KPI 2.9, which says, “Each conference and mission outside the 10/40 Window has a five-year plan to achieve a measurable and significant increase (e.g., 30% over five years) in the number of newly planted worshipping groups”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6 “to increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults” through two KPIs — “church members exhibit cross-cultural understanding and respect for all people” (KPI 6.6) and “evidence that local churches and Adventist schools are responding to the opportunities that mass migration offers for ministry, and that immigrants are being integrated into local Adventist communities” (KPI 6.7). Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Two Men Against One God

NAD REFUGEES | Sept. 18

Niang Muang, 21



Ten-year-old Niang got up to go to school while it was still dark outside.

She was worried. School worried her every day. Her family had moved as refugees to the United States from Myanmar only a year earlier, and school was hard in the state of Georgia.

She didn't speak English very well. She didn't have many friends. And she had to walk to school in the dark. Father could not go with her because he worked at night. Mother had to stay at home with Baby Sister.

Niang prayed before leaving the house.

"Dear God, please help me survive another day of school," she said. "Help me not to get in trouble with the teacher. Keep me safe as I walk to school. Amen."

Niang swung her heavy black backpack over her shoulders and stepped out into the dark street. If she took the shortcut, she could reach school in only 10 minutes. She

had to walk past a few apartment buildings and through the woods to get to the school. Maybe she would meet some children along the way to keep her company.

No other children were in sight as Niang walked through the woods. The air was quiet. The trees looked like dark shadows.

Suddenly two big men loomed in front of her. One of them was holding what appeared to be a white cloth bag. It was limp and empty. He held it out.

"Hey, could you hold this for us?" he asked.

Niang thought it was a strange question. She stopped and took a few steps back. The men took a few steps forward.

Niang anxiously looked around, hoping that other children might be taking the shortcut to school. She didn't see anyone. She looked back at the men. There were two of them and only one of her. They were tall and big, and she was short and

small. Would she hold the white bag?

“No!” Niang exclaimed, shaking her head.

Turning around, she ran as fast as she could.

The men were surprised.

“Oh no!” one man said. “Don’t run!”

But Niang wasn’t going to stop. She was scared. She had heard stories about children being kidnapped. She knew that the men could easily catch her.

“Lord, please help me,” she prayed. “Please protect me.”

She wondered whether they might grab her at any moment. She wanted everything to be right with God.

“If I did anything wrong, please forgive me,” she prayed.

She listened for sounds that the men were pursuing her. Not hearing anything, she stopped for a moment. Her heart was pounding. Then she heard the welcome chatter of children taking the shortcut to school. Relief washed over Niang. She could walk with the other children and be safe.

She followed the three younger children toward school. When they reached the spot where the two men had stood, the men were nowhere to be seen. They were gone.

Niang heaved a sigh of relief.

“Dear God, thank you for protecting me,” she prayed.

Two big men had been overcome by an even bigger God. 🌍

Ten years ago, a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped refugee children like Niang to transfer from public schools to Seventh-day Adventist church schools. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath

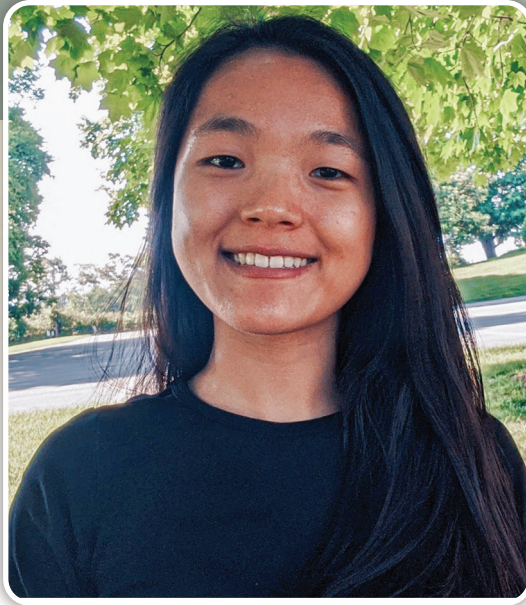
Story Tips

- Pronounce Niang as: nee-AHNG
- Challenge listeners to pray to God at all times.
- Know that Niang is studying at Southern Adventist University and plans to become a mission dentist.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the North American Division at: bit.ly/NAD-2021.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2 “to strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach in large cities, across the 10/40 Window, among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions” through KPI 2.7, which says, “Each division identifies all significant immigrant/refugee populations in their territories [and] has initiatives in place to reach them”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5 “to disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives” through two KPIs — a “significant increase in numbers of church members regularly praying, studying the Bible, using the Sabbath School Bible Study Guides, reading the writings of Ellen White and engaging in other personal devotions” (KPI 5.1) and an “increased number of children from Adventist homes and churches attending Adventist schools” (KPI 5.9). Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Offering will again help refugee children obtain an Adventist education. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Morsel of Truth



13th SABBATH | Sept. 25

Niang Muang, 21

It was nearly lunchtime, and the team leader called to say he was on his way to pick up Niang in Maryville, Tennessee.

Niang was hungry.

She was ready to enjoy her sack lunch while chatting with other student literature evangelists about their experiences that morning.

Then she saw a woman packing groceries into her car in the parking lot of a discount store. There was just enough time to talk to one person before lunch.

Niang approached the woman with a bright smile.

“Hello ma’am,” she said. “My name is Niang, I’m a student working my way through school. This summer we are trying to promote family values and to help the community.”

Niang reached into her bag and pulled out a health book that teaches people how

to use plants in their natural form.

The woman accepted the book and glanced at the cover.

Seeing that the woman remained silent, Niang took out a cookbook.

“Do you like to cook at home?” she asked.

Then she showed the woman a devotional book, a version of Ellen White’s thirteen-chapter classic, *Steps to Christ*.

The woman looked at the three books in her hands. She seemed to be very interested.

“But you’ve caught me on the wrong day,” the woman said. “I don’t have my checkbook on me, and I don’t have any cash.”

“We can take cards if that is convenient,” Niang said.

“Oh, I don’t want to use my debit card because my husband wouldn’t like that,” the woman said.

But she kept holding onto the books. She did not seem to want to hand them back over.

Niang pulled out several more books, including Ellen White's *The Desire of Ages* and *The Great Controversy*. Learning that the woman had children, she showed several children's books.

"All of these books are so good," the woman said.

She did not appear to be able to pick out a book.

"You know what?" the woman said, finally. "I am going to take all these books."

Introducing herself as Cindy, she used her debit card to give a donation for the books.

After completing the transaction, Niang asked whether she could pray with her.

"I would love to pray," Cindy said.

"Dear Heavenly Father," Niang prayed, "Thank You for giving us another day of life and this opportunity to meet Cindy. Your timing is perfect. Forgive us for our sins and shortcomings. Thank You that Cindy and her family are safe from all the things that are going on right now. I pray that You may give them peace and comfort amid all the things going on in their lives. Please continue to embrace them with Your love and presence. If Cindy has any unspoken requests in her heart, please grant them to her. Help her to find hope and trust in you through Jesus Christ. Amen."

Cindy's face shone with joy after the prayer. The words spilled out of her mouth. She said her family was going through a difficult time after experiencing illness and death. She was searching for a deeper meaning in life and wanted to know more about God.

Story Tips

- Pronounce Niang as: nee-AHNG
- Challenge listeners to be like Niang and actively seek out people for conversation and prayer.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the North American Division at: bit.ly/NAD-2021.

Know that this mission story illustrates the following components of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1 "to revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors, but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples" through "increased number of church members participating in both personal and public evangelistic outreach initiatives with a goal of Total Member Involvement (TMI)" (KPI 1.1); Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5 "to disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives" through an "increased number of children from Adventist homes and churches attending Adventist schools" (KPI 5.9); and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6 "to increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults" through "increased church member involvement in fellowship and service, both in the church and in the local community (KPI 6.1). Learn more about the strategic plan at IWillGo2020.org.

Mission Post

- Know that there are nearly 10,000 Adventist refugees in the North American Division.

A short time later, Niang satisfied her physical hunger over lunch with the other student literature evangelists. She prayed that Cindy would satisfy her spiritual hunger through the truth that she finds in the books. 🌍

Part of today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will again help refugee children obtain an Adventist education. The offering will also help the North American Division to construct missionary staff housing for the Palau Seventh-day Adventist School on Palau

in the Pacific Ocean, to complete the second phase of a multifunctional gym at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School in the U.S. state of Arizona, and to open a Seventh-day Adventist church and community center in the remote, northerly town of Igloolik, Canada. Thank you for your generous offering to help spread the gospel in the North American Division.

By Andrew McChesney

Offering

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

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

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



A child attending a Pathfinder church in a yurt in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Leader's Resources

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

Online Information

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

Websites

Canada: government website	bit.ly/CanGov
Encyclopedia Britannica	bit.ly/Brit-Can
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LP-Can
The Marshall Islands: government website	bit.ly/GovMarIsl
World Factbook	bit.ly/WFB-MarshIsl
Trip Advisor	bit.ly/TA-MarshIsl
U.S.A.: government website	www.usa.gov
National Geographic	bit.ly/NatGeoUSA
Visit the U.S.A.	bit.ly/VisittheUSA
Arizona: state website	az.gov
TripSavvy	bit.ly/TS-Ariz

Seventh-day Adventist

North American Division	bit.ly/SDANAD
Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada	bit.ly/SDACan
Guam-Micronesia Mission	bit.ly/SDAGMMiss
Arizona Conference	bit.ly/SDAAriConf
Holbrook Indian School	bit.ly/SDA_Holbrook

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

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YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

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Website: AdventistMission.org

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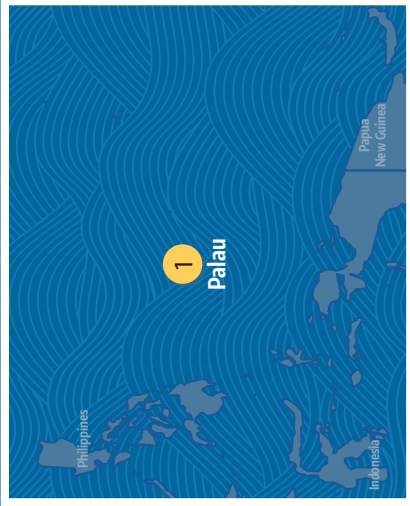
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NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

UNION OVERVIEW	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERS	POPULATION
Atlantic Union Conference	600	76	125,629	35,186,917
Canada, SDA Church in	391	80	72,289	37,419,000
Columbia Union Conference	740	101	145,394	52,190,829
Lake Union Conference	504	56	88,475	35,797,364
Mid-America Union Conference	458	64	64,589	27,957,972
North Pacific Union Conference	446	61	102,354	15,125,897
Pacific Union Conference	713	91	222,741	54,601,558
Southern Union Conference	1,149	211	301,359	66,182,135
Southwestern Union Conference	585	110	122,159	42,174,329
Guam-Micronesia Mission of SDA	22	15	5,805	414,000
DIVISION TOTALS	5,608	865	1,250,794	367,050,001

PROJECTS

- 1 Staff housing, Palau School, Palau
- 2 Second phase of multifunctional gym, Holbrook Indian School, U.S.A.
- 3 Churches and scholarships for refugees, Canada and U.S.A.
- 4 Church and community center, Igloodik, Canada