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Above image: Jessica Wold comforts her patient after surgery. **Cover image:** Jessica Wold poses with little boy who is about to receive a free surgery for Ptois.

Student Missions

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE AT SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

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Eyes for India

By Jessica Wold | Jalandhar, India



Can you see? I think most of us would think this is a silly question and would answer with a “yes.” We don’t often think of sight as something we take for granted, but we do.

I’ve been working with a program called Eyes for India in Jalandhar, India. This is an organization at Ruby Nelson Memorial Hospital that finds sponsors to donate money so that the people in poor villages can have eye surgeries for free. Most of the patients suffer from cataracts, which is a clouding of the intraocular lens.

Dr. Jacob Prabhakar, the head of this program, is able to remove the clouded lens and replace it with an artificial lens in only a minute and a half. This enables him to complete over 200 surgeries in a day and, in doing so, give sight to over 200 people.

Many times, a patient will come to us and not even be able to see a hand waving in front of their face. The day after the procedure, when the bandages are removed, the

same patient may have perfect 20/20 vision in that eye. Can you imagine how grateful these people are? Sometimes I wonder if their reactions are similar to those that Jesus experienced when He healed people.

Just before the patients are sent home on the bus, we hand them a copy of *Steps to Christ*. For many of them, this will be the only book they will ever own and their very first introduction to Jesus Christ. Even though giving these people sight seems like the biggest part of the program here, there is so much more going on.

We venture out into Hindu and Sikh temples, where we would never be allowed as Christians, but because we come with the purpose to heal, we are able to share Jesus with them. I am just a nurse with little to no training working with eyes, but God is using me in a big way to help restore sight and bring people to Him. This is the adventure of a lifetime, and I can’t wait to see what else God has in store!



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His Plans Are Greater Than Mine

By Jonathan Rodney | Kolonia, Pohnpei

When I first signed up to be a student missionary, I was dead set on going to Egypt. It was my dream to go there and ride a camel, try to climb a pyramid, and learn how to make hummus. Sure, these weren't the only reasons why I wanted to go, but they were high up on my list of things to do.

A couple days before I was scheduled to embark on my adventure to Egypt, I received a call informing me that I would have to pick a new location if I still wanted to be a student missionary because of the unrest in Egypt. I ended up picking Pohnpei, and even though I was devastated at the time, I haven't regretted it at all.

Now that I am here, I know this is where God wants me to be. Not everything has gone the way I planned, but I know God knows what He's doing. I wouldn't have accepted His call if I didn't think He would have my back.

He even specifically tells me in Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV), "[Jonathan,] I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." I gladly respond with Psalm 27:1 (NIV), "The Lord is my light

and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?" The road of service will never be easy, but it will be bearable if you invite the Father to walk with you on your journey.



Jonathan Rodney (center) with his students in Pohnpei.

With God continued

Martin invited him to come to the AMOR Project's clinic so that he could get the help that his situation required. The man followed through and came to the clinic, where we provided antibiotics and cleaned his infection. After time, his leg slowly began to heal. Eventually, it had improved so much that he no longer had the fear of losing his leg but was walking without a limp or pain.

This man taught me that there is always hope. He was given a hopeless prognosis, but because of a missionary who cared, hope was restored. The man was able to return to his family and his work and to continue life. Martin was also able to share Christ with this man. Martin taught me to always look for those who are in need of help. In my interactions with people here in Peru, I must always have their best interest in mind. I must look at them as Jesus would, with love and compassion, striving to instill hope in their hearts.

How to Help

If you would like to support Student Missions financially, here are several ways you can donate:

Mail:

Send checks payable to Southern Adventist University:
Student Missions Office
PO Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315

Telephone:

Call 423.236.2787 to donate over the phone.

Website:

Visit southern.edu/studentmissions and on the left-hand side, click "Donate."
Fill out the form, and click "Submit Donation."

All gifts are tax deductible.

To credit a specific student's account, write his or her name in the comment box online or attach a note with the student's name to your check.

Thank you for your support!

Greetings from Student Missions!

By this time of year, the student missionaries have been at their service locations for about three months. The newness of their experiences has long faded, and now they are left with the reality that they will be in their location for another seven months. This scenario might seem grim and depressing, but in reality, it is when all of the newness fades that the student missionaries reveal their strength and dependence on God.

I know this is true, because I was a student missionary, as well. It was when I put myself aside and chose to rely on God for my strength for each day that I was able to see the beauty and purpose in my service.

In this newsletter, the students' stories reflect the realization that their success is solely dependent on their reliance on Jesus. When they depend on Him for their strength and choose to see others as He would, true peace and happiness follows.

I have enjoyed reading the student missionaries' inspirational stories for this issue and continue to learn valuable lessons from their everyday experiences. I pray you will too.



Julie Norton
Student Missions
Coordinator

JULIE NORTON
Student Missions Coordinator

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For questions or comments, please email studentmissions@southern.edu.

With God, There Is Hope

By Becca Dahlberg | Pucallpa, Peru

AMOR Projects is a ministry located in Pucallpa, Peru, that focuses on medical outreach. We work out of a medical clinic that runs completely on donations so that it is free to everyone. Although medical care is our *focus*, our main *goal* is sharing Christ with the people of Peru. As a missionary, I have come to realize that I may never see the impact I have on others. All I can hope for is that I can plant a seed in the hearts of the people I interact with and pray that God works in their lives.

During my second week in Peru, I went into town to buy medications for the clinic. I was with Martin, who had been in Peru for over a year as a student missionary, and a few other fellow student missionaries. It was past dark, so I was a little nervous about being out on the streets. As we were walking, a man suddenly popped out of his store and hollered at us. I was slightly concerned because he was speaking in Spanish, and I had no idea what he was trying to say. I was relieved when I saw that

Martin recognized this man.

After a short conversation and a few laughs, Martin told me the story of this man. Several months ago as Martin was doing some business with him, he noticed that the man was not walking normally. Martin asked him what was wrong with his leg, and it turned out that he had

"This man taught me there is always hope."

a massive infection. The man had been told that he would need to have his leg amputated if his infection continued to spread. Unfortunately, he did not have the financial means to receive the medical attention that he needed.

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