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Hunter Mckee and Chris Marshall with the Adventurers and Pathfinders in Bolivia.

Student Missions

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE AT SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

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Learning What is Most Important

By Amber Bako | Familia Feliz, Bolivia



Being a student missionary is the hardest thing I've ever done. It's much more than simply going to another country and spending time with the kids. It's changing yourself completely and adapting to a new way of life.

I didn't realize how spoiled we can become in America. Coming to Bolivia has showed me how many things we take for granted. I miss things like mirrors, warm showers, grocery stores, and being able to use my phone whenever I want.

Since I have been in Bolivia it's been a blessing to not have Internet access, whereas before I couldn't have imagined living without it. I remember all the times I would be with my friends and yet I was looking at my phone. When I could have been spending quality time with the people I loved, I was too focused on things that have no true value.

Taking myself away from America has opened my eyes to what I used to do, and what I hope to do differently once I arrive back home. The time we have here on earth is not guaranteed to us. We can't get so caught up in things of this world that we forget what is most important.

It's hard being an SM. It's hard letting go of everything and surrendering your life completely to God. But every time I feel like giving up I see the kids, either a huge smile plastered across the face of a 10-year-old-boy or the hug of a little girl who has been abused, and that's when I remember why I am here. This is not about me. It never has been. It's about them. It's about showing them the love of God. And, in the process, God has brought me closer to Him; He has given me strength to do things I never thought I could possibly do.



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This Little Light of Mine

By **Sabastian Lopez / Kolobrzeg, Poland**

So far, being in Kolobrzeg, Poland has been nothing short of amazing. The weather at this moment is a little gloomy: cold, dark and rainy. Despite that fact, the people here are what have made this experience such a blessing. They truly are the light and warmth in this cold town.

I recently experienced my first Sabbath at a church here in Kolobrzeg. I find it humbling and comforting to know that no matter where I am, I can feel at home because God's people are everywhere.

I am truly fortunate and blessed to have the opportunity to be here in Europe serving the Lord. I never envisioned myself doing this; being away from home, living on my own, cooking for myself. It has been such a growing experience thus far, and I am looking forward to seeing where it takes me.

During my short time here I have seen how there are people who are living day to day, without hope to carry them through. They are going through the motions,

SM Relies on God for Financial Help

By **Karyn Davis / Pohnpei, Micronesia**

Being a student missionary is always something I kept in the back of my head, and this year I decided to serve in Pohnpei, Micronesia. I plowed through the paperwork, secured a spot teaching third grade, and then began the fund raising. I wrote heartfelt letters to friends and family, and waited expectantly. Soon the money started to pour in like a rapidly rushing waterfall. It wasn't long until I reached the halfway mark to my goal. The weeks flew by, but a drought settled in, replacing the tidal wave of dollar signs, with mere mist in its wake. Doubt and worry settled in, creeping closer and closer with each passing day.

Still in need of hundreds of dollars, I entered the proverbial arena and began wrestling with God. Discouragement sent questions heavenward. "Do you not want me to go anymore? Did you not want me to go in the first place? Where do you want me?" After many sleepless nights, I decided to surrender my battle to God. "Okay, God, if you want me to go, you're going to have to make this happen. This is no longer my adventure, this is Yours."

as if trapped in a dark room, not knowing anything else but the darkness that envelopes them. I believe that God has called me, and all of you, to be light bearers to these people. As Matthew 5:14 says, "You are the light of the world... so let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

"I want to bring light into the dark room to set the trapped people free."

Like the stars in the night are seen shining unmistakably and undoubtedly in the sky, so too are we called to shine for Jesus in "a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:15). I am a light for Jesus, and I want to bring light into the dark room to set the trapped people free. I am here to serve and to shine. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine until Jesus comes.



In less than 24 hours, a mere acquaintance contacted me, telling me how her father had been an SM in Pohnpei many years before, had heard about my need, and wanted to pay off whatever was left toward my trip. My mouth dropped open and I was at a total loss for words. Jesus came through, all I had to do was surrender and refocus on Him. (continued on next page)

Rely on God continued

This past week I fell extremely ill. Running a fever in the tropics was like nothing else I've ever experienced. Weakness overtook my body, leaving me bedridden for days. It was a very discouraging moment, and I felt broken. "Why God?" flooded my mind. In the end, I realized that the endless hours of isolation gave me time to reconnect with my Savior and spend some quality time with Him. He gently reminded me that He had brought me here for a purpose, and that I needed to surrender my will, and conform to His.

In the month and a half that I've been on this wonderful island, Jesus has continually reminded me about how He is in control of every moment of every day. Psalm 73:26 says, "My body and my heart may grow weak, but God is the strength of my heart and all I need forever." There are many challenges along the way, but with Him by my side, I can conquer anything.

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.

If you know a student who is planning on going out, you may specify their name in the comment box and their account will be credited.

Thank you for your support!

Greetings from Student Missions!

My name is Maurice Fider, and it has been two years since I was a Student Missionary in Christchurch, New Zealand as a youth worker. Since then I have been privileged to serve as the Student Missions Club president.

Now that I look back, I remember how difficult the fundraising process can be. When someone donated the final funds I needed, just a week before I left, it was such a blessing and reminder to me that this was God's plan for me.

I have no clue who it was, but I thank them for accepting the invitation to give and help make a difference. One of the greatest things about donating is that you never know how far it can go. It could help a student go to New Zealand, where God uses him to facilitate the baptism of eight young people. Or maybe, send a student to Africa where she helps deliver a baby whose parents choose to name their child after her.

Not everyone is able to be a student missionary but we are all able to support those who go out and provide them with the opportunity to reach out to those in need. So I dare you to accept the invitation to give. You have nothing to lose.



Maurice Fider
Student Missions Club
President

JULIE NORTON
Student Missions Coordinator

CHRIS JANETZKO
Student Missions Media Coordinator

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