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Student Missions

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE AT SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

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The Mission

By Julie Norton | SM Coordinator

In the Student Missions department, we are entering into one of the most exciting times of the year. We have more than 100 new students that have committed to go out as SMs next year. They have heard God's calling and have been brave and decided to say, "I will step out in faith and spread the love of God."

Our current SMs in the field are wrapping up their time of service and many of them have been changed significantly, as you have read in previous newsletters. During their time in the field, they have discovered a love for service and are looking for ways to change the world when they return.

This is the main goal of the SM department. We don't offer this ministry just so

students can go to another country and serve for one year and forget what they have done, but to create a heart of service in them for the rest of their lives wherever they go.

I personally had this same experience when I was a student here at Southern. I heard God's calling to be a student missionary in Thailand and I chose to accept.

That time of service was a humbling and life-changing experience for me. It affected me so much that after returning to the states, I went back to serve again. This time I went with not only my husband, but also with our two children to serve on the island of Palau, Micronesia.

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The Fruits of Our Labor

By Chris Janetzko | SM Media Coordinator

Maged Safwat was 15 when he had his first interaction with any student missionaries. He remembers arriving at Nile Union Academy (NUA) on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt, excited, but a bit nervous about the daunting journey ahead of learning English and earning a high school diploma. He was eager to learn English and gain knowledge in hopes of being able to travel to America one day and study.

Students like Maged that attend NUA generally know little, if any, of the English language when they arrive at the school and they come from a variety of religious backgrounds. The school would not be able to

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Maged Safwat with former vice principal of Nile Union Academy in Cairo, Egypt.

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SM Jennifer Wrate with students in Pohnpei.

The Fruits of Our Labor *(Continued)*

function properly without the student missionaries that volunteer their time in hopes of not just giving the students a high school education, but also reflecting the love of God to them.

“With the guidance of the student missionaries Maged started to really study the Bible for his own and discover its truths about God.”

When Maged started his education at NUA, having grown up in the Orthodox church, he did not even have a real understanding of who Seventh-day Adventists were.

Maged credits much of his learning to the patience and care of the missionaries at the academy. As Maged’s English and scholastic studies improved, he realized that his education wasn’t the only thing improving. He also found that his understanding of God was growing.

With the guidance of the student missionaries, Maged

started to really study the Bible for his own and discover its truths about God.

When his senior year ended he graduated second in his class. Since then he has been able to fulfill his dreams to come to America. He is now studying nursing here at Southern. Even more importantly, Maged chose to dedicate his life to God and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church less than a year ago.

Jeassica Beans was a SM from Southern that taught Maged during his sophomore year at NUA. She recently had the chance to talk to Maged at Southern. She found it to be an extremely gratifying experience.

“It was so fulfilling to talk to him at Southern and see how well he is doing now and the awesome life choices he has made through not only choosing God, but also following his dreams to continue with his higher education. I know God did most of the work with Maged in his journey, but it is so fulfilling to know that I had a small part to play in that as well.”

Gift from the Sky

By Jana Sauder / Guyana

When my plane landed in Georgetown, Guyana, I prayed, “God, I don’t know what kind of experience I will have here, just give me one good story.” Little did I know how much our Father in Heaven is eager to answer our prayers.

Not too long after I arrived in Guyana, I was participating in my first medical evacuation. The plan was simply to fly a pregnant woman out of her small town due to complicated labor. They informed me that I would probably be the transport nurse since evacuation was supposed to be a simple process. This thought made me a bit nervous but I figured, what could go wrong?

When the plane landed at the pick-up location, I could see the medical staff rushing the pregnant woman to the plane. I could tell the situation was a bit more complicated than we had originally thought, which worried me. Once they reached the plane, I found out that the patient was in prolonged labor and that the woman could have the baby at any moment. To my relief, once the patient was loaded into the plane the doctor and nurse decided to come so they could facilitate the IV fluids and pain management.

Midway through the flight I could tell that the baby did not want to wait to be delivered in a hospital. The doctor quickly climbed to the back of our tiny six-passenger plane and began moving the luggage toward the front of the plane to make more room to have the baby. At 9:31 a.m. at an altitude of 5,500 feet, a little baby boy was born.

Once the delivery was over we had to begin our descent, so the nurse and doctor needed to get back into their seats. They handed the baby up to me so everyone could reposition for the landing. I held the child and did a quick assessment to report to the doctor.

As I look back on this experience, I can’t help but think about how much God cares about our prayers and our wants. I asked for just ‘one story’ that I could share with others. That might seem trivial to some people, but God saw this as opportunity not just to bring a new creation into the world, but also to show one of His student missionaries that He cares for her and that He will be with her during her time of service.

The Mission *(Continued)*

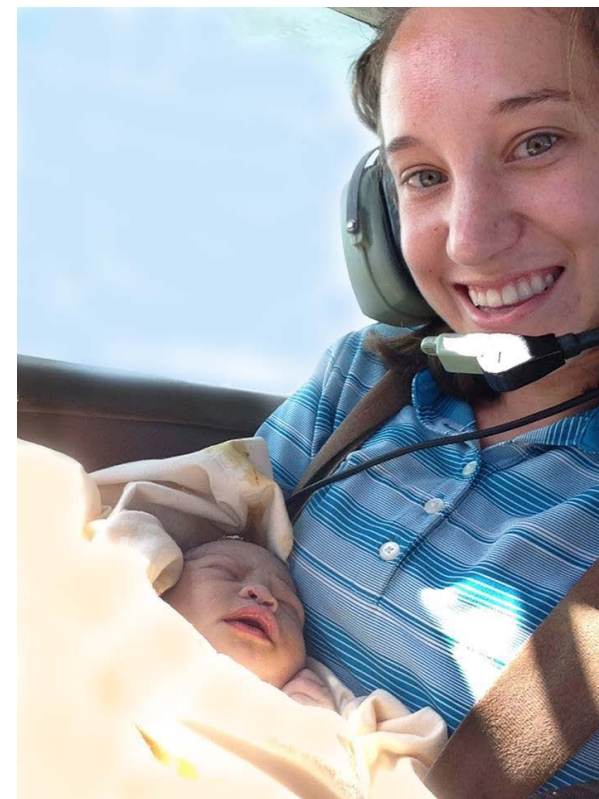
Now I am so blessed to be Southern Adventist University’s Student Missions Coordinator where I help facilitate hundreds of students through the same process. I am able to help students that have heard God directly calling them to serve. They have been asked to leave everything that’s familiar and go to strange lands where they will be challenged, but through those challenges they learn to rely on their Father in Heaven. While serving they change and understand God’s calling for all of us to serve others and reflect God’s love. This is something they will never forget.

The biggest obstacle for most students who chose to serve is the fundraising process. When I was fundraising to be an SM, I didn’t reach my financial goal until an anonymous gift came in a month before my time of departure. That gift made it clear to me that this was God’s plan for me, and it encouraged me during times of difficulty while in the field.

A record amount of students have stepped out in faith and accepted God’s calling to serve Him next year. Many of them have no idea how they are going to raise the money needed for their time abroad, but they choose to believe that God will provide. He will, and that will be a constant reminder to them that serving is really God’s plan for them.

“Your donation to their ministry will bring encouragement to them and will help catapult them into a lifetime of service.”

I ask you to help bring that blessing to our future student missionaries. Your donation to their ministry will bring encouragement to them and also help catapult them not just into a year of service, but a lifetime.



Jana Sauder smiles thousands of feet in the air with a baby that was just delivered in a plane above Guyana.

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
P.O. Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315

Telephone:

Call 423.236.2787 to donate.

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!