

Student Missions

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHAPLAIN'S OFFICE AT SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

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From Being the Teacher to Becoming the Student

By *Katie Henderson - Pucallpa, Peru*



When I first started teaching, it came with a lot of frustration. Because I know very little Spanish, it's hard for me to understand and speak with the kids. While the younger kids are rowdy and cute, they can be very hard to teach, and it's a challenge to keep them listening to you. The older kids are much easier to teach, in my opinion.

I teach high school every Tuesday. Yesterday my teaching partner wasn't feeling well, so I was on my own. I could have chickened out, but I told myself I could do it if it was anything like last time. And while it was similar to the last day I was there, it was also different.

The teacher I was supposed to be partnering with had left for the market and hadn't gotten back yet. I was confused about where to go, thought I was teaching with a different teacher that day, and tried in vain to understand what people were telling me. Imagine having a conversation where neither speaker knows what the

other is really saying. It's a hard conversation to have.

With the help of some students and a couple of the staff, I ended up in a classroom I hadn't been in before; it was full of kids but had no teacher but myself. I was like a fish out of the water. I didn't have a lesson plan and didn't know what they were supposed to be learning or even if they had their books.

Without any guidance, I struggled to teach them their lesson once I knew they had their books. Even now, I'm still unclear exactly what the lesson was about. All I know is that I miraculously, if not terribly, managed to teach them on my own.

The day got better after that. I was finally back on track with my regular teacher. I'm proud to say that I was able to teach them on my own.

Teaching by myself also helped improve my Spanish-speaking ability. After I

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Love Changes Lives

By *Nicole Woodcock* - *Kolonia, Pohnpei*

In just the short month that I've been in Pohnpei, I have had so many new and rewarding experiences.

God has been daily present and consistent in renewing my strength and energy every day. It has been so exciting to see my students progress and start to understand things.

However, the most rewarding and exciting experience I've had so far is not one I would have necessarily expected.

I have a girl in my class that, from day one, has been very difficult. She would crumple up every assignment in class and throw it in the trash, refuse to obey, and pick on other kids; she was just extremely grumpy.

Discipline didn't phase her, so I decided to try encouraging her by rewarding her good behavior.

One day she ended up coming to my apartment for a few minutes and loved it. She kept asking me in class if she could come again. I told her that if she behaved well and did her work, she could come to my apartment every other day after school.

She's not the same girl anymore. She walks into class with a smile, attempts to do her classwork, lis-

tens, and obeys. The transformation happened overnight. All she needed was some attention and love to give her a purpose to behave well.

This is just one experience, and the first quarter of school isn't even finished yet! God is giving me so many great experiences like this one that are affecting my life in ways I had never imagined. 🇹🇫



Nicole Woodcock (left) smiles with two of her new friends in Pohnpei, Micronesia.

God Gives Us Practice

By *Michelle Suekert* - *Kafue, Zambia*

It appears that, for many, the epitome of going out and serving as a student missionary is the interaction with the local children.

Anyone who knows me is privy to the knowledge that, though I wish it were different, I do not always know how to act around little kids (i.e., what to say, what games to play, how to treat them without going over their head or insulting their intelligence level, etc.).

Recently, I got a little envious of how well the other SMs were getting along with the youth and how I was not; so I decided to pray about it. Within 48 hours, I had a little shadow by the name of Shadrach. The next day, I had two: Shadrach and Victor. This number quickly jumped to five, and then eight!

I felt as though I could not get rid of them! Luck-

ily, they have now settled down a bit, though some still come to hang out with me as I work.

However, I most definitely learned my lesson to be more careful when asking God for a request. The beautiful thing about this experience has been that even though I am halfway around the world in Africa, God still heard my plea and answered my prayer! 🇹🇫

See more of our student missionaries' stories & photos online:

Facebook: [SAU Student Missions](#)

Twitter: [@SAUMissions](#)

Instagram: [@saustudentmissions](#)

Teacher to Student (CONTINUED)

was done teaching, three girls in particular crowded around me, asking lots of questions. They taught me so much Spanish that my voice started getting scratchy.

That day of teaching on my own made me realize something. If God had thought, "They're too frustrating to teach; they'll never understand what I'm saying," then no one would have learned anything.

While I started out frustrated with my teaching skills and less-than-acceptable ability to speak Spanish, I'm now sure that God made me a teacher here for a reason. He's taught me patience, confidence, and the willingness to sometimes be wrong. While God sent me first to be a teacher to these kids, He also sent me to be a student. 🇺🇸

How to Help

If you would like to support Student Missions financially, there 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.
- 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!

I want to thank you so much for all the support that you give to the Student Missions program. A lot of the experiences that student missionaries have would not be possible without your support. My team and I are very excited about this year.

The student missionaries who returned after serving last year have grown so much and have many lessons, experiences, and stories to share. It was a blessing to gather and share during our Re-Entry Retreat, where we realized that God really worked through us and has transformed us into who we are today.

Through our hardships and amazing adventures, we can proudly and boldly say that God called us to serve and has used us. We already have many students planning to go out as student missionaries this next semester and the following year.

One thing I have seen while being here at Southern Adventist University is the focus this school has in encouraging its students to serve the Lord somewhere—whether in the community around us or abroad. I love that! I am privileged and blessed to be a part of this school and the missions program.

With your support, we can continue to fulfill God's commission, which is to go and tell others about His imminent return, by the truths that we hold and our lives. May God continue to bless you in all that you do! We are very grateful for your support and for your prayers.



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ABOVE IMAGE: Wendell Uren spends time with some new friends in Egypt. **COVER IMAGE:** Katie Henderson poses for a picture with her class.