

Student Missions

NEWSLETTER OF STUDENT MISSIONS AT SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

In This Issue

Be Part of the
Story
Page 2

How to Help
Page 2

Edwin
Page 3

Conditioner and
Other Luxuries
Page 3

Contact
Information
Page 4

Culture Shock? *By Breck Lang*



Breck adjusts to life in Thailand.

My experience as a missionary so far could never be written in words, captured with pictures, or diagrammed on a white board, let alone generalized and applied to every missionary experience. One thing I know for sure is that, if the missionary has wholly been seeking God's guidance, they can expect to experience exactly what they need.

Somehow, my transition was so natural it hardly felt like I had to adjust to anything. Not the food, lack of electricity, sleeping on the wood floor, the cows, chickens and pigs that roam freely, the rat poison that is sometimes scattered around the floor in the morning, washing my clothes by hand, or the bathrooms. In fact, I have learned to love the simplicity of life here in Thailand.

I enjoy eating on the floor in candlelight, washing the dishes on the front porch, drinking rain water, taking a bath with a bucket of water or in the river, the unavailability of internet access and phone service from home, going to bed by 8:30 most nights and waking up with the

sun. There is something about living simply that makes me feel refreshed like I can think more clearly somehow. Fewer distractions, I guess.

An easy transition was not even something that I really prayed for or wanted. I was kind of expecting it to be hard and I thought that was what God was preparing me for. So that is what I was ready for, but it turns out I was totally wrong. My experience has not been what I was told to expect at all, but it has been what I needed. It seems obvious that when life gets hard we turn to God. For he is our "strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). But what about the times when life is not so hard? When things seem to be consistently easy? It is incredible how quickly we can lose sight of our dire need for God. For some, I think this is the devil's sneakiest trick, because when my path is not filled with roadblocks and obstacles, why would I need Him? But the very moment this thought enters my mind, is the very moment that I need Him the most.

Be Part of the Story

By Maurice Fider

I had the amazing opportunity to be a Student Missionary for nine months in Christchurch, New Zealand. I served as a youth pastor to a small group of amazing people. I am still reminded of that today as I sit at my desk and look on the wall at a picture of two of the young people I got to baptize. It was nowhere in my job description before I left that I would be baptizing anyone, let alone helping in the actual event.

I saw how God used me in a strong way for his ministry. I was able to start Bible studies with some of my kids and then see them mature and grow in Christ. I do not believe there is a greater feeling of joy than when I walked into the water with them and helped our pastor baptize them.

As a donor you are a part of each mission story; because for every student missionary you support, you help him or her reach and touch another life. The beauty of it all is that we will never know how far one can reach. We can only though look forward to that day when we reach Heaven and a stranger approaches you and says thank you for supporting that student missionary.

Maurice Fider
Student Missions Club
President



JULIE NORTON
Student Missions Coordinator

BRADFORD GOODRIDGE
Student Missions Media Coordinator
Layout and Design Editor

*For questions or comments, please e-mail
studentmissions@southern.edu.*

For Example

By Julia Papuga/Poland

As student missionaries we are examples to the people we meet, examples of teachers, Americans, or Christians. As teachers, students mimic our examples of pronunciation, vocabulary, and sentence structure. As Americans, we show or tell them what life is like in another country by what we eat, what we wear, and even what we do for fun. And last, we show them an example of a Christian.

Through conversations in class, all of my students know that I am Christian and this means that when they look at me they will see me as a teacher and an American, but also as a Christian. The phrase “for example” has got me thinking what type of example am I for the students, but specifically what type of Christian example am I. Here, the majority of people are Catholics or atheists. This is all the exposure that some people have gotten to Christianity, and now, through me and the other missionaries, they have another view of a Christian. So, what are they seeing? Not just them but everyone. What does somebody see when they look at you? What kind of example are you being?

How to Help

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

Mail:

Send a check payable to Southern Adventist University
and address to:
Student Missions
PO Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315

Telephone:

Contact us at 423.236.2787

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.

If you know a student who is planning on serving, you are welcome to donate under that student’s name toward their fundraising efforts. If it is for Student Missions in general, please mark accordingly.

Thank you for your support!

Edwin

By Eric Morris | Bolivia

He was a destructive force. He broke two wheelbarrows, sawed a hole in our windows screen, caused bloody lips, and used a knife to carve into our wooden door. Meet Edwin, a nine-year old troublemaker who is a prime example of the effectiveness of an orphanage program under God's control.

One evening, my friend Chad and I returned from our day off around 9 p.m. We expected to have just enough time to say good night to the kids before hitting the sack. However, we saw a small, Bolivian kid sitting at our table with five people and his mother surrounding him. After expert information-extracting by Melissa, the matriarch and founder of Familia Feliz, we learned that due to his malnutrition and lack of parental guidance, that he was a prime candidate for the program.

He was a terror the first few weeks.



Edwin and Eric

He drove Chad and I up a tree! However, we would care for his wounds and pray with him every day. We saw little improvement, but knew that a life transformation takes time. However, Edwin is allowing Christ to work quite rapidly in his life.

One month after he arrived, I was praying with my boys and I asked Edwin to pray with us. He was hesitant. He is

not comfortable praying out loud. However, he is the type of kid who wants to be the best in everything he does, so he asked us how to pray. With a five-minute lesson, he prayed the most sincere prayer I have heard. Then, it was question time.

For a little kid, his questions were quite deep: "What will the end of the world be like? Will they hurt us? What happens if we die? Will God do miracles to save us?"

Now, Christ is obviously showing through his character and actions. He does random acts of kindness for me and the other kids. He fights less. He will jump in your arms and cuddle. While God has many more plans for him, He has come quite far already. Who do we have to thank? God and the program of Familia Feliz that share His love with the children. I am blessed to be a part of it.

Conditioner and Other Luxuries

By Damaris Gonzalez | Majuro

Despite the fact that I have missed some precious moments in my family's lives during my time away as a student missionary. I have been given the opportunity to experience moments I never in my wildest dreams imagined.

I have experienced a world where hair conditioner and fruit are a luxury. A world where children don't experience love in their homes, yet it is the only thing they know how to give to strangers like me. I live where I have no money yet, I have never felt richer. A world where I go to bed every night knowing I have done my duty as a child of God.

I am learning that Jesus was not joking or being figurative when He commanded us to go. Go and make disciples of all nations, do not take a traveler's bag, an extra pair of sandals, or money. Have faith, hope, and love. But never forget that the greatest of these is love (Matthew 28:19, Luke 10:4, 1 Corinthians 13:13)

I know that I only want my life to be led by Him. I used to be scared of not being able to finish college or not being before Jesus came again. Now, I am willing to let go of all worldly things for the sake of His kingdom. He is preparing my life for His service. And that's how it should be.



Damaris enjoys time with her students.

This trip has changed me in ways I never considered. But it has also changed me in the ways I most hoped for. Spending my days giving and all I can, one day at a time.

Contact Info

**Southern Adventist University
Student Missions**

PO Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315-0370

Telephone: 423.236.2787

Website:
southern.edu/studentmissions



Four students from Southern are serving at Maxwell Academy in Nairobi, Kenya, including Keith King (above).

Clayton's Office
Post Office Box 370
Collegedale, TN 37315-0370

