

There he went, eyes wide with the excitement of self-inflicted fear. Going off of the 35-foot high cliff on a rope swing, he had the grace of a trapeze artist. Nobody else had had the nerve to go off the rope swing and now here we were, breathless, watching Calvin gain speed as he rushed toward the point of maximum Gs.

Calvin had not only said he would go first but also that he would conclude his

# Global Mission and You

by  
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feat with a spectacular fly-away gainer. Rounds of boyhood mockery had met his braggadocio statement. However, here he was. It was rather hard to deny that he had already jumped off of the 35-foot rope swing. Regardless of how we now analyzed it, two things were certain: (1) Saying that he had changed his mind about it was no longer an option for him, and (2) for the next year we would have to put up with his reminders that in life there are only a few soaring eagles amid the hoards of turkeys.

Our eyes were glued to Calvin as he swept past the water at what seemed to be the speed of light—did he have a good grip? He was now swinging up out of the lowest point of the arch and had reached a point about 20 feet above the water when

he let go and to our amazement began his fly-away gainer. Unfortunately for Calvin, and to our utter terror, he used the same amount of throw and snap that we ordinarily used on the 15-foot rope swing. Before he knew it he had completed the first gainer and was well on his way into the second. By then he realized he was out of control.

For those who have had even the slightest experience with belly flops, tucking up in a tight ball is the only defense. Calvin tucked up, never losing his concentration. I would never judge it to have been a 10 or even a 9.2 for style, but I had to admit it was every inch a triple fly-away.

Calvin's feat was talked about endlessly for several months. There was not a person in the entire county who had not heard of it, and every school kid could tell the story as though he or she had been there personally. Calvin always admitted that it was far more than he had ever hoped to accomplish. He must have answered the question, "How did you do it?" thousands of times. He always began his answer by saying, "Well, it was just a matter of getting started."

*Arouse every spiritual energy to action. Tell those whom you visit that the end of all things is at hand. The Lord Jesus Christ will open the door of their hearts, and will make a lasting impression upon their minds.<sup>1</sup>*

God has not called us to do a triple fly-away off a rope swing, but He has ordained us a royal priesthood, a chosen generation, a special people, a holy nation to share the hope of the gospel with a lost world. The church needs a "started" people that have aroused every energy to action.

Global Mission is a special initiative of the church that calls for the establishment of Adventist believers in all unentered areas. These unentered areas of the world can be as big as Afghanistan (see Chart 1) or as small as the heart of your roommate. Regardless of the size of the area, what God needs is a people that have not only gripped the rope but also have stepped off the cliff—they have started.

*God asks us to give His service the first place in our lives, to allow no day to pass without doing something to advance His work in the earth.<sup>2</sup>*

From 35 feet above the water, the rope swing is more than scary. One out of five

people on the earth is a Muslim. One group of people in China is larger than the combined population of North, Central, and South America and does not contain a single Seventh-day Adventist. Every seven years the population growth in India equals the population of the United States. (See the color map insert.) There are hundreds of non-Adventist colleges and universities around the world, but only a handful of Adventist groups conducting outreach and worshiping on those campuses. And yet, in these very areas there is a new mission generation beginning to meet the challenge.

New groups of believers are being established among Muslims in several countries around the world. In a single day, 2,500 people were baptized in China. While the church in India has established an average of eight new congregations per year over the past 98 years, in the past two years they have averaged more than 60 new groups of believers per year. And reports are coming in that several groups of believers have begun worshiping on public college and university campuses.

The movement that took my friend Calvin off the cliff was really just a small step. It was not a grand wind-up with the fanfare of a three-ring circus, but the results were astounding. The miraculous progress described above was realized as a result of the Holy Spirit blessing very small programs.

*When church members put forth earnest efforts to advance the message, they will live in the joy of the Lord and will meet with success. Triumph always follows decided effort. . . . To everyone who offers himself to the Lord for service, withholding nothing, is given power for the attainment of measurless results.<sup>3</sup>*

The challenge is tremendous. And yet when I think about the challenge, I smile because of the comfort found in Matthew 24:14. (See Chart 2 for a global progress report.) The gospel will be preached, the work will be finished, and Jesus will come. As the revived church meets the challenge, the question is, "What will I be doing?" Will I be found with oil in my lamp investing my talents and standing at the right hand of Christ? Or will I be found knocking on doors at midnight trying to buy oil, shovel in hand burying my talents, penned in with the goats (Matthew 25)?

As long as the mid-air challenges of the rope swing were viewed from the safety of the cliff they were easy enough to

talk about. We had every angle of the rope swing figured out. When Calvin arrived, we provided him with the latest, most cutting-edge wisdom available to humankind on how to leap off a cliff onto a rope swing. His only comment was, "Are you guys having trouble getting started?"

Many desire to be involved in Global Mission. But how? If you are a young person under the age of 30, Global Mission data indicates that you are the church's most valuable asset. Since 1990 hundreds of new groups of believers have formed around the world. Youth and young adults have been primarily responsible for entering the unentered areas.

There are many opportunities for young adults to become involved in God's service. The student missionary program, ARMS, language schools, ADRA, church growth volunteers, and a host of other programs—all of these are working to achieve the objective of Global Mission. But what about getting started right where you are? (See "Opportunities for Volunteers.")

Until just a few months ago, Sudan had one organized company of believers. Today, there are 14 groups of Adventists, and plans are being developed to establish another 12 new groups in unentered towns and villages. Young adults are meeting the challenge. After several weeks of orientation they have scattered out across the country taking the hope of a living Saviour.

The Far Eastern Division has begun the "One Thousand Missionary Movement"—youth with a commitment to take the gospel to the unreached people of that vast division. Sixty now serve in target

areas.

More than 300 young people have been placed in unentered target areas in India. Many have never attended an Adventist school. Adventist Frontier Service has established more than 100 new congregations.

An Adventist member and his wife have begun to make a difference on the campus of the University of Wyoming in the United States. With the support of other church members they are inviting students to their home for a home-cooked meal and to join in Bible study and worship. They have an average attendance of 16 students.

Many students attending non-Adventist colleges and universities in the Philippines have invited fellow students to join them in the study of the Bible. Several campuses now have active groups of believers.

At Northeast Brazil College a group of students identified a town with no Adventist presence. The students conducted health and community programs and studied the Bible with interested people. Fifty-four were baptized, and today there is a group that worships in that village every Sabbath.

Most of these programs and many like them have begun with the smallest step forward in faith. Allow me to suggest four simple "getting started" steps:

1. Make a determined commitment to become involved in Global Mission. Assume this is God's plan for you—because it is.
2. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and bless you. Assume He will.
3. After talking with fellow

## Chart 1

### Unentered Countries and Territories of the World

(As of July, 1992, with names of respective world divisions abbreviated)

Afganistan, TED  
 Andorra, EUD  
 Bahrain, MEU  
 Bhutan, SUD  
 British Indian Ocean, AID  
 Brunei, FED  
 Falkland Islands, SAD  
 Holy See, EUD  
 Johnston Islands, NAD  
 Korea (North), FED  
 Libya, MEU  
 Maldives, SUD

Mauritania, AID  
 Monaco, EUD  
 Qatar, MEU  
 San Marino, EUD  
 Saudi Arabia, MEU  
 Syria, MEU  
 Wallis and Futuna Islands, SPD  
 Western Sahara, EUD  
 Yemen, MEU

Countries of the World (UN 1992): 229  
 Countries with SDA presence: 208  
 Countries with no SDA presence: 21

students, the chaplain, your pastor, your parents, and surveying the possibilities, make a plan. Keep it simple. God loves simple plans.

4. Begin. No one has ever done a fly-away standing on the cliff. Assume God's blessing from the beginning.

Whether you start off with a Bible study group, a volleyball team, a musical program or a stop-smoking clinic, the long-term plan should reflect the following points:

- God saves one person at a time. Your plan does not have to include the whole university.
- Be yourself. People love open, honest, cheerful people.
- The best results will come from personal contacts based on meaningful interaction.
- Activities of the group, especially at first, may be social or communal. Your personal example should be that of principle and the highest standards. You should see the good in each person, and your plan should eventually provide them an opportunity to accept Jesus as their Saviour.

Beginning with the Protestant Reformation, most major movements have begun on college and university campuses. Students leave colleges and universities bound for every corner of the world. The question is, "Who is holding the rope on non-Adventist campuses?" It's you. It's not church workers. They have little access and besides, they will not be the ones to finish the work called for in the gospel commission of Matthew 28.

The work will be finished by Christians who have made "getting started" a priority. I eventually jumped off the 35-foot rope swing. It only took the smallest effort to leave the cliff but the results were fantastic. No, I did not do a triple fly-away. For me, the biggest result was "getting started!" □

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## Opportunities for Volunteers

**Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).** Adventist college and university student volunteers can be involved in six-week ADRA projects. No special skills are required, except a willingness to learn and to work. Adventist professionals willing to volunteer six months to a year are also needed. Individuals pay their own transportation, and ADRA provides room, board, and project costs. At present these professionals are in demand: biomedical technicians, computer programmers, physicians, engineers, construction workers, mechanics, nurses, persons trained in agriculture, finance or management, and technical writers. Contact: ADRA Volunteer Coordinator; 12501 Old Columbia Pike; Silver Spring; Maryland 20904-6600; U.S.A.

**Adventist Resource Management Service (ARMS).** This clearinghouse for Adventist volunteers lists church needs from around the world and matches them with North American Division (NAD) volunteers. Skills most in demand are in communication, computer services, construction, evangelism, medical programs, and personal outreach. NAD Adventist members are encouraged to contact: ARMS, 12501 Old Columbia Pike; Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-6600; U.S.A. Telephones: (800) 331-2767 or (301) 680-6479.

**Adventist Youth Service (AYS).** Baptized members, ages 18-30, interested in providing a service for the church in their own country or abroad are invited to contact the local mission or conference youth director. AYS length of service ranges from several weeks up to two years. Additional information may be obtained from Richard Barron, Adventist Youth Service Director; 12501 Old Columbia Pike; Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-6600; U.S.A. Fax: (301) 680-6155. Telephone (in the U.S.A.): (800) 252-7363.

**International Teacher Service (ITS).** Opportunities are open for qualified Adventist teachers to teach foreign languages to university students or professionals in China, Russia, or Turkey. Native speakers of English, French, German, Japanese, or Spanish who have completed a college degree may be eligible for a one-year assignment. You will be expected to cover the cost of your round-trip transportation. If you are qualified and interested, contact Dr. M. T. Bascom or Treva Burgess, International Teacher Service; 12501 Old Columbia Pike; Silver Spring, Maryland, 20904-6600; U.S.A. Telephone: (301) 680-6028. Fax: (301) 680-6031.

### Notes and References

1. Ellen G. White, *Medical Ministry* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1932), p. 332.
2. Ellen G. White, *Prophets and Kings* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1917), p. 221.
3. Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church* (Mountain View, Calif.: Pacific Press Publishing Assn., 1948), vol. 7, p. 30.

### Chart 2

#### Ratio of Adventist Members to World Population

Year	Membership	Ratio	World Population
1888	26,000	1:58,000	1,500,000,000
1929	300,000	1:6,837	2,000,000,000
1940	505,000	1:4,549	2,300,000,000
1960	1,200,000	1:2,425	3,000,000,000
1970	2,000,000	1:1,280	3,700,000,000
1980	3,500,000	1:1,279	4,400,000,000
1989	6,183,585	1:846	5,234,000,000
1990	6,661,462	1:798	5,321,000,000
	Increase 7.7%		Increase 1.6%
1991	7,097,661	1:758	5,384,000,000
	Increase 6.5%		Increase 1.1%
1992	7,274,181	1:745	5,420,000,000
	(July) Increase 2.5%		Increase 0.90%