



September, 2017

Dear Friend,

The year was 1977, and I was on safari in Dekese, Central Zaire, Africa. Bertha and a friend had just walked 20 miles from their village in Nkokaloka to be baptized. I asked her why she was willing to walk all night to be baptized, and I'll never forget her answer. She said, "Pastor, I'm so sick and tired of this old world. I want to go home and see Jesus!"

I never thought I would see that kind of zeal for Jesus again in my lifetime. But it happened this past June in Mindoro, Philippines. Except this time, it wasn't 20 miles, but 48 miles—a 12-hour walk! From a remote mountain village, 25 people walked over mountains and through the jungle, crossing streams and rivers so that 12 of them could be baptized.

I have been sharing with you the miracles our Adventist World Radio team witnessed this past June on the island of Mindoro—and the miracles continue!

It was part of a major AWR360° event where pastors and lay people from Japan experienced evangelism firsthand. Let me share with you just a few more amazing stories of how God intervened in a special way. These events are possible because of your prayers and your continued support of Adventist World Radio.

Villagers crossing the river to visit the "six-day store."



THE SIX-DAY STORE

As I shared last month, before our meetings began, AWR began broadcasting on nine radio stations covering the whole island of Mindoro. For the first three weeks, there was no feedback, so our AWR team in Mindoro changed tactics. They began transmitting evangelistic sermons, and from the daily sermon they would pick a "Question of the Day" for the next day's broadcast. The first five callers who answered the question correctly would win a Bible, a radio, phone, or the book *Steps to Christ*.

That's when things started happening. Villagers would rush to a house or store where an AWR radio broadcast was being played. In one village, we happened to be there when the program began, and saw villagers rush down a mountainside, cross a river and crowd into the local store. When the program began with the theme song, "Lift Up the Trumpet and Loud Let It Ring", everyone began clapping! We saw this happen over and over again in different villages.

This brings me to Dionisia and Jeneth, a mother and daughter who own a store that is locally referred to as “The Six-Day Store” because they are closed on the Sabbath. They had set up a radio in the store and would turn it on for the AWR broadcast every day. The people from two whole villages in the Barangay District would walk one hour every day to visit the store and listen to the AWR broadcasts!



Each day, villagers gather around the radio to hear AWR broadcasts.

The day before we arrived in the village, the radio fell off its perch and broke. This was a tragedy for everyone, so when we learned what had happened, we immediately purchased a new, bigger and better radio for them. But sadly, the new radio would not work. We tried tuning to all the different radio stations, but without success. Finally, we placed it on a higher perch, and it picked up one station only – the one broadcasting our AWR programs! And that station came through loud and clear. It was amazing to experience this miracle right before our eyes.

After witnessing the deep desire of these two villages to hear God’s Word, we provided each village with a solar-powered radio. Now they can listen to AWR in their own village, even though they have no electricity. There are 70 families in these two villages, and by the close of the meetings, 66 people had given their lives to Jesus and were baptized. Now, they are requesting that a church be built there. But they aren’t the only ones. Fifteen other villages have had large baptisms and are requesting churches!

There is so much more to say, so many miracles witnessed, but let me share the experience of a very special group that went with us: our Japanese pastors.

JAPANESE PASTORS

Have you ever had a life-altering experience—something that changes you forever? Many of us have, but especially touching was the transformation in our dear Japanese pastors. They had never before held an evangelistic series. Ever.

This may seem unusual in America—a Christian nation familiar with the story of Jesus, and boasting Christian churches in even the smallest towns. But things are very different in Japan. As one pastor put it, “Evangelism in Japan is very, very hard! There are hundreds of gods, and people don’t seem interested to learn about the one True God.”

Despite their fears, 52 pastors were willing to try something they had never tried before. They agreed to do a “practice run” in Mindoro, in preparation for next year’s evangelistic event in Japan. We made it as easy as possible, providing a full series of sermons, including graphics.

At first, they were afraid, but when their feet touched the Jordan River—when they began to present the messages—their fear dissipated as they realized they were not alone. God’s Spirit was with them.

Pastor Hiroaki shared his experience:

"I was making a general call after one of my presentations, when I felt an almost physical presence pushing me to make a call for baptism. That had not been my plan at all, but the push was so great that I couldn't stop even if I tried. I made the call for baptism, and a young child raised her hand. Then one by one, 10 people came forward requesting baptism!"

This may seem simple enough to you and me, but it was life-changing for Pastor Hiroaki. He felt the joy that comes when God uses us to lead others to Jesus.

One of our older Japanese pastors who is scheduled to retire next year, twice went with us up the mountain to help baptize in several villages. He also participated as an enthusiastic helper in the final mass baptism by the sea. At one point, as we were leaving for the arduous trek up the mountain, I asked him, "Don't you want to stay and rest and practice your sermons?" He replied, "Oh no, all my life I wanted to baptize, and now I'm finally able to do it!"



The AWR team before one of their trips up the mountain.

The joy of our Japanese brethren was indescribable. There were tears in their eyes as they witnessed the fruit of their labors: 1,400 lives surrendered to Jesus through baptism. They all kept repeating, "We will never be the same!"

Not one single pastor regretted his decision to come with us to Mindoro. Now they're eager and ready to do the same in Japan next year, because they learned that God doesn't ask us to be successful. He just asks that we be faithful in presenting the message. Success is up to Him.

FUTURE PLANS

The evangelistic event in Mindoro may be over, but our work there is not. We are committed and will continue helping and cementing the work we began. Right now, we have 36 broadcasters in Mindoro – all of them lay people, plus one supporting pastor. None are professional radio broadcasters, but local, untrained people who are passionate about sharing Christ. We provide them with the scripts, and they give out their own personal cell phone numbers for the listeners to call in! They also do visitation and Bible studies.

We are committed to continuing the work in Mindoro for the next two years to strengthen the local churches and build 15 new churches in the 15 villages that have requested them. The cost for each church is \$6,000, for a total of \$90,000. Plans are also underway to build a radio station. The antenna will be tall enough so that instead of nine different stations, one will be sufficient to cover the whole island. With careful budgeting, this can be done for \$100,000.

Providing a radio to one of the mountain villages.



Of course, we cannot accomplish this without your generous support. If you feel impressed and are financially able to sponsor a church building, or if you would like to help with the costs of the new radio station, please do so. Every gift we receive is precious, no matter how small, and will be put to immediate use in the saving of souls.

Thank you for your support of Adventist World Radio.

What happened in Mindoro could not have happened without you. We may regret many things in this life, but we will never regret helping to lead others to Jesus.



Yours in the blessed hope,

Duane McKey
President, Adventist World Radio

P.S. I have shared in this letter the incredible and miraculous way in which God opened wide the doors and hearts of whole villages on the island of Mindoro, in the Philippines. And I am convinced this is just the beginning of amazing things we will see as we near the time of the end. Thank you for your support that allows the truth-filled messages of AWR to reach the world for Jesus!

To learn more about the series in Mindoro and the work of AWR, please visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/awrweb

If you would like an AWR360° representative to visit your church and share our most recent mission stories, please call us at 1-800-337-4297.

