



September 2018

Dear AWR Friend,

WHEN GOD MOVED A MOUNTAIN

“Baluku, look!” I said. “That’s snow on top of those mountains!”

“No,” Baluku responded, “that is not snow. It can’t be, because we are right on the equator!”

“But Baluku, it is snow!” I said.

And so the conversation went with my friend Baluku, who was the North Zaire Field president in eastern Congo. It is hard to believe there can be snow on the mountains when you have never seen snow before, and especially on the equator.

We were near Butembo in central Congo, next to the Ugandan border, and there was indeed white stuff—commonly known as snow—way up on top of the mountains! The Rwenzori Mountains have an eternal snowcap, even though they are on the equator near the borders of Rwanda, Uganda and the Congo.

Dr. Elton Wallace, the director of our school at Lukanga nearby, had a friend in the United States who supplied funding for sheet metal for church roofs. But he had one condi-

tion: the walls of the church buildings had to be built out of durable materials—cement blocks, baked bricks or rocks.

Dr. Wallace talked to our church near Butembo, under the Rwenzori Mountains, and shared the arrangement. If they would build a new church out of durable materials, then he could get a donation to pay for the metal roof.



The rocky, snow-capped Rwenzori Mountains, known to locals as the “Mountains of the Moon” on the border of Uganda and the Congo.

So the church board met to discuss this wonderful offer. The majority of church members were also members of the “can’t-be-done club,” and they said, “We have no money to buy baked bricks or cement blocks, and there are no stones or rocks available.”

So the “can’t-be-done club” members won. Their argument was that neither the Baptist, nor the Pentecostal, nor the Catholic churches in the village had churches made of durable materials, so the Adventists would keep their mud-and-thatch church like everyone else.

But the “*can-be-done-club*,” also known as the “Bible promise believers,” began to pray that God would send rocks, or bricks, or blocks, or some other durable material, so they could build their church.

These members claimed the promise, “Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you” (Matthew 7:7). They said, “Did Jesus not say to His disciples that faith the size of a grain of mustard seed can move mountains?”

So these believers prayed, and they believed. But no one thought that God would actually move the Rwenzori Mountains to answer the prayers of these faithful few.

And then one night it happened: an earthquake! Never before had it happened like this. God shook the Rwenzoris! The villagers cried as they heard the terrifying noises. They thought the whole mountain was toppling down on them!

In the morning, to their amazement, the small river that flowed from the mountains behind their village was now full of rocks and stones.

Those rocks are still there thirty years later. They are real, and we have seen them—a river full of rocks. But also, nearby is an Adventist Church built entirely from God’s river rocks—and the church has a metal roof! The local villagers call those rocks in the river, the “Adventist prayed-for rocks!”



My wife, Kathy with our daughter in 1987 standing on the rocks that God brought down from the mountain.

Our God is a God of miracles, wonderful miracles. A God who can take AWR radio waves and bend them around mountains in Nepal so a whole village can learn of the truth as it is in Jesus. A God who can turn a radio dial to an AWR broadcast so a man in Argentina can learn about Jesus! A God who can send WhatsApp messages through cell phones, and people around the world can listen and learn that Jesus is coming soon! A God who can send a WhatsApp message to a lady in Namibia, where she listened and learned about the Sabbath and then shared this new truth the very next Sabbath with those near her farm on the Zambezi River. And now, as I write this, a whole village is watching a new church being built...and the villagers are anxiously waiting to be baptized! Here is the story.

BARBIE'S INCREDIBLE STORY

Barbie and her husband Dries live in Kashira Village in Namibia, near what is called the Caprivi Strip. They are Afrikaans—people who immigrated to South Africa in the 17th Century from Holland. The land where their farm is belongs to the African people, and anyone who wants to work the land must obtain permission from the area chief. The arrangement is unique in that the land must be shared with the community, and major decisions are also communicated to the entire village.

Barbie and Dries had requested some of this land, and were perfectly happy with this arrangement, getting along very well with the local people. Their life would have continued uneventfully, except Barbie had a close friend named Elize, who just happened to be a Seventh-day Adventist.



Barbie (left) accepted Elize's invitation to receive an AWR evangelistic series via her cell phone.

When Elize's church decided to do the AWR cellphone evangelism series, she added Barbie to be a part of her WhatsApp group, so Barbie and her husband started receiving evangelistic sermons on their cellphones. Every night after their work was done, they would listen to the presentations and then discuss what they had heard. When they heard the presentation on the Sabbath, they were immediately impressed that they should follow Jesus and keep the Sabbath.

Their conviction was so great, that in keeping with the local custom, the next morning they called the village people together and informed them that they would now be keeping God's Sabbath holy and would not worship on Sunday anymore. They explained to the villagers that the Bible was very clear on this.

The villagers listened intently to everything Barbie and Dries said, and in the end agreed that if that was what the Bible said, then they would keep the Sabbath too! So Barbie did the only thing she knew: she got the people together every Sabbath and played the AWR cellphone sermons for everyone to listen—all this before she and her husband had a chance to tell Elize that they wanted to be baptized!

When they listened to the presentation on health, they started a garden project where they not only produced healthy foods for themselves, but also for the communities around them. By now, they were getting together for prayer meeting, a weekly lesson study and for Sabbath services—and all the while the group kept growing and growing.

At the end of the cellphone series, Barbie and Dries were baptized—to the delight of Elize and her church!

BUT THE STORY DOESN'T END THERE

Soon, Barbie decided they must have a church. Dries and the villagers started working on the structure while Barbie and the ladies cleared the land. For starters, the church would have steel pillars and a corrugated iron roof. Barbie and some of the villagers worked on making bricks that would eventually be used to build the church walls. A few weeks ago, AWR's Vice President, Cami Oetman, saw the need and helped raise funds for the new church.

As if all this weren't exciting enough, while they were working on the church structure, they received a visit from the chief of a nearby village. He told them the most amazing story: he had accepted the truth many years before but had been all alone and looking for others who believed as he did. Then one day, he'd heard about Barbie and Dries. He was so happy to hear there were others who believed the Adventist message, so he decided to come and see for himself. And, he had one request—that his entire village receive Bible studies and join their Adventist Church!



Barbie hugs AWR's Cami Oetman in appreciation for helping to raise funds for their new church building.

As I write this letter, the group that began with just Barbie and Dries—and grew to 52 people from their Kashira Village—has now grown to more than 200 people! Right now, 100 people from the new village are preparing for baptism, and soon the church will become a fully-organized Seventh-day Adventist church in Namibia.

MIRACLES THEN AND NOW!

What an incredible God! He is not only able to move a mountain way back in 1987 so His people in Central Africa can have a house of worship, but He's still moving mountains today—through a cell phone, resulting in a new church in Southern Africa and a whole village accepting Jesus!

God tells us to “Tell the world what He has done!” (Isaiah 12:4-5 TLV) and so, I am happy to share with you what God has done and is doing in Africa!

No matter how small a part we may play—even using a simple cell phone—God can turn it into something spectacular. Because if He can move a mountain, He can certainly change a heart!

There is so much work waiting to be done in Africa and around the world—so many people eager to know the truth. And it's wonderful to know that if we faithfully shout it from the airwaves, cell-phones, radios and Godpods, God will do the rest. His Spirit will do the work of changing hearts. Just think, all Barbie's friend Elize did was sign her up to receive the AWR cell phone sermons, and God did the rest!

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful Adventist movement around the world, for helping us take the light of truth to the most remote places and in the most unusual ways. When our AWR team visited Namibia last month, thanks to your support, we were able to provide funds for enough Kwangali Bibles so that every home in the area could have a Bible.



Barbie and Elize share the excitement of the new church with children from the local village.



Thank you for making a difference. When we work together, miracles happen and souls are won for the kingdom of heaven!

Yours in the Blessed Hope,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Duane McKey'.

Duane McKey
President



P.S. Please visit Adventist World Radio Facebook and AWR.org to watch Barbie's story. Also, every Thursday a new AWR360° Moment is posted so you can keep up with the latest happenings of AWR.

Here are the upcoming dates for AWR Rallies done by our AWR Ambassadors:

Milton-Freewater SDA Church Milton-Freewater, Oregon	October 27
Nampa SDA Church Nampa, Idaho	October 27
Beaverton SDA Church Beaverton, Oregon	November 3
Campion SDA Church Loveland, Colorado	November 10
Franktown SDA Church Franktown, Colorado	November 10
Fort Worth First SDA Fort Worth, Texas	November 17
Joshua SDA Church Joshua, Texas	November 17
Yucaipa SDA Church Yucaipa, California	December 8
Chattanooga First SDA Church Chattanooga, Tennessee	December 8

If you would like to have an AWR Ambassador visit your church, please call our office at 301-680-6404 or 301-680-6333.