

September 2019



Dear AWR Friend,

Today I got a phone call that thrilled me! Pastor Robert Dulay from Manila said:

“Six more generals from the NPA communist rebel army have just been baptized along with 18 of their soldiers. That makes a total of 12 generals now baptized from the New People’s Army!”

Robert is from our AWR headquarters in the Philippines, and this is the kind of phone call we receive almost every day from around the world at our AWR headquarters!

I’m reminded again and again of my favorite Bible text that states God “is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20).

He’s able to not only do all that we ask, but *exceeding abundantly above* all that we ask—or even *think*! That’s what we’re seeing at AWR360° Broadcast to Baptism!

I personally experienced this promise more than 30 years ago when Kathy and I were packing to go as missionaries to Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo). Let me share that story from long ago, as well as some very recent ones that show how God is continually working on behalf of His children.

FOUR GALLONS OF GLUE

For our move to Zaire, we were told to pack our things in 50-gallon drums and then weld them shut. This was to prevent our goods from being stolen and to keep them dry while being transported across the ocean by ship.

We were also instructed to buy plastic bag liners to line the drums. I looked everywhere near our home in Omaha, but it seemed no one carried such large bags. Someone suggested that I check with local mortuaries, but that didn’t appeal to us.

Then we got a lead that a furniture factory had drums we could get almost for free. So I had the drums transported to the house, but we still had no large bags. Then one day Kathy said, “Why don’t we look inside the drums?”

We opened them, and to our surprise, inside each drum was a large plastic bag. This was just what we needed, except that at the bottom of each bag was a thick layer of white liquid. We were dismayed, thinking the bags were contaminated, but upon investigation, we learned the white liquid was wood glue. Kathy suggested we collect the glue in plastic gallon milk jugs. By the time we were finished, we had four gallons of wood glue.



God knows our needs even before we do.

Months later, after first attending a language school in France, we finally arrived at the Lulengele Mission in Central Zaire. Thankfully, our drums were there waiting for us, as we were thousands of miles from anywhere—four hours by plane from our mission office to the nearest major city, Lubumbashi! Our little mission plane dropped us off and we stayed there until it took us out. This was a brand-new thrust of mission work where eventually through a God-ordained plan we would see 100,000 people baptized through the Kasai Project (*see letter from May 2018*).

One of the first things we learned when we arrived was that two mission homes were being constructed—one of them for us—and the carpenters needed wood glue to be able to put the doors and cabinets together. Guess what? God had anticipated our need. Before we'd asked, He had answered. We had all the glue that was needed! That's when I learned that God is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. And that before we call, He will answer, and while we are yet speaking, He will hear (Isaiah 65:24).

THE COMMUNIST GENERAL

That's why my heart thrilled when I heard the news from Robert about the communist rebel group. God is working in ways we never even imagined! One of the four just-baptized generals, Tarin, is the fourth-highest rebel commander in Occidental Mindoro.

Tarin told Robert that he was about to leave his family on the coast and return to the rebel camp in the mountains when he overheard an AWR program his family was listening to about how God loves families. His heart was touched, and then and there he made the decision to lay down his AK-47 and surrender to the Philippine military—and to Jesus!

Robert will help negotiate Tarin's surrender in the next few days. And this is all because of how God is using Adventist World Radio.

THE UNEXPECTED EVANGELIST



This new "evangelist" in Mexico is using his cell phone to share Bible truths that he himself is just now learning!

Another amazing phone call we received this week was from Pastor Luis Duran from Mexico. He's our cell phone evangelism coordinator for much of Latin America. He told us the most amazing story!

A few months ago, he conducted a cell phone evangelism training in a city in Mexico. Several people signed up to be cell phone evangelists and receive the weekly presentations for distribution. Every week, Luis sent out the sermons to the group he had trained, and they in turn shared them with others.

Last week, Luis received a text message from one of the cell phone evangelists asking a question that didn't make sense to Luis. It was something that every Adventist would know. But he texted the answer anyway and sat back thinking about the odd exchange.

Then, on an impulse, Luis texted again, "Out of curiosity, which church is your home church?"

The cell phone evangelist replied, and when Luis read the message, he was completely floored! It said:

"I attend an evangelical church. I am not an Adventist, I was just visiting the Adventist church the day you had the cell phone evangelism training, so I stayed for the whole day. I took notes and then went back to my church and started sending out the sermons you provided. I've already trained several people to share them with family and friends as well.

We get together as a group each week and spend time discussing that week's presentation and studying together. We've loved the emphasis on prophecy as we didn't know anything about that before. We had to accept that our views on the state of the dead have been incorrect. The only thing that has caused some disagreement and discussion has been on the topic of the Sabbath. Oh, and by the way, I've also been sending the presentations to the leaders of the evangelical pastors' alliance here in the city. I would love for us all to get together with you sometime soon."

Isn't that amazing? This is not our work. God can take what you and I do and just run with it! He is working in the hearts of people like never before, rewarding our efforts above all we can ask or think!

This takes me to our next story. It's an update from Pastor Wisam Ali from Nazareth, Israel, who called me earlier this week with another amazing update.

PASTOR WISAM, THE TRANSLATOR AND THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Earlier this year I shared with you (*April 2019 letter*) Wisam's amazing conversion story after being raised in a Muslim family, and the work he is now doing as an Adventist pastor in Nazareth.

Recently, Wisam needed the *Revelation of Hope* sermons translated into Arabic, so he approached a local translator, Jamil, who agreed to do them.

Jamil worked for days—sometimes late into the night—translating the sermons. He already had some knowledge of the Adventist message, as he had received Bible studies from Wisam. However, he was so greatly moved by the messages he was translating that he felt compelled to share the material with one of his close friends—a member of a Baptist church in Nazareth.

After reading through the material, the friend excitedly told his pastor about it. So the pastor decided to study the series for himself, and as he did, he felt a strong stirring in his heart to know more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its beliefs.

The Baptist pastor was so impressed by the solid Bible-based presentations that he asked the translator to connect him with Wisam. He then asked Wisam to come to his church to share the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the prophetic end-time message.

Wisam's presentation was so well-received that they began inviting him regularly to speak not only at the church, but in members' homes. Wisam went through the whole *Revelation of Hope* evangelistic series with them, and the church enjoyed it so much that when it was over, they wanted more. So he went through the Adventist health message, then Ellen White's writings, and many other in-depth subjects.



Wisam translates a stirring message by AWR Cell Phone Evangelist Neville Neveling at the Nazareth Baptist Church.



Wisam (left) stands next to Neville Neveling, who recently visited Nazareth for a cell phone evangelism training and preached in the Baptist church. Next to him are two Baptist leaders.

To make a long and interesting story short (there is never enough room to share everything!), now the Baptist pastor and his whole church are studying to be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church!

Isn't God amazing? He is again doing "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or even think!"

When I spoke to Wisam, he said, "The AWR Godpods we distributed earlier this year have been instrumental in helping people learn about Jesus, but now we're in urgent need of more materials in Arabic so they can read and refer back to what we have studied. This will be an invaluable key to open the door to reach many more Arab people for Jesus."

It is a joy to be working with Pastor Wisam in Israel, Pastor Luis in Mexico, Pastor Robert in the Philippines, and with our whole AWR360° team around the world! Your support makes it possible for them to continue doing what they're doing, and for our more than 1,000 radio stations, studios and programs to continue to reach people in over 130 different languages.

There is nothing more rewarding than sharing the gospel message—and sharing with you what God is doing! Thank you for making these stories possible, and for joining us in this incredible adventure of faith as together we light up the world for Jesus. He is coming soon, and the world needs to know it!

Yours in the Blessed Hope,



Duane McKey
President



P.S. What incredible stories! God's Spirit is being felt like never before, and He is taking our limited human efforts and multiplying them beyond what we could do or imagine! Thank you for your generosity that allows His work to continue!