

# GLOBAL MISSION'S Frontline

Help  
Us Say  
Yes!

STORIES AND NEWS FROM OUR PIONEERS | **VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 1**

## The Church From the Sky







Tiara receives a warm welcome.

Getting four young adults to a remote jungle village accessible only by plane to build a prefab church isn't the easiest thing to do in the world, especially when you have only five days to prepare for their arrival. But I was grateful for the challenge.

Adam, Seth, Tiara, and Sierra were coming to Indonesia from the United States to build a church for a group of believers who had come to know Jesus through the ministry of our Global Mission pioneer Hermanus.

They arrived on Friday morning, just in time to gulp down breakfast, grab a shower, and help me weigh, load, and deliver supplies to be flown to the building site.

Hermanus and my sons Aubrey and Andrew flew to Walma ahead of us to start laying the foundation. Walma is the "point of no return" as our Adventist missionary pilot, Gary Roberts, likes to call it. Once the plane departs, you're dependent on two-way radio for contact with the outside world.

When the team and I landed Sunday morning, we were warmly welcomed by the villagers, who joined us for the treacherous hour-long, 1,200 foot descent to their village.

When we finally arrived, it took about 20 minutes to convince the congregation to disassemble the shelter they had called their church home for the past two rainy seasons. We assured them that they'd be worshipping in a beautiful new church the next Sabbath, but I could tell there were doubters among them.



Everyone was eager to help!



I gave instructions in Indonesian, English and mime. "Level the land there." "Dig a line of holes here." "Put a stack of rocks and sand there." It was pouring rain, but soon we had the holes prepared for the 24 pillars that the building would rest on.

Monday morning our team poured cement while the villagers went to pick up the 1.2 tons of metal pieces that had arrived by plane. One man carried more than 110 pounds of roofing down the impossibly steep trail! When we'd completed our tasks



Tiara, our missionary Paul, and Sierra loved spending time with the village children.

On Tuesday, we put up the pillars. Many of the villagers, tired from their exertion the day before, watched in awe as the basic shape of their church quickly came together. Seventy-year-old grandmothers and grandfathers clicked their tongues and softly chanted "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

On Wednesday and Thursday, we put the sidewalls and trusses in place. Then on Friday, we divided into teams—two working on the roof, one



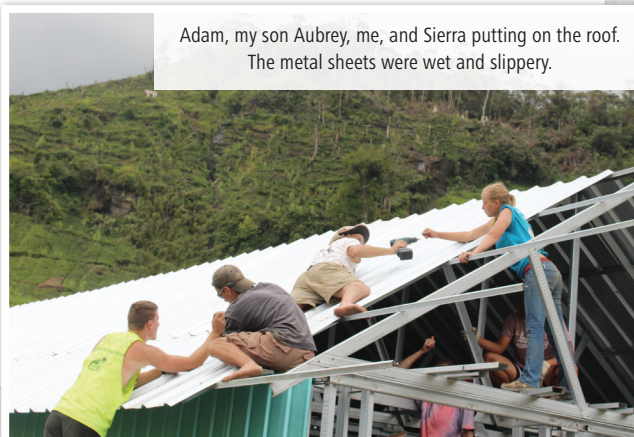
After carrying the metal parts to the building site, the villagers watched in awe as their church structure came together.

for the day, we went to explore the local swimming hole.

There's an amazing story behind this swimming hole. When I came to Hobotonggo several months ago, I asked the villagers to provide sand and gravel for the building project. They searched for them, but found only large stones. So they prayed, and within minutes a small landslide occurred near the swimming hole.

"Pastor," they told me excitedly, "we prayed, and God sent some of His pavement mixed with sand and gravel from heaven!"

building a rock wall around the church yard, one building scaffolding, and another carpeting the ground inside the church with sand



Adam, my son Aubrey, me, and Sierra putting on the roof. The metal sheets were wet and slippery.





Celebrating our first Sabbath in the new church.

from the landslide. Excitement was in the air. The grandmas danced like David before the sanctuary, praising God for a church nearly completed.

On Sabbath, we had a wonderful worship experience. We shared testimonies of God's guidance during the week and listened to praise songs that few outsiders

have ever heard. I preached a sermon on Hebrews 11, mentioning that our Global Mission pioneer could be added to the list of characters who had great faith in God. Hermanus once had been left for dead when locals became angry at his teaching.

During an afternoon hike, I took mental notes of the congregation's needs—solar

Saying our goodbyes.





Adam gets a thankful hug before leaving.



panels and a battery setup to provide light for evening worship, a toilet because the hole over the creek was insufficient to accommodate the growing membership, a pastor who could live in the area, and someone to teach economic development, gardening skills, and Bible classes. My list went on and on until I felt overwhelmed, because beyond the next mountain and the next lie a thousand more such villages that don't even have a Global Mission pioneer to share Jesus with them.

On Sunday morning, the villagers accompanied us on our climb to the helipad. We talked for a few minutes while we waited

for our plane, and they gave us gifts and hugs. Then they built a fire and danced around it with delight, chanting "They're awesome. They're awesome! These folks from far are awesome. Thank you for bringing us a church from the sky!"

### *Pastor Darron*



#### **Darron Boyd**

is the Adventist Mission and evangelism coordinator for the Papua and West Papua Missions in Indonesia.

Global Mission pioneers start new groups of believers in unentered areas and among unentered people groups. Your donations help support their ministry. Thank you!

**To learn more about Global Mission, please visit [global-mission.org](http://global-mission.org).**

**To read Darron's blog, visit [pastordarronboyd.blogspot.com](http://pastordarronboyd.blogspot.com).**



General Conference of  
Seventh-day Adventists  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904  
[www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org)  
1-800-648-5824

# Christ's method in the world's great cities

Mingling  
Showing sympathy  
Ministering  
to needs  
Winning confidence  
Bidding people  
to follow  
Jesus

Every dollar given to Global Mission goes directly to the front lines of mission, including big cities, reaching people who are still waiting to know Jesus.

#### THREE WAYS TO GIVE:

- Mail to Global Mission:  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, MD 20904
- Secure online: [Giving.AdventistMission.org](http://Giving.AdventistMission.org)
- Call 800-648-5824

