PICTURE REACHING THE UNREACHED WITH HOPE VOLUME 20 - NUMBER 2









Nordic Walking and Making Friends

lena loves working out in her local park. She meets people there who care about exercise too, and they become friends. For a full-body, low impact workout, she teaches them the Nordic walking technique (hiking with poles).

But it's not just about the exercise—it's about the people. This health outreach is part of the Sequoia Health Center, an Urban Center of Influence in Siberia. Nordic walking classes engage community members in a non-church setting. When the weather is nice, the group meets in the park. But during the winter, it's often cold and snowy, so they meet in the health center for indoor exercise and health education classes instead.

Center volunteers, like Elena, can follow Christ's method of ministry. To introduce members to Jesus, Elena shares her faith and prays during class. "I like that all the classes begin with a prayer," says Svetlana, a dedicated group member. "Our instructor is a believer and a professional. She's always friendly, and my health has become better!"

Elena's ministry has led to close friendships within the group. They've prayed together and even visited each other during holidays. She hopes that each person will come to know Jesus. Will you pray for Elena and the friends she's making through Nordic walking?





FINLAND Center of Hope

Vaasa, Finland, is a stronghold of secularism and atheism. But God is changing the lives of secular Europeans one by one. In 2013, an Urban Center of Influence (UCI) called the Vaasa Center of Hope opened. It featured a plant-based restaurant and meeting space, so community members could get delicious food and also attend seminars on health, depression recovery, and the Bible.

A young man, Jonas, went to a depression recovery class. "I was happy to learn that there is a church that not only focuses on spiritual health but takes the whole human being into consideration," Jonas says. This wholistic approach follows Christ's method of ministry: mingling with people, sympathizing with them, meeting their needs, winning their confidence, and inviting them to follow Him.

In the following months, Jonas also attended a seminar on Creation, meetings on Daniel and Revelation, and Bible studies. He couldn't keep the wonderful truth he'd learned to himself and shared this new information with his friend Sebastian. Not long ago, Jonas and Sebastian (shown holding roses) were baptized together in front of their family and friends. Now, both young men have dedicated their lives to serve Christ.

God is using the Vaasa Center of Hope to transform lives, even in secular Finland. Please pray for the staff and volunteers as they minister to their community.



CANADA Finding a New Approach

•• C ometimes they just don't know how to approach us as people," Kevin says, describing his experience as a blind member of the Adventist Church. He knows ministering to the visually impaired can be challenging. That's why, in 2007, Kevin and his wife, Neena, helped start a small group specifically designed to welcome the blind community.

Hope Vision Fellowship, as the group was later named, has grown over the years. In 2016, two wonderful things happened: Global Mission helped support this church plant, and it was recognized as the first Adventist church for the visually impaired in North America.

Members actively share Jesus' love with the blind community in the Toronto area. Most of the people who attend services aren't Adventist, and they're drawn by a feeling of safety and refuge. Their spiritual needs are met, and the church tries to meet their physical needs too by offering care packages for those who don't have enough food.

Neena says many blind people need hope and refuge from life. She and Kevin want to see the visually impaired "come to know Jesus Christ and find healing and hope through His wonderful grace." Your support of Global Mission makes church plants like this possible!

The Unreached Need Your Help!

Dear Friend,

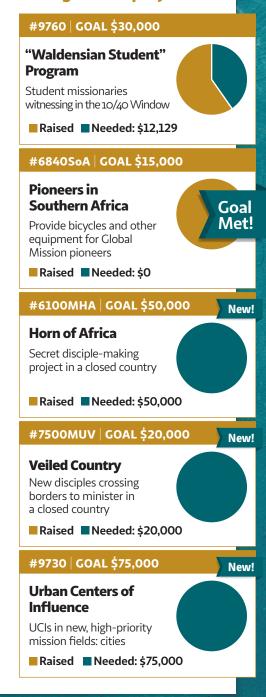
A round the world, many people are living in a continual state of fear and instability. For some of us, this pandemic has brought us face to face with distress and uncertainty for the first time. Yet Jesus told us to expect famines, earthquakes, pestilence, and fearful events before His return (Luke 21). We don't know if this virus is part of that major crisis, but it shows how quickly everything can change.

As followers of Jesus, we have the unique experience of learning to trust in God when a crisis strikes. He offers us peace in the midst of the storm and hope in a better future. As we pray for God's care and intervention for people around the world affected by the virus, we also pray for our frontline missionaries around the world.

The work of Global Mission pioneers and Urban Centers of Influence (UCIs) has been made even harder. Christ's method of ministry starts with mingling—but how do you mingle during social distancing and shelter-in-place orders? Pioneers and UCI staff must find creative ways to engage their communities and continue to meet needs as Jesus did. Your support of Global Mission will make a crucial difference during this time. Thank you!

the Global Mission team

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