“Why are you going there?” concerned teachers started asking their students, who were going to the local Adventist church for Bible studies. “Do your parents know?”

But their parents did know and encouraged their children to continue studying God’s Word with Global Mission pioneer Tea (pronounced tay-uh). When the 12 planned studies ended, the youth even asked her to keep going!

This is part of Reflect, a youth group in the country of Georgia, which Tea helped grow. The group focuses on helping the community while learning about Jesus. “We chose the name Reflect because we want to show the youth how to shine and reflect good, positive things,” explains Irina, Reflect’s leader.

The youth co-host events such as art programs, movie nights, and community outreach activities like health expos. Nearly 70 community members showed up at the last health expo in the park, eager to learn about healthy living. Just before it started, the youth split into groups and went through the neighborhood inviting people.

Global Mission pioneers like Tea open doors by following Christ’s method and engaging with the community. Reflect is an example of a unique outreach opportunity made possible by your support of Global Mission. Thank you!
The church planters were stunned. “What did you say?” one of them asked.

“I’m going to kill myself tonight,” Alex* repeated quietly. He was dealing with trauma sustained during military service, and he was angry a lot. Waves of depression were pulling him under.

The believers, who had been going door to door, prayed over Alex, asking the Holy Spirit to come close to him and save his life. They shared Bible promises and stayed with him until he abandoned his plan. They regularly visited and offered encouragement, unwilling to leave him in hopelessness when they knew the God of hope.

Gradually, something about that offer of hope spoke to Alex and he decided to be baptized. Since then, his outlook on life has improved. His depression has subsided, and he’s able to focus on his Savior. He and his wife often take their adorable toddler to church on Sabbath.

This small group is part of a church plant in the mountains high above Bogotá. This poor community has experienced hardship, and the believers follow Christ’s method to reach out and help their neighbors. Since 2016, more than a dozen people have been baptized, and nearly 60 gather to worship each Sabbath. Please pray for this church plant and others across Colombia.

*name changed
"Welcome, family!" Auntie Sarah calls out as a few more hungry people walk through the door. Everyone who visits the Veg Hub in Oakland, California, is considered family, and customers feel the love. Right now, this Urban Center of Influence (UCI) is a popular restaurant offering vegan comfort food, but that’s just the first step toward its ultimate aim: becoming a church plant.

General manager Chef G. W. Chew (his real name) is passionate about making good food that is both delicious and nutritious but he’s even more passionate about reaching his community. The Veg Hub is strategically positioned in the heart of Oakland to be a bridge to the community through healthy food, education, and the love of Christ. Chef Chew and Auntie Sarah lead cooking classes to educate and empower community members who live in food deserts (without access to fresh produce and healthy, affordable food) or suffer from diet-related diseases.

The Veg Hub’s mission is to improve community members’ health, both physically and spiritually. As this UCI expands, small groups, Friday night socials, and community service projects will be added. Chef Chew likens this to John the Baptist’s ministry, saying, “We’re like a voice in the wilderness crying out, letting people know there’s something better.”
Hope is one of those things humans desperately need. Something deep within us yearns for it. As Christians, our hope is rooted in Christ and Him resurrected. We can have hope for the future and even hope for the present. This changes everything!

That’s why God told us to take the gospel to the ends of the earth—to share hope with all His children. This is the central purpose of Global Mission: pioneers and Urban Centers of Influence reaching the unreached with hope every day.

In this issue of Picture Story, you’ll see this theme within each story. For a desperate young man in Colombia, young people in Georgia, and community members in California, hope brings relief amidst the hardships of life. It points the way forward to a better life.

We still need your help to send out 29 Global Mission pioneers in Colombia, sponsor “Waldensian Students” in the 10/40 Window, and more. Prayerfully consider how you can financially contribute to our mission of taking hope to those who need it most.

In His service,
Kayla Ewert
Every dollar given to Global Mission goes directly to frontline mission work, reaching remote villages and overflowing cities where millions of people are waiting to hear about Jesus.

THREE WAYS TO GIVE

1 Mail: Global Mission, General Conference
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2 Online: Global-Mission.org/giving
3 Phone: 800-648-5824