

Mission Sonlight- 1Q09-Southern Asia-Pacific Division Overview Traditional

Narrator: Welcome to Mission Sonlight. During the first quarter of 2009, we will be reporting from the Southern-Asia Pacific Division. This Division was formerly known as the Far Eastern Division. During that time the headquarters were located in the island nation of Singapore. In 1997, the territory was divided into two new world divisions-the Northern Asia-Pacific Division and the Southern Asia Pacific Division. Last quarter, through Mission Sonlight, you learned of the rapidly growing work of the church in the Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

When the Southern Asia-Pacific Division was organized and renamed, the headquarters moved from Singapore to Silang, Cavite in the Philippines. It is from these modern offices that the work of the Adventist Church is overseen for the Division's territory, which includes more than 6,000 organized Seventh-day Adventist Churches.

Challenges in this territory are great. The borders of the territory stretch from its eastern edge in the Pacific Ocean, and the island nations which make up the Guam Micronesia Mission, to its western edge which includes Sri Lanka, located off the southern tip of India. Other countries within the borders of the Division include the islands of Indonesia and Malaysia. Countries of Southeast Asia are also a part of the list included in the Division's territory. If you toured this area you would walk the streets of the capitol cities of Hanoi, Vietnam, Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Bangkok, Thailand. Perhaps you would have the opportunity to visit Laos, which lies on the northern border of Thailand. You might visit the Hill Tribes in northwestern Thailand. From there you could cross over the border into Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. This is the country

that came alive to many Seventh-day Adventists through the stories of Eric B. Hare. On the northwest border of Myanmar, lies the country of Bangladesh.

Over 744 million people live within the borders of the Division's territory and 876,000 of them are Seventh-day Adventists. Throughout the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, many religious beliefs and customs are practiced. As Adventists tell the story of Jesus in these countries they face the challenge of witnessing to Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Taoist, Confucians and animists.

AS MISSION SONLIGHT VISITED IN THE PHILIPPINES WE BECAME CLOSELY ACQUAINTED WITH ITS ENDANGERED SPECIES POPULATION WHICH IS ALSO A NATURAL RESOURCE. AN ALLIGATOR FARM ENSURES THE FUTURE FOR THESE CREATURES AND PROVIDES A SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE LOCALS HERE IN PRINCESA CITY. PRINCESA CITY IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PALAWAN ATTACHED MISSION FIELD.

AS WITH MOST OF THE ISLAND NATIONS IN THE PACIFIC, ONE OF THE MAJOR LOCAL INDUSTRIES IS FISHING. SOME OF THE WEALTHIEST ADVENTIST MEMBERS SEND THEIR FISHING BOATS FROM THIS DOCK JUST OUTSIDE ZAMBOANGA CITY AND HAVE TAKEN US TO SEE HOW THE FISH ARE BROUGHT IN, PACKED AND PREPARED FOR SALE IN THE MARKETS OR SHIPPED TO THE AMERICAS. ZAMBOANGA CITY IS ALSO THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE WORK IN THE SOUTHWESTERN MINDANAO MISSION. LIKE THE DISCIPLES, THESE MISSION FISHERMEN ARE USING THEIR RESOURCES TO CATCH MEN FOR CHRIST.

THE PHILIPPINES ARE A PLACE OF NATURAL BEAUTY... THERE ARE BEAUTIFUL VIEWS... AND BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE. YET POVERTY MARS THE BEAUTY OF SO MANY AREAS. NOT FAR FROM THE CITIES ARE REMOTE AREAS WHERE THERE IS NO RUNNING WATER AND ONLY OCCASIONAL ELECTRICITY. CHILDREN WALKING TO SCHOOL, PASS BY RICE FIELDS,

AND SOMETIMES SHARE THE ROAD NOT ONLY WITH MOTORCYCLES AND CARS, BUT ALSO WITH FARM LIVESTOCK.

THESE REMOTE LOCATIONS OFFER LITTLE IMPROVED RESOURCES TO EACH GENERATION. AS THE POPULATION INCREASES, HUMBLE SCHOOLS ARE BUILT TO MEET THIS GROWTH, BUT LITTLE OR NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IS OFFERED, NO HOPE IN GOD IS BEFORE THEM. THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IS CHANGING THIS FOR THE FILIPPINO PEOPLE.

The 13th Sabbath offering this quarter will be used to further the educational possibilities of young people in the Philippines. Alberto Gulfan, Division president explains how the funds will be used.

Alberto Gulfan: (00:44-) During the first quarter of 2009 we have decided that as a recipient of the 13th Sabbath offering overflow we will divide these monies into 3 places. We have decided to put this into our school projects where our young people could train for service for the Lord.

Narrator: Your offerings will help to build classrooms at Palawan Adventist Academy in the northern Philippines and at Dumagete in the central Philippines as well as the completion of a secondary school in Zamboanga City in the southern Philippines.

Alberto Gulfan: In the North Philippine Union Mission we are having the project in Palawan Adventist Academy. This academy has been there for more than 30 years.

() They have been producing good students so far and we already have some pastors who are graduates.

Narrator: The remoteness of Palawan creates special challenges for the students who attend and their families. WE'LL SHOW THAT THESE STUDENTS LOOK forward to the opportunities of new courses of study, which will be made available with a larger classroom facility.

Alberto Gulfan: (02:03-) The second project will be a new academy in one of our newest mission fields. This is in Central Philippine Union Conference. This mission is about eleven years old but they do not have a school of their own.

Narrator: The third project will be located in the South Philippine Union Conference. Seventh-day Adventists HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY to tell the story of Jesus in Zamboanga City.

Edwin Gulfan: (1:03-) This is the city in the South Philippines that has the largest concentration of Muslims in the southern most tip of the country. This is also known as the Latino capital of Asia. (1:35-1:46) This is the only city in the country that has maintained the language-speaking heritage of the Spanish colonization of the country for 400 years.

Narrator: The plans for reaching Muslims for Christ in Zamboanga City are exciting. During this quarter you'll learn how Muslim parents are eager for their children to attend the Adventist school. You'll learn of the plans that the school has to help students continue their education after their primary years. This will allow the teachers to have further contact with their non-Christian students and provide more opportunities to share with them the good news of the soon coming of Jesus.

Alberto Gulfan: (4:59-) I would like to make an appeal to the world wide membership of the Seventh-day Adventist church to please support these projects to give liberally.

(5:15-5:33) I believe that every part of the year is a good time to give in order to support projects that will enhance the work of the church, especially in building up the schools serving our young people in these three places.

Narrator: As you listen to the mission stories this quarter, imagine what it would be like to live your life without knowing the saving power and love of Jesus. How would your life be different if you had no hope for the future? On Sabbath, March 29, you will have the opportunity to share the story of Jesus with someone you have never met. Your generous offering will help young people come in contact with teachers who have dedicated their lives to sharing Jesus in the classroom. What will you give this 13th Sabbath? What will you sacrifice during the next FEW weeks so you can share Jesus with a child in the Philippines? From the Southern Asia-Pacific Division this is Mission SONlight