

FROM THE FRONTLINES

“Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little.”

-Edmund Burke

ADVICE FOR THE FRONTLINES

Volunteer service is not always easy. In fact, most of the time it's downright challenging! Wherever you are serving, we want your volunteer experience to be a great one--one that changes your life for the better. So, in each issue, we will include a tip that we hope will help make your volunteer service a little easier.

Tip #2: Be Flexible!

The nature of volunteer service is often unpredictable. When you arrive to start your assignment, you may find that you are asked to do something that was not in the original list of your assignment duties. If you are going to teach, you may even find that you are asked to teach a different grade than you signed up for. This may be frustrating at first, but as a volunteer, you will want to get used to expecting the unexpected. Remember that many calling organizations have limited resources and staff, so they need volunteers who are flexible enough to adapt to different situations and assignments. Above all, remember that you are there to serve, and always pray that God will enable you to meet the tasks and challenges at hand with success!

PRAYER REQUESTS

A volunteer in an undisclosed country asks us for prayers for new converts who were baptized five months ago. Let us pray that they grow daily in Christ, and that He will give them the courage to stand up for their new beliefs, no matter what trials they may face.

Volunteer Solomon van Wyk asks for our prayers as he and his wife and child leave their home country for the first time to volunteer in South Korea.

WHERE IN THE WORLD???

Like a good guessing game? Send us interesting and high quality photos of sights in the country where you are a volunteer. Tell us what country it is and we'll print your picture along with some hints (written by you), so that others can guess where in the world it is! Please send pictures and hints to avcnewsletter@gmail.com

HUMOR AROUND THE WORLD

Last week I was giving a makeup conversation quiz to a couple of my Level 2 English students. One of them had been absent for several days and had not even been there for the discussion days I was testing over (which happened to be Computers and Appliances). During a conversation quiz, the students are supposed to ask each other questions and give answers from clues in the back of the book, based on questions they've practiced before.

One of the clues was "Size (big - rice cooker)." My poor student looked and looked at the clue, and finally said, "I'm sorry, teacher, but I don't know what is rice cooker?"

Without any hesitation, I answered him, "chang gee bap sote," which is Korean for rice cooker (thanks to my flash cards). My other student just about fell off his chair in shock that I knew the word and could answer the question before he could. But that wasn't the funny part.

The student who asked the question suddenly got a look of understanding in his eyes and said, "Oooohh! I thought 'rice cooker' was a person!"

Think about it: how big is your rice cooker?

-Kathryn Arnott

USA volunteer to South Korea
English and Religion Teacher

CORRESPONDENCE

We welcome your submissions* for all sections of *From the Frontlines*, including, but not limited to: prayer requests, brief stories of funny things that have happened to you during volunteer service, reflections on culture, exciting news about your calling organization that you'd like to share, poems or thoughts about service and more. Please limit your submissions to 150-250 words or less. Send all correspondence for the *From the Frontlines* newsletter to avcnewsletter@gmail.com. Please send your submissions even if they are not in English; we will have them translated so they can be shared with the rest of the volunteer world.

*Your submission may be used for *Mission Post* and/or other publications of the General Conference and Adventist Volunteer Service.



ENCOURAGEMENT: FROM ONE VOLUNTEER TO ANOTHER

Two years ago in 2006, my friend and I decided we wanted to study together at Montemorelos University in Mexico. When he got his visa to study there, I became excited to get mine. Day after day I waited, but it never came. In 2007, another friend was accepted and granted a visa. I applied for a visa again, and this time, I thought for sure I would get it. But, again, I was met with disappointment.

I questioned God, "Why didn't I get a visa? Why them and not me?"

Finally, in 2008, I began to lose hope of ever getting a visa. I applied to three countries: Germany, America and Italy. The school in Germany requested that I send 6,000 euros to attend there. Unfortunately, I only had enough money to take care of my mother and grandmother. And although I was offered a position in Atlanta, Georgia, I didn't take the call because I despaired, believing I would never get a visa for America.

The answer from Italy came in June of 2008, after I had given up all hope. A friend of mine who studies at Villa Aurora Adventist University encouraged me to apply for a visa. I think an angel must have been whispering in his ear! I easily obtained a visa for Italy, and on the same day my visa was validated, I left my home country on my first flight ever!

Looking back, I think God was teaching me a lesson in patience and trust. Proverbs 3: 5 and 6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path."

For some time now, I have sought my own flights of fancy, but finally, with God's leading, I have found a much higher calling in Italy.

-Giorgi Rusiani
Georgia volunteer to Italy
Computer/Website Assistant

SPREAD THE WORD!!

Volunteers are urgently needed for the following positions:

Look up these call numbers on the volunteer website for further information.

NSD.JLS.2009.01 - English Language School Teacher - Japan
SAD.NBUM.2009.01 - Librarian - Brazil
SAD.UNASP2.2008.02 - French/English Language Teacher - Brazil
WAD.AMH.2009.02 - Surgeon - Ghana
WAD.SUGH.2009.02 - Pharmacist - Ghana
IAD.UNM.2009.03 - English Teacher - Mexico

MISSION POST

Don't forget--we're always looking for new stories for *Mission Post* magazine. Submit your great volunteer stories and high resolution pictures to AVCpublications@gc.adventist.org

GOOD TASTES

We want to know about the best dishes you've eaten in the country where you are volunteering. Send a favorite recipe to us, and we'll share it with the rest of the world.

INSURANCE MATTERS

Question: What do I do if I get sick or get hurt during my volunteer service?

Answer: If you get sick or are injured during your volunteer service, there are a few things that you need to keep in mind. First of all, for ANY accident or illness, no matter how minor, you must see a doctor **LOCALLY** and have the visit documented. If you do not do this, the insurance carrier can reject your claim. Do not return home for treatment before first communicating with the insurance carrier.

Another thing to keep in mind is that the current deductible for accident and sickness coverage is \$150.00. This means that the party responsible for paying for your insurance coverage must pay \$150.00 worth of medical bills before the insurance will start paying for anything. In most cases, calling organizations pay insurance premiums and deductibles, unless otherwise indicated on the "Financial Details" section of the Service Request.

When you need to go to the doctor's office, either you or your calling organization (depending upon who is financially responsible for your insurance coverage) will need to pay for the doctor's visit up front, and then will be reimbursed for the visit by filing a claim with Adventist Risk Management once the bill, or a combination of bills, is over \$150.00.

As stated above, the insurance carrier can reject your claim if medical bills and visits are not well documented. That is why it is important to save all your receipts for medical visits—even those for visits that cost under \$150.00. Your claim will be rejected if you are not able to prove that you (or the calling organization) have already paid \$150.00 worth of doctor's bills. To file a claim for an accident or illness that happened during your volunteer service, download the ASV Claim Form from the Adventist Risk Management website (www.adventistrisk.org) -- see information under Claims/Filing a Claim).

Keep in mind that ASV insurance does not cover pre-existing conditions.

