

# FROM THE FRONTLINES

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”

-Anne Frank

## 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 would like to give you a tip that we hope will help make your volunteer service a little easier.

### Tip #1: Pray About Everything!

God is our greatest source of help! Let Him know what's troubling you. He wants to be able to lift your burdens, if you will only let Him. 1 Peter 5:7 says, “Cast all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you.” So, whether you're having difficulty obtaining a visa or you are already serving and are feeling homesick, whether you have come down with an illness or you are not getting along with your colleagues—whatever it is, pray about it and be specific about it! God can and will help—and usually He will do it in a way you never would have expected. Test Him in this, and see what unexpected things God will do for you!



## WHERE IN THE WORLD???

The country where this photo was taken is famous for kimchi. But what country is it? Send in your guesses—unless you are a volunteer in the same country where the picture was taken!

If you guess correctly, you can send us a photo of the country where you are serving, and we'll feature it in the next newsletter, along with some hints (written by you), so other volunteers can guess where in the world it is.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

A volunteer in an undisclosed country in the Middle East asks for our prayers. Please pray for the success of all of the projects where this volunteer is located. Pray also that God will protect our workers there from persecution and imprisonment.

## HUMOR AROUND THE WORLD

Today there was a terrorist outside on the playground. The children weren't allowed to go outside. I didn't know we couldn't take our students out to play, and when I rounded the corner to go outside with my class, another teacher and faculty member started waving their arms frantically at me and my students. We made a hasty retreat to our classroom and proceeded to have recess there.

The kids invented games to play inside, like making a puzzle out of blocks of styrofoam. They also played with math counters and anything else they could find. It didn't last long; only about 15 or 20 minutes and we were back to work. My students seemed to enjoy playing in the classroom, but I had been looking forward to getting outside for a few minutes.

Too bad my plans were hampered, as we were held hostage by a terrorist monkey that had wandered onto our campus!

--Scott Ishkanian  
USA volunteer to Taiwan  
Elementary School Teacher

## CORRESPONDENCE

We welcome your submissions\* for all sections of *From the Frontlines*, including, but not limited to the following: prayer requests, brief stories of funny things that have happened to you during volunteer service, reflections on culture, 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](mailto: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.

## REFLECTIONS ON CULTURE<sup>1</sup> SOUTH KOREA

She is barely taller than the level of my kneecap with her flowered sundress and matching shoes. Two pigtailed evenly set on her head frame a face that contains her beautiful almond-shaped eyes. The entrance of the supermarket is in front of her. A young man smartly dressed in the store's uniform stands at the side of the entrance, bowing and respectfully greeting those who enter. Her mother, in a hurry, has already passed through. But the little girl's steps have slowed as her attention is riveted on the greeter. She pauses. Then, with a look of delight on her face, her hands go out on both sides and she bows a low bow. It all happens in a matter of seconds, unobserved by most. But I am privileged to have been a few steps behind, and everything inside of me wants to pick her up and hug her.

The bow.

It comes in all shapes and forms, from a slight nod of the head to a full-on body bend. You see it everywhere. It may be two businessmen smartly dressed in suits, a child to an elderly person, someone saying good-bye, someone in church before singing or preaching a sermon, students to teachers or casually among friends as an unnoticed habit. I have discovered that it is possible to bow when walking briskly down the street, in a crosswalk, or when driving a car.

It always amuses me when one of my students is running up the stairs for class and I am coming down from the 4th floor. They barely miss a step as they bow, "Hello, teacher!" and continue on, breathing hard from their sprint. The other day, I opened the door of the classroom to find my students milling about, talking noisily. Tim, 16 years old and teenager through and through, immediately made an about face and bowed low, laughing at the surprise on my face.

This respectful form of greeting is part of the culture I have come to love, even though it feels odd to have people bow to me. Stranger yet, I find myself incorporating it into my own *ahn young ha say yoh's* (hellos) without even noticing. So, if next time I see you, my greeting includes a slight dipping of the head, please don't think I am strange--it's just the Korean in me.

--Kathryn Arnott  
USA volunteer to South Korea  
English Religion Teacher

## SPREAD THE WORD!!

Volunteers are urgently needed for the following positions:

ECD.AUCA.2008.03 - Human Resource Assistant - Rwanda  
SAD.UNASP2.2008.01 - Language Institute Assistant - Brazil  
SAD.CEvisa.2008.01 - Massage Assistant - Brazil  
SAD.PUU.2008.01 - English Teacher - Peru  
SSD.CAS.2008.01 - English/Math Teacher - Cambodia  
WAD.AMH.2008.01 - Medical Doctor - Ghana

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



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[www.adventistvolunteers.org](http://www.adventistvolunteers.org)

## 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](mailto: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: How do I know if I have insurance coverage for my volunteer assignment?

You can check your insurance status on the Adventist Volunteer Service (AVS) online database. You should check your insurance status before you depart for your volunteer assignment, while you are in service, or when you extend your service, to make sure that your coverage is current.

When you log onto the database, you will be able to tell your insurance status by checking your volunteer status on your homepage.\* If your assignment has already been approved and voted, and if insurance has already been requested for you, your status will be either "Departure Arranged" or "In-Service." If, however, your status is "Assignment Approved," insurance has not been requested for you on the database. In this case, contact your division volunteer coordinator and ask them to request insurance for you. You will find their contact information on the AVS online database on your homepage.

If you are extending your volunteer service, and if an insurance extension has been requested for you, your status on the database will be "Extended." If however, your status is "Extended (needing insurance)," an insurance extension has not been requested for you, and you will need to contact your calling division volunteer coordinator (listed at the bottom of your homepage).

\*Volunteers who have been in service for a long time (more than two years) may not have a login and password for the AVS online database. There may also be some volunteers who have forgotten their login and password for the database. To get a new login and password for the database, please contact your sending division volunteer coordinator. To find their contact information, go to our website and click on AVC Staff/Division Contacts.