

Bold for Jesus

by Dorothy Hayward



As we waited for the ferry to return to the mainland, I listened to the Sabbath morning sermon by our new General Conference president, and my heart was stirred to be bold for Jesus.

We were just returning from a week's holiday on the beautiful island of Koh Samui, Thailand, where we had interacted with a number of wonderful, friendly folk. I reflected on how my prayers to make this time relaxing and refreshing while interacting and building friendships had been answered in so many ways.

The sermon was fitting with the conviction already in my heart that I needed to pray more earnestly for divine appointments. I have done this frequently during my morning devotional time and

been surprised at the doors God has opened—in person, on the phone, and in texts and emails.

Boarding the crowded ferry, my husband and I hunted for two seats together. I found the spot over in a corner. The young Thai lady beside me spoke very good English, and we chatted for a while—small talk, just to get acquainted. She then took out a book she was reading, so I proceeded to answer texts on my iPad.

Soon she got up but put her sweater and book there to save her seat. It was a Thai book, and the title written in large Thai letters did not mean much to me. Then my eyes fell on the subtitle in English: “A Guide to Fighting the Demons in my Heart.” This was my kind of book. I immediately started to pray for her. She was a single professional woman going on holiday to her hometown. “Please, Lord, bring her back to her seat soon and give me the words to say and an opportunity to share with her more.”

I waited and prayed, watching the time tick away. We would not have many more moments before they would begin announcing our need to return to our vehicles.

Sadly, she did not return to her seat before we had to leave, but I did see her, and we briefly interacted as we made our way through the crowded hallway.

I had spent most of our trip reflecting on the book and my limited understanding of the Thai culture. This was not your average person, but a hurting child of God who wanted something more—more understanding of herself and her personal struggles.

I believe that younger professionals in Asia today are becoming more open to psychological conversations and talking about their feelings, whereas, in my experience, the traditional Asian way is to keep everything inside, share very few inner thoughts or feelings, and be very guarded.

My prayer for this young woman is that she will continue her search for answers and that the Holy Spirit will guide her to truth and Himself in the process.

Dorothy Hayward and her husband, Pastor Bruce Hayward, have served as career missionaries with Adventist Frontier Missions since 2017. Having always had a deep interest in missions and to finish the work of Jesus, they offer their guidance and counseling to the missionaries in the Asia region. This story has been shared with permission of Adventist Frontier Missions.

World Church Prayer Requests

OCTOBER 17 — 23, 2025

- **World Church:** Pray for church leaders, and newly elected officers, as they return to their various Divisions, Unions, Conferences and fields of service. Pray that God will go with them and strengthen them, and that they will be empowered for the task that lies before them. Pray for their families and their children.
- **United States:** Pray for Cheap Yellowstone Tours, a Creation-based Yellowstone National Park tour company. This ministry is designed to accommodate Creationists and to expose a portion of the 5 million Park visitors to the idea of Intelligent Design and a Creator God.
- **Papua New Guinea:** Pray for the Tete SDA Primary School, an evangelistic field for children. Pray for those in leadership positions that they will have wisdom and intelligence as they seek to further God's work.
- **Middle East:** Pray for God to raise up brave missionaries willing to work among the 746 people groups in the 20 countries of the Middle East Division. He has already begun a great work in this area.
- **Kenya:** Pray for the Valley Central SDA Chebaiywo Church that it will grow in its influence within the community. Pray that the Holy Spirit will be poured out in an abundant measure and that the members will be filled with love and unity as they seek to minister to others.
- **Tanzania:** Pray for the Uzima Milele Ministry. They design digital content in Swahili to advance God's work in countries that speak this language. Pray that they will be inspired and filled with the Holy Spirit as they seek to continue Jesus' mission.
- **Malawi:** Pray for the Luwanga SDA Church as they seek to provide food, soap, and Vaseline to 673 prisoners including 60 incarcerated Seventh-day Adventists. Pray that God will provide the necessary funds to purpose these necessities.