

From Rapper to Preacher

by Adventist Mission



Sebastián lived two lives in Chile.

At home and high school, he was quiet, studious, and obedient. On Sabbath mornings, he went to church with his parents. He even held leadership positions in the church. But after school and after church on Sabbath, Sebastián turned into a rapper who drew large crowds with his performances.

Sebastián grew up in a Seventh-day Adventist home. When he was a boy, his parents were mission-minded teachers who worked at several Adventist schools in Chile. As a teen, Sebastián wasn't interested in church. He thought that the only

thing it offered was monotony. He had heard about God all his life, but he had never developed a relationship with God through prayer and daily devotions. All he knew about God was what he heard in church. It seemed like God's plans didn't include him.

Outside of church, hip-hop music was sweeping across Chile and the rest of South America. The music hypnotized 14-year-old Sebastián. He felt transformed when he listened. He was particularly attracted to freestyle rap, a style of hip-hop music in which artists improvise unwritten verse to a beat. He joined other teens at rap battles, where they debated and insulted each other on topics such as history, science, and religion. Participants had to be well-read to win the contests. As Sebastián won, his friends encouraged him to keep competing. He competed in city parks against much older people in their mid-20s. One Sabbath afternoon, he won a rap battle by successfully defending Satan during a debate about Satan.

Sebastián liked the challenge, and he enjoyed the glory of victory. He used alcohol and other substances that were common at the rap battles. He listened to hip-hop all the time. Somehow, he managed to keep his two lives separate. His parents didn't know that he was leading a double life.

Four years passed. Then Covid struck. Chile went into lockdown, and Sebastián was stuck at home. He found rap battles online, but they weren't the same. His world lost its meaning.

For the first time, Sebastián thought about God. He felt empty, and a desire grew in him to know God. He had grown up having family worship every day, but he had never thought about having personal time with God. No one had ever told him that the way to know God was to spend time with Him in the Bible and prayer.

Sebastián wanted to have a relationship with Jesus, and he wondered if Jesus felt the same way. To find

out, he asked Jesus one day to wake him up in the morning to spend time together. Sebastián usually slept in, and it was a struggle to get up in the morning. But after he made that prayer request, he began to wake up at 5 or 6 o'clock. He was so happy and relieved. He was sure that Jesus was saying, "I am alive and interested in having a relationship with you."

As Sebastián read the Bible, he realized that it was more than a book. The passages of the Bible were deeper and more attractive than any rap verse that he could improvise. For the first time, he stopped feeling empty. He no longer felt alone. He spent many hours with God in the Bible and prayer during the Covid pandemic.

As restrictions were lifted, Sebastián joined an Adventist youth group in selling books door- to-door. The experience strengthened the inner transformation that had started during the pandemic. As he shared his love for Jesus, Sebastián sensed God calling him to become a pastor.

Today, Sebastián is 21 and studying theology at Chile Adventist University. He is considered a star student and serves as a student chaplain. Sebastián expressed gratitude to God for the opportunity to study at Chile Adventist University.

"I feel it is truly an act of grace toward my life because I see where I was and where I am, and there is a radical difference," he said. "I had to change my lifestyle, my thoughts, the things I listen to, and the things that I was consuming. God is still working in me," he added. "I hope to be worthy of the calling that He has made of me."

Chile Adventist University educates about 3,000 students, most of whom are not Adventist. This story has been shared with permission of Adventist Mission.

World Church Prayer Requests

DECEMBER 5 - 11, 2025

- **World Church:** Pray that many would turn their eyes to Jesus in a fresh way as we enter the Holiday Season. Rather than this just being another time to give presents, pray that we each would find ways to introduce those around us to The greatest gift—a personal relationship with Jesus!
- **Panama:** Pray for Emanuel, a group dedicated to reaching the highlands of Panama with the good news of Jesus. They are borrowing a long covered truck trailer wagon and are painting and adding chairs and other amenities so it can be used in the meetings. Pray that God will provide all that is needed. Pray that His Spirit will go ahead and prepare the hearts of the people for Him to come.
- **Fiji:** Pray for the Nagigi SDA Church as they do the preparatory work for the Trans-Pacific Union Mission FijiForChrist Evangelism event in 2026. Pray that the members will be consecrated to Jesus and that He will be working in and through them in this outreach.
- **Japan:** Pray for the Tokuyama SDA Church, a small congregation in western Japan. They are preparing to hold an evangelistic series to reveal the true meaning of Christmas in their very secular community. Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead the church members and for many people to attend and be touched by Jesus' love.
- **Tuvalu:** Pray for the Funafuti SDA Church in Tuvalu, a country in Oceania. Pray that Jesus will inspire the members in their mission to befriend and disciple the people of Tuvalu as part of the Tuvalu for Christ evangelistic event. Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill each member.
- **Argentina:** Pray for the Iglesia de General Paz y del Centro, that intercessory prayer groups would form and that the church will be united in prayer. Pray that the leaders will be trained and disciplined in what God has called them to do and that the church will have a school to continue training missionaries in their community.
- **Papua New Guinea:** Pray for the Tete SDA Church as they seek unity and wisdom in church administration. Pray for the Holy Spirit to move on each person involved and bring peace, understanding, and cooperation together in continued evangelism.