

WEEK 28 • JULY 15, 2023

Micronesia: Following God's Leading

John 16:13—"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

I'm Ellie, and a text message changed my life.

I was in my second year of college when a friend texted me. "How would you like to be a volunteer teacher in Chuuk this year?" her text read. Confused, I wondered, Who is Chuck, and why do I need to teach him? Then I realized she was asking me to consider working as a volunteer teacher on the island of Chuuk in Micronesia.

I learned that Chuuk Seventh-day Adventist School had only six teachers for its 150 students. They desperately needed more teachers. I prayed for guidance, filled out an application, and a few weeks later boarded a plane to Micronesia.

Although Chuuk seemed relatively modern at first glance, I didn't have to look far to see that traditional spiritual beliefs still held people in their fearful grasp. Then a student told me that her neighbor's son had become possessed by a demon and would stare into space, not acknowledging anyone.

Chuuk's tropical climate and fantastic diving sites are big draws, but they pale compared to the needs of the island people—a people desperate for truth. With most of its students from non-Adventist families, Chuuk School is truly a mission school, and I really believe that I'm making a difference in the lives of the students and the community.

I'm amazed at how far God has led in this incredible journey called faith. Some days my best hardly feels good enough, but I believe that God put me here for a reason and gives me the strength I need to serve Him. I now understand that sometimes the success of our Christian walk isn't measured by our own "goodness" or capability, but by how we listen to and obey God's voice.

God calls each of us to stretch our faith, whether it's to go where He calls us, or to give regularly and systematically as He directs. Giving includes faithfully returning God's tithe and listening to His voice as He calls us to covenant with him in giving a regular and systematic offering, called "Promise", besides our tithe. He asks us to give. I challenge you to ask God, "What percentage of my income do You want me to regularly give as my Promise offering?" Then listen for His answer. Saying "yes" to God is the only way to stretch your faith.

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