

WEEK 36 • SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

## Unnamed Opportunity: When God Opens a Door

Proverbs 6:6-8—“Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest.”

God works in wonderful ways to open doors to spread His message of love and faith around the world. And our offerings are allocated to be able to meet the needs of new ministries. But what happens when carefully planned evangelistic meetings are successful way beyond expectations? Suddenly existing churches overflow and new churches must be built, rented, or purchased quickly. But that costs money—money way beyond the planned amount the division set aside before the evangelist meetings began. How can the division provide church homes that new believers need to grow spiritually?

For years the Adventist Church has been blessed with radio and television programs expanding globally. New stations are sprouting across the world, and new languages are reaching thousands of new listeners every year. But this expansion requires more equipment, more staff, and more satellite time. When an unexpected opportunity opens, allowing the Church to reach out to an otherwise unreachable region of the world, how does the Church provide the funds to make such a giant step for God?

God has impressed the Church to make a way to prepare for the unexpected by establishing a fund with resources that will be available when such unexpected blessings come to God’s people. It’s called the Unusual Opportunities Offering. For Adventists living where the Combined Offering Plan was already adopted (more than 90% of the Adventist population), a determined portion of all their unassigned offerings, collected at any time, will automatically be directed to this fund. But for those residing in areas that still use different offering plans, a special offering for this fund is taken once a year. Today is a new opportunity to build up that fund so the church is ready when God says “yes” to our prayers.

Perhaps you remember when the Soviet Union broke into numerous countries in the early 1990s. Suddenly restrictions preventing Christians from openly preaching about God in the countries that made up the former Soviet Union fell away, and hundreds of ministers entered this vast region and shared God’s love with millions. The cost of this outreach was high, but funds from the Unusual Opportunities fund helped make this evangelistic outreach possible.

**God has many plans to reach others for His kingdom. Let’s do our part to be ready when the opportunity comes to reach out for God today.**

