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The *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The preparation of the guides is under the general direction of a worldwide Sabbath School Manuscript Evaluation Committee, whose members serve as consulting editors. The published guide reflects the input of the committee and thus does not solely or necessarily represent the intent of the author(s).



The Bible

People all over the world have found in the Bible the answers to their deepest needs.

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians we believe that God reveals Himself to us in this fallen world. Among all the various ways He has done so, the Bible is, we believe, the greatest expression of that revelation available today—the final and ultimate standard of truth for a fallen world.

The Bible does, indeed, make claims about itself that very few books ever do. Even more so, it comes with a massive amount of evidence to back up those claims. It is self-authenticating; its proof comes built right in.

It's not just the incredible prophecies, however impressive; it's not just its historical accuracy, however authenticating; it's not just the revelation of God as revealed in its pages, however powerful. Though all these have their role in showing that the Bible is the Word of God, perhaps the greatest evidence for the Bible is the influence and impact for good it has had and still continues to have on the lives of those who apply its teaching to themselves. Despite all the evidence of prophecy, history, and so forth, in some ways the most powerful proof is found in the Bible's amazing ability to bring hope, joy, and promise to people thousands of years after it was first written. For many centuries now, people all over the world have found in the Bible the answers to their deepest needs. And why not? After all, it's the greatest revelation of the only One who can meet those needs—our Creator and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

With such claims made for the Bible, it's no wonder that people have challenged its authenticity and reliability. Is it truly the Word of God? Does the Creator of the universe really speak through its pages? How reliable are the texts? What scientific evidence, if any, backs up its claims? What does archaeology say

for Today

regarding the Bible? And even if we believed that the Book is inspired, is it applicable to us who live in the twenty-first century? And if it is, how and why?

These, and more, are some of the questions our Bible study guide for this quarter will address. We just as easily could have titled it “Why I believe in the Bible,” for in it the authors show why they do trust the Bible and have made it the spiritual and moral guide of their lives.

Even more important, during this quarter we seek to show just how relevant the Bible remains for us today—pretty impressive for a book whose latest sections were written about seventeen hundred years before doctors finally discovered that it might be a good idea to wash their hands before surgery. Again, it’s in this, the Bible’s power to change our lives for good, that we find some of the greatest proof of its relevancy and importance.

Jonathan Kuntaraf, also known as Oey Giok Kun, is a native of Indonesia. At the time of this writing he was associate director of the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department at the General Conference. He and his wife, Dr. Kathleen Liwidjaja (an associate in the Health and Temperance Department at the General Conference), have two grown children.

Got Questions?

Sabbath School University *has answers!*

Sabbath School University is a 28-minute discussion of the *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*. SSU discusses the content and strategies to enrich your Sabbath School with fellowship, outreach, Bible study, and missions. Sabbath School leaders, don't miss this weekly broadcast on Hope Channel.



www.hopetv.org

Ghanaian Church Plant in Netherlands

Pessimistic, that was how I felt arriving in the Netherlands. I expected to find only a post-modern people, no one interested in God or the Bible. To my surprise, I discovered people on fire for God, desperate to reach out into the secular darkness.

One congregation I visited faces an immense challenge. Immigrants, mostly from Ghana in West Africa, comprise this 200-member congregation. Their dream is to own a church building from which ministry efforts could be expanded. Unfortunately, low individual income cripples any effort to buy or build. A rented day-care facility is all they have, and the costs are prohibitive, more than they would pay on a mortgage—if one could be gotten.

The Adventist Church in the Netherlands is working to help these wonderful people find a church home. And it makes me proud to see Adventists lending a hand to other Adventists in need. Our support of each other is essential to telling the world about Jesus.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will assist this congregation in buying a home. My mission offerings will make a difference for an amazing group of believers, and that's a great feeling. For me, it's personal.

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