

BEYOND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE NOVEMBER 9, 2024

AUDIO

VÍDEO

sc. **01**

Dr. George H. Rue devoted most of his life to serving as a medical missionary in Seoul, South Korea.

sc. **02**

He and his family arrived in Soonan in 1929 and soon moved to Seoul, where he took office as president of the Soonan Adventist Hospital, which began as an eight-bed facility. But funds raised from each church, the 13th Sabbath Offering, and other allocations from the General Conference enabled in 1935 the construction of a 138-bed hospital, now located in Seoul, which later became the Seoul Adventist Hospital, with more than 470 beds.

sc. **03**

Dr. Rue's tireless efforts caught the attention of President Rhee, who recruited him as his personal physician. But in 1950, the hospital's operations were halted due to the Korean War, and Dr. Rue was sent south to care for refugees and open new hospitals.

sc. **04**

Moved by the increasing number of orphans, he and his wife opened an orphanage. In 1954, President Rhee awarded Dr. Rue the Republic of Korea Medal, the highest civilian honor for service to the nation.

sc. **05**

Miraculously, the Seoul Hospital remained standing at the end of the war, despite many buildings being destroyed. Later, Dr. Rue learned that a high-ranking North Korean officer, who had been his patient, ordered his soldiers not to harm the hospital during the invasion.

AUDIO

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sc. 06

All this happened due to God's intervention, the self-sacrificing life of a missionary family, and missionary offerings. Offerings are crucial for the World and Local Missions because they support various initiatives that tithe funds cannot cover. Tithes cannot be used to build hospitals, for example.

sc. 07

But to which project should we send our offerings? Moved by sympathy for some missionaries or because of good promotion, some people decide to send all their offerings to specific projects. At the same time, all other fields or even their local churches remain unsupported. Others invest all their offerings in their local churches because they are there, and in this case the foreign fields are left to starve. Still others direct their offerings to missionary projects that are highly promoted, while projects that cannot be promoted for safety reasons, for example, do not receive their support.

sc. 08

In Acts 1:8, Jesus' missionary commission emphasizes the equal importance of local, regional, and international missions. Therefore, we need to support all those segments equitably. The General Conference introduced the Combined Offering Plan in 2002. This plan recommends members give unassigned offerings to address the imbalance in offering distribution. When this happens, 50-60% of all unassigned offerings, given at any time or mode, support the local church's mission. The remaining 40-50% will support all other church's regional and international missionary efforts.

sc. 09

By regularly giving unassigned offerings in regions where the Combined Offering Plan is practiced, you contribute simultaneously to all missionary segments, and projects of the Adventist Church worldwide. But if, in addition to this regular and systematic unassigned offering you are impressed to give more to foreign missions, access <https://www.adventistmission.org/donate>. While choosing how to distribute our offerings, may we put our desires last and God first.