



**Your Weekly  
Prayer Inspiration**  
*and Prayer Requests*  
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**Revival**  
& REFORMATION

January 28, 2018

## **Lightning in Answer to Prayer**

By Andrew McChesney

Pastor Inaciu da Costa got up early in the morning for a long walk on the island of East Timor. He had to travel 30 miles (50 kilometers) from his home in the town of Lospalos and up a mountain to the village of Luro, where he needed to speak with a missionary in the village.

Inaciu ate a breakfast of rice and leafy green vegetables prepared by his wife. Then he packed his Bible and umbrella. Rain fell often and unexpectedly on this tropical island north of Australia, so it was a good idea to carry an umbrella. Inaciu didn't own a car or a motorcycle, so he went by foot.

Inaciu stopped at the homes of several church members along the road, where he prayed and read the Bible with them. Not many Adventists lived in East Timor, so he didn't have many places to stop. But the visits did slow him down, so he was only about two-thirds of the way to the village when night fell.

Inaciu looked at the star-lit sky and wondered what to do. He still had to walk 15 miles (25 kilometers) through a thick jungle and up a mountain to reach the village. He was hungry because he hadn't eaten anything since breakfast. He also hadn't brought a flashlight. Then it started to rain. Inaciu opened his umbrella and said to himself, "If I go back home, I'll have to walk 15 miles, and if I go forward, I'll also have to walk 15 miles."

Inaciu prayed for God to guide him. After praying, he realized that if he returned home, he'd have to make the same long trip again in the morning. He decided to press ahead to the village.

The rain fell lightly at first. But as Inaciu made his way up the mountain, it began to pour. Lightning flashed, and thunder crashed. After walking about 6 miles (9 kilometers), Inaciu found himself deep in the jungle. Amid the pounding rain and angry thunder, he heard the roar of something else. He listened carefully. It was the sound of a rushing river. But he could not see anything in the dark. Fear swept over him. He said to himself, "My family doesn't know the route that I am taking to the village. If I fall into the river, it could sweep me to the ocean and I could drown."

He prayed, "God, if You are willing, please help me get to the village."

Inaciu stood still for about five minutes, wondering what to do. Then bright lightning flashed, and he caught a glimpse of the wide river ahead. Inaciu prayed again. "God, if You are willing, please help me get to the village," he said. "Make the lightning last longer."

A moment later, lightning streaked across the night sky, and Inaciu saw the river clearly before him. To his surprise, the lightning didn't flicker out but kept on shining like the sun, making the jungle as bright as day.

He saw a number of logs — fallen trees — lying scattered in the river. He ran down to the water's edge and jumped from log to the next until he crossed the river. When he reached the other side, the lightning disappeared with an enormous boom of thunder. The lightning had illuminated the river for two whole minutes.

Three hours later, at midnight, he arrived in the village thanking God for the miracle of the safe trip.

*Andrew McChesney is editor for Adventist World Mission. This story is reprinted with permission.*

## **World Church Prayer Requests for Jan. 28 – Feb. 4, 2018**

- **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for the upcoming Total Member Involvement events and meetings taking place in 2018. These will occur in: Ghana (February 3-17, 2018), Japan (May 4-20, 2018), Zambia (June 8-23, 2018), and the Philippines (July 13-28, 2018).
- **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray especially for the outreach in Japan as it is a very secular culture. Pray for the Japanese pastors and church members as they prepare for the meetings and for the Japan Youth Rush Team that is going door-to-door selling books.
- **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for the General Conference Ex Officio Executive Committee members listed below. (Ex Officio means these individuals are committee members because of their position with certain entities.)
  - **Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guides:** Clifford R. Goldstein, editor
  - **Andrews University:** Andrea T. Luxton, president
  - **The Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research:** David Trim, director
  - **Biblical Research Institute:** Elias Brasil de Souza, director
  - **Geoscience Research Institute:** L. James Gibson, director
  - **Hope Channel:** Derek J. Morris, president
  - **Loma Linda University Health:** Richard H. Hart, president
  - **Ministry Magazine:** Pavel Goia, editor
  - **Past President of the General Conference:** Jan Paulsen
  - **Review and Herald Publishing Association:** Robert E. Lemon, president
  - **Ellen G. White Estate, Incorporated:** James R. Nix, president
- **PRAYER REQUEST:** Please pray for the health of our General Conference staff in Maryland. There's been quite the flu bug going around, and we need God's healing hand to be strong for service.