

Life-Changing Ride



CHILE | November 29

Varinnia

It was an Uber ride that changed many lives.

Nineteen-year-old Varinnia took an Uber ride to Chile Adventist University, where she was studying. The driver was curious about the long metal poles that she had asked him to load into the car. Varinnia worked with the Pathfinders, and the poles were for Pathfinder flags.

“What are you doing with the poles?” asked the driver, who was in his mid-50s.

“I am helping prepare for a special week of prayer organized by the Pathfinders,” Varinnia said.

The driver looked puzzled.

“What are Pathfinders?” he said.

Varinnia explained that Pathfinders are a club similar to Boy Scouts but the focus is squarely on the Bible.

“We do a lot of evangelism as well as outdoor activities, but the outdoor activities are always combined with the Bible,” she said.

The driver wanted to know more.

“Which church do you belong to?” he said.

“Seventh-day Adventist.”

“Do you live on the campus of Chile Adventist University?”

“Yes, I live in the dorm.”

“Oh, then you are a missionary,” the driver said.

“No, I’m just a student.”

The conversation turned to God and then the Bible. Varinnia asked the driver if he had a Bible at home.

“Yes,” he said. “I read it often, and I like it.”

“Would you like to study the Bible with me?” Varinnia asked.

A short time later, the driver dropped off Varinnia and her flag poles at Chile Adventist University. Not long after that, Varinnia went to his home and began Bible studies with him, his wife, and their daughter.

One might think that the Uber ride changed only the lives of the driver and his family. But it also changed the lives of his passenger and her parents.

Varinnia’s parents were very protective.



They had not wanted her to join Pathfinders or study at Chile Adventist University. They had said Pathfinders would distract her from her homework and Chile Adventist University was too far from their home in Chile's capital, Santiago. The distance from Santiago to Chile Adventist University is about 650 miles (1,040 kilometers).

So, Varinnia had enrolled at Chile Adventist University without their support. She had only found tuition money by obtaining a scholarship. She had only begun to participate in Pathfinders at the university.

For several years, Varinnia had been praying for a better relationship with her parents.

When she told her parents about the Uber ride, they were shocked.

"How did you do that?" her mother demanded.

"It was all God and the Holy Spirit," Varinnia replied.

Her parents didn't say anything more, but from that day, their relationship with their daughter changed. Her parents began to give her more freedom when they saw that God had used her to convince the Uber driver to study the Bible.

Varinnia couldn't be happier. It was an Uber ride that changed many lives.

"When I see the change in my parents, I can only say it is all God and the Holy Spirit," she said. 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, will go to Chile Adventist University in Chillán, Chile. The offering will allow 50 more students to live in dormitories on campus. Currently, the university has about 3,000 students, the vast majority of whom are not Adventist and live off campus. The expanded dormitories will be open to all but are especially needed by Adventist theology and education students who come to the university from far-off places and are studying to work in Adventist churches and schools. Varinnia lives in one of the dormitories that

Story Tips

- Show South America and Chillán, Chile, on the map.
- Pronounce Varinnia as: VAR-in-i-ya.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Varinnia at: bit.ly/Varinnia-SAD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Fast Facts

- Chile is more than 2,670 miles (4,300 km) long from north to south, but it is only 217 miles (350 km) at its widest and 40 miles (64 km) at its narrowest.
- There are different stories about the name "Chile." One is that it came from the name of a local tribal chief called Tili. Another is that it comes from a Native American word meaning either "the end of the earth" or "sea gulls." Some people think it came from the "cheele-cheele" sound a local bird makes.
- The currency of Chile is the Chilean peso.
- The Spanish conquered Chile in the 1500s. Chile became an independent republic in 1818.
- A stunning mine rescue in Chile captured people's attention around the world in 2010. A total of 33 miners were trapped 2,300 feet (700 m) below ground when a tunnel collapsed in northern Chile. Rescuers located the miners after 17 days and, two months later, over a period of 24 hours, all 33 miners were rescued.
- In 1945, Chilean Gabriela Mistral (1889–1957) became the first Latin American to receive a Nobel Prize in Literature. She appears on the 5,000 Chilean peso banknote.

will be expanded with the offering. Thank you for planning a generous offering.