



# YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

2017 • **QUARTER 2** • WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION



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**On the Cover:** Happiness attends the Adventist church on the grounds of the Gabon Mission in Libreville. A portion of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a secondary school in her country.

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 = stories of special interest to teens

# Your Offerings at Work



Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the North American Division during the first quarter 2015 provided funds for building bathhouses with showers and toilets at Camp Polaris, a Seventh-day Adventist mission camp near Dillingham, Alaska, United States of America. Thank you!



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## Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter we feature the West-Central Africa Division, which includes the countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

The division is home to more than 399 million people, including 683,318 Seventh-day Adventists.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build a new secondary school in Franceville, Gabon, where there is currently only one secondary school in the country. It will also help build a multipurpose center at Babcock University in Ogun State, Nigeria, where hundreds of youth have no building in which to worship or attend programs.

These projects are similar in that both will help our Adventist schools reach out to their largely non-Adventist student bodies. In both countries, approximately 62 percent of the population is under the age of 25, making Adventist education a top priority for mission.

What touched me most while gathering these stories is how these young people were passionately involved in mission. Their understanding was that if they were

members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, they were engaged in outreach. They were an inspiring example of Total Member Involvement, an initiative that encourages every Seventh-day Adventist, no matter how young or old, to be actively involved in reaching others for Jesus.

### Special Features

We are now on Facebook! Please visit our page and like us at [Facebook.com/missionquarterlies](https://www.facebook.com/missionquarterlies).

I encourage you to show the *Mission Spotlight* videos, which feature mission stories from around the world and from this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering countries. You can sign up to get an e-mail that includes descriptions of each video and links to download or view the videos online. Sign up at [MissionSpotlight.org/subscribe](https://MissionSpotlight.org/subscribe).

On the Leader's Resources page in the back of this quarterly, you'll find several helpful Web sites listed that will provide a wealth of supplemental material for your mission presentations.

Please remind people that they can give their weekly mission offerings and Thirteenth Sabbath Offering securely online at [Giving.AdventistMission.org](https://Giving.AdventistMission.org).

Thank you for helping your Sabbath School members connect with their spiritual brothers and sisters around the world and for encouraging them to participate in the mission of the church through giving.

Wishing you God's richest blessings!



*Laurie Falvo*

Laurie Falvo,  
Interim Mission editor

### Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help:

- build a new secondary school in Franceville, Gabon.
- build a multipurpose center at Babcock University in Ogun State, Nigeria.

# Let There Be Two!



GABON | April 1

Pastor Medou Eyi

people with only one primary and one secondary school in our country. The new facility will enable us to share the Adventist message with many non-Adventist students and their families and build a strong Adventist presence for Gabon in the future.

**W**e're very excited that one of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects this quarter will help our mission work in Gabon!

My name is Pastor Georges Medou Eyi, and I'm the president of the Gabon Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. Located in our nation's capital of Libreville, our campus houses an office building, a primary school, a secondary school, a dispensary, and a church.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help us build an additional secondary school in the city of Franceville, a little more than 500 kilometers, or about 310 miles, away from Libreville. This facility is urgently needed because one of the key ways we share the Adventist message in our country is through our mission schools.

You can imagine the challenge we face in trying to reach 1.75 million Gabonese

## Reaching Non-Adventist Students

Our secondary school in Libreville is a real mission school. Approximately 70 percent of our students are not Adventists, and some of that number are not Christians. But the school is small, and there's no room for expansion on our crowded campus. We can accommodate no more than 120 students.

Our primary school is larger and can accommodate 300 children. That's a blessing in itself, but when these children are ready to advance to secondary school, we have to turn away many of them. This means they'll have to attend a public or private school where Saturday exams are mandatory.

Many of the students we decline have given their lives to Jesus and chosen to observe His Sabbath. They ask, "Why should we try to be Adventists when you have no school for us to attend where we

can remain true to our convictions? We'll consider becoming Adventists once we're through with our education." This breaks our hearts, especially when we know that children are far more receptive to the gospel than adults, and it will be harder to reach them later.

Sadly, these non-Adventist primary students aren't the only ones we must turn away. Many non-Adventist families in Libreville value the quality of our education. They bring their children to us, saying, "We're entrusting them to you because we know you're Christians who will educate them to become good citizens."

Imagine, the population is coming to us to receive the gospel, and we're turning them away! We're losing an opportunity to reach not only these children for Christ but their parents as well.

## Reaching the Community

We put a strong emphasis on outreach in our secondary school and organize many programs for our students to engage in. Energetic, strong, and passionate for mission, these young people are key to reaching the community for Christ. They help the sick receive care in our dispensary and comfort the lonely, grieving, and depressed. They pray with people, tell them about Jesus, and distribute food and clothing. Our church is growing because they're mingling with people and meeting their needs.

## Building a Strong Church for the Future

We have 3,041 Adventist members in Gabon, and approximately 79 percent of them are students. All of these young people, with the exception of those living in Libreville, have no choice but to attend

## Mission Post

- Sixty-two percent of Gabon's population is under age 25, making them an ideal focus for Adventist mission through education.
- In 1975 the Equatorial African Union Mission (currently Central African Union Mission) sent literature evangelist Raymond Ondoua and his wife to begin the Adventist work in Gabon.
- In 1976, Daniel Cordas was sent by the General Conference to Gabon, where he formed a church of more than 40 members in the nation's capital.
- The Gabon Mission was organized in 1978.

a non-Adventist school, where they face many pressures, including mandatory Sabbath exams.

It's been our experience that many of our students drift from the faith when they attend a non-Adventist school. We need to provide them with a safe haven where they're free to worship on Sabbath with their church family and receive spiritual nurturing.

## An Invaluable Boost

Having two secondary schools will give mission an invaluable boost in Gabon. The new school facility will initially accommodate about 450 students, but our goal is to eventually build dormitories so that 900 students will be able to attend from all around Gabon. When these students return to their homes, they'll take the Advent message with them.

Please support this project generously so that we can help our people in Gabon know and love Jesus and be ready for His soon return. 🌍



# A Mother's Prayer

Michele Nathalie

**I** was so sad when I learned that my daughter Juana could no longer attend our Seventh-day Adventist secondary school in Gabon. The Gabon Mission was struggling, and there were no longer enough resources to continue teaching the upper grades. It wouldn't have been so bad if I could have sent her to a different Adventist secondary school, but we have only one in our country.

Juana had been able to start her day with worship and prayer at the Adventist school. Bible class was part of her curriculum. Her teachers loved and nurtured her, and her classmates were always encouraging her to join them in community outreach. But this was about to change.

## So Many Worries

*What would happen to Juana's faith when*

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**I knew that most of Juana's exams would be scheduled on Sabbath.**

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*she attended public school? I wondered. Would she be able to stay close to Jesus? I had heard about the local public school from friends whose children*

had made this transition. "Many of my son's classmates are involved in drinking and drugs," one man said. "All the social activities happen on Friday night and Saturday," a woman shared. "The teacher seems to come to class only when she wants to, leaving the children to fend for themselves," said another. As if this wasn't enough to worry about, I knew that most of Juana's exams would be scheduled on Sabbath.

## Callused Knees

It wasn't long after Juana started at her new school that I began to notice changes in her spiritual life. She wasn't spending as much time in Bible study and prayer,

## Fast Facts

- Gabon is an independent republic situated on the west coast of Central Africa. It's bordered on the northwest by Equatorial Guinea, on the north by Cameroon, on the east and south by the Republic of Congo, and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean.
- A former French colony, Gabon retains strong ties to the French language and culture.
- Gabon is slightly smaller than the state of Colorado in the United States of America.

and she seemed less interested in doing outreach. "I'm worried about you, honey," I said one day. "Is everything OK?"

Juana looked away, her face clouding in pain. "No, Mom, it isn't. I feel like everything's trying to pull me away from Jesus right now. I didn't mean to let this happen, but I feel so far away from Him."

I assured Juana that Jesus loved her more than she could imagine and that there was nothing she could ever do to change that. "I'm always here for you too, Juana," I added. "I'll do whatever I can to help, including getting calluses on my knees praying for you!"

### Stronger Than Ever

I prayed for Juana and asked several close friends to pray for her too. A few months later, she came up to me with a beaming smile. "Things are tight between Jesus and me again, Mom," she said. "He's my best Friend, and I'm trying to do whatever I can to help my friends at

school experience His goodness too."

Juana was sharing her faith at school? I was thrilled! "What kinds of things are you doing, honey?"

"Well, if we have an upcoming test, I invite my friends to join me in asking God to help us do well. Or, if we're facing a difficult situation, I'll say, 'Let's pray that God will help us handle this right.' Even during our everyday conversations, there are opportunities to talk about Christ."

### A Happy Surprise

I can't tell you how happy it made me to know that Juana had renewed her commitment to God. Or how pleased I was to learn that the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build a new secondary school in Gabon to keep our children strong in the faith. Juana will be able to attend an Adventist school again along with hundreds of other children who desire an Adventist education.

The Seventh-day Adventist work had a late start in Gabon, and as a result many people still know little, if anything, about our church. The new secondary school will serve as an evangelistic center to train our young people to lift up Jesus and lead people to accept Him as Lord and Savior. They're the future of our church, and through their education, we'll be able to build a strong Adventist presence to prepare the Gabonese people for Christ's return.

My hope for Juana is that she'll be passionate about Adventist mission until the work on Earth is finished. That's my prayer for all our children. Will you please give generously to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to help us build our school? 🌍

# Leo's Legacy, Part 1

GABON | April 15

Bienvenu



**M**y little brother Leo was only 12 years old when he drowned. I loved him so much; I felt lost without him. I started drinking and doing drugs to kill the pain.

I wasn't a Christian when Leo died, but he and my elder brother Rene had been studying the Bible with a man from the Adventist church. Both brothers were planning to be baptized soon.

Leo's funeral was a heartbreaking experience for me, but there was one bright spot. The entire Adventist church came to help us celebrate his life and say our good-byes. They brought a big tent, chairs, and food and sang songs to comfort our family. We were very touched by their support.

## My Terrible Accident

Rene was baptized shortly after Leo's

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**"You become a Christian?"  
my family laughed.  
"That's impossible!"**

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funeral. He never said anything to me about my behavior; he just quietly lived his faith. I slipped ever deeper into substance abuse and depression.

One night I went to a club with my friend Rachidy. We got drunk and had an accident on the way home. I don't remember much about the experience except looking at the car and wondering how we survived.

A few weeks later Rachidy and I were talking about our crash. "My grandfather says I'm alive because of you," he said.

"Alive because of me?" I asked incredulously. "How do you figure that? I almost killed you!"

"My grandpa believes in spirits who have great powers," Rachidy replied. He thinks one of them didn't want you to die."



Rachidy and I sat in silence as I contemplated his words. “I have to go,” I said finally. “There’s something I need to do.” When I got home, I read my Bible for the first time in months, its words pouring light into the depths of my despair. “Lord, You saved my life,” I prayed. “I want to give You my heart just like Leo did.”

Over the next few months, I spent time with God daily. As I read my Bible and books by Ellen White, my heart was drawn to the Sabbath, and I decided to become a Seventh-day Adventist.

### “I Want to Be Baptized”

I went to church the next Sabbath and wasted no time in making my intention known to the greeter. “I want to be baptized,” I said as he shook my hand. He looked at me quizzically and asked me to wait while he got an elder.

In a couple of minutes, an elderly gentleman appeared. “I understand that you want to be baptized,” he said.

“Yes, sir, I do.”

“Getting baptized is a wonderful thing, but I think you should understand what Seventh-day Adventists believe first. We’re having a series of meetings starting tomorrow. Why don’t you come?”

I attended the meetings every night,

and when they were finished, I announced to my family that I would be baptized that coming Sabbath. I hadn’t told them about my recent conversion, and, understandably, they didn’t believe me. “You become a Christian?” they laughed. “That’s impossible!”

On Sabbath morning, the pastor asked those who were going to be baptized to stand so that the church members could welcome us. When I rose to my feet, I was surprised and happy to see my family.

“Rene knew you were telling the truth,” Mom told me later. “He knew it was possible for you to become a Christian because he’s never stopped praying for you.”

### Back to School

When I was drinking, I’d made many bad choices, including dropping out of school. I wanted to get a job now to help support my family, but no one wanted to hire someone who hadn’t finished their education.

One Sabbath at church I bowed my head and prayed. “Lord, I know I’ve made mistakes. I’m not asking You for much, just a job that will help me earn my daily bread.”

That evening one of our church members offered me a job at his restaurant. I worked hard, and eventually I had enough money to go back to school.

When I finished my studies, I found a great job. It seemed that, finally, everything was going well. My parents were taking Bible studies to join the Adventist Church, and I was making good money. Then, suddenly, my father died, and I discovered that in order to keep my job, I’d have to do things God forbids. 🌐

*To be continued.*

## Mission Post

- Max Pierre served as president of the Gabon Adventist Mission during the 1990s. His evangelism efforts helped the young church grow.
- There are 3,041 Adventists worshipping in 18 churches and 10 companies in Gabon.

# Leo's Legacy, Part 2

GABON | April 22

Bienvenu



## **Editor's note:**

*Last week we met Bienvenu, who had just learned that he'd have to choose between obeying God and keeping his well-paying job. This week he shares how God led him to the perfect work opportunity to help the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Gabon.*

**I**'m starting all over again! I thought as I quit the best-paying job I'd ever had. I wasn't sorry that I'd chosen to obey God rather than keep my job, but now I had no way to support my mom. She depended on me to help her since my

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**"God, I don't want to be rich. I want whatever You want to give me. Please help me reach people for You."**

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father had passed away.

"Lord," I prayed, "I need a job again. Please help me find one that allows me to serve You."

## **A Strange Dream**

One night after praying, I had a strange dream. I was standing in church, and a man was talking to me. I asked him whether he was a member, and he said No. He continued talking, but I was so busy thinking about my problems, I didn't hear a word he was saying.

When the man finished speaking, he stood up to leave. It was then that I remembered the story in the Bible about

## Fast Facts

- Gabon's capital is Libreville, which means "free town" in French. The city was founded by freed slaves in 1949.
- Gabon's climate is always hot and humid.
- French is the official language of Gabon. Other languages include Fang, Myene, Nzebi, Bapounou/Eschira, and Kota.

the angel who visited Jacob. Jacob had refused to let the angel go until the angel blessed him. *What if this man is an angel?* I wondered, grasping the man by the foot. "Please, don't leave me," I cried.

"What do you want?" the man asked. I looked over his shoulder and saw a large pile of money and expensive houses, cars, and clothes. "I want to be rich," I replied.

The man looked at me sadly. "I have something to give you, but you're not ready to receive it."

"What will you give me?" I asked, but I never heard the answer because I woke up from my dream.

I immediately knelt to pray. "God, I don't want to be rich. I want whatever You want to give me. I'm so thankful that you inspired our Adventist neighbor to reach out to my family, and now I want to reach out to others. Please help me reach people for You."

## New Opportunities

Soon after my fervent prayer, I began training in multimedia technology, such as videography, photography, and

infographics. I realized that these skills could help our church promote the gospel, and yet no one was doing this work. "By your grace, God," I prayed, "this is how I will help build Your church."

I purchased a camera and started photographing church events and weddings. With the money I earned from the weddings, I purchased several more cameras and hired people to work for me.

I've created videos of our church programs and choir performances that have been aired on local television. I praise God that I've been able to help put a face on our church that people are beginning to recognize. My goal is for us to eventually have an Adventist channel of our own.

I'm very grateful that God inspired that Adventist man to reach out to my family. Now I want to reach out to others. I want everyone in Gabon to know that Jesus loves them and died for them and is coming soon to take them home.

## Our Mission

One powerful way our church members are reaching the Gabonese people for Christ is through our mission schools. We have only one primary school and one secondary school in our country, and the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help us build another secondary school so that we can more than double our impact. This new school will enable us to reach hundreds more non-Christian students, involve our youth in wholistic ministry to the community, and build a strong Adventist presence in Gabon for the future. Please give generously this quarter and pray that God's Spirit will work mightily upon the hearts of the Gabonese people. 🌍



# Joyce's Surprise

Juste Cleona

Joyce looked up slowly, her pretty face streaked with tears. I had called her into my office to ask why she thought she was failing so many classes.

"I have a baby," the 16-year-old girl replied after a long silence. "He cries all night, and I have no time to study."

My heart melted in understanding. "Do you know of anyone who could assist you with the child?"

"Just my mom, Teacher," Joyce replied, "but she refuses to help me. She says that since I decided to have a baby, I can take care of it on my own. I'm in this alone."

I bent down and took Joyce's hand in mine. "No, you aren't alone, Joyce," I assured her. "I'm here, and I'll do what I can to help you. I know you don't believe in Jesus, but I believe He loves you and your baby. He can help you face your life and do what it takes to make it better. Do you want to give Him that opportunity?"

## A New Beginning

Joyce nodded and started a journey that day that would turn her life around.

She studied the Bible with our chaplain and met with me often to learn how to provide good care for her baby. Through my mentoring and friendship, she began to feel less stressed, but I knew she was still very sad about the rift between her and her mom.

After much prayer, I decided to visit Joyce's mother. She received me cordially but was adamant that she was doing the right thing with her daughter. We chatted for a few minutes and then just before I left, I asked whether I could share something with her. She nodded.

"My mother had a baby before she was married," I said. "It was very difficult for her, but it wasn't the end of her life. She eventually married and had more children. Your daughter made a mistake, but she's sorry. She's doing everything she can to ensure that her life and the life of her son are rich and rewarding. But she needs you. They both do."

It took time, but eventually Joyce's mother and I became friends, and she found someone to help watch her grandson so that her daughter could succeed in school.

One day Joyce told me that she had a surprise for me. “I’ve given my heart to Jesus, and I want to be baptized!” she said eagerly. My heart sang. I was so happy for her and grateful that God had given me the privilege of helping a hurting child experience hope and happiness again.

## A Changed Life

Our Adventist secondary school in Gabon is a real mission school. Most of our students are non-Adventists, and we have many non-Christian children who struggle with addictions.

One such student whom we had the privilege of helping is Corneille who struggled with alcohol and drugs. He was a difficult, disrespectful student. He was disruptive in class and was frequently called to the principal’s office for discipline. I prayed for patience and love for Corneille every day while he continued to act silly in class and refused to learn.

Our chaplain began studying the Bible with Corneille and entrusting him with responsibility at school. He made Corneille the student leader in class and

an assistant to the teachers. He and the chaplain prayed together every morning before the school day started.

Gradually, Corneille began to change. Now he listens intently in class, gathers his friends together to talk with community people about Jesus, and shares with his classmates why it’s so wonderful to be a Christian. He’s one of the best evangelists in the area!

One day, I asked my students whether they believed that a person could change his behavior. One girl eagerly raised her hand. “Yes!” she said excitedly. “Because of Corneille.”

Our mission at our Seventh-day Adventist secondary school is to help children know Jesus and enable them to become His disciples. By God’s grace, we’ve been able to help many students, but with only one secondary school in the country, our impact is very limited.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build another secondary school in Gabon so that we can reach many more children for Christ. Please give generously and pray that God will richly bless our mission work in Gabon. 🌍

## MISSION MEMORIES

During the 1990s, a political leader of the local township on the outskirts of Libreville, the capital of Gabon, organized an independent Christian church, an unusual move in a land where most political figures were not Christian.

The congregation grew rapidly and began studying the Bible and evaluating its beliefs. When they learned of the Seventh-day Sabbath, they wondered whether anyone in the country observed it.

The members learned about the

Seventh-day Adventist congregation in Libreville and sent a number of members to investigate it. This led to an invitation for the mission president, Max Pierre, to present the Adventist message at the nondenominational church.

Almost the entire congregation was baptized, and their worship building became a Seventh-day Adventist church.—From *Precious Memories of Missionaries of Color*, volume 2, by DeWitt Williams. Used by permission.



# The Healing School

Jean and Andre

## Editor's note:

*Two principals of Gabon's Adventist secondary school, one current and the other former, share stories of students whose lives were transformed when they met Jesus in their classrooms.*

This is Jean Sangwa Samale, the current principal of our Adventist secondary school in Libreville, Gabon.

Our school's a bit like a hospital. If people get sick, they go to the emergency room. If the children in town get involved in bad habits, their parents often bring them to us, where we offer high-quality education and healing through our Great Physician.

## "If He Doesn't Change, He'll Be Ruined"

One student whom we were able to help was a young man named Mapikoud who was heavily involved in drinking and drugs. He was eighteen years old and only in seventh grade because he repeated so many classes. His parents came to our school one day and asked to speak with

me. "We've tried so hard to help our son," they said. "We don't know what to do with him at this point. If he doesn't change, he'll be ruined. Our neighbors told us that you offer a good education at your school and have very kind teachers. Public school is free, but we're willing to pay if you can help our son."

We enrolled Mapikoud and begin working with him right away. "Mapikoud, you can turn your life around," we assured him. "It will take hard work on your part, but if you're willing to do that work, we're willing to stand by you every step of the way. You see what happens to those who drink and take drugs. That doesn't have to happen to you. You can choose a good future."

The chaplain and I began studying the Bible and praying with Mapikoud every day. This was completely unfamiliar to him, for he knew nothing about Christ when he came to our school.

We advised Mapikoud on how to make healthy choices and entrusted him with responsibility, such as being the student leader of the class. Gradually, he began to grow intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. He stopped drinking and taking drugs and gave his heart to Jesus. His parents were so happy about the changes

## Fast Facts

- Gabon gained its independence on August 17, 1960.
- Gabon has rich reserves of timber, petroleum, manganese, and iron.
- Rainforest covers about three-fourths of Gabon. Gabon has some of the largest nature parks in the world.

in Mapikoud, they also sent his younger brother to our school.

### Love Happens Here

We had a similar experience with 19-year-old Moukala. He was only in ninth grade because he repeated many classes. His parents asked us to help him stop smoking and drinking.

We embraced Moukala in love and helped lead him to Jesus. His parents were so happy with his progress, they brought his younger sister to join our school. Both these students now love Jesus and are attending church regularly.

Our former principal Andre Kabwe also has a story that he'd like to share with you now.

### The Girl No One Recognized

Greetings from Gabon! It's such a joy to be able to share stories with you of how Jesus is working through the ministry of our schools.

One particular student who experienced an extraordinary transformation in her life is a young woman named Dorcas.

I don't know what happened to her parents, but she lived with her grandmother when she came to our school. She smoked and drank and

engaged in all kinds of unhealthy behavior; she knew absolutely nothing about God.

I wish you could see Dorcas now. She accepted Jesus as her Savior and was baptized. She has her Bible with her all the time and has sermons and Ellen White books on her phone. She's even leading her classmates and neighbors to Christ.

One of our students told us, "We don't recognize Dorcas anymore. She's completely changed. It's hard to believe she's the same person."

Dorcas is only one of hundreds of children whose lives have been recreated as a result of meeting Jesus at our Adventist school in Gabon.

### Small School, Big Mission

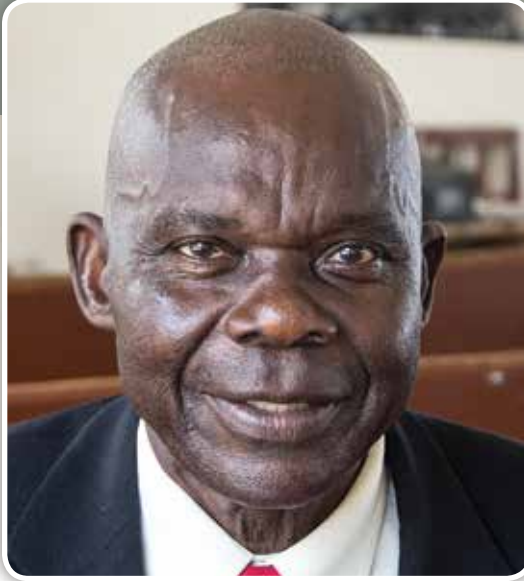
Our secondary school is a strong center of evangelism in this city because the majority of our students are not Adventists and some are not Christians. We start each day with prayer and worship. We teach children to understand the Bible and apply its teachings to their lives. We help them build a strong, heartfelt connection to God and involve them in community outreach to help those in need. Through God's grace, many of them have committed their lives to Jesus and been baptized. Some have shared what they've learned at school with their parents and helped lead them to Christ.

We're doing everything we can at our school to heal the brokenness and pain around us. But we could do so much more if we had another secondary school in our country. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help us build a new school so that we can reach more people for Christ. Dear brothers and sisters, will you help us? 🌍

# The Voice in the Dark

GABON | May 13

Abraham



For 40 years I nearly drank myself to death. I don't know why I started, but I despaired of ever quitting. I thought I'd never be OK again.

My wife was a Christian. She prayed for me for years before she died. She told me that Jesus loved me and had something much better for me, but I held my bottle tighter and pushed her and Christ away.

One evening, when things were at their darkest, I knelt on my bed and prayed. "Jesus," I cried with hot tears streaming down my face, "I don't deserve your help, but I'm begging you to set me free from this addiction."

As I pleaded for release, I sensed a voice speaking to my heart. "Stand up and follow Me," it said. Without question, I slipped on my shoes and walked out the

door, following the voice as it directed me down the road. I walked and walked until it told me to stop. "Look up in front of you," it said. I looked up and saw a sign that read Seventh-day Adventist Church. "This is where you need to come to pray."

I noticed that people were gathered in the building, so I took a seat in the back row. I listened intently as a man preached a message of hope from God's Word. I was so encouraged, I returned the next morning for worship and the following Friday night.

Then the voice spoke to me again. "Don't stay at church without doing anything. Work for Jesus!" *What can I do?* I wondered. *I'm old and I have little strength.* I waited for instructions, but the voice was silent now.



## Keeper of the Church

Several days later an idea occurred to me. Packing up a few supplies, I went to the church Friday afternoon and started cleaning it. I washed the windows, swept the floor, and wiped down the pews. Then I placed a hymnal on each chair. When the people came to worship, I greeted them warmly. They looked approvingly at the sparkling church and asked when I'd started working as the caretaker. "Since God told me this was my job," I replied.

A week later, I got a small job in town to earn a little extra money. The voice came again. "Why are you working here to earn money? Didn't you notice that my house is surrounded by tall grass and shrubs?" I went home to get my machete and cut the overgrown grass and shrubs around the church until the building stood out clearly. My responsibilities had grown.

## A Labor of Love

I'm retired from the military and I have a small pension, so I can afford to care for the church for free. It's a labor of love, and it makes me happy to serve my church this way.

I wish that I'd taken better care of myself during the 40 years I drank. I can't see or hear well anymore, and I'm always tired. But I'm thankful for each day and the blessings God gives me. He brought me into His marvelous light, and someday soon He'll make me incorruptible and immortal. Until then, I'll serve Him with whatever strength He provides.

## Something Wonderful

I accepted Jesus as my Savior one year ago, and now I do what I can to share with others the love that saved me. I especially

## Mission Post

- This is the first time that Gabon has been the recipient of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.
- Gabon is part of the West-Central Africa Division, which also includes the countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

seek out those who are addicted to alcohol and suffering from despair. I tell them that God has a plan to bring light into their darkness and that if they listen to His Word, He will do something wonderful for them. I haven't had the blessing of leading someone to Jesus yet, but I'm going to keep trying until I die.

If you've ever felt it's too late to turn your life around and do something for Jesus, please take courage. I was 83 when I washed my first church window. He can make something beautiful out of your life too.

This quarter, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build an Adventist secondary school in Gabon. Many young people in my country are addicted to drugs and alcohol. Please give generously so that they too can find freedom and joy in Jesus. 🌍

# More Than Just a Game, Part 1

NIGERIA | May 20

Ndubuisi



I dropped to my knees in sorrow and shame. I had been raised to honor God’s seventh-day Sabbath, but when I was old enough to work, every boss I ever had required me to work on Saturday. “Lord,” I prayed, “I want to focus on You exclusively on Sabbath. Please help me find a job that allows me to serve You.”

## “Get Out Now!”

Within a few weeks after my prayer, my landlord told me to pack my things and get out. I pleaded for a few more days to pay the rent, but he insisted that I leave that very night. I took what I could carry and watched helplessly as he tossed my belongings in the yard.

I slept outside that night, or tried to, as I considered what to do next. “I need a new job and a new place to live now, Lord,” I prayed, dismayed at my growing list of

requests. The only bright spot was that the next day was Sabbath, and I’d get to see my friends.

When I arrived at church the next morning, I told a friend what had happened. “Come stay with me,” he offered. “I have another friend staying with me temporarily, but there’s plenty of room for the three of us.”

I’d never heard of Babcock University before, but my host’s friend had been a student there. When he learned that I drove a truck for a living, he said he’d tell his parents about me. “They might be able to help you get a job there,” he said hopefully.

## An Answer to Prayer

Within a short time, Babcock University invited me to serve on their staff. I was so

thankful. God had not only provided me with a nice place to live, He'd given me the opportunity to serve Him doing the work I loved best. He'd given me so much; I wanted to give something back.

When I moved to Babcock University, I learned that many of the students on campus and in the community weren't Christians. I wanted to reach out to them through some kind of ministry and prayed that God would show me what He wanted me to do.

One day I was lying under my truck, making a repair, when I noticed two enormous gym shoes near my head.

"Mr. Sylvanus, do you remember me?" I heard a deep voice ask. Pulling myself free, I looked up to see a tall, bulky young man. I always feel bad when I can't remember someone, so I tried to rack my memory. "I'm sorry," I said finally, "I don't."

"About three years ago I needed a ride off campus to do a practical for my environmental degree," he explained. "I saw that you had a vehicle, so I asked you to give me a lift. You were happy to take me."

Suddenly, I remembered the lanky boy who had nervously approached me for help. He had filled out now and was the picture of confidence.

### "I Need a Favor"

"I've come to ask for another favor," he said with a grin. "We have a football team on campus that participates in a league. But it's more than just a game. It's a mission. It's one of our Adventist Youth Ministry projects to reach out to non-Christian students on campus and in the community. We need a coach. Will you help us?" 🌍

*To be continued.*

## MISSION MESSAGE

Hello,

I'm Oyewole Oyerinde, the youth church pastor at Babcock University's Pioneer Church. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build a multipurpose center for the hundreds of young people on our campus who are members of our Adventist Youth Ministry. Currently, some of these youth, many of whom come from a non-Christian background, have no conducive place to join us to worship or attend our youth ministry programs.

The new center will play an important role in helping our youth become committed disciples of Christ who are passionately engaged in sharing the Advent message with our largely non-

Adventist student body and community. Thank you for your support.



# More Than Just a Game, Part 2

NIGERIA | May 27

Ndubuisi



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**The football field is my mission field.**

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## **Editor's note:**

*In last week's story, Ndubuisi had been praying that God would show him how to reach out to the many non-Christian youth on Babcock University's campus and in their surrounding community. This week he shares how the football field became his mission field.*

When I was asked to coach the campus football team, it seemed like a match made in heaven. I love football, and I love outreach. But I was a little nervous about coaching this group. I'd heard it included a few rough guys from town, and I was worried that they might not listen to me.

## **"We Don't Play Ball"**

After a little more prayer, I decided to give it a try. I started every training session with prayer and a short worship. Since

about half the guys on our team weren't Adventists, I explained to them why we wouldn't be playing on Friday night and Saturday. When other teams wanted to schedule a match on Sabbath, I told them, "Saturday is for the Lord. We don't play ball." Many people who'd never heard of Babcock University have learned about the Sabbath through our team. For us, the football field is a mission field where we show people God's love.

To my delight, I found most of the guys cooperative and receptive to what I shared about Jesus. Their rough edges began to soften. They were showing sympathy to each other and sharing with one another. Most of them stopped using foul language, and the ones who had money were buying uniforms for those who couldn't afford them.

## Fast Facts

- The multipurpose youth facility will contain a church, an auditorium, and an area to teach young people practical crafts and skills.
- The center will enable the Adventist Youth Ministry leaders to plan more programs and effectively train the youth in sharing the Adventist message with the non-Adventist students who comprise 92 percent of the student body.
- The center will be large enough to accommodate Babcock's Adventist youth and their friends in the community.

There's one child I firmly believe God sent to play on our team. His name is Jamiyu. I noticed two things about this boy: he never missed a practice and he never said a word to anyone. He worked hard at football, but he had much to learn.

One day I called Jamiyu over and asked how he was doing. "Fine," he responded quietly. I prodded him gently about his family, and slowly his story unfolded.

### A Struggle to Survive

"My dad died recently, and when that happened, my mother took my siblings and left."

I was incredulous. "She left you alone to fend for yourself?" He nodded, his averted eyes glistening with tears. Jamiyu had to drop out of public school and find lodging with a friend. Every day was a struggle to survive.

The only thing Jamiyu enjoyed was

playing football. But that was enough for me. I took him under my wing, helping him train more efficiently and providing him with food and clothing. When he got a job at a laundry service, I helped him open a bank account so he could save money to go back to school.

I told Jamiyu that Jesus loved him and that I loved him too. And when I asked whether he'd like to learn more about Jesus at our Adventist Youth Ministry (AYM) programs, he eagerly accepted my invitation.

Jamiyu is thinking about becoming a follower of Jesus. I'm so happy that Jesus used my two passions to show this child His love.

### Getting Bigger All the Time

The respect I received from my football team boosted my confidence in sharing Christ. I decided to join AYM so that I could participate in their outreach to the youth in town. It's been so rewarding. These young people want to join us for Sabbath worship and our AYM programs. We're thrilled, but we have a big problem.

We don't have a building on campus large enough for our youth to meet together. We've been dividing up into small classrooms, but we're growing so fast we no longer fit!

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help us build a youth center so that we can more fully reach our non-Adventist youth on campus and in our community. Please generously support this project and pray that God will give us wisdom and passion for sharing the good news of Christ's love and soon return.

Thank you! 🌍



# My Dream

Jemimah

I love sharing my faith at Babcock University, where I study law. Many of the students here are not Christian, and I frequently have opportunities to talk with them about Jesus. In fact, I had an opportunity a few days ago with a close friend whom I've been praying for.

I was on my way to the cafeteria when my friend Confidence\* ran up beside me.

"Look at you," he said, poking me with his pen. "You're always going around like you're so happy to be an Adventist."

"I am really happy to be an Adventist," I replied, curious as to where this conversation might lead.

"Tell me why."

"Well, for one, I love the Sabbath."

"And why do you believe in the Sabbath?" he inquired.

As I thought for a moment about how best to respond, Confidence tapped his foot impatiently. "Time's up, Jemimah. What's the word?"

"The Bible tells us that Jesus worshiped on Sabbath. As Christians, we're supposed

to follow His example in everything, right?"

Confidence looked at me through narrowed eyes. "Interesting," he replied. "I'll have to give that some thought."

A few days later, Confidence and I were sitting together in our Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ class. When the teacher mentioned the Sabbath, Confidence perked up. He became animatedly involved in the discussion, using the very words I had when I explained why I believed Sabbath was God's holy day. *He's talking like he really believes this*, I thought. *Does he really mean it?*

Two weeks before the start of summer break, Confidence told me that he wanted to be baptized and become a Seventh-day Adventist. I laughed at first because I didn't believe him. "That's not possible!"

"Yes, it is possible," he replied. "And the reason that I've come to this decision is because of your witness. You never wavered. You knew why you believed what you believed, and you weren't afraid to share it."

I was so happy for Confidence and humbled that God had been able to use me to touch his heart.

Despite being raised an Adventist, I had never been that serious about my relationship with Christ. But that began to

change when I became involved with the Adventist Youth Ministry (AYM) here at Babcock. For the first time in my life I spent time in daily Bible study and prayer.

Last year, a member of the AYM spoke at our Youth Week of Prayer. I don't remember what he said exactly, but it touched me deeply. I bowed my head and cried. He said, "There is someone here today who's struggling," and he proceeded to talk about exactly what I'd been going through. "Jesus wants you to give your life to Him," he invited. I gave my heart to Jesus that day, and it's made such an incredible difference in my life.

Helping me commit my life to Christ is one way the AYM has been a blessing to me. It's also given me an opportunity to give back through wholistic ministry on our campus and to our community.

I am so excited about the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering project for Babcock University this quarter. Our AYM members currently don't have a

permanent place to meet for Sabbath School. We gather in small classrooms if they're available or outside under the trees, which is a problem if it rains. We've shared our faith with the youth in town and want to invite them to attend our programs, but there isn't room for them.

The new youth center will serve as our church home and a place where we can receive training in Christian growth and outreach. It will have room for our community friends and help us reach more people for Jesus than ever before.

I have this dream that one day these children from town will come to our new church and worship with us. They'll say, "This thing that I believe in is real. I can see it in the church, in the lives of the people."

I want to encourage you to generously support this project. I'll be very happy to see my dream come true. 🌍

*\* Name has been changed.*

## MISSION MESSAGE

Hello and happy Sabbath! This is Professor Ademola Tayo, the president of Babcock University. Our Adventist presence is small in Nigeria, but we have a fantastic opportunity to build the church by reaching the many non-Adventist students on our campus. Our Adventist Youth Ministry members are central to this outreach because they host almost all of our spiritual programs on campus.

We urgently need a multipurpose youth center in which we can train our youth in planning and participating in worship and leading others to Christ. Please pray for our mission at Babcock University

and generously support the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects. Thank you!



# The Only Place to Be

NIGERIA | June 10

Chiemela



**W**hy am I still with Adventist Youth Ministry (AYM) after all these years? Because there's nowhere else to be!

My name is Chiemela Ogu, and I'm the Pathfinder director of the AYM at Babcock University's Pioneer Church. I grew up on this campus, where my father worked in the registry. I have been part of AYM since I was an Adventurer.

During my time at Babcock University, my mentors have helped inspire me to be a servant leader. Some of my Pathfinders come from non-Christian homes, and God has given me the opportunity to share His love with them. It's been very rewarding to see them blossom as they learn about His forgiveness, grace, and mercy.

A good friend confided in me that she thought she had committed too many sins to keep talking to God. "I can't even pray

anymore," she said, "because I don't think He'll listen. I've broken the connection between us."

I assured her that there was nothing she could ever do that would diminish God's love for her. "Be open with Him," I encouraged. "Acknowledge your mistakes and ask forgiveness. Then trust that when He looks at you, He sees the sinless life of Jesus." With time she gradually began to let go of her guilt and shame.

Many of my youth are dealing with difficult personal challenges. I noticed that one boy was very quiet and kept to himself. I was friendly, and, over time, he began to open up to me. "My friends at school say I'm proud and not easy to get along with," he told me.

"Do you think there's any truth to that?" I asked.



## Mission Post

- The Pathfinders of Babcock University's Adventist Youth Ministry (AYM) program have been raising funds for their new youth center.
- The center will provide a place for AYM to host programs and store their materials.
- Nigeria has a high unemployment rate, especially among its young people. University president Ademola Tayo says he doesn't believe that it's sufficient to educate students for only professional employment. "We want to teach them to work with their hands as well so that they're prepared to support themselves no matter the economic circumstances. The new center will be a place for our youth to learn vocational skills such as sewing, tailoring, cooking, and hair weaving. Each student will learn at least one skill."

"No," he replied sadly. "I'm just really shy. And I'm afraid I'll say the wrong thing and end up hurting someone's feelings."

"I think the fact that you don't want to hurt anyone's feelings is a good reason to like you," I said.

"It's not—for them. They think I'm stuck up."

"Well, they may not like you, but I do." I replied. "And I'm pretty sure other people will like you too, just the way you are."

In time, this boy came to understand that not everyone is comfortable with his temperament but that his temperament is what makes him who he is. He realized he didn't have to change in order to be liked and appreciated. It's been a joy to see him develop a little more confidence.

Our AYM members have been able to

encourage others, too. One Sabbath after worship, we had what we call a Balloon Evangelism. We wrote Bible promises on balloons and gave them to the students. Some of the students said, "This is great! This promise is just what I needed today."

Babcock University is a family of love, and we're trying our best to expand our family by sharing God's love with those who've never had the opportunity to know Him. But there's so much more we could be doing.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help us build a youth center for our young people that will have an auditorium, a church, and a place where we can teach the children practical crafts and skills.

My dream was to have a young preacher's club, a club in which the Pathfinders can be trained to speak publically with proficiency and confidence. I'm so pleased that we'll be able to do this in our new facility.

I get worried when I think about the exposure and distractions our children will face 10 years from now. I believe it's very important to have a special place to teach them how to live godly lives and to prepare them for whatever the future holds.

I can't express how grateful we are that Babcock University will be receiving a portion of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Through the years, we've been privileged to hear mission stories about the work being done all over the world. It's so exciting to know that our brothers and sisters will have an opportunity to hear our story and know that we, too, are doing our best to fulfill God's Great Commission. I just want to say a big Thank you! 🌍



# My Little Brother

Goa

**A**dventist Youth Ministry (AYM) and I go way back. I started as an Adventurer and kept getting bigger uniforms until I became a Master Guide.

My name is Pastor Goa Adeniran, and I work in the student development department at Babcock University. Several years ago I realized that there was a need for more helpers in our AYM program on campus. I'd received so much from being a member of AYM through the years that I wanted to give something back. I signed up to be a Pathfinder instructor and began the rewarding process of impacting young lives with God's love.

One of those people was a Pathfinder named Mustapha.\* He was about 15 and worked for a bricklaying company in our capital city of Lagos. I had a friend who worked at the same place, so I saw Mustapha often and always tried to chat with him a few minutes.

One day someone asked who my young friend was. "Oh, that's Mustapha, my brother," I replied with an air of pride. I

glanced at Mustapha to see his reaction, and the boy was beaming.

From then on, Mustapha told everyone that I was his brother. It must have meant a lot to him, and I was glad he knew I cared.

Mustapha had many negative influences in his life, and I tried to keep him safe. Our friendship deepened, and he shared that he was addicted to smoking and alcohol. It's common here to believe you need to drink and smoke to have power and be strong.

"Those habits will hurt you, Mustapha," I warned. "I like you too much to see you destroyed." I assured him that he didn't need stimulants and used myself as an example. "I work just as hard as you, and I never touch those things," I said. "There's nothing you do that I can't do too!"

Sometimes I wasn't sure whether Mustapha was listening, but one day he told me that he had drunk his last drink and smoked his last cigarette. I praised God he was free.

Mustapha wasn't a Christian. I wanted to talk to him about Jesus, but I wanted to do it in the right context. I wanted it to grow out of genuine concern for his health, family and quality of life. I wanted to form a relationship that was about reaching out in love and meeting his needs.

When Mustapha's father died, it seemed that my little brother became a man

overnight. He worked long hours to help support his family and was much more serious. I was proud of his growing sense of responsibility, but I missed the boy with the mischievous grin.

I continued to pray for Mustapha and did my best to be a consistent, positive male role model in his life. In the absence of his father, Mustapha needed a man to endorse him in order to open a bank account and get a job. I tried my best to fill in for his dad. I educated him in as many practical skills as I could to prepare him to succeed in life.

I haven't had the privilege of bringing Mustapha to church, but I've had the joy of telling him about Jesus. I told him Christ loves every person who's ever lived and that He died for each one, too. "You know what, little brother?" I asked.

"Everyone includes you."

Mustapha was quiet for a minute and then looked up at me and smiled. "Can you get me a Bible, Pastor?"

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build a multipurpose facility for the large number of AYM members on our campus who currently have no place to worship, attend meetings, or host events.

Our AYM is crucial in helping us fulfill our mission to share the gospel with our non-Christian students and our neighbors in town who don't know Jesus loves them. The new youth center will help us to train them for outreach and service. Please give generously this Thirteenth Sabbath. Thank you. 🌍

\* Name has been changed.

## MISSION MESSAGE

Happy Sabbath church family! My name is Pastor Elijah Adewumi, and I'm the director of youth community outreach, a vital component of our Adventist Youth Ministry. Our youth have taken up the challenge of meeting the needs of our community people by engaging in holistic ministry and showing compassion as Jesus did. They participate in health education, free health screenings, distributing food and clothing, providing nets for malaria prevention, cleaning the streets, visiting the sick in the hospital, sharing the gospel, and church planting.

When people had their needs met by Jesus, many of them ended up following Him. If we help meet people's needs, we can point them to Jesus.

We want our community to feel the positive impact of Babcock University and our Seventh-day Adventist faith. I believe the new center will help our youth do even more to reach other young people with God's love.



## Thirteenth Sabbath Program

➤	Opening Song	“Far and Near the Fields Are Teeming,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 358
➤	Welcome	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher
➤	Prayer	
➤	Program	
➤	Offering	
➤	Closing Song	“In the Heart of Jesus,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 577
➤	Closing Prayer	

**Participants:** One narrator and two readers

**Props:** Flags (or pictures of flags) from Gabon and Nigeria; large map of Arica or the world, with the countries of Gabon and Nigeria highlighted.

**Narrator:** This quarter our mission focus has been on the West-Central Africa Division, and specifically on the countries of Gabon and Nigeria.

Today we will hear one more story from Nigeria told by a boy named Joshua who recently learned about Jesus.

**Reader 1:** “Where did you learn that?” I asked my friend, Gift,\* when he finished telling me the amazing story of Joseph and his brothers.

“It’s in the Bible,” he replied with a grin. “And if you’d come with me to our Adventist Youth Ministry (AYM) programs, Joshua, you could learn these stories too.”

Gift lived on the campus of Babcock University, not far from my home in town. I admired his knowledge of the Bible and

wanted to learn more about it myself.

**Reader 2:** “We’re having Vacation Bible School (VBS) in a few days,” Gift said. “Why don’t you come?”

I’d been playing football with some of the AYM kids at their Sunday exercise program, and I really liked them. They started each game with prayer and a short devotion, and they were kind to each other on the field.

I prayed about whether I should attend VBS, and I felt that God wanted me to go. When I went to the first meeting, I



Joshua



*Au College Adventiste  
(Adventist secondary school)  
Libreville, Gabon.*



discovered that Gift was right. I not only heard a lot of stories from the Bible, I learned songs about God, did crafts, and made friends. Best of all, I learned that Jesus loves me.

**Reader 1:** At the end of VBS, I decided that I wanted to become a Seventh-day Adventist. I was baptized one year ago, and now I want to share my faith just like Gift shared his faith with me. I want people to know about the Sabbath and that Jesus is coming soon.

I invited my friend Favour to VBS this year, and he came to every meeting. He really enjoyed the Bible stories, crafts and games. He didn't know much about Jesus before, but now he knows that He loves and cares for him.

**Reader 2:** Most of my friends criticize me because I became a Seventh-day Adventist. That really hurts. They don't want me to talk with them about Jesus, so I try to share Him through my character and actions, like always being cheerful.

But not everyone acts this way. Some of the young people I've shared Jesus with are thinking about coming to church, and that makes me glad.

**Reader 1:** Joining AYM has made a positive difference in my character. I want to help people in the community now, especially the older ones. I like to carry their bags for them, greet them kindly, and show them respect.

VBS changed my life. I felt so happy when I learned Jesus loves me! I've always carried my burdens alone in my own strength. But now that I know that Jesus cares for me, I've let go of those burdens. Jesus set me free!

**Reader 2:** The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build a multipurpose center at Babcock University for the AYM members who currently have no place to attend worship or youth programs. Having the center will help the youth grow spiritually and develop their skills for reaching people for Jesus—just like they reached me.

**Narrator:** Thank you so much for your generous gift today that will help the young people in Nigeria and Gabon. Please be assured that your offering will make an eternal difference in the lives of many. Thank you!

*[Offering]*



*Pastors Goa Adeniran and Oyewole Oyerinde showing the proposed site for the multipurpose center at Babcock University in Nigeria.*

## Where Do My Mission Offerings Go?

*Editor's note: If your Sabbath School members have ever asked where their weekly mission offerings go, they may find this article helpful.*

Have you ever felt as if you're putting your money into a "black hole" when you give your weekly mission offerings?

You know which countries and projects are supported by part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. But what about the regular mission offering you give each week? Where does it go? Who does it support? And what does it achieve?

You may be surprised to learn that your weekly mission offering helps to support more than 1,000 missionaries around the world. In fact, 70 percent of the weekly mission offerings each quarter helps to support overseas missionaries and the international work of the church. Appropriations from the General Conference to world divisions, the Middle East North Africa Union, and the Israel Field help these regions build and sustain mission activities in their territories.

The remaining money helps various institutions and agencies that serve the world church. For example, it helps the compassionate medical mission work of

Loma Linda University, the spreading of the gospel by Adventist World Radio, and the humanitarian ministry of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

In recent years, millions of people from challenging areas of the world have found salvation in Jesus and have joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Thousands of new congregations have been established in new areas. But after these new believers have been baptized, how are they nurtured? How do they receive resources, materials, and programs to strengthen their new faith and help them grow as disciples? How do they receive ongoing pastoral care? Your mission offerings help sustain and grow new work throughout the world.

To keep in touch with the exciting story of Adventist mission around the world, please visit [AdventistMission.org](http://AdventistMission.org). And thanks again for your prayers and financial support for Adventist mission. You *do* make a difference.

## Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects



Next quarter the Southern Asia Division (SUD) will be featured. Special projects include providing an evangelistic training center in Telangana, India; a girls' dormitory at the Adventist boarding school in Dimapur, Nagaland, India; a girls' dormitory at James Memorial Higher Secondary School in Chennai, India; and classrooms at the Adventist secondary school in Hathkanangle, Maharashtra, India.

# Leader's Resources

# YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

Following are sources of information that may be helpful in preparing for the mission segment of Sabbath School.

**For more information** on the cultures and history of Gabon and Nigeria, visit your local library or a travel agency, or visit the Web sites listed here.

## Gabon

[bbc.com/news/world-africa-13376333](http://bbc.com/news/world-africa-13376333)  
[factsking.com/countries/gabon/](http://factsking.com/countries/gabon/)

## Nigeria

[bbc.com/news/world-africa-13949550](http://bbc.com/news/world-africa-13949550)  
[factsking.com/countries/nigeria/](http://factsking.com/countries/nigeria/)

**You may also find these denominational Web sites helpful:**

West-Central Africa Division: [wad.adventist.org](http://wad.adventist.org)  
Babcock University: [babcock.edu.ng](http://babcock.edu.ng)

## Mission Spotlight

Show the *Mission Spotlight* videos, which feature mission stories from around the world and from this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering countries. You can sign up to get an e-mail that includes descriptions of each video and links to download or view the videos online. Sign up at [MissionSpotlight.org/subscribe](http://MissionSpotlight.org/subscribe).

## Mission Quarterlies Facebook Page

Read and share mission stories online, see pictures, take a peek behind the scenes of gathering stories, and make comments—all on our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/mission-quarterlies](https://www.facebook.com/mission-quarterlies).

Ask your Sabbath School council to set a quarterly mission offering goal (set the goal a little higher than last quarter and divide it by 14, one part for each of the 12 regular Sabbaths this quarter and two parts for Thirteenth Sabbath). Chart the weekly progress toward the quarter's goal on a goal device.

Remind your Sabbath School members that their regular weekly mission offerings will help the missionary work of the world church and that one-quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the West-Central Africa Division. On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage members to double or triple their normal mission giving on Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School. This immediate feedback will inspire members to continue their mission giving.

## EDITORIAL

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# WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION



## ATLANTIC OCEAN

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Cameroon	909	510	93,503	23,739,000
Central African	133	89	13,947	26,570,000
Eastern Nigeria	657	524	134,672	38,949,914
Eastern Sahel	155	300	19,365	78,429,000
Northern Ghana	705	955	168,656	14,445,306
Northern Nigeria	224	298	39,299	90,119,408
Southern Ghana	731	1,037	121,241	13,227,694
West African	123	194	29,308	21,992,000
Western Nigeria	267	458	49,407	52,769,678
Western Sahel	54	79	13,920	39,404,000

Total 3,958 4,444 683,318 399,646,000

### PROJECTS:

- ① Multipurpose center for Babcock University, Ogun State, Nigeria
- ② Secondary school in Franceville, Gabon