



YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

2016 • **QUARTER 3** • EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION



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 = stories of special interest to teens

Your Offerings at Work

Three years ago, your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped to build housing for teachers and married students at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton in Kenya. Your offerings

also helped to build classrooms for the children attending the Baraton International School, an elementary school on the university campus. Thank you for giving!



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter features the East-Central Africa Division (ECD), which includes the countries of Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Republic of Djibouti, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. This division is home to more than 360 million people, including more than three million Seventh-day Adventists.

Our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will be going to Rwanda and South Sudan. Both of these countries have experienced horrific wars (including the Rwandan genocide in 1994 and the ongoing fighting in South Sudan). You'll find that several of the stories this quarter contain graphic descriptions of what the people went through and how God helped them survive. Please read the stories ahead of time so you are familiar with the material.

You'll also find that the first story, "God and Guns," is unusual in that I share an amazing experience that I went through while collecting stories in South Sudan.

Once in a while I encounter people who ask me if the mission stories are actually true. I can assure you that every story is absolutely true, and that in most cases, I have met and interviewed the subject of

the story. A couple of people have also asked about stories related to answered prayer. While it is true that God doesn't always answer in the way that we would wish, or at the time we would wish, we do know that He hears and answers our prayers in the way that *He knows best and at the time He knows is best*. I believe these answered prayer stories are important because they build our faith and increase our hope.

Special Features

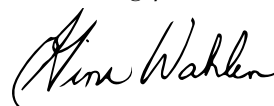
We are now on Facebook! Please visit our page and like us at www.facebook.com/missionquarterlies/.

The free Mission Spotlight DVD from Adventist Mission features a variety of mission stories featuring the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering countries and more. Go to www.adventistmission.org/dvd.

More information and activities: In the "Leader's Resources" page you'll find several helpful websites listed. One especially interesting site is "Our Africa," featuring videos created by young people to introduce others to their countries. I *highly recommend* visiting the Rwanda page at www.our-africa.org/rwanda.

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

Wishing you God's richest blessings!



Gina Wahlen, *Mission* quarterlies editor

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help to:

- build dormitories and a cafeteria at the Adventist University of Central Africa, Rwanda.
- build a "lamb shelter" at the Central Adventist Church in Juba, South Sudan.



Guns and God

Gina Wahlen

I'd heard that South Sudan could be a dangerous place, but I knew I was on God's mission and that it was important to visit our Adventist brothers and sisters there.

Arriving in the capitol city of Juba, I soon met up with Earley (YAR-lee) Simon, our video producer for *Mission Spotlight*, and television program, *Mission 360*.

We spent the next few days interviewing people from across South Sudan, listening to amazing stories of how God had intervened in their lives. Because of safety concerns, all interviews were conducted on the enclosed mission compound of the South Sudan Attached Territory.*

A Brief Tour

On our final day, we asked if we could have a brief tour around Juba for picture-taking. Arrangements were made for a driver and a local pastor to accompany us. Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye, the Health Ministries director for the East-Central Africa

* As an Attached Territory, South Sudan reports directly to the East-Central Africa Division.

Division was also with us.

We were told to be discreet, using only our cell phones for taking pictures. Driving around Juba, we noticed many U.N. vehicles. Barricades and tall fences with razor wire surrounded the government buildings.

Approaching the Nile river, we continued snapping pictures as we crossed the only bridge in Juba. Arriving on the other side, our driver drove a little farther before turning around.

Waiting Soldiers

This time as we crossed the Nile a soldier was waiting for us. We were forced to turn back and cross the bridge again, where several soldiers armed with assault rifles were waiting. We were told to get out of the car and walk down a steep embankment to a two-room makeshift building.

Leading us into the inner room, the soldiers motioned for us to sit down as they took our cell phones. Then they began yelling at our hosts in Arabic. Earley and I silently prayed.

Aware that kidnappings happen, I wondered if that was where we were headed. "Tell my family that I love them" were the first words that came to mind.

The Interrogation

As some of the soldiers continued interrogating our South Sudanese hosts, the leader turned to Earley and me and started asking us questions: “Who are you? Why are you here? Why are you taking pictures? Are you journalists? Where are your credentials?!”

We pulled out our Missionary Credentials issued by the General Conference. Throwing them on his desk, the man yelled, “These are totally meaningless! Give me your passports.”

We handed him our passports. Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed soldiers bringing two assault rifles into the next room.

“Are they going to shoot us?” I wondered.

“Lord, I’m Yours”

Immediately I sent up a quick prayer—“Lord, I’m Yours.” Instantly I felt God’s peace completely surround me and I knew that no matter what happened—whether I would live or die—everything was going to be all right. I had perfect peace.

But then God whispered, “You need to pray with that man [the leader].”

“Okay, Lord, but show me how,” I

silently answered.

The Divine voice continued. “If you don’t share the truth with him, who will?”

“That’s true!” I thought. “What chance does this man have of hearing the truth as it is in Jesus if I don’t share it with him?”

I looked around. What a miserable situation this man and his soldiers were in—lives full of fighting, killing, uncertainty. What hope would they have if I didn’t share?

“Okay, Lord, show me how.”

“This Is Good”

In my bag I always carry some small gifts and GLOW tracts. Quickly and discreetly I counted out five Adventist Mission pens, and grabbed a GLOW tract titled, “When Freedom Dies.”

Then miraculously, the soldiers handed our phones back to us. Standing up, I set the five pens on the leader’s desk.

“Oh, this is good,” he said.

Giving him the GLOW tract about end-time events, I said, “You’re going to want to read this because it will tell you what’s going to happen in the very near future.”

He accepted the tract. Then I asked, “May I pray with you?”

“Yes,” he responded.

“What’s your name?”

“Wilson.”

“Wilson?” I asked.

“Yes, Wilson.”

So I prayed for Wilson, his family, his soldiers and their families, and for their country, that peace would come.

After the prayer there were tears in his eyes as he shook my hand. We were free to go.

“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it” (Matt. 16:25, NKJV). 🌍

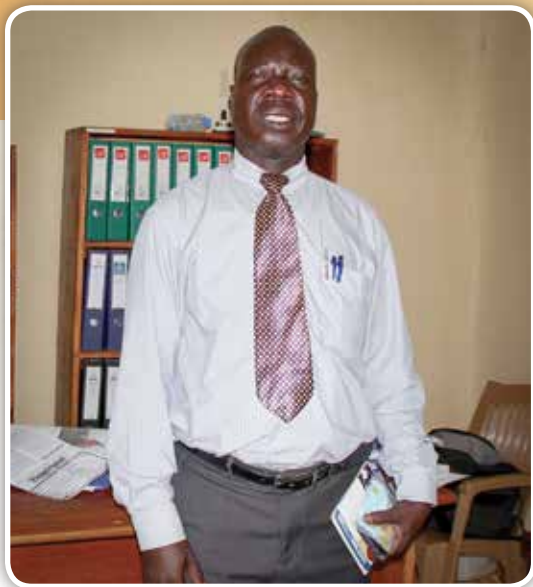
Fast Facts

- Established in 2011, South Sudan is one of the youngest countries in the world.
- Since 2011, the country has suffered numerous wars.
- South Sudan is one of Africa’s most linguistically-diverse countries, with several hundred language groups.
- South Sudan has a predominantly Christian and tribal government while the Islamic Sharia law prevails in Sudan to the north.

Faith in a War Zone, Part 1

SOUTH SUDAN | July 9

Pastor Mark Igga Mona



Editor's Note: In the following first-person account, Pastor Mark Mona, president of the Greater Upper Nile Field in South Sudan, shares his experience of being in the midst of a civil war in Malakal, the city where the Greater Upper Nile Field office was located. For more about Malakal, including pictures, visit: <http://bit.ly/Malakal>.

In December 2013, I left Malakal to attend a Bible Conference in Rwanda organized by the East-Central Africa Division. While there, I heard that there was a problem in Juba. On December 15 during a government meeting, the Vice-president disagreed with the President. Their supporters clashed and many people were killed. Then the rebels started fighting.

On December 24 fighting started in my home city of Malakal. My family

was there; they had to sleep under the bed to protect themselves from the crossfire. Rebels took half of the town. Then the government came and pushed the rebels out. There was a temporary lull in the fighting.

Back Home

I arrived in Juba and wanted to get home to help my wife and three children, ages 10, 7, and 4 escape. Taking the U.N. plane from Juba to Malakal, I arrived on Sunday, Jan. 13, 2014. The city was deserted. Everyone had fled; some to the other side of the Nile. The rebels were coming to capture the city. There was no transportation except for a few government vehicles. How could I get home?

I found the mayor and he took me home to my wife and children, but there

Mission Post

- The South Sudan Attached Territory (SSAT) was organized in 2015, and is part of the East-Central Africa Division.
- The SSAT covers three areas, including the Greater Bahr el Ghazal Field, the Greater Equatoria Field, and the Greater Upper Nile Field.
- There are 59 Adventist churches in South Sudan, with a total of 24,092 members.

was no way we could escape. Early the next morning the rebels arrived and by 2 p.m. they had re-captured Malakal.

My wife, children and I huddled together under our bed for three days, pleading for God’s protection.

Then on Thursday afternoon, one of our church members who belongs to the same tribe as the rebels, came to check on me and my family. She told us to go to the U.N. compound, but we explained that we couldn’t go alone. We didn’t know the language of the rebel tribe. She agreed to go with us, escorting us through dangerous territory. As we left our home, I took my computer and a few clothes, and the children took a few things. Once we left, our house was looted—everything was taken.

Looters and Killers

Passing by the church’s Greater Upper Nile Field office, I saw the rebels looting it—taking equipment, smashing and destroying things, then utterly demolishing the building. I couldn’t say anything. They had guns.

That night we slept in the home of a

rebel—Matthew B. Chol. Matthew had planted the Adventist church in the area, and it was his daughter who was escorting us to safety. During the night Matthew’s fellow tribesman came to his house, demanding that he bring us out so they could kill us. But Matthew protected us, telling the rebels, “Don’t kill them, he’s our pastor.”

In the morning Matthew brought a car and told us that we needed to leave for the U.N. compound immediately. As he drove us there, we saw dead bodies along the road and thanked God that He had spared our lives. 🌍

To be continued.



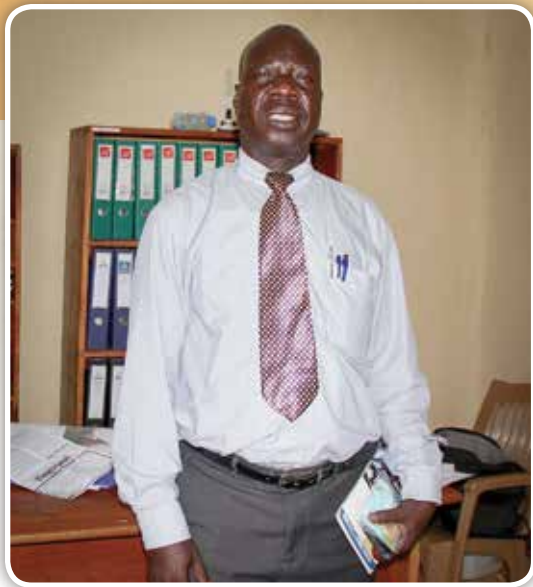
photo: iStockphoto.com

War refugees having breakfast in front of their huts in a displaced persons camp in South Sudan.

Faith in a War Zone, Part 2

SOUTH SUDAN | July 16

Pastor Mark Igga Mona



When we arrived at the U.N. compound we found that most of our Adventist members were there. They welcomed us and gave us a very small place to stay with some wood sticks holding up bed sheets tied to the top. We slept underneath this canopy at night.

We registered in the camp, where we received our food ration card. When the World Food program people came, we showed them this card and received grain, oil, and salt to help us survive. The U.N. also gave some food, but not enough. Water was scarce, with our only supply being the Nile river. Each family was given one or two 20-liter buckets a day for

We lost some of our members to the fighting—some were killed in Malakal, others were killed in Juba.

all of their needs—drinking, cooking, and bathing.

After living in the camp for two months, we were able to make contact with our South Sudan Attached Field office in Juba and I was able to speak with

the president, Pastor Clement. Pastor Clement made accommodation for us through the U.N., and we flew on a U.N. plane to Juba.

Now we're living here in Juba, and operating our Greater Upper Nile Field (GUNF) office from this location for now.

A Scattered Flock

We lost some of our members to the

Fast Facts

- South Sudan has an area of 644,329 sq. km. (248,777 sq. miles).
- A July 2015 estimate places the country's population at 12,042,910.
- The median age in South Sudan is 17.
- Of the many ethnic groups in the country, the Dinka, at 35.8% form the largest group, followed by the Nuer at 15.6%.

fighting—some were killed in Malakal, others were killed in Juba. The remaining members are scattered—some in Ethiopia, others in Kenya, Ghana, Sudan, and in the refugee campus. We've only been able to make contact with those in Ethiopia, Sudan and in the camps.

Some work for NGOs (non-governmental agencies), and they send back their tithe. Whatever little they get, they send in their tithe to keep our field surviving. The Greater Upper Nile Field is operated by General Conference appropriations through the East-Central Africa Division, and by the members' tithe. At the end of 2014, the GUNF had a total of 7,369 members.

We are praying that peace will come so that we can go back to Malakal. Our three Adventist schools in the area were also demolished. All were looted. All were destroyed. These are the challenges waiting for us when peace is restored. Our members are worshipping under trees, because there is no other place for them to worship.

Hoping and Praying

The South Sudanese government and

the rebels have signed an agreement. We hope and pray that peace is going to come to our country. We believe that with God nothing is impossible. He will intervene and bring peace—hopefully soon.

At least here in Juba there is a church where we can worship, but there is no place for the children to meet for Sabbath School, Adventurers, Pathfinders, and other youth activities, except for under the trees. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will provide a “lamb shelter”—a simple but important building where the children can meet here in Juba. Thank you for your generous mission offerings—they truly make a tremendous difference, especially in the lives of our children who have been traumatized by the sound of guns and war for a long time. 🌍



Until peace is restored in Malakal, Pastor Mona is working out of this temporary field office located on the campus of the South Sudan Attached Territory in Juba.



Sleeping In The Church

David Akena

If you want to go to that church, you have to leave!” said David’s father. “You refused to listen to me and you went anyway when I told you not to—you can’t stay here; go!”

David, 16, was an altar boy at the Catholic Church when his friend, Otto, started telling him about the true Sabbath.

“Why don’t you come visit my church,” Otto asked, “and see what it’s all about?” Without telling his family David went with Otto to the Seventh-day Adventist church one Sabbath. He liked it so much that he planned to attend the next Sabbath.

However, that’s when the conflict with his father began. David’s father wanted him to work in the garden, but David told him that he couldn’t because he was going to church instead. His father threatened to disown him but David went to church anyway.

Another time David’s angry father told him, “I’m a hunter. When I bring the meat of these animals home, I want

you to eat it. I know that Seventh-day Adventists don’t eat certain kinds of animals; I don’t want you to be involved with a church that is so restrictive!”

David stopped attending the Adventist church for a while, but then one day Otto came by and told David that he had missed him at church and wondered why he hadn’t come. David said that he was afraid to go because the way his father had spoken to him was “dangerous.” However, the next Sabbath David was back at the Adventist church.

A Logical Place

That’s when his father ordered him to leave home. David had no place to go so he went to the most logical place he could think of—the Seventh-day Adventist church.

He slept in the church for three nights, went to school in the mornings and studied with friends in the afternoons. When the local elder learned of David’s situation, he

counseled with the district pastor and the two men arranged a meeting with David's father. They wanted to tell him that the direction David was going was the best way for the youth and that he would end up being a better son.

Sadly, Mr. Akena didn't show up for the appointment. To add more stress to David's life, it was the time of year for his school exams. In spite of his family difficulties, however, he did very well on his exams.

Church members cared for David in their homes and eventually the father's anger subsided a bit, but he still wouldn't have much to do with the boy. At first the mother took sides with her husband but then she weakened "because of her motherly love," says David.

His parents thought David was confused by the Adventist church and no one in his family supported him in his new beliefs.

Mrs. Akena decided to enroll David in a private boarding school a short distance from home. Mr. Akena wouldn't pay the tuition but David's mother found a way to secretly pay.

Hope Through Bible Promises

Throughout these difficult times Otto shared several Bible texts with David and the promises were a huge encouragement to him. He felt peace when he read Matthew 10:28-31 and realized that God cared for little sparrows and cared for him even more. The idea that God even knew how many hairs were on his head was amazing and comforting to him. Reading in Matthew 10 (verses 34-39) about how one's accepting Christ often brings division to a home seemed to be describing his situation completely.

David came home for the holidays

Mission Post

- Many people receive medical care at the Munuki Seventh-day Adventist Clinic located on the mission compound in Juba.
- While there are basic Adventist church buildings in South Sudan, the children must meet under the trees for Sabbath School, Adventurers, Pathfinders, and other youth activities.
- Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will provide a "Lamb Shelter" for these children.
- Download your own Mission Spotlight DVD at <http://bit.ly/missionspotlight>

during his second term at the boarding school. He talked to his sisters about his religion and the girls were willing to listen. To David's delight, both sisters were eventually baptized.

Then the sad story of rejection started again. Mr. Akena ordered his daughters out of the house. They, too, went to live with church members.

When asked why it was so important for him to join the Seventh-day Adventist church, in spite of the difficulties he faced, David referenced Matthew 10:39: "He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it."

"I found that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is teaching the true Gospel," David said. "God gave us His Sabbath to celebrate and to keep. He also told his disciples to go and preach to the entire world and baptize them. Because I want to go and share what I've found, I've decided to become a pastor." 🌍



Converted After A Funeral

Florence Kolok

I'm so happy," said Florence Kolok of Juba. "I'm happy because I lost my job! If I hadn't lost my job, I wouldn't have found God. I was always so busy there was no time for anything. After work hours I still had to attend meetings or go on trips. I didn't have time for my Bible or to pray. By losing that job I had time for God – time to study and pray."

Florence, 60, is a widow with married children. When she was younger she was a refugee in Kenya and Uganda. Later, she studied education and Bible at a Baptist university and received a degree in agriculture and nutrition. She was a teacher and later worked for several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), including the Catholic Relief Services as a nutritionist.

In South Sudan she taught nutrition, health education, and income-generating skills to women. She also taught community health classes and worked for Save the Children. Her last job was with the South Sudanese government

as chairperson for the construction and development fund. This office closed in 2013, allowing her to find time to slow down and find God.

Questions at the Funeral

One day Florence attended the funeral of a friend. The pastor told the mourners not to worry because the woman was in heaven looking down and feeling sorry for them.

"That didn't click nicely with me," remembered Florence. "If she's already with Jesus what's the point of Jesus' coming again?"

Florence went home to study what the Bible said about death. In October, 2014 she made a decision to learn the truth. She has a cousin who is an Adventist but she says, "I was always persecuting him and telling him that he and his family believed in an old-fashioned religion." When Florence studied the Bible, however, the Lord touched her heart about where the dead are as well as the truth about the Sabbath.

Visiting the Adventist Church

She called her cousin and told him that she wanted to visit his church—what time did it start? He told her they were going to be away that week and to come the next Sabbath. Not wanting to be delayed in her quest she told him she was going to the Central Adventist Church that week whether he and his family were there or not!

While at the church, Florence noticed an advertisement about upcoming evangelistic meetings. She determined to attend. During the meetings, all of her questions were answered and she decided to be baptized even before the meetings were over. Florence now serves as the Women's Ministry director of her church.

Florence's children were accustomed to the Pentecostal church where the family had been members. They asked her how she could become so confused as to join the Adventist Church. But after studying the Bible for themselves, two of her children have also been baptized.

"I Have Jesus In Me"

"I'm different from what I used to be," says Florence. "I used to be very rude. But God has calmed my heart and my friends tell me that I'm different. I tell them it's because I have Jesus in me. The Bible is now my literature. I also like the church's literature such as *The Great Hope* and *The Desire of Ages*."

Besides her change in attitude and disposition, Florence has also experienced a tremendous change in her health. She is a diabetic and was sick and weak and would sometimes faint. Now she feels younger and her strength is returning. Florence credits this to her new knowledge about God along with a healthy diet and lifestyle. She says she

Fast Facts

- Around 83% of the country's population lives in circular stick and mud structures called "tukels". These rustic cottages generally have no windows, are tall and have thatched roofs.
- Nimule, the small but breathtaking national park was home to the now-extinct white rhino. Today a large number of hippo, the Ugandan kob, buffalo and elephants live here.
- The first baby born in South Sudan on July 9 – the day it became an independent nation – was a boy whose parents named him "Independent" in honor of the new nation.

used to be a coffee addict, drinking many cups at home and the office. She used to eat a lot of meat but is now a vegetarian and feels much better. For the first time in 15 years her sugar levels are under control.

Florence's doctor was surprised to see how well she was doing and wondered what had happened. Florence is quick to say that the improvement in her health comes from being an Adventist Christian, eating healthfully, and drinking plenty of water. "Now I know the truth!" she proclaims to everyone who will listen.

Pastor Elia Ibrahim says that the church is blessed because of Florence's influence.

However, since 2014 they have had to move to four locations as it's difficult to find a place to worship in a Catholic community. "The people here are in need of God's word and this is a fertile place for hearing His word. We need the prayers of the world church that God will give us power and ability." 🌍

“The Center of My Day”

SOUTH SUDAN | August 6

Maureen Edward



I wasn't a bad person," explains Maureen Edward from Juba. "I just didn't read the Bible except at Christmas time." But after finding "94.0 Salvation FM," she says, "Now I can't start the day without reading the Bible."

She first found music on the station which began broadcasting in 2012. Then she heard a program called "Radio Hope." "Radio Hope what?" she wondered. On another day she started listening to a program called "The Word of God."

Impressed, she called the Adventist-owned radio station and talked to the producer. She asked how she could learn more about God and how she could share what she was learning.

"I kept listening to 94.0 and it became the center of my day," she said. "Hope Sabbath School" and "The Word of Today" are two of the programs that Maureen especially appreciates.

One day the radio station's producer called Maureen and invited her to come to the studio to celebrate the station's anniversary. Once at the small studio housed in a shipping container, Maureen felt right at home since she was already familiar with the radio voices that she listened to every day. It was easy to be open and converse with them.

A Strange Invitation

Soon the radio station announcer and producer invited Maureen to come and worship with them at the Juba Central Seventh-day Adventist Church on the next Sabbath.

"Worship on Saturday?" Maureen questioned to herself. "That didn't sound good to me as I had always worshiped on Sunday."

She made excuses not to come and in response the station personnel said they would pray for her. Nevertheless, Maureen couldn't shake the fact that these people really cared. Finally, touched with their kindness, she decided to give it a try.

"Everybody was happy, enjoying the Sabbath" she remembers. Her radio friends introduced Maureen to the many other people at the church, and soon afterward

she began faithfully attending “The Happiness Class,” a Bible study class especially for those seeking to understand the Bible.

Empowered by Bible Promises

Soon Maureen began going with the church members to make hospital calls and other visits, and eventually told the pastor that she wanted to become a Seventh-day Adventist. After further studies she was baptized in September, 2015. Maureen continues to serve God by being part of a prayer band and being a prayer warrior. Although formerly timid and shy, she now preaches in hospitals and prisons.

When Maureen was first asked to preach in a prison, she was frightened. She knelt down and said, “Lord, I’m the girl who is to preach at the prison next Sabbath, help me to know what to say.” Turning to her Bible she read Jeremiah 1:6, 7:

“Ah, Lord God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth.” But the Lord said to me: “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.”

Her fears were quelled, she focused on what she would preach about and everything went well.

Impact of the Small Radio Station

William Aruna Okumo, the producer for 94.0 Salvation FM, says that it took courage for Maureen to step forward. Her courage gave the radio staff encouragement, knowing that they are reaching people with Biblical messages. This makes the speakers dig deeper and be even more thorough in their presentations.

A government official has responded to their programs and would like to have

Mission Post

- Check out the Facebook page for 94 Salvation FM Juba at <http://bit.ly/salvationradiojub>.
- To read more about the Adventist Church in South Sudan, see “Adventists in South Sudan Urged to Be Ambassadors of Peace” in the *Adventist Review* at <http://bit.ly/adventistsinsudan>.

the programming available to a wider area. Other listeners have been converted while listening to the Bible truths. Okumo says that Maureen came to them and was welcomed and now she feels as though she has a new family. They endeavor to reach out to the community with this same spirit of family.

Juba, on the White Nile River, is a city of about 400,000 and is the capitol of South Sudan. It is also the capitol of Central Equatoria which is one of the ten states of South Sudan.

The facilities for 94.0 Salvation FM, which is located on the Adventist Mission compound, is unique and humble. The studio is located in a shipping container with mattresses on the walls for sound absorption! The station broadcasts from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. every day, but with their low power, the signal doesn’t even reach all of Juba. The station’s range is only 30 kilometers (18.6 miles).

These challenges don’t seem to worry Maureen or the station staff. She says, “When you love God, whatever it is you plan to do for Him, ask Him and He will give you wisdom and the answers you need.” 🌍

Preaching to the Killers, Part 1



RWANDA | August 13

Phodidas Ndamyumugabe

Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of powerful stories of forgiveness from survivors of the Rwandan genocide that took place in 1994. Please note that these are real experiences and at times include graphic details.

Phodidas (foe-DEE-dus)—whose name means “I worship the Lord”—was born into a Seventh-day Adventist home in the mountains of Rwanda. At an early age Phodidas showed leadership abilities and a dedication to God’s Word. He was active in school, Pathfinders, and in the Adventist Youth (AY). He became responsible for the spiritual life of his peers and preached the morning devotionals at school each day.

Over the years his Bible became marked with numerous underlinings and highlights of various verses. Little did Phodidas

realize how that marked Bible would help to save his life during the horrific Rwandan genocide in 1994 when he was given grace to preach to his killers.

In his own words he tells what happened:

Digging My Grave

Before killing me, the killers decided that I should dig my own grave. As I was digging, I was also praying. “Lord, I believe you can deliver me. You can protect me from being killed by these people. I’ve preached about Daniel in the lion’s den, and about how you delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace. Are you still the same God? You can show me now. Please give me that faith.”

I was hoping that God would give me wings to fly away, or that He would send fire from heaven. But God answered in a much different way from

what I could have imagined.

As I was digging the grave, one of the killers picked up my Bible and was looking at it. Noticing the many markings in it he asked, “What do all these colors mean?”

“Those are my favorite verses,” I said.

Interested, the man started reading the many highlighted verses. “Are you sure you’ve read all of these?” he asked incredulously.

“Yes,” I responded. I could see that the man had some pity for me.

Turning to his fellow killers he said, “Friends, I know we’re going to kill this man, but please let me help him dig!”

The leader nodded and the man jumped into the hole with me and started digging. “Lord, I prayed, *“this grave is going to be finished quickly now. What are You going to do?”*”

God Had A Plan

God had a plan, but sometimes we want to try and force God to answer our prayers in the way that we think is best, rather than just trusting Him.

To my surprise, as soon as we were finished digging, the grave digging killer said to his colleagues, “Why should we use the grave for this man we don’t even know? Let him go and dig another grave near the highway. This is our field; why should we bury him here?”

The group agreed, and decided to use the grave for another man they had just killed. Then ironically, one of the killers said, “Before we bury that man, why don’t we pray for him.”

I watched as the group gathered around the body of the person they had just killed before coming after me. “Mary, mother of Jesus, receive him,” they said before

rolling the corpse into the grave that had been meant for me.

All of a sudden my entire outlook changed. “Lord!” I gasped, “*Don’t allow me to be separated from these people before I tell them who You are! These are people who have never heard about You. They think they can pray for someone they have killed. And we are partly responsible. We never came and taught them the truth about You.*”

Right after they buried that man, we moved closer to the highway. I was about to start digging another grave when the man who had my Bible asked if he could keep it. I said, “yes,” but the other killers told him “No! It’s ours—you’ll have to pay for it!”

I could see that the Holy Spirit had already touched this man’s heart, so I begged him, “Please, can I have that Bible and say something before I dig another grave?”

The man was excited and said, “Go ahead!” but another one shouted, “No! He’s our enemy. He has nothing to tell us.”

Then the arguing became very sharp, with some of the group insisting that I should be given the opportunity to speak, while others insisted that I had nothing to say. Just when it appeared that the killers were going to fight each other, one who appeared older than the others asked, “Why are you going to fight over someone you don’t even know? Those who want to listen, sit and listen; others, sit and shut your ears. When he’s done, we’ll kill him.”

So they all sat down and I started to preach. 🌍

To be continued.

Preaching to the Killers, Part 2

RWANDA | August 20

Phodidas Ndamyumugabe



The story thus far: Phodidas had been captured by the killers, who forced him to dig his own grave. While he was digging, one of the killers became interested in Phodidas' Bible and began asking questions. Once the grave was dug, the group decided to use it for someone else. Before forcing Phodidas to dig a second grave, they allowed him to speak to them.

First, I thanked them. “Thank you for praying for somebody that you have killed. However, you need to understand what the Bible says about death—the only chance you have to be saved is during your lifetime—not after you are dead. ‘For the living know that they will die,’ I quoted from Eccl. 9:5, ‘but the dead know nothing.’ I’m not going to plead for you to let me go, I continued, because I know that even if you kill me a time is coming when I will

be resurrected.

“Among the people you are killing are another tribe—they are not Hutu or Tutsis. They are God’s children. You think that you’re fighting a tribal war, but you’re mistaken. This is a war between Christ and Satan. You think that the people you’re killing are Tutsis, but they belong to a totally different tribe because they have given their hearts to Jesus and they are His children.”

Then I read 1 Peter 2:9-10 to them: “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

As I preached, I could see some of the killers were crying, and I knew that the Holy Spirit was working on their hearts. After preaching for 15 to 20 minutes I told the group, “Now I’m going to say a final prayer, and after that I will dig another grave.”

As soon as I finished praying, someone shouted, “If anyone kills this person, his blood be upon them!”

“No, we can’t kill him!” the others said. “Let him go! We can’t kill him.”

Then the leader spoke up. “I was the one who suggested that we kill this man in a very bad way. But now, we’re not going to kill him.”

I knew it was only by God's grace that my life was spared. Who am I? I didn't have any power. God was just kind.*

A Pledge

During the approximately 100-day genocide from April 7 to mid-July, 1994, approximately 1 million people were killed, including my entire family. But even though I came face to face with death numerous times, the Lord always saw fit to spare my life.

During the genocide I made a pledge to God—that if I survived, I would return to my home village and preach to those who had killed my family. Following the genocide, I was assigned to serve in one of the biggest churches in Kigali. I was very busy, organizing 42 evangelistic campaigns throughout the city. However, I knew it was important to keep my promise to God and return to my home village, even though it was with some reluctance. God said, “Go!” so I went back to my village and preached. Praise God, 120 people were baptized.

Life Without Bitterness

Some may ask, “After what you’ve been through, how can you live without bitterness?” God is really good. There were so many people who just lost themselves—living without any relatives—no nephews, nieces, cousins, no one. But it’s interesting what God does for those who love Him. I became very interested in knowing how to get in touch with my Lord. It’s good to read the word of God because it helps you when the bad moments come. You know how to pray and you know that He listens. I forgot about myself and I didn’t remember my problems any more. I learned that God

* For more of the experiences of Phodidas during the genocide, read his book, *Rwanda: Beyond Wildest Imagination*, by Phodidas Ndamyugabe.

Fast Facts

- The Republic of Rwanda has a total area of 10,169 square miles (26,338 sq. km.).
 - With a population of more than 11 million people, Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in the world.
- The country’s monetary unit is the Rwandan franc.

looks after you, and you can be a solution for other people, rather than the problem.

Beyond the Genocide

In 2000, Phodidas went to the Philippines to study at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS), where he earned his Ph.D. in 2006. His dissertation dealt with possible causes of Christians becoming involved in genocide.

Today, Dr. Phodidas Ndamyugabe is a professor at the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) in Kigali where he teaches Philosophy of Science and Religion, Bible doctrines, Greek, New Testament Exegesis, and applied theology.

A portion of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will be going to AUCA where a new school of medicine will be established. The offering will help to build dormitories and a cafeteria

“Health ministry is very important,” says Dr. Phodidas. “Our students will learn how to minister to patients. Besides providing medical care, they’ll know that they are representing God in the patient’s room and they can pray with the patient. They may teach the patient about Jesus and what they need to know to be able to inherit eternal life.” 🌍

Forgiving the Unforgiveable, Part 1

RWANDA | August 27

Pastor Isaac Ndwaniye



If anyone has a reason to look forward to the Second Coming of Jesus it is Pastor Isaac Ndwaniye. Pastor Isaac lost his entire family—his wife and nine children, his father and mother, three sisters, a brother and a brother-in-law—all killed during the Rwandan genocide. And yet, he doesn't seek revenge. Instead, Pastor Isaac exemplifies forgiveness and passionately preaches about the Second Coming because, he says, "I can hardly wait to see my family again!"

In this two-part story, Pastor Isaac tells the story of the dark days of the genocide and its aftermath.

A Big Problem

We had a very big problem. Rwandans had lived together peacefully, but in 1994 I was surprised to see our neighbors

turning on us and killing us. That's when I began to understand that the devil is really alive.

At the time, I was director of the publishing department of what was then known as the South Rwanda Field. The office, church, school, workers' homes and Mugonero Hospital were all located on the same mission compound in an area of the country known as Kibuye.

On April 6, 1994, I was attending publishing meetings at the Rwanda Union Mission office in Kigali. That night the president of Rwanda was shot down in his plane, and the genocide began. The next day, an employee at the Mugonero hospital called, saying that my 14-year-old son, Paul, had been killed and that my wife and children had fled to the church for protection.

Many people fled to the compound because they were told that they would be safe there. Pastors and their families, church members, all crowded onto the compound, and particularly the church, thinking they would be safe.

The Killers Came

On Sabbath, April 16, the killers came—brought onto the compound by the mission president himself, and his son, a physician who was the hospital’s medical director.

How could this be? My father, a pastor, had worked with this man when I was growing up. I had worked with this president and had no idea what was in his heart.

What made me very sad, was that the pastors who were inside the church with my wife and children wrote a letter to the mission president, telling him “We know they’re coming to kill us. Please help us get a boat to the lake and go to the Congo so we can be rescued.” The letter was taken by a soldier who was protecting them in the church, because they couldn’t come out.

Sadly, the president responded that not even God could help them now.

People came from all over the country to kill them. Not all of the killers were Adventist, but some were. They came with grenades, machetes, knives—anything that could kill a human being.

Inside the Church

Those who were to be killed were in the church worshipping. A pastor was preaching. The killers first shot and killed him, then they started killing the others in the church. My wife and children ran to the president’s house for help, but he turned them away. Others ran toward the hospital, trying to escape, but were caught by people who were waiting for them with machetes. The killing inside the compound continued for several days. Day and night the killers kept looking for those who might have escaped. They even

brought dogs to look for them in the bush.

Something that gives me strength now is knowing how my family and the other pastors and families in the church spent their last few days—they were studying the Bible. It was a time when those who were in the church asked forgiveness from each other, and it was a time of prayer. That gives me strength to continue living because I know one day I will see them again. I don’t accuse God of anything. I know they are sleeping and one day they will wake up. And so I have faith that my family, and my fellow pastors—that I’ll receive them again. Because of that I live for Him.

In A Refugee Camp

Because of all the killings, I wasn’t able to return home. From Kigali I, along with others who were targeted to be killed, were rescued by rebel soldiers and taken to a refugee camp in a northern province where we would be safe.

When I got there, God was with me and He helped me so much. One Friday evening I was walking around the city near the refugee camp and saw an abandoned Catholic church. I asked someone if there would be any problem if we prayed and held services in the church. No problem, they said. So I went back to the camp and invited people to come to the church on Sabbath.

I was the only pastor in the camp, and I didn’t have time to think about sad things. I learned that when you’re busy doing something that is right, it makes you forget bad things that have happened to you. That’s when God strengthened me. 🙏

To be continued.

Forgiving the Unforgiveable, Part 2

RWANDA | September 3

Pastor Isaac Ndwaniye



The story thus far: After losing his entire family during the genocide, Pastor Isaac was taken to a refugee camp in the northern part of Rwanda. While there, he organized an Adventist church.

We organized a committee for the church and we met as a congregation every Sabbath. Even though we were refugees, whoever had some money kept giving tithe and offerings as if they were still at home. Sometimes people from Uganda came to visit and would give us money, from which we gave tithe and offerings. We set the tithe safely aside until the church in Rwanda could begin working again, and we used the offerings to help treat people who had been injured in the war.

In addition to those of us who were already Adventist, many others worshipped with us each Sabbath. By the

time we were able to leave the refugee camp four months later, 300 souls were ready for baptism!

After the Genocide

When the genocide was over, I returned to Kigali and found that no Adventist church was operating. So I went throughout the city, pleading with people to return to church. Slowly, people returned to the churches, and I was asked to serve as president of this field for two years before working in publishing at the Rwandan Union.

Five years later I was given the most challenging invitation I have ever received—would I be willing to serve as president back in the very area that included the Mugonero compound where my family had been killed?

I prayed about it and decided to go. This would be the first time to go back and work with the people who had killed my family. And so when I went back

there by myself, I didn't know what to say. I prayed, "God help me and give me strength and words to say to these people."

I remember one night just after arriving back in this district, I prayed the whole night asking God for clear direction. In the morning when I went to the office I had a very distinct impression telling me, "Call everyone together for a meeting."

I think that if I had returned and not called the people to come close to me and opened my heart to them, I would have failed as their mission president. I went there to work, and I told myself I must do it, I cannot fail.

Opening My Heart

I knew that if I didn't speak with them at the beginning, they would always feel threatened by my presence, wondering if I was going to seek revenge. I realized that I needed to open my heart to them and tell them that I have no problem with anyone, and that no one should for me. What we had in common was the work that Jesus left for us to do—to preach the good news. I wanted to show them what brings us together, rather than what separates us.

So I called for a large district meeting the first Sabbath I was back, and before preaching I shared my heart with them.

"The [Rwanda] Union has sent me here to preach the good news, and to lead this conference," I said. "I don't want anyone to tell me who killed my family. I don't even want you to tell me that you're my friend. My friend is the one who loves God and who loves God's work. Let's work together in that spirit."

I worked in Kibuye for three years before being called back to Kigali to serve as president of the East Central Rwandan Mission (Conference East now), which is

where I am still serving today. We praise the Lord that our conference has grown from 65,000 church members in 2004 to more than 110,000 today.

No Revenge

My favorite Bible verse is John 3:16—"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (NKJV). If God had not loved *everyone* in the world, I would have gone back and killed the killers! But God loves them, and He gives them time to repent.

When I was in the refugee camp during the genocide, a journalist came to interview me. He had heard about how I had lost my entire family and asked, "What do you think about revenge?"

I took my Bible and opened to Hebrews 10:30-31—"For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord. And again, 'The Lord will judge His people.' It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

"It's a scary thing when the Lord will come and catch you!" I said. The journalist was amazed. He thought I was going to encourage revenge, but I had the answer from the Bible.

When people say bad things about the killers, I like to remind them that we have a God who is very patient with us. And He's very patient with everyone. He doesn't want anyone to perish. That's the only thing that can help someone going through such circumstances. Whenever anyone comes to God and asks for forgiveness, God forgives that person. There's no sin God can't forgive. Death is not something that scares God. It's not a big problem to God. God has a solution, even today. 🌍



Life Is Coming Back

Samuel Ndagijimana

Samuel was hiding with his family inside the Mugonero Hospital on that fateful Sabbath—April 16, 1994. Following the killings in the church, the mob moved toward the hospital, killing everyone in their way. Entering the hospital, they went from room to room, sometimes using guns or machetes, other times throwing hand grenades. Those who survived hid under the dead bodies of their relatives and pretended to be dead themselves. Samuel stayed in that position until 1 p.m. the following day when he was able to sneak away to another hiding place.

“Those of us who survived,” he says, “know it was only by God’s grace, because they continued killing people for three months.”

Samuel is part of a small community of Mugonero compound survivors. Dealing with the first-hand trauma they experienced hasn’t been easy, Samuel admits. Nevertheless, he realizes that life should continue, and has put himself “in the hand of God.”

“As survivors,” he says, “we have accepted

that it’s only because of God that we’re alive, and God knows why we survived.”

The new government of Rwanda has also been instrumental in the healing process, according to Samuel and other survivors. Rather than encouraging revenge, top governmental leaders offered the possibility of forgiveness to many who committed these crimes. Others who were instrumental in leading out in the massacres were tried and convicted of crimes against humanity and genocide.

Mugonero Today

Today Mugonero Hospital is once again a place of healing, offering a variety of services to the community, such as HIV-AIDS treatment and awareness, internal medicine, general surgery, mother and child care, malaria and tuberculosis surveillance and preventive programs, nutrition, mental health, laboratory testing, radiology, and chaplaincy services.

Samuel serves as an ambulance driver. The hospital operates six health centers in surrounding areas, and Samuel is charged with transporting to the hospital those in need of further care.

In conjunction with the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) in Kigali, a school of nursing was reinstated at the hospital in the fall of 2015. For the

Fast Facts

- Rwanda, one of the smallest countries in the world, lies directly north of Burundi and between Uganda, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Rwanda is a hilly country with farms on all but the most rugged land.
- Rwanda is one of only three countries where you can see Mountain Gorillas.
- The equator runs just north of Rwanda, but because of the country's elevation, it maintains a temperate climate year round.

genocide survivors, this is a part of the healing process.

“Before the genocide, the hill [Mugonero complex] was developed,” said Samuel. “The hospital was very advanced, the nursing school was very good. My hope is that this place will be restored and even better than it was before. I want to thank the people who have given so that we could bring back the nursing school. And thank you for the mission offering that is going to AUCA. Life is coming back.”

Medical Care

According to Dr. Fesaha Tsegaye, health ministries director for the East-Central Africa Division (ECD), there is an extreme shortage of health care professionals in East Africa. He states that “sub-Saharan Africa needs about 1 million health care professionals to offer quality care, and to keep up offering quality care. This is what’s driving the necessity for a medical school at AUCA.”

While the World Health Organization recommends 1 doctor for every 8,000 people, the doctor/patient ratio in Rwanda is 1: 20,000 and the average

doctor/patient ratio throughout the territory of the ECD is 1: 17,000.

Other issues faced by Rwanda and other ECD countries are poor health indicators such as the maternal, infant, and (children) under 5 mortality rate. In Rwanda, there are 500 maternal deaths to 100,000 live births, and in South Sudan the rate is more than 2,000 maternal deaths to 100,000 live births, says Dr. Tsegaye.

Quality care is another issue. “If you train your doctors well,” says Dr. Tsegaye, you will have qualified doctors who should be able to offer quality service. And that improves the health of the mothers and the well-being of the children.”

Medical Missionaries

The new medical school in Rwanda will train doctors who will be serving in the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church, according to Dr. Tsegaye. Not only will students receive top-level training, but they’ll learn the principles of medical missionary work and health evangelism which will aid them in offering Christ-centered, compassionate service to their patients.

“In the ECD territory, we have ten hospitals and 156 clinics and dispensaries,” says Dr. Tsegaye. “We have inter-division employees (international missionaries) who are working in these places, and we thank the world church. But we know that number is going to be reduced, and we must fill the gap. With this new medical school, we can train our nationals to become missionary doctors.”

The new medical school at AUCA will be a division-level institution. Graduates will serve throughout the ECD territory and beyond. 🌍

Children of the Genocide

RWANDA | September 17

Alphonse and Sebageni



When Alphonse was seven years old he went into hiding with his parents and three younger brothers. Trying to avoid being killed, the family did the best they could to survive in the bush.

“My parents protected me and taught me how to hide,” he remembers. “After they died, I was still hiding with my brothers. It’s only by God’s grace that we survived.”

After the genocide, Alphonse and his brothers ended up in a Seventh-day Adventist orphanage. The orphanage had 115 children—all of whom had lost their parents during the genocide.

Like A Family

“We were given everything we needed,” Alphonse said. “Food, clothes, notebooks, school fees. I was happy being together with other children who had the same problem as my brothers and me. Being together we started forgetting what had

happened to us.

“The owners of the orphanage brought us people who were like our parents. We called them mother and father, and we called the other children our brothers and sisters just so we could feel that we had a family. We felt as if we were living in a normal family. We had worship together, fetched water, and did many other normal things that are done in a family. On Friday evenings and Sabbath, we had rest, worship, praying, and so on. We also had a beautiful choir, and even recorded some CDs.

“When I turned 18 I had to leave the orphanage, but I enjoyed going back to visit my brothers and sisters there.”

After leaving the orphanage, Alphonse met the new director of the Mugonero Hospital—a Brazilian man—who invited Alphonse to work for him as a secretary and translator. Later, Alphonse went for further training and returned to Mugonero Hospital where he now works as the public relations and customer care director.

In 2012 Alphonse married. He and his wife, who works as a charge nurse at the hospital, have two sons.

Alphonse enjoys working at the hospital, and especially appreciates the staff. “We are friends and we work as a team,” he says. “It’s like a family. Many of our staff are Adventists. We have the same spirit and understanding. It’s good when people have the same understanding.”

Keep Praying

Like Alphonse, Sebageni was orphaned during the genocide, but he and his two brothers survived.

“We lived in the western province,” Sebageni says. “My parents were Seventh-day Adventists, and my father worked at the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) when it was located on the Mudende campus. My parents and grandmother were inside a building at the university when the killers burned down the building with many people inside.

“I remember our parents telling us to keep praying. They told us to be strong, and to pray that we would become people who could help others.”

“After our parents and grandmother were killed, we lived with our aunt who came from the Congo. After finishing secondary school, I received a scholarship from the government of Rwanda for genocide survivors. I took chef’s training and worked as a chef for four years.

Invitation from AUCA

“In 2014 AUCA offered free tuition to those whose parents were killed while working on the Mudende campus. Now I’m now studying business administration at AUCA on the new campus in Kigali.

“I’ve chosen business because that’s the career where many people forget Jesus, and I want to help them. If I take theology, there are already many pastors. But when I go into business, I can share with those who don’t know the Bible well.

“I’ll tell them about how a rich man can follow Jesus through the money he makes. Many accountants steal money. But how can an accountant be a person who doesn’t steal? How can they be someone who isn’t selfish, but instead gives money

to help others? In business, people usually work for themselves, not for others. But I want to show them a better way.”

“I’m Still Alive”

Sebageni’s favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 41:10—“Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.”

“This is a special verse to me,” says Sebageni. “In 1994, although millions were killed, I’m still alive. Although our parents, our families, have died—it isn’t eternal. They will be resurrected. God can give them back to us.

“When I read the Bible, I’m happy; I’m no longer crying. That’s the richness that’s in the Bible. I’m strengthened. I’m looking forward to Jesus’ soon coming and taking us to heaven where we can leave these bad things on this earth.”

Sebageni plans to help others in the business world know Jesus. “Helping others is important—it’s the importance of love,” he says. 🌍



Thirteenth Sabbath Program

➤	Opening Song	“Lift High The Cross” <i>Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 362
➤	Welcome	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher
➤	Prayer	
➤	Program	“Running From The Devil”
➤	Offering	
➤	Closing Song	“Sound the Battle Cry ” <i>Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 614
➤	Closing Prayer	

Participants: Two narrators and one male reader.

Props: Flags (or pictures of flags), from Rwanda and South Sudan; Large map of Africa or the world, with the countries of Rwanda and South Sudan highlighted.

Narrator 1: This quarter our mission focus has been on the East-Central Africa Division, and specifically on the countries of South Sudan and Rwanda. We have heard some amazing stories of God’s intervention in very difficult circumstances, of survival, and of forgiveness. Today we will hear one more story coming from South Sudan. This story involves demon possession and the ministry of one of our Global Mission Pioneers in that country.

Narrator 2: A Global Mission Pioneer is a layperson chosen by the church, who is asked to move into a community and teach the everlasting gospel while modeling the values of Christianity. Pioneers serve a unique and special role in starting new congregations in new areas, among new people groups. Wherever

pioneers work, they look like everybody else, live like everybody else, serve in an incarnational ministry, and make friends with people. The average length of time a pioneer commits to a community is from three to five years.

Narrator 1: Our story today is about Ajak (ah-JACK) Bol Ayuel, a Global Mission Pioneer who is working in his home territory of the Greater Upper Nile Field, located in the north-east corner of South Sudan. He’s been serving as a Pioneer since May, 2015.

Narrator 2: The local Seventh-day Adventist church in Ajak’s town isn’t large, but when fighting broke out along the northern border with Sudan, most of the members fled. However, Ajak and his family decided to stay and minister to the ten members who were left, as well

as the other townspeople. As the fighting subsided, more people returned to the town.

Ajak mingled with the people and got to know them and their needs. He started giving Bible studies in several homes.

Then one day one of Ajak's neighbors had a very frightening experience. Ajak tells us about it in his own words:

Male Reader: An evil spirit came into my neighbor and she was screaming and crying. She ran out of her home, came over to my house, and fell down on the ground. I came out and when this woman saw me she screamed, "I don't like this man!"

She got up and continued screaming as she ran down the road toward the Pentecostal church. When she got to the church she threw herself down and continued screaming. Several people ran outside and held her down so that she couldn't keep running.

When she saw me approaching she yelled, "I don't want this man in this place!"

"Let's pray for this woman," I told those who had gathered around her. But as I came closer to pray, she blew blindingly hot air in my face and I had to step back for a moment. Nevertheless, I knew it was very important to pray for this woman if she could ever hope to be free of the demons that were possessing her.

I stepped forward again and began praying, trusting that God would heal her. As I continued to pray, the evil spirits left her. The woman relaxed and came back into her right mind. She opened her eyes, looked to the right and to the left and asked, "How did I get here?"

When she realized what had happened, she began to thank and praise God. As we walked back together to her home I told her, "God has released you from the evil

spirit that was taking hold of you. It's very important to continue to pray so that it [the evil spirit] doesn't come back."

Narrator 1: Ajak is now studying the Bible with this woman. She is very grateful that the evil spirit has not returned. Hopefully, she will be baptized soon.

Narrator 2: As we have seen this quarter, the people of South Sudan have been through wars and many difficult experiences; nevertheless, the church continues to grow there. In Juba, many are being reached through the Adventist radio station located on the mission compound. Others attend evangelistic programs, and still others learn the Adventist message through friends or relatives.

Narrator 1: While there are Adventist churches in South Sudan, there are no rooms or other areas within these very basic buildings where children and youth can meet for Sabbath School or other activities such as Adventurers, Pathfinders, or Adventist Youth (AY) meetings. So they meet under the trees or open sky when the weather is good, but must cancel when it rains.

Narrator 2: A portion of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will go to build a special building—known as a "Lamb Shelter"—for the children in Juba, South Sudan. This building will provide a protected place where the children and youth will be able to regularly hold their meetings, regardless of the weather.

Narrator 1: The other portion of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will be going to the new campus of the Adventist University of Central Africa (AUCA) in Kigali, Rwanda.

Narrator 2: As we have heard this quarter, Rwanda is a country that has risen from the ashes of the genocide and

through forgiveness and God's grace has become a place of healing and moving forward together.

Narrator 1: In conjunction with the East-Central Africa Division, AUCA is establishing a Seventh-day Adventist medical school on its beautiful campus in Kigali. Students at this Adventist university will not only receive excellent medical training—they will also be trained in how to serve as effective medical missionaries, working together with Jesus in healing mind, body, and spirit.

Narrator 2: AUCA is in need of dormitories to house these students as

well as a cafeteria where wholesome, vegetarian food will be available. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will be going to help build these needed dormitories and cafeteria on the campus of AUCA.

Male Reader: Thank you so much for your generous gift today that will help the children and young people in South Sudan and Rwanda. Please be assured that your offering will make an eternal difference in the lives of many. May God bless you!

[Offering]

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

Next quarter the Inter-European Division (EUD) will be featured. Special projects include providing a new place of worship for an international Adventist congregation in Vienna, Austria; a new church building for a congregation in Ragusa, Italy; and the creation of a Jewish-Adventist Friendship Center in Paris, France.



Leader's Resources

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 the East Africa countries featured in this quarterly, visit your local library or a travel agency, or visit the websites listed below.

An excellent website to explore is "Our Africa." This site has a wide variety of information and activities and features a pull-down A-Z menu of African countries to explore. Although some of these sites are geared for children, they can still provide helpful information for adults.

Rwanda:

www.expertafrica.com/rwanda/info/rwanda-general-information
www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14093238
www.our-africa.org/rwanda

South Sudan:

www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14069082
www.goss.org/index.php/about-south-sudan
www.infolplease.com/world/countries/south-sudan.html

You may also find these denominational sites helpful:

East-Central Africa Division: www.ecdadventist.org
Adventist University of Central Africa: www.auca.ac.rw

Be sure to download your free *Mission Spotlight* video, featuring video reports from around East-Central Africa and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at <https://am.adventistmission.org/mission-spotlight>.

Get your FREE Thirteenth Sabbath Offering Bank by sending an email to: missionquarterlies@gc.adventist.org. Please indicate the number of offering banks you are requesting and a complete mailing address.

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 East-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.

YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

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Mission (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2014 by the Office of Adventist Mission, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.

Printed in U.S.A.

Third Quarter 2016
Volume 105, Number 3

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For subscription inquiries, e-mail Rebecca Hilde at Rebecca.Hilde@pacificpress.com or call 1-800-447-7377. Annual subscription rates per edition: domestic, US\$7.50; international, US\$14.50.

EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION



	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Burundi	377	414	109,138	10,483,000
East Congo	242	401	70,312	10,020,314
East Kenya	2,674	2,049	459,426	37,233,236
Ethiopian	901	368	162,588	96,819,000
North East Congo	1,031	583	160,606	20,396,462
Northern Tanzania	1,840	1,347	359,059	28,525,434
Rwanda	1,713	560	645,048	11,080,000
Southern Tanzania	642	878	111,592	22,231,566
Uganda	927	1,974	285,180	38,845,000
West Congo	643	629	293,987	40,750,224
West Kenya	2,371	1,815	364,759	16,782,764
Attached Fields	62	180	24,618	18,275,000
TOTAL	13,423	11,198	3,046,313	351,442,000

Statistics from the 2015 Annual Statistical Report
 Population statistics from the 2015 Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook

PROJECTS:

- ① Dormitories and Cafeteria for ECD Medical School, Kigali, Rwanda
- ② Children's Project: Lamb Shelter for children in Juba, S. Sudan



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OCEAN

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