

150
1863-2013
SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST CHURCH
United for Mission

YOUTH AND ADULT MAGAZINE

MISSION

2013 • **QUARTER 2** • EAST-CENTRAL AFRICAN DIVISION



www.AdventistMission.org

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On the Cover: Nziavake Abidan, a recent graduate of Lukanga Adventist University in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which will receive part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

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if = stories of special interest to teens

Your Offerings at Work



Three years ago part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to build this church-multipurpose building on the campus of the Adventist University of Central Africa. Members worked hard to stretch your mission offering, and they say thank you for helping make the building the heart of the university campus and outreach.



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter we feature the East-Central Africa Division, which includes the countries of Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The Challenges

More than 324 million people live in this region, including more than 2.7 million Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for nearly every 118 people. A significant percentage of the population in East-Central Africa Division is not Christian. About 25 million people in the region are Muslim, including 32 percent of Tanzania's population, 8 percent of Kenya's, and 100 percent of Somalia's

population. The challenge to reach these people is enormous.

Medical work has proved an effective means to open doors to non-Christians as well as Christians of other faiths.

For more than 40 years Adventists have operated a small clinic near Mwanza, a city on the southern shores of Lake Victoria. Over the years the clinic has grown and enlarged its services. Its reputation for quality care is forcing it to enlarge further. Adventists in Tanzania have accepted the challenge to build a hospital on the clinic land. But they can't do it alone. They need help.

Education is an effective tool to train young people for service to God and to introduce those who are not of our faith to the Savior and the faith that we hold dear. Several Adventist universities serve East-Central Africa. Their reputation for quality education draws thousands of applicants from within and outside the church. The universities face constant challenges to grow wisely and maintain strong programs. But their budgets are strained, and they need help to continue to grow.

This quarter the East-Central Africa Division is focusing on building up its education and medical work, the heart of mission outreach. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a strong foundation for outreach in Kenya, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (referred to in this quarterly as Congo).

Yours for the kingdom,



Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help:

- build housing for teachers and married students at the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, Kenya
- build a classroom block for Baraton Elementary School on the campus of University of Eastern Africa in Kenya
- complete Mwanza Adventist Hospital in Tanzania
- build a classroom block at Lukanga Adventist University in Congo
- provide a lay-training center in Kinshasa, Congo
- provide two lamb shelters (children's worship centers) in Kinshasa, Congo.

How Shall They Hear?

KENYA | April 6

Henry



Henry lost his hearing when he was 12 years old after a life-threatening illness. Suddenly everything about Henry's life changed. He transferred to a school for the hearing-impaired and learned to communicate in sign language.

Henry adjusted well to his new school, but he had grown up in the hearing world. He wanted more than a job; he wanted to continue his education. The school's teachers helped Henry to succeed.

But the public high school had no one who knew sign language to translate for him. Through patience and perseverance, Henry completed high school.

Growing God's Work

Henry found work and met a number of hearing-impaired Adventists who lived in the same city he did. They formed a small group that met in Henry's home for worship on Sabbath. The group grew,

and Henry needed guidance leading them. The local church leaders couldn't understand sign language, so Henry turned to the Internet. There he met a Canadian Adventist pastor who worked with the hearing-impaired. The pastor sent Henry materials and DVDs that he could use in his ministry.

A local Adventist church learned about Henry's group and invited them to worship with their congregation. The church had no one to sign for them, so someone wrote down sermon notes, and Henry signed for the hearing-impaired worshippers.

Then they met an Adventist woman named Witness, a special-education teacher who knew some sign language and agreed to interpret for the hearing-impaired. The group grew.

The president of East African Union was surprised to learn about the hearing-impaired believers. He has helped establish work among the hearing impaired in several regions of Kenya.

Five volunteers joined the work to help identify areas with large deaf populations. The union selects churches that can accommodate the ministry for the hearing-impaired and support the volunteers as they reach out to those who haven't yet heard God's good news in a way they can understand.

Answering God's Call

Henry has heard God's call and is studying for the ministry at the Adventist-owned University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, in western Kenya. Two other hearing-impaired young people and three who can hear are also preparing to work among the hearing-impaired in eastern Africa.

Henry and his fellow hearing-impaired students have found a warm welcome and lots of help to complete their studies.

Monica's Calling

The group has two interpreters. One is Monica, who was studying to become a teacher when she met some hearing-impaired Adventists. They had no interpreter, so she took classes to learn sign language so she could help them.

When she finished college, she returned home and located some hearing-impaired people in her community. She

started working as a volunteer evangelist for the hearing impaired. She started with a group of six, which grew as word of the ministry spread.

Monica taught sign language, and two members have learned enough to interpret for worship services. Monica went in search of others to invite to the Adventist church. The number of worshippers has grown to 28. God has since called Monica to study theology at the Adventist University of Eastern Africa. She interprets for the hearing-impaired students while she attends classes.

Challenges Continue

Work among the hearing-impaired has moved forward, but many challenges remain. Awareness of the plight of hearing-impaired people is still low in eastern Africa. The task is big, but resources are small. They lack locally produced materials to help the hearing-impaired grasp God's love and the message of hope it brings. Some areas still have no worker.

Few hearing-impaired people have access to higher education. The church is working to identify and train hearing-impaired volunteers to work with others who cannot hear. Who else can understand their needs as well? Romans 10:14 (NIV) says it best: "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

The Adventist University of Eastern Africa prepares young people to serve God in every ministry, including that to the hearing-impaired. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help strengthen this university to reach even more people with God's love. 🌍

Fast Facts

- Kenya lies on the equator in eastern Africa. Abundant wildlife draws tourists and is a major source of income. The western highlands are comprised of rich agricultural land. But frequent droughts and occasional flooding have caused financial hardship for the people, most of whom rely on agriculture for their livelihood.
- English and Kiswahili (Swahili) are Kenya's official languages, but hundreds of local languages are spoken throughout the country.
- HIV/AIDS poses the greatest health threat to Kenya, along with much of Sub-Saharan Africa. It has hit the poorest of the population the hardest.



Hope and a Future

Felix

Felix swung his ax at the tree trunk in front of him. The 15-year-old knew that cutting live trees to make charcoal was illegal, but he was desperate. With 12 children in his parents' family, he had to earn his own school fees if he wanted to study. He gripped the large ax and swung it again.

Just then he heard something. He stood up and watched as several men pushed aside the tall grass surrounding him. His feet felt rooted to the ground, and his heart pounded. *Caught!* he thought. He realized that the strangers were not government officials, but their presence still meant trouble. The boy's shoulders slumped.

"Give us half your charcoal and we will leave you alone," one man said.

"If I do, I won't have enough to pay my school fees," Felix said, stepping back slightly.

The men stepped closer, their faces darkening. Felix gripped his ax and ran toward home. The men didn't follow. His charcoal was gone, and with it the hope of returning to school.

Another Way

Felix's cousin offered to take him to the Adventist university some 20 miles [about 30 kilometers] away. "It's a big school," his cousin said. "Surely there's work there." Felix nodded. He didn't know anything about Adventists, but if he could earn money to study, he'd be grateful.

Felix and his cousin arrived at the university gates. "You'll be OK," his cousin said as he shook Felix's hand and slapped him on the back. Then he turned and retraced his steps, leaving Felix alone and uncertain.

The sound of singing drifted across the campus, drawing Felix in. He followed the voices and found a meeting. He stopped to listen and let the peace flow over him. Some students noticed him and walked over to invite him to join them for the meeting. Felix followed the young people, warmed by their friendliness. He discovered that the meeting was part of a campuswide camp meeting that would continue throughout the week.

After the meeting ended, his new friends asked about him. They shared their faith and asked about his. When they learned

that he enjoyed singing, they invited him to join their choir and attend their Bible studies. Felix felt a spark of hope. He had been on campus only a couple hours, and already he had made friends and found something to look forward to. He hoped that he would find work and someday soon attend school with these boys. He would try!

New Life, New Hope

Felix found work cleaning faculty yards, washing their cars, and doing any odd jobs he could find that would pay a little money. He rented a room off campus. It was one of several mud rooms built in a long line. It had no electricity, no heat, and a low ceiling. And when it rained, he discovered the tin roof leaked. But it was cheap, and he could save a little money for his schooling.

Felix's savings account grew more

slowly than he had hoped, and at times he felt discouraged. But he kept his dream before him and busied himself with choir and Bible studies and Pathfinders. Several months later he was baptized into the Adventist Church.

Impatient to start his education, Felix bought used textbooks from high school students so he could study independently. He studied biology, agriculture, and economics, hoping he could learn enough to pass the national high school graduate exams and start university. Many nights he hunched over his books, reading by candlelight and testing himself by writing his own exam questions. He asked his friends to grade his mock exams.

Felix sat for the national exams and passed. He was thrilled and determined to continue his education at the university. But he had no money. He enrolled in the university's work-study program and worked a year. He earned enough to study for one semester. Thus began his long journey to reach his dream. Work a year, study a semester; work a year, study a semester.

Felix continues his studies and serves as student body vice president. He is a deacon and a Pathfinder leader at the campus church. "The University of Eastern Africa at Baraton took me in and helped me make a dream come true. While here I've realized the dream of an education. And I've learned that God had so much more in store for me. Now I have a new faith, new friends, and new hope."

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide student and faculty housing. Thank you for your part in helping meet the needs of young people such as Felix in eastern Africa. 🌍

Mission Post

- More than 700,000 Adventist believers live in Kenya. One out of every 61 people in the country is an Adventist. But millions have not yet heard that Jesus is coming soon.
- Global Mission pioneers are starting new congregations in regions where few Adventists live. And schools and hospitals serve other regions, sharing the gospel with many more.
- Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help expand the reach of Adventist University of Eastern Africa by providing housing for married students and faculty and by building a classroom block for the university's elementary school.

A Searching Heart

KENYA | April 20

Stephen Marete



From his childhood Stephen's keen mind raised many questions about God. When he heard the Creation story, he noted that God rested on the seventh day. But he knew that his church worshipped on Sunday. *How can Sunday be the first day and the seventh day of the week?* he wondered. No one had an answer that satisfied him.

Mysteries and Puzzles

In high school he attended several different churches searching for the true religion. But each church seemed to be missing something. And the question of the Sabbath still bothered him. While reading his Bible, he came across the Ten Commandments, which further focused his thoughts on the puzzle of Sabbath and Sunday. He asked a Christian leader about the Sabbath-Sunday puzzle, but instead of getting an answer, Stephen was

warned to avoid the people who worship on Saturday.

Stephen had heard some things about people who worship on Saturday. Some people believed that Sabbathkeepers worshipped the devil, ate human flesh, and drank blood. Stephen sighed. Would he *ever* find an answer that satisfied him?

Then one day when Stephen went to the school finance office, the accountant gave him a magazine about the Sabbath. He took it to his room eager to read it. But another boy snatched it from Stephen before he could read it.

Light Breaks Through

Stephen returned home for the summer and found some books that his brother had brought home. One was *The Great Controversy*. Stephen read it with interest, looking up the Bible texts to be sure that what the book said was true. He was stunned by the book and convinced that it held truth. He shared what he was learning with his friends. One boy wanted to know more about the Sabbath.

Stephen asked around to find someone who kept the Sabbath. He met an Adventist man who answered the questions that Stephen had been asking for several years. As they studied together, Stephen realized that this man spoke the truth. The man invited Stephen to attend church with him, and Stephen agreed. But the nearest church was a three-hour walk away.

Stephen remembered the rumors he'd heard about Sabbathkeepers being devil worshippers. Still he was determined to see for himself if these people worshipped God as the Bible taught or if they were really devil worshippers.

Early on Sabbath morning he met his new friend, and together they walked the three hours to church. As the two approached the church, Stephen let his friend go inside first while Stephen watched to see if they entered backward, or took off their clothing. But the worshippers entered reverently and seemed quite normal. Still, Stephen kept a watchful eye for anything that seemed unusual.

Stephen listened carefully as the members discussed the Bible lesson. He looked up the Bible texts and discovered that these people truly taught God's Word.

After church Stephen was invited to join the members for lunch. He looked

carefully at the food on the table. He saw no human flesh or blood. In fact, he saw no meat. After lunch he attended another Bible study, a feast for his hungry spirit. On the way home he decided to worship with the Adventists again.

Stepping Out in Faith

Stephen was convinced that the Adventist Church taught the truth found in the Bible, and he decided to be baptized. His parents objected to his new faith, and religious differences strained their relationship. Eventually Stephen left home and moved to another town where he found work that allowed him to keep the Sabbath. He met a new church family there and began sharing his faith with others. Several families came to Christ because of Stephen's witness.

Stephen studied agriculture in a local school, and in spite of Sabbath issues he earned his degree. But he yearned to study God's Word in depth. He learned about the Adventist University of Eastern Africa and journeyed to western Kenya to enroll. He had no sponsor and no scholarship. He had to work long hours to pay his school fees. But he remained focused and will soon complete his degree. He wants to return to his family's home to share the gospel. "There are so few Adventists in my region that it's almost an unentered area," Stephen says. "It's been a long journey to the truth, but I thank God for this school that puts God first."

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide students and staff housing on the university campus as well as a classroom block for the elementary school so that even more young people can train to serve God and humanity in eastern Africa. 🌍

Mission Post

- The University of Eastern Africa at Baraton (UEAB) in western Kenya is one of three division-sponsored universities. It offers a broad range of coursework to train students for service to God and their country.
- More than 2,000 students are currently enrolled, and more want to enroll. But the university lacks housing to serve them. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide married student and staff housing so that UEAB can continue serving a growing population of students from across eastern Africa.
- For more information on UEAB and the work in Kenya, watch the Adventist Mission DVD this quarter.

The Urgent Need

TANZANIA | April 27

Mwanza Adventist Hospital



For more than 30 years the Adventist medical clinic in Mwanza [MWAHN-zah], Tanzania, has served a large region of northern Tanzania. Hundreds of lives have been saved, and thousands have been blessed through this ministry.

Zachariah came to the clinic with a serious case of malaria, a potentially deadly disease spread by mosquitoes. Zachariah could have gone to the government hospital, but he knew that it was overcrowded and that he would get better treatment at the little Adventist clinic. He was admitted and treated for several days. While he received treatment, the staff spoke to him gently about God. “I appreciate the attention the nurses and medical people gave me when I was so sick,” Zachariah says. “They gave me hope that I would recover, even during the darkest hours. And I’m glad that the staff

told me about Jesus. Now I have faith in God.” Zachariah isn’t yet an Adventist, but he’s an ambassador for the Adventist clinic and the caring staff of medical personnel.

Mara arrived at the clinic after spending four days in labor in an overcrowded local hospital. She was afraid and in pain. The staff of the Adventist clinic prayed with her and helped deliver her baby. Mara told her husband how much the staff cared for her. Although the family is of another faith, he thanked the staff for their prayers for his wife and child. Mara and her new baby continue to receive care at the clinic. They know that the Adventists really care about them.

But ministry at the clinic goes beyond medical care. A non-Adventist nurse was impressed when staff members prayed for patients. And she noticed that Sabbaths were special, with a spirit of peace and service that she had never experienced before. Although no business was transacted on Sabbath, patients received all necessary care, and special attention was given to their spiritual needs. The nurse began asking questions and learned more about the philosophy and teachings of

Adventists. She is studying the Bible with the chaplain and continues to ask questions about what makes Adventists special.

Omary is a community leader. When the city gave the land on which the Adventist clinic was built in 1979, his family was among the first to use the clinic, even though he is of another faith. And the family has continued using the clinic for medical needs since then.

Omary's elder sister has heart and liver problems. When she developed a serious leg ulcer, the clinic doctor treated her, but was concerned and encouraged the woman to go to a local hospital for further treatment. But Omary's sister refused. "I want to be treated here," she insisted. So the doctor and nurses worked with her and prayed for her. Her condition improved.

"Over the years the clinic has improved and grown," Omary says. "The staff does so much with so few resources. Now we see the new hospital being built next door, and we have hope that we won't have to go to another hospital for advanced

care. We can be treated right here in our community. This institution has a reputation for fine medical care. We rejoice with Adventists in anticipation of their new hospital.

"I am not a Christian, but I know Adventists care for their fellow humans, no matter what their faith," Omary adds.

Daniel is a businessman in Mwanza. He and his wife have made the Adventist clinic their primary medical facility since their marriage. When his wife was pregnant, she asked the doctor at the Adventist clinic to oversee her pregnancy. The doctor was concerned that Daniel's wife might have complications during labor and delivery and urged her to go to the regional hospital. "My wife and baby girl are fine, for which I'm grateful," Daniel says. "But we're eager for the Adventist hospital to be completed so that we can receive all our medical care there. In the meantime we look to the Adventist clinic for our care. We're impressed with the care we receive here, and we don't want to go elsewhere.

"I know that this hospital will be a great benefit to the community because the people at the Adventist clinic really care. It provides more than physical care; it provides a spiritual element that blesses everyone who comes here."

Appeal

The Adventist clinic exists to meet the needs of a large population in northern Tanzania. Adventists from across the country have sacrificed to build this hospital. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help them complete this project so that more people can be blessed through the healing touch and spiritual nurture they will receive there. 🌍

Mission Post

- The Adventist clinic in Mwanza contains 15 inpatient beds and has a staff of 27. An average of 100 patients are seen daily. This clinic is the only one in the area that operates 24 hours each day.
- The proposed hospital in Mwanza will serve an area that includes 700,000 people. Services will include outpatient and emergency care, healthful living seminars, maternal and child health, and inpatient care and surgeries.

It Pays to Be Faithful

TANZANIA | May 4

Prisca



[Ask a teen or young-adult woman to present this first-person report.]

I'm a student in Tanzania. I study hard and get good grades. In primary school my teachers didn't mind when I didn't attend school functions on Sabbath. But as the all-important national exams neared, things changed. Our scores on these exams would determine our futures. If we did well, we could be admitted to one of the best high schools and expect to go on to university one day.

The schools have a big stake in how well students do on these exams too. Schools are rated according to the scores their students make on the exams. So teachers hold extra classes on Saturdays to help prepare students for these national exams.

Pressure

There's a lot of pressure on everyone. But for Adventists, the pressure is even greater. There were just 10 Adventists in my school of more than 400 students, and sadly, some Adventist students chose to attend the cram classes on Sabbath, making it harder for those of us who refused to attend.

The assistant principal of the school was an Adventist. She was a dedicated and well-respected teacher who stood up for the Adventist students when we didn't attend Saturday activities.

But one day the principal announced that he did not want *any* students to miss Saturday classes. We knew that his decree was focused on the Adventist students. We were not to ask him or anyone else to excuse us. So our friend the assistant principal was no longer able to intercede for us.

"I don't want any of you to beg for the day off," he told us. And then he looked straight at me and said, "And Prisca, I expect you to be here." Then he walked out of the room.

I sat stunned. I knew that the principal would be looking for me the next day, and would make trouble for me if I stayed away from school. But I was determined to stand by my convictions.

When my friends asked what I would do about the special classes that began the

next day, I answered that I would be in church worshipping God.

Prayer

That evening I talked to my parents about the principal's announcement. I was concerned that if I skipped the exam preparations, I might not do as well on the national exams. My father reminded me that God had never been defeated and that He would work out the situation. Then Dad prayed, asking God to help me to stay strong in my faith.

I felt better.

On Sabbath I went to church. But it was hard to keep my mind from drifting back to what was happening at school.

On Sunday I called some classmates to find out what had happened, but I was not able to get in touch with anyone. So I prepared for school on Monday as usual.

Before I even reached the school on Monday morning, one of my classmates ran out to greet me. "Prisca, you must have magical powers!" she said. I looked at her, puzzled, until she continued. "We came to school on Saturday morning, as the principal told us to. But the principal had a family emergency, and he canceled classes!"

"I'm sorry the principal had an emergency," I said. "And I have no special power. It's God who has power. My family and I prayed that God would help me stay faithful to Him and trust Him to work the situation out. Prayers are precious to God, and He listens when we talk to Him."

My friend, who had never been interested when I tried to talk to her about God, was thoughtful for a moment. Then she asked, "How can I have faith like yours?"

"Faith comes from spending time with God, getting to know Him," I said. "Read

Fast Facts

- Tanzania lies in the heart of eastern Africa. More than 437,000 Adventists live among Tanzania's 46 million population. That's one Adventist for every 105 people.
- Mwanza is Tanzania's second-largest city with a population of some 2 million people. The region, however, has about 8 million people and almost 134,000 Adventists, or one Adventist for every 60 people.
- Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help complete a much-needed hospital to reach even more people for Christ.
- For more on this hospital and the ministry in Mwanza, see this quarter's Adventist Mission DVD.

God's Word and talk to Him," I answered.

My friend asked me to pray with her. Later she accepted my invitation to attend church with me. She continued attending church and learning how to develop a relationship with Christ. A year later she accepted Jesus as her Savior and asked to be baptized.

I'm so glad that I stayed committed to keeping the Sabbath, no matter what.

Ways to Witness

Our mission offerings help train young people to stand for their convictions. Adventist schools train young people for leadership and lead others to Christ.

This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help complete a hospital in Mwanza, Tanzania, a large city on the southern slopes of Lake Victoria. Thank you for giving so others may know Jesus. 🌍

More Than a Job

Esther



[Ask a woman to present this first-person report.]

I am a lab technician at Mwanza Adventist Clinic. I examine blood or other body fluids for clues to a patient's infection or illness. I love my job, and I know that my work is important, for it helps the doctor diagnose and treat a patient. But it's the people I meet who make my work so meaningful.

People who come to our clinic often have needs beyond medical care. Sometimes they need a place to stay or something to eat. Sometimes they come with spiritual needs. I listen to them and try to help them. If they are searching for meaning in life, I share what God has done for me and offer to pray with them. And many respond.

Local church members and kind people in the community help us to provide our patients with the non-medical care that

they need. At Mwanza Adventist Clinic our ministry is to give people whatever help they might need.

Puzzle Solved

Recently I tested the blood of a man who had suffered from painful sores on his skin for 10 years. He had visited several health centers for treatment, but they had not been able to find the source of the problem. They gave him topical creams to treat the sores, but the creams didn't work. Then a friend told the man to try the Adventist clinic.

When I examined his blood, I found evidence of a parasite that lives in freshwater and burrows into a victim's skin and lives in the person's organs. Once we found the parasite that caused his symptoms, we could treat him with a drug that kills the parasite. Before long the parasites will be flushed from his body and his skin will heal. The man was so grateful to at last have an answer to his suffering. I shared how before I look at any sample, I ask God to open my eyes and my mind to see what He wants me to see.

Hope Beyond Healing

On another day a woman named Martha* came to the lab for a blood test. As I drew blood, she began asking questions about God. I shared with her what God was doing in my life.

Martha's condition required that she come in for regular tests, so we had several opportunities to talk. Eventually I invited Martha to study the Bible with me, and she agreed.

When we met to study, I realized that Martha couldn't read. I began to teach her. We went slowly, reading a few verses at a time. In six months Martha's reading had improved immensely, and she found such delight in reading the Bible for herself. Before long she asked to join the Adventist Church.

As I got to know her better, Martha told me that her husband had left her because she couldn't have children. She needed work to support herself, so I asked around. I learned that we needed someone to help clean at the clinic. Martha is doing a fine job, and she's able to earn a living.

Sharing God's Books

Sharing God's love brings me great joy. Whenever people show an interest, I share free Adventist magazines or give away a sharing book. When someone asks me a question about God or my faith or what Adventists believe, I offer a book such as *The Desire of Ages*. I keep books on health, which are popular because most people who come to the clinic are not well. I always pray for God's guidance in choosing a book or magazine to offer people. I may not know all their needs, but God does. Those who can afford to pay are usually quite happy to do so, which allows me to buy more books to give to those who can't pay. And people come back and tell me how glad they are to have read the books.

The whole staff of the Adventist clinic in Mwanza tries to do everything we can for people. We provide appropriate medical care, but we try to meet other basic needs and spiritual support as well. When the new hospital is completed, we'll be able to do so much more.

My work is to help heal people. But my ministry is to bring them to a knowledge of the Great Healer. All of the staff at the Adventist clinic feels that way. We cannot do less than our best, because we work for God. 🌍

Mission Post

- In 1972 the first Adventist-run clinic opened, outside the city of Mwanza, using the pastor's living room as its base. Over the years the clinic has grown, and its services have multiplied. Today the clinic has 15 inpatient beds and serves about 100 people a day. It is the only clinic in the region that operates 24 hours a day.
- The Adventist clinic provides a wide range of services including emergency care, ongoing health care and education, dental services, lab technicians, and maternal and child care.
- The church has begun building a hospital on its land. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help complete the hospital and expand medical care to the 8 million people within its service area.

*not her real name



The Path to God

Joseph

When I was a child, I faithfully followed my family's religion. I knelt by my father and bowed my head to the ground, the way my father did. I uttered the words of the prayers though I didn't understand their meaning.

In primary school we had a religion class once a week. Because most of the students were from Christian homes, the class focused on Christianity. For the first time I learned about Christians. I learned that Christians talk to God in a different way than I had learned at home. It was as if their God was standing nearby and could hear their words, as a friend would hear them. I liked to think of God as a friend who could help me when I needed Him, so I began praying short, simple Christian prayers silently in my heart. As God answered these prayers, my faith in Him grew. But I didn't dare tell anyone.

Continuing Education

When I completed primary school, one of my teachers visited my father. "Your son is very bright," the teacher said. "I suggest that you enroll him in the Adventist secondary school in the city. It has a fine reputation, and your son will receive an education that will fit him for the future."

My father enrolled me at the Adventist school. "Don't read any Christian books or listen to what they say about their God," he warned.

Because the school was far from my home, I stayed in the school dormitory. I quickly made new friends and enjoyed my studies. Once more I found that Christians were not people to be feared.

The Adventist school put lots more emphasis on religion than my primary school had. We had religion classes and chapel services every day as well as weekly church services. Sometimes students spoke for these worship services. I was impressed that they would speak to a large group of people, even though sometimes I disagreed with what they said.

Searching for Myself

The more I learned about the Bible, the more intrigued I became. I noticed differences between the Bible and my religion's teachings. Almost everyone in church had a Bible and could follow along with the verses the speaker read. In my religion, few owned the holy writings. We listened as the teacher read parts of the Holy Book. I wondered why we hadn't been encouraged to read our holy book for ourselves.

I began reading the Bible on my own, and I listened carefully in religion classes and worship services. I remembered my father's warnings to beware of Christians, but over time I thought that maybe Christianity was really the truth.

During my second year at the school I knew that I wanted to accept Jesus as my Savior and Lord and become an Adventist Christian. But I was scared. My family would be very angry. I struggled with the decision, but finally I concluded that the same God who had led me to this school would defend me in my decision to follow Christ. I asked to prepare for baptism. But I didn't tell my parents.

Learning to Share

But when I returned home for vacation, my mother said, "Son, you're speaking differently. What has happened to you at school? Have you become a Christian?"

When I admitted that I had become a believer, Mother was really angry. "If you continue to go against our religion, we cannot be your parents. Find another mother and father!"

My father, however, was calmer. "Let him be," he said. "When he finishes high school, we will win him back to our faith."

I was relieved. I wanted to respect my

Fast Facts

- Tanzania lies just south of Kenya and near the equator in eastern Africa. A little more than 50 percent of the people in this country are Christians. An estimated 40 percent are Muslim or traditional African religions.
- About 99 percent of the population is African. They come from more than 100 ethnic groups.
- Swahili (Kiswahili), the primary official language, developed as a trade language along the coast of the country.
- Watch this quarter's Adventist Mission DVD for more on the church's work in Mwanza and the outreach of the medical work in and around the city of Mwanza.

parents, but I also wanted to be faithful to God.

Just before final exams, I was hospitalized with malaria, a potentially serious illness, and I had to be hospitalized. I recovered in time to take my exams, but I hadn't been able to study. I begged God to help me, to show my family that Christ is, indeed, my Savior and Helper. I felt God's presence during the exams, and when the results were posted, my scores were high.

As my journey with God continues, I have more and more stories to tell my family and others about God's power. It is not easy to talk to them about God, but I ask God to show me opportunities to share His love. I'm so grateful to the teachers and students at the Adventist school where I study. They have helped me find Jesus. I want to share God's love with others, the way it was shared with me. 🌍

Finding My God

CONGO | May 25

Esther



[Ask a woman to present this first-person report.]

I was born into a nominal Christian home. But when I married a Muslim, I accepted Islam. Even after my husband died, I continued in his faith, for it connected me to my beloved husband.

I began having the same dream night after night. I dreamed that someone—I couldn't see his face—gave me a Bible and quoted Bible verses. I recognized some of the verses from my childhood. Then I dreamed that I must go to Kinshasa [kih-SHAH-sah], the capital city, where my sister lived. Her husband was pastor of a Protestant church there. These dreams troubled me. Finally I told a Muslim friend about the dreams. She listened carefully and then said, "I feel that God is calling you; you must not resist the voice of God."

I nodded, and prepared for my journey to Kinshasa. Before I went I gave my prayer rug, my copies of the Koran, and even my Muslim dresses and headscarves to my Muslim friends. They asked me why I was giving all these things away. Was I leaving my faith behind?

I told them about my dreams, that Someone is calling me, and I must follow. One of the women told an imam [EE-mahm, teacher], who was also my landlord. He came to talk me out of leaving. But I told him that God was calling me, and I must follow.

The imam responded by sending me out of my house. "I won't tolerate two gods in my house," he said. "And Allah is God here."

I didn't know what to do next. I have a teenage son, and we had nowhere to go. I gathered up a few clothes and left my

furniture and other belongings behind. Then my son and I made our way to my uncle's home in Kinshasa.

I felt so sorry for my son, who was leaving everything behind for me. I had pulled him out of school and away from his friends and the life he had known. But he didn't complain. But I learned that he had long wanted to become a Christian and was happy to be leaving our former life behind.

We arrived at my uncle's home very late at night. He said that he had been praying for me. I was surprised because I had been such a dedicated Muslim. He invited me into his home and gave me a place to stay. And he began teaching me what he knew about Christ.

Some weeks later I returned to see the imam. I apologized to him that my decision to become a Christian had broken our friendship. I explained that I had to follow God. I asked him not to harm either me or my son, as is the tradition in my area. I could see that he was angry with me. "You have brought many people into Islam," he said. "It's a shame that you are leaving this faith."

One day I learned that my sister was sick. Her husband asked me to come and stay with her. I agreed. My sister had become an Adventist, and she invited me to go to church with her. I agreed. And when the church held evangelistic meetings, I attended. The messages I heard in the Adventist meetings seemed to be true, but I felt a loyalty to my uncle's church, for he had introduced me to Christ.

One night during the evangelistic meetings I had another dream. I saw Adventists climbing a huge mountain to a church. When I woke up, I realized that

Fast Facts

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the second-largest country in Africa. It occupies the heart of Africa, and is bordered on the north and west by the Congo (Zaire) River, which opens to the Atlantic Ocean.
- The DRC has a troubled history first under colonialism and then under dictatorship. The land holds the potential for wealth, but few of its citizens benefit from it. The country is troubled by sporadic fighting, especially along its eastern border.
- The official language is French.
- The capital city, Kinshasa, lies along the Atlantic coastline on the Congo River.

God was telling me to follow this greater truth. So I prepared to be baptized into the Adventist faith. At my baptism I took a Bible name—Esther. My son chose the name Joseph, for he, too, has accepted the Adventist faith. I know we have found God's true church, and we will never leave it. Together we will serve God until Jesus comes.

Recently I learned that a group of Muslim women who had once worshipped with me want me to go to their place and teach them how they too can become Christians. I am praying for God's leading in this invitation. I know that He will lead.

I'm so grateful for the evangelistic fervor of faithful Adventists that brought me to the Adventist Church. My life is forever changed. And your mission giving helped make it possible for me to know the truth that has freed me from fear and false worship. Thank you. 🌍



Training for Triumph

Lazare

Lazare [lah-zah-REH] sat thinking, his chin resting on his fist. Some of his professors at the state university in Kinshasa, Congo, allowed him to miss classes on Sabbath and even reschedule exams. But other professors had never heard of Adventists, even though some 500 Adventists attended the 35,000-student university.

We've got to do something to be visible on campus, he thought. The Adventist students formed a student association and were granted permission to meet on campus. They chose leaders to meet with academic leaders to present their request for Sabbaths free as a group. They encouraged one another to speak to classmates about their faith.

But university students are busy; many work to help pay their school expenses. It isn't easy to add another hour each week to study someone else's religion or to pray together. The Adventist young people decided to visit every dormitory room, offering a pamphlet on God. With 11,000

students living on the campus, it was like visiting every home in a large village.

Several students confused the Adventists with a cult and didn't want to listen to the students share their faith.

Being Proactive

The Adventist students decided to hold evangelistic meetings and invited a pastor to lead out. They blanketed the campus with posters advertising the meetings. When the meetings began, the 7,000-seat amphitheater was almost packed. Teachers as well as students came. Some of the teachers had studied the Bible with the students before the meetings began. The Adventist students formed a choir to sing in the meetings.

The weeklong meetings covered topics such as the occult, a big issue among students and professors.

Following the meetings, four professors who had been involved in the occult brought their occult tools and books of magic to the pastor. Some 200 students and teachers asked to follow Christ.

Today Adventists are known at the university. Most faculty members no longer expect Adventists to attend classes or take exams on the Sabbath.

Students are praying for a chaplain to

guide them and for training to help them share their faith more effectively in their university community. They pray too for funds to help them buy materials to share with others who are at an important juncture in their lives.

Women Helping Women

Sister Charlotte is a teacher and women's ministries leader in western Congo. While working in one field, she felt a burden for the many women who couldn't read or write in their own language.

As many as 70 percent of women living in villages can't read or write. They can't improve their family's circumstances without these basic skills. Teaching women to read and write and to understand simple math makes a world of difference to families and entire villages. As women improve their own lives they can help their children prepare for a better life. They can read the Bible for themselves and lead their families closer to Christ.

A Year of Learning

Sister Charlotte organized literacy classes to help these women. A few men also asked to join the literacy classes. The classes were free of charge and met twice a week for a year. Class members were invited to a weekly worship service prepared just for them.

Fifty women and three men signed up for the first literacy class, most of whom were not Adventists. Classes met at the Adventist school, and Sister Charlotte used the school's reading material as resources. She found willing volunteers to help.

Elise [eh-LEESE], one of the students, commented that she saw that Adventists truly care for the community because they


Mission Post

- Kinshasa is the capital city and largest city in Congo, with about 10 million residents. While the church has one member for every 118 people nationwide, Kinshasa has one member for every 2,000 people.
- The most urgent need is for a training center to equip believers to reach out to the citizens of this city of 10 million people.
- For more information on the needs and opportunities for outreach in Kinshasa and throughout Congo, watch this quarter's Adventist Mission DVD.

offer such high quality training at no cost. Elise completed the literacy program and studied French as well.

While studying, Elise met Christ and joined the Adventist faith. Elise's husband, a university graduate, was happy to see his wife learn to read and write. Eventually he too joined the Adventist Church. They are a happy, contented family today.

A Pressing Need

"As a teacher I have the skills to teach literacy," Sister Charlotte says. "But many other women's ministries leaders want to learn how to teach literacy too. This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help us build a lay training center where men and women can train to serve God in their communities and across the Congo. Thousands have not yet heard of God's love and Christ's sacrifice. We must tell them. Thank you for helping us help them to know Jesus loves them." 



No Matter What

Habamungu

[Ask a young man to present this first-person report.]

My parents were nominal Christians. In my school we had a weekly religion class. Teachers gave us a short Bible story to read and some questions to answer. Sometimes the stories were confusing, and I had no Bible to read more about the story. Then a friend gave me a New Testament. I was so happy, for then I could read the Bible stories for myself and understand the context. God's Word became precious to me.

Seeds Planted in My Heart

One day an Adventist pastor visited my parents. My father invited him in and sent us children outside to play. But I was curious. I hid near a window and listened to him talk. The pastor explained that the seventh day is the Sabbath day of God. The Sabbath didn't mean anything to me

then, but the pastor's words planted a seed in my heart.

One day when I was 12, I was reading the New Testament and discovered a Bible text that puzzled me. Matthew 28:1 (NIV) says: "After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week." I thought that Sunday was the Lord's Day, but this verse said that the seventh day was the holy day of God! I told my friends about the Bible verse, and we eagerly read it for ourselves. They agreed that according to this verse, Saturday, the seventh day, was God's holy day.

Run Away to Church

We decided to visit the Adventist church. On Saturday we told our teacher that our parents needed us. Then we ran to the Adventist church.

Church had already started, so we found seats and listened to the sermon. I noticed that everyone had a Bible and was looking up the texts as the speaker read them. I had brought my New Testament and tried to find the verses as well. A man sitting nearby helped us find the texts. We learned so many things that day!

We decided that the next Saturday we would come earlier so that we could attend Sabbath School as well.

I was so excited about my discovery that I told my mother I had gone to the

Fast Facts

- Lukanga Adventist University has more than 500 students and is growing rapidly. It is the only French-speaking Adventist university in central Africa.
- About 40 percent of students at Lukanga are not Adventists.
- The school is expanding its dormitory space, but it needs more classrooms to serve the growing student body. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide a new classroom block at this school.

Adventist church. "I've found a church that teaches what the Bible says," I said. I read Matthew 28:1 to her. Mom didn't say much, but she didn't seem happy.

The next Sabbath my friends and I again went to church. The children's class was studying the Ten Commandments. When we read the fourth commandment, it was so clear to me! How could anyone misunderstand it? My friends and I vowed to remember God's Sabbath and keep it holy.

Confrontations Over Faith

On Monday the teacher punished us for skipping school. "There's time for religion after you've completed your studies," he said. After school that day we again decided that we must obey God.

My father learned that I had skipped classes to attend the Adventist church. He warned me to never go the Adventist church again. But I had found God in the Adventist church, and I planned to continue worshipping there. *God will take care of me*, I assured myself.

The next Sabbath as my friends and I walked to church, we met my father. He ordered me to school. When I respectfully refused, he beat me. Sometimes he beat me before I even left home. Still I went to church.

One Sabbath my father tried to kill me with his long knife, but a neighbor rescued me. I slipped away to church in the confusion that followed. I found comfort in Matthew 10:22 (NIV): "You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved."

My father eventually disowned me, and I stayed with church members. In spite of the difficulties that year I finished school near the top of my class.

Another Roadblock

Then the two schools in our town expelled the Adventist children. The pressure on my friends was too great, and they stopped attending church. I worked to help pay expenses while living with church members. When I was 16, I asked to be baptized.

The church members did so much to help me, and the district pastor paid for the first two years of my secondary studies. I dedicated my life to become a minister.

I finished high school, and I'm working my way toward a pastoral degree from Lukanga Adventist University in eastern Congo.

I praise God that several of my relatives are now Adventists, and I pray that my parents will come to Christ and the faith I have found so precious.

Pray too that Lukanga Adventist University will fulfill its mission to young people for eternity. 🌍



Determined to Fly

Katungu

Four-year-old Katungu watched as her mother's coffin was lowered into the ground. Death was a part of life in the village where Katungu and her family lived. And so was separation. Her father couldn't care for his 12 children, so family members and neighbors took them into their homes.

Katungu lived with two of her older brothers. She rarely saw her other siblings. She helped her brothers by carrying water and finding wood to cook with. Then, when she was 10 years old, Katungu's life took a new turn.

Adventist neighbors offered to take Katungu into their home and help her attend school. They didn't have much money, but they would do all they could to raise this little girl. Katungu's brothers knew that they could not provide an education for their sister, so they accepted the neighbors' offer.

A New Life

Katungu's new family had three young children, so Katungu helped care for them. In addition she carried firewood and water for cooking and washing and did other household chores to help the family. In return she received a home in a caring family and financial help to attend school.

Katungu's parents had not been religious. However, her new family took her to church with them on Sabbath, told her Bible stories, and taught her to pray. Soon she fell in love with Jesus and learned that she could trust in God to lead her and provide for her.

When her new family suffered financial hardships, Katungu worked harder to help pay her own school fees. She cut wood and carried it to the village marketplace, where she stayed until she sold it. She used the money to pay her school fees. But when that wasn't enough, she cut more wood to sell. When she couldn't earn enough to pay her school fees, she stayed out of school for a year in order to work and pay her school fees.

Determined to Succeed

Many times it was tough to see her friends walking to school, to hear them talking about their classes. But instead of becoming discouraged, Katungu turned to God. She prayed that God would give her the strength and the faith that she needed to keep going and not to give up. And God rewarded her. She graduated from tenth grade, the end of high school, at age 22.

But instead of celebrating, Katungu continued working. She had a dream, a dream that she knew God had given her. She wanted to attend university and become a teacher. She had no money, but Katungu wasn't discouraged. That had never stopped her in the past. God would help her, as He had helped her through high school. Her adopted mother encouraged her to follow God's leading.

One day a woman visited Katungu's home. She told Katungu about Lukanga Adventist University. Katungu knew that God was calling her to study there. The university couldn't offer her a scholarship, but they offered her work opportunities to pay her way.

Preparing to Fly

Katungu traveled to the university and began working to earn her tuition. She awoke early and worked until late cleaning classrooms and offices. She washed others' clothes and planted a garden for living expenses. After months of hard work Katungu had enough money to enroll in classes. Even while she attends classes she continues to work so she can hasten the day when God fulfills her dream of becoming a teacher.

Everything Katungu does is bathed in prayer. "Prayer is the foundation of a

Fast Facts

- Congo is one of the poorest countries in the world. The people living in eastern Congo have suffered greatly through sporadic outbursts of fighting over the past 20 years, including the fighting that spilled over its borders from Rwanda.
- Most Congolese live on what they can grow on small plots of land, selling what they can to provide for their basic needs.
- While the vast majority of Congolese citizens claim Christianity, many have no personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Christian's life, the secret weapon of every Christian," Katungu says. She has prayed for years for her brothers and sisters, who are scattered in several villages near their birthplace. She has seen them occasionally and faithfully shares her faith with them. Some listen and others don't, but still she prays for them.

Despite the hardships she has endured, Katungu is sure that God is leading her. "God doesn't promise an easy life," she adds. "But I know He has led me this far and will continue to lead me in the future. I am thankful for the family who introduced me to Jesus, for the opportunity for an education, and for Lukanga Adventist University, where God is giving me wings. I feel I could fly!"

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide a classroom block for Lukanga Adventist University so that more students can prepare for God's service. Thank you for giving young people in the Congo an opportunity to fulfill God's vision for them. 🌍

Fool for Jesus

CONGO | June 22

Emmanuel



Emmanuel lay in bed, his head swathed in bandages. He couldn't remember the accident that had put him in the hospital, but the pain was real. *What did I do to deserve this?* he wondered.

Emmanuel was in his final year of high school. He had been doing well in school and looking forward to graduation. But while his classmates were taking extra classes to prepare for the national exams, Emmanuel was stuck in the hospital. The exams stood like a towering giant between Emmanuel and his dream of going to college. If he didn't score high enough on the national exams, he would not graduate.

Emmanuel was released from the hospital in time to take the national exams, but he was not able to score high enough to graduate from high school. He wouldn't be allowed to take his last year over in the same school, so he began

searching for another school that would accept him. Of one thing he was certain: He would not quit, not when he was so close to finishing.

A Second Chance

One day Emmanuel met Clement, an Adventist boy his age who was also looking for a school to enroll in for his final year. The two boys visited the local Adventist secondary school to talk to the principal. The man told the boys that the school didn't have room for more students, but he invited the boys to fill out application forms and promised to let them know if an opening became available.

The boys filled out the applications and thanked the principal. Sometime later, Emmanuel's cell phone rang. It was the school principal calling to tell him that two openings had become available, and both boys could enroll if they were still interested. Emmanuel thanked the principal and gave Clement the good news.

Clement lived far from the school, so Emmanuel invited his new friend to live with him in his apartment. His parents' church had provided the apartment when Emmanuel needed to move to town to study.

A New Path

School started, and the boys studied together. Clement helped Emmanuel with Bible class and shared other Bible truths with him, including the Sabbath commandment, and invited Emmanuel to attend the Adventist church. Emmanuel eagerly soaked in the truths he had never heard before.

One day an Adventist pastor stopped by to visit the boys. He offered to study the Bible with both boys, and Emmanuel agreed. During that school year Emmanuel surrendered his life to Christ and asked to be baptized.

When word got out that Emmanuel was going to join the Adventist Church, he was told he would have to leave the apartment he had been living in. His grandfather offered him a place to live during the remainder of the school year.

When school ended, Emmanuel took the national examinations again. Then

he returned to his parents' home to await the results. He knew that he would face a lot of questions from his family. Often his brothers mocked him, saying, "Why did you make such a foolish choice? If you had stayed in the family church, you could have become someone important, but now you have no future."

Emmanuel needed spiritual guidance and went to talk to the Adventist pastor. The pastor encouraged the boy and suggested that he move to a nearby town where he could work to earn his tuition to attend Lukanga Adventist University. To Emmanuel's surprise, his father supported his decision and even gave him money to travel to the school.

Emmanuel traveled to Lukanga Adventist University, where he joined the work program for students who have no scholarship or other financial support. As he worked, he thought about God's will for his future. He had planned to study business, but soon realized that God has a different plan for his life. God has called him to become a minister.

Emmanuel is no longer angry that the accident during high school delayed his plans. He has met Jesus and found a new future. "My brothers say I'm a fool," Emmanuel says. "And I am—a fool for Jesus. I pray that someday my family will see the wisdom of my decision to follow God's leading and will follow in my footsteps.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a classroom block at Lukanga Adventist University so that more students can study in a Christian environment and meet the Savior, just as Emmanuel has. 🌍

Mission Post

- Lukanga Adventist University is located in northeastern Congo. The school is growing rapidly in response to the need for quality university-level education. This growth is stretching the resources of the school and the church members.
- A significant number of students who wish to enroll are not Adventists. This makes the university a valuable mission field to future leaders in the second-largest country in Africa.
- Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a classroom block to accommodate more students at this important school.

Thirteenth Sabbath Program

➤	Congregational Song	“Working, O Christ, With Thee” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , no. 582
➤	Welcome	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher
➤	Prayer	
➤	Program	“Holding Up Their Hands ”
➤	Offering	While the offering is being taken, ask the children to sing one or more of the songs that they have learned this quarter.
➤	Closing Song	“Lift High the Cross,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , no. 362
➤	Closing Prayer	

Participants: Two or three speakers who alternate speaking parts. *[Note: participants do not need to memorize their parts, but they should be familiar enough with the material that they do not have to read everything from the script. Practice so that participants can feel comfortable adding inflection where appropriate.]*

Props: A map of the East-Central Africa Division. (Scan the map on the back page of the quarterly and project it onto a screen, or draw a map on a large piece of paper.)

Speaker 1: This quarter we have focused on the East-Central Africa Division. The countries featured are Kenya *[point to Kenya]*, Tanzania *[point to Tanzania]*, and the Congo *[point to Congo]*. Let’s begin with Kenya.

Speaker 2: The first Adventist missionaries to Kenya arrived in 1906 and settled near Lake Victoria in western Kenya. Work was difficult and dangerous. But the missionaries persevered, and the work grew. Today one out of every 61

people in Kenya is an Adventist.

From the beginning education was an important arm of the mission work. Simple primary schools opened, then a few secondary schools. In 1978 the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, was established with 20 students. This school was the first private university in Kenya to be officially recognized by the Kenyan government. When it obtained university status in 1993, enrollment mushroomed, and today more than 1,200 students pursue degrees in theology, education, business, science, medicine, and numerous other courses.

The university attracts students from across Africa as well as Asia and the Americas. The school's rapid growth has stretched its resources. The university needs married student housing and staff housing in order to maintain its high standard of education.

But a successful university must also provide for its younger students. One of the most urgent needs is to replace an aging and dangerous elementary school classroom block on the campus. Teachers and university students alike hesitate to send their children to a school that poses health and safety concerns for their children. Some university professors have declined calls to teach at Baraton because the elementary school is unsafe.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new classroom block for the primary school that will provide a safe and comfortable learning environment for the youngest students.

Speaker 3: Tanzania lies south of Kenya and Uganda. Arab traders settled along the coast and began mixing with the local people and spreading their religion, Islam.

Today about one third of the people in Tanzania are Muslim.

Medical clinics are an effective outreach tool to reach the diverse people of Tanzania. In 1972 a small clinic was set up in the living room of a missionary working in Mwanza, a city on the southern shores of Lake Victoria in northern Tanzania. The little clinic has grown to include a 15-bed inpatient ward, a laboratory, maternal and child health-care services, emergency outpatient care, and health education services. The clinic serves a population of more than 1 million people.

Every day about 100 people visit the Adventist clinic. They come with confidence, knowing that Adventists care about them and their health. As the clients receive medical treatment, they accept the loving service that the committed medical staff provides them. When they see how much Adventists care, they are willing to listen to God's message of love as well.

For years the government has encouraged the Adventists to build a hospital to enlarge their medical services to help meet the needs for quality medical care in the region. The Adventist believers in Tanzania have taken up the challenge to build a hospital on land adjacent to the medical clinic. They have made significant progress, but they can't finish the job alone.

Part of today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help finish this hospital so that lives can be saved and souls can be led to the feet of Jesus.

Speaker 4: The Congo is the second-largest country in Africa. It lies in the heart of the African continent and includes steaming tropical jungles and

cool mountain forests. Its population is as diverse as its landscape.

Although the Congo contains significant mineral wealth, its people are among the poorest in the world. Years of inefficient governing and sporadic fighting have uprooted people from their land and robbed their children of quality education.

In spite of the difficult lives people have been forced to live, the Adventist Church in Congo is flourishing. About one person in every 118 in the Congo is an Adventist.

Lukanga Adventist University is a small but growing university in the highlands of northeastern Congo. As with most Adventist educational institutions, it began with a theology school and grew to include diplomas and degrees in education, business, and a number of other areas. The school is struggling to keep up with an increasing enrollment. New dormitories will soon be completed to house the growing enrollment, but the school also desperately needs additional classrooms. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a lecture hall/auditorium and classrooms to accommodate the growing student body.

Speaker 5: The capital city of Congo is Kinshasa. [*Locate Kinshasa on a map.*] While the country as a whole has one Adventist for every 118 people, the region of Kinshasa has only about 5,000 Adventists among its 10 million residents, or one Adventist for every 2,000 people. Global Mission pioneers work in some of the least served regions of the city and its outlying areas where few or no Adventists live.

The country's unstable government

has made it difficult or nearly impossible for some workers to obtain training for the ministry. There is no money to send pastors to Lukanga Adventist University to upgrade their training. Lay workers as well as pastors need training to stand in the gaps and reach those who haven't yet heard the message God has given Adventists to preach. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a lay training facility in Kinshasa, where pastors, lay workers, Global Mission pioneers, and youth can be trained to share God's love with others.

The children of Kinshasa love God and love to share His love with others. But few churches have classrooms in which children can meet on Sabbath morning. Most children who attend Adventist churches in Kinshasa meet under a tree or on a porch. These areas are not conducive for children to focus and learn. The special children's offering this quarter will help provide two lamb shelters, worship centers, for two of the largest congregations, where the children can be trained to become disciples of Christ.

Speaker 6: Today's offering has a lot to accomplish: It will help build classroom blocks for a university and an elementary school, a hospital, a lay training center, and children's worship centers. Let's ask ourselves, "What does God want me to do to help hold up the hands of believers in East-Central Africa so that they can finish the work in that great area of the world?"

[*Offering*]

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

Next quarter the Inter-European Division will be featured. Special projects include a church for the Romani (Gypsy) people in Bulgaria, a church and community services center for immigrants outside Lisbon, Portugal, and outreach to university students in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Fourth quarter 2013 will feature the Trans-European Division.

Leader's Resources

For more information on the cultures and history of the countries receiving this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, search the Internet by typing country names into your search engine. You can also check the travel section of a local library or visit a travel agency for brochures featuring photos of these countries.

Visit our website for additional photos, recipes, language pages, and other activities that you can download and print to make mission more fun for children. Go to www.AdventistMission.org. Click on "Resources" and "Children's Magazine" in the pull-down menu. Go to "Activities" and select the activity you want.

Adventist Mission DVD is a free video that features stories from the featured countries as well as the worldwide mission of the Adventist Church. Ask your Sabbath School superintendent to make you a copy of it. Or go online at www.AdventistMission.org to download one of the DVD programs.

An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Ask your Sabbath School council to set a quarterly mission-offering goal; then chart the weekly progress toward the quarter's goal on the goal device.

Since all projects this quarter focus on buildings, draw a school or even a wall on a large piece of poster paper. Draw a simple brick and make enough photocopies to fill in the wall on the poster. Encourage Sabbath School members to "buy bricks" to help build up the wall.

Remind members that the ongoing work of the world church depends on the weekly Sabbath School mission offerings. On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage members to double or triple their weekly giving on Thirteenth Sabbath.

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Mission (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2013 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.

Second Quarter 2013
Volume 102, Number 2

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EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION



	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERS	POPULATION
East African	4,575	4,520	707,883	52,000,000
East Congo	210	377	57,906	9,600,000
Ethiopian	812	312	128,337	88,050,000
Rwanda	1,609	544	534,704	11,000,000
Tanzania	2,105	1,918	437,573	46,300,000
Uganda	833	1,881	232,235	34,600,000
West Congo	590	617	355,342	39,000,000
Attached Fields	1,314	1,124	297,793	43,621,000
TOTAL	12,048	11,293	2,751,773	324,171,000
As of 12/2011				
PROJECTS:				
①	build housing for teachers and married students at University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, Kenya			
②	build a classroom block for Baraton Elementary School on the campus of University of Eastern Africa, in Kenya			
③	complete Mwanza Adventist Hospital in Tanzania			
④	build a classroom block at Lukanga Adventist University in Congo			
⑤	provide a lay training center in Kinshasa, Congo			
⑥	provide two lamb shelters (children's worship centers) in Kinshasa, Congo			

