



YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

2014 • **QUARTER 4** • INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION



www.AdventistMission.org

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Your Offerings at Work



Thanks to your generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, many special projects have been completed around the world. Pictured here is the new Timothy S. Greaves Hall Residence Hall at the University of the Southern Caribbean (formerly Caribbean Union College), located in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. This dormitory was inaugurated during a special ceremony on Oct. 20, 2013. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped provide chapels for two new dormitories at the university.



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter we are focusing on the very active and fast-growing Inter-American Division (IAD). This division of the world church is made up of the countries of Central America, the four northernmost countries of South America, and the islands of the Caribbean. There are nearly 12,000 Seventh-day Adventist churches within IAD, and 3,714,790 members. With a division wide population of 284,351,000, that's a ratio of 1 Adventist for every 76.55 people.*

We have some amazing stories for you this quarter, coming from the beautiful northeastern coastal country of Belize and from the lovely island of Jamaica. In Belize, where more than 70 percent of

the church members are young people, evangelism is high on the priority list. However, in this small country there are very few large auditoriums. One of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects is to build a large auditorium on a choice piece of land in the capital city of Belmopan. The other project in Belize is a much-needed youth camp, where the young people can go for recreation as well as evangelistic training.

In Jamaica, members have been ministering and restoring dignity to some of the neediest people in Kingston through the Good Samaritan Inn. You won't want to miss the stories we have near the end of the quarter describing what is taking place there. Their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering project is to expand the Good Samaritan Inn to provide a maternal health/wellness clinic and a dental clinic.

May the Lord bless and inspire you as you share these stories and invite people to give liberally to support our brothers and sisters in their mission outreach in the Inter-American Division!

Wishing you God's richest blessings!

Gina Wahlen, *Editor*

PS: Did you know that you don't have to wait until the end of the quarter to give toward the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects? You can give anytime by going to the Make a Gift section on our secure website at giving.adventistmission.org and choosing "13th Sabbath Offering" from the "Fund" pull-down menu.

* Statistics are taken from the 2014 *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* online, <http://www.adventistyearbook.org/ViewAdmField.aspx?AdmFieldID=IAD>.

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help to:

- build an evangelistic center in Belmopan, Belize
- provide a youth camp in northern Belize
- establish a maternal health-care center and dental clinic at the Good Samaritan Inn, Jamaica
- Children's Project: provide a dental chair reserved for children in the new dental clinic at the Good Samaritan Inn.

The 67th Book of the Bible

BELIZE | October 4

Arlene



I grew up in the Adventist home of my grandparents. Since my parents were busy—my father was a policeman, mother a nurse—they allowed my grandmother to take care of me. I remember having morning devotions with my grandparents and my grandfather holding my face in his strong hands and praying for me.

As a teen I moved back with my parents, and that's where the shift in my life began. My father wasn't an Adventist. On Sabbath he thought I should stay home and clean the house, and we ate pork regularly.

From there my life continued downhill. I married a pharmacist who was a cocaine addict. We had two children. Later he died in a traffic accident.

Searching for something better in life, I ended up in the U.S. state of Kentucky for

a while. When I returned to Belize City, I remarried. About that time my son was kidnapped and murdered.

A Desperate Need

At that point I realized how desperately I needed God in my life. Somehow I always had Adventist people around me, and some were bold enough to tell me, "You are lost. You need to come back home." But having this happen to my son was a real wake-up call. I thought of myself as the prodigal daughter who went away to a far country and needed to come back home. I learned that whatever is out there isn't satisfying.

When I began working as a librarian at the University of Belize, there was a club called Advent Fellowship, but it wasn't active or vibrant. Then about three years ago two students arrived on campus, and I noticed that something was different about them, there was some kind of pleasant aura about them. I kept watching them week after week. They put

up posters and passed out flyers inviting people to come to the Advent Fellowship meetings. They invited me and texted reminders, but I didn't attend. But they were so consistent. I was impressed with their time management and organization.

Who Are These People?

I wondered, *Who are these people?* They were in their late teens and 20s, but weren't your typical students. The way they talked and conducted themselves, their manners—it wasn't just run of the mill.

One day their advertisements caught my eye, and I decided to attend. The topic was on entertainment—music and dancing. I learned about the artists I had seen in the media, the artists whose music my family danced to, and it opened my eyes to a totally different world. I learned about the negative effects of this type of entertainment; it was as if blinders fell from my eyes.

I wanted more; I was hungry! They

asked me if I wanted Bible studies, and I agreed. Being a librarian, I always want to know more about what I don't know, so they told me about the book of Revelation and arranged for a Bible worker to study with me. He was punctual and prepared. I could ask questions, and he could answer. I couldn't wait for the teacher to come! It was so timely.

Coming Home

After six months I was baptized—all because of this Advent Fellowship, and the witness of those conducting the studies and fellowship. Their lifestyle, their orderliness, their manners—I saw them in action. They were the 67th book of the Bible for me. They were strategic, all over campus. Advent Fellowship definitely made a big inroad into my life. Now God is my rock, my foundation; He is my everything.

I am part of the university administration, and I want to influence the students and the administration through my conduct and character, just as the Advent Fellowship people did for me.

I had come to a point in my life where I realized how much I needed God. I had seen how my grandparents handled crises—they would take everything to God in prayer. I remembered my grandfather praying for me, and it was just a matter of me turning around and coming back home. I really feel that I have come back home.

I am home, and now my job is to bring others home. After my baptism my aunt called me and said, "If you have returned home, I will return home, too." My grandparents provided the seed foundation, and now I want to bring the others home. 🌍

Fast Facts

- Belize has a diverse society with many cultures and languages, but its official language is English. India is the seventh-largest country in area and has one sixth of the world's population, more than a billion people. Only China has a higher population.
- From 1862 to 1973 the country was called "British Honduras." India has 10,000 large cities, including 50 with a population of more than a million people. Yet many still live in the country's more than 600,000 towns and villages.
- Belize is the birthplace of chewing gum.



The Preacher Man

Francis

I work at the Central Bank as a security officer. At work they call me the “Preacher Man” because I like to share my faith, although I haven’t always been close to God.

I’m the third out of eight children. My grandmother, a Seventh-day Adventist, was the only Christian in the home. When I was a child, she took me to church. I didn’t realize it, but she was preparing me for something great.

When I grew up, I joined the army, and I met my future wife through her brother-in-law. I was 22, and she was 16. We married three years later and now have four beautiful children.

Over the years we have had family get-togethers at my mother’s house. I remember

one time when all her children were there. I hadn’t seen my mother so happy in all her life. There was a lot of drinking going on, and I was the barbecue cook. When we left for home about 6:00 p.m., neither my wife nor I realized how intoxicated I was. Miraculously we made it home alive, in spite of traveling over a very narrow, winding, and mountainous road.

How Did I Get Here?

At 1:00 a.m. I awoke. Looking around, I realized that I was home.

Everyone was in bed. I couldn’t remember leaving my mother’s house. I awakened my wife and asked her what had happened. She started crying and said, “I’ll never ride with you again! You’re a terrible driver—you almost killed us!” My son tried

**God was
instructing
me through
His Word.**

reassuring me: “Dad, everything was fine. The only problem was that you were going 85 to 95 mph, and before overtaking you didn’t give enough room.”

Quickly I put on my shoes and went outside to check the car. It was OK. Then I walked to some nearby bleachers at a basketball court and started crying. “What have I done?” I asked aloud. “I could have lost my family.”

Drastic Change Needed

Looking up, I wondered what to do. I knew about God and that He was able to save, but I hadn’t understood my need of Him until that moment. “What can I do?” I asked Him. “You spared my life for some reason.” I realized I needed to make a drastic change in my life.

Years earlier, before joining the army, I had lived with my uncle and helped him plant marijuana in the mountains. One day a man came to the door and invited us to his church. I thought I should try it, so I stopped planting marijuana.

The man, who was an elder at the Adventist church, took me under his wings. I stayed with him and his wife for

a year. I tried reading the Bible, but didn’t understand it very well, so on Sabbath afternoons they would explain things and share many Scripture passages with me.

That night standing in the basketball bleachers, all the Bible verses the man had taught me came back to my mind: 1 John 1:9—“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us . . .”; Galatians 2:20—“I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I . . .”; Romans 8:28—“All things work together for good to those who love God . . .”; and more.

Instruction Through God’s Word

I recognized that God was instructing me through His Word—He was giving me something to hold on to for support. I began praying every night, inviting Him into my life and asking Him for help. I learned that it is when we cry out for help that we realize He *can* help us. In addition to praying I started getting up early to spend time reading God’s Word.

My life took a U-turn. Reading the Bible, I learned so many things—it contains the mind of God and explains the state of man. Its doctrines are holy, perfects binding, and histories true. Read it to be wise, to be safe, and practice it to be holy.

I reconnected with the Adventist Church and was baptized. My wife also gave her life to Christ. I’m so happy and encouraged by the people whom I’ve met in the Adventist Church. It’s very important to know the joy of salvation so that we can share that joy with others. God loves and forgives us; we then return that love and forgiveness to others. It’s like someone sharing a piece of pie with you—if you don’t taste it, you don’t know how good it is. 🌍

Mission Post

- The Inter-American Division (IAD) has more than 3.7 million members, an average of one Adventist for every 76.55 people. This is the highest ratio of any division in the world church.
- Adventists in IAD are active lay evangelists. Every member helps by sharing God’s love with others.

This Is My Last Beer

BELIZE | October 18

Jervis and Yvonne



I'm a pastor on the beautiful island of San Pedro. This island is one of the most popular destinations in Belize, and its inhabitants consist mostly of foreigners who come to retire or party hard! It's my job as pastor to spread the gospel and teach others of our wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. With clubs, parties, and other secular programs going on daily, some may not be interested to hear the Word, but the story of Jervis and Yvonne shows me how God is working here.

Jammin' Reggae Artists

Jervis and Yvonne migrated from the sandy beaches of Jamaica to Belize. As reggae artists, they were deeply rooted in

It wasn't the first time my church invite had been denied.

their traditions and beliefs of the Rastafarian life they had come to know and love. They came to Belize to pursue a life of enjoyment, singing and playing music. They dedicated their lives to

making cool, Caribbean island music. They, along with a group of Jamaicans, planned to meet with a Belizean reggae promoter to take their music to the next level and serve the world with the vibes of the reggae they loved.

I met Jervis and Yvonne at Robin's Kitchen, a local restaurant that serves great food. "Brother Harvey," an Adventist, is the owner of the place. He befriended Jervis and Yvonne, who enjoy eating at his restaurant.

After speaking with the couple for a while, I felt impressed to invite them to church. They humbly denied. It wasn't the first time my church invite had been denied, but I thought, *They are Rastafarians—the odds of them giving their lives to God is probably less likely than other non-believers.*

OK, Last Beer

One day as Brother Harvey and I approached Robin's Kitchen, we met Yvonne. After we spoke for a while, she went next door to get Jervis, who was in the bar having his favorite—a Belizean Belikin beer. Feeling impressed by the Holy Spirit again, I invited them to church. To my joy, Jervis responded, "OK, Pastor, this is my last beer. I will come to church." God is so powerful!

On Sabbath morning, I walked Jervis and Yvonne. They were eager to learn, and so we started Bible studies. They also wanted to live a healthy lifestyle and decided to give up all harmful substances and eat a natural vegetarian diet.

After much Bible study and regular church attendance Jervis and Yvette decided to give their hearts to the Lord. They decided to get married after many



On the beautiful island of San Pedro, Belize, one of the Seventh-day Adventist churches is located right on the beach.

years of living together. They began singing a different tune—a gospel tune. They are married, baptized, and dedicated to working for the Lord through their music ministry.

"I love my church, and I'm ready to sing," says Yvonne. "I have peace of mind, and I keep studying our [Adventist] message."

"I'm very happy now," Jervis adds. "I need to be strong and confident. I'm very happy for Brother Harvey and other members too—they keep me strong."

Jervis is especially happy to be playing music for the Lord now. Both he and Yvonne are active in evangelism. "Music pulls people together," he says. "It's the medium to bring them in." 🌍

Story by Pastor Nadir Ruiz, pastor of the New Horizon Seventh-day Adventist Church in San Pedro, Belize.

Fast Facts

- San Pedro is a beautiful island located off the coast of Belize.
- Most of the people in San Pedro are very secular.
- The island has the largest concentration of visitor accommodations in Belize and its diving facilities are some of the best in the country.

The Throwaway Baby, Part 1

BELIZE | October 25

Jeremy



photo: BigStock.com

*I*t's not time for this baby to be born, I thought the mother as she hurried to the hospital to deliver her tenth child. Only five months into this pregnancy, she was surprised to feel the familiar labor pains. When the baby was delivered, the doctor said, "Ma'am, you have nine children waiting for you at home. You did not deliver another baby—you had an undeveloped fetus that didn't survive. The doctor put the fetus in a cloth and threw it in the garbage.

"Where is my baby?" the mother kept asking, but the answer was always the same: "You had an undeveloped fetus." But the mother wasn't

convinced. Once the nurses left, she looked into the garbage and saw the cloth moving. When she lifted it, there was her baby, still breathing.

Taking a clean cloth, she wrapped up the "fetus," put him in her pocket, and went home to be greeted by her many children. "Where's the baby?" they asked. The mother unwrapped the "fetus," and there he was, still breathing.

Stolen Property

Before long, however, the police came. She had stolen hospital property, they informed her—the "fetus!" "If you don't return it," they said, "we'll take you to court." "This is my child!" said the mother, refusing to hand her baby over to the police.

"If this 'fetus' dies under your care," they responded, "you will go to jail for murder."

**The police officers
were called in order
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Mission Post

- The Belize Union of Churches Mission was first organized in 1929.
- There are 85 Adventist churches in Belize, with a membership of 39,518. With a country population of 334,000, that's a ratio of 1 Adventist to every 8.45 people in Belize.
- There are 21 Adventist primary schools, three Adventist academies, an Adventist junior college, and a clinic in Belize.

Refusing to be intimidated, she told them, "Then I will have to do my jailtime."

A directive was then sent to all government clinics in the area, forbidding them to accept the "fetus" or mother for treatment. But God did not forget this desperate mother nor her premature infant. As she prayed, God impressed this mother with what she should do.

The baby was so tiny that his little mouth wasn't large enough to nurse from his mother, so she put some of her milk into a small doll bottle to feed him. Because no incubator was available, she carefully placed him in the sun each day. The baby strengthened and grew.

Begging for Help

One day, however, the baby became very ill, and the mother had to bring him back to the hospital, where she met the same doctor and nurses. They were all perplexed, because the "fetus" was still alive. Getting on her knees, the mother pleaded with the doctor, begging him to help her baby.

He desperately needed a blood transfusion, but the hospital had only one unit of blood available, and it had not been screened. The mother asked that

they give it to him anyway, or he would die. She prayed as she watched them put the unscreened blood into the fetus. The doctor assured the mother that the fetus would not survive past midnight. At 6:00 a.m. the "fetus" was still alive.

By this time the doctor was amazed. He had never seen anything like this. So now he had another idea: "Let's get in contact with Jamaica and arrange with them to take him to one of their hospitals to see how long this 'fetus' can live." The mother refused. "My child is not a guinea pig or a lab rat!"

Stealing Hospital Property?

The police officers were called in order to ensure that this crazy woman wouldn't steal the fetus again. Determined to take her baby home, the woman came up with a plan—she would go to another ward of the hospital, create a big commotion, and when the officers were distracted, she would grab her baby and run. The plan worked, and she hurried home. Not far behind, however, were the police officers. Once again they threatened her with stealing hospital property, but she stayed her ground.

A year later the "fetus" still lived. But once more he became ill, and there was no choice but to return to the hospital, where once again she met the same doctor and the same staff.

Looking at the child, the doctor made his dire predictions: "This baby will be blind and crippled by the age of 2. He will be mentally disabled and will die at the age of 5."

The mother took her treasure home and prayed. 🌍

To be continued

The Throw-Away Baby, Part 2

BELIZE | November 1

Jeremy



The “fetus” kept growing and became stronger each day. When he was 6 years old, that “fetus” walked into a Seventh-day Adventist primary school, not with a cane, as the doctor predicted, because he wasn’t blind; not in a wheelchair, as the doctor had warned, because he could walk. He walked in and he did well in every subject. He continued his education at an Adventist academy and then went on to an Adventist university, where he studied to become a pastor.

That “fetus” is a part of God’s master plan for the end-time. That “fetus” is

**As I diligently studied
my Bible, the Lord
captured me.**

me. Although I was supposed to die many times, God preserved my life for this time.

Amazingly, however, in spite of my miraculous delivery, Satan almost won my soul.

Poor Upbringing

I’ve faced many discouragements in my life. Our father did not support us, and we grew up very poor. I was told that I would never amount to anything, that I was the worst person. I know about hardship. My siblings and I had to share one school bag between three to four of us. We received secondhand uniforms.

Often we would go to school hungry because we hadn't eaten for days. The Lord kept us, but it required discipline.

Growing up in the south side of Belize City, kids tend to stray like sheep. And as a young man, I went astray. I was out in the world, playing the devil's music. I know a lot about the music of the street, because at a young age I was exposed to it.

I Needed to Change

You may wonder, How is it that this young man with such a powerful birth story—why was he even out there? It's the result of taking my eyes off Jesus. It's the result of thinking that being young means to have fun with the world. It's the result of following bad company. But the Lord brought me back through a series of chastisements, but He chastised me in love. There were some things I did that were wrong, and the Lord began calling my attention to those things and convicting me that I needed to change.

One of the those things was music. I used to play at clubs. On Sabbath morning I would be at church, and as the sun set, I would be at the club. From church to club on the same day. And I would meet other friends from church there too. But I praise the Lord because those same kids that I would meet at the club later came out from that scene, as I did, and we formed a special ministry to propagate our message: This music will lead the masses to eternal ruin. I have reached this conclusion because of my experiences and what I saw at the clubs. I wouldn't recommend it to anybody. To anybody who is out there, I would say, "Come home!"

Fast Facts

- The population of Belize is young, with a median age of 21.8.
- Belize is a Central American country, located between Guatemala and Mexico, bordering the Caribbean Sea.
- Belize is the site of several historical Mayan city states. The Mayan ruins are a popular tourist attraction.

Captured

As I diligently studied my Bible, the Lord captured me, and I made a change. It was amazing. I found that the closer you get to Jesus, the more He opens your spiritual understanding to the spiritual warfare that's going on all around us. We wrestle against spiritual wickedness in high places. I would be afraid to go in a club now. I know the music would have the influence of demons.

God brought miracles in my life, and He is still doing miracles for me and others. My dream is to see millions saved in the kingdom of God. By His grace, I have been able to lead out in many evangelistic meetings and have had the joy of seeing hundreds of people baptized through this outreach. I believe that many young people and older people, if we come together, can hasten the coming of Jesus.

My mother, who I love so much, always reminds me, "Never forget that you were a throwaway baby. Never forget that you belong to God. He preserved you, and you are here to bring Him glory." 🌍

So Much to Share

Tyson



photo: BigStock.com

Tyson and his older brother lived with their parents in Belize City. Both brothers were very involved in sports and other activities at their high school.

Their mother had grown up as a Seventh-day Adventist, and she and her family had served in the church for many years. As she grew older, however, she fell in love and married a man that was not an Adventist, and she drifted away from her faith.

One evening as Tyson and his brother were walking home from school, they happened to pass by an Adventist church. They observed a group of young people socializing and having fun at the church. The following week they passed the same way, and again they saw the youth singing and studying the Bible. Tyson became curious and said to his brother, “Let’s go and take a closer look.”

An Invitation

Reluctantly his brother agreed, so the two went to the door and peeped in.

One of the youth leaders saw the young men and invited them in. They stayed for the rest of the meeting and enjoyed it. Another youth leader invited them to return the following week.

Tyson and his brother went home and told their mother about the meeting, asking to return the following week. She agreed but reminded them of the football game they had at school on Tuesdays. The young men decided to go to the youth meeting instead, and learned that the meetings were held every Tuesday evening. On that evening Adventist young people from all over Belize City meet in their local churches to study the Bible, play games, participate in cooking classes and other life skills sessions. Each member is encouraged to bring a visitor to the meetings. This gives the members the opportunity to fellowship with each other and the chance to reach other youth for Jesus.

Tyson was invited to Sabbath School by one of the youth at the meeting. From

that day on, he and his brother attended Sabbath School regularly, and it wasn't long before their mother was attending Sabbath School and church with them. Following Bible studies, Tyson and his brother were baptized, choosing to give up the excitement and friends of the world for Jesus.

After graduating from high school Tyson believed that God was calling him to pastoral ministry, so he went to the United States intending to study at an Adventist university, but found costs prohibitive. Tyson ended up studying at an Adventist university in the Philippines where he completed his theological studies and pastoral training.

Returning to his home country, Tyson worked as a pastor of several churches. Today Tyson is married, and he and his wife are currently serving as missionaries



More than 70 percent of Adventists in Belize are young people.

in Hong Kong. His mother is still serving the Lord faithfully, and his father attends church regularly.

This came about in part because of dedicated youth leaders who took the time to shepherd and nurture the youth, and because of young people who were willing to accept the call of God to reach out to their peers and bring them into His fold.

Seventy Percent of the Church

In Belize approximately 70 percent of Adventist church members are youth. For the past several decades the Belize Union Conference has organized youth rallies for the young people in their territory, but have faced the continual challenge of trying to find space that will accommodate them.

“It’s always been a challenge to find a place in Belize that has the facilities to cater to so many young people,” says Pastor Leslie Gillet, Belize Union youth director. “Back in the 1980s we began talking about the need for a facility. This youth camp/evangelism center is important because it will give the young people a sense of purpose. Most of the young people who come to church in Belize come looking for a purpose. We come because we sense there is more to our lives than just living. Having a facility like this will give the youth of Belize a sense of belonging and a place to learn and recreate together.

“There is so much in Belize that we can share with the rest of the world. We just hope that many of our brothers and sisters from the rest of the world will get to know Belize and share with us.”

Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build a youth camp/evangelism center in Belize. 🌍

An Unexpected Journey

BELIZE | November 15

Jerome



I'm the second of twins—born 20 minutes after my brother. I grew up in the village of Burrell Boom. The village got its name because years ago logs were brought down the river from the Caya district in the west and were held here by a big boom.

My grandfather was a pastor, so my dad grew up in the Adventist Church, but later he left it. My mom raised us as Adventists, and when I was 13 or 14, I was baptized. We traveled eight miles to church each week. As the years passed by, my father built a house nearer to the church.

My dad was into trucking. When we were old enough, we started driving for him. Later he went into business with Belize Electric Limited. He was responsible for planting large electric poles. It was hard work to dig down six feet, then use a loader

to lift up the pole. My dad's workers would then climb the poles and install everything to make them functional. After a few years the crew wanted more money and started stealing from my dad.

The Fall

Then my twin brother and I started climbing poles for our dad. It's very hard and dangerous work. One day as I was climbing, the safety strap was biting into my leg. I put my weight on it and fell 40 feet onto a rock, landed on my back, and went unconscious. When I awoke, I tried moving but wasn't able to from the waist down. My brother went to get help, and after a long, arduous journey to the hospital, we finally arrived. The doctor put a big needle in my foot, but I didn't feel a thing. They said I would never walk again. I was 21.

But the faith I was raised with brought me hope. I felt so calm and peaceful. As my mother stood at my bedside crying, I told her, “Don’t worry, Mom. I’ll be OK.” I always remember that little moment. It matters how your parents raise you. God allowed me to handle this crisis and go through it, not stressing out, but having faith that something good would come out of it and that I would be OK.

Building a Bike

For the first few years after the accident I was in and out of the hospital. One day while on the Internet at home I found a picture of a hand-pedaled bike. Downloading the picture, I saved up some money to buy materials, and then built my own bike. When the bike was ready, even I was surprised by how everything worked so perfectly. No one knew what it was. As I rode places, everyone was waving at me, and I felt positive and happy.

One day two American couples were riding their bicycles. They had biked a long distance and were trying to find a place to stay. Someone met them on the road and told them it wasn’t safe in the city, so they stayed close to where we live. I went to a nearby shop, and they saw my bright-yellow bike and started taking pictures. They came back in the evening and took more pictures, telling me that they would send them to me by email. They sent the pictures to others as well, and soon I was contacted by Channel 7 Belize for an interview. That gave me the opportunity to tell my story and share my faith with the entire country!

But the faith I was raised with brought me hope.

Raising Awareness

I also wanted to raise awareness of disabilities, so I partnered with Care Belize, an organization that works with individuals with disabilities and

their families. I planned to bike across Belize—a 90-mile trip. A business from Germany heard about my plans and sponsored materials for me to build another bike, as the first one I had made was very heavy. I trained on the heavy one, then made the actual 90-mile trip on the new aluminum-frame bike. I did the ride in just three days!

Since that first trip I have made numerous bicycle trips across Belize, over all of the major highways of our country. My message is: Don’t look at someone who has a disability as if they aren’t able to do anything. With God, if you put your mind to it, you can do anything He wants you to do! 🌍

Fast Facts

- Belize has a land area of 8,867 square miles (22,966 sq. km.), and 320 miles (516 km) of coastline.
- Belize is a parliamentary democracy with the British Commonwealth. The country is divided into six districts: Belize, Cayo, Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek and Toledo.
- Tourism is the largest revenue generator in Belize, although the country does export some agricultural products, including bananas, cacao, citrus, sugar, fish, cultured shrimp and lumber.

In What Do You Believe?

BELIZE | November 22

Ricardo



When I was 27 years old, God changed my life. I was an alcoholic, took acid, smoked two packs of cigarettes a day, and was out on the streets. But then the Lord stepped in.

It was a Saturday night while I was in a bar drinking with a policeman and two other guys. The night was clear, and the moon was shining brightly. When I looked out the door of that bar, I saw a young man calling me from outside. I went out and asked what he wanted. He said he wanted to speak to me, but not there. I followed him with a bottle of rum in my hand, thinking

that he wanted to drink with me.

When we reached the area near my father's house, the young man and I sat down at the edge of the road. I opened the bottle and drank some rum, then handed it to him. The stranger said, "No," set the bottle on the ground, and immediately asked, "What is your faith?"

"I don't understand what you are asking," I replied.

"In what do you believe?" he persisted.

Because my parents were Seventh-day Adventists, I replied, "I really believe that the [seventh-day] Sabbath is the Lord's day."

The young man

**Let's promise that
we're going to church
on Sabbath.**

immediately stood up and said, “That is my faith too. Let’s promise that we’re going to church on Sabbath.” I agreed, and he shook my hand. He walked backward about 10 yards (nine meters) and then vanished. I never saw him again.

A Transformation

The following Sabbath I went to church hoping to see the stranger again, but he never appeared. Nevertheless my life was changed. I never drank, smoked, or did drugs again, and that was almost 40 years ago. Now I believe that it was an angel who was transformed into a human being.

I tell everyone my angel story. Personally, I know it happened. I have spoken to many people who drink a lot as I once did. I tell them about how God changed my life, and tell them that if God could do this for me, He can also do it for them.

A few years after my transformation, I returned to the village where this happened and presented a series of evangelistic meetings. People knew me for what I was in the past, but during the two-week meetings, 12 souls gave their lives to Christ. It was such a blessing. They could see the change in my life.

Working for the Lord

I’m amazed at what the Lord has done with my life. Even though I didn’t have much of an education (because I had to stop going to school at age 12), the Lord has allowed me to work for Him. I’ve been able to translate a lot of religious literature from English into Spanish. By His grace I have formed 10 church groups; eight have become officially organized churches. God has given me the privilege of presenting numerous evangelistic meetings and Bible studies, resulting in more than 1,000

people coming to the foot of the cross and being baptized.

I know that the devil has not been pleased with my transformation. During one year I presented seven evangelistic series. At that time, I lost many family members in accidents. Over the course of 18 months I lost my father, sister, two brothers, and two nephews—all were killed in accidents.

A few people said to me, “Why don’t you stop doing these meetings? Your family members are dying!” But I told them, “No, I won’t stop, even if Satan continues doing this, I will continue to preach.” That helped me to become even stronger in my faith.

I’m not a pastor, although I serve as head elder in my church. For many years I managed a company that made wicker and rattan furniture, and now I work with an insurance company. Additionally I have a farm where we grow coconuts, avocados, mangoes, turnips, plums, breadfruit, oranges, and limes, and I have mahogany and cedar trees from which we harvest wood. I also have a wonderful wife and four grown children. The Lord has blessed me abundantly, and whatever He gives me I want to use it for His honor and glory.

When Christ comes, I have a lot of questions for my Jesus. Nevertheless, what I really want to know is—who was the angel that appeared to I was. 🌍

“It is the work of angels to come close to the tried, the suffering, the tempted. They labor untiringly in behalf of those for whom Christ died.”

—*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 153.

The Bar That Became a Church

BELIZE | November 29

Victor



photo: BigStock.com

The village of Cotton Tree is located between mile markers 42 and 44 in the Cayo district of Belize. With no Adventist presence in the area, Ricardo wanted to reach the village's 1,580 people with the good news of the three angels' messages.

In November 2012 he and a friend were going door to door, reaching out to the people, assessing their needs, and offering Bible studies. While walking along the street, the two Adventists met Victor.

"Good evening, sir. We're from the Seventh-day Adventist church, and we're doing a survey. Do you believe in Jesus Christ?" Victor indicated that he did, so the two continued. "Well, if you believe

I'm going to take down that sign, and we're going to use this place to praise God's name!

in Jesus, we would like to invite you to visit our church this coming Sabbath."

Which Day?

"Sabbath? You mean on Sunday?" Victor wasn't sure he understood correctly.

"No," the two assured him. "We worship together on the seventh day, Saturday, because according to the Bible, it is the Lord's day."

Victor was interested in learning more, so on the next Sabbath he was at the Seventh-day Adventist church in St. Matthew's Village, seven miles from Cotton Tree. He kept coming to the church week after week. It was there that he decided to recommit his life to Christ

Mission Post

- Belize and Jamaica are part of the Inter-American Division (IAD). The IAD is made up of 42 countries and has more than 3.7 million Adventists—more than any other division of the world church.
- In Belize, 1 of every 8 people are Seventh-day Adventists.
- Many Adventists in IAD are active lay evangelists.
- The country of Belize has a population of 334,000, with a ratio of 1 Adventist to every 8.45 people.

and was baptized.

One challenge he faced, however, was his business. Victor was the owner of the local bar and dance hall in Cotton Tree. After his decision to follow Jesus, Victor closed his business, but he didn't close his influence in Cotton Tree!

Pitching His Tent

Wanting his friends and neighbors to hear the wonderful Bible truths that he had discovered, Victor helped launch a two-week series of evangelistic meetings just three weeks after his baptism. The meetings were held in a tent pitched right beside his former bar. After the series 28 more people from Cotton Tree were baptized—two of whom were women who were especially happy that Victor had closed the bar, as their husbands had been frequent patrons of the place.

Since the newly baptized group needed a church home in their own village, Victor offered part of his building as a place for worship.

“This used to be a bar and dance hall,” he told the group, “but I’m going to take down that sign, and we’re going to use this place to praise God’s name!”

The building is now divided into two separate areas—both providing food for life. On one side is Victor’s new business, a grocery shop, and on the other side is the worship hall where the Bread of Life is shared each Sabbath.

Seventh-day Adventists in Belize, especially the younger members, are very active in sharing their faith. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help fund a youth camp and an evangelistic center. Please plan to give generously to help support and nurture our brothers and sisters in this small Central American country. 🌍



photo: Thinkstock.com

Cotton Tree village, with a population of 1,580, is home to people from many ethnic groups, including Creoles, Mestizo, Maya, Garifuna, East Indians, Asians, and Caucasians.

Trench Town Teacher

JAMAICA | December 6

Lurline



Trench Town, an inner-city ghetto of Kingston, Jamaica, is well-known for its reggae roots, poverty, and crime. Home of reggae artist Bob Marley, the place was immortalized in his songs “Trench Town” and “No Woman No Cry.”

Children growing up in Trench Town often awaken at night to the sound of gunshots coming from warring neighborhood gangs. Sometimes houses are deliberately torched. During the day, young people often have difficulty concentrating at school. Most are hungry, and it is not uncommon for residents to die from starvation.

“Trench Town is very scary,” says Robert Taylor, a police sergeant who has worked in this area of Kingston for more than 20 years. “It’s very scary with the kind of weapons they’re firing now—especially the youth who are firing them. They’re

between the ages of 14 to 25. . . . They have no respect for anything. They have no purpose . . . no projection for their lives. There is nothing that they have to live for.”*

“This Is Your Job”

But Lurline James is changing that—one young student and family member at a time. Lurline is the principal of the Seventh-day Adventist Basic School in Trench Town. Located at the Trench Town Adventist church, the school started in 1997 as an outgrowth of a Vacation Bible School.

“Actually, the Lord led me here,” Lurline says. “I just wanted to help at the VBS, but the [Belize Mission] education director told me they wanted to start a school, and invited me to come. I told her, ‘No.’ I already had a job teaching in a good school, recognized by the Jamaican government.”

But when Lurline went home and started thinking about the possibility of having an Adventist school in Trench Town, she says that the Lord told her, “This is your job.”

* From an interview in the documentary, “Trench Town,” directed by James Ewart, <http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/trench-town-forgotten-land/>

Valuable Opportunities

Catering to Trench Town's youngest, the Adventist Basic School offers a safe environment, socialization, and education for children ages 2 to 6. The school has grown from 23 students in 1997 to 104 in 2014.

Lurline doesn't regret leaving her former job to come to Trench Town. "We have such an opportunity to impact the children," she says. "We come with a Christian background, and the parents really appreciate the principles and standards that we have here."

She remembers when a parent of one of the students died, and the child came to school very fearful. "When someone dies, the children are afraid that they will come back and haunt them," Lurline explains. "I tell them, 'When you're dead, you're dead. They're not coming back until Jesus returns.'" When the children hear this, they are no longer afraid.

Winning Awards

The Adventist school provides high-quality education and other opportunities

for the students. "They are smart," says Lurline proudly. "We got first place in the Scotia spelling bee!" The students also earned a bronze medal from the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission at the cultural festival where they performed on their recorders.

As home to Usain Bolt, the fastest man in the world and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, one of the world's fastest women, Jamaica is a land that admires the fleet-footed. The Trench Town students have been delighted to win many medals for their fast running abilities.

While watching the transformation of the students into happier and confident children is very rewarding, Lurline also considers the regular prayer breakfasts she and her staff provide for the parents to be an integral part of their ministry to the Trench Town community. "The parents come, and we have the chance to visit and pray with them. They always appreciate it."

The school also provides lunches for the children each day. "Nutrition is one of the greatest needs here," Lurline explains. "Even though we provide a good solid meal, the children don't have a proper breakfast, and we have to find something to give them [before lunch]."

Nevertheless, when students leave the Adventist school, they have more than a full stomach. They have a mind eager to learn more, and a heart full of the hope and love of Jesus.

The Trench Town Seventh-day Adventist Church subsidizes three-fourths of the children's school fees, and provides a soup kitchen for the community every Tuesday. The churchyard is always full of people. 🌍

Fast Facts

- Jamaica is an island nation in the Caribbean Sea. It is 145 miles (234 km) in length and 50 miles (80 km) in width at its widest point. Today, the country is a popular tourist destination and it has a native population of 2.8 million people.
- Throughout most of its history, Jamaica has been known for its sugar production.
- Unemployment is high in Jamaica and as a result, the country has high crime rates and violence related to drug trafficking.



Something Magnificent

Cecil Foster with Kerry-Ann Gray

The shiny BMW slowly driving through the slums of Kingston, Jamaica looked strangely out of place on the crowded, dirty roads. Those on the street eyed the driver with suspicion as he approached them, offering them a ride to a free lunch.

“Most of the homeless people didn’t want to come into the car because they didn’t trust me,” says Cecil Foster, president of the East Jamaica Conference chapter of the Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI). “Nearly all of them wanted to walk, so I gave them directions of where they could go to get their free lunch.” Other members of the ASI team were up at Market Square, inviting as many homeless people as possible to come and receive free food.

A few weeks earlier, Cecil and his newly elected ASI team met together to determine priorities for the coming year. “We had a morning session where we went away early, at 5:00 a.m., just to pray, listen

to God, and learn what He wanted us to do. After a two-hour prayer session, we decided that we needed to do something to help the less fortunate. Later, in talking with the East Jamaica Conference, we learned that they were thinking about the same thing.” From there plans began for the Good Samaritan Inn, providing a place to minister to the people living in the inner-city ghettos.

Free Lunches

On December 23, 1997, when the ASI team distributed their first free lunches, there were leftovers. “On the first day, we had more than half of the lunches left,” says Cecil. “We were out on the street, with nothing but benches and chairs—and lunches.”

But the team didn’t give up. On the second week they went again and were able to give away more food. On the third week there were even more people coming, so the team stopped advertising. The program grew from 50 to 100 lunches per week, then

150 to 200. The Good Samaritan Inn now serves more than 900 lunches per week, adding up to nearly 47,000 free lunches every year.

“It was mind-boggling to see,” Cecil exclaims. “Can you imagine how this mushroomed?!”

Rapid Growth

Since its beginnings of serving lunches on the street, the Good Samaritan Inn has become a well-known landmark in the community. An old factory warehouse, located directly behind the Heroes Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kingston, was purchased and renovated to better serve the needs of the inner-city communities. The services now offered at the “Inn” include separate men’s and women’s bathing facilities, free haircuts, provisions for daily washing and drying of laundry, distribution of shoes and clothing, regular health clinics and health fairs, back- to-school help for students, Christmas treats for the young and the elderly, and an expansion of meal services to three days per week. Since 2012 a 30-bed women’s overnight facility has been available at the Inn, giving emergency help to women and children in crisis situations.

“We have partnered with some corporations as well to help make this happen,” explains Cecil, “a commercial bank, the Jamaican stock market, and others.”

A Passion

Kerry-Ann Gray, assistant to Cecil Foster, comments on the influence he has had on her and other staff at his FosRich

It gives you this warm, this really nice feeling that you are able to be part of something so magnificent.

group of companies in Jamaica. “We became a part of it because Mr. Foster had a part in it. As his assistant, I tend to hear a lot of his thoughts. He has a passion to help the less fortunate. We desired to come on board and help. It’s not just the fact that he has money to do it—he believes in

it very much. Several of us [staff] came down to assist. It gives you this warm, this really nice feeling that you are able to be part of something so magnificent. You are touching people’s lives. It’s a privilege to be part of something like this.”

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go to create a special maternity clinic and wellness center at the Inn, and a dental clinic, providing services for both children and adults. 🌍

Mission Post

- The Jamaica Union Conference was organized in 1944 as the British West Indies Union Mission. It was renamed in 1959 as the West Indies Union Conference. In 2010 the territory was divided and renamed.
- There are 658 Seventh-day Adventist churches in Jamaica, and a membership of 274,353. With the country’s population at 2,712,000, that’s a ratio of 1 Adventist for every 9.88 people.
- The Adventist Church in Jamaica has 7 academies, 1 university, 1 hospital, and 2 health clinics.

Hunger Is a Wicked Thing

JAMAICA | December 20

The Good Samaritan Inn



Hunger is a wicked thing,” says Joy, a client at the Good Samaritan Inn in Kingston, Jamaica. “There are a lot of hungry and angry people—when they are hungry, they are angry.” But since coming to the Good Samaritan Inn, Joy and her two children feel much better. “There’s great food here, and we’re very grateful for it. We always look forward to coming here.” In addition to the food, Joy appreciates how the Inn has helped with her daughter’s school fees, new shoes, and a backpack for her son. “I’m very, very grateful and thankful . . . really blessed.”

“What I like about the Inn,” says Lloyd, “is that it isn’t only for the meal—it’s about the uplifting of people’s lives.” Lloyd used

to be a heavy drinker, but since coming to the Inn he has experienced a real transformation in his life. He no longer drinks, and now works as a security guard at the Inn under the direction of Vermont Murray, the Inn’s manager.

“Elder Murray is a very nice person, and Sister Moore is a very nice lady who does the registration. Without them, I don’t know how we could exist. They can communicate with our level of people, and if we can communicate, we can have a more peaceful society.”

A Metamorphosis

Beulett Carol Hunter, an ASI member who serves as a policy analyst and researcher for the Ministry of Education in Jamaica, has been involved with the Good Samaritan Inn

This place has become a home, a family, a rescue.”

Fast Facts

- In 2014 the population of Jamaica is 2.8 million people.
- More than 1 million tourists visit Jamaica every year.
- Jamaica has eight native snake species, but none are venomous.
- Jamaica produces many talented athletes, especially in track and field where athletes such as Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce have excelled.

since its beginnings. “I came on board when they were in just a little shed. There were persons from lower socioeconomic groups. Some were on the streets. You had children with social problems, learning disabilities—people were just hopeless. And they were dirty, very dirty and smelly. But then we established bathrooms so they could get showers, then a place to clean their clothes. We gave them hygiene tips. When they first came, the people were very boisterous. Food was here, so everybody rushed for food. They never had any training or discipline.

“But over the years, we could see the change in how they dressed and in their hygiene. For the children, we would sometimes bring in the Pathfinder Clubs to do devotions and to talk individually with them.

“Talk about a metamorphosis—I can attest to that! We are now seeing people who are much cleaner, healthier, who can converse freely. And they are active participants in the devotionals. They love to sing. They want to participate. This is coming from a level where they wouldn’t

say anything, except for cursings.”

Ms. Hunter attributes the amazing changes to better nutrition, health talks, and devotional presentations. “What we want to do,” she says, “is to let them see that life isn’t just sitting in a ghetto or a slum. That they can achieve, despite their circumstances. We want to open their minds, so that they are no longer contented to be where they are. We want to open heaven to them.”

A New Start

Nema and her mother first came to the Inn when Nema was in high school. “Once you walk through the gates, you can leave your problems, because in here it’s a new start!” says Nema. “It’s a place of worship, peace, and a place to get help—education, clothes, books, anything that you need.”

Nema is now pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of the West Indies in Kingston. “The Inn has been so much of an influence on my education,” she says. “I had to stop because of the school fees. When I thought I’d have to drop out for good, [the Inn] actually got me back in school again. . . . This place has become a home, a family, a rescue—such a good place! Before I came here, I was really shy, but coming here allows you to come out of your shell. You get to talk to people, talk to God, and learn what He can do for you. My life has been impacted a lot by the Inn. I don’t think I would have progressed this far in education, or spiritually, if it wasn’t for the Good Samaritan Inn.”

You can help support the Good Samaritan Inn by giving generously to this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Thank you. 🌍

Thirteenth Sabbath Program

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| ➤ | Congregational Song | “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 132 |
| ➤ | Welcome | Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher |
| ➤ | Prayer | |
| ➤ | Program | “A Lasting Gift” |
| ➤ | Offering | |
| ➤ | Closing Song | “Give of Your Best to the Master,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 572 |
| ➤ | Closing Prayer | |

Participants: Five speakers—a narrator and four speakers—one woman, three men.
[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.]

Props: A map of the Inter-American Division with Belize and Jamaica highlighted. (Scan the map on the back page of the quarterly and project it onto a screen, or download the map at www.AdventistMission.org. Photos also are available on the website. Click on “Resources,” “Resources for Leaders,” “Thirteenth Sabbath Projects,” and then on the current quarter.)

Narrator: During this past quarter, we’ve heard stories from our brothers and sisters in Belize and Jamaica. From the “Throwaway Baby” to the “Trench Town Teacher” we have seen how God is working through people in the Inter-American Division.

Today we are going to “meet” some of the leaders in Belize and Jamaica who will share more specifically about this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects. We will first meet Larrybelle and Jefferson

Spencer, both youth leaders in Belize.

Speaker 1 [A woman—“Larrybelle”]: Here in Belize we have a very active and young church—approximately two-thirds of our members are youth. Most families in Belize have many children. It’s not unusual to have 9 to 12 children in one family. We want to keep the youth active so they realize how much of an important part of the church they really are.

Speaker 2 [A man—“Jefferson”]: Our goal is to have activities that are Bible-based and also community-based, so that as they grow, young people can see that the church makes a community, and the community makes a church.

Speaker 1: In Belize we have five different church “zones,” and many local youth activities take place in these zones. But once a year we have a special meeting where youth from across the country attend and enjoy classes and activities.

Speaker 2: The challenge we face is that there is nowhere in the country that can accommodate all of the youth who would like to attend. But with a camp of our own, we would have the space, it would be less costly, and more young people would be impacted for the Lord.

Speaker 1: We like to offer classes based on improving life skills, as well as spiritual life. Some examples include canoeing, construction, massage, cake decorating, mechanics, electrical, and classes for improving abilities for those with disabilities—using what you have for God.

Speaker 2: One of our presenters was Jerome Flores, a member who is paralyzed from his waist down but has bicycled across the country, using his arms to propel his special bike.

Speaker 1: Many of the setbacks our youth in Belize face involve finances. If assistance is given focusing on the young people, such as the camp, it will definitely make a difference. It will be something they can call their own.

Narrator: Thank you, Larrybelle and Jefferson, for sharing with us about the

impact a youth camp in Belize will have on the many young people there. Now we would like to hear from Pastor Dennis Slusher, the president of the Belize Union of Churches Mission.

Speaker 3 [A man—“Pastor Slusher”]: Here in Belize, we definitely believe in evangelism, and we give many opportunities for the youth to participate. We need a permanent place for our young people—a place to bring them, train them, and give them hands on experience. Many times we have to go from church to church, teaching them how to work for others. If we can have a permanent place of our own, we can do even more for our young people. Training them how to do missionary work—that is one of our main objectives.

Narrator: And what about the other mission project—the evangelistic auditorium in the capitol city of Belmopan?

Speaker 3: Having a large auditorium will be of great benefit to our members and community. We want to offer more training for our adult members, and also have a place for large evangelistic meetings.

We already have a choice piece of land to build this auditorium, but if we don't use it, the government will take it away, so we're looking forward to building this auditorium soon!

Narrator: Thank you, Pastor Slusher. Now we will travel over to the island of Jamaica, where we will hear from Pastor Carl Cunningham. Pastor Cunningham works at the East Jamaica Conference as the director of Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, and Adventist Community Services.

He is also the chairman of the Good Samaritan Inn Management Committee.

Speaker 4 (Man—“Pastor Cunningham”): I was pastoring in the community when the property was purchased for the Good Samaritan Inn. The conference and union recognized the need for church and social plants that would facilitate the needs of the community. This was under the guidance of Pastor Patrick Allen, who was at the Jamaica Union Conference at the time. He has since become the Governor-General of Jamaica, but is still very interested in what is happening at the Inn.

Someone who has played an integral part of the success of the Good Samaritan Inn is Sister Moore, who works with the data-tracking system. It began with her doing physical, laborious gathering of information. As the clientele grew larger it became important for a better system. She makes sure that their name, address, phone, and anything about their background is recorded accurately. Many

have no address, so she just indicates that they are homeless. Sister Moore checks them in, so that we can see how often they come. This is important because we want to understand whom we are serving. The bottom line is about doing the ministry of Christ—it’s not just about feeding people. Hopefully sooner or later we’ll reach their hearts, minds, and souls.

We offer a wholistic ministry to people who are living in hopelessness, people who think that they are on the edge and that there is no further place to go. The maternal wellness clinic will help clients appreciate their worth as human beings. And dental care is very costly here—the average person can’t afford to go to a dentist, but we’re happy that soon we’ll be able to offer dental services to our clients.

Narrator: Thank you, Now is our opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in Belize and Jamaica. Please give generously for our special mission offering.

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

Next quarter the North American Division will be featured. Special projects include:

- Bathhouses and restrooms for Camp Polaris in Alaska.
- Reaching thousands of people in West Virginia through Harvest Time in Appalachia.
- Gymnasiums for schools in the Guam/Micronesia mission.
- CHILDREN’S PROJECT: beds for the children at Camp Polaris.



YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

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A happy young man being baptized in Jamaica. Thank you for supporting mission in the Inter-American Division!

Leader's Resources

For more information on the culture and history of Belize and Jamaica, look in the travel section of a local library or online. Some helpful websites include: <http://ambergriscaye.com/pages/town/factsbze.html> and <http://jis.gov.jm/information/jamaican-history/>

Visit our website at www.AdventistMission.org for additional photos, recipes, language pages, and other activities that you can use to enhance your mission program. Go to www.AdventistMission.org. Click on "Resources" in the pop-up menu. Go to fourth quarter and select the activity you want.

Mission 360 DVD is a free video that presents 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 the DVD.

MISCELLANEOUS

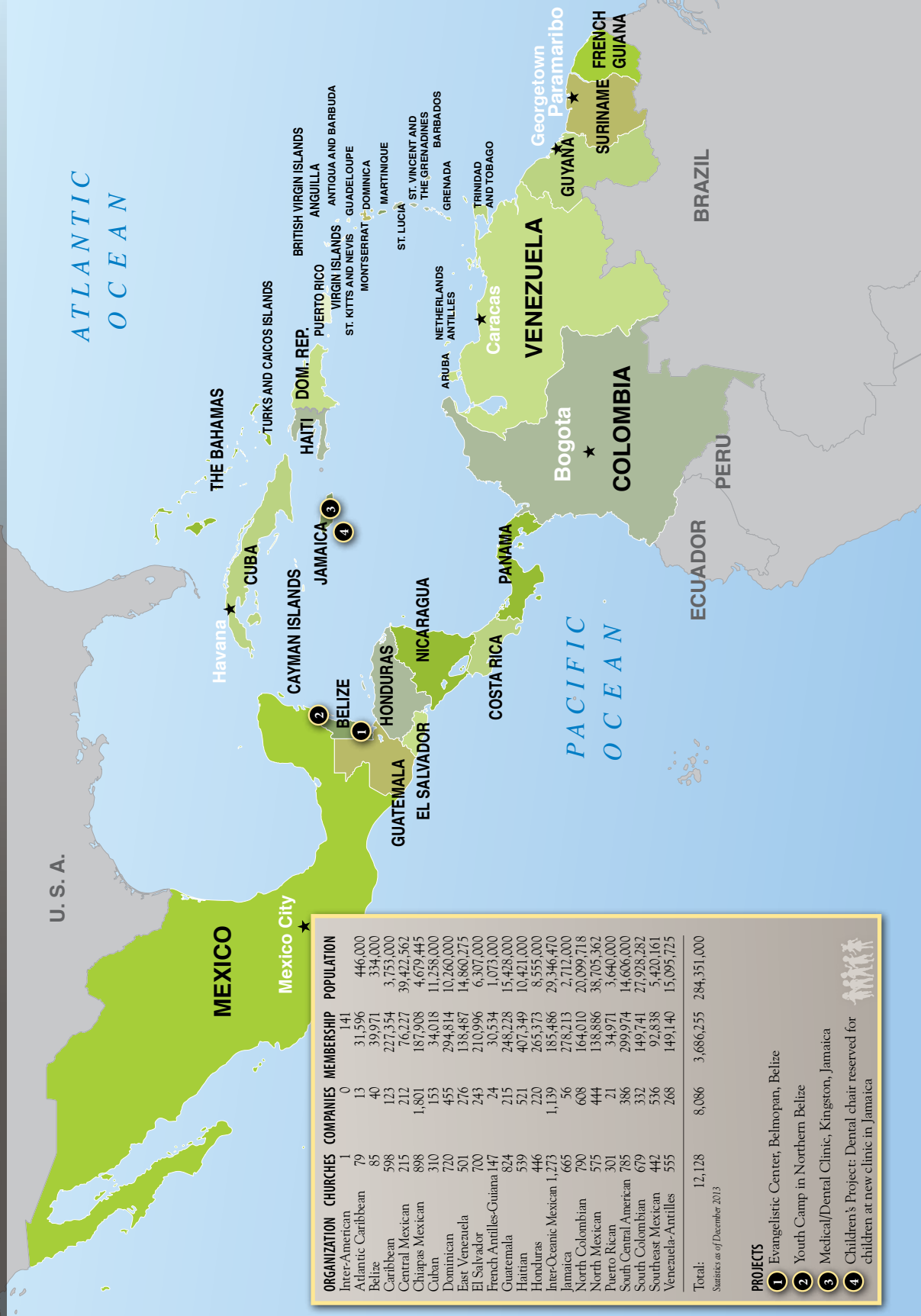
Embassies and Tourism Offices sometimes can provide interesting information on their country. In North America, contact:

The Embassy of Belize, 2535 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.
Phone: (202) 332-9636; website: www.embassyofbelize.org.

The Embassy of Jamaica, 1520 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Phone: (202) 452-0660; website: www.embassyofjamaica.org.

Please remind members also 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. Explain that one fourth of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering is dedicated to the special projects featured this quarter. The remaining three fourths goes into the World Mission Fund with the weekly mission offerings.

Inter-American Division



| ORGANIZATION | CHURCHES | COMPANIES | MEMBERSHIP | POPULATION |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Inter-American | 79 | 0 | 31,596 | 446,000 |
| Atlantic Caribbean | 85 | 13 | 39,971 | 334,000 |
| Belize | 598 | 123 | 227,354 | 3,753,000 |
| Caribbean | 215 | 212 | 76,227 | 39,422,562 |
| Central Mexican | 898 | 1,801 | 187,908 | 4,679,445 |
| Chiapas Mexican | 310 | 153 | 34,018 | 11,258,000 |
| Cuban | 720 | 455 | 294,814 | 10,260,000 |
| Dominican | 501 | 276 | 138,487 | 14,860,275 |
| East Venezuela | 700 | 243 | 210,996 | 6,307,000 |
| El Salvador | 700 | 24 | 30,534 | 1,073,000 |
| French Antilles-Guiana | 147 | 24 | 248,228 | 15,428,000 |
| Guatemala | 824 | 215 | 407,349 | 10,421,000 |
| Haitian | 539 | 521 | 265,373 | 8,555,000 |
| Honduras | 446 | 220 | 185,486 | 29,346,470 |
| Intra-Oceanic Mexican | 1,273 | 1,139 | 278,213 | 2,712,000 |
| Jamaica | 665 | 56 | 164,010 | 20,099,718 |
| North Colombian | 790 | 608 | 138,886 | 38,705,362 |
| North Mexican | 575 | 444 | 34,971 | 3,640,000 |
| Puerto Rican | 301 | 21 | 299,974 | 14,606,000 |
| South Central American | 785 | 386 | 149,741 | 27,928,282 |
| South Colombian | 679 | 332 | 92,838 | 5,420,161 |
| Southeast Mexican | 442 | 536 | 149,140 | 15,095,725 |
| Venezuela-Antilles | 555 | 268 | | |
| Total: | 12,128 | 8,086 | 3,686,255 | 284,351,000 |

Statistics as of December 2013

- PROJECTS**
- 1 Evangelistic Center, Belmopan, Belize
 - 2 Youth Camp in Northern Belize
 - 3 Medical/Dental Clinic, Kingston, Jamaica
 - 4 Children's Project: Dental chair reserved for children at new clinic in Jamaica

