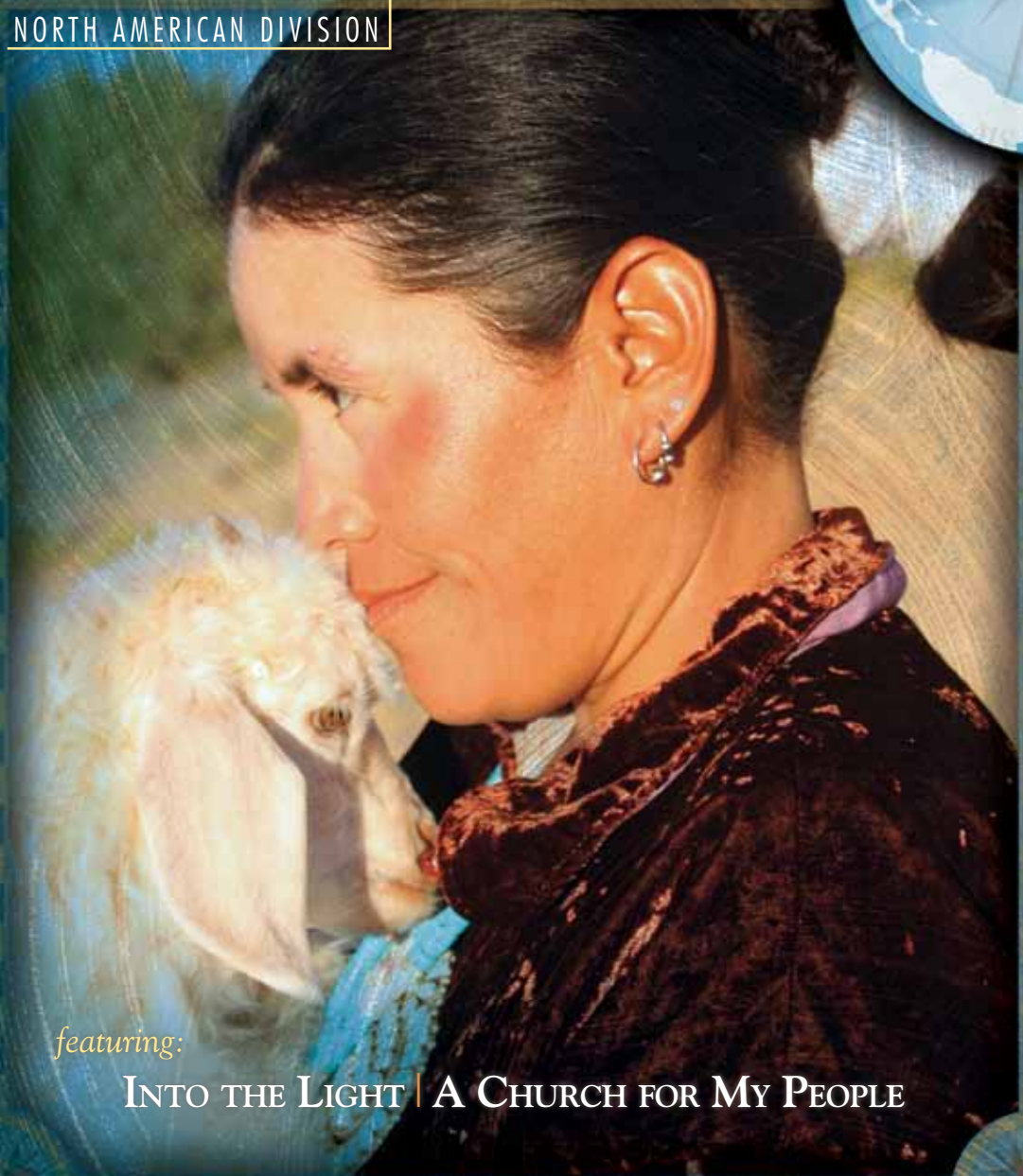


ADVENTIST
MISSION

YOUTH AND ADULT
MAGAZINE

QUARTER 4
2011

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION





featuring:

INTO THE LIGHT | A CHURCH FOR MY PEOPLE

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On the Cover: Sheryl Yazzie, a Navajo woman, and her sheep. Photo by Kelley Fowler


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Note: This is a 14-week quarter. An additional mission story for youth and adult can be found on our website, www.AdventistMission.org. Click on resources and then on Mission Quarterlies; select fourth quarter, and click on "extra story."

 = stories of special interest to teens

Dear Sabbath School Leader,

The North American Division includes Canada, the United States, and the island nation of Bermuda.

The Adventist Church was born and nurtured in North America. Early Adventist believers sacrificed to send missionaries to Europe, India, Africa, Australia, and Asia. Today the church ministers in some 200 countries.

But church growth in North America has slowed and numbers just a little more than a million members. And while the church focuses its attention on ministry in areas such as the 10/40 window, millions in North America have never heard the Adventist message.

This quarter the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will fund work to some of the least-reached people in North America.

Native Ministries

The Native American people have lived in North America for several thousand years. The Adventist Church has several ministries to these people, but work is hampered by a history of

distrust and abuse. Europeans who moved across North America forced many Native American people from their homes and onto reserves. In some regions children were placed in boarding schools and given a European-style education. They were not allowed to speak their native languages or practice traditional beliefs or ceremonies. Many Native Americans have lost their traditions and now distrust outsiders. They are unsure of their future.

Refugee Ministries

North America is a land of immigrants. Virtually everyone living in North America can trace their ancestry to another continent or nation. And people continue to come, many of whom are refugees from war, famine, or political oppression.

While the government provides basic services to these refugees, the newcomers face huge challenges to learn a new language and a confusing new way of life. They often have few friends or trusted people to turn to for help. The Adventist Church is working among several refugee groups, but the need is overwhelming. Millions of refugees, mostly from persecuted people groups in Asia and Africa, settle in North America.

Yours for the kingdom,



Charlotte Ishkanian
Editor, *Mission*

OPPORTUNITIES

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help:

- plant a church among the Navajo people in Page, Arizona (southwestern United States)
- fund training for ministries and provide part-time pastors or Bible workers among the refugees in North America



INTO THE LIGHT

October 1 | Jay

We must leave the village tonight and head for the border, or it will be too late!" whispered 14-year-old Jay Lo to his friends. War had ravaged Laos, Jay's homeland. Jay's father had been killed, and the Communists had taken over the country. Jay knew that he'd have to leave Laos if he wanted to live.

"Others want to come with us," Jay's friends said. "We can't leave them behind!" Under the cover of darkness 265 people began the 17-day journey to Thailand; only 96 made it.

A New Life

Life in a refugee camp was difficult at best. Then Jay learned that his uncle lived in another section of the camp. His uncle welcomed Jay as his son. For the first time Jay was exposed to Christians. He realized that Christians were different from most people he knew.

In time Jay and his uncle's family were able to relocate in the United States. Jay was eager to continue his education. In time he gave his life to God.

Jay studied in a Christian college, where he met Paniya, a young Hmong woman who also was studying there.

They both wanted to take Christ to their own people. They felt God leading them into a lifelong relationship, and the couple was married. They were among the first of their ethnic group, the Hmong [huh-MAWNG], to receive college degrees.

After Tragedy, a New Purpose

Family members who remained in Thailand had become Christians, and they asked Jay to send someone to teach them the Bible. Jay couldn't go, but he sent his cousin, who was studying at a Protestant seminary. The young man led 50 people to Christ before he was poisoned by someone who resented his efforts to bring Christ to the Hmong.

"We are sad that your cousin has died," a friend told Jay. "You should prepare to take his place and minister to the Hmong."

How can I say no? Jay wondered. He recalled his desire to be a missionary to his own people. Jay entered the seminary and earned a degree in religion. A Protestant church hired the couple to train lay Bible workers in the United States and Asia.

Jay was frustrated by the poor

translation of the Hmong Bible. My people need a better translation of God's word so they can learn who God really is, he thought.

His in-depth Bible study raised more questions, including questions about the Sabbath. He went to a church official for answers, but was greeted with a challenge. "Are you questioning the church's teachings?"

"No," Jay replied. "But the Bible says that if we break one commandment, we break them all. I need to understand where the truth lies."

Crisis and Blessing

Soon after that Jay received a letter from his church's headquarters notifying him that he was no longer needed as a

teacher and pastor. Suddenly Jay had no job. For months he searched for work. The family lost their home and most of their possessions. "Why doesn't God answer our prayers?" Jay asked his wife.

Then Jay's cousin introduced him to a Hmong pastor named Ko. Jay learned that Pastor Ko is a Seventh-day Adventist who worked in a nearby metropolitan area. Jay told Pastor Ko about his Bible study that led to losing his job.

"You are right," Pastor Ko said. "The Bible says we are to keep the Sabbath, so Seventh-day Adventists do." Jay was excited to learn that there was a church that kept all of the Ten Commandments.

Jay and Paniya studied with Pastor Ko and discovered that their questions had answers. Soon they asked to become Seventh-day Adventists.

FAST FACTS

- Laos is a landlocked country in Southeast Asia. It lies between China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar.
- The Hmong are an Asian tribal people who come from the countries of Southeast Asia. Most of the approximately 10 million Hmong worship ancestors and spirits. Fewer than 10 percent are Christians, most of whom are refugees to Europe and America.
- Following the Vietnam War more than 100,000 Hmong refugees who had fled their homelands settled in the United States.
- Learn more about the work among the Hmong in the United States on this quarter's Adventist Mission DVD.

A New Mission

The Adventist Church sponsored Jay to study at Andrews University Theological Seminary for a year to prepare for a new ministry. He is translating the Bible into Hmong and has completed several books. "God has blessed me so much through His Word. I want other Hmong to be able to read the good news in their own language so they can make their choice to follow Him."

This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help expand the church's work among dozens of refugee groups throughout North America. Thank you for your sacrificial gift to help reach these people for Christ. 🌍

Jay Lo is working to translate a more accurate translation of the Hmong Bible and ministering to scattered Hmong Christians across North America.



THE PROMISE

October 8 | Innocent and Beatrice

Innocent and Beatrice looked at each other, not sure that they had heard the news right. “We are leaving the refugee camp—and going to America?”

The official nodded. “You will leave soon. Be ready.”

Innocent and Beatrice had lived in refugee camps for 13 years. Life in the camp was difficult and often dangerous. Their home was plastic sheeting held up by sticks. Often they had little food or clean water. At times they slept in open fields to avoid gangs who roamed the camps robbing and killing. They wondered if their children would ever know a normal life.

Keeping a Promise

Innocent had grown up watching his father share God’s love with others. One day soldiers took his father away and killed him for his faith. Innocent promised God that he would carry on his father’s work.

During even the most difficult years that followed, Innocent and his family refused to let go of their faith. They shared God’s love with others, teaching them the Bible and leading them to Christ. When they could get permission

to leave the camp, Innocent led a group who wanted to be baptized on a four-hour trek through the jungle to the nearest Adventist church for the baptism. After the baptism they walked back to the camp.

Fleeing Death

One day word came that rebels were heading their way. “We must leave!” Innocent told his family. Quickly they gathered what they could carry and hurried down the path. Behind them Rwandan soldiers followed the fleeing refugees, protecting them from the rebels who swarmed like angry bees.

For two weeks the family marched on with thousands of other refugees, exhausted, hungry, and desperate. But when they reached Tanzania, they discovered that the conditions there were even worse than those they had left behind. There was no food, no tarps for shelter, and no aid agencies prepared for their arrival. The children cried from hunger and suffered with sickness.

But Innocent never forgot his promise to God. Once settled, he helped organize Bible study and worship groups throughout the camp. Many

people heard the story of Jesus through the family's efforts.

A New Home

Then in 2007 the family learned that they had been approved to settle in America. Joy and uncertainty flooded their hearts, but they promised God that they would never forget how He had protected them during the difficult years they'd spent without a homeland.

The family traveled to America, a land they had heard so much about, a land filled with hope and promise. They were given an apartment in which to live and a few items to start their new life. The government helped them pay their rent and buy food as they struggled to learn a new language and adapt to a culture and customs they didn't understand. But the social worker assigned to help them had far too many other refugees to help. So they struggled on alone.

MISSION POST

- The greatest need of most refugees is help coping with their new life. Church members can adopt a family, show them where to shop, and help them fill out confusing government forms required to continue receiving assistance.
- Volunteers can teach a language course, offer to drive a refugee family to doctor appointments, or go with them to meet with their case worker.
- Refugees are desperate for help and understanding. They are open to hearing the message of God's love, but they must see our love before they will look at Christ.

The neighborhood where they lived was a dangerous place. A gang of teens threatened the children in school and on the street. One day as Innocent returned home from work, a gang attacked him. One of them threw a rock that struck Innocent in the head, permanently blinding him in one eye. But Innocent urged his family to forgive those who taunted them.

New Mission Field

Innocent and his family continue to cling to God. They seek people with whom to share God's love. As they find refugees in their area who speak their language, Innocent invites them to his home for Bible studies. "Many people have questions about God, and they want answers. So it's easy to find people who will study with us," he says.

Beatrice is trying to learn English so she can share God's love with the people with whom she works. "I give them a pamphlet to read and answer their questions," she says. "My English is not so good yet, but I want my friends to know about Jesus."

In the past three years Innocent and Beatrice have rejoiced as six people they have introduced to Christ have been baptized. Others are preparing for baptism.

"When I see my father again, I want to introduce him to the people I introduced to Jesus," he says. "I know he will be glad."

This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help fund a number of projects to help reach the millions of refugees who now make North America their home. Thank you for sharing with those who need to hear the message of God's love. 🌍



OUT OF THE JUNGLE

October 15 | Mai

Mai [may] cringed as the woman she called mother yelled at her again. *Why does she treat me this way?* Mai wondered. Mai's parents had died when she was a baby, and this family had taken her in. But she knew that they didn't love her; they had told her that often.

Life in the jungle of Laos was difficult. The Hmong [huh-Mong] people lived in fear of the soldiers who scoured the countryside searching for "traitors." Mai and her adopted family lived in a shelter made of tree branches and leaves. Each day Mai gathered firewood, helped cook the meals, and foraged for food.

Flee for Your Lives!

One day Mai heard the sound of gunfire nearby. The village exploded into a mass of people shouting, running, and pushing to escape the soldiers. Bullets whizzed by, and people fell to the ground. The terror of war had come to Mai's village.

Mai grabbed her baby sister, Kia, and fled into the jungle. She was on her own. She didn't stop running until she could no longer hear the sound of

gunfire. Baby Kia whimpered in hunger. Mai put her down and searched the area for something to eat—jungle plants, small animals, even charcoal and sticky yellow clay—anything to fill their empty stomachs.

Mai discovered other children fleeing the soldiers. "We must stay together and help one another," Mai told them. Mai was only 11, but she became the leader.

Crying to the Owner of the Sky

The children moved constantly to avoid being captured by soldiers. When Mai overheard some adults talking about refugee camps in Thailand, she decided to follow them to freedom.

Then one day as the group made its way toward the border, enemy soldiers ambushed them and began shooting. Mai cried out silently, *Owner!* She had never heard the name of God and didn't know Him, but in her desperation she prayed to the Owner of the sky, who, the old people said, made everything. Suddenly the soldiers stopped shooting and fell asleep.

"Run!" Mai whispered to the other children. Mai expected to hear bullets behind them, but all she heard was the

pounding of her heart. The Owner of the sky *had* heard her prayer and saved them!

The Refugee Camp

After months of struggling in the jungle, Mai crossed the border into Thailand and found the refugee camp they had been searching for. No longer would she have to fear the sound of footsteps. She would have rice and vegetables to eat.

Mai remained in the refugee camp for several years. Someone noticed Mai's interest in spiritual things and urged her to become a shaman, a religious leader who, it is believed, can cure illnesses by calling on the spirits.

Mai married and had several children. When her husband died, Mai turned even more to her religion. She worshipped the ancestral spirits and even spoke with them. Many people came to her for healing and advice. During her years in the refugee camp Mai heard people talk about God, which in Hmong means King Owner, but she paid little attention.

Starting Over

After years of living in the refugee camp, Mai and her children started a new life in the United States. Arriving in her new country, Mai continued to practice her traditional religious beliefs among her Hmong community.

Then one day Mai became seriously ill. She was admitted to a hospital, and doctors didn't know if she would live or die. As she lay in the hospital bed unable to speak or open her eyes, Mai remembered the day when she had called out to the Owner in the sky. *Owner, save me now, just as you saved us in the jungles of Laos!* Mai prayed in her heart.

Mai's health began to improve. She realized that God had spared her life once more. She wanted to know more about Him.

A New Life

Mai met an Adventist pastor and his wife, who introduced her to Jesus and invited her to worship with other Hmong believers. Today Mai knows that the Owner's name is Jesus. Although she cannot read or write, she loves to tell others how Jesus led her through the jungle dangers and brought her to a new life in a new land, how He led her from her traditional beliefs to become a follower of God. "I want the Hmong people to know about my God, who created the world and watched over me even when I didn't know His name." 🌍

Mai Her Yang shares her faith in St. Paul, Minnesota, in the United States.

FAST FACTS

- The Hmong people live in Southeast Asia and China. Most Hmong refugees have four years of education or less; many have almost no education and cannot read or write in their native language.
- Most of the Hmong are spirit worshippers.
- Today about 300,000 Hmong live in North America as refugees. Seven congregations of Adventist believers are scattered across the division, but they have no full-time pastors. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help train workers to lead these groups so they can more effectively share God's love with their fellow refugees.



WELCOME THEM HOME

October 22 | Jimmy

Narrator: With me is Jimmy, a refugee from the country of Myanmar [MEE-an-mar], formerly called Burma. Jimmy, tell us what life was like for you and your family in Myanmar.

Jimmy: I am from a tribe of people called the Karen [kah-REHN]. For years my people have suffered political oppression. Government soldiers raided our villages, killed our leaders, and burned our homes. When I was 7 years old our family fled our village and hid in the jungle to escape the soldiers.

Narrator: How did your family survive living in the jungle?

Jimmy: It was difficult. We ate roots and plants and hunted animals for food. We had to move constantly to avoid being captured by soldiers. Thousands of Karen, including my family, managed to escape to neighboring Thailand, where we lived in refugee camps.

Narrator: What was life like in the refugee camp?

Jimmy: Our refugee camp housed more

than 40,000 people, all living in simple huts made from thatch and bamboo. We received rations of such food as rice, fish paste, flour, and mung beans.

For our safety we were not allowed to leave the camp, which was guarded by soldiers and protected by barbed wire. It felt as if we were in prison.

We children attended school. I completed high school in the refugee camp.

Narrator: How is a refugee family resettled in a new country?

Jimmy: Each family must apply for resettlement through a special committee that works in the camp. They are interviewed to determine whether they are suitable to be resettled in another country. Then they are screened for health problems. Once they are assigned a new country, the refugees learn a little about their new homeland. For me, my new homeland is the United States.

Narrator: What is it like to arrive in a new land and begin a new life?

Jimmy: It is overwhelming. Imagine getting off an airplane in a strange, new

country, unable to speak the language and not knowing anyone. For most of their lives my people lived either in the jungle or in a refugee camp. We arrive in a country where we have to learn so many new things, even a new language. We need so much help until we can find a job and provide for ourselves. This is so hard when we don't speak the language! We have many day-to-day challenges, such as how to shop for groceries in a store, how to open a bank account, and how to budget our small living allowance.

Narrator: What is the greatest struggle for the Karen people in their new country?

Jimmy: Life is so different in a new country. Some of my Karen Adventist friends face strong challenges to keep their faith and their family ties strong in their new homeland.

Narrator: As a church family, how can we help refugees who live in our community?

Jimmy: Offer to help them learn or practice their new language by talking to you. Use simple words to begin with and speak slowly.

Often refugees don't have a way to get to the grocery store or a doctor's appointment or a government office to file paperwork. Be their friend, volunteer to take them where they need to go, show them how to get the best buys in the grocery store, and help them set up a bank account and learn how to use it. In short, help them meet the day-to-day challenges of living in a new land. They'll be so grateful!

Most important, refugees want to learn about their new culture, including new ideas about God. We have a great opportunity to show them God's love and lead them to Christ.

Narrator: I'm glad you mentioned befriending people and showing them God's love, Jimmy. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help minister to the hundreds of refugee groups throughout North America, providing funds to share God's love with them and planting churches that worship in their own language. Volunteer to help a refugee, give to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, and pray for your new neighbors from around the world. Jesus is waiting for your help. 🌐

Jimmy Shwe is planting churches among the Karen in North Carolina and encouraging scattered Karen Adventists in more than 30 other cities across North America.

FAST FACTS

- North America is home to approximately 3 million refugees who have fled war or oppression since 1975. One of the newest refugee groups is the Karen people from Myanmar (Burma), with more than 300,000 members.
- Refugees prefer to live near others of the same culture or language group. They feel more comfortable among people who can understand them. But sometimes living among one's own people group makes it more difficult to learn the language and culture of the country they now call home.
- For more information on the plight of refugees in North America, see the Adventist Mission DVD.



NEW BEGINNINGS

October 29 | Kelley and Allen

Allen Fowler scattered corn pollen into the cool morning air as he greeted the sun rising in the east. Growing up Navajo meant living in harmony with the land, valuing family ties, and never questioning the wisdom of the elders.

Allen met Kelley, a young woman who worked in a store in a nearby town. He knew that he had found his life partner and worked to convince her as well. Eventually they married and started a family.

Allen's work took him away from his family for weeks at a time. Neither he nor Kelley was happy with the separations. Kelley had wandered from her Christian faith, but she prayed that God would provide a way for Allen to be home with the family more.

God opened a way for the couple to move halfway across the country, closer to Kelley's family. Best of all, Allen could be home every night.

A New Beginning

Kelley reconnected with her Adventist roots, and the couple's new friends surrounded them with love. As Allen learned the health principles Adventists

teach, he thought, *If following health principles taught in the Bible can improve my own health, maybe Christianity has something for me after all.* As Allen's interest in healthful living grew, so did his interest in spiritual matters. Allen gave his life to Christ and was baptized; Kelley recommitted her life to Christ and was rebaptized.

The community center is a beacon of light in the surrounding Navajo community.

Allen continued to study and grow in his relationship with Jesus. Then he recalled the words of a Navajo elder: "If you leave our community and learn something new, you must come back and teach us." *The Navajo have so many health problems,* Allen thought. *They need to know how to live more healthfully.*

Allen and Kelley prepared to move back to Arizona. But it took two years for the house to sell. Meanwhile, God prepared them for the work He had for them on the Navajo reservation.

Allen and Kelley understood that the Navajo people have many needs. Poverty is always lurking at the door. A high percentage of Navajo suffer from high

blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, and other health issues. Alcohol and drug abuse contribute to their problems. Allen suggested that they work on meeting the health needs of his people as a way to reach their hearts. Navajos are leery of Christianity, the White people's religion. These same people had brought them so much pain and grief.

The Test of Love

The couple lived God's love by example, giving hitchhikers rides to town and hauling water from town for families on the reservation who couldn't get it for themselves. Without this water, the Native American families couldn't survive.

They shared natural remedies and health information with anyone who would listen. One day Allen's uncle came to see Allen and Kelley. He had been bitten by a spider, and the wound was getting worse. He had been unable to get help at the local clinic. "Can you help me?" he asked.

Kelley applied a charcoal poultice to the wound and asked the man to return the next day. After several treatments, the wound healed. Word spread quickly, and others came to Allen and Kelley for help and advice.

As Allen looked at the community in which he'd grown up, he saw so many needs. Homes needed repair, and the people needed medical and dental care. The couple arranged for medical and dental experts to make mission trips to provide health care and invited other groups to help repair or rebuild houses.

Other mission groups helped to build a community center that Allen and Kelley use to hold health seminars and outreach programs for the Navajo. Although the

center isn't yet finished, they are using it to bring Christ to the community. They give out donated blankets, sheets, and towels, and prepare food baskets for the elderly and neediest families.

"The community center is a beacon of light in the surrounding Navajo community," Kelley says. "Here we can show these people that Jesus loves them and wants to be part of their lives." Practical, loving service has broken down barriers so that God's love can flow into the lives of His Navajo children. Recently 12 precious Navajos were baptized into God's family.

Big Step Forward

Allen and Kelley's ministry is entirely faith-supported. This quarter part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help to build up the work among the Navajo people of northern Arizona. Thank you for sharing so that others can meet the Savior we love. 🌍

FAST FACTS

- The Navajo people live in the southwestern United States, primarily in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.
- Native American people from hundreds of different tribes or nations live throughout the United States and Canada. Many live on government reservations and strive to maintain their traditional lifestyle, while others live in towns and cities across North America.
- For more information on the work among the Navajo, see the Adventist Mission DVD.



A CHURCH FOR MY PEOPLE

November 5 | Kelley and Allen

Allen and Kelley Fowler have a passion to reach the Navajo for God just as Jesus reached others, with love and tenderness.

When they see a need, they pray for a way to fill it. They've invited mission teams to help build a community center and repair Navajo homes. They provide warm bedding, coats, and food baskets to the neediest families. They invite medical and dental professionals to spend their vacations giving free medical care to the Navajo who cannot afford the clinic on the reservation.

They hold health classes to teach people how to prevent diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure and how to avoid drug and alcohol abuse. "They may not want a Bible study, but they want a better life, and they come," Kelley says, smiling.

Seed-planting Time

There is no Adventist church in the area, and the Navajo knew nothing about Adventists until Allen and Kelley came. One day while the couple and some friends were praying for the work among the Navajo, Kelley heard a voice say, "Pray for a church in Page." The

voice was so clear that Kelley opened her eyes to see if others had heard it. They hadn't. *But we have so much work to do on the reservation!* Kelley argued in her mind. The voice spoke again, "Pray for a church in Page."

Page, Arizona, is a small town on the shore of a large lake that has become a major recreation area, drawing vacationers to enjoy the sun and water sports. But half the residents of Page are Navajo who live in poverty. They have left their families on the reservation, hoping to earn a living in town. Poverty and affluence live side by side in Page.

Kelley and Allen started visiting the trailer parks and run-down houses in the Navajos' part of town. They offered health materials and Bible studies written for Native Americans. "So many people are hurting!" Kelley says. "But once they knew we cared about them, they wanted to learn more about God."

First Harvest

Kim works long hours at a local nursing home. She agreed to study the Bible with Kelley and looked forward to Kelley's visits. "I love these studies!" she told

Kelley. The two women became friends and looked forward to their time together.

When Kim's 4-year-old son broke his arm, Kelley prayed for the boy. Later Kim told Kelley that they thought their son's arm wasn't healing properly. They decided to take him to a local medicine man. Kim borrowed the money to pay the medicine man, and the family drove toward the man's house. On the way, God impressed her that this wasn't the right path to take, so she returned home. That night Kim and her husband prayed for their son. The next day Kelley stopped by and prayed again for the boy. The child's arm recovered completely. The door of faith was opening.

At another home a man asked Allen and Kelley if he could enroll his wife, Lorena, to take the Bible studies. He isn't Native American, but Lorena is, and he thought she would like the Bible studies because they focused on Native American issues.

But Lorena wasn't so sure. She called Kelley, and the two talked for a long time about Lorena's traditional Navajo upbringing, her beliefs, and God's love for her. Lorena agreed to take the studies. When Lorena finished the Bible studies she was disappointed they were done. "I guess we'll have to start over again!" she said.

Reaping Time

Allen and Kelley had met 70 people who wanted to study God's Word, and they struggled to keep up with so many Bible studies.

"It's time to hold public meetings," Allen said. They rented a vacant store in town and distributed handbills inviting people to the meetings. They prayed and wondered how many people would come.

On opening night more than 50 Navajo attended the meetings. Some were their Bible study friends, but others had come out of curiosity. Many had never heard even basic Bible stories before.

Following a month of meetings, 12 Navajo, including Kim and her daughter, were baptized. Lorena hasn't taken her stand for Christ yet, but she is forming a connection with God. She hosts health meetings in her home.

More Work to Do

Allen and Kelley continue to pray for the church that God told them to plant in Page. And they continue to work for their beloved Navajo people. But they can't do the work alone. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help fund volunteer Bible workers for the Navajo people and help establish a church for them in Page, Arizona. 🌐

MISSION POST

- The Navajo people live in the arid southwestern portion of the United States. Many still herd sheep and live in traditional homes called hogans. They resist Christianity, which they see as the White people's religion.
- Before the Fowlers began their work in the Page area of northern Arizona, the nearest Adventist congregation was two hours away. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help establish a church in Page.
- The Adventist Mission DVD features more stories of the work among the Native Americans of North America.



GIVING BACK

November 12 | Krystal

Grandmother, am I really going to go to the school where my brothers are?" little Krystal asked. "Yes, child," Grandmother said.

Krystal's New School

Krystal left home when she was still quite young to study at Holbrook Indian School, a Seventh-day Adventist school for Native American children. Many nights she cried for her family, but in time she was able to enjoy her classes and her new friends at the school.

She enjoyed going home during school breaks, but began to feel torn between her family's traditional beliefs and her growing faith in Jesus.

Making a Difference

Today 16-year-old Krystal is the only Christian in her family. "My family follows traditional Navajo culture and beliefs," Krystal explained. "The Navajo religion is closely tied with the natural world. According to Navajo beliefs, everything possesses a spirit, and the Navajo strive to live in harmony with each other and the world. Medicine men perform ceremonies to mark milestones in a person's life or to bring healing."

At school Krystal was encouraged to compare her traditional beliefs to what she was learning about God. "I felt the pull to follow the ways of my ancestors," she said. "But as I learned about Jesus, I prayed and asked God what He wanted me to do."

It wasn't easy to make a decision to follow Jesus. *Can I be a Christian and still be Navajo?* she wondered. "As I read the Bible I began to see that salvation includes everyone, including the Navajo people," said Krystal. "This helped me to decide to follow Jesus."

Telling Her Family

Krystal knew she had to tell her family of her decision to follow Christ.

Her grandmother was surprised but she agreed. "If it is what you truly want to do, I am happy for you."

Krystal wanted her grandmother to tell her grandfather, but Grandmother shook her head. "No, my child. You must do that yourself."

Krystal wanted Grandfather to understand why she wanted to follow Christ, but she feared his rejection. He had taught her most of what she knew about her Navajo heritage and beliefs.

She decided to tell her grandfather in the Navajo language about her decision. She practiced the Navajo words many times before she felt ready to speak to her grandfather.

Krystal shares her faith in God with her family every chance she gets. “We often talk about my beliefs, and I pray that they understand that following Jesus is not just for the White man.”

Telling the World

It isn’t just her family that Krystal wants to reach for Jesus. “When I was little, groups of people would hold Vacation Bible School for us children,” she said. “I decided that I want to do that too.”

Native Americans are scattered across the United States and Canada. Many of these people have never heard the

story of Jesus. Krystal’s dream of telling other Native American children about Jesus became a reality when her school invited her to join a team of Native American youth to teach other Native American children about God through Vacation Bible School programs.

The team of young people uses music, skits, crafts, and stories to teach children about Jesus and living a healthful life. “Many Native Americans are addicted to alcohol and drugs,” said Krystal. “Others suffer from high blood pressure, heart disease, or diabetes. I want to help people know that simple changes in their lifestyle can make them healthier.”

Native and Christian

Krystal now knows that she can be Navajo *and* a Christian. “Being Navajo is my identity; it’s who I am. I can be proud of that,” she says. “I’m also a Christian, and I can be proud of that, too.”

As Krystal prepares to graduate from Holbrook, she looks forward to a brighter future. “It’s time to work toward making changes in our Navajo nation,” she says. “I want to help others understand that Jesus is God’s Son, not a human invention. I want to continue my studies and then return to live among my people and help them. I want them to know that Jesus loves them and died for them.”

Making a Difference

Krystal’s life was changed during the years she studied at Holbrook Indian School. Through Holbrook’s program children from several Native American nations are learning that Jesus binds them as brothers and sisters. And our mission offerings help make this possible. 🌍

FAST FACTS

- Holbrook Indian School is an Adventist-owned school in Arizona. Teachers and staff strive to provide a strong Christian education to Native American children through grade 12 while respecting and encouraging the children’s ties to their Native American culture.
- The school includes a strong but gentle approach to teaching God’s Word to children who then return home to share what they’ve learned with their extended families.
- Outreach is important at Holbrook, and one group of teens is learning how to reach other Native American children through Vacation Bible School-style programs that they conduct on Native American reserves throughout North America.



WALKING WITH JESUS TO KFC

November 19 | Kelley

Going to the laundromat is a weekly ritual that I dislike, but it's a necessary part of life on the Navajo reservation. So I try to make the most of the situation by starting a "laundromat ministry."

I tuck into my laundry basket some *Radiant Native Health* magazines and other literature for my Navajo neighbors and place them on the tables and chairs in the laundromat.

I'm a people watcher, so I enjoy watching people react to the free magazines. Some read them cover to cover; others take them home. Still others just push them aside.

On this day, however, I had brought some new booklets called *Walking With Jesus [Steps to Christ in Navajo]*. I left some in the laundromat and kept some to give out in town when my laundry was finished.

Making Friends for Jesus

I was looking specifically for Navajo women, and my first stop was the grocery store. When I arrived at the store, I saw four Navajo women sitting outside the store around a snack table. I knew that they were hoping to get some

money for food. These were four of the many homeless people who stay drunk as much as possible. They sleep in the municipal park and are usually avoided by most people in town.

Suddenly I realized why God had told me to grab an extra copy.

But they also get hungry. I had \$5 left from my laundry money, and I wanted to buy them some food. I counted out four of the *Walking With Jesus* booklets and started to get out of the truck. Just then the Holy Spirit impressed me to take an extra booklet. I grabbed another and walked over to the table and sat down to visit with the women. Before long one of the women asked, "What do you have in your hand?"

"Oh, I brought these for you," I said. "This booklet is written in Navajo and English."

"Oh, good," the woman said. "I don't read Navajo." Each woman took a book and flipped through it.

As we talked, I asked them if they were hungry and offered to take them to a local fast-food restaurant, where we

could get a burrito for less than a dollar. They were eager to go.

An Unexpected Gift

I felt a tap on my shoulder and turned to see a man, probably a tourist, behind me. Apparently he had been listening to our conversation, and he asked, “Could I see the book you have?” Suddenly I realized why God had told me to grab an extra copy. Gladly I gave him the book. He thumbed through it and then reached into his pocket and pulled out a \$20 bill. “This is to help with your ministry,” he said.

I was amazed, and all I could say was “Wow! Thank you!” I turned to the women and asked, “Now, where do you want to eat?” The women named several places and soon agreed on KFC, another fast-food restaurant in the area. They all

piled into the back of my truck for the ride to the restaurant.

We arrived and placed our order at the drive-through window, and then we drove to the park where they stay. We sat down at a picnic table, and I bowed my head to thank God for the money to buy the food. I wanted to bring these women’s minds to the Creator. Then they ate as if it was the most bountiful feast they’d had in months. We enjoyed our time together. They finished eating and thanked me for the food and the books. Then I left with a wave.

The park where they slept was their home; the picnic table was their kitchen table. The few moments I had spent with them were like those of a guest. I am deeply saddened by the way God’s precious children live, and I’m keenly aware that all I can do is be kind to them, pray for them, and maybe treat them to an unexpected meal.

Bringing Hope

During the summer up to 40 Navajo make the park and empty lots in Page, Arizona, their home. That’s a lot for a community of about 8,000. Not all return to the reservation when cold weather returns. During the winter they live outside, warming themselves with alcohol before they fall asleep. Some never wake up, but die from exposure.

We may never be able to solve all the problems these people have, but with God’s help we can offer them a better life and let them hear the message of God’s love and salvation through Jesus Christ. 🌍

Kelley Fowler and her husband, Allen, are planting a church among the Navajo in northern Arizona.

MISSION POST

- Many Navajo leave their homes on the reservation and their traditional way of life to seek a better life. Away from family, they often are willing to consider new ideas and listen to the claims of Christianity.
- Lifestyle diseases such as alcoholism, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, and kidney disease are common among Native Americans. Many want a healthier lifestyle and will attend health seminars and cooking classes when they won’t attend a Bible study.
- To see more on the Adventist work among the Navajo people, see the Adventist Mission DVD.



FINDING A NEW LIFE

November 26 | Roshawnda

Why do you want to be a Seventh-day Adventist?” Roshawnda’s [ro-SHAWN-dah] aunt asked her.

“I finally understand who God is, and I want to have Him in my life,” Roshawnda replied bravely. “He’s important in my life, and I must follow Him—on His terms, not mine.”

Eighteen-year-old Roshawnda hasn’t always had the courage to share her beliefs so plainly. For years her shyness kept her from telling people what she believed. When she was just 4 years old, her mother died unexpectedly. Her father wasn’t able to care for Roshawnda and her older brothers, and they moved from one relative to another. Finally her grandparents took the children in, and Roshawnda and her brothers settled into a new life, but Roshawnda missed her mother terribly.

The Long Wait

Roshawnda’s brothers didn’t want to attend the local public school. Grandfather asked around and learned about Holbrook Indian School, a Christian boarding school operated by Seventh-day Adventists for Native American children.

When Grandfather told the boys about Holbrook, they were excited. But Roshawnda had to wait a year to attend school. That school year seemed to last forever.

New School, New Life

At last Roshawnda joined her brothers at her new school. She began making friends. “Everyone at the school became my new family,” Roshawnda says. She enjoyed school and loved learning many new things, including who Jesus is and that He died for everyone.

The school years passed quickly, and Roshawnda enjoyed the activities in school and church. When she was in the sixth grade, she and several of her classmates were baptized. But God still wasn’t real to her.

At the beginning of her freshman year Roshawnda was asked if she would like to join a group of children from the school who share God’s love with other Native American children scattered across North America. But Roshawnda’s shyness left her feeling uncomfortable talking to people she didn’t know, especially to a group of people. And she

couldn't imagine praying in public! "No thanks," Roshawnda told the leader.

The next year two of Roshawnda's friends urged her to join the outreach program. "You've got to join our group," they said. "It's so much fun!"

The Reluctant Missionary

Still resistant, Roshawnda told her friends she would think about it. She prayed about it and reluctantly decided to join the group—for just one year. But as Roshawnda became involved, she quickly became as excited as her friends had been. "I like learning about the other Native American tribes, and I'm learning to enjoy meeting new people," said Roshawnda.

Roshawnda and her fellow students from Holbrook Indian School travel around the United States and Canada, visiting various Native American

regions and teaching children through stories, crafts, songs, and skits about Jesus. *Many of these children are just like I was when I came to Holbrook, thought Roshawnda. They don't know Jesus. I'm so glad that I can help them learn about what God has done for us!*

A New Mission

Roshawnda's ministry experiences have helped her become more confident in responding to her family's questions about her beliefs. "I've learned that I don't have to be shy or afraid to tell others about Jesus," she says. "It's good to share what Jesus has done for us, for others need to hear about it."

Roshawnda sees that she has a mission field within her own family as well. "I love being with my family," she adds. "But it hurts me to see how alcohol and drug abuse has affected some members of my family. Because I've learned how to tell others about God through this program, it's easier to tell my own family about Him. I want them to see that God doesn't make us follow Him; He wants us to choose to follow Him."

After graduation Roshawnda plans to work as a Bible worker among her people. God wants all of His children to hear about His love, and He invites us to be His voice to all the people of the world.

This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help support work among the Navajo in northern Arizona. Thank you for giving so that God's long-neglected people can hear His message of love. 🌍

Roshawnda shares her faith with her Navajo community in northern Arizona.

MISSION POST

- Holbrook Indian School is one of several Adventist schools that serve the Native Americans of North America. The teachers encourage students to meet Christ while still maintaining their native identity.
- Several students from Holbrook Indian School have chosen to serve a year as Bible workers among their own people. Because they belong to the culture, their families and friends will listen to their testimonies.
- This quarter part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help train young people at Holbrook Indian School to reach out to fellow Native American children throughout North America via Vacation Bible School programs.



ISLAND OF PEACE

December 3 | Children of Hobbema

It's Sabbath morning in the small town of Hobbema [hoe-BEE-muh] in central Canada. Children arrive ready to enjoy the Sabbath program prepared by church members and volunteers. Then it's time to sing, tell Bible stories, and share God's love.

Distrust and Questions

Hobbema is located in one of the largest Native American reserves in Canada. For more than 60 years Adventists have ministered in this community. Its biggest ministry is its 160-student school for Native American children.

The Native Americans in Canada have good reason to distrust the White people, who in generations past tried to force Native Americans to adopt the White settlers' ways, including their religion. Now many Native Americans find it difficult to accept Christianity, which many see as the White people's God.

But they hunger for answers to their spiritual questions. They often ask Adventist pastor Peter Ford questions that open doors to present Christ. "We have such good news to share with them!" Pastor Ford says.

Tough Life

Life on the Native American reserve is tough. About half of the population is under the age of 18, and many in the community don't attend church and have not been introduced to Jesus as a personal friend and Savior. Big-city crime, such as drugs and gang activity, has moved to Hobbema.

The Adventist school's teachers work hard to influence their students to make wise choices and resist drugs and alcohol. But outside of school many of the children see the other side of life.

New Ministry

When Pastor Ford arrived in Hobbema in 2008, he had a vision to share Jesus with the children, and through them to reach the larger community for Christ. But he needed help—lots of help. Pastor Ford invited students from the nearby Adventist-owned Canadian University College (CUC) to volunteer.

The outreach idea blossomed into a ministry that students from CUC are passionate about. On Sabbath they introduce the children to God through Bible stories, songs, crafts, and other activities.

“I want the children to give God a chance in their lives,” says Sapphire, one of the CUC volunteers.

Jessica, another volunteer, says, “I wanted a more personal relationship with God and a Christian outreach that I could call my own. I’ve found it in Hobbema!”

Elise has discovered that ministry in a community such as Hobbema isn’t a short-term project. “It’s making friends and building relationships for the long-term that will truly lead others to a growing relationship in Jesus,” she says.

Positive Role Models

The student volunteers seek to provide the children of Hobbema with positive role models that will help them resist the temptation to join gangs or try drugs or alcohol. The university students take the older children and

teens skating, rock climbing, and on campouts, encouraging them to make wise choices.

The hard work of the students from CUC and church members such as Bob and Jeannie Spratt, who have worked in the Hobbema area for more than 18 years, is reaping results. Several Native American children began attending the Sabbath School programs on their own. Eventually the mother of some of the children became curious and attended church with her children. She kept coming and encouraged her husband to join her. Today the entire family participates in the weekly worship services.

A New Challenge

The little congregation in Hobbema has outgrown their rented building. “We need space to continue the weekly soup kitchen ministry that feeds 60 to 120 people a week,” says Pastor Ford. “The youth and children need room for their programs.”

But raising funds to build a church in Hobbema is difficult when most of the population lives below the poverty level. Pastor Ford isn’t discouraged. “God knows our situation and the need for a building,” he says. “He will show us the way.”

Having a permanent church structure is more than just a convenience. In the Native American culture the lack of a church building sends the message that the church isn’t there to stay. “It’s time to change that perception,” says Pastor Ford.

“We want our friends in Hobbema to hear our message, that Jesus loves them and invites them to spend eternity with Him.” 🌍

FAST FACTS

- Canada has roughly 600 tribes and nations of Native Americans scattered from coast to coast. Today’s story comes from a Cree reserve in Alberta, a plains province in the west-central portion of Canada.
- About half of the Cree people are under 18 years old. Often these young people become entangled with gangs, drugs, and alcohol, jeopardizing their lives and their future.
- The small Adventist church in Hobbema [hoh-BEH-mah], Alberta, is struggling to empower these young Native Americans to withstand the temptations of drugs, alcohol, and gang activity and make their lives count for God.



SHARING THE PASSION

December 10 | Christina

Christina's eyes filled with tears as the scene depicting Christ's second coming unfolded before her. Families were reunited; faithful followers of Christ rose from the grave. Some gazed up at Jesus with loving anticipation while others cowered in agonizing fear.

The presentation touched Christina deeply and became a turning point in her life. *I have friends who aren't ready for Jesus to come, she thought. I can't bear thinking about spending eternity without them!*

Focusing on Friends

Christina had tasted the excitement and hard work of personal ministries as she helped to plant a church a few years earlier. Now, after seeing the Second Coming so dramatically presented, Christina wanted to do more. *I must find a way to share Jesus with my friends, she thought.*

She asked God what He wanted her to do, and she felt impressed to present a series of meetings for young adults that focused on how to have a relationship with Christ. With the backing of her church and support of other Adventist young adults, Christina prepared her presentations.

On opening night Christina shared from her heart what Jesus means to her. She was nervous that first night and wondered whether anything she'd said had made an impact. But several friends told her how much they had needed to hear the message that she presented.

As the hour for the second meeting approached, Christina wondered whether anyone would come back. To her surprise and joy, her friends did come back, and several brought other friends with them.

Youth-friendly Evangelism

Christina knew that several of her friends struggled spiritually. One was angry with God over the losses of a brother and a child to death. Another faced an abusive past. Others struggled with trials that they didn't understand. Knowing about these things helped Christina focus her messages on practical applications her friends needed in order to form a relationship with Jesus and face the storms of life.

In order to keep up interest and help her friends relate to the messages she presented, she included a mix of music, media, and video clips in her talks. She

frequently texted her friends, reminding them about upcoming meetings and discussion topics.

Christina couldn't let the meetings end without telling her friends about Christ's second coming and what it means to her. "I want you to know how much God wants us to be with Him throughout eternity," Christina explained to the group.

Following Up With Jesus

After the meetings ended, Christina and the other young adults from church invited their friends to fellowship times that included games, food, and Bible study. Christina's ministry ignited a desire in the young adults at church to become involved in their own ministries.

As a result of holding these meetings, Christina feels more at ease when she shares her faith with others. She has learned that a key to sharing God is in building friendships and trust. When others realize how relevant Jesus is to their lives, they want to know more. Christina is leading a Bible study for

young women during which she is building new friendships and deepening older ones. One woman has faced personal trials, and Christina has been able to share with her how God is with us through everything we experience. "This young woman is making new friends with others in our group," Christina said. "It's exciting to watch what God is doing through us."

"I've learned that we must not give up on people," Christina said. "We have to show people that we care about them, or they won't respond to what we tell them about Christ."

"Maintaining meaningful relationships takes a lot of energy," Christina says. "And we're so busy that it's easy to lose track of someone." But young people today communicate via the Internet and text messages to stay in touch with one another during the week. Christina uses these modern communication methods to remind her friends of Bible studies and prayer requests. "Texting one another is so much a part of our daily lives that a reminder about a Bible study doesn't feel like nagging," she says.

Christina teaches in a public school, and her passion for Christ influences her teaching as well. "I can't bear the thought of not seeing my students in heaven," she says. While she can't talk about Christ in the classroom, she prays for her students.

Christina knows from her own life what it feels like to struggle with failures and disappointments. But she has learned that God can use any of us if we let Him. 🌍

Christina Ivankina shares her faith in central Pennsylvania, in the United States.

MISSION POST

- Many young Adventists in North America are questioning their family's faith and seeking ways to make this faith their own. One result is youth-led initiatives such as peer evangelism.
- Traditional evangelism methods don't draw young people's attention anymore. They rely on modern technology such as text messaging and social networks on the Internet to communicate with one another. They are finding that their friends are willing to listen to their testimony when presented in a format that is relevant to them today.



HOME AT LAST

December 17 | Tim

Tim leaned into the large trash bin in a parking lot behind a secondhand store. He was looking for anything he could use. He pushed some trash aside and saw a book that looked familiar. As he examined the cover, a wave of memories washed over him.

A Love for Learning

From early childhood Tim had loved books, especially books on religion. His grandfather had helped him collect books on different religions. One of his favorite books was *Bible Readings for the Home*. This book had led him to question some teachings of his family's faith. "Why do Christians worship on Sunday when the Bible says that God blessed the seventh day?" Tim had asked his grandfather. "And why must I confess my sins to a man when the Bible says to confess to God?"

But instead of answering Tim's questions, his grandfather donated Tim's religious books to a second-hand store. Tim had been crushed.

Tough Life

Tim was then sent to military school, where his life became a roller coaster

of abuse and behavior problems that eventually led to juvenile court and reform school. When he was eventually released, he tried living with his father. But life wasn't any better, and eventually Tim found himself homeless, living on the streets.

He slept in shelters or on the street and scavenged for any treasures he could find in trash bins. That's where he had found the copy of *Bible Readings for the Home*. As he leafed through the book's pages, he found a newspaper clipping he recognized. *This was my book!* he realized. *After all these years it's come back to me!*

Tim looked around and realized he was standing in the parking lot of the same second-hand store where his grandfather had donated Tim's books years earlier. Tim was convinced that God was using this book to reach out to him.

A Special Friend

One day while volunteering at a local shelter for homeless people, Tim met a sad-looking young woman. "Would you like a cookie?" Tim asked as he held out a cookie.

"Do you have a chocolate-chip

cookie?” she asked. Tim found a chocolate chip cookie and gave it to her. The two quickly became friends.

Tim listened with understanding as Tina told him about her difficult life that had left her unable to trust others. The two felt strong bonds of love, but Tina was afraid to commit herself to anyone lest they be taken from her as so many others had been. They stayed together on the streets for six years before Tina finally agreed to marry Tim. The couple started their married life still living on the streets.

Walking Together

Tim shared his growing faith in God with Tina, who hungered for God. The two studied the Bible together, but Tina couldn't understand the book of Revelation. Then one day, a woman gave her a brochure and said, “You might need this.” Tina felt a shiver of excitement as she read the title: “Learn the Prophecies of Revelation.” *God wants me to hear this*, Tina thought.

Tina and Tim attended the seminars

on Daniel and Revelation. As they listened to the speaker unlock the mysteries of Bible prophecy, Tina realized that the book she had feared wasn't so mysterious after all.

Tim and Tina received an invitation to attend the worship service at a nearby Adventist church. Tim wanted to go, but Tina wasn't sure. “I've heard Adventists are weird,” Tina said. Finally she agreed to go. “But they ain't getting me,” she declared.

“We're Home”

As they entered the church on their first Sabbath, Tina was wary. But the church members welcomed them warmly. The love they felt and the meaningful worship service convinced Tina and Tim that God had drawn them to this church. At the end of the service, Tim and Tina turned to each other and said, “We're home.”

Tim and Tina took Bible studies with a couple in the church, and their lives began to change. They had found a church home and were approved for government housing. At last they were no longer homeless.

Tim and Tina continue their journey with God as they find ways to share their faith with others. Tina makes hats, gloves, and scarves to give to people, thus creating opportunities for her to tell them about Jesus. They find joy working in their church and taking part in a nursing home ministry.

God used simple things—a book in a trash can, a chocolate chip cookie, and an invitation to a Revelation Seminar—to bring Tim and Tina to Himself. 🌍

Tim and Tina Pawlik share their faith in Silver Spring, Maryland.

MISSION POST

- Nearly every city and large town across North America has homeless people, and many churches minister to them through soup kitchens and other feeding programs, shelter ministries, and on-the-street ministries of friendship.
- The homeless are *not* all alcoholics or vagrants. Many have lost their jobs and their homes during the economic recession and have nowhere else to go.
- When we share our food, our time, and our faith with homeless people, we are sharing with Christ.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH PROGRAM

OPENING SONG	“In Christ There Is No East Nor West,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , no. 587
WELCOME	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher
PRAYER	
PROGRAM	“What Can I Give Thee?”
OFFERING	
CLOSING SONG	“Joy to the World,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , no. 125
CLOSING PRAYER	

What Can I Give Thee?

Participants: A narrator and two adult or teen reporters plus a junior-aged child to represent the children’s project. If you prefer, two reporters can present alternating reports. [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 large map of North America. (Scan the map on the back page of the quarterly or download the map from www.AdventistMission.org and project it onto a screen. Or draw a map on a large piece of paper.)

Narrator: Welcome to this special Thirteenth Sabbath report. This quarter we’ve heard stories of men, women, and youth in North America who have shared God’s love and made a difference in other people’s lives. Today it’s our turn to make a difference by giving a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

The Adventist Church in North America has chosen two special groups of people who need to hear the message that Jesus loves them. _____ [name of reporter

1] will share the challenge of reaching refugees in North America for Christ.

Reporter 1: North America is a land of immigrants. Almost everyone living there can trace his or her ancestry to another country, another culture.

Every year tens of thousands of immigrants make North America their new home. Many of these are refugees who have fled war, political oppression, famine, or other disasters in

their homeland. But arriving in a new country is often the easy part. These people must learn a new language, new ways of doing things.

While the government offers limited assistance to help them get settled and begin learning English, refugees need so much more. They need help learning survival skills such as how to shop at a grocery store, open a bank account, enroll their children in school, and so many more everyday tasks. Most refugees seek out others from their own culture to help them cope with life in a new land.

These pocket communities of refugees and immigrants are open to learning new ideas. Some have never heard the name of Jesus. But there aren't enough trained pastors or Bible workers to meet their needs.

The good news is that many of these refugee communities are located near an existing Adventist church. But often the local congregation has no idea how to effectively reach them. If the members knew how to reach out to their new neighbors, they would find people willing to respond. But there are few funds to provide this type of training.

So many people in North America need to hear God's end-time message. Let's help equip our members to share that message. Let's provide pastors and Bible workers to teach the people and plant churches among them. Part of today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help reach the millions who now call North America their home.

Narrator: What a great opportunity! What a huge challenge! God calls us to reach those living among us who need to hear His message. It's our duty to

reach them, love them, and lead them to Jesus.

Native Americans also need to hear God's message of love. They have lived in North America for several thousand years, longer than anyone else. They roamed the plains, lived along rivers, or near the sea. For centuries they hunted and fished and gathered their food from the land; they lived in homes made of adobe [mud], animal skins, or wood.

But when European settlers moved inland from the coast of North America, they pushed the Native people off their land. It's no wonder that the Native Americans resisted the Europeans' God. To this day work among the Native Americans is difficult and slow. But there is hope. _____ [name of reporter 2] will share with us what we can do to help reach this people group for Christ.

Reporter 2: In the southwestern United States Allen and Kelley Fowler have dedicated their lives to reaching the Navajo people. Allen is a Navajo; he knows his people and is working to break down barriers by meeting the people's needs in the community. The couple shares a vision to plant a church in Page, Arizona, a town on the edge of the Navajo nation. They have met so many honest-hearted people who want to know more about God that they can't handle all the requests for Bible studies. They need more workers to help them study with the people and bring them to Jesus. Many of these people have never read the Bible, never been to church.

So far 12 people have been baptized, including three youth. And many more will come. But the little congregation needs a church, and land in the area

is expensive. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today will help establish this congregation of believers among the Navajo people. From there the work can grow in other parts of the Navajo nation.

Time is running out, and God's children need to be warned. Your offering today will help tell them that Jesus is coming again and He wants to take them home with Him.

Narrator: Our children have brought their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today for a special project. _____ [name of reporter 3] will tell us about it.

Reporter 3: Native American children need to know that Jesus loves them, and many have no way to hear about Jesus. So some children at Holbrook Indian School are teaching them. These students are trained to share God's love through Vacation Bible School-style programs that they hold on Native reserves across North America during summer vacations.

It costs money to provide the supplies and transportation these students need to carry on their ministry. So our children have brought their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today so that the Native American children can learn to love Jesus, too. They invite you to join them in spreading the good news of God's love to Native American children.

Narrator: At this time of year many people think of giving gifts to family and friends to show their love. How much more should we give a thank offering to Jesus, who showed us His love by stepping down from His glory in heaven and living among us, teaching us, and dying to save us?

Our mission offerings are our thank-you gifts to God each week. Today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help introduce our wonderful Jesus to people who may never have heard His name before.

[Offering]

YOUR OFFERINGS AT WORK

Like many churches across Canada, the Cawston, British Columbia, Seventh-day Adventist Church's small membership has struggled to reach their community. But thanks to the fourth quarter 2009 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, they now have the equipment to broadcast Christian radio to their community. Some 35 other communities in British Columbia have also received help to establish similar radio transmitters. Thank you!



For more information on the cultures and history of Canada and the United States, visit your local library or a travel agency.

Online Information. The Adventist Mission website contains additional material that can add flavor to your mission presentation. Look for words and a song in Navajo, the language of the largest Native American group in North America, as well as puzzles, recipes, and games from North America on the *Children's Mission* site. Go to www.AdventistMission.org. Click on "Resources" and "Children's Activities" in the pop-up menu. Click on "fourth quarter" and select the activity you want.

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 (set the goal a little higher than last quarter and divide it by 15, one part for each of the 13 regular Sabbaths this quarter and two parts for Thirteenth Sabbath). Chart the weekly progress toward the quarter's goal on the goal device.

Enlarge photos of children and adults from around the world, including Natives from North America (or use a large-figure felt set of children from around the world). Place a picture of the earth in the center of a felt board or on heavy poster board. Each time a week's goal is reached, add a figure to the poster.

Remind members that the ongoing work of the world church depends on Sabbath School mission giving every week, and that one quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in North America. On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage members to double or triple their normal mission giving on Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School. This immediate feedback will encourage members to continue their mission giving.

FUTURE THIRTEENTH SABBATH PROJECTS

Next quarter the Northern Asia-Pacific Division will be featured. Special projects include:

- a youth training center in Mongolia, Chinese-language television and Internet programming, a church for a Global Mission church plant in southern Japan, and a church for an international congregation in Seoul, Korea.
- Second quarter 2012 will feature the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. Projects will focus on health care in Indonesia and a school in Myanmar.

ADVENTIST MISSION

FOURTH QUARTER 2011
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

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NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION



NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERS	POPULATION
Atlantic Union Conference	566	63	104,520	34,203,000
Canada, SDA Church in	358	71	62,559	33,720,000
Columbia Union Conference	665	108	136,193	50,026,000
Lake Union Conference	505	57	83,280	35,475,000
Mid-America Union Conference	445	61	64,573	26,001,000
North Pacific Union Conference	434	66	97,113	13,589,000
Pacific Union Conference	690	87	222,708	50,237,000
Southern Union Conference	1,070	166	253,187	60,227,000
Southwestern Union Conference	550	86	102,669	37,119,000
DIVISION TOTALS	5,283	765	1,126,790	340,597,000

As of December 31, 2010

PROJECTS:

- 1** Plant a church among the Navajo people in the south-western United States
- 2** Provide resources to train Bible workers and plant churches among refugee populations throughout North America
- 3** CHILDREN'S PROJECT: Train and equip Native American teens to share God's love through Vacation Bible School-type programs among Native American populations

