



youth & adult **MISSION**

Gift From God

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 = stories of special interest to teens

Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter we feature the East-Central Africa Division, whose territory includes 12 countries: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. In this region of 524 million people, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has 5.5 million members, or about one Adventist for every 95 people.

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, will assist five projects in four countries. You can find more information in the sidebar on this page. To collect stories for this *Mission* quarterly, I visited four upcoming projects and the sites of two projects that previously received offerings.

In Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, I saw construction workers laying the foundation

of a media center that will contain Hope Channel facilities, a studio for Adventist World Radio, a social media evangelistic center, and a call center for French-language speakers around the world. Local media staff told me that they were excited about the media center's potential to reach French-speaking children and adults across Africa and beyond with the help of the Holy Spirit and this quarter's offering.

In the same city, I toured the Adventist Clinic of Kinshasa, which received part of a 2019 offering to upgrade its equipment and expand with a new wing. Work was nearly completed on the new wing and, having visited six years earlier, I was impressed to see many improvements. I also saw doctors and nurses caring for a long line of patients.

God is doing an incredible work at two other clinics that will receive part of this quarter's offering: the Buganda Dispensary in Burundi and the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary in Tanzania. The offering will help cover clinic upgrades.

In Kenya, I visited Merisho Advent Community Nursery School near the capital, Nairobi, and saw the results of a 2023 offering: a multipurpose hall at the Mwata Adventist School for Deaf Children in Kisii.

You can find stories connected to these projects in this quarter's youth and adult *Mission* quarterly (download the PDF at: bit.ly/adultmission) and the companion *Children's Mission* quarterly (bit.ly/childrensmisson).

Remember also to download free Mission Spotlight videos featuring reports from around the East-Central Africa Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

Thank you for encouraging others to be mission-minded!

Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, will support five projects in the East-Central Africa Division:

- Mega media center with Hope Channel, Adventist World Radio, social media evangelistic center, and call center, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Nursing School, Adventist University of Lukanga, Lubero, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Buganda Dispensary, Buganda, Burundi
- Merisho Advent Community Nursery School, Ongata Rongai, Kenya
- Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, Zanzibar, Tanzania

University Changes Hearts



DRC | April 4

Malembe Tatasi Fils

with a heart curious about the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. When the university had a week of spiritual emphasis, she was touched by the sermons and decided to join the church. She was baptized in 2024 without her father’s knowledge.

“She hasn’t told her family yet that she has been baptized,” said Dr. Malembe. “She is expecting a serious showdown with her father. She is seeking prayers.”

One of this quarter’s special mission projects is a nursing school at the Adventist University of Lukanga in Lubero in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Here the university’s president, Dr. Malembe Tatasi Fils, shares three stories of people whose lives have been changed through the university.

Serious Showdown

The young woman came from a major non-Christian world religion, and she enrolled at the Adventist University of Lukanga on the recommendation of her father.

He told her that he had chosen the university because he had studied many Christian denominations and he felt that the Adventists were the most sincere in living out their faith. But he added, “Even though you’re going to a Seventh-day Adventist institution, I’m not sending you there to become an Adventist.”

The woman had arrived at the university

Expectant Mother

An expectant mother came to a 52-bed clinic connected to the university for check-ups. It was at the clinic that she learned, through a pregnancy ultrasound, that she would have twins. She was very surprised. Her husband had left her, and she would need to raise not one child but two children alone.

The clinic offered morning devotionals to patients, staff members, and other members of the community. A university student led each morning devotional, and the clinic passed out fresh bread afterward.

The mother enjoyed the morning meetings. When students prepared a special two-week evangelistic series for the clinic, she came to every meeting. The Word of God moved her heart, and she was baptized.

Then she gave birth to the twins.

When word reached her husband that he was the father of twins, he came looking for his wife. He was surprised that she wasn’t the woman whom he had left. Instead a



woman who loved drinking and being unfaithful, he found a sober mother who loved God with all her heart.

He told Dr. Malembe, “I’m so surprised to see such a big change in my wife. I want to follow your teachings.”

Now he is worshipping at an Adventist church with his wife and twins, who are seven months old. Dr. Malembe and others are praying that he will join his wife in giving his heart to Jesus.

Spirit-Possessed Student

A young man arrived at the university with a strong desire to study theology and become a pastor. He had joined the Adventist Church while in high school, but his family fiercely opposed his plans. They wanted him to become a medicine man. No one would help him pay for his tuition. He was on his own.

The young man got a university job as a watchman and worked for two years to earn enough money to start his studies.

But he fell ill shortly after he became a student. He couldn’t seem to remember anything, and he often wandered around the campus without knowing where he was going. Discouraged, he considered quitting his studies.

His family declared that he was spirit possessed. “It’s because he is supposed to become a medicine man, not a pastor,” they said.

Doctors at the university clinic examined him and said that they couldn’t find anything wrong that could be treated with medicine.

“This is a spiritual matter,” they said. “All of you in the theology department should pray for him.”

So, 27 teachers and students from the theology department gathered on a Thursday and held a special prayer session.

The student was healed, and he returned to his right mind. Today, he has graduated from the university and is waiting for a call to serve as a church pastor.

“He is a very eloquent speaker, and we

Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and then the country of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Dr. Malembe Tatasi Fils at: bit.ly/Malembe-ECD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Read more about at the Adventist University of Lukanga in the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists at: bit.ly/Lukanga.
- Know that the nursing school opened at the Adventist University of Lukanga in 2012 and was the first of its kind in the country. Now it graduates about 200 nurses a year.
- Know that 70 percent of the Democratic Republic of Congo’s pastors have graduated from the Adventist University of Lukanga.

Mission Post

- The Musofu Mission in Zambia, near the border with Congo, was founded in 1917, and the opening of a school attracted 130 young Congolese men who walked through the forest from Congo to attend. One of these, Matthew Chiwanga, became a minister.

hope and believe that he will do a great work for the church,” Dr. Malembe said. 🌐

This quarter, you can help the Adventist University of Lukanga reach more hearts for Jesus. Currently, nursing school students are using the university clinic’s cramped laboratory for their research. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, will help construct a building that will contain larger laboratories for the nursing school’s five fields of study: general nursing, midwifery, imaging, laboratory techniques, and pediatrics. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

Land Bought Twice

DRC | April 11



Adventist University of Lukanga.

It was a dark day for a Seventh-day Adventist university in Africa.

On March 18, 2001, armed fighters entered the campus of the Adventist University of Lukanga in Lubero in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The intruders belonged to the Mai-Mai, a militia led by warlords, village chiefs, and traditional tribal elders who had seized part of the country.

The Mai-Mai name comes from the Swahili word for water, maji. Militia members sprinkled themselves with water to shield themselves from bullets.

Mai-Mai fighters assaulted staff members and attacked students at the Adventist University of Lukanga.

They seized three students and marched them up Nyarusunzu Hill, where other fighters were waiting.

They interrogated the students, claiming that the university was occupying its land illegally.

Although the university had been established only three years earlier, in 1999, the Adventist Church had owned its land for decades.

The Zaïre Union had founded a co-educational institution called Institut Adventiste de Lukanga on the land in 1965, and students had studied there for the past 36 years.

Amid the interrogations, one of the Mai-Mai fighters threatened to shoot the three students at close range.

Then a heated discussion broke out between the Mai-Mai fighters, and chaos erupted.

Amid the confusion, the sky opened, and rain began to fall in torrents.

The Mai-Mai fighters, known for believing that sprinkled water shielded them from bullets, didn't have any desire to stand in the downpour, and they scattered.

The three students escaped.

To this day, many people credit God



for sending the rain to save the lives of those students.

But the story wasn't over.

The events of March 18 and the claims about the land prompted the families of former land chiefs to assert that the Adventist university was occupying their land illegally.

Amid a growing chorus of voices, the university took steps to de-escalate the situation.

In May 2001, two months after the hillside incident, the Seventh-day Adventist Church agreed to pay the families for the land a second time.

The deal, which restored the peace, meant that the church paid twice for the same property.

It could say that the land belonged to it twice.

God also can say that humans belong to Him twice.

He created humans, and He redeemed humans. First Corinthians 6:20 says, "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (NKJV).

Just like the university can say of the land, "You are mine twice," God can say of us, "You are mine twice." 🌐

Become part of the story of the Adventist University of Lukanga by contributing to this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering. Currently, nursing school students are using the university clinic's small laboratory for their research. This quarter's offering will help construct a building for the university's nursing school that will contain larger laboratories for its five fields of study: general nursing, midwifery, imaging, laboratory techniques, and pediatrics. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and then the country of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Adventist University of Lukanga leader Malembe Tatasi Fils at: bit.ly/Malembe-ECD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Read more about at the Adventist University of Lukanga in the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists at: bit.ly/Lukanga.
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Mission Posts

- Because of turbulence caused by independence and the wars that followed, many foreign missionaries were forced to leave the country, and the Congolese had to take charge of the work, often with no preparation.
- Eventually the Adventist Church in Congo was able to open five universities to train Adventist workers: Lukanga, Phillip Lemon in Lubumbashi, Adventist University of Congo in Kinshasa, Adventist University of Goma, and the Adventist University of Kananga.

Fast Facts

- The DRC's national animal is the leopard.
- A leader named Mobutu changed the name of the country to Zaire in 1965, but when he lost power in 1997, it was renamed the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Seeking Pure Truth

DRC | April 18

Safi



Safi's name means "pure" in the Swahili language. Just like her name, Safi liked to think pure thoughts, to speak pure words, and to act in pure ways. She especially liked to sing pure songs.

Safi had a deep love for singing to the Lord and shared her voice in various churches throughout Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

But something wasn't right.

As she observed the bedlam of people shouting in tongues and praying at the top of their lungs, she felt uncomfortable. Something was missing. She sensed that the churches where she was worshiping didn't have the pure truth.

At home, Safi pleaded with God to help her find His true church with the pure truth.

After that, she went to more churches and sang in them.

But she remained unsatisfied.

Finally, she decided not to go to any more churches. She would stay at home and pray for God to show her His true church with the pure truth.

Instead of going to church, Safi watched YouTube sermons at home and, one day, came across a sermon talking about the remnant

church. The preacher identified the Seventh-day Adventist Church as the remnant church, saying it was the only denomination that fully kept the Word of God.

Safi was intrigued, and she asked herself, "How can I find this church?"

Opening Facebook, she did a search with the words, "Seventh-day Adventist Church."

The search led to a stranger's profile. She contacted the man and learned that he was an Adventist church member. He gave her the address of his church and invited her to come on Sabbath.

Safi went. She liked the way people prayed and preached at the church. There was no shouting and chaos. Everything was orderly and peaceful. She thought, "This is the place where I want to be."

She also was impressed to see Sabbath School classes for children and teens. She had been wishing to find a church with programs for her three children, ages 8, 9, and 10.

That Sabbath, church members told Safi about another Adventist church closer to her home.

So, she went to the closer Adventist church the next Sabbath and learned that it was kicking off a 35-day evangelistic program.



Safi, second left, preparing to tell her story to Adventist Mission in the current studio used by Hope Channel and AWR in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

She attended every meeting. She felt like the program was designed just for her. As she listened, she thought, “God, I should have come here a long time ago.”

At the end of the meetings, Safi was baptized and joined the Adventist Church. The Adventist man she first contacted on Facebook was so happy!

Today, Safi still likes to think pure thoughts, to speak pure words, and to act in pure ways.

She also still likes to sing pure songs — and she can be found singing on many Sabbaths in her Adventist church.

She said God used the media to lead her to His pure truth.

“I thank God,” she said. “All this happened to me because I watched the media.” 🌐

One of this quarter’s special mission projects is a new media center that will house Hope Channel, Adventist World Radio, a social media evangelistic center, and a French-language call center in Safi’s hometown of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Through this project, many people in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the French-speaking world will be invited to learn God’s pure truth. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the map. Then show the city of Kinshasa, the location of the future media center with Hope Channel, Adventist World Radio, a social media evangelistic center, and a French-language call center, which will receive part of this quarter’s offering.
- Pronounce Safi as: saa-FEE.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Safi singing at: bit.ly/Safi-ECD.
- Know that the interview for this story was conducted with Safi in a cramped studio used by Hope Channel and Adventist World Radio before the construction of the new mega center. Safi enjoys the programming on Hope Channel and AWR, and she said, “I want to thank God for this work.”
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Fast Facts

- The early people known to live in what is now the DRC are known as the Central African Foragers. The Bantu people arrived the area around 3,000 years ago.
- In 1885, Belgian King Leopold II claimed private ownership of the region, establishing the Congo Free State, but by 1908 the Belgian government had control of the area, naming it the Belgian Congo.
- In 1960, the country became independent, and the army’s chief of staff, Joseph Mobutu, took control and renamed it Zaire. When he lost power in 1997, it was renamed the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- The DRC is the second-largest country on the African continent and has more than 200 ethnic groups. The major groups are the Luba, the Kongo, and the Mongo.

Scary Animals

DRC | April 25

Dieudonne



Dieudonne was on fire for God in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

His job was to preach on university campuses and bring students to his church. He was good at his work, and he excelled at it for many years.

Then, when he was 68, Bible workers unexpectedly showed up at his door and invited him to Seventh-day Adventist evangelistic meetings.

Dieudonne and his wife went to the opening night and were astonished to see a giant banner with pictures of ugly beasts.

“Wow!” Dieudonne exclaimed. “What is this?”

His wife said she was frightened and didn’t want to stay.

“These animals are scary,” she said. “Is this a church, or is it something else? We have never seen such things in our church, so I doubt that these people are preaching the gospel. We might be misled by them.”

As she prepared to leave, Dieudonne told her that he wasn’t scared by the animals and that he planned to stay.

She shook her head and left.

Then the meeting began.

As Dieudonne listened, he learned that the pictures were taken from the biblical books of Daniel and Revelation. He had preached for many years, but he had never understood the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation in the way that he heard that night.

He came back the next night and the next. He learned many things that he had never heard.

But his whole understanding of God changed when the preacher read Luke 24:1. The verse describes women going to Jesus’ tomb, and it begins with the words, “Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning” (NKJV).

Dieudonne had always thought that the first day of the week was Monday. So, he had thought that he was keeping the fourth commandment when he read in Exodus 20:8–10, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work.”

Now he realized for the first time that the Bible taught that the first day of the



week was Sunday, not Monday. He resolved to keep Saturday as the Sabbath from that day on.

When the preacher made a call for baptism, Dieudonne didn't need to think twice. He had been baptized before, but he thought, "This is my opportunity to be baptized into the truth." He went forward right away.

Every night after the meetings, Dieudonne shared what he was learning with his wife. She accepted that the seventh day was Saturday and also was baptized. Dieudonne told other family members about his new convictions, and a number of his grandchildren also were baptized.

Today, Dieudonne is on fire for God in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He no longer preaches on university campuses on behalf of his old church. Instead, his new church has helped him set up a tent beside a city sidewalk where he invites passersby to take Bible studies. He also invites them to his new church. In the first few months of his tent outreach, 20 people joined the church.

"My greatest joy is to go out into the community," Dieudonne said. "Every day, I study the Bible with people." 🌍

Dieudonne's church is connected to the Adventist Clinic of Kinshasa, the recipient of a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering. Thank you for supporting the clinic and its church with your prayers. This quarter, you can support a new project in Kinshasa, a future media center that will house Hope Channel, Adventist World Radio, a social media evangelistic center, and a French-language call center in Kinshasa. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the map. Then show the city of Kinshasa, the location of both the Adventist Clinic of Kinshasa and the future media center.
- Pronounce Dieudonne as: DEE-oh-don-ay.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Dieudonne at: bit.ly/Dieudonne-ECD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Fast Facts

- The DRC is the second-largest country in Africa by area and the fourth-most populated country in Africa after Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Egypt.
- Around 97 percent of 10-year-olds in the DRC lack basic reading and writing skills.
- Wild animals found in the DRC include lions, antelopes, buffaloes, cheetahs, giraffes, and hyenas. Hippopotamuses and crocodiles can be found in rivers and lakes.
- Endangered animals in the DRC include bonobos, chimpanzees, elephants, and gorillas.
- The DRC is a large country that includes rainforests, swamps, plateaus, plains, and mountains.
- Most people in the DRC are farmers growing crops like cassava, sweet potatoes, taro, yams, plantains, okra, tomatoes, beans, coffee, corn, peanuts, and rice.
- Commonly played folk instruments are the xylophone and the mvet (a bamboo tube with four or five strings and up to three gourd resonators).

Transformative Internship



DRC | May 2

Julia

It was an offer that Julia could not refuse.

The journalism student was talking with a friend who mentioned that Adventist World Radio was looking for an intern.

“If you’re interested, there is an opening for an internship,” said the friend, who happened to be the director of Hope Channel for the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Hope Channel and AWR shared a small studio in the country’s capital, Kinshasa.

Julia was completing the last year of a master’s program in journalism, and she jumped at the opportunity to get hands-on experience.

She went for an interview and received a nine-month internship on the technical team. She would record programs and help run the radio station.

The radio station’s programming surprised Julia. She was not a Seventh-day Adventist, and she knew little about the Adventist Church.

AWR aired a regular prayer program led

by a church leader, and Julia was moved by how he prayed for people. She was especially moved when he prayed for her. The prayers were unlike anything that she had heard. In her church, people shouted when they prayed. But the church leader told her, “You don’t need to shout when you pray. You can talk to God as a friend.”

Julia also was impressed with the radio station’s sermons and music.

Then she was asked to cohost a morning program called, “Woman of Value.” She and a women’s ministries leader interviewed other women on how to be faithful to biblical principles on fashion, marriage, and other aspects of life.

When the internship finished, Julia was baptized and joined the Adventist Church. Her friend, the Hope Channel director who had suggested that she apply for the internship, was excited when he heard about her decision.

“You were my friend, and now you have



become my sister,” he said.

Julia was so happy! Radio programming had changed her life, and she realized that the radio was an effective tool to spread the gospel. She thought, “I’d like to stay on and help proclaim the gospel.”

She graduated a few months later with a master’s degree in journalism and, to her surprise, was offered the position of radio station director.

Julia was thrilled, and she prayed for divine wisdom. “Lord,” she prayed. “Help me to use the talents that You have given me to put together good programs that lead people to You.”

In addition to sermons and music, the radio station today broadcasts programs on education, family life, and the environment, which is a particularly challenging issue in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Julia’s heart is glad when listeners say that they have been blessed.

“The feedback reminds me that I have joined a good undertaking,” she said. “It encourages me to keep working.”

The radio station and Hope Channel continue to share the small studio in Kinshasa. Julia is looking forward to moving into a bigger studio with the help of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering. The offering will be used to construct a media center housing AWR, Hope Channel, a social media evangelistic center, and a French-language call center in Kinshasa.

“We will be able to reach many people through the media center,” Julia said. “It will reach all of the French-speaking countries in Africa.” 🌍

Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

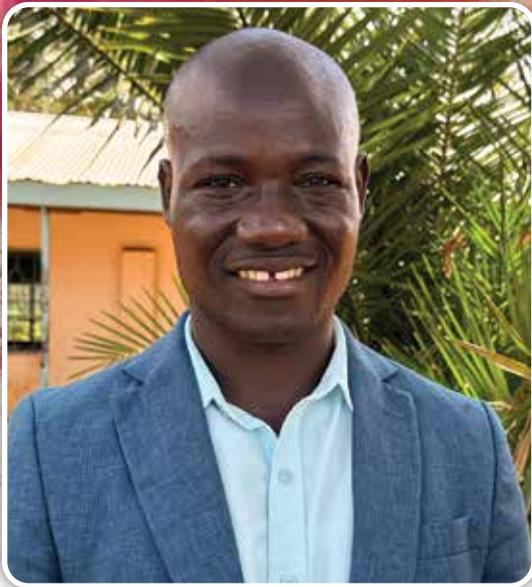
Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of the Democratic Republic of Congo on the map. Then show the city of Kinshasa, the location of the future mega media center.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Julia at: bit.ly/Julia-ECD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Fast Facts

- The DRC mines and exports diamonds, copper, cobalt, gold, zinc, coal, and petroleum.
- Chicken and goat are the main source of protein in the DRC, but because they are expensive, they are only served on special occasions.
- The DRC’s national dish is poulet à la Moambé (Moambe Chicken)—chicken in moambe sauce, which is made from palm oil and peanuts.
- Soccer is the most popular sport in the DRC. Basketball, track and field, volleyball, and boxing are also common.
- The Congo River is the deepest river in the world, measuring up to 720 feet (220 m) deep in places.
- The capital city, Kinshasa, is not only the largest city in the DRC but also one of the most populous cities in Africa.
- The DRC’s official language is French but it recognizes the national languages of Kituba, Lingala, Swahili, and Tshiluba.
- The DRC is bordered by the Central African Republic and South Sudan to the north, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania to the east, Zambia and Angola to the south, and the Republic of Congo to the west.

Blessing of Deafness



KENYA | May 9

Obiero

This story is an update on a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering.

Obiero has his work cut out for him as the principal of Kenya's first Seventh-day Adventist school for children who are deaf.

It hasn't been easy to find children to study at the boarding school.

In some Kenyan communities, deafness is mistakenly seen as evidence of sin in the family. Perhaps the child's mother or grandfather did something wrong and, as a result, the child has been punished by God with deafness. People don't accept the idea that hearing loss could be the result of genetics, a birth defect, an illness, or a myriad of other reasons.

Deafness is seen as a punishment, and some parents hide affected children at home.

Obiero's mission is to teach parents that deafness is not a punishment. He sees his own life as evidence of this belief. He learned

as a boy that hearing loss can occur as the result of medicine.

Obiero was born with normal hearing. His father died when he was young, and his mother, who was blind, walked with him to the Adventist church to worship on Sabbaths.

But when he was 13, he fell ill with malaria.

At the hospital, he was given an emergency injection of medicine. A sharp pain filled his ears immediately after the jab, and he began to bleed. He was transferred to a second hospital, and the doctors there said that the medicine from the first hospital had affected his hearing. They said he would go deaf.

The boy stayed in the hospital for a long time. He saw other people with malaria who didn't go home. But he recovered and was finally discharged.

At home, his own hearing began to fade. For a while, he could discern loud noises. Hearing aids also helped. But when he was 14, he lost all hearing.



Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of Kenya on the map. Then show the town of Kisii, the location of Mwata Adventist School for the Deaf, which received part of a 2023 offering. The school located about 185 miles (300 km) west of Kenya's capital, Nairobi.
- Pronounce Obiero as: OH-beer-oh.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Obiero at: bit.ly/Obiero2-ECD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Mission Posts

- The first Adventist missionaries came to British East Africa (now Kenya) in 1906. Peter Nyambo, Arthur Carscallen, and his wife, Hellen Thompson, established the Gendia Mission on the eastern shores of Lake Victoria and began work among the Luo people.
- Strict laws barred Europeans and Africans from mingling socially, but an Adventist church and school were established at Kaigat inside the Nandi Reserve in 1933 and occasionally the other European Adventists worshiped with them there.

Obiero felt discouraged. He had been born able to hear, and now he couldn't hear a thing. He wondered if he was being punished by God.

In his despair, he found hope in the Bible. He read in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (NIV).

He thought, "Maybe being deaf is God's plan for my prosperity. Maybe by being deaf I will be able to help others."

Today, he is convinced that his loss of hearing was part of God's plan to bless him and to bless others.

He completed his education and became a teacher at Mwata Adventist School for Deaf Children. Then he became the school principal.

The school has 73 children between the ages of 4 and 18. They receive an education and are taught basic life skills. They also learn to read the Bible and have a personal relationship with God. They see that even the Bible has stories about people who were deaf and, most importantly, Jesus did not curse them but healed them.

Obiero tells the children that Jesus is coming soon, and He will open their ears. "You will not be deaf forever," he says. "There will be a time when we will hear."

A total of 97 children have studied at the school since it opened in 2012, and 26 of them have been baptized.

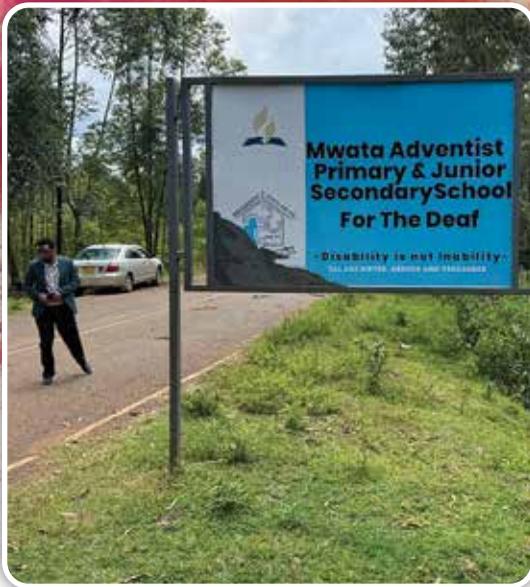
Obiero praises God for being deaf and for the opportunity to lead as the principal of Mwata Adventist School for Deaf Children.

"Now I know that it was God's plan for me to be deaf," he said. "By becoming deaf, God has used me to help children at this school and to complete His mission here. I thank Him for being deaf." 🙏

Part of a 2023 offering went to help expand Mwata Adventist School for Deaf Children in Kenya with the construction of a new dormitory for the boys and girls and a multipurpose hall with a modern kitchen

and dining area. Previously, the children ate in an open field, and their food was cooked over an open fire in a makeshift kitchen built of iron sheeting. Thank you for your generosity, which is helping to share Jesus' love with the children at Mwata Adventist School for Deaf Children and beyond. One of the mission projects for this quarter is another school, Merisho Advent Community Nursery School, which also teaches children about God in Kenya. Thank you for giving to this important project.

Living for God



KENYA | May 16

Mary

This story is an update on a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering.

Mary was born without hearing in Kenya. Her parents died when she was very young, and a kindly uncle raised her.

The uncle wanted Mary to have an education. But when the girl went to public school, she couldn't understand what the teachers were saying. She couldn't comprehend what was happening.

Her uncle searched for a long time to find a school for children who are deaf. He found several, but they charged tuition. He was a maize farmer, and he couldn't afford to pay tuition. He had trouble just feeding Mary and the rest of the family.

Then the uncle went to a camp meeting with Mary when the girl was seven years old. While there, a pastor saw Mary and advised the uncle to send her to a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school for deaf children.

The uncle liked the idea, but it seemed like a dream. They lived far from Mwata Adventist School for Deaf Children and lacked money for bus fare and tuition. However, the uncle wanted the girl to learn. So, he sold enough maize to buy bus tickets to travel to the school.

At the school, the principal welcomed Mary and told her uncle not to worry about tuition and other costs. He showed Mary the dormitory where she would stay with the other girls during the school year.

Mary said goodbye to her uncle and quickly immersed herself into a new life. She liked having friends who also were deaf. She liked having enough food to eat every day. She especially liked learning about God. Every morning, a teacher read a Bible verse before the start of classes. Mary loved John 3:16, which says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (NKJV).



As she learned to read, she wanted to be given a chance to read the daily Bible verse.

“Let me read the verse today, Teacher,” she said.

And she read it.

A year passed. Two years. Three years. She saw that God was faithful to her. She reflected on her old life and understood that God was giving her an education and had a future. She decided to give her heart to Jesus and be baptized.

“I’m going to live for God,” she told the school principal.

Today, Mary is 13 years old. She has studied at the school for six years, and she is living for God. These days, she does much more than read the daily Bible verse. She prepares sermons and preaches at the school’s church or at other churches on Sabbath. She loves to preach about the Jesus who will return one day soon and give hearing to all who love Him.

“Although I am deaf, I have heard Jesus,” she said. 🌍

Part of a 2023 offering went to help expand Mwata Adventist School for Deaf Children in Kenya with the construction of a new dormitory for the boys and girls and a multipurpose hall with a modern kitchen and dining area. Previously, the children ate in an open field, and their food was cooked over an open fire in a makeshift kitchen built of iron sheeting. Thank you for your generosity, which is helping share Jesus’ love with the children at Mwata Adventist School for Deaf Children and beyond. One of the mission projects for this quarter is another school, Merisho Advent Community Nursery School, that also teaches children about God in Kenya. Thank you for giving to this important project.

Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of Kenya on the map. Then show the town of Kisii, the location of Mwata Adventist School for the Deaf, which received part of a 2023 offering. The school is located about 185 miles (300 km) west of Kenya’s capital, Nairobi.
- Know that Mary is a pseudonym to protect the privacy of the girl and her family.
- Watch a short YouTube video of the school principal, Obiero, singing one of Mary’s favorite songs, “Jesus’ Love Is Very Wonderful”: bit.ly/Mary-ECD.
- Pronounce Obiero as: OH-beer-oh.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Fast Facts

- Kenya’s national animal is the lion.
- Kenya is one of the most popular destinations for safaris. Millions of people visit the savannah of Kenya each year to see cheetahs, elephants, giraffes, hippos, lions, rhinos, zebras, and more.
- The Kenyan government has set up more than 50 reserves and parks to protect the country’s wild animals from poaching.
- The Great Rift Valley cuts through Kenya from north to south.
- Lake Victoria, shared by Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, is the world’s largest tropical lake and the second-largest freshwater lake.
- The main economic activity in Kenya is farming. It is also one of the world’s main exporters of coffee, tea, and cut flowers (especially roses and chrysanthemums).
- Mount Kenya is an extinct volcano and the second-highest mountain in Africa at 17,057 feet (5,199 m).

Hall of Blessings



KENYA | May 23

Elijah

A new multipurpose hall promises to be a big blessing to a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school for deaf children in Kenya. But the hall, which was constructed with the help of your offerings, also proved to be a big blessing as it was going up.

The construction foreman said he had never seen a project quite like it. No accidents or injuries were reported during the three months that it took to build the building. No one stole construction materials. No one showed up at work drunk.

The foreman said it was like God's protective hand covered the construction site from beginning to end.

The new multipurpose hall is at Mwata Adventist School for Deaf Children, which is located in the town of Kisii, about 185 miles (300 km) west of Kenya's capital, Nairobi. The school received part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, in first quarter 2023. The funds went to construct the multipurpose hall with a modern kitchen and dining area.

Previously, food was cooked over an open fire in a makeshift kitchen built of iron sheeting, and the children ate in an open field. The funds also helped open a new dormitory for boys and girls. The school has 73 students, including 43 girls and 29 boys. The children are from 4 to 18 years old.

Construction work began on the kitchen and dining hall in late 2024 under the supervision of a foreman named Elijah. He is 36 years old and a Seventh-day Adventist.

Every morning, Elijah prayed with the 30 to 40 construction workers who showed up to work on the site that day. Most of the workers came from the local community and were not Adventists.

"Dear God," he prayed. "Help us as we go to work this morning. Give us energy, and give us good health. Protect us as we work."

He said God answered those prayers.

"Sometimes, a construction worker falls from an upper floor, or someone gets hit by falling debris," he said. "None of that happened here."



Elijah also said construction sites often are troubled by theft. People steal cement or iron sheets at night or even in broad daylight while construction is going on.

“But here, we didn’t have any such cases,” he said.

Another common problem involves payments, he said. Construction companies sometimes do not get paid on time and, then, cannot buy building materials and pay their workers.

But at the school, the payments were always on time.

The construction workers appeared to enjoy their work. Elijah said the pay was good in comparison to similar projects in the area, and the workers appreciated having the Sabbath off. Other construction sites require them to work seven days a week.

So many construction workers showed up at the school each day that Elijah had to choose who to hire.

On the first day of work at the project, several construction workers showed up drunk. But he told them, “You can’t work here if you’re drunk.” The same people returned the next day, but they were sober.

Elijah overheard workers encouraging one another to stay sober. If one of them expressed a desire to drink after work, others would say, “Don’t do it. You can’t work here if you’re drunk.”

As the weeks passed, Elijah saw that the construction workers were staying sober day after day because they wanted to work. One after another told him, “I’m trying my best not to drink, but it’s difficult.”

Elijah said he hoped that many of the workers would make a decision never to drink again.

“We pray that the influence of our work will cause them to change their minds about drinking altogether,” he said.

Elijah said he was pleased with the project and the big blessing that it has had and will have on many people.

“It has had a big impact on both the school and the community,” he said. 🌍

Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of Kenya on the map. Then show the town of Kisii, the location of Mwata Adventist School for the Deaf, which received part of the first quarter 2023 offering.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Elijah at the construction site while the multipurpose hall was still being built: bit.ly/Elijah-ECD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Fast Facts

- The first African woman to win a Nobel Peace Prize was Wangari Muta Maathai, a Kenyan environmental, social, and political activist. She won it in 2004 for contributions to sustainable development, democracy, and peace. She also founded the Green Belt Movement, which has planted more than 51 million trees throughout Kenya.
- Almost 75 percent of all gold-medal winners in long distance running come from Kenya. The current world-record holder for the men’s marathon, Kelvin Kiptum, as well as the men with the next five-fastest times, are all Kenyan.

The generosity of church members like you in 2023 paved the way for the events depicted in this week’s mission story. This is your money at work, spreading Jesus’ love not only to the children at Mwata Adventist School for Deaf Children but also to the construction workers who helped raise the kitchen and dining hall. One of the mission projects for this quarter is another school in Kenya. This quarter’s offering will help fund a construction project at Merisho Advent Community Nursery School near Nairobi so the children can have new classrooms. Thank you for giving to this project.

Gift From God



BURUNDI | May 30

Jeanne

Jeanne thought she was going to die. The 26-year-old expectant mother felt dizzy all the time. Her appetite vanished. When she went outdoors, she felt like the wind was passing through her body. Everything hurt.

A city hospital in Burundi ran a series of tests but couldn't diagnose her condition.

Jeanne went to another hospital for more tests, but doctors there couldn't help, either.

She spent a lot of money seeking a cure, and all hope seemed lost. Death appeared to offer the only relief, but Jeanne wanted to give birth. She wanted to know her first child.

Then someone told her about a Seventh-day Adventist clinic in the northwestern corner of the country. Jeanne went to the clinic known as the Buganda Dispensary.

The clinic's staff ran a first test and immediately diagnosed her condition. Jeanne didn't recognize the name of the illness, but she gratefully accepted the liquid medicine that she received.

Following the staff's instructions, she

drank the medicine three times a week. It was very sweet.

As the weeks passed, her pain disappeared, and she returned to her old self. When she went back to the clinic for a follow-up visit, she received a clean bill of health.

Jeanne was delighted! A short time later, she gave birth to a baby girl. She named her Chanelle.

Time passed, and Jeanne fell ill again. Now she felt disappointed with the Adventist clinic. She thought that the clinic hadn't been able to cure her after all and that her previous illness had returned. So, she went to five other clinics, but none of them could help her.

In desperation, she returned to the Buganda Dispensary. The doctor diagnosed her with a new illness, tuberculosis.

She received medicine, and the clinic's staff gave her advice on how to keep herself and others safe.

Jeanne was grateful for the diagnosis,



and she was happy when she later received another clean bill of health.

After that, she had no question about where to take Chanelle when the little girl fell ill at the age of two. She took her to the Adventist clinic.

A doctor ran tests and used a name that Jeanne didn't recognize to identify the girl's sickness. The doctor told her to bring the girl back every 10 days for an injection. Jeanne did, and Chanelle received 18 injections before being pronounced healthy.

During the time of treatment, the clinic's staff came to visit Jeanne and her daughter at home. They prayed with her both at the clinic and in her home.

Jeanne's heart was touched by their love for God and her little family. She decided to get baptized and join the Seventh-day Adventist. She was won to Christ through the same method that Christ used to win people to Him when He walked on the earth. Ellen White says, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with people as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He invited them, 'Follow Me'" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 73).

For many months, the clinic's staff practiced Christ's method: visiting Jeanne and her daughter, praying with them, ministering to their needs, and winning their confidence. Then Jeanne decided to follow Jesus.

Today, Jeanne is 40 and a faithful Seventh-day Adventist. Chanelle, who is 10, enjoys going to Sabbath School with her mother every week. For them, the Buganda Dispensary is a precious gift from God.

"By the way I was treated at the clinic and by the love that they showed me, I can say that they are God's employees," Jeanne said. "Even when I'm at home, they visit me and pray for me." 🌍

This quarter, you can help the Buganda Dispensary expand in its ministry of serving

Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of Burundi on the map. Then show the town of Buganda in the northwest, the location of the Buganda Dispensary, which will receive part of this quarter's offering.
- Pronounce Jeanne as: zhan.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Jeanne at: bit.ly/Jeanne-ECD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Mission Posts

- When Adventists first arrived in Burundi, the country was already dominated by the Catholic Church. Adventists were forbidden from sharing the message by both the chiefs and the missionaries of other denominations.
- The first Adventist missionary to Burundi was David E. Delhove, who settled in Buganda, in Cibitoke province, in 1925. The area was full of mosquitoes that carried diseases that threatened people's lives.
- Delhove took a course in tropical medicine, and then a one-month internship at a government hospital so he could qualify as an "Agent Sanitaire," which would allow him to receive and administer free medication to the local people.

as the healing hands of the Great Physician, Jesus Christ. The clinic, which is located in the cradle of Adventism in Burundi, will use the funds to renovate its current building, built when it first opened in 1983. The funds also will help the clinic expand with new male and female wards, single-patient rooms, a new consultation room, a reception area, a laboratory, and bathrooms. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

Miracle Clinic

TANZANIA | June 6



This week's mission story takes a look at the remarkable events that led to the opening of a Seventh-day Adventist clinic on Zanzibar island, which is part of Tanzania and located just off Africa's eastern coast. The clinic is one of this quarter's special mission projects. Its story began in the mid-1980s.

The senior government official from Zanzibar was in trouble.

Seif Sharif Hamad didn't feel well during a visit to Tanzania's capital, Dodoma. As chief minister, he was a powerful leader on the island and second only to Zanzibar's president. But on this particular day, he felt weak and unsure of himself.

Someone recommended that he go to a Seventh-day Adventist clinic. Now, the clinic wasn't the closest medical facility to his workplace in the parliament building. There were other hospitals nearby. But the chief minister went to the Adventist clinic. He was pleased with the care that he received, and he asked the staff, "Who are you?" They replied, "We're Seventh-day Adventists."

He asked, "Does your organization have leadership?"

They said, "Yes, we have leadership."
Then he asked, "Can we open something like this on the island of Zanzibar?"

They said, "Yes, we can."

The clinic's staff passed on the request to the Adventist Church's Tanzania Union Mission, whose leaders were delighted. Zanzibar had proven to be a particularly challenging territory since the first church workers arrived there in the late 1930s. Those workers were literature evangelists, and they had unsuccessfully sought to sell books on the island, where most of the people were not Christian.

More recently, the church had met more success by sending medical doctors to conduct health programs on the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and pork. The health initiatives aligned with Zanzibar beliefs and had been met with a good response.

Now, Zanzibar's chief minister was inviting the Adventists to open a clinic that could significantly expand the church's health outreach work. It seemed to be too good to be true.

The Tanzania Union Mission formed a three-member committee to explore the idea of opening a clinic.

Before long, its three members arrived in Zanzibar and met with the chief minister in his office in 1986. He remembered the Adventist clinic that had treated him, and he invited the visitors to get to work on opening the clinic promptly. He also instructed the island's health authorities to approve a



proposal for the project.

But months passed, and nothing happened. No approval was granted.

Finally, a church leader went to the chief minister and asked what was happening.

The chief minister was upset about the delay. He intervened to make sure that the project proposal was approved quickly.

Then the church needed to find a place for the clinic. Church leaders asked a literature evangelist who had lived on the island for the past five years to help. The man found a former hotel consisting of two buildings located on opposite sides of a street. It had been up for sale for two years. The church purchased the buildings.

A doctor, Josiah Tayali, arrived from the mainland to set up the clinic. Under his watch, the buildings were renovated, and medical, surgical, and laboratory equipment were shipped from the mainland.

Dr. Josiah received permission to open a pharmacy that sold medicine in the clinic. By law, all medical services offered on Zanzibar had to be free, and he was looking for a way to help pay the clinic's staff. The money made from medicine sales proved to be enough to cover the workers' salaries and to buy more medicine.

The Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary opened on January 31, 1988.

Zanzibar's chief minister was pleased. After that, when family members fell ill, he sent them to the clinic for treatment. The clinic's other well-known patients have included the wife of Zanzibar's president and other senior officials. Most patients, however, are those who live nearby.

Dr. Josiah, who is now retired, called the clinic a miracle of God.

"This was God's call to work in Zanzibar," he said. "It was not started by us." 🌍

The Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary has offered critical services on Zanzibar for nearly 40 years. During that time, private clinics have been allowed to open, and the Adventist clinic has joined

Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of Tanzania on the map. Then show the island of Zanzibar, the location of the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, which will receive part of this quarter's offering.
- Know that the photo shows the clinic's main building.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Dr. Josiah Tayali at: bit.ly/Josiah2-ECD.
- Watch a short thank-you message from Dr. Stephano Deus Mojo, director of the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, on YouTube: bit.ly/Stephano-ECD.
- Know that this mission story is based on an interview with Dr. Josiah at the clinic. Read more about the clinic in an article written by the doctor in the online *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*: bit.ly/Zanzibar-Dispensary.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Mission Post

- The first missionaries in what would become Tanzania were two Germans, A. C. Enns and Johannes Ehlers, in 1903. Enns was a vegetable gardener and Ehlers had been employed painting buildings for the Adventist Church in Germany.

them in accepting payments for its services. But now its two buildings have grown old and need to be replaced. You can be part of this miracle story by giving to this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, which is also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering. The funds will allow the clinic's buildings to be demolished and replaced with modern buildings. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

The Brown Door



TANZANIA | June 13

Josiah Tayali

This week's mission story is about how the first people joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Zanzibar island, which is part of Tanzania and located just off Africa's eastern coast. This story happened in 1987.

It was a Sabbath morning, a normal day on the African island of Zanzibar.

Josiah, the first doctor of the only Seventh-day Adventist clinic on the island, was getting ready for church when he heard a knock on the clinic's door.

He was surprised.

No one had ever knocked on the door since he had moved into the clinic many months earlier.

During his time on the island, he had learned that it was highly unusual for people to knock.

If islanders wanted the attention of someone inside a house, they cried out, "Hello! Hello!"

People only knocked on doors on Tanzania's

mainland, where he had been born.

Josiah walked over to the door and swung it open. The door was large and brown, the only one of its kind in the neighborhood. Outside he saw seven strangers — three men, a woman, a teen, and two children.

"What would you like?" he asked.

A man replied, saying, "Doctor, we know that this is a clinic, and we are here to talk to you."

"What would you like to talk about?"

Josiah asked.

"Just listen to us," the man said. "We want to talk to you."

The doctor invited the people to come inside.

The man introduced himself as Moses and the others as his wife, children, and a friend named Ezekiel.

Then he told an unusual story.

He said that he had had a dream in which he was told to go to such-and-such a neighborhood.

"There, you will see a big, brown door," a voice said. "Knock on the door. The people who open it are Christians from the mainland who have brought Jesus to this island. They will tell you what to do."

Moses found the dream surprising but, when he woke up, he decided to ignore it.

Then he had the same dream again. He ignored it again.

When he had the dream for a third night, he called his family together in the morning and brought them to the clinic. It was early on Saturday morning.



“There is only one big, brown door in this neighborhood,” he told Josiah. “I recognized it from the dream. But when we arrived this morning, the door was closed. I was told in the dream to knock, so I knocked.”

Josiah smiled.

Moses continued. “Maybe it is you who I’m looking for from my dreams,” he said. “Are you a Christian?”

Josiah nodded.

“Today, is a worship day, and I’m going to my place of worship now,” Josiah said. “Would you like to go together?”

Moses agreed.

The group walked to the road and boarded a bus to a house church. Afterward, they ate lunch there and caught a bus back to the clinic.

After that day, Moses and his family began going to the house church every Sabbath. Josiah came to their home and studied the Bible with them. It turned out that Moses was a Christian who had moved to Zanzibar from the mainland seven years earlier. He had recently met a Seventh-day Adventist literature evangelist on the island, and he and his friend, Ezekiel, had been discussing the Bible with him.

It was then that he had the dream about the big, brown door.

The day came that Josiah contacted a pastor on the mainland and informed him that he knew two people — Moses and Ezekiel — who were ready for baptism.

The pastor was surprised.

No one had been baptized on Zanzibar for many years.

A short time later, the pastor baptized Moses and Ezekiel in the waters of the Indian Ocean.

Josiah rejoiced as he saw the two men commit their lives to Jesus.

He had done nothing except open the big, brown door.

God had done the rest. 🌍

The big, brown door that Josiah opened at the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary has been replaced with another

Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of Tanzania on the map. Then show the island of Zanzibar, the location of the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, which will receive part of this quarter’s offering.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Dr. Josiah Tayali at: bit.ly/Josiah3-ECD
- Watch a short thank-you message from Dr. Stephano Deus Mojo, director of the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, on YouTube: bit.ly/Stephano-ECD.
- Know that this mission story is based on interviews with Dr. Josiah and Ezekiel at the clinic. Moses has moved back to the mainland. Read more about the clinic in an article written by Dr. Josiah in the online *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*: bit.ly/Zanzibar-Dispensary.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Fast Facts

- Tanzania’s national animal is the giraffe, the national flower is the African clove, and the national symbol is the *uhuru*, a kerosene torch symbolizing freedom and light.
- Tanzania is the world’s largest producer of cloves.
- Tanzanite is a deep-blue gemstone discovered in 1967 and only found in Tanzania.

door in the years since this story took place. But today, more than a door needs to be replaced at the two buildings that make up the clinic. You can be part of this story by giving to this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, which is also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering. Offering funds will allow Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary’s two buildings to be demolished and replaced with two modern buildings. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

Lord of the Sabbath



TANZANIA | June 20

Ezekiel

He spoke with a friend, a fellow Christian named Moses who also had moved to Zanzibar from the mainland. They agreed that the book's message must be false, but its argument for Saturday was compelling, and Ezekiel couldn't get it out of his mind.

He went to the man who had given him the book.

"Tell the person who gave you this book to come see me," he said. "I want to ask him for the truth."

Before long, a Seventh-day Adventist literature evangelist named Yohana visited Ezekiel and Moses.

He tried to answer their questions about the Sabbath. When the men argued, he offered Voice of Prophecy Bible lessons.

He added, "If you answer all the questions in the lessons, I'll give you a gift."

Ezekiel and Moses were intrigued. They took the first five lessons and completed them.

Yohana corrected the lessons and gave them five more.

When the men finished all 20 lessons, Yohana congratulated them on passing the course and presented them with a certificate. He also gave the promised gift: three pairs of gray pants and three red-and-blue, long-sleeved shirts for each man.

Ezekiel and Moses were pleased. The island's economy was weak, and many people didn't own more than one set of clothes.

Ezekiel kept one set for himself and gave the other two sets to relatives.

The surprised relatives asked when he had gotten the clothes, and he replied, "Please

This week's mission story is about how the first people joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Zanzibar island, which is part of Tanzania and located just off Africa's eastern coast. This story started in 1986.

Ezekiel was perplexed. He didn't know what to make of a book titled, *Is the True Sabbath Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?*

Someone had given him the book written by W. Duncan Eva, a former vice president of the General Conference.

He had read it at home on the island of Zanzibar.

Unlike most people on the island, he was a Christian. He had moved to Zanzibar a year earlier, in 1985, to get away from family problems on Tanzania's mainland.

Ezekiel was puzzled by the book. He was pretty sure that the true Sabbath wasn't Friday, the day observed by many people on the island. He had kept Sunday all of his life, but he had read in the book that God's holy Sabbath was actually Saturday.



come. I'll show you.”

Relatives and friends signed up for Bible lessons.

After completing the 20 lessons, Ezekiel began to keep the Sabbath.

Then Yohana encouraged him and Moses to take a second course.

When they finished those 20 lessons, they received another certificate and three more sets of pants and shirts each.

Then Yohana offered a Bible study on health. After those 20 lessons, Ezekiel and Moses received another certificate and more pants and shirts.

It took about a year to complete the three courses.

As they studied, Moses had three dreams about a big, brown door. After the third dream, he and Ezekiel knocked on the big, brown door of the new Adventist clinic on the island.

The clinic's doctor led them to an Adventist house church and strengthened their faith with additional Bible studies.

After finishing the third course with Yohana, Ezekiel asked to be baptized.

So it was that Ezekiel and Moses were baptized in the Indian Ocean. Yohana and the clinic's doctor joined the men in the ocean as they went under the water. They were the first Adventists to be baptized in Zanzibar in many years.

In 1989, the first Adventist pastor arrived on the island, and six years later, in 1995, the first Adventist church opened.

Today, church members meet in six churches and five branch Sabbath Schools. Ezekiel attends every Sabbath.

Moses has returned to Tanzania's mainland to live, but the two men keep in touch.

Ezekiel said he was grateful for the literature evangelist and the doctor. Through them, he learned about the Sabbath and the Lord of the Sabbath. “We thank God that we can depend on Him,” he said. 🌍

The Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary has offered critical services on

Story Tips

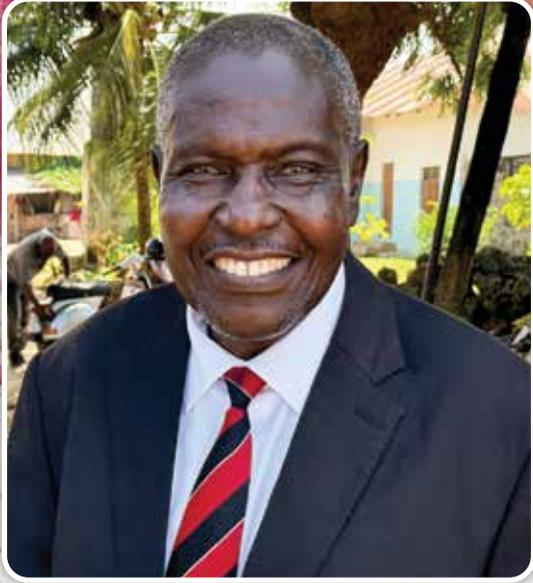
- Show the continent of Africa and the country of Tanzania on the map. Then show the island of Zanzibar, the location of the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, which will receive part of this quarter's offering.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Ezekiel at: bit.ly/Ezekiel-ECD.
- Watch a short thank-you message from Dr. Stephano Deus Mojo, director of the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, on YouTube: bit.ly/Stephano-ECD.
- Read more about Zanzibar and the literature evangelist Yohana Lukwaro in the online *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*: bit.ly/Zanzibar-ECD. Read about the clinic at: bit.ly/Zanzibar-Dispensary.
- Know that W. Duncan Eva's book, *Is the True Sabbath Friday, Saturday, or Sunday?* (in Swahili: *Sabato ya kweli Ijumaa Jumamosi au Jumapili?*) has been widely distributed throughout Tanzania and has led many people to the seventh-day Sabbath. Read more about W. Duncan Eva in the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*: bit.ly/Duncan-Eva.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Fast Fact

- Only 73 percent of women and 83 percent of men can read and write in Tanzania.

Zanzibar for nearly 40 years. But now its two buildings are old and need to be replaced. You can be part of the clinic's story by giving to this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, which is also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering. The funds will allow the clinic's buildings to be demolished and replaced with modern structures. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

“Doctor” Ibrahim



13th SABBATH | June 27

Ibrahim Alex Juma

This week’s mission story is about the first Seventh-day Adventist pastor to live on Zanzibar island, which is part of Tanzania and located just off Africa’s eastern coast. Pastor Ibrahim Alex Juma arrived from Tanzania’s mainland in 1989.

Ibrahim wasn’t trained as a medical doctor. He had studied theology to become a pastor, but he knew many health principles after teaching “Stop Smoking” programs, helping people quit drinking, and personally following a plant-based diet.

So, he arrived on the island of Zanzibar as a medical worker rather than a pastor. Ibrahim understood why. Many islanders weren’t Christian, and he would not have been welcomed if he had arrived as a pastor. He himself had been raised in the same non-Christian world religion that was practiced by many islanders.

Ibrahim came with his wife and five children in 1989, a year after the opening of the first Adventist clinic on the island. He

worked with the clinic’s director, Dr. Josiah, and islanders nicknamed him “doctor.”

As a health worker, Ibrahim traveled around Zanzibar and taught health principles.

He soon gained a reputation for doing good.

At a hotel, he noticed that the receptionist was chain-smoking and said, “I can help you to quit.”

He prayed with the man and offered some tips on quitting tobacco.

When the receptionist successfully stopped smoking, he told everyone about Ibrahim.

The local church congregation consisted of seven people when Ibrahim arrived. They included Ezekiel and Moses, two men from Tanzania’s mainland who had been baptized a couple years earlier, and five others whom Ezekiel and Moses had led to baptism.

Those seven Adventists had been sharing their faith with other Christians. A month after Ibrahim’s arrival, he baptized nine people. One of those nine people works today at the Adventist clinic.



Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of Tanzania on the map. Then show the island of Zanzibar, the location of the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, which will receive part of this quarter's offering.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Ibrahim at: bit.ly/Ibrahim-ECD.
- Watch a short thank-you message from Dr. Stephano Deus Mojo, director of the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, on YouTube: bit.ly/Stephano-ECD.
- Read more about Zanzibar in the online *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists* at: bit.ly/Zanzibar-ECD. Read about the clinic at: bit.ly/Zanzibar-Dispensary.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Another employee at the clinic is a lab technician whose father joined the church through Ibrahim's work. The father was a pastor who once invited Ibrahim to preach at his church. Ibrahim preached about the seventh-day Sabbath, and the pastor and his family were baptized.

Sometimes the days were tough.

Ibrahim's children, who were from 10 to 15 years old, were beaten and otherwise bullied at school. Ibrahim prayed that the children would not grow discouraged, and God answered.

All five children, and a sixth who was born later, are faithful Adventists. One is a pastor, and another is a pastor's wife.

Potential danger sometimes lurked around the corner.

A well-placed government official once cautioned Ibrahim and the clinic's doctor not to attend an appointment.

"Someone wants to do something bad," he said. "Don't go."

Another time, a new friend who wasn't a Christian warned Ibrahim against going to a meeting.

"Don't go there today," he said. "They want to hurt you."

Some islanders weren't so friendly. A retired soldier told Ibrahim, "You came to bring Christianity to our island. Go back to the mainland. We don't want to see you here."

Another islander threatened him, "We will kill you if you stay. The one who kills you will go straight to heaven because he did something good by killing the one who tried to spoil our island."

Ibrahim survived all plots, and the church thrived.

For a while, church members worshiped on a rented soccer field every Sabbath. As the need for a church building grew, Ibrahim and a clinic doctor went to visit Zanzibar's leaders.

Ibrahim told a leader, "In our clinic, we have doctors and nurses who are Seventh-day Adventist. They don't have a place to worship. Please, can we have land so we can construct a place to worship?"

The leader promptly instructed that land be given to the Adventists to build a church.

Ibrahim realized that it had been easy to obtain land because the clinic was well known and had successfully treated many people.

He thanked God for the blessing of the clinic.

The first Adventist church opened in 1995 at a dedication ceremony attended by General Conference president Robert S. Folkenberg.

The next year, Ibrahim's work ended in Zanzibar, and he left to serve on Tanzania's mainland.

From a congregation of only seven Adventists when he arrived, there were 160 when he left.

Today, more than 1,000 church members live on the island.

At 71 years old, Ibrahim still preaches, and he participates in prison ministries.

He returns to Zanzibar from time to time, including for a camp meeting three years ago.

He is grateful to God for sending him to Zanzibar.

He is thankful for the Adventist clinic, which continues to bring healing to many people today. 🌍

The Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary has offered critical services on Zanzibar for nearly 40 years. But now its two buildings are old and need to be replaced. You can be part of the clinic's story by giving to this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, which is also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering. The funds will allow the clinic's buildings to be demolished and replaced with modern structures. The offering will also go to four other projects in the East-Central Africa Division: a clinic in Burundi, a nursing school at the Adventist University of Lukanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a primary school in Kenya, and a large media center in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Thank you for giving generously.

Before 13th Sabbath

- Remind everyone that our mission offerings are gifts to spread God's Word around the world, and that one-fourth of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, will help five projects in the East-Central Africa Division. The projects are listed on page 3 and on the back cover.
- The narrator doesn't need to memorize the story, but he or she should be familiar enough with the material so as not to have to read it. Alternatively, children and adults can act out the story.
- Before or after the story, use a map to show the places in the East-Central Africa Division — Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, and Tanzania — that will receive the offering.



A view of the two buildings that make up the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary.

Next Quarter's Mission Projects

The Inter-European Division will be featured next quarter, and the special projects will include:

- Kindergarten, Sofia, Bulgaria
- Site for youth camp, church camp, and training center, Belgium
- Dormitory, Italian Adventist University Villa Aurora, Florence, Italy
- Two elementary schools, Macea and Peretu, Romania

Leader's Resources

Be sure to download your free Mission Spotlight video featuring video reports from around the East-Central Africa Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

Online Information

Following are sources of information that may be helpful in preparing for the mission segment of Sabbath School. For more information on the cultures and history of the countries featured in this quarterly, visit:

Websites

Burundi: government website	mae.gov.bi/en
Wikitravel	wikitravel.org/en/Burundi
U.S. State Department	bit.ly/USDD_Burundi
Democratic Republic of Congo: government website	ambadrcusa.org
Congo Travel and Tours	congotravelandtours.com
U.S. State Department	bit.ly/USDD_DRC
Kenya: government website	president.go.ke
CNN	cnn.it/40Tix77
Lonely Planet	lonelyplanet.com/kenya
Tanzania: government website	tanzania.go.tz
Fodor's Travel	bit.ly/FODOR_Tanz
National Geographic	on.natgeo.com/48SCxjh

Seventh-day Adventist

East-Central Africa Division	ecd.adventist.org
Burundi Union Mission	bumadventiste.org
East Kenya Union Conference	eku.adventist.org
West Kenya Union Conference	wku.adventist.org
Northern Tanzania Union Conference	en.ntucadventist.org
Adventist University of Africa (Kenya)	aua.ac.ke
University of East Africa Baraton (Kenya)	ueab.ac.ke
University of Arusha (Tanzania)	uoa.ac.tz
Adventist University of Goma (DRC)	uago.ac.cd

For world regions that have a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering: An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Determine a goal for your class's weekly mission offering. Multiply it by 14, allowing a double goal for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, which will be collected on June 27. Remind the children that their regular weekly mission offerings help the missionary work of the world church, and that one-quarter of the offering will go directly to the projects in the East-Central Africa Division. On June 20, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage the children to double or triple their normal mission giving on the upcoming Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School.

youth & adult MISSION

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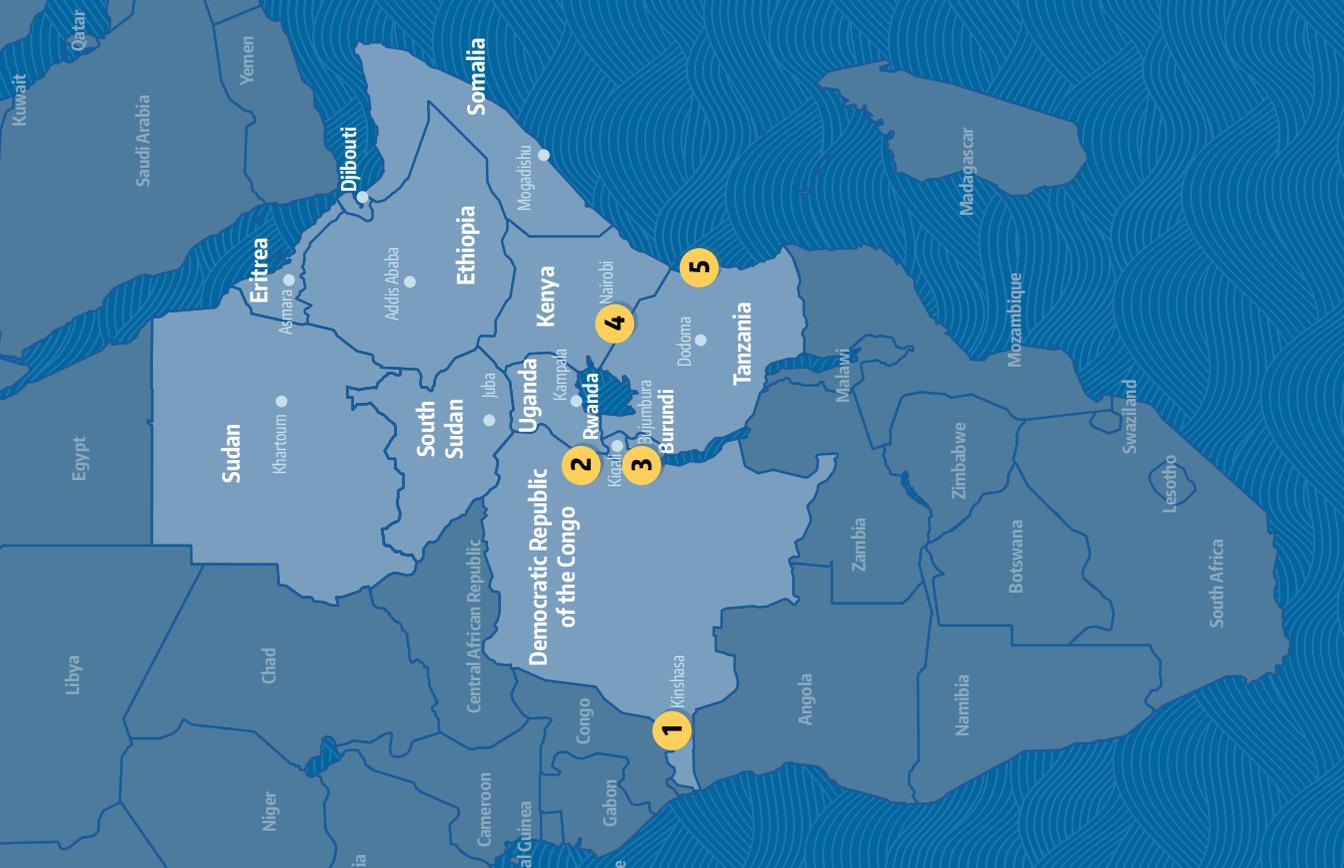
Fourth Quarter 2025

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EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

UNIONS	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Burundi	543	501	217,805	13,186,000
East Congo	354	460	145,063	14,654,938
East Kenya	3,902	2,086	625,868	52,569,007
Eastern Ethiopia	650	565	124,422	113,657,931
North East Congo	1,291	943	266,092	37,694,100
Northern Tanzania	2,981	1,586	776,082	37,120,942
Rwanda	1,947	617	1,099,043	14,095,000
South Sudan	122	227	72,950	11,089,000
Southern Tanzania	1,472	1,188	233,273	30,317,058
Uganda	1,519	2,743	493,060	48,582,000
West Congo	693	536	368,969	49,913,962
West Kenya	3,902	1,824	543,886	20,674,993
Western Ethiopia	470	133	121,899	14,002,069
Attached Fields				
Eritrea Mission Field	3	12	526	3,749,000
Sudan Field	6	4	1,051	50,449,000
Totals	19,855	13,425	5,089,989	511,755,000

PROJECTS

- 1 Mega media center with Hope Channel, Adventist World Radio, social media evangelistic center, and call center, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo
- 2 Nursing School, Adventist University of Lukanga, Lubero, Democratic Republic of Congo
- 3 Buganda Dispensary, Buganda, Burundi
- 4 Merisho Advent Community Nursery School, Ongata Rongai, Kenya
- 5 Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, Zanzibar, Tanzania