



children's **MISSION**

A close-up portrait of a young boy with a gentle smile, looking directly at the camera. He is wearing a dark jacket with a yellow and white geometric pattern. The background is a soft, artistic watercolor wash in shades of green, orange, and yellow.

**Prayer Makes
Things Better**

Contents

On the Cover: Jayden, 10, likes to tell the children’s mission story in his Sabbath School in Kenya. This quarter, he is telling his own story. Page 22.

BURUNDI

- 4 A Girl Named TMI | *April 4*

TANZANIA

- 6 A Friend of God | *April 11*
- 8 Bringing Mother to Church | *April 18*
- 10 Friday Didn’t Like Saturday | *April 25*
- 12 The God Who Heals | *May 2*
- 14 Brave Island Girl | *May 9*

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- 16 Family of God | *May 16*
- 18 Soccer, Spleen, and Salvation | *May 23*



KENYA

- 20 Asking for a Brother | *May 30*
- 22 Prayer Makes Things Better | *June 6*
- 24 Birds Lead the Way | *June 13*
- 26 Ears to Hear | *June 20*
- 28 Thirteenth Sabbath:
An Answer to Prayer | *June 27*
- 30 Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects
- 31 Children’s Activities
- 35 Leader’s Resources
- 36 Map



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter we feature the East-Central Africa Division, whose territory includes 12 countries: Burundi, 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 *Children's 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 *Children's Mission* quarterly (download the PDF at bit.ly/childrensmision). Download a PDF of facts and activities from the East-Central Africa Division at bit.ly/2026-ECD. A mission bank image, which children can color, can be found at bit.ly/bank-coloring-page.

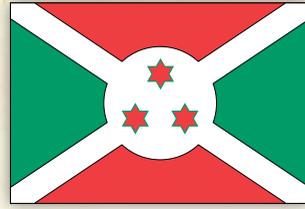
Please keep in mind that you do not need to read the story exactly as it is published. These children's stories are meant for a wide age range of 6 to 12, so feel free to adapt the language and content to the level that suits the age group of your Sabbath School class.

Thank you for encouraging children 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



BURUNDI | April 4

TMI

A Girl Named TMI

In the heart of Africa lives a little 6-year-old girl named TMI.

TMI stands for Total Member Involvement, a Seventh-day Adventist evangelism program in which every church member gets involved in sharing Jesus with someone else.

The girl named TMI was born just as TMI evangelism was sweeping her home country of Burundi. It was an exciting time as Burundians told neighbors, friends, relatives, and even strangers about Jesus. People were meeting in small groups to study the Bible. Then they gathered at big evangelistic meetings. Many people gave their hearts to Jesus at the meetings and were baptized.

TMI's father and mother were elated to witness TMI evangelism with their own eyes. They were thrilled to participate in TMI evangelism by telling others about Jesus. Their joy peaked when a little baby girl was born to them amid all the TMI activities. Father and Mother decided that the perfect name for their perfect daughter was TMI.

As a baby, TMI was a constant reminder to everyone that they needed to tell someone else about Jesus. Whenever Father or Mother

called TMI's name, people remembered that God was calling them to get involved in Total Member Involvement.

As the little girl grew up, TMI became more than just her name. TMI started to become the way she lived. TMI liked to sing about Jesus. When she sang, she felt good all over.

When she was 4 years old, she prayed for a good voice to praise Jesus.

"Dear God, help me so that I can sing," she prayed.

TMI hadn't planned to pray about singing, but as she thought about how she could share Jesus, the words just rose in her heart, and she started to pray silently.

TMI prayed the same prayer the next day and the next. "Dear God, help me so that I can sing," she prayed.

About that same time, she joined a children's choir at her church. One of the church members noticed that she had a sweet voice and suggested that she could sing alone. Church members even helped her record six songs in a professional music studio.



Soon other church members noticed TMI's voice and began to invite her to sing at Sabbath worship services. Then she was invited to sing at big evangelistic meetings.

TMI's father and mother were delighted that she was singing for Jesus. Every time she sang, Father said, "You did well, my daughter." Mother said the same thing. "You did so well, my daughter," she said.

Before long, TMI began first grade in a public school. Some of her classmates asked the teacher if she could sing for them. They had heard her singing in church and at evangelistic meetings, and they wanted their own concert.

"Could you let TMI sing for us in school?" they asked.

The teacher agreed, and TMI began to sing at school.

When classmates from non-Adventist families heard her sing, they began to follow her to church on Sabbath. They asked if they could join her in the church's children's choir. When those children went home, they asked their parents to go with them to church on Sabbath.

So it was that a little girl named TMI became a living example of Total Member

Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and then the country of Burundi on the map.
- Watch a short YouTube video of TMI singing at: bit.ly/TMI-ECD.
- Know that TMI still prays every day, "Dear God, help me so that I can sing." She also thanks God every day, saying, "Thank You, God, for giving me the talent of singing." Her biggest desire is to sing for Jesus always.
- Learn more about Global Total Member Involvement at: globaltmi.org.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Involvement by using her voice to share Jesus with others.

How can you share Jesus with others? 🌐

One of the mission projects for this quarter is the Buganda Dispensary, a clinic located near TMI's home in Burundi. Thank you for giving to this important project.



MISSION RECORD

When Seventh-day 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.



TANZANIA | April 11

Fabian

A Friend of God

Grandmother didn't know what to do with nine-year-old Fabian.

In the morning, he put on his school uniform and said he was going to school. But then he skipped school to play with other boys who also were skipping school, and he returned home after school ended.

On Sabbath mornings, he put on his good clothes and went with Grandmother to church. But once they arrived for Sabbath School, he disappeared, and no one saw him until after the sermon had ended.

Sometimes Fabian didn't even come home. He would disappear for three or four days, and no one would know where he had gone. Grandmother had to go to the police and say that her grandson was missing. Then the boy would return home as if nothing were wrong and say he had been visiting friends.

Grandmother was worried. She knew that Fabian was sad because his father had died and his mother didn't take care of him. Grandmother had raised him since he was five years old. She wanted him to know and love God because she believed God knew and loved him. She prayed.

Then the Sabbath School teacher decided to become friends with Fabian. She noticed that he didn't come very often to Sabbath School, so she went to his home to visit him.

"Come to Sabbath School next Sabbath," she said.

Fabian went to Sabbath School the next Sabbath. Then he returned to Sabbath School the next Sabbath and the next. He enjoyed learning about Jesus, and he liked the activities in the Alive in Jesus Sabbath School program. The teacher gave him homework to do during the week. He completed it and turned it in on Sabbath.

One day, Fabian asked Grandmother if he could do the family worship that evening. Grandmother was surprised. He had never asked to do the family worship. She wondered if he could do it.

"I can do it very well," Fabian assured her. "Just trust me."

No one trusted Fabian very much because he had been a disobedient boy for such a long time.

But Grandmother decided to trust him.

"OK, you can do family worship," she said.



A bright smile flashed across Fabian's face. That evening, he opened the Bible and read that Abraham was a friend of God. He read, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' And he was called the friend of God" (James 2:23, NKJV). Then he opened the book *Patriarchs and Prophets* and read more about how Abraham was a friend of God.

Grandmother listened with astonishment as Fabian said, "I also want to be a friend of God. I believe God, and I want to obey Him."

Then he prayed. It was a prayer unlike any Grandmother had ever heard. He confessed all his sins out loud. He told God about doing many bad things that Grandmother didn't even know he had done. He asked God to forgive him and make him a good boy.

"From today, I give my life to Jesus Christ," he said. "I want to be like my Sabbath School teacher who is teaching me to be a better person. I want to teach other children to be good just like my teacher has done for me. God, help me from now on. I want to be a good boy. In Jesus' name, Amen."

That day was a turning point in Fabian's life. He began to pray and read his Bible every day to become better friends with God. He spent more time with Grandmother and other good people who loved God. He never missed church again. The boy who was the least likely to be found in church became

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.
- Learn more about Alive in Jesus, a Sabbath School curriculum developed for young people, from babies through youth, by the General Conference at: aliveinjesus.info.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

the boy who was most likely to be found in church. He even brought a friend to church.

The change in Fabian was so big that Grandma went to his Sabbath School to hear what he was learning.

Today, Fabian is 10 years old. It can be said of Fabian that he believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. And he was called the friend of God. 🌍

One of the mission projects for this quarter is the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, a clinic in Fabian's country of Tanzania. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.



MISSION RECORD

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 Seventh-day Adventist Church in Germany.

In November 1903, Enns and Ehlers sent back a message that they had arrived safely and the German governor had given them the South Pare territory in which to work to work. At Giti, they bought 25 acres (10 hectares) of land from Chief Sekimanga to open a mission station.



TANZANIA | April 18

Esther

Bringing Mother to Jesus

Three children showed up at Esther's home in Tanzania one day.

After they introduced themselves, they asked Esther if she would like to visit their Sabbath School on Saturday.

"We are Seventh-day Adventists, and we are going door to door to invite children to our Sabbath School," one girl said.

"It's fun to learn about Jesus in the Bible," said another child.

"You'll like it," added the third.

Esther agreed to go to Sabbath School on Saturday.

The Sabbath School teacher warmly welcomed Esther. She wanted to be Esther's friend, and she asked about the girl's home and family. She learned that Esther's mother used to go to the Adventist church but had stopped when Esther was a baby. So, Esther had never visited an Adventist church. She had only come because three children had come to her house and invited her.

The teacher showed Esther how to read the Bible. She invited the girl to come to Sabbath School every week.

Esther liked Sabbath School. She enjoyed

the Alive in Jesus program. She grew closer to Jesus.

But going to church wasn't easy. Mother didn't like her going to the church every Sabbath. She had stopped going to church after marrying a man who wasn't an Adventist. She was afraid that Esther's father would be upset if Esther kept going.

Esther kept going.

One Sabbath, Esther told the teacher that she wished Mother would come to church with her.

"I don't understand why she stopped going to church," she said.

The teacher encouraged her to pray and believe that Jesus could bring her mother back.

"There is Someone who can bring her back to church," she said. "We believe in Jesus. You have to believe in Jesus, too. This will help your mother to return to Him."

Esther prayed. She believed that Jesus heard her prayers. She continued to learn about Him in Sabbath School, and she read her Bible at home.

One Sabbath, she told her teacher, "I'm



ready to be baptized.”

The teacher was so happy!

On the day of her baptism, Esther invited Mother to come and watch. She hoped that Mother’s heart would be touched at the sight of her committing her life to Jesus. She hoped that Mother would want to go to church with her every Sabbath.

Mother came to the baptism and met the Sabbath School teacher there. The two women spoke for a long time. The Sabbath School teacher encouraged Mother to considering coming to church every Sabbath.

Then Esther was baptized. Mother watched as she sank under the water and emerged with a big smile on her face.

At that moment, a sharp pang pierced Mother’s heart. She turned to the teacher, who was nearby.

“I feel so much pain for leaving my God,” she said.

Today, the teacher is studying the Bible with Mother. Esther hopes that she will return to church very soon. 🌍

Pray for Esther’s mother to return to Jesus. Pray for the many children and parents in Tanzania who do not go to church. One of the mission projects for this quarter is the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary,

a clinic on an island of Tanzania where many children and parents do not go to church. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

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.
- Encourage the children in your Sabbath School class to invite other children to attend the class next week. Esther is an example of what can happen when a child from a non-Adventist home is invited to church and then serves as a bridge to parents, bringing them to church as well.
- Learn more about Alive in Jesus, a Sabbath School curriculum developed for young people, from babies through youth, by the General Conference, at: aliveinjesus.info.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

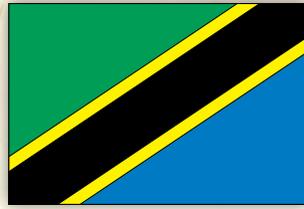


AMAZING COUNTRY



Mount Kilimanjaro, a dormant volcano, is the highest point in Africa at 19,341 feet (5,895 m) and is also the tallest single free-standing mountain in the world.

There are eight hiking routes up Mount Kilimanjaro, and it generally takes about a week to reach the top. Many tours will accept children over the age of 10 years.



TANZANIA | April 25

Friday

Friday Didn't Like Saturday

Friday didn't like Saturday. Friday is the name of a Seventh-day Adventist boy in Tanzania.

Although Friday was Seventh-day Adventist, he liked many things that Seventh-day Adventist boys shouldn't like. He liked bad language. He liked bad friends. He liked to break the Sabbath by doing things that he shouldn't do on God's holy day.

The one thing that Friday should have liked was Saturday. His father and mother had taught him since he was a wee baby that Saturday is the seventh-day Sabbath. It is a special day set aside by God to remember that He created the heavens, the Earth, and everything in it, including Friday, in six days.

But Friday became sad when the sun set and the Sabbath began. Friday didn't like Saturday.

One Sabbath, the Sabbath School teacher told Friday and the other children not to go home after church.

"I've prepared some food for you," he said. Friday stayed.

When he and the other children had finished eating, the teacher said, "Wait,

wait. Before you go, I want to invite you to a special program."

Friday stayed — and he liked the special Sabbath School class very much. The teacher led a good discussion from the Bible and gave a fun homework assignment to do during the week.

Friday began to look forward to the Sabbath School discussions and assignments.

One Sabbath, the teacher read in the Bible, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. And he was called the friend of God" (James 2:23, NKJV).

The teacher asked why Abraham was a friend of God and pointed out helpful verses to read in the Bible. All of the children agreed that Abraham was God's friend because he had faith and obeyed God.

Friday raised his hand.

"Teacher, I don't think that I'm a friend of God," he said.

"Why do you say that?" the teacher asked.

"I come to church every Sabbath, but I don't obey God and keep the Sabbath holy," he said. "I also do other things that God doesn't like. I'm not a friend of God at all."



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.
- Encourage the children in your Sabbath School class to be a friend of God. Discuss with them how they can be faithful and obedient like Abraham.
- Invite the children to be like Friday and invite friends to Sabbath School class.
- Know that Friday learned about Abraham from Alive in Jesus, a Sabbath School curriculum developed for young people, from babies through youth, by the General Conference. Learn more about the program at: aliveinjesus.info.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

The teacher looked at the boy kindly. "Do you want to be a friend of God?" the teacher asked.

"Yes. I want to be a friend of God," the boy replied.

The teacher assured Friday that he could be God's friend if he had faith and obeyed like Abraham.

Friday was eager to become God's friend.

When he returned home, he read the Bible and talked with God. He confessed to God that he liked many things that Seventh-day Adventist boys shouldn't like. He repented and asked God to help him to be obedient.

The next Sabbath, Friday returned to Sabbath School and declared, "Now I am a friend of God!"

The other children were very happy for him. They smiled, laughed, and congratulated him.

The teacher was pleased.

He said to the rest of the children, "All of you can decide to be like Friday and become a friend of God."

Friday no longer says bad words, and he keeps the Sabbath day holy. He also has invited his old friends to come to church with him. Four boys have come, and one of them decided that he also wanted to become a friend of God. He gave his heart to God and was baptized.

Friday's life has changed a lot. Now Friday loves Saturday. 🌍

One of the mission projects for this quarter is the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, a clinic in Friday's country of Tanzania where many children do not know about the Sabbath and the Lord of the Sabbath. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.



AMAZING COUNTRY

The Gombe Stream National Park is a chimpanzee sanctuary in Kenya where the famous zoologist Jane Goodall did research on chimps in their natural habitat.

BigStockPhoto.com





BigStockPhoto.com



TANZANIA | May 2

The God Who Heals

Asha

Mother didn't know what to do. Little 3-year-old Asha suffered from epileptic attacks on the island of Zanzibar in Tanzania. When an epileptic attack happened, Asha's arms and legs twitched and jerked. Then after a while, the twitching and jerking stopped, and she returned to normal.

Mother didn't understand that Asha was suffering from a medical disorder. So, she went to a medicine man for help. The medicine man said Asha was possessed by bad spirits and told Mother to paint the little girl's eyebrows with *wanja*, a black dye. He said the dye would protect her from evil and the attacks would stop.

But the twitching and the jerking continued.

Mother went to another medicine man who told her to tie a black cloth around Asha's left wrist. He told Mother to put dry leaves in the cloth to protect the girl from evil. Then, he said, the attacks would stop.

But the twitching and the jerking continued.

Mother went to yet another medicine man. He said Mother should pick Asha up and hold her upside-down over the toilet. Mother didn't have a flush toilet. Her toilet

was an outhouse.

"Spirits don't like the smell of the toilet," the medicine man said. "So, if your daughter smells the toilet, the spirits will be disgusted and leave. Then the attacks will stop."

But the twitching and the jerking continued.

Then Mother heard about a Seventh-day Adventist clinic. She was not a Christian, and she didn't want to go to Christians to ask for help. But none of the medicine men had been able to do anything.

Mother and Asha arrived at the clinic on a hot day. The little girl was wearing a black head covering and a long dress covered with flowers. Her eyebrows were colored with black dye, and she had a black cloth filled with dried leaves tied on her wrist.

As the doctor examined the girl, she began to twitch and jerk. She was sitting on her mother's lap when the attack started.

Mom was scared.

She thrust the girl into the doctor's hands and cried out, "Doctor!"

Leaving Asha in the doctor's office, she ran into the street, shouting, "My child is possessed by a spirit!"



The doctor placed the girl on an examination table. He called over three nurses to pray.

“God,” he said, “You are the Great Physician. Amen.”

Then he gave the girl an injection.

Asha stopped twitching. She stopped jerking. She relaxed and returned to normal.

The doctor went out to find her mother.

Mother came back to the clinic. She was glad to see that Asha was fine.

“There is a God who heals,” the doctor told her. “The black cloth on her wrist and the black dye on her eyebrows do not help. Trust in the God who heals.”

Mother nodded her head and smiled happily.

She felt hope for the first time.

The doctor handed some medicine to Mother and instructed her to give it to the girl if she had another attack.

Asha never had another attack.

About a dozen patients were waiting to see the doctor when Mother screamed that her girl was possessed. They fled the clinic but returned the next day to ask if the girl was alive.

“The child is fine,” a nurse replied. “She received medicine and has recovered. She is at home.”

Word spread across the island, and many people came to the clinic because of the healing of the little girl. The miracle was a big advertisement for the clinic. God had done something that the medicine men

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 features a girl who is about the same age as Asha.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Magdalena, a Seventh-day Adventist nurse at the clinic who spoke with the scared patients after Asha was healed: bit.ly/Magdalena-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.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

could not do. People saw that the Adventist clinic was special because it was the place where God heals. 🌍

One of the mission projects for this quarter is the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, which is featured in today’s story. Your offering will help improve the clinic so many more children and adults can come to the place where God heals. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

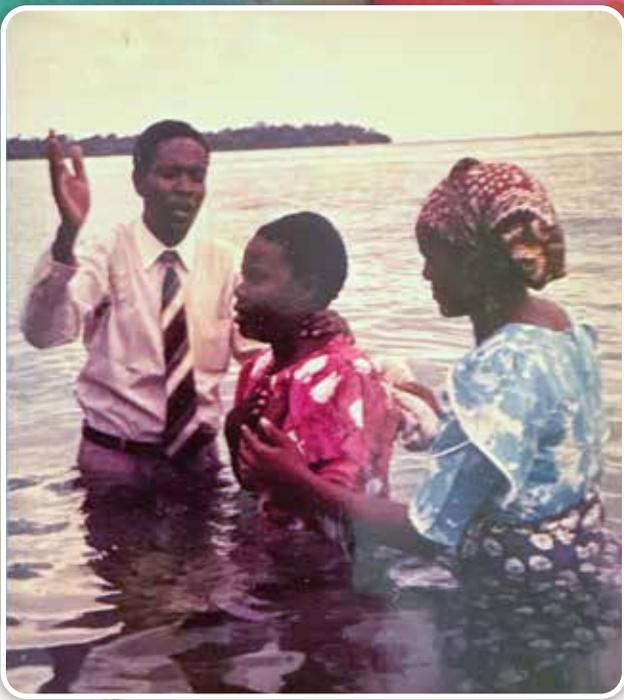


AMAZING COUNTRY

Tanzanite is a deep blue gemstone discovered in 1967 and only found in Tanzania.



BigStockPhoto.com



TANZANIA | May 9

Brave Island Girl

Jesse

There were nearly no Seventh-day Adventists on Zanzibar when the Adventist clinic opened in the late 1980s. This is the story of how a girl named Jesse became one of the first Adventists on the island.

Jesse's Mother didn't feel well. She was weak and sick. So, she went to the Seventh-day Adventist clinic to see if the doctor could help.

The doctor gave Mother some medicine, and she got well.

She was so happy!

But after a while, Mother didn't feel well again. She was weak and sick. So, she went to the clinic again. The doctor gave her more medicine, and she got well.

Now she was really happy!

She liked the doctor and nurses. They were so kind and thoughtful. She wanted her 13-year-old daughter to be around kind and thoughtful people. She wanted Jesse to work as a volunteer at the clinic.

"I have a daughter named Jesse," Mother told the doctor. "I would like her to work here after school. Could you arrange for that?"

The doctor agreed.

"Bring her here, and we'll see what she can do," he said. "Maybe she can do some cleaning or help in another way."

Mother brought Jesse to the clinic.

"She's yours now," she told the doctor.

So, Jesse began to volunteer at the clinic after school.

At first, she mopped the floors and took out the trash. She was a good and careful worker, and everyone liked her.

Jesse liked volunteering at the clinic as well. She thought that the doctor and nurses were so kind and thoughtful. They even gave her free lunches of bread and fish. She especially liked the soft, white bread called *boflo*. Everyone liked to eat boflo on Zanzibar.

When the doctor and nurses saw that Jesse was a good worker, they asked her to help with other things at the clinic. They trusted her.

Jesse volunteered at the clinic for a year. Then she volunteered for a second year and a third year. During that time, she did everything that the doctor and nurses did. She even went to clinic worships. She



and her family believed in Jesus, but they weren't Adventist.

Then someone at the clinic invited Jesse to be baptized and become an Adventist.

She said no.

Some time passed, and someone else invited Jesse to be baptized.

Again, she said no.

Jesse actually wanted to be baptized. She loved Jesus, but Mother didn't want her to join the Adventist Church.

Jesse couldn't say no when someone invited for a third time to be baptized. She wanted with all her heart to be baptized.

A short time later, Jesse was baptized in the waters of the Indian Ocean. She was among the first people living in Zanzibar to join the Adventist Church. She was 17 years old.

Mother was furious when she found out, and she threatened to kick Jesse out of the house.

But Jesse's mind was made up.

"I have decided that this is the path I want to follow," she said.

Jesse came to the clinic in tears many times after that. She asked for many prayers, but she never changed her mind.

Today, Jesse works at the clinic as a nurse. She has an Adventist husband, and they have two Adventist children. She is so happy that she volunteered at the clinic as a girl.

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 17-year-old Jesse at her baptism in the Indian Ocean.
- Pronounce Jesse as: YES-eh.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Josiah Tayali, the doctor who opened the clinic on Zanzibar in 1989 and who invited Jesse to work there: bit.ly/Josiah-ECD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

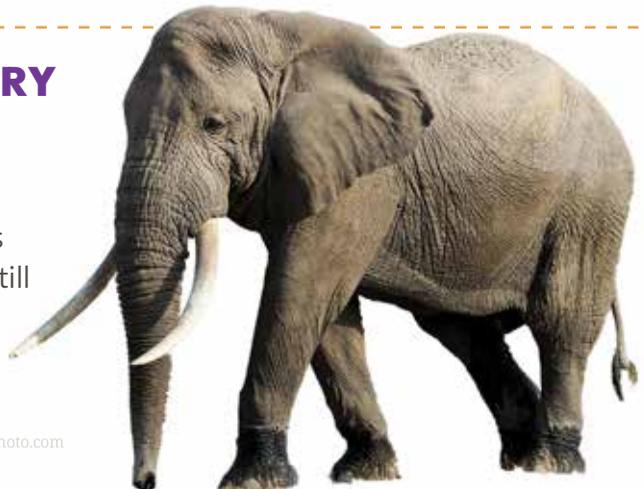
The experience changed her life forever. 🌍

One of the mission projects for this quarter is the Zanzibar Seventh-day Adventist Dispensary, which is featured in today's story. Your offering will help improve the clinic. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.



AMAZING COUNTRY

The largest remaining elephant populations in the world are in Tanzania's Selous Game Reserve, but they are still at risk from poachers who kill them for their ivory tusks.



BigStockPhoto.com



DRC | May 16

Family Of God

Ebenezer

A colorful flyer lying on the table caught a little girl's attention.

"Where did it come from?" asked the little girl, whose name was Ebenezer.

Father said several men had stopped by their home in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo. The men had invited the family to evangelistic meetings to learn more about Jesus, and the flyer was the invitation to go to the meetings that evening.

Ebenezer wanted to know more about Jesus, and she hoped that Father would go.

She waited, but Father didn't go that evening. She waited the next day, but Father didn't go.

On the third day, she decided to go by herself to see what was happening.

Ebenezer liked the meeting at a church very much. At school, she learned that a family consists of a father, a mother, and children. But at the church, she learned that there is another family called the family of God.

She wondered to herself, "Can I also be part of the family of God?"

At home, she told Father, "You should also

go. They are teaching good things."

Ebenezer thought that Father would go with her the next day. But he didn't, and Ebenezer went to the church by herself.

That evening, she learned to her surprise that the family of God is sometimes persecuted.

At home, she told Father, "The first day I learned that we could belong to the family of God. But now I'm surprised to learn that we can be persecuted for being part of the family of God. Can you explain that to me?"

Father asked Ebenezer to imagine that she was the president of a country.

"Some people will love you, but your enemies will hate you and try to send bad people to do bad things to you," he said. "Likewise, if you belong to the family of Jesus, some people will love you but your enemies will hate you and try to do bad things to you."

The next day, Ebenezer convinced Father to go with her to church.

But Mother refused. She said Father had some bad habits and she would only go if he gave them up.



“Then I’ll know that it’s the true church,” she said.

Father wasn’t sure about the preacher at first, but he was impressed that the preacher supported everything that he said with the Bible.

At the end of the meetings, the preacher asked who wanted to give their hearts to Jesus in baptism.

Ebenezer hoped that Father would stand up, but he didn’t.

At home, she asked, “Why didn’t you stand up?”

He replied, “I have many questions. If they’re answered, I’ll be baptized.”

But he began to give up his bad habits.

When the church held another two weeks of evangelistic meetings, Ebenezer told Father, “You’d better not miss any of these meetings.”

Father went, and Mother joined him and Ebenezer. She was impressed that Father had given up his bad habits. She wondered if the Seventh-day Adventist Church was the true church.

At the second round of meetings, Father thought long and hard about baptism.

Then the preacher said, “If Jesus came tonight, would you be ready to go with Him?”

Father wanted to be ready to meet Jesus. Mother also wanted to be ready.

At the end of the meetings, both of them were baptized.

Ebenezer was so happy! She felt like her life was now perfect. At home, she was part of a family with a wonderful father and mother. At church, she was part of the wonderful family of God. “We are happy to

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.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Ebenezer at: bit.ly/Ebenezer-ECD.
- Know that this story happened when Ebenezer was 8 years old. Now she is 10 and a Pathfinder. Father is the personal ministries director at their church, and Mother is the children’s ministries director.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

be part of the family of God,” she said. 🌐

One of the mission projects for this quarter is the opening of a media center with Hope Channel, Adventist World Radio, a social media evangelistic center, and a French-language call center in Ebenezer’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 become part of the family of God. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.



MISSION RECORD

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.



DRC | May 23

Patrick

Soccer, Spleen, and Salvation

Patrick loved playing soccer in Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He kicked the ball this way. He kicked the ball that way. It was fun to chase after the ball on the soccer field. It was even more fun to kick the ball into the goal area and score a point for the team.

But one day something happened that wasn't fun. Twelve-year-old Patrick was playing soccer with his friends when he fell down on the grass. He fell hard, and he couldn't get up. He held his belly and cried.

Mother took Patrick to the hospital. There, the doctor said the boy needed an urgent operation to repair his spleen.

The spleen is a soft, spongy organ near the stomach that cleans the blood and makes white blood cells. When Patrick fell down, his spleen was torn.

Patrick knew that it was an emergency. Mother knew that it was an emergency. The doctor knew that it was an emergency. But the doctor wasn't willing to do the operation for free.

"The operation will cost \$5,000," he said.

Mother didn't have U.S.\$5,000. What could she do? Every hospital that she knew required patients to pay before receiving treatment. She began to cry.

Someone at the hospital noticed her tears and had an idea. "Go quickly to the Seventh-day Adventist clinic," the person said. "They can help you, and it won't cost as much."

Mother and Patrick went straight to the Adventist clinic. There, an Adventist doctor examined Patrick and immediately rushed him into the operating room. He didn't say anything about money. Mother was surprised. "How can you operate without asking me to pay first?" she asked.

"It's an emergency," the doctor said. "We'll operate now and talk about money later."

The operation lasted six hours. Two doctors worked together to repair the spleen.

Afterward, Patrick was sent to a clinic room to heal. On the boy's fourth day in the clinic bed, the doctor told Mother that the operation and clinic stay would cost \$1,000.

Mother didn't have \$1,000. "I only have \$300," she said. "Can you take that instead?"

The doctor agreed to take \$300.



Mother was very happy and very relieved. “I now understand that you are a man of God,” she said. “I want to be a member of your church.”

After ten days, Patrick had recovered completely and went home. He was delighted. His belly no longer hurt, and he could play soccer again.

As he and Mother prepared to leave, Mother told the doctor, “I want to be a member of your church. Please baptize me.”

The doctor called the hospital chaplain, who made arrangements to study the Bible with Mother. Later, Mother was baptized.

Today, Patrick is a happy, healthy boy who goes to church with Mother every Sabbath. Mother comes to the clinic to work as a volunteer several times a week. She mops the floors and keeps the hospital neat and tidy. It’s her way of saying thank you to God for saving her son’s life at the Adventist clinic. 🌍

Part of a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, went to help refurbish and expand the clinic that cared for Patrick in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The full name of the hospital is the Adventist Clinic of Kinshasa. Thanks to that previous offering, Patrick and many other people have been able to receive medical assistance and to learn about God. One of the mission projects for this quarter will also help teach people about God in Kinshasa and beyond. The project is a new

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 Adventist hospital that is featured in this story and that received part of the offering in 2019. This quarter, part of the offering will help open a media center with Hope Channel, Adventist World Radio, a social media evangelistic center, and a French-language call center in Kinshasa.
- Know that the U.S. dollar is widely used alongside the Congolese franc in the country, so many financial transactions are carried out in the U.S. currency.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Patrick at: bit.ly/Patrick-ECD.
- Know that the Adventist doctor who led Patrick’s operation and serves as the director of the Adventist hospital is Pascal Kazadi Kapaka, 36.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

media center with 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.

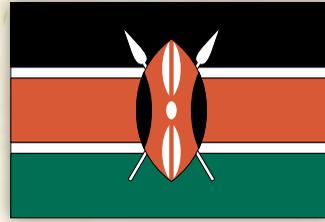


AMAZING COUNTRY

Wild animals found in the DRC include lions, antelopes, buffaloes, cheetahs, giraffes, and hyenas. Hippopotamuses and crocodiles can be found in rivers and lakes.

BigStockPhoto.com





KENYA | May 30

Randy

Asking for a Brother

Every afternoon after school, eight-year-old Randy came home and felt so alone in Kenya.

Father and Mother were still at work, and the house seemed so, so empty.

He didn't have any brothers or sisters, so he didn't have anyone to talk to.

He didn't have anyone to play with.

Time crawled by so, so slowly as he waited for his parents to come home.

One Friday, the loneliness became just too much. Randy couldn't take it anymore.

When Mother came home, he asked if she could help.

"Could I have a little brother?" he said.

Mother didn't say anything.

Randy sensed that she didn't like the idea, but that didn't discourage him. He still wanted a little brother.

"Mother," he said. "What should I do if I want something?"

"You should pray," Mother replied.

Randy went straight to his bedroom, closed the door, and prayed to the God of heaven.

"Please, God, help me get a brother so

I won't be alone any longer and I'll have someone to play with," he prayed.

Then Mother called him for his supper of rice, beans, and bananas.

Later, at family worship that evening, Father read from the Bible as Randy and Mother listened. When Father finished, everyone prayed. Randy asked God again for a little brother.

"Please, God, help me get a brother," he said. "In the meantime, keep me company tomorrow so I won't be lonely. In Jesus' name, Amen."

When everyone opened their eyes, Father looked at Mother. Mother looked at Father. Mother smiled. Then Father looked at Randy.

"It's good that you have learned how to pray," he said. "Keep it up!"

The next day was Sabbath, and the family went to church. In Sabbath School, Randy prayed again for a little brother. He didn't tell the Sabbath School teacher. He didn't tell any of the other boys and girls. He just closed his eyes during the Sabbath School class and asked God to give him a little brother.



After that, Randy prayed for a brother every day. He prayed and prayed and prayed. He believed that God would answer his prayers. He was sure that God was doing something about it.

Sure enough, God was doing something about it. About a year passed, and Mother gave birth to a baby boy. Randy finally had a little brother! His name was Ryan.

Randy was so happy! He was no longer alone. Now he had a brother to talk to, He had a little brother to play with.

The two boys quickly became close friends. They loved to play together. Randy took little Ryan's rattle and shook it in front of his face. *Clack! Clack! Clatter! Clatter!* went the rattle.

Ryan watched with big eyes, and he smiled and smiled and smiled.

Jesus says in the Bible, "Ask, and it will be given to you" (Matthew 7:7, NKJV). Randy knows that Jesus' words are true.

"I learned that when you ask for something, God will answer," he said. 🌍

One of the mission projects for this

Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of Kenya on the map. Then show the town of Ongata Rongai, where one of this quarter's projects, Merisho Advent Community Nursery School, is located. The town is just south of Kenya's capital, Nairobi.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Randy at: bit.ly/Randy-ECD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

quarter is a school in Kenya where children can learn about the God of heaven who answers prayers. The school is called Merisho Advent Community Nursery School and is located not far from Randy's home. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.



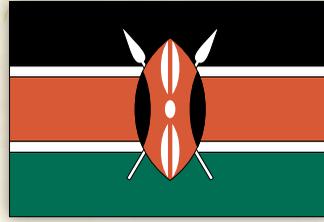
MISSION RECORD

The first Adventist missionaries came to British East Africa (now Kenya) in 1906. Peter Nyambo, Arthur Carscallen, and his wife, Helen Thompson, established the Gendia Mission on the eastern shores of Lake Victoria and began work among the Luo people.

A South African farmer named David Sparrow and his family arrived in British East Africa in December 1911 to farm the Uasin Gishu Plateau in the highlands. They became the first white non-missionary Adventists in British East Africa.

The Sparrows spread the gospel message among the Nandi people, as well as to the Afrikaans-speaking and English-speaking European settlers who farmed the plateau.

In 1921, Dr. Alex George Madgwick and his wife, Vera, settled at Kanyadoto Mission, to begin the first Adventist medical work in Kenya. He worked in difficult conditions, performing surgeries on a kitchen table in a mud hut and sterilizing his instruments in open fires using kerosene tins.



KENYA | June 6

Jayden

Prayer Makes Things Better

Do you like to hear mission stories? Jayden is a 10-year-old boy in Kenya. He likes to hear mission stories in Sabbath School every week. He not only likes to hear mission stories, but he also likes to tell mission stories.

Jayden eagerly nods his head when the teacher asks if he would like to tell the mission story in Sabbath School next Sabbath. He receives a copy of the *Children's Mission* quarterly to read at home. During the week, he reads and rereads the mission story until he can remember it by heart. Then on Sabbath morning, he stands up in Sabbath School and tells the story to all the boys and girls.

So, when the mission story was about a girl in Alaska, he carefully read and reread the story all week. Then on Sabbath, he stood up and told all the children about 11-year-old Olivya. He told about how she missed her dog when she went to the Polaris summer camp in Alaska. He told about how the camp counselor prayed with her. He told about how prayers made everything better.

Jayden likes mission stories. He also likes to pray. He knows that prayer makes everything better.

Today's mission story is about how prayer made everything better for Jayden.

Something very sad happened when Jayden was seven years old. His grandfather died. Jayden was very sad. Grandfather had been so kind. He had helped many people. He had also loved Jayden very, very much. In fact, Jayden was pretty sure that Grandfather had loved him more than any of the other grandchildren. Whenever he and Grandfather had spoken by phone, Grandfather had always said, "You are my favorite grandchild."

Jayden couldn't believe that he would never see Grandfather again. Jayden couldn't believe that he would never talk to Grandfather again. He cried and cried. He had trouble sleeping at night. He had bad dreams. He had loved Grandfather more than anything in the whole world.

One day, he felt so sad that he tried to do something bad to himself. But two cousins



stopped him. They told Father, and Father brought a Seventh-day Adventist pastor to the house. The pastor sat down with Jayden and had a long talk with him.

“God gives life,” the pastor said. “It’s up to God to decide when is the best time for life to start and when is the best time for life to end. God knows the best time for everything.”

Then the pastor prayed with Jayden.

Jayden was glad to hear that God knows everything. He decided to just leave everything to God. He would trust God’s wisdom and God’s timing.

Jayden began to cry less. He began to smile more. The bad dreams stopped, and he was able to sleep at night. Life became good with God.

Today, Jayden still misses Grandfather. But he is no longer sad. He has hope. He knows that one day Jesus will raise Grandfather back to life and they will have a wonderful reunion. He can’t wait for that day.

“I surrender everything to God,” he said. 🌍

One of the mission projects for this quarter

Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of Kenya on the map. Then show the town of Ongata Rongai, where one of this quarter’s projects, Merisho Advent Community Nursery School, is located. The town is just south of Kenya’s capital, Nairobi.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Jayden at: bit.ly/Jayden-ECD.
- Encourage the children to take turns learning and telling the mission story in Sabbath School.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

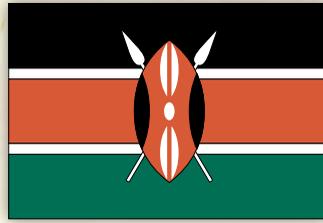
is a school in Kenya where children can learn about the God who gives hope to the sad. The school is called Merisho Advent Community Nursery School and is located not far from Jayden’s home. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.



AMAZING COUNTRY

Typical Kenyan dishes include *ugali*, a traditional cornmeal porridge; *sukuma wiki*, collard greens cooked with onions and spices; *nyama choma*, grilled meat; *kachumbari*, a salsa made of chopped onions, tomatoes, and peppers; *githeri*, a vegetarian stew made with corn and kidney beans; *vibibi*, coconut and rice pancakes; *pilau*, a spicy rice dish; and *chapati*, a flatbread made with flour, oil, water, and salt grilled over open fire.





KENYA | June 13

Stephen

Birds Lead the Way

Although it was only nine o'clock in the morning, Stephen was already thinking about lunch. It was the season when flocks of weaverbirds were flitting across the Kenyan sky, and the eleven-year-old boy thought one or two of the small birds would make a tasty lunch.

Grabbing his slingshot, Stephen left his house and immediately spied a flock of grayish-brown weaverbirds with golden breasts. He stooped down and selected a small stone. Placing it in his slingshot, he raised his hands to take aim. At that moment, the flock of birds took off in fluttering ball.

Stephen was not worried. He knew that the birds wouldn't fly far, and he followed them.

Sure enough, the flock soon landed. Stephen crouched down, trying to hide from the birds. Then he raised the slingshot to take aim. Immediately, the flock took off again.

Stephen was determined to enjoy one or two weaverbirds for lunch. So, he followed the flock until it landed again. But when he raised his slingshot, the birds took off yet again.

The touch-and-go game between the boy and the birds continued for some time.

Up, down, up, down, up, down. Every time Stephen raised his slingshot, the birds took off, flew a short distance, and then settled back onto the ground as if waiting for the boy to catch up.

Before Stephen knew it, he had followed the birds to the open door of a building. Looking inside, he saw a classmate from school. The boy, who also was eleven years old, was standing in front of a group of people and speaking to them. Stephen had always considered himself smarter than this classmate, and he wondered, "How is it that he is speaking to all those people?"

Then he heard a man's voice, saying, "Come in, come in."

An old man was inviting him to come through the doorway and listen to the boy tell a mission story during Sabbath School.

Stephen abruptly realized that he was standing outside a Seventh-day Adventist church. The old man and his classmate were dressed in their best clothes. Stephen looked down at his clothing. He was wearing ragged shorts. He backed away from the door.

"Come in just as you are," the old man said.



Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of Kenya on the map. Then show the town of Ongata Rongai, where one of this quarter's projects, Merisho Advent Community Nursery School, is located. The town is just south of Kenya's capital, Nairobi.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

Stephen hesitated for a moment and, while he was thinking about what to do, the old man surprised him.

"I know your parents," the man said. "They used to be members of this church. But then your grandfather came and chased them out. He said he would disown them if they worshiped here. They never came back."

Stephen was embarrassed to enter the church in his shorts. But he promised the old man that he would put on nicer clothes and come back the next Sabbath.

As he left the church, his thoughts returned to the birds. He still hadn't caught any for lunch. He looked around the church, but no birds were in sight. During his conversation with the old man, the flock had disappeared.

For the next week, Stephen thought a lot about what the old man had said about his parents and grandfather. He remembered hearing his father talk about going to church. But he hadn't known that it was the Adventist church. Now he understood that his grandfather, who was the village medicine man, had chased them out of church on a Sabbath morning and forbidden them from returning.

Stephen kept his promise to the old man. He put on long pants and returned to the church the next Sabbath. The people were warm and welcoming. He loved the singing, and he was amazed that the other children knew all the words by heart. He thought, "How is it that they know all the words and I don't? I can memorize the songs, too."

He went back the next Sabbath and the

next. Before long, he knew all the words to the songs, and he also was telling the mission story for Sabbath School. When he was 12, he gave his heart to Jesus and was baptized.

Today, Stephen Kombe is a leader of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kenya. He is amazed that God used a flock of weaverbirds to lead him to church.

"God knows what will get our attention and bring us to Him," he said. "With Moses, He used a burning bush to get his attention. With me, he used a flock of birds. God can use nature to lead us to Him." 🌍

One of the mission projects for this quarter is a school in Kenya where children can learn about the God of heaven. The school is called Merisho Advent Community Nursery School. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

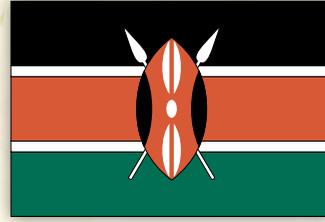


AMAZING COUNTRY

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).



BigStockPhoto.com



KENYA | June 20

John

Ears to Hear

John was four years old, but he hardly ever left the house. He was four years old, but he hardly ever left his room. Father and Mother didn't want anyone to know about him. They were ashamed because he was deaf.

Now it might seem odd to be ashamed of a child who cannot hear. But in Kenya, where John lives, some fathers and mothers think that having a child who is deaf is a punishment from God. The fathers and mothers think that God is punishing them for doing something wrong.

Those fathers and mothers have a wrong understanding of God. God never punishes parents by giving them a child who is deaf. God is love, and He wants every child to hear. But sin is a bad thing and, because of sin, bad things sometimes happen.

John's parents were ashamed, so they didn't want anyone to see him.

Poor little John.

One day, John went to a camp meeting. At the camp meeting, Father and Mother made a new friend who happened to be a teacher. The teacher heard about John from other

people and he asked about the boy. But John's parents didn't want to admit to him that that they had a son who was deaf. They were too ashamed.

The teacher wanted to help, and he said, "Look, I'm deaf, too, and I'm the principal of a school for deaf children. We can help."

Father and Mother were so surprised that they had been talking to a person who was deaf. They were so surprised that he had also gone to school and had a good job. The teacher had lost his hearing when he was 14, and he could talk and read lips.

John's parents took the teacher to the boy. John was sitting alone. His muscles were weak, and he couldn't walk. He looked at the stranger with fear. He didn't know many people other than his parents.

The teacher knew that John couldn't hear him. He knew that John couldn't read lips. But he knew another way to communicate. He knew that all boys like cellphones, so he pulled out his cellphone and showed John some photos.

John's eyes lit up when he saw a photo of a soccer ball.



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 John is a pseudonym to protect the privacy of the boy and his family.
- Know that teacher's name is Obiero. It is pronounced: OH-beer-o.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

The teacher indicated with his hands that he had a soccer ball outside the tent. John was eager to see the ball, but he was scared to leave the tent.

The teacher visited John every day at camp meeting and became his friend. By the end of camp meeting, John agreed to go with the teacher and his parents to see the ball at the school for deaf children.

When they arrived, John was so happy to see a real soccer ball! He held it in his hands. He rolled it on the ground. He wished that he had strong legs to kick the ball.

The teacher suggested that John move into a school dormitory and start classes.

John's parents agreed.

The school had 72 children, including 43 girls and 29 boys, who could not hear. Father and Mother wanted John to be the 73rd child at the school. For the first time, they realized that many children other than John are deaf. For the first time, they realized that being deaf is not a curse.

Six months have passed since John started studying at the school. His legs have grown stronger, and he loves to chase the soccer ball.

He also is learning to pray. He doesn't know enough sign language to understand everything. But he realizes that there is a God who the other children talk to every day. He knows how to fold his hands to pray and how to say "amen" with his hands at the end.

"The boy loves the school," the teacher said. "If you saw him today, you wouldn't believe that he once couldn't walk." 🌍

Part of a previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering, went to help refurbish and expand the school where John is studying in Kisii, Kenya. The full name of the hospital is Mwata Adventist School for the Deaf. Thanks to that previous offering, many children have been able to receive an education and learn about the God who will destroy sin and give them ears that can hear one day soon. One of the mission projects for this quarter is another school, Merisho Advent Community Nursery School, that teaches children about God in Kenya. Thank you for giving generously to this important project.

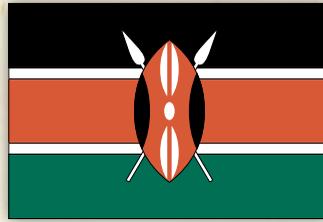


AMAZING COUNTRY

Kenya's national animal is the lion

BigStockPhoto.com





13th SABBATH | June 27

Michelle

An Answer to Prayer

A prayer made by a little girl four years ago is being answered today. That's right. You heard correctly. A prayer made by a little girl four years ago is being answered in Sabbath School today.

The little girl's name is Michelle, and she lives in Kenya.

When Michelle was six years old, her parents sent her to a Seventh-day Adventist school called Merisho Advent Community Nursery School. Michelle had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists. Her parents also didn't know much about Adventists. They believed in God, but they went to church on another day of the week, and they hardly ever prayed.

One of the first things Michelle noticed at the school was that the children prayed every morning. Before classes started, the children gathered to listen to a teacher read a story from the Bible. The stories were about Job, Joseph, and the kind Shepherd who found the missing sheep. After the story, the teacher asked one, two, three, four, or even five children to pray.

Michelle wasn't used to praying, and she

listened carefully as the other children spoke to God. Before long, she raised her own hand and said she also wanted to pray.

That first time, she prayed for her school.

"Dear God, please bless the school and the teachers and the children," she prayed. "Give us nice, new buildings where we can go to school."

The school's principal overheard the prayer, and he was pleased. He also wanted God to bless the school and the teachers and the children. He also was praying for nice, new buildings where the children could study. The school's buildings, which were beside an Adventist church, were old and rundown. There wasn't enough classroom space for all the children who wanted to study.

As the weeks and months passed, Michelle kept listening to children's prayers in the morning and when school ended in the afternoon. When she prayed at school, she added new things to her prayers. But she always asked God to bless the school and the teachers and the children and to provide nice, new buildings.



Story Tips

- Show the continent of Africa and the country of Kenya on the map. Then show the town of Ongata Rongai, where one of this quarter's projects, Merisho Advent Community Nursery School, is located. The town is just south of Kenya's capital, Nairobi.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Michelle at: bit.ly/Michelle-ECD.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.

The school's principal was pleased every time that he heard her pray. He thought God would do something wonderful.

At school, the teachers reminded the children to tell their parents every day what they had learned. So, Michelle told her parents about learning to pray. She said they needed to pray at home.

Father and Mother liked the idea of praying. The family began to pray together in the morning before Michelle went to school. They prayed at night before going to bed. They prayed before meals. It was a new experience for the family, but everyone liked it very much.

One day, Michelle came home and announced that she had memorized Ephesians 6:1. She recited the Bible verse to her parents, saying, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right" (NKJV).

Father and Mother were pleased. They were happy that she was learning the Bible. They were glad that she was learning to be an obedient girl.

Then Michelle came home and said she had learned about the Sabbath day.

"We're supposed to rest on the Sabbath day because God says in the fourth commandment, 'Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy,'" she said.

Father and Mother wanted to know more, so the girl opened the Bible and showed them the fourth commandment in Exodus 20:8-10.

She also showed the story of Creation in Genesis 1 and how God rested on the seventh day from His work of creation and made the Sabbath day holy in Genesis 2:1-3.

Michelle said she wanted to go to the church beside her school on Sabbaths. Father and Mother gave their permission, but they weren't sure about going themselves.

So it was that Father and Mother thought about the Sabbath for a whole year. Then they decided that they wanted to go to church with Michelle. They wanted to keep the Sabbath day holy. Father and Mother gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized.

Now the whole family goes to church on



AMAZING COUNTRY

Kenya's name comes from Mount Kenya. It probably comes from the Kikuyu and Kamba languages and means, "God's resting place."





Michelle standing with her father and little brother, Maxwell, outside Merisho Advent Community Nursery School in Ongata Rongai, Kenya.

Sabbath: Father, Mother, Michelle, and her little brother named Maxwell. Even today, on this special Thirteenth Sabbath, they are in church, worshipping God together with millions of other people around the world.

Michelle is happy that she brought her family to church. But today she is especially happy about something else. Today, God is answering her prayers. She has prayed for four years for God to provide nice, new buildings for her school. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering (also known as the Quarterly Mission Project Offering) will go to her school so it can have nice, new buildings. 🌍

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.

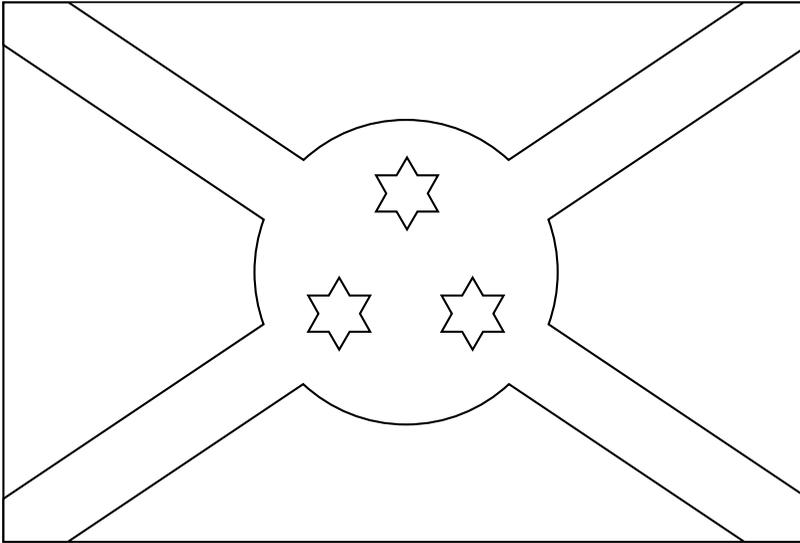
Thank you for your offering that will help Merisho Advent Community Nursery School in Kenya. The offering will also go to four other projects in the East-Central Africa Division: a mega media center in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo; a nursing school at the Adventist University of Lukanga in the Democratic Republic of Congo; a clinic in Burundi; and a clinic on the island of Zanzibar in Tanzania. Thank you for giving generously to an offering that is helping answer Michelle's prayer.

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

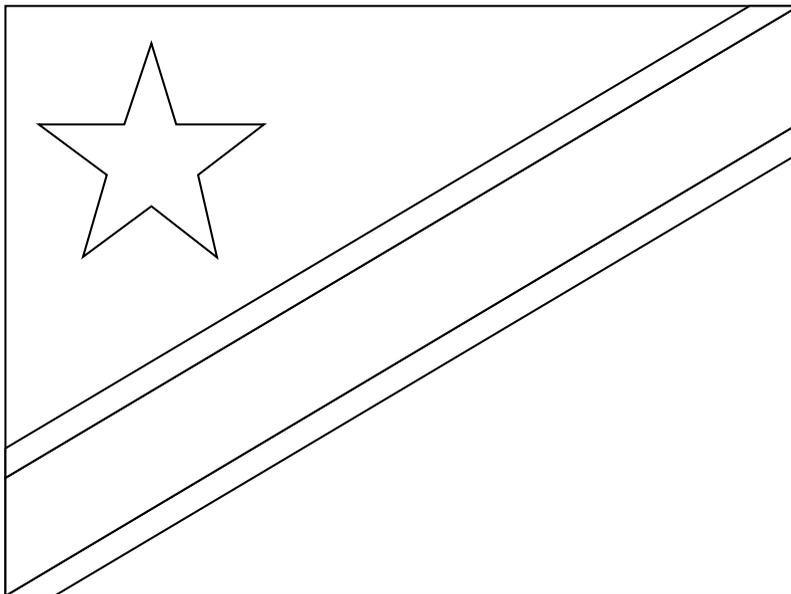
Color The Flag



BURUNDI

DIRECTIONS:

Leave the X and circle in the middle white. Color the top and bottom triangles red, and the triangles on the sides green. Color the middle of the stars red, and the outside of the stars green.

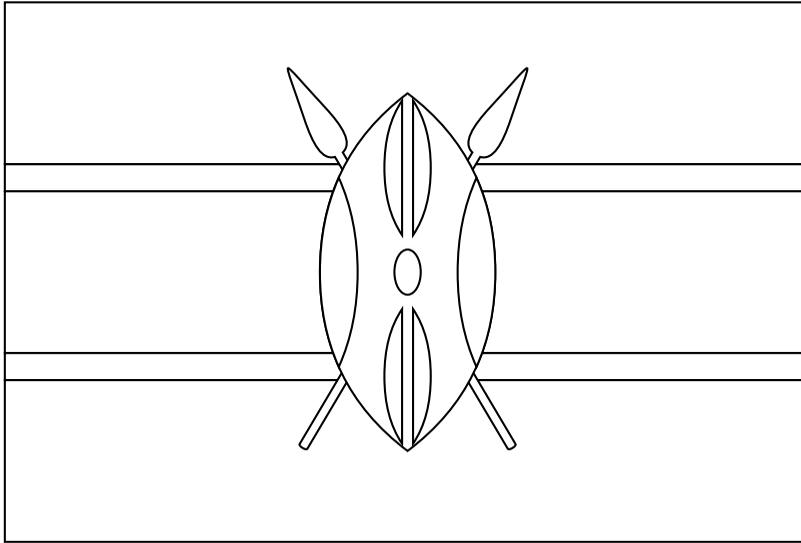


DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

DIRECTIONS:

Color the top left triangle and the bottom right triangle medium blue. Color the middle stripe red, and the thin stripes on either side yellow. Color the star yellow.

Color The Flag



KENYA

DIRECTIONS:

Color the top stripe black, the middle stripe red, and the bottom stripe green. Leave the thin strips between the colors white. Leave the spears white. On the shield, leave the oval in the middle of the shield, and the figures stretching above and below it, white. Color the main part of the shield red. Color the oval shapes on either side of the shield black.

Sing a Song

KENYA/TANZANIA JESUS LOVES ME

SWAHILI

*Anipenda ni kweli
Mungu anena hili
Sisi wake watoto
Kutulinda si zito
Yesu Anipenda
Yesu Anipenda
Kweli Anipenda
Mungu amesema!*

PRONUNCIATION

Ah-nee-pen-dah nee kway-lee
Moon-goo ah-nee-nah hee-lee
See-see wah-kay wah-toe-toe
Kah-toe-leen-dah see zee-toe
Yay-zoo ah-nee-pen-dah
Yay-zoo ah-nee-pen-dah
Kway-lee ah-nee-pen-dah
Moon-goo ah-may-say-mah

ENGLISH

Jesus loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong!
Yes! Jesus loves me!
Yes! Jesus loves me!
Yes! Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so!

Make a Craft

KENYA

PAPER BEADS

Paper beads are one of the oldest crafts in Africa. Women in the villages, many living in poverty, often make the paper beads from magazines that they find, and then sell them to make a little money.

YOU WILL NEED:

Magazine pages
Scissors
Glue stick
Elastic, string, or wire

Something to wind the paper around
like a paintbrush, toothpick, or straw
Clear or glitter nail polish (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Cut the pages of the magazine into long strips of different shapes (rectangle, triangle, oval, etc.). Each shape will make a slightly different shaped bead.

Starting ½ inch (1 cm) from the wider end, run the glue stick down to the pointed end.

Starting at the wide end, wrap your

strip around your paintbrush/toothpick/
straw, etc., until you get to the pointed end.

Take your bead off and start the next one.

If you want to give the beads more durability, cover them with a coat of nail polish and let dry.

You can string your beads together using the elastic, string, or wire.

A tutorial can be found on YouTube at: bit.ly/beads-tutorial.

Speak a Language

ENGLISH

Hello
Goodbye
Yes
No
Please
Thank you
Girl
Boy

SWAHILI

habari
kwaheri
ndio
hapana
tafadhali
asante
msichana
kijana

KIRUNDI

mwaramutse
ndabaramukije
egome
oya
ndagusavye
murakoze
umukobwa
umuhungu

FRENCH

bonjour
au revoir
oui
non
s'il te plaît
merci
fille
garçon

Let's Cook!

EAST AFRICA

CHICKPEAS IN COCONUT SAUCE

Makes 4 servings

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 (14-oz/400 g) cans chickpeas (drained and rinsed)
- 1 medium onion (finely chopped)
- 1 medium green bell pepper (finely chopped)
- ¼ cup (60 ml) coconut oil
- 4 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp minced garlic
- 1 tbsp minced ginger
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 3 tbsp tomato paste
- 2 tsp garam masala
- 2 tsp crushed red pepper
- 1 tsp sweet paprika
- ½ tsp ground turmeric
- 1 (14-oz/400 ml) can coconut milk
- 1 cup (240 ml) vegetable stock
- Salt to taste
- Handful fresh cilantro
- Rice or flatbread, for serving

INSTRUCTIONS:

Heat oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. When hot, add the chopped onion and bell pepper, and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion has softened and turned light golden around the edges.

Add the green onions, minced garlic, minced ginger, and cumin seeds to the pot, and cook, stirring frequently, until fragrant.

Stir in tomato paste, garam masala, crushed red pepper, sweet paprika, and ground turmeric and cook, stirring occasionally, until the tomato paste darkens.

Slowly stir in coconut milk until the tomato paste dissolves. Then stir in the chickpeas and vegetable stock. Season with salt to taste, allow to come to a simmer, and cook uncovered for 10 minutes.

Roughly chop the cilantro and stir in when ready to serve. Enjoy with rice or flatbread.



BigStockPhoto.com

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
Wikitravel
U.S. State Department

mae.gov.bi/en
wikitravel.org/en/Burundi
bit.ly/USSD_Burundi

DRC: government website
Congo Travel and Tours
U.S. State Department
Kenya: government website
CNN
Lonely Planet

ambadrcusa.org
congotravelandtours.com
bit.ly/USSD_DRC
president.go.ke
cnn.it/40Tix77
lonelyplanet.com/kenya
tanzania.go.tz
bit.ly/FODOR_Tanz
on.natgeo.com/48SCxjh

Tanzania: government website
Fodor's Travel
National Geographic

Seventh-day Adventist

East-Central Africa Division
Burundi Union Mission
East Kenya Union Conference
West Kenya Union Conference
Northern Tanzania Union Conference
Adventist University of Africa (Kenya)
University of East Africa Baraton (Kenya)
University of Arusha (Tanzania)
Adventist University of Goma (DRC)

ecd.adventist.org
bumadventiste.org
eku.adventist.org
wku.adventist.org
en.ntucadventist.org
aua.ac.ke
ueab.ac.ke
uoa.ac.tz
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.

children's MISSION

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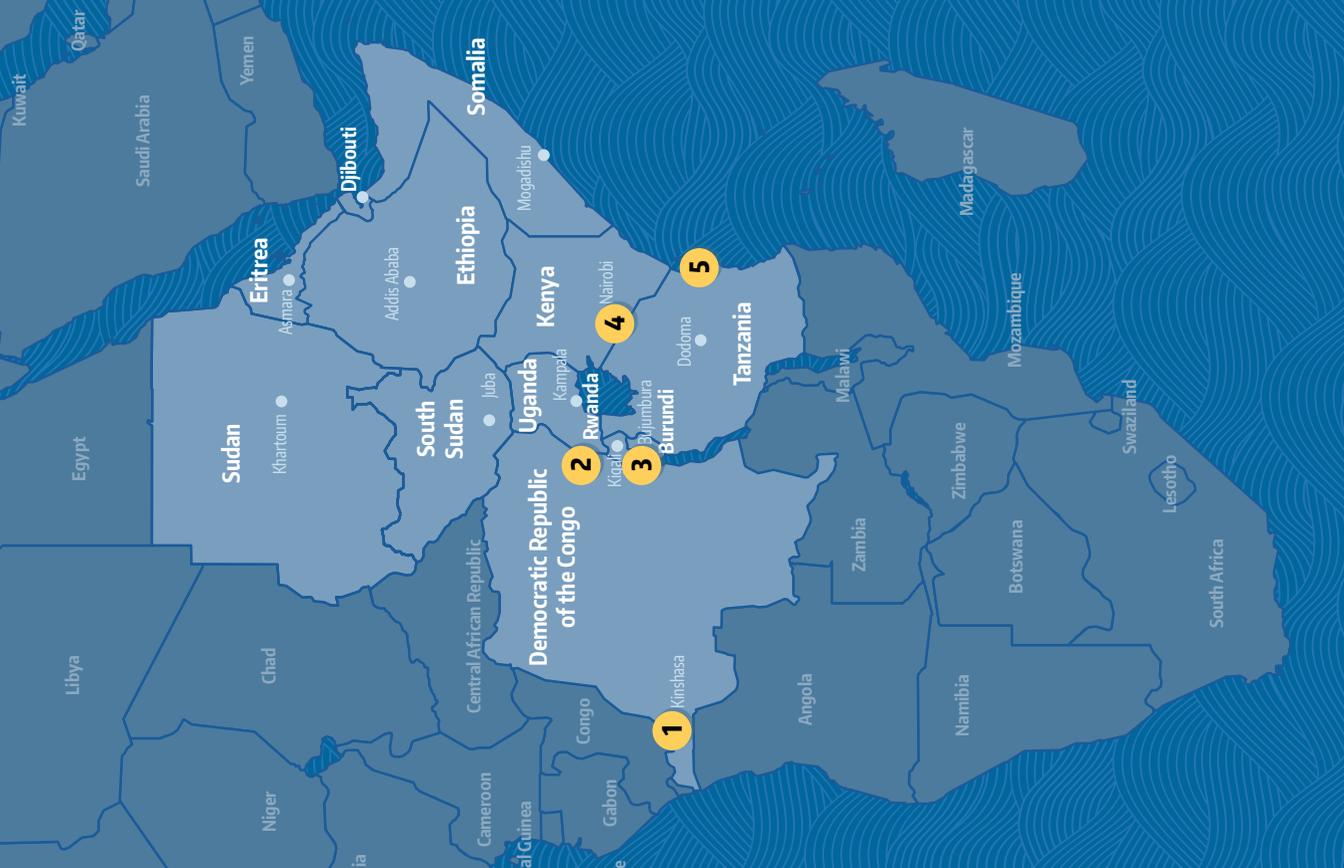
Second Quarter 2026

Volume 115, Number 2

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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