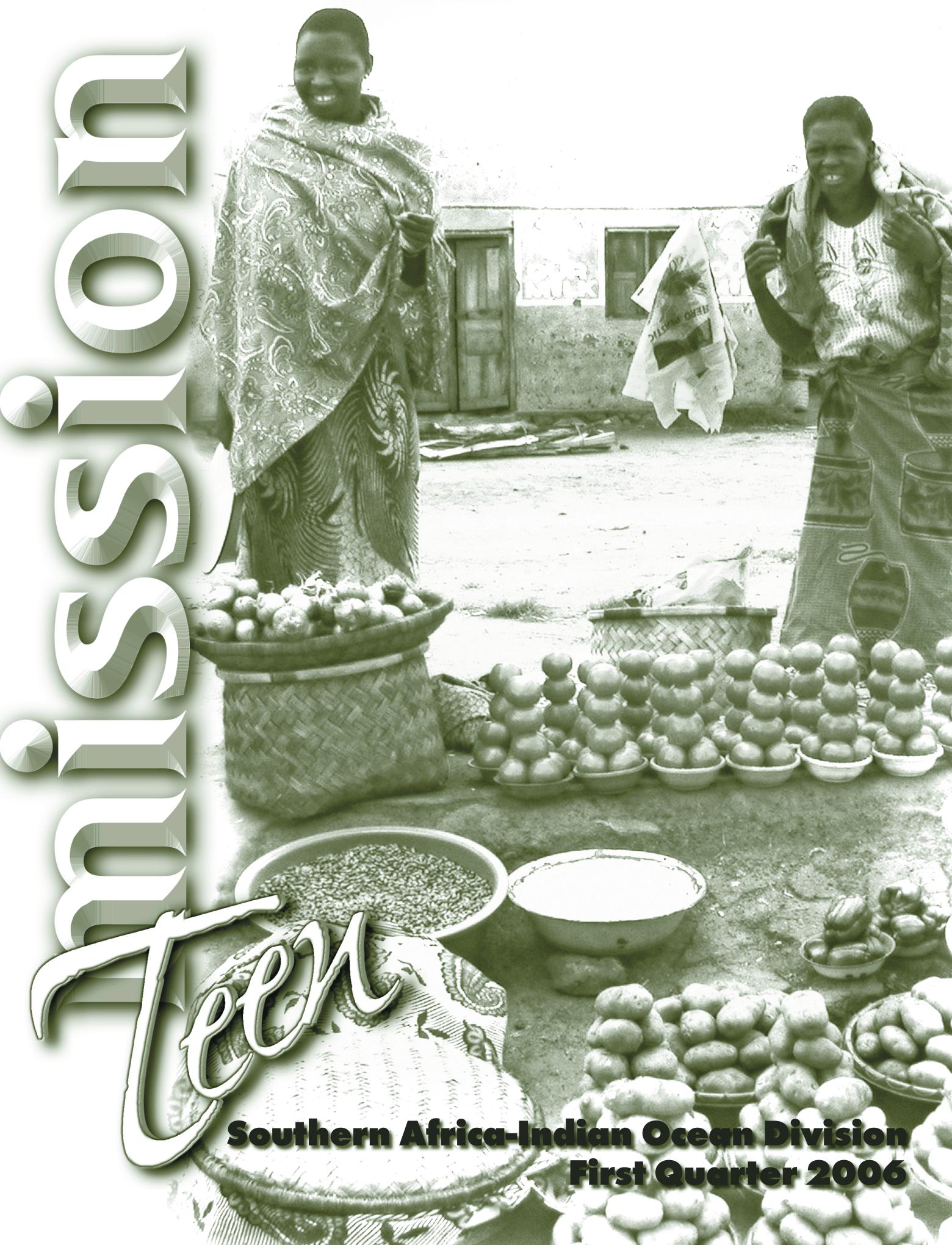


MISSIONS

Year

**Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division
First Quarter 2006**



Teen Mission

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Building for the Future

On the cover: Caption?

making missions meaningful

Leader's Planner

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

The Challenge

Poverty and lack of opportunities continue to plague much of Africa. Malawi and Mozambique, the countries being featured this quarter, continue to struggle to raise their standard of living and lift their people out of poverty. Education is a powerful tool to raise the expectations and the abilities of the people to become fully self-sufficient. But both countries suffer from a lack of funds to provide the level of education needed to meet their needs.

Malawian Adventists, who number roughly one for every 50 people in the country, value education for service and have begun to upgrade Lake View Adventist Seminary into a full-service tertiary institution to be called Malawi Adventist College.

Mozambique's challenge is even greater. Years of war—first a struggle for independence, then a civil war—destroyed many of the country's schools, hospitals, and government facilities.

Rebuilding is painfully slow. In order to staff the few Adventist schools in Mozambique, the Adventist Church must educate more teachers. The church has voted to expand its seminary to include teacher training, a vital link to training Adventist young people for service. They truly are the church's hope for the future.

The Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help:

- Upgrade Mozambique's seminary to a full tertiary-level institution
- Provide a women's dormitory for Malawi Adventist College

GraceLink Connection

Mission reports relating to the Sabbath School GraceLink dynamics can be found on the following pages:

Grace	9, 13, 21,
Worship	5, 7, 15, 17
Community	11, 19, 23, 25

The Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division is the newest member of the Adventist family worldwide. Carved from three other divisions and unions, it includes the countries of Angola, Botswana, Comoro Islands, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Reunion, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and the islands of Ascension, St. Helena, Kerguelen, and Tristan da Cunha.

This quarter focuses on Malawi and Mozambique.

Mozambique

For more than 400 years Mozambique's people struggled under colonial rule. A lengthy fight for independence was followed by a 12-year-long civil war that did not end until 1992. The nation was left with little more than burned-out buildings where schools, hospitals, and public institutions once stood. The people continue to suffer the effects of their prolonged struggle for independence and peace. Today a lack of schools and qualified teachers makes it difficult for children to receive an adequate education.

The Adventist Church in Mozambique continues to grow rapidly, with approximately one member for every 98 people

in the nation. The church has embarked on an aggressive plan to upgrade the four primary and secondary schools it operates and to install only Adventist teachers. But this plan is hampered by the lack of university-level schools that train teachers. In response, the Mozambique Union has voted to expand and upgrade its seminary in Beira to a full tertiary-level school that offers diplomas and degrees in education. Other courses will be added as resources allow.

A portion of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the church in Mozambique improve education for children and adults alike. The offering will help renovate and enlarge the existing seminary in Mozambique to meet current standards for a tertiary institution. This will include building a women's dormitory, cafeteria, and classrooms.

Malawi

Malawi is one of the most densely populated nations in Africa. Compared with Mozambique, its neighbor to the south, Malawi's quest for independence was far less costly. More than half of its population continue to engage in farming, fishing, and related occupations. However, as jobs become scarce in rural areas, increasing numbers of Malawians migrate to the cities looking for work. In spite of efforts of the government to generate jobs, Malawi continues to be one of the poorer countries in the world. Half of Malawi's population is under the age of 18.

With one Adventist for every 50 people in Malawi, the church is a strong presence throughout the country. In an effort to train young Adventists for lives of service, Adventists in Malawi have voted to enlarge and expand Lake View Adventist Seminary. It will become a full-fledged tertiary institution, to be called Malawi

Adventist College, and will offer a broader range of courses, including education, English, and business.

Work has begun on the expansion of this school, including new classrooms and a multipurpose-cafeteria building. Dormitories are needed to accommodate students who now must find accommodations in a nearby town. The women students are temporarily housed in the married-student housing, with as many as eight women to one small unit. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a women's dormitory for the new Malawi Adventist College.

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

Second quarter will feature the South American Division.

Special projects there will help build dormitories at two secondary schools in Brazil and build churches in unentered and newly entered areas of the East Brazil Union and the Northwest Argentine Mission.

Third quarter will focus on the South Pacific Division. Thirteenth Sabbath Offering funds will help purchase a mission airplane for Papua New Guinea and build a church and evangelistic center to minister to Adventist students attending several universities and technical institutes in Suva, Fiji.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Program

Read the program early in the quarter, and assign the parts to people who will work to make the presentation a success.

Resources

Recipes from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean region appear on pages 6, 8, and 10 of Children's Mission. Celebrate the cultures of these countries with an international potluck.

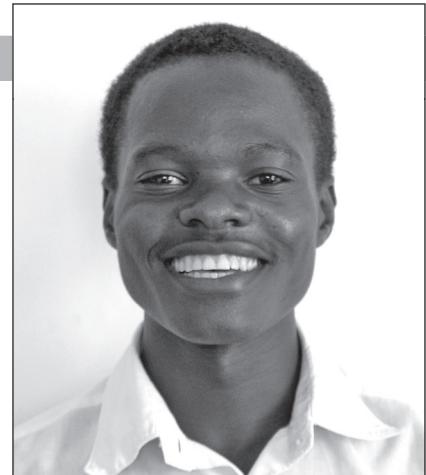
Resource: *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Hagerstown, Md.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 2005. Contains names and addresses of virtually all Seventh-day Adventist institutions and workers around the world. Available through local Adventist Book Centers.

Embassies: Sometimes embassies are able to provide interesting information on their country. In North America, you may contact the Embassy of Malawi, 2408 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008 (telephone 202-797-1007). Or the Embassy of Mozambique, 1990 M Street, NW, Suite 570, Washington, DC 20036 (telephone 202-293-7146).

Web site: For more information on past, present, and future mission projects, or to read or download current mission reports, visit our Web site at www.adventistmission.org.

GraceLink Connection: Worship.

*"God gave you talent, and you should use it,"
his friend urged. But Kirby was not so sure.*



Kirby

Playing for God's Glory

Kirby Kasinja

Kirby loved playing soccer. And he was good—very good. He was strong and quick, and could make powerful shots.

Kirby's coach knew that Kirby was good. He also knew that Kirby would not play soccer on the Sabbath. The coach tried to schedule games for other days so Kirby could play. But during the playoffs, games fell on Sabbath. Kirby reminded his coach that he would not play on Sabbath. The coach tried to convince Kirby to play "just this once," but Kirby refused.

"Why can't you go to church in the morning and play soccer in the afternoon?" the coach asked. Kirby explained that Sabbath is not just a church service, but an entire day, set aside to spend with God. When the coach realized that Kirby would not budge, he arranged to reschedule the game for Sunday. Kirby was glad that his coach wanted him to play, but he knew that rescheduling the games was not the answer.

College, and a Decision

Kirby graduated from high school and enrolled in college. He decided not to join the college soccer team so that he would not be tempted to break the Sabbath. It was more important to do what God wanted.

But Kirby's friend Charles knew Kirby could play. And he urged him to try out. "God gave you your talent," Charles urged. "You should use it. Maybe the coach will let you have Sabbath off."

When Kirby did not talk to the soccer coach, Charles talked to him. He told the coach what a talented player Kirby was and urged the coach to try to recruit Kirby for the team. The soccer coach invited Kirby to join the team. Kirby explained that he had decided not to try out for the team because he knew many games fell on the Sabbath.

"I'd like you to try out for the team," the coach said. "If I promise that you will be excused from games on your Sabbath, will you consider playing?"

Finally Kirby agreed to play,

provided the coach would excuse him from playing in games during the Sabbath hours.

A Test of Faith

The coach watched Kirby play and realized that he was every bit as good as his friend had said he was.

Before the first big game, Kirby found his teammates huddled in the locker room. One player held a gourd with water in it. He went from one player to the next, offering each one water from his gourd to wash his hands and face. "Come on, Kirby," he urged. "Wash with this water. It will help give us good luck, and we can win the game."

"I don't believe in such rituals, and I don't want to take part in them," Kirby told the boy. Kirby preferred to pray that his skill and his Christian conduct during the game would glorify God.

But to Kirby's surprise, the teammate with the gourd of water became angry because Kirby would not participate in the ritual and shouted at him. Kirby listened

to his teammate's shouts, but he still refused to take part. He said if the ritual was that important to winning the game, he would rather not play.

The coach had heard the shouting and intervened. "Hey, let him be. The rest of you can do your ritual, but don't force anyone else to do it." Kirby was grateful for his coach's intervention. While the other boys continued with their good-luck rituals, Kirby walked back to his dormitory and prayed.

Three Prayers, Three Goals

"God, I want Your name to be glorified in this game. I don't want my teammates to believe that their ritual will win the game. Please, God. Let Your name be glorified so that they will know it is You, not their rituals, that bring us the victory."

After praying, Kirby started back toward the soccer field. But suddenly he felt weak—too weak to play. He hurried back to his room and prayed again. "Lord, I need You. I need Your strength to play for Your glory."

Once more he started toward the field. But again he felt as though something was lacking. And a third time he returned to his room to pray.

"God, use me as You see fit. Be in control. I surrender my body, my strength, my skill to You. Amen."

He hurried toward the field, because the game would start soon. "Where have you been? You're late!" his teammates shouted. Kirby apologized, and the game began.

Within the first three minutes Kirby scored a goal. His teammates pounded him on the back and hugged him. Kirby shouted, "Let God be glorified!"

A few minutes later he scored another goal. The players lifted him onto their shoulders and shouted his name. He shouted too, "Let God's name be glorified!" A teammate who heard his shouts whispered to him, "You surely worship a powerful God!"

A few plays later Kirby saw the ball speeding toward him. He ran toward it and hit it with his head, scoring a third goal. The

fans went wild, but Kirby felt very humble. His team won the game four to one.

After the game Kirby returned to his room to thank God for the victory in his personal life and victory for the team. He realized that he had prayed three times for God to be glorified, and he had scored three goals.

The next game was scheduled for Sabbath, and Kirby reminded the coach that he would not be there. When the coach refused to excuse him from playing, Kirby realized that his original decision not to play had been a wise one. He turned in his uniform and withdrew from the soccer team. When people asked why, Kirby said, "If I can't play soccer for God's glory, then I won't play at all." He had seen how the devil could use something he loved, soccer, to tempt him to wander away from God. And that he was not willing to do.*

Kirby Kasinja lives in Lilongwe, Malawi.

let's talk

? Kirby loved soccer, and he was good at it. Why did he decide to quit playing after high school? When he agreed to play again in college, what was his goal, his prayer? [To honor God by his playing.] How did he honor God in his playing? [He refused to take part in the rituals his teammates did to assure a win; he prayed instead that God would be glorified; he told his teammates to give God the glory, not him, when he scored the three goals.]

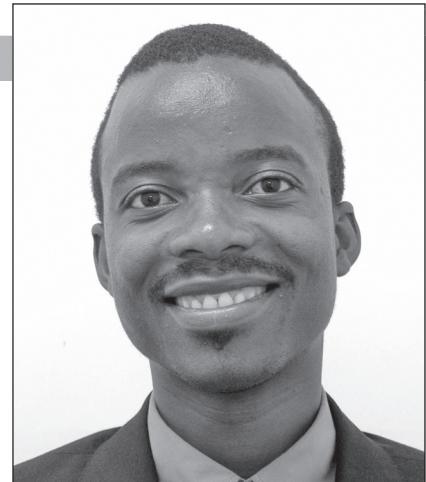
? What talents has God given you? [Let students name some.] Is it OK to use these talents for our own pleasure, or must we use them only for God? [We must be careful how we use our talents. God wants us to enjoy doing the things we are talented to do, but we must always give God the glory for giving us those talents.]

pray

Pray that God will use your life and the talents He has given you to show others His love.

GraceLink Connection: Worship.

Alfred's brother shared his faith with him, and Alfred shared it with his family.



Alfred

A Brother's Faith

Alfred Kilembe

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

As I was growing up, my family rarely went to church together. My mother went regularly, but my father did not. My oldest brother was not really interested in church either, until he went away to high school. There he made friends with some Adventist boys who invited him to church. He went and was amazed at what he learned! He liked mingling with members of all ages, young and old, and everyone accepted him. He continued attending church, and in time he was baptized into membership.

When he came home for a visit, my parents were surprised to see him dress for church on Saturday. They thought he was confused. That night I asked him why he went to church on Saturday when Christians go to church on Sunday. He opened his Bible and read to me from the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. Then it was my turn to be confused. "How can humans

change God's laws?" I asked. He told me that is just the point. A human has no authority to change any part of God's holy law, whether it is "Thou shalt not kill" or "Remember the Sabbath day."

My brother showed me many verses in the Bible that mentioned the seventh day as God's holy day. This knowledge frightened me when I realized that all my life I had been following human laws, not God's law.

I decided I would worship on Sabbath from that day on. I knew of an Adventist church in our village, and I planned to attend there the next week. The church was just a grass shelter where two other families worshipped. One of the families who worshipped in this church was a man who farmed tobacco and had more than one wife. I could have decided right then that this strange church was not for me. But I went because I wanted to worship God on His holy day.

My parents expected me to work on Saturdays, as I always had. They woke us up early on

Saturday morning to work in the garden from 6:00 until 9:00 in the morning. Then, when the rest of the family returned home to rest, I quickly dressed and hurried off to church. At least I could get there in time for the worship service, and I always stayed at church until sundown. This gave me time to fellowship with the members, and I avoided more work at home.

Camp Meeting

Our congregation's leader announced that camp meeting was coming. I wanted to attend; but the camp meeting was quite a distance from my home and I had no money for bus fare, so I walked to the camp.

At camp meeting I heard testimonies of people who were chased from their homes because they followed God. I realized that these people suffered much more than I had. I realized that I must not feel sorry for myself, but be willing to do more for God. I decided that I could no longer work on Sabbath, no matter what

my parents said. I had to obey God, even if it meant disobeying my parents.

On the first Sabbath after I returned home, my father woke us up to go to the fields and work. I stayed behind until the other children left for the garden. Then I dressed and went to church. When I came home that evening, my dad was angry. I asked him to give me work that I could do on Sunday instead of Sabbath, but he refused. After that, any time I needed something he told me to get it from my church.

The next year I started high school. I enrolled in a government boarding school. I learned about an Adventist church located an hour's walk from the school. I attended, and for the first time I experienced what an Adventist church service is really like. I asked my brother for a Bible, and he saved his money to buy me one. He wrote letters from his school encouraging me to stay true to my faith. I decided to be baptized.

When I returned home during school holidays, I offered to do my share of work on Sunday so I could have Sabbath off. My parents still refused. They felt it would look bad if others saw me working on Sunday. So I worked in the garden every evening. I worked hard so that no one could say I was lazy. I wanted my family to see that I took my faith seriously.

Let Me Go With You

One Sabbath morning my older sister told me, "I will go to church with you." Three other brothers and sisters wanted to go too. That day I took four of my brothers and sisters to the little Adventist church. The five of us had sung together in the Protestant church sometimes, and now all five of us were attending the Adventist church. This made me very happy.

But my parents were not happy about this. When we returned home from church that day, my father yelled at me for

misleading the "little ones" in the family. He became very strict with my younger brothers and sisters if they showed an interest in attending the Adventist church services. Sometimes he wouldn't let them into the house at night, and they had to sleep outside. But my sister would open the window and let them in. When I heard this, I wept and prayed for them. The little ones were so little that they could easily have become discouraged, but they continued to attend the Adventist church, praise God!

Life is not easy for my brothers and sisters and me. But I know that God has promised to stay with us and meet our needs. I claim the promise found in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (NKJV).*

Alfred Kilembe lives in Liwonde, Malawi, where he continues to serve God.

let's talk

Alfred, the teen in today's story, decided to attend church even when his parents said he could not. He reasoned that it is more important to follow God's will than our parents'. Is this biblical? Cite a Bible text to support your answer. [God has instructed us to honor our parents (*Exodus 20:12*), but if a time comes when we must choose between obeying our parents and obeying God, we must be faithful to God first according to His Scriptures (*Acts 5:29*).]

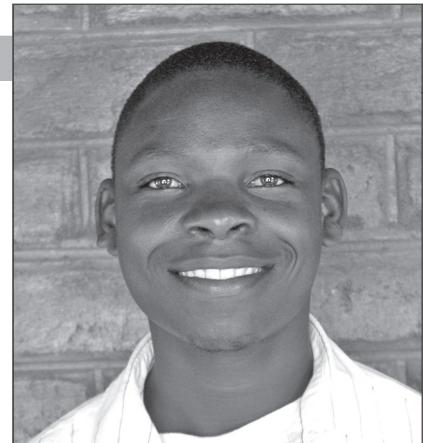
When Alfred first began attending the Adventist church, he worked in the family garden until breakfast time, then dressed and hurried to church. Was this the right thing to do? [God wants us to set the Sabbath aside to spend with Him. Alfred did not understand the idea of Sabbath sacredness, so God did not count it as a sin. However, if we do our own work—or play—on the Sabbath, even though we know better, it is a sin. See *James 4:17*.]

pray

Pray that God will continue to work in Alfred's family, that they will be open to hearing the truth.

GraceLink Connection: Grace.

I left church and joined a political party, disrupting rallies and destroying property. God was waiting for me when I was ready to return.



Horace

Trading Politics for Jesus

Horace Chumba

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

I grew up in a loving Adventist family in Malawi, eastern Africa. From the time I was very small my father told me stories about Jesus, and my mother prayed with me. Our whole family went to church every Sabbath.

But when I started high school my new friends introduced me to politics, and I became active working for a political party. Politics in my country are not always orderly speeches and voting. Often members of one political party fought to bring down the opposition candidate. That is what my friends and I did. We disrupted political rallies and fought anyone who belonged to an opposing political party.

My mother warned me that belonging to this group could lead to real trouble, but I was young and restless, and I did not want to listen to her advice. I left home to live with a friend so that I would not feel my parents' opposition. From then onward I spent even more time in politics.

I was convinced I could make a difference in our town, and maybe even in our country.

We used any tactic we could to cause disturbances in an opposition rally. Once we drove a car to where a political rally would be held. There we created a big disturbance so people would leave. We destroyed the opposition's public-address system and stole whatever we could to use for our own political party.

Our leaders liked what we were doing and praised us for our good work. I knew some of the things we did were wrong, but I became addicted to the power I felt every time I received such praise.

Fighting in the Streets

One day the opposition party planned a rally near the Adventist church. We decided to vandalize the rally. But my father suspected our plans and knew there would be trouble. He called and urged me not to go to the rally. This time, for reasons I did not understand, I listened. My friends went to the rally without me.

Later that night I learned that when my friends arrived to disrupt the rally, the opposition party was ready for them. A huge fight broke out, and several of my friends were seriously injured. The car they had driven to the rally was set afire. I realized that I could have been one of them lying in a hospital—or dead. I thanked my father for warning me, then I knelt down and thanked my heavenly Father for saving me. I realized that God had been with me all along.

The next Sabbath I went to church with my family. The congregation welcomed me back, and several people told me they had been praying for me.

I gave up the political scene and joined a singing group at church. I found joy in ministering to others. I even invited my political friends to pray and study the Bible with me. Some of them did.

Redeeming Wasted Years

I wanted to get my life back on track. I had wasted the money my parents gave me for school fees,

and now they had no money to help me further my education. I was not angry, for I understood that I had caused the problem.

I went to work in my father's welding shop and saved everything I earned. It took me two years to save enough to return to school. When my father saw how earnest I was to return to school, he talked to my mom, and they decided to sacrifice to help me.

At school I told everyone who would listen what I had learned while in the political scene. I told them about God's love and forgiveness, and I urged them to think carefully before making any rash decisions. I had a chance to speak at a school assembly about my life, and I started an Adventist Youth club on campus.

The pastor of a local Adventist church invited me to conduct a youth evangelistic series in a nearby village. I agreed and started preparing. I had to write enough sermons for three weeks. During the meetings, 21 people accepted Jesus as their Savior. It was amazing!

A Call to Lead

I really wanted to attend an Adventist school. I knew that it cost a lot of money, but my

parents agreed to help me pay my school fees. I enrolled in Lakeview Secondary School, the high school located near the Adventist college and seminary. I enjoyed speaking at vespers on Friday evenings and sometimes in the big church on Sabbath morning. People often called me "pastor," and I smiled, because in my heart I knew that God was calling me to make that my lifelong work.

I passed my secondary school exams at last. When my parents asked about my future plans, I told them that I wanted to study at the nearby seminary to become a pastor.

My mother was so happy that she cried. My father was glad too, but he warned me that it would be difficult.

"We want you to follow your calling," my father said. "But we do not have the money to pay your school fees. We would love to help you. But we simply can't."

I started praying. I prayed alone, I prayed with my parents, and I prayed with several different pastors. No money dropped from the sky, and I did not receive a scholarship. But I felt the quiet assurance that I was on the right track at last, and that I should step out in faith and enroll for classes.

Looking Forward

So now I am in my first year of study at the Adventist seminary. It is a struggle, but I know that God has walked with me this far, and though I do not know how He will work out the details, I know He will make a way for me to complete my education so I can serve Him.

Mission offerings support Adventist schools around the world. They also make outreach activities possible. Thank you for giving to mission.*

Horace Chumba is studying theology in Malawi. Our mission offerings help support Adventist schools and colleges around the world as they help train Adventist young people for ministry.

let's talk

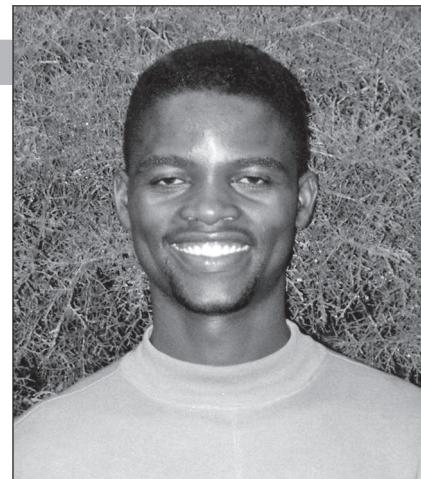
Why do you think Horace joined the political party while in high school? What did he find there that met a personal need? [The political parties were more like a club or a gang. He had friends there and felt that he belonged.] How can we make Adventist Youth meetings as appealing as the secular groups and gangs that young people in your area enjoy? [List answers on a board and copy them down for later implementation.]

pray

Pray that God will show your youth how to introduce their friends to Jesus through programs in the church and personal outreach.

GraceLink Connection: Community.

When Yamikani's parents died, he suddenly became a father to five children. Where was God leading? he wondered.



Yamikani

God's Other Plan

Beverly Herbrandson Koester

Yamikani [YAH-meeBAH-nee] glanced out the classroom window toward the green hills that surrounded Malamulo Secondary School in Malawi. A slight breeze carried the sweet scent of growing gardens. In a few weeks he would graduate. He did not know what the future held for him after that. He wanted to find a job and begin working, and he hoped to attend college one day. He wondered what God had planned for his future.

His reverie was broken when the principal entered the classroom. Yami watched idly as the principal whispered to the teacher. Then the teacher turned toward the class and motioned for Yami to come to the front of the classroom. Surprised, Yami stood and followed the principal out of the classroom.

Yami was surprised to find his uncle waiting for him. The men studied the tall, handsome youth, then his uncle said, "Yami, your mother has died."

Suddenly the entire world

seemed to stand still. "Mother? Dead?" he whispered, his voice betraying his disbelief and anguish. "She was ill, but . . ." His voice trailed off as he tried to wrap his mind around the words. His mother. The mother who had listened to his childish questions and always understood his deep feelings. His mother—dead?

The principal placed a hand on Yami's shoulder. "Go to your family. We will talk when you return." Yami felt numb as he packed a few clothes for the journey home. He remembered his last visit home when he had held his baby brother and chatted with his mother. She looked tired and needed frequent rest. She had made him promise that if ever anything happened to her, he would help raise his brothers and sister to love Jesus. *She must have known*, he thought. *But why did she not tell me?* Even as he thought the words he knew the answer. His mother had wanted him to complete his education. Nothing, not even her death, must stand in his way.

Funeral

The next few days passed in a mind-numbing blur for young Yami. His only comfort was in knowing that his parents were Christians, that they trusted in Jesus for life eternal. Yami would miss his mother, but his hope in Jesus brought him strength.

After the funeral service relatives gathered to discuss the children's care. Yami and his two younger brothers would return to boarding school. Father said he could care for the three middle boys, ages 7 to 13. Granny offered to take the baby brother and 4-year-old sister. With that settled, Yami returned to Malamulo. His heart felt heavy, but he was relieved that his family was cared for.

Following graduation, Yami moved to the city of Blantyre, Malawi, where he stayed with a relative and found work. He was just beginning to settle into his new routine when word came that his father had died. Again the family members gathered for a funeral. Uncle Saulos offered to

take the boys who had remained with Father.

Yami returned to work, but with an even heavier burden of grief. He was concerned about his brothers and sister, especially the little ones who were staying with his grandmother. He earned barely enough to meet his own expenses, and Granny needed money to care for the little ones. He wondered if they would ever be allowed to attend school. And who would teach them about Jesus?

Yami appreciated his uncle's willingness to care for the older boys. But he sensed that the boys were drifting away from God. He wondered how he could help. Yami was glad that he had found a small two-room mud-brick home in a crowded neighborhood. But it was home, and his brothers could come to visit on school holidays.

Then, just as his life seemed to be settling down, Yami's uncle Saulos died. For the third time in a year relatives gathered for a funeral.

Through his pain Yami realized that God had answered at least one of his prayers. He now had a home where he could care for his five teenaged brothers. He was determined to provide them with a Christian family. Yami was glad to have his brothers with him, although his small income barely paid the rent and provided food. Yami wondered how he would manage, but he trusted God to provide.

Yami was offered a scholarship to attend college, but he turned it down. "I want to study, but I cannot leave my brothers," he explained. "They are my responsibility." And he took his responsibility seriously.

Yami found himself busier than ever. Besides his heavy work schedule, he had to arrange for his brothers to enroll in new schools, care for them when they were sick, and provide their daily needs. The brothers had difficulty dealing with the loss of their parents, and this made normal teenage traumas even

more difficult to deal with. Yami, barely out of his teens himself, had little experience dealing with teenage hurt and rebellion. Daily he prayed for wisdom to guide his younger brothers. Daily worship, church attendance, and frequent prayers began to repair the damage done by death. And God blessed; one by one the boys chose to follow Jesus.

Yami has learned to deal with disappointments and trials. He has learned that sometimes God has other plans for our lives. He says, "God did not make my parents die. And losing my parents has helped me to understand God's loss when Jesus died for me. I want to follow God and obey Him, whatever He asks."*

Beverly Herbrandson Koester worked in Malawi when she met Yamikani. Today she lives in Arua, Uganda, and works for the South Sudan Field. Yamikani (a pseudonym) cared for his brothers until they were old enough to be on their own. He and his wife continue to use their talents to show others that God is love, even when we hurt.

let's talk

?

Disease is one of the greatest enemies in Africa. Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and malaria take the lives of thousands every day.

• How do you think Yami felt as he saw first his mother, then his father, and then his uncle die within a short period of time?
[Helpless, troubled, wondered what God was doing.] How did the death of his family members change Yami's life? How did his faith help him through this difficult time?

?

Crises always challenge our faith. It may strengthen our faith, or it may weaken it, and some people lose their faith entirely. What can we do today to assure that a sudden crisis such as illness or death will not rob us of our faith? [If we ground ourselves in God's word and understand why we suffer such losses on this earth, we can build a strong fortress of faith around us that will withstand any loss. With faith this strong we can say with Job, Although He (God) slay me, yet will I trust Him@ (Job 13:15, NKJV).]

pray

Pray that Yami and his brothers will follow God's will for their lives. Pray that we will develop the faith to trust God no matter what happens in our lives.

GraceLink Connection: Grace.

And Andrew “found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah.’ . . . He brought him to Jesus” (John 1:41, 42, NKJV).



Andrew

Long Journey Home

Beverly Herbrandson Koester

Andrew walked quickly past the high walls and grand houses of Blantyre [BLAN-tire], Malawi. He turned onto a winding dirt path that wound around small homes built of sun-baked clay bricks. Neighbors shouted greetings as he strode by. Then he turned into the yard of a small, two-room house with a corrugated iron roof.

“Odi,”* he called as he ducked through the low door into the dark room. “Is anyone home?” As his eyes grew accustomed to the darkness, he saw the familiar small table, four chairs, and a worn sofa. A tin can with flowers rested on the table. He put his bag in the corner and stepped back outside into the sunlight.

A teenage girl walked around the corner of the house, a bucket of water balanced on her head. As she caught sight of her older brother, she smiled and lowered the bucket. “Andrew, it is good you are home,” Malita [mah-LEE-tah] said quietly. “Mother will be home soon.”

Where Is Mabvuto?

That evening the family sat outside and shared news of school and home. “Do you hear from Mabvuto [Mahb-VOO-toh]?” Andrew asked about his brother.

“He has not come home,” his mother answered. “We hear he is living with a girl.” Her voice betrayed her sadness.

Theirs was a Christian family, and Andrew and Mabvuto had enjoyed Sabbath School together. Then Mabvuto formed some unwise friendships, and soon he stopped attending church. When his parents tried to counsel him, Mabvuto declared, “I am old enough to think for myself.” He dropped out of school at 15. When Andrew tried to talk about Jesus, Mabvuto refused to listen. Slowly the brothers grew apart.

That night Andrew lay awake a long time listening to the sounds in the night. Wails in the distance told of someone’s death. Andrew cringed. He had almost forgotten about the scourge of death. People would say someone died of malaria, tuberculosis, or

diarrhea, but everyone knew that the real killer was AIDS. Frequent illnesses spelled doom. It seemed to strike middle-aged parents and young people the most.

Andrew was glad that his father had warned them of the dangers, and urged them to be pure. AIDS and death were constant reminders of the value of his father’s counsel. Andrew turned over, trying to find a comfortable position on his sleeping mat. The floor was hard. He had become used to a mattress at school.

Mabvuto Is Sick

Time passed, and Andrew finished high school. He found work, and life fell into a routine. Then one morning Malita told him, “Mabvuto came home. He is sick.”

Andrew quickly followed her to the open kitchen on the side of the house. There he found his brother lying motionless on the floor. His face was puffed up. Horrified, Andrew turned away. “Where is Father?” he asked Malita.

"He went to work early this morning," she answered. Andrew ran to tell his father of Mabvuto's arrival. He urged the family to take Mabvuto to the hospital, then he hurried to work.

It was late afternoon before Andrew could get to the hospital. He met his brother's doctor in the hall. "Your brother has cancer of the blood vessels," the doctor said solemnly. "Most often this type of cancer is AIDS-related." Andrew's thoughts reeled. How could he tell his family?

As Andrew walked home, he wondered what he should tell his brother. If he told Mabvuto that he had AIDS, Mabvuto would have no hope. He had prayed for Mabvuto ever since his brother had turned from the church, but whenever Andrew had spoken to him about Christ, Mabvuto had refused to listen.

With each step Andrew felt more certain. He had to try to lead Mabvuto back to Jesus. Jesus died for sinners—sick, disobedient sinners. He had to find a way to talk to him, read

to him, tell him of God's love and forgiveness. Andrew walked home, determined to share his love for Jesus with his brother.

Mother was stirring a pot of nsim[†] over a charcoal burner when Andrew arrived. She looked up with questioning eyes, but relaxed when she noted Andrew's smile. Andrew sat down and began talking. "Mother, Mabvuto has cancer. But he also has AIDS. Mother, we must give Mabvuto hope—hope in Jesus." As Andrew talked, Mother caught his hope.

Long Journey Home

When Mabvuto came home from the hospital, Andrew took over his care. And as he cared for his brother, he talked about Jesus. At first Mabvuto tried to ignore what Andrew said. Sometimes he tried to argue, but Andrew did not give up. In time, Mabvuto began to listen. Andrew could see his brother's heart soften.

Then one day Mabvuto asked to see the church leaders. He wanted to make his life right with God. It was hard for Mabvuto to

speak, and he often had to stop for breath. When the church elders left, Mabvuto lay back on the sofa, exhausted. A slight smile crossed his face. As Andrew sat nearby, he heard his brother begin to hum the strains of a song. Andrew joined in, completing the song when Mabvuto could not.

Mabvuto asked his family to sing for him. Sometimes he joined in until he was too exhausted to continue. As Mabvuto grew weaker, Andrew kept vigil by his brother's bedside. Mother had a weak heart, and the strain of Mabvuto's illness was too much for her. Every night Mabvuto asked for songs and prayers before the family went to bed, leaving the two brothers alone. Then one night Mabvuto quietly stopped breathing.

Andrew sat beside his brother's lifeless form. The long vigil was over. A sense of peace surrounded Andrew. He knew he would never be the same. As Andrew in the Bible had brought his brother to Jesus [John 1:40-42] so Andrew in Malawi had helped his brother find Jesus. And in doing so, Jesus had become real to him, as well.*

*Odi is a general word meaning "excuse me" or "I am here."

[†]Nsim^a is a thick cornmeal mush, the Malawian staple food.

Beverly Herbrandson Koester worked in Malawi for several years. Today she and her husband are missionaries in the South Sudan Field.

let's talk

What is AIDS? AIDS is a leading cause of death in many parts of Africa, including Malawi. It affects mostly the young and middle-aged. Besides bringing suffering and death to the individual afflicted, how does AIDS affect the community and the economy of the countries in which it is epidemic? [AIDS strikes young adults to middle-aged people—parents who leave orphaned children behind and workers who contribute to their country's economy. Education on the cause of AIDS and purity to prevent its spread are the primary defenses against the disease.]

What can members of your class do to help someone who is HIV positive or has AIDS? [Offer support through friendship and prayer, help with household tasks such as cleaning or child care. Let class members find other ways they can help.]

Ask a local health professional to answer questions class members may have about AIDS and other life-threatening diseases.

pray

Pray for people afflicted with AIDS, regardless of where they live or how they contracted the disease.

GraceLink Connection: Worship.

In the pale moonlight Landy saw a dark form slither across the chicken pen just a few feet from where he stood. It was a black mamba!



Landy

Cobra in the Chicken Coop!

Debbie and Andrew Herold

Eleven-year-old Landy slumped down under the tree in his front yard and stared across the flat Zambian grasslands. [Locate Zambia on a map.] Landy and his family had come to Zambia two years earlier to work as missionaries. All the Zambian boys his age were in school or working. But Landy and his brother and sisters studied at home. Landy finished his assignments quickly and had lots of time to dream and wish. Landy wished he had a job or a pet to play with. But on the edge of the Kalahari Desert children did not have pets. And he knew of no jobs he could do.

Then Landy had an idea. What if I use my own money to buy a chicken. A chicken can eat bugs and seeds, so it would not need much food. I could sell the eggs and earn some money. I have not seen many chickens near here, so surely I can sell eggs for a good price. Why, I could help by paying my school fees and clothes!

Landy could hardly wait to

tell his parents about his plan. That evening he asked permission to build a chicken house in the corner of their yard. He would build it out of reeds, so it would cost almost nothing. The only expense would be the chickens. Landy's parents agreed with his plan.

The Chicken Business

Early the next day Landy and the family's gardener gathered reeds. It took a long time because they needed lots of reeds. At last they had enough reeds to begin. Landy and the gardener used vines to tie the reeds together. They pushed the reeds into the ground to form the chicken house and the fence that surrounded it. Landy covered the chicken house with thatch made from tall grass, just as the Africans did. It took Landy a month to finish his chicken house.

The next day Landy and the gardener went to the marketplace and bought six young chickens and a rooster. Landy put the birds into their new pen and watched

with pride as they began pecking for food.

Landy loved to spend time in the chicken pen. He even did his schoolwork there. His big brown hen often sat beside him as he studied. Sometimes she hopped on Landy's shoulder and sat quietly as he worked. They were close pals.

Trouble in the Chicken Pen

Late one night a noise awakened Landy. The chickens were squawking. Landy hurried to his parents' room. "Mom, something is wrong! The chickens are making lots of noise. We have to go see what it is!" he cried.

But Mom was not so sure. "It's not safe to go out there, Landy," she said. "It's dark, and whatever is out there could be a thief—or a snake."

"But Mom, my chickens are in trouble! I need to see what is wrong!" Landy ran to the door that led outside.

Mom quickly dressed and hurried after Landy. They prayed quickly, then Landy grabbed his

dad's pellet gun. It could not hurt anyone, but maybe it would scare off whatever was in the chicken pen. Mother grabbed a stick and a flashlight, and the two set out.

The dim moonlight guided them toward the pen, where the chickens were squawking furiously. Suddenly everything became quiet. When Mom and Landy reached the chicken coop, Landy whispered, "Mom, if we find a snake, don't scream."

"OK, OK," Mom whispered. She hoped she could keep her promise.

Landy unlatched the vine rope and opened the gate. Squ-e-e-e-k went the hinge. Slowly he pushed the gate open, and took one step into the pen.

"Y-A-A-A-A!" Landy screamed.

Just a few feet in front of him a long black form slithered across the pen. It was a black mamba,* a poisonous snake.

Nearby one of Landy's white hens sat perfectly still. From under her wings peeked several tiny baby chicks. The chicks watched

the snake, but they did not make a peep. The snake slithered toward the mother chicken, and she could have flown away, but she did not move.

For several seconds Mom and Landy stood transfixed as the snake slithered toward the corner of the henhouse. Suddenly Mom turned and shouted for the guards who worked at the nearby hospital. Soon several guards came running.

Landy told them about the snake and insisted on finding it. They traced its trail through the pen, under the reed fence, and into the tall grass that surrounded the yard. Landy wanted to find the snake and kill it, but the guards held him back. Many dangerous snakes lived in the tall grass, and it was too dangerous to go at night.

Landy counted his chickens and discovered that they were all alive. He and the guards filled the hole where the snake had entered the pen. Then Landy and his mom walked wearily back to the house.

Sunrise Surprise

Early the next morning Mother answered a knock on the door and found the guards from the hospital standing outside. They pointed to an object lying in the yard. It was the body of the black mamba! the biggest anyone had seen in the area. The guards explained that after they returned to the hospital they heard the chickens squawking again. They ran to the pen and found the snake and killed it.

Landy's baby chicks grew up and began laying eggs. Soon Landy had eggs to sell and a story of God's protection to tell to anyone who would listen.*

**Black mamba is the common name for a large venomous snake found in tropical and southern Africa. Mambas are members of the cobra family, and their venom can kill a human unless treated immediately. The black mambas can grow to a length of 14 feet (4.2 meters) and are known for their swiftness.*

Debbie Herold and her family lived in Kenya when she wrote this story. Her son Andrew is a lawyer in Washington, D.C.

let's talk

? Landy's experience with the black mamba is one he will never forget. One thing impressed him very strongly: The chickens squawked loudly and flew about in the chicken pen when the snake first entered their house. The mother hens could have escaped the snake, but instead they gathered their baby chicks under their wings and sat perfectly still as the snake slithered around looking for a meal. The snake came to within inches of the hens, but neither the mother nor the babies let out a peep. The mother chickens remained still, hiding and protecting their chicks from the danger. And the chicks instinctively knew that they must remain under their mother's protective wings and not make a peep.

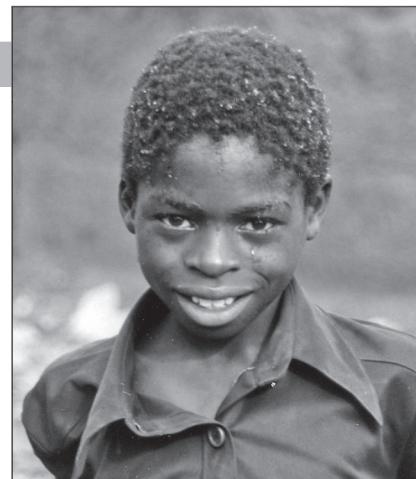
What does this illustration tell us about trust and obedience? about our relationship with our parents? about our relationship with God?

pray

Pray that we will learn whom to trust and whom to obey, just as Landy's chicks obeyed their mothers and remained hidden until danger passed.

GraceLink Connection: Worship.

The village of Khongo is only 20 miles from the capital of Malawi, but the people there live much as they have for centuries .



Grakeman

The Three-Day Church

Trywell Ndoliro and James Roya

Eleven-year-old Grakeman shaded his eyes as he studied the swirl of red dust rising from the road on the horizon. He recognized the white pickup that bounced over the rough dirt road toward his village. Soon he heard the driver's voice announce through a loudspeaker that the meeting would start soon. Grakeman raced across the cornfield toward his parents' hut, shouting, "They're coming! They're coming!"

Visitors

Grakeman and his family live in a traditional African mud-brick hut in the village of Khongo [Congo], in central Malawi. Although the village is only 30 minutes from the modern city of Lilongwe, the villagers have no electricity, radios, televisions, or telephones. Children who go to school must walk several miles to school. The outside world seldom comes to Khongo, so when it does, villagers gather for the excitement.

This day the visitors were staff members from the Adventist

health center, a mission clinic in Lilongwe. Every year the staff of the Adventist clinic takes the story of Jesus to people who have not heard.

The people of Khongo had never had a Christian church. They did not know what Christians believed. They worship the spirits of their ancestors through dances and chants. During worship festivals, dancers, wearing masks that represent ancestors, invite the spirits to enter their bodies.

The workers from the Adventist clinic had come several weeks earlier to visit the village headman and ask him for permission to come and teach the people about God. The chief talked to his council, and they decided to allow the Christians to come and teach them. The meetings would be held in a large clearing in the center of the main village—the same area used for spirit dances.

The clinic staff came to the village several times before the meetings to pass out literature and invite people to the meetings.

Those who could not read asked children or a neighbor to read the literature to them. Thus word of the meetings spread quickly through the clusters of houses.

They're Here!

Finally the day of the first meeting arrived. As the now-familiar white pickup bounced along the road, the driver used a loudspeaker mounted to the truck to call the villagers to the meetings. They parked the pickup in the open meeting area and used the loudspeaker to broadcast the program and draw people out of their homes.

As the group played songs and began singing, Grakeman and his friends raced to the clearing and sat down on the dirt. These people love to sing, and the children were not afraid to come. Soon they were singing simple songs about Jesus along with the missionaries. The adults drifted toward the clearing more slowly, and stood in the shadows as staff members told the children Bible stories. When the children's program ended, the adults took

their places, sitting on the ground or standing around the edges to listen. For most of them, this was their first introduction to Christianity. They did not know how to behave, how to pray, or how to sing Christian songs.

The Gardener Preacher

The preacher was James, a gardener at the Adventist clinic. Although he had preached in his home church, he had never conducted evangelistic meetings before. But James accepted the challenge to preach with an eager "I will try!" James is a simple man. He related well to the villagers, and he spoke directly to their hearts. He studied the Bible to find his own texts, wrote his own sermons, and presented the truths of the Bible in a straightforward manner.

On the first evening about 12 children and 20 adults came to the meeting. The next day attendance doubled, and continued growing each day. By the end of the series about 130 children and 70 adults were present. On the last day the Adventist missionaries talked with

the adults and children about what it means to follow Jesus. Nearly all the adults and children present stood to show that they wanted to follow Jesus and be Christians.

Instant Church

By the end of the two weeks of meetings, a large group signed up for the baptismal class. The missionaries left, promising to return the following Sabbath to teach them how to worship and keep the Sabbath. The new believers in Khongo were so happy to learn about God that they wanted to build a church. When the chief saw how many people in his village wanted to follow Christ, he gave the new Christians a piece of land where they could build a church.

The people wanted to start building immediately. The rainy season would begin soon, and they wanted to finish their church before then. There was no time to make and dry mud bricks for the church, so the new believers went to their neighbors and relatives to borrow dried mud bricks to build a church. They promised to repay

the loan by making new bricks at the end of the rainy season. The believers gathered enough bricks to build the church, leveled the land, and carried heavy building materials on their shoulders when necessary. When they needed to hire a truck to bring in the poles for the roof, the people worked in their neighbors' fields to earn the money to hire the truck.

The clinic staff was delighted at the people's eagerness to build their church. When they returned on Sabbath, just three days later, they expected to see workers clearing the land for the church. Instead, they saw a nearly completed church! The people were so dedicated that they had worked without rest so the church would be ready for worship the following Sabbath. The simple chapel seats 100 people. The name they chose for their church means "the last one." The new believers hoped that their church would be the last one built before Jesus comes. But already other believers have built other churches. Perhaps a church being built today will truly be the last one.

Our mission offerings help reach people with God's love every day.*

Trywell Ndoliro is business manager and **James Roya** is a gardener at the Adventist health center in Lilongwe, Malawi.

let's talk

? Discuss what life in Khongo is like. [Without electricity, the people have no telephones, radios, televisions, or washing machines. Every family must carry their day's needs of water from a creek or a well. This usually is the children's job.] Would class members like to visit there? Would they want to live there? Why?

? How do you think learning about Jesus will change life in this village? [Suggested responses: Help class to understand that before the clinic staff came to hold meetings very few people in the village had even heard that there was a Bible. Now the new believers have built a church and are worshiping every Sabbath and studying during the week. This will be a witness to others that there is a better way than ancestor worship.]

pray

Pray for the believers in Khongo, who are just beginning to learn about loving and obeying God. And pray for the staff of the Adventist clinic in Lilongwe as they go to other villages and towns with news of God's love.

GraceLink Connection: Community.

Her new habits were the evidence that Jesus had made a big difference in her life.



Emerciana

Invitation in the Market

Emerciana Djedje

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

Hello. My name is Emerciana [eh-mehr-see-AH-nah]. I live in central Mozambique. [Locate Mozambique on the map.] My family has belonged to a church since before I was born. We were loyal to that church even though we did not worship there often.

One Monday my mother pressed some money into my hand and told me to go to the market and buy two bottles of beer. I bought beer for my parents almost every day. I walked to the store, bought the beer, and started home.

A woman I did not know stopped me. She offered me a religious pamphlet, but I explained that my family belonged to another church. She smiled and invited me to come see a movie about the life of Jesus that was showing in the Adventist church every evening. The movie sounded interesting, so I agreed to attend.

The next day as I walked to the store to buy beer for

my parents, I heard people singing in the Adventist church and remembered the woman's invitation. I stopped for a few minutes to listen. Then I hurried on my errand.

When I returned home, I asked my mother if I could go see the movie that the woman had told me about. I was surprised and pleased when she allowed me to go, but she said she knew a few Adventists, and they were good people.

I hurried toward the church, where a pleasant woman welcomed me and showed me to a seat in the front. I liked the songs and wanted to learn them so I could sing with them. In our family's church only the choir sang.

The movie about Jesus began. It made Jesus seem so real that I wanted to reach out and touch Him! They showed only part of the movie that evening, then the preacher stood and talked to us. He talked about how much God loves us and wants us to spend time with Him. Then he invited those who wanted to learn more

about Jesus to stand. I wanted to go, but I was embarrassed to have everyone see me. So I stayed after the meeting and talked with the pastor in private.

When I told the pastor that I wanted to learn more about Jesus, he was pleased and offered to come to my house to study with me. I gave him my address before I hurried home. I told my mother about the meeting. She smiled at my excitement; it had been a long time since I had been excited about anything religious.

Life-changing Decisions

The next day the pastor visited. Mother sat down to listen to what he said. The pastor prayed, then he opened his Bible and started talking about Jesus. He encouraged me to give my life to Jesus, and he gave us some magazines about health and marriage to read.

I went to the meetings every day, and the pastor came to visit almost every day. My mother listened carefully as the pastor explained Bible truths. I invited my mother to come with me to

the evangelistic meetings, and after a few nights she came with me.

Mother said she liked the changes that she saw in my life. Before I attended the meetings, I would play with my friends after school instead of going home to help my mother with her chores. Sometimes I stayed out until late at night. But when I began attending the Adventist meetings, I made friends with the young people at church. I came home earlier in the evenings and helped Mother more often. I knew she was relieved.

I decided to give my life to Jesus and study the Bible in preparation for baptism. I invited my mother to take the Bible studies with me, and she came. I think she came to be sure I was actually in church and not playing with my friends on the street. But she became increasingly interested in hearing what these people were teaching me.

Take Them!

Once my mother saw that I was really serious about attending church and was not out playing

with my friends, she stopped coming with me. I invited her back, but she said she was busy. Then I asked her to let me take my younger brother to church, and she said, "Yes, take him. Take your brother and your nephew and your aunt—take everyone! Then I will get my work done at home!" I invited my aunt and her children who live with us, and they came. One Friday my mother told me to take her helper to church the next day. She told everyone, "I want you to go to church with my daughter tomorrow." So they all came with me. Mother was being a missionary, even though she was not attending church.

When my mother's helper did not go to church with me one Sabbath, I told my mother. Mother scolded her helper and told her to go to church with me. My aunt has accepted Jesus as her Savior. She and her son and my younger brother all continue to come to church with me.

What Happened?

The friends with whom I used to play noticed that I had

changed. One day after some of them came to my house, Mother told me to invite them to church too. Two of my girlfriends have come with me. One of them comes often. If I am not home when she comes to see me, she comes to the church to find me. Now she has accepted Jesus as her Savior and is learning to follow Him.

My friends know that I am a Christian now and that I will not disobey my mother as I used to do. I invite them to come to church, but I cannot force them to come. So I pray for them.

My father asks me what I am learning in the Adventist church. He asks me to explain things from the Bible. And when he learned that pork is unclean, he gave it up. My father continues to attend our family's old church, but I know that someday my parents will come with me to worship God in His church. That will be a happy day for me!

Thank you for your mission offerings that helped lead me to Jesus.*

Emerciana Djedje is a student living in Beira, Mozambique.

let's talk

Emerciana [eh-mehr-see-AH-nah] shared her faith with her family. What impressed her mother the most? [Her mother saw the changes in her; she was more obedient and helpful.] List some ways we can show our faith as well as share it? [List suggestions on the board. Possible answers are: obey at home; be helpful and cheerful, even when asked to do things you don't enjoy; let your happiness show your love for God.]

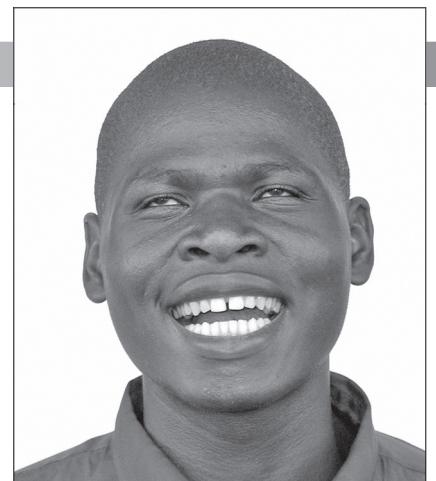
Once our lives show our faith, how can we share our faith with others? [Make a list on the board. Possible answers include: help classmates who struggle to understand a subject you are good at; offer a listening ear to someone who needs to talk; offer to pray for a person and/or their special need; invite friends to attend Sabbath School with you, and when they come, introduce them.]

PRAY
PRAY

Pray that Emerciana's faith will continue to grow and that through her example her family will join her in following God.

GraceLink Connection: Grace.

A teenage boy went searching for a friend and found a fish seller who changed his life.



Ussene

The Fish Vendor

Ussene Ajape

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

My name is Ussene [loooh-SEEN], and I live in Mozambique. [Locate Mozambique on a map.] When I was 14 years old, I had a dream about Jesus. I knew nothing about Jesus, for my family followed another religion. But I decided to learn who this Jesus was. There was a Christian church in my neighborhood, so I went there to find answers to my questions. The pastor at that church explained who Jesus is and how I could follow Him. I began to attend his church.

I love to sing, so I enjoyed the lively music at church. I joined the choir, and in time I became the choir director. I made friends with the people, including a boy named Marcellino [mar-ceh-LEE-noh], who also sang in the choir.

Where's Marcellino?

One Sunday Marcellino did not come to church. I wondered why. The next Sunday Marcellino's parents asked the congregation to pray for their son, for he had left

the church and joined a group of heretics called Seventh-day Adventists.

I had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists, and I wondered what kind of group my friend had gotten involved with. What did these Adventists believe? I decided to find him and ask him why he had left. I went looking for Marcellino, but I saw a man selling fish on the street. I noticed he had a Bible beside him. I did not have a Bible, so I asked the man if the Bible was for sale.

"No, this Bible is not for sale," he answered. "But if you come to my church, I will give you a Bible."

"I go to church already," I said. "I just need a Bible."

"If you'd like to study the Bible with me, I'll get you a Bible. And," he added, "if you can show me from the Bible that your church is the right church, I will join your church. But if I can show you from the Bible that my church is the true church, you can join my church."

I agreed with the man because I wanted a Bible, and I was sure

that this fish seller would not be able to convince me that my church was wrong.

The Seventh Day

When I came for the Bible study I soon realized that Inacio [ee-NAH-cee-oh], the fish seller, could not read. But he sure knew his Bible! He opened to the book of Exodus and pointed to the Ten Commandments. "Read these," he told me. I read them out loud, and Inacio told me what they meant. He explained that the fourth commandment, to remember the Sabbath day refers to the seventh day of the week, while Sunday is the first day. I had never heard this before.

I was confused, so Inacio gave me his Bible and told me to read it and come back the next week and show him a verse that commands God's children to keep Sunday holy. I realized it would take me more than a week to read the entire Bible, so I took it to my church pastor and asked him to show me where it says that Sunday is the Lord's day.

The pastor did not touch the

Bible. "I don't have time to read it to you," he said. "But be careful. If someone tells you that Sunday is not God's day, don't listen. Those people are false."

"Then give me some Bible texts that prove that God wants us to worship Him on Sunday," I insisted.

The pastor wrote down some verses for me, but I soon learned that they were not about the Sabbath. One verse warned about false prophets,* and one said that Jesus rose on the first day.[†]

The next time I visited Inacio, I read him the verse about Jesus rising from the dead on the first day of the week.

"Yes," Inacio said, "that's right. Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, on Sunday, the day after Sabbath. But the Bible does not say to worship God on Sunday." I had to admit that he was right. "Do you want to follow a person?" Inacio asked, "or do you want to follow Jesus? If you want to follow Jesus, then listen to God speak through the words of the Bible."

Finding Truth, Finding Marcellino

Inacio had won the argument.

"What church do you attend?" I asked.

"I am a Seventh-day Adventist," he answered.

I could hardly believe my ears. This was the same church that my friend Marcellino had joined. I did not know it yet, but this simple fish seller had introduced Marcellino to the Adventist church too!

The next Sabbath I worshipped in the Adventist church. It was hard to give up the church where I had found God, for I had many friends there and enjoyed leading the choir. God had used that church to lead me to Jesus. But now I found new Bible truths, and I knew that I must accept them.

One day I met some friends from my former church." "Why don't you come to church anymore?" they asked.

I smiled and opened my Bible to the Ten Commandments. "I have discovered God's law," I said. We talked for a few minutes, but they wanted to know more. They invited me to come to Tuesday night's prayer meeting and tell the whole church about God's law.

On Tuesday I went to my former church. When my

friends told the people that I had discovered new truth in the Bible, some of the people seemed angry that I had come. But the young people wanted to hear more about the Bible. I showed them all the Sabbath texts I knew. I was speaking from the pulpit when two big men walked in the door. They walked straight to me, grabbed me, and threw me and my Bible out the door.

That ended that Bible study, but some people found me and asked more questions about the Bible. Soon we started studying the Bible together. Eventually Marcellino's parents and three other families joined the Adventist Church.

Since then my own family, including my parents, have given their lives to God and joined His church—the church I found when I met the fish seller.

Our mission offerings provide churches and training that help lead people to Jesus. Thank you for giving.*

* Matthew 24:24.

† Luke 24:1.

Ussene Ajape is a security guard and shares his faith in northwestern Mozambique.

let's talk

When Ussene had the dream about Jesus, he visited the neighborhood church to learn more about God. Why do you think God did not lead him directly to the Adventist Church? [Perhaps the Adventist church was not near Ussene's home, so he went to the church nearest to where he lives. Then, when he discovered further truth, God led him to the Adventist faith.]

The Adventist Church follows the Bible as its only source of inspiration and Jesus as our only way to salvation. Tradition has no part in the beliefs of the Adventist Church. How does knowing this make you feel about sharing your faith with others? [We can have confidence that answers to our Cor anyone'sCquestions are in our Bible.]

pray

Pray that God will continue to lead Ussene and his friend Marcellino to people who need to know the Savior.

GraceLink Connection: Community.

When a friend invited him to worship at his church, Fernando was curious. What he found changed his life.



Fernando

Curiosity Caught Me

Fernando Mazivila

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

My name is Fernando. I live in Mozambique. My family has belonged to a Christian church for at least two generations, but religion has never been a big part of our life. When I was entering my teen years I started down the wrong path, making unwise friendships with boys who were a bad influence on me. We began staying out late at night and trying alcohol, tobacco, and other forbidden things.

Then a classmate invited me to visit his church on Saturday. I was curious because I thought all Christians worship on Sunday. So I agreed to go, mostly out of curiosity, not out of interest in religion. When we entered the church, I noticed that the people were wearing their best clothes. I was embarrassed that I wore old shorts and had no shoes. But no one else seemed to notice.

We sat down, and soon I forgot about my old clothes. The pastor's sermon was powerful!

It centered on Jesus, and the pastor read texts from the Bible to support what he was saying. I had never heard a sermon such as this before. I wanted to learn more, so I asked my friend to let me return the next week.

Trouble at Home

After attending the Adventist church for a few weeks, I told my parents where I was going on Sabbath morning. I had hoped that they would be glad, but they were not. They were angry that I had betrayed our family's religion, even though they seldom went to church.

The next Sabbath I went to church again. When I returned home, I found that the family had already eaten and had saved no food for me. The next week the same thing happened. Never mind, I thought. I like this church, and I will continue attending worship there. I had started studying the Bible with my friend to learn as much as possible about what the Bible says.

After several weeks my parents

realized that missing meals would not make me stop attending the church. They gave me a choice: leave the Adventist church or leave home. I tried to reason with them, but they were firm.

I decided to leave home rather than give up my faith in Jesus. I took my Bible and a change of clothes and left. I hoped that a relative would take me in, but my parents had already told them that I had abandoned the family religion, so they turned me away too. However, my aunt allowed me to stay with her. She gave me a place to sleep and cooked food for me. But she noticed that sometimes I did not eat what she had cooked. When she asked me why, I opened my Bible and read the verses about unclean foods. She did not change her cooking habits, but she was not angry with me either. She did not forbid me to attend church or force me to work on Sabbath. I did extra work around the house while they were at church on Sunday. During this time I was baptized.

After two months my aunt

visited my parents and urged them to take me back. She told them I was a good boy now, and she urged them to question me for themselves and determine whether my new faith had changed me for the better.

She told my parents that I no longer associated with my bad friends and that I had become obedient and helpful. My family saw the changes in my life and decided to let me stay.

Returning Home

Joyfully I returned home. But I still had problems. My parents did not want me talking about my religion to my younger brothers or sisters, and often I had to go hungry when Mother cooked with pork. Sometimes when this happened, my father gave me a little money to buy some food.

I found ways to talk to my

brothers and sister about God. When I left for church, I invited them to go with me. I did not tell them a lot about God, but I urged them to talk with my friend who had first invited me to attend the Adventist church. In time one of my brothers started attending the church and was baptized. My parents were not happy, but they allowed him to stay at home.

I am in my last year of high school now. To help pay my school fees I sell kerosene to villagers. I am careful to return my tithe before I take any money out for school, and I know that God is blessing what is left because I have chosen to honor Him. I help pay my younger brother's school fees when I can.

My brother and I study the Bible and pray together. This helps us grow stronger in Jesus, and remain faithful to God.

Sometimes my younger brothers and sister join us when we study the Bible and pray, but they are not so close to God as my brother and I are. My brother, Alberto, and I pray for our family because we want them all to find Jesus as their Lord. Sometimes my parents see us praying or studying the Bible together, and they stop to listen, so I know they know we are sincere in our faith.

I would like to continue studying after I finish high school, and if it is God's will that I do, I know He will make a way for me to go. I must just trust Him.

Mission offerings help provide Adventist schools in Mozambique. The seminary in Mozambique will receive part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to upgrade its courses to include several other college majors.*

Fernando Mazivila lives in Beira, Mozambique, where he continues to share his faith.

let's talk

? Fernando was heading down the wrong road when a friend invited him to attend church. Accepting this invitation changed his life, but his parents were so unhappy that he was leaving the family's religion to attend a different church that they told him to leave the church or leave their home. Why do you think a parent would make their child choose between home and religion? [Perhaps they knew nothing about the Adventist Church and feared that he was becoming involved in a cult. Family ties, including religious bonds, are very strong in Africa. They would expect to face problems from other relatives if they allowed their son to leave the family's church.]

? How did Fernando convince his family that the Adventist Church and the faith he found there were good? [His behavior changed dramatically. He left his former friends and became an obedient and helpful son.]

? Fernando's life changed when a friend invited him to church. Write down the names of people you can invite to church in the next week or two. Pray, asking God to make your light of faith shine out to others. Then pray for each person on your list and ask God to guide you as you seek an opportunity to share your faith.

pray

Pray that Fernando's faith will be honored and that his family will give their hearts to God.

GraceLink Connection: Community.

When Laurinda's father died, she went to live with her aunt and uncle, who were Adventist Christians. Laurinda learned to love Jesus and share that love with others.



Laurinda

A Heart for Jesus

Laurinda José

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

I was born in Mozambique during the time that my country was in the midst of a terrible civil war. Entire villages were forced to abandon their homes and cattle and hide in the mountains and the bush. Many people who lived in northern Mozambique fled into Malawi to avoid the fighting and killing. But those who lived near the border between Malawi and Mozambique were not always safe. Sometimes bullets fired from Mozambique killed people living in Malawi.

It was a difficult time for people. Many had to flee their homes when soldiers approached their villages. They could not plant crops or build permanent houses, for roaming bands of soldiers could come at any time and burn their homes and destroy or steal their crops.

When the war finally ended, people slowly returned to their home areas. But often they

found that their villages had been burned down, and some people were killed by land mines left from the war. This made it dangerous to plant gardens and impossible to regain a sense of peace.

A New Home

My father died during the war, and my mother was left to care for five children. We had no home to return to, and Mother could not feed and clothe us. In Africa the extended family—aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins—looks after one another. My aunt and uncle offered to take the three youngest children—my brother, my sister, and me. Mother agreed, and we went to live with our aunt and uncle.

My aunt and uncle are Seventh-day Adventist Christians. And we children went to church with them on Sabbath. At first this new church seemed strange to me, but before long I adjusted. In fact, I really liked it!

I got involved in the church and was soon asked to be the

Sabbath School secretary. I also joined a singing group that presented special music and led song services in Sabbath School and church. Some members of the singing group came to the church just to sing, so the singing group was a real evangelistic outreach. I was glad that I could make a difference in my new church.

A Difference of Opinion

My mother was not happy when she learned that we were attending the Adventist church with my aunt and uncle. She wanted us to belong to her church, not the Adventist Church. When I went to visit my mother during school holidays, she tried to get me to return and live with her so I would not go to the Adventist church anymore. But I was happy attending the Adventist church, and I believed what I learned in Bible class and Sabbath School. I knew that as much as I loved my mother, I would not be happy living with her, because we would always disagree with each other on religion. My aunt was

always very good to me and loved me, and I wanted to stay with her and my uncle, where I could attend church and worship God in the way I felt was right.

My mother tried to get my aunt to let us return to live with her, but my aunt understood that it was because she wanted us to learn her religion. My aunt and uncle knew that in our culture it was better for us children to remain with them, where we had two parents and the opportunity to attend school. I was grateful that my aunt and uncle wanted to care for us and keep us in their home.

Sharing Christ in School

When it was time to start school, we enrolled in the Adventist school in my aunt and uncle's town. Most of the children at the school come from homes that are not Adventist, so the school is truly a mission school. We have Bible classes at school, and I share my faith

with my classmates as well. I sometimes talk to them about the Ten Commandments and invite them to read them from my Bible. Sometimes I ask them what the Ten Commandments mean. If they cannot explain the commandments, then I explain each one to them. The fourth commandment, about the Sabbath, and the second commandment, about not bowing down to idols, are really important in my culture in which many people still worship idols.

If my friends want to know more, I invite them to visit the church. Lots of my friends have visited the church. And since I started sharing my faith at school, 11 of my friends have decided to join the Adventist Church. Now they are telling others about Jesus with me. That makes me very happy.

Next year will be my last year at the Adventist school, since the school goes only to the eleventh

grade. The Adventist Church in Mozambique is trying to upgrade the school so that it will go all the way through high school. I hope that this plan will be successful, so that I can complete my education in a Christian school.

I look back on my life and think about the difficult times my family has seen. My father's death was a terrible blow to my mother and us. And Mother suffered a great deal when she could not earn enough to feed us. But God has worked it out so that we could have a good home with loving parents. Even better, in our new home we learned about God's love in ways we never knew before. And today, because of my aunt and uncle's example, I know Jesus as my Lord and Savior, and I am happy to be His child.

Your mission offerings each week help children in my country know that God loves them and wants them to prepare to live in heaven with Jesus forever. Thank you!*

Laurinda José is 16 years old and lives in Beira, Mozambique, where she is studying at the Adventist secondary school. She hopes to study nursing.

let's talk

How does Laurinda, the girl in today's story, share her faith with her friends? [She invites them to read the Ten Commandments and explains what they mean. Then she invites children to attend church with her.] Laurinda's sharing techniques have opened the door for many of her friends to attend church with her, and 11 of her friends have joined the church. What method of sharing God's love has worked best for you? Share it with the class so others can try it as well.

If you have never shared your love for God with others, why? Are you shy? How might you overcome your hesitation to let others know that you are a Christian? [*Pray that God will lead you to people who want to know Him. If we are willing to share with others, God will provide the opportunities to do so.*]

Laurinda is 16 years old. Does our age matter when we share our love for God? [*No. God uses anyone who is willing to share their love for Jesus with others, just as He uses Laurinda.*]

pray

Pray that Laurinda will be able to share her faith with her mother and that her mother's heart will be softened to receive God's love. [Note to leader: Present this report in Sabbath School or photocopy it and give it out to your class members.]

The Face of Missions

Gary Krause and Charlotte Ishkanian



Where do your mission offerings go? The answer may surprise you.

Have you ever wondered what happens to the money you give in Sabbath School each week? Does it disappear into a "black hole"?

Most people cannot answer the question "Exactly where do our mission offerings go?" They know the offerings go for "missions," so they faithfully give, but with less enthusiasm than they would have if they really knew how much good their mission offerings do.

How Did It Start?

The first Sabbath School mission offering was designated to help build a sailing boat to take the gospel to the islands of the South Pacific. With funds raised, often a penny at a time, a sleek sailing boat, christened the Pitcairn, was dedicated to God

in 1890. The boat and its mission was the dream of John I. Tay, a layman who had visited the island of Pitcairn and shared his faith in God with the people there. The Pitcairn Islanders were eager to become Seventh-day Adventist Christians, and John Tay promised to return with a minister who could baptize them. It took four years, but Tay kept his promise, and when the Pitcairn docked at Pitcairn Island, the people greeted him warmly. Before the crew of the Pitcairn left its namesake island, 82 new Adventist believers had been grounded and baptized into the world church.

For some 10 years the Pitcairn sailed the South Pacific, bringing a knowledge of Jesus Christ to people who had never heard it before. When the Pitcairn arrived

at Pitcairn Island, more than 80 people were baptized into the Adventist Church.

The Pitcairn and its crew left the Pitcairn Islands and sailed to Tahiti, Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga, carrying the good news wherever they went. Some of these islands were inhabited by cannibals who threatened the lives of the ship's crew, but God protected them.

A Novel Idea

The idea of a special offering that would meet a specific need caught on, and in 1912 the first Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in the world went to help establish the church's work in India.

Since that first Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, hundreds of special projects have benefitted from our mission offerings.





Missionaries have been sent into new fields, mission schools have been established, hospitals and clinics have been opened, all because believers gave their mission offerings faithfully, sacrificially.

Today Adventists support more than 1,000 full-time missionaries working around the world. Many work in difficult areas; and some must work in secret, for if their mission activities were made public where their lives could be in danger. Others teach classes in schools ranging from simple mission schools to renowned universities.

From Everywhere to Everywhere

In the earliest days of Adventist mission, missionaries traveled from North America to other lands. Now these "other lands" send out missionaries of

their own. Some even serve in North America! And, like our missionaries, mission offerings come from everywhere and go to everywhere. Mission offerings represent people helping people find Jesus.

Global Mission was established 15 years ago to train volunteer missionaries to lead people to Jesus within their own cultures. And it is working. Millions have met Jesus as their Savior because someone who speaks their language and understands their culture shared their friendship, their help, and their faith with those who had never heard of Jesus. Thousands of new congregations have been established, and these groups are reaching out to others with the good news that Jesus loves them.

And until these groups can be self-supporting, our mission offerings help provide them with

Sabbath School lesson materials, evangelistic literature, training seminars, and other tools to strengthen their faith.

Growing New Christians in Cambodia

The church in many lands around the world could not operate without your mission offering. Just 15 years ago there were no Seventh-day Adventists in the country of Cambodia. Today this war-torn country has a growing, thriving young church. But it has a long way to go before it becomes self-sufficient. Through the mission offering, you help support your new Cambodian brothers and sisters grow in their Christian experience. You help by supporting the missionaries who work there, by providing materials they need to lead others to Jesus. And most of all, you can help by praying for the people in this challenging area.

To get a peek at what your mission dollars are doing around the world, check out our Web site at www.adventistmission.org. This Web site helps put a face on Adventist missions through stories, photos, videos, even some puzzles.

Next time you give your mission offering, think about the people whose stories you've read or heard. Think about the missionaries and the lay workers who have worked so hard to share the gospel of Jesus with those who have never heard. They are not a "black hole." They are the face of Adventist mission.

Thank you for giving your mission offerings and for praying for Adventist missions around the world. You do make a difference.

Gary Krause is director of the Office of Adventist Mission; **Charlotte Ishkanian** is editor of *Teen Mission*.

Program

“Building for the Future”

Congregational Song	“Working, O Christ, With Thee” <i>The SDA Hymnal</i> , No. 582
Welcome	
Scripture	See below
Prayer	
Program	“Building for the Future”
Offering	Ask kindergarten and primary children to sing one or more of the songs they have learned this quarter as the offering is taken.
Closing Song	“Faith Is the Victory” <i>The SDA Hymnal</i> , No. 608

Scripture:

“He told them, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”
(from Luke 10:2, NIV)

* * *

Participants: Narrator, two presenters, Benson (a young man), and Pastor Simoque. [Choose participants who will practice their parts and present them clearly. While participants do not have to memorize their parts, they should be familiar enough with the content that they can present the material with confidence.]

Narrator: Welcome to Sabbath School on this special Thirteenth Sabbath. Today is the day that we have a part in determining the future of mission work in two of God’s neediest fields—Malawi and Mozambique.

These two countries are neighbors, nestled

together in southeastern Africa. [Locate both on a large map.] But their recent histories are far different.

Malawi achieved independence in a relatively peaceful changeover. But Mozambique’s independence came only after many years of fighting, followed by a fierce 12-year civil war that left the country in ruins. This difference has influenced the church’s work in each country.

The church in both of these countries is struggling through growth pains as it seeks to meet the needs of a rapidly growing and vigorous membership.

First, let’s hear a report on Malawi.

Presenter 1: Malawi is a tiny country lying between Mozambique, Zambia, and Tanzania and Lake Malawi, which hugs its eastern border. It is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa, and more than half of its people continue to live in rural villages, earning a living by farming and fishing. However, as poverty continues to plague these small settlements, more and more people are migrating to the larger towns and cities, looking for work opportunities.

Poverty continues to plague the country as leaders and the people alike struggle to raise their standard of living. In spite of efforts of the government to generate jobs, Malawi continues to be one of the poorest countries in the world. Half of Malawi’s population is under the age of 18.

Education is a powerful tool to raise the expectations and the abilities of the people to become fully self-sufficient. Malawian Adventists, who number roughly one for every 50 people in the country, value education as a means of serving their country and their communities. They have begun to upgrade Lake View Adventist Seminary to make a full-service tertiary institution to be called Malawi Adventist College. Besides training ministers, the college will offer other service-oriented training in English, education, and business.

The school’s expansion has already begun,

and new classrooms and a multipurpose-cafeteria building have been completed. But the school needs dormitories to house the growing number of students who wish to attend. At present as many as eight women are being housed in each small married-student bungalow, and the married students must find housing in the nearby town. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a women's dormitory for the new Malawi Adventist College.

One student studying at Malawi Adventist College is Benson Chilumpha [chee-LOOM-fah]. He is a teacher who has returned to continue his education. His story illustrates the difficulties of getting an education in Malawi.

Benson: I have taught elementary school for 14 years, but I wanted to return to school and earn my bachelor's degree in education. I took the government exams that students take upon completion of high school, and I scored quite high. However, I was disappointed when I was not chosen to study in the university. I sat for the exams again the next year, and again I was not chosen.

I prayed constantly that God would show me His will for my life. But God whispered in my heart, Just wait. I have another plan.

So I waited. Then I learned that Malawi Adventist College was offering degrees in education and business management. I applied and waited eagerly for a response. I often dreamed that I was attending a class. I could see the lecturer standing before the class asking questions that I could answer.

Then I received word that I had been accepted to study at Malawi Adventist College. But there was another problem—school fees. I had no money, so I went back to God. "God, You are the source of

all answers. You have given me a place in this school, so now I turn to You to provide the school fees I need."

I received two partial scholarships that cover most of my needs, and I work to pay the remaining expenses, which include food, accommodations, and school fees for my children. I thank God for helping me wait for His time to study in His school, and I keep trusting Him because He has never let me down.

Now we in Malawi turn to God to help us build up the school He has given us. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today will help us build one of the two dormitories the school desperately needs. God has chosen to let His children around the world be the source of funding for that dormitory. I praise God now for what you will do today to raise high the banner of Christ in the country of Malawi.

Narrator: Mozambique is a nation struggling to climb out of oppression. For more than 400 years the people suffered under colonial rule. A lengthy fight for independence was followed by a 12-year-long civil war that finally ended in 1992. The nation was left with little more than burned-out buildings where schools, hospitals, and public institutions once stood. The people continue to suffer the effects of their prolonged struggle for independence and peace. Today a lack of schools and qualified teachers makes it difficult for children to receive an adequate education.

The Adventist Church in Mozambique is growing rapidly, with approximately one member for every 98 people. But Adventists in this poorest of nations struggle along with the general population.

The Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division has challenged

the church in Mozambique to embark on an aggressive plan to upgrade their educational institutions. Here to tell us about the plans is Miguel Simoque [mee-GEHL see-MOH-keh], Sabbath School and education director for the Mozambique Union of Seventh-day Adventists.

Pastor Simoque, tell us about the church's plans for growth.

Simoque: For several years we have operated a primary school and three secondary schools in various parts of Mozambique. But the majority of teachers in the schools are not Adventists. While the reason for this is too complicated to explain today, one reason that Adventists often were denied the opportunity to continue their education beyond grade 8. We have few fully trained teachers in our church. So we had to fill the elementary and secondary positions with teachers of other religious persuasions. These teachers do not teach religion, but their very presence in our schools dilutes the religious education we would like to instill in our students.

Another huge problem is the lack of school facilities to educate all the children who want to study. So we must educate in shifts, and any one school can have two, three, even four shifts of students a day. This is not good, because students cannot learn in two or three hours what other students learn in a full day of classes.

Presenter 2: What is the church in Mozambique doing to remedy this problem?

Simoque: We have a seminary that needs to be upgraded. We have taken the step of faith and temporarily closed the seminary while we rebuild the campus. Some of the buildings can be remodeled, but others need to be replaced or enlarged to

accommodate more students. One of the most urgent needs is to build a women's dormitory, since the seminary has just a small men's dormitory.

The first course we will add is teacher training. We will accept only students who have secondary school certificates, and we will offer basic teaching diplomas as well as teaching degrees. Then, as need and funds are available, we will add business and perhaps other courses that Adventist youth need to serve their country and their church.

Presenter 2: This sounds like a huge project. How will you accomplish it?

Simoque: I can only say that God will provide. It is far too large a project for the church in Mozambique to undertake alone. We are looking for alternative funding, and, of course, we are praying for a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today, which will give us a big boost.

Presenter 2: Do you have any words of appeal for us today as we consider what we can do to help Mozambique take this huge and urgently needed step into the future?

Simoque: Yes, and you stated it well when you said it is a huge and urgently needed step into the future. The people of Mozambique have suffered for so many years under the oppression of others. Now we must rebuild our country and our church. Most of the believers in Mozambique are subsistence farmers. That means they plant a garden to meet their family's needs for food, but there is no money left to support such a large undertaking. And yet the young people deserve the best we can give them.

We cannot hope to improve

our lot in life without education, and we need Christian education to build a strong Mozambique. We want Adventist teachers to teach our children, and we want to reach out to the communities in which we serve with more and better schools for the future.

This project is a step of faith, and I pray that God will impress every Adventist today to share what they can to help us. We are willing to do the work, but we need your help to build this school for the future of the church in Mozambique.

Narrator: We have heard the needs as well as the dreams of our brothers and sisters in Malawi and Mozambique. Now it is up to us to act. What we give in our offering today will determine how successful the church in these two countries will be in educating for the future.

One quarter of the funds received today around the world will go to these two projects. The more we give, the more we can help.

[Offering]

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Where legally possible, offerings will go to these projects, otherwise special arrangements will be made with the General Conference for distribution of funds based on the laws of the countries where these offerings are collected.

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

