

*children's*  
FOR KINDERGARTEN AND PRIMARY LEADERS  
**MISSION**

**West-Central Africa DIVISION**  
**Third Quarter 2007**

# MAKING MISSIONS FUN!

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## African Mission Festival

This quarter consider having an African Mission Festival in your church, using the enrichment activities featured in this quarterly. Invite the entire church to take part in the festival to celebrate African life and culture and raise money for missions.

Set up small booths or tables (or areas marked off with chalk or masking tape) for each activity. Play a tape or CD of Christian African music and decorate with African flags and pictures the children have drawn or colored. Provide those who attend with a “passport” or “ticket” on which each activity area is listed and can be stamped when visited. Below are some ideas to help you get started.

**Food Booth:** Ask volunteers to prepare a few authentic African dishes, such as fufu, boiled sweet plantains, or other snacks that can be sampled or sold. (See recipes on pages 6, 8, and 10, and a list of

African cookbooks on page 31. Or go to the Internet for more recipe ideas.)

**Game Area:** Ask teens to select one or more active games from page 26 that they can teach those who visit the game area. (Weather permitting, hold this activity outside.) For those who prefer a quieter game, set up a table with several mancala games (see instructions on page 24), where visitors can play this popular African game.

**Language Booth:** Give visitors copies of words or phrases in French (page 14) or Akan, a language spoken in central Ghana (page 12). Decorate the booth with Akan symbols and their meaning (see page 12).

**Story Corner:** If your church has good storytellers, ask them to prepare several mission stories (from the three mission quarterly editions) to tell. Mount a large drawing of a tree to the wall and provide mats for people to sit on and listen.

**Craft Booth:** Provide supplies to make one or more musical instruments (see pages 18, 20). Check back issues of *Children's Mission* for instructions how to make a calabash bowl, an elephant prayer reminder, and other appropriate crafts.

**Coloring Booth:** Photocopy the picture on page 22 for children to color.

## Make a Mission Scene/Mural

Make a mural featuring an African town or village. Include a marketplace, with small homemade stalls (or a cloth laid out under an umbrella) where people offer fresh fruits and vegetables, shoes, clothes, and perhaps auto parts for sale.

Houses in the city are usually made of cinderblock and have iron sheeting for roofs, while mud brick or traditional mud plaster over sticks is still common in the villages. Village houses may have an iron or thatched roof. Add texture to the houses by making a thin paste of mud or sand mixed with all-purpose glue and paint it onto the houses you have drawn. Use aluminum foil to recreate an iron roof and dry grass or straw mixed with a bit of all-purpose glue to add texture to the roofs.

## Thirteenth Sabbath Program

On pages 29 and 30 you will find material and ideas for a Thirteenth Sabbath program for the adult Sabbath School. Or use it for your program in your division. Review the program early in the quarter so that you know in advance what props you will need and what the children must do to prepare for the program.

# children's MISSION NEWS

Third Quarter 2007  
West-Central Africa Division

## God's African Children

This quarter we will hear lots of stories of how children in West Africa share their faith. Today meet three new African friends.

### Blessing's Invitation



Blessing lives in Nigeria. When her teacher told the class that they would have a sporting event on Saturday, Blessing told him she would not be there. "I go to church Saturday," she said.

Ernest, her classmate, heard what Blessing told the teacher and asked her what church she attends on Saturday. "I am a Seventh-day Adventist," Blessing said. "We worship on the Sabbath day, as the Bible commands."

"May I visit your church?" Ernest asked. Blessing invited Ernest to come to her house Saturday morning so her parents could take him to church.

On Saturday morning Ernest arrived at Blessing's house. Her mother welcomed Ernest. Then the family drove to church together.

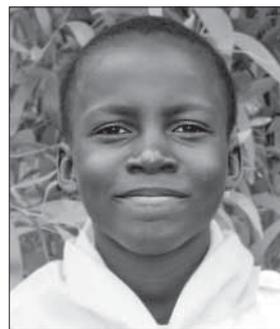
Ernest liked Sabbath School and church and wanted to attend every week. He invited his parents to visit the Adventist church too. To everyone's surprise, Ernest's parents agreed.

"Now I want to invite more of my friends to church," Blessing said.

### The Missing Snake

Abraham lives in the country of Benin. One day as his father walked to his car to drive home from work, he saw a poisonous snake curled up under the car. Father reached for something to kill the snake with, but when he looked again the snake had disappeared.

Father prayed for God's protection as he drove



home. That evening he told the family about the snake, and they all prayed that God would protect Father from the snake.

The next morning before Father went to work, the family again prayed about the snake. When Father started the car, the missing snake slithered out onto the hood of the car and curled up. Carefully Father stepped out of the car, picked up a long pole, and hooked the snake. He threw it onto the ground and killed it.

Abraham watched as his father put the snake into the trash. "It was poisonous," Abraham said. "God saved my father from the snake. I know He hears our prayers and saves us from trouble."

### Deborah's Exam



Deborah is from Togo. When the year-end exam schedule was posted, one of Deborah's tests was on Sabbath. She told her teacher that she would not take the test on Saturday because she would be in church worshipping God. Some of her friends said she was stupid to go to

church instead of taking such an important exam. But Deborah did not listen. She went to church on Sabbath instead of taking the test. When the test results were posted, Deborah was third in her class. God had honored her for obeying Him. "I hope all children will believe that God will honor them when they honor Him," Deborah said. 🌍

# African Safari

If you were to visit Africa, what would you see? Find the words in the puzzle below.



### Countries

- Benin
- Ghana
- Liberia
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- Ivory Coast

### Landscape

- Cities
- Farms
- Mountains
- Rainforest
- Rivers
- Savannah
- Villages

### Others

- Drums
- Missionaries

### Foods

- Bananas
- Cassava
- Peanuts
- Plantains
- Rice
- Yams

### Animals

- Elephant
- Giraffes
- Gorillas
- Hippo
- Lions

# Ama's New Friend

GraceLink Connection: Service.

Ama



*When Ama learned how to worship God, she wanted to teach her own parents how to worship Him too.*

Our story today is from Ghana [*locate on map*]. Ghana is a peaceful country, and the people have strong faith. But many people still worship the spirits of their ancestors or the spirits that they believe live in idols they have made of wood or stone. These people do not know about God's love, so sometimes God uses children to teach others about Jesus.

## A New Friend

Ama [AH-mah] was 9 years old when her family moved to a town in northern Ghana, where her father had a new job. Ama is a quiet girl, and sometimes it was hard for her to make new friends. Ama wondered if she would have any friends in her new school.

Then Ama met a girl named Adwoa [AH-dwa], who wanted to be her friend. Adwoa often talked to Ama about God. One day Adwoa invited Ama to come to her house for evening worship. Ama agreed to go. She listened quietly as Adwoa and her parents read stories from the Bible and sang songs about Jesus. Then she bowed her head while the family prayed. Ama's heart was stirred when Adwoa's father asked God to bless her!

Ama enjoyed Adwoa's happy family worship, and she asked if she could come again. Adwoa's mother welcomed her to come whenever she wished. Ama's father knew Adwoa's father, and he gave Ama permission to worship with Adwoa's family. Ama often wished that her own family would worship God together the way Adwoa's family did.

Ama learned that Adwoa's family is Seventh-day Adventist. They worshipped at home because there was no Adventist church in town. Ama began to feel as if she were a Seventh-day Adventist too.

## Mother Objects

Ama's mother had remained in their old town for several months after the family moved to their new home. When Mother arrived and learned that Ama was worshipping with Seventh-day Adventists, she was not happy. She tried to discourage Ama from going to her

friend's house, but Ama continued to go. Ama's sisters also pressured her to stop going to Adwoa's house.

"We must pray that God will open your mother's heart so you can continue to come," Adwoa said. "But you must pray too. God can change their hearts. Just pray for them."

Ama prayed with Adwoa's family that God would let her continue to worship with them. When she was alone she prayed that God would help her to be like Jesus and that her mother would allow her to worship with Adwoa's family.

When Ama's cousin came to stay with her family, Ama invited her to the evening worships. Now Ama was not alone. Ama's family was surprised that Ama, who had always been quiet and shy, now insisted on worshipping with her Adventist friends.

## Tent Meetings

One day Adwoa told Ama that a pastor was coming to town to hold special meetings in a tent. Ama invited her family to go with her to the meetings. She wanted them to understand that Adventists are not strange people. Her mother and sisters decided to go to the meetings so they could see what Ama found so interesting. They went every night. They listened to the sermons and sang the songs. And when the meetings ended, Ama's two elder sisters wanted to be baptized.

The sermons touched Ama's mother, too, and she did not object when the sisters wanted to become Adventists. Ama was thrilled when her sisters were baptized. But she was even happier when her mother told the pastor after the baptism that she wanted to be baptized too.

Ama is glad that God gave her a special friend in Adwoa. She is glad that God gave her courage to worship with Adwoa's family even when her mother objected. But Ama is especially thankful that God answered her prayers and led her mother and sisters to accept Jesus as their Savior. Now Ama and her mother and sisters pray that her father and her brother will give their hearts to Christ. Then the family can be united in their faith, just as Adwoa's family is.

Let's join with Ama and pray for her father and brother right now.

*[Close with prayer.]* 🌍

# Recipes From West Africa

Photocopy onto heavy paper and cut apart, or fold on dotted line.

## Bean and Gari Loaf

Ghana

Gari is a course-grained flour made from cassava or other root vegetables.

It is similar to ground rice. Look for gari in an international grocery or African or Caribbean store.

- 2 cups red kidney beans, soaked overnight
- 2 teaspoons butter or margarine
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 red pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 green pepper, seeded and chopped
- 2 green chilies, seeded and finely diced
- 2 teaspoons mixed herbs (thyme and parsley), chopped
- salt to taste
- 4 eggs
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 10 tablespoons gari

Drain beans and place in a pan. Cover with water and boil for 15 minutes. Reduce heat and simmer for one hour, or until tender. Drain, reserving the cooking liquid. Grease a large bread pan and preheat oven to 375° F. Melt butter and fry the onion, garlic, and peppers for 5-6 minutes. Add chilies, herbs, and seasonings. Place beans in a bowl and mash to a pulp. Add onion-and-pepper mixture, and stir well. Let cool several minutes, then stir in eggs and lemon juice. Place gari in a separate bowl and sprinkle generously with warm water. As the gari soaks up the liquid, it will become soft and fluffy in about 5 minutes. Pour gari into the bean-and-onion mixture, and mix thoroughly. If mixture is too stiff, add a little liquid from the beans. Spoon mixture into bread pan, and bake for 35-40 minutes or until loaf is firm to the touch. Cool and remove from loaf pan. Cut into thick slices and serve. Serves 8.

## Ghanaian Salad

Ghana

Often served with salmon or other fish, this salad tastes delightful on its own.

- 2 large Spanish onions, sliced into thin rings
- lemon juice or vinegar for marinade
- 1 cucumber
- 1 head lettuce, washed
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 4 ounces soy milk
- 1 14-ounce can baked beans in tomato sauce
- 1 12-ounce can fishlike vegetarian entrée or fried chicken substitute, drained and torn into small pieces
- 5 ounces snow peas, washed, with tips removed
- 4 firm, ripe tomatoes, sliced
- 1 avocado, sliced
- 4 potatoes or sweet potatoes (yams), boiled and diced
- 3 hard-boiled eggs, sliced

Marinate the onions in lemon juice or vinegar for 30 minutes. Score the cucumber by pulling a fork along the sides from one end to the other, then slice into thin rounds. Cut lettuce into thin wedges. Mix mayonnaise with soy milk for a dressing. Using a large plate or glass bowl, layer all the salad ingredients and dressing until ingredients are used up, reserving a few onion rings, egg circles, and a small amount of salad dressing for top. Garnish with remaining onion, egg, and dressing. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least an hour or overnight. To serve, cut through salad as if it were a cake and lift out carefully onto plates. Serve with bread. Serves 8.

# Not a Bad Girl

GraceLink Connection: Community.

Afia



*Afia's auntie treated her badly, but the children at the Adventist church taught her that she is a child of God.*

Afia [ah-FEE-ah] lives with her aunt's family in Ghana [*locate Ghana on a map*]. But Afia's aunt was not kind to her. She made Afia clean the house and cook for the family, more like a servant than a family member.

## Finding Friends

One Saturday Afia saw some girls dressed in smart uniforms walking by her home. "Where are you going?" she asked. The girls said they were going to Pathfinder Club. "What is Pathfinders?" Afia asked.

"Come with us and see," the girls invited. Afia followed them to the church, where the meeting was held. The children welcomed Afia and included her in the activities. Afia smiled shyly.

Afia began attending Pathfinders every Saturday. Her aunt did not care, because she spent Saturdays with her own children who were home from school that day. Someone invited Afia to attend church on Saturday morning, so Afia began attending Sabbath School as well. She was still shy and seldom talked to others, but she listened quietly to the teacher. No one knew the sad life Afia lived at home.

After church, members ate their lunch so they could stay for the afternoon meetings. Afia had no food, so she waited silently until Pathfinders began. Some children noticed that Afia was not eating, and they shared their food with her.

## The Teacher's Visit

Afia liked church and Pathfinders because the people there treated her nicely—not like her aunt. Afia's Sabbath School teacher knew that Afia was not treated well at home, and he decided to visit her aunt and uncle. Perhaps he could encourage them to treat her more kindly.

When the teacher arrived at the home, Afia's aunt invited him in. He introduced himself as a leader at the Adventist church. "We enjoy having Afia in our Sabbath School and in our Pathfinder Club," the teacher said. "She is such a good girl and listens well to her teachers.

I am pleased that she is a member of our church and our Pathfinder Club."

Afia's aunt did not smile and said little. After the man left, Afia's aunt told Afia, "I don't have money to waste on a child who runs off to play with church children! You will not enroll in school this year."

Afia was so sad. She loved school! She wished she could tell her parents what her aunt was doing, but she did not know how to contact them. So Afia stayed home from school and cooked and cleaned for the family.

Afia still went to church on Sabbath because her aunt did not want her around her own children. On Sunday while her aunt's family went to church, Afia stayed home to prepare dinner. She had no girlfriend to talk to, so she told Jesus how much she wanted to go to school again.

## Afia's New School

A year later the pastor learned of Afia's plight and went to see Afia's aunt. "We understand that Afia is not in school," he said. "We would like to help her study." But before the pastor could finish, Afia's aunt interrupted and said, "Afia is a bad girl and does not obey. I cannot waste my money educating a problem child." The pastor knew that Afia was not bad.

"If you will allow Afia to go to school, we will enroll her in the Adventist school and pay her school fees and even buy her uniform," the pastor said. Afia's aunt could not refuse.

When the school year started again, Afia walked into her new classroom. Her shy smile showed her happiness. Her friends from church were happy to see her and introduced her to her new classmates. At last Afia could continue her studies!

Afia did well in school. Slowly she came out of her shell and became a lovely, happy girl for Jesus. *I'm not a bad girl*, she thought. *Jesus has made me a good girl*. Even her aunt saw how well Afia was doing in school and was proud of her.

"I am glad that Jesus loves me, no matter what others think or say," Afia says. "I am His child."

Children, we can share God's love with others who may have a sad life, such as Afia. Let's look for someone

# Recipes From West Africa

Photocopy onto heavy paper and cut apart, or fold on dotted line.

## Jollof Rice

This dish is popular throughout West Africa, and every cook has her favorite version. Season to suit your taste from the seasonings suggested below. Liberians use palm oil, a thick red oil with a distinctive flavor, for nearly every recipe. We have substituted the more healthful olive oil and reduced the amount usually called for.

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 2 14.5-ounce cans stewed tomatoes
- ½ 6-ounce can tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary
- 3 cups water
- 1 teaspoon chicken- or beef-style seasoning
- ½ cups uncooked white rice
- 1 cup diced carrots
- ½ pound fresh green beans, trimmed and cut into 1- to 2-inch pieces (or peas)
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 can gluten steaks or 2 cans FriChik, torn into bite-size pieces

Heat oil in large saucepan, and add onion. Cook over medium-low heat until translucent.

Stir in stewed tomatoes and tomato paste, and season with salt, cayenne pepper, red pepper flakes (if desired), Worcestershire sauce, and rosemary. Cover, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat. Stir chicken- or beef-style seasoning into water, and add to pot; simmer for 25 minutes. Stir in rice, carrots, and green beans or peas, and season with nutmeg. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low. Cover, and simmer until rice is almost cooked. Add gluten steaks or FriChik, and cook until rice is tender. Serves 8.

## Fufu

Fufu is traditionally made from cassava, white yam, or other starchy vegetable, and is work intensive. Today, even in Africa, one can buy fufu powder that is mixed with water and kneaded to make fufu. You may wish to give out the traditional fufu recipe but prepare the simplified version. If you cannot find powdered fufu mix in an international store, instant mashed potatoes make a reasonably good substitute.

### Traditional Fufu

- 1 pound cassava roots
- water

Peel cassava roots; cover with water and let soak four days until soft. Cut out the central hard cores. Place in a pan and cover with water. Bring to boil and simmer 10 minutes. Remove cassava roots from pan and pound with a pestle until the mixture forms a soft dough. Place the dough in a dish, and serve.

### Simple Fufu

- ¼ cup dehydrated potatoes
- 2 cups water

Mix the dehydrated potatoes and half the water in a small pan to form a smooth paste. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly. As it boils, beat in more water until the paste becomes thick and gooey. Cook for 5 minutes. Scoop out tablespoons of the mixture and shape into six or eight oval dumplings. Serve with vegetable stew or palaver sauce (see recipe on page 10.)

# Jeremy's Church

GraceLink Connection: Worship.

Jeremy



*It is such a simple building, but God is there, and Jeremy's family is glad.*

Jeremy lives in Accra, Ghana [*locate Ghana on a map*]. He likes drawing airplanes and going to Sabbath School. His Sabbath School class meets outside under a metal roof in the yard of the Adventist church. On one side of the children's class an adult class study their Sabbath School lesson; on the other side the youth study their lesson. So the children must sing songs to Jesus quietly, so they don't disturb the others.

## Daddy's Discovery

Jeremy's family was not always Adventist. Jeremy's mother belonged to a beautiful church across the street from the little Adventist church. Jeremy's father did not attend any church. But one Saturday as Father walked down the street, he passed the little church and heard someone preaching inside.

Now, there are many churches in Ghana, and it is not unusual to hear a preacher speaking. But it was Saturday, not Sunday. Jeremy's father stopped to listen. The speaker was not shouting; he was talking, just as a teacher talks to students. But what he was saying was powerful, and Jeremy's father could not pull himself away. It made sense to him.

He listened as the pastor described the hope that Jesus Christ brings to sinners. *That's me*, Jeremy's father thought to himself as he hurried home to tell his wife about what he had heard.

## Not That Church!

Mother listened as Father described the preacher's sermon. Then he announced that he wanted to start going to church. "Fine," said Mother. "Come to my church this Sunday."

But Father did not want to go to Mother's church. He wanted to go to the little church where he had heard the powerful words of hope and salvation. "Come with me," Father said. "Just once."

But mother was not interested. "I go to the church across the street!" she said. "It is a fine church with comfortable pews and beautiful windows. Why would I want to go to that dingy block building with a rusty metal roof and no windows? Why, the walls are not even painted! What would my friends think if they saw me go

to that run-down little chapel? And what's more, those people worship on Saturday! Everyone knows Christians worship on Sunday!" No, Mother was not interested in going, not even once!

But Father wanted to hear more of what the preacher said was God's plan of salvation. So on Sabbath he walked alone to the little chapel across the street from Mother's fine church. People welcomed him and showed him to a Sabbath School class where people were talking about God's love. He started studying the Bible on his own.

Then one day Mother heard Father talking about the Bible and realized that he knew more about the Bible than she did. So on Sabbath Mother dressed up and joined Father as he walked to the little chapel. They walked past her fine church with its high ceiling and tall windows and entered the little chapel with its rusty roof that had become Father's church.

Mother smiled nervously as she followed Father to his Sabbath School class. Several people welcomed her, and she began to relax. She listened as the members talked about the signs of Jesus' return, and she realized how Father had learned so much about the Bible. During worship service Mother could feel God's love in the pastor's simple sermon. She decided to return.

Week after week Mother and Father attended the little church. In time they joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and that is how Jeremy came to attend this church too.

## Growing Christians

Jeremy's church is growing. It can hardly hold everyone who comes. But not for long, for soon the little church will be torn down to make room for a larger, more fitting church. The members are not wealthy, but they have saved for years to have the money to start building a new church.

This quarter our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Jeremy's congregation build a permanent church that will hold all who want to come.

"I'm glad that my mother and father decided to come to this church," Jeremy says. "Even though the building is not so nice, Jesus is here with us."

Your mission offering is important. It helps people build churches around the world and teaches people that God is love. 🌍

# Recipes From West Africa

Photocopy onto heavy paper and cut apart, or fold on dotted line.

## Palaver Sauce

West Africa

While a true palaver sauce is usually made with cassava or potato leaves, using spinach is far simpler, and the resulting flavor is close to the original. This dish is popular throughout West Africa in many different versions. Many recipes call for meat. If you wish, you can add beef-flavored gluten or FrChik torn into pieces.

- 3 pounds fresh spinach
- ¼ cup peanut oil
- 1 large onion
- 8 garlic cloves
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh ginger
- ½ cup tomato sauce
- 1 cup water
- ⅛ teaspoon ground cardamom
- ⅛ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- salt to taste

Rinse the spinach thoroughly; stem and tear into 3-inch pieces. Set aside. In a non-aluminum saucepan, heat the peanut oil over medium heat. Cut the onion into quarters and separate the layers; add to the oil and fry. Crush garlic cloves and sprinkle over onion, stirring occasionally, until onion softens. Add ginger and stir. Add tomato sauce, water, and cardamom. Simmer for 5 minutes to blend flavors. Add cayenne, stir; add spinach, a handful at a time, stirring after each addition. Cover pot and simmer for 30 minutes, or until spinach is tender. Add salt to taste, and serve warm with rice or fufu.

## Yam Balls

Ghana

These snacks are popular in many West African countries. They can be made plain or with added chopped vegetables or spices. (If white yams are not available, use white potatoes.)

- 1 pound white yams
- 1 tablespoon minced spring onion
- 2 tablespoons chopped tomatoes
- ½ teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
- 1 green chili, minced
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 egg, beaten
- salt to taste
- oil
- seasoned flour for coating
- lettuce garnish

Peel yams and cut into bite-size pieces. Boil in salted water until tender, about 30 minutes. Drain and mash. Add onion, tomatoes, thyme, chili, and garlic; then stir in egg and seasonings, and mix well.

Scoop the mixture with a teaspoon and form into balls. Heat oil in a frying pan, roll balls in the seasoned flour, and fry until golden brown. Drain, serve hot. If you wish, add fresh chopped parsley and chives to yam mixture or to flour coating mixture.

## Liberian Palaver Sauce

Liberia

- 1 cup onions, finely chopped
- ½ cup vegetable or palm oil
- 2 quarts salted water
- 2 pounds or 2 19-ounce cans beef-flavored gluten, cut into cubes
- 2 to 4 teaspoons beef-style seasoning
- 4 cups cassava or potato greens, finely chopped
- 2 cups spinach, finely chopped
- 1 or 2 small hot peppers (or 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper)

Sauté onions in vegetable oil. Bring water to boil in a 4-quart (non-aluminum) stock pot; add onions, gluten, beef-style seasoning, greens, and pepper; cook gently about 20 minutes or until most water is absorbed and greens are tender.

Thanks to J. B. Flomo for help with this recipe.

# Winnie's Wish

GraceLink Connection: Worship.

Winnie



*Granny and Winnie did not mind walking a long way to worship God.*

“Winnie!” Granny called, “It’s time to go. We don’t want to be late for midweek service.”

“I’m coming, Granny,” Winnie answered as she stepped into her flip-flop slippers and ran her fingers over her braided hair. She hurried out the door and ran to catch up with her granny, who had already started down the path to the main road.

It was Wednesday afternoon when Granny and Winnie set out for church. They greeted neighbors who were resting beneath a mango tree during the heat of the day. Winnie wished she could sit with them, but they had a long way to walk before they arrived at church.

## The Long Walk

Winnie lives in Ghana [*locate on a map*]. Winnie’s granny did not own a car and did not have money to ride a bus or taxi, so they walked wherever they needed to go. Granny and Winnie walked several *hours* to church and back at least twice a week. Sometimes they sang as they walked along the highway; sometimes they talked about the coming harvest or a neighbor’s new baby. Sometimes they just walked along in silence.

When the rainy season brought heavy rains, Winnie and her grandmother could not go to church. And during planting and harvest times, Granny and Winnie had to work hard in their little garden. Sometimes they were too tired to walk to church for Wednesday evening’s service. But they made sure that they got up very early on Sabbath, so they would be on time for Sabbath School.

Granny often wished that they did not have to walk along the busy highway, where cars and trucks whooshed past them very fast. When Granny heard a bus or a truck coming, she stepped well off the road to avoid the dust and smoke the vehicles blew their way. Then they would step back onto the edge of the road and walk again.

## Granny! Granny!

One Wednesday afternoon Winnie and Granny set off for church. When they reached the highway, Granny

stepped between Winnie and the road to shield the little girl from the big trucks and buses. They chatted as they walked along. Winnie never heard the car coming behind them. Perhaps the driver saw a truck coming in the opposite direction and moved closer to the edge of the road to give the larger vehicle room to pass. The driver did not see Granny and Winnie, and his car struck Granny, sending her flying through the air.

Winnie ran to where Granny lay still on the side of the road. She shook Granny to awaken her, but Granny did not wake up. She had died instantly. Winnie sat back and wept silently. One moment Granny and Winnie were walking and talking, and the next moment Winnie was all alone, sitting beside a road with no one to help her. Tears streamed down her cheeks.

## A New Home, a New Church

Word reached the little church where Granny and Winnie worshipped, and one of the church families took Winnie into their home. She now lives near the church and does not walk for hours to church on Sabbath morning. But she misses her granny.

The church members miss Granny too. In her memory they started a Branch Sabbath School in Winnie’s former village. Winnie is happy that now her former neighbors can learn to love Jesus as Granny did. But sometimes she wishes that the church members had started the Branch Sabbath School long ago. Perhaps then Granny would still be alive.

Winnie knows that one day, when Jesus comes, she will see her granny again. That makes it a little easier to live now. Winnie wants to tell everyone that Jesus loves them, so Jesus can come soon and she can see her granny again.

## We Can Help

How can we help Winnie’s wish come true? [*Let children respond.*] Yes, we can pray for people who do not know Jesus, and we can give our mission offerings so that grandmas and grandpas, mothers and fathers, and boys and girls around the world will hear that God loves them and wants them to come and live with Him real soon. 🌍

# Let's Speak Akan

Akan (ah-KAHN) is the language of the Ashanti people of central Ghana. Practice saying these words until you feel comfortable with them before attempting to teach the children. As a guide, vowels represented by the following letter combinations represent the sound found in the word following it. *A* as in cat; *ay* as in say; *ih* as in fit; *eh* as in bed; *ee* as in bee; *oh* as in oh; *u* as in foot; *aw* as in hot; *oo* as in boot.

## Common Phrases

## Say It

Happy Sabbath	hoh-MIH-dah pah (or) ah-NEE-jay hoh-MIH-dah
Welcome	ahk-WAH-ah-ba
Hello	HA-loh
Good morning	mih-mah WU a-CHEE
Please	mih pah wu choh
Thank you	mih-dah wu ah-SEE
You're welcome	MIH-mah wu ah-KWAH-ah-ba
Yes	a-nee
No	DA-bee
Goodbye	bai-bai (same as bye-bye)
My name is . . .	mee-DEEN dih . . .
What is your name?	wu DEEN dih sehn
How old are you?	WUH-dee mi-FYIH sehn
I am 10 years old.	ma-DEE m'FYIH doo
Happy Birthday	ah-WU-duh PAH
Where is Ghana?	hee-fah nah GAH-nah waw

## Foods

bread	PAH-noh
rice	EH-moh
soup	n'KWAHN
water	n'syo
banana	kwah-DOO
corn	a-BROO
orange	ahn-kah
yam	bai-YEH-reh

## Counting

one	ba'uh-KOH
two	mee-ehn-OO
three	mee-ehn-SAH
four	nahn
five	noom
six	n'SEE-ah
seven	n'SOHN
eight	n'waw-CHIH
nine	n'KROHN
ten	doo
eleven	DOO ba'ah-KOH
twelve	DOO mee-en-NU

## Days of the Week

Sunday	kwah-SEE-uh-duh
Monday	D'WAW-uh-duh
Tuesday	bih-NAH-duh
Wednesday	woo-KWAH-duh
Thursday	ya-WO'AH-dah
Friday	FEE-ah-duh
Saturday	mih-MIH-nih-duh
Sabbath	hoh-mih-dah

# Gideon's Calling

GraceLink Connection: Service.

Gideon



*He teaches his friends Bible stories and songs, and then they visit neighbors and share God's love.*

Today's story comes from Nigeria [*locate Nigeria on a map.*]

Gideon is 9 years old. He lives in Lagos, the former capital city of Nigeria. Gideon wants to be a pastor when he grows up, but he already shares his faith with others.

Gideon likes to preach and sing about Jesus. He has taught his neighborhood friends songs and Bible stories, and the boys visit neighbors to sing and tell Bible stories. \_\_\_\_\_ [*name of child*] will tell us Gideon's story just as Gideon told it to *Mission*.

## Gideon's Glad Gang

My friends and I like to visit our neighbors and sing for them. We sing "Jesus Loves Me" and other songs. Then I tell the people a Bible story about David or Samson or Daniel or Jesus. Sometimes they ask us to stay and tell them more stories. When we go we offer to come back, and they are glad. We all like to do this—go to someone's home, sing a song, and tell them a Bible story.

One day my friends and I visited Jumoke [joo-MOH-keh], a woman who lives near us. We sang songs for her, and then I told her the story of Samson. She liked it, so we told her more stories and sang more songs until we had to go. She invited us to come back again, and we promised we would.

The next day four of us returned and sang for Jumoke again and told her more stories. When it was time to go, she asked us to come again. But we had school the next day and could not go.

## An Invitation

Several days passed before I could visit Jumoke again. I apologized for not coming sooner as she invited me in. I went alone this time. We talked about how much Jesus loves us. She said she loved my stories, and I told her she could hear lots of stories if she came to church with me.

"I would like that," Jumoke said. I told her that I would ask my parents to take her to church the next Sabbath. She smiled and she said she would go.

When I arrived home, I found Mama stirring the fried rice that she was making for dinner. "Mama," I said, "Jumoke wants to go to church with us this Sabbath. Can we take her?"

Mama smiled. "That's wonderful," she said. "Let's ask Papa when he comes home."

When Papa came in, I asked him. "Papa, can we take Jumoke to church with us this Sabbath?" Papa did not seem surprised by my request, maybe because he knew that I was visiting her.

"Yes, I think we can make room for her in our car," he said. I could tell by the way he said it that he was pleased.

## Sabbath Visitor

On Sabbath morning I went to Jumoke's house to tell her we were ready to go to church. We walked back to my house, where the family was waiting beside our car.

On the way home from church Jumoke thanked me for inviting her to church. I asked her to come again the next week, and she said she would try. But when I visited her that week, she said that her husband did not want her to go to church. I felt sad that she could not come, and I prayed for her all during that week. The next week when I visited her, she said that she would come to church on Sabbath. Her husband still does not want her to come, but she comes whenever she can.

My friends and I still go to Jumoke's house and sing songs. And on Sabbath I go to get her when it is time for church. Jumoke wants to come to church every week, but her husband still gives her trouble. Please pray that her husband will let Jumoke come to church and that he will want to come to church with her.

## Being a Missionary

Boys and girls, Gideon is a missionary in his neighborhood. You can be a missionary too, just by telling the people you know that Jesus loves them. And when you bring your mission offering to Sabbath School, you are helping people in lands near and far away learn about Jesus. Let's pray for Jumoke and her family, that God will lead them all to love Jesus.

[*Close with prayer.*] 🌍

# Fun With French

Following are some words and phrases in French, the language of much of West-Central African Division. Use words from this list in Sabbath School to make missions come alive for your children. Vowels are pronounced as follows: *ah* as in father; *ay* as in hay; *ee* as in bee; *eh* as in bet; *oh* as in toe; *oo* as in boot; *uh* as in butter. The accented syllables are written in capital letters.

## Common Phrases

Happy Sabbath  
Welcome  
(to Sabbath School)  
Hello  
Good morning  
Please  
Thank you  
Yes  
No  
You're welcome  
Goodbye  
See you later  
My name is . . .  
This is Mr. \_\_\_\_\_.  
This is Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_.  
What is your name?  
How old are you?  
I am 10 years old.  
Happy Birthday

## Write It

Bon sabbat  
Bienvenue  
à l'école du sabbat  
Salut  
Bonjour  
S'il te plaît  
Merci  
Oui  
Non  
De rien  
Au revoir  
A tout à l'heure  
Je m'appelle . . .  
Voici Monsieur \_\_\_\_\_.  
Voici Madame \_\_\_\_\_.  
Comment t'appelle-tu?  
Quel âge as-tu?  
J'ai dix ans.  
Bon anniversaire

## Say It

bohn SAH-bah  
bee-ahn-v'noo  
ah lay-COL doo SAH-bah  
sah-LYOO  
bohn-JOOHR  
seel-tuh-PLAY  
mayr-SEE  
we  
no  
duh-ree-AH  
oh'r -VWAHR  
ah TOO-tah-luhr  
juh ma-PELL . . .  
vwah-see mah-SYOOH \_\_\_\_  
vwah-see mah-DAHM \_\_\_\_  
ko-mah ta-pehl-LEH-too  
kell AZH-ah-TOO  
zhay DEES ahn  
bohn an-ee-vehr-SAYR

## Counting

one  
two  
three  
four  
five  
six  
seven  
eight  
nine  
ten

un  
deux  
trois  
quatre  
cinq  
six  
sept  
huit  
neuf  
dix

uhn  
duh  
twa  
kat'r  
senk  
sis  
set  
weet  
nuhf  
dees

# Mother's Scars

GraceLink Connection: Worship.

Ado



*Ado felt bad when some boys said his mother was ugly. But when he learned why she had scars, his mother became beautiful to him.*

Today's story comes from Nigeria [*locate on map*].

"Fire! Fire!" the neighbors shouted, alerting Ado's mother that her tiny thatched home was on fire. Flames shot from the roof and walls, and smoke filled the hut. Mother managed to escape, but then she realized that her baby boy was still inside the house. Ignoring the flames and thick smoke that billowed out of the doorway, she ran into the house to rescue her baby.

Neighbors held their breath as seconds passed and the flames grew brighter. At last Mother emerged from the burning hut with her baby held close to her body. The little one was safe, but Mother had been burned on her arms and face. In time most of her wounds healed, but her once-beautiful face was forever scarred by the fire.

## Ado Grows Up

Ado grew to be a strong boy. He noticed that his mother's face did not look like other mothers' faces, but he did not ask why. Someone had told him the story of how his mother had saved him from the fire when he was a baby, but he did not realize that the scars on his mother's face had come because of her love for him.

One day when he was playing with his friends, someone made fun of another boy, but the comment hurt Ado deeply. The boy taunted his friend by saying, "Your face is ugly, like that of Ado's mother." The boys burst into laughter, but Ado stopped in his tracks. Yes, it was true that his mother's face was not pretty to look at. He ran home so his friends would not see the tears forming in his eyes.

## What Happened?

Ado hurried into his hut and sat down to think. When his mother came in, she could see that her happy boy was unusually quiet. "Is something wrong, my son?" she asked.

Ado thought for a moment, and then asked, "Mama, what happened to your face?"

"Why do you ask, my son?" his mother questioned, stiffening a bit but trying to be calm.

"The boys—one of them told another boy that he was ugly—like Ado's mother," Ado blurted out. "What happened to your face?"

Mother was quiet for a moment. Then she stood up and walked to her drawer and pulled something out. She gave it to Ado. It was a photograph of a beautiful young woman. Ado studied the picture and then looked at his mother. "Is this you?" he asked.

"Yes, it was taken before the fire." Ado knew about the fire. He knew that his mother had pulled him from his bed and saved his life. But he had not thought about what her unselfish act had cost her.

Ado stood and hugged his mother. Now he understood. His mother had given everything for him. Without her unselfish act, he surely would have died in that fire. He looked up into his mother's face. It was no longer scarred and wrinkled to him. It was beautiful; it was the face of love.

Ado squeezed his mother tightly. "To me you are beautiful—even more beautiful than your picture."

## Jesus' Scars

Boys and girls, Jesus loves us, too. He loves us enough that He carries scars from the day that He saved you and me and everyone in the world from the fire of sin. He has scars in His hands, His feet, and on His side, where the sword pierced Him. And likely He has scars on His back and on His head. Jesus could have gone back to His Father in heaven without dying for us, but He loves us so much that He could not bear the thought of spending eternity without us. He knew that if He did not die for us, we would all die without Him.

When Ado sees his mother's scars, they remind him how much she loves him. And when we think about Jesus' scars, we remember Jesus' love for us. We can say thank You to Jesus by giving our offering to missions every week so more people around the world will learn what Jesus did for them. Then we can all say thank You to Jesus together. I want to do that. Do you?

[Close with prayer.] 🙏

# Sing in French

The people of France speak French, as do many people in West-Central Africa. Below are the French words for some well-known children's songs, followed by the phonetic pronunciation. Syllables joined by a MM indicate two or more syllables that share a single note. (For more songs in French, see first quarter's *Children's Mission*, page 18.)

## Jesus M'aime (Jesus Loves Me)

Oui, Jesus m'aime,	wee zeh zoo mehm
Oui, Jesus m'aime,	wee zeh zoo mehm
Oui, Jesus m'aime,	wee zeh zoo mehm
La Bible me le dit.	la bee bluh muh luh dee

## Jesus Aime les Petits Enfants (Jesus Loves the Little Children)

Jesus aime tous les enfants,	zhay sooh em too leh zawhn fawhn
Tous les enfants de la terre.	too leh zhawhn fawhn duh la tehr
Bruns et jaunes, noirs et blancs,	b'rawhn zay zhohn no ah zay blon
Pour lui sont des diamants.	poor loo ee sohn deh dee ah mahn
Jesus aime tous les enfants de la terre.	zhay sooh em too leh zhawhn fawhn duh la tehr

## Mon Sauveur, C'est Par la Foi ("I Will Follow Thee," SDA Hymnal, No. 623)

Mon Sauveur, c'est par la foi	mohn soh vuhr seh pahr la fwah
Que je m'approche de toi.	kuh zhuh mah proh shuh duh twa
Quoi que m'apporte demain,	kwa kuh mah por tuh duh mah
O Jesus, tiens ma main!	oh zhay sooh tee yeh mawh mah
Oui, je te suivrai,	wee zhuh tuh swee vreh
Oui, je te suivrai;	Wee zhuh tuh swee vreh
Viens me diriger,	vee ehn muh dee ree zhay
Jesus, bon Berger.	zhay sooh bohn bair zhay

## God Is so Good (He Is Our Song [Hagerstown, Md.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1988], No. 33.)

Dieu est si bon	dee MM ooh eh see bohn
Dieu est si bon	dee MM ooh eh see bohn
Dieu est si bon	dee MM ooh eh see bohn
Est si bon pour moi	eh see bohn poo mwah

## Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (Sing for Joy [Hagerstown, Md.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1989], No. 90.)

Fixe les yeux sur le Maitre	feex leh ee MM ooh syuhr luh may truh
viens sous son merveilleux regard	vee MM uh soo sohn mehr vay yooh ruh-gahr

# Danger in the Market

GraceLink Connection: Community.

Jonathan



*He was distracted by the music in the marketplace when suddenly strong arms grabbed him and carried him away.*

Jonathan lives in Nigeria [locate Nigeria on a map]. He lives in a village outside a large city.

## Market Day

It was market day, the day when people from nearby villages came to buy and sell their fruits and vegetables from their gardens, used clothing, shoes, and auto parts—nearly everything was for sale. Jonathan loved market day. He liked to watch people and listen to the music blaring from loudspeakers. Maybe he would meet some of his friends, too.

Jonathan followed his mother through the market stalls, stopping to choose fresh cassava leaves here, some yams there. She bought Jonathan some sweet bread to eat when he was hungry. As Jonathan munched on the sweet bread, he heard some music and wandered over to see what was happening.

## Kidnapped!

Suddenly someone grabbed him from behind and started carrying him away. He could not see who it was, but he was sure it was not his uncle who sometimes played tricks on him. When the person holding him started toward the edge of the marketplace, Jonathan began to cry and scream, “Put me down! Put me down! Help! Help!”

His cries drew the attention of some people who ran after the man and stopped him. A security guard ran up and demanded, “Whose child is this? Where are you taking this boy?”

“This is the child of my brother,” the man said.

“No I’m not!” Jonathan yelled.

The security guard grabbed the man and said, “If this were your brother’s son, he would not be shouting and crying.” Then the guard ordered the man to go with him to the office of the market chief. As Jonathan followed the security man, he looked around for his mother. She was nowhere around.

When they arrived at the market chief’s office, the man confessed that he was trying to take Jonathan to his village. The security guard marched the man off to jail while the market chief calmed Jonathan. The chief announced over the public address system that a lost boy

was waiting for his mother at the market chief’s office. Then he sat Jonathan down to wait for his mother to come for him.

Fifteen minutes passed, and Mother did not come. Jonathan prayed that his mother would find him. Again the chief announced a lost child, and again Jonathan waited, searching the crowd for his mother. The chief offered him some food, but he was too upset to eat it.

## Lost Son

Meanwhile Jonathan’s mother had found his grandmother, who was selling at the market. “Where is Jonathan?” Grandmother asked. “I thought you were bringing him today.” Mother looked around quickly, but she did not see her son. She put her purchases near Grandmother and ran back through the rows of stalls, dodging people who were bargaining over bananas, searching for her son.

“Jonathan!” she called, but no one answered. She stopped someone and asked, “Have you seen a boy about this tall [demonstrate the height of a child] wandering alone?” she asked, but no one had seen him.

Mother prayed as she searched, “Please, Jesus, help me to find my son before something bad happens to him.” She returned to Grandmother’s stall, hoping Jonathan had gone there, but he had not. Mother set off again, searching, calling, and asking. Tears filled her eyes, and she began weeping. She was so intent on finding her son that she did not hear the announcement about a lost boy.

## Happy Reunion

Mother continued searching until someone told her, “The market chief announced that he had a lost boy. Maybe it is your son.” Mother wiped her eyes and hurried toward the chief’s office.

Jonathan saw his mother coming. He jumped up from the chair and shouted, “Mommy!” as he ran into her arms. The two hugged tightly for several minutes. Mother was still crying. At last they were together again.

Jonathan and his mother went home. After that Jonathan never let the sights and sounds of the marketplace entice him from his mother’s side, where he was safe. Jonathan has learned that staying close to Jesus is also the safest place to be. Jesus protected him that day when a kidnapper wanted to steal him from his family. He will protect you as well, if you ask Him. 🌍

# Make Music to God!

People of every culture enjoy music and invent musical instruments with materials they have at hand. In some cultures the people beat out rhythms on a hollow log for a sound that can be heard through miles of jungle. Drums are popular in hundreds of cultures and are often made from wood. Flutes, rain sticks, rattles, and stringed instruments also are made from wood, animal hides, string, and anything that is available.

Make your own musical band this quarter using easily available materials. Try making one of these fun instruments below.

## Drums

Make drums from almost anything available. Use a small trash can, a cardboard ice cream container that has been thoroughly washed, or even a large metal can. Stretch heavy parchment or leatherlike fabric tightly across the top and secure on the sides. Decorate with brightly colored cloth or animal-skin-printed cloth or fake fur. For drumsticks, use pencils or dowels whose tips have been covered with felt.



long. Open the box; with the punched hole facing you, lay the string across the box, so that equal lengths of string hang over on each side. Line the lid of the box with all-purpose glue and place the lid on the box, being sure to align the punched holes and not disturb the string.

4. Thread one or two beads onto each piece of string and tie a knot close to the end of the string to hold the beads in place.
5. Insert the pencil into the hole and secure it with glue or masking tape, leaving at least six inches of the pencil outside the box.
6. Paint the box with a wild animal motif or with any design desired; set aside to dry.
7. To play, place the pencil between your hands and rub your hands back and forth in short quick motions to make the drum twirl around and the beads hit in rapid succession.

## Twirling Drum

These are popular throughout Africa and are as much fun to make as they are to play.

### You will need:

flat round wooden box  
round pencil or dowel  
12 inches of thin string  
two or four beads about one-third inch in diameter  
paper punch  
glue  
masking tape  
paint  
paintbrush

1. If the wooden box is more than three-fourths of an inch thick, place the lid on the bottom of the box and, using an X-Acto knife, cut around the box where the lid meets the box. Remove the lid from the box.
2. Punch a hole in the center of the side of the box and in the lid large enough to allow the pencil to be inserted into the box. (If the hole is too small for the pencil to fit through, sand down the pencil to fit the hole.)
3. Cut a piece of string about 12 inches [30 cm]



# God Shall Supply

GraceLink Connection: Community.

Sofia



*When a family is left fatherless, the children learn that God is a faithful Father.*

Today's story comes from Nigeria [*locate Nigeria on the map*].

## Sad News

When Sofia was just 4 years old and her little sister was still a baby, her father died. Mother worked hard to earn money and care for her two little girls, but sometimes there was no food in the house. Then Mother would tell her girls that God had a surprise in store for them.

"What is it, Mother?" Sofia asked.

"We have no food in the house, so we are going to ask God to send us food. I know God will answer," Mother said. Sofia, Mother, and little sister knelt down. First Sofia prayed, "Dear Jesus, Mama says we don't have any food, and it's almost dinnertime. Please send us some food to eat. Amen." Then little sister prayed, "Dear Jesus, I'm hungry. Amen." And then Mama prayed. Her prayer was longer. She thanked Jesus for all the good things He had given her little family. Then she thanked God for sending them food for that day.

God always answered their prayers. Sometimes God sent their friends to help them, and other times God sent strangers.

## God's Extra Surprise

One time when Mother told Sofia they had no food in the house, Sofia said, "OK, let's pray." The three of them knelt down and told God their problem. A few minutes later someone knocked on the door. Mother answered the door and greeted her friend. She was carrying a bag in her hand, and Sofia just *knew* that the bag held food—food for them! After all, they had prayed.

Mama's friend gave the bag to Mother, and the two women talked for a few minutes. Sofia wished her mother could hurry and give them the food that her friend had brought them. But the woman continued talking with Mother. As she stood to leave, Mother's friend gave Mother something else. Sofia could not see what it was, but she did see tears in her mother's eyes. Was Mother crying? Sofia did not want her mother to be sad anymore.

When Mother's friend left, Sofia hugged her Mother and tried comfort her. But then Sofia saw that Mother was smiling. "Mama," Sofia said, "why were you crying a minute ago but now you're smiling?"

Mother took something out of her pocket. It was money—big money! "Look, girls," Mother said. "God has answered *two* prayers today. He sent us food to eat—and He sent us the money to pay your school fees!" Sofia remembered that Mother had been praying for money to send them to school. Sofia had forgotten, but God had remembered and had sent the money! Sofia was so happy that she almost forgot about being hungry.

## A Proper Thank-You

Mother, Sofia, and her sister knelt down and thanked God for giving them food and the money for school fees. Then they opened the bag Mother's friend had left. Inside they found rice and juice and some vegetables. Mother put a pot of water on the stove to cook some rice. Then she prepared the vegetables to eat with the rice. Soon they were enjoying their lunch, straight from God's hands.

## Many Prayers, Many Answers

God answered many other prayers for Sofia's family. When the girls needed school uniforms and play clothes, God always provided them—sometimes even before they asked.

Sofia's mother found work at the Adventist university, and now Sofia and her sister can attend the Adventist school on campus. "God has been so good to us," Sofia says. "He has not let us go hungry, He has provided a home, and has paid our school fees every year. I am glad that we can ask God for things we truly need, and He will give them to us if we trust Him. I am glad to know that God is my heavenly Father. I don't need to worry about the future."

Sofia is right. The Bible says, "God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). Isn't that a wonderful promise? As we thank Jesus for supplying our needs, let's remember to give our mission offering every week as a way to say thank You to God for loving us so much.

[Close with prayer.] 

# Rain Stick

Rain sticks are musical instruments made from pieces of bamboo or other hollow wood. When gently tipped from one end to the other, beans or small stones inside the rain stick bounce off the bamboo's ridges and produce a soft sound like rain. Rain sticks are often used to accompany singing, even in church.

Help your children make simple rain sticks for use in the Thirteenth Sabbath program or to accompany their songs at the mission potluck.

## For each rain stick you will need:

- 12-inch heavy-duty cardboard tube
- wire nails (available at craft or hardware stores)
- two 3-inch circles cut from thin, flexible cardboard
- all-purpose glue
- two small rubber bands
- rice, beans, lentils, small stones, or beads to make "rain" noise
- 6" x 12" piece of cloth, felt, or construction paper\*

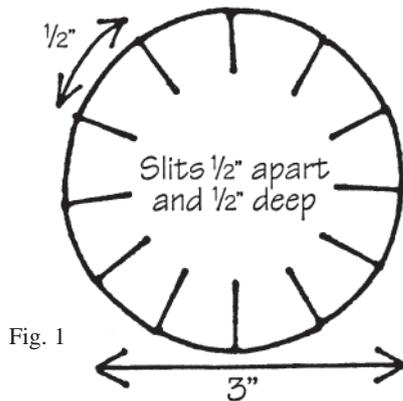


Fig. 1

## Preparation:

1. Before children arrive, cut cardboard circles and make 2-inch slits 2 inches apart around each circle (see figure 1). Cut cloth or construction paper into 6" x 12" [15 cm x 30 cm] pieces.
2. Give each child a cardboard tube and some wire nails. Show them how to press the nails gently into the cardboard along the spiral of the tube (see figure 2) without denting the tube.
3. Cover one end of the tube with a cardboard circle, folding the cut edges down over the sides of the tube. Glue ends down firmly and secure with a rubber band until the glue dries (see figure 3).

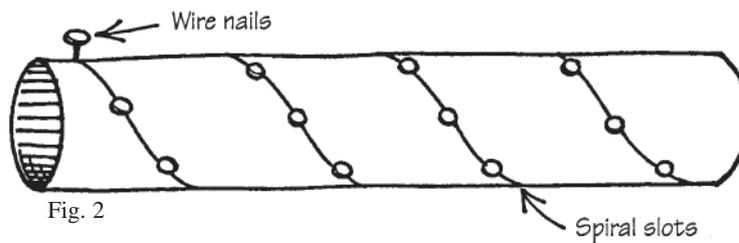


Fig. 2

4. Add about a quarter cup rice, beans, lentils, or beads to the rain stick and cover the open end with the remaining cardboard circle. Glue and secure with rubber band.
5. Remove rubber bands and cover the tube with cloth, felt, or construction paper. Apply a thin line of glue the length of the tube and carefully align cloth or paper on the tube. Press into the glue. Add another line of glue an inch or so from the first row and press the cloth into it. Continue applying glue and pressing the cloth over it until the tube is covered. Glue the end of cloth securely so it won't unravel. Let rain sticks dry for an hour or so before using.
6. To play the rain stick, tilt it slowly from side to side at a 60-degree angle to allow the grains inside to bounce off the nails and sound like rain.

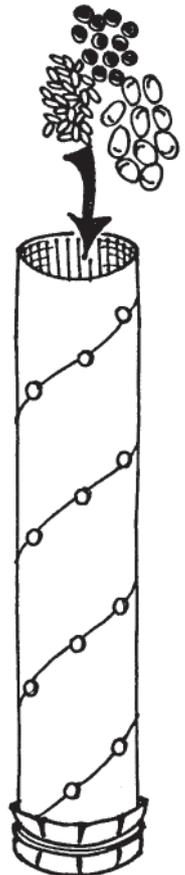
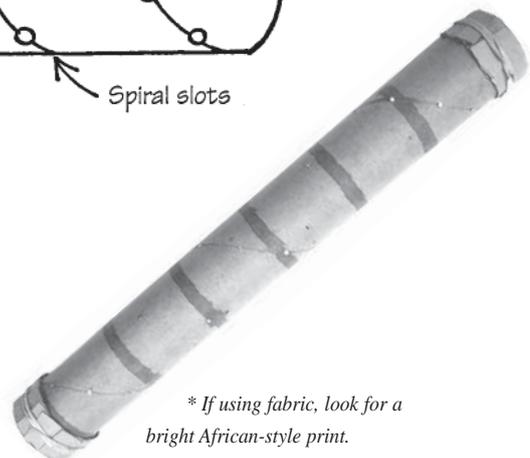


Fig. 3



\* If using fabric, look for a bright African-style print.

# Basile's Discovery

GraceLink Connection: Worship.

Basile



*"Papa, please come and listen to the music down the road! It is so beautiful!"*

Basile [bah-SEEL] lives in the country of Benin [locate Benin on the map] with his large family. Papa believed in voodoo, a form of witchcraft that is popular in Benin and neighboring countries of Africa. He kept voodoo gods in the family house to protect the family from evil spirits that might want to harm them. Papa worshipped the gods of water, of thunder, of snakes and trees and the devil, the dead, and many more. At Papa's bakery, the workers often argued over which fetishes provided the best protection against the spirits.

## Beautiful Music

One day as Basile walked along the street, he heard singing and stopped to listen. It was beautiful! Basile turned and ran home, calling, "Papa, Papa! Come hear the beautiful music down the road!" Papa was busy, but he laid down his tools and followed his son into the street.

Papa and Basile could hear the music before they could see the choir. They stood a short distance away and listened until the singing stopped. Then they saw two men step into a large tub of water. One man raised his hand and spoke some words. Then he pushed the other man under the water! But before Papa could react, the first man lifted the other man up from the water and hugged him! Basile and his father had never seen a ceremony quite like this before, and they thought it was strange voodoo. They turned to leave when the choir sang another song.

A man stepped up to Papa and invited him to return the next Saturday. "We would be happy to have you," the man said.

Papa thanked the man and turned toward home. "Papa," Basile said, "may I come back again next week and hear the music again? It was so beautiful!"

"Yes, son, you may return," Papa answered. "Just don't let anyone put you in that water."

## Learning About Jesus

Basile attended the worship service the following week. He enjoyed the happy music and loved the stories he heard about Jesus. Week after week he attended the

meetings, returning home to tell his family what he had learned. He invited his family to join him, and his mother and sisters had started going to church every Sabbath.

Then one day Basile came home from church with a serious look on his face. "Papa," he said, "the pastor said that voodoo fetishes have no power of their own. He said their power comes from the devil, and the devil is not as strong as Jesus, God's Son. If that is true, we should worship Jesus, not the fetishes."

Basile's oldest brother did not like it that his family was turning away from the voodoo gods. He wanted to show his family that Christians don't know everything. He decided to shame the church's pastor by asking him questions that he could not answer. So on Sabbath, Basile's brother went to church with the family. After church his brother asked the pastor many questions. The pastor answered the questions with Bible texts. Before long Basile's brother started attending church to listen, not to trick the pastor. In time Basile's mother, his sisters, and his brother accepted Jesus as their Lord and joined the Adventist Church.

Reluctantly Papa agreed to get rid of his fetishes. And in time he accepted Jesus as his Savior too. But he could not be baptized because he had two wives.

## Trial and Victory

Then one of Basile's aunts became sick. Her family paid the voodoo priests to get rid of the evil spirits that were making her sick, but she did not get better. Even modern medicine did not cure her. Finally she asked Papa to pray for her. Papa asked God to heal his sister. God answered this prayer, and Basile's aunt was healed.

Other members of the family realized that Papa's God was more powerful than the voodoo they practiced. Basile's aunt began attending church and was baptized with two of her children.

When Papa's second wife went home to her village, Papa could be baptized. Now the whole family is united in Jesus, all because young Basile believed in Jesus and shared God's love with his family.

Our mission offerings help people in faraway countries learn about Jesus. Let's be faithful to bring our offering every week. 🌍

# African Marketplace



# My Brother's Faith

GraceLink Connection: Community.

Borbor



*A young boy learns to trust God for everything.*

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

My name is Borbor. I live in Monrovia, Liberia, a country that has been at war most of my life. People had to run away from their homes to escape soldiers, food was hard to find, and gasoline was too expensive to buy. So we walked wherever we needed to go. It was during this time that my brother Yowah [yoh-WAH] taught me about faith.

## Long Walk to Church

I was 9 and Yowah was 11. We had no fuel for our car, so Papa gave Yowah 100 Liberian dollars [about US\$2] to take a taxi to the nearby Adventist church. But Yowah wanted to go to our home church 12 miles [18 kilometers] away. We knew that our 100 dollars would never get us to the church. So we started walking. My cousins and I hurried to catch up with him.

We walked for an hour, and I was tired. My cousins and I tried to convince Yowah to turn back to the church near our home. "By the time we get to the church," I reasoned, "we will be tired, and the pastor will be done preaching." But Yowah said, "Just have faith," and he kept walking.

A car slowed down near us, and the driver asked us to open the car door to let his passenger out. I hesitated because my father had warned us never to talk to strangers and *never* to get into their cars. But Yowah reached over and opened the door. "Maybe God is sending someone to take us to church," he whispered.

## Painful Journey

As we continued walking, I noticed that Yowah was limping. He had sickle cell disease, and sometimes he had pain in his legs.

A few minutes later the same car passed us on the street and stopped down the road. As we approached, the driver opened his window and asked why Yowah was limping. Yowah told him he had sickle cell disease and was having an attack.

"Where are you going?" the driver asked. Yowah told

him, and the man offered to take us to church. I was still nervous, but the man seemed so kind. We all got in, and the man drove us to church. I know Yowah was thanking God for the ride.

When we arrived at church, we thanked the man and hurried up the steps and into the church. The deacon was calling for the offering, and I saw my brother take out the 100 Liberian dollars we had brought for transport. "No," I whispered. "We might need that to get home." My brother smiled and dropped the money into the offering bag. "Now," he whispered, "pray that God will provide a ride home for us."

## A Lesson in Faith

After church ended, we greeted other members before starting to leave. One man invited us to his home for dinner. We were friends, so we happily agreed. We had a nice lunch and a pleasant Sabbath afternoon with them. After sunset worship, the man took us home. When we arrived, my father was not there.

"Where's Papa?" I asked. Mother said he had been worried about us and went searching for us. Two hours later Papa came home, limping. We learned that he had walked all the way to the Central church, only to learn that we had gone home with his friend. On his way home, he had injured his foot.

We prayed together. Then I thanked Yowah for having faith that God would provide a ride to church and back home so we could give our money as an offering. He smiled and said, "Have faith, little brother."

## A Lifelong Lesson

Last year Yowah died of complications of his sickle cell disease. He told me, "You're the eldest now. Take care of our parents and stay faithful to Jesus."

I miss my brother, but he taught me some important lessons. Nothing in this life is certain, and I should live each day for Jesus. I want to make the most of my life for God, and I am teaching my younger brother to live for God, just as Yowah taught me.

Your mission offering helps children in Liberia and around the world know that God loves them and cares for them. 🌍

# Play Mancala

Mancala is one name given to a game of strategy that has been played in Africa for generations. The object of the game is simple: capture more pieces than your opponent by the end of the game. But as with any game that has enjoyed wide popularity, rules vary. A representative version and variations are given below. Practice the game several times to become familiar with the rules, and decide before play begins which variations, if any, will be followed.

## Equipment

One playing board consisting of a piece of wood with 12 shallow holes (or use the bottom half of an egg carton); 48 small playing pieces (marbles, seeds, small stones, buttons, etc) of any color; and two bowls, one placed at either end of the board and used as the players' storehouse for captured pieces.

Drop four playing pieces into each of the 12 holes on the playing board.

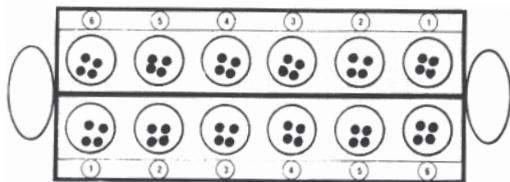


Fig. 1

## To play

The aim of each player is to capture as many playing pieces as possible. The strategy is to decide which set of playing pieces to play in order to capture (or to set up for capture) the most pieces, regardless of which player they belong to.

Decide which player goes first. Each move consists of a player picking all of the playing pieces from any one hole on his or her side of the game board and dropping one piece into each hole to the right (counterclockwise) of the now-empty hole, continuing into the opponent's playing area if necessary. If the player's last piece falls into an empty hole or a hole that now has an odd number of pieces, that player's turn ends. If, however, the last piece lands in a hole that now has an even number of pieces

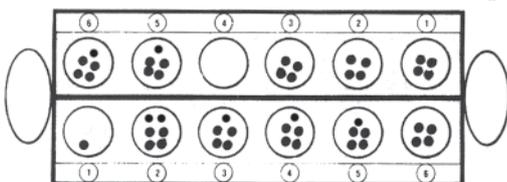


Fig. 2

(2, 4, 6, etc.) the player captures all the pieces in that hole.

Players start their turn by picking the playing pieces from any hole on their side of the board. Play likely will extend into the opponent's side of the board.

Players may capture playing pieces from either side of the board.

Players may not touch the playing pieces except to pick them up to make a play. They may count their pieces (or their opponent's pieces), but may not touch them.

Once players have picked up the playing pieces from a hole, they may not go back and start over, but must continue dropping them into the proper holes. Therefore it is important to plan ahead.

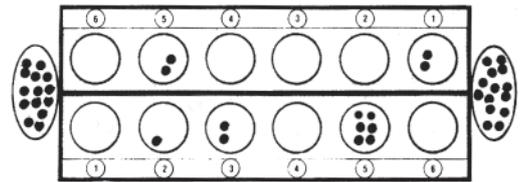
It is not necessarily to a player's advantage to empty one side of the board before the other, even if it means the opponent cannot play.

If a player cannot make a move because he or she has no playing pieces, that turn is lost, and the other player takes another turn.

The game ends when one player has captured more than half the playing pieces or when neither player can capture more pieces.

The game is most fun when players move quickly.

Fig. 3



## Variations

Countless variations in rules and playing techniques exist. Players must agree on the rules before the game begins.

In one variation players capture consecutive sets of playing pieces, provided that each hole contains an even number of playing pieces and that they are immediately preceding the hole into which the last playing piece was dropped. For instance, if the player has captured the pieces in the hole into which his or her last piece was dropped and the hole immediately preceding that one also has an even number of playing pieces, the player captures those pieces as well (and the pieces in the hole immediately preceding that hole if it has an even number of pieces.) This variation requires more strategy and planning ahead, for a player can capture enough pieces in a single turn to win the game.

Another variation allows players to capture only those pieces that are on the opponent's side of the board. If the final piece is played on the player's own side of the board, the turn ends.

# The Little Missionary

GraceLink Connection: Service.

Theodore



*He followed his own advice, made a friend, and led him to Jesus.*

Theodore is just 8 years old, but already he is a missionary. Theodore lives in Liberia [*locate Liberia on a map*]. His father is a pastor, and today's story happened when Theodore lived in a town in the interior of Liberia.

## Making Friends

Theodore's parents invited two teenage boys to live with them so they could attend school. Sometimes their friends came to visit. One of these friends is a boy named Amos. Amos was 17 or 18 years old and worked as a security guard at the school where he studied. Sometimes when Amos came to see his friends, Theodore's mother invited him to stay for dinner. Amos always stayed!

One day Theodore, who was still new in town, turned down the wrong road and became lost. Then he saw Amos, who took him home. Of course, Theodore's mother invited Amos to stay for dinner, and Amos and Theodore began spending time together. That's how they became buddies.

## New Big Brother

Amos's own parents lived far from the school where he studied, and he missed having a family around. So Theodore decided to adopt him as his big brother. Amos, in turn, adopted Theodore's family as his own. "He is almost like my brother," Theodore said. "He eats with us and plays with me."

When Theodore learned that Amos did not attend church, he invited Amos to join the family for church on Sabbath. "I was so happy when he said he would come," Theodore said. "He said he liked it, so I invited him to come all the time."

When Amos came to Theodore's house on Friday, he found the family cleaning the house and cooking food for Sabbath. Amos often joined the work team. He scrubbed the floors, helped his teenage friends cook, and he even washed the clothes! Everyone worked together to prepare for Sabbath, and Amos often joined them.

Sometimes while the family cleaned, Theodore would come to Amos and say, "Amos, tomorrow is Sabbath. We're going to church. Will you go with us?" Amos would stop mopping the floor, lean on his mop handle, look at

his little buddy, and smile. "I think I can make it to church tomorrow—if I get this floor cleaned before sunset." Theodore smiled and left Amos alone to finish his work.

## Theodore's Plan

Amos could not attend church with the family every week. Some weekends he had to work, and other weekends he had to travel to his own home to get food from the village. When Theodore learned this, he asked his mother to feed Amos so he would not have to go home to the village and miss church.

"My parents fed him more meals during the week, and Amos went home less and less often," Theodore said. That meant that Amos could go to church more often. He liked church.

## Decision Time

When the church pastor announced evangelistic meetings in the town, Theodore invited Amos to come. Amos went, and he liked the meetings. Theodore asked his friend whether he liked the meeting. "Yes, and if you don't invite me tomorrow, I'll come anyway," he said. The next night Amos came early to go to the meetings with the family.

The meetings lasted three weeks, and Amos went to all the meetings. He attended the baptismal classes that the pastor offered, and at the end of the meetings Amos was baptized in a nearby river. Theodore wiggled his way to the front of the people standing on the riverbank so he could see his friend be baptized. "I was so happy!" Theodore said. "I felt as if my big brother was being baptized."

Now Amos and Theodore are brothers in Jesus.

## Be a Missionary

"Father says I'm a missionary," Theodore says, "because I invited Amos to come to Jesus. You can be a missionary too," Theodore adds. "Just tell your friends about God's love or invite someone to come to church with you. It's not hard. Just make friends with someone, spend time with them, and then invite them. It's easy. Do it today."

That sounds like a great idea, boys and girls. Let's all make friends for Jesus this week. And today when you bring your mission offering, you may be helping someone in a far-off place learn to love Jesus. That's another wonderful way to be a missionary. 🌍

# Games of West Africa

## Clap Ball

Cameroon

In Cameroon this game is played with a round fruit or gourd. It can be played with a ball or with a pair of heavy socks rolled up to form a ball.

Divide the children into two teams of equal number who line up about six feet apart. Draw a line down the middle, parallel to the two teams.

The leader tosses the ball into the air. The children from both sides try to catch it, but anyone who steps on or crosses the middle line is out of the game.

When someone catches the ball, the other players must clap and stamp their feet one time. Meanwhile the person who caught the ball will throw it up again. Again, everyone tries to catch the ball. As soon as it is caught everyone claps and stamps once, and the game continues. Anyone who doesn't clap and stamp is also out of the game.

The faster the game moves, the more fun it is! The leaders must be alert to make sure everyone obeys the rules, stays on their side of the middle line, and claps and stamps at each catch.

## Jumping Game

Liberia

[This is similar to Nafo.] Children form a circle with one child, who is It, in the middle and begin singing a familiar rhythmic tune, such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." The child in the center hops from one foot to the other, in rhythm with the music, and extends the leg that is in the air with toes pointing out. The child then hops toward someone in the circle and extends a right or left foot. The player It hops to must respond by pointing the same foot toward It. (If It extends the right foot, the player must extend the right foot.) If the player makes a mistake, the two exchange places. If the player points the correct foot, It jumps to another player.

## Loop the Shuttlecock

Ghana & Cote D'Ivoire

Have an even number of at least eight players for this game. Divide the children into two teams, the Throwers and the Loopers. You need a shuttlecock (like a badminton birdie) and long sticks with a loop of stiff rope or wire on the end.

Draw two lines, 10 to 12 feet apart, on the ground. One team, the Throwers, is given the shuttlecock. The other team has the sticks with the loops at the end. Teams line up side by side behind their lines.

The first player on the Throwers' side throws the shuttlecock as high and far as he can toward the other side. The player who thinks he can pass the loop over the shuttlecock while it is in the air, calls out, "It's mine!" and tries to loop it.

If the shuttlecock falls short of the opposing team's line, the second player takes his turn throwing it. If the Loopers miss looping the shuttlecock three times in a row, they lose the game. If they succeed in looping it three times out of 10 good throws, they win. Throwers lose after three failures to throw the shuttlecock over the line. They win if the other side fails to loop three times in 10 tries. Loopers and Throwers change sides.

## Nafo

Liberia

This game is a favorite among girls in Liberia. Choose a leader, who stands in the center of a circle formed by the other children. The leader claps a rhythm of two beats followed by three quick beats. The followers clap along with the leader to get the rhythm. Then the leader starts doing a quick little dance, jumping on one foot and then the other, to the rhythm they are clapping. On the fifth beat the leader kicks one foot out in front. The followers must try to guess which foot the leader will kick, and kick with the same foot. If a follower guesses correctly, that person becomes the leader. It is fun to play, even if there are only two people.

# Joshua's Problem at School

Joshua



**GraceLink Connection: Service.**

*Too many students and too few schools created a problem for Adventist children in Sierra Leone.*

Joshua lives in Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone [*locate Sierra Leone on the west coast of Africa*]. He attends a private Christian school because the only Adventist school is far from his home.

## Crowded Classes

During years of war in Sierra Leone, many schools were destroyed. The government does not have money to build new schools, so schools are crowded. To ease the problem, some students attend classes in the morning, and others attend classes in the afternoon. And to make up for the shorter school day, schools now hold classes six days a week. Adventist children have a problem—a big problem.

When Joshua's school decided to hold classes on Sabbath, Joshua's father explained the Bible Sabbath to the head teacher and asked permission for Joshua to miss classes on Sabbath. The head teacher agreed, but he warned Father that national exams were coming, and they could fall on Saturday.

## Mock Exams

At the end of sixth grade, students take a national exam to determine who may go on to secondary school. To prepare for these exams, students take "mock" exams in the fifth grade. The mock exams help teachers prepare the students for the real exams.

Joshua is a good student, and he was sure he could pass the exams. But when the exam schedule was posted, he saw they came on Sabbath, three days away. If Joshua did not take the exams, he would have to repeat the fifth grade.

Joshua hurried home from school to tell his parents about the exam schedule. Father promised to talk to the principal the next day. The family prayed that the principal would allow Joshua to take his exams on another day. The next morning Father spoke with the school principal about the exam schedule. He gave the man some tracts that explaining the Sabbath. The principal read the tracts and was surprised to learn that the Bible Sabbath is Saturday, not Sunday. He agreed to

get permission to give Joshua his exams on another day.

## All-day Exams

The next day the principal told Joshua that he could take his exams on Monday. Joshua thanked the teacher and told his parents that evening.

On Monday the teacher put Joshua into an empty classroom and gave him his first test. "I will return in 30 minutes to give you the next exam," the teacher said. Then he locked the door and left Joshua alone to complete the test. Except for short breaks to stretch and eat lunch, Joshua took tests all that day. When he finished, the teacher muttered, "Next time, just take the exam with the other students."

Joshua asked the teacher, "If the exams were scheduled for Sunday, would you come to administer them?" The teacher said he would not. Then Joshua said politely, "And I will not take the tests on the Sabbath."

That afternoon Joshua returned home tired, but he knew that he had done well.

## Test of Faith

The school scheduled special classes on Saturday to help students prepare for the national exams in the sixth grade. The principal warned Jonathan if he skipped the classes and the practice exams on Saturdays, he might not do as well on the actual exams at the end of the school year. Joshua knew that if the school thought he would not do well on the exams, they could refuse to allow him to take the tests.

"I have decided to be the best student I can be so that the school will allow me to take these exams," Joshua said. "I pray that the exams will not be held on Sabbath, too."

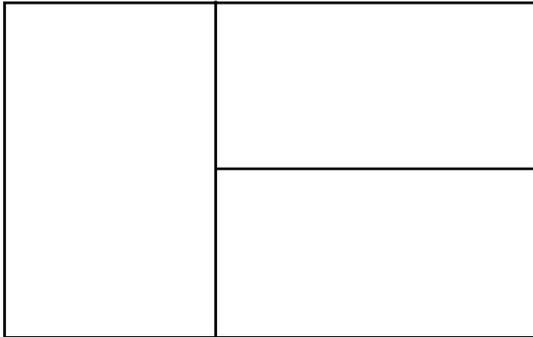
"When my classmates ask why I do not attend classes on Sabbath, I invite them to come to church and hear the truth for themselves. Some of them do come. And four of my classmates have joined Pathfinders."

Joshua urges children to study hard, be honest in school, and stand up for what they know is right. Then God will make a way for them.

Let's pray for Joshua and the other Adventist children in Sierra Leone who face difficulties in school.

*[Close with prayer.]* 🙏

# Color the Flags



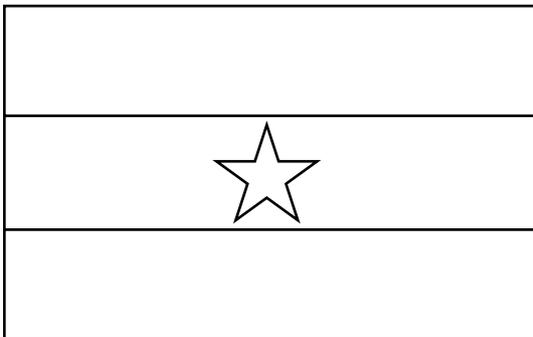
## Benin

Left stripe green;  
top stripe yellow;  
bottom stripe red



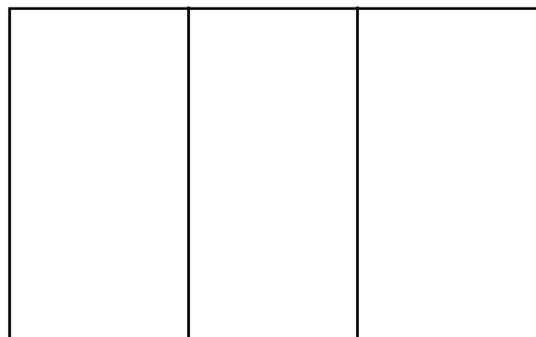
## Liberia

White star on  
dark blue background;  
alternating red and white  
stripes



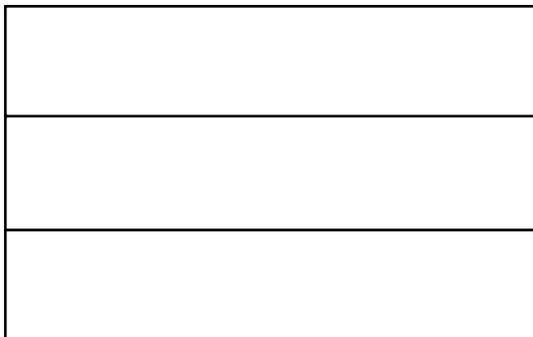
## Ghana

Red, yellow, and  
dark green stripes;  
black star



## Nigeria

Left and right stripes:  
Green; center stripe:  
white



## Sierra Leone

Top stripe olive green;  
middle stripe white;  
bottom stripe light blue

# THIRTEENTH SABBATH PROGRAM

**If your division will present the Thirteenth Sabbath program for the adults, the following suggestions can help you plan.**

- Practice the songs on page 16 during the quarter so that the children are comfortable singing them.
- Below is a short skit presenting the special projects that the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help fund. Ask primaries, juniors, or teens to help present this skit. While they do not have to memorize their parts word for word, they should be familiar enough with their presentations that they do not have to read them.
- A week or two before Thirteenth Sabbath, send a note

home with the children reminding them to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

**If your division will not join the adults for a special program, use the suggestions that follow to make Thirteenth Sabbath special:**

- Remind the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. If they have made special banks for their offering, encourage them to finish filling them and bring them on Thirteenth Sabbath.
- Ask some young people to present the skit below to your class before the offering is taken.

## God's Children Everywhere

**Narrator:** It's Sabbath morning, and we are going to church. But today we'll visit some places that will receive part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that we give today. These churches are located in the countries of Sierra Leone, Ghana, and Benin. [*Locate each country on a large map.*] So let's go!

**Speaker 1:** First let's visit a church in Ghana. [*Locate Ghana on the map.*]

We drive through the city and turn onto a side road near the sea. Small open shops line the road. A lovely Christian church stands nearby, but we turn left onto a narrow lane and then stop in a driveway. "Where is the church?" we ask our driver. He points to a cement block building with a rusting metal roof. Another roof extends over an open area where a table and chairs have been placed. "This is the children's and youth Sabbath School area," our guide says. We walk over to join the children, who are gathering around a teacher at a table.

The children softly sing a song about Jesus as they make motions with their hands. They cannot sing loudly, for that would disturb the youth class nearby. Then the teacher asks Thomas to pray.

**Thomas:** Thank You, Jesus, for the Sabbath. Thank You for Sabbath School. And dear Jesus, please help everyone to give a big offering today to help us build our church. Amen.

**Teacher:** Thank you, Thomas. That is right, boys and girls. Today is the day we have waited for all quarter. In Adventist churches around the world today people will give their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, and part of that offering will help us build our new church.

**Narrator:** As the children study their lesson, we will quietly leave, for we have two more churches to visit this morning.

Next we will visit Freetown, Sierra Leone. [*Locate Sierra Leone on the map.*]

**Speaker 2:** In the heart of Freetown, the large capital city, stands an unfinished building. Next to it is a building that looks like a shed, but it is made of shiny new iron sheets. It must be hot in there, but we hear singing, so let's go see what is happening.

Inside the metal building are rows of wooden benches. And they're all full. Adults and children alike are packed into the little church. It's hot, but no one seems to notice. Listen; the leader is talking.

**Teacher 2:** We have worked so hard to raise the money for our church, and we have made good progress. But it will take us years to finish our church and school without help. [*pause*] However, today we will get help—help from believers around the world! [*listeners say a loud "amen!"*] Let's give our best today so we can finish that church [*point toward an imaginary building outside*] so we can tear this iron building down!

**Narrator:** Wow, that congregation is excited about its new church! Let's hurry to our third church before it's too late. We fly to Benin [*locate Benin on map*] and drive out of the city. Soon we turn onto a rough dirt road that leads to the river. The driver stops, and we all get out. A man welcomes us and leads us to a large canoe that says "Seventh-day Adventist" on the side. We climb in carefully, and two men push the boat into the water. I wonder where we are going.

**Speaker 3:** The man in the back starts the boat's motor, and we glide through the water. We approach a village with houses built on thin poles that extend from the water. The boatman stops the engine and uses his pole to guide us to the dock. Willing villagers pull the canoe onto the land, and we climb out. We follow our guide through the village. Children peek from behind their mothers' skirts as we pass, but the pigs and goats nuzzling in the piles of trash hardly notice us.

We continue through the village and cross some boards that span a small creek. A lone building stands on tall poles in the distance. Even before we arrive we hear singing. We walk past the foundations of a building and climb the ladder to the simple wooden church. Men, women, and children sing a beautiful African song about Jesus as a man taps the rhythm on an African drum.

The lay evangelist who leads this congregation is just ending his sermon. He introduces us, and we sing another song, clapping in time with the music. These believers have just learned that today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help them build a permanent church to replace the temporary one in which we now worship. In this region, witchcraft and voodoo dominate people's lives. It's hard for people who have worshipped idols to give that up and trust in a God they cannot see. They need to know that the God of heaven will not desert them when forces of evil attack. A permanent church is a symbol of strength to them. More people will come to Jesus when this congregation finishes its church building. And we can help them today.

As worship ends, we climb down the ladder and greet our new friends. It's time to go, so we follow the path across the stream and through the village to the river, where our boat awaits us. The song that the congregation was singing rings in our hearts as we climb into the canoe once more. We try to imagine how God will change this village when people give their hearts to Him.

**Narrator:** Today's offering will help build many churches, two schools, and several other projects in western Africa! Let's give a big offering today and do our part to share the load with our African brothers and sisters.

[Offering]

# children's MISSION

Third Quarter 2007 West-Central Africa Division

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Vol. 16, No. 3

# Mission Resources

Following are sources of information that have proved helpful in preparing programs for *Children's Mission*. You may want to order these for your own Sabbath School.

## Books

*Children Just Like Me*, Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley (New York: Dorling Kindersley Books, 1995). A beautifully illustrated large-format book that introduces children to different cultures through reading about children from around the world. Includes information on the children's hobbies, homes, schools, and lifestyles.

*Precious in His Sight*, Bev Gundersen (Monarch Publishing, 7113 Snow Owl Lane, Lino Lakes, MN 55014). Contains reproducible drawings of children from West Africa wearing costumes of their region.

*You Can Change the World: Learning to Pray for People Around the World*, Jill Johnstone, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993), volumes 1 and 2. Rich full-color illustrations help children understand about unreached people groups around the world. Volume 1 contains information on the Dogon people of Mali, the Jolas of Senegal, and the Lobi of Burkina Faso. Volume 2 contains information on Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Republic of Guinea, the Bijago people of Guinea-Bissau, the Mandinka of Senegal and Gambia, the Tuareg people of Niger and Mali, and the Wodaabe people of the Sahel.

## Cookbooks

*The Africa News Cookbook*, edited by Tami Hultman (New York: Penguin Books, 1986), contains recipes from throughout Africa.

*The African Cookbook*, edited by Bea Sandler (New York: Carol Publishing Group, 1994), contains recipes from several African countries, including Ghana and Liberia, plus how to serve an African buffet.

## For More Information

**Library:** Browse through the children's section and travel section of a public library or bookstore for picture

books on Africa in general or specific countries being featured this quarter.

**Travel agencies:** Often travel agencies have colorful brochures on popular tourist destinations. Call or visit one and ask what they have available to help you portray the scenery and culture of West Africa.

**Embassies:** Sometimes embassies are able to provide interesting information on their country. The Embassy of Ghana sponsors a Web site at [www.ghana-embassy.org/](http://www.ghana-embassy.org/) that includes tourism information. The Embassy of Nigeria's Web site is found at [www.nigeriaembassyusa.org/](http://www.nigeriaembassyusa.org/). The Embassy of Sierra Leone Web site at [www.embassyofsierraleone.org/Country.htm](http://www.embassyofsierraleone.org/Country.htm) provides a brief history of the country.

## References

*Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (Hagerstown, Md.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 2006). Contains names and addresses of virtually all Seventh-day Adventist institutions and workers around the world. Available through local Adventist Book Centers.

*Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, volumes 10 and 11 (Hagerstown, Md.: Review and Herald Pub. Assn., 1996), contain historic information on most major Adventist institutions and regions around the world.

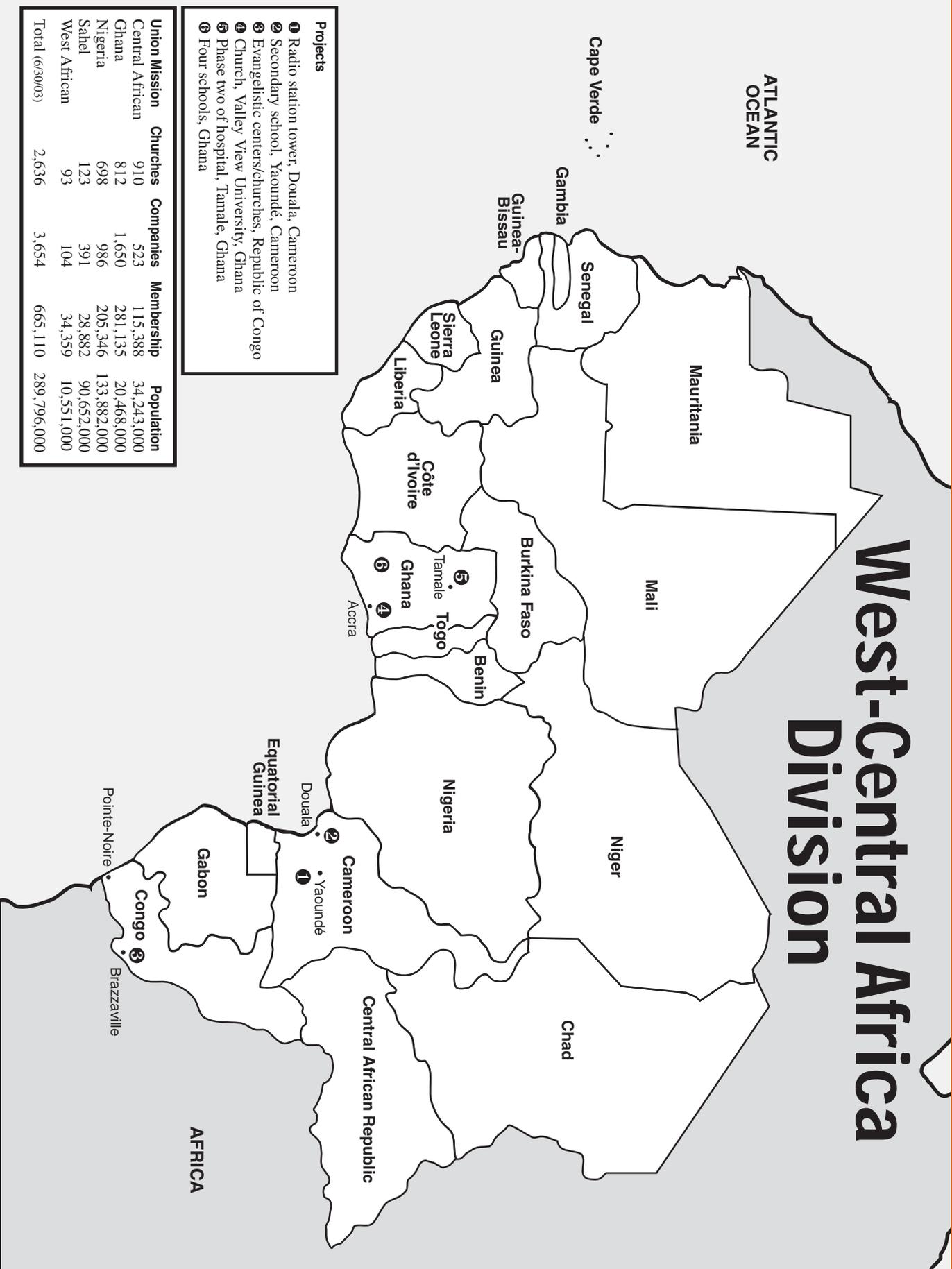
## Videos and Visual Aids

**Video/DVD:** The General Conference Office of Adventist Mission has produced a DVD video highlighting stories from the West-Central Africa Division and around the world in 3-, 5-, and 10-minute segments suitable for Sabbath School, church, or the interim period between these services. To get a copy of the DVD, contact Adventist Mission at [www.AdventistMission.org/DVDsub](http://www.AdventistMission.org/DVDsub).

*Kids' Mission Discovery Kit* has a mission wall mural to color that illustrates the mission stories for the current quarter. It contains felt figures to help tell the weekly mission stories. BJK Triplets, E. 601 Cameron Road, Spangle, WA 99031.

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.

# West-Central Africa Division



- Projects**
- ① Radio station tower; Douala, Cameroon
  - ② Secondary school, Yaoundé, Cameroon
  - ③ Evangelistic centers/churches, Republic of Congo
  - ④ Church, Valley View University, Ghana
  - ⑤ Phase two of hospital, Tamale, Ghana
  - ⑥ Four schools, Ghana

Union Mission	Churches	Companies	Membership	Population
Central African	910	523	115,388	34,243,000
Ghana	812	1,650	281,135	20,468,000
Nigeria	698	986	205,346	133,882,000
Sahel	123	391	28,882	90,652,000
West African	93	104	34,359	10,551,000
<b>Total (6/30/03)</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>3,654</b>	<b>665,110</b>	<b>289,796,000</b>