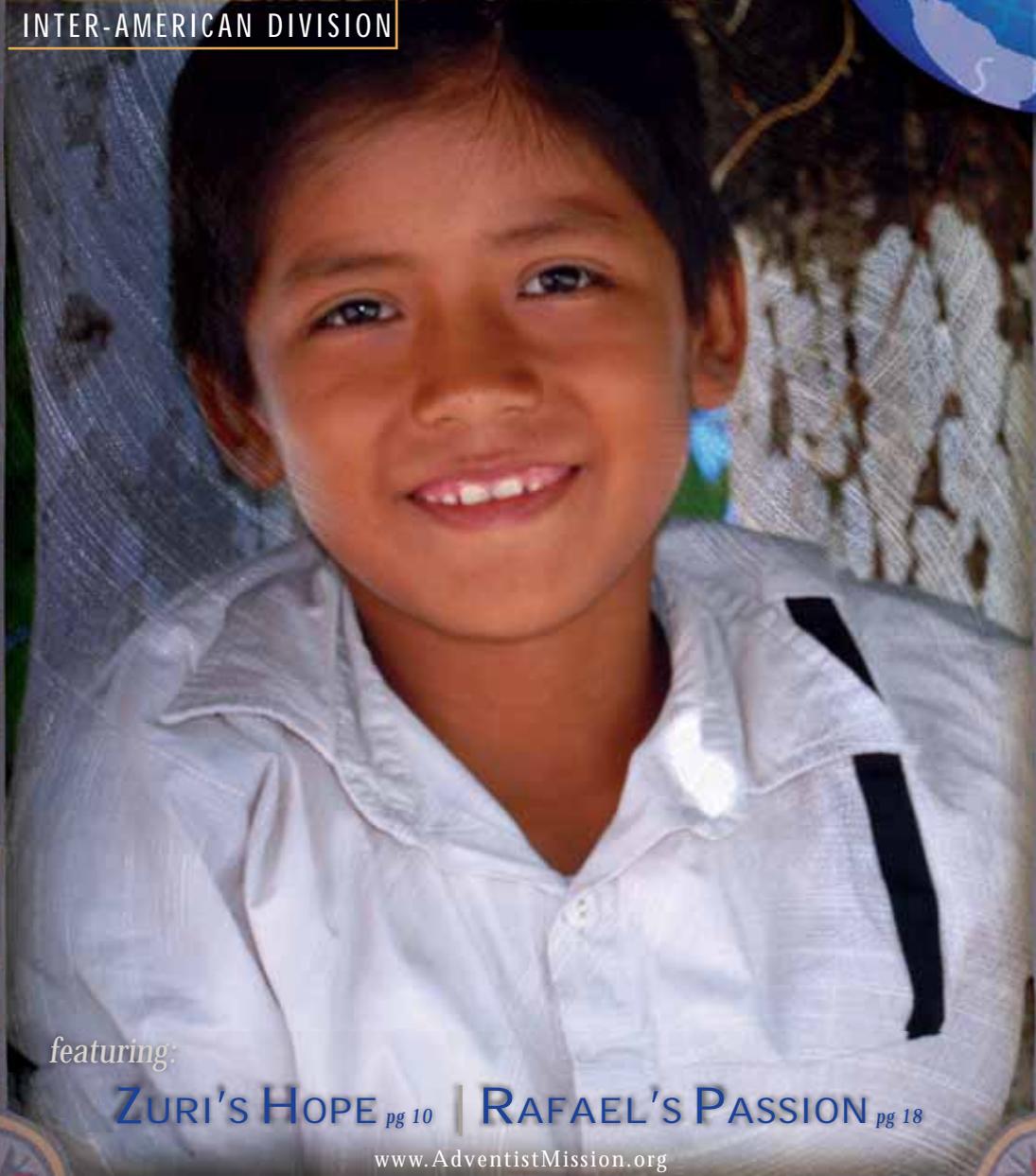


ADVENTIST CHILDREN
MISSION MAGAZINE QUARTER 2
2008

INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION



featuring:

ZURI'S HOPE pg 10 | **RAFAEL'S PASSION** pg 18

www.AdventistMission.org

CONTENTS

On the Cover: *Jonathan Hernandez from Olmeca, Mexico, shared his faith with his mother.*

TRINIDAD

- 4 Sapphire Goes to Jail | April 5
- 6 A School for Brendan | April 12
- 8 Brendan Helps His Mother | April 19

MEXICO

- 10 Zuri's Hope | April 26
- 12 Amada's Answered Prayers | May 3
- 14 Jonathan's Wish | May 10
- 16 Valeria's Mission | May 17

BARBADOS AND GRENADA

- 18 Rafael's Passion | May 24
- 20 Aisha, the Child Preacher | May 31
- 22 Jennifer Shares Her Faith | June 7

GUYANA

- 24 Walking With Jesus | June 14
- 26 Kenton Leads the Way | June 21

RESOURCES

- 28 Thirteenth Sabbath Program | June 28
- 30 Activities
- 35 Mission Resources
- 36 Map



DEAR SABBATH SCHOOL LEADER,

This is the second quarterly of the new *Children's Mission*, and we hope that you are finding it fun and easier to use.

Because the quarterly is somewhat smaller than the previous *Children's Mission*, we have put many of the most popular features on our Web site, which is www.AdventistMission.org. If you don't find your favorite features in the quarterly, look there. And if you don't find what you are looking for there, let us know. We will do what we can to give you just what you are looking for.

Language Fun

The stories this quarter come from throughout the Caribbean and Mexico. The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go to Trinidad and Mexico. English is the official language in Trinidad and the Caribbean countries featured this quarter, while Spanish is the official language in Mexico. A few Spanish words and phrases appear on pages 13 and 33, and a Spanish song is featured on page 30.

Make a Mission Scene

Make a mural to feature the islands of the Caribbean or life in Mexico. Use pictures from books, magazines, and travel brochures to guide you. The islands featured are modern, and most are popular tourist destinations with beautiful beaches, lush hills, and lovely flowers and trees. Trinidad is known for its steel bands, an instrument made of cast-off oil drums.

Mexico has tropical beaches, lush tropical forests, ancient Aztec and Mayan ruins, and modern cities. Its people enjoy wearing their colorful

traditional dress, which varies from region to region.

Mission Potluck

If you wish to host a mission potluck featuring the foods and cultures of Inter-America, visit our Web site for recipes. Label the foods with their name and country.

Decorate the church fellowship tables with colorful paper flowers (see page 31 for instructions) and pictures cut from travel brochures.

Ask the children to greet people in Spanish as they arrive. After the meal, invite the children to sing a Spanish song or two that they have learned.

Offering Device

Cut a ripe (brown) coconut and hollow out the shell to use as an offering basket this quarter.

Special Features

- Invite a guest who has traveled to or lived in one of the countries of Inter-America. Ask them to bring appropriate items for the children to see and touch.
- Decorate the room with paper flowers, a colorful Mexican piñata, or pictures cut from magazines to illustrate the fields being featured this quarter. See page 31 for a pattern for tissue-paper flowers, or visit our Web site at www.AdventistMission.org.
- Further Activities. For other activities, such as games, crafts, more recipes and puzzles, and other mission ideas, visit our Web site.

Yours for the kingdom,
Charlotte Ishkanian



TRINIDAD | April 5

SAPPHIRE GOES TO JAIL

This young girl in Trinidad is not afraid of jail.

Sapphire lives on the island of Trinidad in the Caribbean [*locate Trinidad on a map*]. She's 11 years old, but already she has spent a lot of time in jail! Sapphire isn't a criminal; she goes to jail to share God's love with prisoners there.

FAST FACTS

- The island of Trinidad lies just a few miles from the coast of South America.

About half of the people who live in Trinidad are of African descent; the other half are of East Indian descent.

- About 52,600 Adventists live in Trinidad. That means there is one Adventist for every 24 people. Adventists are the largest Protestant denomination on the island.

Family Affair

"My family has been going to prisons to tell people about God since before I was born," Sapphire says. "The prisons here allow children to visit the prisons with their parents, and I've been coming for as long as I can remember." Sapphire started taking part in the programs when she was 5 years old. Sapphire isn't the only child going to the prison. Some 20 young people from age 7 to teenagers regularly visit the prisons.

And what does Sapphire do when she goes to prison? "We put on programs for the inmates," she says. "And we children learn parts of a sermon and present it. Some of us sing special songs, and we tell the prisoners what God is doing in our lives. We want them to know that God can do the same things for them."

Sapphire started her ministry by singing and reciting Bible texts. Then she started telling

mission stories. When she was just 6 or 7, she started learning parts of sermons to present.

“I love going to the prison!” Sapphire says. “I love telling the prisoners about God. They really listen when we children speak.”

Sapphire and other members of the prison ministries team put on programs at several prisons for men, women, and teenagers.

Prison Ministries Church

Many people have learned to love God because of the prison ministries program in Trinidad. And when prisoners leave the prison, they find a welcome church home in the Prison Ministries Church. Most of the members of this church are former prisoners or family members of prisoners. The leaders of the church are former prisoners, and even the pastor is a former prisoner!

Sapphire and her family visit the Prison Ministries Church once every three months to put on a special program. “These people are special to me, like aunts and uncles,” Sapphire says.

The prison ministries youth do more than just visit the prisons. They use their own money to provide things prisoners need, such as soap, toothpaste, and clothes. They also collect clothing for the prisoners.

Open-Air Ministry

Sapphire and her friends also take part in a street ministry. Two or three times a month they hold open-air programs in town. The adults arrange a place to hold the meeting, on a street corner or in a community area. The

young people come and sing and preach and tell the people what God has done for them. Then the former prisoners tell how God has changed their lives. Many people—sometimes 200 or more—stop and listen. People are touched by the meetings, and some give money to help with the prison ministries.

When she was younger, Sapphire sang or recited Bible texts. Now she preaches sermons that she has memorized.

“Once the owners of some gambling and music clubs invited us to hold an open-air program in front of their clubs,” said Sapphire. “They cleaned up the area, turned off their loud music, and even came out and listened to us preach. These are the kind of people we need to reach, so we are happy that they want us to come.

The young people hold meetings once or twice a month all around the island of Trinidad. And when they went to the nearby island of Tobago [toh-BAY-goh], they held three open-air meetings in one weekend.

“Some of the children who help put on the open-air programs are children of prison inmates,” Sapphire says. “We want to help these children know that we love them and want them to be part of our group. We are glad that we can help them know that God loves them.”

“I love doing prison ministries and open-air programs,” Sapphire says. “I want to keep doing it till Jesus tells me to stop.”

Boys and girls, Sapphire and her friends are real missionaries for Jesus. What can you do this week to be a missionary for Jesus? *[Ask class members to suggest ways they can be missionaries this week.]* 🌍

Begin teaching the song on page 30.

A SCHOOL FOR BRENDAN

Mother wanted a good school for Brendan, but she got more than she planned.

Brendan lives on the island of Trinidad. [*Locate Trinidad on a map.*] When he was ready to start school, his mother wanted to find a good school that teaches Bible principles. Her pastor told her, “If you want good Bible teaching, try the Adventist school.”

She visited the Adventist school and talked to a teacher. “If my son attends your school, will you teach him the Bible?”

“Yes,” the teacher promised. “We have Bible classes every day.”

“Good!” Brendan’s mother said. “This is the school for my son.”

LIFE HERE

- The Seventh-day Adventist Church is the largest Protestant denomination in Trinidad.
- In Trinidad one person out of every 24 is a Seventh-day Adventist. That is good news, for many people know about Adventists. But it also means that 96 out of every 100 people are not Seventh-day Adventists. So a lot more people need to hear our message before the work will be done.

Brendan Teaches Mother

Brendan loved school. He often told his mother what he had learned in class. But when he told her things that he had learned in Bible class, she became worried. “Mommy, we’re going to church on the wrong day!” Brendan said one afternoon. “The Bible says that Saturday is the Sabbath, not Sunday.”

“Nonsense,” Brendan’s mother said. “Everyone goes to church on Sunday.”

“My teacher goes to church on Saturday,” Brendan said. “He read from the Bible about the Sabbath. You should read it too.”

Mother remembered a family who had lived near her when she was young. They attended church on Saturday.

A few days later Brendan came home and said, “My teacher says we shouldn’t eat pork because it comes from the pig, and the pig is unclean.”

“Now, that’s enough!” Brendan’s mother ordered. “I don’t want to hear another word about what your teacher says!” But Brendan’s mother remembered that her childhood neighbors wouldn’t eat pork. She remembered that they had quoted from the book of Leviticus when she asked them about their eating habits. Mother got her Bible and found the book of Leviticus. She found chapter 11 with its list of the unclean foods. *Hmmm!* thought Mother. *It says right here not to eat certain animals. Maybe they’re right about the Sabbath, too.* Mother began to read her Bible to find out what else it says.

Bible Studies and a Struggle

One day Brendan’s mother was talking to an Adventist man at school. She told him that she was searching her Bible to

see what it had to say about the Sabbath.

“Would you like my wife and me to study the Bible with you?” the man asked. “We’d like to help you discover what the Bible says.”

Brendan’s mother agreed. She studied the Bible with the Adventist couple and found many things she didn’t know were in the Bible. Then the family invited her to attend some evangelistic meetings. Mother and Brendan went to the meetings and learned more about the Bible. Mother wanted to follow Jesus and keep the Sabbath. She began taking Brendan to Sabbath School. But something kept her from following Jesus all the way. Next week we’ll learn how Brendan helped his mother overcome one more difficulty.

The mission offerings that we give each week help people learn about Jesus in many ways. Some of our offering helps build schools where children can learn about God. I’m glad we can help others find God. 🌍

COCONUT BAKE

This quick bread is popular throughout Trinidad and the Caribbean. Treat the children in Sabbath School with this warm-from-the-oven bread.

1½ cup water

Meat of one fresh coconut, grated
(or use 1½ cups canned coconut milk)

1 pound flour (about 3½ cups)

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon sugar

4 teaspoons baking powder

2 tablespoons margarine

1½ tablespoons solid shortening

Add water to grated coconut and mix. Squeeze coconut milk out and reserve. Sift flour, salt, sugar, and baking powder into a medium sized bowl. Add margarine and shortening and work into the flour until it looks like fine bread crumbs.

Add coconut milk to flour to make a soft dough. Knead lightly to form a smooth ball. Roll out on floured board to form a round loaf. Transfer to an ovenproof dish or baking sheet and bake at 375° for 20 minutes.

BRENDAN HELPS HIS MOTHER

Children can do a lot to help lead their parents to Jesus.

Last week we met Brendan, a boy who lives in Trinidad. [*Locate Trinidad on a map.*] Brendan attends an Adventist school where he has learned many things about God. As he told his mother what he was learning, Mother started reading her Bible so she could learn more about God for herself.

LIFE HERE

- The people of Trinidad made musical instruments from discarded oil drums by cutting the bottoms off the drums, turning them upside down, and pounding them into a form that created musical notes. The steel drums, now called steel pans, have become the official musical instrument of Trinidad and are popular throughout the Caribbean. They are usually played by bands of players.
- Trinidad has one Seventh-day Adventist believer for every 24 persons living on the island.

Mother started taking Brendan to Sabbath School, and she wanted to follow Jesus. But she had a problem: she smoked. She knew that smoking was bad for her, but she felt powerless to break the habit.

Brendan Tries to Help

“Mother, please don’t smoke cigarettes,” Brendan often said. “They’re bad for you.”

“I know,” Mother said. “I want to stop, but I feel awful when I haven’t had a cigarette. My head aches and all I can think about is having a cigarette.”

When Mother told the pastor about her struggle, he said, “You are fighting the devil. You must ask Jesus to help you crush the devil under your foot.” Mother said she would try. And she did try. She went most of the day without a cigarette, but then her head ached and she craved a cigarette. She felt guilty for smoking and asked

Jesus to forgive her.

One day she had just one cigarette left. She thought, *I'll smoke this cigarette and then stop smoking for good.* But as she touched the cigarette, she felt a shock shoot through her arm.

“Lord,” she whispered, “Are You trying to tell me not to smoke this cigarette? Help me, Jesus. Help me rebuke the devil and crush him.” Mother threw the cigarette down and crushed it with her foot. She felt good that she could say no to the temptation to smoke. But a few hours later the urge to smoke came again. All night her body cried out for a cigarette. “Help me, God,” she prayed.

The next day Mother and Brendan visited the pastor. She told him about her cravings and how hard it was for her to quit smoking.

“I’m praying for you,” the pastor said. “Trust Jesus to win this battle for you.” Then he gave her a package of bran. “Boil some bran in water and drink it like tea,” he suggested. “It will take

the poison out of your body.” Mother nodded weakly and promised to try it.

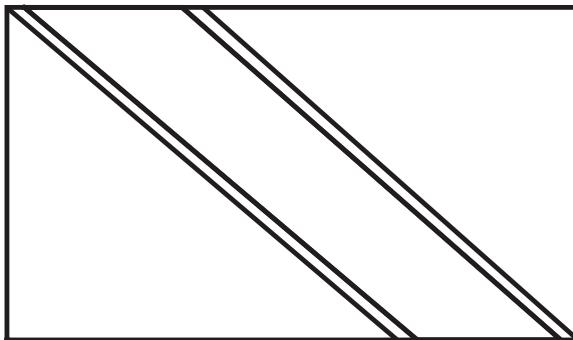
Brendan Does His Part

Mother returned home tired. She lay down to rest. When she woke up, Brendan stood beside her holding a steaming cup. “I boiled the bran for you, Mother. Please drink it so you will feel better.” After Mother drank the bran tea, Brendan said, “Let’s pray.” Mother bowed her head and Brendan prayed. “Please Jesus, help my mommy to feel better. Help her to stop smoking those awful cigarettes.”

Mother drank more bran tea that evening. The next day she felt better. She never smoked again. Jesus—and Brendan—had helped rebuke the devil and win the battle against cigarettes.

Many people in Trinidad need to know that Jesus loves them and wants what’s best for them. Our mission offerings help others learn how much God loves them. 🌍

FLAG OF TRINIDAD



Background: red; center diagonal: black; thin stripes: white



MEXICO | April 26

ZURI'S HOPE

Zuri didn't like the noise and the fighting that fiestas brought. He had a better idea.

Zuri lives in a village in the mountains of central Mexico. Like most villages in Mexico, Zuri's village celebrates many religious and secular festivals each year. During these festivals people eat and drink and dance and laugh. They work hard every day, and when it's festival time, they want to forget their troubles and have fun. People in Zuri's village like the festivals. But Zuri didn't like them.

FAST FACTS

- Mexico is the fifth largest country in the Western Hemisphere. The capital city is Mexico City, which has a population of about 20 million people. One-fifth of Mexico's population lives in or near Mexico City.
- More than 107 million people live in Mexico, and more than 431,000 people are Seventh-day Adventists. That is one Adventist for every 250 people. But in some areas the ratio is closer to one Adventist for every 900 people.

During the festivals his father and the other men often got drunk. Then they started fighting, and someone usually got hurt. Zuri didn't like how his father acted when he was drunk. Zuri didn't like the loud music and the drinking and the fighting that the festivals brought. One day after a festival, Zuri told his father how he hated the festivals. "But what can we do?" his father asked. "We live here."

Zuri's Suggestion

"We could go to the Adventist church on festival days," Zuri suggested. "Those people have a good time, but they don't drink and dance, and no one gets hurt."

"How do you know that," Zuri's father asked. "I've seen them," Zuri said. "They have game

nights, and everyone has fun. And I've gone to some programs where they sing a lot. It's nice." Zuri decided not to tell his father that he had gone to the river to watch the church hold baptisms. He had listened to them sing songs about Jesus while the pastor baptized the people. Zuri liked these people. He felt good when he was around them.

Father knew about the Adventist church and respected the Adventist believers. He told Zuri that he could attend the church programs if he wished.

Zuri Goes to Church

The next Sabbath Zuri went to Sabbath School. He liked the children's program and decided to go every week. Then he discovered that the church had evening programs during the week, and he went to those services as well. He liked to sit in the front row where he could watch the musicians play their guitars and lead the singing. He hoped that one day he could play the guitar too. In the meantime, he could sing with them.

A few months later, Zuri invited his parents to a church social. They went with him and enjoyed it. Then he invited his parents to attend church services with him, and they agreed. They liked the programs, and they were pleased to see how the church members had taken Zuri into their circle of friends.

Zuri's Wish

One day the pastor announced that he would hold a baptism soon. Zuri remembered watching the baptisms at the river. He wanted to be baptized and become a member of God's family.

Zuri asked his father for permission to be baptized. But his father said he wasn't old enough, that baptism is a decision for adults. Disappointed, Zuri asked the pastor whether he had to be a grown-up to be baptized. The pastor said that anyone who loves Jesus and wants to follow Him can be baptized. Zuri ran home and told his parents what the pastor had said. They gave Zuri permission to be baptized.

On Sabbath Zuri told the pastor that his parents would let him be baptized. The pastor talked to him about what Adventists believe and what God expects His followers to be. Zuri eagerly listened and learned what it means to be a Seventh-day Adventist.

On the day of the baptism Zuri hurried to the river with some dry clothes. Other times he had stood on the bank to watch others be baptized, but this day his parents stood on the bank to watch as he was baptized.

Zuri encouraged his whole family to attend church every Sabbath. A few months later Zuri stood again on the riverbank to watch a baptism. This time his mother and father were the ones being baptized.

Zuri is glad that his father and mother are Adventist Christians now, and when the village festivals come, his father doesn't drink and get into fights. Instead the entire family spends the day with their Adventist church family. It is so much better to be a family in God's house.

Our mission offerings this quarter will help build churches and camps throughout central Mexico so that more people can become part of God's family. 🌍



MEXICO | May 3

AMADA'S ANSWERED PRAYERS

When the water entered her home, Amada did the only thing she knew—she prayed.

FAST FACTS

- Amada lives near the capital, Mexico City, which has a population of about 20 million people. There are 22,000 Adventists living in and near Mexico City, or one Adventist for every 900 people.
- When the Spanish conquered Mexico in the 1500s, they brought their religion, Catholicism, and their language, Spanish, with them. Today 90 percent of the people in Mexico speak Spanish and identify themselves as Catholics, though many of them do not practice their religion or attend church regularly. They all need to know that God loves them and wants to be their personal friend.

Amada is 8 years old and lives in central Mexico. *[Locate Mexico on a map.]* She knows that God answers prayers because she has seen Him answer her prayers.

The Storm

One time a terrible storm hit the town where Amada lives. It rained and rained and rained. Soon the water was ankle-deep in the roads.

Suddenly the water started coming into the house! Quickly, Amada's mother moved carpets and furniture to safety and tried to sweep the water out of the house. But the water kept coming in. Amada was scared. "What can we do?" she asked her mother tearfully.

"Pray," her mother said. Amada ran to her room and prayed that God would make the rain stop. When she finished praying, she could not hear rain pelting the roof. The rain had stopped!

Amada ran to her mother and said, "Mommy! I prayed, and the rain stopped!"

Mother stopped mopping water and listened. "Yes, the rain has stopped. Let's thank Jesus!" And they did.

Now when it rains hard, Amada prays, “Jesus, please stop the rain before it floods our house.” And even during a recent hurricane, the rain did not come into Amada’s house. “I always thank Jesus,” Amada said.

Amada’s Mission

Amada studies in a public school. She tells her friends what Jesus does for her and how He answers her prayers.

Amada invites her friends to visit Sabbath School, too. Four of her friends came, and they liked it. They asked to come back. The children’s parents must work on Sabbath, and they’re glad that the children are doing something safe and happy.

Amada’s parents take the children to church with them and invite them to dinner. Then after lunch, Amada and her friends attend Adventurers meetings in the afternoon or watch a Christian video or go for a walk in a park.

“I’m happy that my friends like to go

to church with me,” Amada says. “I’m glad that they read their Bible lesson and learn their Bible text for Sabbath School. They have been coming to church with me for five months now and are learning a lot about God. Sometimes they know their Bible lesson even better than some of the children who have gone to church all their lives.

“Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me,’” Amada says. “I want to help my friends come to Jesus because I know He loves them.”

Amada tells other children to put their trust in God because He takes care of us. “God has helped me when I am afraid and when I need help,” she says. “I know that God answers my prayers, and He will answer yours, because He loves you.”

Amada invited four friends to church and they went. Let’s be missionaries and invite at least one friend to Sabbath School this week. That’s how God’s family grows. 🌍

LET’S SPEAK SPANISH

Learn a few words in Spanish this week. Vowel sounds are *ah* as in father, *eh* as in bet, *ee* as in bee, *oh* as in toe, and *oo* as in boot. The *d* is pronounced like the *th* in with. The accented syllables are written in capital letters in the pronunciation column.

Common Phrases

Happy Sabbath
Good morning
Please
Thank you
Yes
No
What is your name?
My name is . . .

Write it

Feliz Sábado
Buenos días
Por favor
Gracias
Sí
No
Cómo se llama?
Me llamo es . . .

Pronounce it

fay-LEEZ SAH-bah-doh
BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs
por fah-VOHR
GRAH-see-ahs
see
no
coh-moh say YAH-mah
meh YAH-moh ehs . . .



MEXICO | May 10

JONATHAN'S WISH

Jonathan loved Sabbath School. He just wished his mother would go with him.

Jonathan is a quiet boy with a shy smile. He lives in a small village in southern Mexico. *[Locate Mexico on a map.]*

One day his neighbor, Tia Maria, invited Jonathan to go to Sabbath School with her. Jonathan had never been to church before and wondered what happened there.

He asked his mother, and she agreed that he could go.

On Sabbath Jonathan and Tia Maria walked to church. He liked Sabbath School, especially the mission stories about children from far away lands.

The church was only a block from Jonathan's house, and he could walk there and back home by himself. So even when Tia Maria couldn't go, Jonathan went.

Jonathan told his mother what he learned in church each week. He told her the Bible stories, and he recited his memory text for her. But when Jonathan asked his mother to come to church with him, she always said no. She said she had to work or take care of Jonathan's baby brother.

Jonathan was sad that his mother refused to go to church. Sometimes he said, "Mama, Jesus

FAST FACTS

- Mexico is known for its beautiful beaches, its ancient Aztec and Mayan ruins, its music, and its food. People in Mexico eat tortillas [tor-TEE-yahs] at nearly every meal. It is the Mexican bread. They may put beans on it and roll it up, use it to scoop food off their plates, or use it as a plate for beans and rice.
- In Mexico just one person out of every 250 is an Adventist. Millions of people still need to hear that Jesus loves them and wants to spend forever with them at His home in heaven.

wants you to come to church. And I want you there. All the other children sit with their parents, but I must sit alone.” Mother listened, but still she refused to go.

Please Come

When the pastor announced evangelistic meetings, Jonathan hurried home to invite his mother to go to the meetings with him. To his surprise, Mother agreed to go. Jonathan and his mother walked to the meetings together. And when the pastor asked those who wanted to follow God in baptism to stand, Jonathan stood. The pastor visited Jonathan’s mother and explained that Jonathan wanted to be baptized. But Mother said that he could not be baptized since she was not a member of the church.

Jonathan was disappointed, but he was determined to follow Jesus. He often talked to his mother about Jesus, pleading with her to give her heart to God.

As Happy as Jonathan

Mother thought about how much Jonathan had changed since he started

going to church. He was so happy, and he loved to read his Bible lesson and sing Christian songs. Mother decided to attend worship services to see if she could find the same happiness.

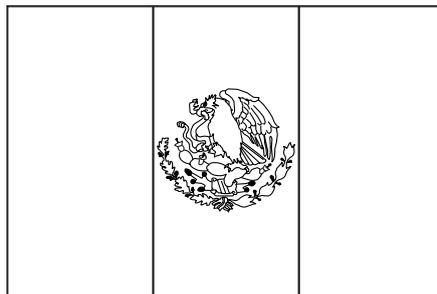
On Sabbath Jonathan was surprised to find his mother ready to go to church with him. They walked to the little church together. Jonathan showed his mother to her class. And during church Jonathan didn’t have to sit alone; he could sit with his mother, like the other children did.

When the pastor announced that he would hold a baptism, Jonathan again asked his mother to let him be baptized. This time she said yes. Then she told the pastor that she wanted to be baptized too. At last Jonathan and his mother could follow Jesus together.

Our mission offerings help people such as Jonathan and his mother learn that Jesus loves them. Let’s faithfully give our mission offering every week. And let’s pray that Jonathan and his mother stay faithful to Jesus, for the devil is not happy that they have given their lives to God. 🌍

[Close with prayer.]

MEXICAN FLAG



Left: dark green; center: white; right: red; bird: brown; leaves: green



MEXICO | May 17

VALERIA'S MISSION

Abuelita took Valeria and her sister to church. Now Valeria is on another mission.

Valeria [vah-LEH-ree-ah] lives in Veracruz, Mexico. [*Locate Veracruz, on the Gulf of Mexico, on a map.*] On the weekends, when her parents have to work, Valeria and her sister, Kenya, stay with their grandmother, whom they call Abuelita [ah-bweh-LEE-tah].

Valeria's parents don't attend church, but Abuelita takes Valeria and Kenya to church every Sabbath.

LIFE HERE

- Valeria lives on the Gulf Coast of Mexico in the city of Veracruz. There are many Adventists there (one out of every 92 people is an Adventist), and new churches are forming all the time. Some of these are in very poor areas where the people cannot afford to buy land or build a church. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build churches in central Mexico, including Veracruz state, where Valeria lives.

The New Church

When Abuelita's congregation built a new church building, they wanted to dedicate it in a special way. They decided to hold evangelistic meetings to celebrate the new church. After the evangelistic meetings, the church planned a baptism. Valeria wanted to follow Jesus and be baptized. She told Abuelita, who said, "That's good. Let's talk to the pastor." Valeria told the pastor about her wish, and the pastor said, "That's very good, but we need to ask your parents' permission first."

When Valeria told her parents about her wish to be baptized, they said, "That's good. But because we don't attend the church, we think that you should wait until you are older and know what you want in your future. You may change

your mind about going to church, and if you're baptized, that could be bad. We think you should wait."

Valeria's Disappointment

Valeria was so disappointed. She told Abuelita what her parents said, and she told the pastor. The pastor visited Valeria's parents. They told him their concerns that Valeria might change her mind about following Jesus when she gets older. The pastor reminded them that Jesus invited the children to come to Him, not to wait. "And Jesus never said that children cannot have good clean fun," the pastor said with a smile. "Jesus had fun, and He wants His children to have fun in a Christlike way."

Valeria's parents still wanted her to wait awhile to be baptized. Valeria was disappointed, for she wanted to follow Jesus *now*. But she obeyed her parents.

However, as her parents saw how much she loved Jesus and how determined she was to follow Him, they decided to allow her to make this important decision. Valeria was so happy.

On the day of the baptism, Valeria stepped into the baptistery to commit her life to Jesus. She smiled at her mother, who was watching in the audience.

Valeria's Testimony

"God is so good to me," Valeria says. "He takes care of me and helps me in school. He helps me tell others about Jesus and lets me serve Him in many ways. I like going with my aunt to her Bible study groups, and I am studying the Bible with my sister, Kenya."

Valeria wants to tell children, "If you want to be baptized, leave it in God's hands. He will work it out. Pray a lot. You can worship God and pray and go to church even if you're not baptized. But don't wait to give your heart to Jesus; you need to be ready to go to heaven when He comes."

Boys and girls, Valeria has a mission. She shares her love for Jesus with others. We can do that too as we tell our friends about Jesus and as we bring our mission offering every week to Sabbath School. 🌐

MEXICAN BREAKFAST TREAT

Treat the children in Sabbath School to a typical Mexican breakfast.

Nearly every meal includes tortillas, the flat bread made from corn, wheat, or oat flour. If you know someone who makes tortillas, ask them to make fresh ones. Or buy them at any large grocery or international store.

Heat some vegetarian refried beans.

Place a spoonful of beans and a sprinkle of cheese on the tortilla and fold in half. Press together gently and microwave just until warm. Serve immediately. Serve with a mild salsa for those brave enough to try it.

For more recipes, log on to www.AdventistMission.org, and click on resources.



BARBADOS | May 24

RAFAEL'S PASSION

Today's story comes from Barbados. [*Locate Barbados, the most easterly island in the Caribbean, on the map.*]

Adventist children and teenagers in Barbados are active evangelists. They have formed an evangelistic team that they call Mission 2000 and Beyond. The group holds meetings on their own island, and once a year they travel to neighboring islands to hold meetings. Recently they traveled to England, where they worked with children and teens to hold several evangelistic meetings across the city of London.

FAST FACTS

- Barbados is the easternmost island in the Caribbean, lying north of South America and northeast of Trinidad.
- In Barbados one person in every 12.5 is an Adventist. But the church members are working hard to tell everyone that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend. Nearly every church on the island has at least one band of children and young people who hold meetings on street corners to sing, preach, and give their testimonies. It's no wonder so many people in Barbados love Jesus.

Rafael, Child Preacher

For several years now Rafael has been a preacher in the Mission 2000 programs. He started preaching when he was 7 years old. When he began, he learned part of a sermon and shared the pulpit with two other children. Then he prepared entire sermons to present at children's church. When Rafael was 8, he was the featured speaker at a National Children's Day program held in a large convention center. Hundreds of Adventists heard Rafael preach as they worshipped in the convention center that day. Other children took part in the program as well.

Why does Rafael like to preach? "I like to share God's love through a simple message that

God has given me,” Rafael replies. “It makes me so happy to see people come to Jesus.”

Mission 2000 and Beyond

Rafael has gone with Mission 2000 to hold two-week evangelistic meetings in St. Vincent, Dominica (doh-mehn-EE-kah), St. Lucia, and Antigua. At each location the members split into three teams and held meetings in three different towns at the same time. When the meetings ended, 20 people asked to be baptized. “We made lots of new friends during these meetings,” Rafael says smiling. “I like making friends for Jesus.”

In 2007, the Mission 2000 team invited Adventist young people from each of the islands they had visited to join them as they held meetings in London, England. The team held five separate evangelistic meetings in different places around the city. Children as young as 7 went to England, where they gave out literature, shared their faith, invited people to the meetings, acted as deacons and ushers, sang or played special music, and preached.

Mission at Home

But Rafael doesn't wait until he can leave home to share his faith. He talks to his classmates about their faith and urges them to give their hearts to Jesus. He talked to one girl who was having trouble in her life and urged her to trust Jesus. Rafael was so happy when she gave her life to God. “It's great to preach,” Rafael says, “but it's important

to be a good example for others to follow. I want to make sure my life is in tune with God so I can be a beacon of God's love to others. That's the most important thing, I think.”

Rafael's church, like many in the Caribbean, holds open-air meetings on the streets in Barbados several times a month. An adult member visits the area we want to go to and gets permission for us to hold the meeting on Sabbath. Then on Sabbath the youth set up the loud speakers and sing and praise God. A youth preaches a short message, and then others share their testimonies of what God has done for them. People like these meetings. They stop and listen, and lots of them thank us for coming.

With a positive attitude toward evangelism, it's no surprise that the church in the Caribbean is strong and growing. And including the youth helps them realize that they are an important part of the church's outreach.

“Christ is special to me,” Rafael says. “When I see the terrible things happening in the world and think of how God has kept me safe through difficult times or trouble, it makes me love God all the more. He takes care of the sparrows; and He takes care of me, too. I think about Joshua 1:5 and Hebrews 13:5 where God promises that He will never leave you or forsake you. I know He will always be with me; I can trust Him for everything. You can too.”

Boys and girls, do you agree that we can trust God for everything? Let's tell someone this week to trust God for their needs. 🌍

AISHA, THE CHILD PREACHER

Aisha [ah-EE-shah] lives on the island of Barbados. [*Locate Barbados on a map.*] Like other children, she enjoys school and playing with her friends. But Aisha has another favorite activity. She loves to preach.

Aisha is a child preacher, one of hundreds in the Caribbean. She started preaching when she was 8 years old. “The first time I preached, my Sabbath School teacher gave me a topic—the Ten Commandments,” Aisha said. “I told my mother what I wanted to say, and she helped me write my sermon. Then I rehearsed it until I knew it well.” Aisha did well and was invited to speak at another church for their Children’s Day program.

FAST FACTS

- Barbados is the easternmost island in the Caribbean. It has a lot of Adventists. One out of every 12.5 people is an Adventist.
- Children as young as 5 years old share God’s love by taking part in street worships. They sing songs, preach short sermons, and give their testimonies of what God has done for them.

Aisha was excited when her uncle, who is not an Adventist, came to hear her preach. And her mother had invited her friend, whom Aisha calls “Auntie Ann,” to church that day. After worship Auntie Ann said, “I was really touched by what you said today, Aisha. Please tell me whenever you are going to speak. I want to come!” It made Aisha happy to know that God had blessed her efforts and touched several people with His love.

Another Invitation

But when Aisha was asked to preach another sermon sometime later, she thought

a long time before she accepted. Preaching is a lot of work. She would have to write a sermon and memorize it. And she remembered how nervous she felt. But after she prayed about it, she agreed to preach. This time she and two other children would work together to present a single sermon that someone else had written. It was a lot easier this time!

Aisha told her mother to invite Auntie Ann to come to hear her preach again. And after the sermon Auntie Ann told Aisha's mother that Aisha's message made her want to start coming to church to worship God. When Aisha heard this, she whispered, "Thank You, Jesus, for helping someone come to You."

Prayer Makes the Difference

Aisha believes that prayer makes a big difference when she speaks. Not long ago her Sabbath School teacher asked her to preach again. But this time she had only a week to memorize the

sermon. She prayed that God would help her learn her sermon and deliver it so that others would be blessed.

She practiced and prayed every day so that God would be glorified through her efforts. God blessed her, and she delivered her sermon well. This time several relatives—none of whom are Adventists—came to hear her speak. Aisha prayed extra hard that her words would make a difference in their lives. And they did.

"Prayer is important when we want to do something for Jesus," Aisha says. "Nothing is too small—or too big—for God to answer. He cares about everything that matters to us."

Aisha asks us to pray for those who have come to hear her preach but who have not yet given their lives to Jesus. And let's pray that God will use Aisha's talents—and those of all the child preachers in the Caribbean—to reach many people for Jesus. 🌍

[Close with prayer.]

CARIBBEAN BANANAS

- ½ cup margarine, melted
- 8 medium bananas, peeled and sliced lengthwise into halves
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1-2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice

Spread melted margarine evenly in a baking dish. Place bananas, cut side down, in the margarine. Mix brown sugar, lemon juice, and allspice. Drizzle over bananas. Bake uncovered for 15 minutes at 350°. Serve with a dollop of whipped cream if desired.



G R E N A D A | June 7

JENNIFER SHARES HER FAITH

Jennifer Joseph lives in Grenada, a tiny island southwest of Barbados and north of Trinidad. [*Locate Grenada on a map.*] Jennifer's mother died when she was a baby, and her father cared for the children. The family didn't go to church, so Jennifer didn't know how much God loves her.

Then Jennifer went to live with her uncle George and his wife. They introduced her to Jesus and took her to Sabbath School every week. Jennifer loved it. She listened to the Bible lessons and asked her uncle to help her learn the Bible verse, so she could have a star by her name.

FAST FACTS

- Grenada is a small, mountainous island in the southern Caribbean. It is called the "Spice Island," because many spices, such as nutmeg, cacao, cinnamon, and saffron are grown there. One person out of every eight in Grenada is a Seventh-day Adventist. But the people have not stopped sharing their faith with the other seven out of eight people who are not yet Adventists.

Preaching Camp

One day the pastor invited Jennifer to attend a preaching camp for children. It sounded like fun, so Jennifer asked her aunt and uncle for permission to go, and they approved.

At the camp the children learned how to write a sermon and how to speak in public. They even learned how to stand and move their arms and how to invite people to give their lives to God.

Jennifer returned from preaching camp eager to use the skills she had learned. Soon the pastor announced that the church would hold a children's evangelistic series. The

children would do nearly everything. They would preach and sing and take the offering and usher. Jennifer was invited to preach one sermon. Her uncle helped her write her sermon and find Bible texts that fit the subject. He even suggested some stories she could tell. When they finished writing the sermon, Jennifer worked hard to learn it. She knew it almost by heart and did not have to look at her notes.

At the end of the evangelistic series, eight people asked to be baptized. Jennifer was glad that God had used her and her friends to help someone make a decision to follow Jesus. She wanted to preach again.

Sharing Her Faith

Jennifer's father now lives in another country, and her brothers and sisters live with other families in Grenada. They don't go to church, and that makes Jennifer sad. But once when she preached, one of her sisters came to listen. Jennifer hopes that her sister will

think about making Jesus part of her life.

Jennifer loves to tell her school friends about Jesus. She invites them to visit the church, and sometimes they come. One of her friends, Glenda, came to church and liked it. She wanted to come again and her parents gave their permission. But Glenda discovered that she lives closer to another Adventist church and attends that church instead of Jennifer's. Jennifer is just glad that Glenda wants to know about Jesus. Just imagine how happy Jennifer was when she learned that Glenda's parents are now attending church with their daughter.

Words of Advice

Jennifer says, "I like telling other people about Jesus, and I would like to encourage other children to share their faith too. It's fun," she says, "and we learn lots of things about the Bible. Sometimes we visit other churches and preach there. I hope many people will come to know Jesus because children preached to them." 🌐

VOWEL PUZZLE

Here are the names of the countries in the Inter-American Division that we are learning about this quarter, but all of the vowels have been left out. Use this code to help you fill in the missing vowels. A = 1, E = 2, I = 3, O = 4, U = 5. Can you find the countries on a map of the Caribbean?

B _ _ r b _ _ d _ _ s
1 1 4

G _ _ y _ _ n _ _
5 1 1

M _ _ x _ _ c _ _
2 3 4

Gr _ _ n _ _ d _ _
2 1 1

Tr _ _ n _ _ d _ _ d
3 3 1



G U Y A N A | June 14

WALKING WITH JESUS

When other children were running, Alanha was just learning to stand.

Alanha Thomas is 9 years old. She lives in Georgetown, Guyana. [*Locate Guyana on a map.*] She is the youngest of four children and likes math and playing cricket, a game popular in countries that were once under British rule. Alanha wants to be a doctor when she grows up, and for a very special reason.

LIFE HERE

- Guyana is located along the northern coast of South America. About half the population is of East Indian descent, and about 40 percent are of African descent. The original inhabitants, called Amerindians [am-er-Indians], now make up fewer than 5 percent of the total population. The church is active and vibrant in Guyana, where one person out of every 15 is a Seventh-day Adventist.

Her Mother's Prayers

Alanha was born with improperly formed knees. Doctors said she would never walk. And it appeared to her mother that the doctors were right. But Alanha's mother believed that God, who created Alanha, would heal her knees in answer to her prayers. She prayed every day that her little girl's legs would grow strong and right.

At the age when most children take their first baby steps, Alanha could sit and laugh and babble, but she couldn't walk or crawl. Instead she scooted around on her stomach. She was a happy child, but her mother wondered whether she would ever walk. The whole family prayed together that Alanha would be healed.

Then one day when Alanha was 2 years old, Mother saw her try to crawl on her knees. Then she tried to pull herself up on a chair and stand. Mother watched tearfully as her daughter toppled over, but little Alanha tried again and again and again.

Mother took her back to the doctor who examined her legs. To his surprise, Alanha's kneecaps had moved to the proper position in the front of the knee. But, he explained, her muscles were weak, and the ligaments that hold the kneecap in place were not yet fixed in place. This is why she could not walk and toppled over so easily.

The family kept praying, and by the time Alanha was 3 years old, she could walk. She couldn't run yet, but still she amazed her doctors when she walked across the room to her mother. Before long Alanha learned to run, though she ran much slower than her little friends. And today, Alanha can run as fast as any child her age, and no one at school would ever guess that the doctors said she would never walk.

Mother's Search

Alanha's mother attended church every week, but when Alanha and her brothers and sisters visited their grandmother, they went to the Adventist church with her. Alanha liked Grandmother's church. When she was old enough, she joined Adventurers and the child preacher program at the church. She listened as other children preached, and she asked to be allowed to preach as well. The pastor and her Sabbath School teacher helped her learn her sermon for a special children's

program at church. She invited her mother to church, and her mother came to hear her preach. Then the pastor held evangelistic meetings, and Mother attended. As the pastor spoke on the Ten Commandments and how they are still binding today, Mother realized that she had not been following God's commandments. She asked the pastor to help her prepare to join the Adventist Church.

Alanha's eldest sister also asked to be baptized, and Mother and Sister were baptized together. Today the whole family worships together on Sabbath.

Alanha has come a long way since she was told she would never stand or walk. "God helped me learn to walk and then He taught me how to preach," Alanha says. "I want to use my abilities to help others learn about Jesus."

Boys and girls, we don't often think about how our legs and feet take us to places we want to go. We expect our hands to work and play just the way we want. And we use our eyes and our ears and our mouths without having to think about making them work. Yes, Jesus gave us strong and healthy bodies that work so well we don't have to think about it.

But Jesus wants us to use every part of our body—our feet, our legs, our hands, our eyes, our ears, and our voices—to share His love with others. How can we use our feet to share God's love? [*Let children respond.*] How can we use our hands to share God's love? our eyes? our ears? our voices?

Let's use our bodies to share God's love with someone this week, just as Alanha is doing in Guyana. 🌍



G U Y A N A | June 21

KENTON LEADS THE WAY

When the pastor announced special meetings, Kenton knew just who he would invite.

FAST FACTS

- Guyana lies along the northern coast of South America. Most of the people who live in Guyana live within 50 miles of the coast. The interior of the country (the land far from the ocean) is thick jungle. Few people live there, most of whom are Amerindians, the original inhabitants of the land.
- The main language is English. About half the population is of East Indian descent, and about 40 percent are of African descent.
- About one person in every 15 in Guyana is a Seventh-day Adventist. Most Adventist believers are among those of African descent; most of the people of East Indian descent have clung to their traditional religion, Hinduism.

Kenton is 7 years old. He lives in a small town on the coast of Guyana. [*Locate Guyana on a map.*]

The Special Meetings

Kenton was excited when Pastor Drakes announced that the church was going to hold evangelistic meetings in town. The pastor told everyone to invite their friends to come. Kenton knew exactly who he was going to invite. He told his mother, “I want Daddy to come to the meetings with us. I want him to learn to love Jesus as we do. We have prayed for him for so long. Do you think he will come if we ask him?”

“Let’s ask Jesus to help Daddy want to come to the meetings,” Mother said. “Then we can ask him. Maybe he will come.”

Daddy Goes to the Meetings

Kenton and his mother and brother and sister all prayed for Daddy. Then one day,

just before the meetings began, Kenton said to his daddy, “Please, I really, really want you to come with us to the meetings at church. Will you? Please?”

“I don’t know,” Daddy said. “I am very busy with my job and have a lot of important things to do.”

“But this is very important too,” Kenton said.

Mother walked in and heard Kenton talking to Daddy. “It’s too far to walk to the meeting place,” she added. “We all want to go, but we need you to drive us in the car. Will you do that?”

“Yes,” Daddy said thoughtfully. “I can take you to the meetings and pick you up when they are done.”

“But why don’t you stay and attend the meetings with us?” Kenton asked. “I want to sit with you in the meetings.”

“Well, OK,” Daddy said. “I guess I can stay for the meeting.” Daddy stayed at the meeting that night and every night. He listened to the pastor’s words and he learned lots of things he didn’t know before.

Daddy Decides to Follow Jesus

Then one night after Pastor Drakes finished his message, he said, “Everyone,

please stand. Now it is time for you to come forward and give your hearts to Jesus.” Kenton stood and looked up into his father’s face. He could tell that Daddy was thinking about something. Kenton put his hand into his father’s big hand and gave it a tug.

“Please, Daddy, go up to the front and tell Pastor Drakes that you want to follow Jesus. If you want, I’ll go with you. Don’t you want to follow Jesus, Daddy?”

Daddy looked at Kenton and smiled. “Yes, Kenton,” he whispered. “I want to follow Jesus.”

“Come on, Daddy,” Kenton tugged his hand. “Let’s go.” Kenton and Daddy walked to the front together. Kenton was so happy that at last his family could worship Jesus together.

“Now we pray together and sing together, and every Sabbath we go to church together,” Kenton said.

There are many people in Guyana who don’t know Jesus. They need to hear that Jesus loves them and that He is coming soon. We bring our offerings to Sabbath School to help people such as Kenton’s daddy learn about Jesus. Aren’t you glad you brought an offering today? 🌍

NOTE TO TEACHERS

Next week is the Thirteenth Sabbath. Remind the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering next week. And if you are going to present the program for the adults, practice asking the questions in the Thirteenth Sabbath quiz and singing “Mas Allá del Sol,” on page 30.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH PROGRAM

If your division will present the Thirteenth Sabbath program for the adults

- Practice the song on page 30 (or choose one on the Web site at www.AdventistMission.org.)
- Give out the questions for the quiz (below) to children who can speak clearly in front of an audience. Practice several times before the Thirteenth Sabbath program.
- Send home a note to remind parents of the program and to encourage the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering the next week.

If your division will not join the adults for

a special program, make Thirteenth Sabbath special by inviting a special guest to speak to the children about life in Trinidad, Mexico, or one of the other countries of Inter-America. Encourage the speaker to bring items that will interest the children and help them to understand the culture and challenges of the people there.

- Remind the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Make the offering appeal a big event in Sabbath School. Count the money and let the children know how much they have brought for missions during the quarter. Praise them for what they have done and let them know that their offerings will make a big difference to children just like them who live in the Inter-American Division.

MISSION QUIZ

Narrator: This quarter we have learned many things about the people of the Inter-American Division. We would like to test you to see if you have learned your lessons as well as the children have. So, let's put away our Sabbath School lessons so we won't be tempted to peek, and let's get started. The children will ask the questions. If you think you know the answer, raise your hand.

Q1: The Inter-American Division is made up of how many countries? (a) 12, (b) 31, or (c) 42 countries. *[Answer: (c) 42 countries]*

Q2: The Inter-American Division has how many members? (a) almost a million, (b) almost 2 million, (c) more than 3 million *[Answer: (c) more than 3 million]*

Q3: Most of the countries of the Inter-American Division touch which

body or bodies of water? (a) the Pacific Ocean, (b) the Caribbean Sea, (c) the Gulf of Mexico, or (d) the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea *[Answer: (d)]*

Q4: What countries will receive part of today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering? *[Trinidad and Mexico]*

Q5: Which of these two countries lies closest to South America? *[Trinidad]*

- Q 6: What are the three main languages spoken in Inter-America? *[English, Spanish, and French]*
- Q 7: What is the official language of Trinidad? *[English]*
- Q 8: What is the largest country in Inter-America in terms of area? *[Mexico]*
- Q 9: Which country featured this quarter has an average of one Adventist for every 250 people? *[Mexico]*
- Q 10: What country has an average of one Adventist for every 24 people? *[Trinidad]*
- Q 11: This is the flag of which country in the Inter-American Division? *[Hold up flag of Mexico.]*
- Q 12: The Adventist Church has a university in this country being featured this quarter. *[Trinidad has the University of the Southern Caribbean, and Mexico has Montemorelos University.]*
- Q 13: This is the flag of which country in the Inter-American Division? *[Hold up flag of Trinidad.]*
- Q 14: This country's Adventist university has a student body of almost 3,000, but does not have a church on its campus. Our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build two worship halls in new dormitories being built on campus. *[University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad]*
- Q 15: What musical instrument is Trinidad most famous for? *[The steel pan, or steel drum, originally made from discarded oil drums.]*
- Q 16: Part of our offering today will help build churches and enlarge campsites for more effective lay training in this country. *[Mexico]*

Narrator: The Thirteenth Sabbath has traditionally been a time when Adventists bring an extra large offering to help the fields being featured that quarter spread the gospel of Jesus to their region. One fourth of the total offering received today in churches around the world will go directly to support the projects in Trinidad and Mexico. Let your offering speak your hope that we can finish the work and Jesus can come soon.

[Offering]

MAS ALLÁ DEL SOL

Emiliano Ponce

Piano

Aus - que en es - ta vi - da - fal - ten - me ri - que - zas - se que allá en la
Ah oohn keben ehs tah vee dah fahl tehn meh ree kay sahs say kay yahn la

glo - ria - ten - go mi man sion - Al - ma tan per - di - da - en - tre las po -
glohr yah tehn goh mee syohn ahl - mah tahn pehr dee dah ehn treh lahs poh -

bre - zas, de mi Je - su cris - to tu - vo com - pa sion - Mas a - llá del
breh - zabs deh mee hey soo krees - toh too voh kohm pah syohn Mahs ah - yah del

sol, mas a - llá del sol, yo ten - go un ho - gar, ho - gar, be - lloho
sohl mahs ah - yah del sohl yoh tehn - goh oon oh gahr oh - gahr bey - oh

gar mas a - llá del sol, Mas a - llá del sol, mas a - llá del sol,
gahr mahs ay - yah del sohl mahs ah - yah del sohl mahs ah - yah del sohl

yo ten - go un ho - gar, ho - gar, be - llo ho - gar mas a - llá del sol,
yoh tehn - goh oon oh gahr oh - gahr bey - oh gahr mahs ay - yah del sohl

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TISSUE PAPER FLOWERS

FOR EACH FLOWER YOU WILL NEED:

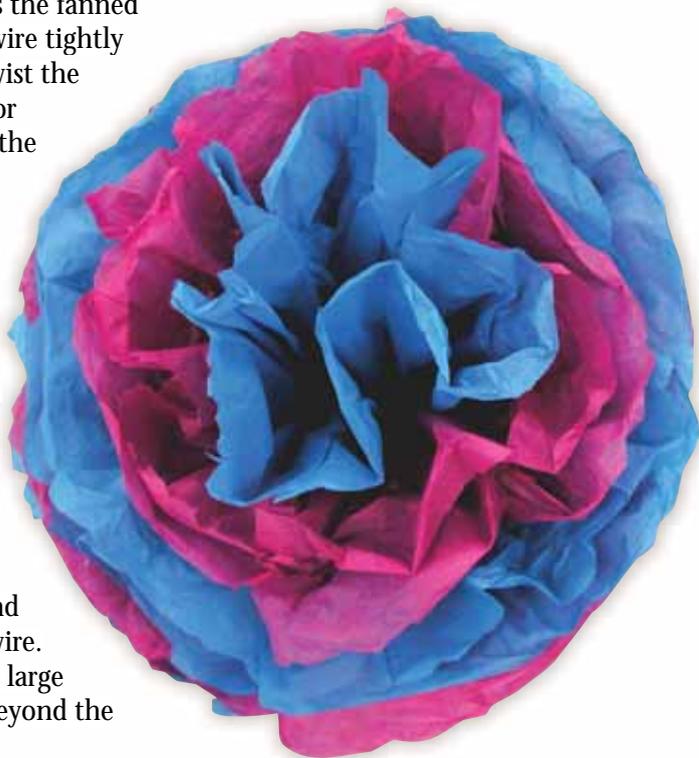
- brightly colored tissue paper cut into strips 5 or 6 inches wide and the length of the tissue paper
- 1 chenille wire (pipe cleaner), any color
- green tissue or construction paper
- green florist tape
- scissors

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Lay tissue paper out in front of you with the narrow side closest to you. Fold the tissue back and forth, as if making a fan.
2. While someone holds the fanned tissue, tie a chenille wire tightly around the center. Twist the ends of the wire two or three times to secure the flower.
3. Separate the fanned edges and spread tissue apart, being careful not to tear the tissue. Holding the flower by the wire, shape into a flower.
4. If desired, cut leaves from green tissue or construction paper and tape to the chenille wire. Be sure the leaves are large enough to protrude beyond the

flower. If desired, separate the two chenille wire ends and attach each end to another wire, linking several flowers together.

5. Use flowers to decorate a bulletin board or potluck dinner table. Or attach a construction-paper leaf to each flower and print the words, "Pray for the children of Inter-America," "Pray for Trinidad," or "Pray for Mexico." Send a flower home with each child.
6. To create larger flowers, increase the width of the tissue paper and double the sheets used for each flower.



MAKE MARACAS!

Maracas are rattles, traditionally made from dried gourds. Seeds in the gourds rattle when shaken. Invite the children to a maraca-making party at your home or in the church center. You may want to break the process into two afternoons to allow for drying time. While the children are making their maracas, play Spanish music in the background to help them get into the mood of a fiesta.

FOR EACH MARACA YOU WILL NEED:

- one small balloon (or a clean, dry yogurt container, with lid)
- a dowel or wooden stick 1/4-inch thick and six inches long
- old newspapers
- papier-mâché mix (make your own using two parts flour to three parts water; make in small batches as needed; add a bit more water if paste begins to thicken.)
- poster or tempera paints
- varnish or clear spray-paint finish

INSTRUCTIONS, PART 1:

1. Make papier-mâché mix and place it in several flat baking pans, one pan for every four children.
2. If using balloons, blow up each balloon to 2 or 3 inches in length; tie a knot in the end.

If using yogurt containers, tape the lid in place with masking tape.
3. Tear newspaper into strips about an inch wide and six or more inches long. Lay a few strips of paper in the papier-mâché mix at one time to moisten thoroughly.
4. Pull one strip of paper at a time from the pan, stripping extra papier-mâché mixture from the paper with two fingers.



5. Wrap the wet paper strip at a random angle around the balloon or yogurt container.
6. Repeat with more paper strips until the balloon or container is entirely covered with three layers of papier-mâché. Leave a tiny space at the knotted end of the balloon or the center of the yogurt lid for the dowel.
7. Lay the wet balloon or yogurt container on waxed paper and allow to dry thoroughly.

PART 2:

8. When papier-mâché is dry (overnight is best; the container will sound wooden or hollow when snapped with a finger), pop the balloon by sticking a sharp object into the hole at the bottom. (If using yogurt container, carefully cut a cross about 1/4 inch [1 cm] in center of lid.)
9. Add a few beans, pieces of gravel, or a small handful of rice to the hollow maraca.
10. Put a generous dab of all-purpose glue on the end of the dowel and gently slide the dowel into the hole in the bottom of the maraca until the dowel rests against the opposite end of the maraca. Fill in around the dowel hole with all-purpose glue, then securely tape the dowel to the maraca with masking tape. Let the glue dry before handling the maraca.
11. When glue is dry, let children paint their maracas in bright colors. When paint is dry, decorate with colorful stickers, or paint on a design. Add the child's name.
12. Apply a final coat of shellac or spray-paint finish to add a glossy, protective cover.

Use the maracas in Sabbath School, for the Thirteenth Sabbath program, then let the children take them home as a reminder to pray for the children of Inter-America.

LET'S SPEAK SPANISH

Learn a few words in Spanish this week. Vowel sounds are *ah* as in father, *eh* as in bet, *ee* as in bee, *oh* as in toe, and *oo* as in boot. The *d* is pronounced like the *th* in with. The accented syllables are written in capital letters in the pronunciation column.

Numbers

One
Two
Three
Four
Five
Six
Seven
Eight
Nine
Ten

Números

Uno
Dos
Tres
Cuatro
Cinco
Seis
Siete
Ocho
Nueve
Diez

NOO-meh-rohs

OO-noh
dohs
trays
KWAH-troh
SEEN-koh
says
see-EH-teh
Oh-choh
noo-AY-veh
dee-EHZ

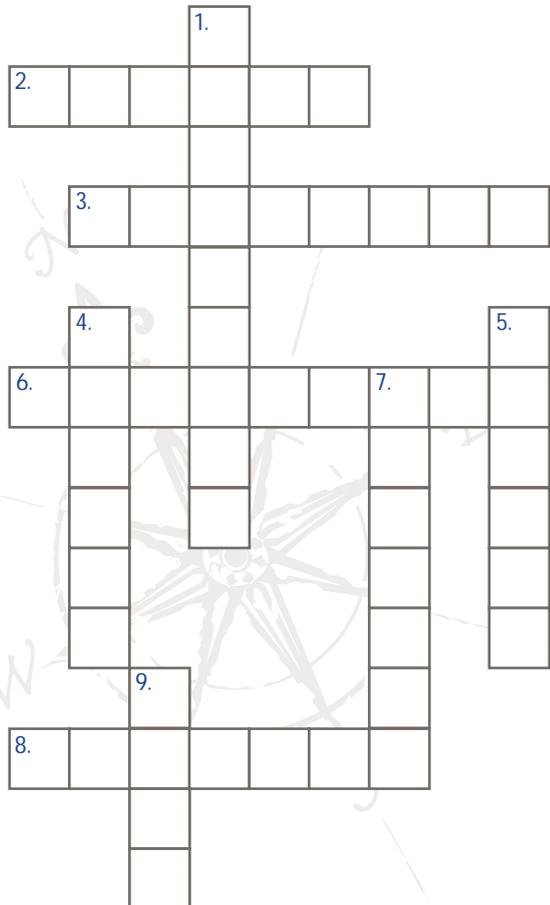
CARIBBEAN CROSSWORD PUZZLE

DOWN

- Trinidad is surrounded by this sea.
- To get from Trinidad to Mexico you cross the Gulf of _____.
- This colorful bird lives in tropical lands and sometimes talks.
- The official language of Trinidad and Guyana.
- This tall tree grows in tropical areas.

ACROSS

- This brightly colored object is made to be broken at Mexican parties.
- This is the island where the University of the Southern Caribbean is located.
- This country of South America is very close to Trinidad.
- This is the official language of Mexico.



Word Bank

Caribbean	Piñata
English	Spanish
Mexico	Trinidad
Palm	Venezuela
Parrot	

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, by Barnabas and Anabel Kindersley (New York: Dorling Kindersley Books, 1995). A beautifully illustrated large-format book that introduces children to many different cultures through children. Includes information on the children's hobbies, homes, schools, and lifestyle. Also available: *Children Just Like Me Sticker Book*.

You Can Change the World: Learning to Pray for People Around the World, volumes 1 and 2, by Jill Johnstone, et al. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993, 1996). Volume 2 has information on Trinidad that should help children understand the culture and the needs of the people who live there.

COOKBOOKS

The following cookbooks contain recipes from the countries of Trinidad, Mexico, and throughout the Inter-American Division suitable for a potluck:

Adventist International Cookbook, by Debby Shabo Wade (Nampa, Idaho: Pacific Press Publishing Assoc., 2000).

The Adventurous Vegetarian, by Colin Spencer (London: Adrian Morris Publishing, Ltd., 1989).

International Home Cooking, The United Nations International School 50th Anniversary Cookbook, by United Nations International School Parents Association (United Nations International School, 1997).

MISCELLANEOUS

Library: Browse through the children's and travel sections of a public library or bookstore for picture books on Trinidad, Mexico, and the other island countries of the Caribbean that are featured this quarter.

Travel Agencies: Travel agencies often have colorful brochures on popular tourist destinations in Mexico and the Caribbean. Call or visit one and ask what they have available to help you portray the scenery and culture of the featured countries.

Embassies and Tourism Offices: Sometimes embassies operate tourism offices that can provide interesting information on their country. In North America, contact:

The Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, 1708 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Telephone: (202) 467-6490; e-mail: embttgo@erols.com; URL: <http://ttembassy.cjb.net/>.

The Embassy of Mexico, 1911 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006. Telephone: (202) 728-1600; e-mail: mexembusa@sre.gob.mx; URL: www.embassyofmexico.org.

Visit our Web site: For additional photos, recipes, language pages, puzzles, and other activities to make mission fun for children, go to www.AdventistMission.org/Resources4Teachers.

SECOND QUARTER 2008
INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION

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Inter-American Division



UNIONS	CHURCHES	MEMBERS	POPULATION
Division	1	106	—
Caribbean	560	200,354	3,575,000
Colombian	1,032	241,029	46,772,000
Cuban	272	26,550	11,269,000
Dominican	609	231,736	9,017,000
French Antilles-Guiana	125	28,623	1,058,000
Haitian	413	303,944	8,522,000
Inter-Oceanic Mexican	918	161,315	33,172,000
Mid-Central American	910	322,646	14,361,000
North Central American	706	216,140	13,320,000
North Mexican	560	158,726	5,483,000
Puerto Rican	289	35,530	3,929,000
South Central American	566	215,534	13,156,000
South Mexican	881	255,206	10,000,000
Venezuela-Antilles	707	166,996	27,283,000
West Indies	669	242,741	3,036,000
Totals	9,218	2,807,176	203,953,000

PROJECTS:

- 1** Dormitory worship halls at the University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad
- 2** Churches for existing congregations and lay training centers in the Inter-Oceanic Mexican Union Mission. For more information, visit www.AdventistMission.org.