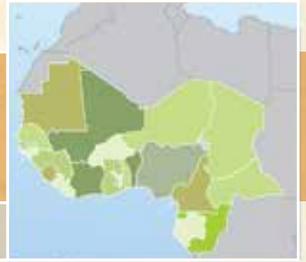




CHILDREN'S MISSION

2014 • QUARTER 1 • WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION



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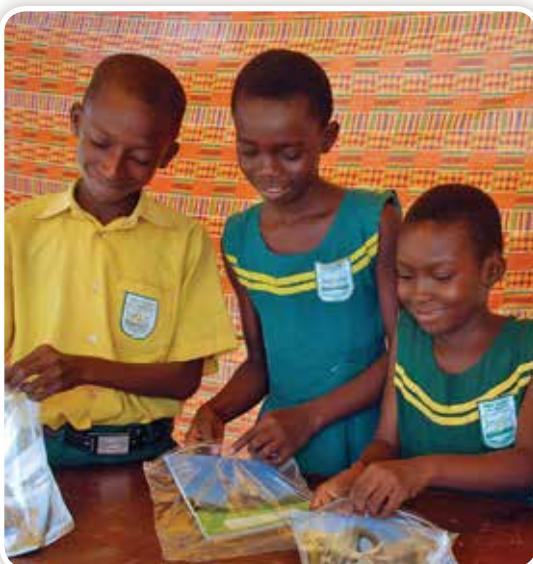
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Your Offerings at Work



Three years ago part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for West-Central Africa helped provide school supplies that children there shared with other children, inviting them to follow them to church. The children of West-Central Africa say a big thank you for your offering! (See the Thirteenth Sabbath program for more on this project.)



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter we feature the West-Central Africa Division, which includes 22 countries that stretch from the west coast of Africa to the border of Sudan, and from Mauritania, Mali, Niger, and Chad in the north to the Republic of Congo (Congo-Brazzaville) in the south.

More than 866,000 Adventists live in this region, or one Adventist for every 415 people. They worship in more than 7,400 companies and churches scattered across western Africa.

Much of the northern region of the West-Central African Division is desert or semidesert, while thick jungles span the interior of other countries. Modern cities, mostly located along the sea, are home to millions of people. Millions more live in mud-and-thatch huts or simple cement-block houses in sparsely populated villages scattered across the

land. Most of the people who live in small villages farm or herd cattle for a livelihood, and many find it difficult to raise enough food to feed their families. Life for them is a struggle, and they yearn for a better future for their children.

The people of Africa understand that the secret to a better future lies in education. If their children can get an education, they have a good chance to rise above poverty and subsistence living and to reach for their dreams. And where schools flourish, the church flourishes as well.

The Adventist Church in Africa works hard to provide Christ-centered schools for every level so that children have a chance to learn and grow and so that families can better themselves. Adventist teachers in hundreds of Adventist primary and secondary schools in the region bring hope and a brighter future to those willing to learn.

But some regions of the West-Central Africa Division have no Adventist schools or have only the most basic of schools. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help provide two schools in the neediest areas of Benin and Senegal.

Yours for the kingdom,



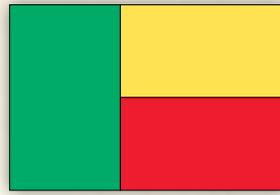
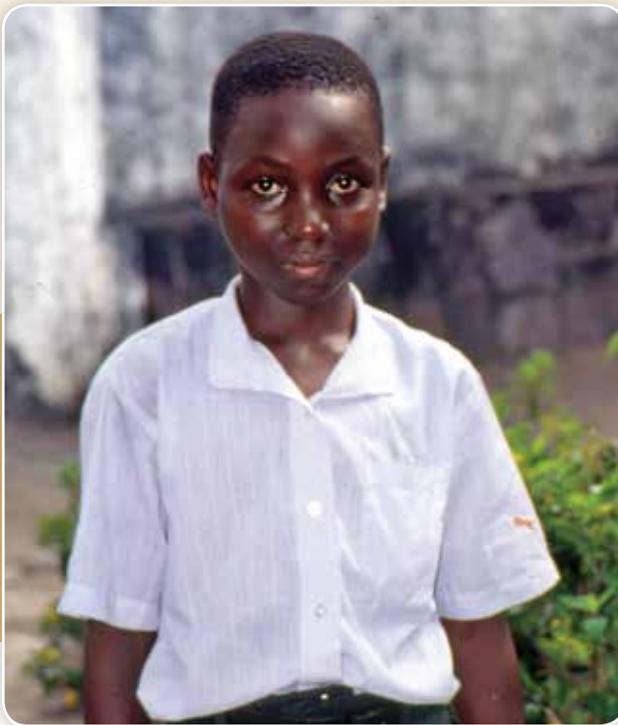
Charlotte Ishkanian
Editor, *Mission*

Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide

- a primary school in Parakou, Benin
- a primary school in Dakar, Senegal
- CHILDREN'S PROJECT: library books for the new schools in Benin and Senegal.





BENIN | January 4

Basile's Discovery™

Basile

Basile [bah-SEEL] stood on the street corner, enchanted by the beautiful singing coming from a crowd of people before him. *Papa would love this!* he thought. He turned and ran to his father's little shop, calling, "Papa, Papa! Come hear the music down the road!" Papa laid down his tools and followed his son to the crowded corner.

Basile lives in the country of Benin [locate Benin on the map]. He has lots of brothers and sisters, for his father had two wives. Papa was a voodoo priest. Voodoo is a form of witchcraft that is common in Benin and neighboring countries of Africa. Papa kept voodoo gods in the family house to protect the family from evil spirits that might want to harm them. He worshipped gods of water, snakes, trees, the dead, and the devil. At Papa's bakery the workers

often argued over which fetishes (idols and charms) provided the best protection against the spirits.

Beautiful Music

Papa and Basile could hear the music before they could see the choir. They stood nearby and listened. Then the singing stopped, and two men stepped 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 anything quite like this before. "Let's go!" Papa said. "This is strange voodoo!" They turned to leave, but the choir sang another song. Basile hesitated.

A man stepped up to Papa and invited him to return the next Saturday. "We

have beautiful music every week,” the man said.

Papa thanked the man and turned to go. “Papa,” Basile said, “may I come 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. In time his mother and sisters attended church with him.

Then one day Basile came home from church with a serious look on his face. “Papa,” he said, “the pastor said that voodoo idols and charms have no power of their own. He said their power comes

from the devil, and the devil is not as strong as Jesus. If that is true, we should worship Jesus, not the charms.”

Basile’s older brother didn’t like it that these Christians were taking his family away from their voodoo gods. 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. And one happy day 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 idols and charms. And in time he accepted Jesus as his Savior too. But he could not be baptized, because he had two wives.

Trial and Victory

When Basile’s aunt became sick her family hired voodoo priests to heal her, but she did not get better. Finally she asked Papa to pray for her. Papa asked God to heal his sister, and soon she was healed. She began attending church and was baptized with two of her children.

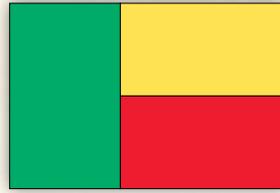
Other members of the family realized that the Christians’ God was more powerful than the voodoo gods.

When Papa’s second wife went home to her parents’ 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 around the world learn about Jesus. Let’s be faithful to bring our offering every week. 🌍

Fast Facts

- Benin is a tiny country that lies along the southern coast of the bulge of western Africa.
- The official language in Benin is French, but nearly everyone speaks at least one local language as well.
- About half the people living in Benin can read and write. More boys attend school than girls, and boys attend longer.
- The three most common religions in Benin are Christianity (mostly Catholic), Islam, and Vodun (or voodoo), a spirit worship. Often, however, people who claim to be Christian or Muslim practice some voodoo.



BENIN | January 11

Adventist children await new school

The Dangerous Journey

Yefunde [yeh-FOON-deh] takes her sister's hand as the girls walk up the winding dirt path to the highway. The girls wait on the edge of the busy road for some older children. Then they join them, walking silently and single file toward their school more than a mile away. They can't talk because it's too noisy to hear one another over the roaring traffic that passes just inches from them.

Yefunde and her family live in central Benin. [*Locate Benin on a map.*] Her parents spend most of their day caring for their family's garden plots, where they raise yams, peanuts, and other crops that provide most of their food. They're glad that their children can attend school and work toward a better life in the future. But they worry about their safety as the children walk the dangerous road.

The Dangerous Journey

The children walk carefully along the edge of the pavement on one of the busiest highways in the country. Cars and motorbikes swerve and honk as they pass slower moving vehicles. Large trucks, bulging with loads of cotton tied down with tarps, zoom past the children, tossing dust at them and threatening to blow them off the road. The children turn their heads so the dust doesn't fly into their eyes, and watch their step so they don't fall off the narrow shoulder into the deep ditch that runs along the road.

Bravely they march on, breaking into a run as they turn off the road and approach the safety of their school. They shake off the dust and the stress before classes begin. In the distance a siren pierces the air, and the children shudder. Sirens often

mean an accident on the narrow highway.

A bell calls the children to class, where they jostle for a seat in the crowded classroom. The government school is the only school for miles.

In the afternoon the children file out of school and walk down the same highway, dodging cars, motorbikes, and trucks as they make their way to their toward home. As Yefunde and her sister reach their path, they wave goodbye to their schoolmates and run toward their little tin-roofed house. They change their school uniforms for work clothes, and hurry toward the field where their mother is working. Mother hands Yefunde her baby brother to play with. Without the baby on her back, Mother can finish hoeing the yam patch before supper.

The Big News

Father comes in from the field and washes his hands and face. He looks tired, but a smile creases his sun-wrinkled face. “When I heard the siren this morning,”

he says, his face growing serious. “I was worried about you.”

“We’re OK, Father,” Yefunde says. “We are careful.”

As the family eats dinner, Father announces that the chief has decided that the Adventist Christians would be invited to build the new village school on his land.

“That’s wonderful,” Mother says. “Soon our children won’t have to walk along the highway to get to school.”

“It will be a big school,” Father says with quiet excitement. “With electricity, so we can hold meetings there at night.”

Watching the School Grow

Soon excitement tingles through the community as men mark off the building site and dig long trenches in the ground for the foundation stones. As work progresses on the school, more and more people talk about the Christians among them whose church is building the new school.

“They are good people,” one man says. “When my son was sick, their members prayed for him.” Another tells what he knows. Few of the villagers are Christians, but they respect the members who worship in the little Adventist church set back from the road not far away. The villagers are glad that Adventist Christians have chosen their village to build the first Adventist school in all of Benin.

Our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build the Adventist school that Yefunde and many other children will attend. Let’s save our money so that these children can have a safe school, a school where they can learn how much God loves them. 

Mission Post

- When a child goes to school, the whole family benefits. Children often teach their parents some of the skills they’ve learned in school. And when children learn to love and follow Jesus, their entire families can come to Christ.
- Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a school in the heart of Benin, a tiny country with fewer than 6,000 members.
- For more information on this project and other work in Benin, see this quarter’s Adventist Mission DVD.



CAMEROON | January 18

Patricia

Patricia's Prayer

Patricia lives in central Cameroon. *[Locate Cameroon on a map.]* She's a lot like other girls. She likes to jump rope and talk with her friends. But in some ways Patricia is different from other children. She has HIV, a serious disease that often makes her sick. Patricia knows that she could die. Her mother died of AIDS, a disease related to HIV.

Difficult Life

When Patricia's mother died, Patricia went to live with her grandmother. Her father couldn't pay her tuition at the Adventist school, so he sent Patricia to the public school near their home.

But the children in her new school treated her badly because she is sick. They refused to play with her or even talk to her. Patricia begged her father to let her go to the Adventist school. "Please, Daddy," she said. "The teachers and

children in the Adventist school don't tease me. They pray for me. Please, please let me go to the Adventist school."

Finally Father let Patricia go back to the Adventist school to study. "I love my school," she says. "When I'm feeling well, I'm just one of the children in my class. "And when I'm not well, the teachers and the children help me."

Patricia's father can't always pay her tuition. So Patricia prays that God will make a way for her to stay in school.

Lessons Well Learned

Patricia enjoys attending Sabbath School, too. She likes the Bible stories. "My favorite story is about Moses," she says. "When he was born he was hidden in a basket in the river. The pharaoh's daughter found him there and adopted him as her own son. God saved Moses from death because his mother prayed for him.

Fast Facts

- Cameroon lies on the Atlantic Ocean very near the equator. It has a tropical climate.
- Many kinds of wildlife live in the jungles and on the plains of Cameroon, including monkeys, chimpanzees, gorillas, antelopes, lions, elephants, and many species of birds and snakes.
- Most people in Cameroon speak a local dialect, but the official languages are English and French.

“God loved Moses very much,” Patricia says with a smile. “He gave Moses a special work to do. I know that God loves me and He has something special for me to do, too. God can use me to help people come to Jesus. I don’t know how He will do that, but I know He will.”

Our Work for Jesus

Patricia wants children to know that even if they have problems in life—if they are poor or sick or have other troubles—God is with them and will help them. “Trust God and worship Him,” she says. “Obey your teachers and your parents. Whatever you do, do it for Jesus. That way others will know that Jesus lives in your heart.”

Patricia knows that God didn’t make her sick, but He can use her sickness to help other people learn to love others more and to be kind to one another. That’s part of being a light for Jesus. Another way we can be a light for Jesus is by giving our mission offerings every week. Our offerings help build schools such as the one Patricia attends. That way many more children can learn how to love God and serve Him. 🌍

Let’s Speak French

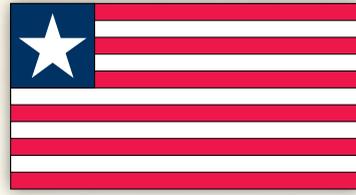
French and English are the official languages of Cameroon. Vowels are pronounced as follows: *a* as in cat; *ah* as in water; *eh* as in yet; *i* as in seen; *o* as in oh; *oo* as in noon; ’ signifies a sudden stop—do not hold vowel sound out. Accented syllables are capitalized.

COMMON PHRASES

Happy Sabbath
Hello
Please
Thank you
Yes
No
Goodbye

PRONOUNCE IT

bohn SAH-bah
bohn-JOOHR
seel-tuh-PLAY
mayr-SEE
wee
no
oh’ur -VWAHR



LIBERIA | January 25

Theodore

The Little Missionary

Theodore is just 8 years old, but already he is a missionary. Theodore lives in Liberia [*locate Liberia on a map*].

Making Friends

Theodore's family often opened their home to young people. Two teen boys who lived too far away from a decent school came to Theodore's home to live while they finished their studies. Then Amos, another teenager, came to visit one of the boys. He always enjoyed it when Theodore's mother invited him to stay for dinner.

Amos is several years older than Theodore, but the two boys enjoyed spending time together and quickly became buddies. One day Theodore told his parents that he wanted to adopt Amos as his big brother.

When Theodore learned that Amos didn't attend church, Theodore invited Amos to join the family for church on

Sabbath. "Sure, I'll go with you," Amos said in his easygoing way. Amos arrived at Theodore's house on Friday so he wouldn't be late for church on Sabbath. He found the family cleaning and cooking for Sabbath. Amos joined in. He scrubbed the floors, helped his friends cook, and even washed the clothes! Everyone worked together to prepare for Sabbath.

Theodore's Plan

Amos couldn't always attend church with the family. Some weekends he had to work, and other weekends he went to see his parents in the village to get food. When Theodore learned this, he asked his mother to feed Amos so that he would not have to miss church to go home.

When the church held evangelistic meetings, Theodore invited Amos to attend. Amos went. And when Theodore asked how Amos liked the meeting, Amos

laughed and said, “I liked it a lot, and if you don’t invite me tomorrow, I’ll come anyway.” The next night Amos came early so that he could eat with the family before the meeting.

Amos went to all the meetings. He attended the baptismal classes after the meetings. And when the pastor announced that there would be a baptism in the river, Amos joined the new believers. And standing on the river’s edge was Theodore, eager to see Amos be baptized. Theodore was so happy that he thought his chest would burst. “I felt as if my big brother were being baptized. Now Amos and I 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,” he adds. “Just tell your friends about Jesus and invite them to come to church with you.”

Theodore is right, boys and girls.

Fast Facts

- Liberia lies on the western coast of Africa. The climate is hot, with a rainy season and a dry season during which harsh winds blow across the land.
- The country was settled by a large number of former slaves from North America. The primary language of education and government is English, but most people speak at least one of about 30 indigenous languages as well.
- Liberia suffers from poverty, partly because of lengthy civil wars that plagued the country for more than 20 years, disrupting education and displacing people.

Let’s all make a friend for Jesus this week. Another way to be a missionary is to bring your mission offering every Sabbath. You’ll be helping someone somewhere learn about Jesus. 🌍

Make Fufu

Fufu is a traditional staple in western Africa. It’s most often made from cassava, yam, or any other starchy vegetable, and making it is work intensive. But the following recipe is a simple substitute to let children experience fufu without the work.

½ cup dehydrated potato flakes 4 cups water

Mix the potatoes and half the water in a small pan and stir until it forms a smooth paste. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly. As it boils, add additional water until the paste becomes thick and goey. Cook for five minutes, stirring to prevent sticking. Let cool, and serve each child a spoonful on a plate. Let them form a ball about an inch in diameter (try using just their right hand, as children in Africa do) then press their thumb into it to form a hollow.

Fufu is normally eaten with a zesty sauce, but if time prevents this, serve with a ready-made spaghetti sauce into which the children can dip their ball of fufu and pop into their mouth.



GHANA | February 1

Joseph and Mary's Quest

Joseph, Mary, and their mother

Joseph and Mary live in a poor neighborhood in the capital city of Ghana. [*Locate Ghana on a map.*] When Joseph was old enough to start school, his parents sent him to the nearby Adventist school because they wanted him to have a good education.

Joseph loved his new school, and when he learned that the children attended Sabbath School on Sabbaths, he wanted to go too. His mother walked him to the church on her way to work.

Adventures With God

Joseph loved Sabbath School. He loved how his teachers made the Bible lessons so interesting. When his mother came to get him late on Sabbath afternoon, he bubbled over with excitement about what he had learned that day.

Joseph invited his parents to come

to church with him, but they said that they had to work, so he went alone.

Mission Post

- People of Ghana belong to many different religions. About 24 percent (or one person in four) follow traditional beliefs that may include ancestor worship and witchcraft. About 20 percent (or one person in five) follow the Muslim religion, and almost as many are Protestant Christians. Some Christian churches mix faith in God with faith in traditional religions.
- Almost 400,000 Seventh-day Adventists live in Ghana. That's one Adventist for every 66 people. Pray that Adventists in Ghana will be able to help their friends and neighbors understand that it's important to worship only God and not idols or ancestors.

He felt lonely when he saw his friends sitting with their parents. "Please, Mom and Dad," he would plead, "let's go to church together."

Joseph joined the Adventurers Club, which met on Sabbath afternoons. Whenever the Adventurers had a special program, Joseph invited his parents. But they always had to work, so he went alone.

"I Won't Go Either"

When Joseph's sister, Mary, was 3 years old, he began taking her to church. Mother walked the children to church and returned for them late in the afternoon. Then Mary began begging her mother to go to church with her.

One day when Mary was 5, she again asked Mother to stay for church. Again Mother said she had to work. "OK," Mary said, "if you won't go to church, then I won't go either." Mary's words hit Mother hard. Mother tried to reason with Mary, saying, "If I go to church with you, what will you eat? I must work on Saturday so that we'll have food to eat the rest of the week." But Mary kept asking her mother to come to church.

Mary and Joseph weren't the only ones to invite Mother and Father to church. Church members often visited the family to invite the parents to church. But still the children's parents didn't come.

Then one day when the children begged their parents to go to church, Father said he'd go. Mary and Joseph were thrilled! When they arrived at church, Joseph introduced his father to many members. The children sat next to him in church. And the elders greeted Father warmly, for they had been trying to get Father to attend church.

Father returned the next week, but

then his boss told him that he had to work the following Sabbath. The children again asked their mother to go with them, but she didn't.

Mother's Surprise

Then one Friday Mother told the children, "Tomorrow I will go to church with you." Mary and Joseph were stunned. Did Mother really mean it? Would she really go? Or would she just drop them off at church on her way to work?

On Sabbath morning Mother helped the children prepare for church. Then she put on her best dress and walked with the children to church. As the family neared the church, Mother, instead of saying goodbye, walked into the churchyard with them.

Mary was so happy that she refused to leave her mother and go to her own Sabbath School. Several times during Sabbath School Joseph left his class to see that his mother was still in church.

Mother realized that she had missed worshipping God. She continued attending church with the children. One day Mother realized that when she stopped working on the Sabbath, God blessed her and gave her the same amount of money from five days' work that she had been earning in six days.

Now Mother has joined the children as they pray that Father will give his heart to God. Let's pray for Father, too. We know Jesus wants whole families to be together in heaven.

Our mission offerings help support schools such as the one that Mary and Joseph attend. There many children first learn that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend now and forever. 🌍



GHANA | February 8

Ama

A Child Shall Lead

Our story today is from Ghana [*locate on map*].

Ama and Adwoa

Ama was 9 years old when her father took a new job and moved to northern Ghana. Mother had to remain in their former town for several months.

Ama is a quiet girl, and she wondered if she would have any friends in her new school. Then she met Adwoa [AH-dwa], a classmate, who wanted to be her friend. Adwoa often talked about God. One day Adwoa invited Ama to come to her house for evening worship. Ama's father gave her permission to go. Ama listened quietly as Adwoa and her parents read a Bible story and sang songs about Jesus. Then she bowed her head while the family prayed.

Ama enjoyed her friend's family worship, and she asked if she could come again. "Come whenever you wish," Adwoa's mother said. Ama went as often

as she could. She wished that her own family would worship God together like Adwoa's family did.

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

Mother Objects

When Ama's mother arrived in the family's new home, she tried to stop Ama from worshipping with her friend. Ama told her friend's family of her mother's opposition. "We must pray that God will open your mother's heart so you can continue to come," Adwoa said. "And you must pray for your family too. God can change their hearts if you pray for them."

Ama prayed that God would help her to be a good Christian, so that her mother would allow her to continue worshipping with Adwoa's family.

Tent Meetings

One day an Adventist pastor came to town to hold special meetings. Ama hoped that her family would go to the meetings so they would realize that Adventists are not strange people. Her mother and sisters went with her to the meetings. They listened to the sermons and sang the songs. And when the meetings ended, Ama's mother didn't object when Ama's sisters asked to be baptized. Ama was thrilled. But she was even happier when her mother told the pastor that she wanted to be baptized too.

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

Fun Facts

- Ghana lies on the Atlantic Ocean between Côte d'Ivoire [coh duh-VWAH], or Ivory Coast, and Togo. It has more than 25 million people and is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa.
- About half the people living in Ghana farm for a living.
- The people of Ghana belong to more than 100 different ethnic and language groups. The people have worked hard to live together in peace.
- The most widely spoken African language in Ghana is Akan.

Our mission offerings help spread the message that Jesus loves us all and wants us to worship Him together. Let's pray that Ama's family will be united in God's love very soon. 🌍

[Close with prayer.]

Let's Speak Akan

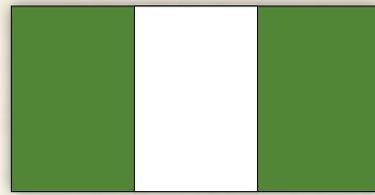
Akan (ahKAHN) is the language of the Ashanti people of central Ghana. Vowels are pronounced as follows: *a* as in cat; *ay* as in say; *ih* as in fit; *eh* as in bed; *ee* as in bee; *oh* as in oh; *u* as in foot; *aw* as in hot; *oo* as in boot.

COMMON PHRASES

Happy Sabbath
Welcome
Please
Thank you
Yes
No

PRONOUNCE IT

hohMIHdah pah
ahkWAHahbah
mih-pah wu-choh
mihdah wu ahSEE
Aanee
DAbee



NIGERIA | February 15

Gideon's Calling

Gideon

Today's story comes from Nigeria.
[Locate Nigerian on a map.]

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

Gideon's Glad Gang

Gideon likes to preach and sing about Jesus. He has taught his neighborhood friends songs and Bible stories, and the boys go together to visit neighbors to sing and tell the people the Bible stories that Gideon has taught them. He tells them about David or Samson or Daniel or Jesus. Sometimes they ask the children to stay and tell them more stories. When the children are ready to go, they offer to come back, and most of the people are glad. "We all like to do this," Gideon says.

One day Gideon and his friends visited

Jumoke [joo-MOH-keh], a woman who lives near them. They sang songs for her, and then Gideon told her the story of Samson. She liked it, so Gideon told her more stories, and the children sang more songs until they had to go. She invited the children to come back again, and they promised they would.

The next day four of the children returned to Jumoke's home and sang for her again and told her more stories. When it was time to go, Jumoke wanted the children to return the next day, but the children had school and couldn't come.

An Invitation

Several days passed before Gideon could visit Jumoke again. He apologized for not coming sooner. Gideon and Jumoke sat down and talked. "I told her how much Jesus loves her," Gideon said. "And when

she told me how much she likes the Bible stories, I asked her to come to church with me to hear lots more stories.”

“I would like that,” Jumoke said. Gideon told her that he would ask his parents to take her to church the next Sabbath. She smiled, and she said she would go.

Gideon hurried home and found his mother stirring the fried rice that she was making for dinner. “Mama,” he said, “Jumoke wants to go to church with us this Sabbath! Can we take her?”

Mama smiled. “That’s wonderful. Let’s ask Papa when he comes home.”

When Papa came home he listened to Gideon’s request and looked thoughtful for a moment. “Yes, I think we can make room for her in our car,” he said. The twinkle in his eyes told Gideon that Papa was pleased.

Sabbath Visitor

On Sabbath morning Gideon went to Jumoke’s house and walked her back to his house, where the family was waiting beside our car.

The family had a wonderful worship in their little church. On the way home from church Jumoke thanked Gideon and his parents for taking her to church. “Will you come again next week?” Gideon asked her. Jumoke said that she would try. Jumoke has come to church several times since then. Her husband doesn’t always let her come, but she likes to worship God with Gideon’s family whenever she can go.

Gideon and his friends still go to Jumoke’s house to sing songs and tell Bible stories. Gideon asks us to pray that Jumoke’s husband will let her attend church and that he will want to come to church with her.

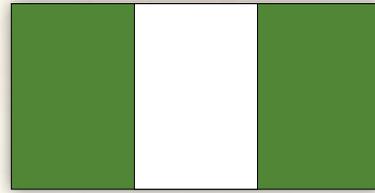
Being a Missionary

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, and for all the children and grown-ups in the world who will have a chance to hear about Jesus because we give our mission offering. 🌍

[Close with prayer.]

Mission Post

- Nigeria has a population of more than 170 million people, making it the most populous country in Africa.
- About 278,000 Adventists live in Nigeria. That’s about one Adventist for every 612 people.
- Nigeria has many Adventist primary and secondary schools as well as Babcock University, which has almost 12,000 students. Many students at Adventist schools do not come from Adventist—or even from Christian—homes. Schools are a great way to lead children and their families to Jesus.



NIGERIA | February 22

Ado

Mother's Scars

Editor's Note: Some may recognize the similarities between the following story and the well-known classic by Arthur S. Maxwell, titled "Mother's Hands." These stories illustrate the amazing love of a mother regardless of time and place.

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 Ado's mother's face. The boys laughed, but Ado ran home so his friends would not see the tears forming in his eyes.

Fast Facts

- Nigeria lies along the Atlantic Ocean in the bulge of western Africa. It's the most populous country in Africa and the seventh most populous in the world.
- More than 500 ethnic groups live in Nigeria, each speaking its own language. English is the official language of government and education.
- About 40 percent of the population of Nigeria is Christian (mostly in the south and central portions of the country) and about half is Muslim (mostly in the north).
- Nigeria has great reserves of oil and other natural resources, helping it become financially strong.

What Happened?

Ado hurried into his hut and sat down. When his mother came in, she could see that her usually happy boy was 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 risked 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 on His hands, His feet, and 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.]



CÔTE D'IVOIRE | March 1

Eli-Ann

Faithful Eli-Ann

Today we will visit the largest city in Côte d'Ivoire [Cote duh VWAR]. [*Locate on map.*] There lives 10-year-old Eli-Ann. Not long ago she faced a big temptation.

It all began one morning at breakfast. As Eli-Ann ate her boiled rice with a little sugar on it, Mother said, "Your exams start today, don't they?"

"Yes," Eli-Ann replied. "I've studied hard, but I know that the tests will be hard. Teacher told us that people from the government will be there to make sure nobody cheats."

"Do your best," Mother replied. "Your uncle and I will stay near the school and pray for you all day as you write your exams."

"Thank you," Eli-Ann said. "It will make me happy to know you are near. When we get our break between exams, I'll be able to

run out and tell you how I'm doing."

As Eli-Ann's mother and uncle walked to school with her that morning, they encouraged her with God's promises. "You'll do well, Eli-Ann," her uncle said. "We will ask Jesus to help you remember the things you have studied all year."

The Exam

Eli-Ann said goodbye to her mother and uncle and walked across the schoolyard. She stopped at the door and turned to wave. *Jesus, help me to do my very best for You today*, she prayed silently.

When the school bell rang, the children sat up straight and listened to the teacher's instructions. When the teacher said "Go," the children began their exams. The government inspectors walked around the room making sure the students didn't have any notes with them.

A Little Help

One of the inspectors stopped by Eli-Ann's desk. "You've spelled that word wrong," he whispered to her. Then he began telling her how to spell it correctly.

Eli-Ann looked up at the inspector in surprise. "I won't tell anyone," he said.

"No, thank you, sir," Eli-Ann replied. "I don't want to cheat. By God's grace I would rather fail this exam than to cheat!"

The examiner frowned and walked on. *I hope he doesn't get mad and fail me*, Eli-Ann thought. *But I know that I did what is right!*

When that exam ended, the teacher let the children go outside for a short break. Eli-Ann ran to where her mother and uncle sat under a large shade tree. "I'm sure glad that one is finished!" Eli-Ann exclaimed.

"Was it really hard?" Mother asked.

"Yes, it was," Eli-Ann admitted. "I misspelled a hard word, and one of the inspectors told me how to spell it. I told him that I'd rather fail than cheat. I don't think he was very happy with me."

"You did the right thing," her uncle said.

"Don't worry, sweetheart," her mother assured her. "God will bless you for being honest."

"I sure hope you're right," Eli-Ann said as she turned to go back inside for the next exam.

The Results

A few days later the results arrived, and Eli-Ann had passed. She squealed and clapped her hands.

"You not only passed," Mother said. "You earned high marks! God has honored you for your faithfulness."

"I want to thank Jesus for helping me do well," Eli-Ann suggested.

Fast Facts

- Côte d'Ivoire is French for "Ivory Coast." At one time elephants were killed, and their tusks were sold for large sums of money.
- French is the official language of Côte d'Ivoire.
- The people in Côte d'Ivoire are divided among three religions: Islam (mostly in the northern part of the country), Christianity (in the south), and animism, the worship of animals and plants that people believe possess spirits.

Eli-Ann and Mother knelt down. "Dear Jesus," Mother said, "thank You for helping Eli-Ann do so well. Thank You for helping her to do what was right when the inspector tempted her to cheat." Eli-Ann thanked God too for His help during the tests. Then Mother hugged Eli-Ann and whispered, "I'm so proud of you, and I know Jesus is, too."

Boys and girls, we can be lights for Jesus in everything we say and do. We can be kind when someone says bad things. We can smile and be cheerful, even when we don't feel like it. We can tell others about God's love for them, and we can give our mission offerings so that children and grown-ups around the world will know that Jesus loves them and wants them to give their hearts to Him. Let's bring our offerings now as we pray for the people in West-Central Africa who need to learn that Jesus really does care for them. 🌍

[Close with prayer.]



SENEGAL | March 8

Jean Paul

Jean Paul's Joy™

Today's story comes from the country of Senegal [SEHN-eh-gahl], on the far western coast of Africa. [*Locate Senegal on the map.*]

Jean [John] Paul lives in Dakar [dah-KAHR], the capital and largest city of Senegal.

Sad Jean Paul

Jean Paul was sad and lonely. He wanted to make friends, but other children avoided him or acted as if they didn't see him. Recess time was the hardest for Jean Paul. The children often played soccer, his favorite game. But he wasn't invited to play. You see, Jean Paul had a disease called polio that left his legs too weak to hold him, and now he's unable to walk. He must use a wheelchair to get around.

Jean Paul's parents were worried too. The school Jean Paul attended couldn't

meet Jean Paul's needs. "We have stairs, and your son can't climb them," the principal said.

Jean Paul's parents looked at several schools in the city, but the principals shook their heads. They couldn't meet Jean Paul's needs.

Finding a School

Then someone suggested a small Adventist school in the city. Perhaps Jean Paul could study there. His parents drove to the school. It wasn't as nice as some of the other schools they had visited, but the principal welcomed them and showed them around the little three-room primary school.

When Jean Paul's parents returned to the principal's office, they looked at each other and then turned to the principal. "Our son is bright," Jean Paul's father said. "But he—he can't walk. He had polio, and he must

Fast Facts

- Senegal is the westernmost country in Africa. Dakar is the capital and largest city. Dakar is located on a point of land that juts out into the Atlantic Ocean.
- Senegal has a hot climate and a rainy season and a dry season.
- Elephants, lions, cheetahs, and antelopes live in the eastern half of the country, where fewer people live.
- French is the official language of Senegal, although nearly everyone in the country speaks at least one African language.
- About 94 percent of the people living in Senegal are Muslims; the remaining 6 percent are Christian or follow traditional beliefs.

use a wheelchair.” The parents waited for the look of rejection on the principal’s face, but instead the principal smiled.

“Would you like to bring your son to the school to meet the children?” the principal asked. “I’m sure Jean Paul will like it here.”

On Monday morning Jean Paul’s parents drove to the little Adventist school. Jean Paul scooted into his wheelchair, and his parents pushed him toward the school.

The principal met the family and introduced Jean Paul to the students. The children greeted him, and the teacher showed him to his desk. “Welcome!” the children said.

A Place to Belong

At recess the children hurried to the door of the classroom. Jean Paul turned his wheelchair toward the door and found

that one of the boys had put a piece of wood at the doorway to allow Jean Paul to ride outside. The children stood ready for kick off for a game soccer. But Jean Paul held back.

The teacher walked up beside Jean Paul and asked, “Do you like soccer?”

“Yes, sir,” Jean Paul said. “I play goalie.”

“Lucas! Omar!” the teacher called.

Omar hurried over and looked at the teacher. “Jean Paul says he plays goalie,” the teacher said. “Do you think your team could use a goalie?”

Omar saw the teacher’s smile and said, “Sure!” Omar pushed Jean Paul’s wheelchair closer to the goal post, and Jean Paul slid out onto the ground. He couldn’t walk, but he could sure move fast! The game began, and Jean Paul managed to prevent several goals by grabbing the ball or by swinging his body to block it from entering the goal area.

From that day on Jean Paul has been the boys’ team goalie at the Adventist school in Dakar.

“I’m so glad to be in this school,” Jean Paul says. “The children here are kind to me. They let me play with them, and they include me in their work groups in class.”

A Mission to Dakar

Only a few children in Jean Paul’s school are from Adventist homes. Most are Muslim, for Senegal is a mostly Muslim country. But together the children are learning to serve God and respect one another.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build more classrooms at the little Adventist school. And our children’s offering will help buy books to create a library so that all the children can read more about God. 



SIERRA LEONE | March 15

Joshua's Tests

Joshua

Joshua lives in Freetown, the capital city of Sierra Leone. [*Locate Sierra Leone on the west coast of Africa.*] Like all children in school, Joshua has lots of tests. But some tests aren't taken with paper and pencil. They're tests of our faith.

Crowded Classes

The government of Sierra Leone does not have money to build new schools, so schools are crowded. To ease the problem, most schools have two shifts, with some students attending classes in the morning, and others attending in the afternoon. To make up for the shorter school day, schools often hold classes six days a week. This makes a problem for Adventist children.

When Joshua's school began holding 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 certain grades, students take national exams. To help students prepare for the national exams, students take "mock" exams first. Although the mock exams don't count toward a student's grade, they are very important. If a student doesn't take them, he or she must repeat that whole year of school.

When the mock exam schedule was posted, Joshua saw they came on Sabbath—just three days away. Joshua hurried home from school to tell his parents about the exam schedule. The family prayed that the principal would allow Joshua to take his exams on another day. The next morning Father went to speak with the school principal about

the exam schedule. He gave the man some tracts that explain the Sabbath. The principal read the tracts and was surprised to learn that the Bible Sabbath is Saturday, not Sunday. He agreed to let Joshua take 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

Later the school scheduled special classes on Saturdays to help students prepare for the real national exams. The principal warned Joshua that if he skipped the classes and the practice exams, he would not do as well on the actual exams at the end of the school year. Joshua understood 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

Mission Post

- The Adventist Church in West-Central Africa is growing in part because many children can attend an Adventist school. Lots of the children who attend our schools do not come from Adventist homes, so the school is a mission outreach for them.
- But when there is no Adventist school in an area, the Adventist children must attend public schools where many face Sabbath problems and persecution.
- This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build two Adventist primary schools—one in Benin and one in Senegal. Part of our children’s offering on Thirteenth Sabbath will provide books in the local languages for the children who will attend these schools.

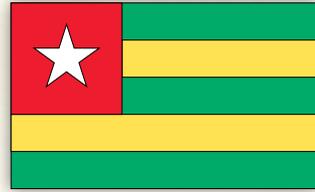
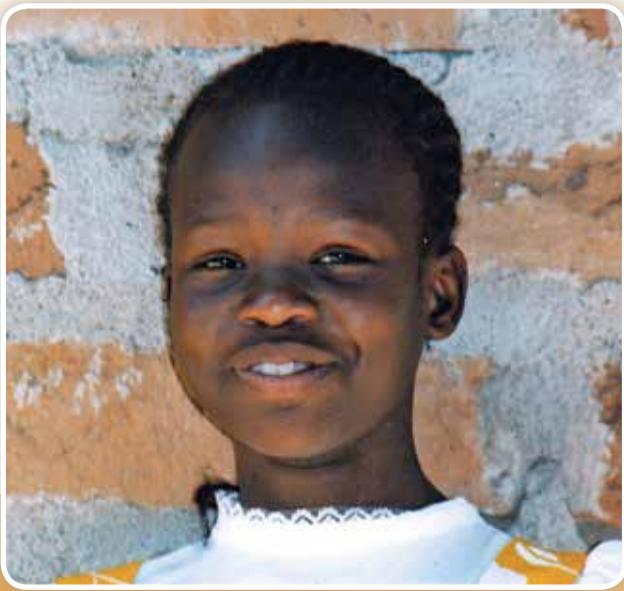
me to take these exams,” Joshua told his teacher. “I pray that the exams will not be held on Sabbath.”

A Light in the Darkness

When Joshua’s classmates ask why he doesn’t attend classes on Sabbath, he invites them to church to hear the truth for themselves. Some of them have come. And four of Joshua’s 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. In the meantime, children who stand firm in their faith are light candles in the darkness, showing God’s light all around them.

We can help them light the darkness by sharing our mission offerings so that others will see God’s love and want to follow Him. 



TOGO | March 22

Dorcas

Dorcas Shares Her Faith

Dorcas lives in Togo, a tiny sliver of a country east of Ghana in West Africa. [Locate on map.]

Breaking Up a Fight

On her way to church one Sabbath Dorcas saw two girls quarreling. *I wish they would stop fighting*, Dorcas thought. Dorcas looked around, but nobody else was nearby. So she walked toward the girls and said, “Please don’t fight!”

Surprised, the two girls stopped fighting and looked at Dorcas.

“Why were you fighting?” Dorcas asked. The two girls told Dorcas why they had been arguing. When they thought about it, their quarrel seemed pretty silly.

“If you both say you’re sorry and forgive each other,” Dorcas said, “you can be friends.” The girls apologized to each other. Dorcas smiled and waved goodbye, then hurried on to church.

Invitation to Supper

Kekeli [keh-KEH-lee], one of the girls who had been arguing, invited Dorcas to play. The two girls became friends. One day Kekeli’s mom invited Dorcas to dinner “I would like to,” Dorcas said. “But I must ask my mother.”

Dorcas’s mother gave her permission, and Dorcas hurried to Kekeli’s house. The food was already on the table. Everyone sat down, and Kekeli’s mother began dishing out the food. As soon as they had food on their plates, the children began to eat. But Dorcas just sat there.

“Eat!” Kekeli said. “My mom’s a great cook!”

“Excuse me,” Dorcas spoke politely. “Could I thank Jesus for the food?”

Kekeli’s mom asked the children to be quiet while Dorcas prayed.

“Thank You, Jesus, for Kekeli and her

family. Please bless them. And thank You for this good food. Amen.”

Everyone began to eat. “This food is delicious,” Dorcas said. “Your mom really is a good cook!”

“I told you!” Kekeli said, grinning.

Kekeli Is Sick

A few weeks later Dorcas stopped by Kekeli’s house. She had not seen Kekeli in several days and wondered if something was wrong. Kekeli’s mother answered the door.

“Come in, Dorcas!” Kekeli’s mother said. “Kekeli has been sick, but I’m sure she will enjoy seeing you.”

“What’s wrong?” Dorcas asked.

“She has a fever, and she aches all over.”

“May I pray for Kekeli?” Dorcas asked.

“OK!” Kekeli’s mother said. “It won’t hurt to pray.” She led the way to Kekeli’s bed. Dorcas knelt beside Kekeli’s bed and prayed, “Dear Jesus, Kekeli is sick. Please come and touch her, heal her, so that her family will know that You love them and care for them. Please forgive all our sins, and answer our prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

The Miracle

Dorcas did not stay long, because Kekeli needed to rest. But a little while later Kekeli’s mother saw Dorcas and called to her. “Dorcas, come! Kekeli’s fever is gone! She wants to see you.”

Dorcas hurried into Kekeli’s house. “That’s wonderful!” Dorcas beamed. “I knew Jesus would heal her!” Dorcas visited her friend for a few minutes, and then she hurried home to tell her mom what had happened.

The next day Dorcas invited Kekeli to Sabbath School. On Sabbath Dorcas stopped at Kekeli’s house. “Is it OK if my

Fast Facts

- Togo is a tiny sliver of a country between Ghana and Benin in western Africa.
- Most people depend on farming to provide their food and money.
- French is the national language, although most people in Togo speak a tribal language as well.
- Half the people living in Togo worship traditional gods such as animals, trees, and water. About 30 percent of the people are Christians, and 20 percent are Muslims.

parents come with us?” Kekeli said. “They want to know more about your church and your God.”

Kekeli’s mom and dad went with the girls to Sabbath School. They joined the pastor’s Bible study class, and before long they accepted Jesus as their Savior and joined the Adventist Church.

“I’m so glad that Kekeli and I became friends,” Dorcas told her mother. “I’m glad they came to church and gave their hearts to Jesus.”

“And just think,” her mother added. “If you had not helped the girls stop quarreling, or if you had not prayed before dinner that first time you visited, they probably never would have come to church and learned about Jesus!”

What About You?

What about you, boys and girls? If you visit someone’s home where people don’t pray before meals, would you be brave enough to pray? If a friend does not attend church, will you invite them to come with you? Who knows where it may lead! 

Thirteenth Sabbath Program

If your class will present the Thirteenth Sabbath program for the adults:

- practice one or more songs from the quarterly or the Website (www.AdventistMission.org) to sing during the program.
- encourage the children to bring

their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on March 29.

If your division will not join the adults for a special program, present the following report on how the past children's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to the West-Central Africa Division was used.

Follow Me

Leader: The West-Central Africa Division is made up of 22 countries. [*Show the map on the back of Children's Mission.*]

Three years ago our mission offering helped children in these countries share God's love by providing back-to-school supplies and invitations to attend Sabbath School. Let's hear how one girl helped share God's love by using supplies purchased through our mission offerings.

Storyteller: It was the first day of classes at an Adventist school in western Africa. Children gathered around a table standing under a shelter. The table held neat piles of school supplies—pencils, erasers, notebooks, crayons, and bookmarks with a picture of Jesus and the words "Follow Me" printed on them.

Nine-year-old Joyce joined the other children who were examining the supplies. The teacher arrived and explained why the supplies were on the table.

Fun Mission Project

"We have a special mission project today," she began. "We will make packets of school supplies to give to children who don't know Jesus." A flutter of excitement rippled through the cluster of children.

The teacher gave the children plastic bags and told them to walk around the table and pick up one item from each pile. "Be sure to put the card with the picture of Jesus in last, so it shows through the bag," she said. "This card is an invitation to Sabbath School."

Joyce and her classmates walked around the table choosing what they would put into their bags as the teacher explained that some children in their own village didn't have the money to buy school supplies to do well in school.

The children filled and sealed the bags. Then the teacher bowed her head to pray. "Dear God," she said, "please show us the children You want to receive these school

supplies. Bless them and help them to want to know more about You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Who Gets the Bag?

After school that day the children picked up the bags of school supplies. The teacher said, "Ask God to show you the person He wants you to give the bag to. And when you give the bag to the child, tell them that Jesus loves them and wants to be their friend. Invite them to go with you to Sabbath School this week."

Joyce picked up her bag with school supplies and walked toward home. She saw many children coming home from school. "Dear Jesus," she prayed, "please help me to find someone who needs to know You love them. Amen."

Joyce looked up and saw a boy walking toward her. It was Theo. Joyce smiled, for she knew she had found the person God wanted her to give the packet to.

Theo's Surprise

"Hi, Theo," Joyce said. "Did you start school today?"

"No," Theo said. "My dad didn't have money for school supplies."

Joyce smiled broadly. "Well, now you can go to school! Jesus wants you to have these school supplies!" Joyce held up the plastic bag with the notebook, pencil, crayons, and the picture of Jesus in it.

Theo looked at the bag "Why are you giving this to me?" he asked.

The Gift

"Children from around the world gave a special offering so we could buy school supplies for children who don't have any. At my school today we prayed that God would show us who we should give them

to. God told me to give this bag to you!" Joyce pressed the bag of supplies into Theo's hands. "Take it," she said. "It's from Jesus, and it's for you."

Slowly a smile crept across Theo's face. "Wow," he said. "Thank you! Now I can go to school."

"There's more," Joyce added quickly. "There's an invitation in the bag for you to visit my Sabbath School on Saturday. If you wish, I'll walk with you so you won't have to go alone."

Theo thanked Joyce and promised to ask his mother for permission to go to Sabbath School with her.

On Sabbath morning Theo met Joyce in front of his house. The two friends walked to church together. Joyce introduced Theo to her Sabbath School teacher and to the children in her class. Theo enjoyed learning the songs the children sang. He liked the stories about Jesus and His disciples that the teacher told. In fact, he enjoyed everything about Sabbath School.

On the way home later that day, Theo asked if he could come to Sabbath School with Joyce again. "Of course you can!" Joyce said with a big smile. "Jesus—and I—invite you!"

Theo continued attending church with Joyce. He told his mother about what he was learning and asked her if he could take his younger brother to Sabbath School as well. Now Theo and his brother and mother attend Sabbath School regularly. "I am glad that Joyce—and Jesus—invited us to church," Theo says. "And thank you for helping me have school supplies so I could do well in school, too!"

Leader: Our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago helped thousands of children throughout West-Central Africa go to school and learn about Jesus in Sabbath School. We won't know how many children found a new friend in Jesus until we get to heaven, but we can be sure many will be there because we



gave our offering. Let's plan now for a big offering this Thirteenth Sabbath too, so even more children will join us in heaven.

This quarter the children in two schools in Benin and Senegal [*locate on map*] will receive books so that they can discover the joy of reading while they learn more about Jesus.

[Offering]

Next Quarter's Projects



Next quarter will feature the Southern Asia Division. Special projects include dormitories and classroom blocks for three boarding schools, and churches for existing congregations in every region, including Bhutan and Nepal.

Goodbye, Miss Charlotte

After 20 years writing mission stories for children and adults around the world, Miss Charlotte is stepping down.

Mission Adventures

Miss Charlotte has traveled to 140 countries to gather mission stories we hear every week in Sabbath School. Along the way she has had many adventures, flying in ancient planes better equipped to haul cargo than people, and riding in a car accompanied by an AK-47 rifle on the seat beside her. (She was careful not to touch it!)



Miss Charlotte and an African friend

In the Philippines she took a boat to a baptism on an island. As the boat neared the shore, the passengers had to jump into a small rowboat for the trip to shore. Just as Charlotte jumped, the small boat moved, and she landed in the mud on the bottom of the boat. Mud covered her Sabbath clothes, but she laughed as the boatman rowed to shore, where she continued interviewing people who had stories for her to share with the rest of the world.

Roughing It

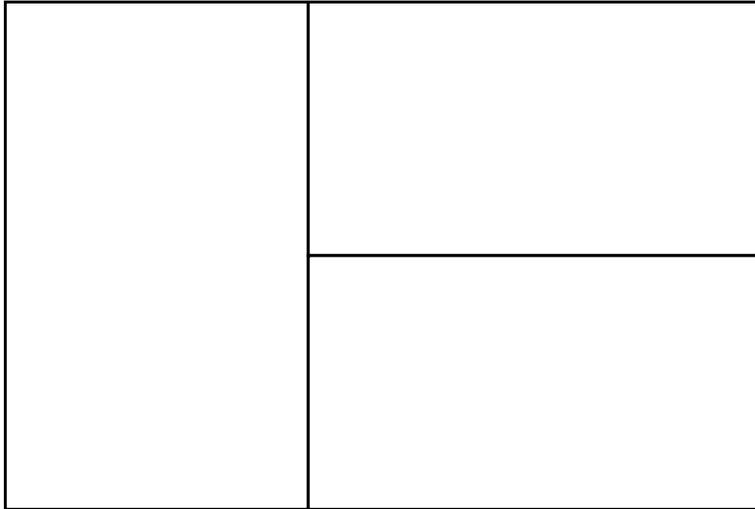
She has slept in mud huts with thatched roofs (and a sheet over the door to keep the animals out) and shared “upper rooms” of church offices with scary-sounding lizards and very big cockroaches. She eats Indian curry and rice with her fingers and Chinese food with chopsticks. She has listened to stories while sitting in the back of a pickup bouncing along a rutted dirt road, while sitting on a bag of corn, and even while on a tree stump.

Miss Charlotte has spent many months away from her children, often without e-mail or a telephone. But while she missed them, they were bound together by prayer. She most enjoyed meeting her brothers and sisters in God’s big family, bound together by His love.

Next quarter we’ll meet the new editor of *Mission*, Miss Gina.

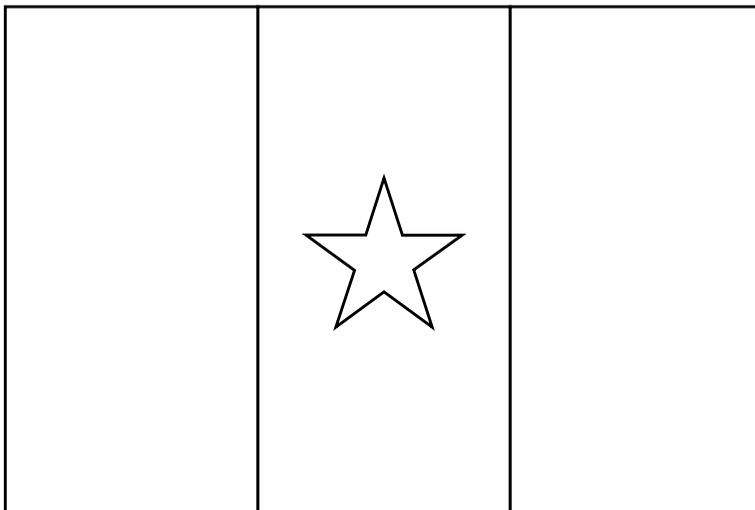
Color the Flags

Our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help children in Benin and Senegal. Below are the flags of these two countries. Enlarge and print for children to color to decorate the room this quarter.



BENIN

Left rectangle: green | Top rectangle: yellow | Bottom rectangle: red



SENEGAL

Left rectangle and star: green | Center rectangle: yellow | Right rectangle: red

Sing Praises to God in French

The official language of Benin and Senegal is French. Vowels are pronounced as follows: *a* as in cat; *ah* as in water; *eh* as in yet; *ee* as in wee; *oh* as in oh, *oo* as in moon; *uh* as in cup.

JESUS M'AI ME (*Jesus Loves Me, chorus only*)

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

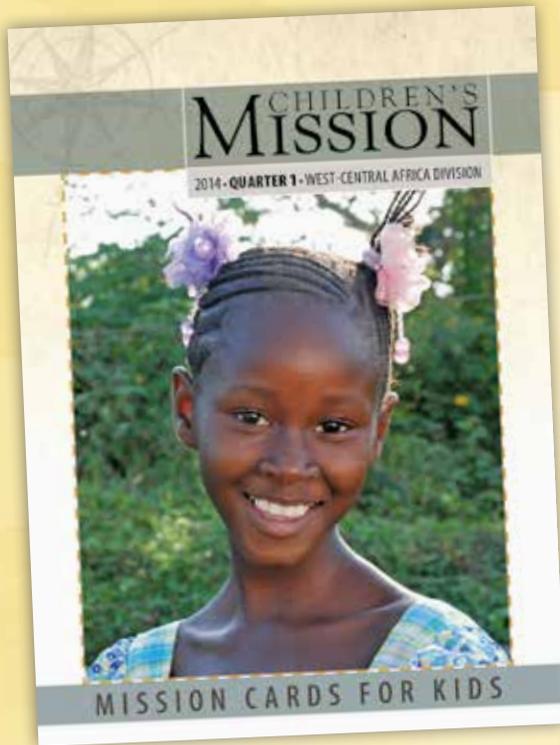
GOD IS SO GOOD

Dieu est si bon	dee-oooh eh see bohn
Dieu est si bon	dee-oooh eh see bohn
Dieu est si bon	dee-oooh eh see bohn
Est si bon pour moi	eh see bohn poo mwah

I WILL FOLLOW THEE, *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, No. 623)*

Mon Sauveur, c'est par la foi	mohn soh vuhr seh pahh 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

SEND MISSION HOME!



Send a missionary home with the children in your Sabbath School class each week. Adventist Mission Cards for Kids contains profiles of 12 children featured in the children's mission quarterly. Each card contains a photo, country information, and fun facts about where the mission offerings go each quarter.

This new product from the General Conference Office of Adventist Mission and Children's Ministries can make mission stories more tangible for kids.

**Mission Cards are just US\$7.49
per quarter for a pack of five sets.**

For more information contact us by visiting www.AdventistMission.org or by calling 1-800-648-5824. Please use the information below to order the cards.

Place your order on the North American Division Sabbath School Standing Order Form or call 1-800-456-3991.

Leader's Resources

Following are sources of information that have proved helpful in preparing programs for *Children's Mission*.

Visit our Web site for additional recipes, language pages, puzzles, and other activities that you can download and print to make mission more fun for children. Go to www.AdventistMission.org. Click "Mission Resources" in the middle of the page. Click on the "Activities" menu in the "Children's Mission Magazine" box, and select the activity you want.

Your web browser may allow you to print the children's mission prayer cards as a full-page photo, giving you an excellent tool to show the child's photo during mission time in Sabbath School. Go to www.AdventistMissions.org and click on "Children's Mission." Click on "Archives/Downloads" at the bottom of the left column. Find the "MissionCardsForKids" PDF file, and open it. Print the page(s) you wish, telling your browser to print "fit to page."

Adventist Mission DVD is a free video that features stories from the featured countries as well as the worldwide mission of the church. Ask your Sabbath School superintendent to make you a copy of it for you to use. Or go online at www.AdventistMission.org and click on DVD in the "Resources" box in the middle of the page to download one of the DVD programs.

For more information: Search on the Internet for information on individual countries by name. Or visit the library or a travel agency for more information on specific countries or regions of western Africa.

Offering device: The children's offering this quarter will help provide library books for children in two schools in Benin and Senegal. Every week that the children reach their offering goal, add a photo of a child's Christian book to the map of West-Central Africa. Or use a drawing of a simple school and add photos of children each week the children meet their offering goal.

Remind children that their weekly mission offering and 75 percent of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helps the church around the world to tell people about Jesus. The remainder of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go to the special projects listed on the back cover of the quarterly.

Some stories in this issue of *Children's Mission* have been adapted from earlier mission quarterlies.

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Children's Mission (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2014 by the Office of Adventist Mission, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6601, USA.

Printed in U.S.A.

First Quarter 2014
Volume 60, Number 1

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For subscription inquiries, e-mail Steve Hanson at shanson@rhpaa.org or call 1-800-456-3991 or 1-301-393-3247. Annual subscription rates per edition: domestic, US\$7.50; international, US\$14.50.

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION



ATLANTIC OCEAN

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Central African	997	562	99,858	43,877,000
Eastern Nigeria	549	523	152,853	52,739,000
Ghana	1,255	1,834	400,363	25,546,000
North-Western Nigeria	424	702	73,353	117,386,000
Sahel	175	381	42,786	116,179,000
West African	123	164	34,977	12,196,000

TOTAL 3,523 4,166 804,190 367,923,000
 Statistics as of December 2012

PROJECTS

- ① Primary school in Parakou, Benin
- ② Primary school in Dakar, Senegal

CHILDREN'S PROJECT: library books for the new schools in Benin and Senegal

