



# CHILDREN'S MISSION

2014 • **QUARTER 4** • INTER-AMERICAN DIVISION



# Contents

**On the Cover:** Adriel, 9, and his twin sister come from a big family in Belize. One day Adriel became very ill. His family and church members prayed for him and now he is better. Adriel is very happy and loves to tell people about his love for Jesus.

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# Your Offerings at Work



Thanks to your generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, many special projects have been completed around the world. Pictured here is the new Timothy S. Greaves Hall Residence Hall at the University of the Southern Caribbean (formerly Caribbean Union College), located in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. This dormitory was inaugurated during a special ceremony on Oct. 20, 2013. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped provide chapels for two new dormitories at the university.



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## Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter we are focusing on the very active and fast-growing Inter-American Division (IAD). This division of the world church is made up of the countries of Central America, the four northernmost countries of South America, and the islands of the Caribbean. There are nearly 12,000 Seventh-day Adventist churches within IAD, and 3,714,790 members. With a division-wide population of 284,351,000, that's a ratio of 1 Adventist for every 76.55 people.\*

We have some amazing stories for you this quarter, coming from the beautiful northeastern coastal country of Belize, from the lovely island of Jamaica, and from a few other countries in IAD. In Belize, where more than 70 percent of the church members are young people, evangelism is high on the priority list. However, in this small country there are very few large auditoriums. One of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects is to build a large auditorium on a choice piece of land in the capital city of Belmopan. The other project in Belize is a much-needed youth camp, where the young people can go for recreation as well as evangelistic training.

In Jamaica, members have been ministering and restoring dignity to some of the neediest people in Kingston through the Good Samaritan Inn. You won't want to miss the stories we have near the end of the quarter describing what is taking place there. Their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering project is to expand the Good Samaritan Inn to

\* Statistics were taken from the 2014 *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* online, <http://www.adventistyearbook.org/ViewAdmField.aspx?AdmFieldID=IAD>

### Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help:

- build an evangelistic center in Belmopan, Belize
- provide a much-needed youth camp in Northern Belize
- establish a maternal health care center and dental clinic at the Good Samaritan Inn, Jamaica
- CHILDREN'S PROJECT: Help provide a dental chair reserved for children in the new dental clinic at the Good Samaritan Inn.



provide a maternal health/wellness clinic and a dental clinic.

May the Lord bless and inspire you as you share these stories with the children in your Sabbath School, and as you encourage them be a part of God's mission to the world!

Wishing you God's richest blessings!

*Gina Wahlen*  
Editor

PS: Did you know that you don't have to wait until the end of the quarter to give toward the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects? You can give anytime by going to the Make a Gift section on our secure website at [giving.adventistmission.org](http://giving.adventistmission.org) and choosing "13th Sabbath Offering" from the "Fund" pull-down menu.



BELIZE | October 4

# Church or Soccer

Tyson and Alexandro

This quarter we'll hear stories about people who live in some of the countries of the Inter-American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church [Show the map of the Inter-American Division]. This area has 3,714,790 baptized Seventh-day Adventist members. That's more Seventh-day Adventists than in any other division of the world church!

Belize [point out on map] is a small country located between Mexico to the north and Guatemala to the west and south. Its east side is along the Caribbean Sea. More than 334,000 people live in Belize, and close to 40,000 are Seventh-day Adventists.

Most of the Adventists in Belize are young. For example, if you lined up 10 random Adventists, more than likely seven of them would be young people! [Teachers: line up 10 children

in your class, and have seven of them step forward.]

## Tyson and Alexandro

Our story today is about two brothers, Tyson and Alexandro,\* who are from Belize City. Both Tyson and Alexandro enjoyed school, and they especially loved to play soccer, which met every Tuesday after school.

One day as the boys were walking home they passed a nearby Seventh-day Adventist church. The doors of the church were open and they could hear young voices inside singing and talking.

The next week the brothers walked the same way home, and again they could hear the young people. This time Tyson was curious and said to his brother, "Let's go closer." Alexandro wasn't sure that was

\* not his real name



## Fast Facts

- The official language of Belize is English, but many other languages are spoken as well, including a mixture of English and Creole, known as Kriol, or “Belizean Creole,” and Spanish. The three main languages spoken in Inter-America are English, Spanish, and French.
- Belize is the birthplace of chewing gum.
- Most of the countries of the Inter-American Division border the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

a good idea, but followed Tyson to the front door of the church. Slowly the two peeked around the corner, hoping no one would see them.

But someone did see them! It was the group’s leader. “Please come in!” he warmly invited them. The two boys sheepishly came in and sat down, but before long they felt at home and were having a wonderful time. Tyson and Alexandro were invited to come back again the next week.

The boys hurried home and explained to their mother where they had been. “It was so interesting,” they told her. “We sang some songs, played games, and even read from a Bible. There were many other kids, and we were invited to come again! May we go back next week?”

### Rather Be at Church

The boys’ mother knew all about Seventh-day Adventists because she had grown up as one. When she was older, she fell in love and married a man who didn’t love Jesus, and soon she stopped

going to church. But she didn’t mind if Tyson and Alexandro wanted to go to the youth night. “Just remember you have a soccer game after school on Tuesdays,” she reminded them.

The boys looked at each other. “Oh, yeah, the soccer game,” they sighed. What were they going to do? After thinking about it, Tyson and Alexandro decided they would rather go to the youth meetings at the church than play soccer at the school. “The kids were so nice, and the activities so interesting,” they explained to their mom.

After school the following Tuesday, the boys went straight to church for the youth meeting rather than going to the soccer game. While there, another boy invited them to come to Sabbath School the following Sabbath, and they came. From then on Tyson and Alexandro began attending Sabbath School and church every week, and before long their mother joined them. After a while the boys took Bible studies and were baptized. Their mother is back in the church serving the Lord, and their father comes to church regularly.

The youth in Belize are very strong in telling others about Jesus, and they love to get together to sing, study the Bible, and learn many useful skills. The challenge for them is that there is no place where they can meet with other young Adventists from around their country. They really need a youth camp where they can all come together, have fun, learn more about Jesus and how to lead others to Him. You can help them by contributing to this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Thank you for helping your brothers and sisters in Belize! 🌍



BELIZE | October 11

Jerome

# Down but Not Out

I'm the second of twins—born 20 minutes after my brother. We grew up in the country of Belize, in a little village named Burrell Boom.

My grandfather was a pastor, so my dad grew up as an Adventist, but later he decided to leave the church. But my mother raised us as Adventists, and I was baptized when I was around 13 years old. We traveled eight miles [12.8 km] to church each week. That might not seem so far, but in Belize travel isn't always easy. We were glad when my father built a house nearer to the church.

My dad has an electrical business. He's responsible for planting the tall and heavy electrical poles that you see along the sides of roads. It's hard work to dig down six feet [1.8 meters], then use a big machine to lift up the pole. My dad's workers would then climb the poles and install everything to make them work.

## The Fall

When we were old enough, my twin brother and I started climbing poles for our dad. It's very hard and dangerous work. One day as I was climbing, the safety strap was biting into my leg. I put my weight on it, hoping it would stop hurting, but then I fell 40 feet onto a rock and was knocked unconscious. When I awoke, I tried moving but couldn't. After a long, hard journey to the hospital, we finally arrived. The doctor put a big needle in my foot, but I didn't feel a thing. They said I would never walk again.

But the faith I was raised with brought me hope. I felt so calm and peaceful. As my mother stood at my bedside crying, I told her, "Don't worry, Mom. I'll be OK." I always remember that little moment. It matters how your parents raise you. God allowed me to handle this crisis and go through it not stressing out, but having

## Fast Facts

- To watch a video of Jerome riding his special bicycle, go to [www.adventistmission.org](http://www.adventistmission.org)
- Belize has a land area of 8,867 square miles (22,966 sq. km.), and 320 miles (516 km) of coastline.
- Belize is divided into six districts: Belize, Cayo, Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek and Toledo.
- Tourism is the largest revenue generator in Belize, although the country does export some agricultural products, including bananas, cacao, citrus, sugar, fish, cultured shrimp and lumber.

faith that something good would come out of it and that I would be OK.

### Building a Bike

One day while on the Internet at home I found a picture of a hand-pedaled bike. Downloading the picture, I saved up some money to buy materials, and then built my own bike. When it was ready, I was surprised by how everything worked so perfectly. No one knew what it was. As I rode places everyone was waving at me and I felt happy.

One day I met some Americans who were riding their bicycles in Belize. They

had biked a long way, and they stayed at a place near my home. When I went to my dad's shop, they saw my bright-yellow bike and started taking pictures. They came back in the evening and took more pictures, telling me that they would send them to me by e-mail. They sent the pictures to others as well, and soon someone from our Belize TV station called me for an interview. That gave me the opportunity to tell my story and share my faith with the entire country!

### Raising Awareness

I also wanted to raise awareness of disabilities, and partnered with Care Belize, an organization that works with people with disabilities and their families. I planned to bike across Belize—a 90-mile (144.84 km) trip. A business from Germany heard about my plans and sponsored materials for me to build another bike, as the first one I had made was very heavy. I trained on the heavy one, then made the actual 90-mile trip on the new, aluminum-frame bike. I did the ride in just three days!

Since then, I've done lots of bicycle trips, traveling on all of the major highways Belize. My message is: Don't look at someone who has a disability as if they aren't able to do anything. With God, if you put your mind to it, you can do anything He wants you to do! 🌍

## Count in Creole

### NUMBERS

one  
two  
three  
four  
five

### SAY IT

yuhn  
deh  
twah  
kaht  
sank

### NUMBERS

six  
seven  
eight  
nine  
ten

### SAY IT

sees  
seht  
weet  
nehf  
dees



BELIZE | October 18

Jeremy

# God's Miracle Baby

Jeremy is a miracle baby. He was born three months early, and he was so small that the doctor thought Jeremy wasn't going to live. But Jeremy's mother believed that her baby was a gift from God, and that if it was God's will that the baby lived, He would help him.

So she took a washcloth and carefully wrapped her precious baby in it and put him in her pocket! When she got home, the baby's nine brothers and sisters asked their mother, "Where's the new baby?" They were so surprised when she carefully pulled out the little bundle from her pocket, and gently unwrapped their baby brother!

## Growing Stronger

Every day his mother prayed for him and asked God to show her what to do to help her baby live, and of course his brothers and sisters prayed for him, too. The baby's mouth was so tiny that he couldn't nurse

from his mother, so she used a little doll's bottle to feed him. Because they didn't have an incubator, each day the mother carefully put her baby in a safe place outside where his little body could absorb the warmth of the sunshine.

Every day the baby grew a little bit bigger and a little bit stronger. He kept growing for several months, but one day he became very sick. The mother took him back to the hospital, and the doctor and nurses were very surprised to see him still alive. Because he was so sick, the baby needed a blood transfusion, but even with this the doctor was sure that the baby would die that night. But Jeremy's mother kept praying, asking God to heal her baby. In the morning the baby was still alive! The mother took him home where he was greeted by his very happy brothers and sisters.

## Answered Prayers

The little baby kept growing, and



before long he had his first birthday. But then he became sick again and had to go back to the same hospital, where he again saw the same doctor. This time the doctor told the mother, “Your child has a very bad disease. He will never be able to walk, and by the time he is 2 years old, he will be blind. And he won’t live past the age of 5.”

But the faithful mother didn’t give up. She took her precious son home and kept praying for him. She prayed for him every day, and little Jeremy kept growing bigger and stronger. By the time he was 2, Jeremy could still see perfectly, and he enjoyed running around with his brothers and sisters. Then he turned, 3, then 4, and then 5 years old! By the time he was 6 years old Jeremy was a big, strong, and healthy boy, ready to start school. He joined his brothers and sisters at the Adventist primary school in Belize

City. Then he went on to the Adventist academy and junior college in Belize.

Jeremy loves to tell others how God saved his life so many times. “God brought many miracles in my life, and He is still doing miracles for me and others,” he says. “My dream is to see millions of people saved in the kingdom of God. By His grace I have been able to lead out in many evangelistic meetings and have had the joy of seeing hundreds of people baptized through this outreach. I believe that many young people and older people, if we come together, can hasten the coming of Jesus.

“My mother, whom I love so much, always reminds me: ‘Never forget that you belong to God. He preserved you, and you are here to bring Him glory.’” Jeremy hopes to finish his education soon and become an ordained pastor. 🌐

## Fun With Creole

English is the primary language of public education, government and most media outlets in Belize. However, most Belizeans also speak Belizean Creole (also called *Kriol*), which they use when speaking with friends or family. Similar to French, vowels are pronounced as follows: *ah* as in father; *ai* as in eye; *ay* as in hay; *ee* as in bee; *eh* as in bet; *ih* as in tip; *oh* as in toe; *oo* as in boot; *uh* as in cup. The accented syllables are written in capital letters.

### PHRASES

Happy Sabbath  
Welcome  
Hello  
Good morning  
Please

### SAY IT

Bohn sah-BAH  
Bee-yehn vee-nee  
ah-loh  
bohn joohr  
soo play

### PHRASES

Thank you  
You’re welcome  
Yes  
No  
Goodbye

### SAY IT

mehr-SEE  
ooh-byeh vee-nee  
wee  
noh  
oh reh-VWAH



BELIZE | October 25

Olga

## Just One Day

Olga comes from a very big family—she is the youngest of 13 children! Even when she was still very young, Olga’s parents began teaching her about Jesus and His Word, the Bible. One of the things Olga learned about was the seventh-day Sabbath—about how God blessed it and made it holy, and how it is a special time when God wants us to rest and come together to worship Him.

When Olga was old enough to go to school, she wanted to attend an Adventist school, but there wasn’t one nearby, so her parents sent her to another Christian school. However, during her last year there, the school began having classes on Saturdays. Then Olga started having trouble.

### “You Must Come on Saturday”

“If you don’t come to school on

Saturday, you won’t graduate, and you won’t be able to go to high school!” her teacher told her.

“Really?” Olga asked. Then she went home and asked her father about it.

“No,” he told her. “You don’t have to go to school on Sabbath. God will help you with your classes.” Olga was happy to go to church with her family on Sabbath, but going back to school on Monday was hard.

“Why weren’t you here on Saturday? You missed out on some really important things, and you’re going to fail and never graduate!” her teacher and classmates told her.

“No,” Olga calmly replied. “That’s not true. God will help me.”

During the entire school year, Olga never went to school on Sabbath, and at the end of the year a surprise was waiting for Olga’s classmates and teacher.

## A Big Surprise

All of the students had to take an important exam, showing that they had learned what they needed to know before going to high school. Olga took the exam, and when the test results came out, she was one of the top students in her class!

“Wow!” exclaimed her classmates and teacher. “How did that happen? You weren’t even in school on Saturdays, but you are near the top of the class!”

“I believe that if we honor God, and keep His Sabbath day holy, He will help us,” Olga told them.

Olga graduated with her class and went on to high school, and now she is a student at the University of Belize. But sometimes she still has trouble with school and the Sabbath.

## Problems Again

When Olga first started at the university, she was studying natural resources management—that’s a program in which students learn how to take care of the land, water, air, minerals, forests, wild plants, flowers and so on.

Olga liked her classes very much, but one of her teachers required field trips on Saturdays. Olga tried explaining about the Sabbath being God’s holy day, but her teacher wouldn’t listen.

“Why can’t you come?” he insisted. “It’s just one day! God won’t punish you because you missed one day!”

“But God said that we must keep His Sabbath holy, and we must obey,” Olga replied bravely.

## Sharing Her Faith

Eventually Olga decided that she needed to study in a different program—one in which she wouldn’t have to go to class or field trips on Sabbath. Now she is studying business and is happy because she knows that God will take care of her. She also enjoys attending a weekly meeting of other Adventist students who attend the university. But the meetings aren’t just for Adventists—everyone at the university is invited to attend, and Olga enjoys inviting her friends.

“When my friend and I do homework together, we always end up talking about God,” Olga says. “One day she told me that she wanted to learn more, so I invited her to come to our meetings. She came and really enjoyed herself. The best part of our meetings is when visitors come, they are blessed by the message they hear, and then they share it!

Some day Olga hopes to be a full-time missionary, but even now she likes studying the Bible with people. When they talk about the Sabbath, Olga always shares how God helped her to pass the exam in primary school, even though everyone thought she would fail because she didn’t go to school on the Sabbath. 🌍

## Mission Post

- Belize and Jamaica are part of the Inter-American Division (IAD). The IAD is made up of 42 countries and has more than 3.7 million members, more than any other division of the world church.
- In Jamaica, 1 of every 9 people are Seventh-day Adventist. In Belize, 1 of every 8 people are Seventh-day Adventist.
- Adventists in IAD are active lay evangelists. Every member helps by sharing God’s love with others.



BELIZE | November 1

# No Fighting Here

Deryn

Deryn hated going to school. Every day he got into a fight. Fighting was common at the school, and sometimes students would even fight with the teachers! Once in a while students would secretly bring rum\* to school and drink it. When Deryn wasn't fighting, he was sleeping in class because he stayed up late the previous night watching TV. "When a student can't learn, anger builds up in them, so we were always fighting," he said.

Deryn's mother didn't know what to do with him, or his younger sisters, who also fought at school. One day she heard about an Adventist primary school in their city and went to visit the school. She was so happy to learn that her children could attend the Adventist school.

## A Difference

Right away Deryn noticed that his new school was different. "There's no fighting here," he says. "I never really learned much at my old school, and when I came to this school I had to repeat the same grade again, but then I started to learn, and I passed my classes. And the teachers are nice to the students. My sisters are much happier at this school, as well. They have settled down a lot and don't fight anymore.

"The most wonderful thing that has happened here is when we had a Week of Prayer. We sang, heard special presentations, and prayed. Then, we were invited to give our life to God, and I decided that I wanted to do that.

"After I gave my life to God, I started to change, and I didn't give people trouble anymore. I started listening to my teachers and behaving. Everything started to work out, and I really changed. My favorite teacher is Miss Kitsall. She is the one who

\* Rum is an alcoholic drink made from sugar-cane.



led me to God. I learned that a Christian school gives you another solution—when you have problems, you can take them to God through prayer.”

### Favorite Classes

Deryn also enjoys singing and learning Bible stories—especially the one about David and Goliath. “And I really like how we use the Bible and math together,” he says. “Like when Jesus healed 10 lepers, but only 1 came back—what percentage returned?”

“But science is my favorite class. We are learning about the parts of the body—the heart, lungs, nervous system, and brain. And I learned that I needed more sleep than what I was getting, so I go to bed earlier now, instead of staying up late

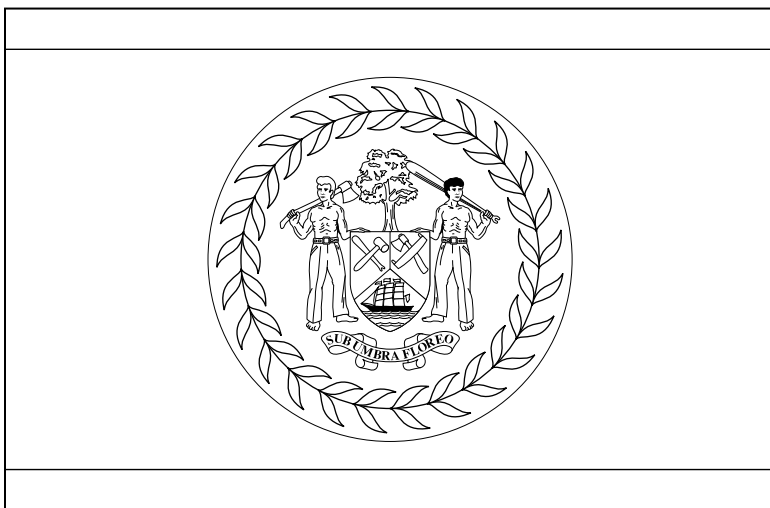
and watching TV.

When he grows up, Deryn wants to be a chef. Even now he enjoys making breakfast for his large family of four sisters, two brothers, and parents.

Deryn and his two younger sisters are thankful that they can go to the Belmopan Adventist School, and will always remember the lessons that they have learned there. In addition to coming to the school, Deryn and his family now attend the Seventh-day Adventist church, which is right next to the school.

We can help people in Belize by giving to the special Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter. Thank you for remembering them and giving to the mission offering. 🌍

## Color the Belize Flag



**Top stripe:** Red  
**Field:** Dark Blue  
**Bottom stripe:** Red  
**Circle:** white background with green circle wreath; light-brown man on left, with white trousers; dark-brown man on right, with white trousers; green tree in middle, with brown trunk; shield in middle has yellow background on upper-right third; black background behind ship with green underneath ship in lower third; white background in upper-left third



BELIZE | November 8

Adriel and his mother

# Saved Through Prayer

Adriel, 9, and his twin sister come from a big family. They have two more sisters, plus two brothers who are also twins. Their family is very musical, and the father and several of the children play in their Adventist church's brass and woodwind band. Adriel especially enjoys playing his clarinet. He also likes telling others about Jesus and how Jesus saved his life.

One day when Adriel was at home he didn't feel well. He told his mother that he had a bad headache. She took him to the doctor, who examined him and gave him an injection. But Adriel didn't feel any better. Before long his feet started to hurt, then his hands, too. He was taken to the hospital. The doctors there said that he had a disease called juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, which can be very painful.

## More Problems and More Prayers

Finally, after two weeks of being in the hospital, Adriel was allowed to go home. Two days later he was so happy to be playing his clarinet in the church band again. But when he woke up on Sabbath morning, the pain came back, and this time it was even worse! His mother quickly took him back to the hospital. While they were waiting to see the doctor, Adriel had a seizure and then slipped into a coma.

Adriel's mother called people at their church, and they started praying for him. Then she called friends at another Adventist church where a big meeting with people from all over Belize was taking place. "They announced it in the meeting," said Mrs. Baptist, Adriel's

mother. “Everybody just stopped and prayed for him. Then the pastors came to the hospital and prayed for him. While they were having a special prayer and anointing him, Adriel had another seizure. The doctors didn’t know what else to do for him.”

Everyone kept praying for Adriel, and that night he came out of his coma. They were so happy! But the doctors were still worried because they thought Adriel’s brain might have been damaged from the seizures that he’d had while he was in the coma.

### A Special Test

They wanted to do a special test, called an MRI\* scan, so they could see if Adriel’s brain had been damaged. It costs a lot of money to have an MRI scan, so all of the people at the Adventist churches helped the family by giving money so that Adriel could have the test. And they all kept praying for him.

The time came for the important test. They carefully put Adriel on a little bed that could move when they pushed a button. Once they pushed the button, the little bed moved into the opening of the MRI machine. The test didn’t hurt at all, and Adriel stayed very still while the machine took lots of special pictures that showed the inside of his head.

### Answered Prayers

After the test was over the doctors looked at the special pictures of Adriel’s brain and could see that there was no damage—his brain was healthy. Everyone was so happy to hear this wonderful news! And they prayed again—this time to

## Discussion Questions

- 1 Have you ever had someone pray for you when you were sick? How did that make you feel?
- 2 Why is it good to pray?
- 3 What about when we pray for someone, but they don’t get well? Do you think that God still loves them? (Note to teachers: This is a good opportunity to talk about why bad things can still happen to people who love God, and how one day God will heal them eternally.)

thank Jesus for healing Adriel.

Since that time Adriel has not had any more pain or seizures, and he is happy that he can go back to his church and play his clarinet in the band again. “I tell other people that Jesus loves them,” Adriel says, “and I tell Jesus that I love Him!”

Ariel’s mother says that because of her son’s experience, she really sees “the power of intercessory prayer. I think that’s the reason why he’s here today.” 🌍



photo: ThinkStock.com

This picture shows what it looks like inside an MRI machine.

\* MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging. It is a technique that uses a magnetic field and radio waves to create detailed pictures of the organs and tissues inside your body.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | Nov 15

# Divine Appointment

Beyckel

I was disappointed when our church canceled its river outing, so my dad suggested that we go anyway. We drove to a friend's house to invite him to go with us, but he couldn't go. However, my dad's friend asked us to invite a friend who was visiting him. "His name is José," my dad's friend said. "And he's having a rough time."

## Unexpected Encounter

Dad spoke to José, and the man's face brightened. Dad motioned for me to come over and said that José would take us to the river in his truck. I had wanted to spend time alone with Dad, but I followed him to José's truck for the ride to the river.

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I asked God to help me recognize His divine appointments in my life.

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At the river we had a great time playing tag in the water. Then Dad saw José leave the water and sit down on the riverbank. Dad signaled to me that he was going to talk to José. "Stay near the shore," he warned me. I watched Dad sit by José, and the two started talking. It looked pretty intense. I wasn't having much fun alone, so I left the river and joined my dad and José.

## Surprise Story

"When my wife left," José said, "I just gave up. I was saying goodbye to my friends when you drove in. I was going to kill myself." José's words stunned me. *No wonder he looks so sad*, I thought.



“I don’t know why I’m telling you this,” José said. “But something’s different about you. I know that you’re a Christian, so I can tell you these things.”

Dad nodded, and I knew he was praying as he listened to José. I prayed in my heart too. Then Dad said, “José, I think our meeting today was no accident. God impressed me to visit my friend’s house because He knew you’d be there.” José nodded and sat for a while thinking.

Dad urged José not to give in to the devil’s suggestion. “It’s not God’s plan for you to die,” he added. “God wants you to give your life to Him.”

José said that he would let God have a chance in his life. Then Dad asked me to join them for prayer together. After we prayed, José’s face changed. It showed hope and peace.

As we rode back to our friend’s home, I remembered that I hadn’t wanted to include a stranger in our plans for that day. But I know now that meeting José was God’s plan—a divine appointment,

## Fast Facts

- Baseball is the national sport in the Dominican Republic. Many young boys dream of one day becoming baseball stars and playing for a major-league team in the United States.
- The country’s wide sandy beaches have attracted thousands of tourists a year, which helps the area’s economy grow stronger.

Dad would call it. I asked God to help me recognize His divine appointments in my life and to make me more like my father, fearless to share God’s love with others.

Boys and girls, we don’t know when someone is having a tough time. But God knows, and sometimes He will ask us to speak to someone about God’s love. So listen for God’s voice and try to be aware that this might be God’s divine appointment. 🌐

## Tropical Fruit Salad

The pink guavas in this salad add a beautiful touch. Use fresh if you can find them, or look for canned ones in the supermarket.

1 ½ cups fresh guava  
(or 1 14-ounce can) guavas  
½ to 1 cup orange juice  
(if using fresh guava)

1 ripe pineapple  
2 large ripe bananas  
2 or 3 kiwi fruit

If using canned guava, drain the syrup and place in salad bowl. Cut guava into bite-size pieces. Remove the leaves and prickly skin from the pineapple and dice the flesh, removing the hard center core. Peel and slice the bananas. Using a sharp knife, carefully peel the thin skin from the kiwi and slice the fruit into thin circles. Gently mix the fruits, adding enough orange juice to moisten, and chill before serving.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | Nov 22

Milenny

# Making Friends for Jesus

Milenny lives in Santo Domingo, the capital city of the Dominican Republic. [Locate the capital city of the Dominican Republic on a map.] The Dominican Republic is another country in the Inter-American Division.

Sharing God's love with others comes naturally for Milenny. Her mother produces a children's program for the Adventist radio station in town, and Milenny gets to help her

"Sometimes I tell a story, and sometimes I give a short devotional message or talk about a certain idea from the Bible," Milenny says. "It's a fun way to tell children about God." And of course Milenny invites her friends to listen to the children's program.

Milenny also helps her mother put on children's programs in churches around the city. She's a member of a children's drama group that acts out Bible stories. So

Milenny has lots of things to invite her friends to where they can learn about Jesus.

## A New Friend for Jesus

One day Milenny met Nicole, a new girl who had moved into her neighborhood. Milenny asked Nicole to be her friend. Soon Milenny realized that Nicole's family didn't attend church regularly. So Milenny invited Nicole and her brother, José, to attend church with her. The children came, and they liked it.

Milenny's mother visited Nicole's mother and invited Nicole and her brother José to a children's Bible club she was starting in her home. "We'll sing songs and learn Bible stories and pray," Mother offered. The children's mother liked the idea, so the next Tuesday José and Nicole went to Milenny's house for the first meeting.

Several other children came, too. They talked for a few minutes about what was

happening in their lives, then they studied a Bible story, sang, and prayed. Milenny was glad that her friends could come to the Bible club. She worked hard to make sure that they enjoyed the club activities and would want to attend every week.

### Sharing God's Love

Nicole and José are still attending the Bible club and Sabbath School. They like to tell their parents what they are learning. So Milenny's mother invited José and Nicole's parents to study the Bible with her, and they accepted. They want to know more about God and what their children are learning in church.

"I'm so glad that my parents have taught me to share God's love with my friends," Milenny says. "Because Nicole and José accepted my invitations to attend church and my mom's Bible club, two more people are in God's family today. I hope that soon their older brother and sister and their parents will come to know Jesus and join the Adventist Church too."

### Fast Facts

- Christopher Columbus landed where the Dominican Republic is now. He claimed the island for Spain, and even today Spanish is the national language of this country.
- The people of the Dominican Republic are a mixture of Spanish and African descent, a result of the slaves that were brought to this land to work on the large plantations.
- Most of the people are Catholic. Among the small number of Protestants in the country are more than 200,000 Seventh-day Adventists.

When Jesus is a big part of our lives, it's easy to share God's love with our friends. How can you share God's love with someone this week? You may not help make a radio program, but maybe you can invite your friends to your own Bible club, and you can invite them to go with you to Sabbath School. 🌐

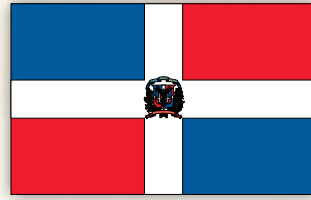
## Caribbean Creole

3 cups sweet potatoes, cooked and mashed  
2 tablespoons margarine  
½ cup sugar  
2 eggs, beaten

3 tablespoons milk  
1 lemon, grated rind and juice  
1 teaspoon allspice  
1 teaspoon Rumsford baking powder  
a little dried coconut (optional)  
cream (optional)

### DIRECTIONS:

1. Heat oven to 350° F.
2. Put all the ingredients except the dried coconut and cream into a bowl and mix well.
3. Spoon the mixture into a greased baking tin or oven-proof dish, smoothing down the top.
4. Cook for about 40 minutes and remove.
5. Sprinkle with coconut and serve with cream, if desired.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | Nov 29

Nicole

# Letting Our Light Shine

Last week we heard a story about a girl named Milenny. Milenny made friends with Nicole and José, her neighbors, and often talked to them about God. One day Milenny invited Nicole and José to Sabbath School, and they went with her.

“I really like church,” Nicole says. “I especially like the Bible stories and the mission stories from far-away places. And I like to sing. Sometimes Milenny and I sing together for church.”

## Sharing With the Family

“I tell my parents about what I learn in Sabbath School, and I invite them and my older brother and sister to come to church

---

Now it's my turn to tell others that Jesus loves them and is coming soon to take us home.

---

with us. Sometimes they come, especially when I am singing.

“When Milenny was baptized, José and I wanted to be baptized too. Our parents said that we could, so we were baptized on the same day as Milenny. I'm glad that

Jesus invites children to be His friends!”

## All Around the Neighborhood

“Not long ago we moved to another neighborhood several miles away from Milenny. So I don't get to see her much. But now I have a whole new neighborhood of children that I can talk to about God. I tell them that Jesus loves them and that He is coming soon. I invite them to listen to the children's program



on the Adventist radio station every afternoon. Some of them listen to the program, and they like it. This is a good way to teach them about God.

“And just like Milenny invited my brother and me to church, now I invite my friends in the neighborhood to come to church. So far none have come, but I’m sure they will one day.

“Our new church is small, and we don’t have a Pathfinder Club or an Adventurer Club. But we do have a children’s Bible story group. We act out the Bible stories we learn for the children in our neighborhood. That’s fun, and the children like it. We have from 15 to 25 children coming to our meetings.”

### Let It Shine Till Jesus Comes

“I invite my friends from the neighborhood to come to the Bible program at church. I’m glad that the grown-ups in our church help us put on this program so we can share God’s love with other kids.

“I’m so glad that my friend Milenny

## Fast Facts

- More than 800,000 children play organized baseball in the Dominican Republic.
- The Dominican Republic has the only national flag with a Bible in it.

These and more fun facts can be found at <http://www.godominicanrepublic.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/dr-fun-facts-.pdf>

told me about God’s love. I’m glad that her mother invited us to church and to her children’s Bible club. Now it’s my turn to tell other children—and adults too—that Jesus loves them and is coming soon to take us home. I want them to be ready when Jesus comes. Please pray that we will all be ready when Jesus comes to take us to heaven.” 🌍

## Sing A Song in Spanish

While some people in the Inter-American Division speak English, many others speak Spanish. Here is a song that you can sing in Spanish:

### PADRE, TE ADORO (FATHER I ADORE YOU)

Padre te adoro  
pah dreh teh ah doh oh  
a tus pies me postro  
ah toos pee-ehs me pohs troh  
como te amo

coh moh teh ah moh  
Cristo te adoro . . .  
krees toh teh ah doh roh  
Espíritu te adoro . . .  
Eh-spee-ree too teh ah doh roh



CUBA | December 6

Rolandito

# One Too Many Students

It was the first day of school, and Miss Gonzalez's classroom was filled with 30 eager kindergarten children, all chattering at the same time. Miss Gonzalez sighed. Summer vacation had seemed so short!

She picked up the list of students in her class and began calling their names. As she finished calling roll, the classroom door opened, and the school principal stepped in.

"Good morning, Miss Gonzalez," the principal said. "I need to talk to you a moment." The teacher stepped to the door to hear what the principal had to say.

"I have a new student for you, a boy from Havana. I know your classroom is full, but

---

The teacher was glad that someone could help her understand the Bible better.

---

I would like to put him in your class."

"Please," Miss Gonzalez begged. "I have 30 students already." She stopped. "Well, bring him in. If he behaves well, I can keep him." The principal smiled and

closed the classroom door behind her. In a few minutes she returned with a little boy. As she told Miss Gonzalez that the boy's name was Rolandito, the boy smiled at his new teacher.

Every morning Rolandito greeted his teacher with a smile. As Miss Gonzalez watched him, she realized that he was different from the other children. He was so good, so obedient, so kind.

## Fast Facts

- Cuba is the largest of all islands in the Caribbean. The country also includes more than 4,000 islands and cays.
- From the air, the island of Cuba resembles a crocodile or alligator and so Cuba is often referred to in Spanish as “El Cocodrilo” or “El Caima.”
- These and more fun facts can be found at [www.sciencekids.co.nz](http://www.sciencekids.co.nz)

## Trouble on the Playground

One day two boys began fighting on the playground. Before the teacher could stop the fight, one of the boys started to cry. Rolandito saw the boy crying and gave him his handkerchief. “I’m sorry you feel bad,” he comforted.

Sometimes the busy classroom became noisy or a child was disrespectful to the teacher. But Rolandito did not join in the rowdy classroom antics. Instead he urged others to obey the teacher. One day when some of the children had angered the teacher, he whispered to her, “Pray that we all will be good!”

Miss Gonzalez smiled, surprised. “Do you go to church, Rolandito?” she asked.

“Yes, Teacher,” he said. “I am a Seventh-day Adventist.”

One day after school he asked Miss Gonzalez, “Do you believe in God?”

“Yes, Rolandito,” she answered.

“Then will you visit my church?” he asked.

Miss Gonzalez thought for a moment, then she said, “Perhaps someday I will come.” She was not really interested and

did not want to make any promises.

During class one day Miss Gonzalez asked the children what they want be when they finish school. When it was Rolandito’s turn, he answered, “I want to be a pastor!”

## Gift Bible

After school one day Rolandito and Miss Gonzalez were talking. “Have you read the Bible?” he asked her.

“I do not have a Bible,” she answered.

“If you like, I could bring you one,” Rolandito offered. Rolandito kept his promise, and asked his mother for a Bible for his teacher. A few days later he presented it to his teacher. Then one day Rolandito’s mother stopped by the classroom to talk to the teacher after school. When Miss Gonzalez thanked her for the Bible, Rolandito’s mother offered to come to her house and study the Bible with her. The teacher was glad that someone could help her understand the Bible better.

Rolandito often talked with Miss Gonzalez about the Bible, about heaven, and about the Ten Commandments. When Rolandito invited his teacher to attend a special Christmas program, she accepted. Rolandito was glad to see her at the program with her son.

Rolandito’s mother continued studying the Bible with Miss Gonzalez, and a few months later Miss Gonzalez decided that she wanted to become a Christian. Rolandito could hardly contain his excitement when he learned that his teacher would be baptized. On the day of the baptism, Rolandito’s face lit up as he watched his daddy baptize his teacher. 🌍



JAMAICA | December 13

Kenisha

# A Safe Place to Learn

Five-year-old Kenisha\* didn't know what it was like not to be afraid. Ever since she could remember, people were firing guns on the street where she lived in Trench Town. Night after night she huddled up in a little ball on her mat, trying to drown out the noise by putting her hands over her ears. But that didn't work very well. After finally dozing off she could still hear fighting in her dreams.

Daytime wasn't much better for Kenisha. She woke up hungry, but most of the time there was nothing to eat. Once in a while her mom would give her a banana or a little bit of rice, but she still felt hungry.

## Some Good News

Trench Town was a hard place to live. But one day Kenisha and her mother heard some good news—the Seventh-

day Adventist church just around the corner was opening a new school for the children of Trench Town. They had never visited the Adventist church, but they decided to see Ms. Lurline James, the principal of the school.

“Our school is especially for children who are 2 to 6 years old,” Ms. James told Kenisha's mother. “We would be very happy to have your daughter here at our school.” Kenisha and her mother were happy, and they were even more happy when they learned that the Adventist church would pay for most of Kenisha's school fees. Kenisha would also receive a free hot lunch every day at school, and her mother could come for the regular prayer breakfasts, where teachers and parents would eat and pray together.

Kenisha was very happy at her new school. She felt safe, made some good friends, liked her teacher, learned how

\* of her real name



to read and write, and, most important, learned that Jesus was her friend.

## Don't Be Afraid

One day, though, when Kenisha arrived at school, Ms. James could tell that something was wrong. Kenisha looked very sad and frightened.

"Is something wrong?" Ms. James gently asked.

"Yes," Kenisha started to cry. "My granny died yesterday, and we're afraid that her spirit is going to come back tonight and get us!"

"Don't be afraid," Ms. James assured Kenisha. "I'm sorry that you lost your granny, but you don't need to be afraid that her ghost is going to come back and hurt you." Ms. James understood because many of the children in Trench Town believed that when a person died, their spirit would come back to haunt those we were left.

"You see," Ms. James kindly continued, "when a person dies, they are really dead. It's like they are really asleep but they won't wake up again until Jesus wakes them up again when He comes."

"Really?" Kenisha asked. "Then I don't need to be afraid anymore. My granny is just sleeping." Ms. James assured her that was true and invited Kenisha and her mom to visit the Adventist church on Sabbath mornings.

## Many Blessings

There are many boys and girls in Trench Town who are learning important things from the Bible at the Adventist Basic School. Most of them are too poor to afford three solid meals a day, so they really look forward to the delicious hot lunch they receive at the Adventist

## Fast Facts

- Jamaica is an island nation in the Caribbean Sea. It is 145 miles (234 km) in length and 50 miles (80 km) in width at its widest point.
- 2.8 million people live in Jamaica, and many people come to visit this beautiful island.
- Throughout most of its history, Jamaica has been known for its sugar production.

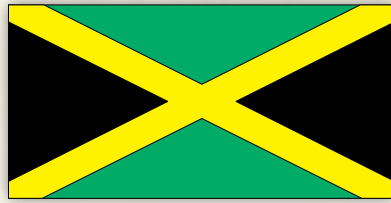
school each weekday.

On Sundays some of the students and their families go to the Good Samaritan Inn not far from Trench Town, where they can receive another free meal. Part of our special Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will go to help the people at the Good Samaritan Inn receive needed medical and dental care—including a special dental chair just for children! We hope that you will plan now to give generously this quarter to help the children in Jamaica and Belize.

Thank you! 🌍



Ms. Lurline James is principal of the Seventh-day Adventist Basic School in Trench Town, Jamaica.



JAMAICA | December 20

# Helping Hungry People

**H**ave you ever been really hungry? Have you ever had to go one whole day with no food? What about two or three days? How would you feel? What would you do?

On the small island of Jamaica in the Caribbean Sea [point to Jamaica on a map] there are hungry people—boys and girls, mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers. From day to day they never know if or when they would get something to eat.

## Making a Difference

But one day a small group of Seventh-day Adventists decided to help the hungry people. They started by giving out some packed lunches one day a week to needy people in the capitol city of Kingston. More and more people started coming, and soon they were giving out hundreds

of lunches. They bought an old building right by the Hero's Circle Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kingston. Then they fixed up the old building and called it the Good Samaritan Inn.

God has really blessed the Good Samaritan Inn, and now they serve hot lunches three times a week to more than 900 people. That means every year they serve 48,000 free lunches! The people are very happy because now they know they can always get a good hot meal at the Good Samaritan Center.

They can also take a shower, get their hair cut, and wash their clothes at the Inn. And there are even beds for mothers and children to spend the night when they are having a hard time.

## Happy Children

Janiel, 12, is very happy for the Good

Samaritan Inn. “They help me with so many things,” she says. “I have six sisters and two brothers. We started coming here when we didn’t have a roof over our heads. They gave us food and clothing. They help us by giving us school uniforms and a bag with supplies and books!”

When she’s not in school, Janiel likes helping to serve lunch to the people. She says that what she likes most about the Inn is that “it makes us loving. When they are preaching and talking about God, it is so interesting. And sometimes they make us laugh! And the food is good too.”

Olivia is 11 years old and she has been coming to the Good Samaritan Inn with her mother and sisters for seven years. She especially likes the Christmas programs and learning about God. She was recently baptized at the Hero’s Circle Seventh-day Adventist Church. “If it wasn’t for God,” she says, “I wouldn’t be in school, or wake up this morning, or have a roof over my head.”

## Fast Facts

- In 2014 the population of Jamaica was 2.8 million
- Over 1 million tourists visit Jamaica every year.
- Jamaica has 8 native snake species, but none are venomous.
- Jamaica produces many talented track & field such as Usain Bolt, Johan Blake and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce.

Nema and her mother first came to the Inn when Nema was a teen. “Once you walk through the gates, you can leave your problems behind, because in here it’s a new start!” Nema says. “It’s a place of worship and peace, and a place to get help. This place has become a home, a family, a rescue! Before I came here, I was really shy, but coming here allows you to come out of your shell. You get to talk with people, and talk with God, and learn what He can do for you.”

## A Requirement Turned to Happiness

Shade first came to the Good Samaritan Inn because “serving others” was one of her Pathfinder requirements. But she enjoyed it so much, she just keeps coming back. “I feel great!” she says. “I love helping the children and the older people, too. I help serve food, play games with them, and sometimes wash their hair.”

Shade also leads a prayer circle for children her age, and tells us about an experience she had: “This girl was telling me about some of her problems—and they were similar to mine. We prayed for her in my prayer circle and started crying with her. It made me feel cared about and happy that I could be there.”

You can also help the children at the Good Samaritan Inn. There is going to be a dental clinic at the Inn, and this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help buy a dental chair that will be used just for children. You can help by bringing your special offering this Thirteenth Sabbath. Thank you! 🌐

Activity Note: For the "Color the Flag of Jamaica" activity, please turn to page 31.

# Thirteenth Sabbath Program

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

- Prepare to present your theme song for this quarter, or choose one from Adventist Mission at [www.AdventistMission.org/resources](http://www.AdventistMission.org/resources).
- 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 Jamaica, Belize, 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. **You may also use the quiz in the children's division—they enjoy sharing what they have learned!**

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. The children will ask the questions. If you think you know the answer, raise your hand.

**Q 1:** The Inter-American Division is made up of how many countries? (a) 12, (b) 31, or (c) 42. [Answer: (c) 42 countries].

**Q 2:** The Inter-American Division has

more than \_\_\_\_\_ million members, with the highest ratio of members to the population of any division in the world church. (a) 3.7, (b) 4, (c) 4.2 (d) 5.1 [Answer: (a) 3.7].



**Q 3:** 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)*].

**Q 4:** What countries will receive part of today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering? [*Belize and Jamaica*].

**Q 5:** The birthplace of chewing gum is what Inter-American country? [*Belize*].

**Q 6:** What are the three main languages spoken in Inter-America? [*English, Spanish, and French*].

**Q 7:** What is the official language of Belize and Jamaica? [*English*].

**Q 8:** In the country of Belize, the youth make up what percentage of church membership? (a) 90 percent, (b) 70 percent, (c) 50 percent, (d) 40 percent [*Answer: (b) 70 percent*].

**Q 9:** Which country featured this quarter has an average of one Adventist for every nine people, and which country has an average of one Adventist for every eight people? [*Answers: Jamaica, 1 in 9; Belize, 1 in 8*].

**Q 10:** What is the name of the center in Jamaica that will be able to build a maternal health clinic and a dental clinic because of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering? [*Answer: The Good Samaritan Inn*].

**Q 11:** Which country in Inter-America is known for producing the fastest runners in the world? [*Jamaica—Usain Bolt, fastest man in the world; Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, one of the world's fastest women*].

**Q 12:** This is the flag of which country in the Inter-American Division? [*Hold up flag (or picture of flag) of Jamaica.*]

**Q 13:** Which Inter-American country has eight native snake species—but none are venomous? [*Jamaica*].

**Q 14:** This is the flag of which country in the Inter-American Division? [*Hold up flag (or picture of flag) of Belize.*]

**Q 15:** Part of our offering today will help build a youth camp and evangelistic center for more effective lay training in which country? [*Belize*].

**Narrator:** The Thirteenth Sabbath has traditionally been a time when Adventists bring an extra-generous 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 Belize and Jamaica. Thank you so much for supporting mission!

[*Offering*]

# Games From Inter-America

Plan a game day for the children. If possible, plan it near Christmas, and climax the playtime with a reenactment of the *posada*, that time before Christmas when children in Central America go from house to house carrying a Nativity set and retelling the story of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem prior to Christ's birth. Children are then rewarded with gifts of candy or nuts or small treats, usually placed inside a piñata.

## Piñatas

**Piñatas** are containers filled with treats and hung from a pole or string. The children break the piñata with a stick or bat to release the candy, nuts, or small gifts for all to enjoy.

You can buy a piñata in many areas, or you can make one from a lightweight cardboard box covered with paper maché and decorated with strips of crepe paper.

To make a simple piñata, blow up a large balloon and cover it with papier-mâché (see instructions below). Leave a small opening in one end of the papier-mâché to fill the piñata later. When the papier-mâché is thoroughly dry, pop the balloon and remove the remnants through the small opening. Fill the piñata with candy and treats and tape or glue a cardboard plug into the hole. Papier-mâché over the hole and again allow it to dry. Paint the piñata in bright colors or decorate it with crepe paper strips (see illustration below).

Hang the piñata from a hook in the ceiling or from a high tree branch outdoors. Or attach it to a sturdy pole that an adult will hold high above the children's heads. Blindfold one child at a time and give them a stick or bat with which to swing at the piñata. Allow up to three swings before giving another child a chance to try to break it. When a child successfully breaks the piñata, the candy inside will scatter, and everyone will scramble to pick up what they can. Be sure you have extra candy so everyone receives some.

**Make papier-mâché** by mixing equal parts (start with two cups each) white flour and water. Tear (don't cut) strips of newspaper about an inch wide, and dip them into flour-water mixture. Strip most of the excess flour and water mixture off between your fingers, and lay across balloon at differing angles and smooth out the wrinkles. Continue until the entire balloon is evenly coated with three or more layers of papier-mâché.

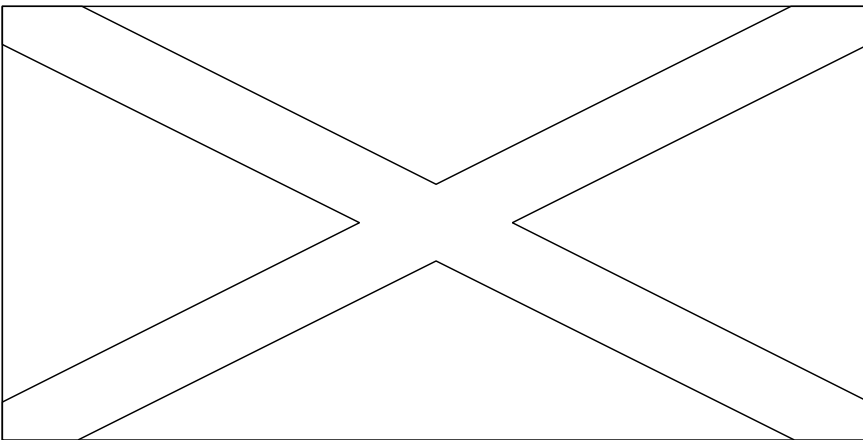
## Spider Web

This is a very popular activity that can be adapted to suit many different situations. Children stand in circle. Give one child a ball of yarn and ask him or her to tell how God has blessed that week (or ask the child to name an animal, an Inter-American country, or a favorite Bible text). When the child holding the yarn gives an answer, they keep hold of the end of the yarn and toss the ball of yarn to another player. The player who catches the ball answers the same question and tosses the yarn to another person in the circle while holding on to the loose end of yarn. This continues until every child has had a chance to answer the question and toss the yarn. When finished, the path of yarn will look somewhat like a spider's web. Remind children that we are connected in many different ways, as the yarn web shows.

## Tenta Color

The child designated as "It" calls out a color, and the others must find something containing that color. The last person to find something becomes "It."

# Color the Flag of Jamaica



The top and bottom triangles are bright green. The smaller triangles on the left and right are black. The large lines across the flag are bright yellow.

# Enjoy a Caribbean Feast

The Caribbean sunshine and rich soil produce abundant fruits and vegetables. So fruit and vegetable salads are popular here. Try some of the following for an easy-to-prepare taste of the Caribbean.

## STUFFED ZUCCHINI

4 large zucchini, about 6 ounces (180 grams) each	1 clove garlic, peeled and crushed
4 tablespoons butter	2 cups (740 ml) grated cheese
2 large onions, peeled and chopped	½ teaspoon dried thyme
	salt

### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 375°F. Wash zucchini thoroughly, and cut in half lengthwise. Put 1/2 inch (1 cm) of water in a large saucepan and heat to a boil. Add the zucchini halves and simmer gently for about 3 minutes to soften them a little; drain. With a teaspoon, scoop out the center of the zucchini, leaving a cavity for stuffing. Chop up the scooped-out zucchini. Melt the butter in a saucepan and saute the onion for 5 minutes. Add garlic and chopped zucchini, and cook 4 to five more minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the grated cheese and spices. Grease a shallow oblong dish and arrange the zucchini halves in it. Divide the onion-and-cheese mixture among the zucchini shells. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes, until shells are tender and the filling is golden brown. Serve with fresh tomato sauce. (serves 4)

## AVOCADO SOUP

3 avocados, very ripe	4 cups milk
2 scallions/spring onions, diced finely	salt and season, to taste
juice of 1 lemon or lime	

### DIRECTIONS:

Slice the avocados lengthwise, remove the stones, and scoop out the fruit. In a bowl mash the fruit to a puree. Add the finely diced onions and lemon juice. Gradually add milk, beating constantly so soup is smooth. Season and serve chilled. (serves 4)



# Vegetables and Salads

## TORTILLAS WITH KIDNEY BEANS

Tortillas serve as bread in Mexico. Buy them in most supermarkets or specialty food stores, or try making your own. (Serves 6 to 8)

### TORTILLAS

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1 ¼ cups whole wheat flour                                   | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 1 cup masa harina (a type of corn flour with a hint of lime) | ⅔ cup water     |

Measure flours into a bowl and stir in the salt and enough water to make a dough that is soft but not sticky. Turn the dough onto a floured board and knead slightly to make it smooth. Divide it into 12 pieces. Roll each piece into a ball and use a rolling pin to roll into a thin, flat round, 6 to 8 inches (15 to 20 cm) in diameter. Heat a skillet on low heat without any fat in it and fry one tortilla at a time. When the underside of the tortilla has set, turn tortilla over and cook the other side. Stack on a plate when done and cover with foil to prevent them from becoming dry and brittle.

### FILLING:

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 large onion, peeled and chopped    | 8 ounces (240 grams) red kidney beans |
| 1 tablespoon oil                     | ½ to one teaspoon chili powder        |
| 2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed  | salt                                  |
| 1 can (28 ounces/840 grams) tomatoes |                                       |

Sauté the onion in the oil in a large saucepan for 10 minutes, until they are soft but not browned. Stir in garlic, tomatoes, beans, and enough chili powder and salt to give a good flavor. Mash the beans and tomatoes a bit with a spoon as they cook.

### SAUCE

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 6 tablespoons butter | 1 ½ cups grated cheese    |
| 6 tablespoons flour  | 1 ½ teaspoons dry mustard |
| 2 ⅔ cups milk        |                           |

Melt butter in a medium saucepan and stir in the flour. Cook for a moment or two until the flour absorbs the butter. Pour in about one fourth of the milk. Stir over high heat until mixture forms a smooth, thick sauce. Add another one-fourth of the milk, stirring until smooth. Continue adding the milk until all has been added. Remove saucepan from the heat and add the grated cheese, dry mustard, and salt.

### ASSEMBLING THE TORTILLAS:

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Grease a large, shallow, ovenproof dish. Put some bean mixture into each tortilla and roll up neatly. Place tortillas side by side in the baking dish. Sprinkle grated cheese over the top and cover with a piece of foil. Bake 45 minutes, then remove the foil and leave tortillas in the oven for 15 minutes more to brown the top.

# Vegetables and Salads

## FOOFOO

Foofoo (or fufu) is a traditional African dish that came to the Caribbean with slaves 200 to 300 years ago.

- 2 pounds (900 grams) fresh yams (or cassava), peeled and cut into chunks
- 1 tablespoon fresh mint, chopped
- 2 tablespoons margarine
- Salt, to taste

Boil yam pieces until they are soft. Drain the water, and mash the yams. Add the mint, margarine, and seasonings. Serve hot.

## CARIBBEAN BANANAS

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1/4 cup margarine, melted  | 1 tablespoon lemon juice     |
| 4 medium bananas           | 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice |
| 1/3 cup packed brown sugar |                              |

Place melted margarine in baking dish. Cover bottom. Cut bananas lengthwise into halves. Place cut sides down in the baking dish. Mix brown sugar, lemon juice, and allspice. Drizzle over bananas. Bake uncovered in 350 degrees oven for 15 minutes. Serve with a garnish of whipped cream or ice cream

# Leader's Resources

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

**PLANNING AHEAD FOR 2015**—The following world divisions will be featured in 2015:  
1st Quarter—North American Division (NAD)  
2nd Quarter—Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD)  
3rd Quarter—Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD)  
4th Quarter—Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID)

For more information on the culture and history of Belize and Jamaica, look in the travel section of a local library or online. Visit the Belizean embassy's "Kids Zone" page at [www.embassyofbelize.org/kidszone.html](http://www.embassyofbelize.org/kidszone.html) for helpful information and material. For information about Jamaica, visit their embassy's website at [www.embassyofjamaica.org](http://www.embassyofjamaica.org) and choose the pull-down menu, "About Jamaica." Other helpful websites: [www.activityvillage.co.uk/belize](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/belize) and [www.activityvillage.co.uk/jamaica](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/jamaica).

Visit our website for additional photos, recipes, language pages, and other activities that you can download and print to make mission more fun for children. Go to [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org). Click on "Resources" and "Children's Activities" in the pop-up menu. Go to fourth quarter and select the activity you want.

**Adventist Mission DVD** is a free video that features stories from the featured countries as well as the worldwide mission of the Adventist Church. Ask your Sabbath School superintendent to make you a copy of it. Or go online at [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org) to download one of the DVD programs.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Embassies and Tourism Offices** sometimes can provide interesting information on their country. In North America, contact:

The Embassy of Belize, 2535 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

Phone: 202-332-9636; website: [www.embassyofbelize.org](http://www.embassyofbelize.org)

The Embassy of Jamaica, 1520 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington D.C. 20036. Phone: 202-452-0660; e-mail: [firstsec@jamaicaembassy.org](mailto:firstsec@jamaicaembassy.org); websites: [www.embassyofjamaica.org](http://www.embassyofjamaica.org)

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# Inter-American Division



ORGANIZATION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Inter-American	1	0	141	446,000
Atlantic Caribbean	79	13	31,596	334,000
Belize	85	40	39,971	3,753,000
Caribbean	598	123	227,354	39,422,562
Central Mexican	215	212	76,227	4,679,445
Chiapas Mexican	898	1,801	187,908	11,258,000
Cuban	310	153	34,018	10,260,000
Dominican	720	455	294,814	14,860,275
East Venezuela	501	276	138,487	6,307,000
El Salvador	700	243	210,996	1,073,000
French Antilles-Guiana	147	24	30,534	15,428,000
Guatemala	824	215	248,228	10,421,000
Haitian	539	521	407,349	8,555,000
Honduras	446	220	265,373	29,346,470
Inter-Oceanic Mexican	1,273	1,139	185,486	2,712,000
Jamaica	665	56	278,213	20,099,718
North Colombian	790	608	164,010	38,705,362
North Mexican	575	444	138,886	3,640,000
Puerto Rican	301	21	34,971	14,606,000
South Central American	785	386	299,974	27,928,282
South Colombian	679	332	149,741	5,420,161
Southeast Mexican	442	536	92,838	15,095,725
Venezuela-Antilles	555	268	149,140	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12,128</b>	<b>8,086</b>	<b>3,686,255</b>	<b>284,351,000</b>

*Statistics as of December 2013*

- PROJECTS**
- 1 Evangelistic Center, Belmopan, Belize
  - 2 Youth Camp in Northern Belize
  - 3 Medical/Dental Clinic, Kingston, Jamaica
  - 4 Children's Project: Dental chair reserved for children at new clinic in Jamaica

