



CHILDREN'S MISSION



2017 • **QUARTER 2** • WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION



Contents

On the Cover: Twelve-year-old Valerie hosts *Be to Be*, an Adventist radio program designed to share Jesus with the children in the community near her school in Nigeria. Her story, “*Be to Be and Me*,” appears on page 26.

GABON

- 4 More for Jesus | April 1
- 6 Leo’s Legacy, Part 1 | April 8
- 8 Leo’s Legacy, Part 2 | April 15
- 10 Mom’s Prayer | April 22
- 12 Our Big New School | April 29
- 14 Max’s Big Dream | May 6

NIGERIA

- 16 No More Knocking Knees | May 13
- 18 Operation Smile | May 20
- 20 We’re Going to Grow, Grow, Grow | May 27

- 22 More Than Just a Game | June 3
- 24 VBS Changed My Life | June 10
- 26 *Be to Be and Me* | June 17

LEADER’S RESOURCES

- 28 Thirteenth Sabbath Program | June 24
- 30 Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects
- 31 Activities
- 34 Children’s 13th Sabbath Offering Bank
- 35 Mission Resources
- 36 Map

Your Offerings at Work



Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering for the North American Division during the first quarter 2015 provided funds for building bathhouses with showers and toilets at Camp Polaris, a Seventh-day Adventist mission camp near Dillingham, Alaska, United States of America. Thank you!



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter we feature the West-Central Africa Division, which includes the countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

The division is home to more than 399 million people, including 683,318 Seventh-day Adventists.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build a new secondary school in Franceville, Gabon, where there is currently only one secondary school in the country. It will also help build a multipurpose center at Babcock University in Ogun State, Nigeria, where hundreds of youth have no building in which to worship or attend programs.

These projects are similar in that both will help our Adventist schools reach out to their largely non-Adventist student bodies. In both countries, approximately 62 percent of the population is under the age of 25, making Adventist education a top priority for mission.

What touched me most while gathering these stories is how these young people were passionately involved in mission.

Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help:

- build a new secondary school in Franceville, Gabon.
- build a multipurpose center at Babcock University in Ogun State, Nigeria.

Their understanding was that if they were members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, they were engaged in outreach. They were an inspiring example of Total Member Involvement, an initiative that encourages every Seventh-day Adventist, no matter how young or old, to be actively involved in reaching others for Jesus.

Special Features

We are now on Facebook! Please visit our page and like us at [Facebook.com/missionquarterlies](https://www.facebook.com/missionquarterlies).

I encourage you to show the *Mission Spotlight* videos, which feature mission stories from around the world and from this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering countries. You can sign up to get an e-mail with short descriptions of each video and links to download or view the videos online. Sign up at MissionSpotlight.org/subscribe.

On the Leader's Resources page in the back of this quarterly, you will find several helpful Web sites listed that will provide a wealth of supplemental material for your mission presentations.

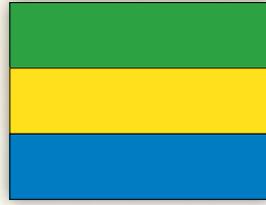
Thank you for helping your Sabbath School members connect with their spiritual brothers and sisters around the world and for encouraging them to participate in the mission of the church through giving.

Wishing you God's richest blessings!



Laurie Falvo

Laurie Falvo,
Interim Mission editor



GABON | April 1

Bonté

More for Jesus

I love school! My name is Bonté, and I'm 12 years old. I'm in grade eight at the Adventist secondary school in Libreville, Gabon.

If you look at a map, you'll see that my country is on the west coast of central Africa. You'll find Equatorial Guinea to the northwest, Cameroon to the north, the Republic of the Congo to the east and south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west. When you drive through the main part of Libreville, you can sometimes see kids playing Frisbee on the beach.

My favorite classes are math, sports, and English. But the thing I like most about going to my school is that I get to learn about Jesus every day.

I'm thankful I live in Libreville because it's the only place in Gabon where we have an Adventist secondary school. But I feel sad for the rest of the Adventist kids in my country. Most of them have to go to public school. Some of my church friends

who've had to do this say it's really hard.

"The worst part is that our exams are almost always on Sabbath," they told me. "We try to explain to our teachers that Sabbath is God's holy day, but they don't want to listen. They say, 'Why should we make an exception for you because of your strange belief?' Some even accuse us of spending the day playing games. They don't believe us when we say we go to church."

This is one reason I'm glad the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help us build another secondary school in Gabon.

This new school will be built in the city of Franceville, and it will be big enough for hundreds of Adventist kids to attend.

For the first time, they'll be able to start school with prayer and worship. They'll have Bible class and teachers who love them. And no one will tell them they can't go to church on Sabbath.

Mission Post

- This is the first time that Gabon has been a recipient of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.
- Gabon is part of the West-Central Africa Division, which also includes the countries of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.
- The Adventist work was started in Gabon in 1975.
- There are 3,041 Adventists worshipping in 18 churches and 10 companies in Gabon.

A Real Mission School

Many of the kids in my school in Libreville aren't Adventists, and some of them aren't Christians. Their parents send them to our school because they like it much more than public school. We've been able to share our faith with these students, and some of them have joined our church. Our teachers say we're a real mission school because we help the community kids learn to love and serve Jesus.

This is the other reason I'm happy about our new school. It will be a real mission school, too, where hundreds of kids can learn about God.

My Big Decision

Sometimes we have what we call a seminary at my school in Libreville. These are special meetings led by our chaplain. During this time, we study our

Bibles to understand what it teaches. At the end of our last meetings, the chaplain asked whether any of the students wanted to be baptized. I raised my hand.

“We Want to Be Baptized Too!”

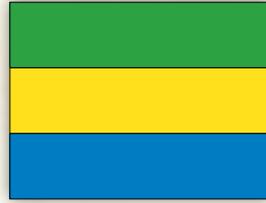
After school that day, two of my friends who aren't Christians asked me what you have to do to be baptized. I told them that you have to join a special class with the chaplain to learn more about the Bible. “He asks you a lot of questions,” I said, “and when he thinks you're ready, he'll plan a program at the church to baptize you.”

I had talked with these friends about Jesus before, so I knew they were interested in God. But I was still surprised and happy when they told me that they wanted to be baptized and join our church family.

Our school in Libreville is doing its best to reach kids for Jesus. But if we had another secondary school, we could reach even more. Please give to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter to help us have our school. 🌐



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GABON | April 8

Bienvenu

Leo's Legacy, Part 1

My little brother Leo was only 12 when he drowned. I was so sad. I didn't know how to handle the pain, so I started drinking alcohol, hoping it would make me feel nothing at all.

I wasn't a Christian when Leo died, but he and my elder brother Rene had been studying the Bible with a man from a nearby Adventist church. They had planned to be baptized together soon.

After Leo's funeral, Rene joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He never said anything to me about my behavior; he just quietly lived his faith.

A Terrible Accident

One night my friend Rachidy and I went out drinking. We were almost home when we had a terrible accident. The car was completely destroyed but, amazingly,

Rachidy and I weren't even hurt.

"My grandfather says that I'm alive because of you," Rachidy told me a few weeks later.

"Alive because of me? Why does he think that, Rachidy? I almost killed you!"

"My grandpa believes in spirits who have great powers," Rachidy replied. He thinks one of them didn't want you to die."

Rachidy and I sat in silence while I thought about what he'd said. "I have to go," I said finally. "There's something I need to do."

I ran home and opened my Bible for the first time in months. "Lord, You saved my life," I prayed. "I want to give You my heart just like Leo did."

Over the next few months, I spent time with Jesus every day. I grew to love Him and wanted to obey His

Fast Facts

- Gabon's capital is Libreville, which means "free town" in French. Freed slaves founded the city in 1949.
- Gabon's climate is always hot and humid.
- French is the official language of Gabon. Other languages include Fang, Myene, Nzebi, Bapounou/ Eschira, and Kota.
- In Gabon secondary school is divided into two cycles: lower secondary for grades 6 to 9 and upper secondary for grades 10 to 12.

commandments, including keeping the Sabbath day holy. I decided to become a Seventh-day Adventist.

That's Impossible!

I'd never told my family that I'd been praying and reading my Bible, so when I told them that I'd be getting baptized soon, they didn't believe me.

"You become a Christian?" they laughed. "That's impossible!"

You can imagine how shocked and happy I was when I saw my family sitting in the church pews on the day of my baptism.

"Rene knew you were telling the truth," Mom told me later. "He knew it was possible for you to become a Christian because he's never stopped praying for you."

Back to School

When I was drinking, I'd made many bad choices, including dropping out of school. I wanted to get a job now to help support my family, but no

one wanted to hire someone who hadn't finished their education.

One Sabbath at church I bowed my head and prayed. "Lord, I know I've made mistakes. I'm not asking You for much, just a job that will help me earn my daily bread."

That evening one of our church members offered me a job at his restaurant. I worked hard, and eventually I had enough money to go back to school.

When I finished my studies, I found a great job. It seemed that, finally, everything was going well. My parents were taking Bible studies to join the Adventist Church, and I was making good money. Then, suddenly, my father died, and I discovered that in order to keep my job, I'd have to do things God forbids. 🌍

To be continued.

MARSHBUCK

One kind of antelope found in Gabon is the marshbuck. This animal spends most of its time in and around swamps. It's an excellent swimmer; its shaggy coat repels water; and its hooves are widely separated at the tips, making it able to walk on mud without sinking.

They've even been known to sleep under water with only their nostrils showing! Marshbucks are most active during dawn or dusk and use platforms of trampled vegetation to sleep on during the day. They eat leaves, buds, shoots, fruit, reeds, grass, and tree bark.





GABON | April 15

Bienvenu

Leo's Legacy, Part 2

Editor's note: Last week we met Bienvenu, who had just learned that he'd have to choose between obeying God and keeping his well-paying job. This week he shares how God led him to the perfect work opportunity to help the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Gabon.

I'm starting all over again! I thought as I quit the best-paying job I'd ever had. I wasn't sorry that I'd chosen to obey God rather than keep my job, but now I had no way to support my mom. She depended on me to help her since my father had passed away.

"Lord," I prayed, "I need a job again. Please help me find one that allows me to serve You."

A Strange Dream

One night after praying, I had a strange dream. I was standing in church, and

a man was talking to me. I asked him whether he was a member, and he said No. He continued talking, but I was so busy thinking about my problems, I didn't hear a word he was saying.

When the man finished speaking, he stood up to leave. It was then that I remembered the story in the Bible about the angel who visited Jacob. Jacob had refused to let the angel go until the angel blessed him. *What if this man is an angel?* I wondered, grasping the man by the foot. "Please, don't leave me," I cried.

"What do you want?" the man asked. I looked over his shoulder and saw a large pile of money and expensive houses, cars, and clothes. "I want to be rich," I replied.

The man looked at me sadly. "I have something to give you, but you're not ready to receive it."

"What will you give me?" I asked, but I

never heard the answer because I woke up from my dream.

I immediately knelt to pray. “God, I don’t want to be rich. I want whatever You want to give me. I’m so thankful that you inspired our Adventist neighbor to reach out to my family, and now I want to reach out to others. Please help me reach people for You.”

New Opportunities

Soon after my prayer, I had an opportunity to learn how to produce videos. Now, I use this skill to help our church share the gospel on TV.

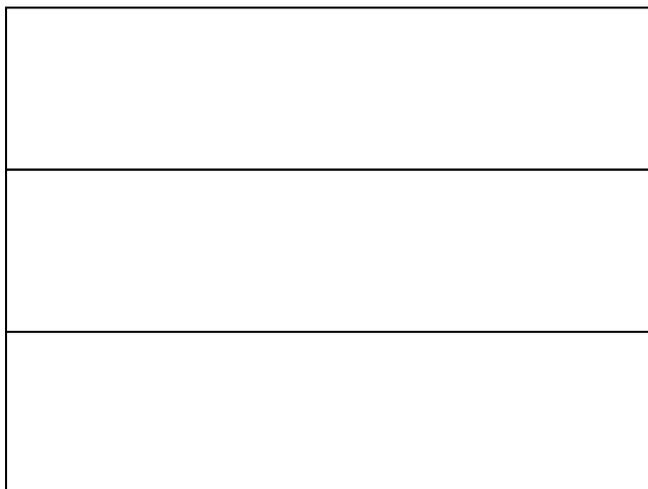
I’m so thankful that God made it possible for me to reach people for Jesus—just like the kids at our secondary school in Gabon. They’ve helped hundreds of people in the community by meeting their needs and giving them a reason to hope.

Mission Post

- Max Pierre left New York in 1991 with his family to serve as the president of the Gabon Adventist Mission. His evangelism efforts helped the young church grow.
- The Gabon Mission has 3,041 members worshipping in 18 churches and 10 companies.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build another secondary school in Gabon so we can reach even more people for Christ. Please give generously so we can double our impact for Jesus in Gabon. 🌍

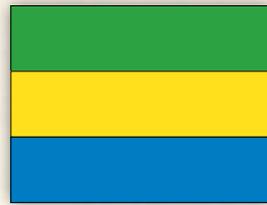
Color The Flag



GABON

DIRECTIONS

- Color top stripe green.
- Color middle stripe yellow.
- Color bottom stripe blue.



GABON | April 22

Mom's Prayer

Juana

My name is Juana. I am 17 years old and in grade 12. I live in Libreville, Gabon, a country on the west coast of Central Africa.

I used to attend our Adventist secondary school, but one day my mother told me that because the school was struggling, they would no longer be able to teach the upper grades. It wouldn't have been so bad if I could have attended another Adventist school. But we have only one Adventist secondary school in our country.

I had been able to start my day with worship and prayer at my Adventist school. We had Bible class and learned about God every day. My teachers were caring, and my friends supported my commitment to Jesus. But all this was about to change.

So Many Worries

What will happen to my faith when I attend public school? I wondered. Am I strong enough to stay true to Jesus? My friends who attended public school told me that many kids were involved in drugs and drinking.

"All the social activities happen on Friday night and Saturday," one boy said.

"My teacher seems to come to class only when she feels like it," added a girl.

As if that wasn't enough to worry about, I knew that almost all the exams were scheduled on Sabbath.

Callused Knees

At first everything went OK at my new school, but after a while I began to struggle. I noticed that I didn't spend as much time reading my Bible and praying and that I wasn't as interested in talking to people about Jesus.

One day my mom looked at me with a worried expression while I was eating breakfast. “I’m concerned about you, Juana,” she said. “Is everything OK?”

“No, Mom, it’s not,” I confided. “I feel like everything’s trying to pull me away from Jesus right now. I didn’t mean to let this happen, but I feel so far away from Him.”

Mom assured me that Jesus loves me more than I could ever imagine and that there’s nothing I could ever do to change that. “I’m always here for you, too,” she added. “I’ll do whatever I can to help, including getting calluses on my knees praying for you!”

Stronger Than Ever

Mom prayed for me and asked several close friends to pray for me too. A few months later, she noticed that I seemed a little happier than usual. “Things are tight between me and Jesus again,” I told her. “He’s my best Friend, and I’m trying to do whatever I can to help the kids at school experience His goodness too.”

Sharing Jesus with my non-Christian friends was a little easier than I thought it would be. If we had an upcoming test,

Fast Facts

- Gabon gained its independence from France on August 17, 1960.
- Gabon has rich reserves of timber, petroleum, manganese, and iron.
- Rainforest covers about three-fourths of Gabon. Gabon has some of the largest nature parks in the world.

I’d invite them to join me in asking God to help us do well. Or if we were facing a difficult situation, I’d say, “Let’s pray that God will help us handle this right.”

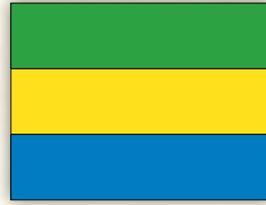
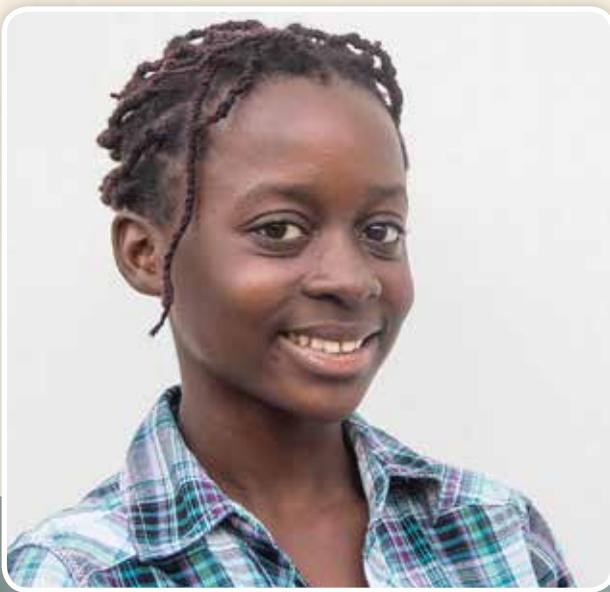
A Happy Surprise

I can’t tell you how happy I was to learn that the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build a new secondary school in Gabon. I’ll be able to attend an Adventist school again and hundreds of Adventist kids will be able to attend one for the first time in their lives.

Please give generously so we can have our school. Thank you! 🌍



In the Seventh-day Adventist church in Libreville, Gabon, they collect the offering in a cloth bag attached to a wooden pole.



GABON | April 29

Marion-Melrose

Our Big New School

Dear friends,

My friends and I want to wish you a happy Sabbath from the Central African country of Gabon! My name is Marion-Melrose, and I live in Libreville, the capital of our nation.

I'm 12 years old and in grade eight. My favorite subjects in school are French and math, and I want to become a nurse someday.

I'd like to attend our Adventist secondary school, but for now I have to go to public school. It's hard because many of my classmates don't know Jesus and are involved in drinking and drugs.

I'm thankful for the opportunities God's given me to share my faith, but I would really like to have teachers and classmates who encourage me to be a strong Christian.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this

quarter will help us build a large, new secondary school in Gabon. When it's ready, many Adventist kids will be able to attend an Adventist school for the first time. Plus, non-Adventist students whose parents want them to learn about Jesus will be able to go there too.

Please give generously to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter so that we can reach more children in Gabon for Jesus. Thank you!

Hello,

I'm Fhabiola. I'm 18 and in grade 11. I'd love to be able to go to an Adventist school where I'm not required to take my exams on Sabbath. This is a challenge faced by every Adventist student in Gabon who has to go to public school.

I can't tell you how happy I am that the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build a new secondary school in

my country. It will be large enough for hundreds of Adventist kids to attend, and they'll never have to struggle with exams on Sabbath again!

Please help us have our school by giving to the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter.

Fhabiola



Hi!

I'm Georges Daniel. I'm 16 and in grade 11. My favorite subject is science and I enjoy playing the guitar.

We have only one Adventist secondary school in my country, and I feel so blessed that I'm able to attend. Being a student here has not only helped my faith grow stronger, it's given me an opportunity to share my beliefs with my classmates who are members of other religions.

When our teacher talked about Creation the other day, my friend Marie asked me all sorts of questions about it. I helped her find answers in the Bible. When she asked me about my church, I was able to tell her about some of our beliefs. Marie and I began to pray together every day.

Mission Post

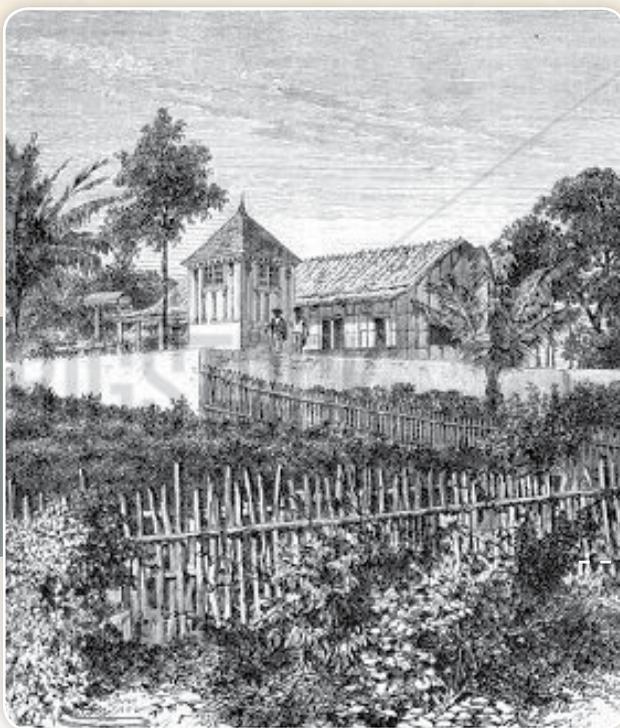
- Sixty-two percent of Gabon's population is under the age of 25, making them an ideal focus for mission through Adventist education.
- In 1975 the Equatorial African Union Mission sent a literature evangelist named Raymond Ondoua and his wife to begin the Adventist work in Gabon.
- In 1976 Daniel Cordas was sent by the General Conference to Gabon, where he formed a church of more than 40 members in the nation's capital.
- The Gabon Mission was organized in 1978.

I invited Marie to some meetings we have at school to study the Bible. She attended, and when the meetings were over, she gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized! I felt so happy that God had given me the privilege of sharing Him with my friend.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help us build a new secondary school in Gabon. Please help us in our mission to reach the kids of Gabon for Jesus by giving generously. Thanks! 🌍

Georges Daniel





GABON | May 6

Max's Big Dream

Meet pioneer missionary Max Pierre. Born and raised in Haiti, he helped grow the young Adventist church in Gabon.

Max's parents were missionaries, and as a teenager, Max dreamed that one day he would spread the gospel in a faraway land.

Max married Eliane Joseph, and the young couple moved to Berrien Springs, Michigan, in the United States. They attended Andrews University, where Max earned a degree in religion and Eliane focused on diet and nutrition. After they graduated, Max earned a master's degree and was ordained to the gospel ministry.

Elder Pierre and his family left New York on October 5, 1991, to move to Gabon, where he would serve as president of the Gabon Mission. Under his leadership, church membership soared from 205 in 1990 to 1,500 in 1995.

It was during this time that something very unusual happened. Just outside

the nation's capital city of Libreville, a political leader of a local township organized a Christian church, an unusual move in a land where most political figures weren't Christian. The congregation grew so rapidly, the members had to tear down their small church and replace it with a larger building.

During the construction, the congregation began studying the Bible earnestly to see exactly what it taught. They learned of the seventh-day Sabbath and wondered whether anyone in Gabon observed it.

They soon learned about the Seventh-day Adventist congregation in Libreville and sent some church members to investigate it. This led to an invitation for Elder Pierre to present the Advent message at the nondenominational church.

When the church members were convinced that Adventists base all their beliefs on the Bible alone, almost all the members were baptized and the



Pastor and Mrs. Pierre, with children Josue and Mirelande

new building became a Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Elder Pierre helped to establish many Adventist churches throughout Gabon. Each of these churches had about 40 members in the beginning, but they were built to seat between 400 and 500 people. Within a couple of years, the churches would be filled to overflowing, and the members would begin to plant new churches in the surrounding area. In this way, thousands of people joined the Adventist Church family.

The church in Gabon continues to grow, but it faces several challenges, including the fact that it has only one secondary school. It's not a boarding school, so most of the Adventist children

Fast Facts

- A former French colony, Gabon retains strong ties to the French language and culture.
- In size, the country of Gabon is slightly smaller than the state of Colorado in the United States of America.

in Gabon must attend non-Adventist schools. Experience has shown that many students who attend public schools in this country eventually leave the church.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings this quarter will help build a new secondary school in Gabon. This will help hundreds of children get an Adventist education and build a strong church in Gabon for the future.

Please support this project generously. Thank you! 🌍

Adapted from Precious Memories of Missionaries of Color, volume 2, by DeWitt Williams. Used with permission.

Let's Speak French

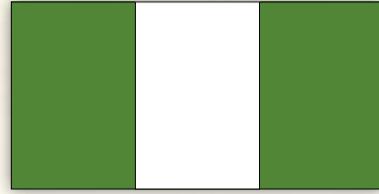
French is the official language of Gabon. Vowels are pronounced as follows: *a* as in cat; *ah* as in water; *eh* as in yet; *i* as in seen; *o* as in oh; *oo* as in noon; ' signifies a sudden stop—do not hold vowel sound out. Accented syllables are capitalized.

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



NIGERIA | May 13

Chukwuemeka

No More Knocking Knees

Hi, my name is Chukwuemeka, and I'm a computer science student at Babcock University in Nigeria. I was five years old when I first shared my faith in front of a crowd. It was at a meeting where my grandfather was preaching to people who didn't know Jesus. He had my friend Niran and me come up on stage to share Bible texts from memory.

I Just Froze

I did OK on the first couple verses because I was staring at my shoes. But when I looked up at that huge audience, my breath caught in my throat, and I froze. My mind went absolutely blank. I turned to Grandpa in desperation, but he already had things under control. He'd arranged for someone to whisper the rest of the texts in my ear.

I remember thinking later that I'd be just fine if Grandpa shared Jesus by himself from then on. But, thankfully, he

kept encouraging me, and now sharing Christ is one of my greatest joys.

Slamming Doors and Mean Dogs

When I was about 10 years old, I became involved in going door to door to people's homes to tell them about Jesus. I didn't know these people, and I was really nervous in the beginning. *What if I'm interrupting their dinner or their favorite TV program?* I wondered. *What if they slam the door in my face or have a really mean dog?*

I wanted to be respectful, so I asked each person whether they had a few minutes to talk with me. If they said No, I'd thank them and go to the next home. If they said Yes, I'd say a quick prayer, thanking Jesus for the opportunity to share my faith and asking for the right words to say.

A New Boldness

Babcock University is passionate about sharing Jesus. That's one reason we have a

strong Adventist Youth Ministry program, or what we call AYM. Our goal is to share Jesus with the hundreds of students on our campus who aren't Christians and with the people in our community.

I've been an AYM member for years, and it's been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I would never have imagined when I was five years old and hearing my knees knock together on stage that someday I'd be preaching to thousands of students during Babcock University's Youth Week of Prayer. But AYM has sharpened my skills in sharing

the gospel and helped me to become bold.

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build a multipurpose center for our AYM members because currently we have no place to worship or attend meetings that will hold a group our size. The new center will be big enough for our AYM team, plus all our friends in town whom we've wanted to invite.

Please support our Thirteenth Sabbath project and remember, if you've ever felt too young to be used by Jesus, or shy, or afraid you wouldn't do a good job, God can stop your knees from knocking too! 🌍

Twirling Drum

YOU WILL NEED:

Flat round wooden box
Round pencil or dowel
12 inches of thin string

Two or four beads about $\frac{1}{3}$
inch diameter
Paper punch

Glue
Masking tape
Paint and paintbrush

1. If the box is more than three-fourths of an inch thick, place the lid on the bottom of the box and, using an X-Acto knife, cut around the box where the lid meets the box. Remove the lid from the box.

2. Punch a hole in the center of the side of the box and in the lid large enough to allow the pencil to be inserted into the box.

3. Cut a piece of string 12 inches long. Open the box; with the punched hole facing you, lay the string across the box, so that equal lengths of string hang over on each side. Line the lid of the box with all-purpose glue and place the lid on the box, being sure to align the punched holes

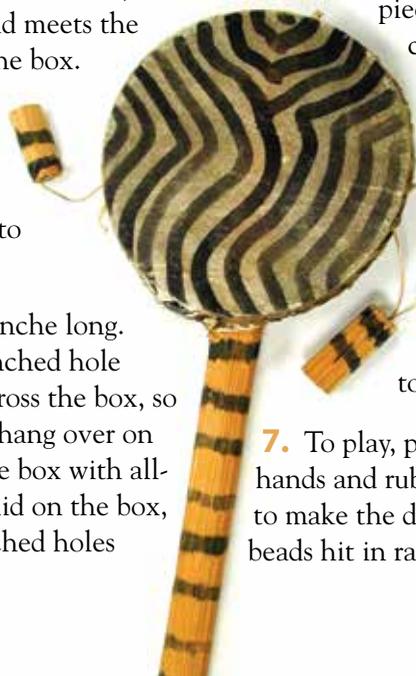
and not disturb the string.

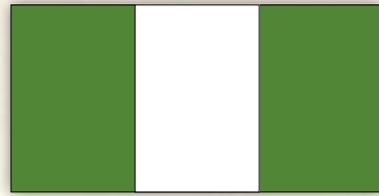
4. Thread one or two beads onto each piece of string, and tie a knot close to the end of the string to hold the beads in place.

5. Insert the pencil into the hole, and secure it with glue or tape, leaving at least six inches of the pencil outside the box.

6. Paint the box; set aside to dry.

7. To play, place the pencil between your hands and rub your hands back and forth to make the drum twirl around and the beads hit in rapid succession.





NIGERIA | May 20

Operation Smile

Adventist Youth Ministry

How could we bring a smile to the face of every child in town? That was the question challenging us as we sat in our Children's Ministries meeting at Babcock University's Pioneer Church. We'd helped people in the community many times, but this time we wanted to do something just for the kids. Whatever we did, it had to be something new, fun, and powerful.

Sharing God's Marvelous Grace

We prayed together and shared ideas of what we could do. Then someone suggested that we have a special Sabbath program called Operation Smile. Our goal would be to provide the children with a reason to hope for the future and to show them God's love in practical ways, like giving them a nutritious meal. We loved the idea and chose the theme of God's marvelous grace.

There was so much to do to get ready; we were glad we had the help of our pastors, teachers, and parents. Babcock University students even volunteered to help us!

Finally, the big day arrived. We were

Fast Facts

- Nigeria is a country in West Africa bordered on the north by Niger, on the east by Chad and Cameroon, on the west by Benin Republic, and on the south by the Atlantic Ocean.
- Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa with more than 186 million people. That means that for every seven Africans, one is Nigerian.
- Nigeria has more than 250 ethnic groups with the Ibo, Hausa, and Yoruba being the dominant tribes.

concerned that only a few people would come because we didn't tell them about our program soon enough. But we had no reason to worry. More than 80 children and adults showed up!

For more than three hours, 110 of our Adventist youth shared Jesus through music, a skit, and a special message of hope. We also gave our guests a nutritious meal, cakes, and Bibles.

We thank God for blessing Operation Smile. Many of our guests expressed an interest in learning more about Jesus, so we're planning to start a branch Sabbath School in town now.

Our new friends in the community aren't the only ones smiling after this event. Our Adventist Youth Ministry team is all smiles too!

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath offering this quarter will help build a multipurpose building for our Adventist youth where we can meet for worship and programs. It will greatly strengthen our children's outreach program. Please give generously. 🌍



Banana Fritters

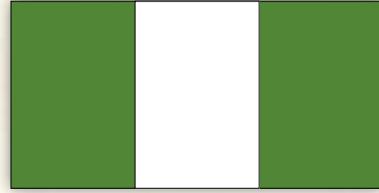
WEST AFRICA

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1-2 cups flour | 1 cup milk |
| 3 tablespoons sugar (optional) | 5 to 6 medium-sized ripe bananas, mashed |
| ¼ teaspoon ground ginger | 1 cup peanuts (optional) |
| 2 teaspoon ground cinnamon | oil for frying |
| 2 or 3 eggs | confectioners' sugar (optional) |

DIRECTIONS:

In a large mixing bowl combine flour, sugar, ginger, and cinnamon. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, with a sturdy wire whisk. Gradually add milk, continuing to beat until batter is smooth and satiny, about 5 minutes. Stir in the bananas and peanuts and let mixture sit for 10 to 15 minutes.

Heat oil to 350-375°F. Pour about ¼ cup of batter quickly into the hot oil. Let it brown 2 to 3 minutes, then turn with a slotted spoon. Remove fritters when they are a rich golden brown and drain on absorbent cloth. Continue frying until all batter is used. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar and serve while still hot. Makes about 20 fritters.



NIGERIA | May 27

Demilade and Jessica

We're Going to Grow, Grow, Grow!

Hi, we're Demilade and Jessica. We're both in Pathfinders and both students at Babcock University High School. But there's something else we have in common: we both love sharing Jesus!

As members of the Adventist Youth Ministry (AYM) on campus, we have many opportunities to help people in the towns near our school.

One of our favorite experiences was the time we went to a poor village to meet people who had never heard the gospel. While some of our group told them about Jesus, we tried to show His love by giving clothing to the kids. I wish you could have seen them. They got so excited, they ran to get their friends.

We help the student health professionals from the university offer free checkups and tell the people how much Jesus loves them. We also give each person something to read about Jesus and

invite them to church.

It was exciting to see many of these people at church the next week. One couple and their child came to church and got baptized.

We've noticed that when we help meet people's needs, they're open to hearing what we have to share with them about Jesus.

Sabbath's a Joy

We also share our faith at school because many of our classmates aren't Adventists. One of our friends didn't believe in God. She didn't like the rules at school and asked why she should bother going to church on Saturday when she could stay home and have fun. We explained that our rules at school help to keep us happy and shared with her what we do at church. "Maybe you're missing out on something special," we said. Our friend decided to come to church with us, and now she believes in Jesus.

Room for Friends

We would love to invite our friends from town to join us for Sabbath worship and our AYM programs. But because we worship in small classrooms and have no worship center of our own, there's no room for them.

This quarter, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help us build a youth center large enough to accommodate our AYM members, plus our friends from town. Please give generously so we can reach more people for Jesus. Thank you! 🌍

"I can't tell you how important it's been to me to be part of AYM at Babcock University. I want to reach as many people for Jesus as I can. Please help us build our new youth center so that we can grow and grow and grow."—*Demilade (left)*

"I was very shy, and I hated to get up in front of people. AYM has helped build my confidence, and now I can get up on stage in front of any sized crowd. Our new youth center will help many young people do things for Jesus that they never imagined they could do. Please support this project generously. Thank you!"—*Jessica*

Yam Balls

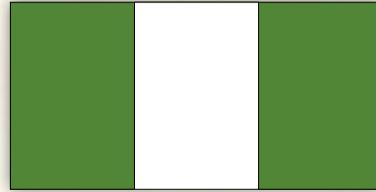
WEST AFRICA

Yams are a staple and versatile food in West Africa. The African yam is a tubular root up to three feet long with white to pale-yellow flesh and brownish skin. When steamed or boiled it is remarkably similar in taste and texture to boiled white potatoes. Cassava or white potatoes can be substituted for the yams in this recipe.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4 cups yams, cooked | 2 teaspoon salt |
| 1 large onion, finely chopped | 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper |
| 3 medium tomatoes | 2 eggs, beaten |
| ¼ cup peanut oil | Flour |
| 2 teaspoon dried thyme | 12 cups peanut oil |

DIRECTIONS:

In a large bowl, mash the yams until smooth; set aside. Fry half the onions and half the tomatoes in ¼ cup oil until onions are limp. Add thyme, salt, and cayenne pepper and mix well. Pour cooked onion and tomato mixture over yams and add remaining onions, tomatoes, and beaten eggs. Mix thoroughly. Turn mixture out onto a floured surface. With greased hands, shape yam mixture into one-inch balls. Heat 12 cups oil to 350°-375° F and fry until golden brown, about four or five minutes. Drain on absorbent towels and serve immediately. If you wish to avoid the additional fat, balls can be baked on a greased baking sheet until golden brown. Serves 6 to 8.



NIGERIA | June 3

Mr. Sylvanus

More Than Just a Game

Happy Sabbath from Nigeria! My name is Mr. Sylvanus, and I'm a truck driver on the staff of Babcock University in Nigeria.

When I came to Babcock, I learned that there were many non-Christian young people who either attended the school or lived in the community.

"Jesus," I prayed, "these are Your children. Please show me a way to reach them for You."

A few months later, a strong young man approached me. "Mr. Sylvanus, we've organized a football team on campus that will participate in a league," he said. "But this isn't just about football. It's about mission. It's one of our Adventist Youth Ministry projects to reach out to young people who don't know Jesus. We need a coach. Will you help us?"

Wow, what could be better? I thought. I love football, I love young people, and I love sharing Jesus. This job is a perfect match for me!

"We Don't Play Ball!"

When I began coaching, I started every training session with prayer and a short worship. About half the guys on our team aren't Adventists, so I explained to them why we wouldn't be playing on Friday night and Saturday. When other teams wanted to schedule a match on Sabbath, I told them, "Saturday is for the Lord. We don't play ball." Many people who had never heard of Babcock University have learned about the Sabbath through our team. For us, the football field is a mission field where we show people God's love.

There's one player that I firmly believe God sent to us. His name is Jamiyu. There were two things that I noticed about this boy. He never missed a practice, and he never said a word. I admired his determination to learn the game, but his skills needed improvement.

One day I called Jamiyu over and asked how he was doing. "Fine," he said quietly.

We chatted a few minutes, and then I asked how things were going at home.

A Struggle to Survive

“Not so fine,” Jamiyu replied. “My dad died recently, and when that happened, my mother took my siblings and left.”

I was shocked. “Your mom left you to fend for yourself?” Jamiyu nodded, his eyes glistening with tears.

Jamiyu had needed to drop out of school. Fortunately, he was staying with a friend, but every day had been a struggle to survive. There was only one thing he cared about anymore, and that was football. That was enough for me. I took him under my wing, helping him to train better and giving him food and clothes. When he got a job at a laundry service, I helped him open a bank account so that he could save money to go back to school.

I told Jamiyu that Jesus loved him and that I loved him too. And when I

Mission Post

- The AYM at Babcock University doesn't have a building large enough for its member to meet together as a group for worship and programs.
- The AYM is very involved in outreach and is growing bigger all the time.
- The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build a facility large enough to accommodate all the AYM members plus their friends who want to learn about Jesus. Please generously support this project. Thank you!

invited him to join our Adventist Youth Ministry program, he eagerly accepted. He's currently thinking about becoming a follower of Jesus.

I'm so glad God is using the things I'm passionate about to share His love. What are the things you like to do? God can use them in His service too! 🌍

Fufu

NIGERIA

Fufu is a traditional staple food in Nigeria. It's most often made from cassava, yam, or other starchy vegetables, and making it is intensive work. Here's a simple recipe for children.

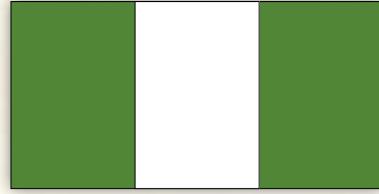
½ cup dehydrated potato flakes

4 cups water

DIRECTIONS:

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.



NIGERIA | June 10

Joshua

VBS Changed My Life

“Where’d you learn that?” I asked my friend, Gift* when he finished telling me the amazing story of Joseph and his brothers.

“It’s in the Bible,” he replied with a grin. “And if you’d come with me to our Adventist Youth Ministry (AYM) programs, Joshua, you could learn these stories too.” Gift lived on the campus of Babcock University, not far from my home in town. I admired his knowledge of the Bible and wanted to learn more about it myself.

“We’re having Vacation Bible School (VBS) in a few days,” he said. “Why don’t you come?”

I’d been playing football with some of the AYM kids at their Sunday exercise program, and I really liked them. They started each game with prayer and a short devotion, and they were kind to each other on the field.

I prayed about whether I should attend VBS, and I felt that God wanted me to go. Gift was right. I not only heard a lot of stories from the Bible, I also learned songs about God, did crafts, and made friends. Best of all, I learned that Jesus loves me.

At the end of VBS, I decided that I wanted to become a Seventh-day Adventist. I was baptized one year ago, and now I want to share my faith just like Gift shared his faith with me. I want people to know about the Sabbath and that Jesus is coming soon.

I invited my cousin to VBS this year, and he came to every meeting. He really enjoyed the Bible stories, crafts, and games. He isn’t a Christian, but now he knows that Jesus cares for him. His parents are very supportive of his coming to church with me.

Most of my friends criticize me because

I became a Seventh-day Adventist. That really hurts. They don't want me to talk with them about Jesus, so I try to share Him through my character and actions, like always being cheerful. But not everyone acts this way. Some of the young people I've shared Jesus with are thinking about coming to church, and that makes me glad.

Jesus Set Me Free

Joining AYM has made a positive difference in my character. I want to help people in the community now, especially the older ones. I like to carry their bags, greet them kindly, and show them respect.

VBS changed my life. I felt so happy when I learned Jesus loves me! I've always carried my burdens alone in my own strength. But now that I know that Jesus cares for me, I've let go of those burdens. Jesus set me free!

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help build a multipurpose

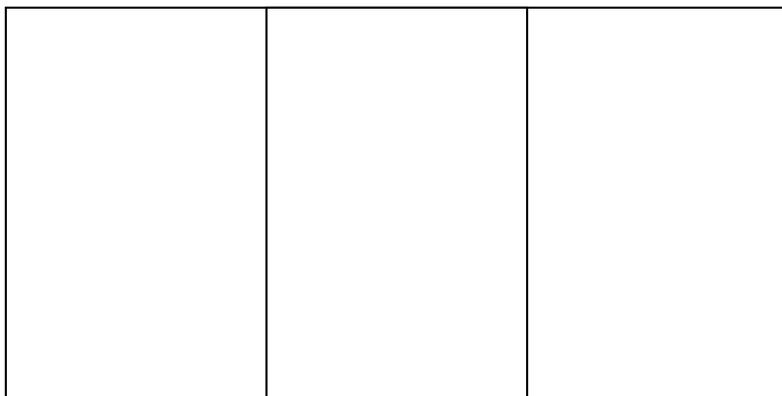
Fast Facts

- Babcock University was named after David C. Babcock, a missionary from the United States of America who pioneered the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nigeria in 1914.
- Babcock University has more than 350 faculty and staff and more than 10,000 students.
- Ninety-two percent of Babcock's student body is non-Adventist.

center at Babcock University for the AYM members. We need this building badly because we don't have a place to worship or attend our youth programs. The center will help us grow in our love for Jesus and strengthen our skills in sharing Him with others. Please support this project generously. Thank you! 🌍

**Name has been changed.*

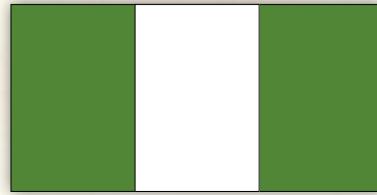
Color The Flag



NIGERIA

DIRECTIONS

Color left stripe green
 Leave the middle stripe white.
 Color the right stripe green.



NIGERIA | June 17

Valerie and Tobi

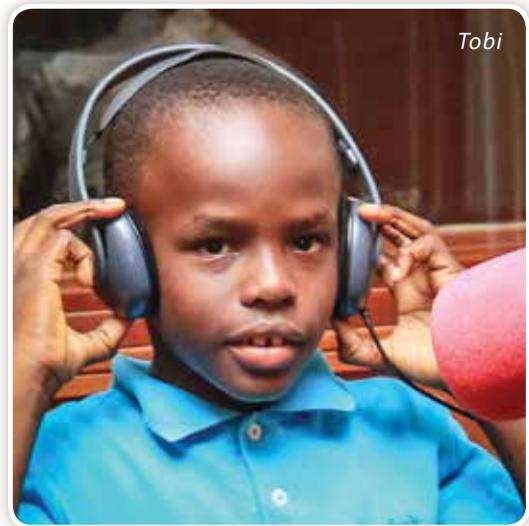
Be to Be and Me

Hello friends! My name is Valerie. I'm 12 years old and in grade nine at the Babcock University High School. I live with my mama and my cousin Tobi. Someday, I hope to become a medical doctor or a journalist.

I'm a shy person and don't have the courage to talk to people I don't know. I also love to read and listen to mission stories. I often wondered how I could overcome my shyness so that I could share my favorite stories with others.

Imagine my excitement when I learned that Tobi and I would be hosts of a radio program called *Be to Be!* It's one of our Adventist Youth Ministry outreach programs to share a message of hope with the children living in the towns near our school.

I immediately knew that God had a plan for me. He knew that with my shyness, it would be difficult for me to



reach out to others. But He gave me a chance with *Be to Be*. I could share Jesus without facing my listeners.

Tobi and I help plan topics for the program that we think will interest people. Then, as we prepare each program, we look to see what the Bible

Fast Facts

- The currency of Nigeria is called the Naira.
- English is the official language of Nigeria.
- Nigeria derives its name from the Niger River, the largest and longest river in West Africa.

says about these topics and pray that God will help us say the right things to touch people's hearts. Working with *Be to Be* has helped me read my Bible more and grow closer to God.

Tobi, why don't you tell our friends a little more about *Be to Be*?

Hi, my name is Oluwatobiloba (pronounced olu- wah-to-be-law-ba), which means "God is great" in my native language, Yoruba. My friends call me Tobi.

I'm eight years old and I'm in grade three. I love to listen to mission stories, play drums, and do other fun things such as playing ball.

When I was asked to be a host for *Be to Be*, I was really excited. It's not only a lot of fun, it helps us reach people for Jesus who might not be reached in any other way.

For example, some of the people in town still hold on to their old way of life. Occasionally, they have festivals on Saturdays when only the dads and boys can come outside their homes. The moms

and girls can't go to church. Our radio program is the perfect way to reach those who are forced to stay inside.

I believe that God is using Valerie and me to help Babcock University reach those who don't know Jesus. It makes me happy to see people have hope in Jesus and give up the things that make them scared.

Our Adventist Youth Ministry group doesn't have a place to worship together or meet for youth programs, but the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help us build one.

It will be large enough so we can invite all the new friends we've made through *Be to Be* and give us a place to meet so we can strengthen the impact of our radio program.

Valerie and I would like to ask you to please support this project. Thank you! 🌍

WESTERN TREE HYRAX

The western tree hyrax looks like a large guinea pig. It has a short coat, stubby legs, little round ears, a stumpy tail, and a white spot on its chin.

Hyraxes are great climbers.

The pads on their feet have numerous ridges and are kept moist by a gland that secretes fluid.

This gives them an excellent grip on smooth tree trunks.

They've also been known to use their teeth to hold onto vines while climbing.

The western tree hyrax is found in West and Central Africa.



Thirteenth Sabbath Program

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

- Practice two or three songs from your Sabbath School program that the children are comfortable singing for their parents.
- Practice with the children at least two to three weeks ahead of the program.
- A week or two before Thirteenth Sabbath, send a note home with the children reminding them to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

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

- Remind the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. If they have special banks for their offering, encourage them to finish filling them and bring them on Thirteenth Sabbath.
- Use the quiz below based on the stories, Fast Facts, and Mission Posts from this quarter.
- Invite a special guest to speak to the children about one of the countries featured this quarter.

Gabon and Nigeria Quiz

Preparation: Obtain flags, or pictures of flags, of Gabon and Nigeria. Choose one child for each country to hold the flag or picture. For this program you will need two narrators (junior age or older). The children will take turns reading the questions, and the narrators will take turns reading the answers.

Quiz

Narrator 1: During this quarter, we've been hearing stories from the countries of Gabon and Nigeria. These are the countries where the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering projects for this quarter are located.

Narrator 2: Today for our special Sabbath School program, we're going to review some of the things we've learned by taking a quiz.

Narrator 1: Try to see how many questions you can answer correctly.

Question 1: In which world division of the church are these featured countries located?

Answer 1: The West-Central Africa Division (WAD). This division has 683,318 members worshipping in 3,958 churches and 4,444 companies.

Question 2: In which school are the



Au College Adventiste (Adventist secondary school), Libreville, Gabon.

Adventist Youth Ministry children worshipping under the trees, in a park, or in small classrooms because they do not have a place of their own to worship?

Answer 2: Babcock University in Nigeria. Approximately 450 children have no building large enough to meet together for worship or for their Adventist Youth Ministry programs.

Question 3: In which country does the majority of Adventist students have to attend non-Adventist schools because there is only one Adventist secondary school in the nation?

Answer 3: Gabon. There are 3,041 Adventist members in Gabon, and approximately 79 percent of them are students. All of these young people, with

the exception of those living in the capital city, Libreville, have no choice but to attend a non-Adventist school where they face many pressures, including mandatory Sabbath exams.

Question 4: Who was David C. Babcock and why is he significant in Adventist history?

Answer 4: David C. Babcock was a missionary from the United States of America who pioneered the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nigeria in 1914.

Question 5: In one story this quarter we met a boy named Joshua who had never heard that Jesus loves him. Where did he learn this?

Answer 5: Joshua learned about Jesus at VBS at Babcock University. VBS is one of the many outreach programs that Babcock's Adventist Youth Ministry members participate in to reach community children who don't know Jesus.

Question 6: In which country is approximately 62 percent of the population under the age of 25, Gabon or Nigeria?



Pastors Goa Adeniran and Oyewole Oyerinde showing the site for the multipurpose center.

Answer 6: Both. In fact, more than 40 percent of the population is under the age of 15 in both countries, making Adventist education an ideal way to reach both populations for Jesus.

Question 7: Which country is planning to create a branch Sabbath School for the community children?

Answer 7: Nigeria. The Adventist Youth Ministry members held a large outreach event that was attended by more than 80 children and adults. Many of the children expressed a desire to learn more about Jesus, so they are planning to start a branch Sabbath School in town soon.

Question 8: When the children at Babcock University held their Operation Smile event, their goal was to show God's love in tangible ways that met the children's needs. What did they do to accomplish this?

Answer 8: They fed the children a nutritious meal. In doing this, they were following Jesus' example. Ellen White wrote that "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me.'"—*The Ministry of Healing*, page 143. Adventist Mission helps people find healing in Jesus physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.

Question 9: In the story "Mom's Prayer," why was Juana so excited to learn that this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new secondary school in Gabon?

- a: Hundreds of Adventist students will be able to attend an Adventist school for the first time.
- b: Hundreds of Adventist students will no longer face the challenge of Saturday exams.
- c: Non-Christian students will be able to attend to learn about Jesus.
- d: The people in the surrounding community will have an opportunity to hear about Jesus.

Answer 9: All of the above.

Question 10: In the 1990s, a political leader organized a Christian church on the outskirts of Libreville, Gabon. As the congregation studied their Bibles, they learned of the seventh-day Sabbath and wondered whether anyone in the country kept it. When they heard that there was a Seventh-day Adventist congregation in Libreville and asked Pastor Pierre to visit them, what happened?

Answer 10: When the members learned that Adventist beliefs are based on Scripture alone, almost the entire congregation was baptized, and the new church building became a Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Question 11: What is the national language of Gabon?

- a: English
- b: Portuguese
- c: French
- d: Fang

Answer 11: French. A former French colony, Gabon retains strong ties to the French language and culture.

Question 12: True or False: Nigeria is the most populated country in Africa.

Answer 12: True. Nigeria has a population of more than 186 million people. One out of every seven Africans is Nigerian.

Question 13: What is the largest and longest river in West Africa, and where is it located?

Answer 13: The Niger River in Nigeria.

Question 14: True or False: In Gabon, Adventist children who have to attend non-Adventist schools tend to drift away from the church.

Answer 14: True. One of the reasons Gabon needs the new school is to help build a strong Adventist church for the future.

Question 15: True or False: Most of the students at the Adventist secondary school in Gabon and Babcock University

in Nigeria are not Adventists.

Answer 15: True. Approximately 70 percent of the students at Gabon's Adventist secondary school and 92 percent of the students at Babcock University are not Adventist. Both schools have a large mission to reach their students and their communities for Jesus.

Narrator 1: We hope that you have enjoyed reviewing some of the things that we have learned this quarter—and perhaps you even learned something new!

Narrator 2: Your generous donations today will help the Adventist young people in Gabon and Nigeria have the resources they need to become strong Adventist Christians equipped to reach those who don't know Jesus. Thank you!

[Offering]

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects



Next quarter the Southern Asia Division (SUD) will be featured. Special projects include providing an evangelistic training center in Telangana, India; a girls' dormitory at the Adventist boarding school in Dimapur, Nagaland, India; a girls' dormitory at James Memorial Higher Secondary School in Chennai, India; and classrooms at the Adventist secondary school in Hathkanangle, Maharashtra, India.

Elephant Prayer Reminder

Make simple elephant cutouts to remind children to pray for the children of the West-Central Africa Division.

FOR EACH ELEPHANT YOU WILL NEED:

1 sheet of heavy paper stock (80-pound works well), any color and

1 contrasting piece of colored paper for ears and tusks patterns below.

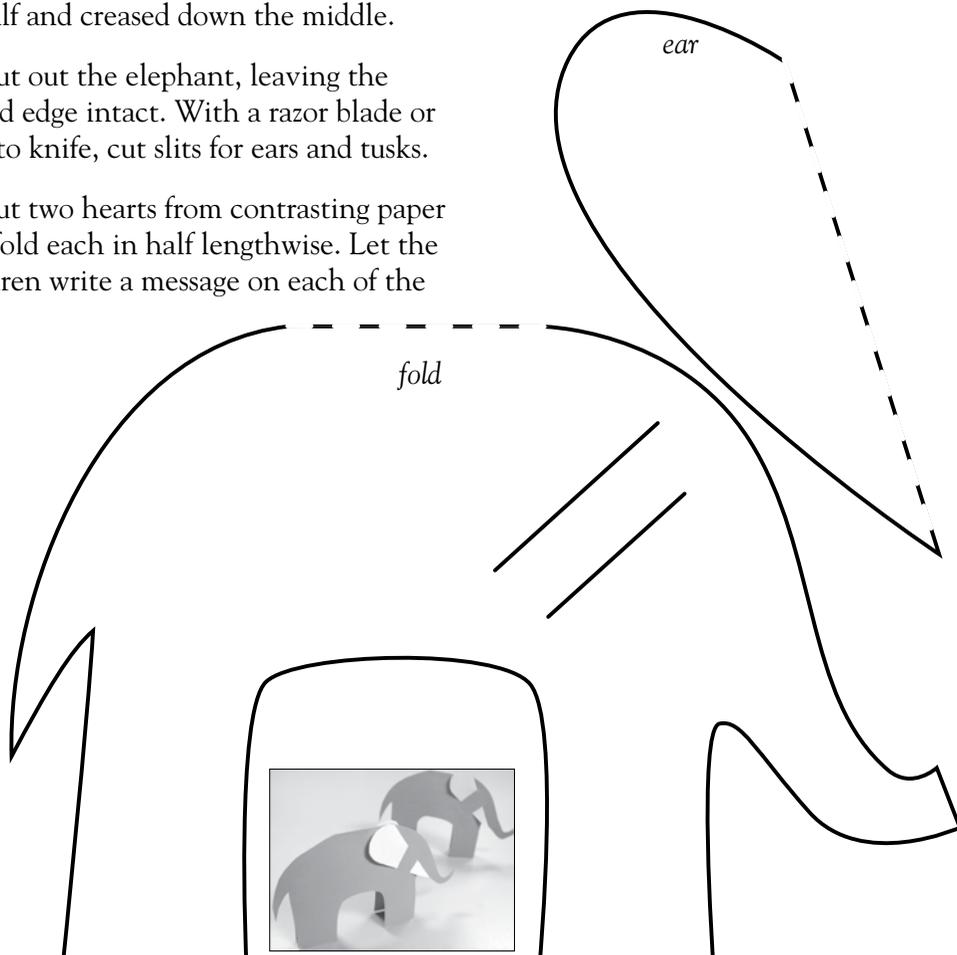
1. Copy the elephant pattern below onto heavy card stock or thin cardboard as a pattern; trace the pattern onto the card stock paper, which has been folded in half and creased down the middle.

2. Cut out the elephant, leaving the folded edge intact. With a razor blade or X-acto knife, cut slits for ears and tusks.

3. Cut two hearts from contrasting paper and fold each in half lengthwise. Let the children write a message on each of the

hearts, then insert one into each side of the elephant's head.

Children can write "Pray for the children of West-Central Africa" on one heart and "Give for the children of West-Central Africa" on the other.



Sing Praises to God in French

The official language of Gabon 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'AIMÉ (*Jesus Loves Me, chorus only*)

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

GOD IS SO GOOD

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Dieu est si bon | dee-ooeh eh see bohn |
| Dieu est si bon | dee-ooeh eh see bohn |
| Dieu est si bon | dee-ooeh 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 pah'r 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 |

The Bank is Back!

Remember when you were a kid and mission offering banks were a big deal? Remember how you saved your money, looked for ways to earn cash, and gathered abandoned coins at the bus stop and old phone booths? Now you can help inspire a spirit of generosity and passion for mission in your Sabbath School children by providing each one of them with this 13th Sabbath Offering pop-up bank.



IF YOU'RE IN THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION, HERE'S HOW TO ORDER:

- Call 800-648-5824. Ask for your FREE offering bank.
- E-mail missionquarterly@gc.adventist.org. Indicate the number of offering banks you are requesting and include a complete mailing address.
- Go to AdventistMission.org/mission-offering-bank and fill out the form.

Leader's Resources

Following are sources of information that may be helpful in preparing for the mission segment of Sabbath School.

For more information on the cultures and history of Gabon and Nigeria, visit your local library or a travel agency, or visit the Web sites listed below.

For kid-friendly information visit the following Web sites:

ducksters.com/geography/africa.php

Our-africa.org

You may also find these denominational Web sites helpful:

West-Central Africa Division: wad.adventist.org

Babcock University: babcock.edu.ng

Mission Spotlight

Show the *Mission Spotlight* videos, which feature mission stories from around the world and from this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering countries. You can sign up to get an e-mail with short descriptions of each video and links to download or view the videos online. Sign up at MissionSpotlight.org/subscribe.

Mission Quarterlies Facebook Page

Read and share mission stories online, see pictures, take a peek behind the scenes of gathering stories, and make comments—all on our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/mission-quarterlies](https://www.facebook.com/mission-quarterlies).

Ask your Sabbath School council to set a quarterly mission offering goal (set the goal a little higher than last quarter and divide it by 14, one part for each of the 12 regular Sabbaths this quarter and two parts for Thirteenth Sabbath). Chart the weekly progress toward the quarter's goal on a goal device.

Remind your Sabbath School members that their regular weekly mission offerings will help the missionary work of the world church and that one-quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the West-Central Africa Division. On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage members to double or triple their normal mission giving on Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School. This immediate feedback will inspire the children.

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WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION



ATLANTIC OCEAN

| UNION | CHURCHES | COMPANIES | MEMBERSHIP | POPULATION |
|------------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Cameroon | 909 | 510 | 93,503 | 23,739,000 |
| Central African | 133 | 89 | 13,947 | 26,570,000 |
| Eastern Nigeria | 657 | 524 | 134,672 | 38,949,914 |
| Eastern Sahel | 155 | 300 | 19,365 | 78,429,000 |
| Northern Ghana | 705 | 955 | 168,656 | 14,445,306 |
| Northern Nigeria | 224 | 298 | 39,299 | 90,119,408 |
| Southern Ghana | 731 | 1,037 | 121,241 | 13,227,694 |
| West African | 123 | 194 | 29,308 | 21,992,000 |
| Western Nigeria | 267 | 458 | 49,407 | 52,769,678 |
| Western Sahel | 54 | 79 | 13,920 | 39,404,000 |

Total 3,958 4,444 683,318 399,646,000

PROJECTS:

- ① Multipurpose center for Babcock University, Ogun State, Nigeria
- ② Secondary school in Franceville, Gabon