



CHILDREN'S MISSION

2018 • **QUARTER 2** • NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION



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On the Cover: Lucky Laik, a student at the Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist School on the Marshall Islands, refused to share his lollipop. Read his story on page 10.

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Your Offerings at Work

Three years ago, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering funded 35 evangelistic series across the U.S. state of West Virginia, where Ryleigh Moore, 12, lives. Read about Ryleigh and her crooked teeth on page 24.



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

Andrew McChesney
Editor



This quarter we feature the North American Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in the United States, Canada, the French possessions of St. Pierre and Miquelon, the British overseas territory of Bermuda, the U.S. territories of Guam, Wake Island, and Northern Mariana Islands in the Pacific Ocean, and three nearby states in free association with the United States—Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. The region is home to 360 million people, including 1.2 million Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for nearly 300 people.

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects are in the U.S. state of Arizona, in the Canadian province of Alberta, and on Ebeye Island in the Marshall Islands, and they share one thing: Adventist education.

In Arizona, the funds will help construct a new gym and cafeteria—the New Life Center—at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School. I visited the campus of the 72-year-old school and saw

that the current gym is falling apart, with an uneven floor and insulation sticking out the ceiling. A student who was baptized at the school told me that he worried that the dilapidated building cast his new faith in a poor light among the many Native American families who attend community events there.

In Alberta, the Mamawi Atosketan Native School will receive funds to expand its educational program, particularly among high school students.

On Ebeye Island, the Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist School will carry out urgent repairs on its three-story building. Walls are crumbling after being built with cement mixed with saltwater during a serious drought in 1987. The governments of the Marshall Islands and Japan have contributed generously toward the repairs, and the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help finish the work.

Special Features

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive, visit our Facebook page at the link: facebook.com/missionquarterlies. Every Sunday, we post additional photos to go with the next mission story. You could show the photos while you read, or you could print the photos to decorate your Sabbath School room or church bulletin board.

This quarterly contains just a sample of the latest mission stories from the North American Division. Find more stories at bit.ly/nad-archive. You can always reach me at mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org.

Thank you for encouraging children to be mission-minded!

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will assist:

- Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School, Arizona, United States
- Mamawi Atosketan Native School, Alberta, Canada
- Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist School, Ebeye Island, Marshall Islands



MARSHALL ISLANDS | April 7

Praying for Five Years

Viona Boro, 16

Viona first realized that she wanted to sing in the third grade.

Viona lived with her grandparents on Ronglap, a patch of land covered with coconut and breadfruit trees in the Marshall Islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. [Find Marshall Islands on the map.]

She loved listening to her grandfather sing about Jesus in the Marshallese and English languages. Grandfather would sit under a breadfruit tree beside their home and, playing his ukulele, sing “Jesus Loves Me,” and “God Is So Good.” Sometimes at night, Viona would lie on the ground outside and look up at millions of glittering stars as Grandfather sang, “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star.”

Viona sang, too, but she sang very quietly. She didn’t like her voice, and she was embarrassed that other people might hear her.

She didn’t know much about God,

but she had heard Grandfather sing that God answers prayers. So, she decided to find out if God was real by asking for something special—a good singing voice.

She didn’t know how to pray, so she simply spoke to God in bed at night. “What can I do to help my voice become good?” she asked.

The next night, she asked God again, “What can I do to help my voice become good?”

She prayed this prayer many times as she finished third grade at the local public school. Nothing happened. She persisted in the fourth and fifth grades, “What can I do to help my voice become good?” Still nothing happened.

Viona grew angry, and she wondered whether God was real. But she refused to stop praying.

Viona didn’t know it, but she was behaving just a woman in one of Jesus’ parables in the Bible. Jesus told of a widow

Fast Facts

- The Marshall Islands include the Ratak (“sunrise”) and Ralik (“sunset”), two side-by-side chains of 29 coral atolls (an island that is made of coral and shaped like a ring), thousands of tiny islets, and hundreds of very small low-lying islands.
- The clear water surrounding the Marshall Islands is home to more than 1,000 species of fish and 250 species of coral, and it is considered one of the best places in the world to scuba dive.
- In October 2011, the government created the world’s largest shark sanctuary—an area covering nearly 772,000 square miles (2 million square kilometers) of ocean.

who asked an unjust judge for help. The judge refused to help her. The widow went to him a second time, and again he refused to help. The woman kept asking for help until the judge exclaimed, “Because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!” (Luke 18: 5; NIV).

Jesus said that people should be just like this widow: “They should always pray and not give up” (Luke 18: 1).

That’s exactly what Viona did. She prayed and did not give up.

“I got mad when He didn’t answer,” she said. “But I didn’t give up until He answered my prayer.”

Five years passed. Viona kept praying, “What can I do to help my voice become good?”

When she was in the eighth grade, she was invited to join a church choir. She and other choir members spent hours rehearsing songs for the church service.

“I practiced and practiced and

practiced all the time,” she said.

Then one day she noticed suddenly that her voice had changed. It was beautiful.

“I was like, ‘Whoa! Where did that come from?’” she said. “I said to myself, ‘This is a miracle, and God is real!’”

She remembered her prayers, and she thanked God.

When she finished eighth grade, she moved to the U.S. state of Oklahoma to live with relatives and attend ninth grade. For tenth grade, she moved back to the Marshall Islands and into her parents’ home on Ebeye [pronounced EE-by] Island. She enrolled in the Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist School.

During a school week of prayer in 2016, Viona decided to give her heart to God and be baptized. She is the first Seventh-day Adventist in her family.

Viona is now 16 and in the twelfth grade. She loves to sing and play the ukulele for school worship, and she also sings to her grandfather over the telephone. The first time that she sang, Grandfather exclaimed, “Wow, you sing well!”

Viona told him that her beautiful voice was an answer to prayer.

She tells everyone that God is real and answers prayer.

“I thank God that He answered my prayer,” she said.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist School carry out urgent repairs to its crumbling classrooms. Thank you for your mission offering that will help students like Viona learn about Jesus. 🌐

By Andrew McChesney

Watch Viona sing at the link: bit.ly/Viona-Boro



MARSHALL ISLANDS | April 14

Nerly Macias Figueroa, 32

Apology Made in Heaven

Arno was one of the best fifth-grade students at the Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist School in the Marshall Islands. [Find Ebeye—pronounced EE-by—on the map.]

He always did his homework, he liked to learn about God, and he listened attentively to his teacher, Nerly, a missionary from Mexico. He had top marks in his class.

A month before the school year ended, Teacher handed out a quiz to the students, and Arno didn't want to take it. An angry scowl replaced his usually friendly face. He crumpled up the quiz paper into a tight ball and threw it straight at Teacher's face.

Teacher was shocked and disappointed. "Arno!" she exclaimed. "You have treated me disrespectfully, and I need to take you to the principal's office."

The boy didn't wait for Teacher to come over to his desk. He jumped up and ran out the door. Then he climbed up the fence surrounding the school.

"Arno, come back," Teacher called after him.

But the boy didn't return—and he skipped classes for the rest of the year. Teacher called Arno's parents to tell them about what had happened and to invite them to come to the school to discuss the situation. But his parents never showed up.

Teacher sadly told the principal that she would have to give Arno a failing grade for the last quarter of the school year because he had missed homework and his final exams. But Arno's good grades for the rest of the year meant that he still passed the fifth grade.

One morning just after school ended,

Teacher prayed, “What happened to Arno? Lord, please be with him.” Later that day, Teacher was packing her books into boxes in the classroom when suddenly she sensed someone standing quietly behind her. It was Arno.

“Hi, Teacher,” the boy said, softly.

“Hi, Arno,” she replied.

“Teacher, I just came to you to thank you for everything,” Arno said. “Thank you for your teaching.”

He paused and looked down. “I’m sorry for my behavior,” he said. “My father said I should come and tell you how much I appreciate you and to say thank you for everything. I do want to thank you for your teaching and your kindness and love toward me.”

Arno stretched out his arms and gave Teacher a big hug. Teacher gladly hugged him back.

“I forgive you,” she said.

Teacher had felt sad for the past month. Arno had been one of her best students, and she couldn’t understand why he had behaved disrespectfully and then disappeared. But she was sure of one thing: The Holy Spirit had worked on his heart during the month that he had skipped school and had prompted him to come back and ask forgiveness.

“I felt that God sent him back because I could see the change in him,” Teacher said. “He showed sorrow and regret for his behavior.”

After the apology, Teacher was no longer sad. This was why she had left her job and her home far away in Mexico to spend a year as a missionary in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. She wanted to teach children about God—the God who loves us, and the God who forgives

Fast Facts

- The Marshall Islands has two languages: Marshallese and English.
- One important word in Marshallese is “yokwe,” which is similar to the Hawaiian “aloha” and means “hello,” “goodbye,” and “love.”
- The average height of the islands above sea level for the entire country is only 7 feet (2.1 meters).
- Due to its very low elevation, the Marshall Islands are threatened by the effects of sea level rise and is the most endangered nation in the world due to flooding linked by some scientists to climate change.
- The only native land mammal in the Marshall Islands is the Polynesian rat.
- Ebeye, known as “the slum of the Pacific,” is the fifth most densely populated island in the world.

us when we ask. Five of Arno’s fifth-grade classmates were baptized that year.

You may not be able to go to Ebeye as a missionary, but you can help the children at Arno’s school learn about God. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the school make urgent repairs to the classrooms so it can keep teaching children about our loving, forgiving Heavenly Father. Thank you for your mission offering. 🌐

The boy’s name has been changed.

By Andrew McChesney

Watch Nerly at the link: bit.ly/Nerly-Macias



MARSHALL ISLANDS | April 21

I Punched Girls

Flora Laik, 17

Ask a girl to read this first-hand account.

I used to slap and punch other girls. One time during recess, my classmates and I were chatting around the table in our classroom at Ebeye [pronounced: EE-by] Seventh-day Adventist School in the Marshall Islands. I was hungry, but I didn't want to run across the street to MJ Store to buy a snack.

"Go buy me a piece of cake and some soup," I told the girl beside me, handing her a U.S.\$1 bill. [People use U.S. currency on the Marshall Islands.]

The girl didn't want to go.

"I'm tired," she said.

"You're so boring!" I exclaimed.

Then I laughed and punched the girl—hard—in the shoulder.

The girl was smiling and laughing until I struck her, but then she grew quiet. I guess she didn't like being hit.

But I couldn't stop myself. Every time a classmate didn't do what I asked, I would punch or slap her. I always laughed and thought that I was acting playfully, but for some reason the other girls didn't think it was funny.

Then we had a week of prayer at the school. The pastor read from the Bible about how we should repent from our sins to draw closer to Jesus. He spoke about how Jesus will return soon and take us to live with Him forever. I wanted to live with Jesus, and I decided to be baptized.

When I told the pastor, he was happy and said I needed to ask my parents for permission. Then I became scared because

nobody in my family belonged to the Adventist Church. I was so scared that my parents would be angry that I didn't ask them and I didn't get baptized.

A year passed. I kept jokingly hitting the girls in my class, and they became quite unhappy. My teacher also wasn't pleased and told me to stop.

Then we had another week of prayer. The more I learned about Jesus, the happier I became. I wanted to be closer to Jesus and to be happy all the time. I realized that I loved Jesus more than I was scared of my parents' reaction to my wanting to be baptism. When I told my parents, they didn't say anything negative at all! They said was old enough to make my own decision.

A few days after my baptism in 2016, I was lying on my bed and thinking about my life. I remembered all the times that I had hit other girls, and I felt horrible. I resolved to change my attitude and be nicer. I decided that if the other girls asked me to buy something at the store, I would try my hardest to help them.

With Jesus' help, I haven't punched or slapped anyone again. When I just think about hitting someone, I feel awful. Jesus has changed my heart, and I am grateful to Him! 🌍

Flora is now 17 years old and studying in the twelfth grade at Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist School. She also is the secretary of the youth group, called Children of Promise, at the Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist Church, which meets in the

Mission Post

- There are three Adventist schools in the Marshall Islands: an elementary school and a K-12 school on Majuro, and a K-12 school on the second-largest island, Ebeye.
- The first Seventh-day Adventist school in the Marshall Islands was founded in 1968 in the community of Laura on Majuro.
- Girls and boys from about age 5 perform household duties, and elders too old to cook or fish weave mats and handcraft or repair tools, dwellings, and watercraft.

school. Her brother Lucky was baptized in 2017. We will read about him next week.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the Ebeye school carry out urgent repairs on its old classrooms so it can continue teaching children about our God who changes hearts. Thank you for your mission offering.

By Flora Laik, as told to Andrew McChesney

Watch Flora at the link: bit.ly/Flora-Laik



SHARKS

There are at least 22 shark species in the waters around the Marshall Islands, including Blue shark, Silky shark (pictured left), Bigeye thresher shark, Pelagic thresher shark, Oceanic whitetip shark, and Tawny nurse shark.



MARSHALL ISLANDS | April 28

Lucky Laik, 15

Refusing to Share a Lollipop

Lucky long remembered the great grape lollipop argument.

Lucky really wanted some candy one day, even though he had been coughing. So, he asked his mother for some money and eagerly grabbed the U.S.\$1 bill that she handed him. [People use U.S. currency on the Marshall Islands.]

Then the 13-year-old boy marched over to a store near his home on Ebeye Island, which is part of the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean. [Find Ebeye—pronounced EE-by—on the map.]

Inside the store, Lucky looked around and chose his favorite candy, a grape-flavored lollipop, which cost 25 cents.

Walking back home, Lucky unwrapped the purple lollipop and stuck it in his watering mouth. As he happily sucked on the sweet candy, Evan stopped him.

“Hey, can I have some of your lollipop?” asked Evan, who was three years older.

The request was not unusual. In the Marshall Islands, friends share everything, and it is considered impolite to refuse a request for something. Even gum that has already been chewed is shared. It is common for someone to chew gum and then pass it on to someone else to chew.

Lucky, however, didn’t feel like sharing his lollipop. Remembering that he had been coughing, he said with a rude tone of voice, “I can’t share because you might get sick.”

Evan was shocked, and then he got mad. It was impolite not to share, and Lucky’s tone of voice made him even more upset.

“It’s not like you to say that in such a rude way!” Evan exclaimed. He muttered some bad words about Lucky and stalked off.

Now it was Lucky’s turn to be angry. He knew that he had spoken unkindly, but he thought, “It’s my lollipop. Anyway, I was

Fast Facts

- The Marshall Islands have few natural resources, and their imports (things they bring into the country) exceed exports (things they send out of the country) by nearly three times. Farm products include coconuts, tomatoes, melons, taro, breadfruit, fruits, pigs, and chickens. Industry consists of the production of copra and craft items, tuna processing, and tourism.
- Marshallese society is matrilineal (tracing their ancestors through their mother), and land is passed down from generation to generation through the mother.

being nice because I didn't want Evan to catch my cough."

A year passed. Then one day a special guest arrived at Lucky's school, the Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist School. The guest, Walter John, a pastor from another island, led a week of prayer at the school. The pastor spoke about heaven, a home where Lucky could live with Jesus forever. At the end of the week, the pastor asked the schoolchildren who wanted to give their hearts to Jesus.

Lucky thought, "I don't want to go in the ground or something like that. I want to live forever, and I especially want to live forever with Jesus and God and other people."

Lucky asked to be baptized.

His teachers were overjoyed about his decision, but they told him that he had to get permission from his parents first because he was so young. Lucky felt nervous about asking his parents because neither belonged to the Adventist Church. But both his mother and his father said he could be baptized if he believed that it was the right thing to do.

Lucky was baptized with six other

students in April 2017.

Coming out of the water, Lucky felt like a new person. "I felt fresh and new," said Lucky, now a 15-year-old sophomore at the Adventist school. "And people tell me that I'm a different person. Before I was a bad kid, and I sometimes cussed. But now I don't really do that anymore."

Often when people make mistakes, God gives them a second chance to do better. Lucky realized that he had made a mistake by speaking rudely to his friend about the lollipop, and soon after his baptism he had a second chance to respond in a kinder manner.

Lucky was tearing off chunks from a loaf and eating when his best friend, Eoata [pronounced: YO-ta], asked if she could have some bread. Lucky's hands were dirty, and he worried that Eoata might get sick. Then he remembered the lollipop, and he said in a kind tone of voice, "I'm sorry, but I think I didn't wash my hands."

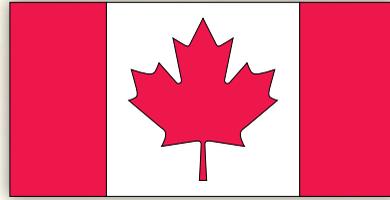
Eoata wasn't offended at all. She just smiled.

Lucky said he is happy that he was baptized, and he is looking forward to living forever with Jesus. "Jesus is my Savior, my Cornerstone," he said.

Lucky is one of 240 students, mostly from non-Adventist homes, who are studying at Ebeye Seventh-day Adventist School. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the school make urgent repairs to its classrooms. Thank you for your mission offering. 

By Andrew McChesney

Watch Lucky at the link: bit.ly/Lucky-Laik



ALBERTA, CANADA | May 5

Shaneek Roasting, 15

Meet Two Girls

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the Mamawi Atosketan [pronounced: MAMA-way a-TOSS-key-tan] Native School teach more children about Jesus in Canada. [Find Canada on the map.] All the students are First Nations, as Native Americans are called in Canada. We are going to meet two girls from the school.

Ask two girls to read these first-hand accounts.

Eileen Firingstoney, 13

My plan was to run away when I began seventh grade at the Mamawi Atosketan Native School this year. But I got too attached to the kids, so I stayed and plan to come back next year.

This was my first year at the Seventh-day Adventist school after going to public schools. I moved back home with

my mom only last summer after living with foster families since I was 5 years old. Another parent told my mom about this school, and she liked it because it is far out in the country and far from the highway, so I couldn't run away.

I came here because I wanted to make new friends and meet new teachers. I also wanted to check out a Christian school.

But after living at home with 11 relatives for the summer, I decided to run away. I wanted to live with another foster family. But then school got too cool.

I had heard about God but didn't know anything about Him when I came here. I actually wanted Him to be with me because I was doing very bad things. I wasn't a good child.

Then I met my seventh-grade teacher. He taught me about God and Jesus. He told us why Jesus died on the cross. Jesus is awesome. I wish I could have a Dad like him.

A few months ago, I dreamed that the

world was ending and I saw Jesus. I could only see His back. He was holding hands with a line of people and leading them up to heaven. I can't wait to see Jesus!

Coming to school takes my mind off what is happening at home. I look forward to coming to school every day. I love my teachers so much that I wish I could live with them.

Now I want to stay here for eighth grade. All my friends are here.

When I grow up, I want to be a nurse or a pediatrician. I especially want to help kids who've gone through what I've gone through in foster care. I want to help kids so they won't have it as difficult as I did.

Shaneek Roasting, 15

When I was in eighth grade, I went to another school.

The new school did not feel the same as Mamawi Atosketan Native School, where I had been studying since the second grade. Everything was a mess. There were no schedules, and I often ended up in the wrong classroom.

I changed schools because I moved back home with my Mom. But after two months at the new school, I stopped going because I had to babysit my 4- and 5-year-old brothers. It wasn't good for my grades to stay at home for a month.

Then I was sent to another family, and I returned to the Mamawi school. I felt very, very relieved and safe to be back.

The teachers and students acted like I hadn't even left. I didn't expect that. I thought they would ask a bunch of questions, but they didn't. That felt nice.

This school really has helped me a lot, like when I lost my father. He got stabbed to death when I was in third grade. It

Fast Facts

- Canada is the second-largest country in the world, after Russia.
- Canada has the largest coastline in the world, with a length of 122,557 miles (202,080 kilometers). If you walked the shorelines of Canada with an average speed of 12 miles (20 kilometers) a day, it would take you 33 years to complete.

was really hard on me, and I didn't want to go to school or to eat. But I had lots of support from my school friends, and I started eating again. Everyone here are like family members to me.

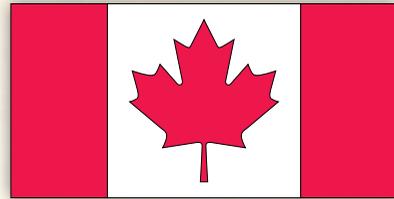
The teachers told me that Jesus will always be at my side and I can always call on Him. I pray when I am in need, in trouble, or just want to thank Him. Jesus has answered many prayers, like when I was 11 years old and a drunk driver hit my Mom as she was walking home on the road. I prayed and prayed that she would live, and she did.

Now I am in the ninth grade, and I read the Bible every day for an hour. I love reading David's poems, the Psalms. My favorite is Psalms 23, which says, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." It makes me feel calm to know that God is always there. He doesn't act like a King but is a Supporter, like One among us. 🌍

As told to Andrew McChesney

Watch Eileen at the link: bit.ly/Eileen-Firingstone. See her photo at [facebook.com/missionquarterlies](https://www.facebook.com/missionquarterlies)

Watch Shaneek perform a First Nations dance at the link: bit.ly/Shaneek-Roasting



ALBERTA, CANADA | May 12

Power of Prayer

Gail Wilton, 51

Sixth graders can be a tough bunch, but one teacher found her class of 28 sixth graders especially challenging.

The children didn't trust Teacher when she arrived at a Seventh-day Adventist school for First Nations children in the Canadian province of Alberta. [Find Alberta on the map; the school is near the city of Edmonton.]

The children were old enough to be in the eighth grade, but they were in the sixth grade because they had missed many classes. The children didn't seem to want to listen to anyone except a 14-year-old girl in their class named Trina [pronounced: TREE-na].

Shortly after the school year started, Trina grew furious when Teacher asked her to sit down. She picked up her chair and angrily threw it at Teacher. Fortunately, the chair missed.

Every morning, Teacher started her class by reading a Bible story and asking

whether a student wanted to pray. Nobody volunteered. So, Teacher asked the children to bow their heads, fold their hands, and close their eyes as she prayed. Nobody did.

For six months, Teacher read Bible stories and asked for a volunteer to pray. For six months, nobody wanted to pray. Every day, Teacher asked the children to bow their heads, fold their hands, and close their eyes as she prayed, and nobody did. But the children were quiet as Teacher prayed for God to keep them safe and bless their families.

One day, Teacher asked as usual, "Who would like to pray?"

Trina's hand shot up. "I will," she said.

Teacher was surprised! She thought Trina might be joking, and she waited for the girl to add, "Cha," which means "just kidding" in her native Cree language. ["Cha" is pronounced: chah.]

But Trina didn't say, "Cha." Instead she stood and turned around to look at her classmates. "All of you guys have to bow

Fast Facts

- The North American beaver is the national animal of Canada.
- The Canadian province of Alberta has been rat-free for more than 50 years.
- A bear cub named Winnipeg was exported from Canada to the London Zoo in 1915. A little boy named Christopher Robin Milne loved to visit the bear named Winnipeg, or Winnie for short. His love for the bear cub inspired the stories written by his father, A.A. Milne, about Winnie-the-Pooh.
- Canada holds the record for the most gold medals ever won at the Winter Olympics, taking 14 golds at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.

your heads, fold your hands, and close your eyes,” she announced.

The students obeyed! Trina also closed her eyes. Then she opened them and said to Teacher, “I don’t know what to say.”

“Talk to Jesus just as you would your best friend,” Teacher said. “Jesus is your best friend. You can tell Him anything.”

Trina closed her eyes again.

“Dear Jesus,” she said. “Thank You for today. Thank You for everyone here. Help us to get our homework done—cha!”

Trina threw in a “cha”—a “just kidding”—because she and the other students didn’t do their homework. She was making a joke, just as she would while talking with a friend.

After Trina finished the prayer, the children went back to their normal activities. They acted like nothing unusual had happened.

But Teacher’s heart was pounding. She couldn’t speak. She knew that if she tried to

say something, she would start to cry. She couldn’t believe what had happened. She had heard Trina, the toughest sixth grader in school, open her heart to her Creator.

Everything changed that day in the sixth-grade classroom. The children began to trust Teacher, and they spoke openly about Jesus, forgiveness, and many other things.

Two months after Trina prayed, Teacher had another surprise. Trina asked whether they could speak in private. In another room, Trina told Teacher that she had been feeling sad for many months and had thought about dying.

“But I didn’t follow through with my plan because you didn’t give up on me,” Trina said.

Teacher gave Trina a big hug. She knew that God had saved Trina’s life. Even though the girl had been unkind and angry, she had listened to Teacher pray every day for six months, and her heart had been changed. That is the power of prayer.

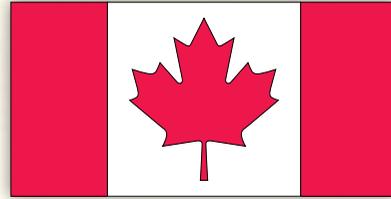
“I thought that they weren’t paying attention, but the prayers were sinking in,” Teacher said. “It was prayer that changed everything.”

Teacher’s name is Gail Wilton, and she is the principal of Mamawi Atosketan [pronounced: MAMA-way a-TOSS-key-tan] Native School. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the school grow bigger so it can teach more children like Trina about Jesus. Thank you for your mission offering. 🌐

The girl’s name has been changed.

By Andrew McChesney

Watch Gail at the link: bit.ly/Gail-Wilton



ALBERTA, CANADA | May 19

Gail Wilton, 51

When God Says, “No”

Last week, we read about Gail Wilton, a sixth-grade teacher at a Seventh-day Adventist school for First Nations children in the Canadian province of Alberta. [Find Alberta, Canada, on the map. The school is near the city of Edmonton.] This story happened in another sixth-grade class.

Teacher wanted to show the sixth graders a video during Bible class, but she couldn't get the video to work.

Many of the children had never heard about Jesus before they started studying at the Adventist school, and Teacher really wanted them to watch the video about Jesus' resurrection from the grave. But try as she might, she couldn't get the video to play.

Finally, the children said, “We'll help you, Teacher. We know how to fix the video.”

A group of children crowded around

the television and carefully checked the wires in the back. Teacher prayed silently, “Please let it work. Please let it work.”

But the video didn't work.

Then the children suggested, “Let's pray.”

Teacher thought that was a good idea, and 12-year-old Donovan offered to pray.

“Dear God, thank You for today,”

Donovan said. “Please help us with the video. Please help it to work. Thank you for hearing our prayer. Amen.”

While Donovan prayed, Teacher also prayed, but silently. She said to God, “We have talked a lot in class about how You answer prayer, but the children have never seen an answer to prayer in their own lives. This would be such an awesome time for them to see Your power. Please make the video work.”

Donovan and the other children went back to the television and fiddled with the wires some more. They disconnected

Fast Facts

- Canada produces 77 percent of the world's maple syrup.
- Sixty percent of the world's polar bear population of 25,000 live in Canada.
- Canada's post office receives millions of letters addressed to "Santa Claus, North Pole" each year. It responds to each one as Mrs. Claus.
- Canada's lowest recorded temperature of minus 81.4 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 63 Celsius) was recorded in the small village of Snag on Feb. 3, 1947. That's roughly the same temperature as the surface of Mars!

the cords and put them back in. Teacher silently prayed with all her might for a miracle to happen.

But the video didn't work.

Teacher felt so disappointed. She didn't know what to say.

Finally, Donovan broke the silence. "Well, I guess God doesn't want us to watch that video right now," he said matter-of-factly.

Teacher was surprised! Donovan was right. Teacher had thought that a miracle was just what the children needed to know that God answers prayer. But the children saw things differently. They understood that God had answered their prayer by not performing a miracle.

Teacher realized she had made the wrong prayer request. She had wanted God to act when she thought it was the right time, but she should have asked God to act

when He thought it was the right time.

The children, however, had made the right prayer request. They simply asked God to fix the video and accepted that He said, "No."

Even though Teacher knows a lot and loves to teach, she learned an important lesson from the children that day. She learned that it is important to ask God to act when He think it is the right time—and to remember that He sometimes says, "No."

Teacher's name is Gail Wilton, and she is the principal of Mamawi Atosketan [pronounced: MAMA-way a-TOSS-key-tan] Native School. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the school grow bigger so it can teach more children—and teachers—about Jesus. Thank you for your mission offering. 🌐

The boy's name has been changed.

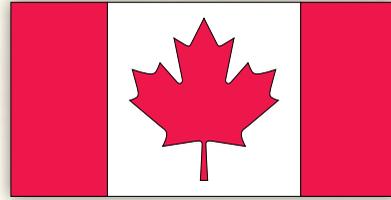
By Andrew McChesney

Watch Gail at the link: bit.ly/gail-wilton2



CARIBOU

Caribou have hollow-hair fur all over their body, even their nose. It keeps them warm in cold weather and helps them float in water. They can run up to 50 miles per hour (80 kilometers per hour). A day-old baby caribou could outrun an Olympic sprinter. Females can live 17 years, and males live about 13 years.



ALBERTA, CANADA | May 26

Hope Crier, 16

Blankets of Hope

Hope, a 16-year-old high school student, got into trouble in the Canadian city of Edmonton. [Find Edmonton, Alberta, on the map.]

Hope went out drinking alcohol with some friends, and she broke the side mirror off the door of a parked car. She walked beside the car and just knocked off the mirror. It was a small offense, but it was still a crime. Hope needed to be punished. But how?

A Restorative Justice officer—a special law enforcement officer who works with young people in Canada—asked Hope’s father to meet to discuss the punishment. Father called Hope’s principal at the Seventh-day Adventist mission school.

“Can you please come to the meeting?” Father asked. “I want someone who can say something good about Hope. I don’t want it all to be bad just because she made a mistake.”

The principal and school guidance counselor agreed to attend the meeting on the First Nations reserve where Hope and her father live. “First Nations” describes the people who have lived in Canada since before the country was known as Canada. A reserve is a special land set aside by the government for First Nations people.

At the meeting, the adults talked about how Hope could be punished without having to go to court and maybe jail. Father made arrangement to pay for the broken mirror.

Then the adults looked at the school principal. What could the school do to help Hope? The principal said the school would help Hope write a letter of apology to the car owner. The principal also said the school would give Hope a chance to do something to help others.

Before the school even had time to

consider a way for Hope to help others, Hope came up with her own idea. She would collect fluffy, warm blankets to give away to people who needed blankets on her reserve. She told her plan to one of her classmates.

“Where are you going to get the blankets?” the classmate asked.

“I don’t know,” Hope said. “I haven’t thought that far ahead yet.”

The classmate liked the idea, and she had an idea of her own. She said, “For every weekend that you don’t go out drinking, I will donate one blanket to your project.”

The school’s teachers heard about the blanket project, and they also wanted to participate. The teachers said, “For every weekend that Hope does not go out drinking, we will donate blankets as well.”

The next Monday morning, Hope arrived at school and announced that she hadn’t drank all weekend. Her classmate and each of the teachers gave her a blanket.

The next Monday, the same thing happened again. The blankets began to flow in.

So many blankets were donated to Hope that a local store owner asked, “What’s going on? I keep running out of blankets at the store!”

When he found out about Hope, he also wanted to get involved. He ordered extra blankets and began to donate them to Hope.

Soon a classroom was filling quickly with blankets, and the principal decided it was time to begin giving them away. She looked through the school’s list of students to see which families were the most in need, and then a teacher drove

Fast Fact

- Hockey and lacrosse are Canada’s national sports.
- French and English are the two official languages in Canada.
- Queen Elizabeth II, the queen of England, is the Canadian head of state.
- More than 99 percent of Canadians can read and write.
- The Canadian motto is “A Mari Usque Ad Mare.” It means “From Sea to Sea.”

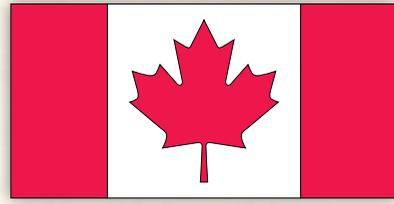
Hope to the reserve with the blankets. Hope saw many happy smiles and heard many grateful “thank you” as she handed out the blankets.

Hope named her project Blankets of Hope.

A big moment for Blankets of Hope came in the spring when teachers took Hope and several other students on a 10-day trip to a camp meeting for First Nations people. Between the meetings, Hope and her friends passed out blankets at a nearby reserve.

Hope is a student at Mamawi Atosketan [pronounced: MAMA-way a-TOSS-key-tan] Native School, an Adventist mission school for First Nations children. Many students only hear about Jesus for the first time at the school. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the school grow bigger so it can teach more children about Jesus. Thank you for your mission offering. 🌐

By Andrew McChesney



ALBERTA, CANADA | June 2

Teacher Hit Me

Juliette Rain, 13

Juliette didn't like her school in Canada. [Find Canada on the map.]

Juliette belongs Samson Cree Nation, a group of First Nations people, and she attended a school on the Samson reserve.

The other children treated Juliette unkindly. They called her names, and sometimes they pushed her. The third-grade teacher also wasn't nice. One day when Juliette asked a question, the teacher walked over and hit her on the head. Juliette didn't know why the teacher had struck her, and she began to cry.

The teacher was angry and didn't say a word, not even sorry. She just walked away and continued teaching the class.

Juliette wished that she didn't have to go to school.

Then, when she was in the fourth grade, a cousin told her about a wonderful school. The cousin said that the teachers

never hit the children and that the students were kind. Best of all, the cousin said, the teachers taught about Jesus.

Juliette ran to her mother.

"Can I go to the same school as my cousin?" she said.

Mother found out that the school was called Mamawi Atosketan [pronounced: MAMA-way a-TOSS-key-tan] Native School and that it was owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It didn't cost any money to attend classes, and the school also provided free breakfast and lunch every day. A special school bus even drove to the Samson reserve to take children to school and back home.

"Yes, you may go to the school next year," Mother told Juliette.

Juliette was excited, but she also was scared. She was excited that she wouldn't have to go back to her old school. She was scared because she would have to make

Fast Facts

- In the past 10 years, Alberta has produced about one-third of the Canada's wheat, slightly more than one-third of the canola crop, and almost half of the barley crop.
- The longest beaver dam found with Google Earth is located in northern Alberta. The dam has a length of about 2,790 feet (850 meters). It has at least existed at this spot for more than 25 years because it can be seen on a 1990 NASA satellite image.
- Located in western Canada, the province of Alberta is bordered by the Canadian Rocky Mountains to the west and prairies and badlands to the east. To the north lie the Northwest Territories. The U.S. state of Montana is to the south and shares with Alberta an international peace park, the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park.

new friends and meet new teachers when she started fifth grade.

Juliette liked the school from the first day of classes. Her cousin was right: The teachers and the students were nice.

Juliette liked the school so much that she invited two friends from her old school to move to her new school.

Today, Juliette is in the seventh grade together with her two friends and her cousin.

Juliette likes learning about Jesus in school, and she started praying every morning when she wakes up and every night before she goes to sleep. She asks God to give her a good day at school and

to bless her family. When her grandmother fell ill and went to the hospital, Juliette prayed every day for God to heal her and bring her back home.

"I believed that God would heal her and she would come home again," Juliette said.

A week later, Grandmother came home. Grandmother thanked her granddaughter for praying for her, and she now prays for Juliette, too.

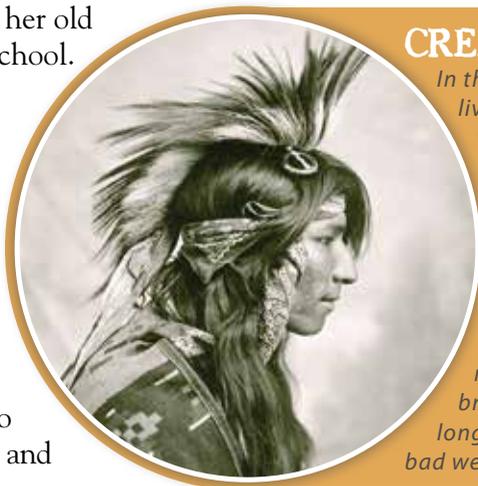
Juliette plans to become a teacher when she grows up. She said she would never hit a student in the face. Instead, she said, she wants to be kind like her current teachers.

"I came to this school because I wanted to learn about God and I wanted to make new friends and to meet new teachers," Juliette said. "My classmates are nice, and my teacher is fun. I like it here."

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Juliette's school grow bigger so it can teach more children about Jesus. Thank you for your mission offering. 🌐

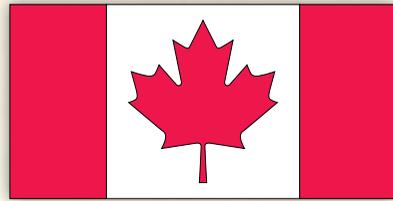
By Andrew McChesney

Watch Juliette at the link: bit.ly/Juliette-Rain



CREE

In the woodlands, Cree lived in lodges covered with birch bark. On the plains, the preferred shelter was teepees made from bison hides over wooden poles. Cree women typically wore long dresses with removable sleeves. Cree men wore leggings and breechcloths. They wore long cloaks or ponchos in bad weather.



ALBERTA, CANADA | June 9

Who's That Man?

Suzann Self, 47

Little Slade raised his hand in the middle of the first-grade math lesson.

"Teacher, who's that Man?" he said, pointing to a picture on the classroom wall. "Why is He hanging on that wood?"

Teacher was surprised by the question. She thought that everybody knew Jesus and would recognize a picture of Him hanging on the cross.

"That's Jesus," Teacher said.

Slade looked confused. He had never heard of Jesus.

Teacher prayed silently. "Thank you, God, for this opportunity to teach this young boy about You," she prayed. "This is the first time that Slade has heard about You, and he is curious. Give me the right words to say."

Teacher took a deep breath. She would have to stop the math lesson to explain why Jesus was hanging on the piece of wood. Teacher asked the children to close

their books and to pay attention.

"It started with Adam and Eve," Teacher said. "God created Adam and Eve in a beautiful place called the Garden of Eden. But our first parents disobeyed God, and they had to leave the garden. Because they disobeyed, we have many problems in the world."

Slade and the other children listened intently.

"But God loved Adam and Eve, and He loves us, and He wants us to be happy," Teacher said. "We are His children, and He wants more than anything for us to be in heaven with Him one day."

To make that possible, Teacher said, God had to send his Son, Jesus, to Earth to die for our sins. Teacher told how Jesus was born and grew up.

"Then Jesus died on that wood because he wants us to be in heaven," Teacher said.

Slade asked many more questions about

Fast Facts

- The Cree are one of the largest groups of First Nations in North America, with more than 200,000 members living in Canada. The major proportion of Cree in Canada live north and west of Lake Superior, in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and the Northwest Territories.
- Mamawi Atosketan Native School was opened in 2003 to serve the four bands of the Maskwacis Cree Nation between Wetaskiwin and Ponoka, Alberta.
- Mamawi Atosketan means “Working Together” in the Cree language.

Jesus that school year. He came back to the school for second grade, but then he disappeared. Teacher doesn’t know what happened to him. But she said she was glad that she had been able to share the story of Jesus with him in the first grade.

“Even though we seem to have churches on every corner in North America, this boy only learned about Jesus in our school,” she said. “I realized that time is really, really precious because we don’t know from day to day how long children will be here.”

No Alarm Clock

Another child in Teacher’s first-grade class is Brianna.

Brianna’s mother noticed something unusual happen when Brianna started first grade. Mother no longer needed an alarm clock.

Brianna used to get up quietly in the morning and get ready for school. But now, the whole house knows when Brianna is awake. As soon as she wakes up, she opens her mouth and begins to

sing loudly. “Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so,” she sings.

Mother is delighted. She loves to hear the sweet voice of her little girl singing praises to God.

One day, Mother told Teacher that things aren’t the same at home any more.

“I love your school,” Mother said. “Every morning my little girl wakes up and fills the house with praises to God.”

Why do you think Brianna began singing every morning? [Wait for the children to guess.]

Brianna began singing at home because she sings every day at school. Every morning, Teacher leads the children in singing songs for worship. The first graders love singing, and they also ask, “Can we sing one more song? Just one more song?”

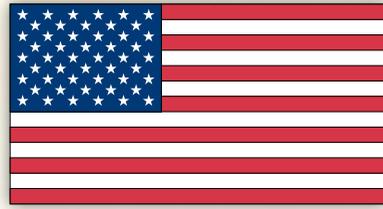
Teacher was happy that the children wanted to sing at school, but she didn’t know that they also were singing at home.

“That made me realize that a lot of what happens at school goes home,” Teacher said.

Teacher’s name is Suzann Self, and she teaches at Mamawi Atosketan [pronounced: MAMA-way a-TOSS-key-tan] Native School. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the school grow bigger so it can teach more children like Slade about Jesus and more children like Brianna can sing for Jesus. Thank you for your mission offering. [As the offering is collected, lead the children in singing, “Jesus Loves Me.”] 🌐

By Andrew McChesney

Watch Suzann at the link: bit.ly/Suzann-Self



WEST VIRGINIA, U.S.A. | June 16

Ryleigh Moore, 12

Hooray for Crooked Teeth!

Twelve-year-old Ryleigh Moore was thrilled! Her teeth were terribly crooked—and even the dentist agreed!

The dentist had told Ryleigh during a regular checkup that her teeth probably needed to be straightened with braces. Only two children had braces at Ryleigh's school, Parkersburg Academy in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

"I thought it would be cool to have something in my mouth to show off to people," Ryleigh said.

Ryleigh had to go to a special dentist, an orthodontist, to decide whether she really needed braces. A few days later, she skipped a few hours of school so an orthodontist could take X-ray photos of her teeth. The orthodontist asked her to open her mouth wide. Ryleigh opened her mouth as far as she could and she heard a popping sound. The orthodontist declared that Ryleigh really needed braces:

Not only were her teeth crooked, but the popping noise meant her jaw had a problem that only braces could fix.

The orthodontist told Ryleigh's mother that the braces would cost U.S.\$6,000.

Mother was shocked. She began to cry when she and Ryleigh got into the car. She didn't earn enough money working at a hospital to pay for braces, and health insurance wouldn't cover the cost.

Then Mother remembered that God loved Ryleigh even more than she did.

"I'm not going to cry," she said. "Let's pray and trust in God."

Ryleigh agreed. But she wasn't worried at all. She couldn't wait to tell her friends at school that she needed braces!

That evening, Mother and Ryleigh prayed for God's help to find money for the braces. Ryleigh's little sister, Reagan, also prayed for the braces. The family prayed again in the morning.

When Mother started the car to take Ryleigh and Reagan to school, the car's radio came on, and it wasn't set to the usual Christian radio station. Mother reached over to change the station, but then she froze. A commercial was playing, and a voice said the word, "Braces." Mother turned up the volume. The voice announced that an orthodontist was having a special contest and the winner would receive free braces. It didn't cost anything to enter the contest. All you had to do was go to the orthodontist's office for a free checkup.

Mother didn't dare think that Ryleigh might win free braces. But since the checkup was free, Ryleigh had her teeth X-rayed by another orthodontist. She opened her mouth wide and again heard the popping sound. "That's not good," the orthodontist said. "We should stop the popping. You need braces."

After the checkup, the orthodontist's assistant wrote Ryleigh's name on a piece of paper for a drawing for free braces. The next month, on May 12, the name of the winner would be drawn out of a hat.

Ryleigh and her nine classmates in the sixth grade prayed about the braces. Mother prayed, too. They prayed about the contest, but mostly they prayed that God would help Mother pay for the braces.

The day of the drawing came—and went. Ryleigh and Mother forgot about the contest but kept praying. A month passed. One day in June, Mother was working at the hospital when the phone rang. It was the orthodontist's assistant.

"Which hospital department do you work in?" the assistant asked.

Mother told her.

"OK, I'll see you soon," the assistant

Fast Facts

- The West Virginia state animal is the black bear, and the state bird is the cardinal.
- In 1947, Chuck Yeager, a native of Hamlin, West Virginia, became the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound.

said and hung up. Mother was confused. She didn't understand what the assistant was talking about. Two hours later, Mother looked up from her desk and saw the assistant standing there. She was holding a bunch of colorful balloons and a sign, saying, "Congratulations! You have won free braces for your daughter!"

Mother couldn't believe her eyes! She began to cry with joy.

"It was very overwhelming," Mother said, her eyes filling with tears as she remembered that day. "I realized at that moment that God answers prayer."

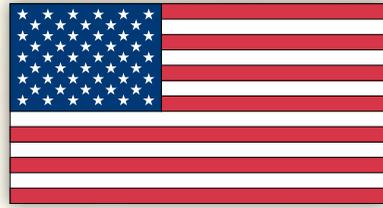
She called Ryleigh to tell her the good news. The first thing that Ryleigh wanted to do was tell her friends that God had answered their prayers.

"I was excited to tell my friends who had prayed for me," she said. "I was really thankful that God had answered our prayers."

Three years ago, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering funded 35 evangelistic meetings across West Virginia, where Ryleigh lives, so more people could learn about Jesus. Thank you for your mission offering. 🌐

By Andrew McChesney

Watch Ryleigh and her mother, Kerra Ball, at the link: bit.ly/Ryleigh-Moore



ARIZONA, U.S.A. | June 23

Jovannah Poor Bear-Adams, 29

Serving Two Gods

Jovannah [pronounced: JO-vana] promised her mother that she would never become a Christian.

Fifteen-year-old Jovannah lived in the U.S. state of South Dakota, and she made the promise when she asked her mother for permission to move to Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School in Arizona. [Find South Dakota and Arizona on the map.]

“If you have to go, go,” her mother said. “But know this: That is a Christian school, and they will lie to you to get you to believe the way that they do.”

“I won’t fall for it,” Jovannah said. “I’m just going for the education.”

Jovannah packed her belongings into black garbage bags and loaded them into the back of a pickup truck owned by a friend’s uncle. Then the uncle drove Jovannah and her friend to Holbrook Indian School.

Starting ninth grade at a new school

thrilled Jovannah. She hadn’t been a good student in the eighth grade, and now she had a chance for a new start. She decided to be a perfect student at Holbrook.

After three months, she had top marks in all her classes except one—Bible. [Ask the children: Why do you think that is?] Jovannah remembered her promise to her mother not to become a Christian, so she didn’t study for Bible class. As a result, she had a failing grade on her report card. Jovannah didn’t like the bad grade among all those top marks. She wanted to be a perfect student. So, she decided to find a way to improve her grades without becoming a Christian.

“I needed to learn how to fake it without learning it,” she said.

Jovannah joined a Bible study group with other students. She had never read the Bible before, and she loved the stories. Then she joined a second Bible study group. Before she knew it,

she wanted to be baptized.

That summer, she went back home for vacation. She was now 16 and wanted to start sun dancing, an important part of her native Oglala Lakota Sioux culture. Part of sun dancing meant that she would not be able to eat or drink anything for four days. During that time, she would pray to the spirits.

She went to the medicine man to ask for permission to start sun dancing. He gave her good news. He said she could not only sun dance but also carry the special Pipe of the People during the dance later that year. It was the biggest honor that a person could have at the Sun Dance.

“Everyone else would be praying for their families, but carrying the Pipe of the People meant I would be praying for all the people,” Jovannah said.

When she returned to school in the fall, she was baptized. She thought she could serve God and participate in the Sun Dance.

But then Jovannah heard a Sabbath sermon that made her think hard. The preacher said many people thought that they could serve both the God of heaven and another god — such as money, friends, or possessions. Jovannah remembered that she was trying to serve God and serve the spirits in the Sun Dance.

“I thought that the preacher was speaking to me directly,” she said. “I knew that the sermon was for me.”

She called her mother and told her that she couldn’t worship God and the spirits, so she would not Sun Dance.

Mother was furious and refused to talk with her after that. Jovannah was heartbroken, and the next few years were difficult. But she remained faithful to God.

Fast Facts

- Arizona is home to most of the Navajo Nation, the largest Native American reservation in the United States. Covering about 27,425 square miles (71,000 square kilometers) of Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico, the Navajo Nation is larger than any of the 10 smallest states in the United States.
- The only place in the United States where mail is delivered by mule is the village of Supai, located at the bottom of the Grand Canyon.

She found a new family at the Holbrook school. “I was disowned by my family, but I had a new family here,” she said.

During Jovannah’s senior year, her mother became more accepting of her beliefs. When she graduated, Mother made her new traditional clothing and put crosses on the back of her moccasins.

Jovannah graduated from Holbrook school and went to Union College in Nebraska. After graduating, she returned to Holbrook to work as a teacher and administrator. She helps other students who also are disowned by their families.

“I saw Christ’s goodness and healing at Holbrook,” she said. “God is bigger than my pain and fears—and He has given purpose to my life.”

Part of this quarter’s Thirteen Sabbath Offering will go to Holbrook Indian School so more Native American children can learn about Jesus—and have a Christian family. Thank you for your mission offering. 🌐

By Andrew McChesney

Watch Jovannah at the link: bit.ly/Jovannah-Poor-Bear

Thirteenth Sabbath Program

Before Thirteenth Sabbath:

- Send home a note to remind parents of the program and to encourage the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on June 30.
- Remind everyone that their mission offerings are gifts to spread God's Word around the world, and that one-fourth of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to help the three schools in the North American Division. The projects are listed on page 3 and on the back cover. Watch Adrian at the link: bit.ly/Adrian-Wiles

Note: Ask up to eight children to present this program. There are five speaking parts (Narrator, Adrian, Mother, Cousin One, and Cousin Two) and potentially three non-speaking parts (Kobe, pastor, and first-grade cousin). The children don't have to memorize their parts, but encourage them to read through their part several times so that their presentation is smooth and comfortable. They could act this out with a bed and a table for Bible studies. The table could double as a pulpit for Adrian to give his worship talk.

Narrator: This quarter we have met people from Ebeye [pronounced: EE-by] Island; from the Mamawi Atosketan [pronounced: MAMA-way a-TOSS-key-tan] Native School in Alberta, Canada; from West Virginia; and from Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School in Arizona. Today we will hear one more story from Holbrook—about a student named Adrian Wiles.

Crying for Home

Narrator: Adrian was in the third grade when he arrived at Holbrook Seventh-day Adventist Indian School. He didn't want to live at the boarding school in the U.S. state of Arizona. [Find Holbrook, Arizona, on the map.] But some adults thought it would be good for him to move away from home.

Adrian had a hard life at home. He didn't have a father, and his mother often drank. Sometimes his mother locked him out of the house, and he slept with the family dogs under the front porch. When Adrian was 7, his older brother taught

him how to drink alcohol and use drugs.

Adrian didn't think anything was wrong with his life, and he didn't want to move to the school—even though three cousins already studied there.

[Have children act out the following.]

On his first night in the dormitory, his mother tucked him in bed and sat with him until he began to fall asleep. When she left the room, he jumped out of bed and ran after her. He caught up with her in the hallway and, crying, grabbed her by an ankle.

Adrian (crying): Don't go!

Mother (sternly): Go back to your room and stop being a big old baby!

Narrator: Adrian wailed and refused to let go of her ankle. Finally, his cousins picked him up and carried him back to his room. He cried even more as he looked out the window and saw his mother drive away into the night.

His cousins didn't sympathize with him. He was creating a scene, and they didn't like that.

Cousin One: Stop crying!

Cousin Two: Stop being a big baby!

Narrator: With no one to comfort him, Adrian looked around his room and noticed for the first time that his new roommate, Kobe, was also crying. Kobe was in the third grade, too, and this was his first night away from home. The two boys cried together as they fell asleep.

Adrian cried every night for a month. He missed his family, and everything was new at the school. He couldn't understand why the teachers and many students were so friendly.

Adrian: I had a hard time adjusting to people being friendly to me. I came from a broken-down home where people are kind of mean.

Narrator: After a few weeks, the school pastor asked Adrian and Kobe to lead a worship service. Adrian felt a little nervous about standing in front of the other 65 students, but he got up and spoke about his home.

Adrian: I never met my father, and

my mother and brothers drink a lot. I hardly know the date of my own birthday because my family has never celebrated it with cake and presents.

Narrator: When Adrian finished speaking, he felt a lot better about being at the school.

Adrian: Talking about this let the other kids know about the atmosphere where I came from and helped me relax.

Narrator: Adrian learned many new things at the school. He learned that it's important to take baths and to wash his clothes. He stopped drinking and using drugs. He found that playing basketball at the gym helped cheer him up when he felt sad.

He came back to the school for fourth grade, fifth grade, and sixth grade. In the seventh grade, he studied the Bible with the pastor and decided that he wanted to give his heart to Jesus.

Adrian: The pastor told me who God is and taught me how to pray. I wanted to be baptized to make a public statement about my commitment to Jesus.

Narrator: After he was baptized, his mother and brothers made fun of him for becoming a Christian. They teased him for refusing to eat pork and other unclean meat. They didn't understand why he kept offering to help do chores around the house. But after a while, they began to see that he was sincere in his new beliefs and had really changed from the old Adrian. One day his mother said:

Mother: We are glad that you are changing and you are getting an education.

Narrator: Her words made Adrian so happy! His mother had never gone to school after eighth grade.

Today, Adrian is in the twelfth grade and is excited that five of his younger cousins are attending the school for the first time this year. He prayed all summer that his cousins—who are in the first through ninth grades—would be able to come, and he said God answered his prayer.

His youngest cousin, a first-grade boy, wasn't happy when he first arrived at the school. That first night in the dormitory, he cried and cried and asked to return home. Adrian did something that nobody did for him on his first night. He went to his little cousin's room to comfort him.

Adrian (speaking to little cousin crying in bed): "Try not to think about it. I was in your spot when I was small. You'll get used to it.

Narrator: Adrian no longer cries about home, but he does think about a new home—the place where he will live with Jesus one day. He can't wait! [Ask the audience:] What about you? Are you eager to live with Jesus?

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth

Sabbath Offering will help Holbrook school build a new gym and cafeteria. Adrian said the new gym is especially needed so more students will be able to cheer themselves up by playing basketball when they feel sad.

Adrian: And I feel embarrassed about the condition of the gym when visitors come to the school for community events. I want them to think the best of my new religion. Thank you for your big Thirteenth Sabbath Offering!

By Andrew McChesney

[Offering]

Adrian Wiles, 18, is in the twelfth grade.



Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

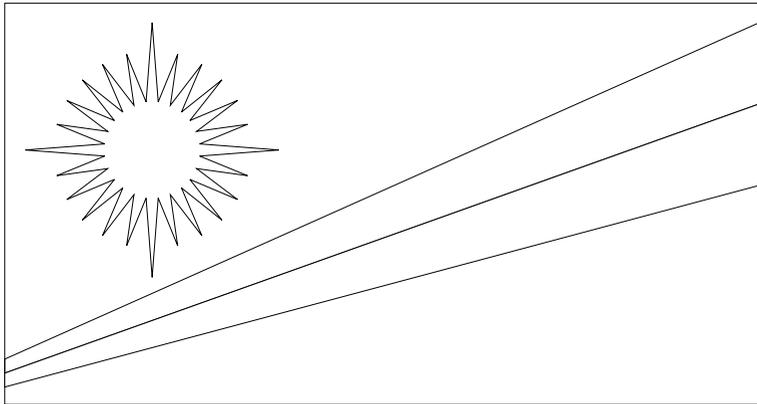
- A holistic inner-city church plant in China
- The first Adventist church in Sejong, South Korea
- A boarding academy in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
- A youth evangelism training center at Tokyo's Setagaya Church in Japan
- Six city health centers in Taiwan



Color The Flag

Color the flags from the countries in the North American Division that we are featuring this quarter.

MARSHALL ISLANDS



DIRECTIONS

The flag background is dark blue. The starburst and the bottom diagonal stripe are white, and the top diagonal stripe is red.

Let's Cook

MARSHALLESE CHUKUCHUK (RICE BALLS IN COCONUT)

These are made in the Marshall Islands for special occasions.

INGREDIENTS

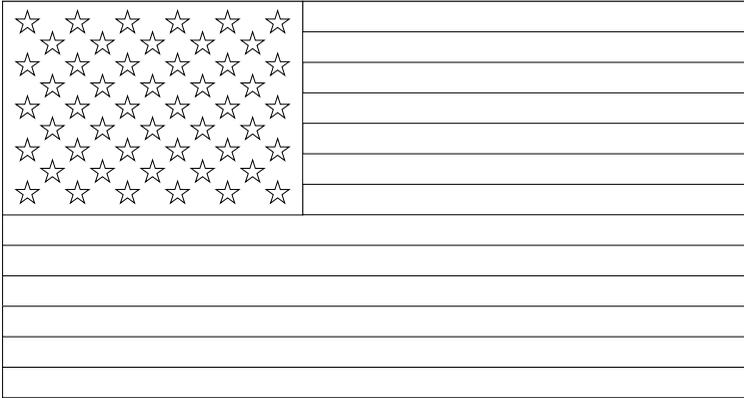
- 2 cups (400 grams) rice
- 1 cup (60 grams) shredded coconut

INSTRUCTIONS

Cook the rice, following the directions on the package if necessary. The steamed rice should be a little sticky when ready. When the rice is cool enough to handle, roll it into balls about the size of a golf ball. Roll them in the grated coconut. Enjoy!

Color The Flags

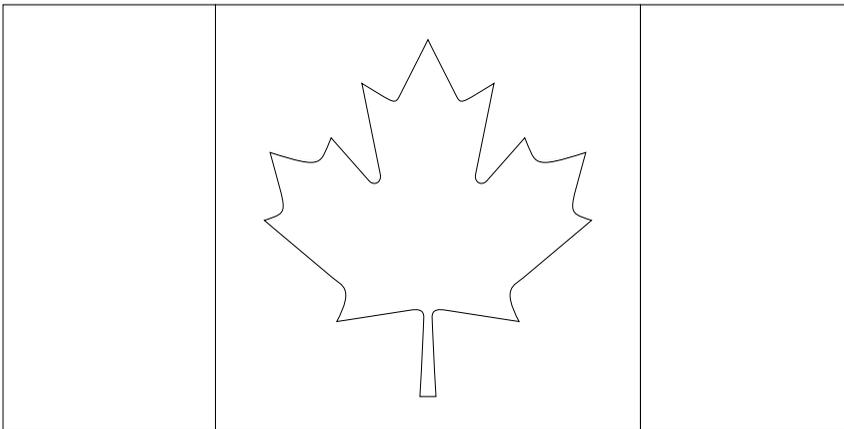
UNITED STATES



DIRECTIONS

The stars are white, on a blue background. The stripes are alternating red and white, starting and ending with red.

CANADA



DIRECTIONS

The side stripes and the maple leaf are red. The background of the middle is white.

Traditional Navajo Game

ASHBII (STICK GAME)

SUPPLIES:

A blanket, a basket or large bowl, three popsicle sticks

DIRECTIONS:

Take one popsicle stick and paint it black on one side and half black on the other side. Paint the next popsicle stick half black on one side and half red on the other side. Paint the last stick all red on one side and all black on the other side.

Stretch the blanket overhead. The players sit underneath it and around the basket. Take turns tossing the sticks upward, trying to get them in the basket.

Black or half-black faces count as one point, while red or half-red faces count for two. Crossing all black and all red, all black and half-red, all red and half-black or half-red and half-black earn three points; and crossing all-red with half-red count as five points. The first player to reach 25 points wins.

Learn Cree Animal Names



Mistatim



Ocikomsis



Atim



Kinosew



Niska



Maskwa

Canada Word Search

S L H S F E E W S D Y O E P S
 K S A M Y S H N G L K T L W N
 I L A C O R I E Z G T T K Z O
 I E E O R A U Z N O S O P L W
 N D M W T O I P B B N W E C B
 G Q E N A R S H Z L O A M I O
 J E U R G I C S Z O W P G C A
 J O S K A T E S E B M D E E R
 M W I L D R O S E S A L O D D
 G O O S E B W Z W R N B G O X



KEY



DEER	ICE	OTTAWA	SNOWBOARD
ELK	LACROSSE	SKATES	SNOWMAN
GOOSE	MOOSE	SKIING	SYRUP
GRIZZLY	MOUNTAINS	SLED	WILD ROSE

Leader's Resources

Be sure to download your free *Mission Spotlight* video, featuring video reports from around the North American Division and beyond at the link: bit.ly/missionspotlight.

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

Marshall Islands:

Marshall Islands government website
Ebeye SDA School Facebook page
Wikitravel

rmigov.com
bit.ly/EbeyeFB
bit.ly/WikiMI

Canada:

Canada's government website
World Travel Guide
Alberta's government website
Mamawi Atosketan Native School
Mamawi Atosketan Facebook Page
Lonely Planet

bit.ly/CanGov
bit.ly/TravelCan
mans1.ca
bit.ly/MamawiFB
bit.ly/LonelyAlb

United States:

U.S. government website
World Travel Guide
West Virginia's government website
Lonely Planet
Arizona's government website
Holbrook Indian School
Holbrook Indian School Facebook page
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bit.ly/AZVisit

Seventh-day Adventist

North American Division
Guam-Micronesia Mission
Adventist Church in Canada
Alberta Conference
Mountain View Conference
Arizona Conference

nadadventist.org
gmmsda.org
adventist.ca
bit.ly/AlbertaSDA
mtviewconf.org
azconference.org

An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Determine a goal for your class's weekly mission offering. Multiply it by 14, allowing a double goal for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

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 North American 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.

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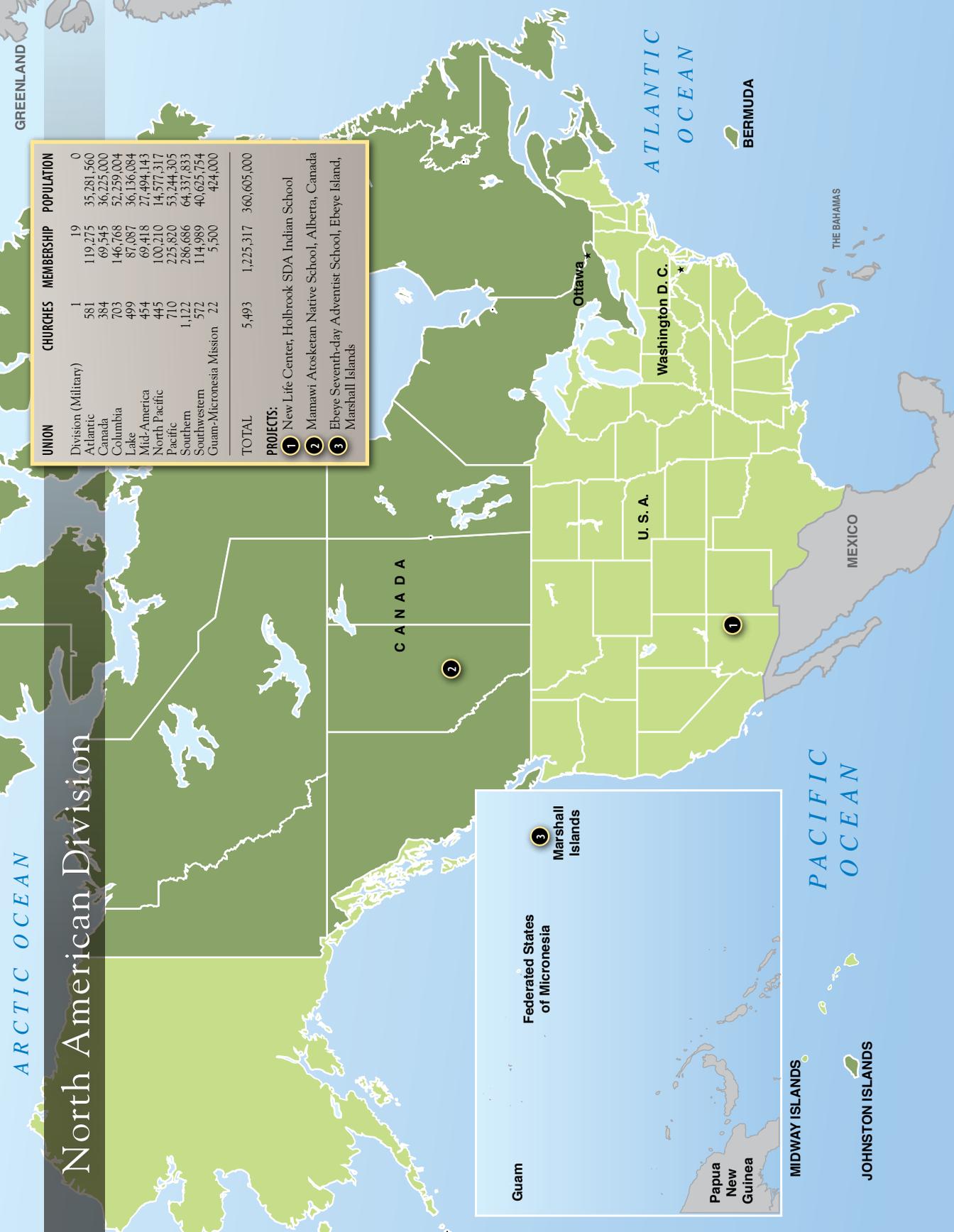
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North American Division

UNION	CHURCHES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Division (Military)	1	19	0
Atlantic	581	119,275	35,281,560
Canada	384	69,345	36,225,000
Columbia	703	146,768	52,259,004
Lake	499	87,087	36,136,084
Mid-America	454	69,418	27,494,143
North Pacific	445	100,210	14,577,317
Pacific	710	225,820	53,244,305
Southern	1,122	286,686	64,337,833
Southwestern	572	114,989	40,625,754
Guam-Micronesia Mission	22	5,500	424,000

TOTAL 5,493 1,225,317 360,605,000

PROJECTS:

- 1** New Life Center, Holbrook SDA Indian School
- 2** Mamawi Atosketan Native School, Alberta, Canada
- 3** Ebeve Seventh-day Adventist School, Ebeve Island, Marshall Islands



GREENLAND
ATLANTIC OCEAN
BERMUDA
THE BAHAMAS
MEXICO
U. S. A.
CANADA
Ottawa
Washington D. C.
PACIFIC OCEAN
MIDWAY ISLANDS
JOHNSTON ISLANDS