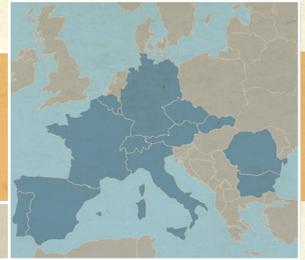




# CHILDREN'S MISSION

2020 • **QUARTER 1** • INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION



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**On the Cover:** Father stopped. Mother stopped. But David Lucas Dolete Druga kept praying in Spain. God's miraculous answer put his parents to shame. Read story, page 26

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# Your Offerings at Work



Three years ago, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped construct a Seventh-day Adventist church in Ragusa, Italy. You can read stories from Ragusa on pages 20 and 22.



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## Dear Sabbath School Leader,

Andrew McChesney  
Editor



This quarter we feature the Inter-European Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in 20 countries and territories: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, and Vatican City.

The region is home to 338.1 million people, including 178,453 Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for 1,895 people.

God is doing great things in this region. As I traveled across Europe, I heard astounding stories about angels, dreams, and miracles. Every supernatural encounter led to the same result — one or more individuals being drawn to Jesus. I am excited to share these stories with you!

The four Thirteenth Sabbath projects for this quarter are listed on this page.

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive, we offer a variety

of photos, videos, and other materials to accompany each mission story. More information is provided in the sidebar with each story. Download a PDF of facts and activities at [bit.ly/EUD-fastfacts-2020](http://bit.ly/EUD-fastfacts-2020). Also, follow us at [facebook.com/missionquarterlies](https://facebook.com/missionquarterlies).

For photos of tourist sites and other scenes from the featured countries, I recommend searching on a free photo bank such as [pixabay.com](http://pixabay.com) and [unsplash.com](http://unsplash.com).

You also can download the PDF version of the Children's Mission magazine at [bit.ly/childrensmisson](http://bit.ly/childrensmisson) and the youth and adult Mission magazine at [bit.ly/adultmission](http://bit.ly/adultmission). Mission Spotlight videos are available at [bit.ly/missionspotlight](http://bit.ly/missionspotlight). A printable mission bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at [bit.ly/bank-coloring-page](http://bit.ly/bank-coloring-page). If you have found effective ways to share mission stories, or if I can be of assistance, contact me at [mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org](mailto:mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org).

Your support for mission is essential for church unity. Ellen White writes in "Christian Service," p. 47, "Never can the unity for which Christ prayed exist until spirituality is brought into missionary service, and until the church becomes an agency for the support of missions. The efforts of the missionaries will not accomplish what they should until the church members in the home field show, not only in word, but in deed, that they realize the obligation resting on them to give these missionaries their hearty support."

Thank you for encouraging children to be mission-minded! 

### Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help to:

- Expand Sagunto Adventist College with a new seminary building in Spain
- Renovate landmark main building at Marienhöhe Academy in Darmstadt, Germany
- Establish an educational outreach program for vulnerable children in the Czech Republic and Slovakia
- Build a church with children's center in Sofia, Bulgaria



SLOVAKIA | January 4

## God in the Home

Samko Polhoš, 12

Grandmother and 5-year-old Samko stopped on the dirt street and stared as dozens of people streamed into the Mižigar family house on a Saturday morning.

A crowd meant only one thing in their Roma village in Slovakia: a fistfight!

Curious, Grandmother pulled Samko toward the house. She wanted to catch a glimpse of the fistfight.

But no one was throwing punches inside the house. Instead, 50 people were crammed into a large living room. They sang songs about Jesus and prayed.

Samko watched closely. He listened to the songs and prayers. He liked them.

After about two hours, the meeting ended, and Grandmother said it was time to go.

Father was furious when he saw Samko and Grandmother. He had been searching for them for two hours, going from house to house in Rakúsy.

“Where have you been?” Father asked,

angrily. “Where did Satan take you?”

“We went to the Mižigar home,”

Grandmother said, calmly.

“Why were you there?” Father demanded. He had heard that Christians worshipped there on Saturdays. “Devils live in their home.”

“No, no. They have really nice singing there,” Grandmother said. “God must live in the house.”

“No, it must be Satan,” Father said. He didn’t want to discuss the matter further.

Grandmother fell silent, but Samko couldn’t keep still. As he walked around the house, he sang songs that he had heard about Jesus. He went to Father.

“Daddy, I want to take you to that house next Sabbath so you can see what is going on,” he said.

“No,” Father said. “I won’t go.”

But when Saturday came, Samko returned to Father. “Let’s go to that house,” he said.

When Father refused, the boy took him

by the hand. “Let’s go,” he insisted.

Father went. The tall man and little boy walked hand in hand to the house church.

Grandmother was already seated in the house when Samko and Father arrived, but they didn’t see each other because of the crowd. Father and Samko stood against a wall, listening to the singing. Suddenly, Father started to cry. The tears surprised him. He was a strong man who never cried. Even when his grandparents had died, he hadn’t shed a tear.

Samko also was surprised. He had never seen Father cry.

Across the room, Grandmother caught a glimpse of Father and saw that he was crying. She began to cry.

“He will become a Christian one day,” she thought, tears of joy flowing down her cheeks.

That afternoon, Grandmother asked Father, “Who do you think was present in that house? Satan or God?”

Father had no doubt. “I’m convinced that God lives in that place,” he said.

He couldn’t explain why he had cried, but something changed inside him. From that day, he stopped drinking alcohol and yelling at Mother and the children. He started to read the Bible from the beginning, in Genesis. He read the Bible every day for six months, often smoking as he read. Then suddenly he threw away his cigarette.

Father used to refuse to share with his family what little money he earned doing irregular jobs. But then he found full-time work as a logger and began to take care of his family. He also stopped going out with his friends and instead spent time with Mother, Samko, and Samko’s two siblings.

## Story Tips

- Find Kežmarok, Slovakia, on the map. Rakúsy is located just outside the town.
- Know that Samko’s full name is Samuel. His last name, Polhoš, is pronounced: pol-HOSH.
- Read about Peter Mižigar, who organized the house church, in the youth and adult Mission magazine.
- Watch Samko on YouTube: [bit.ly/Samko-Polhos](https://bit.ly/Samko-Polhos).
- Download photos on Facebook ([bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq)) or ADAMS databank ([bit.ly/God-in-Home](https://bit.ly/God-in-Home)).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: [bit.ly/eud-2020-projects](https://bit.ly/eud-2020-projects).

Father returned to the house church every Sabbath following the first visit. After two years, he was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Grandmother and Mother also were baptized — on the same Sabbath.

Samko, who is now 12, wants to be baptized. Every Sabbath, he goes with Father, Mother, and Grandmother to the new Seventh-day Adventist church that was built in his village in 2018. He said God lives in his home.

“Life is better now,” he said. “Father reads the Bible to us, and he works to support us. 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help fund a program for vulnerable children at Samko’s church in Rakúsy, Slovakia. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney



SLOVAKIA | January 11

Dominika Gaborova, 15

# Praying for Father

Dominika Gaborova couldn't wait to tell Father about Jesus.

After attending a Seventh-day Adventist church, she ran through the door and greeted Father at their home in Rakúsy, a Roma settlement in Slovakia.

"I believe in Jesus!" she exclaimed.

Father turned away. He didn't want to listen.

Dominika felt sad.

Then Uncle Robert came to visit. He was a Seventh-day Adventist, and Father couldn't refuse to listen to him.

"Do you remember how I used to live?" Uncle Robert said. "Well, I don't live that way anymore because Jesus helped me, and my life is much better now."

Father knew that Uncle Robert was telling the truth. He accepted an invitation from Uncle Robert to go to a Bible study group at a neighbor's house.

While attending the Bible study, Father

believed in Jesus. He stopped smoking and drinking and gambling. He and Dominika, who was 12, were baptized together.

Dominika liked her new father. In the morning and evening, they prayed and read the Bible together. They went to church together on Sabbath.

But one day, Father had an argument with someone at church. The next Sabbath, he refused to go to church. He began to smoke and drink and gamble again.

Dominika felt so sad. She prayed for Father to return to God.

"My God, I beg you to help Father to stop smoking," she said. "Please bring Father back to church so we can go together as a family to church again."

She prayed every day. Every time she read the Bible, she shared what she had read with Father. He listened thoughtfully.

Several months passed, and Father stopped gambling. Then he stopped

drinking. One Sabbath, he called out to Dominika as she prepared to go to church.

“Wait for me,” he said. “I’m going with you.”

Dominika was overjoyed! God was answering her prayers.

She continued to pray for Father. She kept sharing Bible verses. One day, she read 1 Corinthians 13 and gave her Bible to Father so he also could read the chapter.

Father began to weep as he read. The tears surprised Dominika. Father was a big, strong man, and she had never seen him cry. Father read, “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

He hugged Dominika tightly.

“Thank you,” he said. “Thank you for helping me to find my way back to God.”

Nowadays, Father goes to church sometimes, and he still smokes. But he is facing great pressure to fully give his heart back to God. An Adventist neighbor visits regularly and reminds him that he is father not only of Dominika but also of five younger sons and daughters.

“Can’t you see that life is better with God than without Him?” she says.

Mother is not an Adventist, but she

## Story Tips

- Find Kežmarok, Slovakia, on the map. Rakúsy is located just outside the town.
- Watch Dominika on YouTube: [bit.ly/Dominika-Gaborova](http://bit.ly/Dominika-Gaborova).
- Download photos on Facebook ([bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq)) or ADAMS databank ([bit.ly/Praying-for-Father](http://bit.ly/Praying-for-Father)).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: [bit.ly/eud-2020-projects](http://bit.ly/eud-2020-projects).

also wants Father to return to God.

“You were a better man when you went to church,” she tells him.

Dominika is praying every day for Father and Mother to give their hearts fully to God.

“I’m very grateful to God because I can see that God is helping us,” she said. 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help fund a program for vulnerable children at Dominika’s church in Rakúsy, Slovakia. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

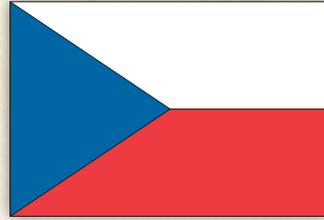
By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING  
SLOVAKIA

The most popular sports in Slovakia are ice hockey and soccer.





CZECH REPUBLIC | January 25

Yana Stoyka, 14

# Power of One Baptism

**W**hat is the power of one baptism? As a little girl, Yana Stoyka wanted to be baptized, but her parents said she was too young. When she was 13, she suddenly remembered her wish to be baptized. She didn't just remember the idea. A strong, irresistible desire filled her.

"I want to be baptized!" she told herself.

Yana started taking a six-month baptismal class at the Russian-speaking Seventh-day Adventist church that her family attended in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. She excitedly told relatives and friends about her plans to give her heart to Jesus.

Olga, a 21-year-old adopted sister in Ukraine, heard the news and announced, "I want to be baptized, too!" Olga began taking baptismal classes in Ukraine and made plans to travel to Prague to be baptized on the same Sabbath as Yana.

Yana was thrilled that Olga wanted

to be baptized. Now one baptism would become two baptisms.

As the baptism day drew near, Yana invited relatives and friends to watch at the church. She also invited her 17 ninth-grade classmates from her school, the only Adventist school in Prague.

"I am very excited about being baptized," Yana said. "This is a big celebration, and I would be happy if you came."

The school principal marveled at Yana's countenance as she spoke with her classmates, many of whom belonged to other Christian denominations or do not go to church at all. Yana's face was shining with joy.

Finally the big Sabbath, Sept. 22, 2018, arrived. Relatives and friends packed the church. Yana was so happy. When she came out of the water, she realized that her dream had come true.

The pastor asked the audience who

wanted to be baptized next time. Yana's younger sister, Esther, immediately leaped to her feet and ran to the front of the church. Two teenage girls joined her.

Yana was thrilled. Now one baptism would become five baptisms.

Eight of Yana's classmates accepted her invitation to attend the baptism. After a little while, three of those classmates — two girls and one boy — decided that they also wanted to be baptized.

Yana was thrilled. Now one baptism would become eight baptisms.

But that wasn't the end.

Yana has an older sister named Diana, who is 21 and a university student in Ukraine. Diana traveled to Prague to watch Yana's baptism. Afterward she said, "You know, I also wanted to be baptized."

A month later, Diana was baptized in Ukraine.

What is the power of one baptism?

The Holy Spirit used Yana's decision to be baptized to touch the hearts of eight other people. One baptism became nine baptisms.

"After I was baptized, other people also wanted to be baptized," Yana said. "Praise God!" 🌍

## Story Tips

- Find Prague, Czech Republic, on the map.
- Ask the children if they have thought about being baptized. Nurture a desire in them to give their hearts to Jesus every day, even before baptism. If appropriate, suggest that they ask their parents about baptism.
- Read more about children and baptism at the Adventist world church's Children's Ministries website: [children.adventist.org/children-and-baptism](http://children.adventist.org/children-and-baptism).
- Know that one of Yana's classmates who is preparing for baptism is Larisa, who was featured in last week's mission story.
- Watch Yana and her sister, Esther, on YouTube: [bit.ly/Yana-Stoyka](https://bit.ly/Yana-Stoyka).
- Download photos on Facebook ([bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq)) or ADAMS databank ([bit.ly/power-of-baptism](https://bit.ly/power-of-baptism)).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: [bit.ly/eud-2020-projects](https://bit.ly/eud-2020-projects).

Part of this Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help fund programs for at-risk children in the Czech Republic.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING  
CZECHS

Czechs have invented the first grounded lightning rod, the screw propeller, the modern compass, sugar cubes, photogravure, the arc lamp, the plastic explosive Semtex, and soft contact lenses, among other things.





ROMANIA | February 1

Naomi Felicia Maftei, 13

# When a Heart Stopped

Naomi Felicia Maftei was running late to church school in Constanta, Romania.

Thinking that she had already missed morning worship, she rushed straight to her classroom.

The teacher stopped her at the door. “You have to go to worship,” she said.

Naomi turned around and raced to the worship hall. She could feel her heart pounding as she ran. She didn’t even think about stopping to rest. She was terribly late for worship.

In the worship hall, she stopped to look for a place to sit. Her vision became blurry. Everything went black. A classmate caught Naomi as she fell to the floor. Someone called the school nurse.

The next thing Naomi knew, she was lying on a bed at the nurse’s station. The nurse was performing CPR on her.

Naomi stood up and tried to leave.

“You need to lay back down and wait for the ambulance to arrive,” the nurse said.

The nurse had called 112, the Romanian emergency hotline, while Naomi was unconscious.

Naomi lay back down, and her heart stopped.

From that point, Naomi only knows what her parents told her later.

The ambulance arrived, and two paramedics tried to restart Naomi’s heart. Eight times they gave her shocks with a defibrillator. Her heart remained still. The paramedics took turns giving CPR.

Ten minutes, 20 minutes, 30 minutes passed. The paramedics were exhausted, but they kept on. After an hour of CPR, Naomi’s heart began to beat feebly. The heartbeat was enough for the paramedics to carry her to the ambulance.

At the hospital, medical doctors inserted tubes into the girl and supplied medicine to strengthen her heart.

Naomi regained consciousness and groggily tried to remove the tubes. A

nurse gave her a sedative to put her into an induced coma.

The doctors had a serious talk with Father and Mother. Naomi, they said, would never recover because her heart had stopped for so long, depriving her brain of oxygen.

“If she lives, she won’t be able to talk,” a doctor said. “She won’t recognize you. She always will be connected to machines and unable to live a normal life.”

Naomi woke up after four hours. A nurse hesitantly quizzed her to test whether her brain was functioning normally.

“What is your name?” the nurse said.

“Naomi,” Naomi said.

What is the date?”

“Friday, March 3,” Naomi answered correctly.

Doctors crowded around Naomi’s bed to express amazement that she was awake and talking. Church members stopped by that evening to pray with her. Naomi was talkative and happy, as if nothing had happened. Ten days later, Naomi was back at school. Teachers and classmates were astounded.

“God can do anything,” Naomi said. “Now I realize what it means for God to do miracles.” 🌍

## Story Tips

- Find Constanta, Romania, on the map.
- Tell the children that Naomi has a special message for them. “Other children should learn from my story that they can believe in God’s power,” she said. “It’s enough to believe in His power.”
- Remind the children that the Romanian emergency hotline number is 112 and ask what the number is in their country. Ask them who they can call in any emergency (Jesus).
- Watch Naomi on YouTube: [bit.ly/Naomi-Maftei](https://bit.ly/Naomi-Maftei).
- Download photos on Facebook ([bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq)) or ADAMS databank ([bit.ly/When-Heart-Stopped](https://bit.ly/When-Heart-Stopped)).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: [bit.ly/eud-2020-projects](https://bit.ly/eud-2020-projects).

Three years ago, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to help a church outreach program for children and young people in Romania. Thank you for your offering.

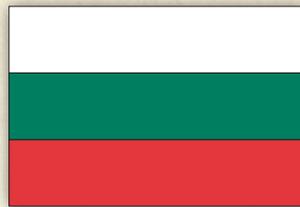
By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING  
ROMANIA

Peles Castle in Sinaia was the first European castle entirely lit by electricity, which was produced by the castle’s own plant, and its central heating system, built in 1888, is still functional and in use today.





BULGARIA | February 8

## Rattling Wheel

**Borislav Mitov, 69**

Three Seventh-day Adventists piled into the car and headed for Blagoevgrad, a city in southwestern Bulgaria.

It was communist times, and the law was strict. The authorities wouldn't allow an Adventist pastor to visit the city, where a group of five Roma wanted to hear the Word of God. So Borislav Mitov, a 35-year-old Roma Adventist, invited two friends to join him on the 45-mile (70-kilometer) trip from Kyustendil.

About halfway into the trip, the car suddenly made a loud noise and shook violently. Borislav stopped the car, and he and the passengers got out to take a look at the source of the noise. They saw that something had broken around the area of the front wheel on the driver's side.

"We can't continue," he said. "We need to get the car repaired here."

Borislav, because the car was his, also wasn't sure that he wanted to continue.

But the other friend had strong faith. "Let's go," he said. "God will be with us."

Borislav and the skeptical friend were reluctant, but the friend kept encouraging them. Borislav started the engine.

*Pop! pop! pop! pop!* The car made a loud noise and shook violently.

Borislav slowed down. *Pop! pop! pop! pop!* The rattling noise seemed to grow louder.

"Let's turn on the music so we can't hear that noise," a friend suggested.

"No, let's sing so we can't hear it," said the other.

The men decided to sing a hymn.

As they began to sing, something amazing happened. The loud *pop, pop, pop, pop* stopped. The violent shaking ended. The car purred quietly and smoothly. The men sang all the way to their destination.

People were waiting eagerly to learn from the Bible. Borislav realized that the trip had been important and that Satan had tried to stop them.

## Story Tips

- Find Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, on the map. Show the route from Kyustendil to Blagoevgrad.
- Watch Borislav on YouTube: [bit.ly/Borislav-Mitov](http://bit.ly/Borislav-Mitov).
- Download photos on Facebook ([bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq)) or ADAMS databank ([bit.ly/Rattling-Wheel](http://bit.ly/Rattling-Wheel)).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: [bit.ly/eud-2020-projects](http://bit.ly/eud-2020-projects).

After the visit, the faithful friend said, “Let’s not wait to repair the car here. Let’s sing again.”

The other two thought it was a childish idea. But seeing that it was midnight, they accepted his suggestion because there was nothing else that they could do.

*Pop! pop! pop! pop!* The car rattled and shook. But as soon as the three men started to sing a hymn, the noise and shaking stopped.

After a while, the men grew tired and stopped singing. They rode in complete silence for a minute.

*Pop! pop! pop! pop!*

The men opened their mouths and

sang. The noise and shaking stopped.

Borislav only realized the extent of the miracle when he took the car to be repaired. The mechanic looked at the car in disbelief. “There’s no way that this car could have driven there and back,” he said. “After the wheel bearing broke, the front wheel should have jammed after just a minute or two.”

From the small Roma group, a Seventh-day Adventist church was established in Blagoevgrad that continues to meet and grow to this very day. Borislav himself went on to become a pastor.

He is now 69 and retired, but he hasn’t forgotten the rattling wheel. It reminds him of James 4:7, which says, “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (NKJV).

“The lesson that I learned is we should resist the devil so he will flee from us,” he said. 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a new church building for Sophia West Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria. Thank you for planning to give.

By Andrew McChesney



Every year on March 1, Baba Marta Day (Grandmother March), Bulgarians exchange martenitsi, small pieces of adornment, made of white and red yarn, usually in the form of two dolls, a male and a female (Pizho, who is usually white, and Penda, who is usually red). Martenitsi are worn from Baba Marta Day until the wearer first sees a stork, swallow, or blossoming tree (or until late March) and symbolize the end of Winter.





BULGARIA | February 15

Boyan Karl Smilov, 23

## Courage the Dog

Two young men started down the hiking trail just as the early morning sun peeked over rugged mountains in Bulgaria.

Their backpacks were loaded with food, water, clothes, and a tent. The young men were three days into a five-day hike of the Balkan Mountains. The previous day, they had reached the highest point, Botev Peak, and now they faced a long 9 ½-hour trek before pitching the tent for the night.

Almost as soon as they started hiking, Boyan Karl Smilov noticed a dog.

“Look at that,” Boyan told his friend, Lyubo. “Maybe he is following us to the place where the trail splits in two.”

The dog was huge. If it stood on its hind legs, it would be taller than Boyan or Lyubo. Dried mud clung to its straggly fur.

Boyan called over the dog, and he and Lyubo patted him. The dog wagged its tail.

It took two hours for Boyan and Lyubo to hike to the place where the trail split

in two. Then the trail became very steep, and they struggled to climb up it.

The dog, however, easily climbed ahead of them. When they stopped to catch their breath, the dog also stopped and looked at them, panting, with its long tongue hanging out. It looked like the dog was laughing and saying, “Come on you two-footed creatures. You’re too slow.”

Reaching the top of the next peak two hours later, Boyan and Lyubo decided to give the dog a name. Lyubo, who was good at names, said, “Let’s call him Courage.”

“That’s a great name,” Boyan said. “Good job in following us, Courage.”

Boyan and Lyubo continued hiking, with Courage leading the way. Cow herders live on the Balkan Mountains, and the hikers passed many herds of cows guarded by big, mean dogs. Sometimes the dogs barked and snarled at the hikers.

At long last, the hikers reached the

clearing for the night. Courage disappeared.

As they settled down to sleep, they heard growling.

“Is that a wolf?” Boyan asked.

Then they heard mooing as cows passed by.

“It must be the growling of a cow herder’s dog,” Lyubo said and fell asleep.

Boyan, however, couldn’t sleep. He could hear the animal walking around and growling. His imagination took over, and he imagined the cow herder’s dog fiercely attacking the tent. The growling got closer and closer to the tent. Boyan reached for his small hunting knife.

Then snoring pierced the night air. Boyan heaved a sigh of relief.

“Whew, Courage is back,” he said.

Just as he was dozing off, loud barking shattered the night. Courage and a cow herder’s dog were barking angrily at each other. But Boyan wasn’t scared. “That’s why Courage was following us,” he thought. “God sent the dog to protect us.”

He fell asleep. The next morning, Courage disappeared and never returned.

Psalms 91:5 has a new meaning for Boyan. The verse says, “You shall not be afraid of the terror by night.”

## Story Tips

- Find the Balkans Mountains and Botev Peak on the map.
- Pronounce Boyan as: boo-YAN.
- Watch Boyan on YouTube: [bit.ly/Boyan-Smilov](http://bit.ly/Boyan-Smilov).
- Download photos on Facebook ([bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq)) or ADAMS databank ([bit.ly/Courage-the-Dog](http://bit.ly/Courage-the-Dog)).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: [bit.ly/eud-2020-projects](http://bit.ly/eud-2020-projects).

Boyan has never forgotten Courage. When he is scared at night, he remembers Courage and tells himself, “God always protects you, even though you may not realize it.” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a new church building for Sophia West Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria. Thank you for planning a gift.

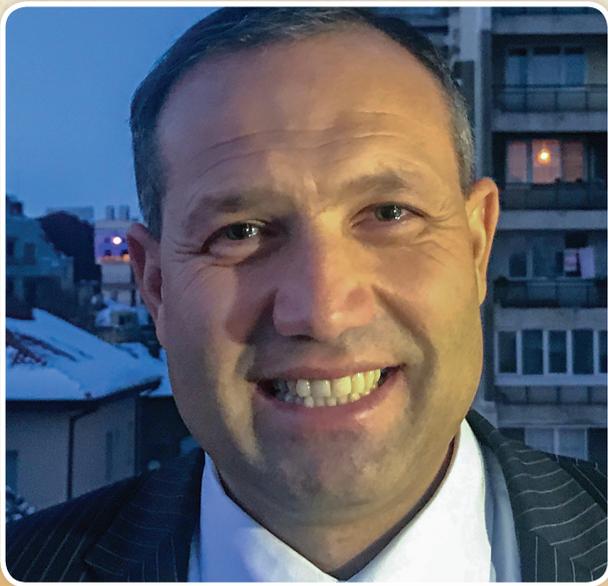
By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING  
NATURE

The Rock-hewn Churches of Ivanovo are a group of monolithic churches, chapels, and monasteries hewn out of solid rock. The caves in the region were inhabited by monks from the 13th to the 17th centuries, where they cut cells, churches, and chapels out of solid rock.





BULGARIA | February 22

Sergey Dimitrov, 48

## The Worshipper

Two men showed up in the Bulgarian village of Bukovlak and went straight to 11-year-old Sergey Dimitrov's house.

The men wore suits and ties, and their hair was nicely combed. Father was scared. He thought they might be undercover police who wanted to put him in jail.

Father heaved a sigh of relief when the two men introduced themselves as Seventh-day Adventist pastors. Even though religion was illegal in then-communist Bulgaria, a pastor was better than a police investigator.

The pastors explained that one of Father's relatives, a Seventh-day Adventist who lived far away, had asked them to visit Sergey's sister, who was ill.

Sergey watched with curiosity as the pastors gathered the family for prayer.

A short time later, his sister got well, and Father invited the pastors to return to pray again. The pastors were prepared

to do more than pray. They arrived with a bag of children's crafts and a children's Bible film on a reel that could be watched with a hand-cranked projector.

Calling Sergey, a pastor said, "Go invite your friends to do crafts and watch the film. We want to teach them about Jesus."

Sergey ran from house to house as fast as he could in the village of 3,500 people. He was worried that the film would begin without him. His friends also didn't want to miss the film. Some came running barefoot. Others arrived without any pants.

Forty-five children crowded into Sergey's living room and watched the film. Then they did crafts and listened to the pastors tell a story from the Bible. Each child received a piece of candy.

The children couldn't wait for the pastors to visit again.

"When will you come again to show us a film?" they asked.

Two weeks later, the pastors returned with a new movie and more crafts.

Sergey ran from house to house to invite his friends. After the movie, crafts, and Bible story, each child received a piece of candy. Everyone begged the pastors to return soon.

The pastors visited every other week for three months. Sergey kept careful watch of which children were attending and which were missing the visits. He went to the homes of those who were missing and invited them to come. He wanted more children in his house so it would be more fun.

Finally, the pastors announced to Sergey that they would not visit anymore. They gave him a Bible and asked him to continue the meetings. They showed him to share stories from the Bible.

Sergey kept the meetings going in his house. Some children at school made fun of him and called him “the Priest” and “the Worshipper.” A few boys jeeringly told him that he would never find a wife because no woman would want a Christian husband. The words hurt, but Sergey didn’t react. He only prayed silently, “God, please forgive them.”

One day, a neighbor woman called out to Sergey as he walked past her house.

“Hey, Priest,” she said. “Come inside. My son is dying.”

Sergey followed her into the house and found her boy lying unconscious on a bed. He had fallen while riding his bicycle.

Sergey prayed and asked the mother to pray. When she said she didn’t know how, he instructed her to repeat after him. As she finished praying, her son opened his eyes.

Later, Sergey gave the family a Bible that he had received from the Adventist relative who lived far away.

## Story Tips

- Find Bukovlak, Bulgaria, on the map.
- Watch Sergey on YouTube: [bit.ly/Sergey-Dimitrov](http://bit.ly/Sergey-Dimitrov).
- Download photos on Facebook ([bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq)) or ADAMS databank ([bit.ly/The-Worshipper](http://bit.ly/The-Worshipper)).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: [bit.ly/eud-2020-projects](http://bit.ly/eud-2020-projects).

Sergey became the first Seventh-day Adventist in his village when he was baptized at the age of 16. When he was 18, he planted the first Adventist church in the village. The church building was constructed with funds that he solicited from then-General Conference president Robert S. Folkenberg, who was visiting Bulgaria at the time.

Eight children who used to visit his house to watch Bible movies also have been baptized, and today they attend Sergey’s church with their own children. The mother whose son was in the bicycle accident also became an Adventist.

“From a humble beginning, many people were baptized,” said Sergey, who is 48. “Now 86 members and many visitors come to the church every Sabbath.” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a new church building for Sophia West Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sofia, Bulgaria. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney



ITALY | February 29

## A Story to Tell

Manuel Iacono, 9

In the morning, 2-year-old Manuel Iacono joined Father and Mother for Sabbath worship services at Ragusa Seventh-day Adventist Church on the Italian island of Sicily. In the afternoon, they went for a picnic in the woods.

Midway through the picnic, little Manuel began to struggle to breathe. Mother touched his forehead and felt a hot fever. Then Manuel vomited milk all over himself. Mother grabbed the tiny boy and ran to the car, praying, “God, You created him. Only You can save him.” Father followed close behind.

In the car, Mother noticed angry red pimples on Manuel’s hands and arms. The pimples spread to his chest and back. He struggled to breathe.

“God, You created him,” Mother prayed frantically. “Only You can save him.”

At the hospital, a nurse placed an oxygen mask over Manuel’s nose and

mouth to help him to breathe. The physician, a young woman, wondered whether something might have bitten the boy in the woods. But no one could find any bite marks on his body.

Manuel was hospitalized for the night. Mother stayed with him, praying desperately. Even though the doctors didn’t know what was wrong, she felt certain that God could save her son.

“God, You created him,” Mother prayed. “Only You can save him.”

Twelve days passed. Manuel continued to struggle to breathe. He still had a fever, and red pimples covered his body. The doctor called other doctors for help, but no one could diagnose the illness. Finally, the doctor told Mother to take Manuel home.

“We can’t do anything,” she said. “The only thing left to do is pray.”

Mother had been praying nonstop for 12 days, and she prayed again.

“God, You created him,” she said. “Only You can save him.”

Opening her eyes, she looked down at Manuel. He was breathing more easily.

Over the next few hours, the red pimples faded away. The fever left.

The doctor couldn't believe it. No one could explain what had happened. Everyone declared that it was a miracle.

Manuel was too small to remember the illness, but he knows all the details because Mother reminds him every day. He has been telling others about the miracle since he was 3 and in kindergarten. He constantly looks for opportunities to share his personal testimony.

Now 9, he recently told his story during Bible class at school. On another day, the teacher spoke about prayer, and Manuel told how his mother's prayers had saved his life. When classmates talk about God at recess, he tells them about God's power during his illness. When he is invited to speak at Sabbath School and birthday parties, he relates his story again.

"I look for chances to tell people about what God did for me," Manuel said.

As a result of his personal testimony, friends have asked Manuel to tell them more about God. He gave a children's Bible to one of his friends. Manuel hopes his story will lead many people to God. 🌍

## Story Tips

- Find Ragusa, Italy, in the map. It is located in Sicily.
- Know that Mother, whose name is Eliana Di Marco, wants Manuel always to share his story. "It was a dramatic situation for us. We were desperate because no one could help us," she said. "This is why I remind Manuel about Jesus' miracle in his life."
- Ask children what wonderful thing that God has done for them can they tell others. Their story can be an answer to prayer or something else. Challenge the children to share their personal testimony with at least three people in the coming week — and then ask them to share the results next Sabbath.
- Watch Manuel on YouTube: [bit.ly/Manuel-Iacono](http://bit.ly/Manuel-Iacono).

Download photos on Facebook ([bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq)) or ADAMS databank ([bit.ly/A-Story-to-Tell](http://bit.ly/A-Story-to-Tell)).

Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: [bit.ly/eud-2020-projects](http://bit.ly/eud-2020-projects).

Part of a 2016 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped construct the church building where Manuel worships every Sabbath in Ragusa, Italy. Thank you!

By Andrew McChesney

Italy occupies a unique place in denominational history in that it was the first country in Europe in which Adventist doctrines were preached. M.B. Czechowski, a former Polish Catholic priest, was baptized in 1857 and worked among French-speaking people in the United States. He failed to persuade the Seventh-day Adventists to send him to Europe, so he went under the sponsorship of another Adventist denomination, arriving in Torre Pellice, in the Waldensian valleys of Piedmont, northern Italy, in 1864, where he taught Seventh-day Adventist doctrines.



ITALY | March 7

Thomas Boldrini, 7

# Life Without Pizza

When Thomas was 1, Mother gave him a little piece of cheese to eat. He ate the cheese and suddenly couldn't breathe.

Mother rushed the baby to the hospital, where a medical doctor saved his life. But the doctor announced that Thomas had a serious allergy to milk.

That was a big deal in Italy, where Thomas lives. Italians love milk. In addition to drinking milk, Italians love pizza with mozzarella cheese and spaghetti with Parmesan cheese. They also love gelato and cakes, which are made with milk. But Thomas couldn't eat any of those foods or he might die.

The allergy changed his family's life. When Thomas was invited to a friend's birthday party, Mother had to make him a special cake. At the gelato stand, Thomas could only order granita, a Sicilian dessert often made from ice and lemon juice. Mother told church members about

Thomas' allergy, and they changed their favorite church pizza parties on Saturday nights. Pizza was still served, but only with crust and tomato sauce. No cheese on top.

Mother wondered how Thomas would survive with his allergy in Italy. Thomas wondered how he would survive. Every evening at family worship, he prayed for help.

"I want to get well, Jesus, so I can eat like other children," he said.

Mother also prayed, and she contacted many doctors to ask for help. Finally she found a doctor from Israel who said that maybe he could do something. He was experimenting with a new treatment.

Three months passed. Thomas and Mother kept praying. Then one day the doctor from Israel announced that the treatment was over and Thomas could eat any food that he wanted.

Mother was skeptical, so the doctor

## Story Tips

- Find Ragusa, Italy, in the map. It is located on a mountain on the southern island of Sicily.
- Know that Mother, whose name is Alessandra Covato, is convinced that God, not the treatment, cured Thomas' allergy. The second doctor ran tests and thought that Thomas was still allergic to milk — until he performed the experiment with the half glass of milk.
- Watch Thomas on YouTube: [bit.ly/Thomas-Boldrini](https://bit.ly/Thomas-Boldrini).
- Download photos on Facebook ([bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq)) or ADAMS databank ([bit.ly/Life-Without-Pizza](https://bit.ly/Life-Without-Pizza)).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: [bit.ly/eud-2020-projects](https://bit.ly/eud-2020-projects).

suggested that she bring a cake to his office and they eat it together.

Instead, Mother baked a lemon cake. She used a lot of flour — 4 cups (500 grams) — and just a tiny drop of milk — 2 tablespoons (30 grams). The next day, she cut an itchy-bitsy piece for Thomas.

Mother watched carefully to see whether Thomas would have an allergic reaction. Nothing happened.

Mother took Thomas to another doctor who, after running tests, said the boy was still allergic to milk. But when Mother told him about the lemon cake, he offered to do an experiment. He gave Thomas a half glass of milk and told him to drink it over seven hours in the hospital.

“If anything bad happens, we have medicine ready to save Thomas' life,” he said.

Thomas slowly drank the milk over

seven hours. Nothing happened.

“You have completely recovered,” the doctor said with surprise. “You can eat everything, including dairy. This is a miracle!”

The next morning, Thomas drank milk for the first time for breakfast.

At church on Sabbath, Thomas and Mother announced the big news that God had answered their prayers. The church members rejoiced. Several wept. That evening, the church threw a big pizza party. Everyone, including Thomas, ate pizza with cheese on top. Afterward they ate gelato, even though it was February and very cold outside.

Today, Thomas is 7 and filled with gratitude to God. At family worship every night, Thomas thanks God for His goodness. He is no longer worried about his health, and he prays for help with something else.

“Thank you, God, for all the things I have and for helping me to get better from my allergy,” he says. “Tonight, I'm only asking you for good dreams, or no dreams at all.”

He knows God cured his milk allergy and can stop bad dreams, too. 🌍

Three years ago, your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped construct a new church building in Thomas' hometown, Ragusa. Thank you for your offering that made it possible for Thomas and the other church members to move from a rented building to their own church, where they can learn about God every Sabbath — and enjoy pizza parties.

By Andrew McChesney



SPAIN | March 14

Sung Hye Choi, 28

## Bringing Friends to Church

Sung Hye Choi is South Korean, but she has never lived in South Korea.

Sung Hye was born in the South American country of Paraguay. Her parents moved there to work before she was born.

Even though Sung Hye didn't live in South Korea, her life was surrounded by Koreans in Paraguay's capital, Asunción. She studied at a Korean school, where her mother led the parent-student association. On Sundays, Mother took her to a Korean church. At home, she ate Korean dishes like white rice and octopus.

One day when Sung Hye was 8, Mother abruptly announced that the family would no longer attend church on Sundays.

"We're not going to that church anymore, but we will believe in God," Mother said.

Sung Hye didn't mind. No church meant more time for homework and shopping. She liked it when Mother gave

her money to buy candy and small toys.

A year passed, and something unusual happened at home. Mother stopped cooking white rice and began serving brown rice. White bread was replaced with whole-wheat bread. Meat disappeared from the table at mealtime.

"Where's the octopus?" Father asked.

Mother smiled and said she wanted her family to be healthy.

Then one day, Mother made another unexpected announcement.

"This week, we're going back to church," she said. "Do you remember going to church on Sundays? Well, now we'll go on Saturdays."

"Why on Saturday?" Sung Hye asked.

"Because someone from the Saturday church invited us," Mother said.

She said the Bible teaches that Saturday is the Sabbath and the Sabbath starts at sunset Friday and ends at sunset Saturday.

“You cannot buy or sell anything during that time,” she said.

Sung Hye wasn’t worried about selling anything. She was only 9 and had nothing to sell. But she liked to buy candy and small toys on Saturdays.

“Why Mom?” she said, pleadingly. “Why is everything changing like this?”

She learned that Mother had become friends with a Seventh-day Adventist woman at the school. The Adventist woman had showed Mother what the Bible says about clean and unclean food, a healthy diet, and the Sabbath.

On Sabbath, Mother took Sung Hye and her 11-year-old brother and 7-year-old brother to church.

Sung Hye loved the Sabbath School class. The teacher told interesting stories and gave a colorful sticker to each child who memorized a Bible verse. Sung Hye wanted a sticker!

Back at home, she began to wake up at 5 a.m., long before anyone else, to memorize the Bible verse for the week. On Sabbath, she recited the memory verse perfectly and received a sticker. She was so happy!

## Story Tips

- Find South Korea, Paraguay and Spain on the map.
  - Pronounce Sung Hye as: soong HAY
  - Ask the children who they have invited to church in the past and to find someone to invite next Sabbath.
  - Download photos on Facebook ([bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq)) or ADAMS databank ([bit.ly/Bringing-Friends-Church](http://bit.ly/Bringing-Friends-Church)).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: [bit.ly/eud-2020-projects](http://bit.ly/eud-2020-projects).

After a while, Mother got baptized. Sung Hye, her brothers, and Father also have been baptized. Today, Sung Hye studies at Sagunto Adventist College in Spain. She wants to be like the Adventist woman who brought Mother to God. 🌍

The women’s dormitory where Sung Hye lives was built with a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 1981. Part of this quarter’s offering will help construct a seminary building at Sagunto.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING  
NATURE

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, a Spanish author, was considered to be the greatest writer in the Spanish language and one of the world’s most eminent novelists. His book “Don Quixote,” written in 1605, is considered to be the first modern novel and has been translated into more than 140 languages and dialects. After the Bible, it is the most-translated book in the world.



BigStockPhoto.com

SPAIN

AdventistMission.org



SPAIN | March 21

David Lucas Dolete Druga, 10

## Faith of a Boy

Nine-year-old David Lucas Dolete Druga had many questions.

“Where do people come from?” he asked Father. “Why are we here? Why do you say that God created us but Teacher says we evolved from monkeys?”

Father had taught David that God created people, but the boy was hearing other ideas at the public school in Spain’s capital, Madrid.

Father was happy when the family left Madrid so he could study to become a pastor at Sagunto Adventist College in Sagunto. On the campus of Sagunto Adventist College was an elementary school where David could learn about Creation from the Bible.

But a month before the school year started, Father learned that there was no space for David in the fourth-grade class. Many parents had put their children’s names on a waiting list for the fourth grade, and David was far down on the list.

“Let’s pray about it,” Father said.

At evening family worship, Father, Mother, and David prayed that David would be allowed to attend the Adventist school. They prayed every day for a month. But then the school principal told Father the bad news. “We don’t have a place for David,” he said. “Sorry.”

David enrolled in public school.

But the family didn’t give up. Father, Mother, and David kept praying that the boy would be able to go to the Adventist school. A month passed. Two months.

Mother stopped praying about the school. Father also stopped praying.

“God must have a plan for David at the public school,” Father said. “Maybe David needs to be a good witness to his classmates.”

David, however, kept praying. Every evening worship, he thanked God for Father and Mother and finished his prayer by saying, “God, if you want me to attend the Adventist school, please give me a

place in the fourth-grade class.”

Father was worried. He didn't want David to be disappointed. “Don't rush God,” he told the boy. “God doesn't always answer us the way that we want.”

But David kept praying. Four months into the school year, Father learned that a fourth grader had left the Adventist school. He rushed to the principal's office to ask whether David could join the class.

“David is welcome at the school,” the principal said. “But don't get too excited. You have to get permission from the city education office to transfer David from the public school to the Adventist school. At this time of the school year, it is very hard to get permission.”

Father and Mother decided to try, but they drove to the city education office with little faith. Forty minutes later, they had the transfer paper. David could go to the Adventist school!

Father and Mother couldn't believe it. As they left the city education office, they stopped to pray. “What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?” Father prayed, reciting the prayer of David in Psalms 8:4. “You gave us all of this even with our little faith. You provide all things.”

David was at home when Father and Mother arrived. “Look at this,” Father said, holding out the transfer paper. “This is how powerful God is. This is how He answered your prayer.”

A huge smile filled David's face and jumped around the house with joy.

“Let's pray again,” Father said. “Let's give thanks to God.”

David bowed his head and prayed.

“Thank you, Jesus, because You listened to my prayer,” he said. “Help me to enjoy this school.”

## Story Tips

- Find Madrid and Sagunto, Spain, on the map.
- Father thought David could be a good witness at public school. Ask the children how they can be good witnesses to their classmates, whether they are at a public school or at an Adventist school.
- Tell the children that they also can be a good example to their parents. Father, whose name is Laurentiu Stefan Druga, said, “I learned an important lesson. Even though I stopped having faith and praying, my son kept praying. Instead of me being an example to him, he was an example to me.”
- Read a story about David's father in the youth and adult Mission magazine.
- Watch David on YouTube: [bit.ly/David-Druga](http://bit.ly/David-Druga).
- Download photos on Facebook ([bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq)) or ADAMS databank ([bit.ly/Faith-of-Boy](http://bit.ly/Faith-of-Boy)).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: [bit.ly/eud-2020-projects](http://bit.ly/eud-2020-projects).

Opening his eyes, he turned to Father. “Do you want to play soccer with me?” 🌐

Today, David goes to school just a few steps from the seminary classrooms where Father is studying to become a pastor at Sagunto Adventist College. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a new seminary building with a special Creation museum for the schoolchildren. Thank you for planning a generous offering so David and other schoolchildren can learn more about Creation.

By Andrew McChesney



13<sup>th</sup> SABBATH | March 28

José López, 90

# Miracle Land

The school principal had a big job to do. The Seventh-day Adventist Church wanted to buy land for a new school in Spain, and it was his job to find it.

But where?

The principal, José López, started by looking at land in and around Spain's capital, Madrid. The land was nice, but it cost much more than the 3.5 million pesetas that he had been given to spend.

José took a look at the land in and around the second-biggest city in Spain, Barcelona. The land was nice, but it also cost much more money than he had.

José took his search to the third-biggest city in Spain, Valencia. This land was closer to his home because he was the principal of a Seventh-day Adventist school that met in a church building in Valencia. But the church building was too small. Many students were studying to become pastors at the school, and a

bigger building was needed.

José looked around Valencia and asked real estate agents to help. They told him that land in the city cost much more money than he had.

One day, a real estate agent suggested that José look at a piece of land located 19 miles (30 kilometers) north of Valencia.

José liked what he saw. The land was in the hilly countryside. Part of it was covered with a forest of magnificent, green pine trees, perfect for hiking and camping. Most important, the main part of the land contained abandoned groves of carob and olive trees. José knew that this would be an ideal location to construct the school.

The real estate agent saw that José liked the land.

"This is a beautiful place," he said. "But I have to warn you. It's expensive."

The land owner, an elderly woman in her 80s, wanted the enormous sum of

4.5 million pesetas — 1 million pesetas more than José had.

José met with the owner.

“We like this place,” he told her. “But it is too expensive. We only have 3.5 million pesetas.”

The elderly owner thought for a moment.

“Let me talk with my daughters this afternoon,” she said. “My late husband gave me some conditions for the sale of the land.”

The woman spoke privately with her two daughters, both in their 50s. They reminded her that their father had set a condition for the sale of the land before he died.

“Remember, Papa didn’t want to sell the land unless it is used to open a school,” a daughter said.

The elderly owner met with José again.

“What do you want this land for?” she asked.

“We want to open a school,” José replied.

The elderly owner looked surprised. She hadn’t expected to hear that. She had been trying to sell the land for several years, but she hadn’t been able to sell it because no one wanted it to open a school.

“How much money did you say you have?” she said.

“We have 3.5 million,” he said.

The elder owner thought for a moment.

“My daughters want to sell it for 4.5 million,” she said. “But I am very old, and I don’t want to die without seeing my husband’s wishes fulfilled. Because you want to open a school, let me talk with my daughters again.”

The woman spoke with her daughters and met with José again. She was suspicious that José really planned to open a school.

## Story Tips

- Use a map to show the five countries — Spain, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Bulgaria — that will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Briefly describe how each will benefit from the offering.
- Show the Spanish cities of Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, and Sagunto on the map.
- Watch José on YouTube: [bit.ly/Jose-Lopez-EUD](http://bit.ly/Jose-Lopez-EUD).
- Download photos on Facebook ([bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq)) or ADAMS databank ([bit.ly/Miracle-Land](http://bit.ly/Miracle-Land)).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: [bit.ly/eud-2020-projects](http://bit.ly/eud-2020-projects).

## Before 13th Sabbath

- Send home a note to remind parents of the program and to encourage the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on March 28. 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 four projects in the Inter-European Division. The projects are listed on page 3 and on the back cover.
- The narrator doesn’t need to memorize the story, but he or she should be familiar enough with the material so as not to have to read it. The children can mime or otherwise act out the story as it is told.

“I want to make sure that this is for a school,” she said. “You can have the land for 3.5 million, but you have to sign a promise that you really will open a school.”

José couldn’t believe his ears. He

almost fell to the ground in shock. He was amazed that the owner was willing to offer such a big discount from the original price.

The owner continued talking.

“My husband was a teacher, and it was his wish and dream for a school to be built on this land,” she said. “The property has stood vacant for many years, but now I can die peacefully because I have fulfilled my husband’s wishes.”

José knew at that moment that God had chosen the land for the school long before the Adventist Church had even begun to look for it.

Three years after acquiring the land, in 1974, Sagunto Adventist College opened. Today, the campus has about 700 students studying in its elementary school, high school, music school, and seminary for theology students and future pastors.

Dr. José López is now 90 years old and lives in a nursing home near Sagunto Adventist College. He grew emotional as he remembered the moment when the elderly owner announced that she would sell the land for the school.

“It was a miracle!” he said. 🌍

Sagunto Adventist College is crowded with students and needs a new seminary building. Part of this quarter’s



*A view of the women's dormitory, which was built with a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 1981, at Sagunto Adventist College. This quarter the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new seminary building.*

Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct that building.

Thank you for your offering to help Sagunto Adventist College. Thank you also for remembering the other important Thirteenth Sabbath projects in Bulgaria, Germany, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. Let’s pray for Sagunto Adventist College and the other projects.

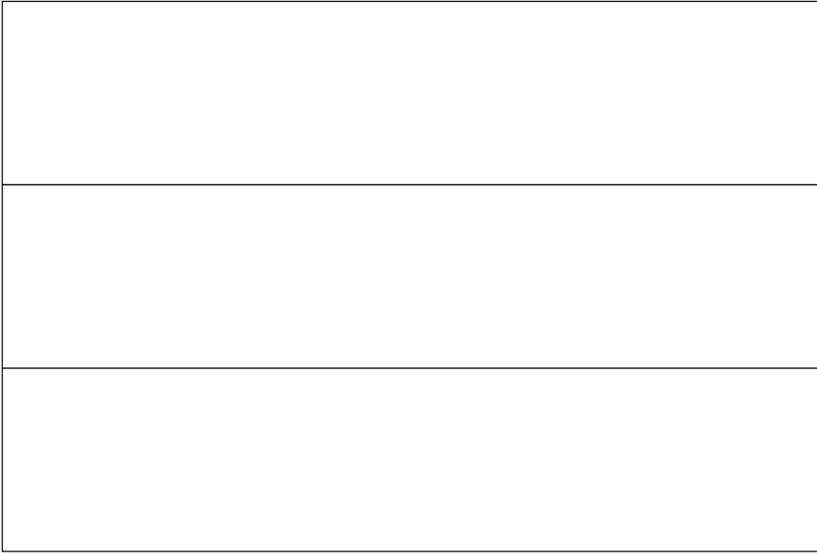
*By Andrew McChesney*

## Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering next quarter will help the Trans-European Division to:

- Open a center of influence in Sortland, Norway
- Establish a church in New Belgrade, Serbia
- Construct a church and center of influence in Nicosia, Cyprus

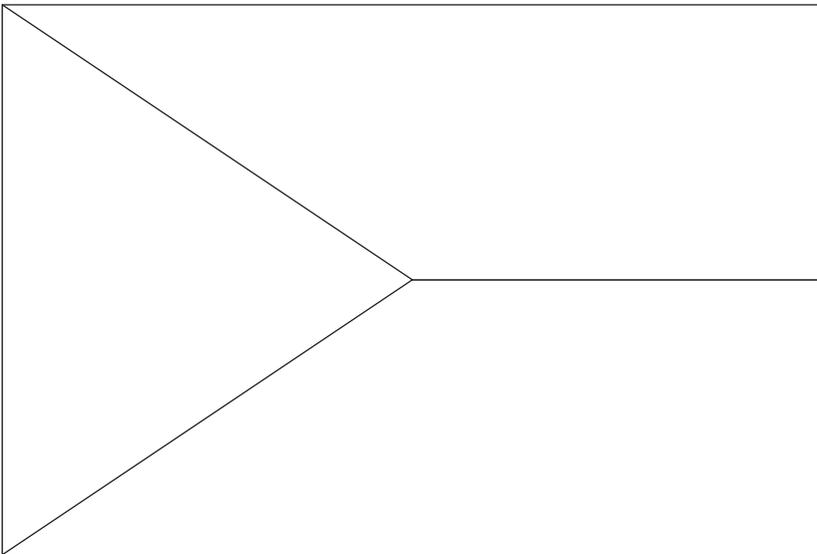
# Color The Flag



## BULGARIA

### DIRECTIONS:

Color the bottom third red, the middle third green, and leave the top third white.

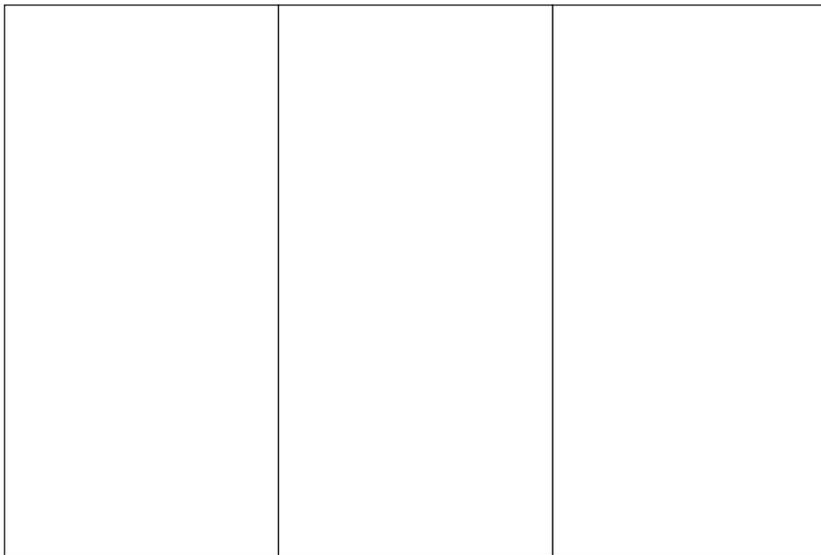


## CZECH REPUBLIC

### DIRECTIONS:

Color the triangle on the left dark blue. The top half of the flag should be left white, and the bottom colored red.

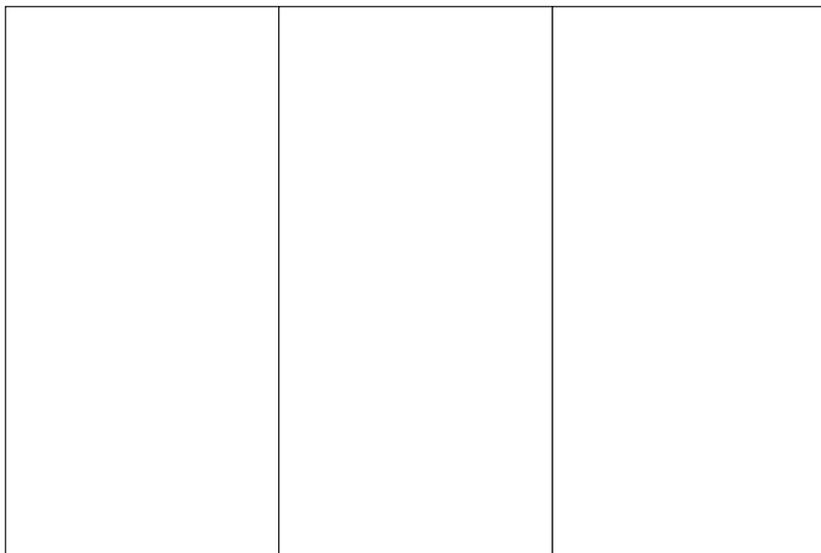
# Color The Flag



## ITALY

### DIRECTIONS:

Color the left stripe green, leave the middle white, and color the right stripe red.

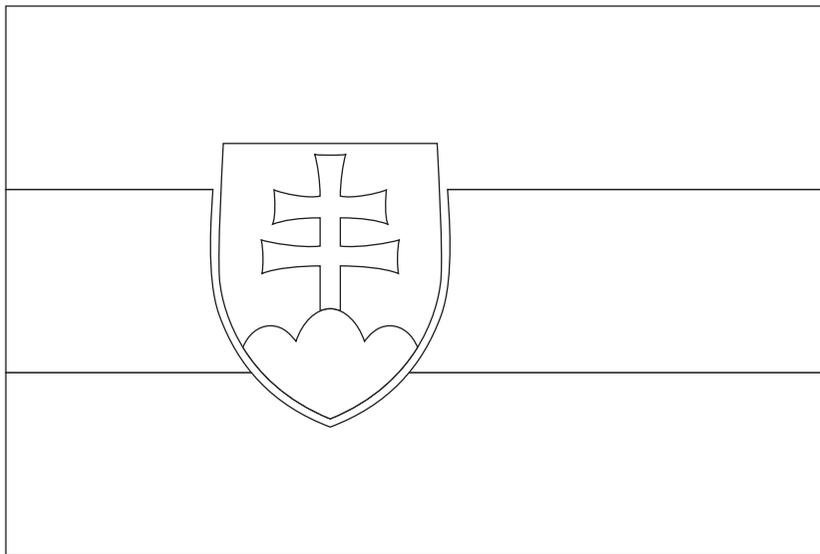


## ROMANIA

### DIRECTIONS:

Color the left stripe dark blue, color the middle yellow, and color the right stripe red.

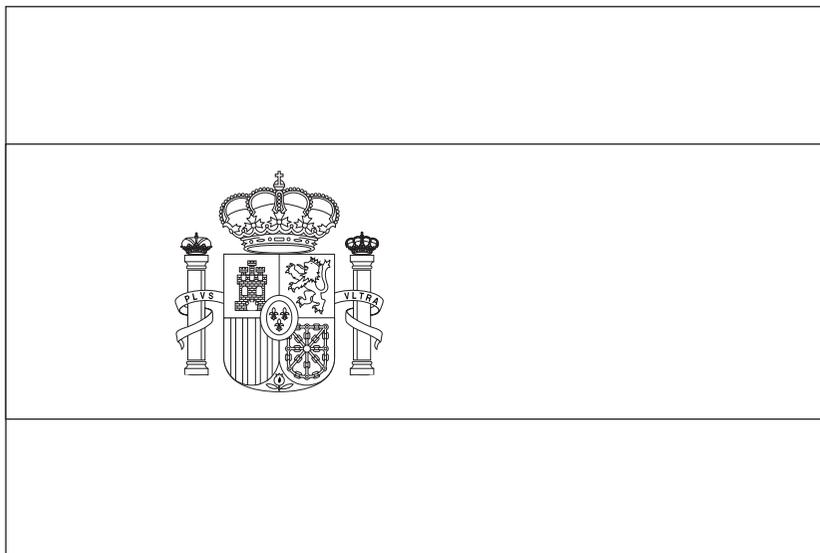
# Color The Flag



## SLOVAKIA

### DIRECTIONS:

Leave the top stripe white, color the middle stripe blue, and the bottom stripe red. The shield has a white cross on a red background with three blue hills.



## SPAIN

### DIRECTIONS:

The top and bottom stripes are colored red and the middle is yellow. The crown on the top of the emblem is gold with red lining. The pillars are white with yellow tops and bottoms and red crowns on the top. The shield is a yellow castle with blue windows on a red background; a pink lion with gold crown on a white background; a yellow chain with a green gem in the middle on a red background; and alternating red and yellow stripes.

# Let's Cook!

## BRYNDZOVÉ HALUŠKY (POTATO DUMPLINGS WITH CHEESE)

(SLOVAKIA)

2 servings

### INGREDIENTS

2 medium potatoes  
1 cup (125 g) flour  
1 (5 ml) tsp salt

4.4 oz (125 g) bryndza or other soft  
cheese like feta, goat, or cottage  
3 tbsp (50 ml) cream (optional)

### INSTRUCTIONS

Grate the potatoes and place in a bowl. Mix flour and salt with potatoes to make a thick, sticky dough.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.

Place several small spoonfuls of the halusky mix into the boiling water and give them a quick stir. The batter should cook into soft dumplings in 3-4 minutes. If it's not holding together, add more flour to the batter to thicken it.

Cook the halusky until they float to the top and have changed color. Strain out with a slotted spoon and place into a colander to drain. Repeat the process until all the batter is cooked and let drain for 2-3 minutes.

Transfer to a large bowl and mix with the cheese until evenly coated. To make it extra creamy, you can mix in some cream.

Recipe adapted from Cookpad.com ([bit.ly/CookpadHalusky](http://bit.ly/CookpadHalusky))



# Leader's Resources

Be sure to download your free Mission Spotlight video, featuring video reports from around the Inter-European Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at [bit.ly/missionspotlight](http://bit.ly/missionspotlight). A printable mission bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at [bit.ly/bank-coloring-page](http://bit.ly/bank-coloring-page).

## Online Information

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 the countries featured in this quarterly, visit:

### Websites

Bulgaria: government	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovtBul">bit.ly/GovtBul</a>
Visit Europe	<a href="http://bit.ly/VisitBulg">bit.ly/VisitBulg</a>
Czech Republic: government	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovtCze">bit.ly/GovtCze</a>
Czech Tourism	<a href="http://bit.ly/CzechTour">bit.ly/CzechTour</a>
Germany: government	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovtGer">bit.ly/GovtGer</a>
Germany Travel	<a href="http://bit.ly/GermanyTrav">bit.ly/GermanyTrav</a>
Italy: government	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovtIta">bit.ly/GovtIta</a>
Italia	<a href="http://bit.ly/ItaliaTrav">bit.ly/ItaliaTrav</a>
Romania: government	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovtRom">bit.ly/GovtRom</a>
Romania Tourism	<a href="http://bit.ly/RomTour">bit.ly/RomTour</a>
Slovakia: government	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovtSlo">bit.ly/GovtSlo</a>
Slovakia Travel	<a href="http://bit.ly/SlovTrav">bit.ly/SlovTrav</a>
Spain: government	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovtSpa">bit.ly/GovtSpa</a>
España	<a href="http://bit.ly/EspanaTrav">bit.ly/EspanaTrav</a>

### Seventh-day Adventist

Inter-European Division	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDA-EUD">bit.ly/SDA-EUD</a>
Bulgarian Union of Churches Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDABulgUnion">bit.ly/SDABulgUnion</a>
Czecho-Slovakian Union Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDACzechUnion">bit.ly/SDACzechUnion</a>
North German Union Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDANGERUnion">bit.ly/SDANGERUnion</a>
South German Union Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDASGerUnion">bit.ly/SDASGerUnion</a>
Italian Union of Churches Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDAItalyUnion">bit.ly/SDAItalyUnion</a>
Romanian Union Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDARomania">bit.ly/SDARomania</a>
Spanish Union of Churches Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/SDASpainUnion">bit.ly/SDASpainUnion</a>

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 Inter-European 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.

# ADVENTIST MISSION

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**Web site:** [AdventistMission.org](http://AdventistMission.org)

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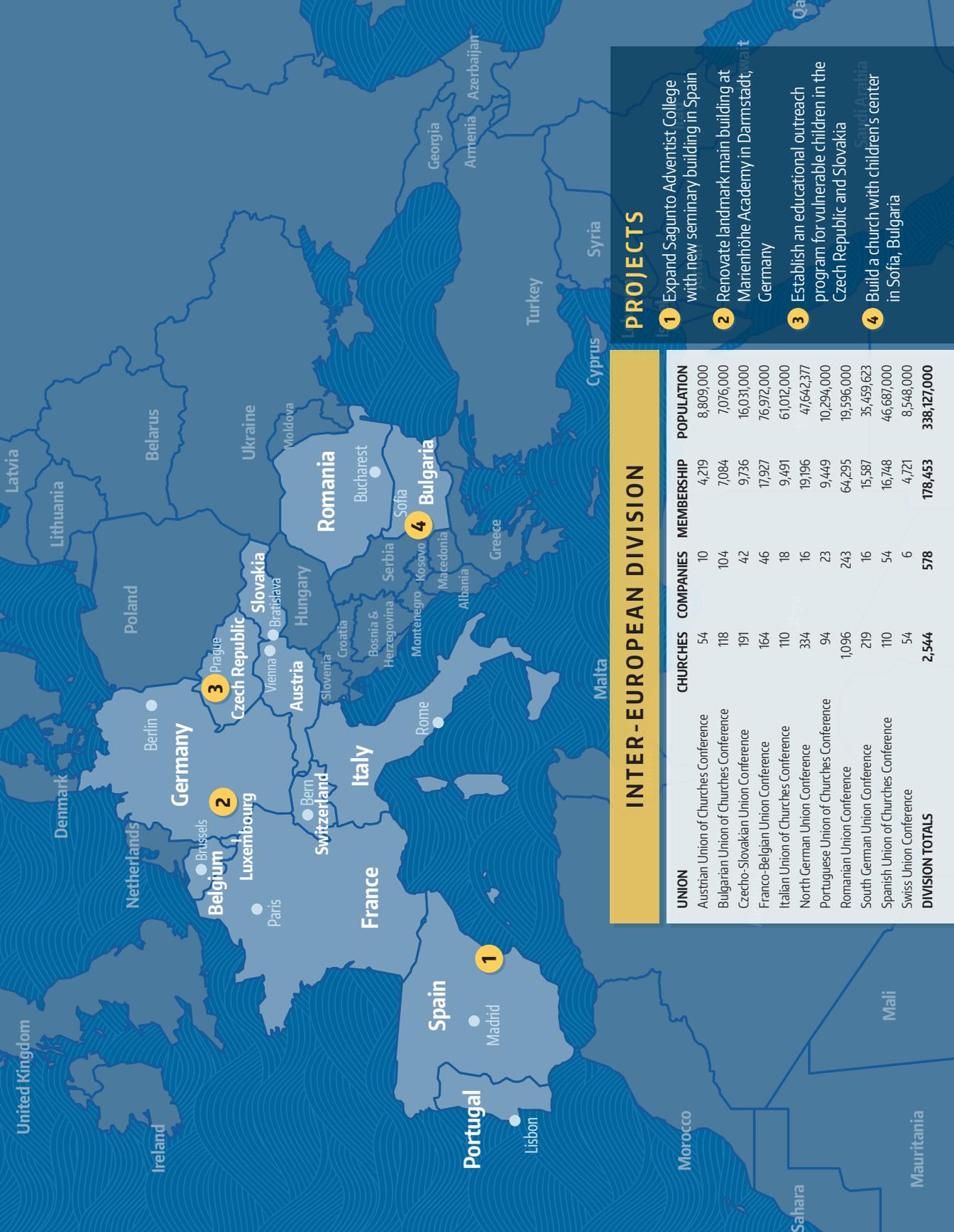
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## PROJECTS

- 1 Expand Sagunto Adventist College with new seminary building in Spain
- 2 Renovate landmark main building at Martenhöhe Academy in Darmstadt, Germany
- 3 Establish an educational outreach program for vulnerable children in the Czech Republic and Slovakia
- 4 Build a church with children's center in Sofia, Bulgaria

## INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Austrian Union of Churches Conference	54	10	4,219	8,809,000
Bulgarian Union of Churches Conference	118	104	7,084	7,076,000
Czecho-Slovakian Union Conference	191	42	9,736	16,031,000
Franco-Belgian Union Conference	164	46	17,927	76,972,000
Italian Union of Churches Conference	110	18	9,491	61,012,000
North German Union Conference	334	16	19,196	47,642,377
Portuguese Union of Churches Conference	94	23	9,449	10,294,000
Romanian Union Conference	1,096	243	64,295	19,596,000
South German Union Conference	219	16	15,587	35,459,623
Spanish Union of Churches Conference	110	54	16,748	46,687,000
Swiss Union Conference	54	6	4,721	8,548,000
<b>DIVISION TOTALS</b>	<b>2,544</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>178,453</b>	<b>338,127,000</b>