



CHILDREN'S MISSION



2020 • **QUARTER 2** • TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION



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On the Cover: Åsne Bergland, 6, prayed about a missing pink headband with two roses in Sortland, Norway. God answered her prayer in an amazing way. Read more on page 6.

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Your Offerings at Work



Three years ago, a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped open a youth community center in Betel Seventh-day Adventist Church (pictured) in Oslo, Norway. You can read stories from Norway on pages 4 and 6.



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

Andrew McChesney
Editor



This quarter we feature the Trans-European Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in 22 countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

The region is home to 205.8 million people, including 87,867 Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for 2,342 people.

This quarter's three Thirteenth Sabbath projects are spread across the division: north of the Arctic Circle in Norway, south on the island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea, and to the east in Serbia. I visited the sites that will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to hear stories about God's transforming power in the lives of people in those three countries. I also visited Poland and Ireland, which received part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago, and Finland.

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help 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

You can find their stories on the pages of this publication and the youth and adult Mission magazine. After hearing their stories, I believe more than ever that Jesus is coming soon — and I am sure you will agree with me as you read about what God is doing in the Trans-European Division!

Special Features

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive, we offer photos, videos, and other materials with every mission story. More information is provided in the sidebar with each story. You also can download a list of fast facts to share in Sabbath School at the link: bit.ly/fast-facts-TED20.

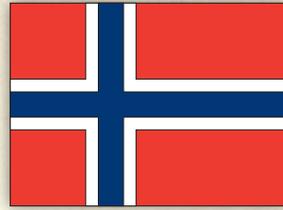
Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/missionquarterlies.

For photos of tourist sites and other scenes from the featured countries, search on a free photo bank such as pixabay.com or unsplash.com.

You also can download the PDF version of the youth and adult Mission magazine at bit.ly/adultmission, and Mission Spotlight videos at bit.ly/missionspotlight. A printable mission bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at bit.ly/bank-coloring-page.

If you have found especially effective ways to share mission stories, or if I can be of assistance, contact me at mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org.

Thank you for encouraging children to be mission-minded! 🌍



NORWAY | April 4

Fear Not!

Rebeka Emma Keresi, 8

Eight-year-old Rebeka Emma Keresi enjoyed her summer vacation in Estonia. She and Mother visited grandparents and other relatives. But soon the summer ended, and they returned to their home north of the Arctic Circle in Norway.

Rebeka was happy to be back in Sortland, a small island town of 10,000 people. Then she remembered the girl.

At the end of the previous school year, the girl had said something very unkind. Now Rebeka was afraid to see her again. Maybe she would say something unkind.

Rebeka told Mother about her worries. Mother tenderly wrapped Rebeka in her arms.

"I'm also worried about something," Mother said, softly. "In a few days, I will start a new nursing job. I'm afraid that I don't speak the Norwegian language well enough to do my work."

Mother, who was born in Estonia, had

been studying Norwegian for more than four years. But it was hard!

Looking at Rebeka, Mother said, "God is almighty. God has a way for us, and He is preparing the way for us. Let's pray."

Rebeka and Mother closed their eyes.

"Thank You, God, that You are preparing a way for Rebeka and me," Mother prayed.

In her prayer, Rebeka thanked God for helping her at school and for helping Mother at work.

"Let's claim God's promise in Isaiah 41:10," Mother said.

Mother had memorized the verse, and she suggested that Rebeka repeat after her.

"Fear not, for I am with you,"

Mother said.

"Fear not, for I am with you,"

said Rebeka.

"Be not dismayed, for I am your God,"

Mother said.

"Be not dismayed, for I am your God,"

repeated Rebeka.

“I will strengthen you,” Mother said.

“I will strengthen you.”

“Yes, I will help you.”

“Yes, I will help you.”

“I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

“I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

Rebeka felt better after talking with Mother, and she went off to play with her favorite plush bunny. That evening, however, Rebeka remembered the girl as she lay in bed. Mother patted her head.

“I’m also worried when I think about my new job,” Mother said. “But God is almighty. God has a way for us.”

Rebeka and Mother closed their eyes and thanked God for preparing a way.

Afterward praying, Mother and Rebeka recited Isaiah 41:10.

“Fear not, for I am with you,” Mother said.

“Fear not, for I am with you,” said Rebeka.

“Be not dismayed, for I am your God.”

“Be not dismayed, for I am your God.”

“I will strengthen you.”

“I will strengthen you.”

“Yes, I will help you.”

“Yes, I will help you.”

“I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

“I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.”

In the morning, Rebeka and Mother prayed and claimed the Bible promise again. They also prayed about school and the new job the next evening and at breakfast, lunch, and supper. They prayed this way every day. Sometimes in the middle of the day, when Rebeka felt worried about school or Mother felt worried about her

Story Tips

- Find Sortland, Norway, on the map. Point out the Arctic Circle. Also find Estonia, where Rebeka and Mother went on summer vacation.
- Know that Mother’s name is Marion Keresi. Rebeka’s father is Mihaly Körösi, a native of Serbia who works in construction in Sortland.
- Watch Rebeka and Mother repeat the promise of Isaiah 41:10 in Estonian on YouTube: bit.ly/Rebeka-Keresi.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/fear-not-ted).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-projects.

new job, they also prayed.

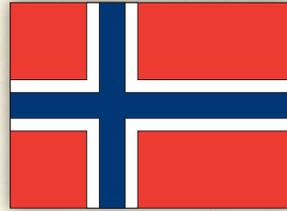
Before long, Rebeka memorized Isaiah 41:10, and she and Mother prayed the promise at the same time.

Rebeka wasn’t scared on the first day of school. To her joy, the girl didn’t say a single unkind word. In fact, the girl was kind and friendly. Rebeka was so happy that God had heard the prayers!

Mother, meanwhile, started her new job. She didn’t have any difficulty speaking Norwegian. She loved caring for patients. Mother was so happy that God had heard the prayers! 🌐

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a youth community center in Rebeka’s hometown, Sortland, so people can learn about the almighty God who answers prayers. Thank you for planning on giving a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney



NORWAY | April 11

Åsne Bergland, 6

Headband With Two Roses

Little Åsne Bergland tumbled out of bed at 8 a.m. Afterward a shower, she got dressed and carefully brushed out her long blond hair. She remembered that she had to keep her hair neat all day. So, she had two choices: Put on a headband, or ask Mother or Father to tie her hair into a ponytail in the back.

Åsne didn't want a ponytail. She liked her hair to be open and free.

"Where is my favorite pink headband with two pink roses on top?" she wondered.

Åsne looked around the bathroom. Some clothes lay on a white wooden bench beside the shower. But there was no sign of the headband with two pink roses.

A wave of worry washed over Åsne. Maybe she had lost her headband. She didn't want to lose it. If she lost it, Mother or Father would have to tie her hair into a ponytail. She didn't want a ponytail. She wanted her hair to be free and open.

Suddenly, Åsne remembered that she might have left the headband on the sofa in the living room. She went to the living room and looked at the sofa. Nothing.

Now she was very worried. She really didn't want her hair to be tied into a ponytail.

Then an idea sprang into Åsne's mind.

"I can pray," she thought.

Ever since she was a baby, she had prayed with her parents in the morning, in the evening, and before meals. Father and Mother had told her that she could pray to God anytime and about anything — even for small things.

Åsne knew that God answers prayers. She had prayed for sick friends, and they had gotten well. Once Father had lost his keys and found them after praying.

Åsne looked at the sofa one more time and returned to the bathroom. Standing near the white wooden bench, she folded her hands and closed her eyes.

“Dear Jesus,” she prayed. “Help me to find my pink headband with two pink roses on top. Amen.”

Opening her eyes, she decided to return to the sofa.

Back in the living room, she walked over to the sofa and looked again. There lay the pink headband with two pink roses! It was resting in plain sight on a cushion in the middle of the sofa.

Åsne was overjoyed! With a big smile on her face, she grabbed the headband and slipped it over her hair. She didn't know how it had ended up on the sofa. She didn't remember putting it there. But God had answered her prayer in an amazing way. Now she wouldn't have to tie her hair into a ponytail. Her long blond hair would be open and free.

Åsne is 6 and attending first grade in Sortland, a small island town far north of the Arctic Circle in Norway. She has no doubt that God answers prayers — even about small things.

“I know God hears our prayers because he answered my prayer,” she said. 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a youth

Story Tips

- Find Sortland, Norway, on the map. Point out the Arctic Circle.
- Pronounce Åsne as: AWE-sne. The “Å” has the same sound as the “A” in awesome or the “O” in Oswald.
- Watch Åsne on YouTube: bit.ly/Asne-Berglan.
- Ask the children how God has answered their prayers.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/asne-adams).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-projects.

community center in Åsne's hometown, Sortland, so people can learn about the amazing God who answers prayers generous offering. Åsne's father is Kenneth Bergland, pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist church of 16 regular worshippers in Sortland, Norway. He also will help oversee the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering-funded youth community center.

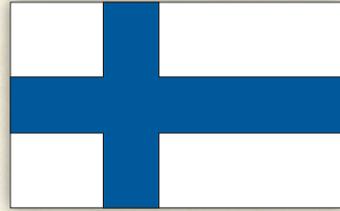
By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
NATURE

In Norway, you can find reindeer (also called caribou). These animals only live in the northern hemisphere above the Arctic Circle, traveling far distances to find food. They have antlers, which they use for scraping snow away from the ground to find food. Reindeer are the only mammals that can see ultraviolet light.





FINLAND | April 18

Bilha Tuitoek, 17

Big Trip to Finland

Bilha Tuitoek was 10 years old and living at a boarding school in Kenya when she got the telephone call.

“I have a big announcement,” Mother said. “I am moving to Finland to study nursing.”

Bilha couldn’t believe that Mother would leave her with Father, her sister, and her two brothers in Africa to travel to Europe. She wasn’t even sure where Finland was located on the map.

“I’m going because I want you to have a better life,” Mother said. “I will send for you as soon as I can.”

Bilha wept. “Go later,” she begged.

The wait proved to be long. Five years passed. During that time, Mother called often on WhatsApp. She spoke about learning nursing and the Finnish language. She said she was reading the Bible for the first time and was convinced that the seventh day, Saturday, was the

Sabbath, not the first day, Sunday.

Bilha was surprised. The family always had gone to church on Sunday in their hometown of Eldoret. Mother showed Bible verses about the Sabbath, and they saw that she was right.

One day, Mother called to say that she had found a church in Tempere, near to where she was studying. It was a Seventh-day Adventist church and worshipped on Saturdays, just as she had read in the Bible.

“Before I left Kenya, I prayed, ‘Take me to where people read Your Word and where I will grow,’” Mother said. “My eyes have been opened in Finland.”

Mother was baptized.

She and the church members prayed for Bilha and the rest of the family to receive visas to move to Finland. Finally, the Finnish government agreed. Bilha was so excited! She screamed into the phone when Mother broke the news. She had seen rich

Story Tips

- Find Eldoret, Kenya, and Tempere, Finland, on the map.
- Pronounce Bilha as: BIL-ha.
- Watch Bilha on YouTube: bit.ly/Bilha-Tuitoek.
- Challenge the children to pray like Bilha by praying a prayer filled with thanks and no requests. Show them how to turn a request into a “thank you,” such as by saying, “Thank you for helping me with my homework,” instead of, “Please help me with my homework.”
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/big-trip-to-finland).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-projects.

classmates go on family vacations to Dubai, but she had never left Kenya. She thought only millionaires could travel, and Mother was a nurse, and Father was a postman. But now she was going to live in Finland!

After the excitement of the move settled, Bilha discovered that life wasn't the same in Finland as in Kenya. First

of all, the family arrived in January, and the ground was covered with white, cold snow. She had never seen snow before.

In Kenya, children politely address their teachers as “mister” and “missus.” In Finland, children call teachers by their first names. When Bilha tried to call her teacher “missus,” she replied, “Please, don't call me that. It makes me feel very old.”

A year after she arrived in Finland, Father became sick and fell into a coma in the hospital. Bilha prayed the words of Jeremiah 32:27, which says, “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?” (NKJV).

She prayed, “God, You are the God who said this. Restoring my father's health is not too hard for You.”

Father woke up and, six months later, was released from the hospital. He gave his heart to Jesus and was baptized. Bilha and her sister and brothers were baptized on the same Sabbath.

Moving to Finland has changed Bilha's life. She used to only pray when she wanted to ask for help. Now she prays all the time to thank God for His goodness. She believes that God brought her family to Finland to learn about Him. 🌍

By Andrew McChesney

MISSION RECORD

The first Seventh-day Adventist in Finland was a sea captain, A.F. Lundqvist. While at sea, he was converted by the Plymouth Brethren. In 1885, he purchased Uriah Smith's book “Daniel and the Revelation” from George Drew, an Adventist colporteur in England. He also bought Ellen G. White's book, “The Great Controversy.” As a result of reading these books he immediately began to keep the Sabbath and became a Seventh-day Adventist, remaining faithful until his death in 1955 at the age of 97.



FINLAND | April 25

Just Say “No”

Silvia Leppälä, 23

Turning 12 was a big year for Silvia Leppälä. She started seventh grade at a new school in Finland. She stopped attending church with her parents. She smoked her first cigarette and drank her first alcohol.

One day, Silvia was walking with a group of friends in the town of Piikkiö. As they talked and laughed, another 12-year-old girl pulled out a packet of cigarettes.

“Look, I have some cigarettes,” the girl said. “Do you want to try?”

Silvia had never smoked, and she didn’t know what to say. She looked at the girl. She glanced over to her other friends. Some of them were smoking. They stared at her and waited to hear her reply. Silvia was afraid they would make fun of her if she refused or even stop being her friend.

“Sure, I’ll smoke one,” she said.

The cigarette smoke didn’t taste good at all, and Silvia coughed. But she smiled. She felt she was cool.

Several weeks later, a friend came to Silvia’s house for the night. The two girls were alone in the bedroom after Father and Mother had gone to sleep. The friend opened her purse and pulled out a bottle of vodka. “Let’s try this!” she exclaimed.

“Where did you get that from?” Silvia asked, surprised that a 12-year-old girl could buy alcohol at the store.

The friend looked guilty. “I stole it from my parents’ cupboard,” she whispered. “Do you want to try?”

Silvia didn’t know anything about vodka. “Sure,” she said.

Silvia felt the same as when she had smoked. She felt she was cool.

Friends offered Silvia cigarettes and alcohol many more times that school year. Every time, she found it easier to say yes. Sometimes she asked for cigarettes or alcohol. She wanted to feel cool.

She began to smoke and drink more and more. Several years passed, and she found it hard to study. She felt sad all the

time. She cried every night and often during the day.

Then she remembered God and cried out in desperation, “Please God, I don’t want to be depressed anymore!”

One day, her parents invited her to go to a prayer meeting at the Adventist school in Piikkiö, Finland Junior College. Her parents weren’t Adventist, but they liked to go to Christian programs.

Silvia listened to people sing about Jesus. She prayed. When she left the prayer meeting, she was crying. She wanted to know more about God.

The next morning, she found a Bible at home and read a chapter. She read another chapter the next morning, and the next. When friends called her to go drinking, she refused. She knew that they were a bad influence on her and she would be tempted to drink and smoke if she joined them. She didn’t want to drink and smoke anymore. It didn’t feel cool.

After a while, friends stopped calling. But Silvia wasn’t sad. She had found something better. She was with Jesus.

Today, Silvia is 23 and is studying to become a physical therapist in Finland’s capital, Helsinki. She has many

Story Tips

- Find Piikkiö and Helsinki, Finland, on the map. Piikkiö is just outside the city of Turku.
- Impress upon the children the importance of saying “no” to a temptation the first time. Once you say “no,” it is easier to say “no” the second time. But once you say “yes,” it is easier to say “yes” the second time.
- Watch Silvia on YouTube: bit.ly/Silvia-Leppala.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/just-say-no-ted).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-projects.

Adventist friends, and they cook and feed the needy at an ADRA soup kitchen. Silvia warns other children to stay away from alcohol and cigarettes.

“I wish I would had been stronger to say ‘no’ when I was offered alcohol or cigarettes,” she said. “It’s not good for my health, and it’s not cool. It really isn’t.” 🌍

By Andrew McChesney

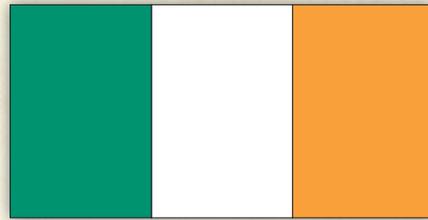


AMAZING
NATURE

Finland has about 188,000 lakes leading to the nickname “land of the thousand lakes.”

Forests including pine, spruce, and birch, cover more than 86 percent of Finland, making the country the largest forested area and largest producer of wood in Europe.





IRELAND | May 2

Iustina Tricolici, 19

Waiting for Parents

Little Iustina never saw Father and Mother in real life. Father never held her hand. Mother never gave her a warm hug. Iustina only saw her parents in videos.

Iustina lived with Grandmother in Colibasi, a small village in Moldova. When she was 2, Father and Mother moved to work in far-away Ireland. They promised to return for their daughter.

One year passed. Two years. Iustina couldn't remember the day when her parents left. She couldn't remember seeing them in person. But she knew what they looked like, and she knew the sound of their voices. She received packages with videotapes regularly from her parents.

"How are you?" Mother asked in the videos. She showed the family house awaiting Iustina in Ireland's capital, Dublin.

As she watched, Iustina felt like her

parents were close. But she longed to see them in real life.

Grandmother helped record videos to send to Ireland. In the videos, Iustina showed the garden where she and Grandmother grew tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet corn, and grapes. She pointed out colorful buds on rose bushes.

In every video, she asked, "When are you coming?"

Mother always replied, "Soon. You just have to wait a little bit more."

Turning to Grandmother, Iustina asked the same question every day: "Are Mom and Dad coming today?"

Grandmother gazed at her tenderly. "One day," she said. "They are coming soon."

Letters with Irish postage stamps arrived in the mail. Iustina couldn't read, but she listened eagerly as Grandmother read the words of a father and mother waiting to

Story Tips

- Find Moldova and Ireland on the map.
- Pronounce Iustina as: YOU-steena.
- Watch Iustina on YouTube: bit.ly/Iustina-Tricolici.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/waiting-for-parents).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-projects.

be reunited with their little girl. Father and Mother wrote about life in Ireland. They described the birth of Iustina's little sister, Jennifer. Sometimes the postman delivered big packages filled with clothes and food from Ireland. Iustina especially loved a purple pair of shoes that her parents sent. She wore them everywhere.

One day when Iustina was nearly 6, Grandmother said, "Father and Mother are coming soon."

"Sure," Iustina said. "You always say that."

Several days later, Grandmother said, "Look outside. Look who's there."

Iustina ran outside. At the gate of the house stood two adults and a little girl. Iustina had never seen them in real life,

but she recognized them right away. With a shriek of joy, she rushed to greet Father, Mother, and 3-year-old Jennifer.

"You finally came!" she said. "What took you so long?"

"Yes, we're finally here," Mother said, hugging the little girl tightly.

A few weeks later, Iustina flew with Father, Mother, and Jennifer to her new home in Ireland.

As she stepped off the plane in Dublin, she declared, "I like it here already!"

Why? Because she was with her family.

"We were altogether in one place," Iustina said.

Iustina is now 19 and a university student in Dublin, but she will never forget the wonderful reunion with her parents. It reminds her of the day when she will meet Jesus. Just as she waited every day for her parents, she is now waiting every day for Jesus.

"The day when I met my parents is like that day when we'll be in heaven and we will be embracing Jesus," she said. 🌐

Thank you for your 2017 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to open a church and community center in Iustina's new hometown of Dublin, Ireland.

By Andrew McChesney



The Irish Mission has 12 churches and a membership of 855. Ireland has a population of 6,683,000, so that's only one Adventist for every 7,816 people.

In 1861, the Review and Herald magazine published letters from Ireland reporting that five persons had begun keeping the seventh-day Sabbath as a result of receiving books and papers from relatives in the United States.



POLAND | May 9

Agnieszka Kasprowicz-Kluska, 38

Gobbly-Gobbling Turkeys

Little Agnieszka grew up in beautiful countryside in southern Poland.

A big green forest stood on one side of her house. A green meadow with pretty white daisies and pink and purple wildflowers stretched out on the other side of the house.

Agnieszka loved nature. Well, most of it. She didn't like the dark. Strangers were scary. Her family had cats, dogs, and chickens, but she was frightened of them. She was especially scared of mooing cows and gobbly-gobbling turkeys. Fortunately, no cows or turkeys lived at her house.

But a flock of turkeys lived in the yard of a farmhouse that she passed every day on the way to school.

Agnieszka loved school, and she loved the 20-minute walk to school. She followed a road for 10 minutes from her house to the village. Then she walked 10 minutes from the village to the schoolhouse.

One morning, Agnieszka skipped along the road to the village and turned the corner to school. A few steps later, she saw something that filled her with horror. She stopped. Dozens of gobbly-gobbling turkeys were wandering on the road. The birds were enormous, and they made a loud, scary racket.

Agnieszka looked to one side of the road. A rushing stream. She couldn't walk there.

She looked to the other side. More gobbly-gobbling turkeys were walking in a ditch and strolling in the adjacent meadow. She couldn't walk there.

She looked beyond the meadow. The gate to the farmhouse fence was open, and the yard was empty. The turkeys had escaped from the farmhouse yard!

Agnieszka was trapped. She couldn't go to school because of the gobbly-gobbling turkeys. She couldn't go home because then she would be late for school.

Story Tips

- Find Poland on the map.
- Pronounce Agnieszka as: Ag-NESH-ka.
- Read about Agnieszka's daughter in two weeks.
- Watch Agnieszka on YouTube: bit.ly/Agnieszka-KK
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/gobbly-gobbling-turkeys).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-projects.

She sat down on the road to hide from the turkeys. “God, help,” she prayed.

Opening her eyes, she saw an elderly man riding a bicycle toward her. The man wore dark gray clothes and a dark gray cap. His bicycle was dark gray. He was coming from the direction of the school.

Fearlessly entering the flock of gobbly-gobbling turkeys, he energetically waved his arms and shouted, “Shoo, shoo!” The gobbly-gobbling turkeys gobbled even more and made a frantic dash toward their yard. Feathers flew and the screech of the gobbly-gobbling was deafening.

Agnieszka was surprised that the stranger wasn't scared of the turkeys. She had never seen him before, but she wasn't afraid. He looked sort of familiar.

As the old man rode past Agnieszka, he said, kindly, “It's all right now.”

Agnieszka's mouth dropped open in amazement. She looked at the turkeys, gobbly-gobbling into their yard at home. She looked back at the road to wave at the old man. He had disappeared.

Agnieszka happily ran to school. She wasn't even late.

The turkeys never invaded the road again.

Agnieszka has always remembered God's answer to her frightened prayer. Now the mother of two children, she tells them how the stranger scared away the turkeys.

“I don't know whether he was an ordinary man or an angel,” she said. “But I know the victory came from God. I was able to survive the turkeys with God's help.” 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped Hope Channel open a television studio in Poland.

By Andrew McChesney



Marie Curie was born in Warsaw, Poland, on Nov. 7, 1867. With her husband, she discovered the elements polonium (Po), named after her native Poland, in the summer of 1898 and, soon thereafter, radium (Ra). She is credited for coining the term “radioactivity” and won her first Nobel Prize in physics in 1903.



Marie
Curie



POLAND | May 16

Tomasz Karauda, 28

Living in the Hospital

Tom was a very sick 5-year-old boy in Poland.

Medical doctors couldn't understand why the boy with blue eyes and black hair couldn't seem to recover from pneumonia. He coughed, suffered a fever, and complained of chest pains.

Tom stayed in the hospital for a while. When he felt better, he went home. But then the cough, fever, and chest pains returned, and he went back to the hospital. He was hospitalized 15 times in one year.

A doctor took X-rays and blood tests to diagnose the illness. He gave Tom every medicine that he could think of in hope that the boy would get well. Nothing worked.

Tom moved into the hospital when he was 6. He was too sick to stay at home. Father and Mother prayed. They slept in the boy's hospital room.

But Tom grew worse. The doctor began to avoid Mother. He liked to share good

news with the parents, but he didn't have any good news about Tom.

Mother confronted the doctor.

"Why are you avoiding me all the time?" she asked.

The doctor looked sad. "There isn't much that we can do," he said. "I'm very sorry. You need to let your son go."

Mother quietly went to Tom's bed. The boy sensed that something was different. Mother seemed to know something new. He saw tears in her eyes.

Tom looked out the window. It was winter, and children joyfully raced their sleds down a snowy hill. Smiling parents hugged their children at the bottom.

"Mommy," Tom said, softly. "I think that I'll never be healthy again. Is that true?"

Tears flowed down Mother's cheeks.

"Doctors have done everything that they can," she said. "Only one Doctor is left who can help. If you believe in Him,

He might heal you. But you need to ask.”

Tom understood that Mother was talking about Jesus. He and Mother knelt beside the hospital bed. He prayed for the first time in his life.

The next day, Tom felt a little better. The day after that, he felt even better. In six days, the surprised doctor announced that he could go home. Tom was well!

Several years later, Tom learned why he had been sick. His father had contracted a parasite during a visit to Australia, and the parasite had passed to Tom and embedded itself in his lungs. Doctors didn't about such an illness in Poland.

Tom has never been hospitalized again, but he goes to the hospital nearly every day. He is 28 and works as a pulmonary physician — a lung doctor — who treats people with lung problems like he used to have.

When he studied to become a doctor, he saw how God saved his life. He tested his own lungs and found no scars. After such a lengthy illness, there should have been scars. It was a miracle.

Tom is finishing his hospital residency and thinking about becoming a missionary doctor in a faraway land. He

Story Tips

- Find Poland on the map.
- Watch Tom play the piano on YouTube: bit.ly/Tomasz-Karauda.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/living-in-hospital).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-projects.

wants to help others just like doctors and Jesus helped him.

“Maybe God has a mission for me to do,” he said. “I feel like I have received a great loan from God that I need to repay. One day, I hope to know my mission.” 🌐

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped Hope Channel open a studio in Poland so people can learn about Jesus' soon coming in the Polish language on television and the Internet.

By Andrew McChesney



It is estimated that 100 million *paćzki*, a Polish-filled doughnut, are consumed every year on “Fat Thursday” (the last Thursday before Lent). *Paćzki* has been eaten in Poland since at least the Middle Ages.





POLAND | May 23

Zofia Kluska, 8

Lost Theodore Is Found

Zofia Kluska received Theodore when she was a tiny 3-month-old baby.

Father brought Theodore from the store and placed the cuddly black-and-white panda bear with a small green blanket on Zofia's bed in Gdynia, Poland.

It was love at first touch. Zofia formed a close relationship with her new friend. Wherever she went, Theodore went.

Theodore became an important member of the family. He attended church. He traveled across the country for visits to Grandfather and Grandmother. He posed in all the family photos.

But one awful day, he disappeared.

Zofia was 3, and she went for a long walk with the babysitter. They played on the playground, swam in the Baltic Sea, and walked up and down the beach. When they returned home, Theodore was nowhere to be found.

Zofia immediately prayed. "God, please

let us find Theodore," she said.

At first, Father and Mother thought Theodore hadn't gone on the walk with Zofia. They searched the house. Under beds and in cupboards. In the bathroom and on the living room sofa. No Theodore.

Mother placed Zofia in the stroller, and she and Father retraced the path that Zofia and the babysitter had taken earlier. They went to the playground. They followed the path to the Baltic Sea. They looked on the sandy beach. No Theodore.

Father and Mother were worried about putting Zofia to bed that night. She had slept with Theodore every night since she was 3 months old.

Before bedtime, Zofia prayed for Theodore. She didn't cry, but it was hard to sleep.

In the morning, Mother made posters with Theodore's photo. She wrote with a marker, "Lost! A cuddly toy — a little

panda with a green blanket — was lost somewhere around here. He is very special for our little girl and our family. Reward.”

Mother placed the posters at the playground, on the path to the Baltic Sea, and on the beach. Maybe someone would find Theodore and call. Theodore was not found.

Father went to the toy store to look for Theodore. He couldn't find the panda with a green blanket, but he did see a nice orange lion. At home, Zofia wasn't excited to receive the lion.

Father turned on his computer and looked for Theodore on eBay. Nothing.

He remembered that the store where he had found Theodore was owned by a Swedish company. He contacted the company's main office in Poland, but the manager said Theodore wasn't in any stores in Poland.

Father decided to try one last thing. He wrote an email to the Swedish company's headquarters in Stockholm. In the letter, he explained that Zofia had lost Theodore and that Theodore was an important member of the family. He asked whether the company had seen Theodore in Sweden.

The company manager wrote back that he also was a father and he felt very sad that Theodore had gone missing.

“We have a special warehouse where we keep one sample of every item that we have ever designed,” he said. “Theodore is there. I will send him to you.”

Two days later, a special express package arrived at Zofia's home. Father eagerly tore it open and took Theodore to Zofia.

“Look who has returned home from a very long trip,” he said.

Zofia was so happy!

Story Tips

- Find Gdynia, Poland, on the map.
- Watch Zofia on YouTube: bit.ly/Zofia-Kluska.
- Know that Father (Daniel Kluska) and Mother (Agnieszka Kasproicz-Kluska) never decided on what reward to offer if someone found Theodore. “We were ready to give anything and everything to get Theodore,” Father said. It's the same in the parable of the Pearl of Great Price in Matthew 13:45, 46. We also must be ready to give anything and everything to get Jesus, who is the Pearl of Great Price.
- Understand the importance of keeping your eyes on Jesus. Father and Mother never let Theodore out of their sight because they don't want to lose him again. Likewise, we need to keep our eyes on Jesus. Mary and Joseph took their eyes off 12-year-old Jesus after the Passover in Jerusalem and had to search for three anxious days before they found Him. It is the same for us in our spiritual lives.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/lost-theodore-is-found).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-projects.

Today, Zofia is 8, and she takes Theodore everywhere. Father and Mother keep a close eye on Theodore and never let him out of their sight. They don't want to lose him again. 🌐

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago that helped Hope Channel open a studio in Poland so people can learn about Jesus' soon coming in the Polish language.

By Andrew McChesney



SERBIA | May 30

Poisoned Tom

Emma Macura, 7

Emma Macura has loved animals for as long as she can remember.

When she was 3, she begged for a horse. Mother explained that a horse was too big to keep in their city apartment in Serbia.

So, Emma asked a dog.

Father didn't think a dog was a good idea.

"Our house is too small for a dog, and we don't have a yard," he said. "Animals need a bigger place with a yard. Jesus didn't make them to live in a small, closed place like an apartment."

Emma didn't give up.

"Can I have a cat?" she said.

Father and Mother said she could have a pet if they moved to a house with a yard.

When Emma was 7, the family moved, and the new house had a yard! Emma got a two-month-old kitten named him Tom.

Soon after Tom arrived home, Mother found brown cockroaches in the bathroom. Father went to war. He bought poison

— shaped into small orange balls — and hid five balls in the bathroom. He strictly forbade Tom from entering the bathroom. "This room is off-limits," he told the kitten.

Tom suddenly found the bathroom to be an interesting place. He tried to slip in whenever someone opened the door.

On Sunday, Emma and the family loaded the car for a day-trip to Grandfather and Grandmother in Croatia. Tom could not go along.

As Mother finished packing, she took laundry from the bathroom and forgot to close the door. Tom immediately darted in. Father entered the bathroom just in time to see Tom swallow an orange ball.

"He's eating poison!" Father shouted.

Emma rushed to the bathroom. Mother and Emma's older brother, Luka, also came running. Father opened Tom's mouth, but it was too late.

Emma began to cry. Father and Mother tried to comfort Emma. "Maybe God will do a miracle," Father said.

The family prayed outside the bathroom door. “Please, Jesus, keep Tom alive,” Ema said, sobbing.

Nothing more could be done. No veterinarian was available, and another family was waiting to join them on the trip. Father shut Tom in a room with plenty of food and water, and the family left for Grandfather and Grandmother.

The family prayed many times for Tom as they traveled. They also prayed at the grandparents’ house.

Grandmother told Ema not to worry.

“Cats vomit when they eat something bad,” she said.

Ema hoped that Tom would vomit.

Mother opened the door when the family arrived back home that evening. Tom ran out, and Ema squealed with joy.

“Tom, you’re alive!” she exclaimed.

Father and Mother also were happy. Luka offered a prayer of thanksgiving.

“Thank you, God, for saving Tom,” he said. “We have seen that Your power is great.”

Mother later found that Tom had vomited the poison in the room.

“God is great, and He hears prayers

Story Tips

- Find Serbia and Croatia on the map.
- Watch Ema on YouTube: bit.ly/Ema-Macura.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/poisoned-tom).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-projects.

from us young children,” Ema said.

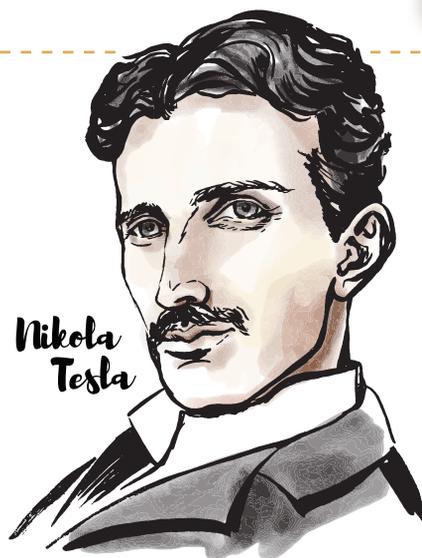
“Thank you, Jesus, for protecting both us and our pets.” 🌐

Ema’s father is pastor of New Belgrade Seventh-day Adventist Church, which will receive part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to obtain its own church building. Right now, the church shares a building with another Adventist congregation in a town near New Belgrade. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

By Andrew McChesney



Nikola Tesla, regarded as one of the most important inventors in history, was a Serbian. Tesla made great discoveries in the fields of electric current and magnetism and his name is also used as the unit of magnetic induction. When Albert Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize, a reporter asked him “What is it like to be the smartest person in the world?” and he replied, “I don’t know. Ask Nikola Tesla.” The electric car is named after him.





SERBIA | June 6

Peaceful Sister

Jelena Dubljević, 40

Fourteen-year-old Jelena tried to catch people's attention with her appearance.

She wore two or three earrings in each ear. She had two or three rings on every finger. She wore bracelets and a silver necklace. She wore makeup.

Nobody could guess from her looks that she wasn't happy. She wanted peace.

Meanwhile, her 19-year-old sister, Ljiljana, began to prepare for baptism at New Belgrade Seventh-day Adventist Church. After every Bible study, she announced what she had learned at home.

"I have something to tell you," she said. "I'm not eating meat anymore."

Mother was not pleased, and she didn't stop fixing meat. Instead, she tried to camouflage the meat. She chopped up chicken into tiny pieces and mixed it with rice, tomatoes, and peppers. But Ljiljana saw the chicken and refused to eat.

Mother angrily yelled at her.

That wasn't all. When Ljiljana got dressed to go to church on Sabbath, Mother locked the door and guarded it so she couldn't leave the house.

But Ljiljana wasn't deterred. She stopped eating meat. She kept the Sabbath at home. Mother yelled a lot.

Poor Jelena didn't want to be in the same place as her sister and yelling Mother. She fled to her own room.

Jelena had no peace.

But Ljiljana had peace. Even though Mother yelled, she remained calm. She seemed confident that everything would be fine. Jelena wanted that peace.

Walking back and forth in her room as Mother yelled at her sister, she asked God to fill her heart with peace.

"If You are really alive, give me peace in my heart," she said.

Suddenly, it happened. She felt peace.

Story Tips

- Find Belgrade, Serbia, on the map.
- Pronounce Jelena as: YE-lena.
- Pronounce Ljiljana as: lee-LYAN-a.
- Ask the children for their favorite Bible verse. Challenge — and help them — to choose a Bible verse that can be their motto in life.
- Watch Jelena on YouTube: bit.ly/Jelena-Dubljevic
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/peaceful-sister).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-projects.

She decided to follow God no matter what Mother said.

Jelena and her sister started praying under a blanket in Jelena's room. They left the house to study the Bible together. Even when it rained, they stood under an umbrella and read the Bible on the street.

After a while, Jelena declared that she wanted to be baptized. Mother was furious.

"As long as you are living under our roof, you cannot be baptized," she said.

Jelena kept reading the Bible. Her heart was touched by Jesus' great sacrifice in dying on the cross. "That's it," she thought. "There's no turning back."

She wanted to live for Jesus, and she read in 1 Peter 3:3, 4, "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet

spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight" (NIV).

She thought, "Jewelry and makeup are my idol, and I don't want anything divert my attention from God."

It was hard for Jelena to change her appearance. She loved her earrings, rings, necklace, and makeup. She remembered that Jesus had given up everything in heaven to die for her. She prayed for help.

Finally, she took a box and, weeping, placed all her jewelry and makeup inside. She felt like she was cutting off an arm. But after she slid the lid onto the box, she lost all desire to adorn her appearance.

Several months later, she was baptized. Ljiljana and Father came to the baptism, but Mother refused.

Jelena prayed for Mother. She prayed every day for six years. One day, Mother asked for Bible studies. She was baptized.

Today, Jelena's favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 1:19, which says, "They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you," says the Lord, "to deliver you."

"This verse is the motto of my life," she said. "This is my encouragement that God will help me. He hears my prayers and answers them. He gives me peace." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help New Belgrade Seventh-day Adventist Church move into its own church building. The congregation met in a rented movie theater when Jelena first started attending, and now it shares a building with another congregation in a town near New Belgrade. Thank you for planning a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

By Andrew McChesney



CYPRUS | June 12

Rennie Kufakunesu, 22

Finding a Home

One of the saddest days in Rennie Kufakunesu's life came when she was 5.

Mother packed her bags and went to the airport in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. Little Rennie rode along in the car with Uncle, Auntie, and other relatives.

At the airport, Mother motioned to Uncle, who was her brother, and to Auntie, her sister.

"Choose which family you want to live with," she told Rennie.

The little girl turned to Uncle and Auntie. She didn't really want to stay with either of them. She would rather live with Mother. She looked back at her relatives and remembered that Uncle had more children than Auntie. If she lived with him, she would have more playmates. She chose Uncle.

Mother boarded an airplane and flew to Britain to work.

A year later, Uncle died. Mother still

lived in Britain, and she bring Rennie to join her. Rennie moved in with Auntie.

Life at Auntie's house was different. Auntie didn't go to church on Sunday like Uncle and Mother. She took Rennie to church on Saturday.

Rennie didn't want to go to church on Saturdays. She missed sports events at school. She missed school fairs. She missed birthday parties. She thought, "Why do I have to miss so many fun things because Auntie is a Seventh-day Adventist? I'm not a Seventh-day Adventist. My church meets on Sundays."

When she was 13, she moved to another relative's house to start high school. The relative also was a Seventh-day Adventist, and Rennie went to church all through high school.

After high school, Rennie wanted to live with Mother in Britain. But she couldn't get a visa. She applied to study

at universities in several countries and was accepted at a university in Cyprus.

She was thrilled!

“I can finally live my own life,” she thought. “Now, I can be a real Christian and go to church on Sunday.”

After arriving in Cyprus, Rennie tried to find a church. She asked classmates and teachers for directions. No one seemed to know the address of the church of her parents’ denomination.

“Fine,” she decided. “I don’t have to go to any church.”

But something wasn’t right. After living with Adventist relatives for 12 years, going to church on Saturday was part of Rennie’s life. She didn’t like going, but it didn’t feel right not to go. Going online, she located the address of an Adventist church in Nicosia, and she attended the next Sabbath. She loved the church immediately.

Rennie went to church every Sabbath, and soon she was baptized.

“I knew all the church’s doctrines from childhood, but what was missing was a desire to be baptized,” she said. “Reviewing the things that I was taught

Story Tips

- Find Harare, Zimbabwe, and Nicosia, Cyprus, on the map.
- Watch Rennie on YouTube: bit.ly/Rennie-Kufakunesu.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/finding-a-home).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-projects.

in church, I realized that they were true and from the Bible. It made sense to me.”

Rennie is now 22 and finishing her last year of accounting studies. She prays for Mother in Britain. She goes to church every Sabbath. “I’m at home,” she said. 🌐

Rennie’s church meets in a rented hall. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a church building and community center where Rennie and others can worship in Cyprus’ capital, Nicosia.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

The first Seventh-day Adventist to go to Cyprus was Moses Boursalian, an Armenian who fled there with his family from Antioch, Turkey, around 1912. For years he quietly sold combs made by his family, traveling from village to village on donkey back and speaking of his beliefs to his neighbors. Later, his son John became the first Adventist colporteur on the island.

Except for visits by Adventist ministers to baptize new converts and hold communion services, there was no official church work for many years. In 1932, Canadians R.S. Greaves and his wife, former missionaries to Turkey and Greece, became pioneer workers on the island.



CYPRUS | June 20

Emmanuel Mirilov, 9

Missionary Kid

Emmanuel Mirilov was born in Moscow, Russia.

But he isn't a Russian. His parents are from Serbia, and he has a Serbian passport.

But he has never lived in Serbia. His parents worked as missionaries in Russia when he was born.

When Emmanuel was 3, his parents moved to Cyprus, a small island in the Mediterranean Sea. Emmanuel is a missionary kid.

Emmanuel faced a big problem when he arrived in Cyprus. He had no friends.

But he quickly fell in love with two babies, twins, who lived nearby. He visited them every day.

The babies' mother was kind.

"Emmanuel is safe at our place," she told Emmanuel's mother. "Don't worry about him coming over. He isn't disturbing anyone."

The babies loved seeing Emmanuel. They had a babysitter who took them for

outdoor walks, and Emmanuel followed to make sure that they were having fun. He made faces, threw a ball, and ran in circles to make the babies laugh.

Soon Emmanuel wanted to bring the babies home.

"Can they come visit?" he asked Mother.

"Sure," Mother said.

During walks, the babysitter began to stop at Emmanuel's house so the babies could to say "hello" to Mother.

One evening, Mother called Emmanuel to come in for supper.

"I'm not hungry," he said.

Mother was worried. Emmanuel was always hungry at suppertime.

"Why aren't you hungry?" she asked.

"I already ate at the babies' house."

After this happened several times, Mother decided to have a chat with the babies' mother.

"It's very kind of you, but please don't feed Emmanuel," she said.

The babies' mother smiled. "I know what you are worried about," she said. "But don't worry. Your son knows what is right and what is wrong. He has given me a lesson about clean and unclean food."

Mother was surprised. She had taught Emmanuel what the Bible says about pork, shrimp, and other unclean food. But she never thought that he would share that information with anyone.

The babies' mother continued talking.

"Emmanuel explained to me that there is a list in the Bible of what we can and cannot eat and I can check it for myself," she said. "So I only give him clean food."

Mother was so happy! God had used Emmanuel to answer a her prayers. She had been praying about how to share Jesus with the neighbors, and now the babies' mother was ready to talk about Jesus. From that day, Mother and the babies' mother became special friends.

Today, Emmanuel lives in Cyprus, and he is much more than a missionary kid. Although only 9, he is a missionary, too. His words and actions tell the neighbors about Jesus. Even his name reminds them of Jesus. Emmanuel means "God with us."

"God said to love your neighbors, so I love my neighbors," Emmanuel said. 🌍

Story Tips

- Find Cyprus on the map.
- Share with the children that Emmanuel's mother, Marica Mirilov, says, "Emmanuel in his small ways makes the presence of God very real. He loves to pray, and he is not shy about praying with the neighbors."
- Ask the children how they can be like Emmanuel? Challenge them to pray for their neighbors and invite them to pray for specific neighbors during Sabbath School class today.
- Watch Emmanuel on YouTube: bit.ly/Emmanuel-Mirilov.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/missionary-kid).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-projects.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a church and community center in Nicosia, the city where Emmanuel lives. Thank you for planning a big offering next week!

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
NATURE

The Cyprus Mouflon, a kind of wild goat, is the largest land mammal of Cyprus and has been the symbol of Cyprus Airways for many decades.



CYPRUS

BigStockPhoto.com

AdventistMission.org



13th SABBATH | June 27

Revel, Loukas, Niki, and
Kellita Papaioannou

Praying for Pets

Sabbath School leader: Cyprus is a very challenging place to share Jesus. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has only 103 members on this Mediterranean island of 1.1 million people. But one missionary family is seeing amazing answers to prayer.

Narrator: The four missionary children wanted a pet for a long time. They begged for a cat or a dog when the family moved from their homeland in Greece to work far away in the Philippines. Father was busy teaching at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, and Mother was caring for the four children while studying for a master's degree in education. The parents weren't interested in having a pet to feed or clean up after.

Mother (to children): No pets!

Narrator: The children knew better than to argue. After four years in the Philippines, the family moved to a new missionary post

in Cyprus. Father rented a house with a big yard. The children were now older, and their pleas for a pet grew louder.

Revel: "Can we have a cat?"

Loukas: How about a dog?

Niki: It would be so nice to have a cat.

Kellita: Or even a little kitten.

Narrator: Father and Mother hadn't changed their minds. But amid the chorus of pleas from the children, they were glad to have a good excuse to say, "No."

Father: The contract that we signed to rent this house says, "No pets."

Narrator: The children, however, weren't ready to give up.

Kellita: Can we pray about it?

Father (smirking): You can pray all you want.

Narrator: The children began to pray every evening.

Revel: Dear Jesus, please give us a cat.

Loukas: Or a dog.

Niki: A cat would be nice.

Kellita: Or even a little kitten.

Narrator: It so happened that the next-door neighbor had a big cat, and the cat gave birth to three black kittens. When the kittens were just 1 month old, they began to explore the neighbor's yard on their own. One day, the kittens found a hole in the low brick wall separating their yard from the missionary family's yard, and they scampered through it.

Kellita: Look! We have three kittens in our yard!

Narrator: The other children came running. Sure enough, three kittens were playing in the grass. Soon the children were petting them and playing with them.

The kittens came to the missionaries' yard every day. As they grew bigger, they stayed in the yard. When they saw the window of the missionary family's house open, they jumped inside and made themselves at home.

Father and Mother couldn't say anything. Nobody in the family had brought the cats home, so there was no one to tell to take them away.

The children were thrilled. God had answered their prayers by giving them not just one pet, but three.

Sabbath School leader: God answers prayers in amazing ways when we ask. (If time permits, share story on next page.)

Story Tips

- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq) or ADAMS databank (bit.ly/praying-for-pets).
- Download photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects: bit.ly/ted-13th-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 June 27. 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 Trans-European Division. The projects are listed on page 3 and on the back cover.
- Know that the father in the story, Kim Papaioannou, is leader of the Greek ministry in Cyprus and an adjunct professor of New Testament.
- Show the three countries — Cyprus, Norway, and Serbia — that will benefit from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on the map.

That's exactly what God is doing in Cyprus. In 2012, the Adventist Church had only about 75 members. After a membership audit, only 60 members remained. But church members prayed and, in 2018, church membership passed 100 for the first time. God answered their prayers!

Now church members are praying for a new church building in Cyprus. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct it. Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. 🌍

By Andrew McChesney

Fire!

One summer, the Papaioannou missionary family went camping with other Adventist families at a church-owned campsite near the seashore in their homeland, Greece. It was a dry, hot summer, and a big forest fire broke out near the campsite on a Sunday afternoon.

The adults and children watched and waited to see what would happen.

The fire crept closer and closer to the campsite. The campers formed a circle and began to sing and pray.

As the campers sang and prayed, a wind started to blow. To their surprise, the wind blew the flames away from the campsite.

The group sang and prayed for 20 minutes, and the wind kept blowing the fire farther and farther away. The adults grew tired. The children grew tired.

“OK, the danger is over,” someone said.

The group broke up.

Within minutes, the wind changed direction. It blew harder than before, and the fire raced toward the campsite.

“Evacuate!” someone shouted.

Many campers fled to the safety of the seashore about 700 yards (meters) away.

At that moment, two firefighters

arrived, and five Adventist men decided to stay at the campsite with them.

Hours passed. At midnight, the fire came within 100 yards of the fence surrounding the campsite. Flames could be seen licking the tops of pine trees.

The five men and two firefighters formed an emergency line, but they knew there was little that they could do. The Adventists prayed.

Just when the fire came within 10 yards of the fence, a big brigade of firefighters arrived and quickly put out the flames.

In the morning, the campers looked at the scene in astonishment. The entire area around the fence was black. Even a neighboring campsite had been burned to the ground. The Adventist campsite looked like a green oasis in the middle of a blackened wasteland. It was an answer to prayer.

“The Lord stopped the fire right at the fence,” said Kim Papaioannou, a missionary father on Cyprus. “We knew it was not going to touch us, and our camp was saved.” 🌍

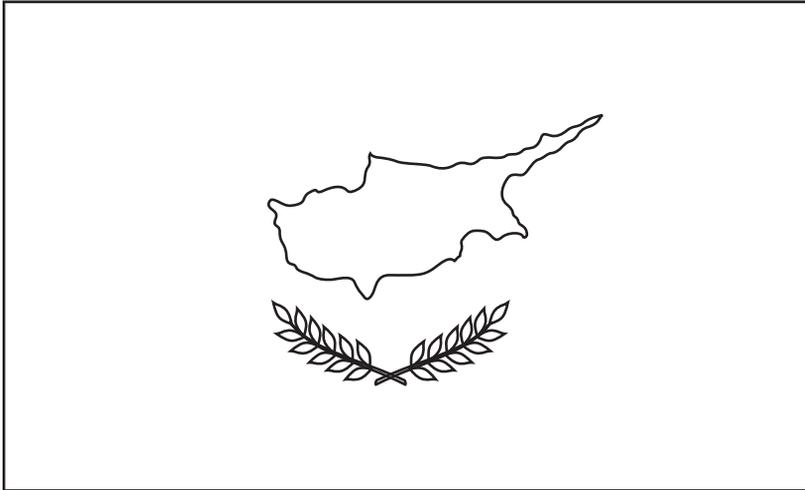
By Andrew McChesney

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering next quarter will help the West-Central Africa Division to:

- Construct Kobaya Academy, a K-12 school, in Conakry, Guinea
- Open an elementary school and urban center of influence in Buchanan, Liberia
- Establish a medical center in Abuja, Nigeria

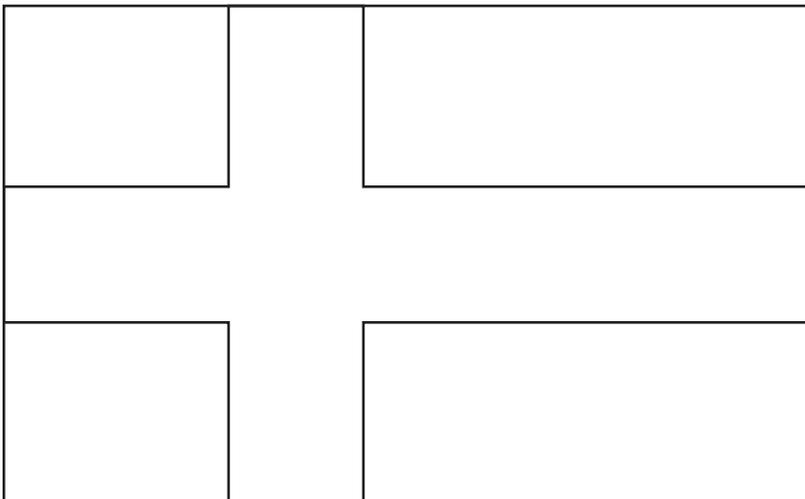
Color The Flag



CYPRUS

DIRECTIONS:

Color the island yellow and the garland of leaves green. Leave the background white.

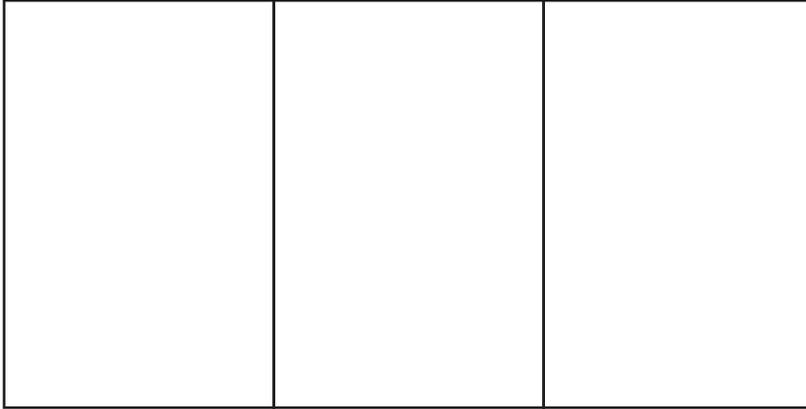


FINLAND

DIRECTIONS:

Color the cross dark blue. Leave the background white.

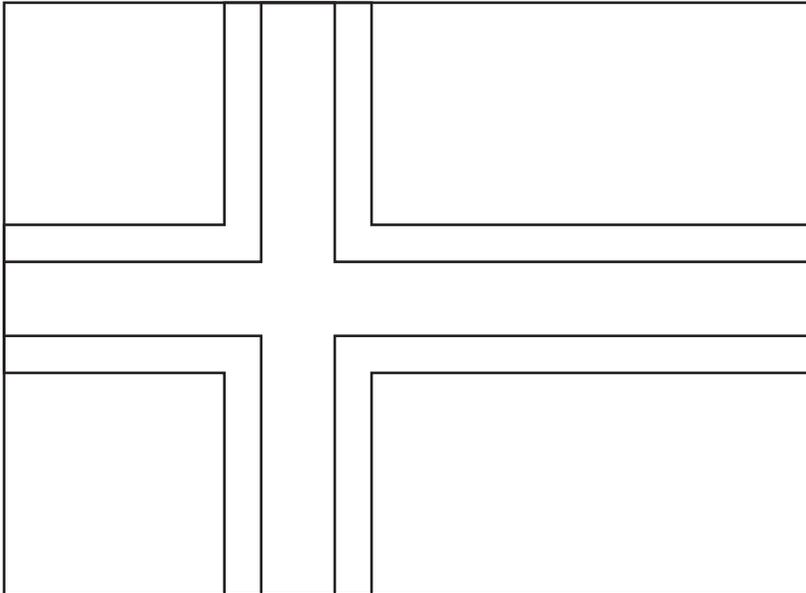
Color The Flag



IRELAND

DIRECTIONS:

Color the left third green and the right third orange. Leave the middle white.

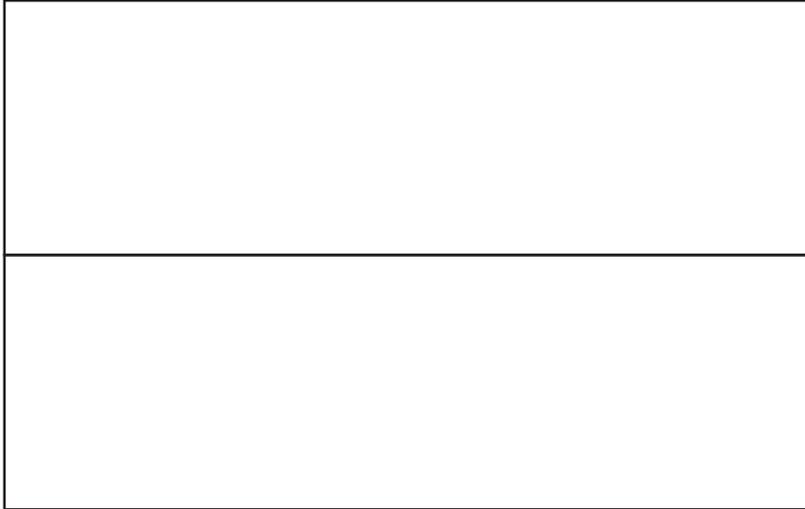


NORWAY

DIRECTIONS:

Color the small cross in the middle dark blue. Leave the larger cross around it white. Color the background red.

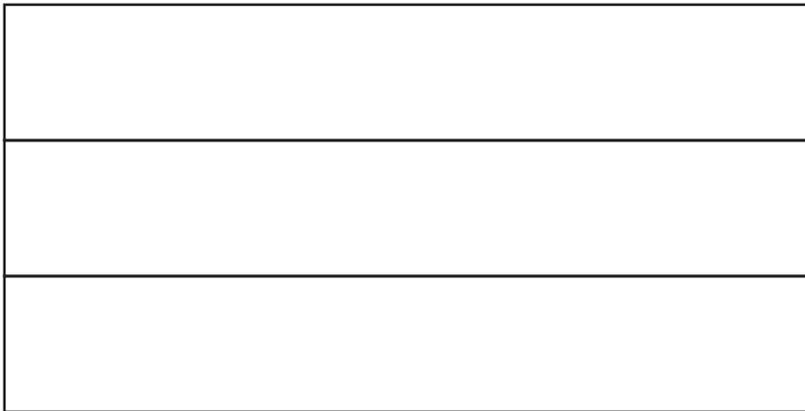
Color The Flag



POLAND

DIRECTIONS:

Leave the top half white.
Color the bottom half red.



SERBIA

DIRECTIONS:

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

The crown is yellow with white pearls.
The jewels around the bottom are red and blue.

The background of the shield is red.
The eagles are white with yellow beaks and feet. The fleurs-de-lys are yellow.
The smaller shield is red with a white cross and four white firesteels.

Let's Sing!

KIŠA PADA (IT'S RAINING) (SERBIA)

SERBIAN

Kiša pada, trava raste, gora zeleni
Kiša pada, trava raste, gora zeleni.
U toj gori raste drvo tanko visoko
U toj gori raste drvo tanko visoko.
Pod njim sedi moja seja, a ja pored nje
Pod njim sedi moja seja, a ja pored nje.

ENGLISH

It's raining, grass is growing, forest is turning green,
It's raining, grass is growing, forest is turning green.
In the forest, a tree is growing, slim and tall,
In the forest, a tree is growing, slim and tall.
Under the tree my sister is sitting, I am beside her,
Under the tree my sister is sitting, I am beside her.

PRONUNCIATION

Keesha pada, trava raste, gora zalanee
keesha pada, trava raste, gora zalanee
oo toy goree raste drvo tanko veesoko
oo toy goree raste drvo tanko veesoko
pod nyeem sadee moya seya, a ya pored nye
pod nyeem sadee moya seya, a ya pored nye

[a – as in car]

[e – as in bed]

The melody can be heard at bit.ly/Kisapada.

Leader's Resources

Be sure to download your free Mission Spotlight video, featuring video reports from around the Trans-European Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at bit.ly/missionspotlight. A printable mission bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at 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 your local library or a travel agency, or visit the websites listed below.

Websites

Cyprus: government website	bit.ly/CypGovt
Visit Cyprus	bit.ly/VisitCyp
Finland: government website	bit.ly/FinGovt
Discovering Finland	bit.ly/DiscFin
Ireland: government website	bit.ly/IreGovt
Discover Ireland	bit.ly/DiscIre
Norway: government website	bit.ly/NorGovt
Visit Norway	bit.ly/VisitNor
Poland: government website	bit.ly/PolGovt
Poland Travel	bit.ly/PolTrav
Serbia: government website	bit.ly/SerbGov
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LPSerb

Seventh-day Adventist	
Trans-European Division	bit.ly/SDATED
South-East European Union Conference	bit.ly/SEEUC
Polish Union Conference	bit.ly/SDAPolUC
Norwegian Union Conference	bit.ly/SDANoUC
Finland Union of Churches Conference	bit.ly/SDAFinUCC
Irish Mission	bit.ly/SDAIreMiss
Cyprus Section	bit.ly/SDACypSec

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 Trans-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.

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Web site: AdventistMission.org

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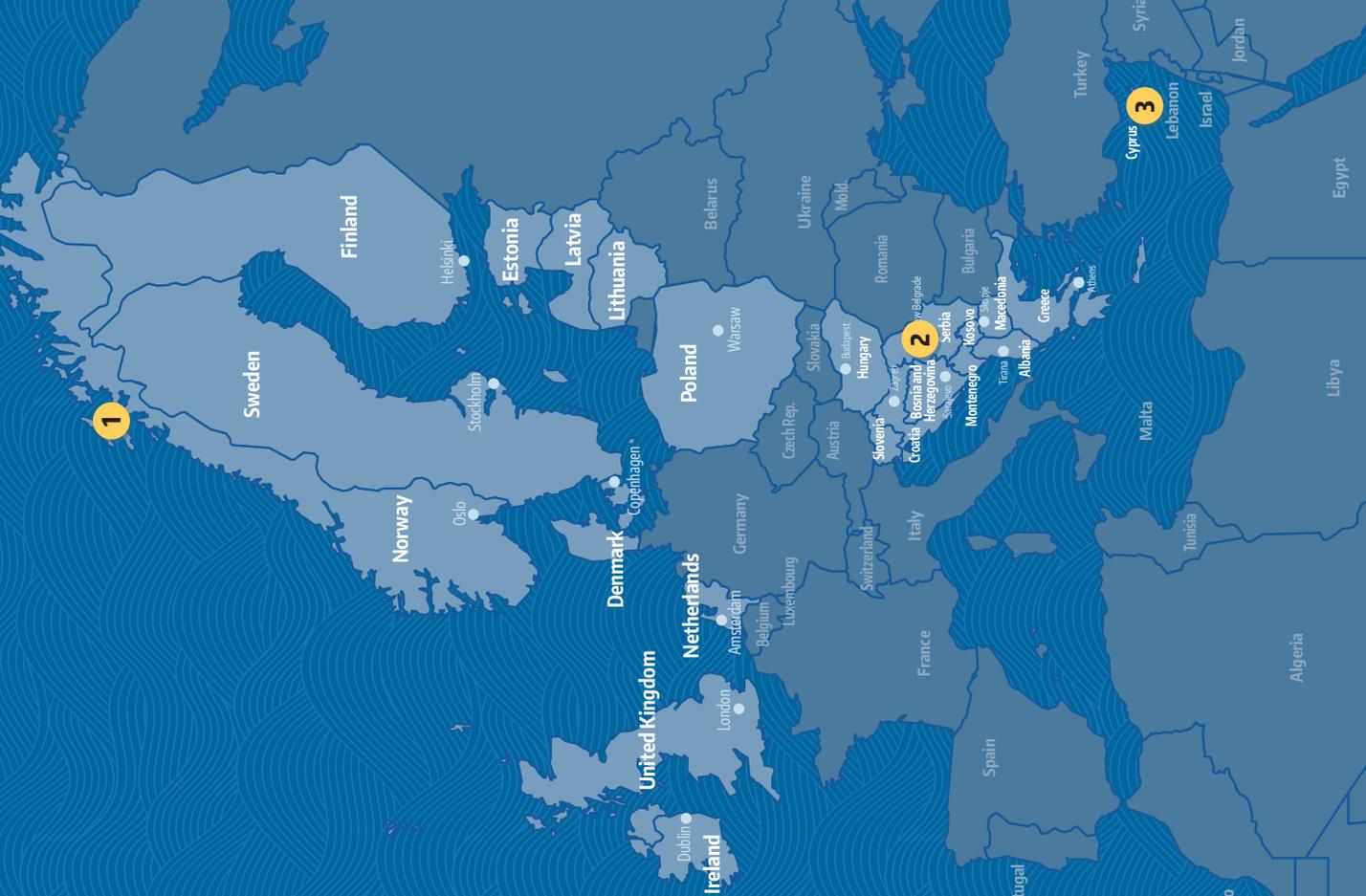
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Greenland

Narsarsuaq

Reykjavik

Iceland

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

CONFERENCE	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Adriatic Union Conference	94	15	3,664	9,050,000
Baltic Union Conference	89	8	5,986	6,033,000
British Union Conference	294	112	38,213	71,546,000
Danish Union of Churches Conference	39	1	2,447	5,892,000
Finland Union of Churches Conference	62	9	4,678	5,518,000
Hungarian Union Conference	113	29	5,223	9,758,000
Netherlands Union of Churches Conference	58	16	6,002	17,235,000
Norwegian Union Conference	62	2	4,535	5,314,000
Polish Union Conference	115	26	5,790	38,434,000
South-East European Union Conference	210	6	7,378	15,016,000
Swedish Union of Churches Conference	32	4	2,916	10,183,000
Cyprus Section	2	1	103	876,000
Greek Mission	11	3	463	10,600,000
Iceland Conference	6	1	469	354,000
Totals	1,187	233	87,867	205,809,000

PROJECTS

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

Morocco

Western Sahara
(Occupied by Morocco)