



CHILDREN'S MISSION

2017 • **QUARTER 4** • EURO-ASIA DIVISION



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On the Cover: Lukas Müller, 7, and his 6-year-old brother, Thomas, folded paper airplanes for God in Kyrgyzstan. Read their story on page 14.

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Your Offerings at Work



Three years ago, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped build a new Adventist school, left, in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, and a new Adventist church in Minsk, Belarus.



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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter features the Euro-Asia Division, which includes the countries of Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The mission stories this quarter feature five of these countries by name. One country is not identified, and people's names have been changed, to protect the church's work in a challenging region.

The Challenges

Most of the countries in the Euro-Asia Division were once part of the former Soviet Union, which for 70 years restricted religious freedom. Today, the countries of the Euro-Asia Division are home to more than 322 million people, but fewer than 111,500 Adventists. That's one Adventist for every 2,888 people.

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will go to help provide:

- A multipurpose retreat building in Rezina, Moldova
- A Mentoring Through Sports program for children and teens in Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- A multipurpose sports complex at Heritage Christian School in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan
- A Serve and Shine Outreach Center in Rostov-on-Don, Russia
- A Gospel Harbor Outreach Center of Influence in Vladivostok, Russia
- Children's Project: a preschool in Pavlodar, Kazakhstan

Ukraine has the highest concentration of Adventists, with one Adventist for every 900 people. This represents almost half of the division's believers. In contrast, the countries in the southern region of the division (which includes Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), are predominantly Muslim and pose a special challenge. Only 4,200 Adventists live in this region of 103 million people. That is one Adventist for every 24,500 people—truly a mission field!

Special Features

You can download the PDF version of the *Children's Mission* quarterly at bit.ly/childrensmision and like us at Facebook. [com/missionquarterlies](https://www.facebook.com/missionquarterlies).

Download *Mission Spotlight* videos, which feature mission reports about Thirteenth Sabbath Offering recipients and inspiring stories from around the world, at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

Check out the Leader's Resources on page 35 in this quarterly for helpful sources of additional information to enhance your mission presentations throughout the quarter.

Additional activities to use in Sabbath School, including a pattern for matryoshka dolls for the children to color to decorate the room, can be found on pages 31-33.

You also can contact me directly at mcchesney@gc.adventist.org for more information.

Andrew McChesney
Editor



KAZAKHSTAN | October 7

Ellina Minina, 13

She Doesn't Lie

Today's story comes from the country of Kazakhstan [KAH-sak-stan]. [*Locate Kazakhstan on the map.*]

Ellina [Eh-LEE-na] was nervous. Her family had moved to a new town, and she would attend a very big public school. Ellina knew that children in Kazakhstan attended classes six days a week, and she was prepared to tell her teachers that she would not be in school on Sabbath. But she wondered whether her teachers would understand her religious belief and excuse her from classes on Sabbath.

Ellina's Dilemma

Ellina learned that a few other Adventist children attended her new school, but she didn't know if they would be in her class, for the school was very big—so big that some students went to school in the morning, and the rest went to school in the afternoon.

Ellina learned that she had been assigned

to the afternoon class schedule. She was worried, for it meant that when the sun set early in the winter, she would miss classes on Friday as well as Sabbath. Ellina asked the school principal if she could attend the morning session, but the principal said that there was no room left in the mornings. Ellina's father talked to the principal about their religious faith and asked her to transfer Ellina to the morning session, but the principal wouldn't.

When the sun began setting too early for her to attend classes on Friday, Ellina missed classes on Fridays as well as on Sabbaths. She worked extra hard to keep up with her classmates, but she didn't complain.

The Bully

One day, one of Ellina's classmates misbehaved while the teacher was out. He took another child's book bag, pulled out their gym clothes, and stomped on the

Fast Facts

- Kazakhstan is the world's largest landlocked country and the ninth-largest country in the world.
- Historically, Kazakhstan has been inhabited by nomadic tribes.
- Kazakhstan has two official languages—Kazakh and Russian. More than half the people speak Kazakh, and most of the people speak Russian.

bag. Then as the class watched, he threw the bag and its contents out a window.

The principal learned what had happened, but she didn't know who had thrown the bag out the window. She called the students who had been in the classroom into her office. When Ellina was told to report to the principal's office, she wondered what she had done wrong. She prayed as she walked down the hall, and she felt God take away her fear.

In the office, the principal asked the children who had thrown the bag out the window. None of the children wanted to answer because they were afraid of the boy who had misbehaved.

Then the principal looked at Ellina. "I know someone who doesn't lie," she said. "Ellina, can you tell me what happened in class today?"

Ellina was nervous, but she knew that God was with her, and she had no need to fear. She stood before the principal and told her what had happened.

The Teacher's Surprise

A few days later, Ellina's teacher called her to her desk and gave her a paper. "The principal is transferring you to the morning session," the teacher said.

Ellina smiled and thanked the teacher. God had answered her prayers, and now she could attend school on Fridays as well. That evening, Ellina told her parents how God had answered her prayers. Together they knelt and thanked God for helping Ellina stay faithful to Him and to tell the truth in front of her classmates and the principal.

Kazakhstan has no Adventist schools yet. But part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a preschool, where children will not be told to study on Sabbath. Ellina's mother will be the director of the preschool. 🌐

Fun with Russian

Vowel sounds are pronounced as follows: *ah* as in father; *ai* as in eye; *ay* as in hay; *ee* as in bee; *eh* as in bet; *ih* as in tip; *oh* as in toe; *oo* as in boot; *uh* as in butter. Accented syllables are written in capital letters.

COMMON PHRASES	WRITE IT	PRONOUNCE IT
Good morning	Доброе утро	DOH-bray-eh OOH-trah
Welcome!	Добро пожаловать!	dah-BROH pah-ZHAN-loh-vaht
Happy Sabbath	Счастливой Субботы!	shah-SLEE-vi soo-BOH-ti
Please	Пожалуйста	pah-ZHAL-luh-stah
Thank you	Спасибо	spah-SEE-bah
Yes	Да	dah
No	Нет	nyeht



KAZAKHSTAN | October 14

Faithful Tatyana

Tatyana Pashinko, 60

Tatyana is a grown-up, but she is not very tall, and she doesn't look very strong. But she has a strong spirit. For many years she has operated a big crane in Kazakhstan [KAH-sak-stan]. *[Find Kazakhstan on a map.]*

A few years ago, Tatyana learned about Jesus at an evangelistic meeting. She became a Seventh-day Adventist and began keeping the Sabbath.

Problems at Work

When her supervisor retired, the new supervisor told Tatyana that she must work on Sabbath. Tatyana explained that she is a Christian and that God's law says not to work on Sabbath. But he demanded that she come to work on Sabbath. Tatyana didn't argue; but she didn't go to work on Sabbath.

On Monday morning, when she sat down at her big crane, her supervisor yelled at her. He warned that she would

have no job if she refused to work again.

Tatyana liked operating the big crane and didn't want to lose her job. But obeying God was more important to her than keeping her job. So, she didn't go to work the next Sabbath.

On Monday, her supervisor was even angrier. He threatened, "I'll make sure you lose your job!"

Going to work was no longer fun for Tatyana. Her supervisor made fun of her in front of the other workers. One of the workers asked Tatyana, "What's wrong with you? Do you want to get fired?" Others said unkind things to her that made her cry. Tatyana could do nothing but pray for strength. "God, why are people being so mean? Help me be kind to them, and give me strength to be patient."

She found comfort in reading the Bible. She especially liked Isaiah 43:1-3, where the Lord says, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by

your name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior” (NKJV).

Rewarding Evil with Kindness

At first, the bullying at work upset Tatyana; then she realized that her coworkers did not know God. She decided to be kind to them and find good things to say about them. When other children say unkind words to you, it can hurt. But you can try to find good things to say about them. Focusing on good things makes everyone happier.

Tatyana looked for ways to share what she knew about Jesus. When coworkers had birthdays, she gave them books and bookmarks about God and told them, “This is a gift from God.”

Her supervisor continued to say unkind

things, but he never fired Tatyana. And Tatyana never worked on Sabbath.

Tatyana talked to her pastor about the difficulties she faced at work. He explained to her that God was protecting her and her job because she was obeying His commandments. Sometimes she went to the pastor in tears, but she said, “I know how much Jesus suffered for me. I don’t want to disobey Him.”

There aren’t many Adventists in the country where Tatyana lives. But the members there are working hard to help spread God’s love. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a Seventh-day Adventist preschool in Tatyana’s city so other people can know how much God loves them. So, let’s be sure to bring our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on December 30 and help people in Kazakhstan know about Jesus. 🌐

Read a longer version of this story about Tatyana on the Adventist Mission website: bit.ly/kazakh-crane-operator.

Sing in Russian

Learn this simple song to sing during the quarter and for the adults on Thirteenth Sabbath. For help with pronunciation, see page 5.

GOD IS SO GOOD

(SING FOR JOY, NO. 13, OR HE IS OUR SONG, NO. 33)

Bohg nahsh tahk blahg (God is so good; repeat three times)
on tahk blahg kah mnyeh

yah loo-bloo eh-voh (I love Him so; repeat three times)
on tahk blahg kah mnyeh

loo-beht ohn nahs (He loves us; repeat three times)
loo-beht ohn nahs fseg-dah



KYRGYZSTAN | October 21

“Just Come!”

Galina Pogorelova, 21

[Ask a teen girl to present this first-person report.]

Today’s story comes from the country of Kyrgyzstan [KEER-gih-stan]. *[Locate Kyrgyzstan on a map.]*

“Hey, can we hang out together this Saturday?” I asked my friends Olga and Karina*. It was the start of summer vacation. “No,” Olga said thoughtfully. “We go to church on Saturday.”

I was surprised! Didn’t all Christians go to church on Sunday? Karina explained that they are Seventh-day Adventists, and they worship in church on Saturday.

The Invitation

I thought about that for a minute. “May I go with you one Saturday?” I asked, curious to know where and how they worshipped.

“Sure!” Karina answered, a huge smile brightening her face. “How about *this* Saturday?”

I asked whether I needed to wear a long dress and cover my head with a shawl like women do in the church I was familiar with.

“No,” Olga said. “Wear a dress or a skirt—but just come!”

I was a little nervous when we arrived at the church. Would the people think I was strange? Would I think *they* were strange? But I needn’t have worried. The people welcomed me and made me feel at home. Best of all, the Sabbath School had a big class of young people.

My mother gave me permission to keep going to church because I had friends there. But she warned me not to get too serious about this religion. I returned to

Fast Facts

- Kyrgyzstan is located in Central Asia. It lies at the crossroads of several great civilizations. The Silk Road, an ancient commercial and cultural route, passes through the country.
- Fuel to operate machinery is very expensive, so much of the farming in Kyrgyzstan is still done by hand and by horse.

the church every Sabbath that summer.

Trouble!

When I told my mother that I wanted to be baptized and join the Adventist Church, she was furious.

Schools in Kyrgyzstan have classes on Saturdays. I wanted to go to church, but I didn't dare. I asked God for help. I had learned that God wants us to "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy." So, I chose not to go to school on Saturdays. I left home as if I were going to school, but instead of entering the building, I walked around the school until classes ended. I didn't dare go to church because I knew my mother would be even more angry.

But my mother found out that I was skipping school on Saturdays. This time she was even more angry. She said I could not go to the Adventist church again. She took away my cell phone so I could not talk with my friends, and she ordered me to go straight home after school every day.

I was very sad. My mother had always been my best friend, and her anger over my desire to attend church seemed so

strange to me. Again, I prayed to God for help.

The Unfair Grade

Then something strange happened in school. My math teacher started giving me bad grades. I'm pretty good at math, and I didn't understand what was happening. When I got an "F" on a math test, I asked another teacher I knew to look at it and tell me what was wrong with my answers. The teacher looked over my paper and said she couldn't find any mistakes.

Then I realized that some teachers at the school didn't like me. There was nothing that my mother or I could do about it. My mother was worried about the teacher's actions, for she wanted me to finish the school year with good grades. So, she sent me to the Adventist school! She also told me that I could go back to church. I was so happy! I knew that the math grades were God's way of answering my prayers!

How has God answered your prayers?
[Allow children to reply.]

One of my prayers is for my Adventist school, Heritage Christian School. The school is quite crowded now, and many who want to attend there can't because there's no room. I pray that the school can finish its fundraising to build additional classrooms and a gym. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath offering will help build the gym. Then more children can come to the school and learn about Jesus. Please pray for my school as you save for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. 🌐

* Not their real names.



KYRGYZSTAN | October 28

Galina's Prayers

Galina Pogorelova, 21

Last week we met Galina, who lives in Kyrgyzstan [KEER-gih-stan]. [Ask a child find Kyrgyzstan on the map.] Galina's mother became angry when Galina told her that she wanted to be baptized and join the Adventist Church. Galina's mother wouldn't let Galina go to church on Sabbath. But Galina asked God to help her, and her mother changed her mind. Galina's mother not only allowed her to attend church again, but she enrolled Galina in the Adventist school in her city. Galina continues telling her story:

One Sabbath, the pastor announced a special camping trip for teenagers. I wanted to go, but the camping trip was only for teens who were baptized or were planning to be baptized. I asked my mother to allow me to go on the camping trip and be baptized. To my surprise, Mother agreed. She said I was old enough to make my own decision.

I was so excited! I wanted the world to know that I love Jesus with all my heart. I went on the camping trip and was baptized.

Trouble

My mother was the only person in my family who was happy with my baptism. My grandparents—especially my grandfather—opposed my decision to join the Adventist Church. He did not understand why I refused to eat pork. I would try to explain that the Bible tells us to not eat any unclean food, and I didn't want to disobey God.

But still my grandparents tried to feed me pork. It made me very uncomfortable. Once when my grandparents invited us over to eat, my mother asked what they were preparing. They said they were making something I liked. But when we arrived, we found only pork on the table. When I looked for something else to eat,

my grandfather became angry and said, “Eat what we made for you.”

My mother finally told my grandfather, “Look, we are not going to come over again unless you will provide food that Galina can eat.”

Three Prayers

I am praying for my grandfather. He does not believe in God. But I think God is changing his heart. My mother once heard my grandfather talking on to the phone to a friend. He said with pride, “My granddaughter is such a nice girl, and she goes to church.” I hope this means that my grandfather has accepted me as an Adventist.

I’m praying for my mother, too. So far she has not come to church with me, but I can see changes in her. When I return home from church, she asks me what the sermon was about. She asks a lot of questions about Jesus. My mother tells other people at her work that Saturday is the right day to worship. I can see that God is working in her heart, and I pray for her every day.

And I pray for my church and my

Fast Facts

- About 80 percent of the population of Kyrgyzstan is Muslim; about 17 percent follow Russian Orthodoxy, and 3 percent other religions.
- The Adventist Church has 757 members in Kyrgyzstan, meaning there is one Adventist for every 7,530 people.

school. I am who I am because of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Adventist school. I want to become a teacher and teach people in my home country about Jesus, my best Friend.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help my school, Heritage Christian School, build a gym where children can take physical education classes in the winter. Children who live near the school will be able to come to the gym and learn to play soccer and maybe other sports as part of the school’s outreach program. Please remember this school in your prayers and with your Sabbath School mission offerings. 🌍

Speak Kyrgyz

Kyrgyz is the language of Kyrgyzstan. Vowel sounds are pronounced as follows: *ah* as in father; *ai* as in eye; *ay* as in hay; *ee* as in bee; *eh* as in bet; *ih* as in tip; *oh* as in toe; *oo* as in boot; and *uh* as in butter. Accented syllables are written in capital letters.

COMMON PHRASES	WRITE IT	PRONOUNCE IT
Hello	Салам	sah-LAHM
Yes	Ооба	ooh-bah
No	Жок	ZHoK
Please	Сураныч	soo-RAHN-ihch
Thank you	Рахмат	RAHK-maht
Goodbye	Кош болуңуз	kosh bolunuz



KYRGYZSTAN | November 4

Vitaly, 10

A Gift to God

Today's story is from Kyrgyzstan. *[Ask a child to locate Kyrgyzstan on a map.]*

Every Sabbath, boys and girls gather for the children's story at the front of a Seventh-day Adventist church in Kyrgyzstan. After the story, the storyteller asks, "Did anyone memorize a Bible verse this week?"

Hands fly up as children who memorized a Bible verse take turns holding the microphone and reciting the Bible verse for the whole congregation to hear.

Every Sabbath for the past year, a 10-year-old boy named Vitaly [vee-TAH-lee] has raised his hand to share a Bible verse. Why do you think Vitaly memorizes a Bible verse every week? *[Allow several children to respond.]*

Vitaly's Gift

When asked why he memorizes a Bible

verse every week, Vitaly smiled shyly and said, "I memorize verses as a gift to God."

Every Sabbath, the Sabbath School teacher tells the children, "God gives us many gifts. What gift do you have for God today?"

God has given Vitaly many gifts. He lives with his grandparents, whom he loves. He has a safe home, a warm bed, and a few toys. And he goes to a good school.

But Vitaly doesn't have any money to give as an offering to God. For a long time, he wondered what gift he could give God.

Vitaly knows that he has a good memory, so he decided to memorize a verse from the Bible every week. When he told his Sabbath School teacher about his idea, she said this would be a wonderful gift for God!

On Sabbath after church, we asked Vitaly to share the Bible text that he had memorized as a gift to God that week. He recited Luke 1:68, “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people.”

Vitaly is one of six children who go to the Adventist church in Kyrgyzstan every Sabbath, even though no one in their families is Adventist. The children stand outside their homes on Sabbath morning and wait for the Sabbath School teacher to pick them up in her car.

After church, the Sabbath School teacher drives them home.

These children like church so much that they go every week, no matter what. When it snows a lot and other children want to stay in their warm homes, these children go to church. When the weather is warm and other children want to play outside, Vitaly and the other children go to church.

The church’s pastor is surprised that these children are so faithful about going to church. He said he knows children from Adventist families who complain on Sabbath morning and say, “Mommy, I want to stay home. I don’t feel like going to church today.”

You wouldn’t say that to your Mommy or Daddy, would you?

In fact, little Vitaly loves church so much that he told his brother, who lives in another part of town, about Sabbath School, and now his brother goes to church every Sabbath, too!

Vitaly also loves his school. He studies in the fourth grade at an Adventist school called Heritage Christian School in Kyrgyzstan.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth

Fast Facts

- Most of the countries in the Euro-Asia Division were once part of the former Soviet Union.
- Today the countries of the Euro-Asia Division are home to more than 322 million people but fewer than 111,500 Adventists, or one Adventist for every 2,888 people.
- The countries in the southern region of the division, which includes Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, are predominantly Muslim and pose a special challenge. Only 4,200 Adventists live in this region of 103 million people. That is one Adventist for every 24,500 people—truly a mission field!

Sabbath Offering will help Heritage Christian School. Did you know that the school is named after a Bible verse? In Psalm 127:3, it says, “Children are a heritage from the Lord.” That means children are a special gift that God gives to parents. This would be a wonderful verse to memorize. Would you like to be like Vitaly and memorize it as a gift to God today? *[Help the children memorize the verse as the mission offering is collected.]*

Please pray for Heritage Christian School this quarter, and remember to bring your Sabbath School mission offerings to church every week. 🌐

Watch Vitaly recite his memory verse from Luke 1:68 on YouTube. The link is: bit.ly/VitalyVerse



KYRGYZSTAN | November 11

Airplanes for God

Lukas Müller, 7, Thomas Müller, 6

Seven-year-old Lukas, and his six-year-old brother, Thomas, dragged a table to the edge of the road outside their home. They decorated the table with colorful flowers and loaded it with paper airplanes that they had made. Then Lukas called out in his most convincing voice to people as they passed, “Buy an airplane!”

Thomas added, “Each airplane costs only 10 som” [about 15 U.S. cents].

Lukas and Thomas and their parents live in Kyrgyzstan [KEER-gih-stan] in Central Asia. [Find Kyrgyzstan on a map.]

Raising Money for School

The boys had been selling their airplanes for just a few minutes when their father saw them. “What are you doing?” Father asked, surprised to see the boys at the street.

“We’re selling airplanes,” Lukas said.

“I can see that. But why are you selling paper airplanes?” Father asked, puzzled.

“We want to raise money for the school.”

Father relaxed and smiled. He was proud of Lukas and Thomas. Father works at the Seventh-day Adventist school in Kyrgyzstan. His job is to raise money for the school so that more children can study there.

Lukas and Thomas had heard their father speak to people about the need to raise money for the school. The boys had heard their father pray every day for God to provide money for the school. Now the boys wanted to help. They had decided on their own to sell the paper airplanes.

Father liked that his boys wanted to help raise money for the school, but he didn’t think it was safe for Lukas and Thomas to sell the airplanes on the busy street. He suggested that the boys sell the

airplanes on the school grounds instead. The boys quickly agreed. They decided to visit the school's cashier first. After all, she must be rich because she is in charge of all the school's money.

The cashier agreed to buy two paper airplanes for 10 *som* each. If one airplane costs 10 *som*, how much will two airplanes cost? [Let a child answer.] The boys received 20 *som*, or about 30 U.S. cents. Then the boys approached their father. "Papa, would you buy an airplane?" the boys asked.

"Sure, I'll buy one," Father said as he took 10 *som* from his pocket. "No, no," the boys told him. "For you, it is not 10 *som*. It is \$20. You are a foreigner, and foreigners always pay much more for things!"

The boys had seen foreigners—people who are not from the country—pay far more than the local people for the same goods.

The boys told another customer to pay 100 *som* for the airplane he chose from the boys' pile. "Why?" the man asked. "You sold the planes to the cashier for 10 *som* each."

"This is a special plane," Thomas said. "It flies better than the rest."

The boys wanted to raise as much money as possible for the school. So, when their airplanes were gone, they built a special cardboard box to collect money. Their father placed the box in the main school building so anyone who saw the box could drop money inside. When the boys received money for their birthdays, they gave the money to the school instead of using it to buy something for themselves. When Lukas lost two teeth, he put them under his pillow at night. The next morning, he found money

Mission Post

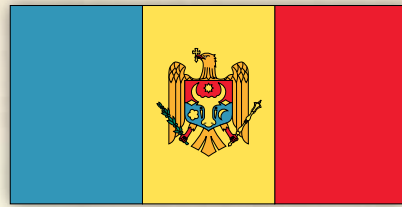
- The Adventist Church has 757 members in the entire country of Kyrgyzstan. That means that there is only one Adventist for every 7,530 people. Imagine being the only believer in a small town!
- Pray for ways to share God's love with so many people who have never heard how much Jesus loves them.

under his pillow, and he gave that money to the school.

But when Thomas got a new toothbrush and he wanted to sell his old toothbrush to raise money for the school, his mother laughed and explained that his old toothbrush was worn out and full of germs, and it would be best to throw it away.

Lukas and Thomas have raised more than U.S.\$150 for the school. Can you imagine? That's a lot of money for two little boys to raise! "I don't want to stop raising money for my school!" Thomas said. "I want to help, so more children can come study in the school."

Lukas and Thomas are great fundraisers. And we can help them raise money to finish their new school building. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help finish a gym at Heritage Adventist School in Kyrgyzstan. As you save money for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, pray for the children who attend the school. 🌐



MOLDOVA | November 18

“Why Me?”

Valeri Diligul, 33

[Ask a teenage boy or a man to present this first-person story.]

Today’s story is from Moldova. *[Locate Moldova on a map.]*

Just after my mother was baptized, she urged me to be baptized, too. I had no interest in being baptized. But she kept talking to me. “God loves you, and He wants you to believe in Him.”

I threw up my hands.

“Why me and not the other teenagers in town?” I said. “Let God find someone else.”

Military Duty

Then I was called into military service. Mom again urged me to make my commitment to God before I went into the military. I did love God, so I asked to be baptized.

On the day I reported for military service, I was scared. It’s common in the military for the older soldiers to harass new recruits, and I was worried about being singled out because I’m a Christian. I asked God to protect me from beatings and promised to serve Him the rest of my life.

I arrived at the army post and was told to go eat lunch. In the mess hall—the dining room—I was given a bowl of borsht beet soup and a plate of barley with chunks of pork. I didn’t want to eat it, so I refused the food.

The other soldiers saw this and expressed their surprise.

“What’s wrong with you?” said one.

“Give it to us,” said another. “We’ll eat it.”

I said, “Hey guys, I am a Christian, and I believe that some things should

Fast Facts

- Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe. Its primary industry is agriculture.
- The official language of Moldova is Romanian, a language related to Italian, French, Spanish, and Portuguese
- Moldova has 9,066 members, or one Adventist for every 392 people. This is the highest ratio in the Euro-Asia Division.

not be eaten. What should I do? I honestly don't know."

By the end of lunch, the news had spread throughout the barracks that the military had drafted a Christian.

The commanding officer summoned me to his office and asked whether I really was a Christian.

I was scared. I could say I had been joking, or I could tell him the truth. I decided to tell him the truth.

The commanding officer called for another soldier, a Baptist who worked in the military hospital, and asked him to verify that I was a Christian. The soldier asked me several simple questions that I answered easily.

My fellow soldiers accepted that I was a Christian, and soon they began to ply me with difficult questions. Fortunately, I had brought a copy of a Bible reference book with me. That book helped me to answer

the soldiers' questions.

But I remained afraid that the older soldiers would harass me—not just because I was a newcomer, but because I was a Christian.

Two weeks passed. Then one day, the new soldiers were in the bathroom block when a shout rang out, "The special forces are coming!"

A large group of older soldiers rushed into the room and began beating the new soldiers. Many young soldiers tried to fight back, but I went to a corner of the room and covered my head with my hands. I wasn't going to fight back.

A soldier saw me and ran over and struck me.

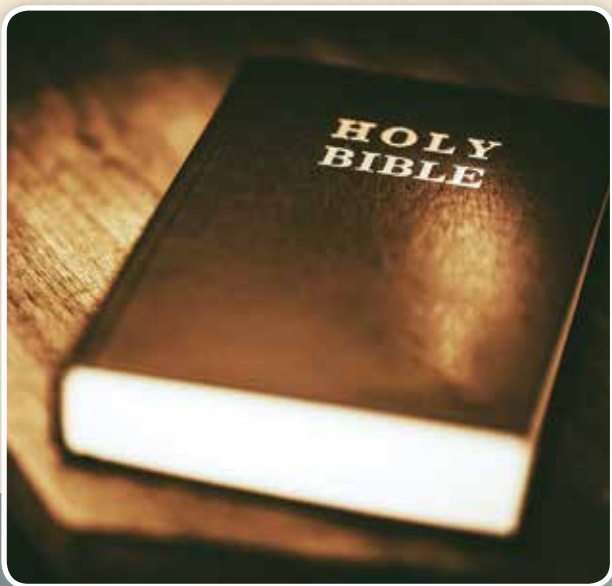
Someone yelled, "The Christian is under attack!"

Several soldiers rushed over and pulled away the attacker.

Two weeks later, the attacker fell in the bathroom and was sent to the military hospital. He sent a message to me saying that he feared that God was punishing him for hitting me and asked me to pray for him.

No one tried to harm me during the rest of my time in the military. My fellow soldiers nicknamed me "Father Valeri" [Vaa-LAYEH-Riy] as if I were a priest, and they asked me to pray for their loved ones and for personal needs. I was not a priest or even a pastor, but I was happy to pray to God for them.

I'm out of the military now, and I'm keeping my promises to God. He kept me from harm in the military, and I will serve Him for the rest of my life. I'm so glad I listened to my mother when she urged me to surrender my life to God before I served in the military. 🌍



TAJIKISTAN | November 25

Shukhrat

Born in War

[Ask a teenage boy to present this first-person report.]

My name is Shukhrat [SHOO-khrawt], and I live in Tajikistan [tah-jih-kih-STAN]. *[Find Tajikistan on the map.]*

Tajikistan is a beautiful country, with majestic mountains, lush green valleys, and crystal-clear mountain lakes and streams. But a terrible war broke out in our country and left more than 50,000 people dead. I was born during the war.

My parents divorced shortly after I was born, and I lived with my mother for 10 years. When I was 11 years old, my father took me to live with him. My father was a soldier, and he fought in the war. After the war ended, he became a border guard, guarding the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. *[Point to the border between these countries.]*

Gift of God's Love

From the time that I was a small boy, I liked to read. One day my father brought me a small pile of books that someone had given him. I was only 11 years old, but I still remember these books. Three were religious books: *The Bible in Pictures*, *The Gospel of Jesus Christ*, and *The Life of Jesus Christ*. Father opened the book, *The Bible in Pictures*, and showed me the colorful illustrations.

Those books changed my life. Up until that time, I knew little about God. But as I read those books, I learned about the great and loving God who created our beautiful world. I was very sad when I read that Adam and Eve brought sin into the world. But the most surprising thing happened when I read about the life of Jesus. His words, His parables, and the Sermon on the Mount caused me to fall

in love for Him. When I found out how Jesus suffered and gave His life on the cross for me, I loved with Him with all my heart! I remember the night when I knelt and prayed in my room. I gave my heart and my life to Jesus and accepted Him as my Savior! I was 12 years old.

Excitement and Disappointment

That summer, my cousin Aziz invited me to visit a Christian church. We studied the Bible there, sang Christian songs, and went on an outing together to a lake. There I was given my first Bible! I eagerly devoured every word I read. You should have seen me when I first read the book of Revelation. The description of the beast, the number 666, and the prophecies about the end of this world filled me with awe! I understood that Revelation revealed the future, and I wanted to understand it.

When my father and other relatives found out that I had become a Christian, they tried to make me feel ashamed. They said, “How could you betray our family’s faith? You have disgraced us. What will

Fast Facts

- Tajikistan is a mountainous country in Central Asia. About 8 million people live there.
- Most of the people who live in Tajikistan speak Tajik, but many also speak Russian.
- About 70 percent of the population are under the age of 30.

people say?” I did not know how to answer. All I could do was bow my head and be silent.

I was born during a war, and now another kind of war had broken out in my family. What would you say if someone got angry with you for believing in Jesus? We’ll find out what I did next week.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteen Sabbath Offering will support a sports program for children in my home city in Tajikistan. Please pray for the children of Tajikistan, and share your love for Jesus with your Sabbath School mission offerings. 🌐

Speak Tajik

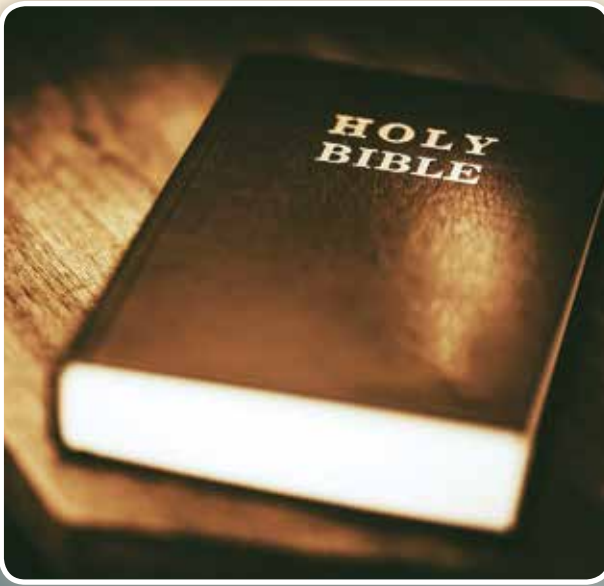
For help pronouncing the words, see page 5.

COMMON PHRASES

Hello
Yes
No
Please
Thank you
Goodbye

PRONOUNCE IT

sah-LOHM
ha
neh
LOOT-fahn
si-pos
KHAI-r (the kh sound is spoken with the tongue in the back of the mouth)



TAJIKISTAN | December 2

Shukhrat

Reborn in Peace

Last week we met a boy named Shukhrat [SHOO-khrawt]. He is 12 years old and was born during a war in Tajikistan [tah-jih-kih-STAN]. [Find Tajikistan on the map.]

Shukhrat's life changed when his father gave him some books about Jesus. After reading how Jesus died for him, Shukhrat knelt in his room and gave his life to Jesus. But his father and other relatives were angry when they learned that Shukhrat had become a Christian.

Shukhrat continues to tell us his story:

War broke out in my family when they learned that I had given my heart to Jesus. My relatives took away my Bible and other books. I asked them to return my books, but they said they didn't have them.

I went to a Christian church and asked for another Bible, but my relatives took away this Bible too. After that I hid the Bible and read it secretly. But somehow my

relatives knew that I was still reading the Bible. My father beat me and told me to stop. My uncle even threatened to kill me.

I was scared, and I didn't know what to do. But I was comforted by the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:11–12, where Jesus says: "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (NKJV).

Finding God's People

As I got older, I read in the Bible that Christians need to be baptized. I wanted to be baptized, but I didn't know which church to join. I wondered which church is the true church. I studied the Bible intensely for two months. I felt desperate to know what God wanted me to do. One day I fell on my knees and with pain in my

heart cried out to God, “I do not know where to be baptized. Where can I find Your true Christians?”

I heard a small voice inside me say, “A true Christian is someone who keeps the commandments.” I knew God was leading me. I needed to find a church that kept the Ten Commandments. That made sense to me. I knew the commandments—Do not kill. Do not steal. Honor your father and your mother. Many Christian churches obey these commandments. But the Fourth Commandment bothered me. What does the Fourth Commandment say? *[Allow a child to answer.]*

That’s right, the Fourth Commandment says, “Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.” That means to honor Jesus by going to church on Saturday. But I didn’t know any Christian church that worshipped on Saturday. All the churches that I knew about worshipped on Sunday.

One day, while I was searching the Internet, I found an article about the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I read that Adventists keep all of the commandments—including the Fourth Commandment! So, I searched online for the address of an Adventist church in my home city. I found a church and went to talk with the pastor. I told him of my

Mission Post

- Tajikistan considers itself a secular state with a Constitution providing for freedom of religion, but 98 percent of the population is Muslim.
- The first Adventists in the area, Ivan and Vasily Kosmjnin, traveled to Tajikistan in 1929.

journey to Jesus, and we studied the Bible together. At last I was baptized into God’s true church!

I cannot tell you my real name because it is dangerous to live as a Christian in my country. Many people would threaten to kill me if they knew I had converted to Christianity from my family’s religion. Even though it is dangerous to be a Christian, even though I could be beaten or threatened, even if I am killed, I will not change my mind. I love Jesus, and I will obey Him always. Jesus gives me peace.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteen Sabbath Offering will support a sports program that will reach out to children in my home city. Please pray for the children in Tajikistan who are searching for God, even as I was. Thank you for bringing your mission offering every week! 🌐

Tajikistan Quiz

Q: What is a “Tajikistan Snickers”?

A: A persimmon. The orange-colored fruit has a sweet, caramel-colored inside that somewhat resembles the filling of a Snickers candy bar. People in Tajikistan joke that this popular fruit, which is inexpensive and widely available in the country, is the Tajikistan Snickers, which is much more expensive and unaffordable to most people.





TAJIKISTAN | December 9

Surayo Khudjamkulova, 34

Life-Changing Prank

Surayo [SU-rayo] was a serious girl. She studied Arabic in school in Tajikistan [tah-jih-kih-STAN]. [Find Tajikistan on a map.] She prayed a lot. She especially begged God to forgive her sins. She felt guilty all the time about the bad things she had done, and she wanted God to forgive her.

Then a baby sister was born into Surayo's family. Usually a family rejoices when a baby is born. But Surayo's family was sad. Doctors said the baby had a disease called cerebral palsy that made her muscles weak. She would probably never walk. Surayo was so sad that her baby sister would never run with her or even play with her doll, like Surayo did.

Surayo didn't understand why her sister was sick. She thought, *Maybe my parents did something wrong. Maybe they didn't ask for forgiveness. Maybe God is punishing them.* Many Muslims believe that parents

are to blame for problems of the children. So, Surayo prayed for two years that her parents would be forgiven.

Her sister's illness also made Surayo wonder about God. She thought, *If God is so kind, then why is all this happening? What did my parents do wrong?*

The Prank Call

Although Surayo worried a lot, she also was a typical girl. She enjoyed spending time with her friends. One day, she and her friends decided to make some prank telephone calls. They dialed random telephone numbers and hung up when someone answered. They laughed merrily, thinking it was a great joke.

But one person called back. Surayo answered the telephone, and the man asked her why she had hung up when he answered the phone. Surayo was embarrassed and apologized for the trick.

The man didn't seem angry, but spoke kindly to her. Later Surayo told her parents about the joke-turned-apology.

Surayo learned that the man she had tried to trick on the phone was a Christian, a Seventh-day Adventist. She had never met a Christian before, and she began to ask him questions about God. "If God is good, why is my sister sick? Why does she have to suffer for the sins of my parents?"

The man explained that God was not punishing her parents or her sister. He said God is good. It is Satan who causes sickness and pain.

Then one day, the man invited Surayo to go to his church. She went, and she really liked it. When a woman sang a song about Jesus, Surayo started to cry.

Only 204 Adventists live in Tajikistan, and today Surayo is one of them. As a little girl, she prayed all the time that God would forgive her sins. She still prays for forgiveness. But now she understands that God forgives our sins when we ask, and He doesn't punish us, or other

Mission Post

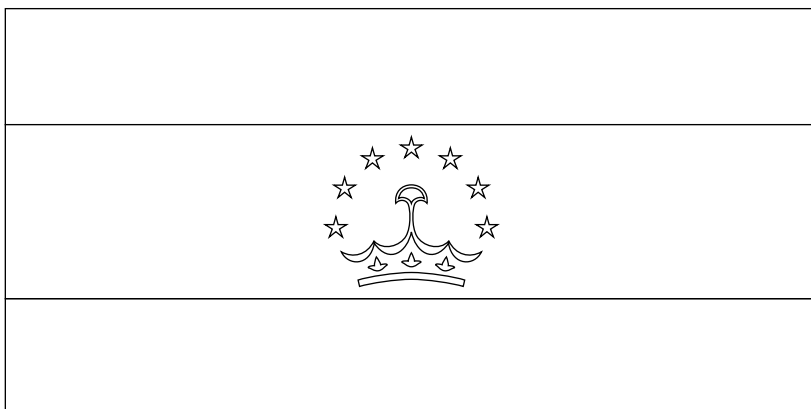
- How many people attend your church? 50? 100? More? Now imagine your town or city. Does it have 2,000 people? 50,000? 500,000? More? Imagine living in a land where there are only 204 Adventists in the entire country! That's one Adventist for every 39,215 people! Imagine a town with only one Adventist!
- Pray for the believers in Tajikistan. Pray that God will help them live lives that will make their neighbors want to know more about their faith.

people, with sickness for something we've done. Surayo also prays every day that more people in Tajikistan will get to know God.

Would you like to pray with her for people in Tajikistan to know God? [*Ask a child to pray for Surayo and Tajikistan.*] 🌐

Read more about Surayo on the Adventist Mission website (bit.ly/Jesus-in-Tajikistan) and another story about her on p. 16 of the Youth and Adult Mission quarterly.

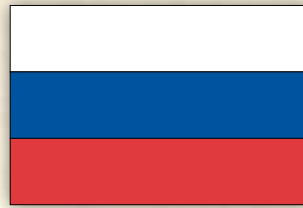
Color The Flag



TAJIKISTAN

DIRECTIONS:

- Top third: red
- Middle third: white
- Bottom third: green
- Crown and stars: gold



RUSSIA | December 16

Lyubov's Call

Lyubov Babkina, 66

Lyubov [LYuw-BOWF] lives in Russia. *[Locate Russia on the map.]* Her name means “love” in Russian. Isn’t that a lovely name?

Lyubov has loved God for as long as she can remember. She attends a Seventh-day Adventist church and was taught to love the word of God since she was a small girl. Her mother set a good example for Lyubov, working in the church and the community to help others and share God’s love.

Then her mother fell ill. The doctor said it was cancer and it was too late to operate. Lyubov’s mother was sent home to die. Lyubov was very sad. She took care of her mother, and they prayed together all the time.

Lyubov’s mother constantly reassured Lyubov, saying: “Don’t worry. Don’t cry. Everything is according to God’s will. What is happening will prove to be a

blessing to both of us.” Mother’s words always calmed Lyubov.

As her mother grew weaker, Lyubov sensed that she was close to death. So, she asked her mother whether she had any last wishes. Mother looked at her with a sad expression and said, “Daughter, I am grateful to you and God. But how can I die peacefully while I know that no one is around to continue my work for God?”

Those words bothered Lyubov. She decided to serve God like her mother had. But first she wanted to be baptized. She asked the pastor to baptize her.

“I know you well,” the pastor said. “I know that you know the truth. This Wednesday we will have a church board meeting with baptismal candidates. Come, and I will recommend you for baptism.”

Lyubov wrote an official request for baptism and showed it to her mother, who smiled as tears trickled down her cheeks.

Mother's Surprise

The next morning, Lyubov went to the kitchen and was shocked to find her mother cooking borscht, a traditional vegetable soup made with beets. "Wow," Lyubov exclaimed. "How can you be cooking?"

The mother replied, "I'm making you something to eat. It will be ready in a moment. Don't worry, everything is fine."

Lyubov's mother didn't die. She lived a long life, for God had healed her. Lyubov is convinced that her mother's miraculous healing was a call from God for her to dedicate her life to Him. She said it reminded her about the truth of Jesus' words in John 15:16: "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (NKJV).

Lyubov said, "Through my mother's experience, I understood that God brings people to Himself. I began to actively serve God—and I still do."

We can serve God now—today. We

Fast Facts

- Russia is the world's largest country in terms of area. It stretches across two continents (Europe and Asia). From east to west, it spans 6,000 miles (nearly 10,000 kilometers, and nine time zones. It stretches 2,500 miles (4,000 kilometers) from the polar regions of the north to warmer climates in the south.
- Russia has a population of more than 144 million, but only 43,317 are Seventh-day Adventists. That is one Adventist for every 3,332 people.

don't have to grow up to serve God. What are some things you can do to serve God in your home, your church, or your community today? [*Encourage children to share their ideas.*]

Part of this quarter's Thirteen Sabbath Offering will help provide a community center in Lyubov's home town of Rostov-on-Don that will help other people learn about Jesus. 🌍

Kissel

Kissel is a fruit pudding thickened with cornstarch and served warm or cold with cream. It is a popular dessert in Russia. Many kinds of puréed fruit can be used. Here are two varieties.

APRICOT KISSEL

2 cups (475 ml) water
1 cup (6 ounces, or 120 grams) dried apricot halves

1/4 cup (55 grams) sugar
3 tablespoons (25 grams) cornstarch
dash salt

DIRECTIONS:

Simmer apricots in water until tender, about 20 minutes. Place apricots and 1/2 cup cooking liquid in blender; purée until smooth. Press through a sieve. Mix sugar, cornstarch, and salt in saucepan; gradually stir in purée and remaining cooking liquid. Heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Boil one minute. Pour into dessert dishes. Serve with whipped cream.



EURO-ASIA DIVISION | Dec. 23

Murad, 10

The Clouds Cried Out

Ten-year-old Murad [MYUHR-ad] approached his teacher after class. “I have a secret,” he whispered to her.

The teacher, a Seventh-day Adventist woman who works in a restrictive country, looked at the boy quizzically. Although Murad had been in her class several months, he had never spoken to her like this.

“I have a secret to tell you,” Murad repeated, still whispering.

“What is it?” the teacher asked, whispering back.

Tears formed in Murad’s eyes and ran down his cheeks as he spoke. “One day when I was walking to school, I saw a cloud that looked like a man hanging on a cross,” Murad said. “I didn’t know who it was until I heard you talking about Jesus. When you spoke about Jesus, I remembered the cloud.”

The teacher felt a lump form in her

throat and tears form in her own eyes. She wasn’t sure what to say to this boy. Although she shares Bible stories about Jesus as she tells her students the importance of having good values to live by, she cannot say much about God without risking problems with the authorities. She knew that he hadn’t told his parents about his vision, for they refused to allow their son to believe in Jesus.

Murad’s vision reminds us that even when we cannot talk to someone about God’s love, God has ways to show people that He loves them. In Murad’s culture, dreams and visions are important, and people feel strongly that they mean something for them.

Murad’s vision of the cross in the clouds reminds us of Jesus’ words in the Bible. He said, “I tell you that if these [men, His disciples] should keep silent, the stones

Mission Post

- The countries in the southern region of the Euro-Asia Division (Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) are predominantly Muslim and pose a special challenge.
- Only 4,200 Adventists live in this region of 103 million people. That is one Adventist for every 24,500 people.
- Pray that people's hearts will be open to learning more about Jesus, who loves them and wants to be their Lord.

would immediately cry out" (Luke 19:40). The disciples had been declaring that Jesus was the Messiah, but the Pharisees urged Jesus to tell them to be quiet.

And for Murad, God spoke through the clouds in a part of the world where Christians are forbidden to speak openly about Jesus. When Murad saw the clouds

above his home, he understood that Jesus is the crucified Savior. And Murad's teacher was convinced that Jesus was reaching out to the young boy's heart through the clouds. She knew that if Jesus could make the clouds cry out, she needn't worry. God would finish the work that humans can't do on their own.

Ellen White says that children will have a special role in sharing the gospel in the last days. "When heavenly intelligences see that men are no longer permitted to present the truth, the Spirit of God will come upon the children, and they will do a work in the proclamation of the truth which the older workers cannot" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 202).

Let's pray that people will be open to hearing and accepting God's message of love in countries where it's not easy to share Jesus with others. Your mission offerings help reach people in these difficult-to-reach parts of the world.

[Close with prayer.] 🌐

Sing a Russian Song

For pronunciation help, see page 5.

SING HALLELUJAH TO THE LORD

Poy hallelujah Goh-spah-doo
Poy hallelujah Goh-spah-doo
Poy hallelujah, poy hallelujah
Poy hallelujah Goh-spah-doo

Thirteenth Sabbath Program

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

- Practice singing “Sing Hallelujah to the Lord” in Russian (see page 27 in the quarterly) to perform during the program.

If your class will not join the adults for a special program:

- Present the following story during the mission time. You can invite Juniors or Earliteens to help present the program if you wish. This will help older children to become more comfortable in front of an audience, and give the younger children different people to watch and listen to during the presentation.

Before Thirteenth Sabbath:

- Send home a note to remind parents of the program and to encourage the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on December 30.
- Remind everyone that their mission offerings are gifts to spread God’s Word around the world, and that one-fourth of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to help the people of the Euro-Asia Division. The projects are listed on page 3 and on the back cover.

Father Has Completely Changed

Dmitry Kostash and his daughter, Anjila

[Ask a man and a teenage girl to present this first-person report.]

Anjila: My name is Anjila [AHN-jih-lah], I am 18 years old, and I live with my parents and 14-year-old brother in a small town in northern Moldova. This is my father, Dmitry [dih-MEE-tree]. He used to be angry all the time.

Dmitry: Good morning. I trained to be a music teacher. But I couldn’t find a teaching job, so I was working as a guard at a private lake. My job was to feed the fish and prevent people from fishing.

Anjila: When I was 12 years old, a Seventh-day Adventist woman came to our house and invited my brother and me to church. Mother took us to church every Sabbath for about a year. But my grandparents—my father’s parents—didn’t like it. They said, “Everyone is laughing at us. This is such a disgrace!”

Mother invited Father to come to church with us, but he refused because he was afraid of his parents. He offered excuses such as ...

Anjila, her brother, and her father, Dmitry Kotash.



Dmitry: I have other things to do. I don't have time for God. I might have time for God and church after I finish making major repairs around the house.

Anjila: That was the end of the discussion. Dad got tired of the church talk. No one was allowed to go to church.

The woman who had invited us to go to church kept visiting us and inviting us back, but we didn't go.

After several months, Father finished fixing up the house. He said:

Dmitry: Finally, I have some free time.

Anjila: But he didn't make time for God. He didn't keep his promise to go to church.

Then strange things started happening to my father. He became afraid to stay at home alone. He was nervous and yelled all the time. He developed high blood pressure, and went to the doctor who gave him medicine. But nothing helped. The doctor didn't know what else to do.

My grandmother advised Father to go to a nearby monastery. She said the priest would know what was wrong without even asking Father any questions. My father went to the monastery several times, but that didn't help either.

Father began to look for answers

elsewhere. He asked people about the point of life. One person he talked to was an Adventist church elder. After they spoke, Father accepted an invitation to attend a holiday program at the church. When he returned home, he told my mother.

Dmitry: I went to the church program, and I was really impressed. When I returned home, I told my wife, "Let's start going to church."

Anjila: Mother was shocked, but she was very happy. I was happy, too. I thought I was dreaming.

The next Sabbath we started to go to church, and we have gone every Sabbath since.

Dmitry: But what you don't know, Anjila, is that I prayed before deciding to attend church.

I didn't like being angry and afraid. But it seemed like my life was over. There was no point in living. I felt that something was pressing down on me. I know now that it was Satan working on me. He wanted to kill me.

So, one day I got on my knees and prayed. I knew that only God could help me. I prayed, "Help me, a sinner. I don't know what is going on, but help me

with Your strong hand.” When I finished praying, I felt a burden being lifted from my shoulders. I sensed a voice saying, “You need to move forward, and all will be fine. I will help you.”

Anjila: We went to church together, as a family. The pastor invited us to attend baptismal classes. All four of us—my father, my mother, my brother, and I—were baptized last year.

Grandmother and Grandfather are not happy about our decision. They think my brother and I are being forced to go to church. Grandmother told my parents, “You have disgraced the children. They are young and have their lives ahead of them. They can’t go out and dance. How will they get married?”

I told her that dancing is not important, and that I would let God lead me when it comes to marriage. We have invited Grandmother and Grandfather to church, but they refuse to come.

I praise God for performing a miracle for Father. He has completely changed.

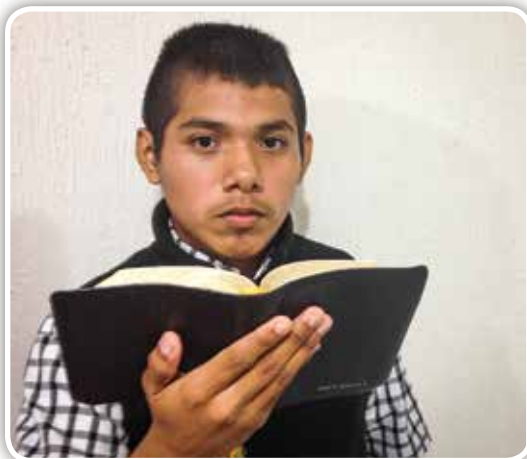
He is no longer nervous and worried. He isn’t the man that he used to be. He loves God and serves as a deacon and the music director of our small church.

Dmitry: My family and I were baptized at a Soviet-era health resort that the Adventist Church is turning into a Pathfinder camp and conference center. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings will help complete renovations at the complex. Thank you for remembering Moldova and the Euro-Asia Division today as you give your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

Narrator: Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help make possible special projects in several countries across the Euro-Asia Division. The details are listed on the back of your Sabbath School lesson quarterly. Ask God how you can help finish the work here and around the world so Jesus can come.

[Offering]

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects



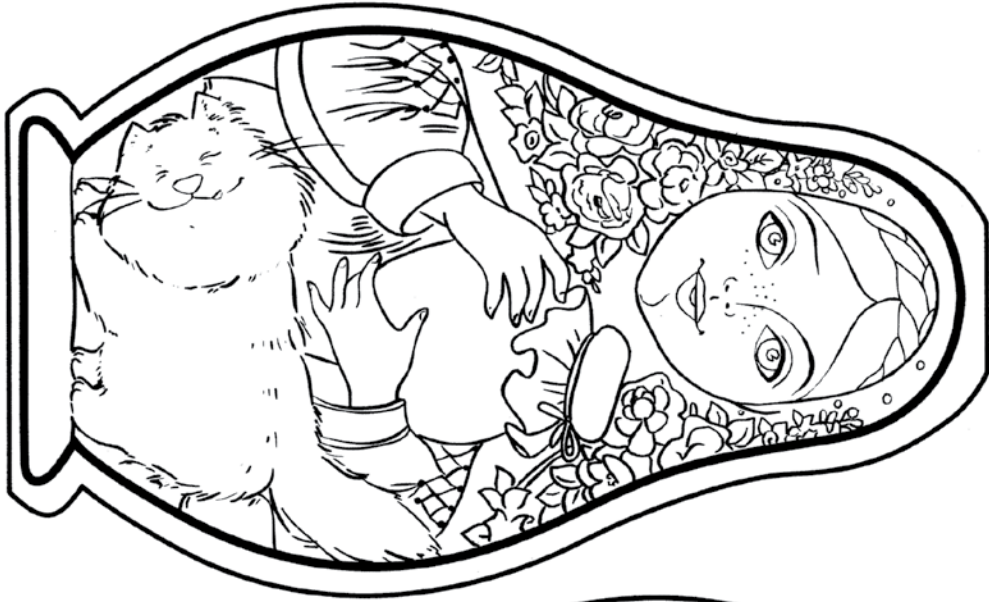
Next quarter the Inter-American Division will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath blessing from church members around the world. Projects there will include:

- A center of influence/evangelism center at Antillean Adventist University in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico
- A cross-cultural mission center at University of Southern Caribbean in Maracas, Trinidad
- A cross-culture mission center and hospital in Tabasco, Mexico

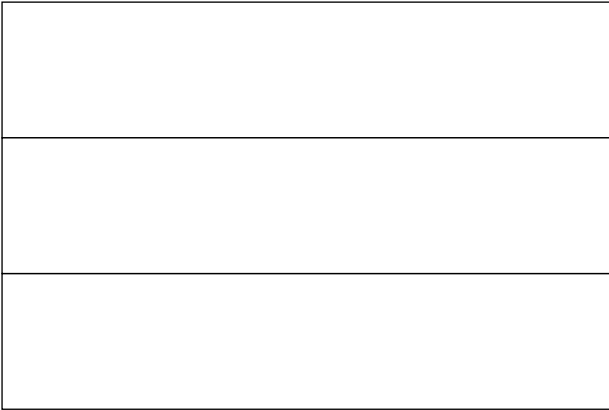
Matryoshka Doll

Matryoshka dolls are popular throughout the Euro-Asia Division. While each country has a slightly different design for its dolls, they all have one thing in common: they nest inside each other.

Photocopy this pattern and give one to each child to color, then tape them together to create a banner or border for a bulletin board in your classroom. Or enlarge this pattern to create an offering goal device (see page 35 for instructions).



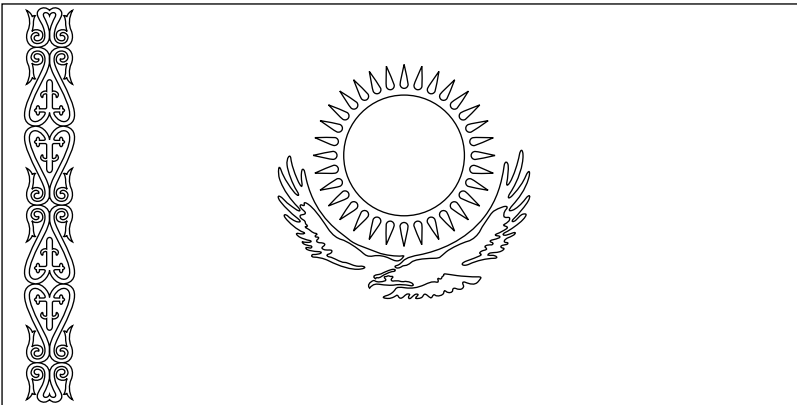
Color The Flag



RUSSIA

DIRECTIONS:

Top stripe: white
Middle stripe: blue
Bottom stripe: red

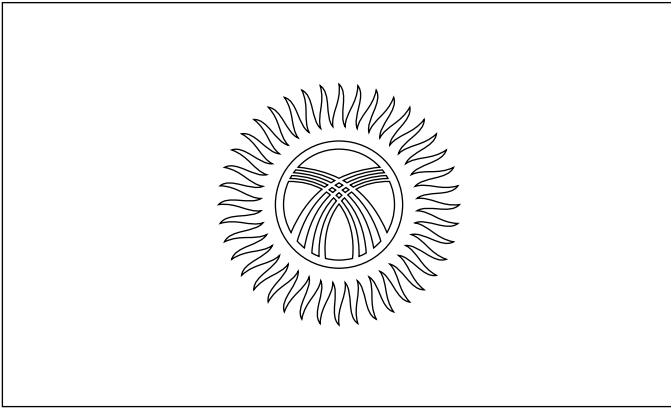


KAZAKHSTAN

DIRECTIONS:

Background: aqua blue
Sun, eagle, and
decorative strip: yellow

Color The Flag

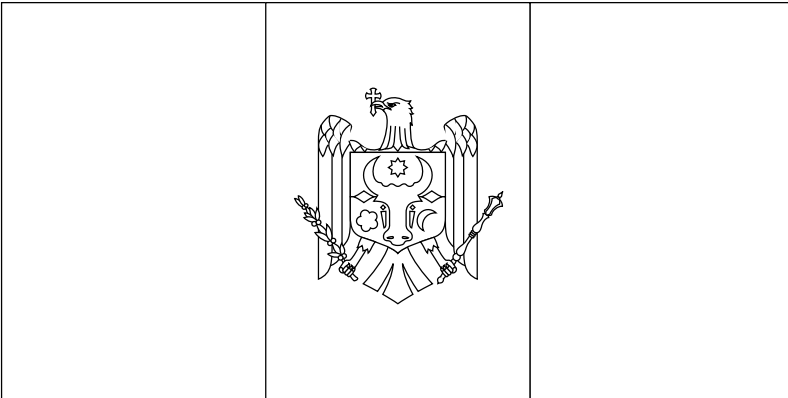


KYRGYZSTAN

DIRECTIONS:

Background: red

The sun rays and circle:
yellow with red lines



MOLDOVA

DIRECTIONS:

Left stripe: dark blue

Middle stripe: yellow-gold

Right stripe: red

Coat of Arms:

Eagle: golden brown

Top half of shield: red

Bottom half of shield:
blue



PUT THE SPOTLIGHT BACK ON MISSION WITH **Mission Spotlight!**

Produced each quarter by the Office of Adventist Mission, this DVD is a complete package—featuring action-packed mission stories from around the globe, including Thirteenth Sabbath Mission Offering projects. Available in short weekly or longer monthly segments.



Mission Spotlight is great for

- Sabbath School
- Children's stories
- Before Church
- School and family worships
- Pathfinders
- Prayer Meetings

Cost is **Absolutely Free!** The DVDs are sent to every church in the North American Division.

DOWNLOAD OR STREAM STORIES FROM WWW.MISSIONSPOTLIGHT.ORG.

Leader's Resources

Be sure to download your free Mission Spotlight video, featuring video reports from around the Euro-Asia Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

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 the websites listed below or write to me, Andrew McChesney, at mchesneya@gc.adventist.org.

Russia:	government.ru/en/
CIA's Russia Facts:	bit.ly/RussiaCIA
Wikitravel:	bit.ly/wikiRussia
Lonely Planet:	bit.ly/PlanetRussia
Kyrgyzstan:	bit.ly/wikiKyrgyzstan
	bit.ly/KyrgyzstanCIA
Moldova:	bit.ly/wikiMoldova
Tajikistan:	bit.ly/wikiTajikistan
Ukraine:	bit.ly/wikiUkraine
	bit.ly/UkraineCIA

Seventh-day Adventist websites

Euro-Asia Division:	adventist.ru
West Russian Union Conference:	zrs.adventist.ru
Moldova Union of Churches Conference:	adventist.md
Northern Kazakhstan Mission:	adventist.su

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.

Since this quarter features the Euro-Asia Division, you might want to use the drawing of the matryoshka doll on page 31. Enlarge the drawing to fit the largest paper available (11 x 17-inch paper would require a 400 percent enlargement). In pencil, make 14 marks along the side, one for each week, and two for Thirteenth Sabbath's offering. Then each week after Sabbath School, color in that portion of the matryoshka doll to indicate the progress your class is making toward your goal.

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 Euro-Asia 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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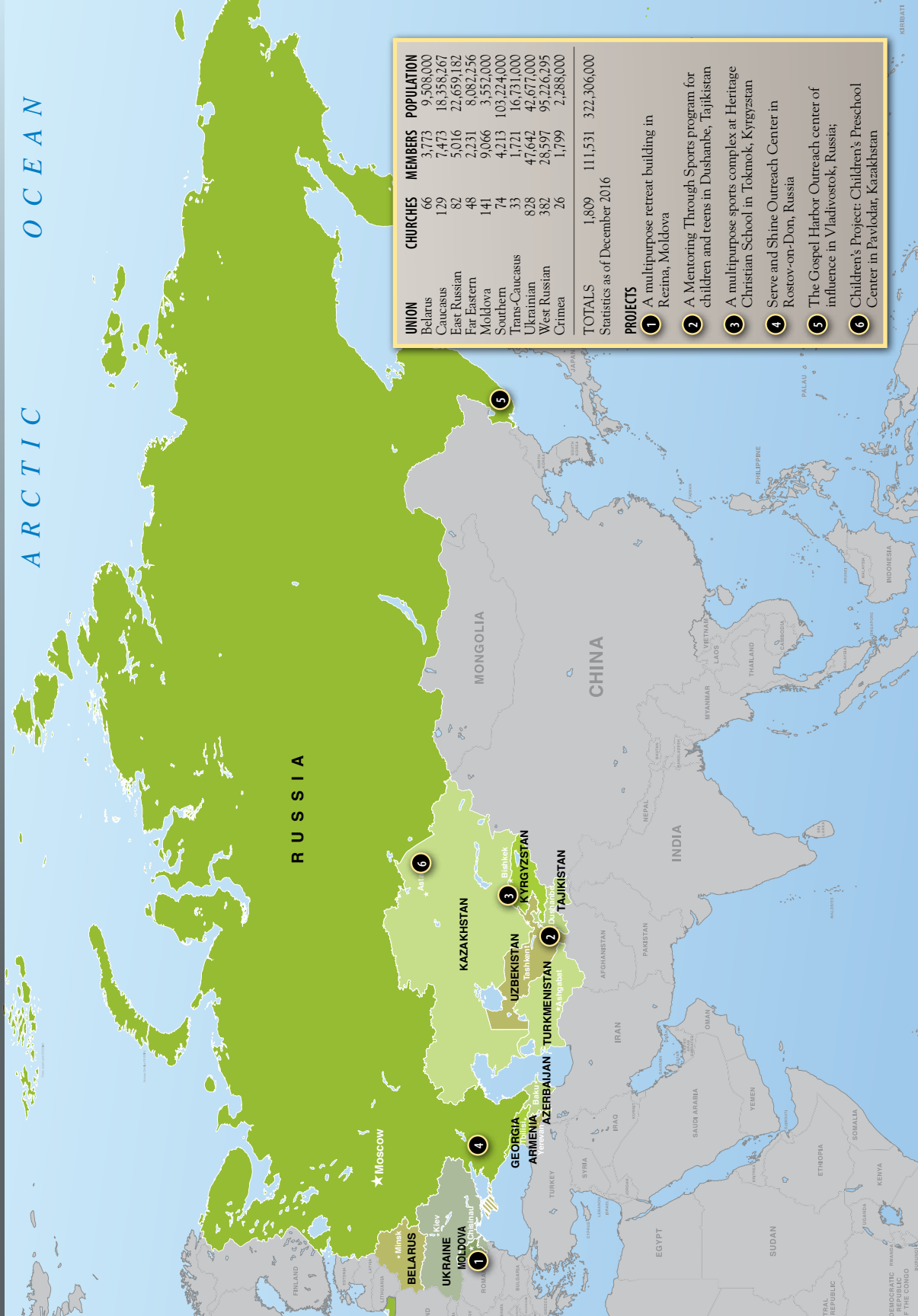
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Euro-Asia Division

ARCTIC OCEAN



UNION	CHURCHES	MEMBERS	POPULATION
Belarus	66	3,773	9,508,000
Caucasus	129	7,473	18,358,267
East Russian	82	5,016	22,659,182
Far Eastern	48	2,231	8,082,256
Moldova	141	9,066	3,552,000
Southern	74	4,213	103,224,000
Trans-Caucasus	33	1,721	16,731,000
Ukrainian	828	47,642	42,677,000
West Russian	382	28,597	95,226,295
Crimea	26	1,799	2,288,000
TOTALS	1,809	111,531	322,306,000

Statistics as of December 2016

PROJECTS

- 1 A multipurpose retreat building in Rezma, Moldova
- 2 A Mentoring Through Sports program for children and teens in Dushambe, Tajikistan
- 3 A multipurpose sports complex at Heritage Christian School in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan
- 4 Serve and Shine Outreach Center in Rostov-on-Don, Russia
- 5 The Gospel Harbor Outreach center of influence in Vladivostok, Russia;
- 6 Children's Project: Children's Preschool Center in Pavlodar, Kazakhstan