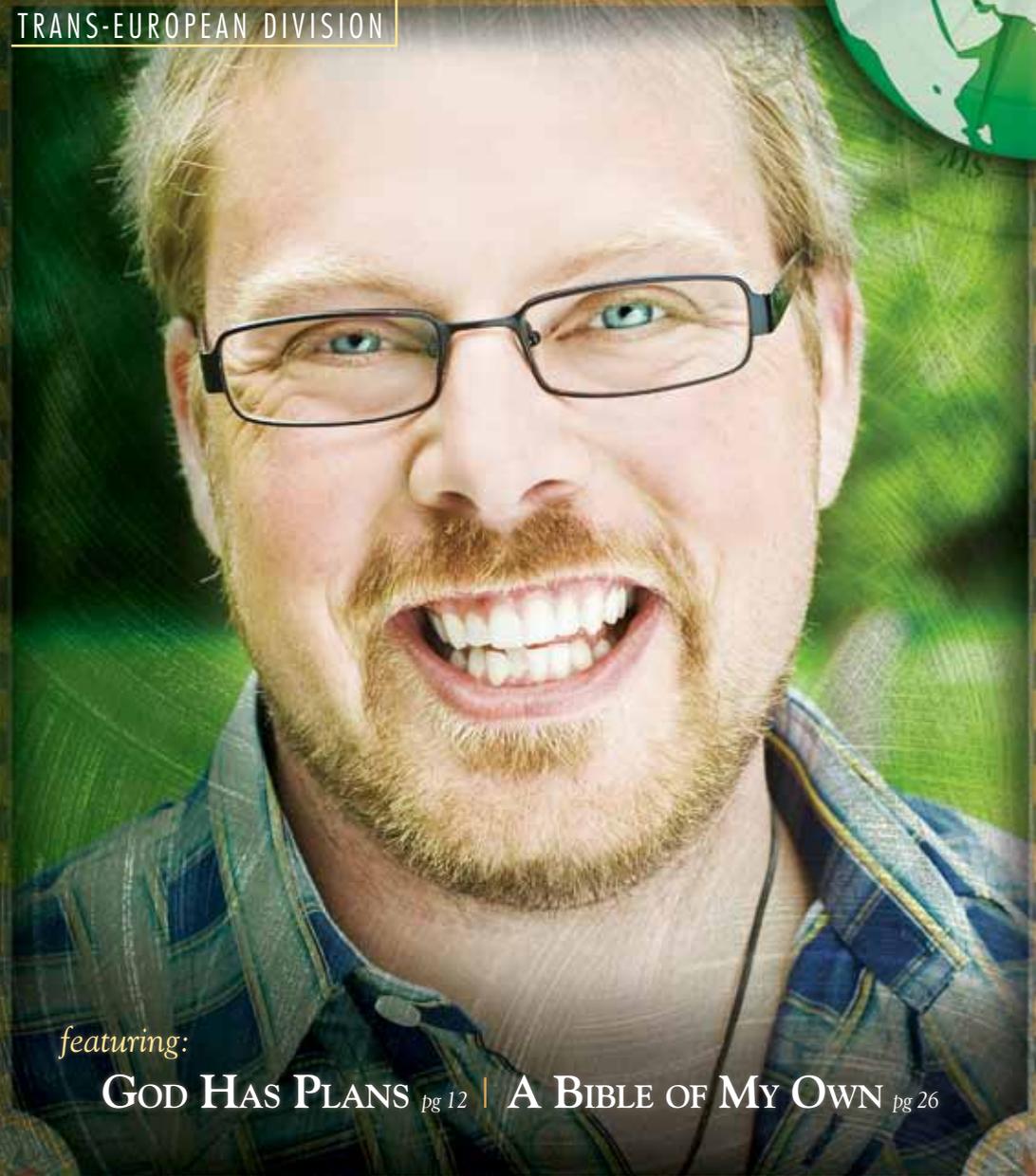


ADVENTIST  
**MISSION** YOUTH AND ADULT **MAGAZINE** QUARTER 3  
**2010**

TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION



*featuring:*

**GOD HAS PLANS** pg 12 | **A BIBLE OF MY OWN** pg 26

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# Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter features the Trans-European Division, which includes countries in Europe, Asia, and northern Africa. The division is home to more than 616 million people, but only 111,000 are Seventh-day Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for every 5,555 people.

## The Challenges

Because of its great geographical and cultural diversity, the challenges of working in this division are complex. Much of Europe is materialistic, post-modern, and secular. People aren't seeking after God. Churches are all but empty. Even the residents of former Communist-ruled countries are seeking more for financial security than spiritual certainty.

Some of the counties within this division don't welcome Christianity at all. In these areas nurturing believers is difficult and often dangerous.

Denmark and Finland are two of the most modern—and secular—countries in Europe. But two new church plants are vibrant and growing. In the international English

church plant in Copenhagen, Denmark, as many as 60 people worship and fellowship from week to week. Many are students or guest workers with limited-time visas to remain in the country, but others are permanent residents. Just outside Helsinki, Finland, a growing congregation of believers finds innovative ways to share their faith and their message with neighbors and, using the Internet, a broader audience. These two congregations will receive help from the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to continue to grow and minister in their respective mission fields.

Poland's Camp Zatonie is a gift from God, and every year the outreach of this camp and the church members who use it bring hundreds, who might otherwise not consider Jesus in their lives, into contact with the gospel of Christ. But the government, who gave the camp to the church, is demanding that its buildings be brought up to modern standards. It's a financial hardship on the more than 5,000 Adventist believers in Poland, but our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help complete the renovations and make the camp even more useful as an evangelistic tool.

Yours for the kingdom,



Charlotte Ishkanian  
Editor, *Mission*

## OPPORTUNITIES

**This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help**

- plant an English-speaking church in Copenhagen, Denmark
- renovate a historic building to be used as a church in Nummela, Finland
- renovate Camp Zatonie in Poland.



# THE NEWSPAPER AD



July 3 | Kim Hoffensetz

Today's story comes from Denmark, a small country in northern Europe. [*Locate Denmark on the map.*]

Kim leafed through the newspaper, scanning the headlines and reading the stories that caught his interest. His eyes fell on a small advertisement in the lower corner of the page. He read it absently, then stopped and read it again. He turned the page and continued reading, but his mind returned to that small advertisement. The few sentences in the advertisement invited readers to join a Bible study that was meeting on Tuesday evenings.

Kim flipped back through the newspaper, drawn to the ad as a moth is drawn to a flame. He read the ad again, sensing that it offered something that he needed, that he had been searching for.

## Searching for Meaning

Kim had always been interested in spiritual things. Although his family, like most in Denmark, wasn't religious, Kim always believed in *good*, if not in *God*. Kim sensed that life was filled with struggles between good and evil. He had seen evil in the alcohol and drugs and violence that he'd encountered, and

he reasoned that if evil existed, then somewhere good must exist as well.

He tried to live a good life, but his failures frustrated him. He searched for ways to embrace goodness without realizing that the good he was looking for was God.

In his search for goodness, Kim adopted a healthy lifestyle and became a vegetarian. He shared what he was learning with his family, but he was careful not to overwhelm them with too much information. Over the course of time his parents saw the wisdom in his healthy lifestyle.

As he read books on health, he was introduced to the New Age movement, a philosophy of life that emphasizes the importance of being a servant of the world. New Age teachings don't deny God; instead they teach that God exists within every person as a force for good. But salvation through Jesus Christ is not a part of New Age.

## Searching for Jesus

When Kim faced some personal problems he realized that the New Age Movement didn't hold all the answers. He began to question God. Was He

real? Did He care about humanity? If God cared about him, Kim wanted to meet Him.

Kim met some Christians who introduced him to a church. Kim attended the worship services and enjoyed the music. His spirit soared as the people sang praises to God. But in time Kim realized that the worship services were more about experience and feelings than about reason and logic. He yearned for something more, something to satisfy his mind as well as his spirit. He wondered whether he would always be searching and never really finding.

### The Newspaper Ad

Then Kim found the newspaper ad. He decided to attend the Bible study meeting. Perhaps there he would find the answers he was looking for.

Kim was amazed at what he learned during the Bible study. He never realized the depth of God's love and

the plan of salvation. He continued to attend and built his life on the truths he was learning. He discarded the twisted philosophies that had clouded his understanding of God. Kim realized that God was not only logical, but that He was the author of perfect logic and meaning. His spiritual life grew as he studied for himself God's great truths.

Kim shared small bits of what he was learning with his family. They listened politely, but he could tell that they weren't really interested. Kim has kept sharing, hoping that his family will eventually accept his faith in God, just as they accepted his principles of healthful living.

Eight months after Kim found the newspaper ad, he was baptized into Christ and joined the Adventist Church. Kim is learning how to share his faith with others and how to find answers to his personal questions in his Bible. He enjoys sharing with others the truths he has come to love. He wants to help others find God as he has. He hosts a weekly dinner and Bible study that 10 to 12 people attend.

The church in Denmark is small, and few are interested in religion. But Kim wants to help the church grow. He continues to share bits of truth and testimony with his family, hoping that one day they will come to know Jesus as he has.

Our mission offerings help support Bible study groups such as the one Kim attended. And part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help plant a growing international church in Copenhagen, the capital city of Denmark. 🌐

### FAST FACTS

- Denmark is a small country made up of a peninsula and almost 500 islands. It lies south of Norway, and Sweden. It's a wealthy and modern nation, and, like Finland, its people have lost their sense of need for God.
- Vikings founded the Danish kingdom more than 1,100 years ago, making it one of Europe's oldest continuous kingdoms. The national flag has been in use since 1219.
- Denmark is a monarchy, a kingdom; its flag is the world's oldest. It has been in continuous use for more than 700 years.



# A NEW CHURCH



July 10 | Anette Wulf Andersen

*[Ask a young woman to present this first-person report.]*

**M**y name is Anette. I live in Denmark, and until a friend prayed for me I didn't know that God loves me. My family isn't religious. Occasionally we attended a Christmas service at church, but the rest of the year God wasn't part of our lives.

## Give Me Faith

Then I came to a difficult period in my life. My friend Carina was a Christian, but we hadn't discussed religion. However, Carina recognized the problem I was facing and prayed for me. She told me that God could help me if I let Him into my life. As she shared her faith with me, I wished that I could know God as she did. But as much as I wanted to believe in God, how could I believe in something that I couldn't see, touch, or feel?

"You can't make yourself believe," Carina explained. "Ask God to give you faith."

That night I prayed for the first time. "God, if You're there, please give me faith." I waited, but I didn't feel anything different. I was disappointed,

but I wasn't ready to give up.

## Struggling With God

I had not been baptized as an infant, and I felt I wanted to take this step. So I found a church and asked the pastor to baptize me. She told me that I should first understand baptism and the commitment it represents. She sent me home with the assignment to read certain passages in the Bible.

I read the Bible passages, and Carina continued to pray for me. Her strong Christian faith encouraged me to keep studying and seeking God. As we read our Bibles together and talked about God, I began to feel my friendship with Him growing.

During this time God showed me that my relationship with my boyfriend was pulling me in the wrong direction. I struggled with God over this issue, for I didn't want to lose my boyfriend. God continued to work on my heart. Finally I surrendered and prayed, "OK, God, I'm putting my life in Your hands. I trust You." This was a huge step of faith for me.

Although I wanted to be strong in my beliefs, I found that it was much harder to follow Christ's example than I thought.

### The Café Church

One day when I met Carina, she was really excited. "I found a new church," she said. "It's called the Café Church, and it meets on Saturdays. It's different from any church I've ever attended." Carina explained that the people who attended sat at tables and enjoyed a soft drink until the program began. Then they joined in singing praise songs with a group of musicians on a stage. Then someone spoke. It sounded interesting, and I decided to attend the church with Carina the next week.

On Saturday we went to the Café Church. Carina was right. It *was* special. Everyone was so friendly and welcoming. I wanted to be a part of this group and attend worship there every week. I learned that this was a Seventh-day Adventist church and that it meets

in the oldest Adventist church building in Copenhagen. I had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists, but I liked the worship and loved the people. At last I felt that I was growing in faith and understanding.

The members told me that a young woman had started this church to reach other young adults such as myself. In addition to Sabbath services, they invited me to meet with one of several small groups for Bible study and prayer during the week.

As I studied the Bible with these people I realized that I had found my church home. Although Carina quit coming with me, I continued attending the Café Church.

### My Spiritual Home

I was so happy the day I was baptized into membership at the Café Church.

I knew that I had found God and that I can trust Him to lead me wherever He wishes. His will for my life is what I want to follow, no matter where it leads.

I've finished my studies at a university in Copenhagen, and now I feel God leading me to study theology. I'm working in an orphanage while God works out the details of the next step in my life. I talk to Carina whenever I can about the faith she helped me find. I want her to have the joy that I've found in Jesus.

I thank God for the Café Church, an outreach of the Adventist Church in Denmark. I now know that this church was established with the help of Global Mission and your mission offerings. I'm a follower of Jesus today, and your mission offerings helped make it possible. Thank you! 🌍

### FAST FACTS

- Denmark is a wealthy and thoroughly modern country. Its citizens enjoy one of the highest standards of living in Europe. Its capital city is Copenhagen.
- Through skill and imagination, the Danes have made effective use of limited natural resources.
- Denmark's best-known writers include Hans Christian Andersen, whose fairy tales are famous throughout the world, and the religious philosopher Søren Kierkegaard.



## AGAINST THE TIDE

July 17 | congregational worship

In the heart of Copenhagen, Denmark's capital city, Seventh-day Adventists are seeking to swim against the tide of secularism and apathy. They are reaching out to the international community, a segment of society that hadn't been tapped by Adventists until recently.

Growing numbers of people are traveling to Denmark to study, to visit, or to work. The international congregation in Copenhagen seeks to minister to these people.

### A Dream Coming True

Ten years ago Velma Callendar, a worker for the United Nations, saw a need and dreamed of establishing an English-language church in Copenhagen. Today some 60 people from 16 different countries worship together in a crowded classroom of an Adventist school.

A pastor has been assigned part-time to shepherd the group as it continues to grow and reach out to the international English-speaking community in the city.

Many in the congregation are either students or are employed as temporary workers whose visas allow them to stay in Denmark for more than a year. This

means that the congregation's makeup changes constantly, and those who attend cannot always afford to support the church as they would like to. In spite of these challenges the church continues to reach out and grow.

### Meet Some Members

Leila [LEH-lah] came from Kenya looking for work. While her mother is a Seventh-day Adventist, her father worships in another faith. Leila and her brother chose the Adventist Church.

When Leila arrived in Denmark, she didn't know any Adventists. For two months she remained at home on Sabbaths. Then a search on the Internet found the English-speaking Adventist church. She negotiated the still unfamiliar city and found the small group of believers. She hasn't missed a Sabbath since. "I was so happy to find other Adventists who I could worship with," says Leila. "This is my spiritual home now."

Josan Sano, from the Philippines, has been in Denmark for several years. She encourages the younger Filipino members to remain faithful to God while they are far from home. "Our

church family is very close, and we care about one another,” she says. “If someone is missing on Sabbath, we call to make sure they are OK.”

### Josan and Geraldine

Josan invited Analyn [ah-nah-lihn] to worship with the Adventist believers on Sabbath. Analyn, also from the Philippines, had been raised in a different faith and had never heard about Seventh-day Adventists until she met Josan. She attended the church and met other young Adventists from her homeland.

She asks many questions, and her faith in God has grown in this warm and welcoming environment. The support that Analyn has received from members of the international congregation has drawn her closer to God.

Geraldine Cardona is also from the Philippines. When she worked in the Philippines, she found it difficult to get Sabbaths off from work. Many times her supervisors threatened to fire her if she didn't work on Sabbath. Today Geraldine works as an au pair [oh pair; a live-in babysitter] in Denmark and is an active member of the international church. “We work together to make our congregation healthy and vibrant,” says Geraldine. “We're building our youth and outreach programs, which are a big part of the church's Sabbath programming back home in the Philippines. But without a place to meet together throughout the Sabbath, it's difficult.”

### Bulging Building

The international congregation meets for Sabbath School in a

classroom of a small Adventist school. It's far too small for the current group and offers no permanency.

“The space is not ours,” one church member says. “And it's too small. Most Sabbaths it's difficult to find a place to sit. The children meet outside in the courtyard, but on rainy or cold days they can't do that.”

In an area of the world where traditional worship services are dying, the international church in Copenhagen is growing. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help establish this international church in permanent facilities and help its members reach out to a growing community. 🌐

### MISSION POST

- Denmark is largely secular. Its modern and comfortable lifestyle enabled Danes to look to material things for satisfaction and security. Denmark's citizens seldom attend church more than on special days such as Christmas and Easter.
- Among the population, however, some are searching for God. Immigrants from Europe, Africa, and South America have brought with them their intense desire to fellowship with other believers and reach out to those from their homeland who are also strangers in a foreign land.
- The international congregation in Copenhagen is ministering to the English-speaking people who live in the capital city. The church is growing stronger and larger.



# A PLACE TO BELONG



July 24 | Leila Apiyo

Leila [LEH-lah] awoke with a heavy heart. It was Sabbath, and she was homesick. She lay in bed thinking of her mother and brother. They would be going to church today. They would sing the songs that she had learned to love and pray with the other believers. Perhaps they would pray for her, too.

In Kenya it seemed that nearly everyone went to church. But in Denmark, where Leila now lives, it seemed that few people attended the fine churches scattered across the city. In fact, she had been so busy in the two months since she had come to Copenhagen that she hadn't thought much about finding a church in which to worship either.

Leila had come to Copenhagen to visit her aunt. When the woman suggested that Leila find work as an au pair [oh pair], a live-in babysitter, Leila agreed. She obtained the necessary visa and found a job with a wonderful family who treated her well. She began saving money to attend college when she returned home. But she hadn't found a church home.

Suddenly she knew what she had to do.

## On the Map

She sat up and tossed the covers aside. She turned on the computer and searched the Internet for an Adventist church in Copenhagen. She was thrilled to discover an international Adventist congregation that worshipped in the city. Quickly she copied down the address. But how could she get there? Her aunt wasn't an Adventist, so Leila decided to take the bus to church. She found a map and traced the bus route to the church. She dressed quickly and hurried to catch the bus.

She found the neighborhood where the church was located, but, when she found the church, she was dismayed to find the church empty! A disappointed sigh escaped her lips before she noticed a letter posted on the door explaining that the church members were on a retreat. The letter gave the directions, so Leila hurried to catch a bus to the region outside the city where the retreat was being held.

She didn't know her way around the city, so she swallowed her fear and asked for help finding the right bus. She got lost several times before she found the

retreat center. She arrived just as the sermon was ending. But Leila didn't care. She had found fellow believers!

She met Rose from Uganda, who invited her to join her for lunch. Rose introduced Leila to other members of the English-speaking church. She met people from all around the world—Iceland, Philippines, Tanzania, and America, as well as from Denmark. The members welcomed her warmly and invited her to join them the next Sabbath at the school where they hold Sabbath School. Leila felt as if she were in heaven!

When the meetings ended for the day Leila found her way back home. She was determined not to miss another Sabbath of fellowship and worship!

### Searching for a Spiritual Home

As Leila reflects on her experience finding fellow believers in Denmark, she realizes that in many ways her life has been a search for a spiritual home. Her mother was an Adventist, but her father was from a different religion. Often as she was growing up she felt torn between the two religions and her desire to please her parents. Her father wanted the children to follow his religion; and when he was home, the children attended special religious classes on Saturday. But when he was traveling, as he often was, the children went to Sabbath School with Mother.

When she was ready to go to high school her mother insisted that Leila study at an Adventist boarding school. There Leila joined the choir and learned to praise God using her voice. At camp meeting, which was held on her school grounds, Leila had given her life to Christ and been baptized. For

months Leila didn't tell her father of her decision for Christ, for she feared hurting him.

### A Place to Belong

Leila rejoices that she has found her spiritual home in Denmark in the international congregation. She feels loved and nurtured there and in turn welcomes and nurtures others who come.

"I'm so happy that God led me to this church," she says. "Our little worship hall is overflowing, and we need to find a larger place to meet. We would like to find a hall where people can find us more easily so more people will come.

"I'm thrilled to know that this quarter part of the world church's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help grow this international congregation into a vibrant, loving church family, where there's room for everyone who will come." 🌍

### MISSION POST

- The international English-language Adventist church in Copenhagen, Denmark, represents Adventists from at least 16 countries. These members speak at least 17 languages and dialects, yet they find unity and fellowship in their adopted country and their new church home.
- The international church has a part-time pastor to help it grow. It needs a permanent house of worship in an area of the city that is both safe and accessible by public transportation. Pray that God will lead this congregation in the months ahead as it grows in size and spiritual strength.



# GOD HAS PLANS



July 31 | Saranya and Amuthan

Saranya [sah-RAHN-yah] tugged at the red silk sari she was wearing. Her hand flitted nervously over the fine fabric. Today was her wedding day; she was marrying Amuthan [ah-MOO-than], a man she had seen only a few times.

As with most traditional marriages in India, Saranya had spent little time with her fiancé, though they had spoken for hours by telephone during their engagement. They had prayed together, and Saranya was sure that this man had been sent in answer to her prayers for a Christian husband.

She smoothed her long, dark hair as she prayed silently once more. *Please, God, be the center of our home. Lead us together in Your ways.*

## Saranya's Prayer

Saranya smiled as she thought about how God had given her a Christian husband. Her parents weren't Christians, and they had been determined that she would marry in their religion. Saranya's only hope was to pray. And God stepped in with His own plan.

At church one Sunday a girl sat next to Saranya. She noticed Saranya's sweet voice as she sang praises to God. She

listened as Saranya asked and answered Bible questions. *This girl would be a good husband for Amuthan*, she thought. The young woman spoke to her family about Saranya. When Saranya's family learned that Amuthan was well-educated and hardworking, their hearts softened.

## Amuthan

But Amuthan, who is an Adventist, was busy completing his Ph.D. in physics in Switzerland, and his mind was far from marriage. Why, he hadn't even seen a picture of this young woman whom his cousin spoke about so glowingly.

Amuthan's mother, on the other hand, was a woman of strong faith. She wanted her son to marry a good Christian girl. She and other family members began inquiring about Saranya. They were delighted to learn that she had not yet been promised to anyone and that she had a strong faith in God. *Saranya would make a fine match for my son*, Amuthan's mother thought.

While Amuthan studied in Switzerland, his family began the delicate dance of arranging a marriage in India. Family members negotiated back and forth, and finally the families agreed that

the two young people could marry.

Saranya and Amuthan hadn't even met yet.

The young couple eventually did meet, but only briefly and with family members present. When Amuthan returned to Switzerland, e-mails and telephone calls flew back and forth between them. Amuthan wanted to be sure that Saranya was truly surrendered to Christ, and Saranya wanted assurance that Amuthan's Adventist faith was the true faith. She questioned him at length about his beliefs. The couple spent hours reading the Bible together over the telephone and asking and answering questions. Saranya visited a local Adventist church and felt loved and accepted there. She listened to the Bible lessons each Sabbath and felt convinced that this was the truth.

At last the wedding day arrived. For Saranya the day marked the beginning of a new life as a wife and as a child in a new faith.

### New Home, New Church

Following the marriage the couple moved to Copenhagen, Denmark, where Amuthan would work as a research assistant. They searched the Internet for an Adventist church and were delighted to find the English-speaking international church.

They visited the English church and felt at home, for they had seen pictures of the members and activities on the church's website. *This will be our church home*, Amuthan thought.

The church members welcomed them and made them feel that they belonged. At the first opportunity, Saranya was baptized. The couple quickly became a part of the church. Amuthan preaches

occasionally and takes turns teaching the Sabbath School lesson as well. They join other church members who give out flyers and introduce people in Copenhagen to the international church that they have come to love.

### New Life in Christ

Amuthan and Saranya enjoy living in Denmark. They thank God for providing them with a loving church family made up of people from 16 countries around the world. While they want to grow their church, they struggle with limited space and an unsafe location in which to worship. But they know that God has plans for their church, just as He has plans for each one of the members.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help plant the international English church in Copenhagen, Denmark. 🌍

### FAST FACTS

- The international English church is made up almost entirely of Adventist believers who are living in Denmark as they study and work temporarily as au pairs [live-in babysitters]. The church's makeup changes from month to month as some members complete their work assignments or their university studies and return home. This means that while the church has a large potential membership base, it doesn't have a strong financial base.
- Pray that God will call out people in Denmark to hold up the hands of the church leaders and provide the financial base that will help the church to grow in strength.



# THE BEATING HEART



August 7 | Pirjo and Rainer

**Narrator:** In a classroom of a small Adventist school set amidst a grove of trees and overlooking a lake, a thriving congregation seeks to reach out to its neighbors and lead them to Christ.

Located outside Helsinki, Finland, the congregation calls itself “Beating Heart,” for their ministry is focused on reaching the hearts of those who live in their community. The Beating Heart congregation worships in the school, for it has no building of its own—yet. Already the young congregation has outgrown its meeting space, and members are working hard to raise the money to remodel the historic barn on their property into a new church home.

The land on which the school and barn are located is part of an estate that was left to the church several years ago. Two members share their testimonies of how God is working in and through their lives to reach others for Christ.

**Pirjo [a woman]:** My name is Pirjo [peer-yoh]. I first heard of Seventh-day Adventists when I was 17. I met a young man who invited me to attend church with him—an Adventist church. I had never attended church,

and I felt uncomfortable going, but I was impressed by the friendship and the Bible study.

I attended the church for several months. Then during evangelistic meetings I surrendered my heart to God. It wasn’t easy because I wanted to be a popular singer. But I gave God that dream, and He showed me that I could use my talent to His glory instead of my own.

I married a young man named Ari. Life wasn’t perfect for I suffered from depression and sometimes wondered whether God really existed. But God used my family and friends to draw me closer to Him.

Then one day my brother-in-law, a pastor, asked me to preach. I had never thought of preaching before, but I was willing to try. I was thrilled to be using my love of writing to tell others about God.

Soon I was preaching on a regular basis. Then someone asked me to give a Bible study. I agreed to try and discovered that I enjoyed studying with others.

God has used my writing ability in ways I never would have imagined. Our church has an active Internet ministry. We upload our weekly sermons and

photos of our congregation. Some weeks more than 400 people visit our church website. Some of these are not Adventists and may never have stepped inside a church. Others are our neighbors who want to know more about the little church in the forest. I praise God that He has given me talents to use to share His love with others.

**Rainer [a man]:** I grew up in an area of Helsinki with lots of crime. To protect me from the bad influences, my mother sent me to an Adventist school, even

though we were not Adventists. There I learned to love God, and by the time I was in sixth grade I had given my heart to God and wanted to be baptized. I continued to worship in the Adventist church.

When I had children of my own, I wanted them to have the same Christian education that I had enjoyed, but the little school I had attended had closed. Then I learned of the Adventist school in Nummela, near Helsinki. We moved here so that our children could attend the Adventist school.

The school is attracting many non-Adventist families who want a kinder, safer environment for their children. So our school is really a mission school that reaches into the community for Christ.

Our little church is growing as well. Because the church uses the land we've inherited as a community outreach center, neighbors come to help pack supplies for those in need, and as we all work side by side, we get to know one another and make friends for Christ.

**Narrator:** Finland is a modern, secular country. People don't talk openly about their faith, and spiritual matters aren't a priority in people's lives. But God is using an active congregation with a love for others to open avenues to share His love in Nummela and throughout Finland.

This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help renovate a historic building to serve as a worship center for this congregation. Through the ministry of this active church, many in the neighboring area will become acquainted with Christians and with Jesus, who has commissioned each of us to go and tell others of His love. 🌍

## MISSION POST

- While Finland claims to be a Christian nation, few Finns attend church more than a few times a year.
- Just outside of Helsinki, the capital city, lies Nummela, a small town that is growing rapidly. A few years ago the Adventist church was given a beautiful large estate there. Part of the manor house has been converted into classrooms for an Adventist elementary school that ministers to the surrounding community.
- A church called the Beating Heart has grown up on this campus too. Members plan to remodel a historic barn on the property into a church.
- Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help this congregation renovate this building to make it a house of worship for a vibrant church family in a growing community.



## CONVERSATION IN A SAUNA

August 14 | Seppo Kaitanen

*[Ask a man to present this first-person report.]*

Finland is a land of rugged individualists. Like many Finns, religion wasn't part of my life growing up. I thought Christians were weak and needed God as a crutch. But a series of crises in my life changed my mind.

### Failure

I wanted everything in life, and I didn't think I needed God to get it. My brother and I opened a cinema just before videos came out and people stopped going to movies as much. When the cinema failed, we opened a burger shop.

I got married and thought that I had made it in life. But then difficult economic times hit Finland, and money was tight. My brother and I disagreed about how to run our business. My wife and I fought over money. Eventually our business failed and my wife left me. Blame and accusations piled up right along with the bills.

I felt lost and alone and empty. I turned to my sister, a Christian, and told her my troubles. People in Finland don't talk openly about weakness or

religion, but my sister listened. Then God arranged things so I met Reijo [RAY-oh], a member of my sauna club who was an Adventist.

### Conversations in the Sauna

A sauna is a traditional Finnish steam bath. It's a small building that contains stones that are heated to high temperatures. Water is poured over the hot stones to produce steam. People sit in the steam and work up a good sweat. Then they jump into a cold lake or take a cold shower to increase their circulation. Saunas are more than health clubs; they provide a social outlet as well.

Reijo listened and then said he wanted to introduce me to another member of our sauna club, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor named Pekka. I had never heard of Adventists before and wasn't sure who they were. But I felt I needed to talk to someone or I would explode.

I met Pastor Pekka at the sauna. He seemed perfectly normal to me. He was warm and friendly and listened to my

troubles. I was relieved that he didn't ridicule me or make me feel weak. So when he invited me to visit his church, I agreed to come. It was hard to go because I was so sure I could do things on my own. I stood at the door of the church trying to convince myself that I was just going to hear Pastor Pekka speak.

The church members made me feel right at home. I liked the congregation, which was made up of several nationalities—Russians, Africans, English—who worshipped side by side with Finnish Christians. I especially enjoyed the music. As we sang praises to God, I began to relax. *This is good*, I told myself. *These people are friendly and seem genuinely happy*. I knew that I would visit again.

### Riding the Storm

Even as I found peace in my new church family, my home life was in turmoil. I wanted to reunite with my wife and children; and I prayed for God's will in this, hoping that we could put our

family back together. Instead the divorce was finalized, and I was alone.

Reijo, Pastor Pekka, and I continued to meet at the sauna and talk about spiritual things. They invited me to join a men's Bible study group, and I began reading the Bible every day. It helped fill my lonely hours.

Little by little I surrendered my life to God. In time I asked to be baptized. I knew God had transformed me into a different person, for others were seeing the difference in my life. I wanted to tell others about the peace I had found in Jesus.

But I was still alone, still lonely. I began to pray for a wife.

### Date at the Sauna

I met Leah\* at church. She's a church planter and leader of the Russian congregation in our church. I invited her on a date—at the sauna. We talked a lot about spiritual things and about our lives. As we grew closer, Leah and I realized that God had brought us together. In time we were married.

I realize now that God can work on a person's heart anywhere, even in a sauna. Leah and I pray that our families and friends will open their hearts to God, for we both know that there is no peace in life without God's presence.

The Finnish church is small—just over 5,000 members. This quarter you can help us provide a church home for an active congregation near Helsinki. Please join us on Thirteenth Sabbath to help this congregation shed its light even more brightly. 🌍

### FAST FACTS

- Finland lies in northern Europe between Sweden and Russia. It is a modern, materialistic country.
- The northern part of the country lies above the Arctic Circle. In the peak of summer it stays light all night, and in the dead of winter it's dark all but a few dimly lit hours of the day.
- During the cold winters, Finns enjoy cross-country skiing and ice skating on the country's thousands of lakes.

\*Liia in Danish



## WHERE ARE YOU, GOD?

August 21 | Hannele Amberla

*[Ask a woman to present this first-person report.]*

I tore open my cousin's letter and began reading. "I've given my life to Jesus," she wrote. *What does that mean?* I wondered. I'd sometimes attended Sunday School, but I'd never heard of giving my life to Jesus.

### Long Search for God

I longed for a similar experience with God, but I wasn't sure how to have it. I attended several different churches and joined youth activities, but I didn't find what my cousin had described. I bought a Bible and read it through; I did things that I thought Christians did, but still I felt spiritually hungry.

After I finished university, I moved to Helsinki [hehl-SEEHN-kee], Finland's capital city. There I met my future husband. I invited him to attend church with me, hoping that he would find God and then show me how to find Him, too. But it didn't work.

Our children were born, and life became busy. I had everything I wanted—except God. I continued visiting churches and prayed, "Lord, I can't find you. Please find me."

### Hope From Afar

Our teenage daughter decided to study in Australia for a year. I was worried about her, and I prayed that she would find a good family to live with. And she did. They were wonderful! Greg, the father, helped us set up our computer so we could instant message one another. As we chatted I got to know Greg and told him of my search for God. He told me that he had drifted away from his childhood church, but he suggested that I read his favorite book, *The Desire of Ages*. I found the book on the Internet and read it. It changed my life! I read it again, this time comparing it with my Bible. At last I sensed that I was finding answers to my questions and a closer walk with God.

Greg's father was a former missionary who answered my questions about God. He told me he was a Seventh-day Adventist, but I had never heard of them. He explained that Adventists keep the Bible Sabbath and look forward to Jesus' return. My husband looked the church up on the Internet. What we read was reassuring.

Greg told me about a Christian TV station on the Internet. I watched several programs and rejoiced to find my life was changing. I learned that the TV station was sponsored by Adventists.

### **An Invitation to Worship**

Then Greg invited me to visit an Adventist church. I hesitated because I had been disappointed so often, but eventually I agreed to go. I didn't expect much, but when I arrived at the church I was overwhelmed with the love people showered on me. I was amazed to hear the Bible discussion. These people knew so much about the Bible! I loved the sermon too. I returned to church the following week.

I struggled with attending church on Saturday until I understood the preciousness of the Sabbath. And several other aspects of the Adventist

faith puzzled me. But Greg helped me find answers to my questions, and I continued attending the church.

I fell in love with Jesus, just as my cousin had done so many years earlier. That summer I visited the church's Bible camp, where I studied the Bible deeply with fellow seekers and came away spiritually refreshed. During breaks I sat by the lake and prayed for my husband.

I returned home from camp rejoicing. As usual, I shared my love for God with my husband, but this time I felt compelled to urge him to make a decision for Jesus. I didn't know it then, but this was our last conversation about religion. Two days later he died in an automobile accident.

### **Questions, Promises, and Ministry**

I couldn't understand why God would take away my husband so soon after I had given my life to the Lord. Now I understand that God gave me a church family to support me and pray with me during those difficult days. The Bible texts I had memorized gave me peace, and the Holy Spirit comforted me.

I went to work for the church's Bible correspondence school, where I help others who are struggling with some of the same issues I have. I met a good man at church, and eventually we married. God has given us a ministry together. As for Greg in Australia, he returned to the Lord as well. God surely works in mysterious ways!

Mission offerings support the Bible school where I work and the Bible camp we hold every year for new believers. This quarter your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide a church for a congregation here in Finland. Thank you for your support. 🌍

### **MISSION POST**

- The Adventist Church in Finland is small, with just over 5,000 members among a population of more than 5.3 million. That's one Adventist for every 1,053 people.
- The Adventist Church in Finland has developed several methods to reach out to searching hearts in the country. One way is through the Bible correspondence school. Another is the church's youth camp. Here a special week of camp is dedicated to teaching new believers and grounding them in their faith. Each year dozens join God's remnant church because of the outreach of the youth camp and the faithful Adventist members who share their love for God with their friends and families.



## FINDING GOD'S PLAN

August 28 | Roza Roszkowska

Roza, take a look at this,” Grandmother said as she gave Roza a colorful pamphlet. “It’s an invitation to a series of lectures about the Bible,” Grandmother explained. “You should go. You might learn something interesting.”

Grandmother knew that Roza was interested in religious things. She was active in her parents’ church in Poland and even volunteered as a youth leader, though she wasn’t much older than the youth she led. Her parents were proud of her involvement with the church and proud of her other accomplishments. Roza was preparing to become a teacher.

### A New View of God

Roza looked at the pamphlet and decided to attend the lectures. She was curious what they could be about.

Roza found a seat and settled down for the lecture. She met a young man at the lectures who was about her age. As they became acquainted, he invited her to attend a summer Bible camp that the church sponsored. Roza decided to go; she was curious about this church that seemed to know so much about the Bible.

When she arrived at the camp, Roza

was a bit nervous about being among so many strangers. But the young man who had invited her introduced her to several young people from her hometown. She liked making new friends. She soon found herself enjoying the fellowship at the Bible camp as much as the Bible studies.

### Joy Bubbling Over

When Roza returned home, she started attending the Adventist church every Sabbath. She knew that her parents would not be happy that she was attending a new church, so she didn’t tell them where she was going on Sabbath morning.

But soon her excitement about what she was learning spilled over, and she told her mother everything she had learned at Bible camp and at church. Roza explained what she had learned about having a personal relationship with Jesus. “We don’t have to confess our sins to a priest,” she told her mother. “Just tell God.”

Roza’s revelation worried her mother. “Why do you want to get involved in a different church—a strange church?” she asked. “We have a perfectly good church.”

“But these people really love Jesus,” Roza explained. “They follow the Bible. I want to learn what God teaches.”

“If you insist on becoming an Adventist,” Mother said with a sigh, “don’t expect any financial support from me.”

### The Confrontation

Roza continued attending the Adventist church, and she became convinced that the Adventist church was where God wanted her to be. After attending the church for several months, Roza asked to be baptized.

Her parents were angry when she told them about her decision. For the first time in her life her father hit her. And her mother demanded that she leave the house.

Roza packed a few clothes and her school textbooks and left her parents’ home. She went to stay with an Adventist family that lived nearby. Two

weeks later Roza’s mother sent her sister to ask her to return home.

She was permitted to sleep in her own bed, but her parents no longer supported her financially. A scholarship paid her school tuition, but Roza took a job cleaning the church to pay for food and other necessities. She spent most of her time in class and studying in the school library, going home only to sleep. Roza managed to finish college on her own.

### Finding God’s Plan

Roza knew that her mother was worried about her. “How will you ever find an Adventist husband?” she asked. Roza knew her mother had a point, for there weren’t many Adventists in Poland. But Roza claimed God’s promises to provide for her in every way.

While Roza was preparing for baptism she met Krystov [Chris-toff], a young man who lived in another city and was also planning to be baptized. The two began writing to each other, and in time they began dating. Eventually they were married.

Krystov entered the ministry, and Roza began her career as a teacher. Her family saw that the couple was happy in their faith and in their work, and they have reconciled. Roza hopes that one day soon her parents will find the joy in Jesus that she and Krystov know.

Roza is grateful to God for leading her to the Savior through the influence of her grandmother, a Bible lecture brochure, and a Bible camp filled with friendly youth who welcomed her. This quarter part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help renovate the church’s Bible camp in Poland so that hundreds more people can experience the joy of knowing Jesus. 🌍

### FAST FACTS

- For almost 50 years Poland was under Communist rule. The quest for freedom took root early in this country and helped overthrow Communism throughout Eastern Europe.
- Unlike most other countries that were dominated by Communism during this time, Polish farmers did not lose their farms during Communist times. Today families continue to farm land that once belonged to their ancestors. Much of the harvest is still done with horses and human labor.



## A GIFT IN THE FOREST



September 4 | Ryszard Jankowski

In 1990, just after Communism fell, Richard,\* the Polish Union youth leader, had a dream—an impossible dream, some said. He wanted a youth camp where the church’s youth could be trained for service. They had no land, no money, and no idea where they would get either. But Richard sensed that God was in the dream, so he began searching.

### A Place Called Zatonie

Richard wanted a place away from towns, “a place where children and youth could spend time in nature and learn about God, a place where they could see the Creator and learn to love Him,” he said. They wanted the camp to have electricity and water, be on a lake, and offer some basic buildings to get started.

Richard found a place called Zatonie [zah-TOH-nee], a government-owned camp on a lake in western Poland. The buildings on the campground were in poor condition, but they could be made useful.

“I believed that God wanted us to have Zatonie,” Richard says. “But we didn’t have money to buy the camp or

furniture for the buildings. But as our committee discussed the possibilities and the obstacles, the telephone rang. Someone in Denmark was offering us furniture—free furniture. They would even deliver it!”

Richard knew that the campsite was worth \$200,000. And although the church had no money, Richard knew that God would provide if this was His will.

The union decided to rent the camp, and soon a truck from Denmark arrived filled with military surplus beds and dressers and kitchen supplies, most of what was needed to start a camp. The union started holding camps at Zatonie.

### A Bold Request

Richard went to the local village council and explained that the church wanted the campsite to train children and youth to be good citizens. He reported on how the church already had used the camp to benefit children from a coal mining region and children whose homes had been destroyed during recent flooding. He explained the purpose of Pathfinder camps and youth camps that were being held at the campsite. Then he asked the council to consider giving

the camp to the Adventist Church. One member of the local council objected to the church's request, but in the end the council voted overwhelmingly to give Camp Zatonie to the Adventist Church. A gift from Adventists in Britain paid for the buildings. God had spoken.

### A Busy Place

From early spring until late autumn Zatonie is a busy place. Besides weeks of summer camps for youth, the campground hosts Poland's annual camp meeting, where 1,000 people or more gather to enjoy 10 days to worship God, study His Word, and rekindle friendships. Hundreds of people come to this camp who are not Adventists, and many leave having turned their lives over to Jesus.

Children are encouraged to bring a non-Adventist friend to summer camp with them, and some of these young people have decided to follow

Jesus. The lake that lies along the border of the camp provides a perfect place for baptisms.

Literature evangelists use the camp as a training site for full-time and part-time colporteurs who practice their sales skills in the villages around Zatonie. Thus the neighboring regions have been covered for Christ.

### One Changed Life

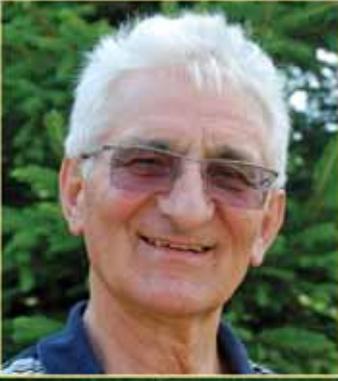
When Richard first found Zatonie, he noticed that someone had written on the side of a small building the words "God doesn't exist." Two years later during a camp meeting, he asked young people what should be done with the words. A young man stood and said that he had written those words in 1989 while at a camp for troubled teenagers. When he returned home he learned that one of his friends had become an Adventist Christian. The friend invited him to church, and in time he, too, gave his life to Christ. God took away his desire to drink and smoke and made him into a new person. So this young man who had written the words against God on the wall during a drunken act of rebellion helped to paint over them as a brother in Christ.

God is using Camp Zatonie to change lives. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help renovate the remaining buildings and make further improvements so that this camp can enlarge its ministry to the church's youth as well as to those who don't yet know God. 🌍

### MISSION POST

- There are about 5,700 Adventists living in Poland, or one for every 6,674 people.
- Nearly all of Poland's population belongs to the state-supported church, making it difficult for the Adventist Church to grow there.
- The church's Camp Zatonie helps strengthen the faith of Adventist children and youth. In addition, the camp is used to reach out to underprivileged children and teens who need to spend time in nature and learn more about the God we serve.

*\*Ryszard Jankowski [ree-SHARD Yahn-kow-skee], now president of the West Polish Conference, was Polish Union youth director when Zatonie's story unfolded.*



## SPREADING BRANCHES OF FAITH

September 11 | Wladislaw Kosowski

“We need more nails up here!” a man calls from the rooftop of an aging house in western Poland. A teenage boy jogs to the supply pile and pulls out a box of nails. He climbs the wooden ladder to give them to the man on the roof.

“I think we will finish before supper,” a sun-bronzed man with white hair smiles with satisfaction. “No more dodging the raindrops for this family!” Vlad’s weather-beaten face wrinkles into a familiar smile. This is his favorite time of year, and he’s doing what he loves most—helping people live better lives as they learn about the Life-giver, Jesus.

Vlad lives for camp meeting time. Although he’s a retired pastor and Global Mission coordinator for the Polish Union, he hasn’t retired from his passion to reach people for Christ. And he’ll do whatever it takes to open the hearts of people to listen to the gospel message. That’s why he and his family have adopted the region around Zatonie, the Polish Union’s youth camp, as their personal mission field.

### Being God’s Hands

The people living in the region around Zatonie Youth Camp are generally poor; and most, especially older people, struggle to keep their homes in livable condition. Often they can’t do the work themselves and can’t afford to hire someone to do it for them.

As winter turns to spring, Vlad visits the village officials and gets the names of those who need help to keep their

### MISSION POST

- Camp Zatonie provides more than a place to go to spend a week in nature and make friends with other believers. The church reaches out to underprivileged teens and children, giving them time in nature to connect with God.
- Church members use the camp as a base to reach out to the surrounding farming villages. The people in the area surrounding Zatonie once knew nothing about Adventists. Now they know that we are practical Christians who love God and want them to experience His love as well.

homes in repair. Then during camp meeting he invites those who attend—whether Adventists or not—to spend a day or two getting their hands dirty for God. Youth and adults work side by side to clean homes, repair roofs and plumbing, and do whatever they can to make life better for the people who live near the camp. Members learn how to use their skills to help a local community while making a difference in Zatonie. It's hard work, but the rewards are great. They know that these people will listen to the gospel once they've seen the gospel of love acted out in such tangible ways.

Vlad's passion is planting churches by showing practical Christianity. Even before Communism fell he was teaching church members how to work with others to win their confidence and listen to their message of grace. "Our goal has long been to plant new churches in empty places," Vlad says. And with just over 5,000 Adventists in the entire country of Poland, there are many such "empty areas." "We work a lot among the poor, the needy, and the sick," Vlad explains.

"The people of the Zatonie region are poor, and winters in Poland are severe," Vlad says. "Their houses are poorly insulated, so frost gets inside. We put in insulation, repair the floor or the roof or the plumbing—whatever a family needs done.

### Spreading the Branches of Faith

"This year 60 people volunteered to help repair 10 houses during camp meeting," Vlad says with a satisfied smile. "Some are professional builders who do specialty work such as electrical or plumbing. But most are ordinary

people who want to help someone else. In this way we spread the branches of our faith, of Christianity, over the community of Zatonie. We want the people who live near our camp to know us as practical Christians.

"The members of the village council take us to the homes in need of repair and tell the residents, 'We can help you. We have the materials, and these Adventists are here to do the work.' The people are thrilled that we have come to help them. And imagine the joy on the faces of people who know that they will no longer have to suffer with a leaky roof or plumbing that doesn't work or a rotting floor. Now their home is fixed again!

"When we first came to Zatonie," Vlad says, "no one knew who we were. But when they saw that we are practical Christians, they began to trust us." As we work on these people's homes, we invite them—and the city officials we work with—to come to our meetings. And they come!"

### Spreading the Blessing

"I hope those who come to help with this work during camp will go home and do the same thing in their own towns, so that the branches of our faith may shade many more communities around Poland."

Camp meeting at Zatonie is about more than attending meetings and seeing friends. It's about mission. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help pay for materials to renovate the buildings on the campsite so that they meet government standards. Then the branches of faith can spread out even more to shadow more people with God's love. 🌍



# A BIBLE OF MY OWN

September 18 | Kristina, Sudan children, Sharoon

*[If you wish, ask three junior-age children to join you in presenting this mission report on the special children's offering project.]*

**Narrator:** Next week is Thirteenth Sabbath. While adults are encouraged to bring an extra-large offering to help establish churches in Denmark and Finland and to expand a youth camp ministry in Poland, the children have their own Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. They want to provide Bibles for children in three countries of the Middle East.

Let's hear from three children who live in the region where the Bibles will go. Elijah lives in Sudan, the largest country in Africa.

**Elijah:** I was born during a time of war. One day soldiers attacked our village and burned it to the ground. We ran into the bush and hid for weeks with little to eat and no clean clothes to wear. But the war is over now, and we are building a new village with homes of mud with straw roofs. Our school was destroyed, so we meet under a mango tree to learn to read and write until we have a school. Because of the fighting my parents couldn't go to school, and

now they can't read or write. But they were determined that we learn.

One day a missionary came to our village and held worship. Then he gave a Bible to one child in each family. Now I can read God's Word to my parents so they can build their faith in God.

**Narrator:** Kristina lives in the country of Israel. What would a Bible do for her life?

**Kristina:** When my mother and I moved to Israel a few years ago, we couldn't find an Adventist church. So we worshipped in our apartment on Sabbath. One Sabbath my friend Alona [ah-LOH-nah] came to play. I suggested that we play Sabbath School instead of ordinary games.

"What is Sabbath School?" Alona asked. I told her that in Sabbath School we sing songs about God and listen to Bible stories. We gathered our dolls to be our class.

Alona liked playing Sabbath School. I invited her back the next week. I

wrote Bible verses in a notebook, and Alona copied the verses into the dolls' notebooks. Soon she had learned the Bible verses too. We sang songs, and Mother or I told a Bible story. Sometimes we played a Bible game or listened to a Bible story while making cards for friends.

Alona brought Nadia [NAH-dee-ah], another school friend, to play Sabbath School. Even though Nadia and Alona aren't Christians yet, they love my little Sabbath School.

One day Mother told me that she had found the Adventist church. Now we worship there on Sabbath. But it's too far away for my friends to attend so we still play Sabbath School on Sabbath afternoons. I would like to give Alona and Nadia a Bible or a New Testament so they can read God's Word for themselves. But I don't have any money. Maybe the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will buy enough Bibles so my friends can have one.

## MISSION POST

- Children in some countries of the Trans-European Division have little hope of ever owning a Bible of their own.
- This quarter the children of the world are working to raise funds to help provide children in Sudan, Israel, and Pakistan with Bibles in their own languages. These Bibles will do far more than provide a child with an opportunity to read God's Word for themselves. In many cases the Bibles may be the means to reach entire families for God.
- Let's support our children as they reach out to other children with God's Word.

**Narrator:** Kristina is a real missionary. Let's bring an extra-large offering so her friends can have Bibles of their own. Sharoon will tell us what it's like to live in Pakistan.

**Sharoon:** Pakistan lies northwest of India. Most people who live there are Muslims. There are only a few Christians and even fewer Adventists. Our church is small and meets in a house that has been made into a church. We children meet in a bedroom to study our lesson. We don't have lesson quarterlies, so our teacher reads the story to us. We listen carefully so we can answer the questions she asks later.

We children don't have Bibles either, so we memorize Bible verses so we can take parts of the Bible wherever we go.

Then someone sent some money to the missionaries in our town and asked them to buy Bibles for the children. We were so excited! At last I have my own Bible! I bring it to church every Sabbath and read my Bible lesson for myself. Now I can really answer the teacher's questions. I love my Bible, but I know that other children in Pakistan don't have a Bible. I hope that soon every child who wants a Bible can have one.

**Narrator:** Sharoon's wish is our wish too, that everyone who wants a Bible may have one. This quarter our children are helping provide Bibles for children in Sudan, Pakistan, and Israel. Entire families will be influenced by the Bibles that will be purchased for children in these countries because we give a generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. 🌍

# THIRTEENTH SABBATH PROGRAM

OPENING SONG	“Lead Them, My God, to Thee,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 653
WELCOME	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher
PRAYER	
PROGRAM	“The Difficult Places”
OFFERING	While the offering is being taken, ask the children to sing one or more of the songs that they have learned this quarter.
CLOSING SONG	“Working, O Christ, With Thee,” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 582
CLOSING PRAYER	

## The Difficult Places

**Participants:** Three to five speakers—a narrator and two or four reporters. If your group is small, two reporters can present two different project reports. *[Note: participants do not need to memorize their parts, but they should be familiar enough with the material that they do not have to read everything from the script. Practice so that participants can feel comfortable adding inflection where appropriate.]*

**Props:** A map of the Trans-European Division. (Scan the map on the back page of the quarterly and project it onto a screen, or draw a map on a large piece of paper.) Photos of some of these projects are available at [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org). Click on “Resources,” “Resources for Leaders,” “Thirteenth Sabbath Projects,” and then on the current quarter.

**Narrator:** This quarter we have focused on the Trans-European Division. This region includes a number of countries in Europe as well as countries in the Middle East and northern Africa. With such a wide range of nations, the challenges to reach the people in this division are

enormous. Adding to the challenges is the fact that church membership in the entire division is just over 111,000—fewer than many individual unions or countries in other areas of the world. This means that the financial base of the division’s work is small, making new work difficult to finance.

Many of the countries in the European sector of this division, including Denmark and Finland, which are receiving part of today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, are postmodern and secular. Churches are dwindling, and congregations are aging. But amidst the dismal-sounding reports, new lights are shining. New and vibrant congregations are being planted. Let's hear about the work in this field that has unique challenges—and opportunities—to spread God's love in difficult places.

Our first project is a new church plant in Copenhagen, the capital city of Denmark.

**Reporter 1:** Traditional churches in Denmark are dying. Great churches often open their doors to just a handful of aging worshippers on Sunday morning. The story isn't much better in the Adventist churches in Denmark. But one new church plant is growing rapidly. The Copenhagen English-international congregation is meeting a need and already has outgrown its facilities. This congregation attracts about 60 people from five continents and more than 16 countries. They have come to Denmark to work or to study or to find a better life. They come to the international church because they enjoy the fellowship and the vibrant worship that they find there.

This congregation began meeting with one of the Danish-speaking churches. But now they number more than the Danish congregation and meet separately for worship. They hold Sabbath School in the small Adventist school next door to the church. But they've outgrown their space and need a more permanent place to worship.

Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help grow this new church plant. Thousands in Denmark speak English. They need to know about God's love, and the international Adventist congregation wants to teach them. Let's help grow this church so that its light will shine throughout the nation and bring many to Christ.

**Narrator:** It's exciting to see new church plants growing in difficult areas, isn't it? Our next project is a church plant just outside Helsinki, Finland.

**Reporter 2:** Finland faces many of the same challenges as Denmark. The people are financially comfortable and don't feel that they need God in their lives.

One congregation, however, is growing in an unusual place. Years ago a wealthy Adventist died and left his estate to the church. Part of the manor house now is home to the Adventist school that once was located in Helsinki. The current environment, with its setting among trees and near a lake, is far more conducive to an Adventist school than a busy city street.

The church that has grown up around the school calls itself the Beating Heart, for it seeks to pump the Spirit of God into the community that is growing up around it. The active congregation meets in the school, and, because of its outreach activities, it's quickly outgrowing its facilities. It plans to renovate the lower level of a historic building on the estate as its new church home. Part of today's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help this congregation pay for the renovation of the building and provide a house of

worship for this growing congregation.

**Narrator:** Our third project is an exciting one—a youth camp in Poland that is reaching thousands for God.

**Reporter 3:** The story of Zatonie Youth Camp is inspiring. God worked miracles and provided a valuable piece of land and buildings to the Adventists of Poland for almost nothing. This camp, which was operated by the Communist government of Poland for many years, has become an important outreach center of the Adventist Church. While it operates weeklong camps for Adventist children and teens and the church's annual camp meeting, which draws more than 1,000 Adventists from across Poland, the camp also serves as an outpost for evangelism.

During camp meeting every year volunteers work in the surrounding community repairing homes of those who cannot afford to make the repairs themselves. Colporteurs train at Zatonie and practice their sales techniques in the surrounding villages. And several times a year the campground is opened for children from disadvantaged homes or those who have suffered through natural disasters such as floods. These children come for a week or more to enjoy nature and learn of the God who loves them.

The camp may have been given to the Adventist Church, but the government requires that the aging buildings be brought up to modern standards. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help refurbish the existing buildings and replace another building that has become too dangerous to use. The result

will be a camp that will be able to reach even more people in Poland with the gospel of Christ.

**Narrator:** Finally, we want you to know about our special children's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering project. It's exciting.

**Reporter 4:** The special children's project this quarter will help provide Bibles for children in three countries: Sudan, Israel, and Pakistan. Imagine trying to learn Bible truths when you can't read them for yourself. Imagine trying to understand Scripture passages when you can only listen to someone else reading it or telling about it.

Families in the countries featured don't all have a Bible in their own language. Children have no way to read their Sabbath School lesson from the Bible and must rely solely on what they hear in Sabbath School. Having a Bible will enhance their understanding of God's Word and, in some cases, will help entire families come to God.

Children in Sabbath Schools around the world have been working hard to bring a big Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today so that other children can have a Bible.

**Narrator:** We have our work cut out for us today. We have four projects in six "difficult" regions of the world. Our offering can help plant a church, provide a worship center, reach out to children and youth in Poland, and provide Bibles to thousands of children in three countries. Let's make a big difference in the lives of the people in the Trans-European Division today.

*[Offering]*

## LEADER'S RESOURCES

For more information on the cultures and history of Denmark, Finland, and Poland, the countries featured this quarter, check the travel section of a local library or visit a travel agency and ask for brochures.

Visit our website for additional photos, recipes, language pages, puzzles, and other activities that you can download and print to make mission more fun for children. Go to [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org). Click on "Resources" and "Children's Activities" in the pop-up menu. Go to second quarter and select the activity you want.

Adventist Mission DVD is a free video that features stories from the featured countries as well as the worldwide mission of the Adventist Church. Ask your Sabbath School superintendent to make you a copy of it. Or go online at [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org) to download one of the DVD programs.

Embassies and Tourism Offices sometimes can provide interesting information on their country. In North America, contact:

Embassy of Denmark, 3200 Whitehaven St., NW, Washington, DC 20008-3616. Phone: 202-234-4300; websites: [www.ambwashington.um.dk](http://www.ambwashington.um.dk) and [www.denmark.dk/en](http://www.denmark.dk/en).

Embassy of Finland, 3301 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20008. Phone: 202-298-5800; or for cultural information on Finland go to [www.finland.org/Public/Default.aspx](http://www.finland.org/Public/Default.aspx) and click on "About Finland."

Embassy of Poland, 2640 16th St., NW, Washington DC 20009. Phone: 202-234 3800; website: [www.polandembassy.org](http://www.polandembassy.org).

Remind members also that the ongoing work of the world church depends on the weekly Sabbath School mission offerings. On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter.

## FUTURE THIRTEENTH SABBATH PROJECTS

Next quarter the world church will give a special Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to help believers in earthquake ravaged Haiti.

First quarter 2010 will feature the Southern Asia Division projects will include:

- Classroom blocks at three Adventist higher secondary schools in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra states
- Eight new churches for existing congregations.

# ADVENTIST MISSION

## THIRD QUARTER 2010 TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION

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# TRANS-EUROPEAN DIVISION



UNIONS	CHURCHES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Adriatic	99	3,767	9,708,000
Baltic	88	6,469	6,963,000
British	246	29,736	66,000,000
Danish	46	2,523	5,596,000
Finland	73	5,044	5,312,000
Hungarian	111	4,667	10,034,000
Middle East	78	17,861	236,633,000
Netherlands	54	4,845	16,433,000
Norwegian	65	4,612	4,765,000
Pakistan	122	12,877	172,800,000
Polish	122	5,710	38,110,000
South-East European	215	8,151	16,064,000
Swedish	39	2,801	9,214,000
Attached Fields	32	1,942	19,043,000

## PROJECTS

- 1 Provide a church for an active congregation near Helsinki, Finland
- 2 Establish an international church in Copenhagen, Denmark
- 3 Renovate the Polish Union's campground at Zatonie, Poland
- 4 CHILDREN'S PROJECT: Bibles for children in Pakistan, Israel, and Sudan



TOTALS 1,390 111,005 616,675,000  
(as of January 2009)



INDIAN OCEAN