

The background of the magazine cover features a photograph of a smiling African man with short hair, wearing a light blue zip-up hoodie. He is positioned in front of a dense, green tropical forest with large trees and foliage. The entire image is framed by a decorative border with gold and brown patterns, resembling a traditional tapestry or a map of Africa.

ADVENTIST MISSION

WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

YOUTH AND ADULT
MAGAZINE

QUARTER 3
2011

featuring:

THE TROUBLEMAKER | ONE SINGLE BOOK

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On the Cover: Timothee Ngba is chaplain at Cosendai Adventist University in Cameroon.

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Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter features the West-Central Africa Division, which includes 22 countries that stretch from the west coast of Africa to the border of Sudan, and from Mauritania, Mali, Niger, and Chad in the north to the Republic of Congo in the south.

More than 863,000 Adventists live in this region, or one Adventist for every 390 people. They worship in more than 7,000 companies and churches scattered across western Africa.

Much of the northern region of West-Central African Division is desert or semi-desert, while thick jungles span the interior of other countries. Modern cities, mostly located along the sea, are home to millions of people. Millions more live in mud-and-thatch huts or simple cement-block houses in sparsely populated villages scattered across the land. Most of the people who live

in small villages farm or herd cattle for a livelihood, and many can barely feed their families. Life for them is a struggle, and they yearn for a better future for their children.

The people of Africa understand that the secret to a better future lies in education. If their children can get an education, they have a good chance to rise above poverty and subsistence living and to reach for their dreams.

The Adventist Church in Africa works hard to provide schools for every level so that children have a chance to learn and grow, and families can better themselves. Adventist teachers in hundreds of Adventist primary and secondary schools in the region bring hope and a brighter future to those willing to learn.

And by the thousands African youth are striving for a university education, stretching both secular and religious institutions' capacities. Two division-supervised universities in the West-Central Africa Division have seen such growth strain their resources. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help provide needed buildings on their campuses so that they can minister to even more students.

OPPORTUNITIES

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide

- a science building at Cosendai Adventist University in Cameroon
- a church to serve Valley View University in Ghana and the neighboring community
- CHILDREN'S PROJECT: school supplies for children to give out as an evangelistic tool throughout the division.

Yours for the kingdom,



Charlotte Ishkanian
Editor, Mission



CAMEROON



THE DREAM WOULDN'T DIE

July 2 | Myriam and Emily

Myriam worked hard to support herself and keep up her studies at a state university in Cameroon. It is difficult for students in Africa to study without financial help, but Myriam was determined to get a degree and make her life count for God.

When she had become an Adventist just a few years earlier, her life had become more difficult. Her father wasn't a Christian, and he objected to her new faith. Myriam knew she couldn't ask her family for support. Her only hope was God.

A New University

From the first time Myriam had heard of Cosendai [koh-SEN-dai] Adventist University, she dreamed of studying there. The school was just starting; its students and teachers were pioneers. Classes were held on the campus of an Adventist secondary school several hours' journey from the capital city of Cameroon. Myriam wondered how she could ever afford to study there, especially when she couldn't even afford to pay her school fees at the state university. But the dream

wouldn't die. She wanted to study in an environment in which her faith would be strengthened and she could be trained to lead and serve.

Stumbling Block or Stepping-stone

Myriam completed two years of study at the state university before she was forced to drop out of school for lack of funds. She worked at whatever jobs she could find, and lived frugally so she could save every possible cent. But after one year of hard work she had managed to save only US\$80. Every day she had prayed that God would make a way for her to continue her education. She knew that she had to trust God to provide a way for her. In spite of the obstacles, she applied to Cosendai Adventist University and was accepted.

Myriam couldn't wait to tell Emily, her best friend. Myriam knew that Emily wanted to study to become a teacher. But she had no money for school fees either, and her family couldn't afford to help her. Myriam wished she could think of some way for Emily to go with her to Cosendai. In her excitement Myriam offered to pay Emily's enrollment fees if

she would agree to enroll at Cosendai with her. Immediately Emily applied for admission.

God Shall Supply

Soon Myriam realized that her impulsive invitation was unwise. She had barely enough money to pay her own enrollment. Where would she get the money to pay Emily's fees, too? And where would she ever get the \$700 she'd need for her semester's tuition? But Myriam wanted so much for Emily to attend school with her. She begged God to provide the money she would need.

Emily, too, was concerned about how they would pay their tuition. Finally she found the courage to ask Myriam, "How much money do you have for school?"

"I have some," Myriam answered evasively. But Emily was not satisfied with Myriam's answer and asked again. "We will have \$200," Myriam said thoughtfully. "And God will provide the

rest." Myriam didn't have \$200, but she trusted that God would provide.

A few days later some church members gave Myriam some money they had collected for her. And her father gave her a small amount as well. Myriam counted the money and discovered it was \$200. Myriam thanked God and begged His forgiveness for ever doubting Him. Before the girls left for Cosendai, another church member gave Myriam an additional \$90. Myriam's heart surged with praise.

Rewarding Faith

The girls found places to stay at the school and paid their enrollment fees and the first month's tuition. Their home church sent them a small amount each month, and during school holidays the girls sold books door-to-door to earn their school fees. Still, they fell behind in their payments. Then Myriam became sick during school break and couldn't work for several weeks. But God had blessed her with almost as much in the first weeks of the break as she would have earned in several more weeks.

Myriam took a job cleaning the guest rooms at the college. She sings praises to God as she scrubs floors, cleans bathrooms, and makes beds. "You are my strength and my joy, Jesus," her sweet voice sings. And she means it with all her heart.

Myriam recently graduated from her nursing course at Cosendai. She knows God has answered her prayers in a special way. Myriam encourages Emily to trust God to do the same for her as she completes her last year of school. 

FAST FACTS

- Cameroon lies on the Atlantic Ocean very near the equator. It has a tropical climate.
- Many kinds of wildlife live in the jungles and on the plains of Cameroon, including monkeys, chimpanzees, gorillas, antelopes, lions, elephants, and many species of birds and snakes.
- Most people in Cameroon speak a local dialect, but the official languages are English and French.
- Watch the Adventist Mission DVD for more information on Cameroon and its unique challenges and opportunities.

Myriam Djia praises God for His goodness as she serves Him in southern Cameroon.



FROM HARASSER TO HELPER

July 9 | Jean

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

My name is Jean [pronounced John], and I am from Senegal, a small country on the western coast of Africa.

When I was 15 I saw people setting up benches in the open area of our village. I asked a man what was happening, and he told me that some people were holding meetings. "They will tell stories about God that you've never heard before," he said. "You should come."

I was curious about the meetings, so I attended. The man was right; I heard wonderful stories about God and Jesus. Then I learned that the meetings were sponsored by Seventh-day Adventists.

Young Hecklers

I remember my first encounter with Adventists. I was 7 years old, and my family lived in another village. One day I was tagging along with some other boys in the village when they stopped in front of a building with a sign out front that said "Seventh-day Adventist Church." I had no idea what "Seventh-day Adventist" meant. I thought maybe the church had been built in seven days.

My friends stood in the street and called out insults at the people who were entering the church. So I joined them.

Several years later I was living with my uncle so I could attend school, and I found myself attending meetings sponsored by the very people I had insulted as a child. I found the Adventist message compelling.

Standing Strong

School holidays came, and I went home to visit my parents. One day I was sitting outside watching some young people knocking on doors and inviting people to meetings. When they saw me, they invited me to attend, too. You can imagine how surprised I was to learn that they were Seventh-day Adventists. The young people invited me to join them for Bible studies, and I decided to go with them. I attended all the meetings, and even after the evangelistic meetings ended, I continued studying the Bible with my new Adventist friends. I realized that these people whom I had insulted when I was a little boy were God's special

people. I surrendered my life to Christ and asked to be baptized.

My mother was unhappy that I was joining a different church from the family. And my friends—the same boys who had harassed the Adventists when we were younger—said I was crazy. But I had made up my mind. I was determined to follow Christ and be baptized, even when one of the other boys who was preparing to be baptized with me changed his mind after his parents threatened to kill him if he joined the Adventist Church.

New Life and New Challenges

Vacation ended, and I returned to my uncle's home to begin another semester of studies. But when I refused to attend Saturday classes, the principal expelled me from the school. I worried about how I would continue my education. Then the church members in town

learned of my situation, and they raised money to send me to the Adventist high school. I was thrilled to continue my studies in a school in which Sabbath was never an issue.

I completed my secondary school studies and decided to study to be a nurse. I had seen a notice about a new Adventist university called Cosendai [koh-SEN-dai], in the country of Cameroon. I decided to apply to study there, even though it was really far from my home in Senegal. I started making plans. I figured it would take me about 10 days' travel by bus to reach the school, but I was determined to go.

Again, when the church members learned of my decision, they supported me and encouraged me to go to this new school. Then a church member bought me a plane ticket so I could fly to Cameroon in a few hours instead of spending nearly two weeks traveling over several countries by bus.

Giving Back to God

I am studying at Cosendai Adventist University now. It's a sacrifice, for I cannot see my family. But my church there is helping me with money for school fees. I look forward to returning to Senegal to work as a nurse in the Adventist clinic in my village. I want to serve God and give back to my community, just as Jesus did.

This university is new, and the students share a campus with a high school. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help to build a medical laboratory, where nursing and medical technology students can get hands-on training in our fields. Thank you for helping young people in Africa advance their studies to serve God.

MISSION POST

- Cosendai Adventist University is located in the heart of Cameroon, about four hours from the capital city, Yaoundé.
- The university is new and is using the campus of an Adventist secondary school until the buildings for the university can be completed. The church in Cameroon and the university need our help. Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help the university build a science building so that students can learn better and prepare to serve God.



A CHANGE OF HEART

July 16 | Isaiah

Isiah* tensed at the sound of his parents' angry voices. They were arguing again. Mother wanted Isaiah to attend church with her on Sabbath, and Father wanted him to help on the farm that day.

To keep peace in the family, Isaiah usually attended church with his father on Sunday. This worried his mother so much that she decided to send him to the Adventist boarding school at Cosendai [koh-SEN-dai], not far from their home. Isaiah was only 11 and didn't know what to think about being away from home. When his mother explained that he would live with his sister and her husband on the school campus, Isaiah felt relieved. He wouldn't be all alone.

Young Rebel

At Cosendai Isaiah discovered that nearly everyone, including his sister and brother-in-law, attended church on Saturday. Isaiah was torn between attending worship services with his family and the threat that his actions would displease his father. Sometimes he pretended to go to church but returned to his sister's house to watch

television. His sister wasn't happy with this, but she felt it was best not to force Isaiah to go to church.

Then Isaiah's older cousin Thierry [THEE-ree] came to live with Isaiah's sister and brother-in-law. Isaiah admired Thierry and wanted to be like him. One day Isaiah saw his cousin leave home with his Bible. "Where are you going?" Isaiah asked.

"I'm Going With You!"

"To Bible class," Thierry answered. "I'm getting ready to be baptized." Isaiah ran after his cousin and walked with him to the church. If Thierry enjoyed studying the Bible, Isaiah wanted to study, too. He might even enjoy it! "I'm going with you!" he said.

The pastor welcomed the young people to the class. Isaiah listened carefully to the discussion and realized that he had been wasting a lot of time watching television when he could have been learning about God. At the end of the study the pastor asked Isaiah to pray. Isaiah's mouth went dry, and he swallowed hard. He had never prayed in public before. The words stumbled uncomfortably from his mouth. When

he finished, Isaiah felt a strange happiness inside him. He'd tasted something good, and he wanted more of it. In fact, he wanted to prepare for baptism, too.

What About Father?

Then Isaiah thought of his father. What would he say when he learned that Isaiah wanted to become an Adventist? But his resolve strengthened; he knew he had to take a stand for what he had learned was the truth in Jesus, no matter what. Isaiah would continue attending the baptismal classes with his cousin.

Isaiah continued taking Bible studies with Thierry, and the day approached when he and his cousin would be baptized together. As they walked back home together, Isaiah felt such a joy in his heart. Even his father's objections wouldn't deter him! But when he stepped into his sister's home he found his father sitting in the front room.

"Is it true that you are going to join the Adventist Church?" Isaiah's father asked.

Isaiah shifted uncomfortably. "Yes," he answered quietly.

Father's chair scraped on the floor as he stood. He gathered his things and left without a word.

On Sabbath the congregation celebrated the large baptism. Isaiah smiled, thinking that a few months earlier he wouldn't have dreamed of this day.

Isaiah's Desire

Isaiah has not seen his father since he was baptized. His mother and sister struggle to keep Isaiah, now 15 years old, in school. Recently Isaiah received \$10 from his father, a sign of hope that he and his father can mend their relationship. "I want to visit my father

again," Isaiah says. "I want him to know that I respect him, even though I have chosen to follow God in the Adventist Church."

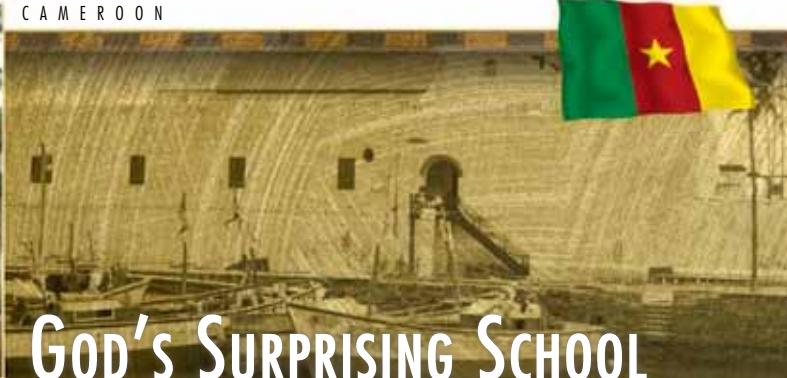
"I want my father to know that I've changed a lot since coming to this school. No one needs to force me to go to church on Sabbath. Now I go three times a week. I want to follow God all the way," he adds with a smile. "Studying at Cosendai has brought me to know my Savior. I praise God for what He has done for me at this school."

This quarter part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a medical laboratory classroom block at the Cosendai Adventist University, which will help strengthen the new university's nursing and medical technician program. Thank you for helping the university to grow stronger and the young people of Cameroon to receive a God-centered education. 

*Isaiah's name is *Esaie* [eh-sah-ee], the French version of Isaiah. It has been changed for ease of presentation.

FAST FACTS

- Most people living outside the larger cities are subsistence farmers; they eat what they grow. The most common foods include maize (corn), cassava (a root vegetable that when cooked tastes a lot like potatoes), peanuts (called groundnuts), yams, and plantains (a form of banana).
- Grains and starchy roots are often cooked and mashed and served with a spicy sauce made from vegetables. Meat and rice are luxuries that most people living in villages have only seldom, even if they raise cattle or goats.



God's SURPRISING SCHOOL

July 23 | Ama

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

I am Ama,* from Cameroon. People in Cameroon speak French or English. I speak French.

I wanted to study nursing, but we couldn't find a French-speaking university in Cameroon that has a school of nursing. It appeared that I would have to study in another country.

A French-Speaking School

Then someone told us about Cosendai [koh-SEN-dai] Adventist University, four hours outside the capital city of Cameroon. The school teaches in French and has a school of nursing.

We knew nothing about Adventists or what the name means, so we called the school to see if the university would accept a student who's not an Adventist. The woman who answered said the school accepts all faiths.

I was excited, for at last I could pursue my dream. I was accepted to study and eagerly waited for school to begin. I packed my bags, said goodbye to my family, and with great anticipation I boarded the bus that would take me to a new adventure.

A New Adventure

The journey took us over rough dirt roads and through countryside I'd never visited before. Finally, long after dark, I arrived at Nanga, the city closest to the university. The school was a short distance from the town, so I found two motorcycle taxis to take my baggage and me to the school. They roared down the muddy dirt roads and soon arrived on the campus, stopping in front of the women's dormitory. A student on duty showed me to my room, and I collapsed, exhausted, onto the thin mattress. Looking around at the aging building, I hoped I wouldn't be disappointed.

The next morning I walked around the campus to see the school in the daylight. The buildings were old, and I had hoped for something nicer. Then I wandered up a dirt road and found a huge construction site. The sign indicated that this site would be the new university campus. *One day this will be a fine school*, I thought to myself. *But for now, we'll have to make do with the old campus*. I learned that the university campus was sharing a secondary school

campus until the new campus buildings are completed.

Other things surprised me, too. Classes start as early as 7:00 in the morning, and some go until 10:00 at night. And all students on campus are expected to attend chapel three times a week, on Tuesday, Friday evening, and Saturday morning, as well as daily worships in the dormitory. I'm a member of a Christian church, but we seldom go to church. So this was really different for me.

Learning to Worship

I reluctantly went to the first chapel service. The music was inspiring, and the speaker's talk was compelling. I found myself looking forward to chapel services. I had come to the school knowing nothing about Adventists, but I quickly learned. Someone explained to me that God set aside Saturday—the Sabbath, they call it—as a holy day to spend with the Creator. At first this seemed strange, but it soon became a beautiful teaching to me. The most important lesson I learned was that at Cosendai the Bible is not a decoration on a shelf; it's the textbook of life, the road map to salvation. I began taking my Bible to chapel with me so that I could follow along during worship services.

In my year at Cosendai I've become familiar with the Bible, something that I hadn't expected to learn at university!

A Changed Life

My mother likes to hear about what I'm learning in school, so when I go home I take my Bible so I can share what I'm learning. Sometimes I find Mom quietly reading my Bible. And

my sister, who is a lecturer at another university, has asked me to save my old Sabbath School quarterlies for her. She enjoys studying them.

I'm in my second year at Cosendai, and my life has changed so much. I feel that I'm much closer to God than I ever was, and I know more about myself, too. I enjoy learning more about God every day.

I live off campus this year, so I'm no longer required to attend every chapel service. But I don't want to miss them, for I learn so much. Someday, when the time is right, I may become an Adventist. In the meantime, I'm just grateful for everything that God has given me through Cosendai Adventist University.

Your mission offerings help support Adventist education around the world. This quarter part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build the new campus at Cosendai Adventist University. 

*Ama is short for Amougou and is used here for ease of pronunciation.

MISSION POST

- Cameroon has about 108,400 Adventists. Its population is about 19 million. That means that one person out of every 175 is an Adventist.
- That is a good number, but it means that a lot of people still need to hear that God loves them and to be shown how to accept Jesus as their Savior.
- Pray that the believers in Cameroon will share their faith with everyone they know. Pray that the teachers in Adventist schools and universities will reach out to students and their families who don't yet know God's love.



CAMEROON



A SECOND CHANCE

July 30 | Crescent Assana

[Ask a teenager or young adult man to present this first person story.]

My friends and I staggered from the disco. We were young and rebellious; we thought we were so cool. We stumbled to the car that my friend had taken without his father's permission. The engine roared to life, and we squealed away from the disco. It was late at night, and we were tired.

When the car drifted into the opposite lane, my friend laughed and jerked the wheel. Suddenly a blinding crash shattered the night.

Escape From Death

Stunned, I struggled out of the mangled car. I turned to help my friends, but even in my drunken stupor I realized that they were dead. My mind went numb, and I barely remember getting home.

The house was quiet when I entered, and I slumped onto the sofa. I turned on the television to keep my mind off what had happened. I flipped through the channels looking for something to distract me from the scenes that kept flashing inside my head: our drunken foolishness, the explosive crash and crumpled metal, and worst of all my

friends' bodies lying motionless in the night. I blinked away the images and forced myself to look at the television.

A Ray of Hope

On the screen a man was talking—preaching, I realized. What did it matter? I sunk lower into the sofa and tried to relax my clenched fists. Somehow, the man's words pierced the darkness that enveloped me. I sat up and listened. I don't know how long I sat there staring at the man, but gradually I realized that my muscles were no longer tied in knots. I felt myself softening.

The pastor on the screen urged his listeners to give themselves to God before it was too late. My heart quickened. *Too late.* It was too late for my friends, and almost too late for me. I could have been crumpled inside the car with my friends. I had come so close.

I remembered my parents' warnings that I was making wrong choices, choosing friends who were not a good influence on me. But I had refused to listen. It was too late for my friends, but it wasn't too late for me!

As the speaker on the television began praying, a sudden sob escaped my lips. My heart cried out to God, *Please take me, change me!*

Somehow, the man's words pierced the darkness that enveloped me. I sat up and listened.

Morning dawned, but I still couldn't shake the realization that I had come so close to death and yet survived. I knew my parents were right, and I decided to change. I wanted to stop drinking, stop wasting time and money at discos.

I told my mother what had happened the night before. Then I told her that I'd given my life to God and wanted Him to change me. Relief flooded her face, but I could see the concern. I knew that my parents knew that I wouldn't be able to change without God.

A Second Chance at Life

A few weeks later my mother told me that she'd met a young man who had really impressed her. He was from an Adventist university in Cameroon, several hours away from my home and my former friends. "This young man told me that the university also has a secondary school," Mother said. "If you attend that school you will be surrounded by Christian influence." I knew she was right. I needed to start over. I agreed to enroll in the secondary school at Cosendai [koh-SEN-dai].

My life changed immediately after I arrived at the school. We have worship every morning, which makes faith grow stronger. And we have lots of rules.

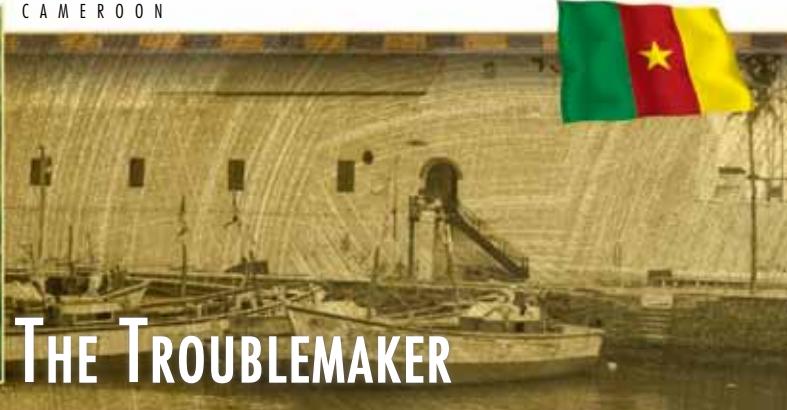
Once I would have rebelled against these rules, but now I understand that they are for my own good and help me focus on my studies and become the person God wants me to be.

School never used to be important, but now I want to study to show God how thankful I am that He gave me a second chance to live a life worth living. When I return home on vacation, I want to find my old friends and tell them what God has done for me. I'm not sure how they will respond, but I want them to know that I'm not the person they once knew, that God has made me a new person. I hope they will allow God to change their lives as well. He is always willing and is all-powerful and able. My life is proof of this. ☺

Crescent Assana, 17, is from Central African Republic. He is studying at Cosendai Adventist Secondary School in Cameroon.

FAST FACTS

- The school at which Crescent studies now shares its facilities with Cosendai Adventist University. Classes often run late into the night to accommodate both the secondary school and the university.
- The new campus at Cosendai is partially completed. But funds aren't available to build all the needed classrooms. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a much needed medical lab so that students in the schools of nursing, pharmacology, and other medical areas will have the proper facilities in which to learn.



THE TROUBLEMAKER

August 6 | Desirè Ndibi

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

The little group of believers sang a song as they walked toward the river just outside the small village in western Cameroon. As they neared the river, a wild-eyed woman ran toward them brandishing a cutlass. “Get out of here!” she shouted. “This place belongs to my ancestors, and you’ll not practice your witchcraft here!” She waved the cutlass above her head for emphasis.

Fearful Threats

The group of Adventists stopped, fearing what the woman might do. I stepped in front of the believers and walked toward the woman. “The river doesn’t belong to one person,” I told her gently. “And we aren’t practicing witchcraft. We’re here to baptize some new believers.”

I realized that this woman must have been the one who had destroyed the baptismal area that I had arranged the day before. I had piled rocks in the swift-flowing river to provide a quiet pond in which to perform the baptism. Then I’d covered the path with palm fronds and flowers to make

it look festive. How disappointed I was when I returned to the river just before sundown the evening before to find the stones knocked over and the palm fronds and flowers pulled out of the ground.

The woman’s shouts brought me back to the present. *Was it safe to go ahead with the baptism? Or would this woman injure someone as she was threatening to do?* I wondered. I scanned the faces of those who had come to be baptized into the Adventist Church. I knew that they would be disappointed if we had to postpone the baptism.

Stepping Forward in Faith

A crowd was forming to see who was shrieking. In spite of the woman’s threats I decided that we must go ahead with the baptism. I prayed and then stepped to the water’s edge. The baptismal candidates lined up on the shore just out of reach of the woman’s cutlass. The singing resumed as the woman continued shouting insults at us.

Then she splashed into the water and raised the cutlass above her head. Once

more I spoke to her. “Your ancestors did not make this river,” I said. “God made it when He created the world. And He has commanded His children to share His love with everyone.”

The woman stopped shouting and looked at me. I felt God’s power urging me to continue with the baptism. As I stepped into the water, the woman dropped her cutlass. I picked it up and gave it to an elder standing on the shore. The woman stood silent in the water as if she was frozen in place.

One by one I baptized the new believers as the woman and the villagers watched. When the last one was baptized, we all walked up the hill a short way. A church elder saw that the woman who had threatened us seemed to be rooted in the water, so he carefully helped her out of the river.

When the church members knelt to pray, the troublemaker knelt too. “Please be with this woman and change

her heart,” I prayed, not knowing how she would react to my prayer. When the prayer ended, we stood, and the pastor holding the woman’s cutlass gave it back to her. An uneasy silence spread through the crowd. Would the woman again become agitated? Would she try to attack us?

Surprising Apology

“Please forgive me for what I have done,” she said quietly.

Surprised at her response, I asked, “May I visit you?”

“Yes,” she said.

I learned that the woman’s name was Hada. A local elder and I began visiting Hada, and soon she began attending the church. One day not too long after we first met at the river, Hada walked into the same river to celebrate her own baptism.

Hada didn’t go alone that day. Others with whom she had shared her new faith walked with her. They, too, wanted to join God’s family by baptism. Hada had found God’s love and shared it freely with everyone she met.

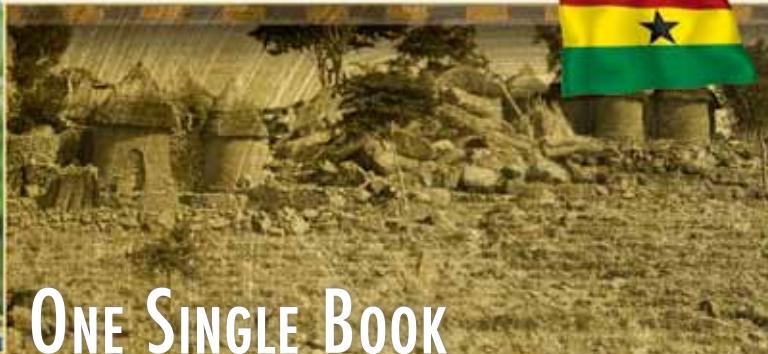
The church in that little village has grown to more than 40 members. They have shared God’s love with people in a nearby village, where now another company has been started.

God turned a threat into a blessing and a woman’s hard heart into one softened by His love. Our mission offerings help establish new congregations of believers in difficult places in Africa and around the world. Thank you for giving so others can see God’s hand in their lives. ☺

MISSION POST

- Of the 19 million people who live in Cameroon, about 108,400 are Seventh-day Adventists. That means that one person out of every 175 is an Adventist. While this is a good ratio, some parts of Cameroon have hardly been touched with the message of Christ’s soon coming.
- Lay evangelists and Global Mission pioneers serve in isolated areas where the Adventist message has not yet reached. Pray that God will sustain them and protect them from those who resist Christ’s love.

Desirè Ndibi is studying theology at Cosendai Adventist University in Cameroon.



One Single Book

August 13 | Oliver Eshun

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

I was the troublemaker. I disobeyed my parents and teachers and questioned every authority. My mom feared that my behavior would be a negative influence on my siblings. I was smart, but I refused to study and sometimes even refused to go to school. My family wasn't religious, but my parents had strict standards. They tried everything to make me obey, but nothing worked.

The Man With the Book

One day my mother traveled by bus to a far city to buy goods to sell in her little shop. A man stood up and began talking about a book he was selling. The book was *The Great Controversy*. He said that this book had changed thousands of lives. Mother bought the book. It was a sacrifice for her, but she was desperate. She wanted that book for me.

When she returned home, she gave me the book. I love reading, and the title made me curious. *What's this great controversy?* I wondered. I went to my room and started reading.

The book's ideas were totally new to me, and some things were hard to

understand. But I kept reading. I saw references to the Bible in it, so I found a Bible and looked up each reference. I realized that this book taught the Bible.

My Quest for Truth

The book mentioned the Sabbath. I'd never heard of the Sabbath before, but I realized it must be important. Then in school I overheard a boy talking about the Sabbath. When he finished talking, I asked him, "Do you attend church on the Sabbath?" He said he did. "I want to attend church with you," I told him.

The boy's church was a charismatic church, but I didn't know the difference. So I joined the church. My parents might have objected, but they saw me changing into the boy they had hoped I'd become. So they said nothing.

Then I began finding things in the church that didn't agree with what I was reading in the Bible. I asked the church leaders about them, but they didn't have good answers. Then one elder accused me of being a Seventh-day Adventist.

I didn't know anything about Seventh-day Adventists, but I sensed

that this church had the answers I was looking for. I met an Adventist man, and I peppered him with questions. He answered them all from the Bible, and I began visiting him often. We had some long and heated discussions as we dug into the Bible together. He knew that the only authority I would accept was the Bible. I wasn't interested in attending any church until I knew the truth from the Bible first. I think my friend understood this, and he didn't urge me to attend church.

God's Master Plan

I finished high school and took a job teaching elementary school in a small village to save money for college. When I arrived in the village, I discovered that the school I was to teach at was an Adventist school! I began attending the Adventist church

in the village, and soon all doubt was gone. I wanted to be baptized.

My parents were surprised at my decision to become an Adventist, but they had seen my life change and didn't disapprove. My younger brother began attending church and became an Adventist too.

I taught school for two years but never received my government salary. I didn't understand why God wasn't helping me go to college. But when I quit teaching to enter college, my salary came through. With help I graduated with a teaching degree.

After graduation I did a year of required civil service by working at Valley View University, the Adventist university in Ghana. This helped cement my faith.

That One Book

I shudder when I think of where I would be if my mother hadn't given me that book when I was a teen. I was on the wrong track and headed for trouble. But God used a book—one simple book—to turn my life around and set me on the path of life. Before I read the book, I was a nuisance to my family. After I discovered the truth in this book, I became so excited about my faith that I became a different kind of "nuisance." It's still my mission to tell my family about God's great plan of salvation.

The Adventist Church has a huge publishing work around the world. Our mission offerings help support the publishing work so that people such as I can experience God's love. Thank you for your offerings. Thank God for His salvation! 

FAST FACTS

- Ghana lies on the Atlantic Ocean between Côte d'Ivoire (coht duh-VWAH, or Ivory Coast) and Togo. Ghana was the first country in Africa to gain independence from colonial rule. The country led other nations in their fight for independence.
- The people of Ghana belong to more than 100 different ethnic people and language groups. The people have worked hard to live together in peace.
- Watch the Adventist Mission DVD for more information on the special challenges and opportunities for sharing God's love in Ghana.



GOD'S ALONE

August 20 | Samuel Dorgbetor

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

I grew up in a pagan home and a pagan village in Ghana. Everyone I knew worshipped idols and sacrificed animals to the gods to ask for protection and to honor them when we harvested our crops. We feared that if we didn't do these things, the gods would be angry and cause sickness or trouble for us. We assumed that any bad thing that happened to us—even a headache—was because we had offended a god.

The New School

The nearest school was several miles from my home, so I couldn't attend. Then when I was 10 years old, an Adventist school opened in a village nearby. At last I was able to go to school! I quickly learned to read and write, and soon I became a leader among my peers. But most important, I was learning about Jesus.

The school required students to attend church, but my parents wouldn't allow me to go because they feared that something bad would happen to the family if the gods became angry. I wanted to go to church, not so much

because I believed as because I didn't like being different from the other children. I thought of running off on Sabbaths to attend church, but my parents made us work with them in the garden on the weekends.

I watched the kids at school. Not all of them were Christians, or even Adventists. I noticed that the Adventist children were honest and kind. But even more important to me was that not a single Adventist child died while attending that school. That seemed extraordinary to me, for many children died in my idol-worshipping village. In my mind it was Jesus who kept the Christian children from dying. I began listening more carefully in Bible class. The more I learned about Jesus, the less interested I was in the idols my parents worshipped.

A Change of Allegiance

When I started junior high school I went to live in the village where the school was located. At last I could go to church! I had forsaken the idols my parents worshipped, and

before long I accepted Jesus as my Savior and was baptized.

I didn't tell my parents, for I feared what they would say. I didn't want to go home and have to explain why I wouldn't work on Sabbaths. So I made excuses to stay at school. But my parents urged me to return home. Finally I could avoid it no longer; I went home. That's when I learned that my parents knew that I had become a Christian.

My father told me that if I didn't work on the farm on weekends I couldn't take food back to school with me. But my mother brought me food when she came to the market. When my father refused to pay my school fees, I took jobs to pay my own fees. By God's help I managed to finish school.

MISSION POST

- People of Ghana belong to many different religions. About 24 percent, or one person in four, follows traditional beliefs that may include ancestor worship and witchcraft. About 20 percent, or one person in five, follows the Muslim religion, and almost as many are Protestant Christians. Some Christian churches mix faith in God with faith in traditional religions.
- Almost 350,000 Seventh-day Adventists live in Ghana. That's one Adventist for every 69 people. Pray that Adventists in Ghana will be able to help their friends and neighbors understand that it's important to worship only God and not idols or ancestors.

Answering God's Call

The church gave me opportunities to learn leadership skills, and when I graduated from high school I was church treasurer and had become a lay preacher. I love sharing God's love with others and know that God has called me to be a pastor.

I'm now studying theology at Valley View University, the Adventist university in southern Ghana. My parents can't help me pay my tuition because there are many other children in the family who need to go to school. God has provided help through scholarships and a job on campus. I know that He has called me to do His work and will see me through.

Although my parents haven't become Adventists, they respect my faith. They know that the education I have received in Adventist schools has made me who I am. But only Jesus has made me *whose* I am—I am His alone.

Please pray with me that my family will experience a salvation through Christ and a loving relationship with God such as I now enjoy. God has blessed me so abundantly in sending me to Adventist schools. I want to serve Him the rest of my life and teach others that they, too, can have the blessings He has given to me. I'm eager to go to work among my people and teach those who live in darkness about the wonderful light of God's love, Jesus.

Your mission offerings have helped establish many schools in Ghana. This quarter part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Valley View University build a church where all can come to learn about Christ and worship Him. Thank you. 



GHANA



GOD IS MY FATHER

August 27 | Foday Sellu

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

“Today,” my school counselor said, “your mother is dead.” The news stunned me. *What will happen to us now?* I wondered. My stepfather wasn’t a Christian, and I knew that he wouldn’t help us to continue our studies.

I would soon graduate from high school and was looking forward to going on to study in a university. Suddenly my hopes for the future were dead as well. I returned to work in the school garden as tears burned my eyes. The agriculture teacher saw that I was crying. “What’s wrong?” he asked.

Experiencing God’s Care

I told him that my mother had died and that I had no money to pay the fees to take my final exams so I could graduate. “Go see the school principal,” he suggested. “He can help you.” The teacher’s words gave me hope. But this wasn’t an Adventist school, and I was an Adventist. I went to see the principal and found the school chaplain with him. I explained my problem.

“Come back tomorrow,” the principal said.

The next morning when the school secretary gave me the forms to fill out to take my exams, I realized that someone had paid my exam fees. I took the exams and scored high. *Maybe there’s still hope that I can go to university*, I thought.

Then war broke out in my country, and once more it seemed that I wouldn’t be able to continue my education. I gave God my dream and trusted Him to work things out.

I was asked to be Sabbath School superintendent and help the teachers prepare their weekly lessons. The assignment drove me to study my Bible more deeply and spend more time with God. I also discovered a love for teaching. When at last I began my university studies, I majored in education. Soon I’d be able to help my brothers and sisters with their education.

God Leads

I finished university and prayed for a job. I felt God calling me to teach at the parochial school I had attended, to give back to the school that had helped

me. But how could I keep the Sabbath in a school that held classes and other activities that day? I asked God to help me know what to do.

I was able to schedule my classes so I'd be free on Sabbaths. Then I learned that the school's parent-teacher conferences were scheduled for Sabbath. I went to the principal and asked to be excused from the parent-teacher program on Sabbath. To my surprise, he readily agreed to allow me to go to church instead of the teacher's meetings. What an answer to prayer! From that time on no activity in which I was involved was scheduled on Sabbath.

God Always Provides

I felt God calling me to pastoral ministry. At first I resisted the idea, but the thought kept ringing in my ears. Finally, I knelt down and asked God,

"If you really want me to serve you as a pastor, let the church mission invite me to study to become a pastor." A short while later the mission president called to offer me a scholarship to study theology at Valley View University. After praying with my fiancé about it, we decided to marry and enroll in classes at Valley View.

But even with financial help to pay my tuition it's difficult to earn enough to pay my wife's tuition, buy books and food, and pay rent. We've learned to place all these needs before God's throne, and He's blessed us. We rarely know where the help will come from, but we know that God will send it.

Serving God Back Home

Recently five of us traveled back to Sierra Leone to hold evangelistic meetings in three towns. My wife and I went to my hometown, Bo, where we preached, prayed, and visited with people. In the two months our team was in Sierra Leone, 530 people became Seventh-day Adventists. And we were privileged to establish a new church in Bo.

As we've seen how God has led us in the past, we have no fear for the future. We know that God will reveal His plans for our lives each step of the way. And we thank God for providing Valley View University where we have received a solid Christian preparation for a lifetime of service. Your offerings help make this school and its ministry possible. Thank you! 

When Foday and his wife complete their studies at Valley View University, they will return to Sierra Leone to serve God.

MISSION POST

- Almost 350,000 Adventists live and worship in Ghana. That's about one Adventist for every 69 people. The church supports many elementary schools, some high schools, and a large university—Valley View University, located just outside of the capital city, Accra.
- The university has grown rapidly in the past few years. Everywhere on campus new buildings are going up to house classrooms, dormitories, a new cafeteria, and offices. The one building that's missing on campus is a church.
- Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a church in the heart of the campus.



GHANA



THE FAITHFUL SABBATHKEEPER

September 3 | Deborah Odai

Deborah cringed as her father's voice grew louder. "If you join that church, there will be no more money for your school fees!" She'd expected him to be unhappy with her decision to become an Adventist, but it was still difficult to hear her beloved father speak harshly to her.

Deborah had always been curious about spiritual things and loved reading her Bible to learn what God had to say to her. Then one day a young man moved into one of the rooms Deborah's family rents to people. He offered Deborah some Bible study guides. As she read them, she learned about the Sabbath. She asked her father why they worship on Sunday. He explained that Christians worship on Sunday to honor Jesus' resurrection. Deborah wasn't so sure, and she continued searching the Bible for answers.

Deborah's New School

After high school Deborah's parents sent her to study at Valley View University, a Seventh-day Adventist school. They were impressed with the high Christian standards of the

school, but warned her not to let Adventists sway her faith. Deborah was sure that she would find answers to her questions about God and the Sabbath at this school.

Deborah attended prayer and worship services on campus. During a Week of Spiritual Emphasis, Deborah felt God calling her to stand up for what she knew was right. She hesitated, for she wanted to study more before taking such a stand.

But she felt no peace. "I knew that I had to make a choice," Deborah said, "even if my father disowned me." After reading the story of Daniel, Deborah spoke with the university president about her situation. He agreed to talk with her father.

Father agreed to continue paying Deborah's school fees. But when Deborah was baptized, her father changed his mind and refused to continue supporting her.

Faithful in Spite of Challenges

Deborah remains faithful to her commitment to God. She leaves home early on Sabbath morning to attend worship services and spends the rest of

the day at the university so she won't be asked to break the Sabbath. Her parents have agreed to support her education if she gives up her new beliefs. But Deborah refuses to give in. "I must be faithful to what God has shown me," she insists.

Rather than create additional problems by asking her mother to prepare only clean food, Deborah often goes hungry. "It's a small thing compared to what God has done for me," she says quietly.

And in a difficult moment, God gave Deborah a dream that has encouraged her to remain true to her convictions in spite of difficulties. In the dream she was walking in the dark. Suddenly she saw a bright light and heard a voice urging her to stay faithful to God and His truths. Remembering this dream has helped Deborah to remain faithful and to patiently endure the tests of her faith that she faces at home every day.

FAST FACTS

- Ghana has about 24 million people and is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa. About half of the people in Ghana farm for a living.
- The official language of Ghana is English, but most of Ghana's people also speak an African language. The most widely spoken African language in Ghana is Akan, which is spoken by the Ashanti people of central Ghana.
- The Ashanti people are known for their carving ability and the beautifully woven kente cloth, which is made on looms and features bright golden yellow, brown, dark red, and black.

Encouraging Others

Deborah's younger sister is also an Adventist, but she struggles to remain faithful to her commitment in the face of her parents' objections. Deborah quietly encourages her sister to stay strong in Jesus. "If our father is home on Sabbath morning, my sister stays home from church just to keep from upsetting him. I pray that someday she will realize the importance of standing up for what she believes," Deborah says.

Deborah continues her studies toward a degree in international development at Valley View University. She works when she can to help pay her school fees. But it's difficult to find work that doesn't require working on Sabbaths. So when she's able, she works as a literature evangelist. "I can share my faith with others and keep the Sabbath at the same time," she says.

Appeal

Our mission offerings help support schools of all sizes around the world, and this quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a church on the campus of Valley View University. Currently students and staff worship in several congregations spread out across the campus. They meet in lecture halls, classrooms, and the cafeteria. A church will help unite the student body and enable students and staff to invite their friends to worship in a setting they are accustomed to. Students and staff members are passionate about introducing others to the precious Jesus they love and the faith they hold dear. Let's help make this possible with a large offering on Thirteenth Sabbath. 



FROM EVERYWHERE TO EVERYWHERE

September 10 | Phillip and Grace Maiyo

[Ask three people to present this interview-style report.]

Narrator: Missionaries don't come from just one country or even one continent. They come from everywhere and go everywhere. Like a giant spiderweb, God's servants criss-cross the world taking their talents and education where they are needed the most.

Dr. Phillip and Grace Maiyo [MAY-yoh] are from Kenya, in eastern Africa. They've been called to serve at Valley View University in western Africa. Dr. Maiyo is the university's information technology director and teaches business and computer science. Grace teaches health and nutrition. The couple has three children who are studying in the Philippines and in Kenya.

Grace, please tell us a bit about what brought you to this place in your life.

Grace: I didn't grow up Adventist. Then I met two sisters in school who were Adventists. They talked about God and showed me in the Bible that the Sabbath is God's plan. I became interested and wanted to attend their church. But there was no Adventist church in our little town, so I joined them for worship on Sabbaths in their home.

When I quit attending Sunday School some people were angry. But one family wanted to know why I had left. I explained the Sabbath to them and gave them the Bible verses I had learned. In time they joined the Adventist Church. These were my first converts, and I became excited about sharing my faith with others.

Phillip is a lifelong Adventist. We married and went to college. We had no idea how God would use our skills, but we trusted His leading.

Phillip: We've served God at Valley View University for six years now. We both teach, and we both have several other assignments that keep us really busy. But we make time to minister to those on campus as well. Lots of students have personal or financial problems. We can't solve all their problems, but we can listen and pray with them. We want them to know that we care and that God cares. We see each student as our mission field.

Our work at Valley View has many facets. Grace teaches health and nutrition classes. Then she takes her

students into the communities to teach the local people. In this way the students are learning to serve God and improve people's lives through better health and nutrition. Grace even gets the church elders to go with her to translate and facilitate health demonstrations. She has done so many things to increase awareness of the importance of health and nutrition in our lives.

Grace: Besides teaching computer and business courses, Phillip is busy managing the computer services at the school.

That's a huge challenge, for some of the equipment is old, and our Internet is quite limited for a school of more than 3,000 students. But he's doing the best he can to help the university grow through technology in ways they're just beginning to understand.

Phillip has installed the fiber-optic

system and the Internet for the school. He and his team are developing software for the school's academic programs, and he's leading a team to set up online classrooms and training teachers how to use these systems. We are doing all we can to help bring the university into the twenty-first century. He's saved the university thousands of dollars by overseeing much of the work himself. It keeps him busy, but that's our ministry.

We also have a radio studio on campus, and Phillip makes presentations for broadcasts.

Phillip: Missionaries are used to working hard, and sometimes we are overwhelmed with the work that presents itself to us. It's important work, and it advances the university and its ministry. I'm so occupied with keeping the computer systems running and with teaching faculty members how to use the systems that I seldom get outside the campus to minister in the community. So I focus my ministry on helping others make the most of their ministries.

When we finished our education, we weren't sure what the Lord wanted us to do. But He has led us to serve Him here at Valley View University. My parents dedicated me to God as a child, and God has used me to serve Him in unexpected ways.

MISSION POST

- Missionaries do many different types of work. Some are administrators, teachers, or specialists in technical fields. Others are medical personnel—doctors, nurses, anesthesiologists, dentists, ophthalmologists. They take their experience and training to regions of the world where it is needed most.
- Missionaries work hard! They do far more than their job description indicates.
- The Adventist Church has about 1,000 missionaries scattered around the world. They come from dozens of countries and do scores of different jobs. But they all have a passion to see God's work finished soon so they can go home to be with Jesus.

Narrator: Your mission offerings help support missionaries who come from everywhere and go everywhere. Teachers, medical professionals, administrators, and frontline workers benefit from the mission offerings you give every week in Sabbath School. Thank you and God bless you as you continue to give so that others may go. 



BLESSED DISAPPOINTMENT

September 17 | Estella Nchama Ondo

Estella traveled from her home in Equatorial Guinea to Ghana to get a visa to study in Spain. But a missing document delayed her visa until it was too late to go to Spain. Disappointment flooded her heart; she didn't know what to do.

Her sister was studying at Valley View University, so Estella decided to enroll there too. At least her year wouldn't be wasted. Estella's parents reluctantly allowed her to study at Valley View, but they warned her to stay away from the Adventist Church.

Spiritual Turmoil

Estella attended the required Week of Spiritual Emphasis meetings on campus. There she encountered Bible truths that she had never considered before. She had heard people on campus talk about the Sabbath, but she had thought it didn't matter what day she worshipped.

However, as she listened to the speaker's messages, she realized every Bible truth was important to salvation. *What does God expect of me?* she wondered.

That night so many questions flooded her mind that she couldn't sleep. She was convinced that what she was

hearing was true, but what could she do about it? She didn't know her Bible well enough to answer the questions her heart was asking.

Estella read her Bible, searching for truth. She asked many questions. She asked a friend, who was a priest, many of the same questions, but his answers clearly didn't come from the Bible. She became convinced that she had found God's truths, and she asked to be baptized.

Time to Tell

Reluctantly Estella wrote to her family to tell them that she had joined the Adventist Church. She knew her parents would be angry and wondered what they would do. For three months she heard nothing from them. Then they called her and asked why she had decided to become an Adventist.

She tried to explain that she was following Bible truths, but her parents refused to listen as she tried to quote Bible verses. Finally they told her that they would call back and give her their decision about what to do.

Nervously Estella waited for her parents' call. The new semester started,

and Estella wondered whether she dared to register. She waited and waited. Still her parents didn't call. Finally she went to register for classes.

Then her parents' called with their decision: If she refused to return to the family's faith, they would no longer support her. If she insisted on staying at Valley View University, she would be on her own.

Trusting God to Provide

Estella didn't know how she would pay her tuition or whether the school would even allow her to study without a promise that her school fees would be paid. She turned to God, whom she had learned is ever faithful. God would make a way when she saw no way.

Estella found work on campus, and in time a sponsor agreed to help her pay her tuition. Estella missed her family, especially her mother. But she dared not call home, for her family had made

it clear that unless she returned to her childhood faith, she was no longer part of the family.

Mending Relationships

Then one day her mother called. Estella was overjoyed. "Mother knows now that I won't change my mind about my faith," Estella says. "She's trying to build bridges between us. I was stubborn as a child, but my sister has told my mother how much I have changed since I have given my heart to Christ. She has assured my parents that the faith I have chosen is true and holy. In fact, my sister is asking me a lot of questions about what I believe. I can see God working in her life. I think she knows that the path I have taken is the path God wants her to take as well. I pray that my sister will have the courage to surrender to Christ."

Estella's sponsor isn't an Adventist, but Estella shares her faith with him and is seeking to lead him to Christ. He's asking questions and listening.

"I was so disappointed when I couldn't get the visa to study in Spain," Estella adds. "But now I realize that God had a better plan for me—a wonderful plan to save me and make me His child. I'm not sorry I couldn't go to Spain. Now I want to return to Equatorial Guinea and share the spiritual truths that I've learned while studying at Valley View University."

This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a church on the campus of Valley View University so that people on campus and in the community can meet their Savior. 

MISSION POST

- Students at Valley View University come from nearly every country in Africa and several countries outside of the continent.
- Many students aren't Adventists. Adventist teachers and students befriend students and introduce them to Jesus. Because of this ministry, hundreds of students have given their lives to Christ over the years.
- Next Sabbath the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will be collected. Part of this offering will help build a church for the campus of Valley View University. Plan now to give a significant offering so that others can worship and share God's love with others.

THIRTEENTH SABBATH PROGRAM

OPENING SONG

“In the Heart of Jesus,”

The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, no. 577

WELCOME

Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher

PRAYER

PROGRAM

“Shaping the Future”

OFFERING

While the offering is being taken, ask the children to sing one of the songs they've learned this quarter.

CLOSING SONG

“Take My Life and Let It Be,”

The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, no. 330

CLOSING PRAYER

Shaping the Future

Participants and Props: Ask four people to present this program. The participants don't need to memorize their parts, but they should be able to read them clearly. If you have a small pool of participants, arrange for two or more speakers to rotate through the script. A map of West-Central Africa Division would be helpful. Enlarge the one on the back of the mission quarterly or go to www.AdventistMission.org, click on “Resources” and “Mission Quarterlies” in the pop-up menu, and download the map to project during the program.

Narrator: Today we celebrate Thirteenth Sabbath. This quarter we have featured stories from Cameroon and Ghana in West-Central Africa Division.
[Locate these countries on the map.]

Speaker 1: The West-Central Africa Division includes 22 countries in western Africa. More than 863,000 Adventists live in this region. That's one Adventist out of every 390 people.

Adventists worship in more than 7,000 companies and churches spread across western Africa.

Much of the northern region of West-Central African Division is desert or semi-desert, while thick jungles span the interior of other countries. Large, modern cities, mostly along the sea, are home to millions of people, while millions more live in mud-and-thatch huts in sparsely

populated villages scattered across the land. Most of these people in small villages farm or herd cattle and can barely feed their families. Life for them is a struggle, and they yearn for a better future for their children.

People understand that the secret to a better future lies in education. If their children can complete their education, they have a good chance to rise above poverty and subsistence living and reach for their dream.

The Adventists in Africa works hard to provide schools on all levels so that children have a chance to learn and grow and families better themselves. Teachers in hundreds of primary and secondary schools in the region bring hope and a brighter future to those willing to learn.

Today our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering is lifting up the hands of students and teachers alike on the campuses of two Adventist universities in west-central Africa: Valley View University in Ghana and Cosendai Adventist University in Cameroon.

_____ [name of first speaker] will tell us about Valley View University.

Speaker 2: Valley View University was established as a college in 1979 and became a university in 1997. Enrollment exploded, challenging every system in place to keep up with growth and new technology. Valley View's enrollment has reached several thousand students, many of whom are not Seventh-day Adventists. They come to this school because of its reputation for excellence and high moral standards.

The university is struggling to accommodate its students as it

moves forward and grows stronger academically. Several new buildings are rising on the campus, and the school is attracting the best students from Ghana and several nearby countries.

The one need that the school hasn't been able to provide is a church that one day will stand in the heart of the campus. The foundation has been laid, but money simply isn't available to erect a house of worship for the university and the community that surrounds it. The church, when completed, will host community outreach programs, provide training for students and lay workers, and be a site for the university's graduation ceremonies and other significant events.

The school and Adventists in Ghana are working together to raise funds for the church on the university campus. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help make the new church a reality. Let's give generously today to help Valley View University reach every student and neighbor for Christ.

Narrator: Birth and growth are exciting times! As every parent knows, they are also times of adjustment, of stress, and often of frustration. _____ [name of person giving next report] will tell us about the birth and growth of one of the church's newest universities.

Speaker 3: Cosendai Adventist University is located outside the capital city of Cameroon. It's still in its infancy, and excitement is high as a new campus is being built to accommodate the university's students. But until the new campus is completed, university students must live and study on the campus of a crowded Adventist secondary school.

The university's first students were pioneers. They struggled with difficult class schedules, crowded and inadequate living facilities, and teachers who were based in the cities and came for weeklong intensive classes. But those early students who persevered have graduated and moved into the service sector as educators, nurses, and business people.

The university and the church headquarters in Cameroon have stretched their resources to their limits in order to complete the new university campus. But once it is complete, it will accommodate more students and bring in increased tuition to help keep the university growing toward maturity.

The nursing program is one of the most popular at the university, but it lacks a science laboratory in which students can do their hands-on training. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build this much-needed classroom and laboratory block

so that more students can complete their medical degrees and serve their country and their God in the medical ministry.

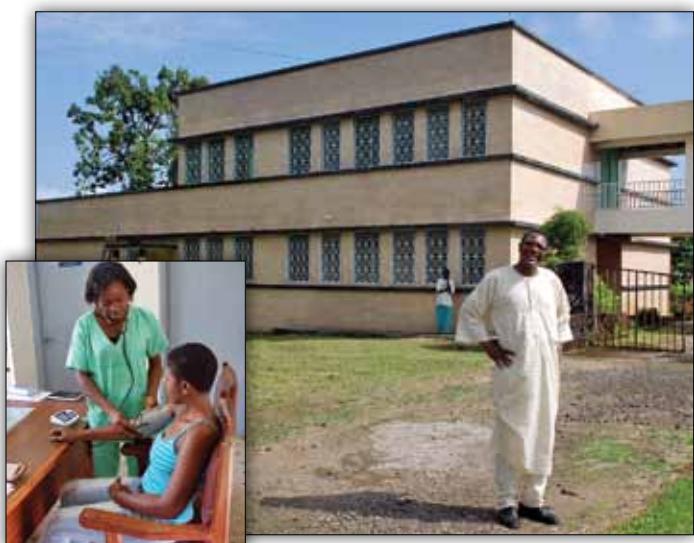
Dozens of students who struggled through the early years of this school's existence have found work in ministering to others through medicine. Let's support one of our youngest and fastest-growing universities as it strives to provide for the students of tomorrow.

Narrator: Two Adventist universities in far-flung corners of the West-Central Africa Division need our help today. What will we tell them as we open our hearts and our pockets this Thirteenth Sabbath? Let's send them the message that we care about them and want them to succeed as they seek to follow God's plans for their lives. Let's give abundantly so that these schools will shine as lighthouses on a rocky shore.

[Offering]

YOUR OFFERINGS AT WORK

The Buea Seventh-day Adventist Hospital in western Cameroon started as a clinic in 1971. It has served thousands of clients through the years. Then a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped enlarge the clinic to a hospital. Today hundreds of people every month receive treatment they can afford, care that they value, and a knowledge of the Savior because of your support of mission. The people of Buea and the Adventist Church say a hearty thank-you!



For more information on the culture and history of western Africa, specifically Cameroon and Ghana, check out the travel section of a local library or search online. Type the name of the country you wish to study into your search engine.

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. Click on "Resources" and "Children's Activities" in the pop-up menu. Go to third 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 to share with the children. Or go online at www.AdventistMission.org to download one of the DVD programs.

MISCELLANEOUS

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

The Embassy of the Republic of Cameroon, 1700 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20007. Phone: 202-265-8790; website: www.ambacam-usa.org/Default.aspx.

Embassy of Ghana, 3512 International Drive, NW, Washington DC 20008. Phone: 202-686-4520; website: www.ghanaembassy.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. Explain that one quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering is dedicated to the special projects featured this quarter. The remaining three quarters goes into the world mission fund with the weekly mission offerings.

FUTURE THIRTEENTH SABBATH PROJECTS

Next quarter the North American Division will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Special projects include:

- ministering to refugees
- establishing a church plant among Native Americans in Arizona
- CHILDREN'S PROJECT: children-to-children ministries among Native American and First Nation communities across North America.

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WEST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION

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