



YOUTH AND ADULT MAGAZINE

# ADVENTIST MISSION

2012 • QUARTER 3 • SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION



[www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org)

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**On the Cover:** A young Himba girl rests in the shade as she listens to stories of God's love on a solar-powered MP3 player.

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 = stories of special interest to teens

## Your Offerings at Work



Going up! The new library at Zambia Adventist University (now Rusangu University) will soon become a reality, thanks to your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago. The university, established in 2002, has 2,800 students enrolled as full-time or part-time students. Many are government workers seeking to upgrade their qualifications.



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## Dear Sabbath School Leader,

This quarter features the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. More than 164 million people live in this division, of which almost 2.6 million are Seventh-day Adventists. About one person out of every 63 is a Seventh-day Adventist.

### The Challenges

The three countries featured this quarter represent the broad spectrum of challenges facing the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

**Madagascar** is an island nation lying off the eastern coast of the continent of Africa. It has a population of about 20 million and an Adventist membership of about 127,050, or one Adventist for every 157 people. The church operates schools, medical clinics, orphanages,

and other outreach programs. Almost half the population of Madagascar are Christians, and an equal number follow traditional Malagasy beliefs that include honoring dead ancestors. Close family ties make changing one's religion difficult in this culture.

**Namibia** is a sparsely populated country lying along the southwestern coast of Africa. About one person out of every 120 is an Adventist. About 85 percent of the population is Black Africans, a significant number of whom continue to speak their traditional languages. While a majority of the population follow basic Christian beliefs, significant numbers of tribal people continue to follow their traditional beliefs. One of these groups, the Himba, is the focus of part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter.

**South Africa**, occupying the southernmost portion of the African continent is the most developed country in Africa. Black Africans comprise about three quarters of South Africa's population while Whites, coloreds (mixed race), and Asians (mostly Indians) comprise the remaining one quarter. While English and Afrikaans are the most widely spoken languages, a significant percentage of the population speaks one or more of at least 11 African languages. While most South Africans claim to be Christians, just one out of every 513 are Seventh-day Adventists.

Yours for the kingdom,



### Opportunities

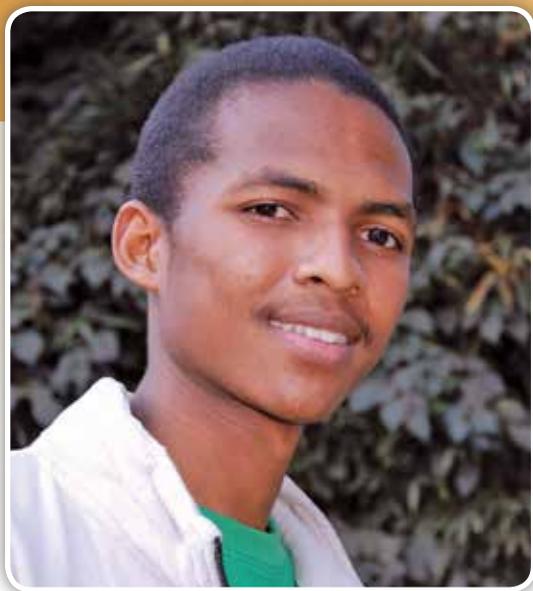
This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide:

- MP3 players containing Bible stories for the Himba and Herero people of northern Namibia
- a classroom block for Riverside Adventist School in Cape Town, South Africa
- a multipurpose building for Zurcher Adventist University in Madagascar
- an orphanage for girls in Antananarivo, Madagascar
- a classroom block for a school in northwestern Madagascar
- CHILDREN'S PROJECT: a worship center for children in Ingwavuma, South Africa.

# Five Weeks Changed My Life

MADAGASCAR | July 7

Romain



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

I checked the mail, looking for a letter from one of the internship programs I had applied for. But no letter of acceptance came, and I was growing worried.

I am a student of agriculture in Madagascar. *[Locate Madagascar, off the coast of Africa, on a map.]* My degree requires internships that give students practical experiences on farms. I had to complete a five-week internship to get that experience, but none of the institutions I had contacted accepted me as an intern. I couldn't complete my degree without an internship.

I contacted my cousin, who is at Zurcher Adventist University in central Madagascar. I asked him if his school had

a farm, and he said it did. He urged me to contact the farm manager. For the first time in weeks I felt hopeful.

I knew Adventists were pretty strict about religious stuff, such as keeping their Sabbath and not eating pork. I began feeling nervous about working at this school, but when I was accepted, I knew I had to go. I left for Zurcher promising my parents that I would not become an Adventist.

## A New Way of Life

I arrived at the remote university campus and looked around. It looked normal enough. The students were friendly, and my cousin invited me to stay at his house.

I began working on the farm the next day. We worked hard all day, every day. But on Friday afternoon, the farm manager told me to go home and prepare for the Sabbath. That evening my cousin's family gathered to sing and pray before going to a meeting at the church. They explained that Sabbath begins at sundown on Friday.

Two weeks passed, and I enjoyed the work experience. To my surprise, I found myself looking forward to the Sabbath. It wasn't just a day off of work; I looked forward to worship too.

## Building a Strong Defense

My mother called, warning me to remain true to my family's religion and urging me not to become an Adventist. But I couldn't help my curiosity. Every day I had more questions about what Adventists believe and how they differ from my own family's beliefs. I asked lots of questions and enjoyed discussing the Bible with my cousin's family. I studied the Sabbath School lesson so that I would have strong arguments to present each week. I wanted to find cracks in the wall of the Adventist faith.

One day I saw a book in my cousin's house called *Patriarchs and Prophets*. I began reading it and could not put it down. Everything in that book was backed up with Bible references. I read other books I found in my cousin's home. I hardly had time to sleep!

When my five weeks ended, I was sad to leave. I had learned so much. I had come to learn about agriculture, but I had received a spiritual education I had not expected.

## Carrying the Faith Back Home

When I returned home, I went back to my busy schedule. But I missed the spiritual atmosphere of Zurcher. I read a book my cousin had given me about the importance of the Sabbath and decided to worship God on the seventh day. I told my professor I would not attend classes on Saturdays. He warned me that my grade would be in jeopardy. But the day after I missed my first Saturday class, the professor brought me a recording of his lecture.

I studied the history of Christianity and the Sabbath, and I decided to be baptized into the Adventist Church. I was so excited about finding the truth! I talked

## Fast Facts

- Madagascar lies off the eastern coast of southern Africa. It is the fourth-largest island in the world. About 80 percent of its plants and animals are found nowhere else in the world.
- The people of Madagascar originally came from what is now known as Indonesia and the eastern coast of Africa. Later people from India and Arab regions settled here. The earliest settlers brought with them their culture of ancestor worship, which is still practiced today.
- Some 20 million people live on the island today; one in every 170 is an Adventist.

to my mother and my younger brother and sister about my new faith. My mother said she would never observe the Sabbath. But I remembered how my stubborn mind had changed in just five weeks, and I told her she might be surprised at what God can do. I'm sending my dad text messages about what I am learning.

I share my faith at school with anyone who will listen. Some walk away, but I keep talking. One student has been baptized, and two more are attending church because I shared my new faith with them.

And I continue to learn every day. I'm grateful for Zurcher Adventist University, a school that builds faith. This quarter part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a much-needed student center on the campus of this school. It will help the school become fully accredited. One day soon I'd like to study theology there. After all, that's where God planted the first seeds of faith in my life. 🌱



# The Reluctant Follower

David

David stared at the poster advertising evangelistic meetings. His eyes caught the address on the bottom of the notice. His face flushed, and his fists curled. Was it a mistake, a misprint? Or were his parents allowing the people to hold meetings in their home? He tore the poster into pieces and walked away. He was *not* going to be forced to attend a meeting in his own home.

## Reluctant Follower

David and his family weren't religious. At 12 years old David was already smoking and drinking. The last thing he wanted was to be forced to take part in a religious meeting. He stayed out that night until he knew the meeting was over. Then he slipped into the house. His mother met him with a stern look. "You shouldn't have torn down the announcement and skipped the meeting," she said.

"It's my choice to skip the meeting," David said, trying to assert his authority. He and his mother began arguing, and

before long David knew that he would have to attend the next meeting.

The next evening he slouched in a corner of the living room as his mother welcomed neighbors at the door. He was surprised to see several young people arrive. They seemed happy to be there. Reluctantly David followed them to another room where the young people would hold their own meeting. The leader had planned music and activities for the children, and before long David forgot his misery and enjoyed the meeting. "It was fun," David told his mother later. For the rest of the week David willingly attended the children's meetings.

## Learning to Lead

At the end of the home meetings, the group moved to the Adventist church for evangelistic meetings. And David attended. When the speaker talked about following Jesus' example by being baptized, David felt he should respond. He and his cousin joined the Bible classes to prepare for baptism. As his love for God grew, he forgot about drinking and smoking.

David's family did not join him in taking his stand for Christ. But his cousin, who had smoked and drank and gotten into mischief with him, did.

David began sharing his faith with his family, with classmates at school, and even on the street. People began calling him Pastor. When the church scheduled another evangelistic series, David and his cousin asked to hold pre-evangelistic meetings in David's home. This time instead of fighting to avoid the meetings, David hosted them. His mother attended, and as she listened to David speak about God and his faith, she surrendered her life to God.

The next year David again held meetings in their home, and this time three of David's cousins gave their lives to God.

David felt called by God to become a pastor. He knew that when he graduated from high school he wanted to study theology at Zurcher Adventist University. But he did not have the money to pay his tuition.

### Putting God to the Test

“Trust God to provide your tuition,” his cousin urged. So David registered for school, even though he didn't know how

he would pay for his school fees. David watched amazed as God led people to help pay his school fees. Although he has struggled financially, God sees that his tuition is paid.

During David's second year at the university he began pastoring a small church in a nearby village. After worship services on Sabbath, he visits from door to door sharing God's love with others.

The women in the little church organized an evangelistic series for which David spoke. Many people responded, accepting Jesus as their Lord. One of the people who gave their life to Jesus was a teenage girl whose parents were unhappy with her decision. At her baptism her parents expressed their anger. But she has stood firm in her decision and is now an active member of the church.

David continues sharing Jesus wherever he is invited to speak. Many have responded by giving their lives to Christ and asking to be baptized. “God has affirmed my calling to become a pastor,” David says. “And Zurcher Adventist University is making my calling possible by offering a quality education.”

### Mission Post

- Among the 20 million or so people who live in Madagascar, some 127,052 are Seventh-day Adventists. (That's one Adventist for every 157 people.) They worship in more than 650 churches.
- The church has many schools and one university on the island. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help add a classroom block to the Mahajanga Adventist School in eastern Madagascar and will help provide a multipurpose building for Zurcher Adventist University.

### Appeal

Zurcher Adventist University is growing rapidly, and with growth come challenges. The school needs to build a multipurpose hall that will include classrooms, offices, and a computer lab in order to meet national accrediting requirements. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help complete this building and allow the university to continue growing and serving the needs of the people in Madagascar and throughout the Indian Ocean region. Thank you for your support on September 29. 🌍

# Accused and Despised

MADAGASCAR | July 21

Ranary



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

I didn't know much about Adventists, but I was sure they were a little bit crazy. Nevertheless, when I learned that the campus of Zurcher Adventist University near my village was hiring workers, I applied for a job.

I started working at the school. Then I heard that the Adventists were planning to hold evangelistic meetings in my village. I wanted to see what these people believed, so I went to the meetings.

## Truth or Heresy?

When the speaker talked about baptism and explained that it was a public declaration of a Christian's willingness to follow Jesus, I wondered, *Isn't being baptized as a baby enough?* But when I looked up the Bible texts the speaker had

given, I realized that the Bible did indeed teach baptism by immersion as a sign that a person was a follower of Jesus.

I had to concede the baptism idea, but when the speaker talked about the Sabbath, I was sure he was wrong. *The week begins on Monday*, I thought. *Therefore the seventh day is Sunday, not Saturday.* But I again checked my Bible and my dictionary and realized that the word for Saturday and Sabbath were almost the same in my language.

Reluctantly I had to admit that the Adventists were teaching Bible truths. I felt that my own church had been untruthful.

When I told my wife that I had to become an Adventist, her response was strong. "Are you crazy?" she demanded. "I thought you didn't like Adventists! What's wrong with the church you've been attending all these years?" My family could not understand why I was joining a church I didn't even like!

## Standing for Right

I began attending a small Adventist congregation in a village near my home. My wife fumed when I refused to eat a meal that contained pork. My father could not understand why I would give 10 percent of my earnings to a church when I could barely provide for my family. It was difficult, but I decided to stand for what the

Bible said and trust God to bless me.

It wasn't easy, and some days I felt totally alone. In my culture family is all-important. And while I had a loving church family, my relatives stood against me. But I kept studying the Bible, even when my wife told me that so much reading would make me crazy. It was difficult to stay strong, especially when the work at the university ended.

## The Big Surprise

But then slowly things began to change. I took a job in a distant town and was away for six months. When I returned my wife greeted me with the news that she was preparing for baptism! I learned that she had been studying the Bible with someone from the university during my absence and would be baptized the next day. What a wonderful surprise!

My mother began asking about my faith, and I started studying the Bible with her. When my brothers accused me of

abandoning our family's long-held beliefs, my father told them to let me believe as I wish and to treat me with respect.

I was happy to be hired as a security guard at the Adventist university, for it meant I could have a steady job near my home.

## Accused

Then one night while I was on duty, some robbers entered the campus and held me at gunpoint as they forced the business manager to give them money. The men fled the campus, and the police arrived. I was shocked when they arrested me for cooperating with the criminals. I spent more than a year in prison while awaiting trial.

During this time my brothers insisted that I had brought this trouble on myself by becoming an Adventist. My wife and children struggled alone without help from my brothers. But they remained strong, and both my daughters were baptized.

At last the guilty men were arrested, and I was released from prison. The university offered me another job.

Becoming an Adventist has not made my life easy. But following God's truth is always worth it, and I have never regretted my decision. I pray that all my family members will someday feel the warmth of God's love as I have.

## A Growing School

Zurcher Adventist University continues to grow as it trains young people for service. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a much-needed multipurpose building on campus, which will allow the university to receive national accreditation. Thank you for helping the Adventist university in Madagascar grow. 🌍

## Mission Post

- Zurcher Adventist University is one of three special projects in Madagascar that will receive our help this quarter.
- An Adventist secondary school in northwestern Madagascar needs a new classroom block to help accommodate the growing student body. Many of the students are not from Christian homes.
- Thousands of orphans and children in desperate need live in the capital city of Madagascar. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a small orphanage to reach the neediest children with a home and education.



# The Infidel

Antoine

My father is a deeply religious man. He raised my brothers and me to believe that Christians are infidels and that we must avoid them. We must never touch their holy book, the Bible, much less read it.

When I completed primary school, my father couldn't find a secondary school in our area that taught the classes I wanted to study. The only school available was a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school in another town. The school had an excellent reputation, so my father reluctantly allowed me to enroll. But he warned me, "If they talk about their God, don't listen."

I nodded and promised myself to ignore anyone who tried to talk to me about God or the Bible.

## Curiosity Leads to Faith

I worked hard to please my family with good grades. But I soon realized that the Bible was central to the school's existence.

I couldn't avoid hearing about the Bible and God. Every day classes began with morning worship and a Bible text. Bible class was a required course for every student. And that meant I needed to use the Bible. Reluctantly I obtained the forbidden book.

My teachers were different from others I had studied under. They were kind and cared about my progress in class. The students were different, too. *How can these people with such deep faith be infidels? I wondered. And how can the Bible be so bad if these people live by its principles?*

I started listening in class and in morning worship. I listened to my Bible teacher and to my fellow students. I was surprised to find that what they had to say made sense. One day I picked up the Bible and began reading it for myself. The more I read, the more I wanted to know. I asked questions and asked for Bible studies.

## Test of Faith

I knew that my father would be angry if he learned of my growing interest in Jesus, so I didn't tell my family. But when I decided to be baptized I knew I would have to tell my parents. I was afraid to tell my father, so I told my mother. I hoped she would understand. And she did.

When I returned home during school break, neither of my parents said anything about my new faith. I knew my father expected me to work in the fields while I was home. I worked hard every day, and on Friday I worked twice as hard so I would not have to work on Sabbath. Then on Sabbath morning I went to the Adventist church in my town.

Father didn't even know I had not worked on Sabbath. But when someone told him that I had gone to church on Sabbath, he doubled the work I was supposed to do on the following Friday and still expected me to work on Sabbath. It was impossible to finish Friday's and Sabbath's work before the Sabbath began.

On Sabbath morning my father called me to work in the fields. Humbly I explained that I would work twice as long on Sunday, but I wanted to worship God on Sabbath. As respectfully as possible I explained God's commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy.

Father did not want a theological discussion; he wanted obedience. "If you disobey me and go to church, then let those Adventists be your father. Let them buy your food and pay your school fees!"

I knew how hard it was for my father to disown me. I had been his favorite son.

## Choosing to Obey

"I have always obeyed you," I said. "But I am searching for wisdom, and God is wise. I must obey God in this thing. Let me worship God as He asks, and I will continue to work for you and be your son, too." But my father refused.

So after church I returned home and gathered my things. I traveled to the Adventist school and told the principal what had happened. The school helped me with food and lodging so I could continue my studies.

I love my family, but God is my Father now, and my church family takes care of me. I have no regrets.

I thank God for the Adventist school where I first learned to love and follow God. The school is crowded and needs to expand to accommodate the students. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a new classroom block at my school so that more students such as I can study and learn to follow God. Thank you for your support through the weekly mission offerings and through your generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. 🌍

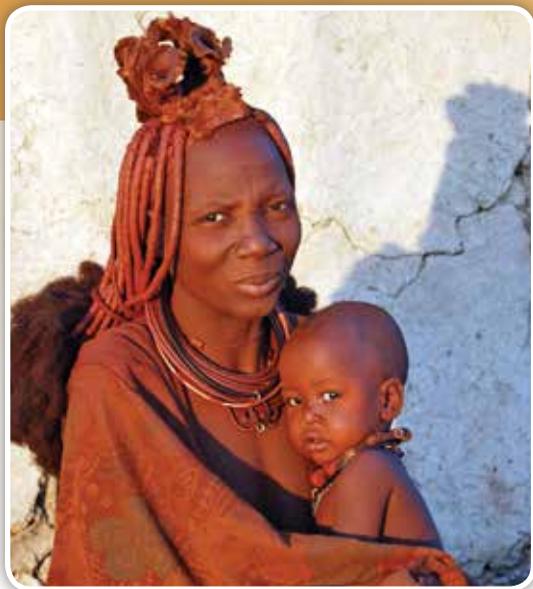
## Mission Post

- Mahajanga Adventist School is located in northwestern Madagascar.
- Every year an average of 80 students are baptized as a result of the school's evangelistic efforts on campus. Between one third and one fourth of these are from non-Christian backgrounds.
- The school has become crowded as its reputation for excellence spreads across the region. Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide a classroom block to train them for Christ.

# Learning to Love the Himba

NAMIBIA | August 4

Himba woman and child



In 1995 a young Adventist couple, Gideon and Pam Petersen, arrived in northern Namibia to work among the Himba people. They found a few Adventists living in and around the small town of Opuwo [oh-POO-woh], one of whom was a Himba.

## Learning to Love

The Petersens asked a Himba-speaking young man named Kapitango [kah-pee-TAHN-goh] to be their translator. Gideon worked with Kapitango to learn the language, and together the two men began teaching Himba families the basic principles of God. But the Himba couldn't seem to remember what Petersen had taught them. But as a result Kapitango and two other young men accepted God's truths and were baptized.

The Petersens tried everything

they could think of to help the people understand the Bible stories. But nothing seemed to work. The team prayed for wisdom to reach their Himba friends for Christ. They worked beside them, listened to them talk, heard what was important to them and what they believed in.

## Finding Answers at a Festival

Then as Gideon Petersen observed a lengthy festival involving dancing, storytelling, chanting, and poetry, he realized that these people have several different styles of communication. He set about understanding how the Himba relate to their world through these mediums.

The Himba have an oral culture that is uniquely their own. They pass their beliefs, their history, and their values to the next generation orally. They need to hear the gospel message told using their own cultural traditions—heroic poetry, storytelling techniques, and chants.

The Petersens began translating Bible stories into the Himba's language using these genres. They found that they had to explain the most basic characters and events of the Bible. The Himba didn't know about angels, so Petersen explained

that angels are messengers from God. Their culture had no understanding of sin, so they had to explain it in terms the Himba could understand.

They created a cassette tape with the first Himba stories and gave a cassette player to one of the village leaders. He loved it—until the batteries ran out. A woman who had heard the stories on cassette begged to ride with the Petersens just to hear the Bible stories on cassette. The Petersens realized that they had found a way to communicate God’s story with the Himba!

They asked a Himba Protestant pastor to record the stories for the project. This pastor can insert chants and singing where appropriate to touch the Himbas’ hearts.

The team discovered solar powered MP3 players—sometimes called “God-Pods”—that provide a reliable means of delivering the message for years. Because the players are solar powered, they don’t

need batteries. And their simple and sturdy build was designed for use in remote places such as the deserts of Namibia.

### Working Themselves Out of a Job

As the team prepared the stories and lessons for the MP3 players, they wanted to train local leaders to take over their work. “We want to work ourselves out of a job,” Petersen says. They requested that the church leaders in Namibia authorize Kapitango, their young translator, to study theology. He has almost completed his degree. And while he studies, he’s also writing stories for the MP3 project. They’re finding others who can take over the work of producing the stories and working with the Himba.

The MP3 project was officially launched in May 2011. And already dozens of MP3 players have been distributed to leaders of Himba settlements. Everyone in the settlement can listen to the stories during the rest time in the heat of the day or around the warming fires on cold nights. But hundreds more settlements and villages need an MP3 player so they can hear God’s message for them. Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help carry on the project the Petersens have begun among the Himba. Our offering will fund further story translation and recording and will purchase MP3 players for the thousands of Himba who still haven’t heard that God speaks their language. Thank you for helping bring Jesus to the Himba this Thirteenth Sabbath. 🌍

### Fast Facts

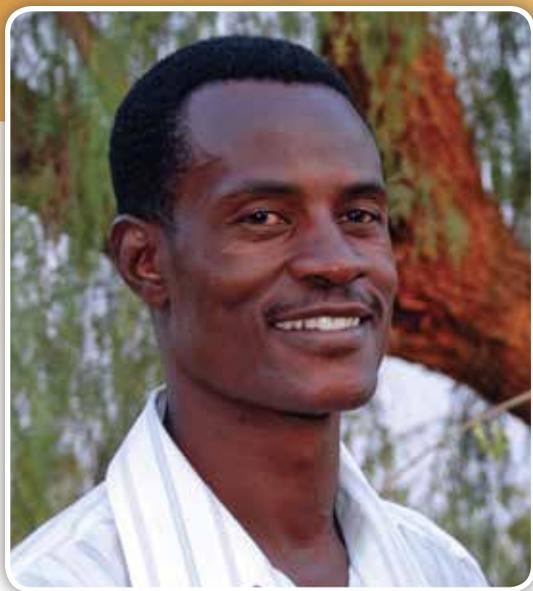
- Namibia is located on the southwestern coast of Africa. The name of the country comes from the Namib Desert, which lies along the entire Namibian coastline. It is considered the oldest desert in the world and contains the highest sand dunes on earth.
- About 2.1 million people live in Namibia. It is the second-least-populated country in the world. The majority of the people living there are of African descent. Traditionally these people were nomadic, following rains that provide grass for their livestock. These people have learned to live in very difficult climates and under difficult circumstances.

*Gideon and Pam Petersen are missionaries serving with Adventist Frontier Mission.*

# Letting The Himba Hear

NAMIBIA | August 13

## Kapitango



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

In the Himba culture stories are the basis of learning. Anything village elders want the people to understand, they tell them in the form of a story.

The Himba live in the northern part of the country of Namibia. *[Locate Namibia on a map.]* Most Himba still live in traditional huts in family settlements surrounded by thorn bush fences to keep out predators. They don't need electricity or running water and are largely self-sufficient, living on the milk and meat provided by their animals and the maize [corn] and vegetables grown in their family gardens.

Only a small minority of Himba can read and write, so oral learning continues to be central to communicating their history and culture. Children are told the same stories

again and again as they grow. The elders pass on their wisdom through stories.

Traditionally, the Himba seek advice from their dead ancestors when they have problems. The patriarch of a family unit asks the ancestors for help to get them out of trouble, heal them if they're sick, and guide them in their everyday activities.

In the Himba worldview, there is no concept of sin as Christians understand it. They have no doctrines or framework of beliefs. This makes reaching them for Christ more difficult.

### Reluctant Follower

I am Kapitango. I was in northern Namibia among the Himba. When I was 16, I stayed with my uncle in another area. My uncle is an Adventist and took me to his church. I didn't like his religion and felt Adventists were false teachers, but because my culture respects our elders, I attended church with him on Sabbaths.

I returned to Opuwo [oh-POO-woh], the town nearest my parents' home. I was glad to get away from my uncle and his strange religion. Then another relative, Tate Suse [TAH-teh SOO-seh], came to live in town and became the leader of the small Adventist congregation there.

Because I knew some English, Uncle Tate asked me to translate for a missionary couple who had come to work

among the Himba. I couldn't refuse, for I was young and Uncle Tate was a respected elder. That's how I met Gideon and Pam Petersen.

I liked them right away. I translated for them in church meetings, Bible study groups, and Sabbath services; and eventually I helped them learn Herero, the local language.

As I worked with the Petersens I learned what Adventists believe and why. A year later I asked to be baptized and joined the Adventist Church.

As I grew spiritually, I became a lay pastor of the small Adventist church in Opuwo. Then the church leaders in Namibia invited me to study for the ministry at Rusangu University in Zambia. Because of my work and my family, I study three months a year in Zambia and then return home to work and study on my own. Soon I will complete my degree and become the first trained native Adventist pastor among the Himba.

### Telling Old Stories in a New Way

As we worked with the Himba, we realized that they weren't remembering the Bible stories we told them. We realized it wasn't the stories, but the Western way of telling them, that the Himba people had trouble with. Because they have no concept of sin, we had to explain sin with a story—the fall of Lucifer. And because the Himba don't know who angels are, we had to explain that they are God's messengers. We couldn't recite Bible texts and expect these people to remember them. We had to find a way to tell them stories again and again, even when we weren't there.

After months of prayer, God revealed the way: solar-powered MP3 players,

### Fast Facts

- The Himba people live in northern Namibia. Most follow a traditional way of life, caring for their cattle, sheep, and goats, and raising maize (corn) and vegetables in their small gardens.
- The Adventist Mission DVD features more information on the Himba way of life and how they are finding Jesus. Ask your Sabbath School superintendent or download the DVD from the Adventist Mission website.

sometimes called “God-Pods.” We wrote scripts of dramatized Bible stories and asked a Christian Himba man to record them. We loaded them onto MP3 players and gave them to the tribal leaders in our area.

They loved them! So now we are preparing more stories that we can upload to the MP3 players, even the ones already out in the field. The people can listen to the stories whenever they wish. They can share them with their children and their extended families.

God has many ways to reach people. It has taken several years and a lot of different failures to find a way to reach the Himba. But today they are responding to God's stories told in a way they understand. Truly now, God does speak Himba.

You can help reach the Himba people for God. Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help fund the recording of more stories for the Himba and will provide MP3 players for all of the 200-some Himba settlements in northern Namibia. Thank you so much for sharing God's love for the Himba people. 🌍



# Holy Fire to Holy Spirit

Untag

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

I am Untag [OOHN-tag]. I was born into a Himba family in northeastern Namibia. *[Locate Namibia on a map.]* The Himba people live much the same way our ancestors did.

We live in family groups in mud huts. The children bring water from the borehole outside our settlement. Older boys herd the cattle and goats and sheep. Small gardens provide us with maize [corn], pumpkin, sugarcane, watermelon, and beans. Our cows give us milk, and the goats and sheep give us meat.

From my youngest days I watched my grandfather, the senior man in our family, visit the “holy fire” every morning and evening. There he talked to our ancestors. We believed that our ancestors heard my grandfather’s talking and would help us. If we were sick, they would help us get well. And if there were other problems in the family, the ancestors would help resolve

them. The holy fire was an important part of our everyday life.

## Outside Influences

We live three hours from the nearest small town, but we are influenced by the outside world in some ways.

One day a man visited our settlement and told us stories about someone named Jesus. I listened to the stories because they were interesting, but they were far different from things my family had taught me. The man said we could pray to Jesus, and He would hear us and help solve our problems. But if that was so, why did Grandfather sit before the holy fire and talk to our ancestors? I was puzzled. This was all so new, and I was just a child. When the man stopped coming, I forgot about Jesus.

The government set up a mobile school in our area. We had never been to school before, and I was eager to learn to read and add numbers. We learned some English, too. I liked that, and I was eager to learn more.

When I was about 17, a woman came to our village and asked some of us Himba boys to collect caterpillars for her. She promised to pay us. We knew that the caterpillars are a delicacy in other parts of our region and that people pay a good price for them. We agreed to gather the caterpillars from the mopane [moh-PAH-nee] trees, where they hatch and grow. It's like picking cherries. The woman paid us for the caterpillars with alcohol. Every day after school we picked caterpillars and delivered them to the woman. Then we got very drunk. From then on, I drank as much alcohol as I could get.

## The Missionary

Then I heard that a missionary from America had arrived in the little town near our settlement. As soon as I heard my friends talking about him, I went to find him. I hoped that I could practice my English with him. That's how I met Charlie.

Charlie and I quickly became friends. He taught me lots more words in English, and I helped him to learn Herero, the Himba language. Charlie asked lots of questions about the Himba people and our culture, and I tried to answer them.

Charlie invited me to a church service, and I went. There I heard more stories about God and the Bible. They reminded me of the stories I had heard many years earlier under the mopane tree in my settlement. As I learned more about God and Jesus, I realized that my ancestors had not solved many of my family's problems. I decided to try praying to Charlie's God.

I attended worship services, read the Bible Charlie gave me, and prayed with Charlie. About a year later I gave my heart to God. The struggle with alcohol took longer, but with intense prayer, God

## Mission Post

- Many Himba do not read or write. They pass stories from generation to generation around a family fire at night. Their culture is rich in traditions, but they don't relate to Bible stories as we know them.
- This quarter part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide Bible stories told in the Himba tradition. They will be made available to families on MP3 players that are powered by the sun.
- For more on the Himba and this special project, watch the Adventist Mission DVD.

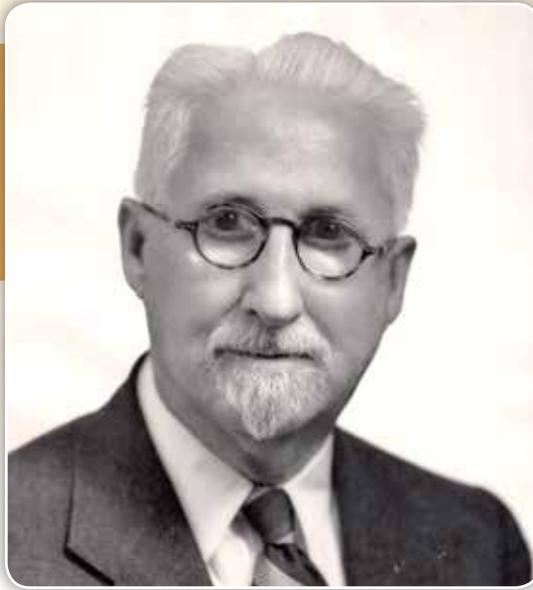
delivered me from that addiction and I've never drunk again.

## A New Life and New Work

I'm sharing my new faith with my family. I'm telling my parents, my grandmother, and my brothers and sisters about God's love. One of my brothers is preparing for baptism. I'm also helping to reach the youth of the village.

I have a great job helping make recordings of Bible stories in Himba. Most of the Himba people can't read, so we are preparing dramatized Bible stories that are put onto MP3 players that the people can listen to when they wish. These stories are told in their own language and in their cultural way, and are helping them to understand God's message of love.

This quarter part of your Thirteenth Sabbath offering will help make it possible for more Himba people to hear God's good news through these MP3 players. Thank you. 🌍



# The Sudden School

W. H. Anderson

Today's story celebrates the history of Adventist work in the country of Zambia. [*Locate Zambia on a map.*]

When W. H. Anderson, his wife, and several others arrived in Zambia, they didn't fly there or even drive in a car. They traveled in a wagon pulled by sturdy oxen. After long days of riding over bumpy, dusty roads in the wagon, the travelers finally arrived at the land the local chief had given to the Adventist Church on which to start a school for the local children.

While Mrs. Anderson gathered wood to start a fire on which to prepare dinner, Mr. Anderson set off to look over the property. His eyes scanned the land for a good place to build the school. There was so much to do. First Anderson had to learn the local language so he could communicate well with the people. Then he would find helpers to cut trees and saw them into timber to build the school. And he wanted to learn how the local people farmed so he could start a school farm. *If I work hard*, he thought, *I can open the school in two years.*

## The Sudden School

But that day—that very day—a boy walked up to Anderson and said, “Teacher, I have come to study in your school.” One of Anderson’s fellow workers translated.

“School!” Anderson exclaimed. “We have no school—yet.”

“Are you not a teacher?” the boy asked. Anderson nodded. “Then teach me.” The boy wouldn’t leave Anderson and even followed him to the ox wagon where Mrs. Anderson had prepared dinner.

“This boy wants to go to school,” Anderson told his wife, shaking his head. “He won’t go home.”

## A New School

“Did Jesus ever send someone home?” Mrs. Anderson asked. Anderson understood. This boy wanted to study, even though Anderson had no books, no school, not even a knowledge of the local language. All he had were a few slates and pencils.

The next day four more boys came asking to study. And suddenly the new school started!

Anderson set the boys to work tilling land for a garden and preparing to build the school. After working all day, the boys and their teacher sat down around a campfire to study. Word by word,

## Mission Post

- Rusangu Adventist School still stands, and its teachers still teach children about Jesus. The original mud-and-thatch building has been replaced by a concrete building with a metal roof.
- On the same land stands a large secondary boarding school and Rusangu Adventist University, which received part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago to help build a library. Thank you for helping children in Africa grow in Jesus.

Anderson learned the local language, Chitonga [chee-TONG-ah], from the boys and wrote it down sound by sound. Then he copied the sounds onto the blackboard and instructed the boys to write them and speak them.

Soon Anderson could piece together a simple Bible story to tell his students, and they in turn could read a few words of their own language.

More children arrived, and the school grew. A month later more than 40 boys had come to enroll. Girls came as well.

Within a year Anderson had written Bible lessons telling the story of Creation down to the Flood to create the first reader in the Chitonga language. When the children received the first books in their own language, they memorized them before a second reader could be printed. They were such eager readers!

As the children learned, they continued working on the buildings and the farm. They planted corn (which they called “mealie”) and vegetables, and helped build the first dormitory, made of mud walls, a dirt floor, and a grass roof. They

built a dining room, a classroom, and a church. From the lumber from the packing boxes Anderson had saved, he built a table that extended the length of the dormitory. At night the boys slept on the floor.

## No More Room

But this dormitory would not hold all who came. One Sabbath, after church, the director found five new boys sitting near his home. He knew they wanted to study, but there was no more room. But when he learned that they had walked 150 miles to attend the new school, he threw up his hands.

“What shall we do?” Anderson asked Detja [DET-jah], his African teacher. “The students fill the floor when they sleep now! The rainy season is coming, and there is no grass for thatching a roof. We can’t take any more students!”

Detja thought a minute and then said, “Teacher, the floor is full of boys, but no one sleeps on the table.” And so for five months the table served to eat on, to study on, and to sleep on.

## Miracle of Grace

The children learned quickly, and the stories of God’s love filled them with joy and changed their hearts. David Livingstone, the famous missionary to Africa, once said that if ever the Bitonga people’s hearts were changed, it would be a miracle of grace. And it happened. The Bitonga children changed completely as they learned about Jesus in the little mud-hut school they helped build.

Those eager children were the first students of the Rusangu Mission School, a school that continues to teach children about God’s love even today. 🌍

# The Power of Prayer

SOUTH AFRICA | September 1

Cathy Julius and Dile



Nothing sends me to my knees faster than my realization of the faith of my students,” says Cathy Julius, teacher at Riverside Adventist School in Cape Town, South Africa. Julius believes that every crisis is an opportunity to lead students to Jesus.

Praying is as natural as breathing at Riverside Adventist School. Prayer bathes the teachers and students’ efforts and reassures them that God cares about every aspect of their lives. If a conflict arises or crisis engulfs a student’s family, it is met with prayer.

## The Stolen Cell Phone

“Teacher,” Dile [DEE-leh] said, his voice trembling. “My cell phone’s gone. I left it with my clothes when I changed for physical education class. But it’s gone.”

Ms. Julius nodded. “We’ll pray that you will find your phone,” she said, and she

shared Dile’s dilemma with the students and reminded them to pray about the missing phone. But as the school day ended, the phone was still missing. Students spilled out of the classrooms and onto the playground. Ms. Julius prepared to talk to an unhappy parent about the missing cell phone.

Then a scuffling noise in the doorway caught Ms. Julius’ attention. Two boys stood in the doorway, uncertainty filling their faces. Tears streaked the cheeks of one boy. “Teacher,” he said, “here’s Dile’s phone.” He placed the cell phone on the desk and stepped back. “My family is having a hard time,” he said quietly. “When I saw Dile put his phone with his clothes, I thought I could sell it and give my parents the money. But when you asked us to pray about the phone, the Holy Spirit talked to me, and told me I’d done wrong. I felt so bad.”

Ms. Julius sighed with relief. “I’m sorry you took the phone,” she said. “But I’m glad you listened when the Holy Spirit talked to you.” She prayed with the boys and then walked them to the principal’s office. Then she hurried to find Dile.

“Do you want to press charges?” she asked, giving Dile his phone.

“No, ma’am,” Dile said. “I’m just happy to have my phone back. I forgive them.”

## The Lost Glasses

Veronica walked slowly toward her classroom, tears streaming down her face. Her best friend walked beside her as her classmates ran ahead so they wouldn't be late for class.

Veronica had been playing netball, a form of basketball, during recess. She had taken her glasses off and laid them in a safe place while she played. But when recess ended, Veronica couldn't find her glasses. She'd dropped to the ground and began searching with her fingers for her glasses. Her best friend had urged her to return to the classroom and tell the teacher what had happened.

The teacher told the class, "Let's pray that God will help us find Veronica's glasses." After praying, the teacher sent several children to search for the glasses. "Walk carefully so you don't accidentally step on them," the teacher warned.

The children searched the playground for the missing glasses while Veronica waited in the classroom. But the students returned without the glasses.

Class resumed, but everyone felt sad that Veronica couldn't read without her glasses.

## Recess Discovery

Recess came, and the children went out to play. Several minutes later three girls ran to their teacher. "We found Veronica's glasses!" they shouted. "We knelt down on the playing field and prayed that God would show us where to look for the glasses. Then we walked toward the soccer field on the far side of the building. There we saw something shining in the grass. It was Veronica's glasses!" The girl gave the teacher the glasses.

"They were near the soccer field?" the teacher asked, surprised. "That's nowhere

## Fast Facts

- South Africa is the southernmost country on the continent of Africa. It has a population of more than 50 million.
- South Africa has many different cultures and languages. English, Afrikaans (a language brought by the Dutch to South Africa 350 years ago), and nine other languages are official languages of the country.
- Almost 80 percent of South Africans are of African ancestry. The two largest African groups are the Xhosa and Zulu. The majority of students at Riverside Adventist School came to the school speaking Xhosa or Zulu.

near where you girls were playing. The boys could have trampled them while they were playing soccer." Then the teacher smiled. "The Lord surely has answered our prayers!"

The teacher washed the dust from the glasses and gave them to Veronica. Then the students prayed again, this time thanking God for protecting their friend's glasses.

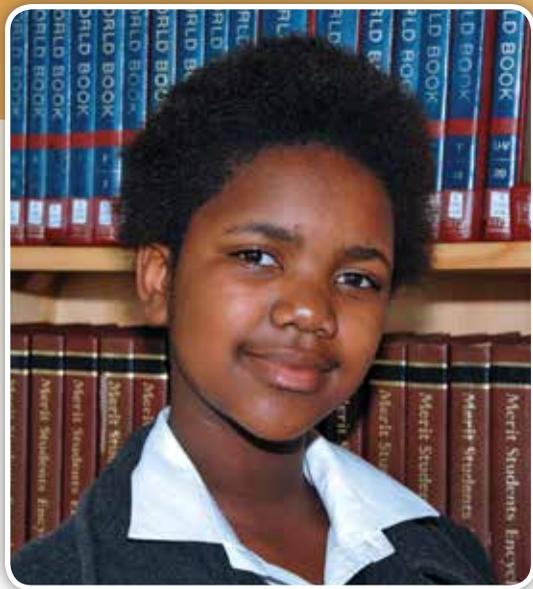
Veronica's family aren't Adventists. But when they heard how God had answered prayers to find their daughter's glasses, their faith was strengthened. They've seen that God truly does answer prayer.

Riverside Adventist School needs to replace an old classroom block with a newer, safer building that meets government standards. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help keep this school open so that more families can experience God's incredible answers to prayer. 🌍

# Sisipho's New School

SOUTH AFRICA | September 8

Sisipho



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

**M**y name is Sisipho [see-SEE-foh]. I was starting a new school, Riverside Adventist School in Cape Town, South Africa. I was nervous, not knowing what to expect.

I had attended a public school in another city where big kids bullied younger ones and sometimes stole their lunches. Sometimes it seemed that the teachers didn't notice or didn't care. I hated it. I wondered whether my new school would be the same. Would there be bullies? Would kids tease me because I was new? Would I be able to keep up with my schoolwork? I sighed and pushed open the classroom door.

## A Day of Surprises

The teacher looked up from her desk and smiled. "Class, we have a new student joining us," she said. She introduced me, and I tried to smile. To my surprise, the students smiled back! I found my desk and placed my things inside.

Then the teacher said it was time for worship. Everyone got up and started toward the door. What's happening? I wondered. Where's everyone going? The teacher nodded toward me, and I followed everyone outside, across the parking lot, and into a church. I wasn't sure why we were there or what to do next. I was relieved when one of the girls motioned for me to sit with her. We sang, we prayed, and we listened to a teacher share a Bible story. It was good!

The morning flew by, and soon it was lunchtime. Again I hesitated, wondering if I would eat alone.

"Come, eat with us, Sisipho," one of the girls said. I grabbed my lunch and followed them out of the classroom. This school was going to be great!

## A New Walk With God

The days flew by. I was really enjoying my new school. I was especially glad to know that if I had a problem or needed help in a class, someone would help me.

I had never studied the Bible before, so

everything was new to me, but my new friends helped me when I needed help. And the more I heard about God and His people, the more I wanted to know. I started reading my Bible and praying every day. Before too long I decided that I wanted to follow Jesus.

My mother saw the changes in my life and told me how glad she was that I was studying at Riverside. I'm glad, too.

## Sharing Joy and Sorrow

Then my mother had twins, a boy and a girl. I loved them so much and enjoyed helping my mom take care of them. Then when they were 3 months old, they both became really sick. They had fevers and had trouble breathing. My parents rushed the babies to the hospital, and I prayed like crazy.

I had trouble focusing at school, and my teacher noticed. When I told her the twins were sick, the whole class stopped and prayed for them. The prayers lifted my fears and I was able to concentrate again.

After two weeks in the hospital, the twins came home.

During my school holiday I went to visit my grandmother several hours away. One day Grandmother received a telephone call. She turned to me and told me that my baby brother had died. I was shaken and couldn't believe that it could have happened. I ran to the phone and called my father.

"It's true," he said. "Your brother is dead."

I cried for days. I couldn't eat and didn't want to talk. "Why did this happen?" I cried out to God.

When I returned home, my mother told me that God didn't make my brother die, that He was just as sad as we were. But God would help something good come from the baby's death if we trust Him. I believed her, but my heart still hurt, and I still had questions.

When I returned to school, my classmates comforted me and prayed for me. I'm sure their prayers helped strengthen my faith. I'm so grateful to be in a school like Riverside, where we can share our joys and our sorrows. I don't know where I'd be if I didn't have loving Christian friends to pray with me and comfort me.

## Helping Make a Difference

Riverside Adventist School has made a huge difference in my life. But the school needs lots of help. We need to build a new classroom block, but most of the parents can't afford to help with the cost. I'm glad that part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help make this school better. Thank you for sharing our burden for showing families God's love one class at a time. 🌍

## Mission Post

- Riverside Adventist School is located in Cape Town, a large city in South Africa. Students attend the school to learn English so they can work toward a better future.
- Many of these students come from non-Adventist homes. They find Jesus as their special friend and Savior at Riverside.
- The government has told the school to replace an aging classroom block if they wish to remain open. Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide new classrooms for Riverside Adventist School.



# Discovering God's Way

Njabuliso

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

I live in a town in northeastern South Africa. I've attended church and Sunday School all my life, but when a large tent appeared on a vacant lot in town, my life changed forever.

## "Lo, He Is Coming"

Posters announced the tent meetings with the words "Lo, He is coming again!" *Who is coming again?* I wondered. Some people said that the people sponsoring the meetings were Satanists, so I was afraid to attend.

Then I heard a woman say, "Tonight the speaker will tell about Jesus' second coming." That caught my attention. *Jesus already came as a baby*, I thought. *Why would He come again?* I'd never heard anything like this before. *Are these Christian meetings?* I asked myself.

Curiosity overcame my fear, and that evening I crept close to the tent. I wanted to know what this speaker was talking

about, but I was afraid to go inside. *If what the speaker says is too scary*, I reasoned, *I can always leave.*

"Good evening," a man greeted me, giving me a Bible. I took it and sat down in a plastic chair inside the tent. *These men don't seem scary*, I thought. As I waited, I flipped through the Bible I had been given. I had a New Testament at home, but I'd never owned an entire Bible.

## Discovering Bible Truth

The speaker stood to begin. He showed slides to illustrate his sermon and display Bible texts he quoted. He quoted so many Bible texts that I began to wonder if what I had heard about these meetings could be lies. *Satanists wouldn't quote from the Bible*, I thought. Each Bible text supported what the speaker was saying. I became convinced that he was telling the truth.

At the end of that meeting I realized that I had found something precious. In my church we seldom used our Bibles, but this speaker used the Bible for every

## Fast Facts

- Ingwavuma [EEN-gwah-VOO-mah] is a town in northeastern South Africa. It lies close to the borders of Swaziland and Mozambique.
- Most of the people are farmers. They raise tomatoes, sweet potatoes, maize (corn), and some cattle. Most raise just enough to feed their families. They're not a wealthy people.
- HIV/AIDS is a serious health matter in the region surrounding Ingwavuma, where about one in three people are believed to have or carry the disease.

point. I wanted to know more.

God's Word brought me back to the meetings every night for the rest of the series. I learned so much about God, and I realized that I had never really known Him before. Near the end of the meetings I told the speaker, "I've learned so much about Jesus during these meetings. I feel that I barely knew Him before. How can I give my life to God? How can I join your church?"

The pastor invited me to join a special class that was forming for those who wanted to learn more about the Bible and Adventist beliefs. Eagerly I joined the class and prepared for baptism.

### Standing for My Faith

My parents knew that I had been attending the tent meetings, but they hadn't said anything to me about it. They assumed that when the meetings ended, I would forget about these Adventists. So when they learned I was planning to study the Bible and become an Adventist, they were not happy.

In fact, it seemed lots of people were unhappy to learn that 30 people had asked to become Seventh-day Adventists during the meetings. Pastors and church leaders in the town tried to discourage us from joining the Adventist Church. They even held public meetings to discourage us from becoming Adventists. Some people gave in to the pressure to remain in their former churches. But I was determined; I wanted to follow God. And when the excitement died down, even more people asked to become Adventists.

In the end, 40 people were baptized and became the first members of the Adventist congregation in my town. Two Global Mission pioneers who remained in the town after the evangelistic meetings taught us how to share our faith with others. We went door to door and talked and prayed with people.

### Growing a Church

Today our church membership has doubled to 80 people plus visitors and lots of children. We meet in a rented hall, but we have no room for the children to meet in. They must meet outside under a tree.

We are praying and working hard to build a church in our town. But we live in a poor area where unemployment is high and wages are low. Many people are farmers, raising crops just to feed their families. The challenge seemed impossible. So imagine our joy when we learned that part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help us build a simple church! We want to include a worship room for our children, too. There they can learn to grow in faith, share their faith, and become leaders in our church. Thank you for helping us share God's love in northeastern South Africa. 🌍

# The Worship Tree

SOUTH AFRICA | September 22

## Ingwavuma Children



The aging tree stands on the corner of the property near the road. Its bark has been peeled off by years of sun, rain, and many curious hands. The dirt at the tree's base has been ground away by countless feet, and the roots are worn smooth from providing seats for excited children and weary adults. But the tree's heart is strong, and its branches provide cooling shade for those who sit under it. This tree is special; it's the children's worship area every Sabbath. Here they sing songs to Jesus and listen as their teacher tells them Bible stories.

### No Church in Ingwavuma

The growing congregation in the town of Ingwavuma [ing-wah-VOO-mah] in northeastern South Africa worships in the community hall, a one-room building.

Because there's no classroom for the children, they worship under the big tree in the dusty yard. When it rains, the children take shelter in the community hall and worship with the adults.

The church members share the community hall with many other groups. One day the women may gather to knit and talk. Another night the town council discusses important matters in the community.

Early on Sabbath morning believers prepare the community center for worship, arranging chairs and a table in the front for the worship leaders. Soon the worshippers gather, singing songs of love to Jesus as they arrive. The melody of their strong voices flows through the windows, beckoning others to hurry to Sabbath worship.

### Time for Worship

Meanwhile the children gather under the worship tree a few feet away. Their sweet voices rise in joyful praise. Then the teacher asks, "Who can recite last week's Bible text?" Eager hands wave, and one by one the children recite the Bible text.

Then it's story time. The children lean forward to see the picture the teacher holds up as she tells the Bible story.

When the teacher finishes the story, she recites the day's Bible text. "Today's Bible

text is in Philippians 4:19. It says: ‘My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.’\* Let’s say it together,” she encourages. “My God ... [encourage children in class to repeat after teacher] shall supply all your need ... according to His riches in glory ... by Christ Jesus.” The children and the teacher repeat the verse together several times.

“Who can tell me what the verse means?” the teacher asks.

“It means that when we are in trouble we can ask God, and He will help us,” one boy says.

“It means that if we don’t have food to eat, we can ask God, and He will give us food,” a girl says quietly.

“It means that God is telling us that we don’t have to worry about things we need, because Jesus knows, and He will give us what we need,” another boy answers.

“These are good answers,” the teacher says. “God does know our needs, and He

will provide, just as He provides grass for our cattle and sunshine and rain to grow the rice and vegetables we eat. He sees our needs and will provide.”

## A Special Place

“Sometimes God supplies our needs by asking others to help,” continues the teacher. “This quarter people all around the world will help build a church right here in Ingwavuma. God has heard our prayers for a church—a building dedicated to worshipping God and sharing our faith with the people in our community.

God has provided the land, and we are buying bricks to begin building the church. But it will take us years to finish the church. However, in a few weeks people around the world will give their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to help us have a church in which to worship. And children around the world are giving their offering so we can have a Sabbath School room just for children!” The teacher’s eyes glisten with joy.

“When we have a worship room of our own, parents will gladly let their children come to worship with us and learn stories about Jesus. Let’s pray that our church on the hilltop will be a light to our community.”

The children bowed their heads as one of the children prayed. Then the children sang another happy song as they gave their offerings to Jesus.

As we plan for our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on September 29, let’s pray that our generosity will help believers in one small town in Africa bring many others to Jesus. 🌍

\*NKJV.

## Mission Post

- The Adventist church in Ingwavuma was first established about 12 years ago when a young pastor who had lived in the city during secondary school felt a burden to return and help raise up a congregation.
- The people of Ingwavuma are mostly farmers and cannot afford to build a church.
- Part of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build a church and a children’s worship center for the believers in Ingwavuma.
- See the Adventist Mission DVD for Nokwanda’s story and the children who worship God under the tree.

## Thirteenth Sabbath Program

➤	<b>Opening Song</b>	“Let Your Heart Be Broken” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , no. 575
➤	<b>Welcome</b>	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher
➤	<b>Prayer</b>	
➤	<b>Program</b>	“Meeting the Need”
➤	<b>Offering</b>	
➤	<b>Closing Song</b>	“Rise Up, O Church of God” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , no. 615
➤	<b>Closing Prayer</b>	

**Participants:** A narrator and two speakers. *[Speakers don’t need to memorize their parts; however, they should be familiar enough with the material to be able to present it with confidence.]*

**Props:** A large map of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. (Scan the map on the back page of the quarterly or download the map from [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org) and project it onto a screen.)

**Narrator:** This quarter our mission focus is the people of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Let’s hear again about the specific needs that our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will meet.

**Speaker 1:** Madagascar lies off the eastern coast of Africa. More than half of the people living there practice a traditional religion that focuses on honoring the dead. Many have never heard God’s message of love and salvation through Jesus.

**Speaker 2:** In the capital city poverty stalks many streets. Children often must fend for themselves while a parent or guardian struggles to provide the bare necessities. They can’t afford to go to school, and have little hope for a better life. Today’s offering will help establish an orphanage to give some of the poorest children a safe place to live, an education, and a hope for the future in Jesus.

**Speaker 1:** The Adventist secondary

school in northwestern Madagascar is crowded beyond capacity. Many students come from non-Christian homes, and every year some 80 students and family members are baptized as a result of this school's outreach. Part of today's offering will help build a new classroom block to accommodate more students and reach them for Christ.

**Speaker 2:** Zurcher Adventist University in central Madagascar began as a seminary and is adding other courses of study to meet the growing needs of Adventist young people. The university must build a classroom-multipurpose building to remain accredited. Part of today's offering will help the university continue to meet the need for quality Adventist education.

**Narrator:** Namibia lies in southwestern Africa. It's one of the driest countries in the world. About one in every 120 people in Namibia is an Adventist. However many of the tribal people living here have never heard the story of God's love in a way they can understand and respond to.

The Himba live much as their ancestors did, in mud huts with no need for electricity or running water. But they need to know Jesus. Our offering today will help them learn that Jesus loves them.

**Speaker 1:** The Himba believe that their ancestors guide their day-to-day lives. Few Himba read or write; they pass on their culture and history orally. For years dedicated missionaries serving with Global Mission and then with Adventist Frontier Missions have prayed and searched for the key that would unlock the hearts of the Himba. Today a team of missionaries and local workers are writing Bible stories that communicate to the

Himba in ways they understand and are responding to.

Last year the first Himba Bible stories were distributed to tribal leaders on solar-powered MP3 players, a simple device that operates without the need for batteries. Family and village members can hear God's stories in their own language in a way they can relate to. And they are listening.

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help provide MP3 players for more than 200 villages and settlements of Himba in northern Namibia. Through these MP3 players God is speaking to the hearts of Himba in their own language.

**Narrator:** South Africa is a modern country with great challenges. While the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division has an average of one Adventist for every 63 people, South Africa has one Adventist for every 513 people. Two projects will help reach specific groups with the message of God's love.

**Speaker 1:** Riverside Adventist School in Cape Town, South Africa, has served the community for about 80 years. Today most of the students come from the poorer settlements surrounding the city. Most come speaking little or no English, but their parents want them to have the advantage of an English-based education.

Many of the families served by this school are not Adventists. The potential for mission outreach is high, and every year students and parents are baptized as a result of this school.

The school needs to replace a 60-year-old temporary building that no longer

meets safety codes. But the parents cannot afford to rebuild. Part of today's offering will help provide a safer, healthier environment for children to learn.

**Speaker 2:** In northeastern South Africa lies the town of Ingwavuma [in-gwah-VOO-mah]. Several years ago a church was planted here, and it has grown to 80 members plus 35 children. The congregation meets in a one-room community center, but its children must worship under a tree near the road. The congregation has land on which to build a simple church, but they cannot afford to buy the bricks for their church.

They want to give their children a room in which to worship and learn to lead out in programs. Part of our offering will help

build the church for this congregation. The children around the world are giving their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to help provide the worship center for the children. Together we can help this congregation grow and reach out to their community for Christ.

**Narrator:** We have heard the challenges and seen the opportunities to the people of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division to reach out to others through our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Let's give liberally today so that the people of Madagascar, Namibia, and South Africa can reach many with the gospel of Jesus.

*[Offering]*

## Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects



Next quarter the South American Division will be featured. Special projects include churches in Brazil and Peru. First quarter 2013 will feature the South Pacific Division. Special projects include medical clinics in isolated regions of Papua New Guinea, Bibles and Bible lessons for children in Papua New Guinea, and audio Bible players for several island nations of the South Pacific.

## Leader's Resources

**For more information** on the cultures and history of Madagascar, Namibia, and South Africa, visit your local library or a travel agency.

**Online Information.** The Adventist Mission website contains additional material that can add flavor to your mission presentation. Look for words and a song in Herero, the official language of the Himba people of Namibia. In addition, look for recipes and other activities from these countries. Go to [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org). Click on “Resources” and “Children’s Activities” in the pop-up menu. Click on “third quarter” and select the activity you want.

**An offering goal device** will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Ask your Sabbath School council to set a quarterly mission offering goal (set the goal a little higher than last quarter and divide it by 14, one part for each of the 12 regular Sabbaths this quarter and two parts for Thirteenth Sabbath). Chart the weekly progress toward the quarter’s goal on the goal device.

To focus attention on the Himba people of Namibia, download the cover photo from the Adventist Mission website (at [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org) under “Resources” and “Children’s Activities”) and mount it on poster board. Download the photo of the MP3 players that the offering will help purchase for the Himba, and make 14 copies. Place one photo around the picture of the Himba girl each week that the offering goal is reached.

Remind members that the ongoing work of the world church depends on Sabbath School mission giving every week of the year and that one fourth of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the featured projects in Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage members to double or triple their normal mission giving for their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School. This immediate feedback will encourage members to continue their mission giving.

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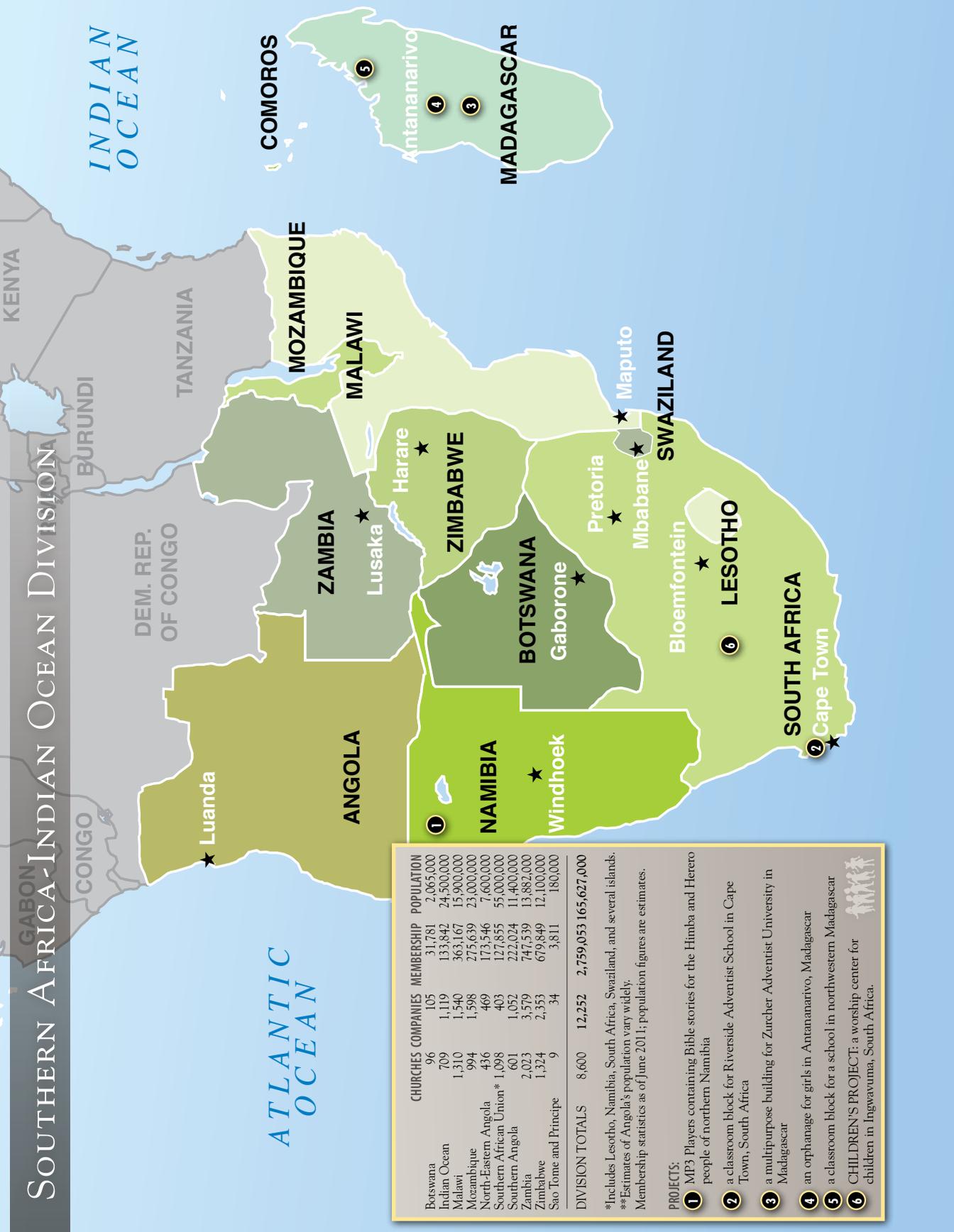
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# SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION



	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Botswana	96	105	31,781	2,065,000
Indian Ocean	709	1,119	133,842	24,500,000
Malawi	1,310	1,540	363,167	15,900,000
Mozambique	994	1,598	275,639	23,000,000
North-Eastern Angola	436	469	173,546	7,600,000
Southern African Union*	1,098	403	127,855	55,000,000
Southern Angola	601	1,052	222,024	11,400,000
Zambia	2,023	3,579	747,539	13,882,000
Zimbabwe	1,324	2,353	679,849	12,100,000
Sao Tome and Principe	9	34	3,811	180,000
<b>DIVISION TOTALS</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>12,252</b>	<b>2,759,053</b>	<b>165,627,000</b>

\*Includes Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and several islands.

\*\*Estimates of Angola's population vary widely.

Membership statistics as of June 2011; population figures are estimates.

## PROJECTS:

- 1** MP3 Players containing Bible stories for the Himba and Herero people of northern Namibia
- 2** a classroom block for Riverside Adventist School in Cape Town, South Africa
- 3** a multipurpose building for Zurcher Adventist University in Madagascar
- 4** an orphanage for girls in Antananarivo, Madagascar
- 5** a classroom block for a school in northwestern Madagascar
- 6** CHILDREN'S PROJECT: a worship center for children in Ingwavuma, South Africa.

