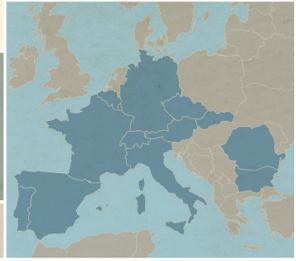




CHILDREN'S MISSION



2023 • QUARTER 2 • INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION



Contents

On the Cover: Teresa, 14, goes to church every Sabbath. Her mother, two older brothers, and sister also go. God used Teresa to bring her whole family to church. Story, page 28.

ROMANIA

- 4 Daria Goes to Kindergarten | *April 1*
- 6 Cake With Cream on Top | *April 8*
- 8 "WHAAAAAAAAAAAA!" | *April 15*

PORTUGAL

- 10 This Is Not a Church! | *April 22*
- 12 Going to the Adventists | *April 29*
- 14 Crying at School | *May 6*

GERMANY

- 16 The Leaky Roof | *May 13*
- 18 No Rain on Roofless House | *May 20*
- 20 Missing Car Keys | *May 27*



ITALY

- 22 No More Red Spot | *June 3*
- 24 Love and War | *June 10*
- 26 Not Truly Alone | *June 17*
-  28 Thirteenth Sabbath:
 - I Want to Go to Church | *June 24*
- 30 Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects
- 31 Children's Activities
- 35 Leader's Resources
- 36 Map



©2023 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists • All rights reserved
12501 Old Columbia Pike,
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6601
1-800-648-5824 • AdventistMission.org

Dear Sabbath School Leader,

Andrew McChesney
Editor



This quarter we feature the Inter-European Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in 20 countries and territories: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, and Vatican City.

The region is home to 337,892,000 people, including 178,378 Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for 1,894 people. That's about the same ratio as three years ago, when the division was featured previously for Thirteenth Sabbath projects, indicating the challenge of reaching the largely secular countries of Europe with the good news of Jesus' soon coming.

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will support five projects in the Inter-European Division:

- Elementary school, Setubal, Portugal
- Hope Life Center, Lyon, France
- Youth camp and training center, Gland, Switzerland
- Elementary school, Moisei, Romania
- After-school center, Galați, Romania

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will assist five mission projects in four countries. You can find more information in the sidebar on this page.

Special Features

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive, we offer photos and other materials to accompany each mission story. More information is provided in the sidebar with each story. For photos of tourist sites and other scenes from the featured countries, try a free photo bank such as pixabay.com or unsplash.com. You could show the photos to the children on your computer or mobile device while you read the mission story, or you could print the photos to decorate your Sabbath School room or church bulletin board.

In addition, you can download a PDF of facts and activities from the Inter-European Division at bit.ly/eud-2023. Follow us at facebook.com/missionquarterlies. You also can download the PDF version of the *Children's Mission* magazine at bit.ly/childrensmisson, and Mission Spotlight videos at bit.ly/missionspotlight. A printable mission-bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at bit.ly/bank-coloring-page.

If you have found especially effective ways to share mission stories, please let me know at mcchesneya@gc.adventist.org.

Thank you for encouraging children to be mission-minded!



ROMANIA | April 1

Daria

Daria Goes to Kindergarten

It was a big day for 3-year-old Daria. It was her first day of kindergarten in Romania.

Daria liked to dress up in pretty clothes, and she dressed up for her first day of kindergarten. The little girl with curly brown hair wore a white blouse, and a pink hat, and purple shoes. On her back, she had a little backpack that she carried all by herself.

Then she stood outside the house, waiting eagerly for Mother to take her to the kindergarten.

But Daria didn't like her first day of kindergarten. She didn't know the other little children. She didn't know the teacher, and the teacher looked big and scary. Daria's eyes showed her fear. It was like she was thinking, "Please, don't eat me, Teacher!"

After two days of kindergarten, Daria changed her mind. She liked the kindergarten! She quickly made friends with the other little children. Teacher was kind and gentle. Daria looked forward to going to the kindergarten.

"I want to go there! I want to go there!"

she told Mother.

Daria learned a lot of things in a very short time at the kindergarten. Mother saw she began to act differently. When Mother called her to eat, Daria refused to come to the table right away.

"We need to wash our hands before eating," the little girl said.

Mother was not upset. Actually, she was pleased. Before, Daria played in the mud all day and was always dirty. Mother used to have to tell her, "Wash your hands, wash your hands." Daria always used to say, "No!"

Now, however, Daria was washing her hands without even being asked.

"Finally, something good!" Mother said.

After washing and drying her hands, Daria sat down at the table for a traditional Romanian meal of *samalie* (stuffed cabbage) and cornbread. Both were smothered in sour cream. For dessert, Mother sometimes made pancakes with plum jelly.

But again, Daria refused to eat.

"We need to pray," she said.

Mother was surprised. The family didn't normally pray at the table. "If you want to do that for yourself, you can do it," she said.

Daria bowed her head and closed her eyes. Her face looked so innocent as she tried to fold her little hands in prayer. Finally, she succeeded in putting her hands together.

"Our Father in heaven," she prayed. "Help us now and tomorrow. Amen."

Daria learned many things at the kindergarten. She learned about being clean and about God and about how to pray. She also learned to paint, and she painted flowers and angels on rocks and wood and paper. She learned the alphabet, the colors, and plants.

In Romania, children go to zero grade between kindergarten and first grade. When Daria finished kindergarten and started zero grade, her new teacher was surprised. Daria was the only child in zero grade who knew how to read and write. "Where did you go to kindergarten?" she asked.

She learned that Daria had gone to a special kindergarten — a Seventh-day Adventist kindergarten in Romania. 🌐

Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a school and an after-school center in Romania where children like Daria can learn the alphabet, the colors, plants, painting, cleanliness, and, most important, about the God of heaven who hears prayers. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Romania on a map.
- Use a map to show the sites of the two mission projects, an elementary school and an after-school center, which will receive part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in Romania. You can use the mission map (download the map on Facebook at bit.ly/fb-mq) to show the cities of Moisei (elementary school) and Galați (after-school center).
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

The Adventist message was proclaimed for the first time in the territory of Romania in 1869, when Michael Belina Czechowski, a former Polish priest and unofficial Adventist missionary to Europe, settled first in Transylvania and then in Pitești, Walachia, where he formed small groups of believers. His work in Transylvania was short and did not produce lasting results, but he remained in Pitești until 1875, conducting baptisms and strengthening the small company established there.



ROMANIA | April 8

Catalin

Cake With Cream on Top

With a bright smile, Mother called over her 10-year-old boy, Catalin.

“Let’s go to visit Mrs. Marinela,” she said.

Catalin wasn’t very excited about visiting Mrs. Marinela. Mother and Mrs. Marinela read the Bible together, and Catalin didn’t understand what they read.

But he liked one thing: Mrs. Marinela always gave them *savarina*, a delicious Romanian cake with whipped cream and a cherry on top.

Today, Catalin wanted cake.

“OK, I’ll go!” he said.

A short time later, Catalin was sitting at a table at Mrs. Marinela’s apartment. Mother also sat at the table, and Mrs. Marinela served them *savarina*.

Catalin took a bite of the sweet cake with whipped cream and a cherry on top as he listened to Mrs. Marinela and Mother read the Bible.

He didn’t understand what they read.

The cake was more interesting.

One day, something changed. Catalin sat

with Mother at Mrs. Marinela’s table and ate the sweet cake with whipped cream and cherries on top. He listened as Mrs. Marinela read from the Bible, “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work” (Exodus 20:8-10, NKJV).

As he listened, the words made sense for the first time. He understood that the seventh day of the week, Saturday, was an important day.

After that day, he stopped doing homework on Sabbath. He stopped doing chores on Sabbath. He began to go to an Adventist church on Sabbath. He kept the Sabbath holy.

From then on, Catalin didn’t only eat cake at Mrs. Marinela’s apartment. He participated in the Bible study with Mrs. Marinela and Mother. He asked questions about what they were discussing.

At home, Catalin began to read the Bible on his own. He found a favorite verse in the

Bible, which says, “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever” (Daniel 12:3). The verse means that people who bring others to God will shine like the stars forever. Catalin wanted to bring his friends to God.

As Catalin read the Bible, he told friends about what he was learning about God. One Sabbath, a friend came to church with Catalin.

Catalin was so happy!

Catalin wanted more friends to come to church. He prayed and remembered a friend named Vlad. Once Vlad had asked for a Bible, and Catalin had found one for him.

Catalin thought, “I could invite Vlad to read the Bible with me, just like Mother and I read the Bible with Mrs. Marinela.”

It was kind of scary to call Vlad and invite him to read the Bible. Catalin prayed again and picked up the phone.

“Vlad, do you remember that you asked me for a Bible and I gave one to you?” he said. “Do you want to study the Bible together?”

Vlad agreed! He liked studying the Bible so much that he invited his friend Andrei to join them.

Today, Catalin goes to church with Vlad and Andrei every Sabbath. He is so happy! He plans to invite many more people to church on Sabbath. He wants to introduce many people to Jesus. 🌍

Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering

Story Tips

- Show the children Catalin’s hometown of Bucharest, Romania, on the map.
- Know that Catalin also studies the Bible at a Sola Scriptura center of influence, one of more than 50 centers in Romania where Adventists hold Bible studies.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives”; Spiritual Objective No. 6, “To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults”; and Spiritual Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

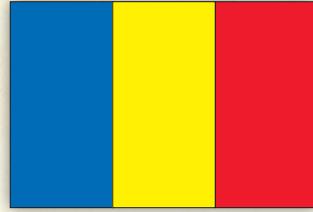
will help open a school and an after-school center in Romania where children like Catalin can also read the Bible and learn about Jesus. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

In 1904, J. F. Hinter (Ginter), was sent to Bucharest from Russia. He organized the first company in the city, with 16 members. Later, however, as a result of strong opposition from the official Romanian Orthodox Church, Pastor Ginter was expelled. His place was taken by Romanian pastors who could not be expelled by the authorities and who had a significant impact on the further development and spread of Adventism in Romania.



ROMANIA | April 15

Denisa

“WHAAAAAAAAAAAAA!”

Two-year-old Denisa loved going to the kindergarten. She loved playing with her best friend, Timeea. But when Timeea played with other little girls and boys, Denisa felt sad. She went to the corner and cried loudly.

“WHAAAAAAAAAAAAA!”

This happened every day.

“WHAAAAAAAAAAAAA!”

What could make little Denisa happy?

Denisa and her best friend, Timeea, were always the first to arrive at the kindergarten in Romania. Timeea’s mother was the teacher of the kindergarten, and she picked up Denisa at her house every morning. Timeea was always in the car with her. The three of them drove together to the kindergarten.

One day, Denisa and Timeea arrived as usual before any other children. The two girls played a fun game of hide and seek. They hid under a big blue and green table. They hid inside the bathroom. They hid behind chairs. Then they played with modeling clay and colored pictures.

After a while, other children started arriving, and Timeea played with them.

Denisa didn’t like that. She wanted all the attention for herself. She went to a corner of the room, sat on the floor, and began to bawl.

“WHAAAAAAAAAAAAA!”

Teacher went to her and hugged her.

“You have no reason to cry,” Teacher said. “It is better to play together and not just with Timeea.”

Denisa stopped crying. She liked it when Teacher paid attention to her. She listened to Teacher.

“Let’s pray together,” Teacher said.

Denisa knew how to kneel and pray because all the children knelt and prayed for worship every morning. She immediately got onto her knees. Teacher also knelt, and Teacher prayed first.

“Our Father,” Teacher said, “please help Denisa to calm down and to understand that it is better to play with the other children and not only with Timeea.”

Then Denisa prayed. “Lord, please help me not to be angry anymore,” she said. “Help me to stop crying.”

Then Teacher asked Denisa to help

prepare some activities for the children. “Come with me, and let’s play together,” she said.

After a while, Denisa joined a group of children and began to play with them. They made wooden puzzles of birds, frogs, grasshoppers, butterflies, and goldfish. Denisa especially liked a puzzle of a little bird with a yellow breast and brown and green wings.

Teacher spent a lot of time praying with Denisa during that first year of kindergarten. Denisa spent a lot of time praying with Teacher during that first year of kindergarten.

Things got easier during the second year.

After a while, Denisa started going to church with Timeea and Teacher on Sabbath. Teacher taught the Sabbath School class. Denisa liked praying in the class and learning more about Jesus.

Today, Denisa is 10, and she still prays a lot. In Sabbath School, when Teacher asks who would like to pray, she always is the first to raise her hand. Denisa and Timeea are still best friends. They play together almost every day. 🌍

Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a school and an after-school center in Romania where children can learn to pray just like Denisa at the Adventist kindergarten. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Romania on a map.
- Pronounce Timeea as: TIM-ay-ya.
- Use a map to show the locations of the two mission projects, an elementary school and an after-school center, which will receive part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in Romania. You can use the mission map (download the map on Facebook at bit.ly/fb-mq) to show the cities of Moisei (elementary school) and Galați (after-school center).
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives”; Spiritual Objective No. 6, “To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults”; and Spiritual Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.



AMAZING
COUNTRY

Romania is one the world’s main producers of plums. Romania is also among the largest maize (corn) producers in the European Union.

BigStockPhoto.com





PORTUGAL | April 22

This Is Not a Church!

Carlos

Do you go to a Seventh-day Adventist school?

If you do, why?

Father and Mother sent 9-year-old Carlos to a Seventh-day Adventist school for only one reason: because it was close to their home. Father and Mother were not Adventist. They did not even care that the school was Adventist. They just wanted Carlos to go to a school that was close to their home in Lisbon, Portugal.

At the school, Carlos heard things that he had never heard before. He heard that Adventists go to church on Saturday and not on Sunday. He heard that Adventists do not baptize babies.

When Christmas time arrived, he saw something that he had never seen before: a church that did not look like a church. He went to the Adventist church for a special Christmas program put on by the school.

But when he entered the church, his eyes opened wide and he thought with great surprise, "This is not a church! There are no saints!"

Carlos' church was filled with icons and statues of saints. But the Adventist church didn't have a single icon or a single statue of a saint. It looked completely different from any church that he had ever seen.

Carlos soon forgot about his surprise about the appearance of the church. The Christmas program was fantastic! He enjoyed listening to his classmates sing about Jesus and watching them perform Bible skits. It was very interesting.

But when he returned home from the Christmas program, he asked Father and Mother many questions.

"Why do Adventists worship on Saturday and not on Sunday?" he asked. "Why do we have saints in our church, and they don't have saints in their church? Why do we baptize babies when they are born, and they do not?"

Father and Mother answered as best as they could.

But they didn't know the Bible very well, so they didn't have answers that satisfied Carlos.

After a while, Carlos began asking

the same questions to his friends at the Adventist school.

“Why do we have Sunday and you have Saturday?” he asked. “Why do we have saints, and you do not have saints? Why do we baptize when we are born, and you do not?”

His friends answered his questions as best they could from the Bible. Carlos was surprised that they had Bible verses to support their answers. He tried to argue with them. He tried to find a place in the Bible where God changed the holy day of worship from Saturday to Sunday. He tried to find a place where God told people to put statues of saints in churches and to baptize babies. But he could not find any such verses.

As he looked in the Bible for answers, friends invited him to go to Pathfinder meetings.

Carlos enjoyed going. He especially liked earning badges. To earn badges, he had to read the Bible. So, he read the Bible even more because he wanted to earn many badges.

As he read, he began to understand why Adventists went to church on the Sabbath and didn't have saints in their churches and didn't baptize babies. He saw that Adventists loved God very much and were showing their love for God by following His teachings in the Bible.

Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments” (John 14:15, NKJV).

Carlos also loved God very much. He wanted to show his love for God by following the Bible.

When he was 16, he gave his heart to Jesus and was baptized. Father and Mother and the rest of the family came to watch the baptism.

Today, Carlos is a church leader with an Adventist wife and three grown children who are active in the church.

Carlos also is still active in Pathfinders as a Master Guide.

Carlos is very happy that his parents sent him to the Adventist school just because it was close to his house.

Going to the school changed his life. 🌍

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Carlos' hometown, Lisbon, Portugal, on the map. Also show the location of the school that will open with the help of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in Setubal, Portugal. You can use the mission map, which can be downloaded at bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Know that the photo of Carlos shows him standing in the balcony of the Adventist church in Lisbon where he attended Christmas programs as a child.
- Know that Carlos Atunes is a businessman who has worked for several international companies in Spain, Switzerland, and Italy, and served as ASI president for Portugal. He met his future wife at the Adventist school.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives”; Spiritual Objective No. 6, “To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults”; and Spiritual Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

This quarter, your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a new Seventh-day Adventist elementary school in Setubal, Portugal, so other children's lives can be changed by the power of God. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney



PORTUGAL | April 29

Joana

Going to the Adventists

When Joana finished third grade, she needed to go to a new school. Her school in Portugal only taught grades one to three. She needed to go to a school that taught grades four and higher.

Mother asked friends to recommend a good school. One friend recommended the Seventh-day Adventist school.

"This is a very nice school with good teachers," the friend said.

Mother liked the sound of that. She wasn't a Seventh-day Adventist. She didn't even go to church every week. But she believed in God, and she wanted Joana to believe in God, too. She called Joana to her. "Joana," she said, "you will study at the Adventist school."

Joana had never heard of Adventists. But she was happy about the plan to go to the Adventist school. When she saw Father, she broke the news to him. "I will go to the Adventists!" she said, joyfully.

Father looked surprised. "What?" he said.

"I will go to the Adventists!" the little girl repeated.

Father didn't like the sound of that. "You

are not going to go to the Adventists," he said. "You are going to study at an Adventist school." Joana was fine with that.

On the first day of school, the Bible teacher asked which children had Bibles.

Joana didn't own a Bible, so the teacher gave her one to keep. The teacher also gave Bibles to other children who didn't own one. Joana liked her new Bible very much, and she began to read it.

In addition to reading the Bible, Joana also learned songs about Jesus at the school. She had never heard songs about Jesus before, and she liked them very much.

Joana made a new best friend, Ingrid, at school. Ingrid came from an Adventist home.

One day, Ingrid asked Joana, "Do you want to come to Pathfinders on Sunday?"

Joana had never heard about Pathfinders. Ingrid explained that Pathfinders is a club where children learn about the Bible. Joana wanted to go and asked Mother for permission. Mother thought highly of the school, and she trusted everything connected to the school, including the Pathfinder club.

“Of course, you can go,” she said.

Joana started to attend Pathfinder meetings on Sundays. Then she went to Pathfinder camps. She liked the happy songs that the Pathfinders sang. She liked everything about Pathfinders, and she looked forward to their meetings.

On weekends, Joana had gone with Mother to the countryside to rest. But now she didn't want to go anymore.

“Why don't you want to go?” Mother asked. “You like the countryside.”

“I know,” Joana said. “But I don't want to miss Pathfinder meetings on Sundays.”

Mother understood.

Joana became more and more active in Pathfinders. One day, she decided that she wanted to give her heart to Jesus and be baptized. She wanted to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Mother was surprised to hear about Joana's decision. She wasn't sure that she supported it. Then Father spoke up. “We never invited Joana to our church, so we cannot forbid her from going to the Adventist church,” he said. Mother saw that Father was right. Joana was baptized.

Today, Joana is all grown up, and she is so happy that Mother sent her to the Adventist school. It changed her life. 🌍

This quarter, your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a new Seventh-day Adventist elementary school in Setubal, Portugal, so other children's lives can be changed by the power of God. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Joana's hometown of Porto, Portugal, on the map. Also show the location of the school that will open with the help of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in Setubal, Portugal. You can use the mission map, which can be downloaded at bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Know that Joana still participates in Pathfinder activities, now as a leader, and she loves to sing the songs about Jesus that she first learned in fourth grade.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives”; Spiritual Objective No. 6, “To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults”; and Spiritual Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

Stephen N. Haskell (1833–1922) was the first Seventh-day Adventist minister to visit Portugal. Haskell traveled around the world during 1889 and 1890 in order to inquire about favorable conditions for the establishment of Adventist missions, and he arrived in Portugal in July 1889. Haskell was impressed with the city of Lisbon, in particular the degree of religious liberty guaranteed in Portugal by the constitutional monarchy.



PORTUGAL | May 6

Jorge

Crying at School

Four-year-old Jorge started crying when Mother dropped him off at preschool on the Portuguese island of Madeira.

“WAHHHH!” Jorge wailed.

Mother couldn’t understand why her little boy was crying. This was not Jorge’s first day of preschool. He had started going to the preschool a few days earlier, and he had not cried. But now he opened his little mouth and bawled.

“WAHHHH!” Jorge cried.

He made it clear that he didn’t like the preschool.

Back at home, Mother didn’t know what to do. Father didn’t know what to do. Grandmother didn’t know what to do.

A few days later, Mother and Father traveled to Funchal, the biggest city on the island, to carry out some errands. Jorge went with them. As the family went about their business, Mother noticed a neat school surrounded by a fence with a metal gate.

“Look,” Mother said to Father. “Let’s see if they will accept Jorge.”

Mother and Father and Jorge walked through the open gate. The moment that Jorge stepped into the school grounds, he exclaimed, “I like this school!”

Then he saw other children playing on a playground. “I don’t want to go to the other school,” he said.

He looked up at Mother and Father with great determination on his tiny face. Stamping his feet on the ground, he yelled, “I don’t want to go to the other school!”

A teacher came out of the school building, and Mother told her about the preschool that Jorge didn’t like.

“Jorge could go to this school,” Teacher said.

Teacher introduced the family to the school chaplain, Antonio.

Chaplain Antonio was a very kind man. He said the school belonged to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He took the family on a tour. He showed them the cafeteria where children ate vegetarian food. He showed them classrooms. On a classroom wall, Mother saw children’s drawings from the

life of Jesus. Immediately, she knew that this was the right school for Jorge.

Jorge jumped for joy when he learned that he could go to the Adventist school!

From the first day, he loved going to the school. Never did he cry or throw a tantrum.

After a while, Mother learned that a church met on the second floor of the school. She was curious, and Jorge's teacher invited her to come to prayer meeting on Wednesday evening. Mother went with Jorge and loved it! She and Jorge returned the next Wednesday and the next. Then Father started to go to the prayer meetings.

After a while, Mother and Father gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized. Then Jorge's grandmother gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized. When Jorge was 12, he also gave his heart to Jesus and was baptized. Today, he plays the piano, guitar, and ukulele in church on Sabbath.

To this day, Mother doesn't understand why Jorge cried at the first preschool but was happy at the Adventist school. Father doesn't understand why Jorge cried at the preschool and was happy at the Adventist school. Grandmother doesn't understand, either. Not even Jorge understands what happened. But one thing is clear: because Jorge went to the Adventist school, his life and the life of his family changed completely. "I'm very happy to be an Adventist," Jorge says. 🌍

This quarter, your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help open a new Seventh-day

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Madeira Island, where Jorge lives, off the coast of West Africa on the map. Also show the location of the school that will open with the help of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in Setubal, Portugal. You can use the mission map, which can be downloaded at bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

Adventist elementary school in Setubal, Portugal, so other children's lives can be changed by the power of God. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
COUNTRY

The staple foods in Portugal include fish, vegetables, and fruits. One of the national dishes is bacalhau (dried cod), which is usually served with potatoes and green vegetables, and sometimes beans.

BigStockPhoto.com





GERMANY | May 13

The Leaky Roof

Grandmother Brigitte

Grandmother Brigitte loves her house in Germany.

Her parents built the house before she was born. It was a small house, and it had one kitchen, one big bedroom, and one very small children's bedroom.

When Grandmother Brigitte was little, she slept in the very small children's bedroom, and her parents slept in the big bedroom.

When she grew up and got married, she and her husband didn't have enough money to buy their own house. So, they stayed in the big bedroom, and her parents moved into the small children's bedroom.

Then Grandmother Brigitte became a mother. She gave birth to two children, and there were four people living in the big bedroom: Grandmother Brigitte, her husband, and their two children. Her parents were now grandparents, and they still lived in the children's bedroom.

There was barely enough space for everyone to fit inside the little house! One year passed. Two years passed. Three years passed. Grandmother Brigitte thought it was

time to build a bigger house. Her husband thought it was time to build a bigger house. The two children and their grandparents thought it was time to build a bigger house.

So, two more bedrooms were built onto the house. The little house became a larger house. Now it had one kitchen, one big bedroom, one very small children's bedroom, and two new bedrooms.

Even though the house was bigger, the rooms quickly filled up. Two more children were born.

As the children grew older, the family needed more space. So, they removed the roof from the house and built a comfortable loft where the children could sleep in the space between the ceiling and the new roof. Everyone liked the new roof. It was splendid! The builders promised that the roof would last for many, many years.

Ten years passed. Twenty years passed. And the house saw many changes. The four children grew up and moved into their own homes. Grandmother Brigitte grew older and became a grandmother. The house grew old and needed a new roof. The hot sun caused cracks to form in the roof. When it rained or snowed, water leaked into the house.

Grandmother Brigitte desperately needed a new roof. She found out that a new roof would cost a lot of money.

Around that time, Grandmother Brigitte heard about a wonderful mission project at church. Money was being collected to tell people in another country that Jesus is coming soon. Grandmother Brigitte wanted to give money to the mission project. “But,” she thought, “I cannot give any money because we need a new roof.” She needed to save money to buy the new roof.

Still, Grandmother Brigitte wanted to give money to the mission project. She thought, “God will give me a new roof even if I give my money to the mission project.”

She gave her money to the mission project.

A few days later, a letter arrived from the German government. Because Grandmother Brigitte had retired and no longer worked, the government sent money every month to help her buy food and other important things. But this was an unexpected letter.

Grandmother Brigitte opened the letter and read, “We just found out that we have to give you this additional payment.” Inside the letter was the exact amount of money that she needed for the new roof!

Grandmother Brigitte was so happy. She loves her house in Germany, and now she can live in it for many more years.

“The money was a great miracle,” Grandmother Brigitte says. “I thank God for it.” 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that went for a mission project in Grandmother Brigitte’s homeland of

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Germany on the map.
- Pronounce Brigitte as: breg-ee-TA.
- Know that Grandmother Brigitte is 88 years old.
- Read more about Grandmother Brigitte next week.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates Mission Objective No. 1 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: “To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

Germany three years ago. Germany has sent many Seventh-day Adventist missionaries around the world, and the offering will help send even more by renovating the main building at Marienhöhe Academy, a place where new missionaries are trained, in Darmstadt, Germany.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Germany opened the Bad Aibling Sanitarium in 1920 offering a variety of water treatments, especially mud baths. During World War II, it was used as a hospital, and after the war it was turned into a refugee camp until 1952.



GERMANY | May 20

Grandmother Brigitte

No Rain on Roofless House

Grandmother Brigitte needed a new roof after the hot summer caused cracks to form. When it rained, water leaked into the house.

Grandmother Brigitte didn't have enough money for a new roof, so she began to save money.

But then at church she heard about a wonderful mission project to teach people about Jesus in another country. She decided to give her money to the mission project and trust in God for a new roof.

Just a few days after she gave the money to the mission project, she received a surprise letter in the mail with enough money to pay for the new roof. It was a miracle from God!

So, the old roof came off the house. The new roof, however, would take time to finish. It was a big roof, and it would take four weeks to build.

Grandmother Brigitte was worried. It was summertime, and sometimes it rained in the summertime. She wasn't worried about

getting wet in the rain. She was worried about the beds in the house getting wet if her house had no roof. If it rained, the couch also would get wet. The chairs and the table would get wet. Clothes and books and even the Bible would get wet. Everything in the house would get wet.

"God," Grandmother Brigitte prayed, "please don't send rain because we live here and will get wet."

There was no rain that day.

Grandmother Brigitte prayed the same prayer the next day.

"God," she prayed, "please don't send rain because we live here and will get wet."

No rain.

One week passed. Two weeks. Three weeks. Grandmother Brigitte prayed, and no rain fell.

But then one day, big black clouds filled the sky. Clouds were everywhere, and they were so heavy with rain that they seemed to touch the ground.

Grandmother Brigitte looked nervously at

the clouds and prayed, “God, please don’t send rain because we live here and will get wet.”

Then she saw rain starting to fall on the windows of the neighbor’s house: first a few drops and then more. Soon rain was pouring down on the neighbor’s house.

As she watched, Grandmother Brigitte felt something wet on her arm. She looked carefully. Yes, a raindrop had landed on her skin. She felt something else wet. Another raindrop. Grandmother Brigitte prayed, “God, please don’t send rain because we live here and will get wet.”

Then the raindrops stopped falling on her arm.

But it still was raining on the neighbor’s house. Grandmother Brigitte looked at the other neighbors’ houses. Rain was pounding them.

For 30 minutes, rain fell in sheets on her right and on the left and across the street. A big, black cloud also hung low over Grandmother Brigitte’s house. But no rain fell from it. Her beds didn’t get wet. Her couch didn’t get wet. Her chairs and her table didn’t get wet. Her clothes and books and Bible didn’t get wet. Nothing in the house got wet.

The next day, everybody was talking about the heavy rainstorm. It had been a terrible downpour. But no rain fell on Grandmother Brigitte’s roofless house. Her home was spared.

She prayed a grateful, happy prayer to the Lord.

“Thank You, dear Lord, thank You,” she prayed.

A week later, the house was covered with a new roof. Just as the roof was finished, rain started to fall. But Grandmother Brigitte didn’t mind. Everything in the house was safe. 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that went for a mission project in Grandmother Brigitte’s homeland of Germany three years ago. Germany has sent many Seventh-day Adventist missionaries around the world, and the offering will help

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Germany on the map.
- Pronounce Brigitte: breg-ee-TA.
- Know that Grandmother Brigitte is 88 years old.
- Grandmother Brigitte says that when she saw the black storm clouds come, she knew that she was helpless. “At that moment you feel powerless,” she says. “As a human, you see the clouds and you know that only God can help. God is gracious. This was His grace. God strengthened my faith by giving me this miracle.”
- Ask the children if God has answered their prayers. Ask the children to share examples.
- Read more about Grandmother Brigitte last week.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates Mission Objective No. 1 of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: “To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

send even more by renovating the main building at Marienhöhe Academy, a place where new missionaries are trained, in Darmstadt, Germany.

By Andrew McChesney



GERMANY | March 27

ZZ

Missing Car Keys

Three-year-old ZZ was excited! He was going with Father and Mother on a big trip to the airport in Frankfurt, Germany. Father had to take his friend Andrew to the airport. It would be a long, one-hour drive.

ZZ walked with Father to the car. Father used his keys to unlock the car, and he put ZZ into the child's seat in the backseat. After fastening ZZ into the seat, Father and Mother got ready to leave.

But something was wrong.

"Where are the car keys?" Father asked.

Father didn't know. Mother didn't know. ZZ didn't know. ZZ watched from the back seat as Father and Mother looked for the keys.

Father opened the trunk and looked around inside. Nothing.

Mother looked around the front seats of the car. Nothing.

"The car keys were just in my hand," Father said. "I used them to open the car when I put ZZ in the back seat. What did I do with them?"

Father didn't know. Mother didn't know.

ZZ didn't know.

"Andrew is waiting for us to take him to the airport," Father said. "We can't be late for his airplane flight. What can we do?"

Father didn't know. Mother didn't know. ZZ didn't know.

Then Father had an idea.

"Let's pray and ask God to help us find the keys," he said.

ZZ had been quiet this whole time. But now he spoke up from the backseat of the car.

"Is God here?" he asked.

It was a good question. Was God nearby?

"Yes," Father said. "We just need to ask Him for help."

Father closed his eyes. Mother closed her eyes. ZZ closed his eyes.

"Dear God," Father prayed, "please help us find the car keys so we won't be late to the airport. Amen."

When Father opened his eyes, he immediately saw the car keys. They were lying on the roof of the car.

"Hooray!" Father exclaimed. "God

answered our prayer!”

Father jumped into the car. Mother jumped into the car. ZZ was already in the car, and he watched from the backseat as Father started the car engine.

ZZ had been quiet for a long time again. But now he spoke up a second time.

“Daddy, are we going to pray for God to be with us?” he asked.

Father looked at Mother and then at ZZ. The little boy was right. They should pray before traveling to the hotel to pick up Andrew and then to the airport in Frankfurt.

“Dear God,” ZZ prayed, “keep us safe on the trip to the airport. Help us not to get into an accident. Amen.”

Father was so happy that God was near to hear their prayers. Mother was so happy that God was near to hear their prayers. ZZ was so happy that God was near to hear their prayers. God had heard their prayer to find the car keys. Now He would hear their prayer for a safe trip to the airport.

And He did! 🌍

ZZ belongs to a missionary family in Germany. Thank you for your Sabbath School mission offerings that help missionaries tell people around the world about the loving God who hears prayers.

By Andrew McChesney



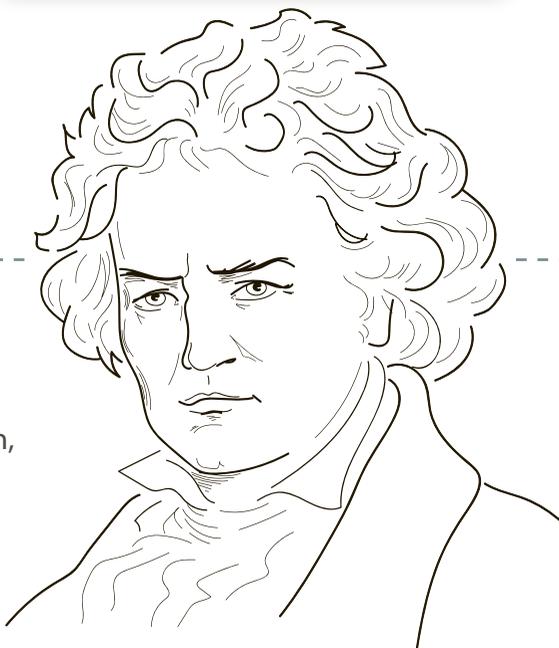
AMAZING
COUNTRY

Germans are famous in all forms of art, but particularly classical music. Germany's famous composers include Bach, Beethoven (pictured), Brahms, Schumann, and Wagner.

BigStockPhoto.com

Story Tips

- Find Frankfurt, Germany, on the map.
- Know that Father (Edwin) is a U.S. missionary pastor who oversees two congregations in southern Germany. This story took place when Edwin took *Adventist Mission* magazine editor Andrew McChesney to the airport.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.





ITALY | June 3

Deborah

No More Red Spot

Deborah was born a healthy baby girl in Sicily, Italy.

But after a few months, something happened. A red spot appeared on her lip. The red spot grew bigger and bigger. Doctors looked at the spot and called it an angioma. But they didn't know what to do about it.

After a year, the red spot was so big that Deborah's bottom lip was completely deformed and out of shape. Doctors couldn't do anything to help.

Deborah didn't realize that she looked different from other girls and boys until she went to school.

The boys were mean. They teased her and called her unkind names. Deborah often came home crying. She didn't fight for herself. But Mother always tried to defend her. Mother spoke with the school principal and the parents of other children.

After Mother intervened, the boys stopped calling her names for a while. But then they started calling her names again.

The girls didn't speak unkindly to Deborah, but they still treated her differently.

Each girl had her own water bottle, and they often shared their water bottles among themselves when a girl was thirsty. But no one ever offered Deborah a drink.

Deborah watched as they asked one another, "Do you want some water?"

She wished that someone would offer her water to drink.

From her first months of life, Deborah underwent treatments to get rid of the red spot. At first, she had to get a shot once a week. When she grew older, the shots were once a month. Doctors also performed two big operations. Deborah had to travel by train across Italy for the operations. She went from her home in Sicily in the far south to Parma, near Milan, in the far north. It was a long and unpleasant trip. The operations and follow-up treatments were painful. When she was 11, Deborah also began to undergo regular laser sessions to try to lighten the red spot. Deborah hoped that all the treatments would remove the red spot, but they didn't.

"Mother, why did this happen to me?" Deborah asked her mother again and again.

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of the island of Sicily, Italy, on the map. Trace the route to Parma, near Milan, in the north of Italy.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

Mother hugged the little girl and told her about the apostle Paul in the Bible. Paul prayed three times to God to remove a

problem that he had, and God didn't remove it. Instead, God told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9, NKJV).

Mother told Deborah, "God's grace is sufficient for you. The power of the Lord can be seen in your witness."

Mother reminded Deborah that God loved her. "God has a plan for your life," she said. "This is only a passing phase."

Deborah accepted that God's grace was sufficient for her.

Something amazing happened when Deborah was 13. The red spot slowly began to go away. It faded bit by bit. After many, many months, the red spot was completely gone. Only a few faint scars from the operations could be seen.

Today, Deborah helps other people who are hurting just like she was hurting as a little girl. She is a psychologist. She also is a singer. She has a beautiful, soprano voice that she uses to sing praises to God.

"The miracle is that I carry a beautiful voice from imperfect lips," she says.

King David, who also was a singer, said in the Bible, "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise" (Psalm 51:15, NKJV).

Deborah sings praises to God every day — and so can you! 🌍

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
COUNTRY

Italians invented eyeglasses, used mainly by monks, in the 13th century. Ancient Romans had used magnifying glasses, but the Italian eyeglasses were the first to be worn.





ITALY | June 10

Love and War

Renato

Mother called the four children together in their small home in the basement of a tall apartment building in Rome, Italy. The two brothers and the two sisters looked at Mother anxiously. They wondered what she was going to say.

“We have found someone to rent a bedroom,” Mother said. “She will arrive soon.”

The brothers and sisters looked at each other. They knew what that meant. Their home only had two bedrooms. The boys slept in one bedroom, and Mother and the girls slept in the other. The boys would have to give up their bedroom to the renter and sleep in the hallway.

But the boys didn’t mind. The family was poor. It was 1943, and Italy was mired in World War II. Father was away at war, and Mother needed money to buy food. The rent money would help.

Before long, the renter arrived and moved into the bedroom. Mother introduced her to the children as Aunt Clelia.

Aunt Clelia didn’t act like anyone whom Mother and the children had ever met. She

did something unusual. Every evening, before she went to bed, she opened a Bible and read it by the light of a candle. Mother was curious about why she was reading the Bible. The children were curious about why she was reading the Bible. They had never read the Bible at home. Aunt Clelia said she read the Bible because she loved God.

Aunt Clelia had not always read the Bible. Several years earlier, she had been sent to prison for stealing money from the post office where she worked. She had stolen the money to help her husband pay off a big debt. But it was wrong to steal the money, and she had gone to prison. While in prison, she began to think about God. A Seventh-day Adventist pastor came to the prison and taught her about God from the Bible. It was then that she began to read the Bible every day. She gave her heart to God.

When she was released from prison, she needed a place to stay. Unfortunately, her husband had died while she was in prison, and she had nowhere to live. But the Adventist pastor had known that Mother was looking for

someone to rent a room in her apartment. So, he had put Mother in touch with Aunt Clelia, and Aunt Clelia had moved in.

The war reached Rome while Aunt Clelia was living in the rented room. Sirens wailed when warplanes approached the city, warning people to flee to underground bomb shelters to find safety from falling bombs. Every time they heard the sirens, Mother, Aunt Clelia, and the four children ran from their basement apartment to a nearby bomb shelter.

On July 19, 1943, the sirens wailed, and Mother, Aunt Clelia, and the four children ran to the bomb shelter. They joined other people huddling inside and listening to bombs exploding overhead. The explosions were louder than usual. This time, the bombs were falling on the apartment buildings and streets right over their heads.

Across the city, the Adventist pastor heard on the radio that the neighborhood where Mother, Aunt Clelia, and the four children were living was being bombed. He was worried, and he prayed for their safety. Even while the bombs were falling, he headed to the neighborhood to make sure that they were safe. The bombing stopped shortly before he arrived, and people were beginning to leave the bomb shelters. The pastor arrived just as Mother, Aunt Clelia, and the four children were coming out of the bomb shelter.

Fires were burning. Mother saw the shadowy figure of the pastor in the smoke and dust. She couldn't believe her eyes. The pastor had risked his life to make sure that she and her family were safe. At that moment, Mother decided to give her heart to God. She saw that the pastor was filled with the love of God. She saw that Aunt Clelia was filled with the love of God. A love for God filled her heart.

When Mother, Aunt Clelia, and the children returned to their home, they found ruins. The tall apartment building above their basement home had been reduced to rubble. Not one house in the apartment

Story Tips

- Show the children the location of Rome, Italy, on the map.
- Know that the name of the Adventist pastor is Daniele Cupertino.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

building remained intact. But their basement home was not damaged. Not even a bed or a table was broken. The only trace of the bombing was the metal fragment of a bomb that one of the children found in the closet. That was it. It was a miracle!

A short time later, the whole family became members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

A few years after that, in 1950, another boy, named Renato, was born into the family. He is thankful to God for allowing him to grow up in an Adventist home.

"I entered the Adventist Church on my mother's lap, and I am still here," Renato says. "I was born an Adventist because of a story that started before I was born." 🌐

By Andrew McChesney



ITALY | June 17

Not Truly Alone

Selene

Selene thought that she understood the Italian language. After all, she lived in Rome, the capital of Italy, and had spoken Italian all her life.

But she noticed that boys at public school sometimes used Italian words that she didn't understand. The boys spoke those words when Teacher couldn't hear them or when they were outside at recess. A few of the girls also spoke these unknown words.

At home, Selene asked Mother what the children were saying. "Why do they say this?" she asked. "What does it mean?"

Mother looked sad. She explained that the children were swearing. The children were using very bad words to describe God. They were blaspheming the name of God. Probably, Mother said, the children had heard these words from their parents or other adults, and they didn't even know that they were insulting God.

Selene felt disappointed and angry. She loved God, and she didn't want anyone to insult Him. She tried to avoid the children who spoke that way at school.

Before long, the children knew that Selene didn't like to hear them swear. Some of the children thought that Selene was strange for loving God. They made fun of her. Selene was sad that the children didn't love God.

Selene felt even more sad when she saw that one of her teachers also didn't love God. The teacher taught math and science, and she was an atheist. An atheist is someone who doesn't believe in God.

Teacher said that God didn't create the earth. She said the earth and everything in it began by itself. Selene didn't believe it. She had read the Bible and knew that it said God created the world and everything in it. She wished that Teacher believed in God.

One day, Teacher asked Selene to write a report about the first astronauts who flew to the moon. For her research, Selene went online and read several books. She was very interested to read that three American astronauts flew to the moon in 1969. Two astronauts landed on the moon, but one stayed in a spaceship orbiting the moon. Selene was most interested in the astronaut in the spaceship. His name was Michael Collins. Selene wrote in her school report that Michael Collins was all alone in the

spaceship. He especially was alone when the spaceship went around the dark side of the moon, and he could no longer see the earth. He saw only blackness. No people. No life.

Selene copied a quotation from Michael Collins in her report. He said, “I am alone now, truly alone, and absolutely isolated from any known life. I am it. If a count were taken, the score would be three billion plus two over on the other side of the moon, and one plus God knows what on this side.” Selene wrote in her report that Michael Collins was counting people. He was saying that there were 3 billion people living on the earth; there were two astronauts that he couldn’t see on the other side of the moon; and on the dark side, where he was alone in the spaceship, there was only one human being — him — and God.

Two and a half years passed, and Selene kept sharing her love for God. One day, Teacher said something unusual to the class. She said, “The first gulp from the glass of natural sciences will turn you into an atheist. But at the bottom of the glass God is waiting for you.” Selene didn’t quite understand what Teacher meant. But she understood that Teacher was changing her mind about God. Teacher was beginning to believe in God. Selene gave Teacher a Bible.

She is praying that Teacher learns to love God. She is praying that her classmates learn to love God. She knows that she is not truly alone. Even though the astronaut seemed all alone on the dark side of the moon, he was with God. Even though she might feel all alone at school, she is with God. 🌐

Story Tips

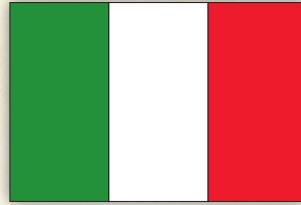
- Show the children the city of Rome, Italy, where Selene lives, on a map.
- Pronounce Selene as: se-LE-ne.
- Know that the quotation from Michael Collins comes from his 1974 book, *Carrying the Fire: An Astronaut's Journeys*.
- Know that quotation “The first gulp from the glass of natural sciences will turn you into an atheist. But at the bottom of the glass God is waiting for you” comes from Werner Heisenberg, winner of the 1932 Nobel Prize in Physics for the creation of quantum mechanics.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives” and Spiritual Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

Italy was the first country in Europe in which Seventh-day Adventist doctrines were preached. Michael Belina Czechowski, a former Polish priest who failed to persuade the Seventh-day Adventists to send him to Europe, convinced another denomination to sponsor him, and he arrived in Italy in 1864.



13th SABBATH | June 24

Teresa

I Want to Go to Church

Three women knocked on the door of Teresa's home in Rome, Italy. The women were kind, and they offered to read the Bible with the family. Mother didn't go to church at the time, and she wasn't interested in reading the Bible with the women. Teresa was only 9, but she wanted to know more about the Bible.

"Please, Mother, can I read the Bible with them?" she begged.

Mother was happy that Teresa wanted to know more about the Bible. So, she agreed that the women could come every Sunday and read the Bible with her daughter.

After that, the three women came every Sunday afternoon. The women and the girl read the Bible together for an hour every time. After they read the Bible, Teresa told Mother about what she was learning. Sometimes Mother didn't agree with what the women told Teresa. On those occasions, Mother opened her own Bible and showed Teresa what the Bible said. Even though Mother didn't go to church, she knew the

Bible very well and had a Bible.

One time, the women told Teresa that she should worship God in church on Sunday. Teresa told Mother about what they had said. Mother opened her Bible and read the fourth commandment. She read, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God." (Exodus 20:8-10, NKJV).

When she finished reading, Mother said, "So you see, Teresa, the Bible teaches that the seventh day, Sabbath, is the correct day to worship God, not Sunday."

One day, the women invited Teresa to go to their church. Teresa really wanted to go. She pleaded with Mother to take her to their church.

"I want to go to church," Teresa said.

Finally, Mother gave in.

"OK, I'll take you there," she said.

But a few days later, Teresa and Mother went on vacation to Romania. Mother was born in Romania, and they went to visit relatives there.

Story Tips

- Show the children where Rome, Italy, and Romania are located on the map.
- Download photos on Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Download Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Inter-European Division: bit.ly/eud-2023.
- This mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo2020.org.

One morning, Mother told Teresa to get ready to go to church. Teresa thought that they would go to the church belonging to the denomination of the three women. She happily went with Mother to church.

Teresa liked the church very much. Adults and other children greeted her with joy. Everyone was very friendly.

When the worship service finished, Mother surprised her. "This is a Seventh-day Adventist church," Mother said.

It was then that Teresa realized that Mother had not taken her to the church that she had wanted to attend. But she didn't mind. She was happy because she had really enjoyed the Sabbath worship service.

Mother was happy that Teresa liked the church. She had grown up in an Adventist family.

When Teresa returned to Italy, she wanted

Before 13th Sabbath

- Send home a note to remind parents of the program and to encourage the children to bring their Thirteenth Sabbath Offering on June 24. Remind everyone that their mission offerings are gifts to spread God's Word around the world and that one-fourth of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help five projects in four countries of the Inter-European Division. The projects are listed on page 3 and on the back cover.
- The narrator doesn't need to memorize the story, but he or she should be familiar enough with the material so as not to have to read it. Alternatively, the children can act out the story.
- Before or after the story, use a map to show the four countries in the Inter-European Division — Portugal, France, Switzerland, and Romania — that will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. You can download a mission map with the projects on Facebook at bit.ly/fb-mq.

to keep going to church on Sabbath.

"I want to go to church," she said.

Mother agreed to take her. They found the address of an Adventist church in Rome and put it into the map navigator app on Mother's cell phone. But they couldn't seem to find the church. When they exited the nearest train station to the church, they walked and walked and walked. Three times they followed the navigator's directions, and three times they ended up back at the train station. Making matters worse, it was very hot. It was summer, near the end of August.

Teresa and Mother stopped walking. Teresa was very disappointed. She prayed, "God, I want to go to Your house. I'm looking for You. Why can't I find You?"

When she finished the prayer, she turned her head and read on a sign, "Seventh-day Adventist Church." They had

found it! They were standing right in front of the church building!

Teresa and Mother entered the church and worshiped God that Sabbath.

Today, Teresa is 14, and she and Mother go to church every Sabbath. Her two older brothers and sister also go to church. God used Teresa to bring her whole family to church. 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today that will help people in the Inter-European Division learn the good news about Jesus and His soon coming. The offering will help five mission projects in four countries, including an elementary school and an after-school center in Mother's homeland of Romania. Thank you for your offering.

By Andrew McChesney



Pizza is mentioned in historical sources as early as 10 AD, but modern pizza began to be made in Naples in the 1700s. Pasta dates back to 4 BC in Italy, and there are pre-Roman wall paintings that show what looks like early pasta-making equipment.



BigStockPhoto.com

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering next quarter will support two projects in the Trans-European Division:

- Center of influence, Riga, Latvia
- Youth camp, Zelenika, Montenegro

Play the Game

BARRA DO LENÇO (PORTUGAL)

DIRECTIONS:

The winning number of points is decided in advance. Two teams stand on either side of a room or an area of a playground, with a single player in the middle holding a handkerchief. Each player on each team is given a secret number, so there will be a number — 1, 2, 3, etc. — on each team. When that number is called, the player with that number from each team runs to the middle and tries to grab the handkerchief before the other team's player gets there. The team that gets the handkerchief gets a point, and then a new number is called. To make it even more fun, the person in the middle can decide how the player must run (backwards, hopping on one foot, like scissors, with their eyes closed, etc.) The team to reach the chosen number of points first is the winner.

Let's Sing in Romanian

PACEA LUI (I'VE GOT PEACE LIKE A RIVER)

ENGLISH:

I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river
in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river
in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean
in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean
in my soul.

ROMANIAN

Pacea Lui ca un fluviu,
Pacea Lui ca un fluviu,
Pacea Lui azi îmi umple
inima.
Pacea Lui ca un fluviu,
Pacea Lui ca un fluviu,
Pacea Lui azi îmi umple
inima.

Un ocean de iubire,
Un ocean de iubire,
Un ocean azi îmi este
inima.
Un ocean de iubire, Un
ocean de iubire,
Un ocean azi îmi este
inima.

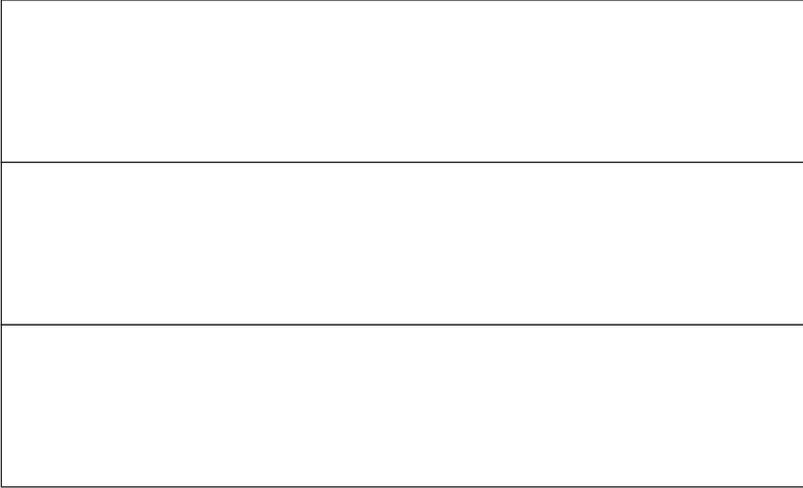
PRONUNCIATION:

PAH-chay loo-EE cah oon FLOO-vee-oh
PAH-chay loo-EE cah oon FLOO-vee-oh
PAH-chay loo-EE ah ZEE-mee oom-
PLAY EE-nee-mah
PAH-chay loo-EE cah oon FLOO-vee-oh
PAH-chay loo-EE cah oon FLOO-vee-oh
PAH-chay loo-EE ah ZEE-mee oom-
PLAY EE-nee-mah

Oon oh-CHAN day you-BEE-ray
Oon oh-CHAN day you-BEE-ray
Oon oh-CHAN ah ZEE-mee EST-ay
EE-nee-mah
Oon oh-CHAN day you-BEE-ray
Oon oh-CHAN day you-BEE-ray
Oon oh-CHAN ah ZEE-mee EST-ay
EE-nee-mah

Listen to the Romanian pronunciation: bit.ly/peace-like-river-romanian

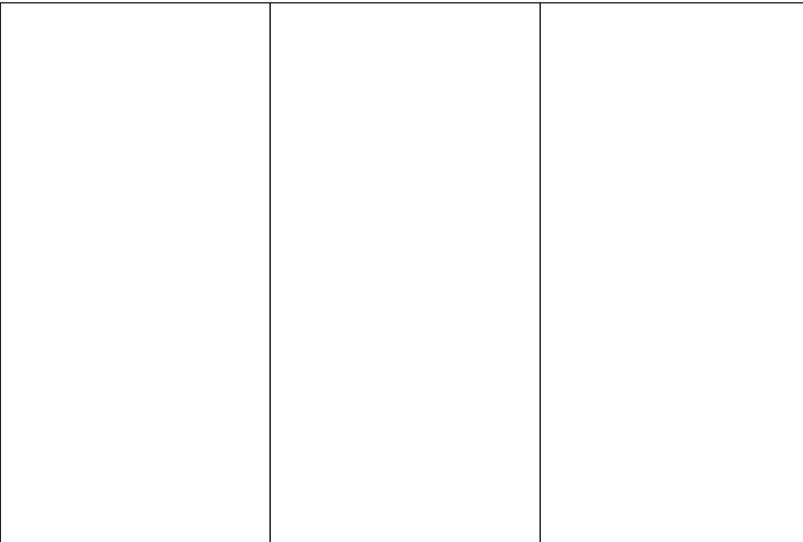
Color The Flag



GERMANY

DIRECTIONS:

Color the top stripe black, the middle stripe red, and the bottom stripe yellow.

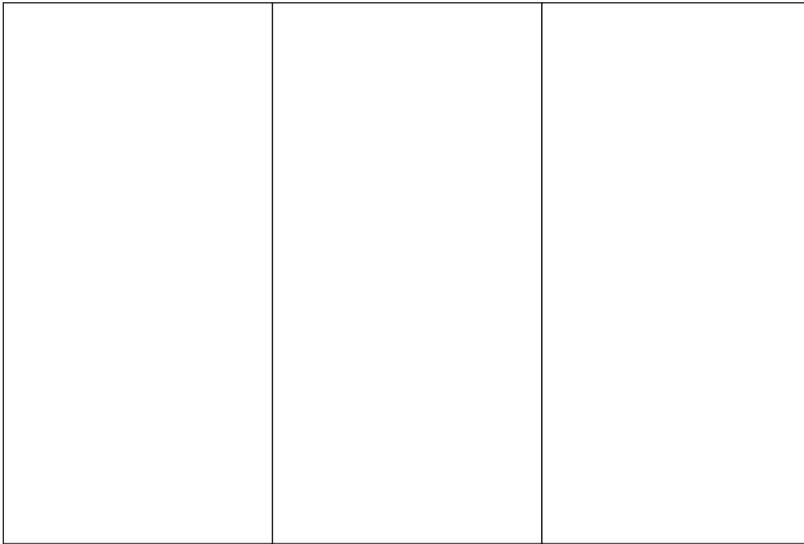


ITALY

DIRECTIONS:

Color the left stripe green, leave the middle stripe white, and color the right stripe red.

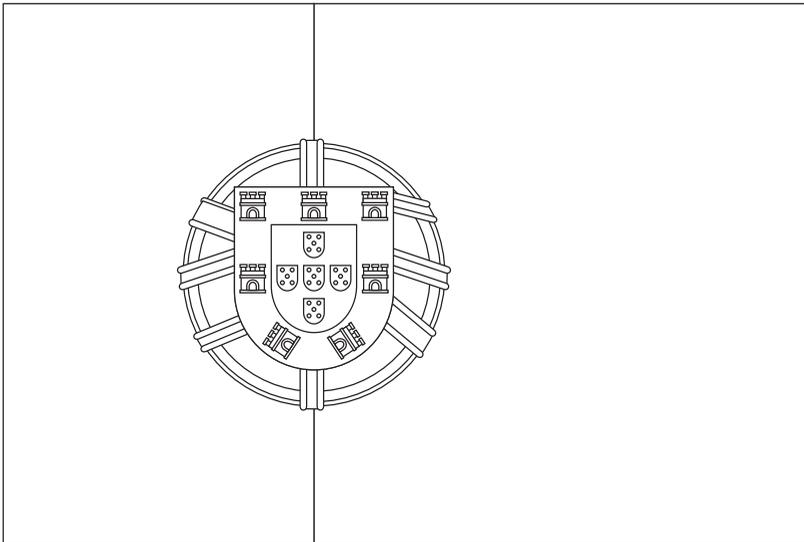
Color The Flag



ROMANIA

DIRECTIONS:

Color the left stripe blue, the middle stripe yellow, and the right stripe red.



PORTUGAL

DIRECTIONS:

Color the left part green and the right part red. Color the circular shape in the middle yellow. Leave the thin border around the shield white. Color the wide middle border red and the castles yellow with black doors and windows. Leave the center shield white and color the small shields dark blue, with white circles.

Let's Cook!

TRI COLOR PASTA SALAD (ITALY)

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS:

12 oz (350 g) of farfalle (bow tie) pasta
1 lb (500 g) of fresh ripe cherry
tomatoes

6 Tbs of extra virgin olive oil
10-12 leaves of fresh basil
fine salt
coarse salt

DIRECTIONS:

Be sure to get an adult to help you with cutting things and boiling the pasta.

Dressing:

1. Prepare the dressing at least 20 minutes ahead of time. Wash and dry the tomatoes, and then cut them in half. The larger ones can be cut into four pieces, but don't make the pieces too small. Season the tomatoes with plenty of extra virgin olive oil (about 3 tablespoons according to your taste) and a little fine salt.
2. Wash and dry the fresh basil leaves. Then tear them coarsely with your hands. Add the basil to the seasoned tomatoes. Stir and set aside. Let the dressing sit for about 20 minutes. Stir occasionally with a spoon. This way the tomatoes will bring out their juices and the basil will release its fresh scent.

Pasta:

3. Bring a pot of water to a boil and add the coarse salt. Remember that you need 4 cups (1 liter) of water with 3/4 tablespoon (10 g) of coarse salt per 3.5 oz (100 g) of dry pasta. Pour in the pasta and cook according to the instructions on the package. Farfalle (or bow tie) pasta usually has a 12-minute cooking time.
4. Drain the pasta and place in a large salad bowl. Season with 2 tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil, mix well, and let cool. If you are in a hurry and cannot wait to let it cool, after draining it, run it under cold water to stop the cooking.
5. When the pasta has cooled, add the Italian dressing of red cherry tomatoes and fresh basil leaves.



Leader's Resources

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

Online Information

Following are sources of information that may be helpful in preparing for the mission segment of Sabbath School. For more information on the cultures and history of the countries featured in this quarterly, visit:

Websites

Germany: government website	bit.ly/GermanyGovt
German National Tourist Board	bit.ly/GermanyNTB
Deutschland	bit.ly/Travel_in_Germany
Italy: government website	bit.ly/ItalyGovt
Rick Steves	bit.ly/StevesItaly
National Geographic	on.natgeo.com/3MlSPgX
Portugal: government website	bit.ly/PortGovt
Rough Guide	bit.ly/RGPortugal
Visit Portugal	bit.ly/Visit_Port
Romania: government website	www.gov.ro/en
Romania Tourism	bit.ly/RomaniaTour
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LP_Romania

Seventh-day Adventist

Inter-European Division	bit.ly/SDA_EUD
North German Union Conference	bit.ly/SDA_NGUC
South German Union Conference	bit.ly/SDA_SGUC
Italian Union of Churches Conference	bit.ly/SDA_ITCC
Portuguese Union of Churches Conference	bit.ly/SDA_PUCC
Romanian Union Conference	bit.ly/SDA_RUC

An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Determine a goal for your class's weekly mission offering. Multiply it by 15, allowing a double goal for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering, which will be collected on June 24. Remind the children and their parents that their regular weekly mission offerings help the missionary work of the world Church, and that one-quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the Inter-European Division. On June 17, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage the children and their parents to double or triple their normal mission giving on the upcoming Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School.

NKJV. Bible texts credited to NKJV are from the New King James Version © Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by Permission. All rights reserved.

ADVENTIST MISSION

EDITORIAL

Andrew McChesney Editor
Wendy Trim Editorial Assistant
Emily Harding Layout Editor

OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION

Gary Krause Director
Rick Kajiura Communication Director
Jeff Scoggins Program Director

COMMUNICATION

Andrew McChesney Editor, *Mission*
Laurie Falvo Editor, *Mission 360*
Ricky Oliveras Video Producer
Caleb Haakenson Video Producer
Earley Simon Project Manager

Web site: AdventistMission.org

Mission (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2023 by the Office of Adventist Mission, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904, U.S.A.

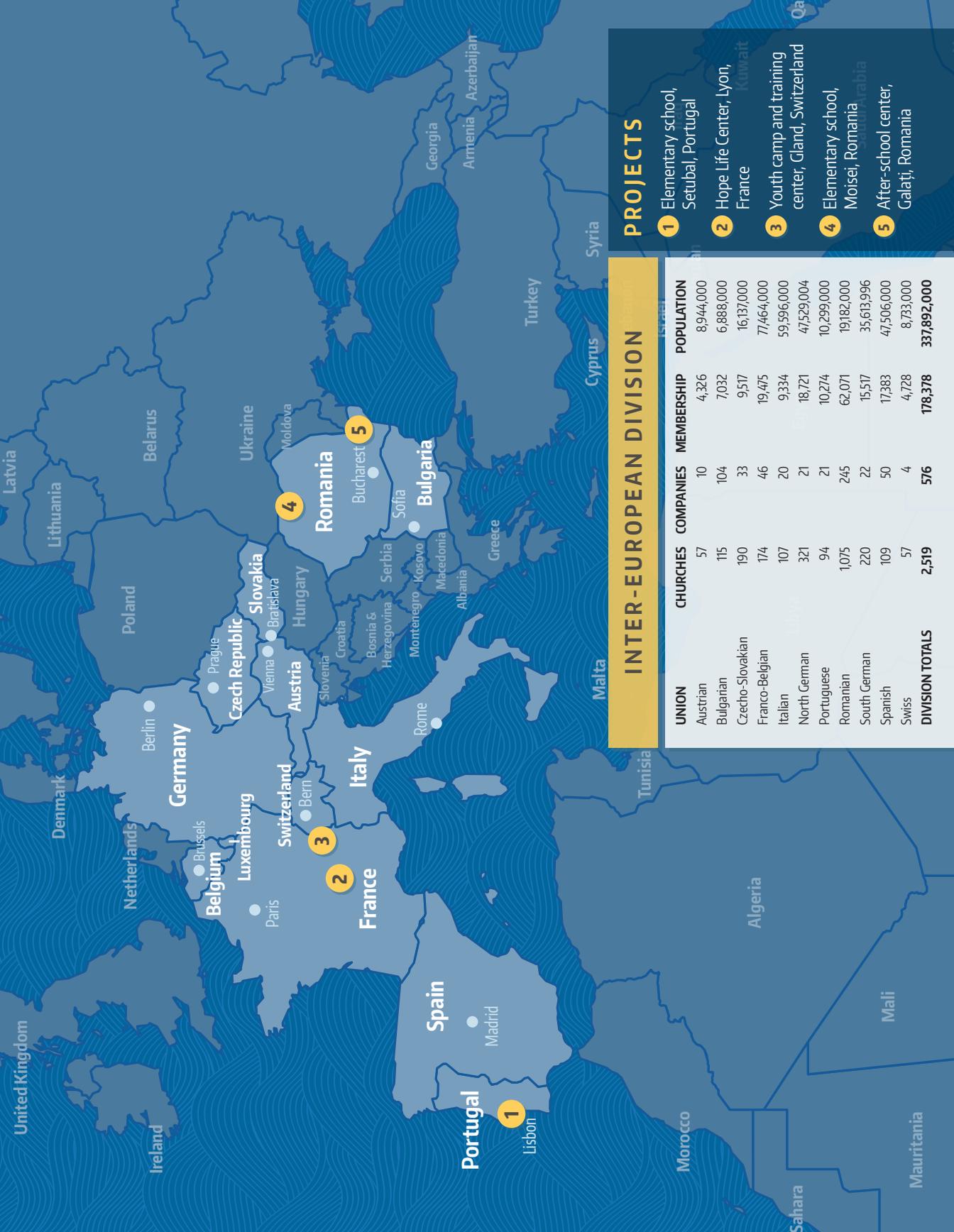
Printed in U.S.A.

Second Quarter 2023
Volume 112, Number 2

ADVENTIST® and SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® are the registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®.

Permission is granted to reproduce material from this quarterly for use in local Sabbath Schools and children's ministries programs. Permission to reproduce any portion of this material for sale, publication in another periodical, or other commercial use must be authorized in writing by filling out the online form located at: bit.ly/AMpermission.

For subscription inquiries, e-mail rebecca.hilde@pacificpress.com or call 1-800-545-2449 or 1-208-465-2527. Annual subscription rates per edition: domestic, U.S.\$7.50; international, U.S.\$14.50. North American Division churches can receive a complimentary subscription by contacting the above telephone numbers or e-mail address.



INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Austrian	57	10	4,326	8,944,000
Bulgarian	115	104	7,032	6,888,000
Czecho-Slovakian	190	33	9,517	16,137,000
Franco-Belgian	174	46	19,475	77,464,000
Italian	107	20	9,334	59,596,000
North German	321	21	18,721	47,529,004
Portuguese	94	21	10,274	10,299,000
Romanian	1,075	245	62,071	19,182,000
South German	220	22	15,517	35,613,996
Spanish	109	50	17,383	47,506,000
Swiss	57	4	4,728	8,733,000
DIVISION TOTALS	2,519	576	178,378	337,892,000

PROJECTS

- 1 Elementary school, Setubal, Portugal
- 2 Hope Life Center, Lyon, France
- 3 Youth camp and training center, Gland, Switzerland
- 4 Elementary school, Moisei, Romania
- 5 After-school center, Galați, Romania