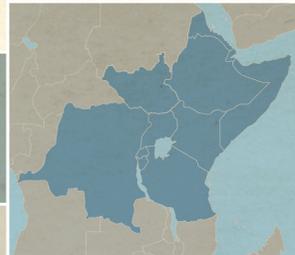




# YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

2019 • **QUARTER 4** • EAST-CENTRAL AFRICA DIVISION



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

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 = stories of special interest to teens

# Your Offerings at Work



Three years ago, part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering funded children's Sabbath School classrooms, including this one, at three churches in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. Read stories from Kinshasa on pages 26 and 28.



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This quarter we feature the East-Central Africa Division, whose territory includes 11 countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The Adventist Church is growing quickly in this region of 393 million people. Rwanda showcased Total Member Involvement evangelism by baptizing a record 110,000 people in May 2016. Other countries also have seen a surge in baptisms, and division-wide membership is nearing 4 million, or about one Adventist for every 100 people.

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath

Offering will assist seven projects in four countries.

In the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, I toured the 15-bed Kinshasa Adventist Clinic where a dedicated medical team prays and works with limited resources. Among them is Franck Mbunga Mudibu, a nurse who prayed for his wife, Nicky, to have a baby. The result wasn't what he expected, but he is filled with praise for God.

In Kenya, I met a woman, Phylis Odindo, who lost a leg after she failed to receive medical treatment at the main government hospital. She rejoiced that the loss of her leg has led to 25 baptisms. But church leaders say the leg might have been saved if proper treatment had been available. One of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects, the construction of Kisumu Adventist Hospital, hopes to provide that treatment in Phylis' hometown.

Read about Franck, Phylis, and others in this Mission magazine.

### Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help:

- Expand health services at Kinshasa Adventist Clinic, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Build three auditoriums at Philip Lemon Adventist University, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Construct classrooms at Goma Adventist University, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Open field headquarters, Wau, South Sudan
- Establish Juba Adventist Secondary School, South Sudan
- Construct Kisumu Adventist Hospital, Kenya
- Build four children's Sabbath School classrooms, Ethiopia

### Extra Materials

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive, we offer photos, videos, and other materials with every mission story. More information is provided in the sidebar with each story. For photos of tourist sites and other scenes from the featured countries, I recommend searching on a free photo bank such as pixabay.com. Contact me with suggestions and questions at [mcchesney@gc.adventist.org](mailto:mcchesney@gc.adventist.org).

Thank you for encouraging church members to be mission-minded! 🌍

# One Leg for 25 Souls

KENYA | October 5

Phylis Odindo, 45



A sharp pain shot up Phylis Odindo's right leg in 2017.

The pain grew unbearable. Phylis went to the main government hospital in Kisumu, Kenya, but no one could help. The medical staff were on strike.

With no money and few options, Phylis sought treatment at a small clinic. The doctor didn't have the medical equipment to do an X-ray. He looked at her leg and recommended that it be amputated.

Phylis, a widow with a young adult son, didn't want to lose her leg, so she returned home. But the pain didn't subside, and she returned to the clinic. The doctor amputated her leg just below the knee.

Three weeks later, Phylis fell very ill. She couldn't move.

She went to the main hospital for an X-ray, and the doctor declared that the wound on her leg had started to rot. It had

spread far above her knee. He called for a second amputation on the same leg.

Phylis was hospitalized after the surgery. Her health deteriorated so much that she lost hope. She called Anna, the Women's Ministry director at her Kenya-Re Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Anna took one look at Phylis and felt certain that she was at death's door. Anna prayed. After the prayer, Phylis felt stronger and asked Anna to keep praying for her. Anna agreed and gave her something to drink.

The next day, Anna returned to the hospital with several other women from the church. They came back the next day, and the next. The church pastor and elders also visited to offer encouragement and prayer.

On her hospital bed, Phylis prayed. "Have mercy on me, O God, because I have only one son," she prayed.

Her son, whom she had raised alone, had left the Adventist Church after her husband died 11 years earlier. He was angry with his late father's relatives for seizing his mother's house and all their possessions after the death. In parts of Kenya, the wife is held responsible for the husband's wellbeing, and she is blamed if he dies. Phylis' in-laws blamed her for her husband's death and took all her property.

The church members visited Phylis every day during the three months that she

stayed in the hospital. They helped pay her medical bills and obtain health insurance.

When she returned to her rented home, the church members continued to visit regularly and help with her daily needs.

Then something amazing happened. Eight hospital patients asked to be baptized. They were so touched by the compassion shown to Phylis by her church friends that they wanted to join her church. After that, seven married couples living in Phylis' neighborhood asked to be baptized. They also were touched by the church members' loving care. When Phylis' mother came from across the country to visit, the Women's Ministry department from the Kenya-Re church threw a surprise prayer breakfast for Phylis in her home. Phylis' mother, a staunch member of another Christian denomination, was so impressed that she announced that she wanted to become an Adventist. She and one of Phylis' sisters were later baptized.

Making Phylis' joy complete, her son was baptized and got married at the Kenya-Re church in 2018.

In all, 25 people have been baptized since Phylis lost her leg. Phylis thinks that is a wonderful exchange.

"I praise God that my son has come back to church because of the amputation," she said. "I may only have one leg, but it has brought many spiritual benefits to me and my family. It also has brought 25 people to God." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a Seventh-day Adventist hospital in Phylis' hometown, Kisumu. Thank you for planning to give a generous offering

## Story Tips

- Sing Phylis' favorite hymn "Does Jesus Care?" in the Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, No. 181.
- Read Phylis' favorite Bible passage, Psalms 23.
- Download medium-resolution photos for this story from our Facebook page: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq). Photos are uploaded on Sundays, six days before the mission story is to be presented.
- Download high-resolution photos and more from the ADAMS databank: [bit.ly/one-leg-25](http://bit.ly/one-leg-25)
- Download high-resolution photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects from ADAMS: [bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019](http://bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019)

## Mission Post

- The first Seventh-day Adventist missionary to Kenya was Canadian-born A.A. Carscallen, who arrived from Britain in 1906. Within 14 months, Carscallen reported that he had constructed basic mission buildings and had learned the Luo language, which had never before been written down. Later, he made a Luo translation of the Gospel of Matthew, which was accepted for publication in 1913 by the British and Foreign Bible Society of London.
- The Adventist University of East Africa, Baraton (UEAB) was established in 1980 and became the first private university to be chartered by the government of Kenya in 1991. UEAB has both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in business, education, health sciences, and science and technology.

to promote physical and spiritual health in Kenya.

By Andrew McChesney

# 800 Baptisms at Age 32

KENYA | October 12

Francis Ndacha, 32



Francis Ndacha has led more than 800 people to baptism in Kenya. Yet he is only 32 and not employed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

How is that possible?

Francis didn't attend church growing up in Nyeri, a city in central Kenya. His father, a sheep herder, belonged to one Christian denomination, and his mother belonged to another. He had no desire to go to either church.

As a young man, he opened a second-hand shoe business in another city, Kitale, and befriended several preachers from a non-Christian world religion. He resolved to join their religion, but he couldn't figure out how to convert.

One day, he attended a public meeting between three preachers from the world religion and five Christian preachers. The meeting — which organizers called a “dialogue” and had arranged with the

permission of local authorities — saw the speakers take turns discussing their beliefs on a city street. Francis was shocked to hear the non-Christian preachers speak about good genies and bad genies. They said genies who joined their non-Christian world religion were good, but those who didn't join were bad. Francis resolved at the moment not to convert. Even though he lacked an understanding of religious matters, he felt confident that all genies were actually fallen angels, or demons. He refused to believe in the existence of good demons.

When the dialogue ended, Francis asked the Christian preachers which church they represented.

“Seventh-day Adventist,” one replied.

Francis had never heard of Adventists.

Back at his shoe stand, he asked an elderly man selling shoes nearby about the Adventist Church.

“That's a satanic church,” the old man said. “It teaches people about beasts with horns on their heads.”

Francis decided not to become an Adventist.

Eight months passed, and Francis attended another public dialogue. He went every day for a week. The Adventist preachers incorporated Bible studies into their presentations, and Francis was convinced that they were speaking the truth. He and three others were baptized.

Francis, who was 20, immediately wanted

## Story Tips

- Watch a YouTube video of Francis: [bit.ly/Francis-Ndacha](http://bit.ly/Francis-Ndacha).
- Download medium-resolution photos for this story from our Facebook page: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq). Photos are uploaded on Sundays, six days before the mission story is to be presented.
- Download high-resolution photos and more from the ADAMS databank: [bit.ly/800-Baptisms-at-Age-32](http://bit.ly/800-Baptisms-at-Age-32)
- Download high-resolution photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects from ADAMS: [bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019](http://bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019)

## Fast Facts

- Kenya has the highest number of Quakers in the world, with about 133,000 members.

to proclaim Jesus. He bought books and DVDs to learn how to preach. After a year, he sold his shoe business and began to travel from town to town, preaching on the streets and participating in dialogues with preachers from the non-Christian world religion. When people asked for baptism, he directed them to the Adventist Church.

“As we preach, we see many miracles that Christ does through us,” Francis said. “Fifty people have asked for baptism in the past month alone.”

At one place, local non-Christian clergy begged for preachers to come from Kenya’s capital, Nairobi, to counter Francis’ preaching at a public dialogue. The preachers arrived, and Francis dialogued with them for four days. On the fifth day, the local clergy forbade their members from attending any more dialogues. Then the police asked Francis to leave town.

“We didn’t baptize anyone, but the local Seventh-day Adventist church was very appreciative of our efforts and presented us with a new public address system for our street meetings,” Francis said.

In July 2018, he participated in a dialogue in a town where many people had converted to the non-Christian world religion. As townspeople listened to Francis compare the teachings of their holy book with the Bible, many decided to return to Jesus. This angered an official, who wasn’t a Christian, and he ordered Francis’ arrest.

As Francis sat at the police station, a crowd formed outside, demanding his release. “Let him continue preaching,” the people chanted. “Now we have come to know the truth.”

After five hours, Francis was released on a bond of 10,000 shillings (U.S.\$100), and the crowd dispersed.

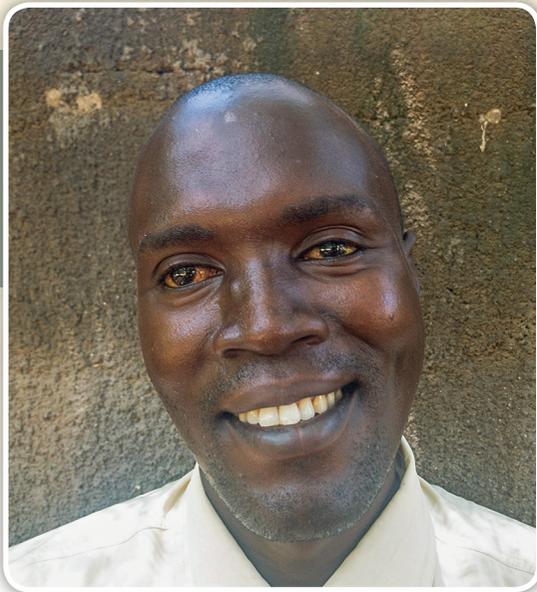
Back on the street, Francis shifted the focus of his presentations to Bible prophecy. Twenty-seven people were baptized, and a man raised in a non-Christian family is completing Bible studies in preparation for baptism. He said Francis’ troubles with the police attracted him to Christ.

“I saw how the non-Christians acted, and I saw that they weren’t sincere,” he said. “How could they use force and arrest him? They aren’t sincere.”

Francis travels nonstop with his wife, 4-year-old daughter, 3-week-old son, and several Adventist friends, who help him preach. He said no one has to be a pastor to proclaim Jesus’ soon coming.

“You don’t have to even work for the church to preach,” he said. “Everyone can share the good news that Jesus is coming soon!” 🌍

By Andrew McChesney



# Dreadlocks and Dad

Michael Kujjoo, 38

Michael Kujjoo hated his father for as long as he could remember.

Sometimes people asked, “Where is your father?”

Michael replied, “My father is dead.”

That’s how much Michael hated him.

Father divorced Mother when Michael was 9 in Uganda. For a while, Michael visited Father’s farm, but Father made him work hard. When Michael finished working every day, Father didn’t give him food to eat. The boy felt used.

One time after visiting Father, Michael told his mother, “I can’t stay with Father anymore.” He never returned to the farm. But he couldn’t forget his bitterness. Life was hard, and he blamed Father. He thought life would be easier if Father hadn’t abandoned the family.

With no money, Michael dropped out after his third year of high school and became a rapper. He moved to Kenya, where he worked nightclubs for two years and grew long dreadlocks. When an uncle invited him to South Sudan, he took his

hip-hop act to nightclubs in Juba.

One day, Michael was walking down the street, and a store owner called out to him.

“Where do you worship?” the store owner said.

Michael stopped.

“I don’t worship,” he said.

“Why not?”

“Look at me,” Michael said, pointing to his long dreadlocks. “Do you think I can go to church?”

“Yes, you can go to church,” he said.

Michael asked where the store owner worshipped and learned it was Juba Central Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“Those guys have false prayers with fake healings,” Michael said.

The store owner invited Michael to church, but he refused.

The next time that Michael passed the store, he looked the other way when the store owner called out to him. But the store owner called out again the next time he saw Michael.

“We are starting a three-week evangelistic series next Saturday,” he said. “Why don’t you come?”

At the meetings, Michael liked the simple, direct prayers to God. Then the pastor spoke about the seventh-day Sabbath and provided Bible verses to show that God had never changed

Sabbath from Saturday to Sunday.

At home, Michael read the Bible carefully and became convinced that the Sabbath is on Saturday.

On the last Sabbath of the meetings, Michael joined several other people in being baptized in the Nile River. No one said a word about his dreadlocks.

But when Michael began to attend church on Sabbath, he heard comments about his hair.

“You are baptized,” a church member said. “Don’t you want to shave off your hair?”

“Do you want to challenge me?” Michael replied. “Even Samson had his hair. This hair is not bad.”

“But people are looking at you because of your hair,” the church member said.

“I don’t care,” Michael said. “We should not judge other people.”

But Michael knew something wasn’t right. When he shared his personal testimony in various churches, he always began by saying, “Don’t be scared by my appearance. I am one of you.”

In his heart, he wanted to know whether the Adventists really accepted him or whether they were using him for their own purposes, just as his father had done years earlier. A year passed, and he realized that the church members loved him. He was home. He cut off the dreadlocks.

At the same time, he remembered his father. He read in Matthew 6:15, “But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses” (NKJV).

He prayed, “Lord, because it is Your will, let it be. Teach me how to forgive.”

It took three months to find Father’s telephone number. Michael expected Father to be angry, but he wasn’t.

## Story Tips

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- Download high-resolution photos and more from the ADAMS databank: [bit.ly/Dreadlocks-and-Dad](http://bit.ly/Dreadlocks-and-Dad)
- Download high-resolution photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects from ADAMS: [bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019](http://bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019)

“Who is this?” Father said. “Is this my son?”

“Yes, it is me,” Michael said. “It is hard for me to explain what happened.”

“Never mind,” Father said. “Don’t worry about it. I just want you back as a son. Come home when you can, and I will give you my blessing.”

Thirty years of hatred melted away in Michael’s heart.

“I thought I would hate him for the rest of my life,” said Michael, 38, who now works as a driver and does odd jobs in Juba. “But everything has changed because of the preaching that I heard in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This church is really preparing people for heaven.” 🌍

Thank you for your 2016 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that helped construct children’s Sabbath School classrooms at Juba Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, where Michael worships on Sabbaths. Part of this quarter’s offering will help construct a high school near the church.

By Andrew McChesney

# Searching in 13 Churches

SOUTH SUDAN | October 26

Mary John Ijaa, 42



Mary John Ijaa never realized that it could be so hard to find a church.

She grew up attending worship services in a major Christian denomination in what is now South Sudan. But she didn't feel happy. She didn't see any unity or love. So at the age of 16, she moved to another church.

At the new church, she noticed that people competed fiercely to be deacons and elders. They argued constantly about who was in charge. She didn't see any love, so she left after two years.

The next church seemed to be mission-minded. But then it received a large humanitarian-aid shipment of clothing, and members fought over how to divide the dresses, pants, and shirts. Mary left.

At the fourth church, Mary fell ill while sweeping the church yard. As she swept, she suddenly felt a hot flash in her leg,

and the leg swelled up. Mary went to a witchdoctor who, after hearing the story about the hot flash, declared that she had stepped onto a patch of cursed ground as she swept. Someone at the church had been angry with her and maliciously targeted her with the curse, he said.

The witchdoctor took a razor blade and made small cuts from her head to her toes. Then he doused her in hot water and rubbed her body with ground-up roots. After that, he gave her roots to drink. He provided the treatment twice a day for three years. Mary was in so much pain that she couldn't walk, only crawl.

Suddenly one day, the pain vanished, and she could walk again. The witchdoctor pronounced his treatment effective and gave Mary the bill: two live goats, a large sum for her.

Mary did not return to her church for fear of being cursed again. She chose a fifth church and faithfully attended every Sunday — until a new church opened nearby. That became her sixth church. Then came a seventh church and an eighth church.

Meanwhile, Mary gave birth to a son. As she lay in bed, sipping water from a cup, she felt a sharp pain in her throat. Her neck began to swell. The witchdoctor told her that someone had tried to kill her by slipping something into the cup.

Mary spent another year in bed, and the witchdoctor gave ground-up roots to drink every day. Finally, she recovered.

Mary kept visiting new churches, searching for love and unity. She also fell ill two more times, and witchdoctors blamed both instances on curses. The fourth time, her neck swelled, and the swelling spread over her body. The witchdoctor said someone had put something in her food, but he couldn't do anything to help. Mary went to a second witchdoctor and then a third. All agreed that someone had poisoned her food, and they used their computers to show where the poison had been ingested. But no one could offer a cure.

Mary was attending her thirteenth church at the time, and for the first time she decided to pray to God for help. In desperation, she prayed and fasted for three days. Then she went to the hospital. When the physician heard that she had been praying and fasting, he said, "That's the best thing to do. You are consulting the Chief Physician." He gave her an injection, and the swelling went away.

Mary was happy that God had answered her prayers, but she still didn't feel peace at church. Matters came to a head when she and the church's two pastors began working together, splitting boulders into small stones on a mountain near South Sudan's capital, Juba. She and the pastors had a quarrel about how to sell the stones, and Mary thought, "This church also lacks love and unity." She wondered where to turn.

At that moment, she remembered the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was the one church that she had never visited. She remembered seeing love on the faces of Adventists as they spoke.

"That's it," she told the two

## Story Tips

- Watch a YouTube video of Mary: [bit.ly/Mary-Ijaa](http://bit.ly/Mary-Ijaa).
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astonished pastors. "I'm moving to the Adventist Church."

Mary was baptized after evangelistic meetings in Juba in April 2017. Later her husband and eldest son also were baptized.

Mary no longer worries about being cursed.

"Now I'm free, and I'm happy," she said. "I'm no longer worried about being poisoned because Jesus is stronger than any curse."

Not long ago, she saw one of the pastors with whom she had split rocks.

"Why do you look so healthy and happy?" he asked.

"I have found joy and the truth," she said. "I have found true unity among the children of God." 🌍

Thank you for your 2016 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that helped construct children's Sabbath School classrooms at Juba Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, where Mary worships on Sabbath.

By Andrew McChesney

# Tough Soldier's Dream

SOUTH SUDAN | November 2

Daniel Deng Machiek, 39



**D**aniel Deng Machiek, a tall, tough soldier in South Sudan's military, didn't want to fight.

The eastern African region was embroiled in a bloody civil war, and Daniel didn't want to kill his fellow countrymen.

For three days, he fasted and prayed for peace in December 2013.

"My God, You are the true God. No other God is above You," he prayed. "I am a soldier, and people want me to fight against my countrymen. Please control the South Sudanese people."

On the third day, Daniel had a nighttime dream. Three shining angels appeared in the bedroom in Yirol, his birthplace, located eight hours by bus northwest from South Sudan's capital, Juba.

"Wake up, and sing a song with us," one angel said.

Astonished, Daniel asked, "Where did you come from?"

"Your fasting has been answered by your Creator," the angel said. "That's why we were sent to baptize you."

Still in the dream, Daniel joined the angels in singing a song of praise for Jesus' salvation. Then the angels took him to Lake Yirol just outside town. One angel dressed Daniel in a white robe and baptized him in the lake, while the other two angels watched.

Afterward, the angels gave him a Bible and directed him to a nearby church.

"You will find something interesting there," an angel said.

Then the angels disappeared. Daniel into the church. He saw people lying dead on the floor. Only a small 2-year-old boy was alive, and he asked the boy to pray with him. As they prayed, the dead church members came alive.

At that moment, Daniel woke up from the dream. For the next three years, he wondered what the dream meant.

In 2017, he met a Christian pastor who baptized him and his wife during Sunday worship services. When Daniel came up from the water, he did something that he had never done as an adult: He cried.

"Why am I crying?" he asked the pastor.

“It is the work of the Holy Spirit,” the pastor replied.

Daniel was confused and angry. The anger made him cry even more. He felt terribly embarrassed. Men don’t cry in South Sudan, and tough soldiers definitely don’t cry. Daniel cried nonstop for two days. Then his 22-year-old nephew, Abraham, came to visit. Unable to hide the tears, Daniel explained that he had been crying since the baptism.

“Uncle, why did you get baptized at that church?” Abraham said. “That is not the right church!”

Abraham gave his uncle a Bible study on the biblical seventh-day Sabbath. Immediately, Daniel was convinced that he should worship at Abraham’s Seventh-day Adventist church.

The next Sabbath, he and his wife attended the Juba Central Seventh-day Adventist Church together. Three months later, on January 20, 2018, the couple was baptized.

Daniel didn’t shed a tear as he came up from the water.

“My dream had been fulfilled!” he exclaimed to the congregation, and he shared the story about his dream.

Seeing the Daniel’s newfound joy, one of his brothers and the brother’s wife have been baptized, and his mother is preparing for baptism.

Daniel, now 39, said he is amazed with how God answers prayer. He prayed for peace for South Sudan in 2013, and Jesus answered with a dream that showed the path to real peace — giving his heart to Jesus through baptism.

“I am happy!” Daniel said. “No more tears. I have felt happy ever since I was baptized.” 🌍

## Story Tips

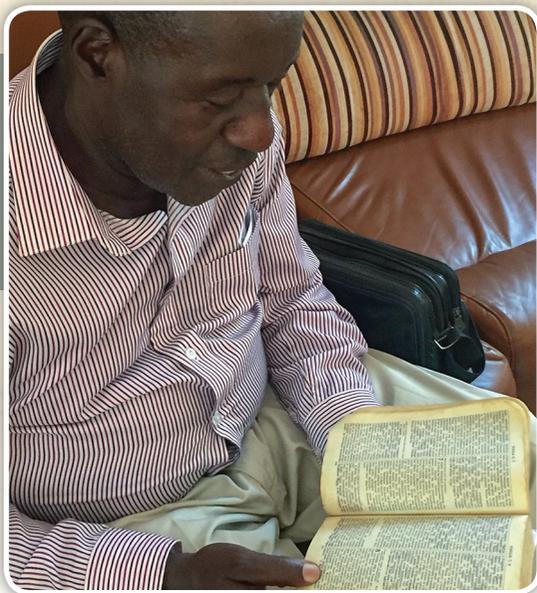
- Watch a YouTube video of Daniel: [bit.ly/Daniel-Machiek](https://bit.ly/Daniel-Machiek)
- Download medium-resolution photos for this story from our Facebook page: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq). Photos are uploaded on Sundays, six days before the mission story is to be presented.
- Download high-resolution photos and more from the ADAMS databank: [bit.ly/Tough-Soldiers-Dream](https://bit.ly/Tough-Soldiers-Dream)
- Download high-resolution photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects from ADAMS: [bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019](https://bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019)

## Mission Post

- The first converts in Sudan were Munir Andrawis and his wife. After attending Middle East College in Beirut, they returned to Sudan in 1955 and began missionary work in the capital. They distributed relief clothing and promoted Bible correspondence school work.
- The church has a medical center, the Munuki Seventh-day Adventist Clinic; a Bible correspondence school; and a radio station, Salvation Radio FM, in the city of Juba in South Sudan.
- Religions followed by the South Sudanese include traditional indigenous religions, Christianity, and Islam.

Thank you for your 2016 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that helped construct children’s Sabbath School classrooms at Juba Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, where Daniel worships on Sabbaths. Part of this quarter’s offering will help construct a high school near the church.

By Andrew McChesney



# Bus Preacher

Samuel Ndagijimana, 59

Some people read books or play cell phone games while riding the bus to work.

Samuel Ndagijimana preaches.

Samuel talks about Jesus and His soon coming as he travels to work every morning in Rwanda's capital, Kigali.

He never knew whether his words had any impact on listeners.

Until one day.

Samuel was crossing a Kigali street when a woman called out to him.

"Pastor, please stop," she said.

Samuel wasn't a pastor, but he was used to people addressing him as one because of his practice of preaching on buses. He stopped and looked quizzically at the woman.

"I don't know you," he said. "Have we met?"

"You are doing a very good job, but perhaps you don't know it," the woman said. "We met on the bus, and you preached about a problem that I had."

The woman reminded Samuel that he had preached one morning about making God first.

"You said, 'When you arrive at work,

make God first in your plans. Make God first in whatever you speak. Make God first in all that you do,'" she said.

The message convinced her to make an important decision as soon as she arrived at her workplace.

"When I arrived at work, I had a very challenging problem," she said. "I knelt in my office and prayed, 'God, the man of God who preached this morning said we have to make You first. Help me to make You first.'"

After praying, she felt stronger. She knew what she would say to her boss.

A few hours passed, and her boss showed up at work. He came straight to her desk.

"When can we go?" he asked.

"My boss, I will not sin," she replied.

"I cannot go with you for three reasons. First, I'm a married woman, and I must be faithful to my husband. Second, I am a Christian, and I won't sin against my Savior. Third, I am a leader in my church, so I must be an example to others."

The boss was shocked.

"I have approached you many times, and

you never said yes or no,” he said. “Why? You heard my proposal, but you didn’t make any decision.”

His eyes narrowed in anger.

“You will be fired for this,” he snarled and stormed out of the room.

The woman swallowed hard and prayed. She didn’t want to be fired.

“God, I glorified You at my work,” she said. “I made You first. If I get fired, please take care of my children.”

To be fired, she had to receive a dismissal letter from her boss. She thought the letter would be delivered the next day, but it wasn’t. A second day passed, and no letter. That evening, on the television news, she heard that her boss had been fired. She wept and praised God.

On the street, the woman told Samuel, “I was supposed to be fired, but I kept my job. I don’t thank God that my boss was fired. I thank God because He protects those who put Him first.”

Samuel is determined to keep preaching on buses. He also sometimes preaches on the street. But most of all, he said, he strives to preach without words. With God’s help, He allows his appearance and actions to reveal Christ to others. 🌐

Church members worldwide also preached a sermon without words when they contributed to a 2016 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering to open a medical school on the campus of Adventist University of Central Africa in Kigali. Samuel said he is grateful for the medical school, where teachers and students are helping spread the gospel around Rwanda.

By Andrew McChesney

## Story Tips

- Read how an angel put out Samuel’s tobacco fire in Children’s Mission.
- Download medium-resolution photos for this story from our Facebook page: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq). Photos are uploaded on Sundays, six days before the mission story is to be presented.
- Download high-resolution photos and more from the ADAMS databank: [bit.ly/Bus-Preacher](http://bit.ly/Bus-Preacher)
- Download high-resolution photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects from ADAMS: [bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019](http://bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019)

## Mission Post

- Adventist work in what is now Rwanda was begun by D.E. Delhove, a young worker from Belgium, shortly after World War I. At the outbreak of the war in 1914, Delhove was drafted into the Belgian army and served during the war years doing clerical work with the Belgian forces in the part of East Africa that later became Rwanda. After the war, he and his family were appointed missionaries to this unentered territory. Delhove looked for a site on which to construct a station and he was given a 125-acre (50-hectare) plot 11 miles (18 kilometers) north of the town of Nyanza, on a low ridge known as the Hill of the Skulls. Superstitious locals avoided the area because they believed it once was cursed by a Rwandan king. Here the foundations were laid for Gitwe Mission.

## Fast Facts

- Rwanda has the world’s record for the highest representation of women in parliament, with women accounting for more than 60 percent of parliament members.

# Orphan of Genocide

RWANDA | November 16

Delphine Uwinez, 25



**M**y parents died in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. I was one.

My earliest memories were of weeping over the loss of my parents in a Christian orphanage. I repeatedly asked the staff members when I could see my mother.

“You’ll see her,” they assured me.

I thought my mother had gone somewhere and waited for her return. But as time passed, I felt more hopeless.

Among the staff members were women designated as substitute mothers. Mine was a Seventh-day Adventist named Brigitte. My new mother took me to church, and I liked the change of atmosphere. Church members were kind.

But the government closed all orphanages when I was 7, and I was adopted by a family. I expected the family to brighten my life, but the opposite happened.

Initially, the family treated me with affection. They had a daughter named

Mutesi who was my age. This added to my happiness because I expected her parents to love me as they loved her. They didn’t.

In the morning, I had to clean the house and fetch water before school. The chores made me late for classes, and the teacher punished me with beatings. Sometimes the teacher ordered me to return home, but I had to wait outside the school building until classes ended to walk home with my adopted sister.

My new mother knew that she was the cause of my problems, but she didn’t do anything about it.

Soon, she began to express her hatred openly. She refused to feed me at mealtime and ordered me to stop calling her mother.

“I’m not your biological mother,” she said.

Mutesi, unlike her mother, loved me. She wept when she saw me being mistreated. She gave me her food and milk, even though her mother scolded her for sharing. Mutesi’s father also loved me.

Everything came to a head at the end of the school year when I was 13. I passed my exams, but Mutesi didn’t. When we returned home that day, Mutesi’s mother threw me out of the house. Fortunately, other families with orphans took pity on me and took me in over the next few years. The government also helped. I never finished high school.

As I grew into a young adult, life seemed increasingly hopeless. I hated

everybody, and I was convinced that everybody hated me. I wondered whether God knew me, and I hated Him. I tried to commit suicide by drinking too much alcohol but failed.

One day, I was walking in the street in the town of Nyamata when I heard a preacher's voice booming over loudspeakers. The preacher, Frederic Musoni, was conducting evangelistic meetings at a Seventh-day Adventist church.

"Do you want to be made whole?" he asked. It sounded as if he were speaking directly to me. I listened for a while. I sensed a voice saying to my heart, "Be of good comfort. I love you."

When the preacher made an appeal, the voice spoke again to my heart, and I responded. Inside the church, the preacher prayed for me, and I went home filled with joy. That night I slept peacefully for the first time in my life.

I was baptized with about 150 other people at the end of the evangelistic meetings. We were among a record-breaking 110,000 people baptized after three-week meetings at 2,027 sites across Rwanda in May 2016.

When I came out of the baptism waters, I felt peace and freedom in my heart. I began to love others, and I realized that God had never forsaken me. I love Jesus who died for me and I believe He will give me back my parents.

Today, I am 25, and I make and sell handicrafts.

If you are a parent in a comfortable home, please care for a needy child. Avoid saying angry words to a child because, even after growing up, the child will never forget what he or she heard.

If you are suffering, perhaps because you,

## Story Tips

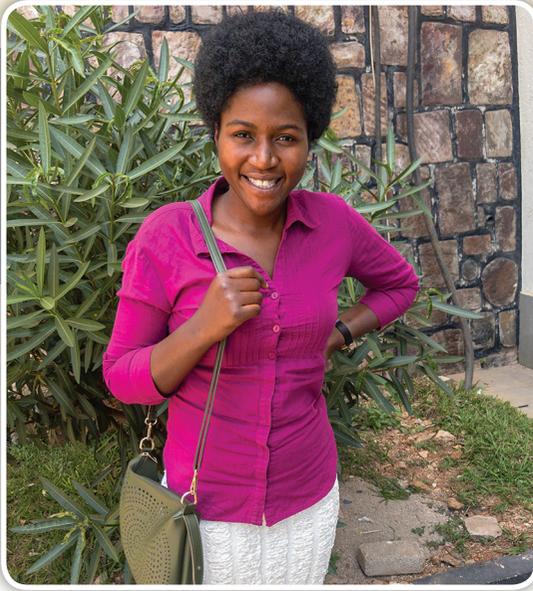
- Ask a young woman to read this first-hand account.
- Know that Delphine was further traumatized by visiting the Kigali Genocide Memorial Site as a high school student. After seeing the horrors of the genocide, she didn't speak for six months. When she started to speak again, her voice had changed permanently.
- Watch a YouTube video of Delphine: [bit.ly/Delphine-Uwinez](http://bit.ly/Delphine-Uwinez).
- Download medium-resolution photos for this story from our Facebook page: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq). Photos are uploaded on Sundays, six days before the mission story is to be presented.
- Download high-resolution photos and more from the ADAMS databank: [bit.ly/Orphan-of-Genocide](http://bit.ly/Orphan-of-Genocide)
- Download high-resolution photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects from ADAMS: [bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019](http://bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019)

## Fast Facts

- Rwanda is a rural country, with about 90 percent of the population engaged in mainly subsistence agriculture.
- Rwanda is one of only three countries in Africa where you can visit Mountain Gorillas in the wild. Gorillas are the most common apes in the central African region, which encompasses the western part of Rwanda. Gorilla tourism is a major activity that earns Rwanda millions of dollars a year.

like me, were not raised by your parents, know that peace lies only in allowing Jesus to be your all in all. Jesus is the true Parent, Comforter and peaceful rest. 🌍

By Delphine Uwinez



# Sister Act

Yvonne Mushimiyimana, 27

Yvonne Mushimiyimana eagerly signed up to sing at her high school's music concert.

She borrowed tight-fitting clothes from her friends. She chose colorful makeup to make sure that the audience noticed her on stage. Then she sang with all her heart.

Afterward, students crowded around her. "Why were you burying your talent?" asked one.

"Stop wearing long skirts," said another. "The clothing of Seventh-day Adventist girls does not match your beauty or your sweet voice."

Yvonne loved the praise, and she readily accepted requests from her new friends to stay for a dance party after the concert. Many of her Adventist classmates, however, left after the concert to attend Friday evening worship services at church.

On Sabbath morning, Yvonne went to church as usual. But church leaders learned that she and four other Adventist teens had gone to the dance party. All five students were punished. Four asked forgiveness and

promised not to break the Sabbath again, but Yvonne refused to apologize.

"I can't," she told the pastor. "I want to continue singing and dancing."

She stopped going to church on Sabbaths. She changed her clothing style and the way she walked. Everywhere she went, people stopped to look. Soon she became one of the most popular girls in school.

Her popularity soared even higher when she started to compose her own songs. Her first song became a big hit on campus, and she smiled happily when she heard students and teachers listening to it.

Yvonne's new life kept her very busy, and she began to skip classes. Still, she passed final exams with high marks. Astonished teachers asked how she had managed to get good grades without attending classes. She didn't know what to say, but she secretly thought that the reason must be that her mother was praying for her.

At the university in Rwanda's capital, Kigali, Yvonne worked hard to become a pop star. She called herself Sister Yvonne and recorded songs in professional music studios. She made music videos and performed in bars and night clubs. She further tweaked her clothing and makeup to match the flirty style of pop stars. She wore three earrings in each ear and a stud in her nose. She got tattoos.

## Story Tips

- Pronounce Yvonne as: yev-ON
- Watch a YouTube video of Yvonne: [bit.ly/Sister-Yvonne](https://bit.ly/Sister-Yvonne).
- Listen to Yvonne sing about God on YouTube: [bit.ly/Sister-Yvonne-video](https://bit.ly/Sister-Yvonne-video).
- Download medium-resolution photos for this story from our Facebook page: [bit.ly/fb-mq](https://bit.ly/fb-mq). Photos are uploaded on Sundays, six days before the mission story is to be presented.
- Download high-resolution photos and more from the ADAMS databank: [bit.ly/Sister-Act-Yvonne](https://bit.ly/Sister-Act-Yvonne)
- Download high-resolution photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects from ADAMS: [bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019](https://bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019)

## Fast Facts

- A dramatic improvement in healthcare delivery and health outcomes has seen life expectancy in Rwanda rise by ten years in the last decade.

Her parents, who stayed back at home in eastern Rwanda, were sad, and Father stopped sending money. But Yvonne didn't back down. When she realized that she didn't earn enough money from concerts to pay her bills, she tried selling women's clothing at a city market. Then she took a job as a kindergarten teacher.

The children were impressed when Yvonne showed up at the kindergarten dressed in cut-off jeans shorts and decked out in jewelry. At home, the children begged their shocked mothers for tattoos and nose studs. When the mothers learned that their children had been inspired by their new teacher, they flocked to the kindergarten to complain.

The steady stream of complaints saddened Yvonne, and she lived for the weekends when she could dance at night clubs. But the dancing didn't take away her sadness. She didn't know what to do.

One day, she was sitting at home when she heard a sermon being preached over loudspeakers at a nearby Seventh-day Adventist church. She didn't want to hear the sermon. She slammed shut her bedroom door and turned on loud music.

The next day, the preacher gave another sermon. Then he preached for a third day. The nearby Ruyenzi Seventh-day Adventist Church was conducting a three-week evangelistic series.

Finally, Yvonne gave up and listened to a sermon from her home. The preacher's words warmed her heart, and she began to attend the meetings in the church. She was baptized at the last meeting, and she dedicated her voice to God.

Today, Yvonne is 27 and a teacher. She also is a gospel singer who composes songs to glorify God, and is the single women's leader in her church.

"I thank God for keeping me safe when I went my own way," she said. "Had it not been for his protection, I could be dead by now."

She is especially grateful to her parents for raising her with biblical values. She sees truth in Proverbs 22:6, which says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

"I'm sure my mother's teachings in my childhood helped," she said. "Even though I drifted from God, my mother's words remained in my heart." 🌍

By Andrew McChesney

# Saved by Non-Christian Book

ECD | November 30

Elijah, 50



Careful study of the Bible has led many people to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church in East Africa.

Elijah, however, became an Adventist after carefully studying the holy book of his non-Christian world religion.

Elijah, who grew up in a devout non-Christian family, excelled in his studies in East Africa. He made his religion the centerpiece of his lifework and earned related degrees at universities in three Middle East countries. He rose in prominence as a national religious leader and, among his responsibilities, oversaw missionary outreach for his religion in his homeland.

But questions rose in his mind when he joined a scholarly field trip to Italy. In Rome, he saw inscriptions on houses that declared God had commanded people to rest on the Sabbath. From the Bible, he understood that the Sabbath was on

Saturday. But in Rome, he saw shops close and people go to church on Sunday.

Something else puzzled Elijah. In Italy, he visited ancient sites where people had been baptized by immersion, as Jesus was in the Jordan River. But he and other visiting scholars were told that baptisms nowadays were conducted by sprinkling water on people's heads. He couldn't find instructions to baptize this way in the Bible.

When Elijah returned home, he pored over the six chapters of his holy book that spoke about Jesus. He especially focused on the nineteenth chapter, which he now compares to Ellen White's "The Desire of Ages." In Elijah's four decades of life, no one had ever preached to him about Jesus. He only had learned that Jesus was a great prophet but otherwise a normal man. Now in his holy book, he read verses describing the deity of Jesus, His death, His power at Creation, and His earthly miracles. In chapter 3, verses 45 and 46, he read startling words that impressed him that Jesus is, in fact, God. Opening the Bible,

he compared the passage with Isaiah 9:6, which says, “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Elijah’s mind was made up. He would worship Jesus.

“My holy book explained to me the deity and Jesus as Creator, and I immediately decided to accept Jesus as Creator, Lord, and Redeemer of my life,” he said in an interview. “No one preached this to me.”

As Elijah looked for a church where he could learn more about Jesus, he remembered seeing public street discussions — called dialogues — where leaders from his non-Christian world religion compared their beliefs with those of Christian preachers, including Adventists.

“More than any other denomination, the Adventists challenged my people about Jesus’ divinity,” he said.

So, on a Saturday, he went to an Adventist church.

Within days, Elijah had to flee to another city with his wife and their young children. Relatives had learned about his interest in Christianity and threatened to kill him.

On the first Sabbath in the new city, Elijah and his wife showed up in an Adventist church just in time for the start of a two-week evangelistic series led by Alain Coralie, executive secretary of the Adventist Church’s East-Central Africa Division. At the end of the meetings, Elijah and his wife, Josephine, were baptized by immersion.

Today, Elijah is 50 and eagerly sharing Jesus’ salvation with those who haven’t heard of Him. Many people have been

## Story Tips

- Adventist Mission is only identifying Elijah by his first name and is not disclosing his whereabouts to protect his life in a place where people who leave his religion for Christianity face physical attacks and sometimes death.
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baptized through his evangelistic meetings and his work as a literature evangelist. He also serves as a church deacon.

Some people might say that Elijah’s conversion came at a high cost. But Elijah wouldn’t change a thing.

“Philippians 3:7-14 challenges us to set aside all our gains and possessions and count them as loss for Christ,” he said. “I have set aside extended family privileges. I have set aside the great religious universities where I studied. I have set aside my degrees. I have set aside prestigious positions. And I have set aside a high salary paid by the governments of the three countries where I studied. I am focusing on Jesus Christ alone.”

Addressing all those who hear his story, Elijah added, “I wish for you to repent and also to focus on Jesus that you may be saved.” 🌐

By Andrew McChesney

# Accountant Without Money

ETHIOPIA | December 7

Martha Etana Chewaka, 45



Martha Etana Chewaka had a big problem.

She made a large salary at a bank in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. But every month, her money ran out before her next salary arrived.

Martha, an accountant, planned her spending carefully. When she got paid, she first returned tithe. Then she paid rent on her small house. After that, she bought white teff flour to bake bread, olive oil, spices, and nice clothes and shoes.

But the last week of the month was stressful. She had no money, so she had to eat less and go without things. She also didn't have any money for savings.

Then Martha married a fellow accountant, and they both contributed to the monthly expenses. But again their money ran out before the month ended.

“Why isn't this money blessed?”

Martha wondered. Immediately, an idea entered her mind. “Perhaps,” she thought, “God isn't blessing the money because I'm working on His holy day.”

As she considered the matter some more, she felt as if God were saying, “Why are you working on the Sabbath? If you obey my commandments, your money will be blessed.”

Martha remembered attending Sabbath School and church with her Seventh-day Adventist parents. But she had stopped going when she accepted the bank job at the age of 21. Ethiopia has a six-day work week, and most businesses operate on Saturdays. Martha had grown up in a poor family, and she wanted the big bank salary.

Martha always gave tithe, as she had learned in Sabbath School as a child. Sometimes she stopped by the church after the bank closed on Sabbath afternoon and handed the money to the pastor. Other times, she passed an envelope with the money to a church-bound friend.

Despite her faithfulness with tithe, the money kept running out at home.

Martha asked God for help.

“Please give me another job that doesn't require me to work on Sabbath,” she prayed.

She prayed every day for a month. Nothing happened.

“Let me quit my job,” Martha told her husband. “I am disobeying God, and that

## Story Tips

- During Martha's struggle over the Sabbath, she clung to the promises of forgiveness and blessing in Psalms 103:1-3, which says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases."
- Martha has not found a new job. Instead she decided to take better care of the home and prepare meals. She also has become very active in her local church, participating in its prison ministry, prayer ministry, Bible study group, weekly youth program, home visitation of ill and elderly members, health program, and Friday evening worship services.
- Download medium-resolution photos for this story from our Facebook page: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq). Photos are uploaded on Sundays, six days before the mission story is to be presented.
- Download high-resolution photos and more from the ADAMS databank: [bit.ly/Accountant-Without-Money](http://bit.ly/Accountant-Without-Money)
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is why the money is running out. Your salary will be enough if God blesses it."

"Yes, you have to quit," he said.

He also was an Adventist and had wanted her to stop working on Sabbath for a long time.

But Martha didn't resign. Instead, she kept working and praying for a new job.

Two years passed, she couldn't work any longer. Every moment of every day, she sensed a voice saying to her, "This is the right time to quit your job. This is

the right time to quit your job. This is the right time to quit your job." It was mind-numbing. After fasting and praying for five days, she announced her resignation at the bank.

Her employers were dismayed. She was a good worker, and they didn't want to lose her. They offered her a new position where she could take off some Saturdays.

Martha wasn't even tempted. It was time to be faithful to God after disobeying Him for such a long time.

As soon as she walked out of the bank, she was filled with peace and joy. She hadn't felt this way since she began working at the bank 13 years earlier.

A month passed, and for the first time she and her husband didn't run out of money. The couple was shocked.

"From this day, I believe God because your salary is enough for both of us," Martha told her husband. "God can sustain us."

The couple has never changed their spending habits. They still enjoy bread made from white teff flour, olive oil, spices, and nice clothes and shoes. But their money never runs out.

"I don't know where the money is coming from, but my home is very blessed," Martha said. "Obeying God is better than earning money." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help build children's Sabbath School classrooms in Ethiopia so more children, like Martha when she was a young girl, can learn about the importance of the Sabbath and returning tithe. Thank you for planning a Thirteenth Sabbath gift.

By Andrew McChesney

# Nothing to Lose

ETHIOPIA | December 14

Sintayehu Kidane Berhanu, 39



The first two years of studies at Addis Ababa University flew by for Sintayehu Berhanu. But then a teacher scheduled the final statistics exam for Saturday. Without a passing grade, Sintayehu would not graduate.

The young Ethiopian had done well in the class, and he approached the teacher for help. “I believe that Saturday is the Sabbath,” he said. “I spend the whole day serving God. Can I stay in church?”

The teacher laughed scornfully.

“This is an academic institution,” she said. “We are free from religion and cannot entertain this kind of case.”

Sintayehu persisted. “I’m sorry, but this is my belief,” he said. “Would you please change the day of the exam?”

“It’s impossible,” the teacher said.

Sintayehu, the first Adventist in his family, told relatives about the situation

and asked them to pray. But instead, they pressured him to take the exam. An uncle living in Germany reminded him that he, as the oldest sibling, was responsible for six younger brothers and two sisters. Their parents had died some time earlier.

A relative in the United States saw a loophole. “Why don’t you take the exam and be baptized again afterward?” he said. “It’s like taking a shower. Sometimes they do it like that in the United States.”

Sintayehu, who had been baptized as a boy attending Akiki Mission School, dismissed the suggestion. “I believe that baptism is done one time,” he said. “You should not plan on doing it again and again. God is sitting on the throne, and He tells us to keep the Sabbath.”

Even an Adventist pastor urged him to take the exam.

“Satan is tricking you,” he said. “He is trying to cancel all the years of effort that you have put into your education.”

But Sintayehu refused to back down.

“I believe that God is in heaven, and He knows what is happening in my life,” he said. “If He knows and keeps silent, then He has something better for me. I need to wait.”

Sintayehu missed the exam, and the teacher gave him a failing grade. But Sintayehu wasn’t sad. He figured that he had nothing to lose.

The next year, he retook the statistics class. The same teacher taught the class, and she scheduled the final exam for

Saturday. Again, he missed the exam and was failed. The third time that he failed, he was expelled from the university. University rules stipulated that a student had to leave after failing three times.

Sintayehu thought it was the end of his education, but he wasn't worried. He figured that he had nothing to lose.

He found a teaching job at an Adventist preschool in Debrezeit, a town located 25 miles (40 kilometers) from Addis Ababa. A year passed. Then the university announced that it was changing its rules. The previous semester, it had been forced to expel a large number of students who had failed classes three times. So, it decided to welcome back students with a grade point average of 2.0 or higher.

Sintayehu returned to the university and took the statistics class for the fourth time. His former teacher had left the university, and he easily passed the statistics class. When he graduated, an Adventist school in Addis Ababa immediately offered him a job because of his good reputation from teaching at the preschool. Later he earned a master's degree and went on to work for Adventist World Radio. Today, he is a television producer for the Adventist Church.

One of Sintayehu's favorite activities is to meet with Adventist students on his old campus at Addis Ababa University and encourage them. Many of the students face classes on Sabbath. Sintayehu tells them to obey God and keep the Sabbath — and then they will have nothing to lose.

“My classmates thought that I lost a lot when I was expelled from the university,” he tells them. “They graduated and were hired immediately. But now I am better off. If they are fired or face other

## Story Tips

- Pronounce Sintayehu as: sin-ta-ye-WHOO
- Share that Sintayehu was baptized in the seventh grade and his first church leadership experience came from reading the weekly mission story to 1,000 fellow students in Sabbath School. Perhaps he will read his own story to a Sabbath School class in Ethiopia today!
- Share that Sintayehu claimed Romans 8:28 repeatedly during the Sabbath conflict. It reads, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” (NKJV).
- Share that his motto is: “I believe that God is sitting strong on His throne, and He knows and sees what is happening to me. When I give Him the whole responsibility, I have relief. I sit down and see what He is doing, and don't worry about it.”
- Watch a YouTube video of Sintayehu: [bit.ly/Sintayehu-Berhanu](http://bit.ly/Sintayehu-Berhanu).
- Download medium-resolution photos for this story from our Facebook page: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq). Photos are uploaded on Sundays, six days before the mission story is to be presented.
- Download high-resolution photos and more from the ADAMS databank: [bit.ly/Nothing-to-Lose-Ethiopia](http://bit.ly/Nothing-to-Lose-Ethiopia)
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hardships, they could lose everything. But I have nothing to lose. I have God, and He is everything to me.” 🌍

By Andrew McChesney

# Orphan Buys Orphanage

DRC | December 21

Patrick Kayend Omughamay, 32



**H**ave you ever been called a sorcerer? Everyone called 14-year-old Patrick Kayend Omughamay a sorcerer when his mother died.

Patrick was the oldest boy in a family of nine children in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo. His mother had supported the family, and the responsibility fell on him when she died unexpectedly.

Unable to work, Patrick went from house to house, begging for food. The neighbors, convinced that he was a sorcerer, refused to help. A year later, the authorities put Patrick in an orphanage, where he was fed and educated. But when he was 21, the orphanage closed, and he found himself back in his old neighborhood. People whispered, “The sorcerer is back.”

The next two years were the most difficult in his life. He filled plastic bags with drinking water and tried to sell them

on the street. He spent hours thinking about life under a mango tree. The future seemed hopeless.

The only bright point in life was church, which he attended faithfully every Sabbath. His mother had been an Adventist.

One Sabbath, an Adventist physician, Jack Kavale, called a meeting of the young people. He offered to help anyone who had a viable idea for a small business. Patrick said he wanted to open an Internet cafe.

Jack said that would cost too much, but he offered U.S.\$50 in seed money.

Wondering what to do, Patrick showed the money to a church elder.

“You should give tithe before anything else,” the elder said.

Patrick thought. “Is the elder against me? I don’t have enough money, and he is asking me to give tithe.”

The elder read from the Bible about giving tithe, and Patrick immediately handed over \$5. The elder prayed for Patrick and said, “God go with you.”

Now Patrick had \$45. After some thought, he bought a large umbrella, a table, and two broken cell phones that only made outgoing calls. He set up the table on the street and put a sign in front, reading, “Public telephone.” People would pay him to call on his phones.

Neighbors predicted failure.

“What kind of business is this?” they said. “It will never succeed.”

After expenses, Patrick earned only \$2.50 a day. So, he borrowed a motorcycle and began offering taxi rides at night. After some time, he saved \$300.

Then Patrick attended a meeting of businesspeople where a pastor asked for pledges to support evangelistic meetings in Kinshasa. To this day, Patrick doesn't know why he pledged \$200.

Neighbors thought he was foolish.

"How can you give \$200?" they said. "What kind of work do you do now?"

A month passed, and Patrick began to worry that he had made a mistake.

One day, as Patrick stood at his cell phone table, a stranger walked up and offered a laptop for \$120. Patrick thought that a laptop might help him expand his business, but he only had \$80. The stranger rejected the offer as too small and left. After a while, however, he returned and accepted \$80 for the laptop.

The next morning, another stranger rushed to Patrick's table. "Do you know someone with a laptop for sale?" he said. "My friend wants to buy a laptop, and he is willing to spend \$600."

Patrick and the stranger went to the friend's house. Seeing that the laptop worked, the friend asked for the price.

"\$600," Patrick said.

"I'll give you \$550," the man said.

"Sold!" Patrick said.

Leaving the house, Patrick couldn't believe what had happened. He had bought a laptop for \$80 and sold it the next day for \$550. After giving tithe, he upgraded his cell phone table to a wooden booth and began to offer money exchange services in addition to the cell phone services. His business prospered. Soon he was earning \$300 to \$400 a week. Then

## Story Tips

- Watch a YouTube video of Patrick: [bit.ly/Patrick-Omughamay](http://bit.ly/Patrick-Omughamay).
- Download medium-resolution photos for this story from our Facebook page: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq). Photos are uploaded on Sundays, six days before the mission story is to be presented.
- Download high-resolution photos and more from the ADAMS databank: [bit.ly/Orphan-Buys-Orphanage](http://bit.ly/Orphan-Buys-Orphanage)
- Download high-resolution photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects from ADAMS: [bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019](http://bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019)

## Fast Facts

- The Democratic Republic of Congo was known as Zaïre from 1971 to 1997.

revenues grew to \$2,000.

Patrick bought the orphanage where he had once lived.

Today, he and his wife are raising six orphans in the orphanage and running a grade school on its premises. Street children are invited for free meals, and he has \$50 for any widow in his church who has a viable idea for a small business.

Neighbors no longer call him a sorcerer.

"People said I was a sorcerer," Patrick said.

"But God has showed that I am His child." 🌍

Thank you for your 2016 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering that helped construct children's Sabbath School classrooms at three churches in Kinshasa, including the church that Patrick attends. Part of this quarter's offering will help Kinshasa Adventist Clinic.

By Andrew McChesney

# 'I'm Hurting'

13<sup>th</sup> SABBATH | December 28

Franck Mbunga Mudibu, 39  
Nicky Masela Mbunga, 34



Nicky Masela Mbunga frantically called her husband, Franck, at the Kinshasa Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, where he worked as a nurse.

"I'm hurting," she cried. "There is a deep pain in my belly."

Nicky was eight months pregnant after praying for four years to have a child.

Franck consulted with a clinic doctor, who advised that Nicky take medicine to ease the pain but rush to the clinic if the pain continued.

The pain returned that night. Nicky was tired and weak, and she couldn't even stand up. Franck called the doctor, who told him to rush Nicky to the clinic.

At the clinic, the doctor found that Nicky had lost a lot of blood and

needed an urgent blood transfusion. He recommended transferring her to a larger hospital with better equipment.

But Franck didn't have the money for a larger hospital. As a nurse, he knew that his wife's situation was critical. He asked the doctor to do his best.

Medical staff whisked Nicky to the clinic's sole operating room, a small area furnished with a simple operating table and a metal cart carrying basic surgical equipment.

As Franck left the room, he saw the doctor struggling to find Nicky's vein to start the blood transfer.

In the hall, doctors and nurses offered encouragement.

"Don't be afraid," said one.

"God will help us," said another.

## Thirteenth Sabbath Program

➤ Congregational Song	“Be Thou My Vision” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 547
➤ Welcome	Superintendent or Sabbath School teacher
➤ Prayer	
➤ Program	“I’m Hurting”
➤ Offering	
➤ Closing Song	“He Leadeth Me” <i>The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal</i> , No. 537
➤ Closing Prayer	

Franck saw staff members praying for his wife. A nurse urged him to keep praying.

“The operation is going well,” the nurse said. “But you need to keep praying.”

Franck believed God would intervene. He went to a private room and knelt to pray. “God, my wife is a special person in her family,” he said. “If You want to help me, please save my wife. Her parents aren’t Adventists, and they know she is being treated in an Adventist clinic. If she dies here ...” His voice trailed off.

The clinic summoned a specialist to assist in the surgery. But the specialist said by phone that it would take an hour for him to arrive. The doctor saw that Nicky couldn’t wait that long, so he decided to operate immediately. The clinic lacked equipment for the surgery, but he would do his best.

Just as the doctor started to sterilize the operating equipment, the lights went out. But the operation couldn’t wait.

The doctor sterilized the equipment the traditional way: with fire.

When he opened Nicky up, he saw blood everywhere. It was too late. The baby’s heart wasn’t beating.

His attention turned to Nicky. She was struggling to breathe, and he fought to save her life. Finally Nicky began to stabilize, and Franck was called to the room.

Nicky recovered with no complications, and the incision healed with no infection. The clinic’s director, Dr. Olive Kisile, told the couple that God had performed a miracle that night.

“God is very good to you, and you should praise Him!” she said.

She later confided, “By human understanding, Nicky should have died. This is the hand of God.”

A month after the loss of the baby, Franck and Nicky were still recovering from the trauma, but they readily shared their story as a testimony to God’s love.

“From our experience, I can say God’s hand is helping people and saving them in our clinic,” Franck said. “If my wife had gone somewhere else, she might have died. God saved her as the staff prayed.”

The story has also affected the non-Adventist relatives. Nicky’s father recently told Franck, “You Adventist people are special because you have love around you.” Now he gets all his medical care at the clinic.

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help improve and expand the clinic’s services with much-needed equipment and buildings.

“I have a special appeal for people to help our clinic,” Franck said. “It can be a powerful tool for evangelism and touch the lives of many people.”

He and Nicky, meanwhile, have put their hopes for a child into God’s hands.

“Even though we lost the baby, I praise God because I have my wife, and I know God can help us have another baby,” Franck said. 🌍

Thank you for helping to meet the physical and spiritual needs of people in the Democratic Republic of Congo and

## Story Tips

- Pronounce Franck as: FRae-NGK
- Watch a YouTube video of Franck and Nicky: [bit.ly/Franck-Mudibu](http://bit.ly/Franck-Mudibu).
- Download medium-resolution photos for this story from our Facebook page: [bit.ly/fb-mq](http://bit.ly/fb-mq). Photos are uploaded on Sundays, six days before the mission story is to be presented.
- Download high-resolution photos and more from the ADAMS databank: [bit.ly/Im-Hurting](http://bit.ly/Im-Hurting)
- Download high-resolution photos of Thirteenth Sabbath projects from ADAMS: [bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019](http://bit.ly/ECD-projects-2019)
- 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.

elsewhere in the East-Central Africa Division through your generous Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today.

By Andrew McChesney

*Offering*

## Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

Next quarter, the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help the Inter-European Division to:

- Build a church with a children’s center in Sofia, Bulgaria
- Establish an educational outreach program for vulnerable children in Prague, Czech Republic
- Renovate the main building at Marienhöhe Academy in Darmstadt, Germany
- Expand Sagunto Adventist College with a multipurpose building in Valencia, Spain

# Leader's Resources

Be sure to download your free **Mission Spotlight** video, featuring video reports from around the East-Central Africa Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at [bit.ly/missionspotlight](http://bit.ly/missionspotlight). A **printable mission bank image**, which adults and children can color, can be downloaded at [bit.ly/bank-coloring-page](http://bit.ly/bank-coloring-page).

## 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 your local library or a travel agency, or visit the websites listed below.

## Websites

Ethiopia: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovEth">bit.ly/GovEth</a>
Wikitravel	<a href="http://bit.ly/KenyaTra">bit.ly/KenyaTra</a>
Democratic Republic of Congo:	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovCongo">bit.ly/GovCongo</a>
CNN Travel	<a href="http://bit.ly/CongoTra">bit.ly/CongoTra</a>
Rwanda: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovRwa">bit.ly/GovRwa</a>
World Travel Guide	<a href="http://bit.ly/RwandaTra">bit.ly/RwandaTra</a>
Tanzania: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovTan">bit.ly/GovTan</a>
Fodors	<a href="http://bit.ly/TanzTra">bit.ly/TanzTra</a>
South Sudan: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovSSuda">bit.ly/GovSSuda</a>
Lonely Planet	<a href="http://bit.ly/SSudaTra">bit.ly/SSudaTra</a>
Kenya: government website	<a href="http://bit.ly/GovKen">bit.ly/GovKen</a>
National Geographic	<a href="http://bit.ly/KenTra">bit.ly/KenTra</a>

## Seventh-day Adventist

East-Central Africa Division	<a href="http://bit.ly/ECDSDA">bit.ly/ECDSDA</a>
East Kenya Union Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/EKUCSDA">bit.ly/EKUCSDA</a>
West Kenya Union Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/WKUCSDA">bit.ly/WKUCSDA</a>
Northern Tanzania Union Conference	<a href="http://bit.ly/NTUCSDA">bit.ly/NTUCSDA</a>
Southern Tanzania Union Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/STUMSDA">bit.ly/STUMSDA</a>
West Congo Union Mission	<a href="http://bit.ly/WCUMSDA">bit.ly/WCUMSDA</a>

An offering goal device will help focus attention on world missions and increase weekly mission giving. Determine a goal for your class's weekly mission offering. Multiply it by 14, allowing a double goal for the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

Remind your Sabbath School members that their regular weekly mission offerings will help the missionary work of the world church and that one-fourth of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the East-Central Africa Division. On the twelfth Sabbath, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage members to double or triple their normal mission giving on Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School.

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# YOUTH & ADULT MISSION

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Special thanks to the following organizers and interpreters: Roselyne Ayayo (Kenya), Angaw Getahun Habte (Ethiopia), Elie Hakizimana (Rwanda), Charles Lagu (South Sudan), Meshack Mbago (Kenya), Noah Musema (ECD), Celestin Ngudie (Democratic Republic of Congo), Adrien Vyambwera (Democratic Republic of Congo), and Onesphore Yadusoneye (Rwanda).

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

**Mission** (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2019 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.

Fourth Quarter 2019  
Volume 108, Number 4

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