



CHILDREN'S MISSION

2021 • **QUARTER 1** • EURO-ASIA DIVISION



AdventistMission.org

Contents

On the Cover: Kamila, 13, prayed to be excused from Saturday classes in Kyrgyzstan. God answered by providing an opportunity to go to an Adventist school. Story, Page 16.

UKRAINE

- 4 Believing in Saint Nicholas | Jan. 2
- 6 How Old Is God? | Jan. 9
- 8 A New Girl | Jan. 16
- 10 Missing Memory Stick | Jan. 23
- 12 Unexpected Witness | Jan. 30

KYRGYZSTAN

- 14 Surprise Gifts | Feb. 6
- 16 No School on Sabbath | Feb. 13
- 18 Praying for Vitaly | Feb. 20
- 20 Best Birthday Present | Feb. 27

RUSSIA

- 22 Faithful Pathfinder | March 6
- 24 Shining for Jesus | March 13
- 26 Artist or Doctor? | March 20
-  28 Ivan's Happiest Day | March 27
- 30 Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects
- 31 Additional Activities
- 35 Leader's Resources
- 36 Map

Your Offerings at Work



Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago helped construct this gym at South Union Adventist College in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan. Read stories from the school on pages 14-21.



©2021 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



A remarkable story is unfolding across the Euro-Asia Division, where the number of church schools has surged from 14 in 2012 to more than 50 today.

“There are many reasons why schools are opening quickly now, but one of the main reasons is it is the right time and the right place for God to fulfill His plans,” Mikhail Kaminskiy told me during his 2015-20 term as president of the Euro-Asia Division.

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will make a big difference to Adventist education by helping two schools construct buildings on the campuses of Zaoksky Adventist University in Russia and the Ukrainian Adventist Center of Higher Education, a college located near Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv. Currently the combined elementary schools and high schools borrow classroom space from the institutions of higher education.

The Adventist Church established the first Protestant seminary in the Soviet

Union when the institution now known as Zaoksky Adventist University opened outside Moscow in 1988. But compared with other parts of the world, Adventist schools got a slow start in the vast territory of the Euro-Asia Division, partly because of the seven decades of Soviet rule. Brave Adventists who surreptitiously translated church cofounder Ellen White’s writings into Russian intentionally omitted her advice to open church schools over fears of needlessly provoking the authorities. As a result, it was only after the 1991 Soviet collapse that read White’s counsel such as: “In all our churches, and wherever there is a company of believers, church schools should be established: and in these schools there should be teachers who have the true missionary spirit for the children are to be trained to become missionaries” (The Southern Review, July 18, 1899). The first elementary school was opened in 1990 at Zaoksky.

The Euro-Asia Division is home to 330.4 million people, including 107,252 Adventists in 13 countries. That’s a ratio of one Adventist for 3,080 people.

You can download the PDF version of the Children’s Mission magazine at bit.ly/childrensmision and the youth and adult Mission magazine at bit.ly/adultmision. Mission Spotlight videos are available at bit.ly/missionspotlight. A printable mission bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at bit.ly/bank-coloring-page.

Thank you for encouraging children to be mission-minded! 🌍

Opportunities

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help the Euro-Asia Division to:

- Construct three-story preschool, elementary school, and high school on the campus of Ukrainian Adventist Center of Higher Education in Bucha, Ukraine
- Construct two-story preschool, elementary school, and high school on the campus of Zaoksky Adventist University in Tula region, Russia



UKRAINE | January 2

Daniela, 14

Believing in Saint Nicholas

Daniela felt so lonely when she began first grade at the public school in Bucha, Ukraine. Of the 40 children in her class, she only knew one child, a girl with whom she sometimes played dolls. The other children were already good friends after going to preschool together.

It was hard to make friends at school. Daniela came from a Seventh-day Adventist family, and she was the only Adventist in her class. The children had been raised by their parents differently. They had a different understanding of what it meant to be friends. They celebrated different holidays.

One Monday, Daniela arrived at school to hear the children excitedly talking about the gifts that they had received over the weekend. Their families had celebrated Saint Nicholas Day on December 19, and the children had received gifts as part of the holiday.

“What did Saint Nicholas give you?” a boy asked a girl.

“He gave me a doll!” she said. “What about you?”

“He gave a sled,” the boy said.

The boy turned to Daniela. “What did Saint Nicholas give you?”

Daniela didn’t know what to say. She felt embarrassed. “Nothing,” she said. “I don’t believe in Saint Nicholas.”

“How can that be?” the boy exclaimed.

“I’m an Adventist,” Daniela said. “We don’t celebrate that holiday. We believe only in God, not in Saint Nicholas.”

The boy had never heard about such a thing. “You are strange,” he said.

Every so often, Teacher took the class on field trips to a small cathedral near the school. The first time, Daniela went along and was astonished to see the other children light candles and say prayers to Saint Nicholas and other saints. She had

never worshiped that way before, and she watched awkwardly. At home, she told her parents about what had happened. Mother asked the school to excuse Daniela from future field trips.

Things improved when another Adventist girl enrolled in the school. Olga was in the same grade as Daniela.

One day, Olga came to Daniela with a big smile. “Guess what!” she said. “An Adventist school is opening in our town, and we can go there!”

Daniela couldn’t believe her ears. “That’s so cool!” she exclaimed.

A week and a half later, on February 11, Daniela transferred to the new Adventist school. It turned out that a group of parents had felt sorry for her and other Adventist children and decided to open a school just for them in a big apartment. Forty Adventist children met in the apartment for the first school year.

Daniela liked her new school. The teachers didn’t yell at her. Everyone was kind. It was easy to make friends.

Today, the school meets on the campus of an Adventist college and has 180 children, many of whom come from non-Adventist homes. Daniela is 14 years old and the only Adventist in her ninth-grade class. But she does not feel lonely. Her teacher is Adventist, and she has Adventist friends in the other classes.

Story Tips

- Find Bucha, Ukraine, on the map. It is located just outside the capital, Kyiv.
- Ask the children whether they have ever felt uncomfortable or embarrassed about being a Christian. Ask them why. Encourage them never to be ashamed of Jesus, who said, “For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words ... of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels” (Mark 8:38).
- Watch Daniela on YouTube: bit.ly/Daniela-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

“I really like the school,” she said. “I like the Adventist teachers. It is easy when you aren’t alone in your faith.” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Daniela’s school construct its own building. Currently the school borrows classrooms from an Adventist college, and your offering will help the children meet in their own classrooms.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

Ukraine has a long Christian history. In 988, Prince Vladimir of Kiev, known as Vladimir the Great, negotiated a marriage to Anna, sister of the Byzantine emperor, Basil II, and converted to Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Subsequently he destroyed many pagan shrines and established a number of Christian churches.



UKRAINE | January 9

How Old Is God?

Nikita, 12

Father and Mother owned three nice Bibles. But they never read them.

Nikita wasn't particularly interested in God. He had heard about God, but he didn't think about Him. Until one day.

One day little Nikita began to wonder about life. He went to Mother.

"Where did people come from?" he asked. "Where did the world come from?"

"God created everything," Mother said.

"Why?" Nikita asked.

"God made us so He would be happy," Mother said.

Nikita didn't quite understand that. Why would God create people so He would be happy? Why would God create Nikita to be happy? Nikita wanted to know more. Then he remembered that the three Bibles. One was big and purple. The second was gray and not as big. The third was small green and yellow Bible.

"I'm small," Nikita thought. "That

small Bible is just the right size for me."

He opened the Bible and found a candy wrapper trapped between the pages. He took out the candy wrapper and looked underneath. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," he read in Genesis 1:1.

"Finally!" he thought. "Now I can find out why God created people."

The Creation story was fascinating, and he immediately read several chapters. When he finished, he realized that Mother had been wrong. God did not create people so He could be happy. He created people because He loves people and He wants them to enjoy the earth that He made.

Nikita went to Mother. "Guess what I read in the Bible?" he said. "God created people because He loves people, and He created the earth for them to enjoy."

"Amazing!" Mother said. "You are only 7 years old and reading the Bible."

The next morning, Nikita woke up and remembered the small Bible. He resumed

reading in Genesis. After that day, he read every morning. But he still had questions, and he wasn't finding answers right away. He asked Mother.

"How old is God?" he said.

Mother didn't know. Nikita noticed that people went to a church near his home, and he decided to ask there. The people at the church also didn't know God's age, but Nikita liked worshiping there every week.

Mother was surprised to see Nikita reading the Bible every morning, and she liked listening to him talk about what he had read. She also saw that he was going to church, and she began to go with him.

One summer, when Nikita was 10, Mother had an idea.

"Since you love reading the Bible, why don't you go to a school where they teach about God?" she said.

She sent him to the Seventh-day Adventist school in Bucha, Ukraine. At school, he learned God's age. A teacher read Revelation 4:8, which says, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" That means God has lived forever. He never was born, and He never will die.

Today, Nikita is 12, and he reads three chapters in the small Bible every day. Sometimes he reads in the morning or in

Story Tips

- Find Nikita's hometown of Bucha, Ukraine, on the map. It is located just outside the capital, Kyiv.
- Ask the children how often they read the Bible. Encourage them to read the Bible every day like Nikita. Help them find a time of the day to read regularly. Mornings are usually the best.
- Watch Nikita on YouTube: bit.ly/Nikita-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

the afternoon after school. Other times he reads at night. Reading the Bible is his favorite time of the day.

"Now I understand that God is real and near," Nikita said. "He helps me." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Nikita's school construct its own building in Bucha, Ukraine. Currently the school borrows classrooms from an Adventist college, and your offering will help the children meet in their own classrooms.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

The Orthodox Church, and later the Communist Party, were hostile to Adventism in Ukraine. Many church members and pastors were persecuted for their beliefs and spent many years in prison: some died in camps during Stalin's time. Because of this, the church was developed as an underground institution, and the establishment of the Adventist Church organization only began in 1978.



UKRAINE | January 16

A New Girl

Sofia, 11

Sofia liked to smile and laugh and talk with her friends at the public school in Vorzil, Ukraine. But then she had a big fight with her best friend, Vernika.

“Nobody needs you,” Vernika said angrily. “You will never have any friends.”

Vernika shoved Sofia, and Sofia fell against a school wall, hitting her head hard. When she got up, her head hurt terribly. But she didn’t cry. Instead she went to the teacher and asked for permission to go home early. Teacher allowed her to go.

The headache eventually went away, but Sofia’s heart ached for a long time because of Vernika’s unkind words. Sofia stopped smiling and laughing. She became very quiet. She wondered whether Vernika had told the truth when she said that she would never have any friends.

Mother saw Sofia’s sad face. That summer Mother heard that a Seventh-day Adventist school had opened in the

nearby town of Bucha. “Sofia, you have a choice,” she said. “You can go to the Adventist school, or you can go back to the public school.”

Sofia didn’t need to be asked twice. There was no way that she wanted to return to the public school.

Sofia was very shy when she started fifth grade at the Adventist school. She didn’t talk to anyone. She was scared that the children might be unkind like Vernika.

On the first day of school, a girl greeted Sofia.

“Hi,” the girl said.

“Hi,” Sofia replied.

“What’s your name?” said the girl.

“I have to go to my desk now,” Sofia said.

She didn’t say anything to anybody for the rest of the day. When it was time to go home, the boy seated next to her desk spoke to her. “Bye,” the boy said.

“Bye,” Sofia said.

And that was all.

Sofia spoke to hardly anyone for the first

Story Tips

- Find Bucha, Ukraine, on the map. It is located just outside the capital, Kyiv.
- Ask the children whether they have noticed anyone who seems to be shy and lonely. Ask what they can do to make the child feel welcome. Ask what Jesus would do.
- Watch Sofia on YouTube: bit.ly/Sofia-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

two weeks of school. No one spoke to her either. She felt lonely and sad. She didn't have any friends.

She cried quietly on her bed at home.

"Nobody needs me," she thought.

"Nobody even wants to talk to me."

A few days later, Teacher approached Sofia after school.

"What is your name?" Teacher said.

Sofia knew that Teacher already knew her name. She wasn't sure why Teacher was asking her, but she was happy that someone was talking to her.

"My name is Sofia," she said.

"How old are you?" Teacher said.

"Ten."

"Why don't you talk to anyone?"

Teacher said.

Sofia told her the story about the mean girl in her old school.

Teacher listened carefully. When Sofia finished, Teacher asked, "Would you like me to tell you about Someone who forgave people who hurt Him?"

Sofia wanted to hear the story.

Teacher told her about Jesus.

Sofia had never heard about Jesus, and she wondered how He could have forgiven the people who hurt Him. She wanted to know more, and she began to read the Bible at home. At school, she began to talk to her classmates. She became a new person — happy and friendly. She even preached a sermon at church. Her friends say she is a new girl.

"Jesus loves everyone," Sofia said.

"Jesus changed my life." 🌍

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Sofia's school construct its own building in Bucha, Ukraine. Currently the school borrows classrooms from an Adventist college. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
NATURE

Ukraine has a number of nature and game reserves, reflecting its commitment to the conservation of its natural heritage, particularly the steppes. The first of these, Askaniya-Nova, began as a private wildlife refuge in 1875; today it has a successful program of breeding endangered species, including the onager and Przewalski's horse.





UKRAINE | January 23

Yaroslava, 11

Missing Memory Stick

Yaroslava had a favorite memory stick. The memory stick was gray and blue and attached to a heart-shaped key chain. On the heart was a red ladybug with black spots and the words, “God loves you.”

Yaroslava saved music on the memory stick for singing at church. Yaroslava loved to sing, and she was often asked to sing for special music.

One summer, Yaroslava needed the memory stick to sing a song at day camp at her school. But she couldn’t remember where she had put it. She stuck her hand into her purse and felt around. Nothing. She looked around the bedroom that she shared with her little brother. Where could it be? “God, help me to find the memory stick,” she prayed out loud. “You know how much I need it.”

Yaroslava looked on the bookshelf. She saw lots of books and a small treasure chest with a tiny angel inside. She also

saw an empty cell phone case. But no memory stick. “Where else could I have put the memory stick?” she thought.

She looked over on her desk. She saw a computer and a lamp. She saw her backpack and her purse. But no memory stick.

Then she looked on the windowsill. She saw a plant in a pot, but nothing else.

Yaroslava realized that she didn’t have any more time to look. It was time to go to day camp. She went to Mother.

“I can’t find my memory stick,” she said.

Mother took Yaroslava’s cell phone and downloaded the needed song from Yaroslava’s computer. Then Yaroslava went to day camp, where she sang.

Back at home that evening, Yaroslava looked for the memory stick again. She really wanted it. It wasn’t convenient to save music on her cell phone.

“God, help me to find the memory stick,” she prayed.

She looked on the bookshelf. Nothing. On her desk. Nothing. The windowsill. Nothing. Behind her bed and in the closet. Nothing. That night she remembered the memory stick in her bedtime prayer. “Dear God, thank You for the good day today,” she prayed. “Thank You that I could spend time with friends. Please help me to have a good night. Help me to find the memory stick.”

She prayed the same prayer the next night and then the next. But the memory stick was nowhere to be found. A year passed, and Yaroslava kept praying.

She didn’t want to spend money on a new memory stick. She was sure that God would help her to find it. “If God cares for the sparrows, He will care for me to find the memory stick,” she thought.

One day, Yaroslava was rearranging the books on her bookshelf when she saw something gray and blue wedged between two books. It was attached to a heart-shaped keychain with a red ladybug and the words, “God loves you.”

Yaroslava grabbed the memory stick and ran to Mother. “Mother, I found the memory stick!” she exclaimed.

She returned to her bedroom with a big smile. “Thank You, God, for helping me find the memory stick,” she prayed.

Story Tips

- Find Bucha, Ukraine, on the map. It is located just outside the capital, Kyiv.
- Ask the children whether God has answered their prayers and to share examples. Ask how long they would be willing to pray. Encourage them to be like Yaroslava and never give up praying. Remind them that Jesus says we “always ought to pray and not lose heart” (Luke 18:1).
- Watch Yaroslava on YouTube: bit.ly/Yaroslava-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

Yaroslava prays to God all the time, and she talks to Him about everything.

“God is my best Friend,” she said. “God always hears our prayers, and He always answers sooner or later.” 🌍

This quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help construct a building for Yaroslava’s school in Ukraine.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
UKRAINE

The national dish of Ukraine, and the one most familiar to foreigners, is borsch, a soup made primarily from beets, as well as other vegetables such as cabbage, potatoes, tomatoes, carrots, and onions, and often flavored with garlic and dill weed. There are about 30 different kinds of Ukrainian borscht.



BigStockPhoto.com



UKRAINE | January 30

Sofia, 13

Unexpected Witness

Sofia didn't know anyone when she started sixth grade at the Seventh-day Adventist school in Bucha, Ukraine. The school was growing and had never had a sixth-grade class before, so none of the eight children knew one another.

The sixth-grade class only had two girls, Sofia and Tanya, and they quickly became friends. Sofia came from an Adventist family, and she went to church every Sabbath. Tanya's family was not Christian, and Tanya didn't go to church.

Sofia told Tanya about God and going to church. Tanya listened and asked questions.

"Why do you go to church on Saturday instead of Sunday?" she asked.

"Because the Bible says Saturday is a holy day," Sofia said.

Another time Tanya asked, "Why do you wear longer skirts?"

"Because I go to church, and the Bible

teaches us to be modest," Sofia said.

The school year passed quickly.

One day, the sixth graders were discussing bad language while eating in the school cafeteria.

A boy looked up from his plate of mashed potatoes and turned to Sofia.

"I've never heard you use bad language," he said. "Have you ever said a bad word?"

"No, never," Sofia said, firmly.

The boy looked at Tanya.

"I've never heard you use bad language either," he said. "Have you ever said a bad word?"

Tanya looked embarrassed.

"I used to use bad language all the time," Tanya said.

Then she looked at Sofia. "I stopped because of Sofia," she said.

At the beginning of the school year, she heard several sixth-grade boys swearing.

The boys, who did not come from

Story Tips

- Find Bucha, Ukraine, on the map. It is located just outside the capital, Kyiv.
- Ask the children how they are silent witnesses for Jesus just like Sofia. Explain to the children that they are witnesses no matter what they do. Whether they do good things or bad things, they have an influence on others.
- Watch Sofia on YouTube: bit.ly/Sofia2-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

Adventist homes, had sworn softly so the teacher couldn't hear. But Sofia had overheard them and asked, kindly, "Boys, please don't talk that way."

At that moment Tanya realized that Sofia did not like to hear bad language.

"I learned that Sofia was a Christian and didn't use bad language," Tanya told the boys at the cafeteria table. "I decided not to use bad language anymore."

Sofia was astonished as she listened to Tanya's story. She remembered that she was a witness for God whether she knew it or not. She had unexpectedly witnessed to

Tanya about how to be a Christian.

Later that day at home, Sofia told her mother about what had happened.

"Mother, today I learned that Tanya stopped using bad language in order not to upset me," Sofia said.

Mother was so happy.

"That is wonderful!" she said. "Your life is a witness for God."

Kneeling beside her bed before going to sleep that evening, Sofia thanked God for helping her to be a witness without even knowing it.

"Help me to continue to be a witness to Tanya so she can know more about you," she prayed.

Sofia prays that she can be a witness for God every day.

"For me that was a wonderful experience with Tanya," she said. "I was amazed that I was allowed to play such a big role in her life. I am a witness to my classmates whether I know it or not." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Sofia's school construct its own building in Bucha, Ukraine. Currently the school borrows classrooms from an Adventist college, and your offering will help the children meet in their own classrooms. Thank you for planning a big offering.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

The Adventist message was preached in the area for the first time on the Black Sea coast in southern Ukraine and the Caucasus by German missionaries, Perka and Kandad. After a baptism in 1886, the first Seventh-day Adventist church with 17 members was established in the village of Berdibulat.



KYRGYZSTAN | February 6

Surprise Gifts

Jared, 13, and Samuel, 11

One day 13-year-old Jared read about a boy named Wilford in “Uncle Arthur’s Bedtime Stories.” Wilford liked to surprise people with gifts. He wrapped up gifts, tied them to a rope, and lowered them over people’s walls. Then he fled.

Jared thought it would be fun to do the same thing in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan, where he lived with his parents and 11-year-old brother, Sam. He asked Mother for permission to put gifts in old tissue boxes.

“What kind of gifts?” Mother asked.

“Some toys and whatever else I can find,” Jared said.

Mother liked the idea. Jared and Sam had cars and Legos that they had brought along when their family moved from Argentina to serve as gospel workers in Kyrgyzstan. Many neighborhood boys were poor and didn’t have toys.

Jared told a school friend, Kamil, about the plan. “Let’s put some toys in boxes and

throw them over walls,” he said.

Kamil smiled widely. He thought it was a grand idea, and he wanted to help, even though he didn’t have any toys to give away.

The boys took two tissue boxes and filled them with Legos, toy cars, scarves, and bars of soap. Getting onto their bicycles, they rode to Kamil’s neighborhood and chose two houses at random. Jared hurled one box over a fence, and Kamil threw the other one over another fence. Quickly, the boys pedaled away. At Jared’s house, they laughed as they imagined the surprise of the children who had received the gifts.

Jared’s brother, Sam, overheard the excited conversation. “Can I join you next time?” he asked.

A few days later, the three boys got together to prepare more gifts. They invited another boy from school, Kozimbek, to join them. The boys filled

two shoeboxes, two empty tissue boxes, and two plastic bags with a variety of toys, scarves, and soap. Loading the boxes on their bicycles, they set off in search of unsuspecting homes. After a few minutes, Jared saw a house surrounded by a fence. The yard was filled with trees. “Sam,” he said, “throw your bag into the yard.”

Sam tossed the bag over the fence, and it landed in the tree’s lower branches.

“Quick, do something!” Sam squealed.

Kamil was the tallest, so he leaped over the fence. Reaching up into the branches, he grabbed the bag and dropped it on the grass. “Let’s go before anyone sees us!” he shouted.

The boys raced away on their bicycles.

After throwing four more gifts over fences, the boys were left with one last box. Jared spotted a house with a large metal gate. “Quick, push the gift under the gate,” he told Kozimbek.

As soon as Kozimbek pushed the box under the gate, someone yelled, “Why are you throwing garbage into my yard?”

As the boys rode away, they heard the voice suddenly exclaim from behind the gate, “This isn’t garbage. It’s a gift!”

During family worship that evening, Jared and Sam excitedly told Father and Mother about what had happened. Father

Story Tips

- Find Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan, on the map.
- Ask the children what nice surprises they can do for other people. Remind them that when they do kind deeds for others, they are doing them for Jesus. Remind them that Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).
- Watch Jared and Sam on YouTube: bit.ly/Jared-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

was pleased. He prayed for the people who had received the gifts.

Jared and Sam are still throwing surprise boxes over people’s fences. No one knows that they are responsible, and that’s the way they want it. 🌍

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago helped construct a gymnasium at Jared and Sam’s school in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan. Thank you for supporting Adventist education.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
NATURE

Kyrgyzstan’s largest ethnic group (73.3%) are the Kyrgyz. Historically nomadic, the Kyrgyz moved with their herds of sheep, horses, and yaks, living in portable round tents called yurts. Many Kyrgyz herders are still semi-nomadic and take their herds into the mountains during the summer.





KYRGYZSTAN | February 13

Kamila, 13

No School on Sabbath

Kamila had a big problem when she started eighth grade in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan. Up until then, classes had only been from Monday to Friday. But the public school required that all eighth graders study six days a week — from Monday to Saturday.

Kamila and her mother went to the pastor to ask for help. Mother, who was deaf and mute, used her hands to explain the situation through sign language to Kamila. Then Kamila spoke to the pastor.

“Let’s pray about it,” the pastor said.

He wrote a letter to Kamila’s school, asking that she be excused on Saturdays.

Kamila and Mother took the letter to the eighth-grade teacher. But the teacher said she could not give permission.

“We have to ask the principal,” she said.

Kamila, Mother, and the teacher went to the principal’s office. “Excuse me,” Kamila told the principal. “My mother wants to talk to you.”

Mother handed the pastor’s letter to the principal. “What is this?” the principal asked without looking at it.

Mother gestured in sign language. Kamila interpreted Mother’s words to the principal.

“That letter says that we go to church on Saturdays,” Kamila said. “We are Seventh-day Adventists, and we don’t work or study on Saturdays. Can you please excuse Kamila from classes on Saturday?”

The principal had never heard of Adventists. “Other Christians go to church on Sunday, and your daughter also can go to church on Sunday,” she said. “Then she can study on Saturday.”

Mother explained that Adventists are not like other Christians and do not work or study on Saturday.

The principal shook her head. “I don’t care,” she said. “We are not a Christian country. Many of our students go to school on Friday when they should rest according to their beliefs. We cannot excuse you.”

Story Tips

- Find Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan, on the map.
- Ask the children if they have had a Sabbath conflict. Ask how they resolved it. Encourage the children to keep the Sabbath holy.
- Watch Kamila on YouTube: bit.ly/Kamila-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

Kamila didn't go to school the next Sabbath. Instead, she went to church with Mother. At church, Mother saw the principal of the Seventh-day Adventist boarding school in Tokmok, located about two hours away by car.

After the worship service, Mother explained the school situation to the principal and asked whether Kamila could go to the Adventist school.

"Let's pray about it," the principal said.

The principal prayed for Kamila. She asked God to find someone to help pay for Kamila to study at the Adventist school. Mother didn't earn enough money

to pay for the tuition.

"I'll tell you next Sabbath whether I've found someone," the principal said.

All week Kamila prayed for God to find someone to help.

"Dear God, please bless me with someone who can help pay for school, and bless him for his help," she prayed.

The next Sabbath, the principal greeted Kamila before church. She had a big smile on her face. "God has blessed you!" she said. "We have found someone."

"Thank you so much!" Kamila squealed with joy.

The next day, Kamila moved into the dormitory at the Adventist school. In addition to studying, she also is working, cleaning the school floors, to help pay the tuition.

"I am so thankful to God," she said. "Now I can keep the Sabbath." 🌍

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago helped construct a gymnasium at Kamila's school in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan. Thank you for supporting Adventist education in Kyrgyzstan and elsewhere in the Euro-Asia Division.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
NATURE

Horse riding is still important in Kyrgyz culture, and many of the traditional games and national sports in Kyrgyzstan reflect this. Horse racing is, of course, very popular, particularly long-distance races.



BigStockPhoto.com



KYRGYZSTAN | February 20

Vitaly, 13

Praying for Vitaly

Three years ago, we read a mission story about a boy named Vitaly in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan.

Vitaly loved to go to church every Sabbath. It didn't matter whether it rained or snowed, he waited outside his home for the Sabbath School teacher to pick him up in her car. He liked church so much that he invited his brother to go with him. He liked church so much that he memorized a Bible verse every week to give to God as a gift on Sabbath.

Vitaly started going to church after being invited by his teacher at the Seventh-day Adventist school. He lives with his grandmother and grandfather, who gave him permission to go to church. He looked forward to Sabbath every week.

But then something happened. Vitaly's mother called Grandmother and said she didn't want her son going to church anymore. You see, Vitaly is quiet, gentle,

and kind. Mother didn't like that. She wanted him to be loud, tough, and mean. She thought all boys should be loud, tough, and mean, and she worried that the church was keeping Vitaly from being a real boy. Mother told Grandmother that she wanted Vitaly to come live with her.

When Vitaly came home from school, Grandmother was waiting to have an important talk with him.

"You need to try to live with your mother for one month," she said. "If you like living with her, you should stay with her."

Vitaly didn't want to leave Grandmother. He had lived with her since he was a small boy.

When Mother saw that Vitaly didn't want to move, and she tried to convince him. "Come live with me for only one day," she said. "That's not too long."

Vitaly was quiet, gentle, and kind. He didn't want to hurt Mother's feelings, so

he agreed. The next morning, Mother changed her mind and said Vitaly should stay a month. Vitaly agreed. He wanted to see what it was like living with her.

Mother didn't want Vitaly to go to the Adventist school anymore. She wanted her son to be loud, tough, and mean, so she sent him to public school.

Vitaly didn't like the new school at all. His class was big, with 40 children, many more than the 15 children in his class at the Adventist school. Also, the boys were always fighting in class. They were loud, tough, and mean. He begged Mother to send him back to the Adventist school.

"But think of all the money that you would be spending on the Adventist school," Mother said. "It would be better to use the money to swim at a water park."

Vitaly liked water parks, but he liked the Adventist school even more. "I would rather study at the Adventist school than go to a water park," he said.

After a week, Mother agreed to send Vitaly back to the Adventist school. "But I will not pay for it," she said. "Grandmother has to pay."

Vitaly was happy to be back among kind friends at the Adventist school, and they were happy to see him. The children and teachers had prayed that he would return. People at church had prayed that he would return. God had answered their prayers.

But things weren't the same. Vitaly still could not go to church. He missed living with Grandmother, whom he visited every day. After three weeks, he told Mother that he wanted to move back to Grandmother's house. He promised to visit her often. But Mother had another idea. "Why don't you live with me and go visit Grandmother?" Mother asked.

Story Tips

- Find Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan, on the map.
- Organize a special prayer time during which each of the children can pray for Vitaly. Encourage the children to remember Vitaly, and other children who are forbidden from going to church, in their personal prayers.
- Read the previous mission story about Vitaly: bit.ly/Vitaly-Part1
- Watch Vitaly on YouTube: bit.ly/Vitaly-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

Vitaly pleaded with Mother for five months. Finally, she agreed that he could live with Grandmother — but only if he agreed not to go church.

Vitaly has been back with Grandmother for five months, but he still cannot go to church on Sabbath. He misses worshiping God at church. Friends and teachers at school are praying that Mother will allow him to return to church. Will you join them and pray that Vitaly can worship God again on Sabbaths? 🌐

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago helped construct a gymnasium at Vitaly's school in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan. Thank you for supporting Adventist education in Kyrgyzstan and elsewhere in the Euro-Asia Division.

By Andrew McChesney



KYRGYZSTAN | February 27

Nastya Two, 14

Best Birthday Present

Nastya became best friends with another girl named Nastya at the Seventh-day Adventist school in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan. Let's call the girls "Nastya One" and "Nastya Two."

Nastya One and Nastya Two liked to paint and draw with colored pencils. Nastya One and Nastya Two liked to sing. Nastya One and Nastya Two liked to read. But Nastya One liked to do one thing that Nastya Two didn't do — go to church every Sabbath.

One day, Nastya One told Nastya Two that she was a Seventh-day Adventist and invited her to go to church together the next Sabbath. "Why should I go to church?" Nastya Two thought.

She didn't believe in God. She was certain that God didn't exist. After all, a loving God wouldn't have allowed her mother to die, leaving her to live with her grandparents.

Turning to Nastya One, who was waiting for answer to her invitation to attend church, Nastya Two asked for time to think. "Let's discuss it later," she said.

Nastya Two thought about the church for several days. She wanted to make Nastya One happy. She also wanted to see what people did at church. She asked Grandmother for permission to go. Grandmother was furious.

"That church isn't ours!" Grandmother shouted. "Why do you want to be like them? This conversation is over."

Two days later, Nastya One asked Nastya Two whether she had made up her mind about going to church.

"I asked Grandmother, and she said that I can't go," Nastya Two said.

"Ask her if you can come to a youth meeting on Friday night," Nastya One said. "I'd be very happy if you came."

Nastya Two waited a week for

Story Tips

- Find Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan, on the map.
- Ask the children why they think Nastya believes in God. (He answered her prayers.) Ask the children why they believe in God.
- Watch Nastya on YouTube: bit.ly/Nastya-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

Grandmother to calm down. Then she asked whether she could go to the youth meeting. Grandmother listened carefully to the request. When she learned that Nastya One would be at the meeting, she agreed. She liked Nastya One.

The next day, Nastya One and Nastya Two went to the meeting at an Adventist pastor's home. The pastor and his wife led nine teens in singing, and they read about Solomon in the Bible. Nastya Two enjoyed the meeting, and the people were kind and friendly. She decided to go again. She attended the meetings nearly every Friday for two months. She wanted to go to church, too.

One Friday morning, the day before her

birthday, she decided to ask Grandmother for permission to go to church. But she was afraid that Grandmother would be angry. She prayed, "God please help me to know about You. I want to know more about You." Then she went to Grandmother. "Tomorrow is my birthday," she said. "As a present, could I go at least one time to church?"

Grandmother was not pleased, but she agreed to allow her to go. "It's your life," she said. "Do whatever you want."

Nastya Two loved the church. She especially liked Sabbath School. It was the best birthday present ever.

"It was one of the happiest days of my life," she said. "I was able to learn more about God."

Today Nastya doesn't go to church every week because Grandmother sometimes doesn't allow her. But she goes as often as she can.

"Now I believe in God," she said. 🌍

Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago helped construct a gymnasium at Nastya's school in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan. Thank you for supporting Adventist education in Kyrgyzstan and elsewhere in the Euro-Asia Division.

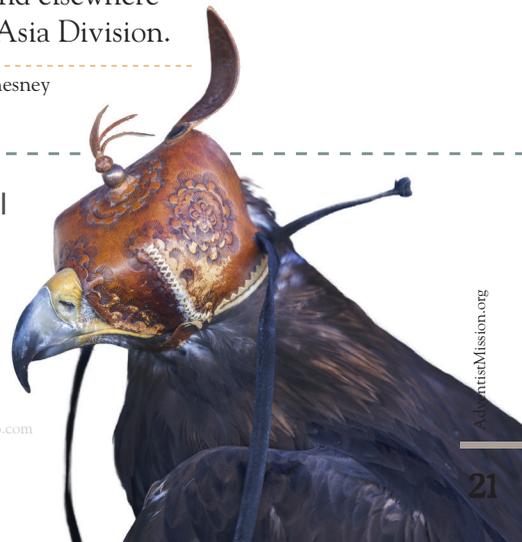
By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING
NATURE

Falconry is a traditional pastime in Central Asia, particularly hunting with eagles. The Kyrgyz name for the golden eagle is *bürküt* and the handler is a *bürkütchü*.

BigStockPhoto.com





RUSSIA | March 6

Nastya, 14

Faithful Pathfinder

Nastya wanted to go on campouts and other outings in nature. She looked for an outdoors adventure club that she could join in her hometown of Vladivostok, Russia. But she couldn't find a club.

Then her mother learned about Pathfinders. A group of Pathfinders organized a holiday party at the special-needs school where Mother worked, and she was impressed.

"I think this club is exactly what you have been looking for," Mother told Nastya. "Call them."

But Nastya was busy with school. Six months passed, and the Pathfinders returned to the school to hand out pizzas to the children. Mother told them about Nastya, and they invited Nastya to come to their club, the only one in the city.

Nastya enjoyed the Pathfinder meeting and happily accepted an invitation to go

to a Pathfinder summer camp. Finally she would be able to go on a campout!

On the last day of the camp, a Sabbath, a woman was baptized in a river. Nastya was moved by the sight, and a desire swelled up in her to be baptized as well.

"When can I get baptized?" she murmured, speaking to no one in particular as she watched the baptism.

Her camp counselor was standing nearby and overheard.

"Which city are you from?" she asked.

"I'm from Vladivostok," Nastya said.

The camp counselor told Nastya that she needed to speak to the Adventist pastor from Vladivostok, and pointed to him. He was the man who had just baptized the woman.

"When can I get baptized?" Nastya asked the pastor.

"Which city are you from?" he asked.

"I'm from Vladivostok," Nastya said.

Story Tips

- Find Vladivostok, Russia, on the map. It is west of Japan and north of North Korea.
- Nastya loves Pathfinders, and she is grateful that God used the Pathfinder club in Vladivostok to lead her to Him. She has this advice for other children: “If your church doesn’t have a Pathfinder club, start one. Organize outings in nature. And, most important, tell everyone, including children who don’t go to your church, about what you are doing and invite them to participate. You never know where a seed might grow.”
- Talk to the children about the importance of giving their hearts to Jesus through baptism.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

“You’re from Vladivostok?” he exclaimed with surprise.

There was only one Adventist church in Vladivostok, and he had never seen Nastya in church. He couldn’t understand how this 13-year-old girl who had never attended church wanted to be baptized.

Nastya explained how she had ended

up at summer camp and now wanted to be baptized.

“You need to attend baptismal classes,” the pastor said. “It also would be nice if you attended church.”

After summer camp, Nastya had only one goal: to be baptized. She went to church every Sabbath. At 6 p.m. every Sabbath, she went to the Pathfinder club. Many Sabbaths she ate lunch at the pastor’s home. She became especially good friends with his elder daughter, Anna, who was two years older. One Sabbath, Anna surprised her with a new Bible, and Nastya studied on her own.

After six months, Nastya started baptismal classes, and she finished them in two months. She was ready to be baptized. Nastya was baptized at the same summer camp where she had first wanted to be baptized.

“I found answers to all my questions in the Bible, and I am thankful to God,” she said. 🌍

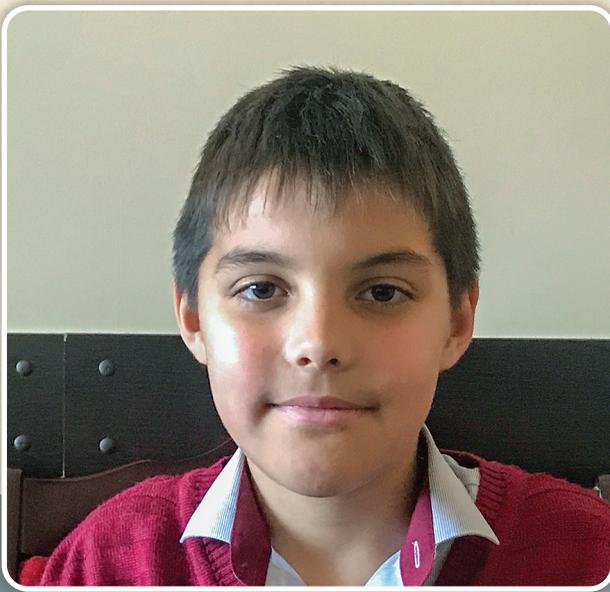
Part of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering three years ago help construct a new building for Nastya’s church in Vladivostok. Thank you for supporting the Adventist church in Vladivostok with your mission offering and prayers.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION
RECORD

Adventism in Russia began as a lay missionary movement by German colonists who had emigrated from Russia to the United States in the 1870s. After being converted to Seventh-day Adventism, they began to send Adventist publications in the German language to their friends and family in Russia.



RUSSIA | March 13

Ilyas, 9

Shining for Jesus

Ilyas was sitting with his 16-year-old brother on one side of the church at Zaoksky Adventist University in Russia. Mother and Father were sitting on the other side.

Ilyas sometimes sat with Mother and Father, but today he was sitting with his brother, Isaak. Isaak, who was sitting with his own friends, had invited the boy to sit with them.

Sometimes Isaak allowed Ilyas to play car racing games on his cell phone during the sermon. But Ilyas knew it was wrong to play games in church. Today he didn't even want to play games. He wanted to listen to the sermon. The preacher was interesting. He was telling stories from the Bible and stories from his own life.

As Ilyas listened, the morning sun shone through the church windows, casting a warm glow on the preacher. The

preacher began to shine. A bright white light seemed to circle his hands, body, and head. He shone whiter than laundered white clothing.

Ilyas blinked. "How is that possible?" he thought. "He looks like an angel."

The preacher seemed to be shining as brightly as the sun itself. Ilyas squinted his eyes. The light seemed to make his eyes feel dry. He blinked rapidly several times to wet his eyes. He looked at the preacher. He was still shining.

Ilyas looked over at Isaak. His brother was listening to the sermon. Ilyas wondered whether Isaak also could see that the preacher was shining. But he didn't want to ask him. He was afraid that Isaak might make fun of him.

The preacher shone until the end of the sermon. Ilyas decided not to tell anyone about what he had seen. It

would be a special moment between him and God.

A few days later, Ilyas remembered the preacher when he read Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14, 16).

Ilyas realized that he also could shine. Jesus said people who do good things shine for Him.

"I can shine, too," Ilyas said. "I can study hard and get good grades. I can help Mother make supper, go to the store to buy groceries, I can help Father by mowing the lawn. There are many things that I can do to help others and shine for God. I want to shine for God." 🌍

Part of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Ilyas' Seventh-day Adventist school construct its own

Story Tips

- Find Zaoksky, Russia, on the map. It is south of Moscow.
- Ask the children how they can shine for Jesus.
- Watch Ilyas on YouTube: bit.ly/Ilyas-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

building on the campus of Zaoksky Adventist University. Currently, Zaoksky Christian School borrows classrooms from the university, and your offering will help the children meet in their own classrooms. Thank you for planning a generous offering.

By Andrew McChesney

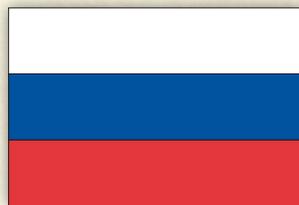


The matryoshka is the Russian nesting doll, a set of wooden figures which can be pulled apart to reveal a similar but smaller figure inside, with usually six or more in total. The shape of the doll is usually smoothly cylindrical with all the decoration being painted on, often elaborately.

The most common theme is peasant girls in traditional dress, but it can be almost anything, including political figures and fairy tales.



BigStockPhoto.com



RUSSIA | March 20

Yuliana, 16

Artist or Doctor?

Yuliana wondered for a long time what she wanted to be when she grew up.

“You are good at helping people,” Mother said. “You should become a doctor.”

Grandmother also thought Yuliana was good at helping people.

“You should become a nurse,” she said.

Yuliana didn’t like the advice.

“I don’t want to be a doctor or a nurse!” she said. “I like to draw, and I think I’d rather be an artist.”

One summer afternoon, Yuliana was walking home, and she saw three 10-year-old boys swimming in a pond on the campus of Zaoksky Adventist University in Russia. Immediately she worried about the boys’ safety. The water was brown and filthy. Moreover, people sometimes threw garbage into the pond.

“Hey, boys!” she called out. “That water is really dirty. It isn’t a good idea to swim there.”

“I know!” one of the boys, Daniil, shouted back as he clamored up onto a small pier to jump into the pond again. “My mother told me not to swim here.”

He jumped off the pier and plunged into the water. A moment later, he surfaced — shrieking. Panic gripped Yuliana. She wondered what was wrong. She saw fear in the boy’s eyes and understood that something serious had happened.

“I’m hurt!” Daniel cried, tears streaming down his cheeks.

“What happened?” Yuliana said. “Why are you crying?”

Daniel raised a leg from the muddy water, revealing a large gash on his foot.

Yuliana was scared and began to tremble. “God, give me strength to help him,” she prayed silently. It was the first time in her life that she had seen such a wound.

It also was the first time that Daniil’s two friends had seen such a wound. They

were scared and ran away. Daniil also had never seen such a wound before, and it was on his foot. He was frightened.

“What will Mother say?” he cried.

“Don’t worry about that,” Yuliana reassured him. “Everything will be OK.”

Yuliana saw that the filthy pond water and worried that the wound might get infected. “Quick, get out of the water!” she said. “It would be very bad if something bad gets into your wound.”

Yuliana helped Daniil out of the water and told him to sit down on the ground. But what could she do? She wasn’t a doctor or a nurse.

“God, send someone to help us,” she prayed. “Help me not to faint.”

She looked around for help. No one was in sight.

“Help! Help!” she cried.

Two adults appeared.

“We need a first aid kit!” Yuliana said.

The adults ran off and returned a few minutes later with a first aid kit. One adult placed a bandage on Daniil’s foot.

Then Yuliana saw a church member driving past and stopped his car. He took Daniil to the hospital.

Later Yuliana learned that Daniil had landed on a broken bottle when he had jumped from the pier.

Story Tips

- Find Zaoksky, Russia, on the map. It is south of Moscow.
- Watch Yuliana on YouTube: bit.ly/Yuliana-ESD.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

Yuliana no longer wonders what she wants to be when she grows up. She doesn’t want to be an artist who draws pictures. She wants to be a doctor or a nurse who helps others.

“I like to help people,” she said. 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Yuliana’s Seventh-day Adventist school, Zaoksky Christian School, construct its own building on the campus of Zaoksky Adventist University. Currently the school borrows classrooms from the university, and your offering will help the children meet in their own classrooms. Thank you for planning a big offering.

By Andrew McChesney

In the “purgings” of the early 1930s many Adventist ministers and church members in Russia were arrested and exiled, often without any actual charges being made against them. The remaining ministers were denied full civil rights and were not allotted food rations, and their children were not allowed into schools. In addition, the ministers had to pay a special “professional tax” that often exceeded their income, forcing them to leave the work.



13th SABBATH | March 27

Ivan, 12

Ivan's Happiest Day

Ivan was excited because he didn't have to study at school for a whole day. Instead, he was going play at a concert.

In the morning, Ivan brought his guitar to Zaosky Christian School in Russia. He met five other boys who also had brought guitars, and Teacher prayed with the boys in the classroom.

"Dear God, please protect us as we travel to the concert," she prayed. "Please bless us as we play at the concert, and give us a safe trip back here in the evening."

The boys grabbed their guitars and followed Teacher for a 10-minute walk to the train station. When the train arrived, they got onboard and rode for about 30 minutes. The train arrived at their destination, and they got out and walked 10 minutes. The guitars were big and heavy. But the boys had tucked the guitars safely in their cases, and it wasn't too difficult to carry them.

At a big concert hall, the boys waited while other children played music on violins, guitars, and other musical instruments. Many people crowded into the concert hall to listen to children from various schools playing for the musical festival.

Hours passed. Teacher grew worried. She and the boys had to return to the train station by 5 p.m. to catch their train. If they were late, they would have to wait two whole hours for the next train at 7 p.m. No one wanted to wait two hours and arrive so late back at school.

Finally, the time came for Ivan and his friends to play. They picked up the guitars and played a lively tune. The big crowd of children and adults clapped loudly when the boys finished.

The boys didn't pause to listen to the applause. They quickly put their guitars back in the cases and followed Teacher

out onto the street. It was nearly 5 p.m. Even though they were in a hurry, Teacher stopped them on the sidewalk. “We are in a rush, but let’s pray,” she said. “Let’s ask God to help us catch the train.”

The boys stopped and closed their eyes. Teacher prayed. “Dear God, thank you for blessing our concert,” she said. “Now please help us reach the train station on time. We don’t want to miss the train.”

The boys walked as fast as they could. Ivan wondered whether they would make it on time. The walk seemed to take forever, but finally they saw the train station ahead. It was exactly 5 p.m.

The small group rushed to the platform. No train was in sight. They waited, thinking that the train might be late, but no train came. Ivan noticed a train time schedule overhead and read it. No train was scheduled for 5 p.m. Instead a train was scheduled for 5:10 p.m.

“Teacher,” Ivan said, “why is a train scheduled for 5:10 p.m.?”

Teacher looked up. Surprise filled her face. “I made a mistake!” she exclaimed. “There is no train at 5 p.m. That is our train at 5:10 p.m.”

Ivan’s heart filled with joy and gratitude to God. He prayed silently, “Thank You, God, for helping us to get to the train station before the train.”

A few minutes later, the train arrived.

Ivan will never forget that day. “That was the day that God made us happy,” he said. “He helped us get to the train station on time.” 🌍

Part of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Ivan’s Seventh-day Adventist school construct its own building on the campus of

Story Tips

- Find Zaoksky, Russia, on the map. It is south of Moscow.
- Download photos on Facebook (bit.ly/fb-mq).
- Download ESD Mission Posts and Fast Facts at: bit.ly/2021-ESD.

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 March 27. 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 go directly to help two projects in the Euro-Asia 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, playing the roles of Ivan, his classmates, and Teacher.
- Before or after the story, use a map to show Russia and Ukraine, which will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Briefly describe how each place will benefit from the offering.

Zaoksky Adventist University. Currently the school borrows classrooms from the university, and your offering will help the children meet in their own classrooms. Thank you for your generous offering today for our two mission projects — Zaoksky Christian School in Russia and the Adventist school in Bucha, Ukraine.

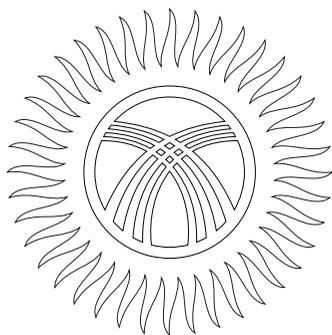
By Andrew McChesney

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

The Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help the Inter-American Division to open 13 Better Living “centers of influence,” one at each of the following:

- Antillean Adventist University (Puerto Rican Union), Puerto Rico
- Colombia Adventist University (North Colombian Union), Colombia
- Cuba Adventist Theological Seminary (Cuban Union), Cuba
- Dominican Adventist University (Dominican Union), Dominican Republic
- Haitian Adventist University Academy (Haitian Union), Haiti
- Linda Vista University (Southeast Mexican Union), Mexico
- Navojoa University (North Mexican Union), Mexico
- Montemorelos University (North Mexican Union), Mexico
- Northern Caribbean University (Jamaica Union), Jamaica
- Central America Adventist University (South Central American Union), Costa Rica
- University of the Southern Caribbean (Caribbean Union), Trinidad
- Adventist University Institute of Venezuela (West Venezuela Union), Venezuela
- Belize Adventist Junior College (Belize Union), Belize

Color The Flag



KYRGYZSTAN

DIRECTIONS:

Color the flag red. Color the sun yellow with a red circle inside the rays. The diagonal lines inside the sun are colored alternately red and yellow, with four yellow squares in the middle.

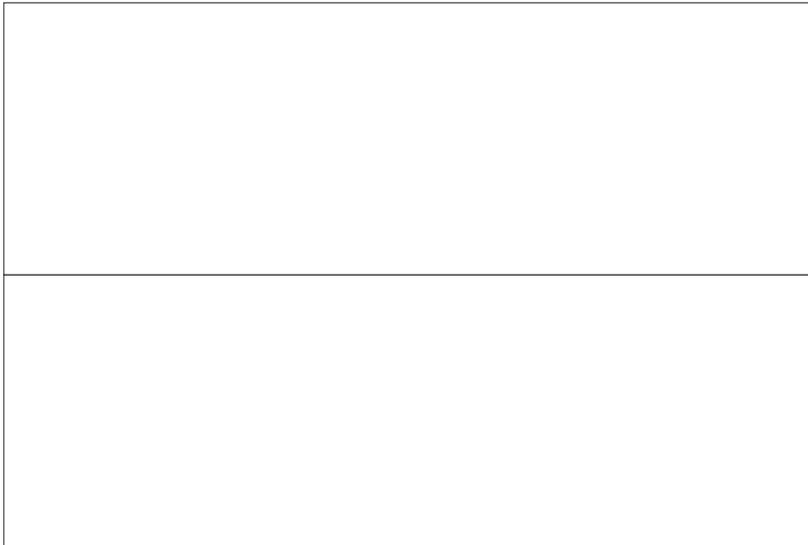
Color The Flag



RUSSIA

DIRECTIONS:

Leave the top third white; color the middle third blue; color the bottom third red.



UKRAINE

DIRECTIONS:

Color the top half blue and the bottom half yellow.

Play the Game

COSSACKS & ROBBERS

(RUSSIA)

The children divide themselves into two teams. One group is Cossacks, and the other group is Robbers. The Cossacks have a “camp,” and one Cossack stays behind to keep watch. The Robbers run away and hide, and the Cossacks try to find them. When a Robber is caught, they are kept prisoner back at the Cossacks’ camp. The game ends when all Robbers are caught.

ENGLISH

Let’s Play
Run!
Let’s run
Your turn
Close your eyes
Catch!
Ball

RUSSIAN

давай играть
беги!
Побежали!
твоя очередь
закрой глаза
лови!
мячик

PRONUCIATION

davay igrat
begi
pobezhali
tvoya ochered
zakroy glaza
lavi
myachik

Sing a Song

The Song of the Volga Boatmen

(RUSSIAN)

RUSSIAN

Эх ты, Волга, мать-река,
Широка и глубока,
Ай-да, да ай-да,
Ай-да, да ай-да,
Волга, Волга, мать-река

PRONUCIATION

Ekh, ty, Volga, mat’-reka,
Shiroka i gluboka,
Ai-da, da ai-da,
Ai-da, da ai-da,
Volga, Volga, mat’-reka

ENGLISH

Oh, you, Volga, mother river,
Mighty stream so deep and wide.
Ay-da, da, ay-da!
Ay-da, da, ay-da!
Volga, Volga, mother river.

Эй, ухнем!
Эй, ухнем!
Ещё разик,
ещё да раз!
Эй, ухнем!
Эй, ухнем!

Ey, ukhnyem!
Ey, ukhnyem!
Yeshcho razik,
yeshcho da raz!
Ey, ukhnyem!
Ey, ukhnyem!

Yo, heave ho!
Yo, heave ho!
Once more, once again,
still once more
Yo, heave ho!
Yo, heave ho!

Tune: bit.ly/Volga-Boatmen. Source: bit.ly/Wiki-Boatmen

Let's Cook!

KYRGYZ GINGERBREAD (KYRGYZSTAN)

INGREDIENTS

1/3 cup (70 g) shortening	1 tsp (5ml) ground cloves
1/2 cup (66g) sugar	1 tsp (5ml) ground ginger
1 egg	1/2 tsp (2.5ml) cinnamon
2 1/2 cups (300g) flour	1 cup (240ml) molasses
2 tsp (10ml) baking soda	1 cup (240ml) hot water
1 tsp (5ml) salt	

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 375°F (190°C). Butter and flour a 9x9 inch (23x23 cm) cake pan. Mix flour, baking soda and spices together and set aside. Mix molasses and hot water and set aside. Cream shortening and sugar. Add egg and mix well. Alternately add dry ingredients and molasses mixture to creamed mixture. The batter will be thin. Pour into cake pan and bake for 45 minutes or more until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool in pan for 5 minutes before turning out.

Serve with whipped cream flavored with pure vanilla and sweetened with sugar.

Adapted from recipe at bit.ly/KyrgyzGB



BigStockPhoto.com

MORE MISSION!



You could read the mission story about how Jared and Sam place their toys in surprise boxes for children in Kyrgyzstan. Or you could meet them through photos and a video!

Visit the Facebook page of Mission Quarterlies to download extra materials to make the children and adult mission stories come alive every week.



@missionquarterlies



Leader's Resources

Be sure to download your free Mission Spotlight video, featuring video reports from around the Euro-Asia Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at bit.ly/missionspotlight. A printable mission bank image, which the children can color, can be downloaded at 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:

Websites

Kyrgyzstan: government website	it.ly/KyrgGovt
World Fact Book	bit.ly/WFBKyrg
Silk Road Explore	bit.ly/SRKYrg
Russia: government website	bit.ly/RusGovt
Encyclopaedia Britannica	bit.ly/BritRus
Lonely Planet	bit.ly/LonPlanRus
Ukraine: government website	bit.ly/UkrGovt
World Travel Guide	bit.ly/WTGUkraine
National Geographic	bit.ly/NatGeoUkraine

Seventh-day Adventist

Euro-Asia Division	bit.ly/Euro-Asia
Caucasus Union Mission	bit.ly/SDACAUM
Far Eastern Union of Churches Mission	bit.ly/SDAFEUCM
Ukrainian Union Conference	bit.ly/UkrUnionConf
West Russian Union Conference	bit.ly/SDAWRUC

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-quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the Euro-Asia 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.

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
Homer Trecartin Global Mission Centers Director
Jeff Scoggins Program Director

COMMUNICATION

Andrew McChesney Editor, Mission
Laurie Falvo Projects Manager
Kayla Ewert Projects Manager
Ricky Oliveras Video Producer
Earley Simon Video Producer
Donna Rodill Editorial Assistant

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).

Web site: 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.

First Quarter 2021
Volume 110, Number 1

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 local Sabbath School and children's ministries programs. Permission to reproduce any portion of the material for sale, publication in another periodical, or other commercial use must be authorized by the editor at the above address.

For subscription inquiries, e-mail Rebecca Hilde at 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.

Russian Federation

EURO-ASIA DIVISION

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Belarus Union of Churches Conference	66	28	3,837	9,467,000
Caucasus Union Mission	135	67	7,601	30,761,081
East Russian Union Mission	82	39	5,064	22,707,619
Far Eastern Union of Churches Mission	51	17	2,162	6,154,807
Moldova Union of Churches Conference	140	98	8,658	3,543,000
Southern Union Mission	70	45	4,050	111,642,000
Trans-Caucasus Union of Churches Mission	27	15	1,180	6,995,000
Ukrainian Union Conference	810	267	45,208	42,037,000
West Russian Union Conference	378	296	27,744	95,218,493
Crimea Mission	26	6	1,748	1,912,000
DIVISION TOTALS	1,785	878	107,252	330,402,000

PROJECTS

- Construct three-story preschool, elementary school, and high school on the campus of Ukrainian Adventist Center of Higher Education in Bucha, Ukraine
- Construct two-story preschool, elementary school, and high school on the campus of Zaoksky Adventist University in Tula region, Russia

