

2025 • QUARTER 3 • SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION








youth & adult **mission**

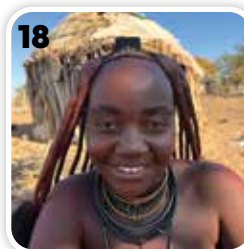
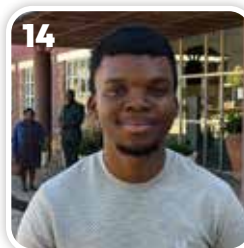
**Miracle
Hospital**

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 = stories of special interest to teens

Dear Sabbath School Leader,

Andrew McChesney
Editor



This quarter we feature the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division, which oversees the Seventh-day Adventist Church's work in Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and seven Indian Ocean island-nations, including Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte, Reunion, Rodrigues, and

Seychelles. The region is home to 231 million people, including 4.1 million Adventists. That's a ratio of one Adventist for 56 people.

Four of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects are in Zambia and include two hospitals, a new school, and a mission boat. A fifth project is a center of influence in South Africa. Two children's projects aim to help children across the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division by distributing Adventurer's Bibles to needy families and producing a series of short films about the fruit of the Spirit. See the sidebar for more information.

Opportunities

This quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will support seven projects in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division:

- New secondary school, northern Zambia
- Staff housing, Yuka Adventist Hospital, Kalabo, Zambia
- Mission boat, Lake Bangweulu, Zambia
- Kitchen and laundry, Chitanda Lumamba Adventist Hospital, Chibombo, Zambia
- Health and wellness center of influence, Umhlanga, South Africa
- Children's projects: Animated stories based on the fruit of the Spirit, and distribution of Adventurer's Bibles, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Special Features

If you want to make your Sabbath School class come alive this quarter, we offer photos, videos, and other materials to accompany each mission story. More information is provided in the sidebar with each story.

You also can download a PDF of facts and activities from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division at bit.ly/sid-2025. Follow us at facebook.com/missionquarterlies. Download the PDF version of the youth and adult *Mission* quarterly at bit.ly/adultmission and the *Children's Mission* quarterly at bit.ly/childrensmission. *Mission Spotlight* videos are available at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

Thank you for encouraging others to be mission-minded!

Finding True Happiness



ZIMBABWE | July 5

Denroy

Denroy was 10 years old when he drank for the first time. He was at home in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. His uncle was celebrating his 35th birthday, and one of his uncle's friends offered Denroy a sip of vodka.

The boy thought, "I've never tried this. There must be a reason why people drink. Why not try?"

He imagined that he felt a bit tipsy afterward, and he wondered what would happen if he drank more. He imagined that people probably became happier when they drank. He wanted to be happy. So, he decided to find out what would happen if he drank more.

A few days later, Denroy asked a 10-year-old friend named Privilege for help.

"Doesn't your dad store beer in your fridge?" he asked Privilege. "Would he notice if you took some?"

Privilege's dad didn't notice, and the two boys began stealing beer and drinking

together. Denroy imagined that he felt happier every time that they drank. That summer, he began to drink heavily. During the school year, he and Privilege drank only once a week, but during summer vacation they drank nearly every day.

Denroy hid his drinking from his parents. When he was drunk, he stayed at Privilege's home and only returned home when he was sober. He spent many nights at Privilege's house. He imagined that he was very happy.

That same summer, Denroy's parents decided to send their son to a Seventh-day Adventist school. One of Denroy's older cousins went to the school, and his parents thought it would be a good place for him to study once the school year started.

Denroy didn't like the school at all. Teachers and children prayed before classes and meals. He had never prayed. Teachers and children prayed at morning worships and Bible class. He couldn't understand why everyone seemed to pray all the time. Even worse, he felt like he had lost his freedom. At public school, he and the other children had been allowed to come and go as they wished. But now the teachers watched all of the students closely to make sure that they were in class. Denroy wasn't happy. He wanted to drink.

Days turned into weeks, and weeks stretched into months, and Denroy kept hearing about Jesus at school. He hadn't known anything about Jesus when he had arrived, and he was amazed that the



teachers and other children viewed Jesus as their best friend.

He wondered, “Who is Jesus? How can I go to heaven to live with Him?”

More months passed. At morning worship, Denroy heard teachers and children praising Jesus. He heard them talking about how Jesus filled their lives with joy. In the Bible, he read Jesus’ words, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. ... I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 10:10; 14:6, NKJV).

Denroy realized that Jesus, not drinking, offered the true way to happiness.

His life changed completely. He quit drinking. He stopped being friends with Privilege. Instead of hanging out with old friends after school, he avoided temptations by going straight home to do his homework and to help around the house.

At school, a love for the teachers grew inside his heart. He saw that the teachers made sure that he and the other children were in class because they loved them and wanted them to learn.

Happiness filled his heart and spilled over into his life. He gave his heart to Jesus and was baptized.

Today, Denroy is 16 and enjoying his new life in Jesus.

“I wanted to find happiness through drinking,” he said. “But at the school, I began to think that true happiness might only be through Christ.”

Asked if he was truly happy, he smiled slightly.

“I’m getting there,” he said. 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help children in Denroy’s country of Zimbabwe learn about Jesus. Part of the offering will be used to give needy children their own Adventurer’s Bibles. The offering will also be used to make a series of short videos about the fruit of the Spirit. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

Story Tips

- Show Zimbabwe on the map. Then show Bulawayo, where Denroy lives.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Denroy at: bit.ly/Denroy-SID.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: bit.ly/sid-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives”; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, “To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Mission Post

- The earliest missionaries to Solusi Mission helped support themselves by trading and farming. Many died of malaria.
- In 1896, the work of Solusi Mission was interrupted by local warfare, which resulted in starvation among the local people, who flocked to the mission in search of food. Missionaries began the Solusi Mission School with 30 orphans.
- Zimbabwe has one Seventh-day Adventist university, Solusi University, and eleven secondary schools.
- There are 12 Adventist clinics in Zimbabwe, as well as a dental clinic in the suburbs of Harare, the country’s capital, and another in the suburbs of Bulawayo, the second-largest city in Zimbabwe.

By Andrew McChesney



Furious Father

ZIMBABWE | July 12

Tanya

Dad was furious when he found Tanya's baptismal certificate in her bedroom in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Tanya's Bible was lying on the dresser, and the certificate was under it. Father came to her bedroom to get some hand lotion, and his eyes happened to fall on the Bible. When he picked it up, he saw the baptismal certificate underneath.

"I'm going to beat you!" Father roared.

Picking up the baptismal certificate, he tore it into tiny pieces.

Tanya, who was 17, watched in horror. Then tears began to flow down her cheeks.

"I won't go to church anymore," she cried.

Mom came running to the room.

"Let her go to church," she said. "It doesn't matter."

Dad still wanted to beat Tanya.

But he didn't.

Instead, he stalked out of the house and didn't return for two days.

When Dad did come back, he didn't say anything about what had happened.

Tanya couldn't understand what was going on. She had expected him to reprimand her again or maybe try to beat her.

Tanya had been sneaking out to church on

Sabbath for the past year. Her grandmother, who had raised her, was a Seventh-day Adventist. But her grandmother had died a year ago, and Tanya had moved in with her parents.

Dad didn't like Adventists. Mom had been raised Adventist but had stopped going to church because of Dad. When Tanya returned home, Dad told her that she could go to any church except the Adventist Church. He didn't say why.

But Tanya loved the Adventist Church. She loved the seventh-day Sabbath. She couldn't imagine not worshiping God in church on Sabbath.

Many weekends, Dad was out of town because he was a professional rugby player. So, when Dad was away, Tanya went to church on the Sabbaths. But when Dad was at home, she stayed at home. Mom knew that she was going to church but didn't go with her or tell Dad about it.

Tanya got baptized while Dad was out of town playing rugby.

Then Dad found and destroyed the baptismal certificate.

Dad didn't say anything about finding the baptismal certificate under Tanya's Bible for three months.



But he made an effort to be at home on Sabbaths and to prevent Tanya from going to church. On Sabbath mornings, he said, “Let’s hope that you aren’t going to church today.” Then he gave her errands to run so that she was busy all morning.

Tanya prayed for those three months. “God,” she said, “make it possible for me to go to church.”

Then one Sabbath morning, Tanya woke up and prayed again, “God, make it possible for me to go to church.”

As she finished the prayer, Mom came into the bedroom and said, “Go tell your dad that you are going to church today and see how he reacts.”

Tanya was surprised but agreed to try.

Going to Dad, she said, “I’m going to church today.”

He didn’t get angry. He didn’t send her on an errand. Instead, he simply said, “OK.”

Now Tanya really was surprised! She hadn’t expected that from him. She went to church.

Tanya was so happy to be back in church! She thanked God for answering her prayers.

A year has passed since Tanya returned to church. Dad knows that she is going every Sabbath and doesn’t mind.

Now Tanya has a new prayer request. She is praying for Dad and Mom to go to church with her. She is praying, “God, please help my parents.”

Just as God answered her first prayer to go to church on Sabbath, she is sure that God will answer her second prayer for the salvation of her parents. 🌍

Tanya is fortunate to have her own Bible where she can learn about God, but many children in Zimbabwe live in families that cannot afford to buy Bibles for them. One of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath projects will provide Adventurer’s Bibles to needy families in Zimbabwe and other countries in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

Story Tips

- Show Zimbabwe on the map. Then show Bulawayo, where Tanya lives.
- Know that Tanya is a pseudonym. Adventist Mission is not publishing her name or photo to protect her and her family’s privacy.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: bit.ly/sid-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives”; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, “To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Fast Facts

- In the Early Middle Ages, the Bantu people built the city-state of Great Zimbabwe, which was the center of a trading empire for 400 years.
- It is thought that about 20,000 inhabitants lived in the city of Great Zimbabwe.
- Zimbabwe has the largest platinum and diamond reserves in the world. In 2014, the Marange diamond field produced about 12 million carats (5,291 pounds, or 2,400 kg) of diamonds, worth more than \$350 million.
- Zimbabwe suffers with regular droughts. In 2019, about 55 elephants died because of drought.

A Wise Decision



ZIMBABWE | July 19

Genius

Genius says he made an unwise decision when he was 14. That was when he smoked for the first time in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Genius hadn't planned to smoke.

At the time, his aunt was preparing to get married in several months, and she asked him to participate in a traditional dance at the wedding. She hired five male dancers to perform at the wedding, and she asked him to dance with them. She asked the five dancers to give dance lessons to the boy.

Genius enjoyed rehearsing with the dancers in the backyard of his aunt's house. The young men taught him how to dance. Then one of them offered him a cigarette.

Genius looked at the half-smoked cigarette. He didn't want to take it. But he was afraid that the dancers would laugh at him if he refused. No one was watching.

Genius took the cigarette.

He choked and coughed as dry, bitter smoke filled his throat and lungs.

Over the next two months of rehearsals, the dancers taught Genius how to smoke without choking and coughing. First, they taught him to smoke tobacco. Then they taught him to smoke marijuana, which is illegal in Zimbabwe.

Genius began to buy tobacco and marijuana with the allowance that he received from his parents. It was just enough money to join the dancers in smoking at their weekly rehearsals.

After a while, Genius stopped buying tobacco and only bought marijuana.

After the wedding, Genius didn't see the dancers again, but he kept smoking marijuana. He joined neighborhood boys in the secret activity.

Genius wasn't from a Seventh-day Adventist family, but he had studied at a Seventh-day Adventist school for the past year. One day, he decided to smoke marijuana at school. He and a friend who had smoked together at home snuck behind the school toilets. When they finished smoking, they returned to their classroom.

The smell of marijuana smoke must have clung to Genius because, almost immediately, he was summoned to a teacher's office. "Who were you smoking with?" the teacher asked.

Genius was scared. He told his friend's name.



The teacher gave both boys a warning. "If you do this again, you're going to be expelled from school," he said.

The friend smoked again later and was expelled.

But Genius promised the teacher on the spot that he would never smoke again — not at school and not outside of school.

Genius' Mom was very disappointed when she found out that he had been smoking. When she learned about the dancers, she forbade him from seeing them again. Genius hadn't seen them for some time anyway, so it was easy for him to promise not to hang out with them.

But it proved harder to stop smoking marijuana. Genius hadn't been smoking every day, but he still had a desire to smoke.

As he struggled to quit, he remembered that he had learned in school that he could pray to God about anything.

He asked God to forgive him for smoking, and he asked for help to stop.

At that moment, his desire to smoke marijuana disappeared. The habit was broken.

Genius was amazed. He wanted to know more about God, and he began to read the Bible.

Then Genius made what he calls the wisest decision of his life. A year after he stopped smoking, he gave his heart to Jesus and was baptized.

Today, nothing is more important to the 16-year-old boy than beginning the day with the Bible and prayer.

"Spend time with God," he said. 🌍

Genius is fortunate to have his own Bible, but many children in Zimbabwe live in families that cannot afford to buy Bibles for them. One of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects will provide Adventurer's Bibles to needy families in Zimbabwe and other countries in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

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Fast Facts

- Traditional arts in Zimbabwe include pottery, basketry, textiles, jewelry, and carving. Shona sculpture has a long cultural history and is mostly figures of stylized birds and human figures made with sedimentary rock such as soapstone.
- Zimbabwe is believed by some to be the location of Ophir, the biblical land where King Solomon received precious items such as ivory and gold.
- Half the population of Zimbabwe is below 21 years of age.
- In Zimbabwe, pot bellies in men are a sign of success and wealth.
- Rock paintings, or "Bushman" paintings, dating back 5,000 years, are found across Zimbabwe.



Crying For Rain

ZIMBABWE | July 26

Sibongile

Rain didn't fall for months. The African ground grew dry and parched. Fields of maize and wheat withered and died. Gardens of tomatoes, onions, carrots, and potatoes also withered and died.

Speculation swirled that Solusi Adventist High School, where Sibongile was enrolled as a 22-year-old student, would be forced to close forever. Many of the school's students depended on the fields and gardens for work to pay for their tuition. The fields and gardens also supplied the high school's cafeteria with fresh produce. Food was running out.

Sibongile wondered what would happen next when the dam that supplied water to the high school and surrounding area ran low. Water rationing was introduced. In the morning, Sibongile and the teachers and other students were allowed to use tap water for one hour. At lunchtime, they were allowed one more hour of water. In the evening, they had one last hour of water.

Those three hours of water were used to cook food, wash dishes, take baths, and store water for the times when the faucets couldn't be used.

Without water, life became very difficult. Without water, it was very difficult to survive.

As speculation peaked that the high school would be forced to close, students and teachers gathered for a Wednesday evening prayer meeting.

"The only way out of this is to pray," a high school leader said.

He and other high school leaders made similar appeals for prayer was at vespers on Friday evening, at church on Sabbath morning, and at vespers as the sun set on Sabbath evening.

Sibongile prayed. All of the students and teachers prayed at the meetings. They divided into groups and asked the Lord to provide a way forward.

"Dear God, it will be so difficult for the work that You have assigned us to do to move forward without water," one student prayed.

"We need to carry the three angels' messages to the world," prayed another. "Without water, it will be so difficult."

Students also prayed alone and with relatives at home. Some combined prayer with fasting — fasting one meal a day or skipping two meals and eating a light supper.



Others fasted for the whole day, once, twice, or three times a week.

As the students prayed, they remembered that the Lord had been with Solusi from the very beginning when it was established as the Seventh-day Adventist Church's first mission station in Africa in 1894. They remembered that the Lord had been with Solusi when the high school established its campus near Solusi University with the help of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 1994. They remembered that future pastors and other church workers were being taught and nurtured at the high school and university.

As Sibongile remembered how the Lord had led Solusi in the past, her faith grew by leaps and bounds. She understood that Solusi belonged to God. She believed that He cared for His children and that He was the only way forward.

Sibongile and the others prayed and fasted for two months. During that time, some people thought that the high school would close. But it didn't. Despite the drought and difficult circumstances, it survived.

Sibongile said she will always remember how God answered their prayers by keeping the school open despite the lack of water.

"That little water that we had sustained us until we got rainfall," she said.

When the rain finally came, people celebrated. Students and teachers crowded into the church to sing praises to the Lord. Everyone prayed and thanked the Lord for His mercy.

Then the high school was able to resume its farming program. With water, life began to return to normal.

Sibongile, who now works at Solusi University, said she has witnessed how God has blessed Solusi throughout the years.

"The Lord has blessed Solusi. I have seen that with my own eyes. The Lord has blessed Solusi in many ways." 🌍

A 1994 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped Solusi Adventist High School establish a campus near Solusi University in Zimbabwe.

Story Tips

- Show Zimbabwe on the map. Then show Bulawayo, the closest city to Solusi Adventist High School.
- Pronounce Sibongile as: SI-bong-eelee.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Sibongile at: bit.ly/Sibongile-SID.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: bit.ly/sid-2025.
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Fast Facts

- The "mbira," also known as a "thumb piano," is a small hand-held instrument that has been played in Zimbabwe for more than 1,000 years.
- Zimbabwe's national flower is the flame lily.

Just as the blessing of the offering is still being felt by current and former students, your contribution to this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects can also, with God's blessing, have a long-lasting impact in Zimbabwe and beyond. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney

Unexpected Sabbath Rest



ZIMBABWE | August 2

Tracy

When Tracy enrolled at the Seventh-day Adventist university in Zimbabwe, she planned to spend her Saturdays studying or relaxing.

Tracy didn't know much about Adventists. She was just excited to be at Solusi University and to be away from home for the first time in her life. Looking at the four years of studies ahead, she told herself that she might — just might — go to the university church one time before she graduated.

Tracy moved into her dormitory on a Friday afternoon.

That evening, her new roommate invited her to go to church for sundown vespers.

Tracy hadn't started classes yet, so she didn't have any homework to do.

"That's fine," she said. "I'll go and see what happens."

At 6 p.m., the two young women went to vespers at the university church.

It was a new experience for Tracy. The songs were new. No one danced or

clapped their hands like in her family's church. The worship experience wasn't bad; it was just different.

On Saturday morning, when Tracy woke up, her roommate said that they should go to church again.

The two walked together to the university church.

Tracy enjoyed the music and the sermon. Everyone seemed to be welcoming and happy. She didn't feel new or out of place. She felt like part of the group already.

That evening, her roommate said they should go to church again, this time for another sundown vespers.

Tracy went with a smile, remembering that she had planned to go to the church only once — maybe — in her four years at Solusi University. Now she was going for the third time in two days.

Classes started the following week, and Tracy dived into her accounting studies.

She made new friends.

She enjoyed the food served in the large dining hall, which was expanded with the help



of a 2015 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

When the next Friday evening arrived, she found herself back at church instead of doing homework or relaxing in her dorm room.

As the weeks passed, Tracy changed her mind about her Saturday plans. She had thought that she would need to study or relax in her room on Saturdays. But she didn't need special time to relax on Saturdays because everyone was resting. She also liked going to church. As for her homework, she wasn't worried about her grades in the least. University classes ran from Monday to Thursday, so she had plenty of time to do her homework on Fridays and Sundays without needing to set aside extra time on Saturdays.

Then the university had a week of spiritual emphasis. A pastor came to speak from Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. When he made an appeal, Tracy gave her heart to Jesus and later was baptized.

The Bible became Tracy's favorite textbook, and she loved to study it and to share it with others. She remembered friends who had gone to other universities in Zimbabwe. Before arriving at Solusi, she had asked them for advice about studying at a university. They had told her that they needed to study or relax on Saturdays and Sundays so they rarely went to church. As a result, Tracy had arrived at Solusi thinking that she would need to study or relax on Saturdays and Sundays and wouldn't have time for church. But now she realized that church was an essential part of her university experience.

Tracy began telling her friends about her experience. "You need to go to church," she said. "God will take care of your studies and make sure that you have sufficient rest."

Her friends were astonished and promised to try to go to church more often.

Tracy now plans to invite them to visit the Adventist church. 🌐

Part of a 2015 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped expand the dining hall at Solusi University, allowing it to better serve

Story Tips

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- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: bit.ly/sid-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Fast Fact

- Zimbabwe is home to some of Africa's largest game reserves, but species such as impala, kudu, warthog, and wildebeest are at risk from poaching.

students like Tracy. Just as the blessing of that offering is still being felt at the university, your contribution to this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects can also, with God's blessing, have a long-lasting impact in Zimbabwe and beyond. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney



“We Are Thankful”

ZIMBABWE | August 9

Siyabonga

Siyabonga means “we are thankful” in Siyabonga’s native language of Siswati. Siyabonga has much to be thankful for — particularly the fact that his mom summoned him for a chat at 8 o’clock one night.

Mom had just returned from work as a manager at a financial company in Eswatini (a country also known as Swaziland) in southern Africa.

“Come to my bedroom,” Mom said. “I want to talk to you about something.”

Siyabonga wondered what she wanted. He went to her bedroom.

“I have found a place, and I think it is the right place for you,” Mom said.

Then Siyabonga understood what Mom wanted to talk about. He was looking for a place to study.

Mom said she had asked a friend at work for advice on a university. The friend had recommended Solusi University in Zimbabwe, about 500 miles (800 kilometers) away.

Siyabonga was willing to go. He told Mom, “Let’s try it out and see.”

On his first weekend at Solusi, he was surprised to see that people went to church

on Saturday. “Why do you go to church on Saturday?” he asked.

“This is how Adventists do things,” said one student.

“Adventists go to church on Saturdays,” said another. “They don’t go on Sundays.”

Siyabonga wasn’t used to going to church on any day of the week. But he went.

As the days passed, he had another surprise. Prayer seemed to permeate the campus. Teachers prayed before classes. Students gathered every day of the week for prayer-filled worship services. He saw that students also prayed before meals in the large university dining hall, which was expanded with the help of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 2015. People seemed to pray before doing everything.

This was not how things were done where Siyabonga lived. He had never experienced anything like this before. But he liked it. He felt motivated. He felt empowered. He felt closer to God.

Then Siyabonga began to feel bad about the bad things that he had done in his life. He felt guilt. He felt sorrow. He humbled himself



before God and asked for forgiveness.

Siyabonga had thought about baptism before coming to Solusi, but he had put it off, worried that he might be making a wrong decision. As he repented of his sins and put his faith in Jesus, he longed to give his heart to Jesus in baptism.

He called Mom to tell her about his desire. She was delighted.

“Go for it!” she said. “It’s the right decision.” Dad said the same thing.

His parents didn’t mind that he worshiped on a different day.

“We’re worshiping the same God,” Dad said.

The water was cold when Siyabonga stepped into the baptismal tank at the Solusi university church. But he forgot about the chill when the pastor dipped him under the water. He sensed that God had forgiven him and that he was a new person.

It was only two months since he had arrived at the university.

Today, Siyabonga is studying English and communication. He hopes to work in marketing or journalism one day. He loves to pray and read the Bible.

Siyabonga means “we are thankful” in his native language of Siswati, and he truly is thankful. He is thankful that his mom advised him to study at Solusi University.

“Going to church frequently changed me,” he said. “It brought me closer to God. Solusi is a good place to get closer to God.” 🌍

Part of a 2015 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped expand the dining hall at Solusi University, allowing it to serve students like Siyabonga better. Just as the blessing of that offering is still being felt at the university today, your contribution to this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath projects can also have a long-lasting impact on Zimbabwe and beyond with God’s blessing. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Eswatini and Zimbabwe on the map. Then show Bulawayo, the closest city to Solusi University.
- Pronounce Siyabonga as: SEE-a-bonga.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Siyabonga at: bit.ly/Siyabonga-SID.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: bit.ly/sid-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives”; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, “To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults”; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, “To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Fast Facts

- The most important export crop in Zimbabwe is tobacco, while other exports include cotton, corn, and sugarcane.
- The national symbol of Zimbabwe is the golden bird called *hungwe*, which appears on the flag as well as on coins. Stone carvings of the hungwe were found set on pedestals in the ruins of Great Zimbabwe. It probably represents the bateleur eagle or the African fish eagle.
- Soccer is the most popular sport in Zimbabwe. Rugby and cricket also are played, although they were originally played only by the white population.
- Divorce is considered shameful in Zimbabwe. Legally, only women are allowed to get divorced, but it is very rare.

Hearing God, Hating Sin



NAMIBIA | August 13

Uapahurua

Deep in the desert of Namibia live a people who live like they have lived for hundreds of years. The Himba people are semi-nomadic, traveling with herds of cattle and goats from borehole to borehole to make sure that they have sufficient water during the long, hot months of the dry season. During the short rainy season, families return to their settlements of three or four huts, called homesteads, to grow maize to sustain them for the rest of the year.

Uapahurua is among the few Himba people who have been baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He first heard about God through an outreach program initiated by a 1993 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. This is his story.

Uapahurua was a typical Himba teen. He stole, he fought, and he drank. The three activities often were intertwined.

In raising goats, cattle, and maize, the Himba people are self-sustaining and rarely need money for anything. But an influx of money enters the Himba community once a

month when elderly people receive pension payments from the Namibian government. When the money arrives, teens go to their grandparents to beg for money for alcohol. Small-time entrepreneurs know that the pension money has arrived, and they gather near Himba homesteads to sell alcohol.

As people start to drink, fights inevitably break out. Uapahurua once saw a drunken teen push another and snarl, “Get out of the way. I want to pass you.” The teen who was pushed fought back. Other teens joined in, and a knife fight erupted.

When pension money isn’t available, some teens resort to stealing.

Uapahurua remembers stumbling across several young men skinning a cow in the bush. He asked them, “Whose cow is this?”

“It is ours,” replied one young man.

“The cow died on its own,” added another.

Uapahurua took a closer look at the cow. Himba families identify their cows by special knife marks on the ears. The dead cow had freshly made knife marks on its ears.

A trial conducted by Himba leaders found that the young men had stolen the cow and planned to sell its meat to buy alcohol. The young men were ordered to reimburse the owner of the cow.

Stealing, fighting, and drinking was a familiar way of life for Uapahurua when a Seventh-day Adventist pastor showed up at his hut. The pastor was reaching out to Himba people under an initiative partially funded by a 1993 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.



The pastor spoke about God. Uapahurua had never heard about God and was curious to know more.

That Sabbath, he went to a worship service that the pastor held under a nearby tree. Like many Himba people, he had never gone to school, and he couldn't read the Bible for himself. So, he listened as the pastor read from the Bible. He heard for the first time about the God who had created world and everything in it, including maize, goats, cows, and the Himba people.

As weeks passed, a conviction came over him that he was not living correctly.

The pastor couldn't meet under the tree every Sabbath, so Uapahurua began going to the Adventist church in the nearest town on those Sabbaths. He arose early Sabbath morning for the seven-hour walk to town.

As he listened to the Bible, he started to hate stealing. He started to hate fighting. He started to hate drinking. He couldn't understand what was happening. He couldn't point to a specific Bible passage that touched his heart. He just knew that as he listened to the Word of God, he started to hate sinful things. He repented of his sins and was baptized.

He was 23 years old when he gave his heart to God. Today, he is 46.

It hasn't been an easy path. Temptations to return to his old life are plentiful.

"It's difficult to be a Christian," he said. "It's hard not to steal, fight, and drink. That is part of our daily life here." 🌍

A 1993 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped fund an outreach program for the Himba people that resulted in the pastor visiting Uapahurua's home. Just as the blessing of that offering is still being felt in Uapahurua's family and community, your contribution to this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects can also, with God's blessing, have a long-lasting impact on Namibia and beyond. Thank you for your offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Namibia on the map. Point out the northern town of Opuwo, which is the location of the nearest Adventist church building to Uapahurua's homestead.
- Pronounce Uapahurua as: OO-apa-hoor-oo-a.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Uapahurua and his wife: bit.ly/Uapahurua-SID.
- Know that two previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings, in 1993 and 2012, have gone to spread the gospel to the Himba people, which number about 50,000 individuals. Part of the 2012 offering was used to distribute MP3 players containing the Bible to them. Two of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects also include Namibia: a project to distribute Adventurer's Bibles to needy children, and a project to produce a series of short videos about the fruit of the Spirit.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: bit.ly/sid-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, "To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach ... among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Mission Post

- Adventist World Radio-Namibia operates five radio stations across the country, each broadcasting in different languages.

Wanting to Know God



NAMIBIA | August 23

Kazuvakua

Deep in the desert of Namibia live a people who live like they have lived for hundreds of years. The Himba people are semi-nomadic, traveling with herds of cattle and goats from borehole to borehole to make sure that they have sufficient water during the long, hot months of the dry season. During the short rainy season, families return to their settlements of three or four huts, called homesteads, to grow maize to sustain them for the rest of the year.

Kazuvakua is a 24-year-old Himba mother of three small children. She is learning about God through an evangelistic initiative that stretches back to a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering in 1993. This is her story.

Kazuvakua was intrigued when a stranger showed up at her home deep in the desert of Namibia. She had never seen him before, and he invited her to go to a place where she had never gone before. He invited her to church.

Kazuvakua was happy to receive the invitation.

On Sabbath, she went to the worship service under a tree located about 15 minutes by foot from her homestead.

Women and children from other homesteads also came to the tree. About 15 homesteads were clustered about an equal distance from the tree.

The church experience was unusual for Kazuvakua. The pastor taught songs, and he preached. The songs were new and difficult for Kazuvakua to learn. She had never heard about the God whom they were singing about. But she liked the songs. She liked the message of the songs. The songs spoke about a God who provided for all of people's needs.

The sermon was about repentance. When the pastor finished, Kazuvakua understood that she needed to repent to be saved by God.

She returned to the tree every Sabbath that the pastor came. Then the pastor was transferred to another part of Namibia, and a Bible worker began coming twice a month to speak under the tree. Kazuvakua went every time he spoke. When the Bible worker led a week of spiritual emphasis, she went to the tree every day to listen. She also went every evening when he led two weeks of



evangelistic meetings. The Bible worker brought a projector and a generator and set them up in a tent just a short distance from the tree. As he spoke about living with God for eternity, Kazuvakua enjoyed seeing colorful images on the screen.

But Kazuvakua missed the baptism of three people gave their hearts to God at the end of the meetings. The Bible worker arranged for a pick-up truck to take the three baptismal candidates and their friends to the nearest town with an Adventist church building. Without the pick-up truck, it would have been a seven-hour walk one way. But Kazuvakua didn't go because she had to care for her family's cows in a field. It was her duty. If she had left the cows, she would have disgraced her family.

But Kazuvakua wants to be baptized one day. She feels like she is ready. She loves God with all her heart.

"I love God as a Savior and Provider," she said. "He can provide everything that I ask for."

She prays when she goes to sleep. She prays when she wakes up. Her prayers are short. She says simply, "God, help me."

More than anything, she wants to know God better. Unlike many Himba people, she has learned to read. However, she does not have a Bible. There is a major shortage of Bibles in her language.

"I want a Bible," she said. "I want to know God better." 🌍

Pray for the church's work with the Himba people in Namibia. Part of a 1993 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering kick-started an outreach program for the Himba people that led to Sabbath worship services being held near Kazuvakua's homestead. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27 for Thirteenth Sabbath projects that will help spread the gospel further in Namibia and other countries in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Namibia on the map. Point out the northern town of Opuwo, which is the location of the nearest Adventist church building to Kazuvakua's homestead.
- Pronounce Kazuvakua as: KAZ-oo-vak-oo-a.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Kazuvakua at: bit.ly/Kazuvakua-SID.
- Know that Kazuvakua speaks and reads the Otjiherero language. For financial and other reasons, there is a big shortage of Bibles in Otjiherero.
- Know that two previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings, in 1993 and 2012, have gone to spread the gospel to the Himba people, which number about 50,000 individuals. Part of the 2012 offering was used to distribute MP3 players containing the Bible to them. Two of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects also include Namibia: a project to distribute Adventurer's Bibles to needy children, and a project to produce a series of short videos about the fruit of the Spirit.
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Fast Facts

- Namibia's name comes from the Namib desert, the oldest desert in the world. Namib means "vast place."



Remarkable Rainfall

NAMIBIA | August 30

Tjiyapana

Deep in the desert of Namibia live a people who live like they have lived for hundreds of years. The Himba people are semi-nomadic, traveling with herds of cattle and goats from borehole to borehole to make sure that they have sufficient water during the long, hot months of the dry season. During the short rainy season, families return to their settlements of three or four huts, called homesteads, to grow maize to sustain them for the rest of the year.

Tjiyapana is the chief of Okoupawe village. The village is comprised of 15 families who live on 15 homesteads when they are not traveling with their animals in northern Namibia. He is learning about God through an evangelistic initiative that has its roots in a 1993 Thirteenth Sabbath project. This is his story.

Tjiiyapana isn't sure about his age. His best guess is 82. He has four wives and more children and grandchildren than he can count.

Tjiyapana first heard about God from his parents. His parents, in turn, heard about God from the first Adventist missionary in the area, a white man from Portugal, who arrived three decades earlier as part of an

outreach initiative co-funded by a 1993 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

"My parents told me that we need to give glory and honor to God," Tjiyapana said. "I decided to listen to my parents."

So, when he became village chief, he reached out to the Adventist Church to ask for someone to teach him and his people about God. A Bible worker came on Sabbaths and read under a tree from the Bible. Tjiyapana listened. Like many Himba people, he has never gone to school and cannot read.

Then the Bible worker organized two weeks of evangelistic meetings. He brought a projector and a generator, and he projected images on a screen in a tent set up just a short distance from the tree.

Tjiyapana went to the meetings. He was interested to learn more about God. But he also was distracted with worry. The area was caught up in an unusually dry summer. Rain had not fallen for many months.

The Bible worker saw Tjiyapana's anxiety and prayed for rain. He pleaded with the Lord to open up His good treasure, the heavens, to give rain to the land in its season and to bless all the work of the Himba people's hands. He prayed for a week.

At the start of the second week of meetings, rain began to fall. It was two months before the rainy season. Light



showers watered the parched ground during the day and stopped just in time for the evangelistic meetings in the evenings. The rain continued for four months. It was a time of great rejoicing for the Himba people.

“We knew that God was with us,” Tjiyapana said. “He provides.”

The village chief saw God’s presence in other ways as well. After the meetings, he noticed a change come over the village. People stopped stealing. They stopped fighting. They stopped drinking. He was pleased.

More than anything, Tjiyapana wants a Seventh-day Adventist church building to be constructed on his land. The nearest church building is located in town, and it takes seven hours to walk there. Tjiyapana, like many Himba people, doesn’t own a car. He has already offered a plot of land to the Adventist Church to build a church.

“What I want is a church building,” he said. “I want a place to worship. That is the only thing that I request.”

In the meantime, 30 to 60 Himba children and adults gather under the tree on Sabbaths to sing songs of praise to God and to listen to the Bible worker teach from the Bible. During the week, the Bible worker also goes from hut to hut to teach the Bible.

Tjiyapana said he and his people want to know God better.

“We were created in the image of God, so He is the one we want,” he said. “We desire Him.” 🌐

Pray that the Himba people may know God in Namibia. Part of a 1993 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering initiated an outreach program to the Himba people that led to the worship services at Tjiyapana’s village. Just as the blessing of that offering is still being felt in the village, your contribution to this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath projects can also, with God’s blessing, have a long-lasting impact on Namibia and beyond. Thank you for your offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Namibia on the map. Point out the northern town of Opuwo, which is the location of the nearest Adventist church building to Tjiyapana’s village.
- Pronounce Tjiyapana as: CHEE-yap-ana.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Tjiyapana at: bit.ly/Tjiyapana-SID.
- Know that two previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings, in 1993 and 2012, have helped spread the gospel to the Himba people, which number about 50,000 individuals. Part of the 2012 offering was used to distribute MP3 players containing the Bible to them. Two of this quarter’s Thirteenth Sabbath projects also include Namibia: a project to distribute Adventurer’s Bibles to needy children, and a project to produce a series of short videos about the fruit of the Spirit.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: bit.ly/sid-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 2, “To strengthen and diversify Adventist outreach ... among unreached and under-reached people groups, and to non-Christian religions,” and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Fast Facts

- Namibia was the first country in Africa to integrate environmental protections into its constitution.
- Namibia has 200 mammal species, 645 bird species, and 115 fish species, which include the world’s largest populations of cheetahs and the endangered black rhino.

Drinking, Theft, and God



ZAMBIA | September 6

Bethel

Bethel enrolled in Rusangu University in Zambia because he wanted to stop drinking. He hoped that being at the Seventh-day Adventist university would change his life.

Bethel was raised in a Seventh-day Adventist family, but he started drinking when his mother died. He was 15, and he missed her terribly. Friends told him that drinking would make him feel better. Soon he had formed a habit, and he drank every day for two years.

Somehow, he managed to graduate from high school.

Then he saw a television report about Rusangu University. He saw that it was a place without alcohol, and he hoped that his life would improve if he studied there.

But at the university, Bethel just couldn't seem to shake off his old life.

He found a place on the university farm where he could drink secretly.

He made new friends who also drank. Sometimes he came to church drunk. The situation seemed hopeless.

Then, one night, he and three friends needed money to buy alcohol. So, they broke into several men's dormitories and stole mattresses.

But they were caught.

In jail, Bethel had plenty of time to think about his life. He knew that he was guilty of theft, and he had no hope of being freed for a very long time.

With tears, he humbled his heart before God and repented.

"Dear God," he prayed. "If this is a lesson from You so I change my ways, I promise that I will become a better person with Your help. Please release me from this place."

Fifteen days later, the police unexpectedly freed Bethel and his three friends. Bethel didn't know why.

Rusangu University welcomed the students



back. Bethel also didn't know why. Usually, the university expelled students who committed crimes. Bethel wondered if God had heard his prayers and was giving him another chance.

He remembered his promise to God in jail and prayerfully made changes in his life. He stopped drinking. He studied the Bible. A month after being released from jail, he gave his heart to God in baptism.

Teachers and other students saw the remarkable change in his life. They were astonished. When university leaders held an awards ceremony for the best students, they presented him with an honorary award for the biggest change in behavior.

Bethel beamed with joy as he accepted the award.

Today, Bethel is a student leader and member of the university church's media team.

He is just a few months away from graduating with a degree in journalism, communication, and peace and conflict resolution.

He is thinking about returning to the university after his graduation to study theology and become a pastor.

Bethel said God changed his life and can change the life of anyone who asks.

"God turned by life around from being a drunk and a very troublesome boy at Rusangu," he said. 🌍

Bethel is among the many students at Rusangu University who have been blessed by a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. The offering in second quarter 2009 helped open the university library. Just as that offering is still being felt in Zambia and beyond, this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering can also, with God's blessing, have a long-lasting impact. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Zambia on the map. Then show the town of Monze, where Rusangu University is located.
- Show a short YouTube video of Bethel at: bit.ly/Bethel-SID.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: bit.ly/sid-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Mission Posts

- In 1903, W. H. Anderson, Jacob Detcha, and several African workers set out to Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) to find a new mission site. They traveled by train and then on foot to Victoria Falls.
- Zambia has four secondary schools and a college (Rusangu University) for Adventist students. There are also two Adventist hospitals and two clinics in Zambia.

Fast Facts

- The traditional name for Victoria Falls is *Mosi-oa-Tunya*, which means the "Smoke that Thunders." They say that the noise can be heard from as far as 25 miles (40 km) away.
- One third of Zambia is made up of national parks.

Miracle Hospital

ZAMBIA | September 13

Mwate



Editor's note: One of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects is to construct a kitchen and laundry for Chitanda Lumamba Adventist Hospital in Chibombo, Zambia. Here is an inside look at the hospital.

Mwate Mwambazi, a pediatrician and Seventh-day Adventist Church leader, sees Chitanda Lumamba Adventist Hospital as a miracle story. She says it is only by the grace of God that the hospital is Adventist.

Chitanda Lumamba is the name of a tribal chief who donated 10 hectares of rural land to build the hospital in northern Zambia. He gave the land to a nonprofit Christian organization that uses personal and corporate donations to construct infrastructure projects.

The original plan called for the hospital to be turned over to the Zambian government.

But then the tribal chief and nonprofit Christian organization approached the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a proposal. They asked, "Could you take this hospital and use it like you use Mwami hospital to reach people with physical and spiritual health?"

Mwami Adventist Hospital is located in southern Zambia.

The hospital and land was offered to the Adventist Church on the following conditions: the hospital must operate as a nonprofit, it must start operating within a year, and it must meet the needs of the rural community.

"It was donated to the church under those conditions," Mwate said. "We were gifted the structure."

The area around the Adventist hospital is populated by seasonal farmers who plant maize in the rainy season but usually only enough for personal use. They do not have much extra income.

Before the grand opening, the Adventist Church installed floors and plumbing in the hospital and dug wells on the land. Zambia's president, who is a Seventh-day Adventist, also contributed to renovations out of his own pocket, said Mwate, who is the health ministries director for the Northern Zambia Union Conference.

"By the grace of God, the head of state was very interested, and he even put up some of his own money to assist us with renovations



and opening,” she said. “He came and helped us open it.”

At the opening ceremony in October 2023, the president, Hakainde Hichilema, promised that the government would also fund a back-up generator and a morgue.

Power cuts are frequent in Zambia because of a lack of water to generate electricity in the drought-hit country.

The generator arrived five months later, and the morgue was in the process of being constructed when Mwate met with Adventist Mission.

The hospital is already proving to be a beacon of hope in the community, said Mwate.

“Our presence, and if we are able to offer slightly advanced medical care, goes a long way toward relieving the suffering there,” she said.

Before the hospital opened, the nearest one was 55 miles (90 kilometers) away. Only one ambulance was available to take people to that far-away hospital on rough gravel roads. Mothers died trying to reach that hospital.

The hospital’s priorities now are a kitchen and a laundry, Mwate said.

A kitchen is needed to prepare food, not only for patients but also for their relatives.

“In Africa, if you have one person who is sick, the whole community comes together to support him,” Mwate said. “So if you go to the hospital, at least five people will accompany you to the hospital. They need a place to eat.”

A laundry with washing machines and dryers is seen as vital for improving patient care.

“Now we have to wash under a tree,” Mwate said. 🌍

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Chitanda Lumamba Adventist Hospital open the much-needed kitchen and laundry in Zambia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Zambia on the map. Then show Chibombo, where the hospital is located, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) north of the capital, Lusaka.
- Pronounce Chitanda Lumamba as: CHIT-anda LOO-mamba.
- Pronounce Mwate Mwambazi as: MWAT-ee MWAM-bazee.
- Pronounce Hakainde Hichilema as: HAI-kaan-day HI-chuh-leh-muh.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Mwate Mwambazi at: bit.ly/Mwate-SID.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: bit.ly/sid-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 4, “To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God,” and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Fast Facts

- South Luangwa National Park contains and protects the “Big Five” animals people like to see on safari: the lion, leopard, rhinoceros, elephant, and African buffalo.
- Zambia is surrounded by seven countries: Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.
- The Zambezi is the fourth-longest river in Africa after the Nile, Congo, and Niger rivers.

Hospital Changes Lives



ZAMBIA | September 20

Chitanda Lumamba Adventist Hospital

Editor's note: One of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects is to construct a kitchen and laundry for Chitanda Lumamba Adventist Hospital in Chibombo, Zambia. The hospital was donated to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and it opened in the fall of 2023.

Chitanda Lumamba Adventist Hospital is located in a rural Zambian community where people live in thatched houses and use wells and outhouses. Most are seasonal farmers who plant maize in the rainy season — but only enough for personal use. They don't have much extra income. Alcoholism and teen pregnancy rates are high.

Public transportation consists primarily of small and large trucks that carry passengers in the back. Buses or taxis are a rare sight. Often people simply walk.

Before the Adventist hospital opened, the community only had a small walk-in clinic that offered the bare essentials. In an ideal setting, the clinic would have an ambulance to pick up patients. But in this region, there

was only one ambulance that was shared by several small clinics. The ambulance couldn't be called to anyone's home. A patient had to find a way to go to the clinic. Then the clinic would call for the ambulance to take the patient to the nearest hospital located 60 miles (90 kilometers) away. But first, the clinic had to call around to find the ambulance. If the ambulance was already booked, the patient had to wait six hours, 12 hours, or even a day to get a ride to the hospital. As a result, some patients walked 60 miles to the hospital.

Before the Adventist hospital opened, the usual scenario was that an expectant mother would arrive at the local clinic and the clinic would call for an ambulance. Then the expectant mother would have to wait many hours or until the next day to be picked up.

Even now that the Adventist hospital is open, patients don't necessarily arrive in an ambulance. The hospital shares one ambulance with all the district clinics.

Once, a woman was brought on an ox cart to the Adventist hospital. She was in labor and accompanied by a half-dozen family members. In Zambia, patients usually are accompanied to the hospital by a number of relatives.

The expectant mother was glad to find that the Adventist hospital was open and a doctor was available. She wouldn't have to wait to be sent to the far-off hospital. The Adventist medical team delivered the baby successfully even though the birth required a complicated



procedure. Afterward, the new mother was able to return easily to her home nearby.

The new mother and her family were very grateful for the Adventist hospital.

“This saved a lot of time and money,” one family member said. “When you go to the clinic, you have to sit and wait for someone to make a call and for the ambulance to pick you up.”

About 200 babies are born every month in the hospital’s small maternity ward.

On another occasion, a 5-year-old boy was hospitalized with his leg in a cast.

His mother expressed gratitude that her son could stay at the hospital.

“The hospital looks better and offers better services than what we had before,” she said. “Before, we only had a small clinic where we had to wait a long time to be treated. The clinic would have sent us home right away with the leg in a cast. Then we would have had to come back the next day and every day after that for check-ups. But at the hospital, my son could stay for treatment until his leg healed and he could go back home.”

Chitanda Lumamba Adventist Hospital is filling an important need in the community and hopes to do much more. It’s priorities now are a kitchen and a laundry. A proper kitchen is needed to prepare healthy food, not only for patients but also for the relatives who accompany them to the hospital. Laundry currently is done by hand, and the acquisition of washing machines and dryers will improve patient care.

Mwate Mwambazi is a pediatrician and health ministries director for the Northern Zambia Union Conference, where the hospital is located. “Now we are open, but we are in dire need of help,” she said. 🌐

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help Chitanda Lumamba Adventist Hospital open the much-needed kitchen and laundry in Zambia. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney

Story Tips

- Show Zambia on the map. Then show Chibombo, where the hospital is located, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) north of the capital, Lusaka.
- Pronounce Chitanda Lumamba as: CHI-tanda LOO-mamba.
- Pronounce Mwate Mwambazi as: MWAT-ee MWAM-bazee.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Mwate Mwambazi at: bit.ly/Mwate-SID.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: bit.ly/sid-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s “I Will Go” strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 4, “To strengthen Seventh-day Adventist institutions in upholding freedom, wholistic health, and hope through Jesus, and restoring in people the image of God,” and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives.” For more information, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

Fast Facts

- Before European settlers came to Africa, the Khoisan people (bushmen) lived in the area. The British colonized the area until 1964, when Zambia gained independence.
- Zambia’s national day is Independence Day, celebrated on October 24.
- Although English is Zambia’s official language, more than 70 languages are spoken. Bemba and Nyanja are the most common.
- The local currency is the Zambian kwacha, which means “dawn.”
- Although education rates have improved in Zambia, 1 in 10 children does not finish primary school.

Blessing From Tragedy



13th SABBATH | September 27

Emmanuel

Editor's note: One of this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath projects is a mission boat that will sail on Lake Bangweulu in Zambia. Here is an inside look at the mission project. It is a project born out of tragedy.

Emmanuel Mwewa has sailed Lake Bangweulu many times. Boats are the main way of reaching the 100,000 people living on the lake's islands. Boats are the main way that those 100,000 people can travel to the rest of Zambia. As a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, Emmanuel has crisscrossed the lake many times to encourage the 1,300 Adventists who worship every Sabbath in the islands' 18 congregations.

But one visit stands out in Emmanuel's memory. It was the day that he visited one of the islands for the funeral of 14 Adventists who drowned in the lake.

"It was so emotional because 14 coffins stood in one place," Emmanuel said. "Both

government and church leaders gathered on the main island of Chilubi. I was there. This was a big disaster for the country."

The tragedy occurred on a Friday. Forty-two Adventists were sailing on a church-rented boat between two islands. The Adventists planned to spend the Sabbath engaged in mission outreach, including the promotion of an upcoming Pathfinder camporee. A strong wind was blowing across the vast lake, which is about the size of the U.S. state of Connecticut. Suddenly, a large wave crashed into the boat, and it capsized.

A nearby ship managed to fish 28 people out of the water. But 14 others, including a 2-year-old child, perished.

The accident sent shockwaves across Zambia. It also raised questions about boat-safety standards and the availability of commercial transportation on the lake. The only regularly scheduled boat service was a large, government-owned ship that



crisscrossed the lake once a week. People who wanted to cross the lake at other times had to rent a boat.

At the funeral, a senior government leader appealed to the Adventist Church to help prevent the repeat of such an accident. He asked the church to consider providing a regularly scheduled boat service on the lake. The boat would supplement the services already offered by the government ship.

Leaders of the Adventist Church's Northern Zambia Union Conference, where the lake is located, accepted the challenge.

"It is the commitment of the Northern Zambia Union Conference to provide a better system of transport," said Emmanuel, who serves as the union's executive secretary.

But the boat would cost U.S.\$100,000, more than the local church could afford. So, the union asked for the boat to be included among the Thirteenth Sabbath projects for third quarter 2025. The request for the offering to cover part of the boat's cost was approved at all levels of the church.

Emmanuel is excited about the opportunities that the mission boat could provide.

The boat, which would be able to carry 60 passengers, would operate a regular service on the days that the government ship does not travel. Passengers would pay a fare that covered only the boat's expenses.

While the government ship has television screens that show advertisements, the mission ship would have television screens that show singing and preaching on Hope Channel.

"The boat will not only transport people from the mainland to the islands but also preach to them," Emmanuel said.

He appealed to church members around the world to support this quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.

"As we think of how to spread the gospel on Lake Bangweulu, it is our desire that this boat will help save lives on the lake and save lives for the Kingdom," he said. "The goal of the project is to turn a tragedy into a blessing." 🌍

Story Tips

- Show Zambia on the map. Then show Lake Bangweulu in the north of the country.
- Pronounce Bangweulu as: bang-wii-OO-LOO.
- Pronounce Mwewa as: MEW-wa.
- Know that the name of the lake means "where the water meets the sky."
- Watch a short YouTube video of Emmanuel Mwewa at: bit.ly/Emmanuel-SID.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: bit.ly/sid-2025.
- Know that this mission story illustrates the following objectives of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's "I Will Go" strategic plan: Mission Objective No. 1, "To revive the concept of worldwide mission and sacrifice for mission as a way of life involving not only pastors but every church member, young and old, in the joy of witnessing for Christ and making disciples"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, "To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives"; Spiritual Growth Objective No. 6, "To increase accession, retention, reclamation, and participation of children, youth, and young adults"; and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 7, "To help youth and young adults place God first and exemplify a biblical worldview." For more information, go to the website: IWILLGo.org.

Fast Facts

- The Victoria Falls are the world's largest waterfalls and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.
- One of the rarest bird species in the world, the shoebill stork, can be found in Zambia. They can grow up to 5 feet (1.5 m) tall and are known to eat baby crocodiles.

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering today will help acquire a mission boat for Lake Bangweulu. Your offering will also assist two hospitals in Zambia, help open a new school in Zambia, and help open a center of influence in South Africa. This quarter's two children's projects will touch the lives of children across the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. One project is to provide Adventurer's Bibles to needy families and the other is to produce a series of short videos about the fruit of the Spirit. Thank you for your generous offering today.

By Andrew McChesney

People buying fish from fishers at Lake Bangweulu in northern Zambia.

Before 13th Sabbath

- Remind everyone that our mission offerings are gifts to spread God's Word around the world, and that one-fourth of our Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help seven projects in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean 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, children and adults can act out the story.
- Before or after the story, use a map to show the places in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division — Zambia, South Africa, and the entire division — that will receive the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering.



Wikimedia Commons, Moses Zaso

Future 13th Sabbath Projects

The South American Division will be featured next quarter, and the Thirteenth Sabbath projects, which aim to reach and influence new generations for mission, will include:

- Church, Pernambucano Adventist Academy, Sairé, Brazil
- Dormitories and missionary-training center, Chile Adventist University, Chillán, Chile
- Children's project: 100 children's Sabbath School classrooms in low-income churches, Chile

Leader's Resources

Be sure to download your free *Mission Spotlight* video featuring video reports from around the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division and beyond. Download or stream from the Adventist Mission website at bit.ly/missionspotlight.

Online Information

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

Websites

Namibia: government website	gov.na
Visit Namibia	visitnamibia.com.na
Rough Guides	bit.ly/RG_Namibia
Zambia: government website	zamportal.gov.zm
World Travel Guide	bit.ly/WTG_Zambia
Zambia Tourism	zambiatourism.com
Zimbabwe: government website	bit.ly/ZimbabweGovt
Zimbabwe Tourism	zimbabwetourism.net
Lonely Planet	lonelyplanet.com/zimbabwe

Seventh-day Adventist

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division	sidadventist.org
Northern Zambia Union Conference	nzu.adventist.org
Southern Zambia Union Conference	szu.adventist.org
Zimbabwe East Union Conference	zeuc.adventist.org
Zimbabwe West Union Conference	zwuc.adventist.org
Zimbabwe Central Union Conference	zcuc.adventist.org
Southern Africa Union Conference	sau.adventist.org
Solusi University	solusi.ac.zw
Rusangu University	ru.edu.zm
Malawi Adventist University	mau.ac.mw

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, which will be collected on September 27. Remind church members that their regular weekly mission offerings help the missionary work of the world church, and that one-quarter of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will go directly to the projects in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. On September 20, report on mission giving during the quarter. Encourage church members to double or triple their normal mission giving on the upcoming Thirteenth Sabbath. Count the offering and record the amount given at the end of Sabbath School.

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youth & adult mission

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Mission (ISSN 0190-4108) is produced and copyrighted © 2025 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.

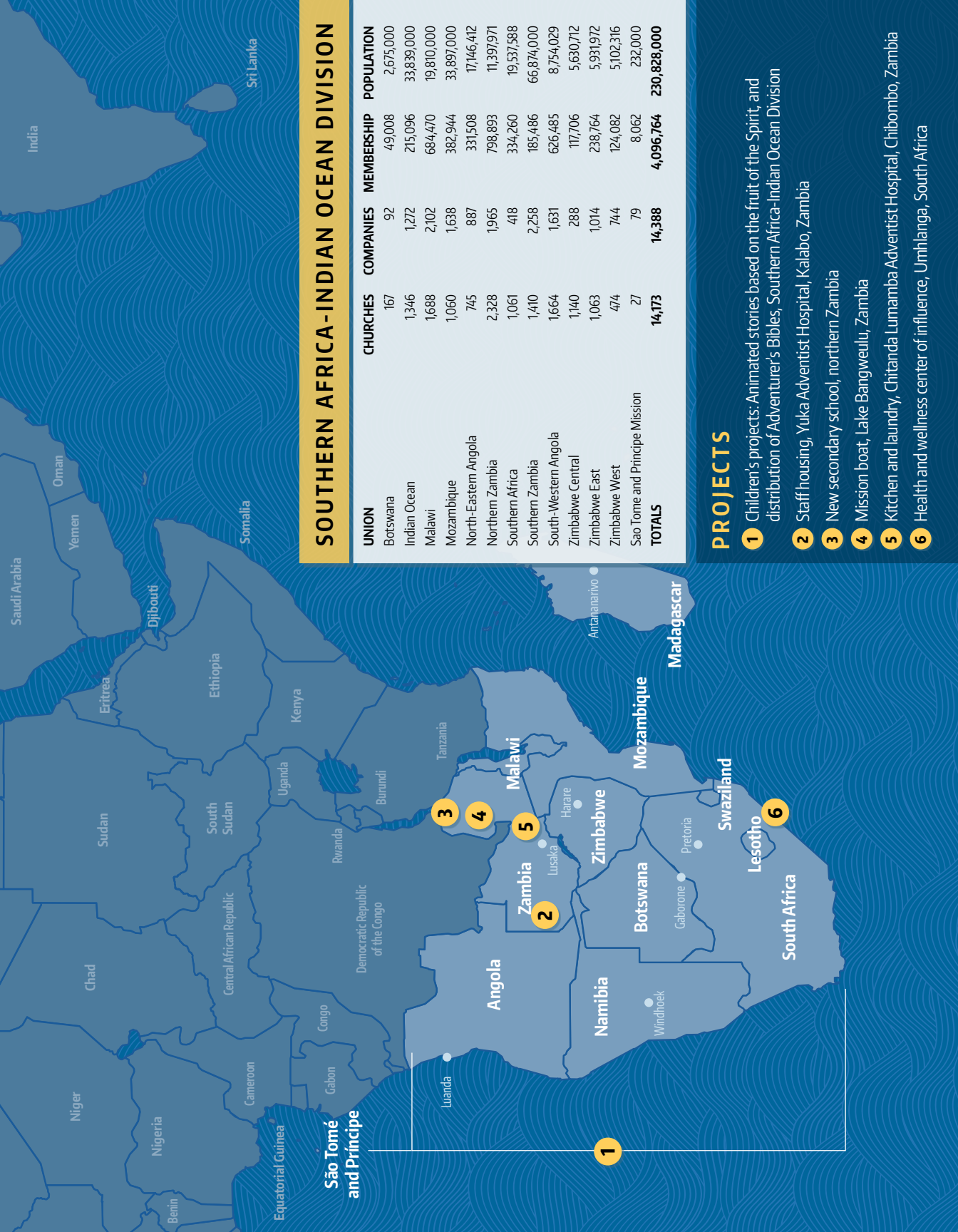
Third Quarter 2025

Volume 114, Number 3

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SOUTHERN AFRICA - INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION

UNION	CHURCHES	COMPANIES	MEMBERSHIP	POPULATION
Botswana	167	92	49,008	2,675,000
Indian Ocean	1,346	1,272	215,096	33,839,000
Malawi	1,688	2,102	684,470	19,810,000
Mozambique	1,060	1,638	382,944	33,897,000
North-Eastern Angola	745	887	331,508	17,146,412
Northern Zambia	2,328	1,965	798,893	11,397,971
Southern Africa	1,061	418	334,260	19,537,588
Southern Zambia	1,410	2,258	185,486	66,874,000
South-Western Angola	1,664	1,631	626,485	8,754,029
Zimbabwe Central	1,140	288	117,706	5,630,712
Zimbabwe East	1,063	1,014	238,764	5,931,972
Zimbabwe West	474	744	124,082	5,102,316
Sao Tome and Principe Mission	27	79	8,062	232,000
TOTALS	14,173	14,388	4,096,764	230,828,000

PROJECTS

- 1 Children's projects: Animated stories based on the fruit of the Spirit, and distribution of Adventurer's Bibles, Southern Africa- Indian Ocean Division
- 2 Staff housing, Yuka Adventist Hospital, Kalabo, Zambia
- 3 New secondary school, northern Zambia
- 4 Mission boat, Lake Bangweulu, Zambia
- 5 Kitchen and laundry, Chitanda Lumamba Adventist Hospital, Chibombo, Zambia
- 6 Health and wellness center of influence, Umhlanga, South Africa