

2025 • QUARTER 3 • SOUTHERN AFRICA-INDIAN OCEAN DIVISION



children's **mission**

**God Is
Good**

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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.

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 *Children's Mission* quarterly at bit.ly/childrensmision and the youth and adult *Mission* quarterly at bit.ly/adultmission. *Mission Spotlight* videos are available at bit.ly/missionspotlight. A mission bank image, which children can color, can be downloaded at bit.ly/bank-coloring-page.

Please keep in mind that you do not need to read the story exactly as it is published. These children's stories are meant for a wide age range of 6 to 12, so feel free to adapt the language and content to the level that suits the age group of your Sabbath School class.

Thank you for encouraging children to be mission-minded!

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 the distribution of Adventurer's Bibles, Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division



ZAMBIA | July 5

Tich

Scary Bike Ride

Mom sent Tich on a very important errand. She needed him to go to the store. She also wanted him to stop by his aunt's house.

The store and his aunt's house weren't just up the street. Tich lived deep in the bush of northern Zambia. To complete the errand, he would have to ride his bike into town. It was a long ride. It would take an hour to follow the road there and another hour to follow the road back home.

It was late afternoon when Mom asked Tich to go. Tich wanted to get back home before dark, when lions and elephants and snakes came out of the bush.

He hopped on his bike and prayed, "Dear God, I'm going to town. May You guide and protect me and keep me safe from dangerous animals. You have protected me before. I know You are able to do it again. Amen."

Then he rode the bike to town. As he pedaled, he sang his favorites hymns. He especially liked the hymn, "He Leadeth Me," and he sang it with gusto.

When he reached the town, he went straight to the store and bought sugar, salt, cooking oil, and laundry detergent.

Then he went to his aunt's house to pick up a bag of clothing for Mom.

The errand took longer than he had expected. The sun was setting as he headed back home. Long shadows stretched across the ground. It was getting dark.

Tich felt uneasy. He would not be able to see much in the dark. There were no lights along the road. He had a small flashlight, but it wasn't bright enough to light the whole road.

Tich pedaled faster. He wanted to get home before it got really, really dark.

Then he saw a shortcut. It was a dirt path cutting through the thick bush. He could take the dirt path and reach home faster.

He turned off the road and onto the dirt path.

The sun kept going down, and the sky got darker and darker. Tich pedaled faster and faster.

Then something very strange happened. No matter how hard Tich pedaled, the bike wouldn't go any faster. He turned his feet as fast as he could, but the bike only slowed down. He pedaled furiously, and the bike came to a complete stop!



Tich was amazed and confused. He whipped his flashlight out of his pocket to see what was wrong with the bike. The chain was in place. Everything looked fine. He was even more confused.

Then he turned the flashlight toward the dirt path ahead. Suddenly, he jumped. His body began trembling. Ahead, in the dim light, he saw a big snake. It was dark, about 12 feet (4 meters) long, lying across the dirt path. If he had kept riding his bike, he would have hit it.

Tich had prayed before leaving home, and now he prayed again.

“My God, thank You so much for saving my life,” he said. “Now I pray that this snake leaves so I can go home. Amen.”

When he opened his eyes, the snake began to move. Then it disappeared into the darkness. Tich got back on the bike. The pedals worked perfectly. He rode quickly home.

There, he excitedly told Mom about what had happened.

“I didn’t understand why the bike wasn’t moving,” he said. “But now I see. God held the bike to save me from that dangerous snake. In the thick bush, where there are no homes, no one could have helped me. But God saved my life.”

Mom was so happy that God had protected her son, and she thanked Him for His loving care. But from that day, she stopped sending Tich to town in the afternoon. Now, she only sends him in the

Story Tips

- Show Zambia on the map.
- 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,” 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.

morning so he has plenty of time to get home before dark. 🌍

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help children know about the God who protects people from snakes and other dangerous animals. Many children in Zambia, where Tich lives, and in other countries in the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division will receive their very own Adventurer’s Bible through your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Linda Sibanda and Andrew McChesney



MISSION RECORD

In 1905, a group of workers arrived to open a 5,436-acre (2,200-hectare) plot of ground, which came to be Rusangu Station. By September, they had opened a school.

The first converts were won among people living along the railroad from Rusangu Station south to Victoria Falls and from among the students in the school.



ZAMBIA | July 12

Luumuno

God Healed Dad

Ten-year-old Luumuno was terrified when the Covid pandemic gripped Zambia. Her school was closed. She had to stay at home. She couldn't spend time with friends. But what scared her the most were the stories that Mom brought home from work.

Most adults couldn't go to work and had to stay at home during Covid. But Mom worked in Zambia's main Covid center, so she had to keep going to work. Every day, Mom came home with stories about people who were very, very sick. The stories scared Luumuno. She didn't want anyone to be very, very sick.

Then Dad became very, very sick. The doctor said that Dad had Covid.

Luumuno had never seen Dad so sick. Usually, Dad loved to talk, but now he was silent. Usually, Dad loved to eat brown rice with soy patties and eggplant. But now he didn't want to eat anything. Usually, Dad loved to walk, but now he was too weak to walk on his own.

Luumuno was very, very scared. What could she do?

Then a favorite Bible verse popped into her mind. The verse says, "My help comes

from the Lord" (Psalm 121:2, NKJV). "That's right," she thought. "My help comes from the Lord." She decided to invite friends to pray with her on social media. She couldn't meet with them in person because of Covid restrictions, but they could meet online.

That very evening, about 30 friends joined Luumuno online. They asked God to heal Luumuno's dad.

The children got together again the next evening, and the next, to pray for Dad. They prayed every evening for many days.

Luumuno knew nobody could heal Dad except God, and she also prayed on her own.

"Dear Heavenly Father, please help Dad," she prayed. "He's sick. Please heal him, and send Your angels to protect him."

Every day, she repeated her favorite Bible verse, "My help comes from the Lord. My help comes from the Lord."

But Dad didn't seem to be getting better.

Then Luumuno's little 4-year-old brother, Benjamin, went to Dad with a serious question.

"Who will pay for my school if you don't get better?" he asked.

Dad began to cry. He was touched to hear



that little Benjamin was so worried. He hadn't spoken very much for the two weeks that he had been sick, but now he had something to say.

"It will be all right," he promised. "I'll be fine."

After that, Dad started to get better. He spoke more and more. He ate strawberries and grapes and oatmeal.

Luumuno and Benjamin were so happy to see him eating!

Slowly Dad's strength came back. It took about a month before he was able to talk like before, eat brown rice with soy patties and eggplant like before, and walk on his own like before.

Luumuno was overjoyed! Surely, her help had come from the Lord! God had answered her prayers.

Luumuno has a special message for other girls and boys who might be worried about something.

She said, "God heard and answered my prayer for my dad. I want to encourage all boys and girls to pray to God always. The God who answered my prayer will answer your prayers, too. Our help comes from the Lord." 🌍

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help other children learn about the God who answers prayers. Part of the offering will be used to give children their very own

Story Tips

Show Zambia on the map. Then show the country's capital, Lusaka, where Luumuno lives.

- Watch a short YouTube video of Luumuno at: bit.ly/Luumuno-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.

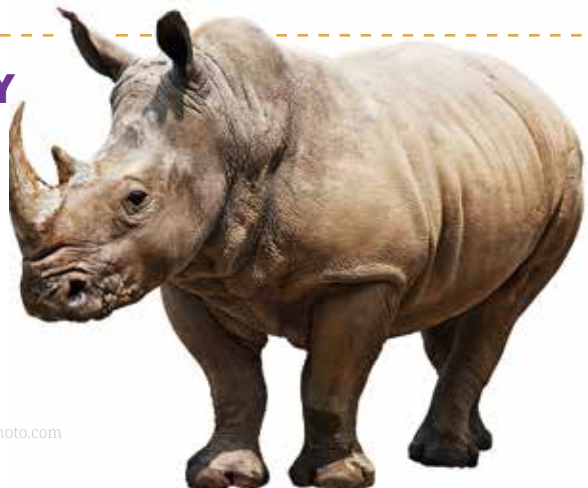
Adventurer's Bible in Zambia and in other countries of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Linda Sibanda and Andrew McChesney



AMAZING COUNTRY

South Luangwa National Park in Zambia contains and protects the "Big Five" animals that people like to see on safari: the lion, leopard, rhino, elephant, and African buffalo.



BigStockPhoto.com



ZAMBIA | July 19

Japhet

God's Gift of Speaking

What special gift have you received from God? Is your gift a big smile that can brighten the whole room? Is it a strong arm that can help do chores around the house? Or is it fast feet that can help run errands?

Eight-year-old Japhet wasn't sure that he had a special gift. But then the pastor called his parents to compliment his voice.

"Your son has a good voice," the pastor said. "He should be given an opportunity to preach next Sabbath."

Japhet was surprised to hear that he had a good voice. He had never thought that his voice was anything special. But the pastor insisted that his voice was different. Some boys spoke so low that they could barely be heard. Other boys mumbled their words so that they could barely be understood. But Japhet spoke clearly and loudly. Japhet had never thought about preaching. But he felt good and excited about the idea. The pastor sent him a sermon to learn by heart. The sermon was about Jesus coming soon.

Then Japhet saw the five pages of the sermon, and he felt a bit scared. But his

parents encouraged him to try. Dad said he could practice the sermon in front of him and Mom. So, that evening, Japhet placed a high stool in the living room. It would be his pulpit. Standing behind the stool, he placed the five pages of the sermon on it and prayed, "God, please use me as a vessel to speak to your people." Then he read the sermon. It wasn't easy. He was reading the sermon for the first time. When he finished, he prayed, "God, may my parents whom I have preached to understand what I said."

Mom gave him a hug and encouraged him to keep practicing. "You have some work to do, but it was actually good," she said.

Japhet resolved to try harder.

The next day, Monday, was very busy. Japhet didn't have time to review the sermon before preaching it to his parents that evening. But when he finished preaching, Mom said it was better than the first time.

Japhet resolved to try even harder.

The next day, he read the sermon 15 times before preaching. Every time he had a free moment, he read the sermon. That evening, he found it much easier to preach the



sermon. Mom was very pleased.

“This time it was really good!” she exclaimed. “You didn’t make any mistakes.”

Japhet felt really good.

On Wednesday, he read the sermon nine more times. In the evening, Mom said he had done his best yet. But on Thursday, Mom told him not to read the sermon.

“You need time to relax,” she said.

On Friday evening, Japhet practice-preached the sermon one last time.

On Sabbath morning, Japhet felt a bit scared. But when he stood behind the pulpit in church, he sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit. He prayed, “God, please use me as a vessel to speak to Your people.” Then he preached that Jesus is coming soon. At the end, he prayed again, saying, “God, may the people whom I have preached to understand what I said.”

People thanked Japhet after church. They said his voice was a special gift from God.

“You are a very good preacher,” said one person.

“You should become a pastor one day,” said another.

That Sabbath was the first day that Japhet preached in church. But it wasn’t the last.

Today, Japhet is 11 years old, and he has preached a number of times in Lusaka, the capital of Zambia.

Japhet said that he is glad that God has given him the gift of speaking (see 1 Peter 4:9–11) but that he isn’t the only child with a gift from God. He said every child has a special gift from God.

“I would like to encourage other children to use their spiritual gifts and talents that

Story Tips

- Show Zambia on the map. Then show the country’s capital, Lusaka, where Japhet lives.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Japhet at: bit.ly/Japhet-SID.
- Download photos for this story from Facebook: bit.ly/fb-mq.
- Challenge the children to identify their gifts. For ideas, see Romans 12:6–8; 1 Corinthians 12–14; Ephesians 4:11; and 1 Peter 4:9–11.
- 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.

God has provided,” he said. 🌍

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help children learn about the God who gives good gifts to His children. Part of the offering will be used to give children their very own Adventurer’s Bible in Zambia and in other countries of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING COUNTRY

Termite hills in Zambia can grow to the size of a small house.

BigStockPhoto.com





ZAMBIA | July 26

Faithful at School

Sishemo

Have you ever started the school year late? If you have, you know it's uncomfortable to arrive after all the other kids have been together for a while. The other kids already know each other, but you don't know anyone, and no one knows you.

This is how 12-year-old Sishemo felt when she arrived for eighth grade at her new boarding school in Zambia. Because of a mix-up in paperwork, she started her studies at the all-girls' school a whole month late.

So, Sishemo didn't know anyone when she moved into the girls' dormitory. No one knew her. But all the other girls knew one another because they had been studying together for four weeks.

But not knowing anyone was the least of Sishemo's problems. She quickly learned that she had to prepare for a very important test.

Sishemo arrived at school on a Friday, and the test was on Monday. The other girls had been preparing for the test for four weeks. The teacher said their last chance to prepare was Friday night.

The school was not Seventh-day Adventist, but Sishemo came from a Seventh-day

Adventist family. She didn't want to study on Friday night.

But at 6 o'clock on Friday evening, the teacher ushered Sishemo and 55 other girls into a classroom and told them to prepare for the test one last time. The girls had three hours to study.

After sitting down, Sishemo looked around at the other girls. They were busy studying for the test. Sishemo took out a book about the Sabbath. She had packed the book so she would have something to read on Sabbath.

Soon the other girls noticed that Sishemo wasn't preparing for the test, and they asked what she was doing. Sishemo explained that she was a Seventh-day Adventist and was keeping the Sabbath. The girls looked at one another. It turned out that six of those girls also came from Adventist homes, but they were studying for the test. One of those girls said, "But God understands our situation. We need to pass the test."

Sishemo didn't agree. God said, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8, NKJV), and she was determined to keep the Sabbath holy no matter what.

Sishemo wasn't able to prepare for the test, but she passed it without any problem on Monday. She was sure that God had



blessed her for keeping the Sabbath.

But that was not the end of the story. Sishemo soon found out that her new school required all the girls to clean the dormitories and other school buildings every Saturday. Sishemo didn't want to work on Sabbath, and she didn't want to cause trouble. So, she hid on the sports field during cleaning time for the first few Saturdays. But then a teacher found her on the field and asked why she wasn't helping. Sishemo explained that she was a Sabbath-keeper. The teacher understood. Sishemo got permission to clean on Sundays.

Then something interesting happened. Girls from other Adventist homes saw that Sishemo was keeping the Sabbath and asked if they also could work on Sunday. They got permission, and a group of Adventist girls began to keep the Sabbath holy.

Sishemo's faithfulness caught the attention of girls from non-Adventist homes. They asked her many questions about the Sabbath. "We want to understand why you keep the Sabbath," said one.

"We worship on Sunday because Jesus was resurrected on Sunday. Why do you worship on Sabbath?" said another.

Sishemo spoke about the true meaning of the Sabbath. She said that in the beginning, God blessed the seventh day, and it had nothing to do with Jesus' resurrection. The Bible says, "And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made" (Genesis 2:2, 3).

Many girls were impressed that the seventh day is the true Sabbath. They asked to join Sishemo in keeping the Sabbath and only working on Sunday.

So, through Sishemo's faithfulness, many girls at the non-Adventist boarding school in Zambia began to keep the Sabbath.

If God could use Sishemo to lead many girls to love the Sabbath in Zambia, imagine what God could do with you. 🌍

Story Tips

- Show Zambia on the map.
- Know that Adventist Mission met Sishemo during her summer break after her graduation from boarding school. She was preparing to leave Zambia to study at a university in the United States. She credits God for the opportunity to study abroad, saying she refused to take university entrance exams on the Sabbath in Zambia and God honored her by allowing her to be enrolled at the U.S. university with a full scholarship.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Sishemo at: bit.ly/Sishemo-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"; 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.

Part of your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help children in Sishemo's country of Zambia learn about the Lord of the Sabbath. The offering will give many children an Adventurer's Bible. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney



ZAMBIA | August 2

God Is Good

Henry

You might be surprised if you were to see Henry stand up to preach in your church. He looks like any other kid. He's tall and lean, and has a shy smile. He's about your age. He's only 12.

Despite his age, Henry has preached many times in Zambia. He especially likes preaching to children like you.

What does he talk about? Henry's favorite subject is his mother and Mephibosheth. You may have heard about Mephibosheth. Mephibosheth was only 5 years old when the sad news reached his home that his father, Prince Jonathan, and his grandfather, Israel's King Saul, had died in battle. Mephibosheth's nanny was scared. Perhaps she thought that the little boy's life also was in danger. She picked up the boy to flee. But in her haste, the boy fell, and his feet were injured badly. He became lame in both feet.

It was a very sad day for the little boy, Henry says when he tells the story. In one day, he lost his dad, his granddad, and his ability to walk. "But," Henry adds, "God does not cease to be good even in tough times."

Sometime after that very sad day, David

became Israel's king. David's best friend had been Jonathan, Mephibosheth's father, and David missed him. So, David asked if anyone from Jonathan's family was still alive. Imagine David's surprise and joy when he learned that Jonathan's son Mephibosheth was alive! David welcomed Mephibosheth to the royal palace like a member of his own family and invited him to eat always at his table. The boy who had lost his dad and granddad had a new family.

Henry likes the story of Mephibosheth because it reminds him of his own family. Mephibosheth lost a parent. Henry also has lost a parent.

Henry was eagerly waiting for the birth of a new little brother or sister when Mom fell seriously ill. She was rushed to the hospital in Zambia's capital, Lusaka.

Every morning at home, Henry and Dad prayed for Mom and the baby. In the evening, Henry and Dad prayed again. But after a month, the sad news came that the baby had died.

Henry felt very sad, but he still believed that God was good. He said to himself, "God does not cease to be good even in tough times." He kept on praying to God every morning and evening.



But three weeks later, Mom died.

Henry felt very sad, but he still believed that God was good. He said to himself, “God does not cease to be good even in tough times.” He kept on praying to God every morning and evening.

A short time later, tragedy struck again. Henry’s aunt — his mother’s sister — fell ill with cancer. The doctor said Zambia’s hospitals weren’t able to help and recommended sending her to a hospital in far-away India. Dad and other relatives raised the money to send her there. But doctors in India said they also couldn’t help and sent her back home to Zambia. Henry prayed every morning and evening for his aunt.

Then she died. Henry felt very sad, but he still believed that God was good. He said to himself, “God does not cease to be good even in tough times.” He kept on praying to God every morning and evening.

A year after his mom died, Henry was invited to preach for a children’s church. He preached about Mephibosheth. He told the kids, “Mephibosheth reminds me of all those kids out there who have lost their parents but still go on.”

Speaking specifically to kids who had lost one or both parents, he said, “I feel your pain. I also have lost a parent, and I know how it feels. But look at me. How different are you from me? We are all the same. We can move on just like Mephibosheth because God does not cease to be good even in tough times.” 🌍

Story Tips

- Show Zambia on the map. Then show the country’s capital, Lusaka, where Henry lives.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Henry at: bit.ly/Henry-SID.
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- Share Mission Posts and Fast Facts from the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division: bit.ly/sid-2025.
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Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help other children learn about the God who is good even in tough times. Part of the offering will be used to give children their very own Adventurer’s Bible in Zambia and in the other countries of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

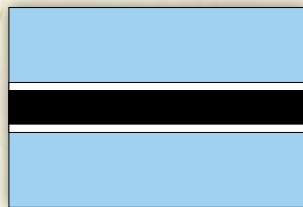
By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING COUNTRY

Zambia main dishes are mostly made from corn, sweet potatoes, and peanuts, as well as beef, chicken and pork.

BigStockPhoto.com



BOTSWANA | August 9

Haachile

Shining With Joy

You might think that this is the story of a mom who took her son to church. But it is actually the story of a son who took his mom to church.

Are you confused? Let me explain!

A little boy named Haachile started going to church in Botswana every Sabbath when he was 3. His mom took him to church in the morning, left him there, and then brought him home in the afternoon.

Mom didn't belong to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. But Haachile's grandma was an Adventist, and she told Mom that the little boy should go to church on Sabbaths.

So, Mom took Haachile to church every Sabbath when he was 3. She took him when he was 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. She took him when he was 11 and 12. Every Sabbath, he returned home with his face shining with joy. He loved worshiping God in church!

But one Sabbath, Haachile came home with a sad face. He felt sad being at church alone. "Mom, every Sabbath I sit with other families for lunch," he said. "Why don't you want to come to my church so I can show people that I also have a family?"

Then Mom felt sad. She wanted to be a good mother who cared for her son. But now her son looked like an orphan who had to go from family to family to eat lunch every Sabbath.

So, Mom prepared a big lunch and went with Haachile to church the next Sabbath.

Haachile was thrilled! He called over all his friends and even the pastor.

"Come and see my mom!" he said. "Come and eat with us! My mom has prepared enough food for all of us!"

Haachile's friends came over to see his mom. The families who had fed Haachile for many Sabbaths came over to see his mom. Even the pastor came over to see his mom.

Haachile's face was shining with joy. It was the best Sabbath ever!

But Mom still felt sad. She could see that her son was lonely in church.

So, the next Sabbath, she prepared another big lunch and went again with Haachile to church.

Haachile was so happy! His smile spread from ear to ear.

After that, Mom went to church every Sabbath.



A short time later, Haachile decided to give his heart to Jesus. He invited Mom to come and watch his baptism. Mom saw the boy come up out of the water. His face was shining with joy.

At that moment, a desire was planted in her heart to have the same joy. The Bible says that joy is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22, 23; NKJV). When people are filled with the Holy Spirit, they have joy.

Mom decided to give her heart to Jesus, and she was baptized in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

So, you might have thought that this was the story of a mom who took her son to church. But it was actually the story of a son who took his mom to church. And as the joy of the Spirit spread in his family, Haachile also ended up taking his dad and all his siblings to church. Today, the whole family joyfully worships God on Sabbath. 🌍

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will teach children about joy in Botswana and in the other countries of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Part of the offering will be used to make a series of short videos about the fruit of the Spirit. Thank you for planning

Story Tips

- Show Botswana on the map.
- Pronounce Haachile as: KHA-chil-ye.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Mom, whose name is Martha, at: bit.ly/Martha-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,” and Spiritual Growth Objective No. 5, “To disciple individuals and families into Spirit-filled lives.” For more information about the church’s strategic plan, go to the website: IWillGo.org.

a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION RECORD

In 1921, U.S. missionary W. H. Anderson, in an interview with the queen mother, Gagoangwe, regent for the then-16-year-old chief, Bathoen II, received permission to open a hospital in Kanye village, Botswana, on the understanding that no preaching be done. The work of Dr. A. H. Kretschmar in the new hospital broke down prejudice and, in 1922, J. R. Campbell was allowed to enter Kanye and hold religious meetings. In 1927, H. Walker was permitted to conduct regular mission work there and also at Mauyana, a village 30 miles (50 kilometers) away, where David Livingstone once worked.



ZIMBABWE | August 16

Lucky

Locked-Up Lucky

Eleven-year-old Lucky didn't go to church in Zimbabwe. No one in his family went to church. But then friends started inviting him to go with them to church on Sabbath.

Lucky went with them to the Seventh-day Adventist church. He liked it so much that he invited Mom to go with him.

Mom went with Lucky to church. But she didn't like it very much.

At church, people worship God. But Mom didn't worship God. Like many people in Zimbabwe, she worshiped her grandparents and great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents. Even though they were dead, she thought she could talk to them.

During the sermon, she whispered to Lucky, "Do people in this church disagree with my beliefs?"

"Yes, they do," Lucky whispered back.

Mom didn't say anything more until they got home. Then she yelled at Lucky. She yelled at Lucky every day for the next few days. Then she fell silent and refused to talk to him. Lucky kept going to church.

After three months, Mom broke her silence. "You're not allowed to leave the

house on Saturday mornings," she said.

Mom made sure he didn't go to church. She locked him in his bedroom and only opened the door after church was over.

When Mom saw that he still believed in God, she decided that something must be wrong with him. She didn't understand why he didn't want to worship dead ancestors like her. She asked a traditional healer who also worshiped dead ancestors to come to the house to see what was wrong with Lucky.

But Lucky didn't want to talk to the traditional healer. He ran to the bathroom and locked the door.

Mom came to the door and yelled, "Why are you refusing to talk to the healer to find out what is wrong with you?"

From behind the door, Lucky explained that the Bible teaches that people cannot talk to dead grandparents and great-grandparents and great-great-grandparents.

"When people die, they cannot hear or talk because they are sleeping," he said. "Why do you want to force me to do something that I'm not comfortable with?"

Lucky spent the night in the bathroom.



Story Tips

- Show Zimbabwe on the map. Then show Bulawayo, where Lucky lives.
- 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.

Early in the morning, he opened the door and crept back to his room. Mom was asleep. Crawling under a blanket, he fell asleep.

But when Mom woke up and saw him in bed, she yelled, "Why are you in my house since you are a Christian? Go to the Christians, and stay with them!"

"This is my home," Lucky said. "I grew up here. If you don't want me to stay here, where do you want me to go?"

Mom didn't reply, and the two didn't speak to each other for the rest of the day.

The next day, Lucky promised that he would stop going to church. He was tired of fighting with Mom.

Lucky kept his promise for a year. But friends kept inviting him to go to church, and finally he went. He didn't tell Mom.

Several years passed, and Lucky graduated from eighth grade. One of his friends planned to go to an Adventist high school, and he also wanted to go there. He asked Mom for permission.

Mom wasn't sure that it was a good idea, but Lucky convinced her that the Adventist school had better teachers.

Only a month into the school year, Lucky gave his heart to God and got baptized. Mom was upset, but after a while she calmed down. Then something amazing happened. Mom became interested in God. Lucky brought home a Bible from school, and they began to read it together. Then he invited her to go with him to church again. Mom went. Today, she is going to church with him every Sabbath. Lucky is praying that she will give her heart to God. 🌍

Lucky shared his love for God with his mom through a Bible that he borrowed from an Adventist school in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter may help other children also share God with their parents. Part of the offering will be used to give Adventurer's Bibles to children in Zimbabwe and in the other countries of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney



MISSION RECORD

Zimbabwe has one Seventh-day Adventist university, Solusi University, and 11 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.



ZIMBABWE | August 23

Luccilla

Power of an Invitation

Do you know the power of an invitation? Luccilla sometimes went to church with Grandma in Zimbabwe. But she found the song service boring, and she fell asleep during the sermon. So, she stopped going.

But then she received a special invitation to church. On a Sabbath morning, a big 15-year-old neighbor girl named Abigail saw Luccilla playing outside and invited her to church. “I’m going to church,” Abigail said. “Do you want to go with me?”

The two girls weren’t close friends, but Luccilla had seen Abigail around the neighborhood. She liked her and looked up to her because she was older. She hadn’t planned to go to church that morning. In fact, she had never been in a Seventh-day Adventist church. But suddenly she remembered hearing that the Adventist church held campouts and other fun activities. She thought, “Why not? Let’s try it out.” She followed Abigail to church.

When they arrived, Luccilla was directed to a class for younger kids. She didn’t know anyone, but her discomfort lasted only for a moment. The teacher opened Sabbath School

with a game of tug-of-war. Instead of using a rope, the children pulled on each other. It was great fun! Before Sabbath School ended, Luccilla even had made a new friend.

After Sabbath School, Luccilla sat with Abigail in church. The song service was lively and interesting. The preacher also was lively and interesting. Instead of falling asleep, she remained wide awake.

Luccilla wanted to go to church again, and she waited for Abigail to invite her. But after church, Abigail didn’t say anything about going together the next Sabbath. Abigail didn’t say anything on Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday. By Wednesday, Luccilla couldn’t wait any longer. “Hey, could we go to church together again next Sabbath?” she asked.

Abigail looked surprised.

“Oh, you want to go?” she said. “OK, I’ll pass by your house and take you.”

On Sabbath morning, Luccilla was dressed and ready when Abigail arrived.

After that, the two girls went to church together every Sabbath. Luccilla enjoyed it every time. She loved the music and the sermons. She loved making new friends and



getting to know Jesus. Before long, Jesus became her best friend, and she decided to give her heart to Him in baptism.

Abigail was so happy when Luccilla was baptized! When she first invited her to church, she had had no idea that the invitation would result in a baptism. Now, every time Abigail sees Luccilla in church, she knows that her invitation is the reason that Luccilla is worshiping God. The thought fills her with joy!

Luccilla is eager to experience the same joy as Abigail. Abigail showed her love and kindness, and Luccilla wants to show the same love and kindness to someone else. She is planning to invite a neighbor to go with her to church on Sabbath.

“I will now invite someone to church, too,” she said. “I want to be like Abigail.”

Do you know the power of an invitation? Invite someone to church next Sabbath. Maybe that person will be like Luccilla and end up giving his or her heart to Jesus. All you have to do is invite someone — and let God do the rest. 🌍

When children are filled with the Holy Spirit, they show joy, love, and kindness just like Abigail. The Bible says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22, 23; NKJV). Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help make a series of short videos that will teach children about the fruit of the Spirit in Zimbabwe and in the other countries of

Story Tips

- Show Zimbabwe on the map. Then show Bulawayo, where Luccilla lives.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Luccilla at: bit.ly/Luccilla-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.

the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING COUNTRY

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.



BigStockPhoto.com



ZIMBABWE | August 30

Sibusiso

Refusing to Go to Church

When Sibusiso was 8, he thought Jesus was a make-believe person. He had never gone to church, and he didn't believe in Jesus.

Then Mom came to him on a Sunday morning and said, "You have to go to church with me today."

"I don't want to go," he said.

"You must go to church," Mom said.

"I'll go, but not today," he said.

"OK," Mom said.

She went to church alone. He ran off to play soccer with friends.

A few weeks later, Mom invited Sibusiso to go with her to church again.

He hadn't changed his mind.

"I don't want to go," he said.

"But you must go to church," Mom said.

"I'll go, but not today," he said.

"OK," Mom said.

She went to church alone. He ran off to play ping-pong with friends.

The next time Mom asked, he refused again.

This went on for five years.

Then one day, when Sibusiso was 13, Mom

told him that he was being transferred to a Seventh-day Adventist school.

Sibusiso didn't want to go. He didn't want to say goodbye to his friends. But he saw Mom's face and knew that he couldn't argue. He might be able to refuse to go to church on Sunday, but he couldn't refuse to go to the Adventist school.

Sibusiso immediately liked his new school. He could see that the teachers enjoyed teaching, and they taught well. He especially enjoyed Bible class. For the first time, he heard how the world was created. He read in the Bible that God made people in His own image. He read in Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them" (NKJV).

Sibusiso loved Bible stories. He was impressed with Noah and the big ark. He was amazed that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. His heart was touched to know that Jesus died so all children who believe in Him can live forever.

He began to wonder if Jesus might not be



a make-believe person after all.

He wanted to know more, so he decided to go to church.

He enjoyed the worship service. The preacher spoke about getting baptized and living in heaven forever with Jesus.

The boy thought, “Jesus really isn’t a make-believe person. I want to be baptized and live with Him forever.”

Sibusiso went back to church the next Sabbath and every Sabbath after that. He took Bible lessons and got baptized.

Mom was so happy! Her boy who had refused to go to church for so many years now believed in Jesus and wanted to live for Him.

Today, Mom no longer tells Sibusiso that he has to go to church. He wants to go to church on his own — and he hopes that one day Mom will want to go with him to church on Sabbath.

“I want to go to church because I want to be closer to Christ,” he said. 🌍

Your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter will help children learn that Jesus is not only real but also God. Part of the offering will be used to give needy children their very own Adventurer’s Bibles in Zimbabwe and in the other countries of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Thank you for planning to

Story Tips

- Show Zimbabwe on the map. Then show Bulawayo, where Sibusiso lives.
- Pronounce Sibusiso as: si-BOO-see-so.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Sibusiso at: bit.ly/Sibusiso-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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give a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING COUNTRY

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.

BigStockPhoto.com





ZIMBABWE | September 6

Angel

Singing With Soapsuds

Angel opened her mouth and sang with her whole heart as she washed the dishes in soapy water at home. As she sang about God's love, she felt like she was standing at the throne of God in heaven.

Then Mom walked into the kitchen with a very angry look on her face. She opened her mouth and roared, "Don't sing those songs while you're at home! You are only a Seventh-day Adventist at school. At home, you belong to my church."

Angel closed her mouth. She stopped singing and looked sadly at Mom.

The trouble with Mom started when Angel was transferred to an Adventist school in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Mom hadn't wanted Angel to study at the school. She had wanted the girl to go to a school that belonged to her church. But a friend of Dad had recommended the Adventist school, and Dad had insisted that Angel go there.

At the school, Angel received a black songbook. On the cover, the words "Christ in Song" were written in gold letters. The schoolchildren sang from the songbook for worship services, and Angel immediately fell

in love with the songs. Her favorite song was called, "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior."

Angel brought the songbook home and sang from it as she spent special time with God in the mornings and evenings. She sang from it while doing her chores. She sang as she swept the floor. She sang as she washed her clothes. She was washing the dishes and singing "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" when Mom burst into the kitchen and ordered her to be quiet.

After that, Angel stopped singing around the house. But she remembered her favorite song as she prayed for Mom during her special time with God in the mornings and evenings. She prayed, "Hear my humble cry. Help Mom to accept You so we can all be Seventh-day Adventists."

Angel herself wanted to become a Seventh-day Adventist. She had only gone to the Adventist school for a few months, but she had already fallen in love with the Jesus whom she was reading about in the Bible. She wanted to go to the Adventist church on Sabbath. But Mom wouldn't allow her. Mom told her to stay at home and do her



homework, or wash her clothes, or clean the house.

Angel went to the school chaplain and told him about her situation at home. He prayed with her and said, “You must keep praying for your mom every day.”

One day, Angel was washing the dishes in soapy water when, without her even noticing, her mouth opened and she began to sing with her whole heart. In the middle of the song, Mom walked into the kitchen. But this time her face wasn’t angry. She didn’t say anything. Angel was so happy that Mom hadn’t complained. The next day, she sang again at home.

After a few days, Mom admitted to Angel that she actually liked her singing. She said it was like a beam of sunshine in the house. “I don’t mind if you sing at home,” Mom said.

Angel was so happy! She thanked God during her special time with Him that evening. She also prayed that Mom would allow her to go to church on Sabbath and to become a Seventh-day Adventist.

The next Friday, Angel asked Mom if she could go to church on Sabbath. Mom had never agreed before, but this time she said she didn’t mind.

After that, Angel went to church every Sabbath.

Angel was so happy! She prayed even more earnestly that Mom would allow her to become a Seventh-day Adventist.

One Sabbath, the church pastor asked who would like to prepare for baptism. Angel went home and asked Mom if she could be baptized. To her surprise, Mom said that she didn’t mind. Angel was baptized, and she joined the Adventist Church.

Angel was so happy! She began to pray that her mom and dad would become Seventh-day Adventists.

Today, her dad is preparing for baptism. Angel is sure that it is only a matter of time before Mom also is baptized. She knows that God hears and answers prayers. He heard her prayers to sing at home; He heard her prayers to go to church and to be baptized;

Story Tips

- Show Zimbabwe on the map. Then show Bulawayo, where Angel lives.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Angel singing her favorite song, “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior,” at: bit.ly/Angel-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”; 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.

and He hears her prayers about her parents. Every morning and evening during her special time with God, she sings and prays, “Pass me not, O gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry; While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.” 🌍

Thank you for your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering this quarter that will help children learn about Jesus in Zimbabwe and in other countries of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. One Thirteenth Sabbath project will give children their very own Adventurer’s Bibles, and the other will create a series of short children’s videos about the fruit of the Spirit. Thank you for planning a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney



ZIMBABWE | September 13

Prayer of Faith

Emmaculate

Mommy was scared when Emmaculate was born. The nurses were scared. The doctor was scared. Everyone was scared because the little baby girl didn't make a peep when she was born.

Usually, baby girls and baby boys let out a hearty scream when they are born. It's like the babies were perfectly happy inside of Mommy and didn't want to come into the big world. So, they scream and cry when they make their grand entrance into the world.

But Emmaculate didn't scream. She didn't cry. She lay so still that the doctor thought something must be terribly wrong. The nurses also thought something must be terribly wrong. Mommy thought something must be terribly wrong. She prayed and prayed.

The doctor tried to make Emmaculate cry. He rubbed her. He poked her. He patted her. Nothing. She didn't make a sound.

Now everyone was awfully scared. As they wondered what to do, the little baby opened her mouth and began to cry. But it wasn't a normal cry. Babies usually cry, "Wahhhhhhhhh!" But Emmaculate cried, "Weh-weh-weh-wehhhhh!"

Nobody minded that it was an unusual cry. Everyone was just so happy that she was crying. Mommy was especially happy. God had answered her prayers.

Those first prayers were the first of many that Mommy prayed for Emmaculate.

After the scare at her birth, Emmaculate seemed like a normal girl as she grew up in Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. But when she was 3 years old, she began to have fits. Every once in a while, she would start to jump and couldn't stop. As she jumped, she would bite her tongue. It hurt, but she still couldn't stop. Then she would fall onto the ground and lay very still.

Mommy was scared. She thought something must be terribly wrong. She took Emmaculate to the hospital.

The doctor gave her medicine, but it didn't help. Emmaculate kept having fits.

Mommy asked everyone whom she knew for help.

But Emmaculate kept having fits, and they seemed to be getting worse.

A year passed. Two years passed.

One day, when Emmaculate was 5, she started to have a fit on her bed. She jumped and, as she jumped, she bit her tongue. Then she fell onto the bed and lay very still.



Mommy was very scared. She didn't know what to do. She left the girl and went to her bedroom. Closing the door, she prayed and prayed.

"Lord, You saved my little girl when she was born, and You can save her again now," she said with tears. "Please stop these fits. Restore her to full health."

As she prayed, she suddenly heard a sound. It sounded like a cry, but it wasn't a normal cry.

"Weh-weh-weh-wehhhhh!"

"Could it be?" Mommy wondered.

She listened carefully.

"Weh-weh-weh-wehhhhh!"

"Yes! Yes!" she exclaimed. "It's Emmaculate, and she's crying!"

Mommy rushed to Emmaculate. The little girl was awake and well. Mommy was so glad! God had answered her prayers again.

From that day, Emmaculate never had another fit. She believes that God saved her life as a child and that He continues to care for her every day. Today, she is a student at Solusi Adventist High School, and she prays to God all of the time.

"I want to have faith like my mother," she said. 🌍

A Thirteenth Sabbath Offering has helped Emmaculate grow closer to God. Part of a 1994 offering went to open Solusi Adventist High School, where Emmaculate is studying, in Zimbabwe. As a student, Emmaculate gave her heart to God and was baptized. This quarter, your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help other children grow closer to God

Story Tips

- Show Zimbabwe on the map and then show Bulawayo. Solusi Adventist High School is located about 45 minutes by car from Bulawayo.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Emmaculate at: bit.ly/Emmaculate-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.

in Zimbabwe and in other countries of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. One Thirteenth Sabbath project will give children their very own Adventurer's Bibles, and the other will create a series of short children's videos about the fruit of the Spirit. Thank you for a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING COUNTRY

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



BigStockPhoto.com



ZIMBABWE | September 20

Emmanuel

Making It With God

Emmanuel was only 10 years old. But he felt like a useless nobody. He felt like he was good for nothing. You see, he could not see. Emmanuel was born blind.

Then somebody told him about a school that offered Braille education. Braille is a special kind of education that allows people who cannot see to read with their fingers. Not many schools in Zimbabwe, where Emmanuel lives, offered classes in Braille.

Emmanuel wanted to learn with his fingers. He wanted to read even though he could not see with his eyes. He started studying at the Solusi Primary School.

At first, he struggled with his classes. He needed to learn how to read with his fingers. He had low self-esteem. Many times, he had heard the lie that people who couldn't see couldn't succeed in life. He thought that he would never succeed in life.

But then he began to learn about Jesus at the Seventh-day Adventist school. He had never heard about Jesus before. He learned that Jesus loved him. He learned that he was gifted, needed, and treasured by Jesus. When the school had a week of spiritual emphasis,

he decided to give his heart to Jesus.

Emmanuel had never seen Jesus with his eyes. He had never read the Bible with his eyes. But he was reading the Bible with his fingers, and he believed that Jesus loved him. He was baptized and promised to serve Jesus with his life.

But would Jesus make his life a success?

When Emmanuel finished grade school, he faced a big challenge. It was a challenge that seemed impossible to overcome. He needed to take exams to move to Solusi Adventist High School. But he wasn't able to obtain all the textbooks that he needed to prepare for the exams. He couldn't study properly. What could he do?

Emmanuel remembered Jesus. He remembered that he was gifted, needed, and treasured by Jesus. He prayed, "It says in Philippians 4:13, 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Now God, disability doesn't mean inability. I can make it in life. Help me please."

Then something incredible happened. Emmanuel took the exams and passed them all. Not only did he pass, but he got the



highest marks of anyone in the school.

At a special ceremony to honor the brightest students, a teacher called Emmanuel to the front of the school auditorium. He declared that Emmanuel was the overall best student in the exams.

What did Emmanuel do? Did he smile and accept the applause of the teachers and students? No. Emmanuel believed that he needed to give all praise to God, so he came to the front and prayed in front of everybody.

“God, thank You for helping me to succeed,” he said. “It’s true. ‘I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’”

Emmanuel believes that God is the secret to success in life. He tells his friends that God is the reason that he can read; God is the reason that he is succeeding in school; and God is the reason that he is not a nobody but a somebody.

Some of Emmanuel’s friends are blind. Others can see. But Emmanuel wants them all to know that they can only truly see if they have God in their lives. “My life is going well with God,” he said. “I can tell that I will have a bright future.” 🌍

Emmanuel is able to study at Solusi Adventist High School and learn about God there because of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Part of a 1994 Thirteenth Sabbath Offering helped open Solusi Adventist High School in Zimbabwe. This quarter, your Thirteenth Sabbath Offering will help other children learn about God in Zimbabwe and in other countries of the Southern Africa-

Story Tips

- Show Zimbabwe on the map and then show Bulawayo. Solusi Adventist High School is located about 45 minutes by car from Bulawayo.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Emmanuel at: bit.ly/Emmanuel-boy.
- 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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Indian Ocean Division. One Thirteenth Sabbath project will give children their very own Adventurer’s Bibles, and the other will create short children’s videos about the fruit of the Spirit. Thank you for a generous offering on September 27.

By Andrew McChesney



AMAZING COUNTRY

The national symbol of Zimbabwe is the golden bird called *hungwe* and appears on the flag as well as coins. Stone carvings of the *hungwe* have been found set on pedestals in the ruins of Great Zimbabwe. It probably represents the bateleur eagle or the African fish eagle.





13th SABBATH | September 27

Karuuparerue

“I Don’t Know Jesus”

Karuuparerue (pictured to the right in the photo) is like any 7-year-old. She is happiest when she is playing; she is saddest when she is scolded; and she likes to eat macaroni. But she has never heard of Jesus.

Karuuparerue lives at a place that can’t be found on the map. She lives with her family on a homestead of four huts deep in the desert of northern Namibia. It takes seven hours to walk to the nearest store. Nobody in her family owns a car or even a bicycle. If they want to go anywhere, they usually have to walk.

Karuuparerue, however, doesn’t need to go to the store. Her family, like many people in her Himba tribe, rarely have money to buy anything.

Instead, the little girl spends the day helping her parents and five brothers and sisters raise goats and cows. When it’s rainy season, she also helps plant maize, which is a kind of white corn.

Maize is the family’s most important food. Karuuparerue helps Mom grind the maize into a flour and then cook it with water in a pot over an open fire. The maize and water cook together to make a delicious

thick white porridge. For nearly every meal, Karuuparerue eats the porridge with sour goat’s milk or sour cow’s milk.

When the family does have a little money — perhaps Grandma got a pension payment from the government — somebody might walk the seven hours to the nearest store to buy Karuuparerue’s favorite food, macaroni.

“I like macaroni,” Karuuparerue said. “But we don’t eat it very often because we have to buy it, and we don’t have the money.

She is perfectly happy to eat maize porridge and sour milk every day. She thinks that they taste very good!

When the rainy season ends and the weather grows very dry, Karuuparerue and her family leave their homestead and wander around the desert in search of water and grass for their goats and cows. They travel for about eight months of the year. Then they return to their little homestead to grow maize during the next rainy season.

Most of the year is very hot because Namibia is in the desert. Karuuparerue’s only clothing is a piece of cloth that looks like a skirt. Everyone in her family dresses



similarly. In the hot African sun, it's more comfortable to dress lightly.

Karuuparerue's hair is twisted into two braids that droop over her forehead. All little girls wear their hair this way. When she gets older, she will twist her hair into many, many braids like her Mom and Grandma. Like them, she will mix those braids with red clay that helps protect from insects and the harsh desert climate.

Karuuparerue is happiest when she gets to play. She likes to play a game with the other girls in which they clap their hands and dance and dance and dance. She also likes to play dodge ball. She and her friends made a ball of old rags, and they play dodge ball by throwing it back and forth.

Karuuparerue is saddest when she is scolded. Mom scolds her for playing when she should be doing her chores. Just the other day, Mom sent the little girl to the well with a plastic container to fill with water. It takes 15 minutes to walk to the well, and it takes 15 minutes to walk back. In all, the trip takes 30 to 40 minutes.

But Mom waited and waited for the girl to return with the water. Thirty minutes passed. Forty minutes passed. Mom suspected that something was wrong, so she left the homestead to search for Karuuparerue. She found the little girl playing dodge ball with her friends near the well.

"You foolish girl!" Mom cried, picking up a dry stick from the ground. "I'll beat you!"

Karuuparerue began crying and ran away.

Mom didn't chase or beat her. She just waved the stick in the air to show that she was very angry. Karuuparerue returned home with the water to help Mom make maize porridge for lunch.

Karuuparerue is about the right age to start school. The nearest public school is only a 20-minute walk from her hut. But Mom doesn't want her to go. Mom thinks it's a waste of time for her to learn to read and write. The family doesn't have any books to read or any paper to write on anyway.

Story Tips

- Show Namibia on the map. Point out the northern town of Opuwo, which is the location of the nearest store to Karuuparerue's homestead.
- Pronounce Karuuparerue as: KAR-oop-ar-er-ru-ye.
- Watch a short YouTube video of Karuuparerue at: bit.ly/Karuuparerue-SID.
- Know that two previous Thirteenth Sabbath Offerings, in 2012 and 1993, have gone specifically to spread the gospel among 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.
- 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.

It costs money to buy paper and school supplies like pencils. The family rarely has any money, so it is unthinkable to even think about spending money on school.

Mom thinks it would be better for Karuuparerue to stay at home to help fetch water and do other chores.

Karuuparerue also doesn't want to go to school. She would rather play.

Because Karuuparerue has never gone to school, she cannot read. Her mom and her grandma also have never gone to school and cannot read. Because they cannot read, they have never read the Bible.

Grandma first heard about Jesus when a Seventh-day Adventist pastor visited the homestead. He invited her to come to a church that meets under a nearby tree on Sabbaths. Grandma asked the pastor to come back and teach her about Jesus from the Bible.

So, the pastor began giving her Bible studies. Grandma told Mom about some of the things that she was learning about Jesus. But Mom hasn't had a chance yet to tell Karuuparerue. So, Karuuparerue, like many children in her Himba tribe, has never heard of Jesus.

"I don't know Jesus," she said. 🌍

Pray that Karuuparerue and many other children will know Jesus in Namibia and in the other countries of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division. Today's Thirteenth



Karuuparerue, right; Grandma, seated front; and Mom, seated back; talk with Andrew McChesney.

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.

Sabbath Offering will help many children know Jesus by giving them their very own Adventurer's Bibles. Children like Karuuparerue who cannot read may be able to learn about Jesus through a new series of short children's videos about the fruit of the Spirit. Other Thirteenth Sabbath projects that we are supporting today include a center of influence in South Africa; and two hospitals, a new school, and a mission boat in Zambia. Thank you for your generous offering.

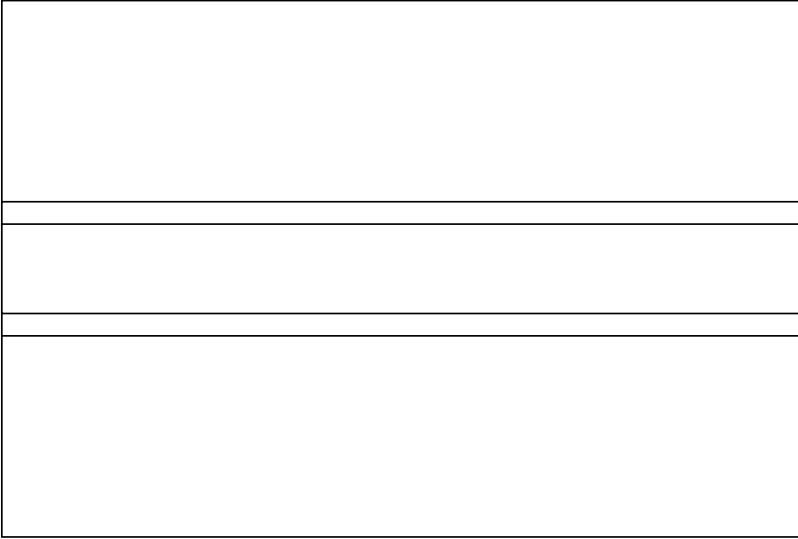
By Andrew McChesney

Future Thirteenth Sabbath Projects

The South American Division will be featured next quarter, and the Thirteenth Sabbath projects will include:

- Church, Pernambuco 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

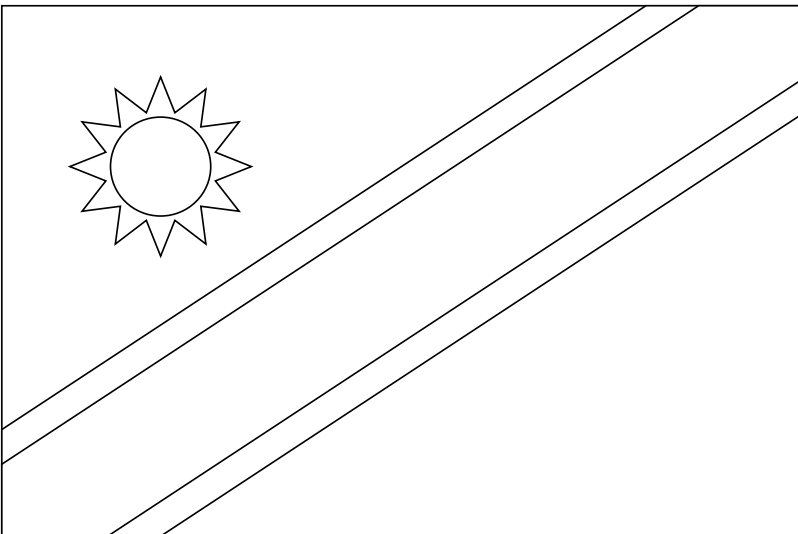
Color The Flag



BOTSWANA

DIRECTIONS:

Color the top and bottom light blue. The middle stripe is black and the narrow stripes above and below are white.

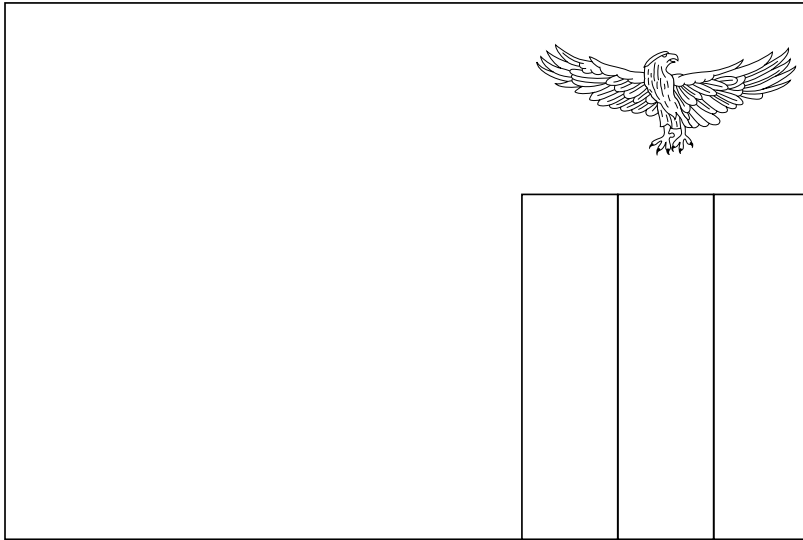


NAMIBIA

DIRECTIONS:

Color the top left corner dark blue. Color the bottom right corner green. Color the wide diagonal stripe in the middle red. Leave the narrow strips on either side of the red strip white. Color the sun yellow.

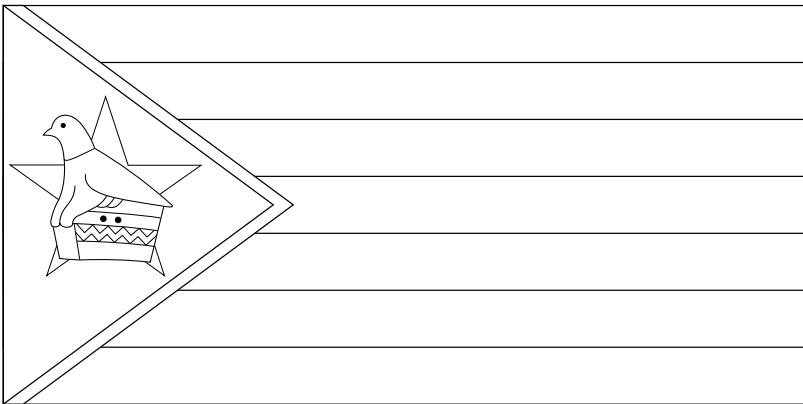
Color The Flag



ZAMBIA

DIRECTIONS:

Color the main part of the flag dark green. Color the eagle gold. Color the stripes at the bottom right, from left to right, red, black, and gold.



ZIMBABWE

DIRECTIONS:

Color the stripes, from top to bottom, dark green, yellow, red, black, red, yellow, and dark green. Leave the triangle on the left white. Color the bird statue yellow and the star red.

Make a Craft

ZAMBIA

“BEADED” HEADBANDS

Art is an important aspect of the culture in south African countries, and traditional crafts include carving, pottery, and jewelry-making. Beading used to distinguish tribal royalty from common tribesmen and is seen across many south African societies.

YOU WILL NEED:

White paper (craft paper will be sturdier)
Scissors
Glue
Colored pencils, markers, or crayons

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Cut the paper into strips 2–3 inches (5–8 cm) wide and long enough to fit around the child’s head, with some overlap.
- Have the children draw small circles all over the headband and then color them in to look like beads. They can all be one color or multiple colors. Older children can make patterns out of the “beads.”
- When they are finished, overlap the ends and glue them together. When the glue is dry, the children can wear their new “beaded” headbands.

Learn a Language

ZAMBIA

USEFUL WORDS

ENGLISH

Hello
Goodbye
How are you?
I am fine
Thank you

BEMBA

Shani
Shalapo pitani
Uli shani?
Ndi bwino
Natotela sana

NYANJA

Bwanji
Bwino
Muli bwanji?
Ndili bwino
Dzikomo kwambili

Let's Cook!

ZIMBABWE

PEANUT BUTTER PORRIDGE (BOTA UNE DOVI)

INGREDIENTS:

4–5 cups (950–1,200 ml) water (divided)
1 cup (150 g) medium or fine white
cornmeal
1 pinch salt

1 to 2 tablespoons unsweetened peanut
butter

Optional: milk, and sliced fruit (to serve)

Optional: sugar or sweetener (to serve)

INSTRUCTIONS:

Bring 3 cups (710 ml) of water to a boil. Put the cornmeal into a pot. Add 1 cup (240 ml) of cold water and mix to create a paste. Add the boiling water, and then place the pot over high heat.

Bring the mixture to a boil and reduce to low heat to simmer for 15 minutes, stirring regularly. It will thicken quickly. Be careful at this stage as the thickened mixture tends

to bubble and pop and could burn if it hits your skin. Use a lid if possible.

If it is too thick, stir in a few teaspoons of boiling water.

Put the cooked porridge into a bowl and add 1–2 tablespoons of peanut butter, mixing well. You can add sugar or sweetener to taste if desired, and milk and/or sliced fruit are nice additions.

Let's Play a Game!

NAMIBIA

UMA-DOWA

This game is played across Africa, but in Namibia it is called *Uma-dowa*.

In this game, two people stand a few feet apart, and a string or rope is looped around the two of them. They put the rope around their ankles, and a third player (or more) jumps across it.

After each round, the first two players

lift the rope a little higher on their legs, making it a little harder to jump over each time. The winner is the last person who can jump over the rope without touching it.

Then the players holding the rope can switch places with other players and take their turn to jump.

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	au.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 the children 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 the children 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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children's mission

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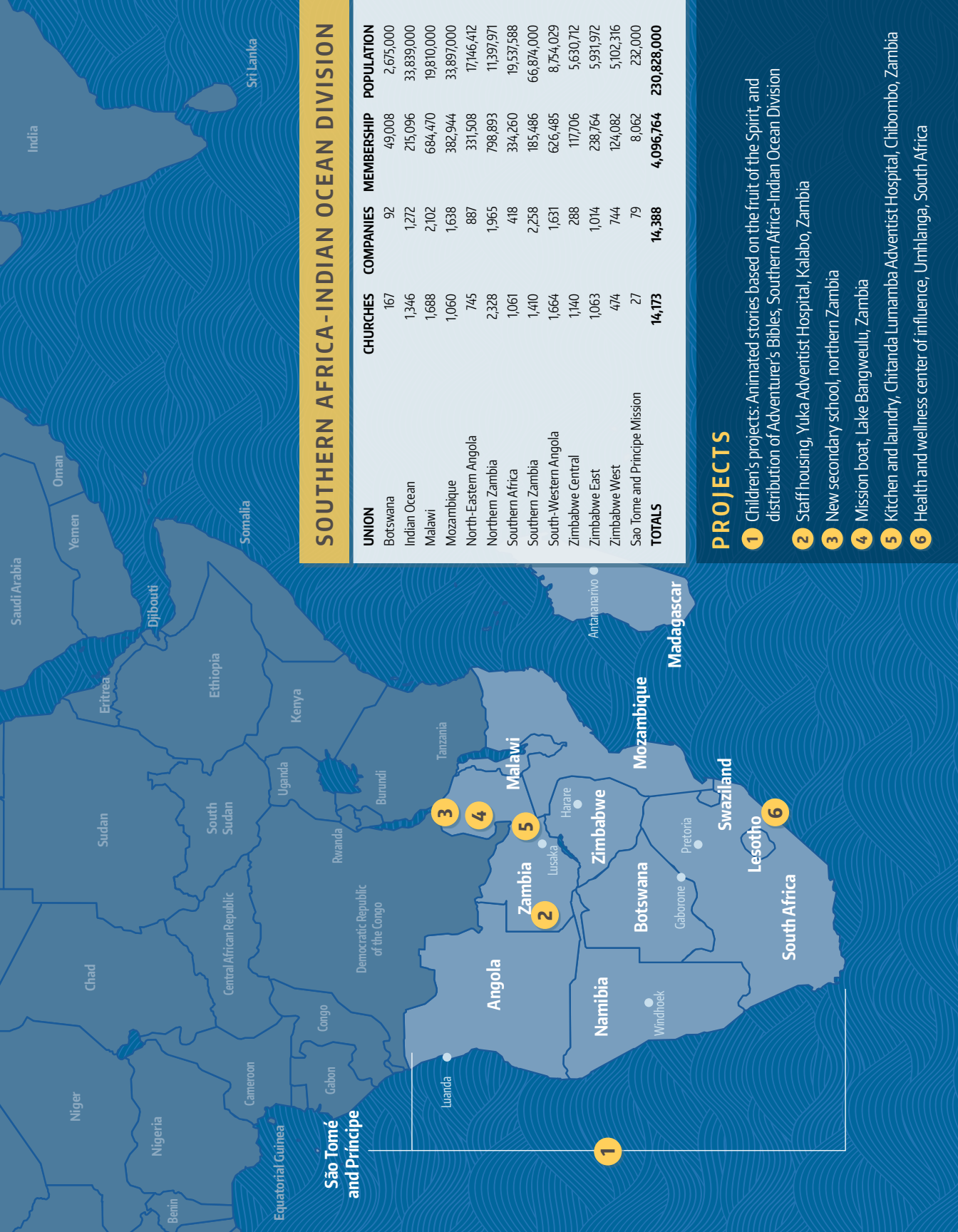
Third Quarter 2025

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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	17,146,442
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	117,066	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